



Land West of Sharnford Road, Sapcote 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 Sharnford Road, Sapcote, would have on the historic environment. The proposed development site has been in agricultural use since at least the late medieval period and baseline conditions show that within a 1km Study Area there are eleven designated heritage assets and 78 non-designated heritage assets.
2. The designated heritage assets include one scheduled monument and ten grade II listed buildings. There will be no direct impacts on any designated heritage asset. The proposed development is assessed to be within the setting of the grade II listed All Saints Church but this does not contribute to its significance. The proposed development will include a greenspace buffer in the northern part of the scheme which will minimise indirect effects on the church and maintain long-distance views towards the listed building.
3. A single non-designated heritage asset comprising the findspot of Roman coins is recorded within the proposed development site and is of negligible heritage significance.
4. It is assessed that the proposed development site has a low potential to include as yet unknown heritage assets with archaeological interest of all periods, and an up to moderate potential for the Roman period.
5. Several hedgerows within the proposed development site have been assessed as Important in accordance with the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.
6. 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.
7. 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.

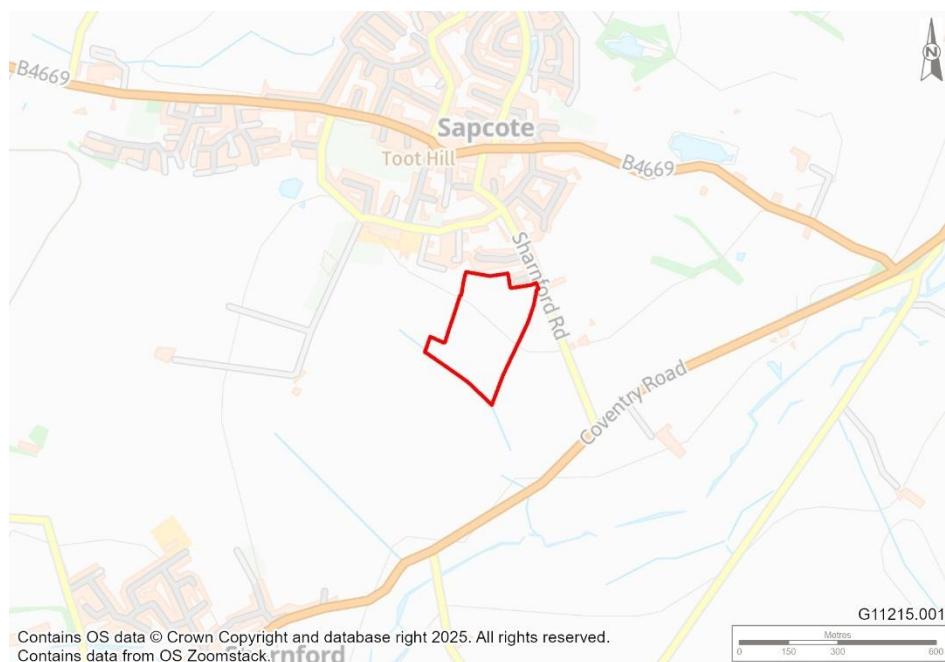
1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides a description of the historic environment baseline conditions for Land West of Sharnford Road, Sapcote. It has been commissioned by Giles Stanley Ltd to support an outline planning application for the construction of up to 79 residential dwellings (Access Arrangements to be determined with all other matters reserved).
- 1.2 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

- 1.3 The site is located on land west of Sharnford Road, Sapcote (Figure 1), centred at approximately National Grid Reference SP 49055 92857, and covers an area of 7.76 ha. This is referred to throughout this report as the proposed development site.
- 1.4 The proposed development site is currently in use as agricultural land, bounded to the north by modern residential development forming the southern fringe of Sapcote, to the east by Sharnford Road, and to the west and south by agricultural fields.
- 1.5 The local planning authority is Blaby District 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

1.6 The proposed development will comprise an outline planning application for the construction of up to 79 residential dwellings (Access Arrangements to be determined with all other matters reserved) (refer to Illustrative Site Layout dwg ref: 25.062/04b).

Aims and Objectives

1.7 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.

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

1.9 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

Blaby District Local Plan (Core Strategy) Development Plan Document, 2013

Policy CS20 Historic Environment and Culture

2.7 This policy includes strategic objectives to preserve and enhance the cultural heritage of the District, recognising its contribution to local distinctiveness and to seek design solutions which preserve and enhance heritage assets where they are impacted by development.

2.8 The Council takes a positive approach to the conservation of heritage assets and the wider historic environment through:

A) *Considering proposals for development on, in, or adjacent to historic sites, areas and buildings against the need to ensure the protection and enhancement of the heritage asset and its setting. Proposed development should avoid harm to the heritage significance of historic sites, buildings or areas, including their setting.*

Guidance

2.9 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 & ClfA, 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).

2.10 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.

2.11 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 G11215.002: 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
- 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 G11215.002 (Appendix A).

Background and Context

Site Geology and Topography

4.5 The solid geology is recorded by the British Geological Survey as Mercia Mudstone Group of the Triassic period overlain by superficial deposits of the Thrussington

Member across most of the site area, with Wolston Sand and Gravel localised to the north-east and a linear band of Alluvium at the south-west.

- 4.6 There is a steep decline from the settlement of Sapcote at the north towards the agricultural fields at the south, falling from c96m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) within the modern settlement to 92m aOD at the northern boundary of the proposed development site and 82m aOD at the southern boundary. Within the proposed development site, the ground is uneven, and a series of rough terraces are formed between each of the land parcels so that there are noticeable changes in ground level at each field boundary.
- 4.7 The southern edge of the proposed development site forms a shallow valley, and the ground level rises slightly and maintains a broad level of c85m aOD towards the south. LiDAR data demonstrates that this shallow valley continues to the north-west and south-east and is followed by several field boundaries.
- 4.8 On an east to west profile the ground level is relatively consistent and level which allows long-distance views across the landscape from Sharnford Road.

Archaeological and Historical Background

Palaeolithic

- 4.9 The earliest evidence of modern human occupation in the British Isles is dated to the Palaeolithic, a period marked by major climatic 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.
- 4.10 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 north-east of the proposed development site (Howard, 2019; Tyldesley, 1987), or quartzite proto hand axes or chopper cores collected from Brooksby Quarry approximately 28km to the north-east of the proposed development site (Howard, 2019; Beamish et al., 2017).
- 4.11 No heritage assets of this period are recorded within the Study Area.

Mesolithic

- 4.12 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.

4.13 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.

4.14 A flint tool loosely dated to the Mesolithic to Neolithic period (NDHA1) was recovered during a trial trench evaluation, 800m to the west of the proposed development site.

Neolithic and Bronze Age

4.15 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.

4.16 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 c17km south-east of the proposed development site (Clay, 2006: 70).

4.17 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).

4.18 Within Leicestershire, there is evidence of field systems dating to the middle of the Bronze Age at Humberstone (Clay, 2006: 82) approximately 18km north-east of the proposed development site, as well as a late Bronze Age settlement at Glenfield (Clay, 2000; Willis, 2006) approximately 13km 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 (LCC 2010).

4.19 Four non-designated heritage assets dating from the Neolithic to Bronze Age periods are recorded within the Study Area. These include a Neolithic flint scraper (**NDHA2**) located c120m to the east of the proposed development site, a possible bronze Age dagger (**NDHA3**), a fragment of a Bronze Age axe (**NDHA4**) and evidence for Bronze Age and Iron Age activity (**NDHA5**) which was identified during

an archaeological evaluation c600m to the north-west of the proposed development site.

Iron Age

4.20 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.

4.21 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 13km 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).

4.22 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 20km 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 15km north-east of the proposed development site (Priest, 2005).

4.23 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 *Corieltaui* were based in Leicester, the city becoming known as *Ratae Corieltauvorum* or *Civitas Corieltauvorum* in the subsequent Roman period. The Corieltaui issued coinage in the late Iron Age, often found in hoards such as the more than 3,000 discovered in Hallaton 30km east of the proposed development site (Clay, 2006: 114; Priest et al., 2003).

4.24 Within the Study Area is a single record for the Iron Age period consisting of the finding of a cosmetic mortar during metal detecting work (**NDHA6**) c600m west of the proposed development site.

Roman

4.25 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.

4.26 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.

4.27 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.

4.28 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.

4.29 Nichols writes that to the east of Sapcote is "a rocky eminence called Cover-hill adjacent to which is a piece of ground called Black-piece. In 1770 there was discovered a tessellated pavement, similar to that found near Lincoln cathedral. There were also found at that spot some Roman coins" (Nichols 1811).

4.30 The extensive scheduled monument encompassing the site of the Roman settlement of Venonae (High Cross) lies 4km to the south of Sapcote at the intersection of Fosse Way and Watling Street.

4.31 The Roman period is well-represented in the baseline record with 12 non-designated heritage assets of this period recorded within the Study Area. Of these the most important are the line of Fosse Way (**NDHA7**) which is of moderate heritage significance and passes at its closest 880m to the south-east of the proposed development site, and the site of a Roman Villa at Calver Hill (**NDHA8**) which is located 400m to the north-east of the proposed development site and is of low significance. Several records for Roman coins are recorded within the area of Sapcote, including a coin hoard of 42 Roman coins (**NDHA15**) found by metal detecting c400m to the south of the proposed development site. Further findspots of

coins are recorded in close proximity to the south of the proposed development site (**NDHA12-13**).

4.32 Several sites of Roman activity including an inhumation cemetery are recorded in the vicinity of Sapcote (**NDHA16**, **NDHA18**) and wider area (**NDHA19**).

4.33 Within the proposed development site a single non-designated heritage asset is recorded, comprising the finding of three late Roman coins recovered through metal-detecting (**NDHA14**). The HER notes that their proximity to a stream may suggest the presence of a shrine, though no further evidence for this is available.

Early Medieval

4.34 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.

4.35 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).

4.36 Eight non-designated heritage assets dated to the Early Medieval period are recorded within the Study Area including archaeological remains and finds identified during archaeological works. In the vicinity of the church and scheduled monument, up to 100 sherds of early medieval pottery and a ditch (**NDHA22**) were recorded c300m north-west of the proposed development. Two parallel linear ditches (**NDHA21**) were recorded 850m to the north of the proposed development site. The find of a gold and garnet pendant (**NDHA23**) is recorded to the north of Sharnford, c800m to the south-west of the proposed development site. Further findspots include a harness mount (**NDHA24**) and coins (**NDHA25**). An early medieval pit containing a single sherd of pottery (**NDHA26**) was recorded c800m north-west of the proposed development site. Archaeological remains containing early medieval

pottery were identified during a watching brief at Park House Farm (**NDHA27**), c500m north of the proposed development site.

Medieval

4.37 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.

4.38 Following the conquest, King William I commissioned the Domesday Book in 1085, to record the resources of the country at the time. Sapcote is recorded in the Domesday Book within the hundred of Guthlaxton and county of Leicestershire. It was listed under three owners - Earl of Aubrey (Courcy), Hugh of Grandmesnil, and Fulbert. Before the conquest the Lord of Wulfric is named as the landowner. The place name of Sapcote is recorded as *Scepecote* in 1086, meaning 'Shed, or shelter for sheep' (Mills, 2011). The Domesday survey records villagers, freemen, and small holders, as well as plough teams and one mill. Other resources included meadow.

4.39 At the western edge of the historic settlement core of Sapcote lies Sapcote Castle and Moat which is protected as a scheduled monument and is of high heritage significance (**SM1**). Relatively little information is available about the origins and development of Sapcote Castle. It is described by Historic England as a late medieval moated site. Excavations have confirmed that the moated site at Park Close had never been the site of permanent buildings nor of castle. Within the area of the Scheduled Monument and immediate vicinity traces of stone buildings have been identified at the east end of Toot Hill Close where a motte existed until the 18th century. It is believed to have been developed following the conquest by the Basset family.

4.40 Regarding the castle Nichols writes: "*The site of a castle said to have been that of the Bassets is still discernible; and the mount, on which the keep stood, in the next adjoining close, called Toot Hill close, and which must have commanded an extensive prospect every way before the town was built, was levelled a few years*

after inclosure (1778)" (Nichols 1811). He also provides a lengthy account of the Basset family and their role in English politics and history.

- 4.41 The grade II listed Church of All Saints (**LB1**) is located at the southern fringe of the historic settlement core (200m to the north-west of the proposed development site) but has now been surrounded by modern development. The church is recorded as having mid-14th to 15th century origins, though with later additions and restoration.
- 4.42 The proposed development site lies c450m to the north-west of the River Soar, which during the medieval period formed part of the boundary of the Sparkenhoe Hundred. This Hundred was formed in the mid-14th century from parts of the Guthlaxton and Goscote Hundred (Nichols, 1811).
- 4.43 Twelve non-designated heritage assets dating from the medieval period are recorded within the Study Area. These include two fishponds (**NDHA28**) located within the scheduled monument, an enclosure to the south of Sapcote Castle (**NDHA29**), and the site of the Castle motte (**NDHA30**). The mapped extent of the historic settlement core is recorded as a non-designated heritage asset (**NDHA31**), with its southern edge being c150m to the north of the proposed development site at its closest point. Other records include the site of a windmill (**NDHA32**), the recorded site of medieval activity identified through trial trenching (**NDHA33**), c300m north of the proposed development site, and records of findspots of coins, pottery and other small finds (**NDHA34-38**). A possible medieval road layer was identified during a watching brief at Lord Basset Close (**NDHA39**) c400m to the north of the proposed development site.

Post Medieval

- 4.44 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. 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).
- 4.45 Sapcote was historically surrounded by agricultural land and retains much of this agricultural landscape at the present day. Nichols notes that in 1778 an act was passed for "*inclosing the open fields, commons, and waste grounds in this lordship, in which the Rev Thomas Frewen Turner, clerk, is described as lord of the manor of Sapcote... and rector of the parish church*" (Nichols 1811). He further notes that the open fields, commons and waste-lands in the parish extended about two-miles in

length from east to west. In 1779 the number of dwellings was exactly 100 and the inhabitants numbered 450. In addition to agriculture there was also a hosier industry.

4.46 Some areas of remnant ridge and furrow remains (likely dating from the late Medieval to mid-Post Medieval periods) can be seen on satellite imagery and LiDAR in the agricultural landscape around Sapcote, however no clear remains are visible within the proposed development site. If these were historically present, they are likely to have been truncated by mechanical ploughing.

4.47 A significant proportion of the recorded heritage assets within the Study Area date from the Post Medieval period and predominantly relate to the built environment. These include seven grade II listed buildings of moderate heritage significance (**LB2-8**) and 32 non-designated heritage assets of low or negligible heritage significance (**NDHA40-71**). These assets include a school, almshouses, cottages, farmhouses and houses, public houses and agricultural buildings and provide evidence for the 18th and 19th century development of the settlement and the industry, occupations, and lifestyle of the inhabitants. Also recorded are the sites of quarries and quarry spoil heaps.

Modern

4.48 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.

4.49 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.

4.50 A review of mapping from the late 19th century to late 20th century demonstrates that there were phases of settlement expansion during the inter-war and post-war periods, with localised areas of residential development initially, and larger areas of expansion from the mid-20th century onwards. This development expanded out from and encompassed the historic settlement core in all directions along the main roads. The area surrounding Sapcote however retained a largely agricultural character and was relatively unaffected by development.

