



Land West of Shilton Road, Earl Shilton

Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment

Prepared For: Giles Stanley Ltd

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Executive Summary

1. The Environment Partnership (TEP) Ltd have been commissioned to undertake a historic environment desk-based assessment to assess the impact that a proposed residential development on land to the west of Shilton Road, Earl Shilton, would have on the historic environment. The proposed development site has historically been in agricultural use since at least the late medieval period and baseline conditions show that within a 1km Study Area there are nine designated heritage assets and 68 non-designated heritage assets.
2. The designated heritage assets include one Scheduled Monument, one grade II* listed church, and seven grade II listed buildings. The proposed development site is not within the setting of these assets and does not contribute to their significance.
3. A single heritage asset, comprising the findspot of a Roman coin is recorded within the proposed development site, and another is recorded immediately adjacent. A shallow pit containing fragments of prehistoric pottery was identified during evaluation works immediately to the south of the Site.
4. The hedgerows forming the proposed development site boundaries have been assessed as Important in accordance with the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.
5. Following consultation with the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire Council a geophysical survey was carried out of the proposed development site. No anomalies of clear archaeological origin were identified however several anomalies of indeterminate origin have been noted which may have an archaeological origin.
6. It has been recommended that the proposed development site be subject to intrusive investigation (trial trenching) to assess the site's archaeological potential and to investigate the significance of any archaeological remains that may be impacted by the proposed development.

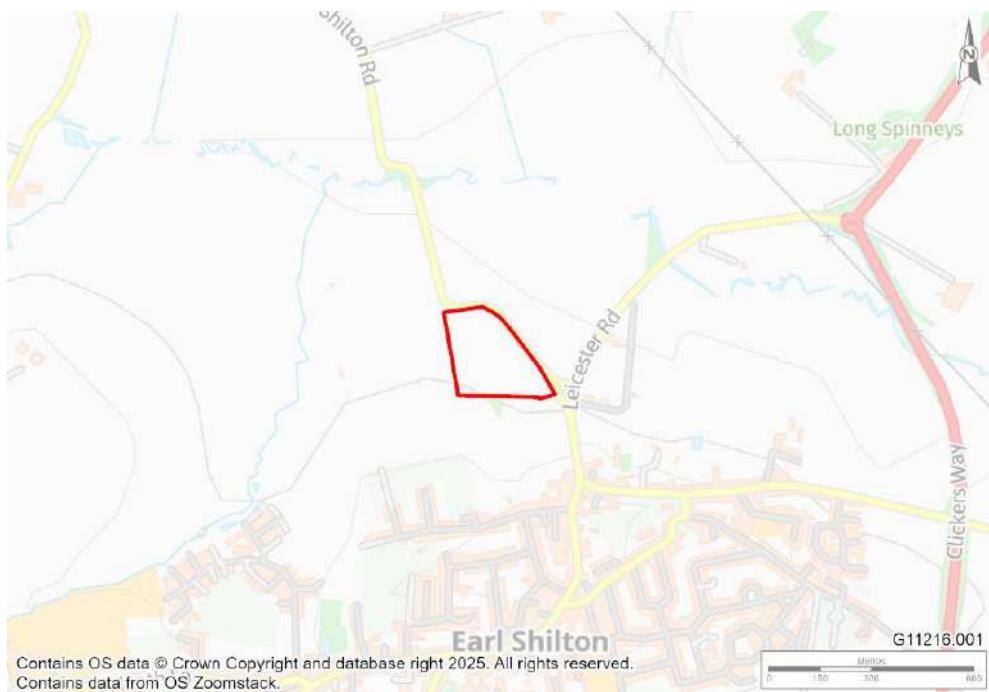
1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides a description of the historic environment baseline conditions for land west of Shilton Road, Earl Shilton. It has been commissioned by Giles Stanley Ltd.
- 1.2 Giles Stanley Ltd propose an outline application for the construction of up to 120 residential dwellings (Access arrangements to be determined with all other matters reserved).
- 1.3 This desk-based assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment (ClfA, 2020).

Site Location

- 1.4 Land west of Shilton Road is located at Shilton Road, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire, LE9 7QL, centred at approximately National Grid Reference SP 46647 98548 and covers an area of c5.5ha. This is referred to throughout this report as the proposed development site.
- 1.5 The proposed development site is currently in mixed use as agricultural land and for horse keeping and is bounded to the north and east by Shilton Road and Leicester Road, the town of Earl Shilton to the south, and agricultural land to the west.
- 1.6 The local planning authority is Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council. The historic environment record relevant to this site is held by the Historic Environment Team at Leicestershire County Council.

Figure 1: Site location.



Proposed Development

1.7 The proposed development will comprise an outline application for the construction of up to 120 residential dwellings (Access arrangements to be determined with all other matters reserved).

Aims and Objectives

1.8 The aim of this assessment is to provide:

- a description of the baseline historic environment conditions within the proposed development site,
- a description of the archaeological potential of the proposed development site, and
- an assessment of the significance of the known and potential heritage assets, considering the contribution made by setting to that significance.

1.9 This report also provides an assessment of the likely effects of the proposed development on the known and potential heritage assets.

1.10 This report includes conclusions and recommendations. The recommendations consider strategies to avoid, reduce or mitigate effects on heritage assets that could arise from alteration or destruction of the heritage assets, or development within their setting.

2.0 Policy context and guidance

Statutory Legislation

2.1 The statutory legislation most relevant to this report comprises;

- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979: It is a criminal offence to carry out any works on or adjacent to a Scheduled Monument without Scheduled Monument Consent. This Act makes no reference to the setting of Scheduled Monuments.
- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990: In considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a Listed Building or its setting, the decision maker shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting (section 66). Special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of a Conservation Area (section 72).
- Hedgerow Regulations 1997: A local authority can prohibit the removal of an 'important' hedgerow. Hedgerows can be considered important on grounds of historical or archaeological value or association.

National Planning Policy

2.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2024) has three overarching objectives to achieve its aim of sustainable development. This includes "an environmental objective – to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment" (Chapter 2, paragraph 8).

2.3 Chapter 16 of the NPPF (2024) then goes on to describe provisions specifically relating to conserving and enhancing the historic environment.

2.4 Paragraph 207 advises local planning authorities to require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected by their proposal, including any contribution made by their setting. It states that "*the level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance*". In addition, "*Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation*".

2.5 The glossary to the NPPF describes significance in relation to heritage policy as "*The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic*".

Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting".

2.6 The setting of a heritage asset is defined as "*the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of the asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral*".

Local Planning Policy

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, Local Development Framework, Core Strategy, Adopted 2009

Policy 2 Development in Earl Shilton

To ensure development respects the character of Earl Shilton, builds on its sense of place and helps deliver the regeneration of the town the council will:

- *Require new development to respect the character and appearance of the Earl Shilton Conservation Area by incorporating locally distinctive features of the conservation area*
- *Expect development to respect Earl Shilton's industrial heritage through sympathetic reuse of existing buildings unless it can be demonstrated that this is not achievable*

2.7 The Local Plan states that "*The borough's attractive environment is one of its key strengths in many people's minds and safeguards to protect the best of its landscapes, wildlife and heritage- whilst encouraging responsible enjoyment of it- must therefore be at the centre of spatial policies (3.27)*". The Local Plan recognises "*the need to safeguard valuable assets such as conservation areas, listed buildings, sites of archaeological and cultural heritage interest, geology and landscape character (3.28)*"

Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan 2020-2039, Consultation Draft Plan

2.8 The Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan will set out the vision and objectives for the growth of the borough up to 2039. It includes three policies relating to the historic environment and archaeology.

HE01 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment

2.9 The historic environment will be conserved, enhanced, sensitively managed and enjoyed for its contribution to quality of life, to the distinctive local character of places and spaces, and to sustainable development within the borough.

HE02 Heritage Assets

2.10 Development proposals affecting heritage assets (both designated and non-designated) and their settings should recognise and respond to their significance and demonstrate how they conserve or enhance the significance of the asset(s), including any contribution made by their setting where appropriate. All development proposals must accord with in particular Policy PMD01: High Quality Design. Development affecting archaeology must accord with Policy HE03: Preserving the Borough's Archaeology.

Non-Designated Heritage Assets

- In weighing proposals that directly or indirectly affect a non-designated heritage asset, a balanced judgement will be reached based on the significance of the asset, the scale of any harm identified, and evidence submitted in relation to the proposal.
- Proposals that conserve or enhance the significance of a non-designated heritage asset will be supported. For this to be achieved, proposals should be sympathetic to and reflective of the same characteristics identified within criterion 1 of this Policy.

HE03 Preserving the Borough's Archaeology

2.11 Where an initial assessment indicates that the site on which development is proposed includes or has potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, applicants are required to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment with their application and, where applicable, the results of a field evaluation detailing the significance of any affected asset.

2.12 Where applicable, justified, and feasible, the Borough Council will require remains to be preserved in situ ensuring appropriate design, layout, ground levels, foundations, and site work methods to avoid any adverse impacts on the remains.

2.13 Where preservation of archaeological remains in situ is not feasible and/or justified, the Borough Council will require full archaeological investigation and recording by an approved archaeological organisation before development commences.

Guidance

2.14 Best practice guidance notes and standards relevant to the historic environment, and consulted in the production of this report comprise:

- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA) Code of Conduct (2022),
- ClfA, Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment (2020),

- National Planning Practice Guidance (2019),
- IEMA, IHBC & CIfA, Principles of Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment in the UK (2021),
- Historic England, Making Changes to Heritage Assets: Historic England Advice Note 2 (2016),
- Historic England, The Setting of Heritage Assets: Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 (Second Edition) (2017), and
- Historic England, Conservation Principles; Policy and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment (2008).

2.15 Conservation Principles (HE, 2008) sets out Historic England's approach to understanding heritage significance, and describes four groups of heritage 'values', which are referred to below:

- **Evidential value:** the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity.
- **Historical value:** the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present – it tends to be illustrative or associative.
- **Aesthetic value:** the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place.
- **Communal value:** the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory.

2.16 The Setting of Heritage Assets (HE, 2017) recommends a staged approach to assessing effects on setting comprising the following steps:

- Step 1: Identify which heritage assets and their settings are affected.
- Step 2: Assess the degree to which these settings make a contribution to the significance of the heritage asset(s) or allow significance to be appreciated.
- Step 3: Assess the effects of the proposed development, whether beneficial or harmful, on that significance or ability to appreciate it.
- Step 4: Explore ways to maximise enhancement and avoid or minimise harm.
- Step 5: Make and document the decision and monitor outcomes.

3.0 Method

Study Area

3.1 Data was gathered for all designated heritage assets within 1km of the proposed development site boundary. This allowed for the identification of the heritage assets where the proposed development could affect the contribution of the heritage asset's setting to its significance. This Study Area is proportionate to the scale of the proposed development and was informed by a preliminary appraisal of baseline data.

3.2 Data has also been gathered for all non-designated heritage assets within the proposed development site boundary and a 1km buffer from the proposed site boundary. The Study Area has been designed to be fully inclusive of the proposed development site boundary to ensure that assets adjacent to the proposed development site but with the potential to extend into are captured in baseline data. The area of search also allows for assets with archaeological interest within or adjacent to the development site to be placed in context, and for the identification of trends that may help to predict archaeological potential within the proposed development site.

Data Sources

3.3 The following sources were consulted:

- The National Heritage List for England for current data on designated heritage assets maintained by Historic England
- The Historic England Archive, online historical photos, drawings, and reports
- The Leicestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) maintained by Leicestershire County Council
- Ordnance survey historic mapping provided by GroundSure (Appendix B)
- The Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland
- Archaeological Data Service for grey literature
- East Midlands Research Framework
- Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Landscape Characterisation Project
- Conservation Area appraisals
- Aerial photographs and satellite images
- LiDAR data provided by ScalGo
- British Geological Survey (BGS) online mapping

3.4 The Historic Environment Record was consulted in July 2025. The Leicestershire Record Office was visited in August 2025.

Site Visit

3.5 The proposed development site was visited on 8th July 2025. A pro-forma record sheet was completed that recorded the following data:

- Date of survey
- Surveyor(s)
- Weather conditions
- Site description
- Known heritage assets (noting presence or absence and condition)
- Archaeological potential
- Health and safety

3.6 A vantage point survey was also undertaken to determine those assets where the proposed development could affect the contribution made by setting to the asset's heritage significance. The survey was undertaken in accordance with the guidance in The Setting of Heritage Assets (HE, 2017). The survey considered:

- The nature of the physical surroundings in which the heritage assets are experienced (including visual and functional relationships with other heritage assets, formal design, openness, integrity and change over time);
- The way the assets are appreciated, experienced and understood (including views, visual prominence, associative attributes and intentional intervisibility with other assets); and
- The location, form and appearance of the development.

Assessing Heritage Significance

3.7 The significance of a heritage asset is described in terms of the value of the heritage asset because of its heritage interest (architectural, archaeological, artistic or historic) as defined in NPPF, and is also described in relation to the asset's heritage values (evidential, historical, communal, and aesthetic) as defined in Conservation Principles (HE, 2008).

3.8 For designated assets (World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, some Listed Buildings and Registered Parks and Gardens, and Registered Battlefields), the importance is 'high' or 'very high' as these assets meet the national criteria for designation under the relevant legislation. Listed Buildings and Registered Parks and Gardens are graded (I, II* and II) according to relative significance.

3.9 The relative significance of each non-designated heritage asset within the historic environment baseline has also been determined to provide a framework for comparison. These categories do not reflect a definitive level of significance or value of a heritage asset, but a provisional one based on the asset's heritage values to provide an analytical tool that can inform later stages of assessment and the development of appropriate mitigation, where needed. Some non-designated assets can be of equivalent importance to designated heritage assets. In these cases, their relative importance means that they are treated as if they are designated assets.

3.10 The methodology within this section has been developed with reference to the following guidance documents:

- Historic England (2019) Statement of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets, Historic England Advice Note 12.
- IEMA, IHBC & ClfA (2021) Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment in the UK.
- Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (2020) LA 104 - Environmental assessment and monitoring.

Table 1: Criteria for Determining Heritage Significance

Significance	Description
Very High	Internationally and nationally important resources: World Heritage Sites, Grade I Listed Buildings and Registered Parks and Gardens. Some Scheduled Monuments, especially those associated with a World Heritage Site.
High	Nationally important resources: Scheduled Monuments, Grade II* Listed Buildings, Grade II* Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefield.
Moderate	Regionally important resources: Grade II Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, non-designated heritage assets and landscape features with high or moderate evidential, historical, aesthetic and/or communal values.
Low	Locally important resources: Non-designated heritage assets and landscape features with low evidential, historical, aesthetic and/or communal values.
Negligible	Assets with very low or no evidential, historical, aesthetic and/ or communal values, or where remains are known to have been significantly altered or destroyed.
Unknown	Assets and structures of uncertain character, extent and/or date where the importance cannot be readily predicted.

Assessing the effects of the proposed development

3.11 The effects of the proposed development have been determined by comparing the significance of the known heritage assets (or potential for heritage assets with archaeological interest) against the magnitude of likely effect. The significance of a heritage asset can be harmed or lost by alteration or destruction of the asset or development within its setting.

3.12 In policy terms (NPPF 2024 paragraphs 213-215), harm to the significance of a heritage asset can be substantial or less than substantial. Planning practice guidance identifies that substantial harm is a high test. This is normally associated with total loss of a heritage asset's significance. Major adverse effects on heritage assets of moderate or high heritage significance are equivalent to substantial harm.

3.13 Less than substantial harm is a broader bandwidth and the degree of less than substantial harm is a professional judgement encompassing minor changes through to more significant effects. The conclusions in this report identify the overall significant effects of the proposed development on heritage assets in accordance with the following scale:

- **None:** no discernible change to any heritage asset, of any significance
- **Minor:** minor adverse changes to the significance of a heritage asset of moderate or high heritage significance, or significant adverse changes or total loss of significance to a heritage asset of low or negligible heritage significance
- **Moderate:** moderate adverse changes to the significance of a heritage asset of low or moderate heritage significance.

Magnitude of Effect

3.14 Assessing the effect of the proposed development in relation to the historic environment baseline is then considered by comparing the relative significance of the heritage asset against the predicted magnitude of effect. This includes the assessment of effects on the setting of heritage assets to determine whether, and to what degree, the heritage significance of an asset may be harmed by development within its setting.

3.15 The descriptions of magnitude of effect, provided in the following table, relate to harm to or loss of significance of the asset (and not, where development only affects its setting, the degree of change within that setting).

Table 2: Magnitude of Effect

Magnitude	Definition
High	Total loss or substantial harm to key elements or features or characteristics of the baseline (pre-development) conditions such that post development character or composition, or attributes of baseline will be fundamentally lost or changed.
Moderate	Partial loss or harm to one or more important elements or features or characteristics of the baseline (pre-development) conditions such that post development character or composition, or attributes of baseline will be partially changed.
Low	Minor loss. Change arising from the loss or alteration will be discernible but underlying character or composition or attributes of the baseline condition will be similar to pre-development circumstances or patterns.
Negligible/ None	No loss or harm to heritage significance. Change barely distinguishable.

Significance of Effect

3.16 Determining the overall significance of effect is then a professional judgement that compares the magnitude of effect against the relative sensitivity of the heritage assets affected.

Table 3: Significance of Effect

Magnitude	Importance of Receptor				
	Very High	High	Moderate	Low	Negligible
High	Major	Major or Moderate	Moderate	Low	Negligible
Moderate	Major or Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low or Negligible	Negligible or None
Low	Moderate or Low	Low	Low or Negligible	Negligible	None
Negligible/ None	Negligible or None	None	None	None	None

3.17 Heritage policy makes a distinction between substantial and less than substantial harm (NPPF 2024, paragraphs 213-215). For the purpose of this assessment, major adverse effects are equivalent to substantial harm. Moderate and low effects

are equivalent to less than substantial harm. Effects that are negligible are less than substantial and are also not significant.

3.18 The nature of an effect can be classified as adverse, negligible (or neutral) or beneficial:

- **Adverse:** negative or disadvantageous effects to a heritage asset,
- **Negligible or Neutral:** imperceptible or no effects to a heritage asset,
- **Beneficial:** positive or advantageous effects to a heritage asset.

Limitations of this Assessment

3.19 Monument data from the HER consists of secondary information derived from varied sources. This data, as well as that derived from other secondary sources, is generally accurate. There are however several limitations to the data set, generic to any historic environment assessment. For example, where the known archaeological data relates to chance finds, or cropmark evidence, the full extent, date and nature of the asset is often uncertain. Also, a number of records, especially older records such as antiquarian finds, excavations or observations often fail to accurately locate assets.

3.20 Due to these limitations, it is possible that previously unrecorded heritage assets with archaeological interest could be present within the proposed area of development. Additionally, due to the buried and invisible nature of archaeological assets, there is often an element of uncertainty regarding the survival, condition, nature and extent of any such assets, which walk over survey, cannot always clarify.

4.0 Baseline Conditions

Introduction

4.1 Drawings provided in support of the description of baseline conditions comprise:

- Drawing G11216.002: The location of known heritage assets
- Appendix B - Ordnance Survey Historic Mapping

4.2 Time periods referenced in the text are as follows:

- Prehistoric
 - Palaeolithic: 500,000 -10,000 BC
 - Mesolithic: 10,000 – 4,000 BC
 - Neolithic: 4,000 – 2,500 BC
 - Bronze Age: 2,500 - 800 BC
 - Iron Age: 800 BC – AD 43
- Roman: 43 – 410
- Early Medieval: 410 - 1066
- Medieval: 1066 – 1540
- Post Medieval: 1540 - 1901
- 18th and 19th century: 1750 - 1900
- Modern: 1901 - present

4.3 Abbreviations used are as follows:

- SM – Scheduled Monument
- LB – Listed Building
- CA – Conservation Area
- NDHA – Non-designated heritage asset

4.4 Bracketed number (e.g., **NDHA1**) reference the unique identifying number allocated to heritage assets in the Gazetteer and shown on Drawing G11216.002 (Appendix A).

