



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation at
8 Mill Lane, Earl Shilton,
Leicestershire,
NGR: SP 4720 9810 centre**

Tim Higgins



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An Archaeological evaluation at
8, Mill Lane, Earl Shilton
Leicestershire
NGR: SP 4720 9810

Tim Higgins

For: Earl Shilton Baptist Church

Checked by:

Signed:



Date: 01/03/2010

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An Archaeological at 8 Mill Lane, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire (SP 4720 9810)

Tim Higgins

Summary

An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken on land at the rear of 8, Mill Lane, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) in advance of proposed new dwellings. One trial trench was excavated in an area defined as having archaeological potential. However the trial trenching revealed no archaeological finds, features or deposits. The site archive will be held with the Archaeology, Environment and Heritage Services (Leicestershire County Council) under accession number X.A28.2010.

1. Introduction

An archaeological field evaluation (AFE) was undertaken as part of the requirements identified by the Planning Archaeologist, Leicester County Council as archaeological advisor to planning authority following Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning para.30). The AFE was undertaken to ascertain whether any archaeological remains of significance were present within the development site and propose suitable treatment to avoid or minimise damage by the development.

2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

The site is located on land at the rear 8 Mill Lane, Earl Shilton at NGR SP 4720 9810 (Figure 1). It comprises an approximately rectangular area of land located south and at the rear of 8, Mill Lane and fronting on to Roman Close, and totals some *c.* 0.50ha. Residential properties surround the site which is currently a garden.

The development area lies at height of *c.*118m and the land slopes down slightly to the south and east. The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 155 indicated that the underlying geology is likely to consist of sand and gravel overlying Boulder Clay.

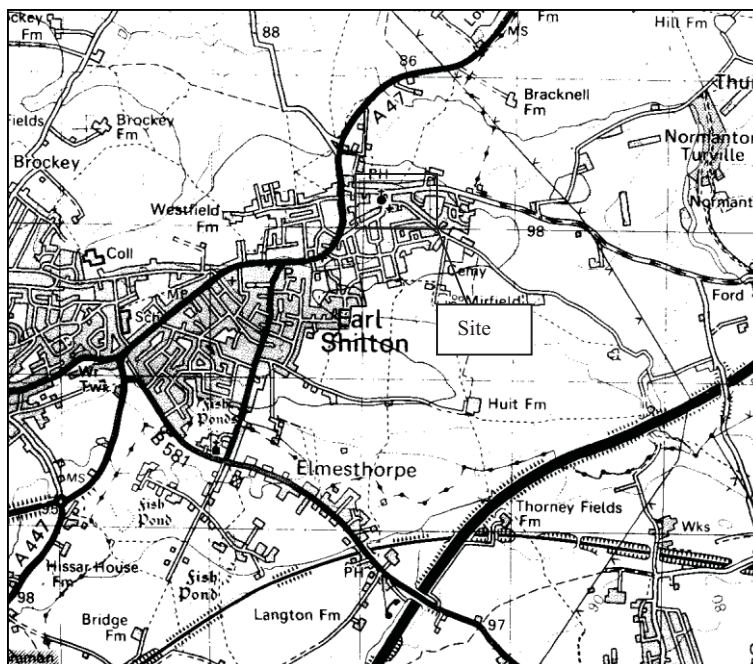


Figure 1: Location of the proposed development

Reproduced from the Landranger OS map 129 Leicester, Nottingham and Loughborough area 1:50000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 1996. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 10002187.

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

An archaeological desk-based assessment, previously prepared by the University of Leicester Archaeological services for a nearby development (Marsden 2002) had highlighted the archaeological potential of the site's surrounding environs.

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest. The proposed development site is situated c.50m south-east of medieval church of St Simon and St Jude (LE2859). Around 75m to north-west of the proposed development area are the medieval and Saxo-Norman motte and bailey castle earthworks of Earl Shilton Castle (LE2849 and LE6789 SM17035). The area itself is located close to the centre of the medieval village of Earl Shilton.

4. Aims and Objectives

The main aims of the evaluation were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed new development.
- To produce an archive and report of any results

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation is to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.