4.51 There are two grade II listed buildings of the modern period including the Sapcote Methodist Church (**LB9**) and Sapcote War Memorial (**LB10**) which are both of

moderate heritage significance and are located 350m and 340m respectively to the north of the proposed development site.

4.52 Five non-designated heritage assets of the modern period are recorded within the study area, all of which are of low heritage significance. These comprise the site of an explosives store (**NDHA72**), quarry spoil heaps (**NDHA73**), a lychgate to All Saints Church (**NDHA74**), Sapcote Club, built in 1906 (**NDHA75**) and a quarry wagonway (**NDHA76**).

Previous Archaeological Events

Geophysical Survey, Land West of Sharnford Road, Sapcote

4.53 A magnetometer survey was carried out of the full proposed development site (Magnitude Surveys, Appendix C). No anomalies of a clear archaeological origin were identified. Historical and modern agricultural activity was detected in the form of ridge and furrow cultivation, modern ploughing regimes, and field drainage. Natural anomalies were identified in the south of the survey area, likely relating to the underlying alluvial superficial deposits. A number of anomalies have been classified as undetermined due to a lack of contextual evidence needed for a more definitive interpretation. Modern magnetic interference was limited to extant field boundaries.

Land North of Leicester Road, Sapcote

4.54 A programme of archaeological evaluation including desk-based heritage assessment (BSA 2024), geophysical survey (SUMO 2024) and trial trench evaluation (PCA 2024) was undertaken to inform a planning application for residential development (500m to the north-east of the proposed development site).

4.55 The assessment concluded that whilst the area has the potential for prehistoric and later activity, including the site of a high-status Roman villa near to the site, the site itself contained no features of heritage significance and was of low archaeological potential. The assessment also noted that the spire of Sapcote Church (**LB1**) was visible from parts of the site, but that the distance and context is such that the site does not contribute to the significance of the church or appreciation of that significance.

4.56 The trial trench evaluation comprised the excavation of 12no. trenches across the site to test the results of the geophysical survey. The survey revealed evidence for medieval to modern agricultural activity and land management, including remnant ridge and furrow, land drains and redundant field boundaries. A possible quarry pit was also identified.

Land North of Leicester Road, Sharnford

4.57 Archaeological evaluation (48no. trial trenches) was undertaken in advance of proposed residential development (ULAS 2024) (600m to the south-east of the proposed development site). The evaluation revealed a layer of cobbles likely to be a medieval or post medieval threshing floor. Several 18th or 19th century field boundaries were also identified. A small number of pieces of Roman roof tiles were found embedded in the cobbles and also scattered across the field.

A Romano-British Farmstead at Hinckley Road, Sapcote, Leicestershire

4.58 Excavations on the western side of the village of Sapcote revealed an enclosed farmstead of Romano-British date (Billington et al 2023) (800m to the north-west of the proposed development site). Whilst associated finds assemblages were relatively modest, the site seems to have been in use from the late first or second century through to the fourth century AD, with evidence for domestic settlement, crop processing and metalworking taking place within a set of three major conjoined rectilinear enclosures. A particularly notable find was an unusual, decorated quern stone; this, together with quantities of reused ceramic building material, hints that this was a relatively low-status site and may have had direct links with wealthier settlements in the area – perhaps with the nearby long-known but poorly documented villa complex adjacent to the Fosse Way, to the east of the modern village.

Historic Map Regression

4.59 The proposed development historically comprised part of the agricultural hinterland to the south of the historic settlement core of Sapcote. The main period of development and expansion of Sapcote is from the mid-20th century and was accelerated in the 1970s and 1980s. Sapcote continues to be expanded at present day.

4.60 The surrounding agricultural land was subject to Parliamentary enclosure in the 18th and 19th centuries which created the current field pattern. The area of the proposed development site has remained essentially unchanged since at least the late 19th century. In the wider landscape there is evidence for stone or gravel extraction with several quarries being active in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

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. Sapcote is shown adjacent to the River Soar which forms part of the boundary of the Sparkenhoe Hundred.
Plan of Sapcote Lordship in the County of Leicester, Inclosed in the Year 1778 (DE295/16), Figure 2	This is a detailed plan showing the historic core of Sapcote and surrounding land with field boundaries which are labelled to denote ownership / holdings. The location of the proposed development site can be discerned, however several of the current field boundaries had not been created at this time. The southern field is shown but also included part of what is now a separate land parcel. The eastern boundary of the proposed development site corresponds with the map, however the western hedgerow and the subdivision did not exist and formed part of a single large field which included the land to the immediate west of the proposed development site. No buildings or other features of interest are shown. The fields are labelled as forming part of "new allotments belonging to Mr Turner" and were held by John Pougher. Details for the individual plots was not available.
Map of the county of Leicester, C. Greenwood, 1830	The map provides a basic simplified overview of the Leicestershire settlements. Sapcote is shown, encompassing its historic settlement core. A scatter of buildings are shown to the south of the church but this is likely an inaccurate depiction of the farmhouses at the immediate south of Sapcote (detail seen on 1886 mapping).
East Midland, Northamptonshire, E Warwickshire, S Leicestershire. Cary, 1832	The map provides a basic simplified overview of the Leicestershire settlements, though it is clearer than Greenwood's map. The church (LB1) is shown at the southern edge of Sapcote. No further buildings are shown south of the church.

Map	Description
Ordnance Survey County Series, 1886, 1:10,560	<p>The settlement of Sapcote is shown as relatively small and compact, focussed on the road intersections of Leicester Road (B4669), Stanton Road, and Sharnford Road. The site of the Castle (SM1) is at the western periphery of the village and All Saints Church (LB1) marks its southern boundary. Some limited outward expansion is evident by outlying buildings including Workhouse Cottages to the west and Culver Hill Cottages at the south-east.</p> <p>The surrounding area is primarily agricultural with straight-sided fields typical of Parliamentary enclosure. Occasional outlying farmsteads are located within the field system.</p> <p>The modern boundaries and internal subdivisions of the proposed development site are fully established at this time. No features are shown within the proposed development site. A small pond is shown on the northern hedgerow. A footpath is shown along the eastern boundary.</p> <p>To the east of the proposed development site is Calver Hill Quarry which is also labelled 'Roman Coins & Pavement, found 1770'. A smaller quarry is shown to the north of that, as well as the site of a windmill which is labelled as 'In Ruins'. Granitethorpe Quarry is shown to the north-east of Sapcote.</p> <p>The River Soar is shown flowing on a south-west to north-east alignment a short distance to the south of the proposed development site. Beyond this is marked the Fosse Way (Roman Road) which intersects and crosses the river to the east of Sapcote.</p>
Ordnance Survey County Series, 1887, 1:2,500	No change is evident within the proposed development site.
Ordnance Survey County Series, 1901- 1904, 1:10,560	There is relatively little change in the area of Sapcote. Some localised new development can be seen along the roads outside of the historic settlement core, however the main settlement area remains constrained to its core area.

Map	Description
Ordnance Survey County Series, 1903, 1:2,500	No change is evident within the proposed development site.
Ordnance Survey, Provisional, 1950- 1955, 1:10,560	Sapcote remains broadly constrained within the extents of the historic settlement core though localised areas of outward expansion can be seen. To the immediate north of the proposed development site is a new area of residential development (Plougher Close). No change is evident within the proposed development site. A wind pump has been constructed in a field to the immediate west.
Ordnance Survey, National Grid, 1964, 1:2,500	No change is evident within the proposed development site.
Ordnance Survey, Provisional, 1967- 1968, 1:10,560	There has been expansion of Sapcote outward from the historic settlement core along the major roads, as well as new development within the settlement core. The site of the Castle (SM1) and church (LB1) are by this date enfolded by development. No change is evident within the proposed development site except for a line of telegraph posts crossing its south-east corner.
Ordnance Survey, National Grid, 1971- 1980 1:2,500	The outward expansion of Sapcote has continued, broadly encompassing its present extent. No change is evident within the proposed development site.

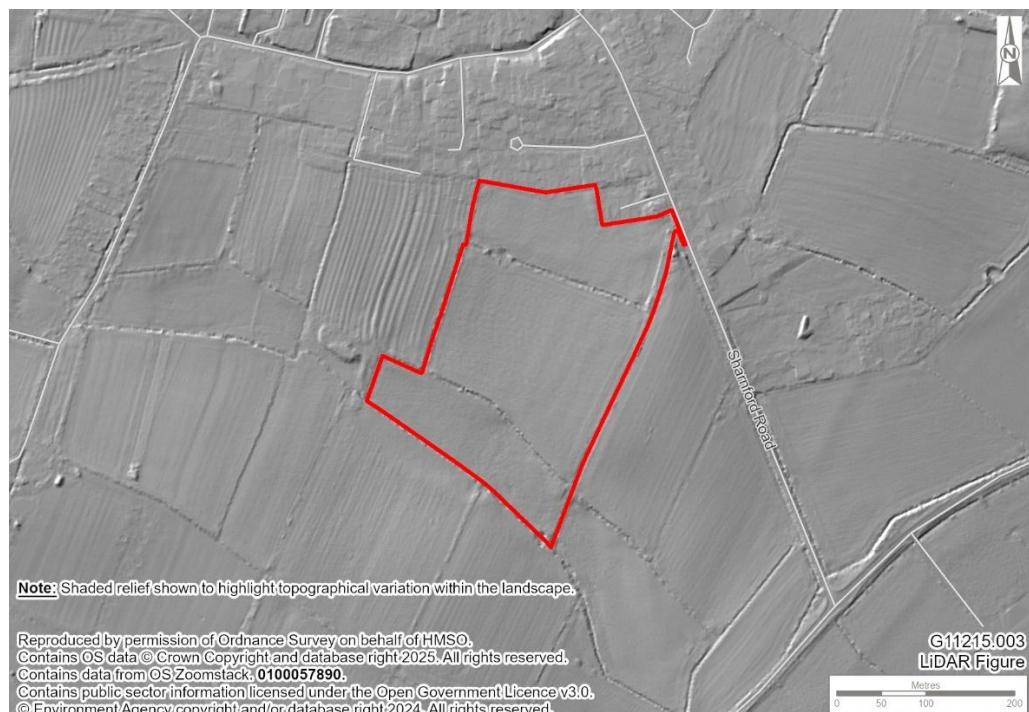
Figure 2 Plan of the Lordship of Sapcote, 1778 (proposed development site is within fields marked 62 and 63 red letters)



LiDAR and Aerial Imagery

4.61 Available modern aerial imagery and LiDAR data for the proposed development site does not reveal any features or anomalies likely to be of archaeological origin. The field to the immediate west of the proposed development site has clear surviving ridge and furrow which is also present in some of the surrounding fields. Faint linear striations in the field to the immediate east of the proposed development site likely relate to modern ploughing.

Figure 3 LiDAR data



Historic Landscape Character

4.62 The proposed development site lies within Historic Landscape Character Area HLE6873 'Fields and Enclosed Land' described as re-organised piecemeal enclosure. The area is predominantly agricultural land with straight-sided hedgerow-bound fields typical of parliamentary enclosure and with remnant ridge and furrow relating to earlier open field agricultural regimen.

Important Hedgerows

4.63 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.

4.64 Historic map evidence shows that the eastern boundary of the proposed development site, and the hedgerows forming the southern land parcel were in place in 1778. As such those hedgerows can be demonstrated to pre-date 1845, thus meeting criteria 5a and are considered as 'Important'. The western boundary and the northern subdivision were present by 1886, however, based on available

mapping it is not possible to confirm that they pre-date 1845 and are thus not assessed as Important.

Site Visit

4.65 A walkover survey of the proposed development was carried out in July 2025. The proposed development site consists of three fields with a public footpath spanning the eastern side of the proposed site boundary. The fields are separated from each other and the surrounding fields by straight hedgerows with numerous outgrown hedgerow trees. The fields are in agricultural use.

4.66 To the immediate north the proposed development site is bordered by modern residential development in which the principal elevations of the houses are towards the north with the rear gardens extending to the proposed site boundary. Sharnford Road is located close to the eastern site boundary.

4.67 The northern field was under short grass / stubble at the time of the survey. The shallow southward topographic decline was clearly evident. There are long-distance views towards the west and south, and more restricted visibility eastward. The church spire and tower crenellations are visible above the roofline of the modern houses. A small pond which was depicted on late 19th century Ordnance Survey mapping remains present, though heavily vegetated, and forms of the part field boundary.

4.68 The central field is largest of the land parcels and will be the focus for residential development. The ground slopes gently southwards allowing long-distance views towards the south and west. The church spire remains visible from this field.

4.69 The ground in the southern field is noticeably more uneven and rougher than the adjacent fields, likely due to the topography making this field less favourable for cultivation. The field also appears to be more prone to flooding. The ground level climbs gradually further to the south. Views outward from the field are more restricted due to trees around the edges of neighbouring fields but there is still intervisibility towards the church spire which rises above the roofline of the adjacent modern dwellings.

4.70 The proposed development site has not been subject to disturbance except the effects of modern agriculture and ploughing and any archaeological remains may be in a moderate state of preservation. The site lies outside of the historic settlement core of Sapcote and within its agricultural hinterland; the site topography may have been historically unfavourable for settlement activity which appears to have focussed on higher ground.

Figure 4: View across the northern field of the proposed development site from the north-eastern corner. Looking west.



Figure 5: View towards the Church (LB1) from the south-east corner of the north field, looking north-west.



Figure 6: Detail view of the church spire and adjacent modern housing from Field 1.



Figure 7: The pond located on the southern field boundary of the north field.



Figure 8: Southward view from the north-east corner of the central field.



Figure 9: Westward view across the central field; location of church spire indicated.



Figure 10: 'Focused' view of the church spire from the central field.



Figure 11: View towards from the south from the central field.



Figure 12: Westward view across the southern field from its north-eastern corner.



Figure 13: View towards the church from the southern field.



Figure 14: The field boundary between the central and southern fields, looking west.



Figure 15: View towards the south from the southern field.



5.0 Known Heritage Assets within the Study Area

Designated heritage assets within Study Area

5.1 There are eleven designated heritage assets within the Study Area, comprising one Scheduled Monument and ten Listed Buildings. No designated heritage assets are recorded within the proposed development site or its immediate vicinity.

5.2 The Scheduled Monuments is of high (national) heritage significance.

- **SM1** - Sapcote Castle and Moat. Site of a motte and bailey castle. The motte and bailey castle is situated in a field called Toot Hill Close; the adjoining moat lies in Park Close or Noble Park to the west. Toot Hill Close is 140 x 80m and contains the remains of a motte, partly modified in c1778 but currently surviving as a mound rising to about 1m. The bailey ditch has been infilled in recent years and can be seen as a cropmark 100m to the west of the motte. Park Close, measuring 150m square, contains three sides of a late medieval moat, constructed adjacent to the castle bailey, which was infilled in c.1960 and survives as a grass mark along the course of its northern arm. Reports dating from the 1920's onwards indicate the presence of stone castle buildings in the vicinity of the motte. The bailey originally extended to the north but this part was heavily modified by the construction of a factory during World War II.

