

Archaeological Watching Brief
at
JUNIPER LODGE,
GLOUCESTER ROAD, NIMLET, COLD ASHTON,
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE.
for
Mr Matthew James



Report No. 2433/2011
SGHER No. 19886

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at
JUNIPER LODGE,
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Centred on
N.G.R. ST 7479 7166

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Abbreviations

AD	Anno Domini	Km	Kilometre
aOD	Above Ordnance Datum	m	Metre
BaRAS	Bristol & Region Archaeological Services	NGR	National Grid Reference
BC	Before Christ	NMR	National Monuments Record
c.	Circa	OS	Ordnance Survey
HER	Historic Environment Record		

NOTE

Notwithstanding that Bristol and Region Archaeological Services have taken reasonable care to produce a comprehensive summary of the known and recorded archaeological evidence, no responsibility can be accepted for any omissions of fact or opinion, however caused.

July, 2011.

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SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of a new agricultural building at Juniper Lodge, Gloucester Road, Nimlet, Cold Ashton, South Gloucestershire. No archaeological features or significant finds were identified during the course of the watching brief.

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Plate 2 Stripping residual topsoil from the eastern end of the site, viewed from the north

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) at Juniper Lodge, Gloucester Road, Nimlet, Cold Ashton, South Gloucestershire.
- 1.2 The watching brief was commissioned by Matthew James in order to comply with condition 4 of planning consent for a new agricultural building (Planning Application Ref. PK10/3007/F). The work was undertaken in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* prepared by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS 2011) and a *Brief for an Archaeological Investigation* prepared by David Haigh (2011).
- 1.3 The fieldwork took place on the 11th of July 2011.
- 1.4 The project archive will be deposited with Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery under the Accession Number BRSMG 2011/27 and a copy of the report will be made available to the National Monuments Record maintained by English Heritage. The project has been entered in the Bristol Historic Environment Record as: SGHER 19886 and in the OASIS Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations as: bristola1- 104781.

2. THE SITE

- 2.1 The site (centred on NGR ST 7479 7166) is located in a field to the south of Juniper Lodge, in Nimlet, a hamlet in the southern part of Cold Ashton parish, in the southern Cotswolds. The site is situated to the east of the A46 trunk road, about 150m south of the junction with Slough Lane. The land slopes gently from 188.60m aOD in the west to 192.00m aOD in the east and lies between a deep valley to the north-west and Henley Hill to the south-east. The site measures about *c* 1600m² in total.
- 2.2 According to the British Geological Survey (2011), the solid geology of the site comprises Jurassic limestones and mudstones of the Fullers Earth Rock Member.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 No previous archaeological work has been undertaken on the site.
- 3.2 There is some evidence of prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site, the most significant being a Mesolithic lithic working site (SGHER 4717) on Henley Hill, c.150m south-east of the site. A single prehistoric worked flint was also recovered during fieldwalking (SGHER 7404) in the field immediately to the south of the site. The A46 trunk road approximately follows the top of the Cotswold scarp, although usually at a discrete distance: it could be an ancient route. A Bronze Age hoard was also found at Monkswood, c1km to the south-east of the site, in 1894.
- 3.3 A Romano-British settlement (SGHER 9469 and 11119) is recorded to the south of Nimlet, c650m from the site.
- 3.4 There are extensive medieval strip lynchets (SGHER 2015 and 2873) on the scarp face to the west of the A46 road, the closest of which lie c80m to the north-west of the site. Cold Ashton, originally plain Ashton, is recorded in documents from the 10th century onwards. It was part of the Hundred of Pucklechurch, which itself was one of the Seven Hundreds of Grumbald's Ash. At the time of the Domesday survey the Church held Ashton, with 5 hides; there were a small number of villagers, smallholders and a single freed man. The name Henley Hill is recorded as '*Henleg*' in 1279. The latter place name means 'high clearing'.
- 3.5 A disused post-medieval quarry (SGHER 7360) is recorded the west side of Henley Hill c.70m to the south-east of the site. A few sherds of post-medieval pottery were also recovered during fieldwalking to the south of the site (SGHER 7404).
- 3.6 The post-medieval settlement of Nimlet (SGHER 17682), which was known as *Nemlet* before 1955, is not depicted on the 1769 *Map of the country 11 miles round the city of Bristol*, but does have some buildings marked on the 1842 Tithe Map. This suggests that the settlement was established in the late 18th or early 19th century. At the end of the 19th century, Earl Temple was lord of the manor of Cold Aston, and the Whittington family were the chief landowners.
- 3.7 Derelict structures, which were probably used as a monitoring post for the Royal Observer Corps during the Second World War (SGHER 7387), are recorded c.180m south-east of the site.
- 3.8 Juniper Lodge itself (SGHER 7386) is a small 20th century bungalow; cartographic evidence suggests it was built between 1924 and 1955. The southern edge of the site was formerly defined by a field boundary. Historic maps and aerial photographs show that this boundary was removed between 1976 and 2004. The boundary remains visible as a low earthwork.

4. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork complied with the methodology outlined in a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (BaRAS 2011), a *Brief for an Archaeological Investigation* (Haigh 2011), and followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2008). The aim of the watching brief was to record any archaeological features or deposits uncovered during the course of intrusive groundworks.
- 4.2 The watching brief involved monitoring the mechanical excavation of topsoil.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1 The whole development site was stripped of topsoil using a 360° tracked excavator. Residual topsoil was then stripped to reveal the underlying natural geology from all the areas likely to be impacted by further intrusive groundworks. This was undertaken in order to ascertain the presence/absence of any archaeological features or deposits. No archaeological finds or features were uncovered.
- 5.2 A uniform horizontal sequence of deposits was observed across the site. This comprised a 0.20m thick layer of firm dark brown silty clay topsoil (100), which contained moderate amounts of small rounded to angular stones and very occasional post-medieval/modern brick, glass, metal and pottery inclusions. The topsoil overlay firm natural pale orangey brown silty clay (101) that contained bands of degraded limestone.

6. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1. No archaeological features or significant finds were identified during the course of the watching brief. Indeed, the absence of any residual finds pre-dating the post-medieval/modern periods suggests that there was probably little activity in the immediate vicinity of the site prior to the establishment of Nimlet in the late 18th/early 19th century.

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES CONSULTED

Maps and Plans

Map of the country 11 miles round the city of Bristol	1769
Ordnance Survey	1882 1:2500 plan
Ordnance Survey	1886 1:2500 plan
Ordnance Survey	1889 1:10560 map
Ordnance Survey	1903 1:2500 plan
Ordnance Survey	1905 1:10560 map
Ordnance Survey	1921 1:2500 plan
Ordnance Survey	1924 1:10560 map
Ordnance Survey	1955 1:10560 map
Ordnance Survey	1974 1:2500 plan
Ordnance Survey	1976 1:10000 plan
Aerial photograph	2004
Satellite image	2011

Published material

Department for Communities and Local Government. (2010), *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment*.

Unpublished material

BaRAS (2011) *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Juniper Lodge, Gloucester Road, Nimlet, Cold Ashton, South Gloucestershire*. Bristol and Regional Archaeological Services.

Haigh, D. (2011) *Brief for an Archaeological Watching Brief: Juniper Lodge, Gloucester Road, Nimlet, Cold Ashton, South Gloucestershire*. Planning and Environment Section, South Gloucestershire Council.

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British Geological Survey (2011) Geology of Britain Viewer. Available: <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>. Last accessed 12 July 2011.

IfA (2008) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Available: http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/ifa_standards_watching.pdf. Last accessed 12 July 2011.

8. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

8.1 BaRAS would like to thank Matthew James for funding the project and David Haigh (SGCC Natural & Built Environment Team Manager) for his advice.

8.2 The watching brief was managed by John Bryant (Acting Manager BaRAS). Plans and plates in this report were prepared by Ann Linge (Design and Production Officer BaRAS). The watching brief was undertaken by Cai Mason (Project Officer BaRAS).

APPENDIX 1: Policy Statement

This report is the result of work carried out in the light of national and local authority policies.

NATIONAL POLICIES

Statutory protection for archaeology is enshrined in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979), amended by the National Heritage Act, 1983. Nationally important sites are listed in the Schedule of Ancient Monuments (SAM). Scheduled Monument consent is required for any work that would affect a SAM.

GOVERNMENT POLICY GUIDANCE

Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment (1994) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (1990) have been replaced (23 March 2010) by Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (2010) which sets out the Government's national policies on conservation of the historic environment. Those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are called heritage assets.

Of particular relevance within the Planning Policy Statement are:

Policy HE6: Information Requirements for Applications for Consent Affecting Heritage Assets

HE6.1 Local planning authorities should require an applicant to provide a description of the significance of the heritage assets affected and the contribution of their setting to that significance. The level of detail should be proportionate to the importance of the heritage asset and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on the significance of the heritage asset. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets themselves should have been assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary given the application's impact. Where an application site includes, or is considered to have the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where desk-based research is insufficient to properly assess the interest, a field evaluation.

Policy HE9: Additional Policy Principles Guiding the Consideration of Applications for Consent Relating to Designated Heritage Assets

HE9.1 There should be a presumption in favour of the conservation of designated heritage assets and the more significant the designated heritage asset, the greater the presumption in favour of its conservation should be. Once lost, heritage assets cannot be replaced and their loss has a cultural, environmental, economic and social impact. Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting. Loss affecting any designated heritage asset should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of a grade II listed building, park or garden should be exceptional. Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, including scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, battlefields, grade I or II* listed buildings and grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.

