

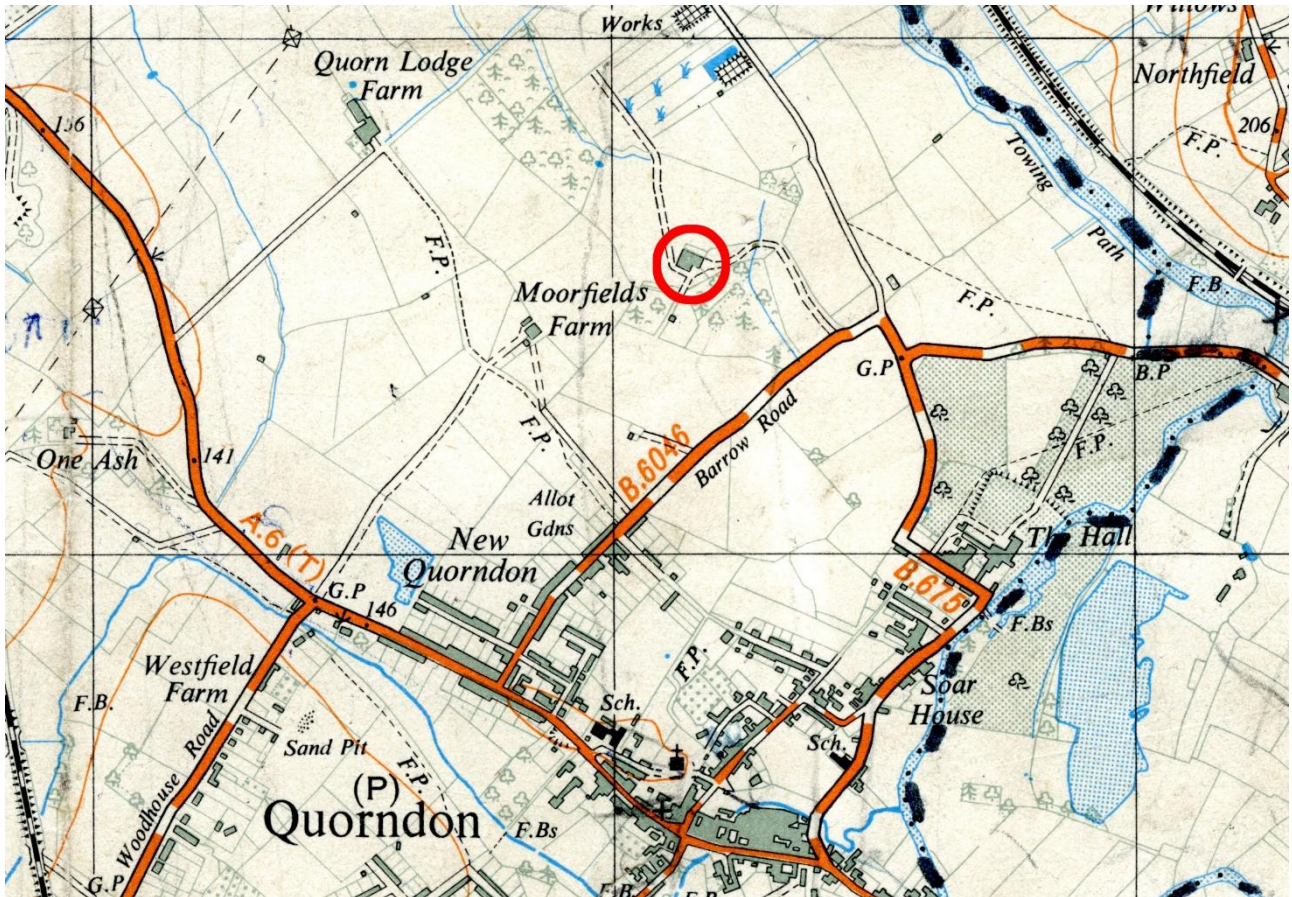
Poole Farm, Quorn during Mr and Mrs Gibbs tenure 1956 -1976

Poole Farm, a small holding of 70 acres was situated at the end of a lane off Barrow Road. It is believed that the original farmhouse, which may have had a thatched roof, was erected in the eighteenth century after the allocation of land blocks, following the enclosure awards of 1763. The house was somewhat unusual, in that, the end of the building was used as an animal shelter. Mrs Gibbs remembers thinking that this was rather medieval and similarly, the water and sanitation system were not up to much, with just an 'Elsan' toilet when they arrived. The farm first appeared on estate plans dated 1816 and was shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1884. The farm was extended, with buildings being added in 1903, 1964, 1971 and later in 1978.



A painting of Poole Farm by Nina Brambir and a photograph titled 'Poole Farm on a dry day!'