5.3 The heritage significance of the scheduled monument is defined 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 would have been a locally and regionally important site and focus for political power and legal authority. The Castle would have historically been associated with the management of the surrounding landscape and natural resources including agriculture, woodland and quarrying. The scheduled monument includes archaeological remains and deposits relating to its construction, development and former buildings.

5.4 At its closest the proposed development site lies 330m from the southern edge of the Scheduled Monument.

5.5 The Scheduled Monument is in use as a public greenspace and playing fields and is enclosed by modern residential development in all directions. The setting of modern residential development is a neutral contributor to its heritage significance. The church and its spire are partly visible from the Scheduled Monument and are a positive contributor to its setting. The two heritage assets form an important group within Sapcote. The Scheduled Monument has no intervisibility with the agricultural landscape to the south of Sapcote. The proposed development site is not assessed

as being within the setting of the Scheduled Monument and does not contribute to its heritage significance.

5.6 The ten listed buildings are grade II listed and are of moderate heritage significance:

- **LB1** - Church of All Saints. Mid-14th and 15th century parish church, restored 1843. Pevsner describes the church as being partly Decorated (1290-1350) and partly Perpendicular (1335-1530). It has a Norman font. A chantry chapel called 'The Chapel of St Mary' was founded c.1361 on the north side of the church - it was suppressed under Edward VI. The church spire was rebuilt in 1759. The church lies 200m to the north-west of the proposed development site.

5.7 The heritage significance of the church is underpinned by its 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 14th / 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 and is associated with 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 church is isolated within its associated burial ground which forms a greenspace buffer from the surrounding residential area. The burial ground includes a lychgate, monuments and grave markers and is a positive contributor to the setting of the church and contributes to its heritage significance. The church and burial ground are surrounded by 19th century and modern residential development in all directions and is experienced in a sub-urban setting which is visually and physically disconnected from the agricultural land to the south.

5.10 The church was historically located at the southern edge of the historic settlement core and would have been a prominent building within the landscape, especially when viewed from the south. However modern development has to a large degree disconnected the church from the landscape to the south: From the church there are restricted long-distance views towards the agricultural landscape to the south through breaks in the building line.

5.11 Long-distance views of the church spire are possible from public footpaths crossing the fields to the south of Sapcote, including from parts of the proposed development

site where it is seen against a foreground of modern residential development. The continued visibility of the church spire has helped to retain its landmark status, allowing an appreciation of the topography of the settlement and marking the medieval core of Sapcote.

5.12 The agricultural landscape which includes the proposed development site is within the setting of the church however its contribution to the heritage significance of the listed building is very limited (negligible).

- **LB2** - Former Sapcote Church School. Built 1819 with later additions and alterations.
- **LB3** - Burrough's Almshouses. Four almshouses, built 1847 in a Tudor Revival style. It lies 150m to the north-west of the proposed development site. Its setting is the surrounding residential development which comprises a mix of primarily 19th and modern housing. There is no intervisibility between the listed building and the proposed development site which is not assessed to be within its setting and does not contribute to its heritage significance.
- **LB4** - 1, New Walk. Mid-18th century cottage, possibly with timber framing.
- **LB5** - 17, Sharnford Road. Mid-18th century brick house, colour-washed with thatched and slate roofs.
- **LB6** - 15, Sharnford Road. Late 18th century brick cottage.
- **LB7** - South View Farmhouse. Late 18th century brick farmhouse. It lies 120m to the north-west of the proposed development site. The house is built with its principal elevation facing towards Cooks Lane at the north. It is physically and visually disconnected from the agricultural land to the south by modern residential development. Its setting is the surrounding residential area which comprises a mix of 19th century and modern housing. The proposed development site which is not assessed to be within its setting and does not contribute to its heritage significance
- **LB8** - Milestone at SP49069 93416. An early 19th century cast iron milepost.
- **LB9** - Sapcote Methodist Church. This church, built between 1902 and 1905, has been described as an almost perfect example of an arts and crafts church.
- **LB10** - Sapcote War Memorial. Memorial for First and Second World Wars.

Non-designated Heritage Assets within Study Area

5.13 There are 78 non-designated heritage assets within the Study Area, representing all of the major historical periods.

5.14 A single heritage asset, is recorded within the proposed development site bounds, comprising the findspot of late Roman coins (**NDHA14**).

Prehistoric

5.15 There are six non-designated heritage assets from the prehistoric periods (Mesolithic to Iron Age), all of which are of negligible heritage significance.

- **NDHA1** - Mesolithic or Neolithic flint tool from south-east of Elder Close, Sapcote.
- **NDHA2** - Neolithic flint scraper from east of Sharnford Road, Sapcote.
- **NDHA3** - Possible Bronze Age blade from near Springfield Farm, Sapcote.
- **NDHA4** - Bronze Age axe fragment from west of Stoney Bridge, Sapcote.
- **NDHA5** - Bronze Age/Iron Age activity, south of Livesey Drive, Sapcote.
- **NDHA6** - Iron Age cosmetic mortar from near Springfield Farm, Sapcote.

Roman

5.16 There are 13 non-designated heritage assets dating from the Roman period. These range from moderate to low and negligible heritage significance and include individual findspots, sites of human activity including a Villa site, an inhumation cemetery, the remains of a field system, and a Roman road.

Moderate heritage significance

- **NDHA7** - Fosse Way Roman Road. Roman road connecting Leicester (Ratae Corieltauvorum) with Lincoln (Lindum Colonia) to the north-east and Cirencester (Corinium) and Exeter (Isca Dumnoniorum) to the south-west. The Fosse Way passes at its closest 880m to the south-east of the proposed development site, and travels for a short distance parallel with the River Soar, adjacent to its flood plain.

Low Heritage significance

- **NDHA8** - Roman villa, Black Piece and Calver Hill, Sapcote. Notes of a Roman villa start as early as 1770 with the discovery of a tessellated pavement along with building foundations (in the area of the quarry). Further structural remains were discovered in the C20th, along with various finds (pottery, coins, tile, etc). North of the quarry, a bath house, tesserae workshop and two bowl furnaces were recorded. The site of the Roman Villa lies at its closest 400m to the north-east of the proposed development site. The site occupies a distinct topographic rise in the landscape

Negligible Heritage Significance

- **NDHA9** - Roman pottery from Park House Farm, Sapcote.
- **NDHA10** - Iron Age/Roman pottery from 39, Church Street, Sapcote.
- **NDHA11** - Roman finds, rear of Methodist Church, Leicester Road, Sapcote.
- **NDHA12** - Roman coin from north-east of Home Barn Farm, Sapcote.
- **NDHA13** - Roman coin from west of the Spring, Sapcote.
- **NDHA14** - Roman coins from north of the Spring, Sapcote. Three late Roman coins were found here via metal detecting in 2003. These might represent a site. The proximity to the spring might suggest a shrine. This heritage asset is recorded within the proposed development site bounds.
- **NDHA15** - Roman coin hoard and other finds, Coventry Road, Sharnford.
- **NDHA16** - Roman site south-east of Elder Close, Sapcote.
- **NDHA17** - Roman activity south of Livesey Drive, Sapcote.
- **NDHA18** - Possible Roman inhumation cemetery, Sapcote Gravel Pit, Sapcote.
- **NDHA19** - Roman finds from south-west of Stoney Bridge, Broughton Astley.

Early Medieval

5.17 Eight non-designated heritage assets dating from the early medieval period are recorded within the study area

Low Heritage significance

- **NDHA20** - Church Walk (footpath), Sapcote.

Negligible Heritage Significance

- **NDHA21** - Saxo-Norman features at Sapcote Road, Sapcote.
- **NDHA22** - Early medieval remains, 39/41, Church Street, Sapcote.

- **NDHA23** - Anglo-Saxon finds from north of Sharnford.
- **NDHA24** - Anglo-Saxon harness mount from north of Sharnford.
- **NDHA25** - Anglo-Saxon coins, Black Piece, Sapcote.
- **NDHA26** - Anglo-Saxon pit south-east of Elder Close, Sapcote.
- **NDHA27** - Medieval remains, Park House Farm, Sapcote.

Medieval

5.18 There are 12 non-designated heritage assets dating from the medieval period recorded within the Study Area.

Moderate heritage significance

- **NDHA28** - Fishponds at Sapcote Castle, Sapcote. Two fishponds were noted at the west end of Park Close during small scale excavations in 1958. They may be late medieval/early post-medieval formal garden features. These features are located within the designated area of the Scheduled Monument of Sapcote Castle (SM1).

Low Heritage Significance

- **NDHA29** - Enclosure south of Sapcote Castle, Sapcote.
- **NDHA30** - Sapcote Castle motte, Toot Hill, Sapcote.
- **NDHA31** - Historic settlement core of Sapcote. The medieval and post-medieval settlement core of the village, deduced from landscape maps, aerial photography, etc. At its closest the proposed development site lies c80m from the southern edge of the mapped extent of the settlement core.
- **NDHA32** - Possible watermill site west of Home Farm, Sharnford.

Negligible Heritage Significance

- **NDHA33** - Medieval activity, rear of Methodist Church, Leicester Road, Sapcote.
- **NDHA34** - Medieval crucifix from Hinckley Road, Sapcote.
- **NDHA35** - Medieval ring found east of Sapcote.
- **NDHA36** - Medieval pottery from 20, Stanton Road, Sapcote.
- **NDHA37** - Medieval and post-medieval coins from south of Springfield Farm, Sapcote.
- **NDHA38** - Medieval and post-medieval coins from south of Springfield Farm, Sapcote.
- **NDHA39** - Possible medieval road layer, Leicester Road, Sapcote.

Post Medieval

5.19 Thirty-two non-designated heritage assets dating the post medieval period are recorded within the Study Area and are of low and negligible heritage significance. These predominantly relate to the historic built environment.

Low Heritage Significance

- **NDHA40** - Slaughterhouse to rear of 7 New Walk, Sapcote.
- **NDHA41** - Post-medieval wall, southern boundary of 41, Church Street, Sapcote.
- **NDHA43** - Park House Farm, Stanton Road, Sapcote.
- **NDHA44** - Top Quarry/Lane's Hill Quarry, Stoney Cove, Stoney Stanton.
- **NDHA45** - Granitethorpe Quarry, Leicester Road, Sapcote.
- **NDHA46** - Sapcote Quarry, Leicester Road, Sapcote.
- **NDHA47** - Calver Hill Quarry, Leicester Road, Sapcote.
- **NDHA48** - 17, Church Street, Sapcote.
- **NDHA49** - 39, 41 & 43, Leicester Road, Sapcote.
- **NDHA50** - Mill Bank House, Leicester Road, Sapcote.
- **NDHA51** - Pond to north of houses on Hinckley Road, Sapcote.
- **NDHA52** - Red Lion Public House, Church Street, Sapcote.
- **NDHA53** - 1, Church Street, Sapcote.
- **NDHA54** - 35, 39 & 41, Church Street, Sapcote.
- **NDHA55** - 21, 23 & 25, Church Street, Sapcote.
- **NDHA56** - 15, Church Street, Sapcote.
- **NDHA57** - The Coach House/Barn north-east of The Rectory, Sapcote.
- **NDHA58** - Turnpike Road, Burbage to Narborough.
- **NDHA59** - Turnpike Road, Coventry to near Stoney Stanton.
- **NDHA60** - 'The Limes' avenue of trees, east of Limes Avenue, Sapcote.
- **NDHA61** - The Old Rectory, Church Street, Sapcote.
- **NDHA62** - Granitethorpe Cottages, 42-52, Leicester Road, Sapcote.
- **NDHA63** - Calver Hill Cottages, 8-26, Sharnford Road, Sapcote.

Negligible Heritage Significance

- **NDHA42** - Former Ivy House Farm, just west of 20 Leicester Road (north side), Sapcote.
- **NDHA64** - The Bath House, Stanton Road, Sapcote.
- **NDHA65** - Post-medieval farmstead, 20, Stanton Road, Sapcote.
- **NDHA66** - Post-medieval remains, Old School House, Sapcote.
- **NDHA67** - Pond west of the Rectory, Church Street, Sapcote.
- **NDHA68** - Lord Bassett Arms, Leicester Road, Sapcote.
- **NDHA69** - Post-medieval windmill, Granitethorpe, Sapcote.
- **NDHA70** - Post-medieval well, 6, Church Street, Sapcote.
- **NDHA71** - Site of Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Leicester Road, Sapcote.

Modern

5.20 There are five non-designated heritage assets from the Modern period recorded within the Study Area. They are of low heritage significance.

- **NDHA72** - Possible explosives store west of Sapcote Road, Stoney Stanton.
- **NDHA73** - Quarrying spoil heaps west of Sapcote.
- **NDHA74** - War memorial lychgate to All Saints' Church, Church Street, Sapcote.
- **NDHA75** - Sapcote Club, 19, Hinckley Road, Sapcote.
- **NDHA76** - Quarry wagonway west of Sapcote Road, Stoney Stanton.

Undated

5.21 There are two undated non-designated heritage assets recorded within the Study Area, both of which are of negligible heritage significance.

- **NDHA77** - Linear anomalies, north-west of Granitethorpe Quarry
- **NDHA78** - Undated ditches at Sapcote Road

Archaeological Potential

5.22 The proposed development site has a low potential to include as yet unknown archaeological remains of the prehistoric period.

5.23 The Roman period is well-represented in the baseline HER data and, informed by the results of the geophysical survey, suggests a moderate potential for archaeological remains of this period. The remains of a possible shrine (inferred

from the findings of three coins in the vicinity of a stream), if present, would likely be of moderate heritage significance. Other remains would likely be of low heritage significance though cumulatively informing our understanding of the potential and significance of the wider landscape.

- 5.24 There is a low potential for as yet unknown archaeological remains of the early medieval and medieval periods and any such remains are likely to be of low heritage significance. The proposed development site may include sub-surface remains of ridge and furrow of the Medieval to Post Medieval periods which would be of low heritage significance.
- 5.25 There is a low potential for archaeological remains of the post-medieval periods and any such remains are likely to be of low heritage significance.
- 5.26 A geophysical survey of the proposed development site did not identify any anomalies of clearly archaeological origin, however several anomalies of indeterminate origin were identified for which an archaeological origin cannot be ruled out.
- 5.27 The evidence overall suggests a moderate potential for archaeological remains within the proposed development site, however this cannot be confirmed without intrusive investigation.

6.0 Discussion and Conclusions

Summary of baseline conditions

6.1 The proposed development site has been agricultural land since at least the late medieval period, and in common with the wider landscape of Sapcote, was subject to Parliamentary enclosure in the late 18th century. A review of the baseline conditions demonstrates that there are no designated heritage assets within the proposed development site. There are 11 designated heritage assets within the Study Area which include the Scheduled Monument of Sapcote Castle and 10 grade II listed buildings. The closest designated assets to the proposed development site are All Saints Church (**LB1**), Borrough's Almshouses (**LB3**), and South View Farmhouse (**LB7**). The proposed development site is within the setting of the grade II listed All Saints Church but does not contribute to its heritage significance.

6.2 There are 78 non-designated heritage assets within the Study Area, representing all of the major historical periods.

6.3 A single non-designated heritage asset is recorded within the proposed development site, comprising the findspot of three late Roman coins recovered by metal-detecting (**NDHA14**).