5. Methodology

The *Design Specification* (see Appendix 1 below) agreed with the Planning Archaeologist of Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team (LCCHNET) proposed a *c.* 10% sample of the area which is equivalent of one 5.00m x 1.00m trench, totalling *c.* 5 sq m.

The garden soil and underlying layers were removed under full archaeological supervision until either the top of archaeology or natural substratum/undisturbed ground was reached, or to a depth of 1.2m.

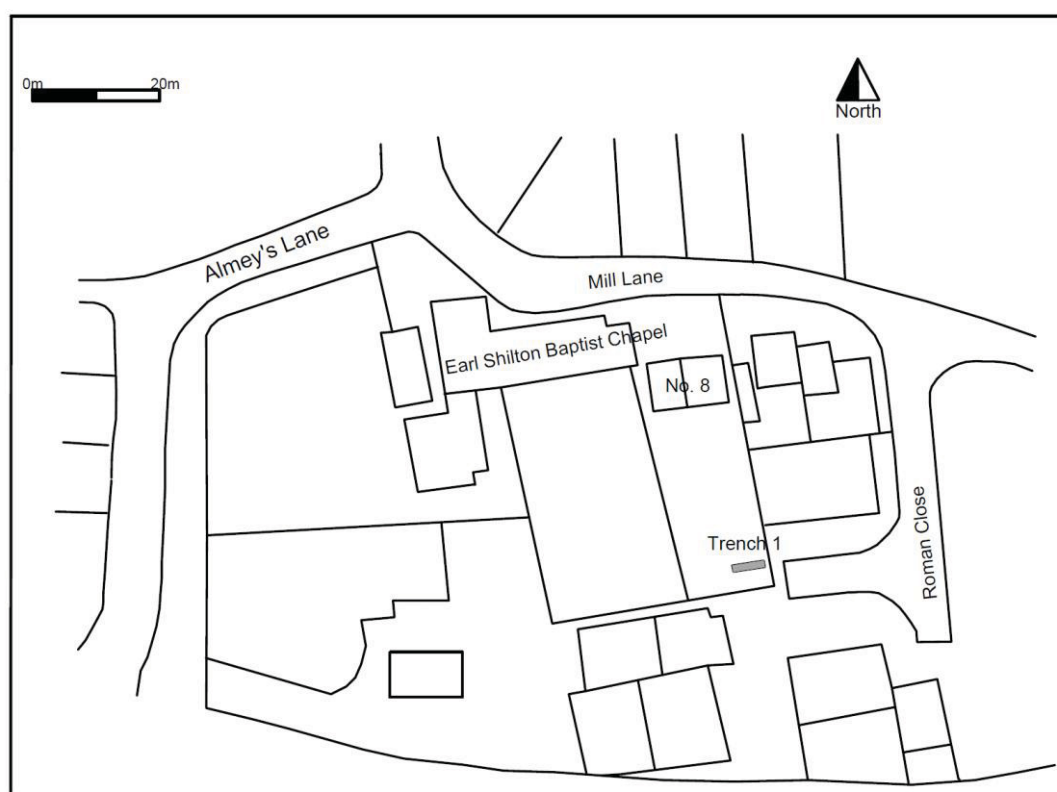


Figure 2: Trench Location Plan

The base of the trench was to be hand cleaned in areas where potential archaeological deposits were observed. If archaeological remains were identified, they were to be planned to scale and recorded. Limited excavation would also be undertaken in order to determine the character and date of any remains.

The trenches were located using a Leica EDM and the final plans completed with the aid of TurboCad v.11 design software.

All the work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*, and the *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (Leicestershire County Council).