Policy HE12: Policy Principles Guiding the Recording of Information Related to Heritage Assets

HE12.3 Where the loss of the whole or a material part of a heritage asset's significance is justified, local planning authorities should require the developer to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is lost, using planning conditions or obligations as appropriate. The extent of the requirement should be proportionate to the nature and level of the asset's significance. Developers should publish this evidence and deposit copies of the reports with the relevant historic environment record. Local planning authorities should require any archive generated to be deposited with a local museum or other public depository willing to receive it. Local planning authorities should impose planning conditions or obligations to ensure such work is carried out in a timely manner and that the completion of the exercise is properly secured.

South Gloucestershire Planning Policy

Archaeology L11

Development which would not physically preserve sites of national archaeological importance, whether scheduled or not, or would have a significant impact on the setting of visible remains, will not be permitted.

Planning permission will not be granted for development on sites or landscapes of archaeological interest or of high archaeological potential without an archaeological assessment and if necessary a field evaluation.

Where the assessment indicates that the proposed development would harm a site, structure or landscape of archaeological or historic importance or its setting, development will not be permitted unless applicants can demonstrate a satisfactory scheme indicating how the impact of the proposal on the archaeological resource can be mitigated. The council will negotiate agreements to preserve and manage archaeological remains.

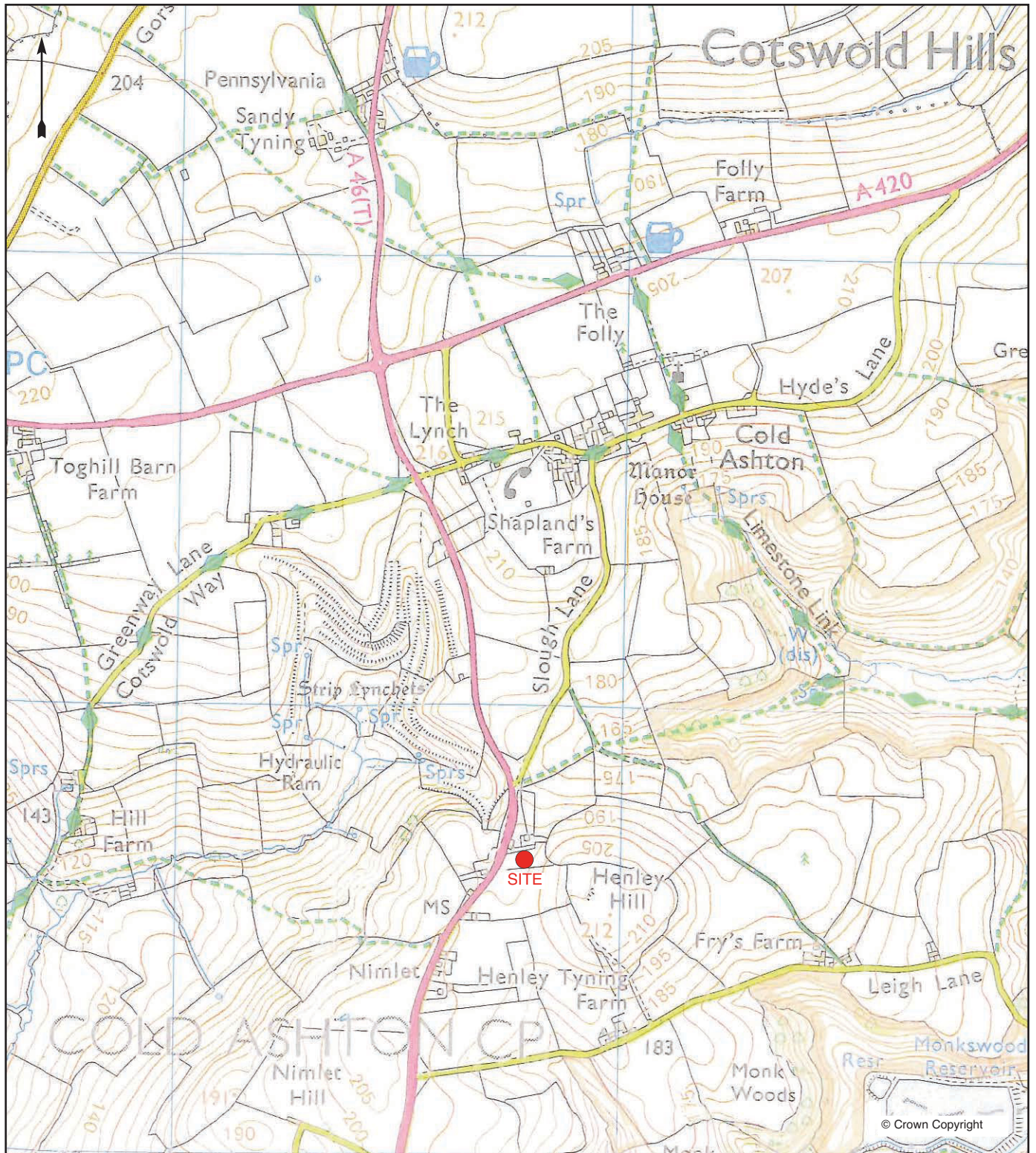


Fig.1 Site location plan, scale 1:12,700

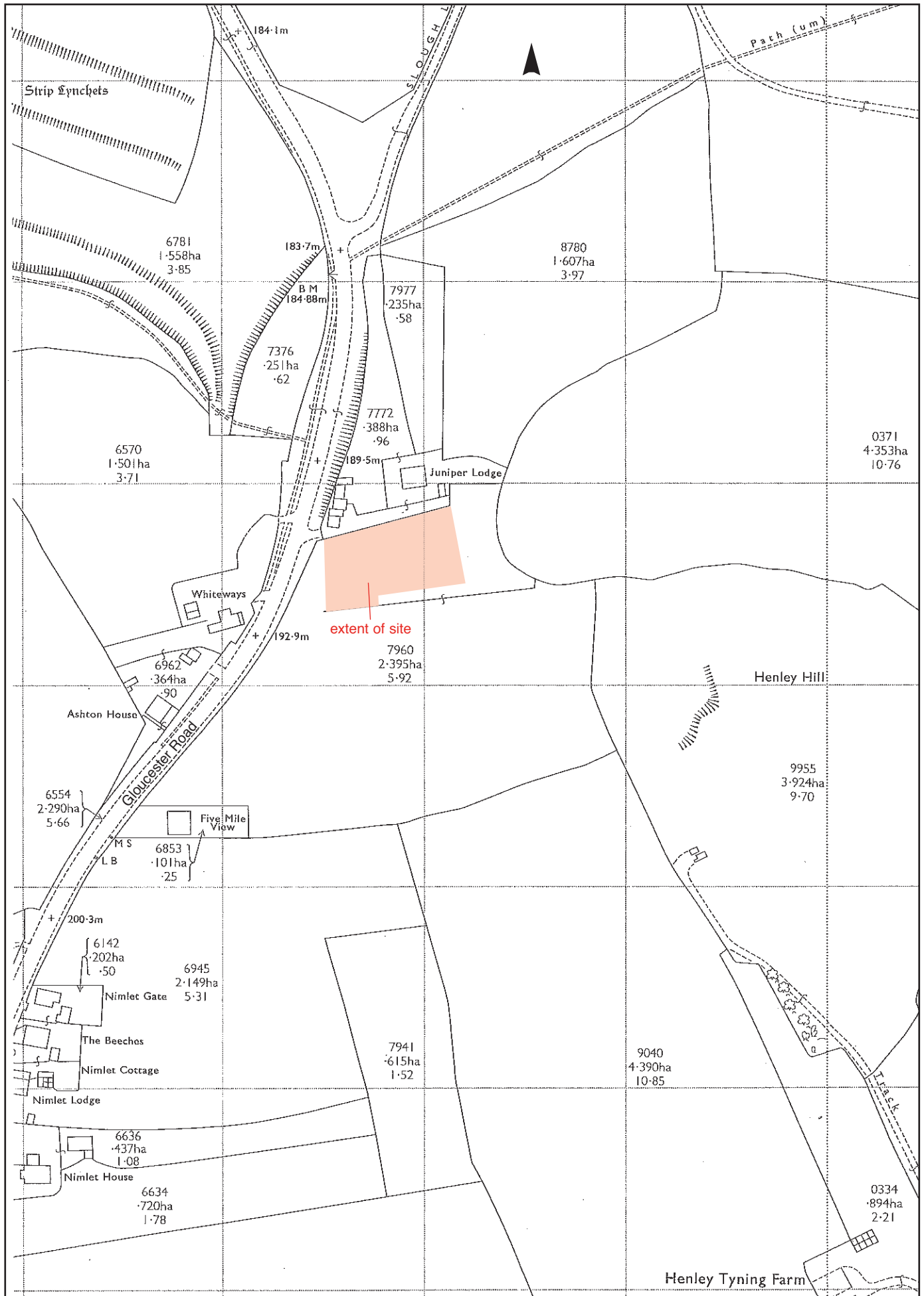


Fig.2 Site plan, scale 1:2500



Plate 1 Stripping topsoil at the western end of the site, viewed from the north-east



Plate 2 Stripping residual topsoil from the eastern end of the site, viewed from the north