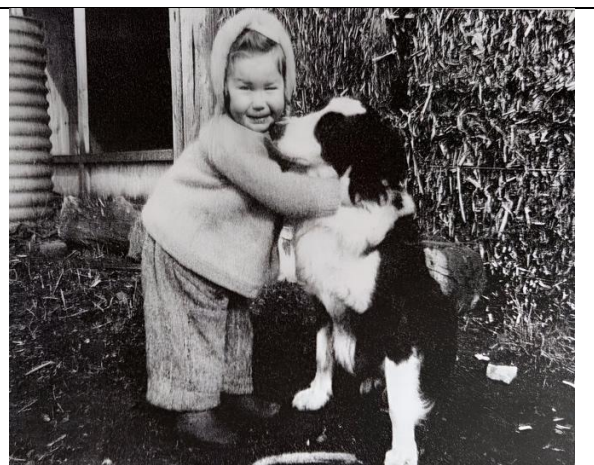




Poole Farm farmhouse is shown within the red circle, marked on this 1955 map



Rachael and Hugh Gibbs (1926-2012)



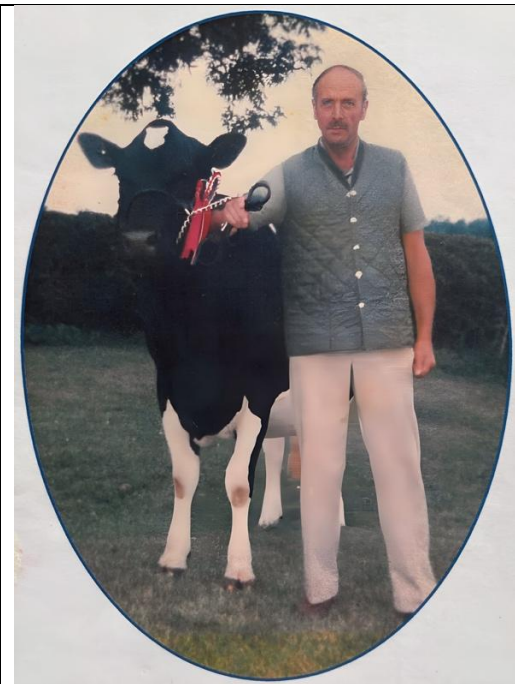
Fiona with Sheep dog

Hugh and Rachael Gibbs took on the tenancy in the autumn of 1956 and lived there until 1976 when Hugh's health had deteriorated. Fiona, their daughter was brought up on the farm and now lives in Cossington. It was not unusual for half of the farm's 70 acres to be under water and to be flooded four times a year. Mr. Gibbs told a newspaper reporter that:

"it was more than inconvenience and not a case where the River Soar overflows its banks and deposits silt to the benefit of the land no, the flooding is caused by backwash from the dykes and because the water table is so near the surface, with the result that the water leaches the soil".

Despite the difficulties, Mr Gibbs still managed to be among the finalists of the Leicestershire Grassland Society's hay and silage Competition in 1967.

The prize winning LANTAN dairy herd initially, consisted of Friesians then, later Canadian Holsteins. The herd name was chosen by Rachael and was an amalgam of LANgton Farm, Foxton, their first married home and TAN the name of the racehorse that won the Grand National steeplechase on their wedding day. The herd won many rosettes and certificates from local and county shows and the Royal Show, then the premier annual agricultural event in England. The herd size grew from around 30 to 70 cows. Bulls including, resting bulls from Sutton Bonnington were tethered on the farm in the trees. As well as the farm fields, in 1972, additional capacity was taken at Broombriggs Farm, Woodhouse Eaves. Hard to believe today, but Rachael remembers that the cows were herded to and from the farms along the roads, even crossing the A6! Machine milking was carried out on the farm and bulk tanked.

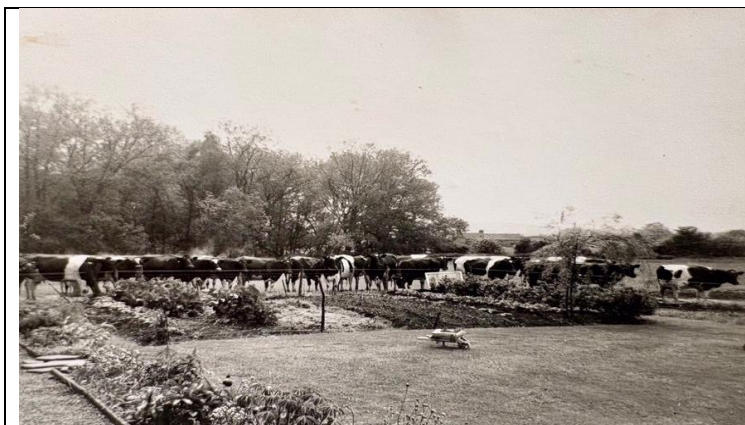


Another 1st Place proudly wearing two red rosettes. Red being the top-tier award for the winner of a specific class.



Mr. Gibbs exercising his 14-month-old bull, Robfell Vulcan, past the flood water. Vulcan was awaiting final inspection by Ministry officials before being sold to the Milk Marketing Board.