6. Results

Length 5.00m

Width 1.60m

Depth minimum 0.90m, maximum 1.00m

The trench was located in the rear garden of the house towards the south-east corner of the development area close to the street frontage on to Roman Close and was orientated west to east (Figure 2). The natural substratum was reached at a depth of between 0.95m and 1.00m below the ground surface. This comprised compacted pale orange brown sand mixed with rounded pebble gravel, and occasional large patches of dull reddish brown sandy clay. The base of the trench was visually inspected and no archaeological deposits, features or pre-modern artefacts were encountered. Overlying the natural substratum was a subsoil consisting of a compacted mid-orange brown clay sand mixed rounded pebble gravel. The subsoil had a varying thickness of between 0.30m and 0.40m. Sealing the subsoil was a layer of buried garden soil that comprised a dark grey-brown silty-clay, which contained frequent charcoal flecks and occasional modern pottery sherds and glass fragments. The buried garden soil had a varying depth of between 0.20m and 0.30m. Overlying the buried garden soil was a compacted rubble layer 0.25m deep, consisting of modern brick fragments mixed with pale brown sand. Sealing the rubble layer was a turf layer consisting of dark greyish sandy loam 0.10m deep

7. Discussion

The archaeological evaluation undertaken on the proposed development site, revealed no archaeological features deposits, or pre-modern artefacts found within the trench.

Only modern pottery sherds and glass were found within the buried garden soil (which were examined and then discarded), which probably came from a period when plot was used as gardens and domestic refuse was used as manure. The buried garden soil was sealed by what was thought to be either a layer of modern demolition or construction debris. The trial trench suggests that there are unlikely to be any archaeological deposits present within the proposed development area.

8. Archive

A full copy of the archive as defined in Brown (2008) will usually be presented within six months of the completion of the fieldwork. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating to the investigations undertaken.

The archive consists of:

A copy of the report,

One trench recording sheet.

1 synthesised location plan drawing sheet.

4 Digital and 4 B&W photos with contact prints, photographic index.

The archive will be held with the Archaeology, Environment and Heritage Services (Leicestershire County Council Museums).under accession number X.A28.2010

A summary of the work will be published in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course.



Plate 1 Evaluation Trench 1 looking east (Arrow pointing south)



Plate 2 Evaluation Trench 2 looking west

9. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by the author. Dr. Patrick Clay managed the project. I would like to thank Martin Henson for his help and assistance during the evaluation.

10. Oasis Record

INFORMATION REQUIRED	
Project Name	An Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching on land at the rear 8 Mill lane Earl Shilton, Leicestershire
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	Dr Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Tim Higgins
Previous/Future work	Previous work: Desk-bask assessment (Marsden 2002)
Current Land Use	Garden
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	PPG16
Position in the Planning Process	Requirements planning permission
Site Co ordinates	NGR: SK 4720 9810
Start/end dates of field work	22 nd February 2010
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council
Study Area	c. 50 sq m.

11. Bibliography

Brown, D., 2008 *Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives* (Institute for Archaeologists)

Marsden, P., *An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for land adjacent to 74*
2002 *Almeys Lane, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire (SP 4715 9815) ULAS*
Report No. 2002-121

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22.02.2010

Appendix 1 Design Specification

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

Job title: 8, Mill Lane, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire (SK 578 124)

Client: Earl Shilton Baptist Church

Planning Authority: Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

P. A 08/00923/4

1 Introduction

1.1 Definition and scope of the specification

This document is a design specification for an initial phase of archaeological field evaluation (AFE) at the above site, in accordance with DOE Planning Policy Guidance note 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning, para.30). Condition 5 of the planning permission states: *No development shall take place within the application area until the applicant, or their agents or successors, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work commencing with an initial stage of exploratory trial trenching. This work shall be conducted in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.* .

- 1.2 The definition of archaeological field evaluation, taken from the Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidance: for Archaeological Field Evaluation (IfA S&G: AFE) is a limited programme of non-intrusive and/ or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.

2. Background

2.1 Context of the Project

- 2.1.1 The site is located south and to the rear of 8, Mill Lane, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire and covers approximately 50 sq metres.

- 2.1.2 Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team (LCCHNET) as archaeological advisors to the planning authority have requested an evaluation by trial trenching to identify and locate any archaeological remains of significance and propose suitable treatment to avoid or minimise damage by the development.