6.4 Two hedgerows within the proposed development site have been assessed as Important in accordance with criteria 5a of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.

Assessment of Effects

Development Proposals

6.5 The proposed development will comprise an outline planning application for the construction of up to 79 residential dwellings (Access Arrangements to be determined with all other matters reserved) (refer to Illustrative Site Layout dwg ref: 25.062/04b). Residential development will be constrained to the northern land parcels whilst the southern field will be retained as greenspace.

Direct Effects

6.6 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.

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

Archaeology

6.8 Construction works associated with the proposed development have the potential to impact on as yet unknown heritage assets with archaeological interest should this 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 a moderate potential for the Roman period, and that any such remains are likely to be of low heritage significance. The potential remains of a Roman shrine, if present, would likely be of moderate heritage significance.

6.9 The archaeological potential of the proposed development site has been evaluated by means of a geophysical survey (Appendix C) which has not identified any remains of clear archaeological origin; however, several anomalies of indeterminate origin were noted for which an archaeological origin cannot be ruled out.

6.10 The magnitude of effect of the proposed development on below-ground archaeological remains would be up to high, resulting in total removal of remains of up to moderate heritage significance, which is a low or potentially moderate significance of effect.

Indirect Effects

6.11 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.

6.12 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.

- **LB1** - All Saints Church, grade II listed
- **LB3** - Burrough's Almshouses, grade II listed
- **LB7** - South View Farmhouse

6.13 It is assessed that the proposed development site which forms part of the wider agricultural landscape to the south of Sapcote is within the setting of the medieval church (**LB1**), however the modern disconnection of the church from that landscape restricts the contribution of the setting to the heritage significance. The proposed development site is assessed to provide a negligible contribution to the heritage significance of the church.

6.14 Views towards church spire from the south help to maintain its landmark status and allow an appreciation of its topographic context within the historic settlement core. The north and southern fields of the proposed development site are to be retained as greenspace within the proposed design and the public footpath along the eastern side of the proposed development site will be retained. This will maintain public visibility of the historic church from the northern part of the proposed development site and minimises any potential indirect impacts on the listed building. Due to the lower ground level in the southern field, the residential development is likely to restrict views towards the church.

6.15 The proposed development site is not assessed to be within the setting of Burrough's Almhouses (**LB3**), and South View Farmhouse (**LB7**) and therefore the proposed development will not impact their heritage significance.

Mitigation or Recommendation

6.16 Informed by the results of a geophysical it is assessed that the proposed development site has an overall moderate potential to include as yet unknown archaeological remains. Any such remains are likely to be of low heritage significance; any remains of a potential Roman shrine, if present, would be of moderate heritage significance.

6.17 Consultation with the Senior Planning Archaeologist (Heritage) at Leicestershire County Council has confirmed that further evaluation of the proposed development site should be carried in the form of trial trench evaluation. The aim of the work will be to ground-truth the results of the geophysical survey and identified anomalies of indeterminate origin, and to confirm the absence or presence of archaeological remains and to investigate the character and significance of any remains.

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

6.19 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 Senior 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.

6.20 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 and 218 of the NPPF (2024) and Policy CS20 of the Blaby District Local Plan (2013).

6.21 It is recommended that the hedgerows identified as Important are retained within the scheme. Any unavoidable impacts such as to facilitate access should be minimised as far as possible.

Archive

6.22 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

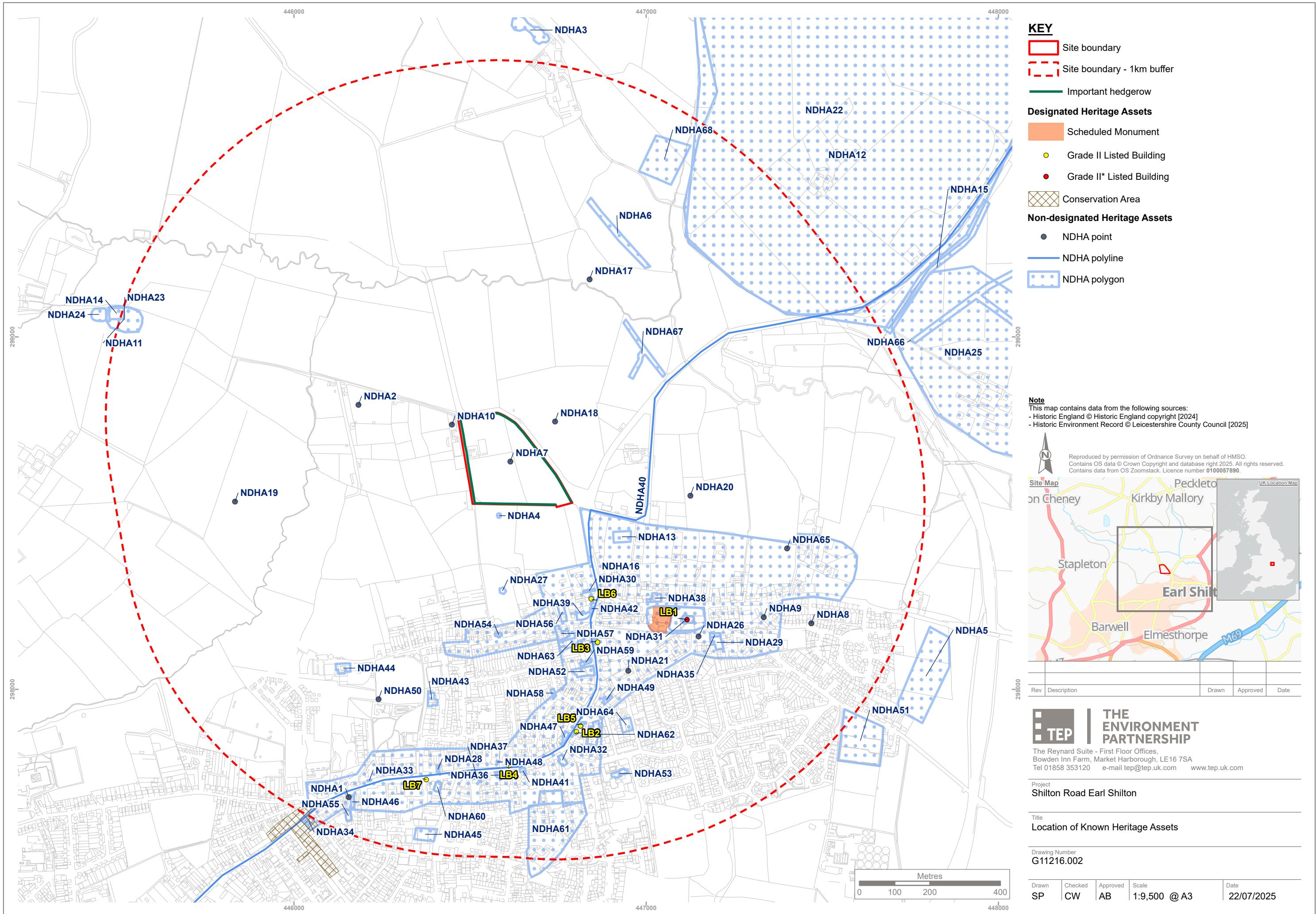


Table A1: Known Heritage Assets

TEP ID	HER ID	HE Number	Name and Description	Grade	Type	Date	Significance
SM1	DLE260 / MLE279 / MLE280	1010301	Sapcote Castle and Moat. Site of a motte and bailey castle. The motte and bailey castle is situated in a field called Toot Hill Close; the adjoining moat lies in Park Close or Noble Park to the west. Toot Hill Close is 140 x 80m and contains the remains of a motte, partly modified in c1778 but currently surviving as a mound rising to about 1m. The bailey ditch has been infilled in recent years and can be seen as a grass mark 100m to the west of the motte. Park Close, measuring 150m square, contains three sides of a late medieval moat, constructed adjacent to the castle bailey, which was infilled in c.1960 and survives as a grass mark along the course of its northern arm. Reports dating from the 1920's onwards indicate the presence of stone castle buildings in the vicinity of the motte. The bailey originally extended to the north but this part was heavily modified by the construction of a factory during World War II	Scheduled Monument	Motte and Bailey Castle	Medieval	High
LB1	MLE11919	1177924	Church of All Saints. Mid-14th and 15th century parish church, restored 1843. Pevsner describes the church as being partly Decorated (1290-1350) and partly Perpendicular (1335-1530). It has a Norman font. A chantry chapel called 'The Chapel of St Mary' was founded c.1361 on the north side of the church - it was suppressed under Edward VI. There are antiquarian reports that a large stone coffin was found under the north wall of the chancel.	II	Listed Building	Medieval	Moderate

TEP ID	HER ID	HE Number	Name and Description	Grade	Type	Date	Significance
LB2	MLE11922	1074698	Former Sapcote Church School. Built 1819 with later additions and alterations. Built at the charge of John Frewen Turner. Built of brick with ashlar dressings and plain tile roofs. Now a photographic studio and house.	II	Listed Building	Post Medieval	Moderate
LB3	MLE11920	1074697	Burrough's Almshouses. Four almshouses, built 1847 in a Tudor Revival style. Erected at the charge of Thomas Frewen. Built of random granite rubble and brick with ashlar dressings and slate roofs.	II	Listed Building	Post Medieval	Moderate
LB4	MLE11923	1177950	1, New Walk. Mid-18th century cottage, possibly with timber framing.	II	Listed Building	Post Medieval	Moderate
LB5	MLE11925	1361090	17, Sharnford Road. Mid-18th century brick house, colourwashed with thatched and slate roofs.	II	Listed Building	Post Medieval	Moderate
LB6	MLE11924	1074699	15, Sharnford Road. Late 18th century brick cottage, whitewashed, with concrete and plain tile roofs.	II	Listed Building	Post Medieval	Moderate
LB7	MLE11921	1177938	South View Farmhouse. Late 18th century brick farmhouse, with plain tile roof.	II	Listed Building	Post Medieval	Moderate
LB8	MLE24751	1488919	Milestone at SP49069 93416. An early 19th century cast iron milepost with a plaque, 'to Leicester 10 miles, to Hinckley 4 miles'. Triangular base, emblem at the apex, painted white with black lettering.	II	Listed Building	Post Medieval	Moderate
LB9	MLE11894	1389711	Sapcote Methodist Church. This church, built between 1902 and 1905, has been described as an almost perfect example of an arts and crafts church. The materials were donated by Sapcote quarry and the congregation and local farmers built it themselves. The church achieved Grade II listing in early 2002. Its internal fittings are almost complete.	II	Listed Building	Modern	Moderate

TEP ID	HER ID	HE Number	Name and Description	Grade	Type	Date	Significance
LB10	MLE20729	1443890	Sapcote War Memorial. Memorial for First and Second World Wars, an ornate cross on a tall octagonal shaft. Originally unveiled 17th September 1921.	II	Listed Building	Modern	Moderate
NDHA1	MLE23427	-	Mesolithic/Neolithic flint tool from south-east of Elder Close, Sapcote. During trial trenching in 2017 a very fine combination tool (end scraper/awl) was recovered. It probably dates from the Mesolithic/Early Neolithic	-	Findspot	Mesolithic to Neolithic	Negligible
NDHA2	MLE21031	-	Neolithic scraper from east of Sharnford Road, Sapcote. Findspot of a Neolithic horseshoe scraper.	-	Findspot	Neolithic	Negligible
NDHA3	MLE24904	-	Possible Bronze Age blade from near Springfield Farm, Sapcote. A possible Bronze Age dagger or rapier blade, 45mm long and 21mm wide. The blade has no outer edges left.	-	Findspot	Bronze Age	Negligible
NDHA4	MLE6269	-	Bronze Age axe fragment from west of Stoney Bridge, Sapcote. A Bronze Age axe fragment, either a flat axe or palstave, was found by a metal detectorist.	-	Findspot	Bronze Age	Negligible
NDHA5	MLE23428	-	Bronze Age/Iron Age activity, south of Livesey Drive, Sapcote. Large pit recorded during trenching in 2017 and excavation in 2019. During the trenching, 3 sherds of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery were recovered from it	-	Pit	Bronze Age to Iron Age	Negligible
NDHA6	MLE21032	-	Iron Age cosmetic mortar from near Springfield Farm, Sapcote. A copper alloy mortar found during metal detecting.	-	Findspot	Iron Age	Negligible
NDHA7	MLE1380	-	Fosse Way Roman Road. Roman road connecting Leicester (Ratae Corieltauvorum) with Lincoln (Lindum Colonia) to the north-east and Cirencester (Corinium) and Exeter (Isca Dumnoniorum) to the south-west	-	Road	Roman	Moderate

TEP ID	HER ID	HE Number	Name and Description	Grade	Type	Date	Significance
NDHA8	MLE283	-	Roman villa, Black Piece and Calver Hill, Sapcote. Notes of a Roman villa start as early as 1770 with the discovery of a tessellated pavement along with building foundations (in the area of the quarry). Further structural remains were discovered in the C20th, along with various finds (pottery, coins, tile, etc). North of the quarry, a bath house, tesserae workshop and two bowl furnaces were recorded	-	Villa; Bowl Furnace; Bath House; Workshop	Roman	Low
NDHA9	MLE9356	-	Roman pottery from Park House Farm, Sapcote. Several large fresh sherds of Roman greyware (making up about a quarter of a pot) were found in 1999/2000 by a metal detectorist during development for housing	-	Findspot	Roman	Negligible
NDHA10	MLE10197	-	Iron Age/Roman pottery from 39, Church Street, Sapcote. A single sherd of late Iron Age/Roman pottery found in a garden.	-	Findspot	Roman	Negligible
NDHA11	MLE16205	-	Roman finds, rear of Methodist Church, Leicester Road, Sapcote. One sherd of residual Roman pottery and a piece of Roman tile were recovered during archaeological work in 2006	-	Findspot	Roman	Negligible
NDHA12	MLE9896	-	Roman coin from north-east of Home Barn Farm, Sapcote. A silver Roman denarius coin was found here via metal detecting.	-	Findspot	Roman	Negligible
NDHA13	MLE9897	-	Roman coin from west of the Spring, Sapcote. A silver Roman denarius coin was found via metal detecting.	-	Findspot	Roman	Negligible
NDHA14	MLE9898	-	Roman coins from north of the Spring, Sapcote. Three late Roman coins were found here via metal detecting in 2003. These might represent a site. The proximity to the spring might suggest a shrine	-	Findspot	Roman	Negligible