Background and Context

Site Geology and Topography

4.5 The solid geology is recorded by the British Geological Survey as Gunthorpe Member mudstone of the Triassic period. No superficial deposits are recorded within the immediate site area but river terrace deposits are recorded to the north of the site and sand and gravel deposits of the Wigston Member are recorded in the northern extent of the village.

4.6 The site has a gradual slope down from 95m aOD at the west to 93m aOD at the east. There is also a gradual south to north decline including a localised sharp rise close to the southern boundary. At the south boundary the ground level is at 101m aOD, falling to 93m aOD at the northern boundary.

Archaeological and Historical Background

Palaeolithic

4.7 The earliest evidence of modern human occupation in the British Isles is dated to the Palaeolithic, a period marked by major climactic fluctuations, including drastic changes in sea levels, ice ages and series of warm and cold climates. Human activity in the period is known from lithic scatters and fossilised animal bone with cut marks, suggesting mobile groups of hunter-gatherers.

4.8 Evidence of the Palaeolithic period in Leicestershire is often in the form of lithic assemblages, such as single finds of hand axes recorded at Aylestone, approximately 11km east of the proposed development site (Howard, 2019; Tyldesley, 1987), or quartzite proto hand axes or chopper cores collected from Brooksby Quarry approximately 26km to the north-east of the proposed development site (Howard, 2019; Beamish et al., 2017).

4.9 No heritage assets of this period are recorded within the Study Area.

Mesolithic

4.10 Following the shrinking of the major ice sheets of the Palaeolithic period and a rise in sea levels, the Mesolithic period begins with the end of the last Ice Age in approximately 10,000 BC. The sea levels rose with the melting of the glaciers, separating Britain from the continent by approximately 6,000 BC. The improving climate allowed for extensive woodland cover to grow across the British Isles.

4.11 The warming climate meant that communities could reoccupy Britain on a more permanent basis. Mesolithic communities still followed a hunter-gatherer lifestyle,

moving around the landscape as the seasons changed to utilise the wider resources which were now available.

4.12 No heritage assets of this period are recorded within the Study Area.

Neolithic and Bronze Age

4.13 During the Neolithic period, there is evidence of wider adoption of agriculture and further development of sedentary farming societies, as well as the introduction of new techniques in stone tool production and the introduction of pottery (Pouncett, 2008: 37; Clay, 2006: 69). Nevertheless, it is likely that hunting and gathering were still practiced alongside farming activities.

4.14 In the Neolithic period throughout the British Isles, there is evidence for ceremonial monuments, such as enclosures, henges, long barrows and timber or stone circles. Within Leicestershire, there is only a single example of these ceremonial monuments recorded, a causewayed enclosure at Husbands Bosworth approximately c22km south-east of the proposed development site (Clay, 2006: 70).

4.15 The adoption of copper and bronze metal tools characterises the Bronze Age. In this period there are further developments of sedentism, subsistence, monumentality and ritual patterns that had begun in the Neolithic period. Characteristic material of the late Neolithic and early Bronze Age include Grooved ware and Beaker pottery, and flint, which have been found in Braunstone, Leicester approximately 10km north-east of the proposed development site (Clay, 2006: 77).

4.16 Within Leicestershire, there is evidence of field systems dating to the middle of the Bronze Age at Humberstone (Clay, 2006: 82) approximately 17km north-east of the proposed development site, as well as a late Bronze Age settlement at Glenfield (Clay, 2000; Willis, 2006) approximately 10km north-east of the proposed development site. Within Leicestershire, in common with other areas of Britain, the most frequently occurring Bronze Age monument is the round barrow. Excavations of barrows and ring ditches have been carried out at various locations across the county including Earl Shilton (LCC 2010).

4.17 Within the Study Area there are four non-designated heritage assets dating from or likely to date from the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods, comprising two mace heads (**NDHA1**, **NDHA2**), the cropmark of a possible Bronze Age ring ditch (**NDHA3**), and a pit which was found to contain sherds of late Bronze Age to middle Iron Age pottery (**NDHA4**). The pit was identified during archaeological evaluation works is located 30m to the south of the proposed development site.

Iron Age

4.18 The Iron Age climate is thought to be unstable, with various periods of deterioration and amelioration (Roberts, 2008: 200). The early part of the Iron Age in particular may have been a period of climactic deterioration, generally wetter and colder, that had begun at the end of the Bronze Age.

4.19 The practices and traditions of the Iron Age in Britain strongly overlapped with those of the preceding Bronze Age, with the adoption of iron tools and complex settlement patterns such as hillforts as key developments (Carroll and Lang, 2008: 95). Within Leicestershire, metal artefacts dating to the Iron Age have been recorded, such as an Iron Age sword along with at least 11 copper alloy cauldrons that were discovered at Glenfield approximately 10km north-east of the proposed development site (Willis, 2022: 51). Communal earthworks and defensive structures are also known from the period, including two hillforts in Leicestershire at Breedon Hill and Burrough Hill, both of which may have roots in the Bronze Age (Clay, 2006: 94; Willis, 2022: 65-66).

4.20 Other settlement patterns of the period are known in the region, such as roundhouses and enclosure ditches recorded at Hamilton outside Leicester (Beamish and Shore, 2008) approximately 18.5km north-east of the proposed development site. Within Leicester, evidence of the Iron Age dating to the late first century BC has been identified on the eastern banks of the River Soar at Bath Lane approximately 13km north-east of the proposed development site (Priest, 2005).

4.21 Iron Age societies in Britain were complex and appear to have been dominated by tribes, although much of that interpretation is derived from Roman and later sources (Moore, 2011). Within Leicestershire, the *Corieltauvi* were based in Leicester, the city becoming known as *Ratae Corieltauvorum* or *Civitas Corieltauvorum* in the subsequent Roman period. The *Corieltauvi* issued coinage in the late Iron Age, often found in hoards such as the more than 3,000 discovered in Hallaton 32km east of the proposed development site (Clay, 2006: 114; Priest et al., 2003).

4.22 In addition to the Iron Age pottery recovered from a pit (**NDHA4**), discussed above, there is an Iron Age droveway and field system recorded south of Thurlaston Lane, c1km to the south-east of the proposed development site (**NDHA5**), and a prehistoric pit alignment which may be Bronze Age or Iron Age and which is located c600m to the north-east of the proposed development site (**NDHA6**).

Roman

4.23 The Roman period in Britain begins in 43AD after the invasion by the Roman army in the reign of the emperor Claudius. The period lasted for more than 300 years, ending with the formal withdrawal of Roman administration in 410AD. Over that period, evidence of the Roman presence extended from south-east of England to as

far as Scotland north of the Antonine Wall, leaving physical evidence such as settlements, characteristic structures like temples, and large-scale infrastructure such as roads.

4.24 In the East Midlands and Leicestershire, the Roman period can be considered in two phases: an early phase from the period of initial conquest to about the end of the second century AD, and a late phase from the third century to the early fifth century, although there is little clear correspondence with discernible changes between the periods (Taylor, 2006: 140). The city of Leicester is relevant in both of these phases, as an Iron Age settlement that predated the occupation, and a major urban settlement in the Roman and subsequent periods.

4.25 There were two major urban settlements in the East Midlands during the Roman period: *Lindum Colonia* at modern Lincoln and *Ratae/Civitas Corieltauvorum* at modern Leicester (Taylor, 2006: 146). The Roman settlement at Leicester likely developed from a conquest fort on the site of the important pre-Roman settlement. Evidence of the Roman period in Leicester dating to the end of the second century AD have been recovered from excavations near Bath Lane and Westbridge (Clay and Pollard, 1994). The city developed steadily on the eastern bank of the River Soar, becoming a civitas civic centre in the second century.

4.26 As a Roman *civitas*, Leicester would have been connected to other settlements through the road system, including the Fosse Way (Margary, 1957: 5a-5f) which ran between Axmouth in south-western England and Lincoln in north-eastern England.

4.27 A pottery kiln is known to have been established at Earl Shilton during the Roman period (adjacent to the modern Heathfield High School, HER ref: MLE2855). There was also a pottery at Desford and a Roman quarry is known to have been located at Stoney Stanton.

4.28 Five non-designated heritage assets of this period are recorded within the Study Area. These include finds of coins (**NDHA7, NDHA10**), finds of pottery sherds (**NDHA8, NDHA9**), and a possible Roman site to the east of the moated site at Barwell (**NDHA11**).

Early Medieval

4.29 The Early Medieval period begins with the withdrawal of Roman administration in 410AD and ends with the Norman Conquest in 1066AD. The Early Medieval period is characterised by social, political, economic, religious and cultural developments, which underpinned much of the structures of medieval and later society.

4.30 Within the East Midlands, the kingdom of Mercia was the main political power, although the heartland of the kingdom was in the Upper Trent Valley and the West Midlands (Vince, 2006: 165). Although the settlement centre of Leicester diminished

in the fifth century, in the late 7th and early 8th centuries a diocese was located in Leicester, perhaps with its own cathedral (Hall, 1989; Courtney, 1998). In the latter centuries of the Early Medieval period, Mercia competed over the East Midlands with other kingdoms, and by the end of the 10th century, large parts of the region were administered and defended by the Danes, including Leicester, which was a fortified town or burh (Lewis, 2006: 185). Leicester, along with Derby, Lincoln, Nottingham and Stafford were known as the 'five boroughs' of the Danelaw (Lewis, 2006: 186-188). In Leicester, there is no archaeological evidence of re-fortification in the period as preexisting Roman fortifications were utilised if available, and the limited evidence of Danish settlement are four carved bone objects, a bronze pendant and a few pins (Lewis, 2006: 188; Liddle, 1982: 13).

4.31 No heritage assets of this period are recorded within the Study Area.

Medieval

4.32 The conventional dates of the Medieval period range from the Norman Conquest in 1066AD to the Dissolution of the monasteries under King Henry VIII in the 16th century. The period begins with upheaval in social organisation as the Norman influence grew but the early period was in fact relatively stable politically (Sayer and King, 2008: 242). Because of the stability, populations and urban centres grew, transport links improved, the Christian church became more influential, and a moneyed economy and feudal system developed. In the latter parts of the period, however, famine and outbreaks of disease led to instability and social change. The feudal system was reformed after popular revolts in the 14th century, England and France were at war for a large portion of the 14th century, and the church was split between conflicting central authorities in Italy and France (partially resolved in the 15th century) and later rocked by the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century.

4.33 Following the conquest, King William I commissioned the Domesday Book in 1085, to record the resources of the country at the time. Earl Shilton is recorded in the Domesday Book as *Sceltone* (*farmstead on a on a shelf or ledge*, Mills 2011) within the Hundred of Guthlaxton. It was listed as having 3 ploughs. There was a priest, 10 villagers, 4 freemen, 5 small holders and 1 slave. The settlement had 12 acres of meadow and 8 furlongs of woodland, as well as a mill. Following the conquest Sceltone was granted to Hugh de Granmesnil and then passed to his son Ivo de Grandmesnil who became Sheriff of Leicester and Lord of Earl Shilton (Savills, 2021). Following Ivo's death on pilgrimage to the holy land, his domains passed to Robert de Beaumont.

4.34 The castle at Earl Shilton was founded by the Earl of Leicester soon after the Norman Conquest. The Earl of Leicester joined Prince Henry in rebellion against his father Henry II and following the Earl's capture Henry II set about destroying the Earl's castles, including at Earl Shilton which by that time was a hunting lodge.

4.35 Within the Study Area there are several heritage assets dating from the medieval period of which the most significant is the Scheduled Monument of Earl Shilton Castle (**SM1**) which is located c400m south-east of the proposed development site. The grade II* listed 13th century church of St Simon and St Jude (**LB1**) is believed to have originated as a chapel associated with the castle and is located c460m to the south-east of the proposed development site.

4.36 Earl Shilton lies close to Leicester Forest which included four deer parks, of which Tooley Park (**NDHA12**) lies closest to the site (700m to the north-east). The park was part of the estates of the Earldom of Leicester in the 13th century.

4.37 Within the Study Area and in the eastern part of the proposed development site can be seen areas of remnant ridge and furrow. During the medieval period, the land of villages was usually managed in some form of the open field system with common land. An open field system is composed of unenclosed cultivation strips arranged within two or three 'great fields', which were used in rotation so that the unused portion could recoup nutrients through pasturing. The practice of ploughing these individual strips gradually built up a pattern of linear strips which are referred to as ridge and furrow.

4.38 There are 16 non-designated heritage assets dated to the medieval period within the Study Area (**NDHA12-27**). They include the sites of a park and associated landscape features, an enclosure, fishpond, and finds and pottery assemblages recovered by fieldwalking. None of these are within the proposed development site.

Post Medieval

4.39 The Post Medieval period begins with the Dissolution of the monasteries by King Henry VIII between 1536 and 1540 and ends at the turn of the 20th century. This is a period of several major changes, including the Reformation in the 16th century and the Industrial Revolution beginning in the 18th century. Throughout Britain, the Post Medieval period saw a major increase in natural resource exploitation, an exponential increase in waste production and pollution, and a significant change in the relationship between society and the environment.

4.40 Within the East Midlands, different industries played important roles in the development of towns during the period, such as the framework knitting industry within Leicester (Courtney, 2006). In the early Post Medieval period Earl Shilton developed a cottage industry of framework knitting which persisted into the 18th and 19th centuries and became a critical part of the local economy. The development of the boot and shoe and hosier industries in the 19th century replaced framework knitting industry as the area's main industry. The HER includes a number of buildings and sites of buildings which relate to these industries.

4.41 Historic mapping demonstrates that the proposed development site lay within the agricultural hinterland of Earl Shilton and Barwell. The field pattern in the area is of straight-sided hedgerow bound fields which are typical of Parliamentary enclosure. Private enclosure had taken place in Leicestershire during the earlier Post Medieval period but the process was accelerated through Acts of Parliament in the late 18th and 19th centuries. An Act of Enclosure for Earl Shilton was passed in 1778; by 1842 all the land in Leicestershire had been enclosed.

4.42 Within the Study Area there are six grade II listed buildings (**LB2-6**) and 23 non-designated heritage assets dating from the post-medieval period (**NDHA28-50**). The majority of these assets comprise built heritage assets and illustrates the area's growth and development during the 18th and 19th centuries. The Earl Shilton Conservation Area (**CA1**) encompasses an area of 19th century industrial heritage. Leicester Road which passes close to the proposed development site is recorded as a toll road following a 1768 Act of Authorisation (**NDHA40**).

Modern

4.43 The Modern period begins with the turn of the 20th century. Despite the economic, cultural and societal changes experienced in the Post Medieval period, the 20th and 21st centuries have had arguably a greater impact on the landscape with the creation and expansion of the road networks, especially motorways.

4.44 The World Wars of the 20th century increased short-term demands for food, resulting in government-funded financial support for the expansion of arable production. Farming became more prosperous following the Second World War, and then again following Britain's entry into the European Union. These subsidies, as well as the use of larger machinery, resulted in the removal of historic field boundaries to create larger fields.

4.45 A review of historic mapping demonstrates phases of residential expansion outside of the historic settlement core during the inter-war and post-war periods. The area to the north of Earl Shilton however remained largely agricultural and largely unaffected by development.

4.46 In addition to the modern Conservation Area (**CA1**), there is a single modern listed building within the Study Area comprising a war memorial (**LB7**). Fifteen non-designated heritage assets from the modern period are recorded within the Study Area which are predominantly built heritage relating to the industrial development and residential expansion of Earl Shilton (**NDHA51-65**).

Previous Archaeological Events

4.47 The HER includes records for several archaeological events of which the following are considered most relevant to this assessment report.

Geophysical Survey Report, Land West of Shilton Road, Earl Shilton

4.48 A magnetometer survey has been carried out of the proposed development site to assess its subsurface potential (Magnitude Surveys 2025, Appendix C). The survey identified anomalies consistent with field drainage and buried services but did not identify any anomalies of clear archaeological origin. Several linear and curvi-linear anomalies of indeterminate origin were identified for which an archaeological origin may be possible.

Land North of Hilltop Farm, Earl Shilton

4.49 A programme of pre-application archaeological evaluation and post-determination mitigation was undertaken on fields immediately to the south of the proposed development site, for a development comprising of up to 140 dwellings.

4.50 An initial geophysical survey identified little of archaeological interest (MOLA, 2021). Some of the detected anomalies were interpreted as relating to ditches or drains of indeterminate date and others related to medieval or later ridge and furrow and post-medieval field boundaries. Modern features including pipe and field drains were identified.

4.51 The subsequent trial trench evaluation comprised the excavation of 22 no. 30m long trenches, of which 11 did not include archaeological remains (AA, 2021). The features identified and investigated included remains of ridge and furrow, an 18th or 19th century boundary ditch, and a small number of undated linear features and a pit. In the northern part of the evaluation area a large shallow pit was found to contain a small assemblage of prehistoric pottery and a possible metalled surface. A trench at the south of the site included a complex series of layers of features, potentially structural evidence of medieval date.

4.52 Taking into account the results of the evaluation surveys, the heritage statement concluded that the archaeological potential was low to moderate across the site and that the harm to non-designated heritage assets could be balanced by the public benefits of the scheme or mitigated by an agreed programme of archaeological mitigation.

4.53 The mitigation works were undertaken in March 2025 and comprised two excavation areas, A and B (Border Archaeology 2025). In Area A the excavation revealed the presence of a linear ditch and several plough furrows, one of which was excavated. The pottery assemblage recovered from the ditch suggests a

possible medieval date based on the possible Potters Marston ware sherds recovered from it, although the fragments were of small size and they lacked form. The sherds recovered from the excavated plough furrow suggest an 18th to 19th century date, which is supported by the presence of clay tobacco pipe bowls and stems.

4.54 In Area B the excavation revealed several ditches, gullies and pits, with the recovered pottery and clay tobacco pipe bowls and stems again indicating a date of the 18th to 19th centuries; at least seven fragments of coal or clinker were also recovered, which may suggest that the land had been worked with a steam traction engine.

4.55 A charcoal assemblage recovered from palaeoenvironmental sampling provided evidence for domestic burning in the near vicinity during context formation. The faunal assemblage likely represented discarded post-medieval waste.

Land East of Leicester Road, Earl Shilton, Leicester

4.56 Archaeological geophysical survey (MOLA 2024) was carried out of 1.5 hectares of land 80m from the south-east boundary of the proposed development site. The survey identified an undated feature of archaeological interest, comprising a sub-rectangular enclosure made up of three ditches. Two linear anomalies were also detected on the northern edge and centre of the survey area, with the former likely representing a ditch and the latter being either a ditch or a medieval to post-medieval plough furrow.

Land at 40 High Street, Earl Shilton

4.57 A programme of archaeological evaluation comprising desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and trial trenching was carried out in advance of a development comprising a new care home located c500m to the south of the proposed development site.

