

**A Photographic Survey of a Barn at  
Ivy House Farm,  
Main Street, Glooston,  
Leicestershire.  
(NGR P 750 958).**

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**ULAS Report Number 2008-146**

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**A Photographic Survey of a Barn at Ivy House Farm, Main Street, Glooston,  
Leicestershire. (NGR P 750 958).**

***Summary***

*University of Leicester Archaeological Services was commissioned by Mr. G. Jervis to undertake a photographic survey of a barn at Ivy House Farm, Glooston, Leicestershire. Planning permission had been granted for the conversion of the barn to residential use.*

*The barn appears on the first edition Ordnance Survey map, whilst a date stone on one gable suggests that it was constructed in 1797. In view of this, the planning authority considered that it was worthy of further recording before alteration.*

*The photographic survey provided a permanent visual (photographic) record of the building in its current state prior to conversion. The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council, under the accession number X.A126.2008.*

**1. Introduction**

University of Leicester Archaeological Services was commissioned by Mr. G. Jervis to undertake a photographic survey of a barn at Ivy House Farm, Main Street, Glooston, Leicestershire (SP 750 958). Outline planning permission has been granted for the conversion of the barn to residential use (Planning Application Number 08/00319/LBC).

The Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council, as advisor to Harborough District Council advised that the proposed works would impact significantly upon the historic building. As a result it was recommended that a photographic survey should be carried out to record the buildings prior to commencement of the alteration work.

All work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing buildings or Structures*. In addition, Leicestershire County Council's *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire* was adhered to. *Understanding Historic Buildings* (English Heritage 2006) has been used as a basis for defining levels of recording.



**Figure 1.** Site location

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## **2. Aims and Methodology**

The aim of the survey was to provide a permanent photographic record of the buildings in their current state, prior to alteration or demolition, to standards set down by English Heritage (2006).

The photographic survey was undertaken by Gerwyn Richards. Photographs, in 35mm monochrome negative and digital format taken as raw image files and converted to TIFFs (Tagged Image File Format) covered items 1-6 of the English Heritage guidelines (2006, 4; Appendix 4.1.2). The site visit was carried out on September 25th 2008.

The proposed development area contains a number of buildings of interest, but only the barn has been recorded as part of this photographic survey. However, its relationship with the other buildings (some of which are now in different ownership and the subject of separate recording strategies) has been given consideration. In the following report, where internal sub-division was required a letter prefix has been used, whilst the terms 'left', 'right', 'rear' and 'back' are used in relation to the front elevation of the building.

## **3. Description of the Building**

The building consists of a linear range of buildings, aligned east-west, facing Ivy Farm to the south (*Figure 3*). The westernmost end of the range is a large two-storied barn while to the east were two single-storied buildings. Both of the eastern buildings had been largely demolished before the site visit, leaving only part of the front wall of the middle building standing. An examination of a pre-demolition photograph suggests that the easternmost building was a later extension in what appears to be Fletton bricks, which would suggest a mid to late twentieth century date for its construction.

The remains of the middle building suggests it is contemporary with the larger barn. The buildings themselves are of common handmade 9" x 2½" red bricks in a Flemish Garden Wall Bond with a lime mortar bond, and dog tooth corbelling at eaves level. William Pitt reviewed the agriculture of Leicestershire in 1809 and recorded a brick kiln at nearby Hallaton – perhaps a likely source for these bricks, given the proximity and similar dates. The remaining roof is corrugated asbestos cement sheets (*Figure 4*). There are two pedestrian doors on the front elevation along with an off-centre square pitching hole, providing access when the barn is full just below eaves level. One brick inscribed DW (*Figure 13*) could be seen just to the left and above the right hand door. The rear elevation (*Figure 7*) has only the single pedestrian door and another square pitching hole near the right hand gable. Unlike the front elevation, the corbelling at eaves level is plain.

The left-hand gable (*Figure 5*) contains a diamond-shaped date stone inscribed 1797 with a carved ellipse above and below (*Figure 8*). Surrounding the date stone is a diamond-shaped array of vents or pigeon holes. The right-hand gable (*Figure 6*) is plain, showing only the whitewashed outline of the recently-demolished building and is in a rather precarious condition.