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.2.1 The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest; within the medieval core of Earl Shilton and close to the medieval church and a Scheduled Ancient Monument, a motte and bailey castle. The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 155 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of sand and gravel overlying Boulder Clay. The land slopes down slightly to the south at a height of c.118m

3. Archaeological Objectives

- 3.1 The main objectives of the evaluation will be:
- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
 - To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
 - To produce an archive and report of any results.
- 3.2 Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation is to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.
- 3.3 Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation that will demonstrate the existence of earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area.

4. Methodology

4.1 General Methodology and Standards

- 4.1.1 All work will follow the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008).
- 4.1.2 Staffing, recording systems, health and safety provisions and insurance details are included below.
- 4.1.3 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site by the project manager. These will ensure that project targets are met and professional standards are maintained. Provision will be made for external monitoring meetings with the Senior Planning Archaeologist the Planning authority and the Client.

4.2 Trial Trenching Methodology

- 4.2.1 Topsoil/modern overburden will be removed in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision, down to the uppermost archaeological deposits by JCB 3C or equivalent using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 4.2.2 Trenches will be excavated to a width of 1.6m and down to the top of archaeological deposits. The area of the trenches will be protected by barrier fencing.
- 4.2.3 The trenches will be backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation.
- 4.2.4 The area of impact from the new dwellings covers *c.* 50 sq m.. A *c.* 10% sample of the area is the equivalent of one 5m x 1m trenches totaling *c.* 5 sq m. (Fig. 2). The exact location of the trench may need to be modified depending on constraints on site.
- 4.2.5 Trenches will be examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits located will be planned at an appropriate scale and sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence. All plans will be tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.
- 4.2.6 Sections of any excavated archaeological features will be drawn at an appropriate scale. At least one longitudinal face of each trench will be recorded. All sections will be levelled and tied to the Ordnance Survey Datum, or a permanent fixed bench mark.
- 4.2.7 Trench locations will be recorded using an electronic distance measurer. These will then be tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.
- 4.2.8 Any human remains will initially be left *in situ* and will only be removed if necessary for their protection, under Ministry of Justice guidelines and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations.

4.3 Recording Systems

- 4.3.1 The ULAS recording manual will be used as a guide for all recording.
- 4.3.2 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto pro-forma recording sheets.
- 4.3.3 A site location plan based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared. This will be supplemented by a

trench plan at appropriate scale, which will show the location of the areas investigated in relationship to the investigation area and OS grid.

- 4.3.4 A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made. Sections including the half-sections of individual layers of features will be drawn as necessary, typically at a scale of 1:10. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be recorded.
- 4.3.5 A photographic record of the investigations will be prepared illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.
- 4.3.6 This record will be compiled and checked during the course of the excavations.

5. Finds and Samples

- 5.1 The IfA *Guidelines for Finds Work* will be adhered to.
- 5.2 Before commencing work on the site, a Site code/Accession number will be agreed with the Planning Archaeologist that will be used to identify all records and finds from the site.
- 5.3 During the fieldwork, different sampling strategies may be employed according to the perceived importance of the strata under investigation. Close attention will always be given to sampling for date, structure and environment. If significant archaeological features are sample excavated, the environmental sampling strategy is likely to include the following:
- i. A range of features to represent all feature types, areas and phases will be selected on a judgmental basis. The criteria for selection will be that deposits are datable, well sealed and with little intrusive or residual material.
 - ii. Any buried soils or well sealed deposits with concentrations of carbonised material present will be intensively sampled taking a known proportion of the deposit.
 - iii. Spot samples will be taken where concentrations of environmental remains are located.
 - iv. Waterlogged remains, if present, will be sampled for pollen, plant macrofossils, insect remains and radiocarbon dating provided that they are uncontaminated and datable. Consultation with the specialist will be undertaken.
- 5.4 All identified finds and artefacts are to be retained, although certain classes of building material will, in some circumstances, be discarded after recording with the approval of the Senior Planning Archaeologist. The IfA *Guidelines for Finds Work* will be adhered to.
- 5.5 All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner. Where appropriate they will be cleaned, marked and receive remedial conservation in accordance with recognised best-practice. This will include the site code number, finds number and context number. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self sealing plastic bags, again marked with site code, finds and context numbers and boxed by material in standard storage boxes (340mm x 270mm x 195mm). All materials will be fully labelled, catalogued and stored in appropriate containers.