4.58 The desk-based assessment (ULAS 2013) suggested a limited potential for archaeological remains of medieval and later dates. A geophysical survey (PCA 2015) identified residual traces of ridge and furrow and two possible short ditches but no other features of archaeological interest. The subsequent trial trench evaluation did not identify any archaeological remains (ULAS 2017)

Historic Map Regression

4.59 Available historic mapping demonstrates that the area of the proposed development site historically comprised agricultural hinterland to the north of Earl Shilton and Barwell. This was subject to open field cultivation during the medieval period but by the mid-18th had been subject to Parliamentary enclosure. Detailed mapping from

the 19th century onward demonstrates expansion and development in and around the settlement cores but relatively little change within the area of the proposed development site. The main change within the proposed development site bounds was the creation of the stables in the late 20th century.

Table 4: Historic Map Regression

Map	Description
'Leicestrensis Comitatus. Leicestershire', Joan Blaeu, 1646	A map of Leicestershire, depicting the county divided into Hundreds. This county map provides general locations of larger villages and towns, some estates, and natural features such as forests, hills and rivers. Barwell and Earl Shilton are both shown. Leicester Forest is also depicted as well as an enclosed park labelled Toly Park, to the north-east of Earl Shilton.
A Map of the Lordship of Earl Shilton in the County of Leicester, 1778 (MA/EN/A/93/1)	This is a detailed map of the entirety of the lordship of Earl Shilton, covering the settlement and the surrounding landscape, including detail of land divisions and ownership / holding. The principal medieval fields surrounding the settlement are labelled and the proposed development site falls within Mill Field which covers a large area to the north-west of the village. The outline of the proposed development is immediately recognisable and is bound by Shilton Road around the east and north. The central subdividing hedgerow is not shown. The boundaries are denoted with tree or shrub symbology, indicating that these were hedgerows. A trackway is shown along the western boundary and remains in place as a public footpath. Another track is shown diagonally crossing the south-east corner of the field. No other features of interest are shown within the proposed development site. The field is labelled as "Joseph Smith 13.0.32". No accompanying apportionment information was available.
Map of the county of Leicester, C. Greenwood, 1830	The map provides a basic simplified overview of the Leicestershire settlements. Earl Shilton is shown within its historic settlement core and the land to the north is undeveloped / agricultural.

Map	Description
Plan of the Titheable Lands in the Township of Earl Shilton, 1858 (Ti/93/1)	<p>This map provides a detailed overview of Earl Shilton and property boundaries where these are subject to tithes. Much of surrounding agricultural landscape, including the proposed development site, is not shown as these were not subject to tithes. Of relevance to this assessment however is that the map provides short lines for the locations of field boundaries even where these are not fully shown. It can therefore be demonstrated that the central subdividing field boundary within the proposed development site had been established by this date.</p>
Ordnance Survey County Series, 1885, 1:10,560	<p>The proposed development site is located in an agricultural landscape characterised by straight-sided fields typical of Parliamentary enclosure field pattern. The site lies outside and to the north of the historic settlement core which is principally focussed around Church Street, Keats Lane and High Street. Several long narrow plots of the north side of Church Street are remnants of medieval crofts and tofts. The medieval motte and bailey castle (SM1) and the medieval church (LB1) are located within the settlement core.</p> <p>The proposed development site lies adjacent to a distinctive road junction and dogleg which is likely a historic route connecting to Kirkby Mallory at the north and Leicester at the north-east.</p> <p>A stream flows on an east-west alignment to the north of the proposed development site.</p> <p>The current bounds of the proposed development site are clearly established at this time. The north-south field boundary which splits the proposed development site is present.</p> <p>No buildings or features of interest are shown on the map.</p>
Ordnance Survey County Series, 1888, 1:2,500	<p>No buildings or features of interest are shown within the proposed development site.</p> <p>A north-east to south-west aligned footpath is showing passing immediately to the south of the proposed development site.</p>

Map	Description
Ordnance Survey 1903 County Series 1:2500	No change within the proposed development site
Ordnance Survey 1885 County Series 1:10,560	Minor expansion is evident in the immediate vicinity of the settlement core of Earl Shilton and along the road to Barwell.
Ordnance Survey 1916 County Series 1:2500	No change within the proposed development site
Ordnance Survey 1938 County Series 1:10,560	Continued settlement expansion in close proximity of the settlement core of Earl Shilton and Barwell. No change within the proposed development site.
Ordnance Survey 1950 County Series 1:10,560	New areas of residential development have expanded around the settlement cores. Minor field agglomeration in some of the surrounding agricultural land. No change within the proposed development site.
Ordnance Survey 1964 County Series 1:2500	No change within the proposed development site
Ordnance Survey 1968 County Series 1:10,560	Continued residential expansion outward from the historic settlement cores, resulting in amalgamation of Barwell and Earl Shilton.
Ordnance Survey National Grid 1985 1:2500	No change within the proposed development site
Ordnance Survey National Grid 1994 1:2500	No change within the proposed development site

Figure 2 Map of the Lordship of Earl Shilton, 1778 (the proposed development site is labelled 'Joseph Smith')



LiDAR and Aerial Imagery

4.60 Available aerial imagery from 1991 onward demonstrates the construction and development of the modern stables in the north-west corner of the proposed development site. Both aerial imagery and LiDAR data confirm the presence of ephemeral ridge and furrow within the eastern part of the proposed development site. These are aligned north to south and are broadly straight with slight curves at the distal end. A distinct perpendicular earthwork at the south of the development site is likely associated with the ridge and furrow, potentially representing a 'joint' where furlongs met.

4.61 Also visible on LiDAR and some aerial views is a north-east to south-west aligned straight and narrow earthwork/cropmark which passes through the proposed development site and extends out into the adjacent fields. This may be a historic trackway. A similar narrow diagonal cropmark is also located in the south-east corner of the proposed development site and appears to be aligned with the current field gate so is also very likely a trackway.

4.62 No features of archaeological interest can be seen in the western land parcel.

4.63 Aerial imagery shows a linear anomaly on an east to west alignment located at its closest 400m to the west of the proposed development. The anomaly is not

recorded as a heritage asset by the HER. The alignment of the feature when projected eastward, would coincide with the northern edge of the proposed development site. This may be a former trackway linking the road at the immediate north of the site. The eastern terminus of the anomalies lies at a small stream.

Figure 3 Aerial view of the proposed development site



Figure 4 LiDAR data



Historic Landscape Character

4.64 The proposed development site lies within Historic Landscape Character area HLE5006 which is recorded as fields and enclosed land comprising large rectilinear fields. Historic mapping and aerial views show that the area remains primarily agricultural with straight sided fields typical of post medieval Parliamentary enclosure.

Important Hedgerows

4.65 The hedgerows within the proposed development site have been assessed against the criteria in Schedule 1, Part II of the Hedgerow Regulation 1997. "5a - *The hedgerow is recorded in a document held at a Record Office as an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Inclosure Acts*". "Inclosure Acts" as referenced in the regulations is regarded as a collective title applied to a number of Acts and is so named by the Short Titles Act of 1896 and the earliest known by this collective title date from 1845. It is regarded therefore if a hedgerow can be demonstrated to be in place by this date, such as on a tithe map, that it will satisfy this criterion.

4.66 It can be demonstrated that the hedgerows forming the perimeter of the proposed development site were in place by 1778 and are therefore Important in accordance with the Hedgerow Regulations.

4.67 The central dividing hedgerow was not in place in 1778 but was present by 1858. Whilst the hedgerow must have been established prior to 1858 it cannot be demonstrated to have been in place prior to 1845 and as such is not assessed as Important.

Site Visit

4.68 A walkover was undertaken of the proposed development site in July 2025. At the time of the survey the eastern field was under short grass, whilst the western fields were subject to active grazing.

4.69 The ridge and furrow visible on LiDAR and aerial views was not evident during the walkover, suggesting that whilst present, the remains are relatively ephemeral. The east to west aligned earthwork (likely associated with ridge and furrow) at the south of the site, was identifiable as a low raised feature.

4.70 From Earl Shilton there is a sharp drop in ground level towards the north such that there is little intervisibility between the town and the proposed development site. There are glimpsed views of the church spire (**LB1**) from both the east and west sides of the site and limited oblique views of the grade II listed Top House (**LB6**). There is no intervisibility with the Scheduled Monument (**SM1**).

4.71 The proposed development site is surrounded by hedgerows with outgrown trees which provide screening to and from the site. Tree planting has taken place along the main hedgerow within the site which has increased the screening effect and will be further enhanced as the trees mature and expand. There are minimal visibility eastwards from the site due to the screening of hedgerow and trees.

4.72 The proposed development site has not been subject to disturbance except for the north-western corner where the modern stables is located. Therefore, any archaeological remains that may be present are likely to be in a good state of preservation.

Figure 5: View towards the south from the eastern land parcel. The location of Top House (LB6) indicated with arrow.



Figure 6: Southward view across the adjacent residential site (LB6 indicated with arrow)



Figure 7: Northward view across the eastern part of the proposed development site



Figure 8: Eastward view from the eastern parcel of the proposed development site



Figure 9: View towards the Church of St Simon and St Jude (LB1) from the western side of the proposed development site (location indicated with arrow)



Figure 10: Southward view across the western part of the proposed development site



5.0 Known Heritage Assets within the Study Area

Designated heritage assets within Study Area

- 5.1 There are nine designated heritage assets within the Study Area, comprising the Scheduled Monument of Earl Shilton Motte and Bailey Castle, seven Listed Buildings including one grade II* listed church, and the Earl Shilton Conservation Area.
- 5.2 None of these are within the proposed development site or its immediate proximity.

Scheduled Monument

- 5.3 The scheduled monument is of high heritage significance and lies c380m to the south-east of the proposed development site.
 - **SM1** - Earl Shilton Motte and Bailey Castle. The castle was founded by the Earl of Leicester soon after the Norman Conquest and demolished in the late 12th century. Earl Shilton castle motte survives in good condition and will retain archaeological evidence of buildings within the interior. It is of high significance.
- 5.4 The heritage significance of the scheduled monument is determined by its evidential and historic values. It is an important historical feature that provides a tangible link to the settlement's medieval origins and illustrates its development to the present day. At the time of its construction the castle was a regionally important site and focus for political power and has historical association with sites in the surrounding area such as the deer parks around Leicester Forest. The scheduled monument includes archaeological remains and deposits relating to its construction, development and former buildings and associated features.
- 5.5 The setting of the Scheduled Monument is the modern settlement extent of Earl Shilton and immediate surrounding agricultural landscape. The motte and bailey survive as extant earthworks forming a low, circular, tree-covered mound which is screened by surrounding trees and vegetation and is separated from the adjacent Church Road by a low retaining wall. Visibility towards the feature is limited to its immediate surroundings and from the adjacent public park (Queen Elizabeth II Hall Field) to the south. The Church of St Simon and St Jude (**LB1**) lies close to the scheduled monument and is a positive contributor to its setting and significance due to their historic association and the two features form an important group of heritage assets within the historic settlement core. The surrounding area is comprised of 19th century and modern residential housing. The houses on the north side of Church Street include long narrow gardens which are remnants of the former tofts and crofts and are a positive contributor to the setting of the scheduled monument.

5.6 The scheduled monument is visually detached from the agricultural land to the north, however glimpsed long-distance views towards the north are possible through breaks in the building line. The proposed development site forms part of the wider agricultural hinterland which forms part of the setting of the historic settlement core and scheduled monument; it is a minor positive contributor to the setting of the scheduled monument but is assessed as being a neutral contributor to its heritage significance.

Listed Buildings

Grade II* Listed

- **LB1** - Church of St Simon and St Jude. Parish church, rebuilt in 1855-6 except for 15th century west tower. Built of random rubble with freestone dressings with a plain tile roof. It is in the matriculus of 1220 listed as a chapelry of Kirby Mallory. It may have originated as the chapel of Earl Shilton castle (it lies within the castle's bailey). The church lies 460m south-east of the proposed development site. It is of high heritage significance.

5.7 The heritage significance of the church is underpinned by its high evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal values (Historic England 2008) and architectural and historic interest (NPPF 2024).

5.8 It has evidential value as an extant building with 15th century origins with later alterations. The historic value stems from its persistence in the landscape which allows the past to be connected to the present. As a prominent standing building the aesthetic value is through its conscious design which reflects architectural and artistic of the period of its construction and at later points during the building's evolution. The church also includes monuments which have their own inherent interest and heritage significance. The communal value stems from its prominence and access to the surrounding community, as well as its place in communal identify and collective memory.

5.9 The setting of the church is the modern settlement extent of Earl Shilton and immediate surrounding agricultural landscape. The church and adjacent scheduled monument form an important group of heritage assets and lie at the core of the historic settlement extent and form its most tangible links to Earl Shilton's medieval origins. The church is surrounded by 19th century and modern residential development which are a neutral or negative contributor to its setting. The remaining agricultural landscape of post-medieval enclosures provides context to the historic settlement and is a positive contributor to the setting of the church.

5.10 There are long-distance views of the church spire from the proposed development site and many of the surrounding fields. However, there is no intervisibility towards the proposed development site from the church. The proposed development site is

assessed as a minor positive contributor to the setting of the church but is a neutral contributor to its overall heritage significance.

Grade II Listed

- **LB2** - 73 High Street. Late 18th century house, built of red brick with slate roof. It is of moderate heritage significance.
- **LB3** - Hill Top House. Late 18th century house, built of red brick with slate roof. It is of moderate heritage significance.
- **LB4** - The Red Lion Public House. Late 18th century public house, with later additions and alterations. Built of red brick with concrete tile roof. It is of moderate heritage significance.
- **LB5** - 71 High Street. Late 18th and early to mid-19th century house with frameshop buildings to rear. Built of red brick on stone plinth, with slate roof. It is of moderate heritage significance.
- **LB6** - Top House. Late 18th or early 19th century house. Built of red brick, with slate roof. It is of moderate heritage significance. The building's heritage significance is derived primarily from its architectural and historic significance.

5.11 Top House lies c280m to the south of the proposed development site and is on a topographic ridge at the north of Earl Shilton from which there is a significant northward descent from c116m aOD at the building to c98m aOD at the adjacent fields. The principal elevation faces away from the proposed development site and towards Hill Top Road at the east. There are later extensions at the rear of the building. Its setting comprises the listed building's garden area and the surrounding settlement area which includes 19th century and modern buildings. The agricultural landscape to the north forms part of the wider setting and provides landscape context to the building but does not contribute to its heritage significance. There are long-distance views towards the listed building from the proposed development site. These take in oblique views of the rear and end gable of the building which are largely plain elevations. As such the proposed development site is not assessed as being within the setting of the building and does not contribute to its heritage significance.

- **LB7** - War Memorial. Unveiled in 1920. War memorial in Portland stone on a base of Mountsorrel granite, by architect Edward John Williams and sculptor Anthony Smith. The memorial is in the form of a tall cenotaph. It is of moderate heritage significance.

Conservation Area

- **CA1** - Earl Shilton Conservation Area. Designated in 2002, to conserve the village's industrial heritage. Within the boundaries are examples of buildings which reflect the development of the boot and shoe industry.

5.12 The Conservation Area lies at the periphery of the 1km Study Area and is a small designation which specifically encompasses a localised area of 19th century residential terraces, factories and workshops. The proposed development site is not within its setting and does not contribute to its heritage significance.

Non-designated Heritage Assets within Study Area

5.13 There are 68 non-designated heritage assets within the Study Area spanning from the Neolithic to modern periods.

5.14 These include individual prehistoric small finds and cropmarks of a ring ditch and pit alignment, a possible Roman site and small finds of Roman coins, medieval landscape features, findspots and pottery assemblages, and a large number of heritage assets of the post-medieval and modern periods which primarily comprise built heritage associated with the residential and industrial development and expansion of the settlement of Earl Shilton. No heritage assets of the Early Medieval period are recorded within the Study Area.

5.15 A single heritage asset comprising the metal detected find of a Roman coin (**NDHA7**) is recorded within the proposed development site. Another findspot of a Roman coin (**NDHA10**) is located close to the proposed development site boundary. Archaeological evaluation works revealed and investigated a single shallow pit containing sherds of prehistoric and Roman pottery (**NDHA4**). All three heritage assets are of negligible heritage significance.

Prehistoric

5.16 There are six non-designated heritage assets dated to the prehistoric periods within the Study Area and these are of low or negligible heritage significance. They include individual finds, cropmarks of possible ring ditches, a Bronze Age or Iron Age pit, an Iron Age droveway and field system, and a pit alignment identified by cropmarks. NDHA4 is recorded in close proximity to the proposed development site.

- **NDHA1** - Neolithic mace head from Wood Street, Earl Shilton. It is of negligible heritage significance
- **NDHA2** - Prehistoric macehead found north-east of Brockey Farm, Earl Shilton. It is of negligible heritage significance. This record is located 280m to the east of the proposed development site.
- **NDHA3** - Possible Bronze Age ring ditch cropmarks west of Folly Farm, Peckleton. Three circles in a cluster, and a fourth at some distance away. It is of low heritage significance

- **NDHA4** - Bronze Age/Iron Age pit, north-west of Hill Top Farm, Earl Shilton. It is of negligible heritage significance. The pit was identified during archaeological evaluation works undertaken ahead of a proposed residential development in 2021. The pit contained three fills. The earliest was silty clay lining the bottom of the pit. Above this was a possible metalled surface. This was sealed by a layer containing a sherd of 2nd-4th century Roman greyware and 17 fragments of prehistoric pottery (late Bronze Age to middle Iron Age). The pottery included two rim sherds from jars. The surface may be part of a truncated trackway, or a floor surface for a building. It is located 30m from the southern boundary of the proposed development site.
- **NDHA5** - Iron Age droveway and field system, south of Thurlaston Lane, Earl Shilton. It is of negligible heritage significance
- **NDHA6** - Prehistoric pit alignment south-east of Folly Farm, Peckleton. It is of low heritage significance. The heritage asset lies 600m to the north-east of the proposed development site.

Roman

5.17 There are five non-designated heritage assets dated to the Roman period within the Study Area and all are of negligible heritage significance. Four comprise finds of Roman coins and pottery and one is the site of possible Roman activity. **NDHA7** is located within the proposed development site bounds and **NDHA10** is located immediately to the north-east.

- **NDHA7** - Roman coin from north of Earl Shilton. A bronze coin found during metal detecting in 2004. This record is located within the proposed development site bounds.
- **NDHA8** - Roman pottery from east of the Poplars, Earl Shilton.
- **NDHA9** - Roman pottery from The Poplars, Earl Shilton.
- **NDHA10** - Roman coins from north of Earl Shilton. Two late Roman coins were found whilst metal detecting in 2000. This record is located immediately to the north-east of the proposed development site.
- **NDHA11** - Possible Roman site east of the moated site, Barwell.

Medieval

5.18 There are 16 non-designated heritage assets dated to the medieval period within the Study Area. These are of low and negligible heritage significance. They include the sites of a park and associated landscape features, an enclosure, fishpond, and finds spots and pottery assemblages recovered by fieldwalking.

Low heritage significance

- **NDHA12** - Tooley Park, Peckleton.
- **NDHA13** - Possible medieval enclosure, north of Clearview Crescent, Earl Shilton.
- **NDHA14** - Possible medieval fishpond, Brockey Farm, Barwell.
- **NDHA15** - Park pale, Tooley Park (Long Spinneys), Normanton Turville.
- **NDHA16** - Historic settlement core of Earl Shilton. The medieval and post medieval historic settlement core of the village, as deduced using historic maps. In the first half of the C19th framework knitting was a major industry; by the end of the century numerous boot and shoe factories had been erected.
- **NDHA17** - Possible site of medieval watermill, Mill Holme, Peckleton.