Internally, the barn is divided into two unequal rooms; the smaller of the two, A, is to the right while B is to the left. The wall is a later insertion. Within room A there are extensive roosting ledges on the gable wall (*Figure 12*), apparently supported by the inserted timber floor. This room was deemed unsafe for closer examination. There is little of architectural or historical interest within room B. A floor supported on a framework of reused railway sleepers has been inserted (*Figure 10*); the sleepers used as joists measure 4.75m long (15' 8") and must, therefore have originally come a mainline, perhaps underlying a set of points. Most of the sleepers still have railway information stencilled on (*Figure 11*) and one has the same information painted freehand. The information indicates the sleeper formed part of a set of points laid in 1958 (Fred Hartley *pers com*). An early, if not original, red-brick floor survives in the left-hand side of the barn while there is a modern concrete floor to the right.

The roof is by far the best surviving feature of the building; it is a pegged king post design with raking struts in oak (*Figure 9*). There is limited evidence that at least the tie beams are reused, however, the uniformity of these marks on both trusses may suggest the whole roof structure was salvaged from elsewhere and reused in this barn.

This range of buildings forms the northern edge of an L-shaped farm complex with Ivy House Farm forming the western edge, fronting the road, with access to the farmyard between the two. This is a common arrangement of farm buildings, it ensured the farmhouse and its occupants had visual control over access to the farmyard and kept valuable produce nearby as well. The barn has even clearer evidence of this in the form of an iron eyelet attached to the front wall, to which a dog was no doubt tethered at one time or another.

## 5. Conclusion

The barn is a relatively early example of a brick-built agricultural building, if the date stone is to be believed (and there is no reason why it should not). It appears that after the construction of this building, Ivy House Farm did not expand and remained a small farm, this ensured that these early buildings were not replaced by larger, newer buildings in the later 19th and 20th centuries.

Both roof trusses showed possible evidence of re-use, suggesting that this barn may have replaced an earlier barn, from which these trusses were salvaged and re-used. The reclaimed railway sleepers are also a good example of the vernacular tradition of the twentieth century, no doubt the railway sleepers were cheaper than other timber and possibly available locally with the closure of a large number of railway lines in the 1960s, the nearest being the Great Northern & London & Northwest Joint Railway (G. N & L & N. W. Joint Railway); closed to passenger trains in 1953 and finally closed to all traffic in 1964. Given their width they may have been sourced from the nearby Hallaton Junction.

## 6. Photographic Index

Digi	B&W	Rm	Description	Dir
001	001		Front Elevation, General.	NE
002	002		Front Elevation, General.	NE
003	003		Left Hand Gable.	ENE
004	004		Left Hand Gable.	ENE
005	005		Date Stone Inscribed 1797, Left Hand Gable.	
006	006		Date Stone Inscribed 1797, Left Hand Gable.	
007	007		Front Elevation, General.	NW
008	008		Front Elevation, General.	NW
009	009		Standing Remains of Eastern End of Building.	N
010	010		Standing Remains of Eastern End of Building.	N
011	011	2	Roosting Ledges.	
012	012	2	Roosting Ledges.	
013	013	2	General View, Front to Back.	
014	014	2	General View, Front to Back.	
015	015	2	Exposed Floor Joists.	
016	016	2	Exposed Floor Joists.	
017	017	2	Damaged Cast Iron 3 Pronged Hook.	
018	018	2	Damaged Cast Iron 3 Pronged Hook.	
019	019		Brick Inscribed DW, Front Elevation.	
020	020		Brick Inscribed DW, Front Elevation.	
021	021		Eyelet, Probabaly for Dog Lead, Front Elevation.	
022	022		Eyelet, Probabaly for Dog Lead, Front Elevation.	
023	023	1	Detail of Roof Construction.	
024	024	1	Detail of Roof Construction.	
025	025	1	General View, Right to Left.	
026	026	1	General View, Right to Left.	
027	027	1	General View, Left to Right.	
028	028	1	General View, Left to Right.	
029	029	1	Drinking Trough on Front Wall.	
030	030	1	Drinking Trough on Front Wall.	