6. Report and Archive

- 6.1 The full report in A4 format will usually follow within eight weeks of the completion of the fieldwork and copies will be dispatched to the Client, Senior Planning Archaeologist; HER and Local Planning Authority.
- 6.2 The report will include consideration of:-
- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the evaluation.
 - The nature, location, extent, date, significance and quality of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered.
 - The anticipated degree of survival of archaeological deposits.
 - The anticipated archaeological impact of the current proposals.
 - Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.
 - Summary.
 - The location and size of the archive.

- A quantitative and qualitative assessment of the potential of the archive for further analysis leading to full publication, following guidelines laid down in *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage).
- 6.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in the *IfA Standard and Guidance for archaeological archives* (Brown 2008) will normally be presented to Leicestershire County Council within six months of the completion of fieldwork. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

7 Publication and Dissemination of Results

- 7.1 A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*.

8. Acknowledgement and Publicity

- 8.1 ULAS shall acknowledge the contribution of the Client in any displays, broadcasts or publications relating to the site or in which the report may be included.
- 8.2 ULAS and the Client shall each ensure that a senior employee shall be responsible for dealing with any enquiries received from press, television and any other broadcasting media and members of the public. All enquiries made to ULAS shall be directed to the Client for comment.

9. Copyright

- 9.1 The copyright of all original finished documents shall remain vested in ULAS and ULAS will be entitled as of right to publish any material in any form produced as a result of its investigations.

10. Timetable

- 10.1 The evaluation start is proposed for 8 January 2010 with two staff. Further staff will be added if archaeological remains are discovered.
- 10.2 The on-site director/supervisor will carry out the post-excavation work, with time allocated within the costing of the project for analysis of any artefacts found on the site by the relevant in-house specialists at ULAS.

11. Health and Safety

- 11.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Archaeological Services Health and Safety Policy and Health and Safety manual with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is attached as Appendix 1. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate. The HSE has determined that archaeological investigations are exempt from CDM regulations.
- 11.2 A Risks assessment will be completed prior to work commencing on-site, and updated as necessary during the site works.

12. Insurance

- 12.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Liability Insurance is with St Pauls Travellers Policy No. UCPOP3651237 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Lloyds Underwriters (50%) and Brit Insurances (50%) Policy No. FUNK3605.

13. Monitoring arrangements

- 13.1 Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to both the Client and his representatives and Planning Archaeologist subject to the health and safety requirements of the site. At least one weeks notice will be given to the LCCHS Senior Planning Archaeologist

before the commencement of the archaeological evaluation in order that monitoring arrangements can be made.

- 13.2 All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the IfA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*.
- 13.3 Internal monitoring will be carried out by the ULAS project manager.

14. Contingencies and unforeseen circumstances

- 14.1 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the project, ULAS shall inform the site agent/project manager, Client and the Planning Archaeologist and Planning Authority and prepare a short written statement with plan detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the Planning Archaeologist, ULAS shall, if required, implement an amended scheme of investigation on behalf of the client as appropriate.

15. Bibliography

Brown, D., 2008 *Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives* (Institute for Archaeologists)