Negligible heritage significance

- **NDHA18** - Medieval coin from north of Earl Shilton. This record is located 90m to the east of the proposed development site.
- **NDHA19** - Medieval coin from east of Brockey Farm, Barwell.
- **NDHA20** - Coins from east of the allotment gardens, Earl Shilton.
- **NDHA21** - Medieval mortar from the Old Vicarage, Earl Shilton.
- **NDHA22** - Leicester Forest. Area of medieval forest.
- **NDHA23** - Medieval/post-medieval pottery from east of the moated site, Barwell.
- **NDHA24** - Medieval moated site, Brockey Farm, Barwell.
- **NDHA25** - Brokensale Park, Bracknell Farm, Normanton Turville.
- **NDHA26** - Possible medieval pound, Pinfold Close, Earl Shilton.
- **NDHA27** - Possible medieval features west of Hill Top Farm, Earl Shilton.

Post Medieval

5.19 There are 23 non-designated heritage assets within the Study Area which are dated to the post medieval period and are of low and negligible heritage significance. These predominantly comprise built heritage (extant and sites of buildings) and relate to the agricultural and industrial development of Earl Shilton and expansion and improvements to its housing and public facilities.

Low Heritage Significance

- **NDHA28** - Midland Bank, 22, Wood Street, Earl Shilton.
- **NDHA29** - Baptist Chapel burial ground, Mill Lane, Earl Shilton.

- **NDHA30** - C18th/C19th barns, Top House Farm, Hill Top, Earl Shilton.
- **NDHA31** - St Simon and St Jude's Church burial ground, Almey's Lane.
- **NDHA32** - Congregational Chapel, High Street, Earl Shilton.
- **NDHA33** - 100, Wood Street, Earl Shilton.
- **NDHA34** - 9-19, Hinckley Road, Earl Shilton.
- **NDHA35** - Earl Shilton Baptist Church, Mill Lane, Earl Shilton.
- **NDHA36** - "The Mansion", 121-123, High Street, Earl Shilton.
- **NDHA37** - The King William Public House, 1, The Hollow, Earl Shilton.
- **NDHA38** - Former shoe factory, 49, Church Street, Earl Shilton.
- **NDHA39** - Shoe factory, 2, Keats Lane, Earl Shilton.
- **NDHA40** - Turnpike Road, Leicester to Nuneaton.
- **NDHA41** - Co-operative Village Hall, 115, High Street, Earl Shilton.

Negligible heritage significance

- **NDHA42** - Site of a timber framed house, Hilltop, Earl Shilton.
- **NDHA43** - (Former) Prospect House, Prospect Way, Earl Shilton.
- **NDHA44** - West Field Farm, Keats Lane, Earl Shilton.
- **NDHA45** - Gasworks, Station Road, Earl Shilton.
- **NDHA46** - Site of Primitive Methodist Chapel, Wood Street (Cloisters).
- **NDHA47** - Three Tuns, 104, High Street, Earl Shilton.
- **NDHA48** - Site of Former Frameshop & Stable
- **NDHA49** - School, 41-43, High Street, Earl Shilton.
- **NDHA50** - Site of Windmill, south of Westfield Farm, Earl Shilton.

Modern

5.20 There are 15 modern non-designated heritage assets recorded within the Study Area which are of low and negligible heritage significance. These predominantly comprise built heritage relating to the industrial development of Earl Shilton.

Low heritage significance

- **NDHA51** - Cemetery, Mill Lane, Earl Shilton.
- **NDHA52** - Hosiery factory, 40, High Street, Earl Shilton.
- **NDHA53** - Weaver's Close Primary School, Alexander Avenue, Earl Shilton.

- **NDHA54** - Dog & Gun, 72, Keats Lane, Earl Shilton.
- **NDHA55** - St Peter and St Paul, Melton Street, Earl Shilton.
- **NDHA56** - Shoe factory, 12, Keats Lane, Earl Shilton.
- **NDHA57** - Shoe factory, 27, Keats Lane, Earl Shilton.
- **NDHA58** - Shoe factory, 5, West Street, Earl Shilton.
- **NDHA59** - J Lucas, 30, High Street, Earl Shilton.
- **NDHA60** - Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Wood Street, Earl Shilton.

Negligible heritage significance

- **NDHA61** - Beechrome, Candle Lane, Earl Shilton.
- **NDHA62** - Site of shoe factory, Orton Place, Earl Shilton.
- **NDHA63** - Site of A J Norton's shoe factory, Keats Close, Earl Shilton.
- **NDHA64** - Site of Ladkin Bros, Vicarage Street, Earl Shilton.
- **NDHA65** - Possible modern circular soil mark, west of Nock Verges, Earl Shilton. A large subcircular soil mark c.120 yards in diameter was noted.

Unknown

5.21 There are three non-designated heritage assets of unknown periods. These are of low heritage significance.

- **NDHA66** - Undated banks north of Bracknells Barn, Normanton Turville.
- **NDHA67** - Undated field system, south-west of Tooley Farm, Earl Shilton.
- **NDHA68** - Undated enclosure south-east of Folly Farm, Peckleton.

Archaeological Potential

5.22 It is assessed that there is overall a moderate potential for unknown heritage assets with archaeological interest to be present within the proposed development site. A geophysical survey of the proposed development site did not identify any anomalies of clear archaeological origin but revealed several linear and curvi-linear features which may have archaeological origin.

5.23 The baseline record demonstrates that there is a low-level presence of finds and features from the prehistoric and Roman periods within the Study Area and in the periphery of the site. These primarily comprise individual small finds as well as features identified from cropmarks. A single findspot of a Roman coin is recorded within the proposed development site bounds, and another immediately to the north-west. A single shallow pit from which Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery sherds

were recovered was identified during archaeological evaluation works immediately to the south of the proposed development site, however, no further finds or features of these periods were recorded in the subsequent mitigation works. It is assessed that there is a moderate potential for as yet unknown heritage assets from the prehistoric and Roman periods to be present within the proposed development site. Any remains would likely be of low heritage significance, though this cannot be confirmed without intrusive investigations.

- 5.24 No heritage assets dating from the early medieval period are recorded within the Study Area and there is a low potential for as yet unknown heritage assets of this period to be present within the proposed development site. Any remains would likely be of low heritage significance.
- 5.25 During the medieval period the area to the north of Earl Shilton was agricultural land and part of open field systems as attested by remnant ridge and furrow within the surrounding area. The geophysical survey of the site did not highlight ridge and furrow within the proposed development site and therefore any remains are ephemeral. It is assessed that there is a low potential for archaeological remains of the medieval period to be present; any such remains would likely be of low heritage significance.
- 5.26 By the mid-18th century and certainly by the 19th century the proposed development site had been subject to Parliamentary enclosure and new field boundaries had been introduced. The focus for development at this time was in and around the historic settlement core where a cottage industry of framework knitting and later shoe and hosiery industry developed. The proposed development site and immediate surrounding area remained in agricultural use and a review of historic mapping demonstrates little change during this period. It is assessed that there is a low potential for archaeological remains of the post-medieval period to be present; any such remains would likely be of low heritage significance.
- 5.27 During the modern period no change is evident within the proposed development site except for the construction of the stables in the late 20th century. It is assessed that there is a negligible potential for archaeological remains of the modern period to be present.

6.0 Discussion and Conclusions

Summary of baseline conditions

6.1 The proposed development site has comprised agricultural land since at least the late medieval period, and apart from Parliamentary Enclosure in the late post-medieval period, and the construction of a modern stables has been relatively unaffected by development. A review of the baseline conditions demonstrates that there are no designated heritage assets within the proposed development site bounds.

6.2 There are nine designated heritage assets within the Study Area, comprising the Scheduled Monument of Earl Shilton Motte and Bailey Castle, seven Listed Buildings including one grade II* listed church, and the Earl Shilton Conservation Area. The closest designated heritage assets to the proposed development are:

- **SM1** - Earl Shilton Motte and Bailey Castle (380m distant)
- **LB1** - Church of St Simon and St Jude, grade II* (460m distant)
- **LB6** - Top House, grade II (280m distant)

6.3 Sixty-eight non-designated heritage assets are recorded within the Study Area, primarily dating from the medieval to modern periods. A single heritage asset comprising a findspot of a Roman coin is recorded within the proposed development site (**NDHA7**). The closest assets to the proposed development site are a late prehistoric pit (**NDHA4**) located 30m to the south and the findspot of a Roman coin located to the immediate north-west of the site (**NDHA10**).

6.4 LiDAR information and aerial imagery confirm the presence of ridge and furrow within the eastern part of the site however this was not highlighted in the geophysical survey and is ephemeral.

6.5 The baseline data suggests a low potential for archaeological remains of all periods.

6.6 The hedgerows forming the boundaries of the proposed development site have been assessed as Important in accordance with the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.

The Proposed Development

6.7 The proposed development will comprise an outline application for the construction of up to 120 residential dwellings (Access arrangements to be determined with all other matters reserved).

6.8 This will involve the construction of residential buildings and associated infrastructure and landscaping which may have an adverse impact upon the historic

environment. The loss of heritage significance can arise from effects of direct impact, or as a result of adverse changes within the setting of heritage assets.

Assessment of Effects

Direct Impacts

6.9 Direct effects of the proposed development may arise during the construction phase. Construction activities are likely to result in direct impacts on archaeology where intrusive ground works interact with known or potential archaeological deposits.

6.10 The proposed development will not directly impact on any designated or non-designated heritage assets.

Archaeology

6.11 Construction works associated with the proposed development have the potential to impact on as yet unknown heritage assets with archaeological interest should these be present within the proposed development site. A review of the baseline historic environment conditions suggests that there is a low potential for as yet unknown heritage assets of all periods and that any such remains are likely to be of low heritage significance.

6.12 The magnitude of impact could be up to high, resulting in total removal of below-ground archaeological remains of low heritage significance. This would be a low significance of effect.

Indirect Impacts

6.13 The indirect effects of the proposed development are the impacts upon the setting of heritage assets, in other words, how the development impacts upon the way the landscape and the historic assets are experienced.

6.14 This assessment has reviewed the setting of the following heritage assets and has considered the contribution of setting to their heritage significance, and whether the proposed development site contributes to the significance of the assets.

- **SM1** - Earl Shilton Motte and Bailey Castle
- **LB1** - Church of St Simon and St Jude, grade II*
- **LB6** - Top House, grade II

6.15 The immediate setting of these heritage assets is the modern settlement extent of Earl Shilton. There is restricted long-distance intervisibility between the agricultural landscape north of Earl Shilton and the Scheduled Monument (**SM1**) and the church

(**LB1**), and that whilst this landscape provides a minor positive contribution to the setting, the proposed development site makes a neutral contribution to their heritage significance. As such the proposed development is not considered capable of impacting the heritage significance of either the Scheduled Monument (**SM1**) and church (**LB1**). The magnitude of effect of the development would therefore be none.

6.16 There are long-distance views between the proposed development site and Top House (**LB6**), however the proposed development site is not considered to be within its setting and does not contribute to its heritage significance. As such the proposed development is not considered capable of impacting the heritage significance of the listed building. The magnitude of effect of the development would therefore be none.

Mitigation or Recommendation

6.17 It is assessed that the proposed development site has a moderate potential to include as yet unknown heritage assets with archaeological interest from the prehistoric and Roman periods and a low potential for remains from the early medieval to modern periods.

6.18 A geophysical survey of the proposed development site did not reveal any anomalies of clear archaeological origin but identified linear and curvi-linear anomalies of indeterminate origin for which an archaeological origin cannot be ruled out.

6.19 Consultation with the Senior Planning Archaeologist (Heritage) has confirmed that further evaluation of the proposed development site should be carried in the form of trial trench evaluation. This aim of the work will be to ground-truth the results of the geophysical survey and to confirm the absence or presence of archaeological remains and to investigate the character and significance of any remains.

6.20 The Senior Planning Archaeologist has recommended that the work be carried out pre-determination. The work could also be secured through a suitably worded condition attached to planning consent.

6.21 The scope of the archaeological works would be set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) would be prepared following consultation with the Leicestershire Planning Archaeologist. The need for, and the scope of, any further mitigation works would be based on the results of the archaeological evaluation and confirmed in consultation with the Leicestershire Planning Archaeologist.

6.22 A carefully designed programme of archaeological work which sets out specific research questions, would advance understanding of the significance of the known, and any as yet unknown heritage assets that are affected by the proposed

development, in a manner that is proportionate to their importance and impact. Any recovered evidence would be made publicly available through reporting and an archive commensurate to the findings. This recommendation is made in accordance with paragraph 207 of the NPPF (2024) and Policy HE3 of the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan (2009).

6.23 It is recommended that the Important hedgerows be retained within the scheme and that any unavoidable impacts, such as to facilitate access, be minimised.

Archive

6.24 This report will be archived with the Leicestershire and Rutland HER and/or OASIS within 6 months of completion, unless otherwise instructed by the client

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Appendix A: Gazetteer of Known Heritage Assets

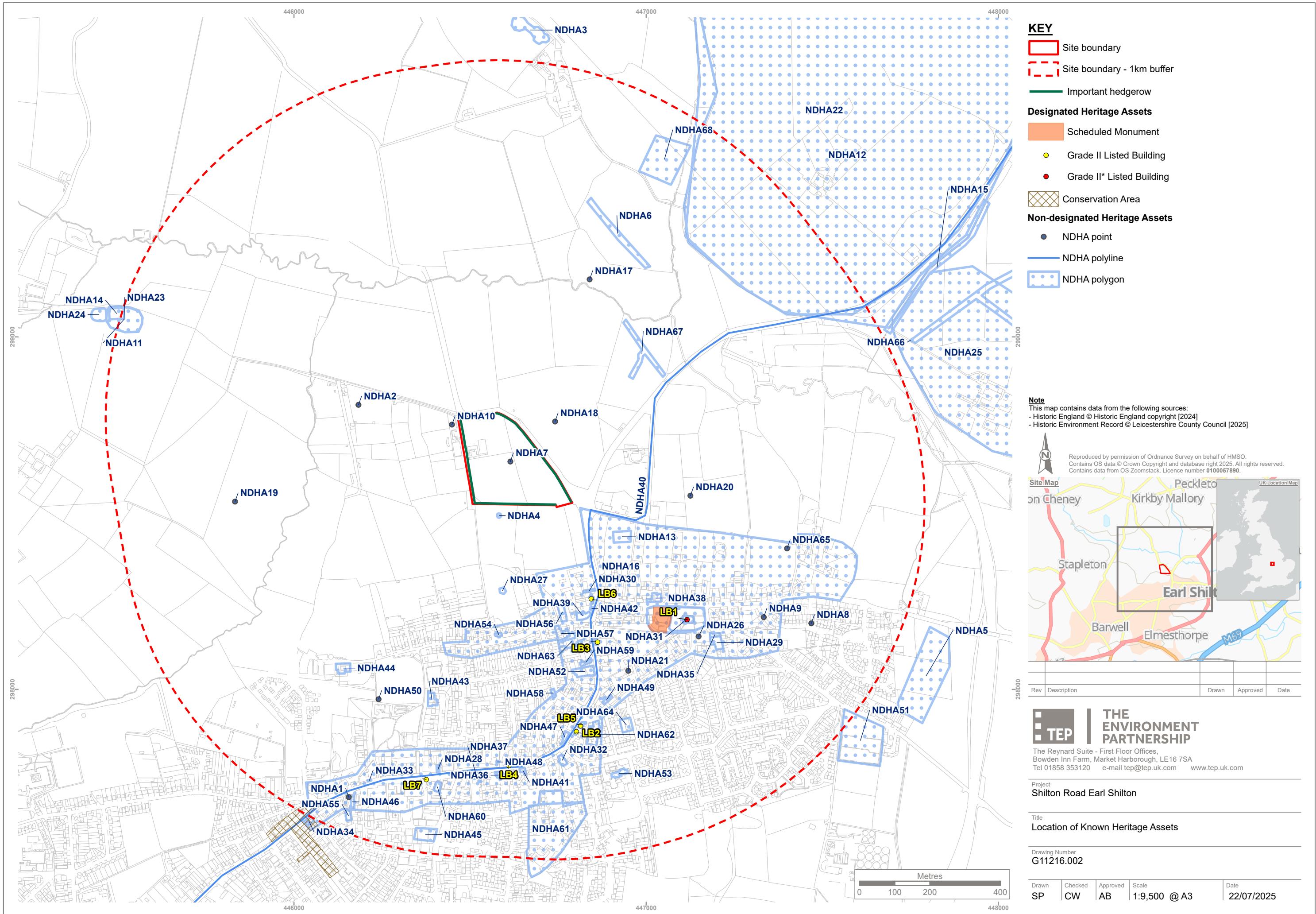


Table A1: Known Heritage Assets

TEP ID	HER ID	HE Number	Name and Description	Grade	Type	Date	Significance
SM1	DLE323 / MLE2849	1010302	Earl Shilton Motte and Bailey Castle. The castle was founded by the Earl of Leicester soon after the Norman Conquest and demolished in the late 12th century. Earl Shilton castle motte survives in good condition and will retain archaeological evidence of buildings within the interior.	-	Scheduled Monument	Medieval	High
LB1	MLE12985	1074259	Church of St Simon and St Jude. Parish church, rebuilt in 1855-6 except for 15th century west tower. Built of random rubble with freestone dressings with a plant tile roof. It is in the matriculus of 1220 listed as a chapelry of Kirby Mallory. It may have originated as the chapel of Earl Shilton castle (it lies within the castle's bailey).	II*	Listed Building	Medieval	High
LB2	MLE12988	1295021	73, High Street. Late 18th century house, built of red brick with slate roof.	II	Listed Building	Post Medieval	Moderate
LB3	MLE12986	1361298	Hill Top House. Late 18th century house, built of red brick with slate roof.	II	Listed Building	Post Medieval	Moderate
LB4	MLE12989	1074232	The Red Lion Public House. Late 18th century public house, with later additions and alterations. Built of red brick with concrete tile roof.	II	Listed Building	Post Medieval	Moderate
LB5	MLE12987	1180230	71, High Street. Late 18th and early to mid-19th century house with frameshop buildings to rear. Built of red brick on stone plinth, with slate roof.	II	Listed Building	Post Medieval	Moderate

TEP ID	HER ID	HE Number	Name and Description	Grade	Type	Date	Significance
LB6	MLE12990	1180239	Top House. Late 18th or early 19th century house. Built of red brick, with slate roof.	II	Listed Building	Post Medieval	Moderate
LB7	MLE12992	1180304	War Memorial. Unveiled in 1920. War memorial in Portland stone on a base of Mountsorrel granite, by architect Edward John Williams and sculptor Anthony Smith. The memorial is in the form of a tall cenotaph.	II	Listed Building	Modern	Moderate
CA1	DLE6787	-	Earl Shilton. Designated in 2002, to conserve the village's industrial heritage. Within the boundaries are examples of buildings which reflect the development of the boot and shoe industry.	-	Conservation Area	-	Moderate
NDHA1	MLE7237	-	Neolithic mace head from Wood Street, Earl Shilton. Findspot of a perforated mace head.	-	Findspot	Late Neolithic	Negligible
NDHA2	MLE15877	-	Prehistoric macehead found north-east of Brockey Farm, Earl Shilton. A late Neolithic to early Bronze Age macehead fragment was found during metal detecting.	-	Findspot	Neolithic to Bronze Age	Negligible
NDHA3	MLE3076	-	Possible Bronze Age ring ditch cropmarks west of Folly Farm, Peckleton. Three circles in a cluster, and a fourth at some distance away.	-	Ring Ditch	Bronze Age	Low