031	031	1	Identification Details on Railway Sleepers.	
032	032	1	Identification Details on Railway Sleepers.	
033	033	1	Original Brick Floor.	
034	034	1	Original Brick Floor.	
035	035		Rear Elevation, General View.	SSW
036	036		Rear Elevation, General View.	SSW
037	037		Detail of Rear Elevation Brickwork & Corbelling.	
038	038		Detail of Rear Elevation Brickwork & Corbelling.	
039	039		Right Hand Gable & Limited Remains of Eastern End of Building.	W
040	040		Right Hand Gable & Limited Remains of Eastern End of Building.	W
041	041		Detail of Front Elevation Brickwork & Corbelling.	
042	042		Detail of Front Elevation Brickwork & Corbelling.	
043	043		Detail of Corbelling on Front Elevation.	
044	044		Detail of Corbelling on Front Elevation.	
045	045		Barn and Farmhouse in Context.	NE
046	046		Barn and Farmhouse in Context.	NE

## 7. Bibliography

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## **8. Archive & Publication**

The site archive consists of

1 A2 permatrace sheet containing building plan & site notes  
46 Black & White Negatives and Contact Prints  
CD containing 46 digital images  
1 A4 contact sheet  
A4 Photo Index Sheet  
Paper building plans supplied by client  
Unbound Copy of This Report (ULAS Report Number 2008-146)

The archive will be held at Leicestershire County Council under the Accession Number X.A126.2008

A version of the summary (above) will be published in *Transactions of Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course.