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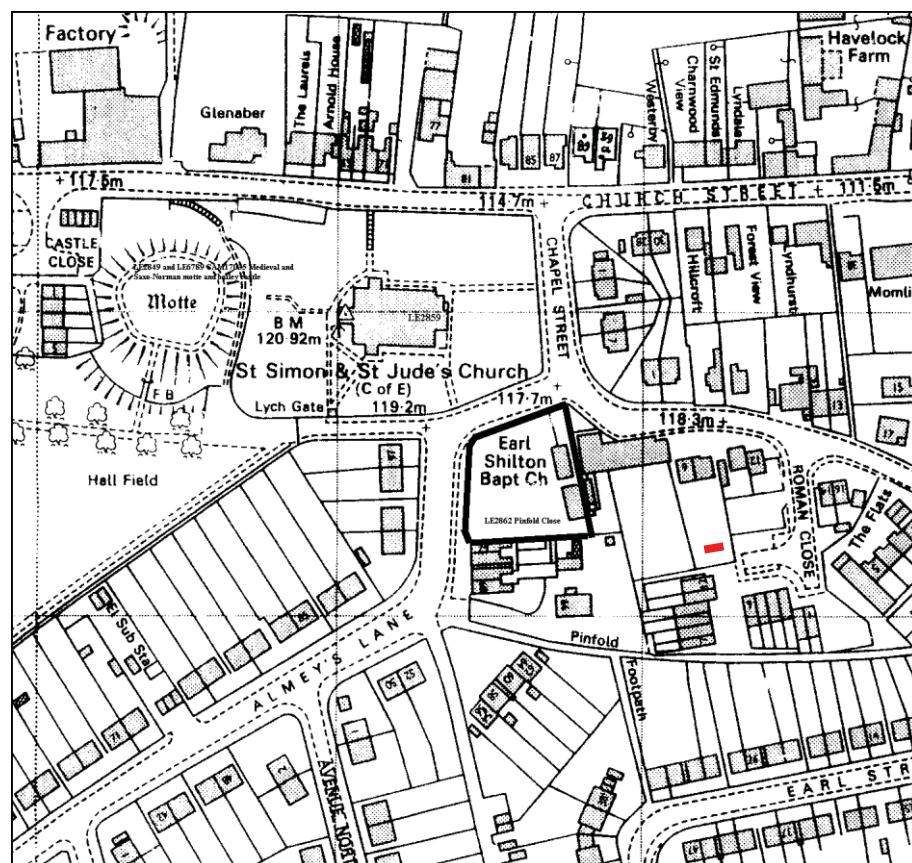


Figure 1 Location of 8, Mill Lane, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire, with suggested trench location in red.

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

A risks assessment will be produced by on-site staff, which will be updated and amended during the course of the evaluation.

1. Nature of the work

1.1 Brief description of the work involved e.g.

The work will involve machine excavation by JCB 3C or equivalent during daylight hours to reveal underlying archaeological deposits. Overall depth is likely to be c. 0.5 m with possible features excavated to a depth of another 1m. Trenches will not be excavated to a depth exceeding 1.2m. Spoil will be stockpiled no less than 1.5 m from the edge of the excavation, the topsoil and subsoil being kept separate. Remaining works will involve the examination of the exposed surface with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and excavation of archaeological features. Deeper features will be fenced with lamp irons and hazard tape. Three staff will be used on the evaluation.

2 Risks Assessment

2.1 *Working on an excavation site.*

Precautions. Trenches to not be excavated to a depth exceeding 1.2m. Spoil will be kept 1.5m away from the edge of the excavated area to prevent falls of loose debris. Loose spoil heaps will not be walked on. Protective footwear will be worn at all times. Hard hats will be worn when working in deeper sections or with plant. First aid kit to be kept in site accommodation/vehicle. Vehicle and mobile phone to be kept on site in case of emergency.

2.2 *Working with plant.*

Precautions. Archaeologists experienced in working with machines will supervise topsoil stripping at all times. Hard hats, protective footwear and hazard jackets will be worn at all times. Machine driver to be suitably qualified and insured. If services or wells are encountered machining will be halted until extent has been established by hand excavation or areas where it is safe to machine have been established.

2.3 *Working within areas prone to waterlogging.*

If waterlogging occurs on site preventing work continuing it is proposed to excavate a sump, suitably fenced and clearly marked to enable the water to drain away. If this is insufficient a pump will be used. The sump will be covered when not in use and backfilled if no longer required. Protective clothing will be worn at all times and precautions taken to prevent contact with stagnant water which may carry Wile's disease or similar.

2.4 *Working with chemicals.*

If chemicals are used to conserve or help lift archaeological material these will only be used by qualified personnel with protective clothing (i.e. a trained conservator) and will be removed from site immediately after use.

2.5 *Other risks*

Precautions. If there is any suspicion of unforeseen hazards being encountered e.g. chemical contaminants, unexploded bombs, hazardous gases, work will cease immediately. The client and relevant public authorities will be informed immediately.

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