TEP ID	HER ID	HE Number	Name and Description	Grade	Type	Date	Significance
NDHA4	MLE26781	-	Bronze Age/Iron Age pit, north-west of Hill Top Farm, Earl Shilton. Trial trenching recorded a large shallow pit-like feature. It contained three fills. The earliest was silty clay lining the bottom of the pit. Above this was a possible metalled surface. This was sealed by a layer containing a sherd of C2nd-C4th Roman greyware and 17 fragments of prehistoric pottery (late Bronze Age to middle Iron Age). The pottery included two rim sherds from jars. The surface may be part of a truncated trackway, or a floor surface for a building.	-	Pit; Floor?	Bronze Age to Iron Age	Negligible

TEP ID	HER ID	HE Number	Name and Description	Grade	Type	Date	Significance
NDHA5	MLE17958	-	Iron Age droveway and field system, south of Thurlaston Lane, Earl Shilton. During trial trenching a series of interrelated ditches and gullies were noted, to the north of an Iron Age enclosure. These were thought to be the remains of a possible Iron Age/Roman field system. Three areas were excavated. Area 1 contained two parallel ditches 2-3m wide and c.0.6m deep, running NE/SW, with some evidence for infilling/consolidation. These could be a droveway. A posthole was also noted. Area 2 contained a NE/SW ditch 2.5m wide and c.1m deep. Area 3 contained a further NE/SW ditch 2.5m wide and c.1m deep, perhaps a continuation of the droveway. 7 sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered and two cereal grains (the small amount indicating food processing was not taking place nearby). 4 non-ferrous fragments may indicate metalworking in the vicinity.	-	Field System; Trackway	Iron Age	Negligible
NDHA6	MLE3070	-	Prehistoric pit alignment south-east of Folly Farm, Peckleton. A double pit alignment can be seen on aerial photos running north-west to south-east.	-	Pit Alignment	Late Prehistoric	Low
NDHA7	MLE10245	-	Roman coin from north of Earl Shilton. A bronze coin found during metal detecting.	-	Findspot	Roman	Negligible
NDHA8	MLE15864	-	Roman pottery from east of the Poplars, Earl Shilton. A single sherd of Oxfordshire Ware, mid 3rd-4th century AD was recovered during a watching brief.	-	Findspot	Roman	Negligible

TEP ID	HER ID	HE Number	Name and Description	Grade	Type	Date	Significance
NDHA9	MLE7937	-	Roman pottery from The Poplars, Earl Shilton. Two sherds of greyware pottery were recovered during levelling for a new house.	-	Findspot	Roman	Negligible
NDHA10	MLE9381	-	Roman coins from north of Earl Shilton. Two late Roman coins were found whilst metal detecting.	-	Findspot	Roman	Negligible
NDHA11	MLE22594	-	Possible Roman site east of the moated site, Barwell. Fieldwalking recovered 17 sherds of Roman pottery, some ceramic building material and a possible piece of opus signinum.	-	Site?	Roman	Negligible
NDHA12	MLE3006	-	Tooley Park, Peckleton. Documentary evidence of the park belonging to the Earls of Leicester in 1279 and subsequently passed to (with title) to the Earls of Lancaster and the Crown. Still in use in 1641. There are various cropmarks inside the park, some may be park pale remains and some may be structures relating to the park and Tooley Hall. Tooley Park is shown on the 1st edition OS map. The house is no longer standing.	-	Deer Park	Medieval	Low
NDHA13	MLE29609	-	Possible medieval enclosure, north of Clearview Crescent, Earl Shilton. During geophysical survey, three linear features were noted forming an enclosure c.45m x 25m. The southern linear had a sharply angled dog-leg bend at its eastern end. Ridge and furrow runs over these features.	-	Enclosure	Medieval	Low

TEP ID	HER ID	HE Number	Name and Description	Grade	Type	Date	Significance
NDHA14	MLE17945	-	Possible medieval fishpond, Brockey Farm, Barwell. Sunken area to east of the moated site seen on aerial photographs. Interpreted as a fish pond.	-	Fishpond	Medieval	Low
NDHA15	MLE3072	-	Park pale, Tooley Park (Long Spinneys), Normanton Turville. A large bank was noted running parallel to the A47, c.2m high by c.10m wide, interpreted as part of the pale of Tooley Park.	-	Park Pale	Medieval	Low
NDHA16	MLE9535	-	Historic settlement core of Earl Shilton. The medieval and post medieval historic settlement core of the village, as deduced using historic maps. In the first half of the C19th framework knitting was a major industry; by the end of the century numerous boot and shoe factories had been erected.	-	Village; Watermill; Windmill	Medieval	Low
NDHA17	MLE3078	-	Possible site of medieval watermill, Mill Holme, Peckleton. A field name on the tithe map of Peckleton is 'Mill Holme'. This suggests a watermill site.	-	Watermill?	Medieval	Low
NDHA18	MLE10246	-	Medieval coin from north of Earl Shilton.	-	Findspot	Medieval	Negligible
NDHA19	MLE10247	-	Medieval coin from east of Brockey Farm, Barwell.	-	Findspot	Medieval	Negligible
NDHA20	MLE10248	-	Coins from east of the allotment gardens, Earl Shilton.	-	Findspot	Medieval	Negligible
NDHA21	MLE6790	-	Medieval mortar from the Old Vicarage, Earl Shilton.	-	Findspot	Medieval	Negligible
NDHA22	MLE22664	-	Leicester Forest. Area of medieval forest.	-	Forest	Medieval	Negligible

TEP ID	HER ID	HE Number	Name and Description	Grade	Type	Date	Significance
NDHA23	MLE22593	-	Medieval/post-medieval pottery from east of the moated site, Barwell. Fieldwalking recovered c.100 sherds of medieval and c.30 sherds of post medieval pottery.	-	Manuring Scatter?	Medieval	Negligible
NDHA24	MLE2798	-	Medieval moated site, Brockey Farm, Barwell. Small moated site levelled in 1950. At the time it was described as having an inner and outer rectangular moat, the inner one about 30 by 24 yards. During the levelling two medieval coffins were revealed, suggesting that the site had its own chapel.	-	Moat; Inhumation	Medieval	Negligible
NDHA25	MLE22665	-	Brokensale Park, Bracknell Farm, Normanton Turville. The single medieval reference to the park records that in 1279 among Radolphus Turville's possessions was a park called Brokensale. Nichols identified this with Brackenholme. Brackenholme almost certainly refers to the land around the present Bracknell's Barn.	-	Park	Medieval	Negligible
NDHA26	MLE2862	-	Possible medieval pound, Pinfold Close, Earl Shilton. This area is marked 'Pinfold Close' on an undated map	-	Pound	Medieval	Negligible
NDHA27	MLE26782	-	Possible medieval features west of Hill Top Farm, Earl Shilton.	-	Structure?; Layer	Medieval	Negligible
NDHA28	MLE21482	-	Midland Bank, 22, Wood Street, Earl Shilton. Built 1894, brick built with stone detailing.	-	Bank (Financial)	Post Medieval	Low
NDHA29	MLE21700	-	Baptist Chapel burial ground, Mill Lane, Earl Shilton. Includes several early 19th century slate headstones.	-	Baptist Burial Ground	Post Medieval	Low

TEP ID	HER ID	HE Number	Name and Description	Grade	Type	Date	Significance
NDHA30	MLE27519	-	C18th/C19th barns, Top House Farm, Hill Top, Earl Shilton. Range of two barns. The western barn is earlier, probably late C18th/early C19th in date. The adjoining eastern barn was built between 1888 and 1904.	-	Barn; Barn	Post Medieval	Low
NDHA31	MLE21699	-	St Simon and St Jude's Church burial ground, Almey's Lane, Earl Shilton. Burial ground of the parish church of Earl Shilton. The church was a chapelry until the mid-19th century - the churchyard may have been laid out then.	-	Churchyard	Post Medieval	Low
NDHA32	MLE17182	-	Congregational Chapel, High Street, Earl Shilton. The chapel is dated 1824 and inscribed 'Independent Chapel'.	-	Congregational Chapel	Post Medieval	Low
NDHA33	MLE17881	-	100, Wood Street, Earl Shilton. A pair of topshop houses - some of the only remaining domestic framework knitting buildings in the village.	-	Framework Knitters Cottage	Post Medieval	Low
NDHA34	MLE17882	-	9-19, Hinckley Road, Earl Shilton. Built around 1860, there are some long windows on the ground floor of this terrace of houses - remnants of the framework knitting industry in the village.	-	Framework Knitters Cottage; Workshop	Post Medieval	Low
NDHA35	MLE17181	-	Earl Shilton Baptist Church, Mill Lane, Earl Shilton. The first meeting-house on site was built in 1758-9; it was replaced in 1844 by the present building.	-	General Baptist Chapel	Post Medieval	Low

TEP ID	HER ID	HE Number	Name and Description	Grade	Type	Date	Significance
NDHA36	MLE21480	-	"The Mansion", 121-123, High Street, Earl Shilton. Originally one very large house, believed to date back to the 1820s. It was commissioned by a wealthy hosiery manufacturer.	-	House	Post Medieval	Low
NDHA37	MLE21481	-	The King William Public House, 1, The Hollow, Earl Shilton. 19th century public house.	-	Public House	Post Medieval	Low
NDHA38	MLE17887	-	Former shoe factory, 49, Church Street, Earl Shilton. The earliest building on site was built in 1897.	-	Shoe Factory	Post Medieval	Low
NDHA39	MLE17888	-	Shoe factory, 2, Keats Lane, Earl Shilton. Founded in 1872 by Thomas Whitmore, of Hill Top House. It closed in 1994.	-	Shoe Factory	Post Medieval	Low
NDHA40	MLE20657	-	Turnpike Road, Leicester to Nuneaton. Turnpike road running from Leicester to Narborough and Leicester to Nuneaton (and onwards) via Hinckley. Later became the A47.	-	Toll Road	Post Medieval	Low
NDHA41	MLE21479	-	Co-operative Village Hall, 115, High Street, Earl Shilton. Built 1886, of brick.	-	Village Hall; Shop	Post Medieval	Low
NDHA42	MLE2861	-	Site of a timber framed house, Hilltop, Earl Shilton. Three bays of a box framed building with extensive C18th additions and alterations was noted during its demolition - it was demolished during road improvements.	-	Box Frame House	Post Medieval	Negligible
NDHA43	MLE24473	-	(Former) Prospect House, Prospect Way, Earl Shilton. Substantial red brick Georgian farmhouse within a courtyard complex.	-	Farmhouse; Farmstead; Pump	Post Medieval	Negligible

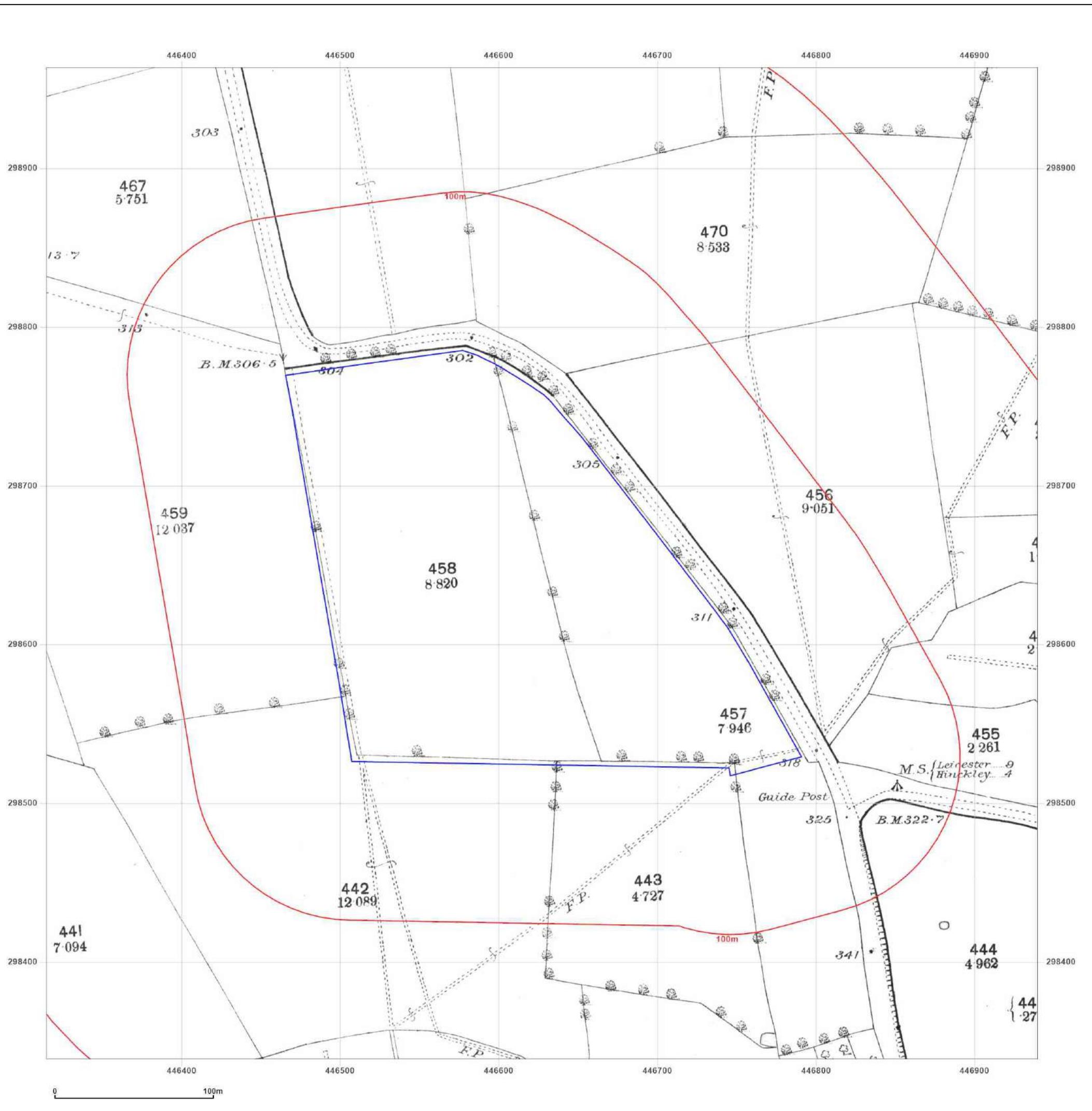
TEP ID	HER ID	HE Number	Name and Description	Grade	Type	Date	Significance
NDHA44	MLE21805	-	West Field Farm, Keats Lane, Earl Shilton. Site of a 19th century farmstead.	-	Farmstead; Farmhouse; Threshing Barn	Post Medieval	Negligible
NDHA45	MLE21452	-	Gasworks, Station Road, Earl Shilton. Built in c.1866, shown on Ordnance Survey mapping of 1888 and 1904. No longer extant.	-	Gas Works	Post Medieval	Negligible
NDHA46	MLE25584	-	Site of Primitive Methodist Chapel, Wood Street (Cloisters), Earl Shilton. Site of a chapel built in 1840. Demolished c.1884 when a new chapel was built.	-	Primitive Methodist Chapel; Primitive Methodist Chapel	Post Medieval	Negligible
NDHA47	MLE10221	-	Three Tuns, 104, High Street, Earl Shilton. 19th century inn, built of brick with slate roof. No longer extant.	-	Public House	Post Medieval	Negligible
NDHA48	MLE12991	-	Site of Former Frameshop & Stable, 206, High Street (North Side), Earl Shilton. Early to mid-19th century stable.	-	Stable; Framework Knitters Workshop	Post Medieval	Negligible
NDHA49	MLE10637	-	School, 41-43, High Street, Earl Shilton. A Victorian school building, possibly dating to 1858, with Gothic style windows.	-	Well; School	Post Medieval	Negligible
NDHA50	MLE2852	-	Site of Windmill, south of Westfield Farm, Earl Shilton. A mill first shown on Prior's 1779 map, no longer shown on the Ordnance Survey maps from 1919.	-	Windmill	Post Medieval	Negligible
NDHA51	MLE26423	-	Cemetery, Mill Lane, Earl Shilton. Cemetery established in the late 1920s.	-	Cemetery	Modern	Low

TEP ID	HER ID	HE Number	Name and Description	Grade	Type	Date	Significance
NDHA52	MLE17891	-	Hosiery factory, 40, High Street, Earl Shilton. Oldest part of the factory was on the frontage, with remaining site modern replacement.	-	Hosiery Factory?	Modern	Low
NDHA53	MLE23192	-	Weaver's Close Primary School, Alexander Avenue, Earl Shilton. School built 1955 by County Architect TA Collins.	-	Primary School	Modern	Low
NDHA54	MLE22102	-	Dog & Gun, 72, Keats Lane, Earl Shilton. 1939 public house built in a Domestic Revival style, brick with a tile roof and brick chimney stacks.	-	Public House	Modern	Low
NDHA55	MLE26113	-	St Peter and St Paul, Melton Street, Earl Shilton. Designed 1982, architect DJ Montague of Derby.	-	Roman Catholic Church	Modern	Low
NDHA56	MLE17889	-	Shoe factory, 12, Keats Lane, Earl Shilton. Originally Sturgess and Best, founded by W. H. Sturgess in 1863 in High Street until moved to Keats in 1902. Then became J. W. Woolloff and Son in 1913.	-	Shoe Factory	Modern	Low
NDHA57	MLE17890	-	Shoe factory, 27, Keats Lane, Earl Shilton. A factory appears to be shown on the 1904 OS map though the present factory dates from the mid-20th century.	-	Shoe Factory	Modern	Low
NDHA58	MLE17892	-	Shoe factory, 5, West Street, Earl Shilton. Factory belonging to J Worthington and Co, built c. 1910.	-	Shoe Factory	Modern	Low
NDHA59	MLE21071	-	J Lucas, 30, High Street, Earl Shilton. Mid-20th century buildings for shoe wholesaler.	-	Warehouse	Modern	Low
NDHA60	MLE25721	-	Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Wood Street, Earl Shilton. The first chapel was built 1822, with a new chapel built 1905	-	Wesleyan Methodist Chapel	Modern	Low

TEP ID	HER ID	HE Number	Name and Description	Grade	Type	Date	Significance
NDHA61	MLE16995	-	Beechrome, Candle Lane, Earl Shilton. House, built in 1928 in mock Tudor style, for Henry Cotton, an important local boot and shoe manufacturer.	-	House; Ornamental Garden	Modern	Negligible
NDHA62	MLE17893	-	Site of shoe factory, Orton Place, Earl Shilton. Factory of H Orton and Sons, founded in 1917. This was the last surviving shoe factory in Earl Shilton, closing in 2004.	-	Shoe Factory	Modern	Negligible
NDHA63	MLE21072	-	Site of A J Norton's shoe factory, Keats Close, Earl Shilton. A J Norton was the 'Father of the Boot and Shoe trade in Earl Shilton', one of the earliest Boot manufacturers in the town. Demolished by 1991.	-	Shoe Factory	Modern	Negligible
NDHA64	MLE21073	-	Site of Ladkin Bros, Vicarage Street, Earl Shilton. Factory making men's quality leather shoes, closed in 1989 and demolished soon after.	-	Shoe Factory	Modern	Negligible
NDHA65	MLE29640	-	Possible modern circular soil mark, west of Nock Verges, Earl Shilton. A large subcircular soil mark c.120 yards in diameter was noted.	-	Sub Circular Enclosure?	Modern	Negligible
NDHA66	MLE351	-	Undated banks north of Bracknells Barn, Normanton Turville. A bank visible on aerial photographs.	-	Bank (Earthwork)	Unknown	Low
NDHA67	MLE2853	-	Undated field system, south-west of Tooley Farm, Earl Shilton. Cropmarks of an undated field boundary from aerial photographs.	-	Field System	Unknown	Low