TEP ID	HER ID	HE Number	Name and Description	Grade	Type	Date	Significance
NDHA15	MLE28315	-	Roman coin hoard and other finds, Coventry Road, Sharnford. Metal detecting in 2023 recovered 42 Roman coins (all copper alloy), a copper alloy strip/fitting, 2 nails and three fragments of possible metalworking debris	-	Site	Roman	Negligible
NDHA16	MLE23429	-	Roman site south-east of Elder Close, Sapcote. Trial trenching in 2017 and excavation in 2019 recorded two phases of Roman activity here - a C1st/C2nd field system and a C2nd-C4th enclosure system. The second phase included evidence for metalworking and crop processing. The majority of the pottery found was later C1st/C2nd in date. Finds included an unusual decorated topstone of a rotary quern	-	Field System; Pit; Structure?; Metal Working Site; Enclosure	Roman	Negligible
NDHA17	MLE25712	-	Roman activity south of Livesey Drive, Sapcote. Two phases of Roman activity were noted here - a sequence of ditches, and three later pits. One of these was a large pit/watering hole. They presumably relate to the Roman site to the north-west	-	Field System; Pit; Waterhole	Roman	Negligible
NDHA18	MLE284	-	Possible Roman inhumation cemetery, Sapcote Gravel Pit, Sapcote. Various inhumation burials have been recorded here during the C19th and C20th. One was said to have been found with coins between its jaws, suggesting a Roman date	-	Inhumation Cemetery; Burial	Roman	Negligible
NDHA19	MLE9894	-	Roman finds from south-west of Stoney Bridge, Broughton Astley. Metal detecting during the 1990s has produced a scatter of seven late Roman coins and a possible Roman lead spindle whorl strung out along the Fosse Way	-	Artifact Scatter	Roman	Negligible
NDHA20	MLE24758	-	Church Walk (footpath), Sapcote. A Y-shaped group of footpaths near the church that may have medieval origins. Evident on the 1887 OS map (1:2500).	-	Footpath	Early Medieval	Low

TEP ID	HER ID	HE Number	Name and Description	Grade	Type	Date	Significance
NDHA21	MLE20120	-	Saxo-Norman features at Sapcote Road, Sapcote. Evaluation in 2011 recorded two parallel linear ditches, possibly for drainage. One contained a single sherd of Stamford ware pottery	-	Ditch	Early Medieval	Negligible
NDHA22	MLE16682	-	Early medieval remains, 39/41, Church Street, Sapcote. 66 sherds of early medieval pottery and a piece of ridge tile were brought in for identification in 1995. Trial trenching in 1999 recorded a ditch and 37 sherds of early medieval pottery (which could all be C13th in date)	-	Ditch	Early Medieval	Negligible
NDHA23	MLE20685	-	Anglo-Saxon finds from north of Sharnford. An Anglo-Saxon gold and garnet pendant was found here in January 2003. Its shield shape is very unusual. It dates from the early C7th. In 2005 a fragment of an interlace decorated gilded copper alloy object, perhaps a strap/harness fitting, was found nearby	-	Findspot	Early Medieval	Negligible
NDHA24	MLE27756	-	Anglo-Saxon harness mount from north of Sharnford. Fragment of an Anglo-Saxon gilded copper alloy mount, T-shaped, with a panel of interlace. Found 2005 via metal detecting	-	Findspot	Early Medieval	Negligible
NDHA25	MLE29664	-	Anglo-Saxon coins, Black Piece, Sapcote. Possible site where Anglo-Saxon coins were found. It appears, on careful reading, that the coins are unprovenanced	-	Findspot	Early Medieval	Negligible
NDHA26	MLE25711	-	Anglo-Saxon pit south-east of Elder Close, Sapcote. A small pit containing a sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery was recorded during excavation in 2019	-	Pit	Early Medieval	Negligible

TEP ID	HER ID	HE Number	Name and Description	Grade	Type	Date	Significance
NDHA27	MLE8512	-	Medieval remains, Park House Farm, Sapcote. A watching brief was carried out in 1997/8. Early medieval pottery, probably from earthfast features, was found under the stackyard at the north end of the site, some 20m back (E) from the Stanton Road frontage. 30 sherds of medieval pottery were found in total. Further features, undated but possibly a ditch and pit, were noted a further 10m E of Stanton Road, at the north end of the site	-	Site	Early Medieval	Negligible
NDHA28	MLE281	-	Fishponds at Sapcote Castle, Sapcote. Two fishponds were noted at the west end of Park Close during small scale excavations in 1958. They may be late medieval/early post-medieval formal garden features. Located in Scheduled Monument area.	-	Fishpond	Medieval	Moderate
NDHA29	MLE282	-	Enclosure south of Sapcote Castle, Sapcote. A second enclosure, south of Park Close, lay adjacent to the moated enclosure but is now mostly built on	-	Enclosure	Medieval	Low
NDHA30	MLE17706	-	Sapcote Castle motte?, Toot Hill, Sapcote. Nichols records that the motte of the castle (see MLE279) was levelled shortly after 1778. It stood in Toot Hill Close and a low mound that still stood in the 1980s may mark the spot	-	Motte?	Medieval	Low
NDHA31	MLE292	-	Historic settlement core of Sapcote. The medieval and post-medieval settlement core of the village, deduced from landscape maps, aerial photography, etc	-	Village	Medieval	Low
NDHA32	MLE315	-	Possible watermill site west of Home Farm, Sharnford. Earthworks of a possible leet and dam, which may represent the site of a mill.	-	Watermill	Medieval	Low

TEP ID	HER ID	HE Number	Name and Description	Grade	Type	Date	Significance
NDHA33	MLE16204	-	Medieval activity, rear of Methodist Church, Leicester Road, Sapcote. Trial trenching/watching briefs revealed evidence of medieval activity including a pre-C12th/C13th small E-W medieval ditch, a C12th/C13th rubble yard surface and posthole and a large N-S ditch, probably a boundary ditch, which was backfilled by the C14th. Results suggest that this part of the village was abandoned in the 14th century and used for agriculture.	-	Ditch; Yard; Post Hole; Boundary Ditch	Medieval	Negligible
NDHA34	MLE6654	-	Medieval crucifix from Hinckley Road, Sapcote. Findspot of a medieval crucifix of brass or latten in the form of a plain cross with stylised figure.	-	Findspot	Medieval	Negligible
NDHA35	MLE16624	-	Medieval ring found east of Sapcote. A medieval silver 'clasping hands' ring found via metal detecting.	-	Findspot	Medieval	Negligible
NDHA36	MLE20684	-	Medieval pottery from 20, Stanton Road, Sapcote. A watching brief in 1977 on a building site next to 20, Stanton Road recovered 43 sherds of medieval pottery	-	Findspot	Medieval	Negligible
NDHA37	MLE21029	-	Medieval and post-medieval coins from south of Springfield Farm, Sapcote. Metal detecting recorded 9 medieval/post-medieval coins from this area. They range from silver pennies of Edward I (1279-1303) to a silver penny of the Commonwealth (mid C17th).	-	Findspot	Medieval	Negligible
NDHA38	MLE21030	-	Medieval and post-medieval coins from south of Springfield Farm, Sapcote. Metal detecting recovered 3 medieval/post-medieval coins from this area: a sixpence of Elizabeth I, a silver Edwardian penny and a penny of Edward III.	-	Findspot	Medieval	Negligible

TEP ID	HER ID	HE Number	Name and Description	Grade	Type	Date	Significance
NDHA39	MLE16186	-	Possible medieval road layer, Leicester Road, Sapcote. A pebble-filled layer was observed during a watching brief on the former Lord Bassett Arms site. The layer was thought to be a medieval road layer, though no dating evidence was recovered	-	Road	Medieval	Negligible
NDHA40	MLE24748	-	Slaughterhouse to rear of 7 New Walk, Sapcote. A late C19th slaughterhouse in the garden of No. 7. The construction date is not known but it appears on the 1:2500 Epoch 1 OS (1887) possibly associated with a post office site. The abattoir outbuilding was retained but the post office building was replaced by three Edwardian houses (Nos 7, 9 & 11).	-	Abattoir	Post Medieval	Low
NDHA41	MLE20686	-	Post-medieval wall, southern boundary of 41, Church Street, Sapcote. The eastern and middle parts and largely of granite rubble, the western part ?C18th brick. Parts of the wall date from the C16th/C17th.	-	Boundary Wall	Post Medieval	Low
NDHA42	MLE24478	-	Former Ivy House Farm, just west of 20 Leicester Road (north side), Sapcote. A brick built detached farmhouse with stable and thatched roof, dated '1799'. Demolished in June 1967. To the west of the farmhouse was a three-sided courtyard complex, open to the west.	-	Farmstead; Pump; Loose Courtyard Plan (Three Sided)	Post Medieval	Negligible

TEP ID	HER ID	HE Number	Name and Description	Grade	Type	Date	Significance
NDHA43	MLE20687	-	Park House Farm, Stanton Road, Sapcote. A former farmstead, U-shaped outbuildings with a slightly detached farmhouse forming a fourth range slightly to the south, on a slightly different alignment. The farmhouse still stands (now two residential properties) and is built of chequered buff and red bricks in Flemish bond. Documentary evidence suggests a late C18th date for the farm. A watching brief in 1998 recorded foundations of an outbuilding shown on the 1833 map surveyed by John Lane. Post-medieval pottery was recovered during the work and two wells were revealed.	-	Farmstead; Well	Post Medieval	Low
NDHA44	MLE21730	-	Top Quarry/Lane's Hill Quarry, Stoney Cove, Stoney Stanton. Top Quarry and Lane's Hill Quarry are shown on the late C19th 1st edition OS map and the 1904 OS map. By the time of the 1955 OS map Top Quarry has taken over the whole area. Quarrying ceased in 1958.	-	Granite Quarry	Post Medieval	Low
NDHA45	MLE21731	-	Granitethorpe Quarry, Leicester Road, Sapcote. Granitethorpe Quarry is shown on the late C19th OS map and the 1904 map. It is marked as disused by the time of the 1955 OS map.	-	Granite Quarry	Post Medieval	Low
NDHA46	MLE21732	-	Sapcote Quarry, Leicester Road, Sapcote. Sapcote Quarry is shown on the late C19th OS map along with an 'Old Quarry'. The area is marked as a disused quarry on the 1955 OS map.	-	Granite Quarry	Post Medieval	Low
NDHA47	MLE21733	-	Calver Hill Quarry, Leicester Road, Sapcote. Calver Hill Quarry must have been dug c.1770 when Roman remains were found (see MLE283). It was out of use by the time of the 1904 OS map.	-	Granite Quarry	Post Medieval	Low
NDHA48	MLE24742	-	17, Church Street, Sapcote. A three-storey cottage, originally two. Brick built with rounded arch door surround.	-	House	Post Medieval	Low

TEP ID	HER ID	HE Number	Name and Description	Grade	Type	Date	Significance
NDHA49	MLE24756	-	39, 41 & 43, Leicester Road, Sapcote. Three thatched cottages which were originally part of the village workhouse and date to the 18th century. Evident on the 1887 1:2500 Epoch 1 OS. The thatch has been recently replaced on the central and westernmost cottages.	-	House	Post Medieval	Low
NDHA50	MLE25808	-	Mill Bank House, Leicester Road, Sapcote. Brick house built c.1860. Three rooms on ground floor and three on first floor. Frontage rendered.	-	House	Post Medieval	Low
NDHA51	MLE24752	-	Pond to north of houses on Hinckley Road, Sapcote. A washpit was sited at the entrance to the village c100m to the north of what is now Hinckley Road. It was used to clean the hooves of horses and wheels of carts as they entered the village.	-	Pond	Post Medieval	Low
NDHA52	MLE24738	-	Red Lion Public House, Church Street, Sapcote. An 18th century brick built public house.	-	Public House	Post Medieval	Low
NDHA53	MLE24744	-	1, Church Street, Sapcote. A former blacksmith's cottage - once the original forge and later ironmongers' shop. Brick built and thoroughly 'restored'. Outside, on the pavement is a small mounting stone. The house includes an (?)earlier granite built cellar.	-	Smiths Cottage	Post Medieval	Low
NDHA54	MLE24740	-	35, 39 & 41, Church Street, Sapcote. Group of three terraced cottages adjacent to the Old Rectory built circa 1840. No. 41 was built as a cottage and workshop. No. 39, the centre cottage (home of a master hosier), still retains its attractive Flemish Bond façade with stone window sills and lintels. No. 35 was once two cottages converted to a single dwelling (the façade once matching No. 39 is now rendered).	-	Terrace	Post Medieval	Low

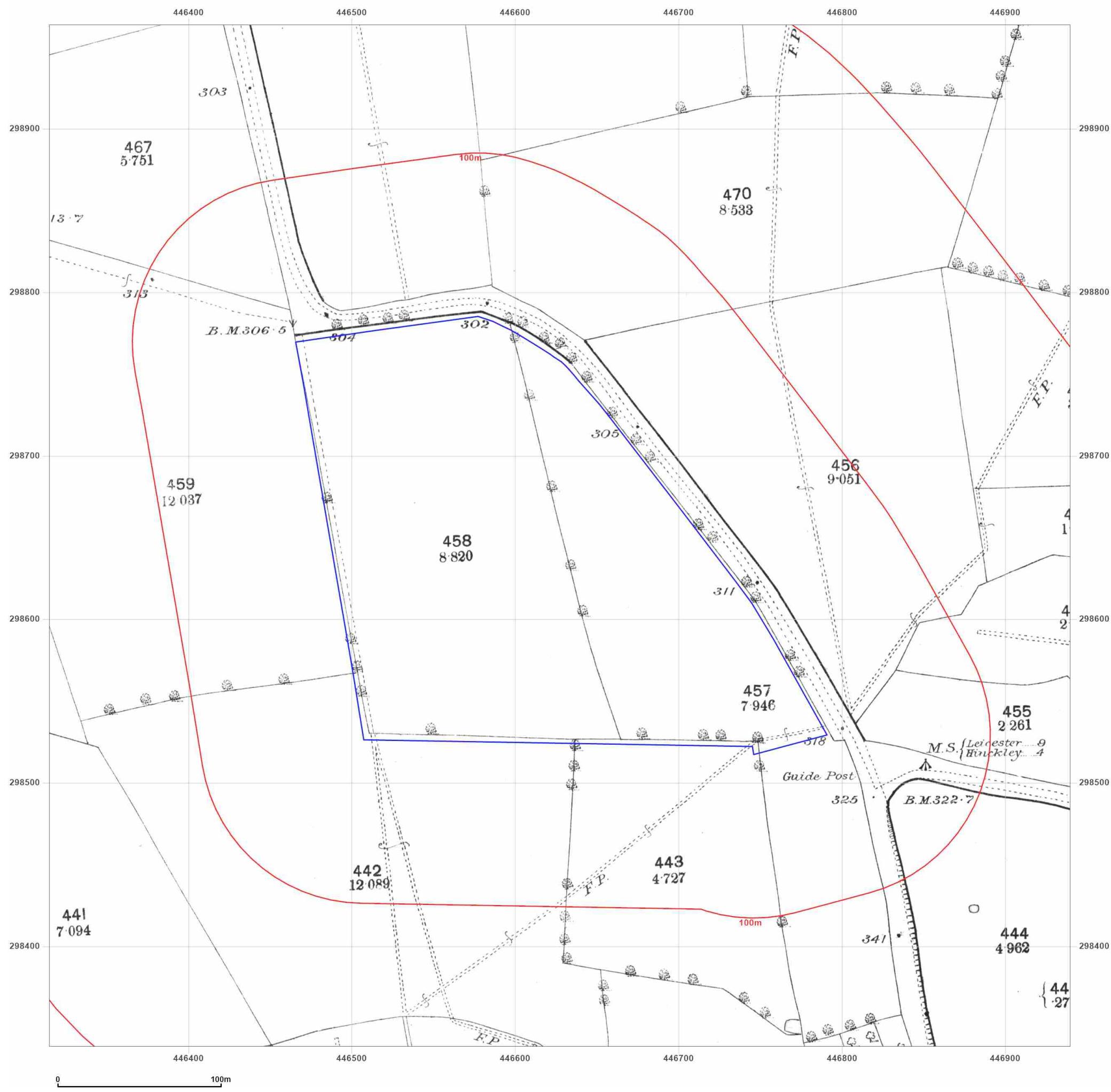
TEP ID	HER ID	HE Number	Name and Description	Grade	Type	Date	Significance
NDHA55	MLE24741	-	21, 23 & 25, Church Street, Sapcote. A group of three flush-fronted brick built terraced cottages, each one bay wide and with a rounded arch door surrounds. No.25, the most southerly cottage, butts-up against a high, rubble-coursed granite boundary wall - similar to the boundary wall MLE20686, 38m to the south.	-	Terrace	Post Medieval	Low
NDHA56	MLE24743	-	15, Church Street, Sapcote. A two-storey end terrace house. Brick built with rounded arch door surround. Stone footings are visible at ground height along the street façade.	-	Terraced House	Post Medieval	Low
NDHA57	MLE22351	-	The Coach House/Barn north-east of The Rectory, Sapcote. A coach house/barn of brick and stone. Probably originally made of stone, wood, wattle and daub with brick used later for stability. The building features a truss frame, the oldest parts of which date from the C17th.	-	Timber Framed Barn	Post Medieval	Low
NDHA58	MLE21284	-	Turnpike Road, Burbage to Narborough. Road from the side gate, Burbage, to the Leicester turnpike road in Narborough. 1813-14 Act of 1st Authorisation.	-	Toll Road	Post Medieval	Low
NDHA59	MLE21285	-	Turnpike Road, Coventry to near Stoney Stanton. Road from Coventry to the Hinckley to Narborough road, near Stoney Stanton. 1830-1 Act of 1st Authorisation.	-	Toll Road	Post Medieval	Low
NDHA60	MLE24762	-	'The Limes' avenue of trees, east of Limes Avenue, Sapcote. An avenue of lime trees running for c.60m on a north-south alignment, perpendicular to Hinckley Road. Evident on the 1887 1:2500 OS map.	-	Tree Avenue	Post Medieval	Low

