



Penhill

Penhill Farm

Penhill Farm occupied 273 acres and was originally a sheep farm (hence the name from Pens on the Hill).

The farm is believed to date back to 1093, and changed to grain production for brewing towards end of its life.

An Enclosure was awarded to Merton Collage, Oxford 1796.

Purchased by Thomas Arkell in 1833 and the 1841 - 1891 censuses record the Arkell family as residents.

1837 SALE in local paper

PENHILL FARM.
*In the Parish of **Stratton St. Margaret**, near Swindon,
Wills.*

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by WM. DORE
and SON, on the Premises, on the above Farm,
on THURSDAY the 20th day of April, 1837, the whole of
the prime

FLOCK OF SHEE

Cart Horses, Waggons, and other Husbandry Implements,
the property of Mr. JOHN JONES, who is quitting the
Farm; comprising 200 half-bred, 2, 4, and 6-tooth Cou-
ples, (in lots of 10 each), 20 barren Ewes, one cart Mare,
three two-year old cart Colts, 3 narrow-wheel Waggons,
and various other Husbandry Implements, &c.; the Sale
of which will commence at 1 o'clock precisely.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette 13/4/1837

27th August 1894 32 acres of wheat were sold at public auction.

1851 – Wanted immediately, a BALIFF and a FEMALE to take charge of the Dairy. - a Man and his Wife would be preferred. The Dairy will consist about 40 cows. None need apply who have not had experience to the management of a Cheese, Dairy and whose character will not bear strict investigation. - apply, for particulars, post-paid, to Thos. Arkell, Penhill Farm, Stratton.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette 10th April 1841

1871 – George Legg is shown as being Farm Bailiff.

1879, 4th April Thomas Arkell was selling up and all horses and Agricultural equipment were Auctioned.

1894, 27th August 32 acres of wheat were sold at public auction.

1896, 20th March, Henry Arkell sells off 420 sheep, 9 Carthorses and farm machinery.

The 1899 Kelly's Directory and the 1901 & 1911 censuses show that Donald Hoddinott was a farmer here and the 1936 Electoral Roll lists him as still resident, although around 1912 the head of household was recorded as Francis Hoddinott. In 1924 the rates were £43.

Around 1912 the head of household was recorded as Francis Hoddinott In the 1948 & 1951 Street Directories P. G. Denly & Ivy Barker were living here.

1939 Register has Wilfred & Jessie Cornish.

1948 & 1951 Street Directories show P. G. Denly & Ivy Barker were living here, the last farmer was a Mr Tanner.

1949 – LEG CAUGHT IN MACHINE – Severe leg injuries were received by Mr. E. J. LEON, 578, Cricklade Road, Stratton St. Margaret, yesterday afternoon, when he was clearing a feeding box of a threshing machine at Penhill farm. Mr LEON, who is 45, received his injuries when it is understood, his foot slipped on the board into the drum. Part of the threshing machine had to be dismantled in order to extradite Mr LEON's leg.

The Western Daily Press and Bristol Mirror 4th February 1949.

In 1951 Swindon Corporation acquired the farm and land for building development and by 1965 there were 2000 houses built there.

The land is now the Penhill housing estate and the separate Farmhouse on the opposite side of Cricklade Road is used by Civil Service and NALGO as its Sports Clubhouse.

The 2001 Census recorded a population of about 6000 in Penhill