TEP ID	HER ID	HE Number	Name and Description	Grade	Type	Date	Significance
NDHA68	MLE3068	-	Undated enclosure south-east of Folly Farm, Peckleton. A square enclosure inside a sub-rectangular enclosure, double ditched, was noted on aerial photographs in the 1980s. There are some other marks to the north.	-	Subrectangular Enclosure	Unknown	Low

Appendix B: Ordnance Survey Historic Mapping



Site Details:

Shilton Road, Earl Shilton

Client Ref: PO 37239/11216
Report Ref: GS-5ZH-IVL-T9Q-AOT_2500
Grid Ref: 446627. 298651

Map Name: County Series

Map date: 1888

Scale: 1:2,500

Printed at: 1:2,500



Surveyed 1888
Revised 1888
Edition N/A
Copyright N/A
Levelled N/A

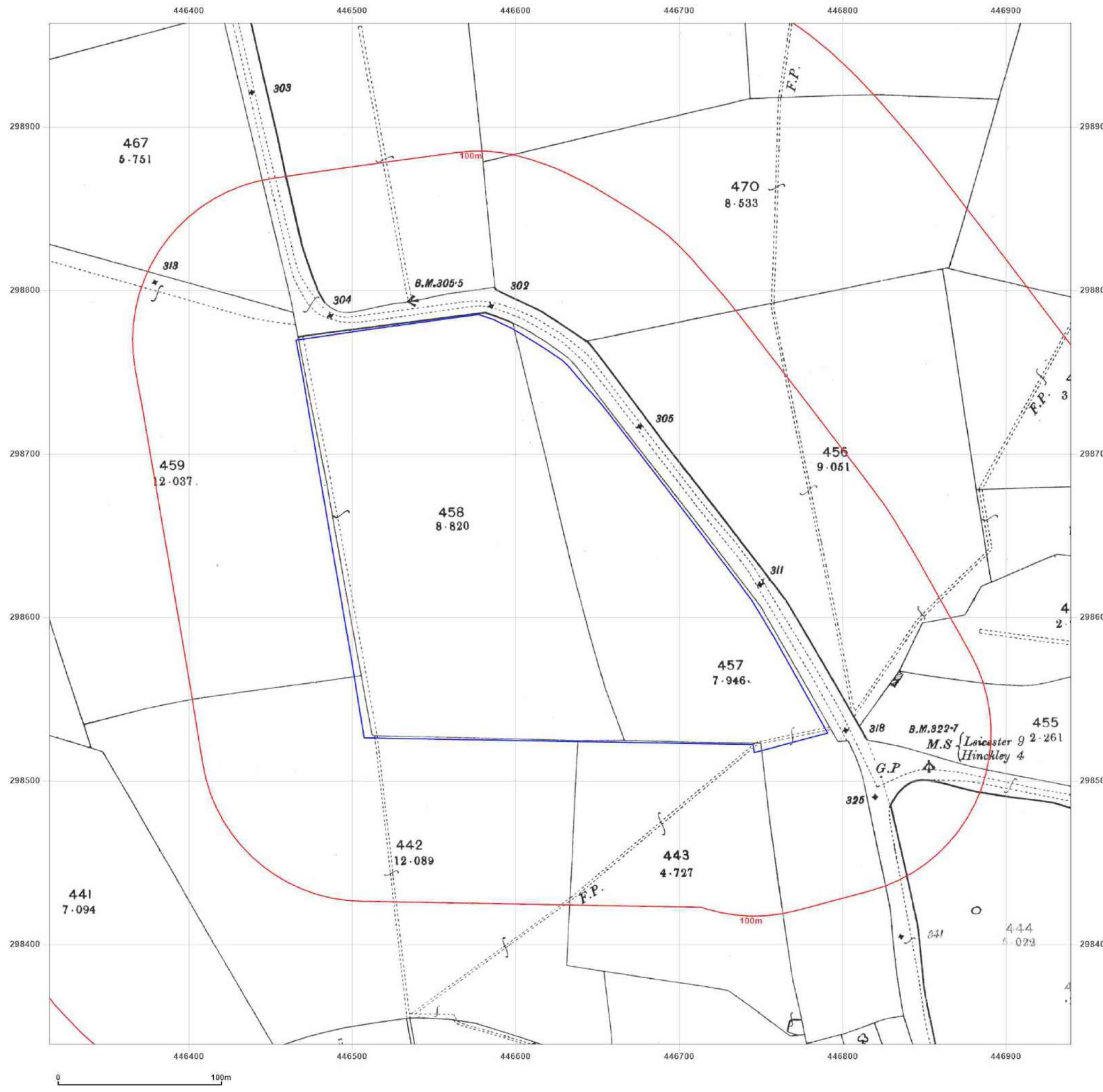


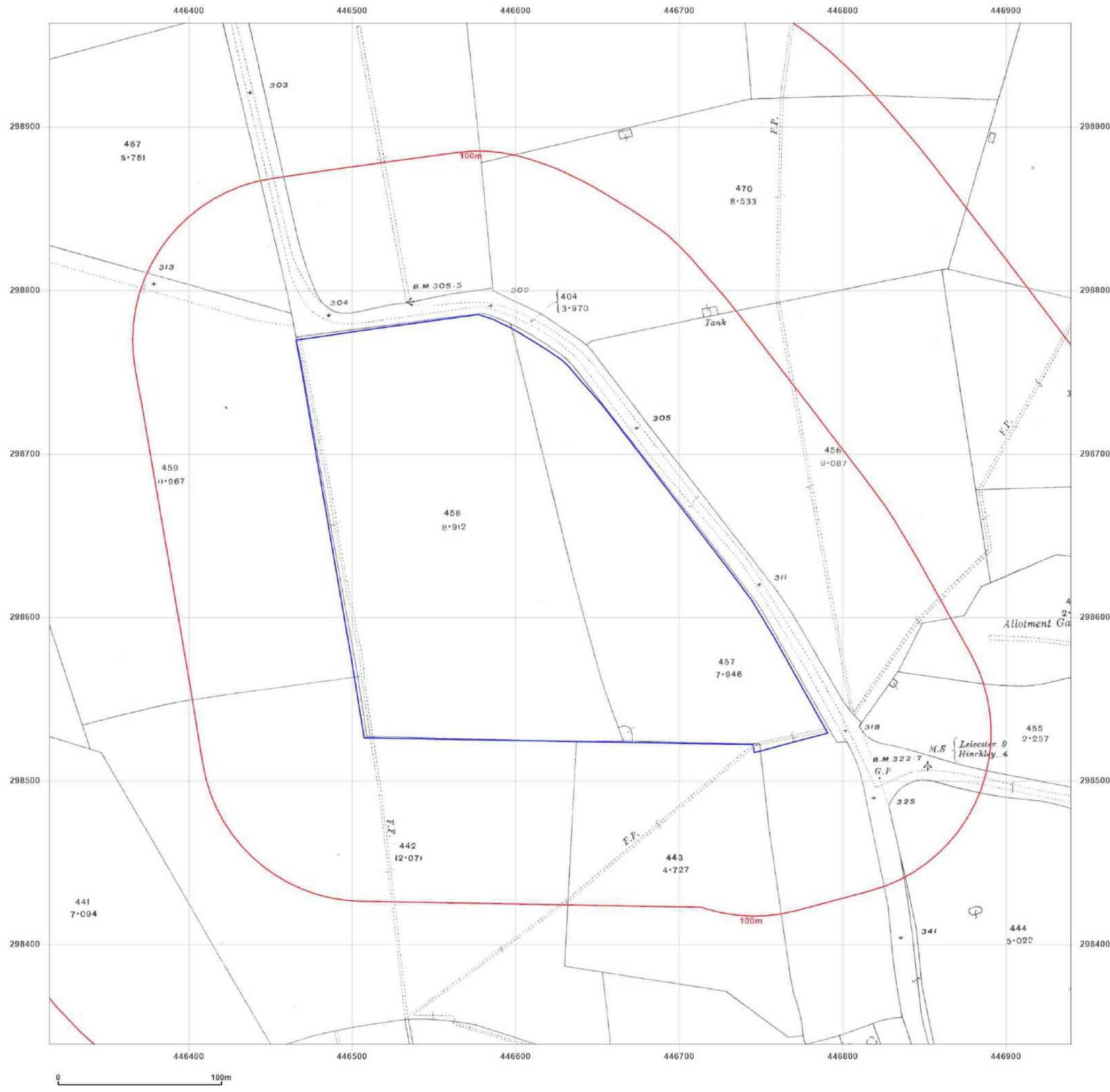
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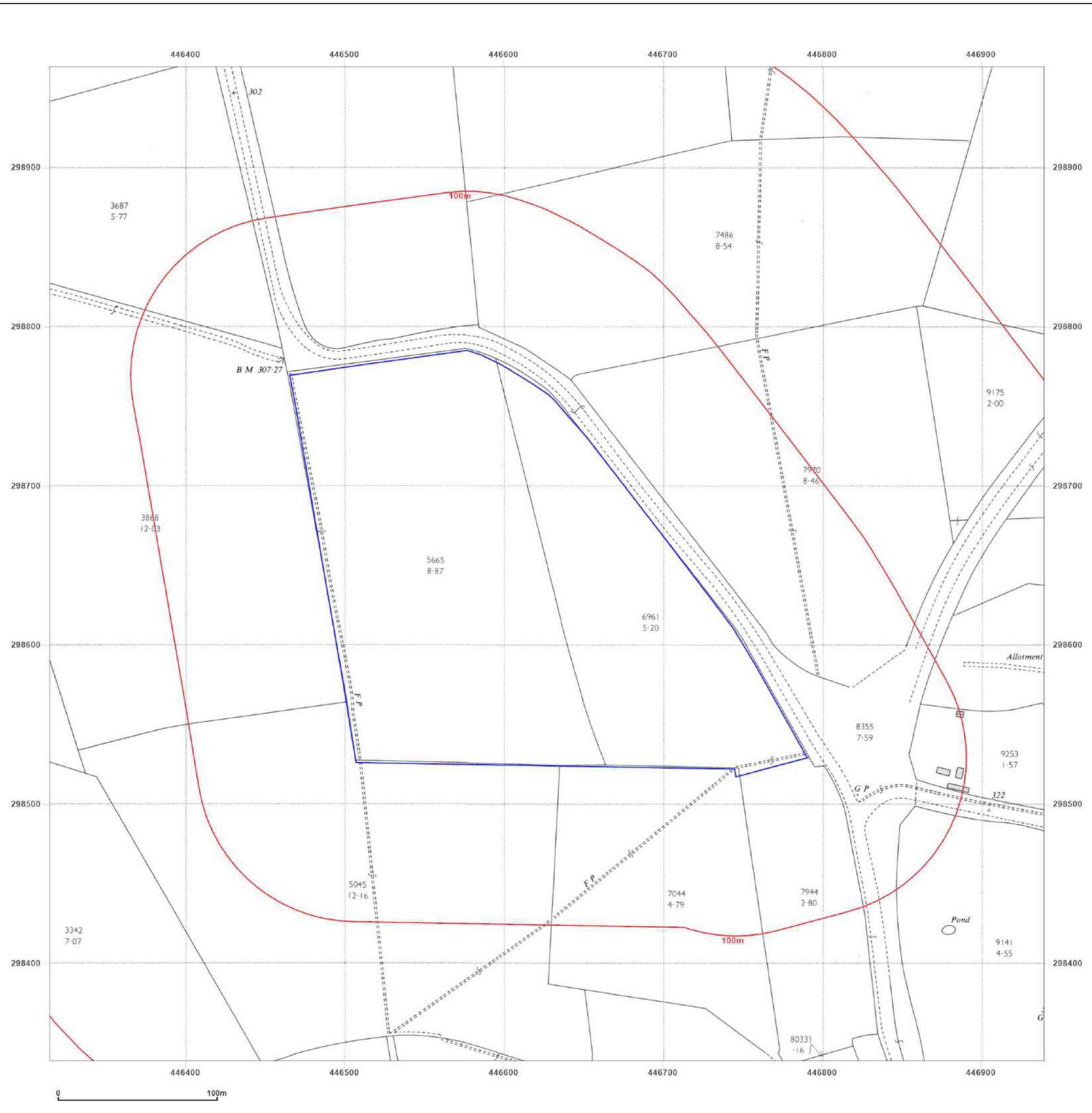
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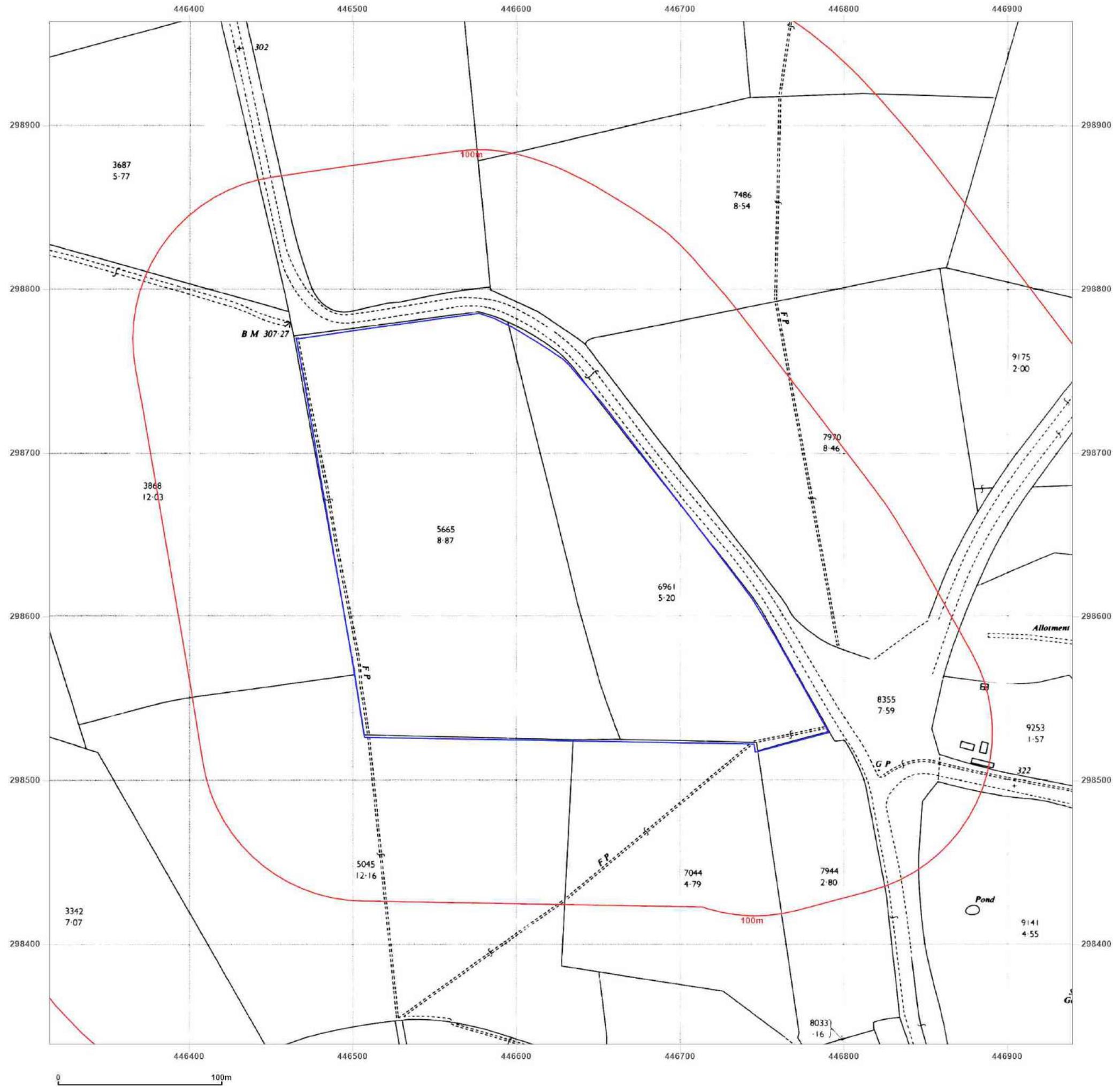
Production date: 08 July 2025

Map legend available at:
www.groundsure.com/sites/default/files/groundsure_legend.pdf









Site Details:

Shilton Road, Earl Shilton

Client Ref: PO 37239/11216
Report Ref: GS-5ZH-IVL-T9Q-AOT_2500
Grid Ref: 446627, 298651

Map Name: National Grid

Map date: 1964

Scale: 1:2,500

Printed at: 1:2,500



Surveyed N/A
 Revised N/A
 Edition N/A
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Map legend available at:
www.groundsure.com/sites/default/files/groundsure_legend.pdf

Site Details:

Shilton Road, Earl Shilton

Client Ref: PO 37239/11216
Report Ref: GS-5ZH-IVL-T9Q-AOT_2500
Grid Ref: 446627, 298651