TEP ID	HER ID	HE Number	Name and Description	Grade	Type	Date	Significance
NDHA61	MLE22350	-	The Old Rectory, Church Street, Sapcote. The present building was constructed in 1876. In 1960 the servants wing was demolished, the dining room converted into two rooms to create a study and the library converted into a kitchen. An earlier house is mentioned in documents from the C17th and C18th, demolished in 1732. A new house was built by the Rev. John Frewen, and this was replaced by a third house (the present house) in 1876. A new parsonage house was built in Sharnford Road in 1980.	-	Vicarage	Post Medieval	Low
NDHA62	MLE24759	-	Granitethorpe Cottages, 42-52, Leicester Road, Sapcote. Six terraced red brick houses with a date plaque that reads '1875'. Evident on the 1887 OS map (1:2500).	-	Workers Cottage	Post Medieval	Low
NDHA63	MLE24760	-	Calver Hill Cottages, 8-26, Sharnford Road, Sapcote. Ten terraced randomly coursed granite cottages built for quarry workers. A stone plaque reads "Calver Hill Cottages, 1882". Evident on the 1887 OS map (1:2500).	-	Workers Cottage	Post Medieval	Low
NDHA64	MLE9837	-	The Bath House, Stanton Road, Sapcote. In 1806, a bath house with hot and cold baths was built here over a spring called Golden Well. Part of the building survives as a private house, although the bath house itself no longer exists. The fate of the spring is uncertain.	-	Bath House	Post Medieval	Negligible
NDHA65	MLE6653	-	Post-medieval farmstead, 20, Stanton Road, Sapcote. Granite and brick foundations of 19th century farm buildings and post-medieval pottery found during a watching brief.	-	Farmstead	Post Medieval	Negligible
NDHA66	MLE15770	-	Post-medieval remains, Old School House, Sapcote. Trench excavated revealed six pits, a ditch, a gully, a cobbled surface and pottery.	-	Pit; Ditch; Gully; Yard	Post Medieval	Negligible

TEP ID	HER ID	HE Number	Name and Description	Grade	Type	Date	Significance
NDHA67	MLE17705	-	Pond west of the Rectory, Church Street, Sapcote. A long pond running north-south is noted on the late C19th OS map. It is thought to be an ornamental post-medieval fish pond. Pond filled in in late 1960s.	-	Pond	Post Medieval	Negligible
NDHA68	MLE9504	-	Lord Bassett Arms, Leicester Road, Sapcote. The building was first recorded as the premises of a friendly society in 1791 and was in use as a public house since the early C19th, with its name being changed from the Star to Lord Bassett some time between 1855 and 1861. It was demolished in 2005.	-	Public House	Post Medieval	Negligible
NDHA69	MLE285	-	Post-medieval windmill, Granitethorpe, Sapcote. A mill is shown on the 1814 OS drawing and the 1st edition 1" map. It is marked as 'in ruins' on the 1860 map and 'old windmill' on the 1904 map	-	Tower Mill	Post Medieval	Negligible
NDHA70	MLE8322	-	Post-medieval well, 6, Church Street, Sapcote. A well is shown on the late C19th OS map. Uncovered during building works for an extension. No building material was noted. The well was filled in with rubble.	-	Well	Post Medieval	Negligible
NDHA71	MLE15915	-	Site of Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Leicester Road, Sapcote. Former Wesleyan Methodist chapel, built in 1805. The chapel was used as a hall after the construction of the new church in 1905. It was demolished in the 1950s.	-	Wesleyan Association Chapel	Post Medieval	Negligible
NDHA72	MLE17660	-	Possible explosives store west of Sapcote Road, Stoney Stanton. A small concrete building with chamfered corners. It was probably an explosives store associated with quarrying. It is in a field with a wagonway (MLE17660) and spoil heaps (MLE22311).	-	Explosives Store?	Modern	Low

TEP ID	HER ID	HE Number	Name and Description	Grade	Type	Date	Significance
NDHA73	MLE22311	-	Quarrying spoil heaps west of Sapcote. Two spoil heaps were recorded here during topographic survey and LiDAR analysis. They are associated with a possible explosives store (MLE17660) and wagonway (MLE17661).	-	Spoil Heap	Modern	Low
NDHA74	MLE24739	-	War memorial lychgate to All Saints' Church, Church Street, Sapcote. A lych-gate located at the Church Street entrance to All Saints' churchyard was erected in 1947 as a war memorial. Timber frame on a granite wall with slate roof. A coat of arms plaque hangs at the apex of the street elevation while inscriptions can be found on the interior, along with masons marks.	-	Lych Gate; War Memorial	Modern	Low
NDHA75	MLE24745	-	Sapcote Club, 19, Hinckley Road, Sapcote. The Sapcote Club built in 1906 in the Arts and Crafts style. Granite foundation wall below rendered brick superstructure with slate roof. The ground floor entrances and windows have ornate stone surrounds.	-	Club	Modern	Low
NDHA76	MLE17661	-	Quarry wagonway west of Sapcote Road, Stoney Stanton. Probable early C20th wagonway associated with quarrying. It runs to a spoil heap (MLE22311).	-	Mineral Railway	Modern	Low
NDHA77	MLE20844	-	Linear anomalies, north-west of Granithorpe Quarry, Sapcote. Geophysical survey in 2013 recorded several linear and curved anomalies in the north of the area. Subsequent trial trenching showed that these were the product of natural gravel bands	-	Natural feature	Unknown	Negligible
NDHA78	MLE20121	-	Undated ditches at Sapcote Road, Sapcote. Evaluation in 2011 produced evidence for three ditches in two trenches. They may be agricultural or form drainage ditches at the sides of a trackway. A similar pair of ditches to the northeast contained a sherd of Saxon-Norman pottery	-	Ditch	Unknown	Negligible

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

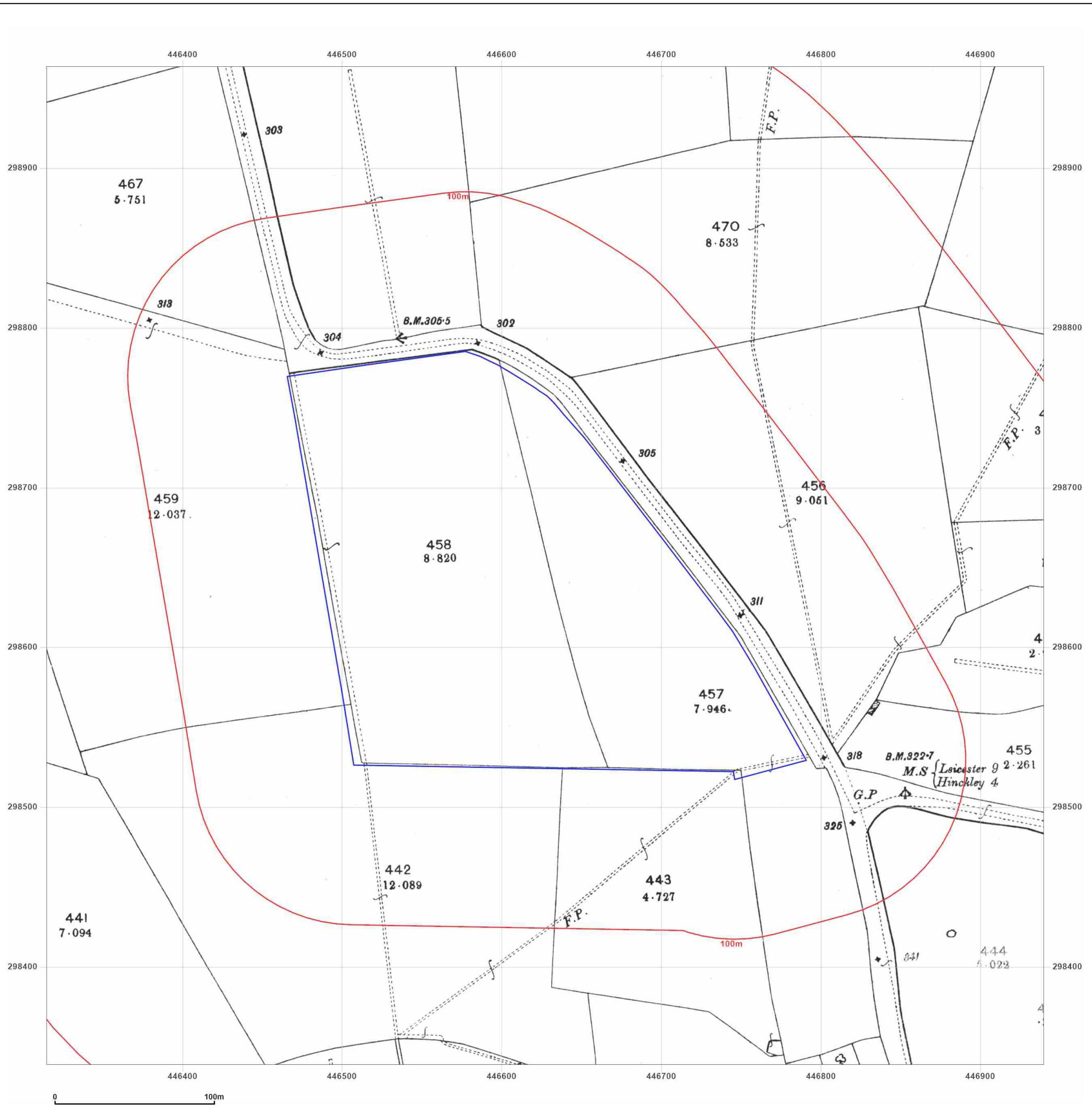


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Site Details:

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: 1903

Scale: 1:2 500

Printed at: 1:2 500



Surveyed 1903
Revised 1903
Edition N/A
Copyright N/A
Levelled N/A

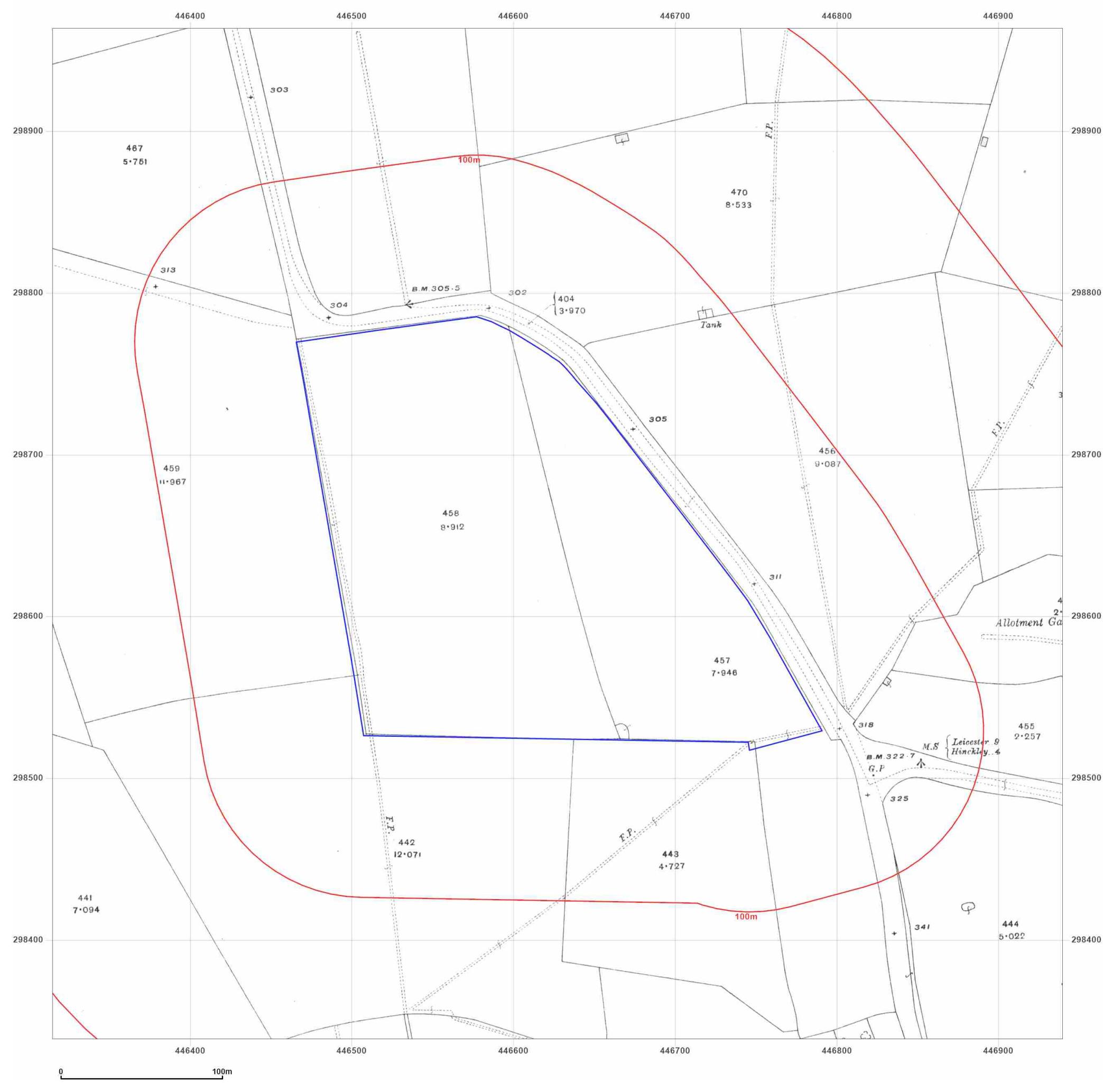


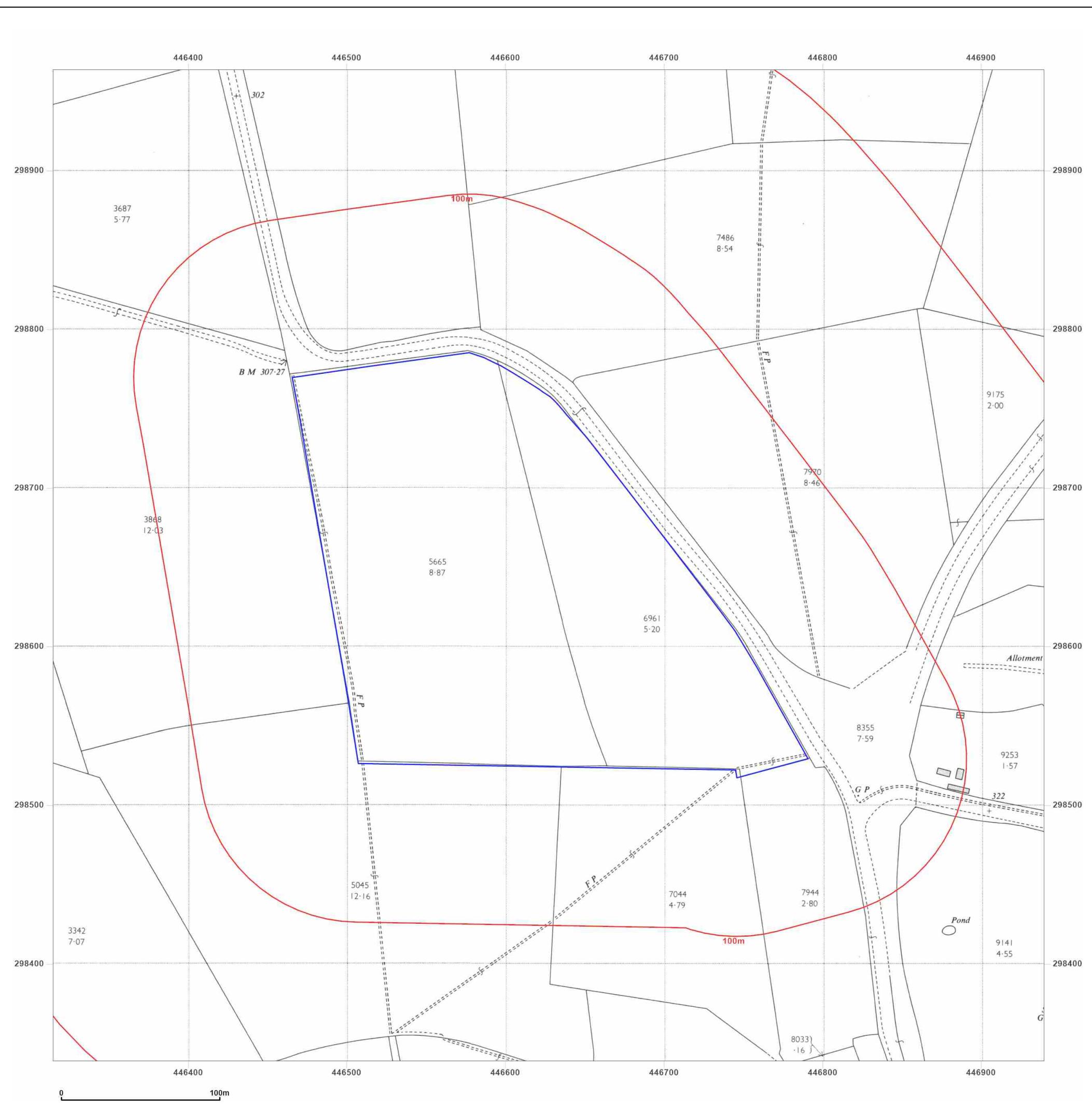
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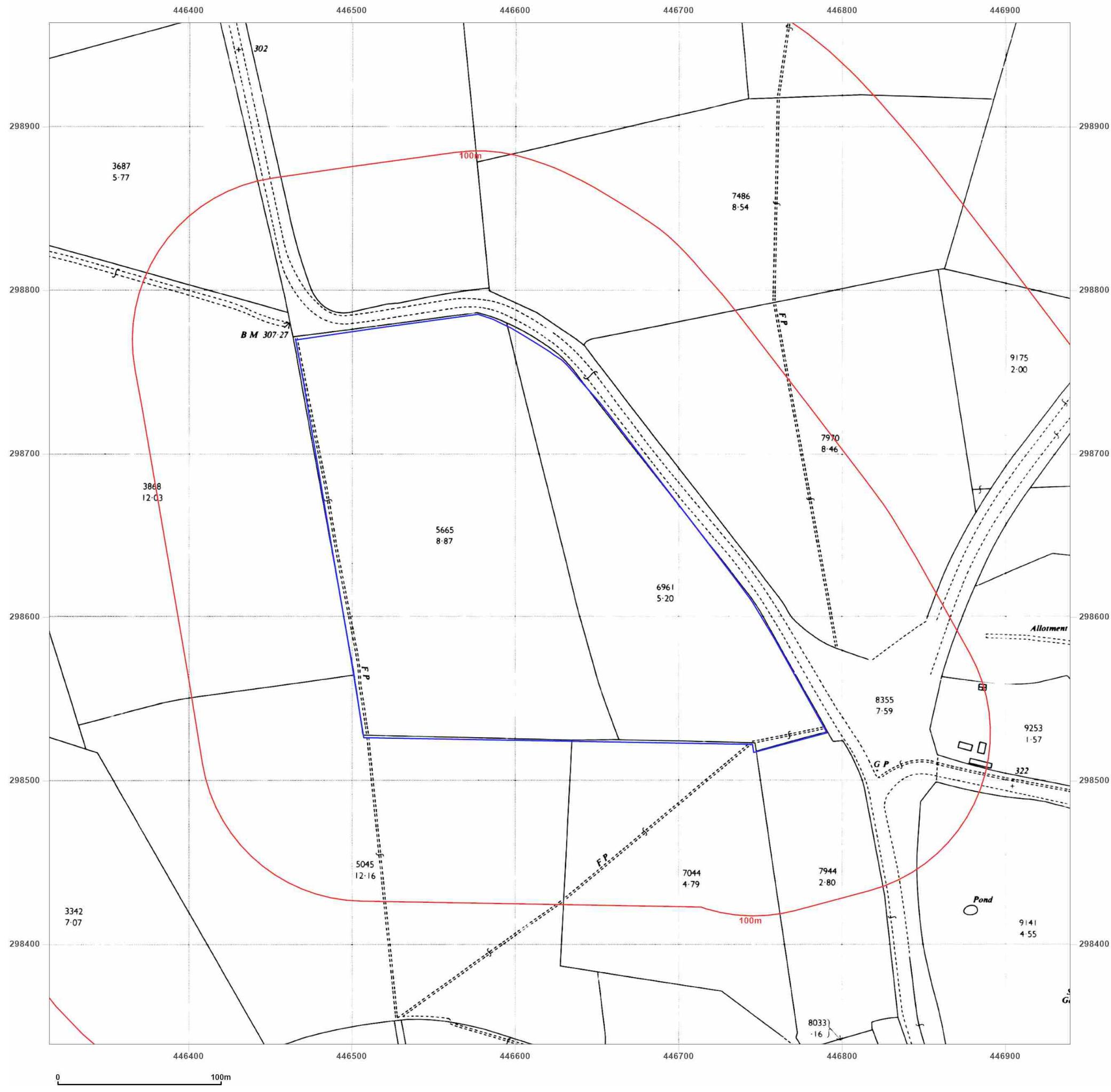
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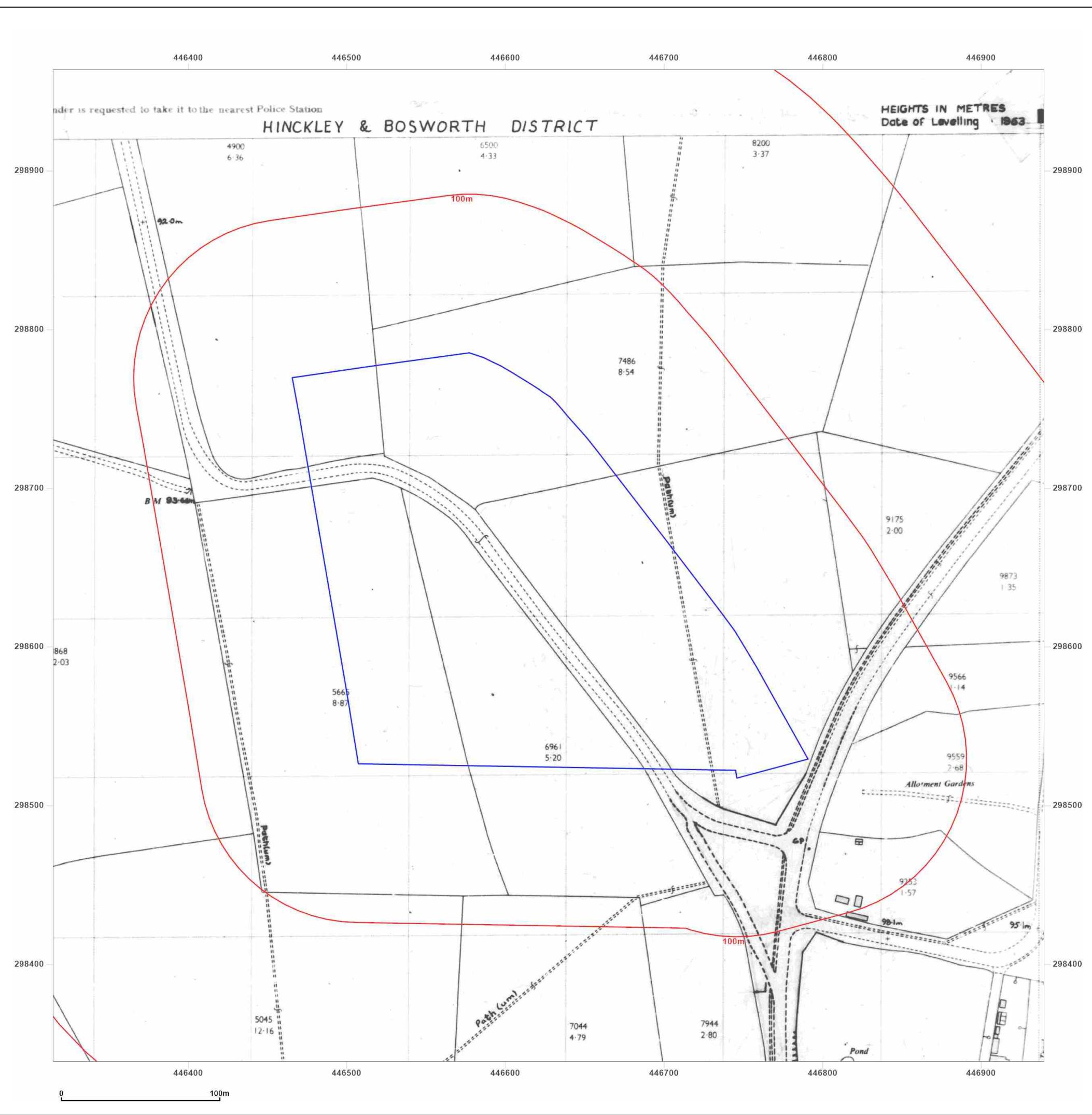
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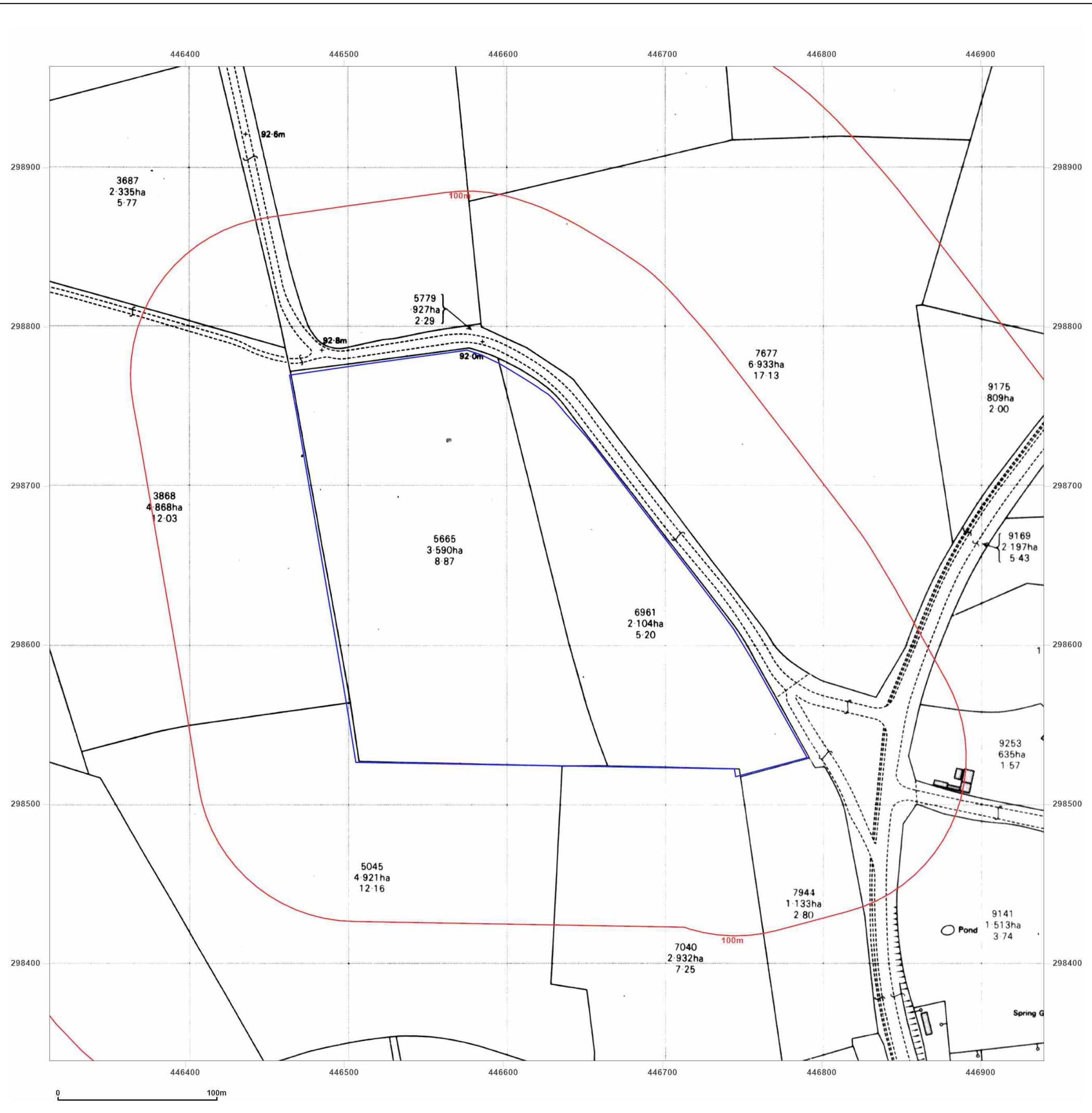