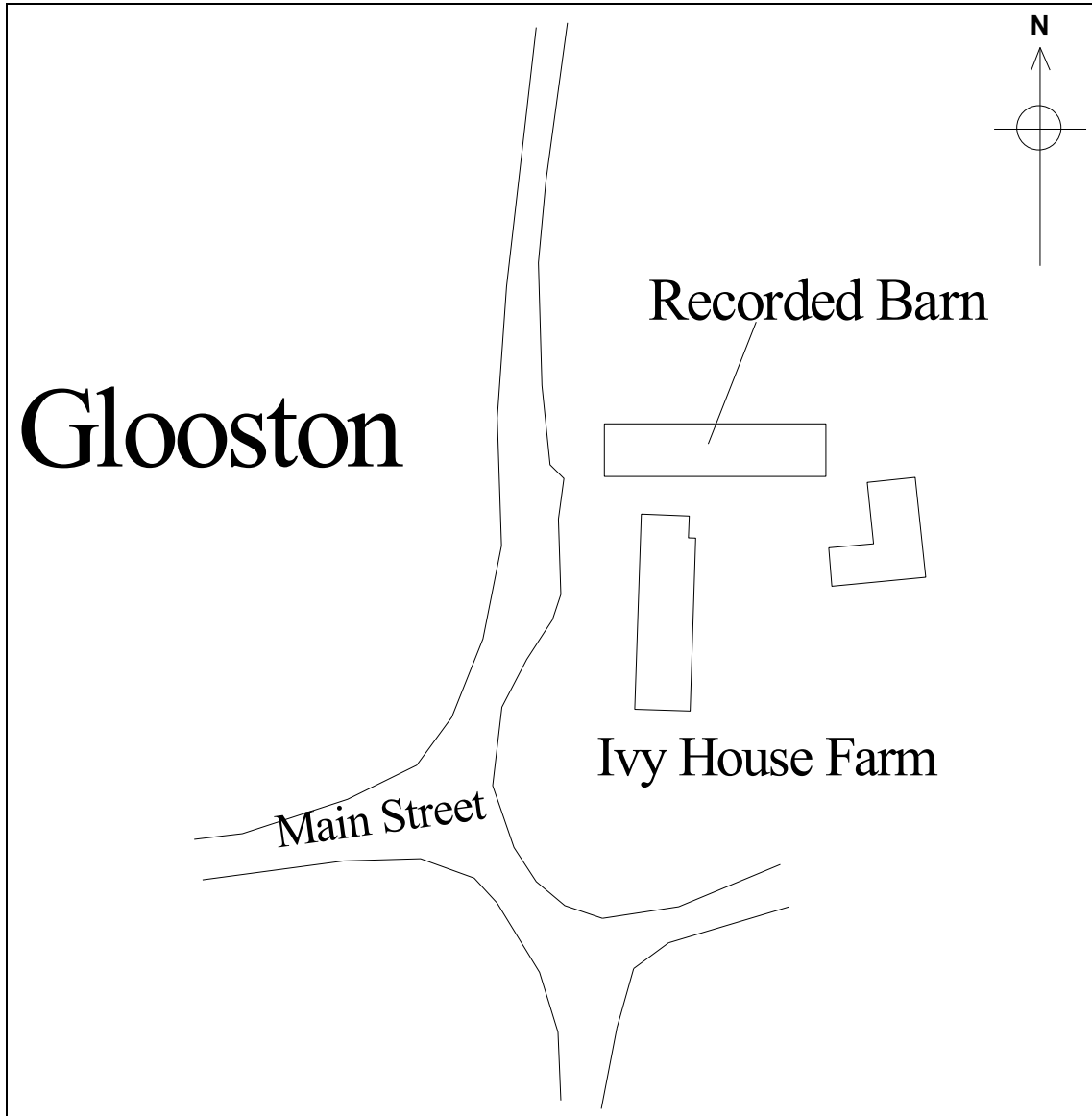


Figure 2 Site Plan (Not to Scale).