Map Name: National Grid

Map date: 1978

Scale: 1:2,500

Printed at: 1:2,500


Surveyed 1978
 Revised 1978
 Edition N/A
 Copyright N/A
 Levelled N/A

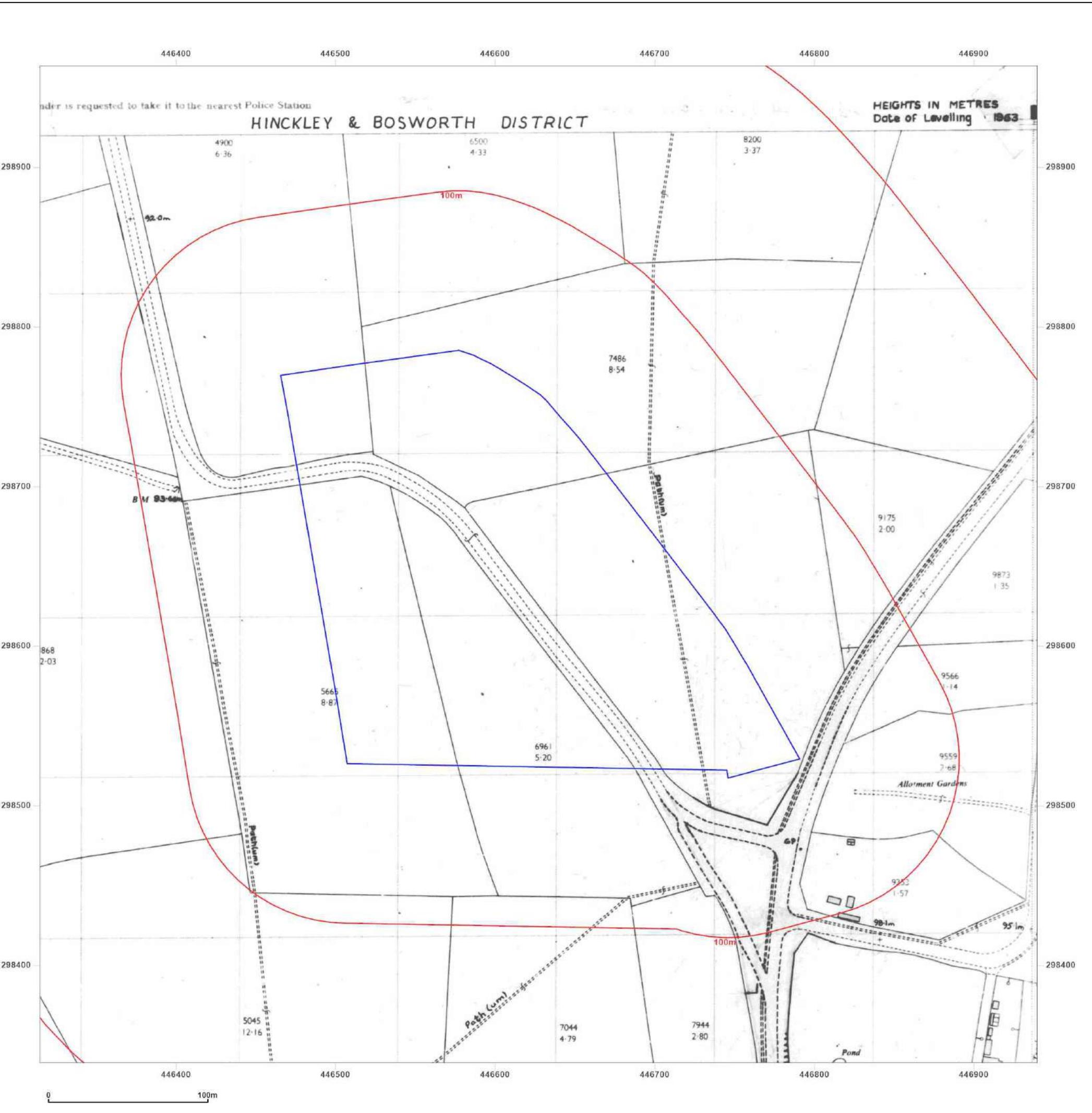


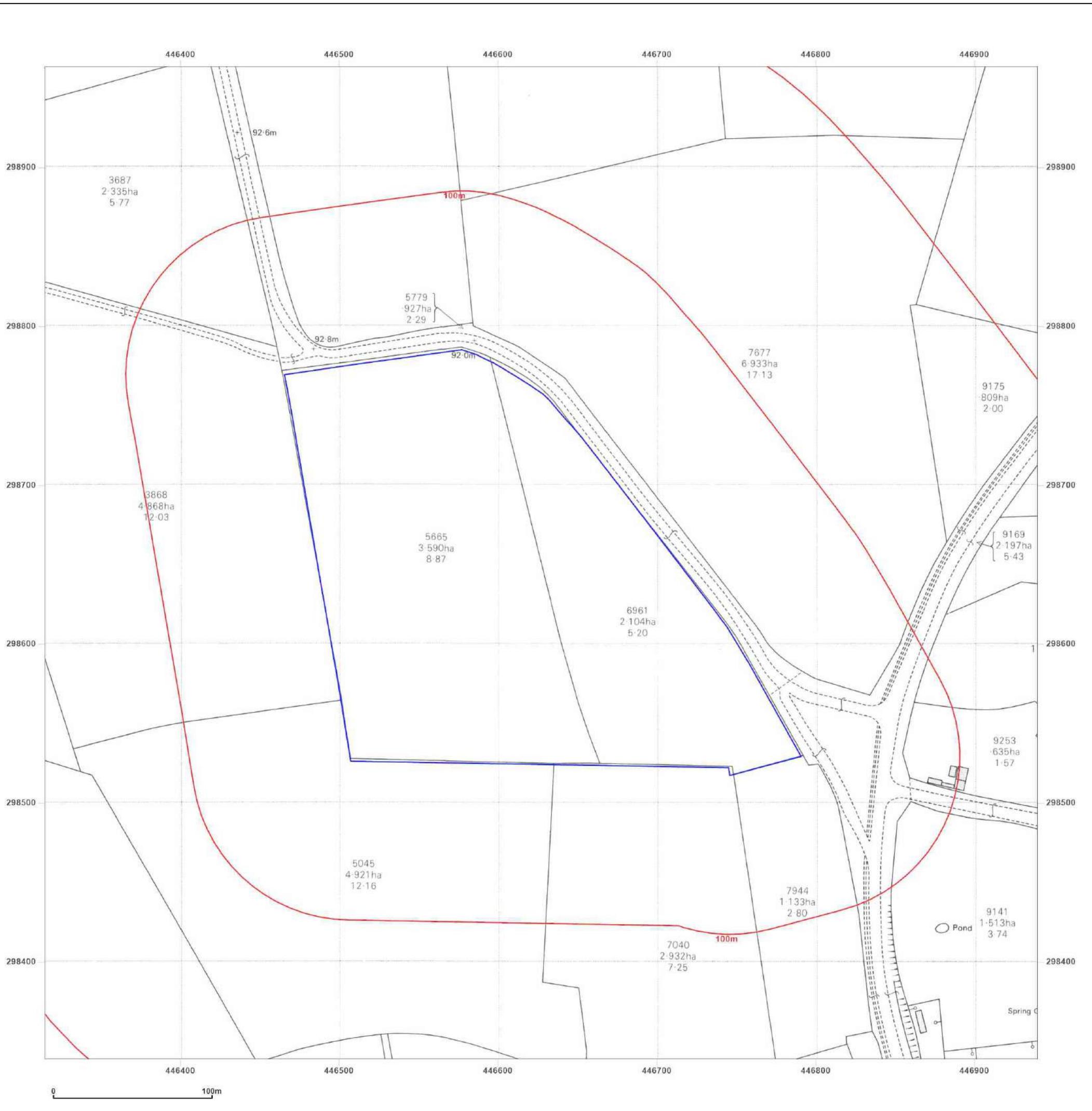
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Site Details:

Shilton Road, Earl Shilton

Client Ref: PO 37239/11216
Report Ref: GS-5ZH-IVL-T9Q-AOT_2500
Grid Ref: 446627, 298651

Map Name: National Grid

Map date: 1985

Scale: 1:2,500

Printed at: 1:2,500



Surveyed 1984
Revised 1984
Edition N/A
Copyright 1985
Levelled 1964

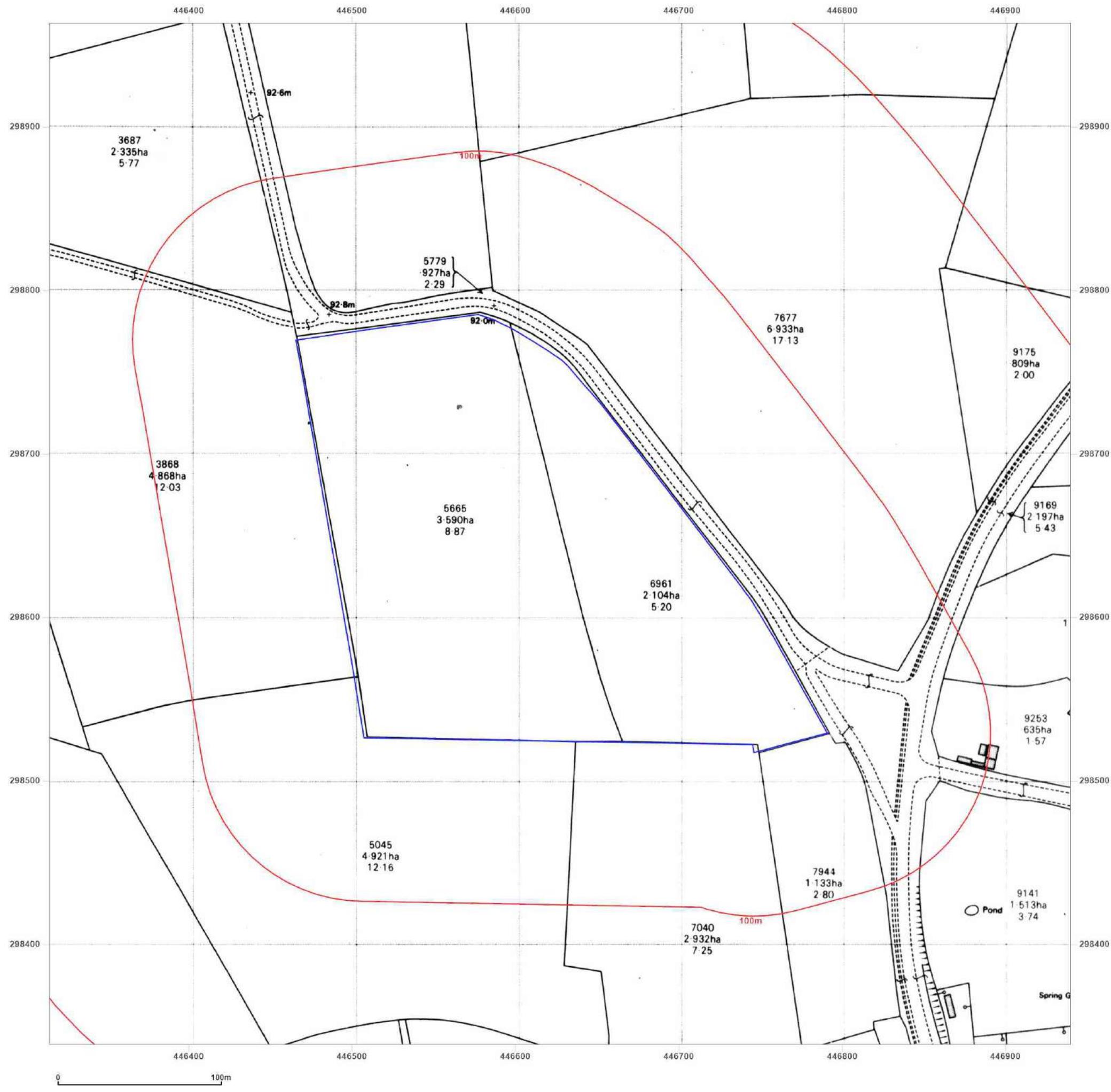


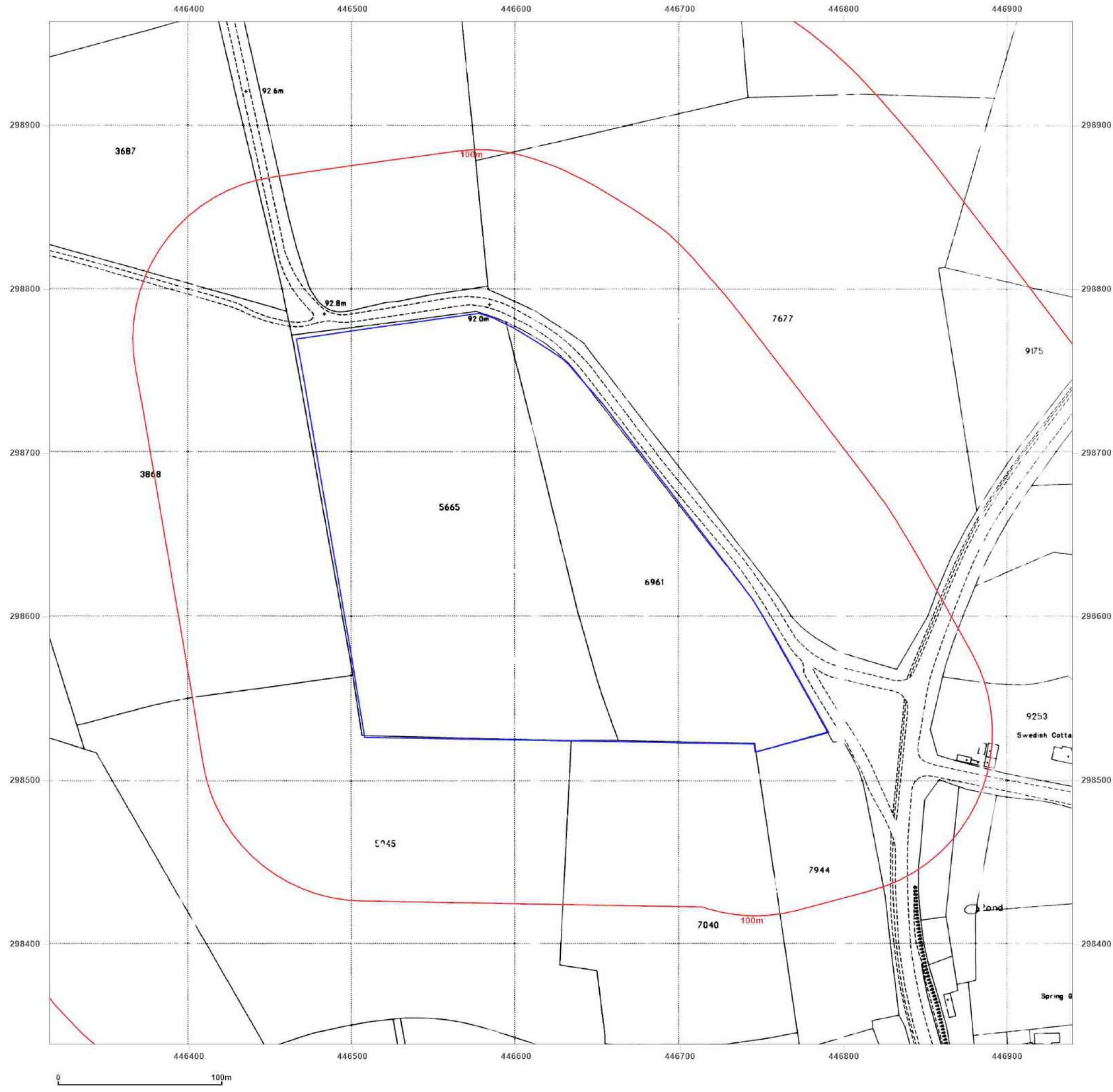
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Site Details:

Shilton Road, Earl Shilton

Client Ref: PO 37239/11216
Report Ref: GS-5ZH-IVL-T9Q-AOT_2500
Grid Ref: 446627, 298651

Map Name: National Grid

Map date: 1994

Scale: 1:2,500

Printed at: 1:2,500



Surveyed N/A
 Revised N/A
 Edition N/A
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Production date: 08 July 2025

Map legend available at:
www.groundsure.com/sites/default/files/groundsure_legend.pdf

Appendix C Geophysical Survey Report



**magnitude
surveys**

Geophysical Survey Report

Land West of Shilton Road, Earl Shilton

For

The Environment Partnership (TEP)

On Behalf of Giles Stanley Ltd

Magnitude Surveys Ref: MSSP2210

October 2025



magnitude surveys

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Issue Date:

23 October 2025

Abstract

Magnitude Surveys was commissioned by The Environment Partnership (TEP) on behalf of Giles Stanley Ltd to assess the subsurface archaeological potential of c. 5.3ha of land to the west of Shilton Road, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire. A fluxgate gradiometer survey was successfully completed across the majority of the survey area, with some areas unable to be accessed due to obstacles within the field at the time of the survey. Anomalies consistent with field drainage were detected as well as buried services. Several linear and curvilinear anomalies of an undetermined origin have been detected within the survey area. Modern interference was limited to field boundaries, paddock divisions within fields and around buried services.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. Magnitude Surveys Ltd (MS) was commissioned by The Environment Partnership (TEP) on behalf of Giles Stanley Ltd to undertake a geophysical survey over a c. 5.3ha area of land to the west of Shilton Road, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire (SP 46619 98660).
- 1.2. The geophysical survey comprised hand-pulled, cart-mounted GNSS-positioned fluxgate gradiometer survey. Magnetic survey is the standard primary geophysical method for archaeological applications in the UK due to its ability to detect a range of different features. The technique is particularly suited for detecting fired or magnetically enhanced features, such as ditches, pits, kilns, sunken featured buildings (SFBs) and industrial activity (David *et al.*, 2008).
- 1.3. The survey was conducted in line with the current best practice guidelines produced by Historic England (David *et al.*, 2008), the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA, 2020) and the European Archaeological Council (Schmidt *et al.*, 2015).
- 1.4. The survey was conducted in line with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by MS (Riach, 2025).
- 1.5. The survey commenced on 23rd September 2025 and took one day to complete.

2. Quality Assurance

- 2.1. Magnitude Surveys is a Registered Organisation of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA), the chartered UK body for archaeologists, and a corporate member of ISAP (International Society for Archaeological Prospection).
- 2.2. The directors of MS are involved in cutting edge research and the development of guidance/policy. Specifically, Dr Chrys Harris has a PhD in archaeological geophysics from the University of Bradford, is a Member of ClfA and was the Vice-Chair of the International Society for Archaeological Prospection (ISAP); Finnegan Pope-Carter has an MSc in archaeological geophysics and is a Fellow of the London Geological Society, as well as a member of GeoSIG (ClfA Geophysics Special Interest Group); Dr Paul Johnson has a PhD in archaeology from the University of Southampton, is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London and a Member of ClfA, has been a member of the ISAP Management Committee since 2015, and is currently the Chair of the Archaeological Prospection Community of the European Archaeological Association.
- 2.3. All MS managers, field and office staff have degree qualifications relevant to archaeology or geophysics and/or field experience.

3. Objectives

- 3.1. The objective of this geophysical survey was to assess the subsurface archaeological potential of the survey area.

4. Geographic Background

4.1. The survey area was located c. 870m north of Earl Shilton, Leicestershire (Figure 1). The survey area was located to the south and west of Shilton Road and to the north and east of arable farmland (Figure 2). Gradiometer survey was undertaken across two fields under pasture.

4.2. Survey considerations:

Survey Area	Ground Conditions	Further Notes
1	Flat pasture field.	The survey area was surrounded by hedgerows and trees. A wire fence ran east to west, with metal gates, dividing the area. A water trough, hedges, and a shed were located along this fence. North of the fence was an enclosed area with a wooden fence and a tarmac strip. South of the fence were paddocks separated by rope fencing. A pile of fallen trees prevented the survey of a small section in the west.
2	Flat pasture field.	The survey area was surrounded by hedgerows, except for the eastern part of the southern boundary, which had a wooden fence. Metal gates were located on the eastern boundary and in the southwest corner. A ditch ran along the southern hedge, and plastic animal feeders were present near the centre of the eastern boundary.

4.3. The underlying bedrock geology comprises mudstone of the Gunthorpe Member. No superficial deposits are recorded within the survey area (British Geological Survey, 2025).

4.4. The soils consist of slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (Soilscapes, 2025).

5. Archaeological Background

5.1. The following is a summary of a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment produced by The Environment Partnership (TEP) (Bassir, 2025).

5.2. Evidence for prehistoric activity is recorded within the survey area and its wider environs. A pit was excavated during archaeological evaluation works c. 30m to the south of the survey area, which contained sherds of Late Bronze Age to Romano-British pottery (MLE26781). The findspot of a Neolithic mace head is recorded c. 300m to the west of the survey area (MLE7237) and the findspot of a late Neolithic to early Bronze Age macehead fragment is recorded c. 950m southwest of the survey area (MLE15877). A prehistoric pit alignment (MLE3070) of Bronze Age to Iron Age date is recorded c. 600m northeast of the survey area. An Iron Age droveway and field system (MLE17958) is recorded c. 1km to the southeast of the survey area.

5.3. Romano-British evidence consists of the findspot of a coin (MLE10245) in the centre of the survey area and a coin immediately west of the north-west corner of the survey area (MLE9381). Findspots of pottery (MLE15864 & MLE7937) dating to the Romano-British to Medieval period were recorded c. 870m and c. 980m to the southeast of the survey area, recovered during building works. The possible site of a Romano-British building is recorded c.

1km west of the survey area. Fieldwalking in this area recovered 17 sherds of Romano-British pottery.

5.4. A findspot of a Medieval coin is recorded c. 45m east of the survey area (MLE10246). Areas of ridge and furrow ploughing were recorded within the eastern portion of the survey area and in the vicinity; however none of a noted location or further designation.