Rachael remembers that, as well as the cows, there were six sheep, some pigs and chickens. The sheep were hers, but they didn't stay long because of the disease of liver fluke, spread by the flooding. The pigs were pedigree Landraces; the availability of the Poole Farm boar was advertised for stud in county newspapers in 1956 and 1957. Rachael won show prizes as well, not for farm animals, but for her pet Labradors Bracken and Cookie. She can also take credit for selecting the breed's name 'Lantan', naming their next home, a Cotes Road cottage 'Fox Hollies' and in the 1970s, suggested the new LCC's farm, be named 'Fenny Copse Farm', instead of Fenny Wood Farm which, she thought was too pretentious.



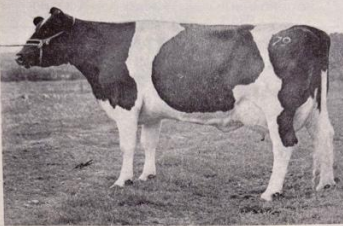
The herd at the bottom of the garden



Preparing the tractor for work

After some twenty years and due to Hugh's health issues, the tenancy had to be given up. Hugh then worked as a dairy breed advisor and Rachael became a Bradgate Park volunteer. They moved into another County Council property, a cottage, situated in Cotes Road, Barrow upon Soar.

The Gibbs weren't the last to farm at Poole Farm, they were followed by Mr Bailey, after him the farm was left to deteriorate and in 2020 the County Council sought permission (from themselves) to demolish the farm, build industrial units and install solar panels. Another application for the site, granted in 2022, for the Quorn Solar Farm was granted but then put in doubt as the council then thought the land could be sold. Solar farm construction finally started in 2025. Graham Hewitt worked for Hugh and Rachel for seven years and commented: "I believe the house is no longer fit for living in. Last time I went down, it was a right mess, buildings destroyed, house boarded up. Sad to see, when it was always a very clean and well managed farm. Won many prizes."

<p>Pool Farm, QUORN situate off Barrow Road, approximately 1 mile from the A6 and 1 mile from Barrow-upon-Soar On FRIDAY, 21st MARCH, 1975 <i>Whittle, Attenborough & Peach</i> have received instructions from Mr. H. W. Gibbs who is giving up active farming owing to health reasons. TO SELL BY AUCTION on the Premises, above.</p> <p>The Agricultural Implements and Equipment as catalogued within Light Refreshments available The Sale will commence at 2 p.m. punctually Further details from the offices of the Chartered Surveyors, Chartered Auctioneers and Estate Agents 4 New Walk, Leicester (Telephone 27312/21612)</p>	 <p>Photo by A. Bishop</p> <p>LANTAN AMY 2nd RM, RMX, Excellent, lot 11. Winner of many prizes</p> <p>THE LANTAN AND RINGSWOOD SALE of ACCREDITED BRITISH FRIESIAN CATTLE the property respectively of Messrs. H. W. Gibbs and J. W. G. Dalby & Sons Wednesday, March 19, 1975</p> <p>Poole Farm, Quorn, near Loughborough, Leics.</p>	<p>DISPERSAL SALE POOLE FARM, QUORN, near LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE LE12 8EN</p> <p>CATALOGUE of the entire first-class ACCREDITED (MAFF Brucellosis Eradication Scheme) LANTAN HERD of pedigree British Friesian Cattle (females dehorned) the property of Mr. H. W. GIBBS</p> <p>Also the entire crop of freshly-calving and down-calving dehorned heifers from the Accredited RINGSWOOD herd owned by Messrs. J. W. G. Dalby & Sons, Cestersover Farm, Pailton, Warwick. (Tel. Rugby 832247).</p> <p>For Sale by Auction (under the BFCs of GB & I Auction Rules) On Wednesday, March 19, 1975 (12 noon)</p> <p>At Poole Farm, 1 mile from Quorn, 1 1/2 miles from Loughborough, 9 from Leicester, 19 from Nottingham and 20 from Newark.</p> <p>MOTORISTS PLEASE NOTE — Poole Farm adjoins the Quorn-Barrow-upon-Soar road (B.6046). It is 1/2 mile from the Leicester-Loughborough main road (A.6), turn off at the signpost to Barrow, by the Hurst Hotel in Quorn from the Newark-Leicester main road (A.46), turn off at the "Durham Ox" Inn and proceed via Barrow-upon-Soar.</p> <p>The "King's Head", (Tel. 4892) at Loughborough is a convenient hotel and there is ample hotel accommodation in Leicester.</p> <p>AUCTIONEERS: HOBSONS Light refreshments will be available. Sale (UNDER) to commence punctually at 12 noon COVER</p> <p>Catalogues from Mr. H. W. Gibbs, Poole Farm, Quorn, Loughborough, LE12 8EN; from Messrs. J. W. G. Dalby & Sons, Cestersover Farm, Pailton, Warwick; or from HOBSONS, Victoria House, Southampton Row, London WC1B 5DT (Tel. 01-406 3864), who will execute commissions to purchase (written instructions must be sent). Telephone: Quorn 638 (Lantan herd and Sale Day) Rugby 832247 (Ringwood herd)</p> <p>PLEASE BRING THIS CATALOGUE TO THE SALE</p>
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The Implements and Equipment (notice the incorrect spelling of Poole Farm) and Cattle Sale catalogue from March 1975

By Dennis Marchant after talking to Mrs Rachael Gibbs in March 2026