**Colour Plates**



**Figure 3** Ivy House Farm with the recorded barn to the left.



**Figure 4** Front Elevation (From the south-east)



**Figure 5** Left Hand Gable (From the Southwest)



**Figure 6** Right Hand Gable (From the East)





**Figure 7** Rear Elevation



**Figure 8** Date Stone on Left Hand Gable.

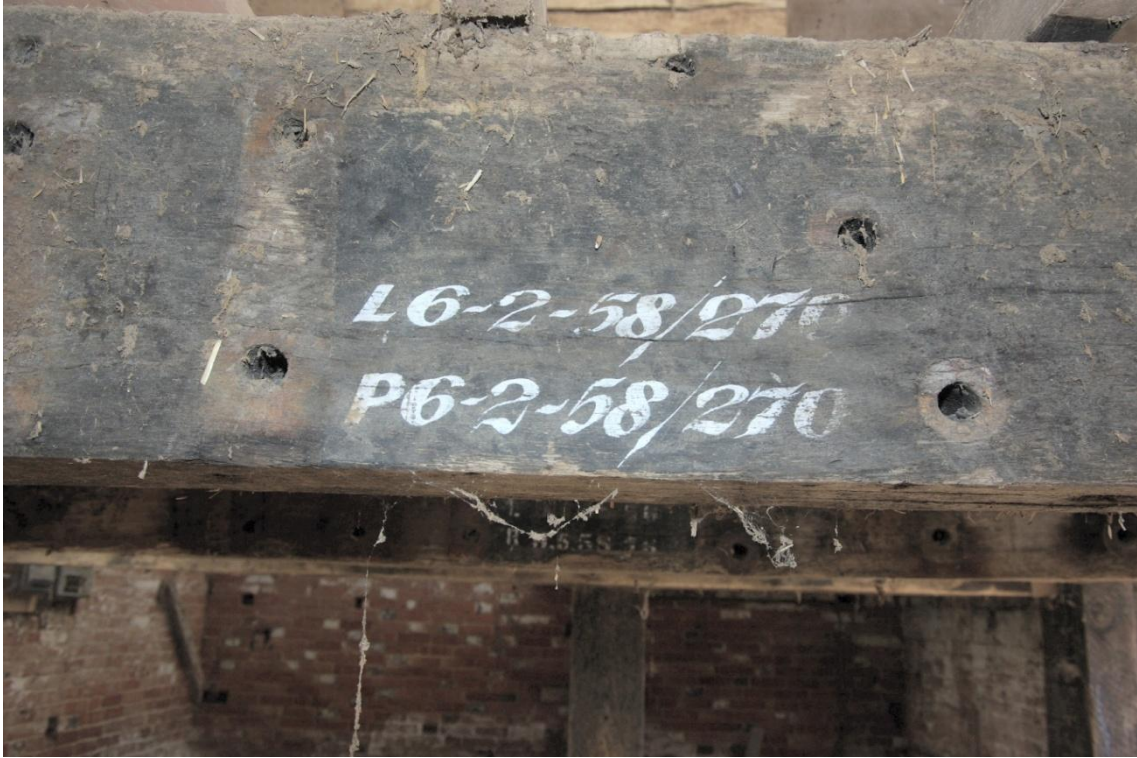


**Figure 9** Roof Truss.



**Figure 10** Inserted Floor of Reused Railway Sleepers.





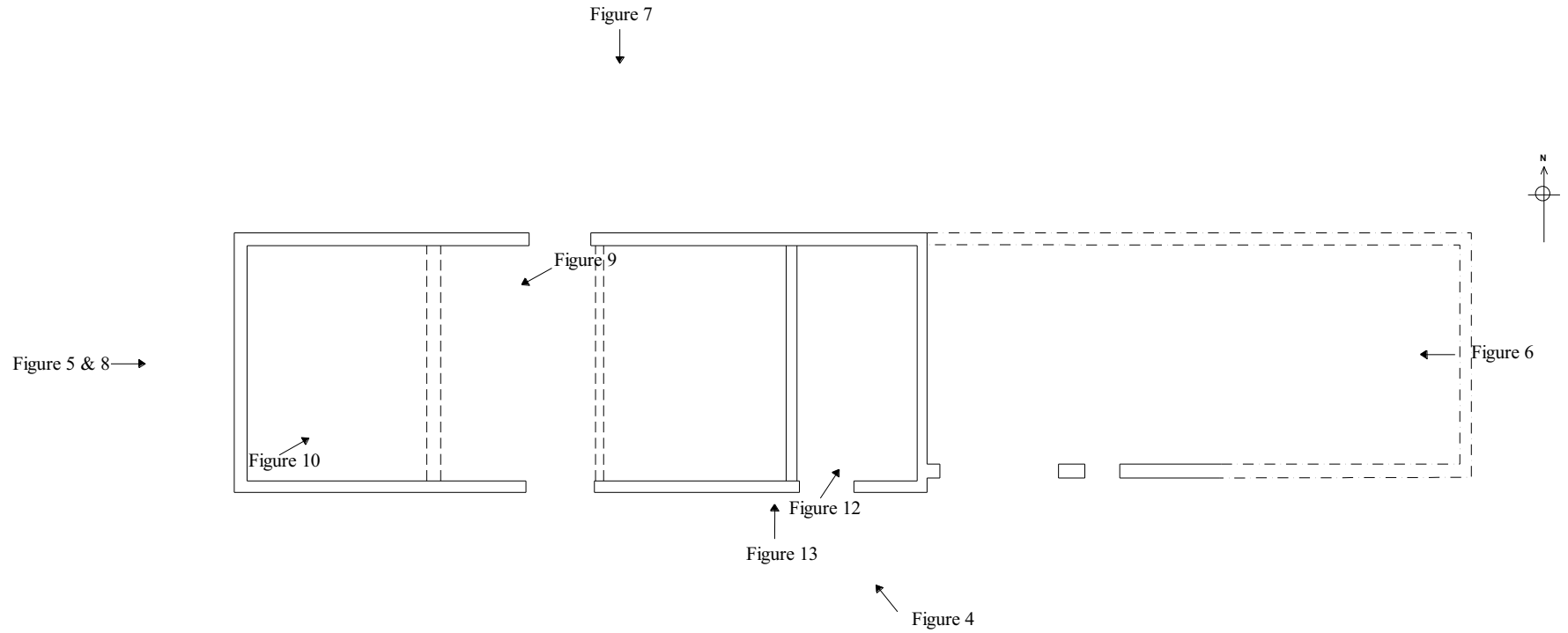
**Figure 11** Detail of Lettering on Sleepers.



**Figure 12** Limited View of Roosting Ledges on Right Hand Gable.



**Figure 13** Brick Inscribed DW on Front Elevation.



**Figure 14** Locations of Photographs Mentioned in the Text.  
(Not to Scale)