6. Methodology

6.1. Data Collection

6.1.1. Magnetometer surveys are generally the most cost effective and suitable geophysical technique for the detection of archaeology in England. Therefore, a magnetometer survey should be the preferred geophysical technique unless its use is precluded by any specific survey objectives or the site environment. For this site, no factors precluded the recommendation of a standard magnetometer survey. Geophysical survey therefore comprised the magnetic method as described in the following section.

6.1.2. Geophysical prospection comprised the magnetic method as described in the following table.

6.1.3. Table of survey strategies:

Method	Instrument	Traverse Interval	Sample Interval
Magnetic	Bartington Instruments Grad-13 Digital Three-Axis Gradiometer	1m	200Hz reprojected to 0.125m

6.1.4. The magnetic data were collected using MS' bespoke hand-pulled, cart system GNSS-positioned system.

6.1.4.1. MS' cart system was comprised of Bartington Instruments Grad 13 Digital Three-Axis Gradiometers. Positional referencing was through a multi-channel, multi-constellation GNSS Smart Antenna RTK GPS outputting in NMEA mode to ensure high positional accuracy of collected measurements. The RTK GPS is accurate to 0.008m + 1ppm in the horizontal and 0.015m + 1ppm in the vertical.

6.1.4.2. Magnetic and GPS data were stored on an SD card within MS' bespoke datalogger. The datalogger was continuously synced, via an in-field Wi-Fi unit, to servers within MS' offices. This allowed for data collection, processing, and visualisation to be monitored in real-time as fieldwork was ongoing.

6.1.4.3. A navigation system was integrated with the RTK GPS, which was used to guide the surveyor. Data were collected by traversing the survey area along the longest possible lines, ensuring efficient collection and processing.

6.2. Data Processing

6.2.1. Magnetic data were processed in bespoke in-house software produced by MS. Processing steps conform to the EAC and Historic England guidelines for 'minimally

enhanced data' (see Section 3.8 in Schmidt *et al.*, 2015: 33 and Section IV.2 in David *et al.*, 2008: 11).

Sensor Calibration – The sensors were calibrated using a bespoke in-house algorithm, which conforms to Olsen *et al.* (2003).

Zero Median Traverse – The median of each sensor traverse is calculated within a specified range and subtracted from the collected data. This removes striping effects caused by small variations in sensor electronics.

Projection to a Regular Grid – Data collected using RTK GPS positioning requires a uniform grid projection to visualise data. Data are rotated to best fit an orthogonal grid projection and are resampled onto the grid using an inverse distance-weighting algorithm.

Interpolation to Square Pixels – Data are interpolated using a bicubic algorithm to increase the pixel density between sensor traverses. This produces images with square pixels for ease of visualisation.

6.3. Data Visualisation and Interpretation

- 6.3.1. This report presents the gradient of the sensors' total field data as greyscale images, as well as the total field data from the lower sensors (Figure 3). The gradient of the sensors minimises external interferences and reduces the blown-out responses from ferrous and other high contrast material. However, the contrast of weak or ephemeral anomalies can be reduced through the process of calculating the gradient. Consequently, some features can be clearer in the respective gradient or total field datasets. Multiple greyscale images of the gradient and total field at different plotting ranges have been used for data interpretation. Greyscale images should be viewed alongside the XY trace plot (Figure 6). XY trace plots visualise the magnitude and form of the geophysical response, aiding anomaly interpretation.
- 6.3.2. Geophysical results have been interpreted using greyscale images and XY traces in a layered environment, overlaid against open street maps, satellite imagery, historical maps, LiDAR data, and soil and geology maps. Google Earth (2025) was also consulted, to compare the results with recent land use.
- 6.3.3. Geodetic position of results – All vector and raster data have been projected into OSGB36 (ESPG27700) and can be provided upon request in ESRI Shapefile (.SHP) and Geotiff (.TIF) respectively. Figures are provided with raster and vector data projected against OS Open Data.

7. Results

7.1. Qualification

7.1.1. Geophysical results are not a map of the ground and are instead a direct measurement of subsurface properties. Detecting and mapping features requires that said features have properties that can be measured by the chosen technique(s) and that these properties have sufficient contrast with the background to be identifiable. The interpretation of any identified anomalies is inherently subjective. While the scrutiny of the results is undertaken by qualified, experienced individuals and rigorously checked for quality and consistency, it is often not possible to classify all anomaly sources. Where possible, an anomaly source will be identified along with the certainty of the interpretation. The only way to improve the interpretation of results is through a process of comparing excavated results with the geophysical reports. MS actively seek feedback on their reports, as well as reports from further work, in order to constantly improve our knowledge and service.

7.2. Discussion

7.2.1. The geophysical results are presented in combination with satellite imagery and historical maps (Figure 7).

7.2.2. The fluxgate gradiometer survey was successfully completed over c. 5.3ha of land at Shilton Road, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire. The survey responded well to the environment of the survey area. Magnetic interference was limited to field boundaries, internal field divisions and around buried services.

7.2.3. Two linear anomalies were detected in the north and the south of Area 2, orientated northwest to southeast and northeast to southwest, respectively. The signal of these anomalies is suggestive of drainage features.

7.2.4. Within Areas 1 and 2, several discrete, linear, and curvilinear anomalies were detected and categorised as undetermined due to a lack of contextual evidence (Figure 5). These anomalies are possibly the result of agricultural or natural processes; however, an anthropogenic origin cannot be discounted.

7.3. Interpretation

7.3.1. General Statements

7.3.1.1. Geophysical anomalies will be discussed broadly as classification types across the survey area. Only anomalies that are distinctive or unusual will be discussed individually.

7.3.1.2. **Ferrous (Spike)** – Discrete dipolar anomalies are likely to be the result of isolated pieces of modern ferrous debris on or near the ground surface.

7.3.1.3. **Ferrous/Debris (Spread)** – A ferrous/debris spread refers to a concentration of multiple discrete, dipolar anomalies usually resulting from highly magnetic material such as rubble containing ceramic building materials and ferrous rubbish.

7.3.1.4. **Magnetic Disturbance** – The strong anomalies produced by extant metallic structures, typically including fencing, pylons, vehicles and service pipes, have been classified as ‘Magnetic Disturbance’. These magnetic ‘haloes’ will obscure weaker anomalies relating to nearby features, should they be present, often over a greater footprint than the structure causing them.

7.3.1.5. **Undetermined** – Anomalies are classified as Undetermined when the origin of the geophysical anomaly is ambiguous and there is no supporting contextual evidence to justify a more certain classification. These anomalies are likely to be the result of geological, pedological or agricultural processes, although an archaeological origin cannot be entirely ruled out. Undetermined anomalies are generally distinct from those caused by ferrous sources.

7.3.2. Magnetic Results - Specific Anomalies

7.3.2.1. **Drainage (Trend)** – Two linear anomalies displaying weak, discrete dipolar signals have been detected in the north and south of Area 2 (Figure 5). These signals are typically indicative of drainage features.

7.3.2.2. **Buried Service (Trend)** – Two linear anomalies have been detected across the survey areas. One of the anomalies is located in the north of Area 1, orientated roughly east to west, with another service orientated northeast to southwest towards the south of the survey area. The strong dipolar signals are typical of buried services (Figure 5).

7.3.2.3. **Undetermined (Weak)** – Several linear and curvilinear anomalies have been detected across the survey areas, which have been categorised as undetermined (Figure 5). These anomalies display weak, positive magnetic signals and do not align with any features depicted on historical mapping or with modern features visible in satellite imagery. Whilst the anomalies may be of agricultural or natural origin, an archaeological origin cannot be ruled out.

8. Conclusions

8.1. A fluxgate gradiometer survey was successfully completed across c. 5.3ha of land at Shilton Road, Earl Shilton. The geophysical survey has detected drainage features and undetermined anomalies. Magnetic interference was limited to field boundaries, internal paddock divisions within the fields and around a buried service.

8.2. Two anomalies interpreted as field drainage have been detected in the north and south of the survey area.

8.3. Anomalies of an undetermined origin have been detected across the survey area, for which an archaeological origin cannot be completely excluded.

9. Archiving

9.1. MS maintains an in-house digital archive, which is based on Schmidt and Ernenwein (2013). This stores the collected measurements, minimally processed data, georeferenced and un-georeferenced images, XY traces and a copy of the final report.

9.2. MS contributes reports to the ADS Grey Literature Library upon permission from the client, subject to any dictated time embargoes.

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11. References

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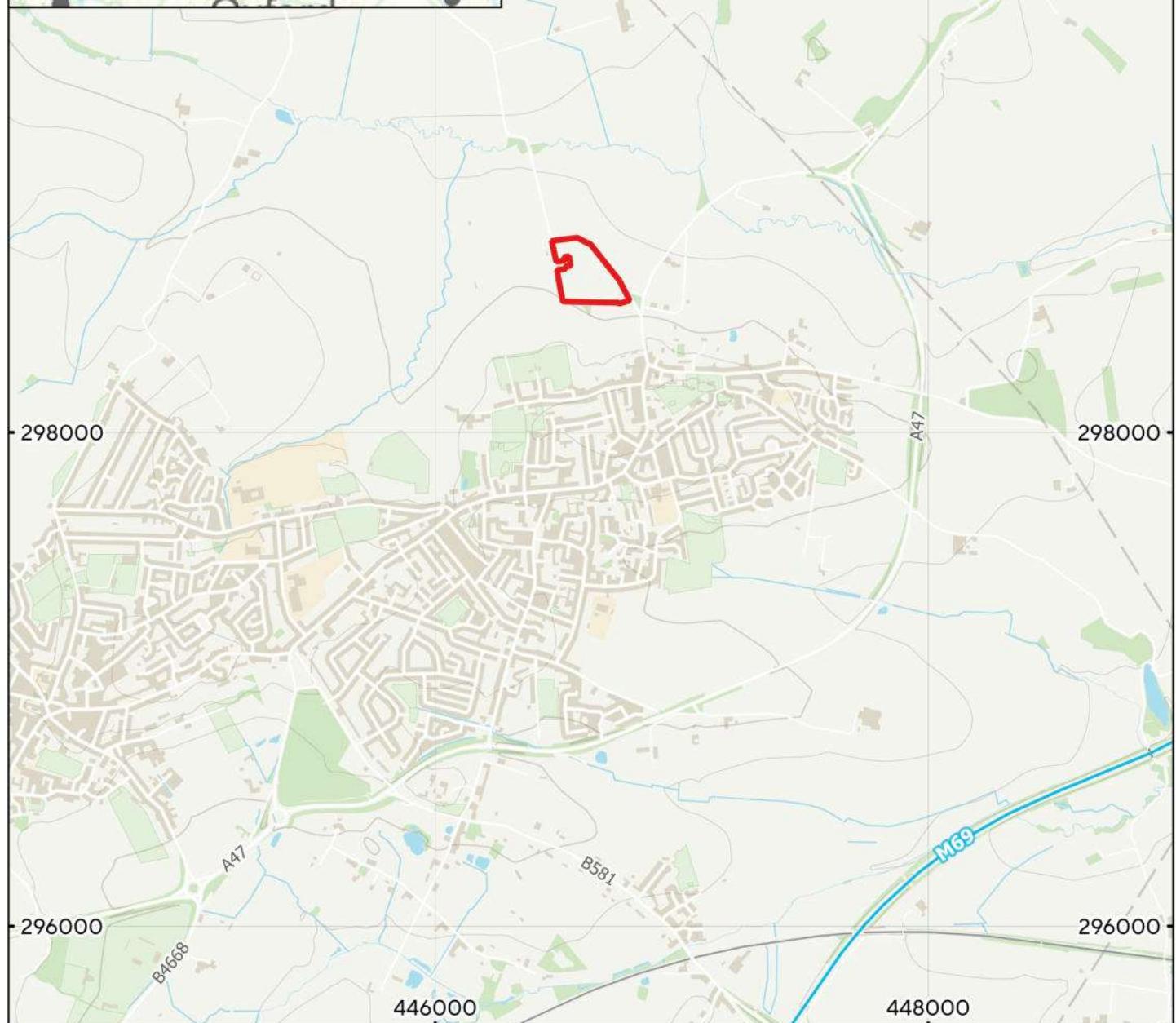
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12. Project Metadata

MS Job Code	MSSP2210
Project Name	Shilton Road, Earl Shilton
Client	The Environment Partnership (TEP)
Grid Reference	SP 46619 98660
Survey Techniques	Magnetometry
Survey Size (ha)	5.3ha
Survey Dates	2021-10-05 to 2021-10-15
Project Lead	Dan Byrne MGeophys (Hons)
Project Officer	Lucy Johnson BA
HER Event No	N/A
OASIS No	N/A
S42 Licence No	N/A
Report Version	0.3

13. Document History

Version	Comments	Author	Checked By	Date
0.1	Initial draft for Project Lead to Review	TO	MS	16 October 2025
0.2	Draft for Project Lead to Review	TO, JB	LJ	20 October 2025
0.3	Sign Off	LJ	LAG	23 October 2025



MSSP2210 - Shilton Road, Earl Shilton

Figure 1 - Geophysical Survey Location

1:25,000 @ A4

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■ Geophysical Survey Areas

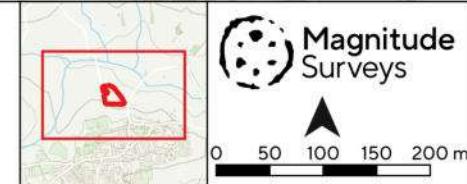




MSSP2210 - Shilton Road, Earl Shilton
Figure 2 - Geophysical Survey Areas
1:5,000 @ A3

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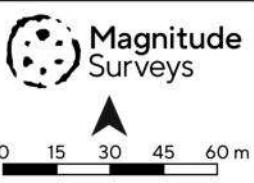
Survey Extent





MSSP2210 - Shilton Road, Earl Shilton
Figure 3 - Magnetic Total Field (Lower Sensors)
1:1,500 @ A3
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48,990 nT 49,020





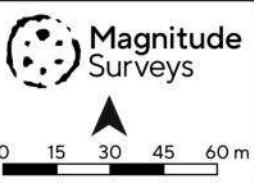
MSSP2210 - Shilton Road, Earl Shilton

Figure 4 - Magnetic Gradient

1:1,500 @ A3

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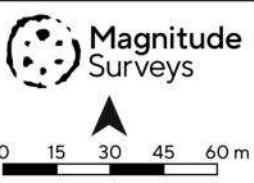
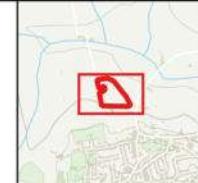
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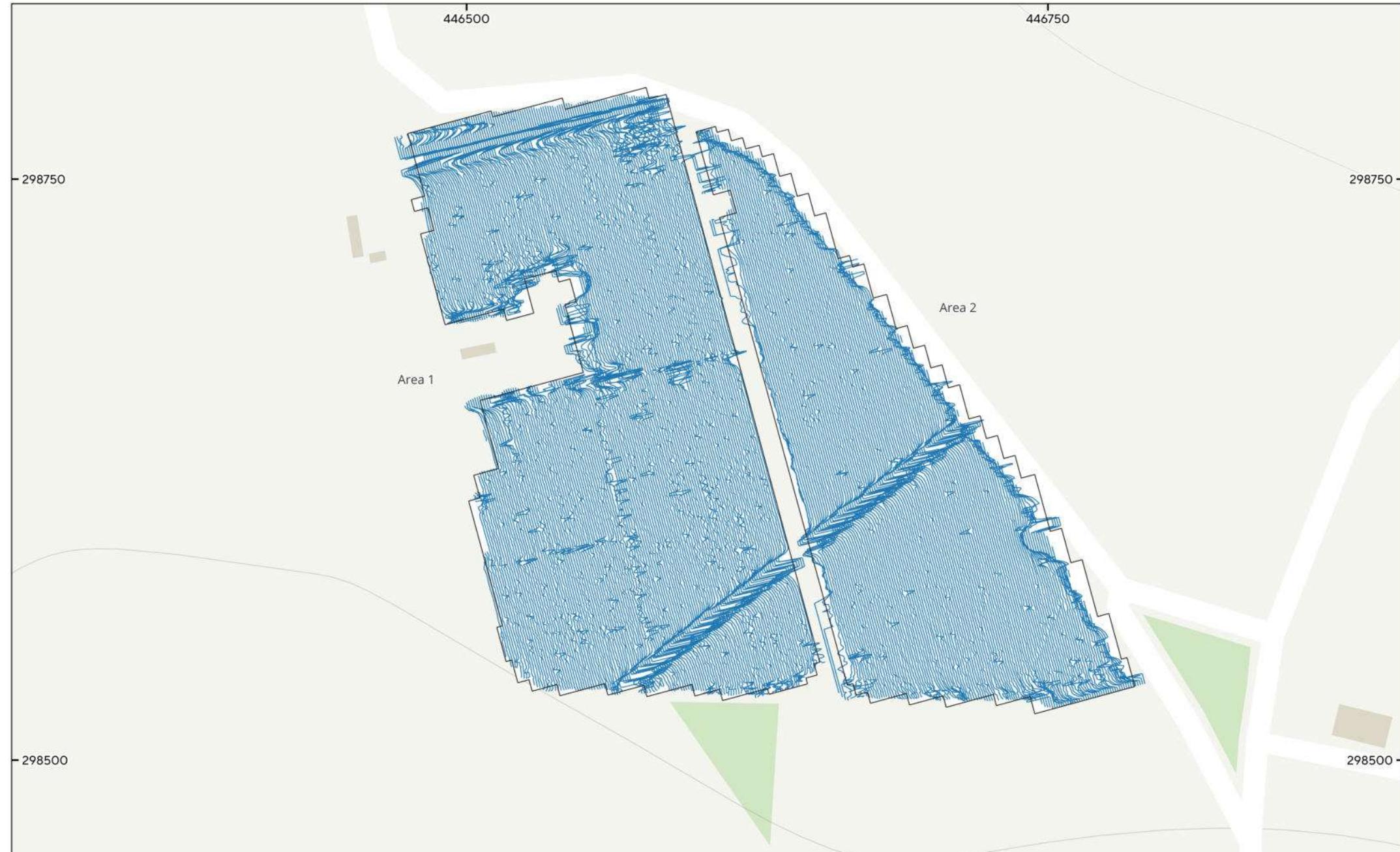




MSSP2210 - Shilton Road, Earl Shilton
Figure 5 – Magnetic Interpretation
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- Magnetic Disturbance
- Undetermined (Weak)
- Drainage Feature
- Service
- Ferrous (Spike)

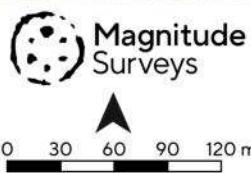
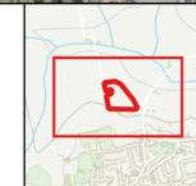






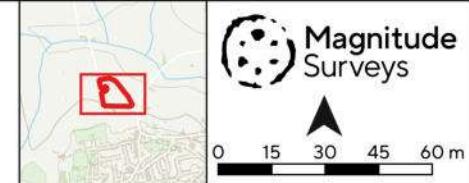
MSSP2210 - Shilton Road, Earl Shilton
 Figure 7 - Magnetic Interpretation over Historical Mapping & Satellite Imagery, 1:3,000 @ A3
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 Contains historical mapping © CLS Data 2025: Ordnance Survey, 6" 2nd edition c. 1882-1913
 Contains satellite imagery © Google Satellite 2025

- Magnetic Disturbance
- Undetermined (Weak)
- Drainage Feature
- Service
- Ferrous (Spike)





MSSP2210 - Shilton Road, Earl Shilton
Figure 8 – GNSS Plot
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