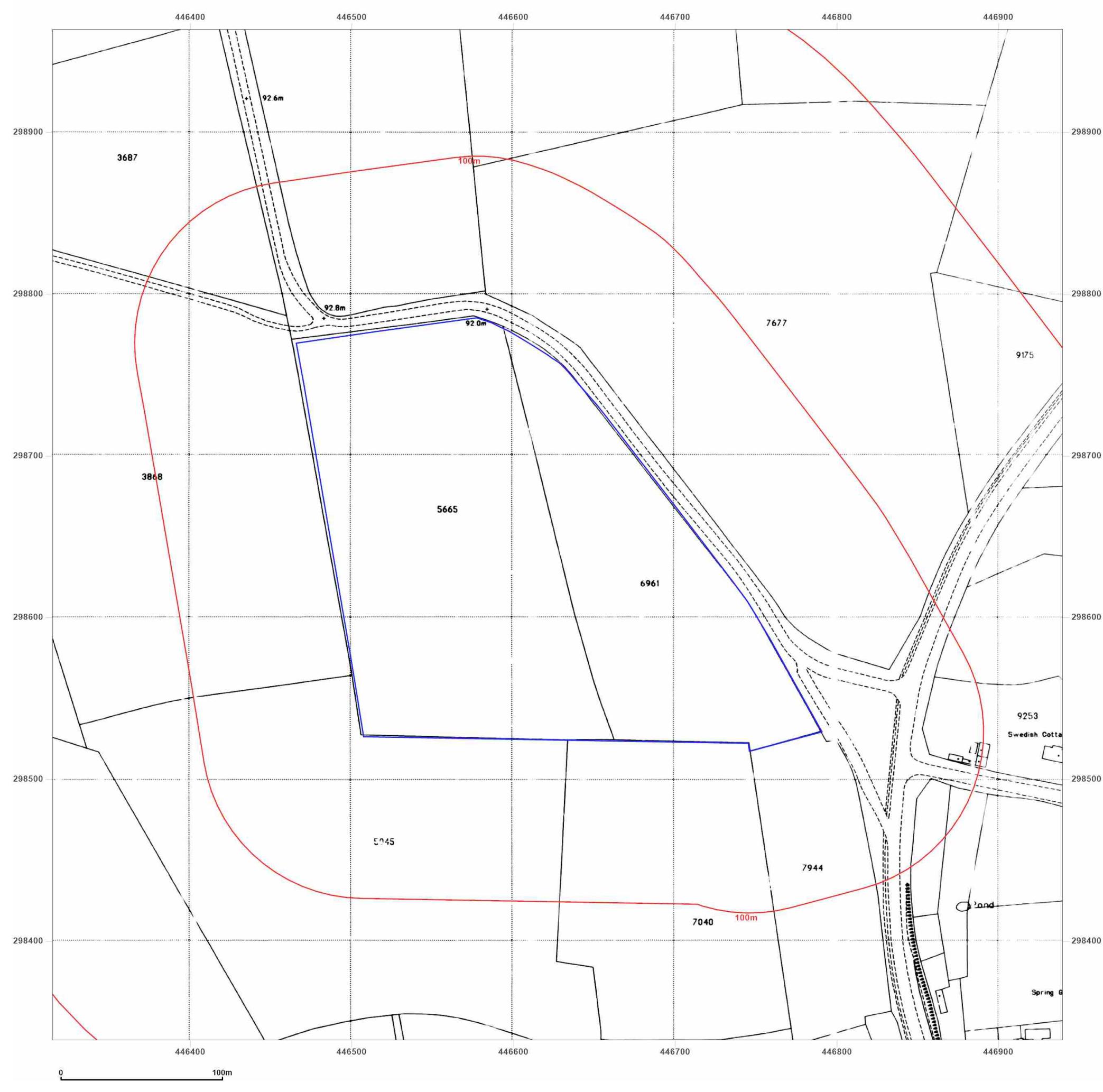
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THE
ENVIRONMENT
PARTNERSHIP

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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Report By:

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Report Approved By:

Leigh A. Garst BFA MSc MCIfA

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.

10. Copyright

10.1. Copyright and intellectual property pertaining to all reports, figures and datasets produced by Magnitude Services Ltd is retained by MS. The client is given full licence to use such material for their own purposes. Permission must be sought by any third party wishing to use or reproduce any IP owned by MS.

11. References

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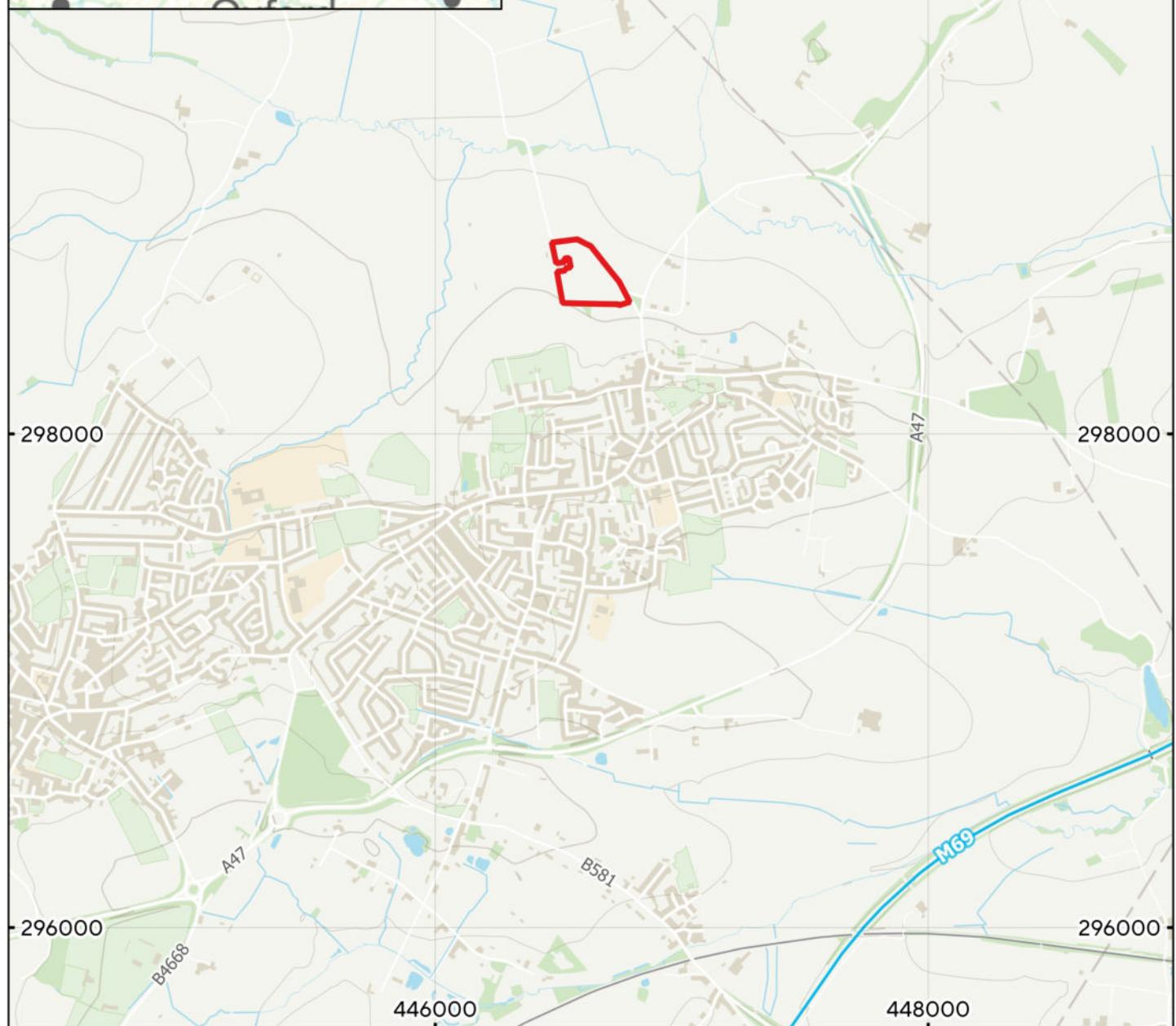
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12. Project Metadata

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 @ A44

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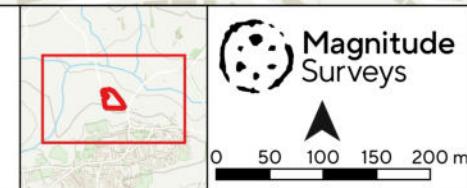
Geophysical Survey Areas





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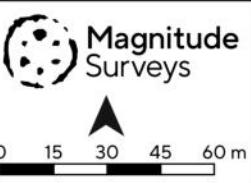
Survey Extent





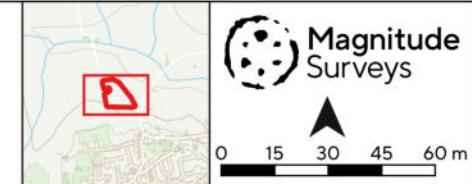
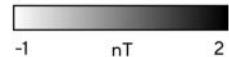
MSSP2210 - Shilton Road, Earl Shilton
Figure 3 - Magnetic Total Field (Lower Sensors)
1:1,500 @ A3
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48,990 nT 49,020





MSSP2210 - Shilton Road, Earl Shilton
Figure 4 - Magnetic Gradient
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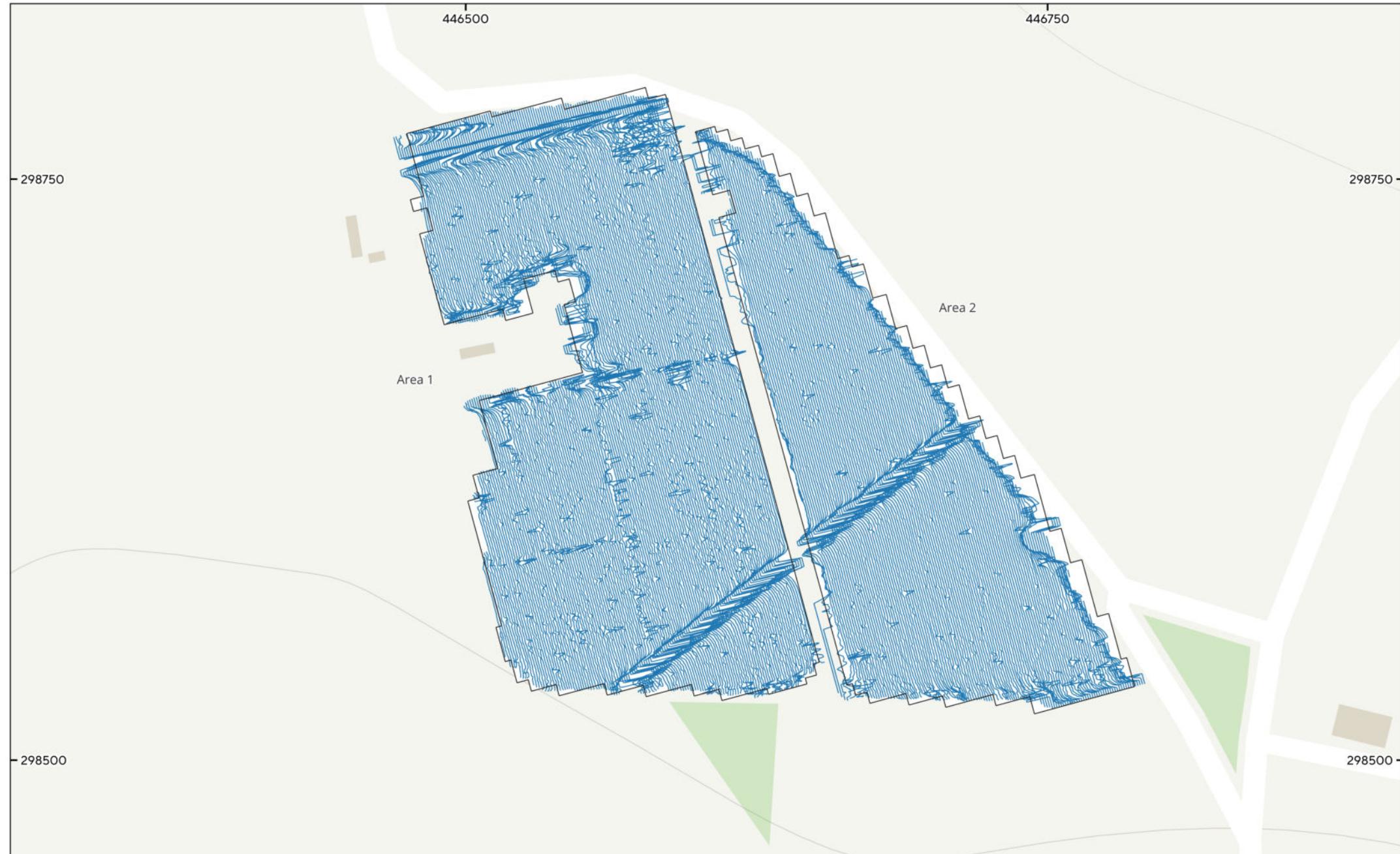


MSSP2210 - Shilton Road, Earl Shilton
Figure 5 - Magnetic Interpretation
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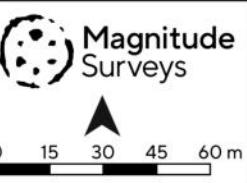
- Magnetic Disturbance
- Undetermined (Weak)
- Drainage Feature
- Service
- Ferrous (Spike)



The logo for "Magnitude Surveys" features a stylized eye with a grid pattern inside the iris. Below the eye is the text "Magnitude Surveys". A scale bar with markings for 0, 15, 30, 45, and 60 meters is positioned at the bottom.



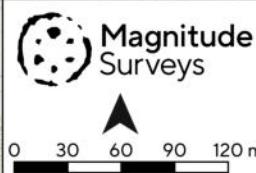
MSSP2210 - Shilton Road, Earl Shilton
Figure 6 - XY Trace Plot
90nT/cm at 1:1,500 @ A3
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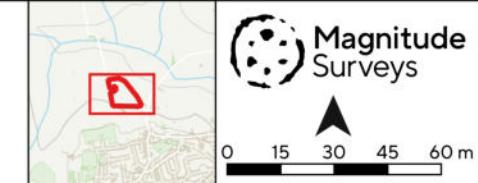
MSSP2210 - Shilton Road, Earl Shilton
 Figure 7 – Magnetic Interpretation over Historical Mapping & Satellite Imagery, 1:3,000 @ A3
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 Contains historical mapping © CLS Data 2025: Ordnance Survey, 6" 2nd edition c. 1882-1913
 Contains satellite imagery © 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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