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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND  
RECORDING AT  
ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS' CHURCH,  
EASTWELL,  
LEICESTERSHIRE  
(ESMA 13)**

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**Work Undertaken For  
Eastwell Parochial Church Council**

June 2013

Report Compiled by  
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons)

National Grid Reference: SK 775 285  
Planning Application No: 12/00496/FUL  
Accession No: X.A57.2013  
OASIS Record No: archaeol1-153831

APS Report No. **68/13**



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES**





**Quality Control**  
 St Michael and All Angels' Church  
 Eastwell  
 ESMA 13

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Supervisor	Liz Murray
Illustration	Paul Cope-Faulkner
Photographic Reproduction	Sue Unsworth
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Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
 Steve Malone	 Tom Lane
Date: 27-6-13	Date: 28.6.13



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## 1. SUMMARY

*A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken at St Michael and All Angels' church, Eastwell, Leicestershire. The investigations monitored ground clearance in advance of the construction of a new toilet and store.*

*St Michael and All Angels' church is of the medieval period (AD 1066-1540) with most of the fabric of the building dating to the 13<sup>th</sup> century.*

*The investigations revealed a sequence of natural, subsoil and topsoil deposits. No archaeological deposits were identified and no artefacts were retrieved, though modern finds were identified within the topsoil.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Eastwell Parochial Church Council to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with the construction of a new toilet and store adjacent to St Michael and All Angels' church, Eastwell, Leicestershire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application 12/00496/FUL. The investigations were carried out on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2013 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council.

### 2.2 Topography and Geology

Eastwell, located within the parish of Easton, is located 10km north of Melton Mowbray and 24km northeast of Loughborough in the administrative

district of Melton Borough, Leicestershire (Fig. 1).

St Michael and All Angels' Church is located on the southern side of Eastwell at National Grid Reference SK 775 285 (Fig. 2). The church sits at a slightly elevated position on the southeast side of Scalford Road at a height of c. 150m OD.

Local soils are of the Banbury Association, typically brashy fine and coarse loamy ferruginous soils, with pelo-stagnogley soils of the Ragdale Association to the south (Hodge *et al.* 1983, 103, 293). These soils overlie a drift geology of glacial till which in turn seals a solid geology of Jurassic Middle Lias Marlstone Rock Beds (GSGB 1976).

### 2.3 Archaeological Setting

Eastwell is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Esteuuelle*, the name is derived from the Old English and means 'eastern spring or stream' (Ekwall 1989, 158).

At the time of the Domesday Survey the land was held by Geoffrey de la Guerche and Askell, one of the king's sergeants, and contained 30 acres of meadow and extensive arable land (Williams and Martin 1992, 643, 648).

The church of St Michael and All Angels dates largely from the 13<sup>th</sup> century with alterations of 14<sup>th</sup> century date (Pevsner 1992, 148). Adjacent to the church, towards the north is Eastwell Hall of mid 17<sup>th</sup> century date (*ibid.*).

## 3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

#### **4. METHODS**

The footprint of the new building and a drain were excavated by machine to depths required by the development. Following excavation, the sides of the trenches were then cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were excavated further to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their function. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 2. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:1. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Following excavation the records were checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

#### **5. RESULTS**

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

The earliest deposit encountered was revealed in the drain trench and comprised a natural layer of brownish yellow clay (003). This measured in excess of 0.1m thick.

This was overlain by subsoil that consisted of a 0.35m thick layer of reddish brown silty clay (002). Overlying this was the current topsoil of greyish brown sandy silt (001). This measured 0.15m thick and was the only deposit encountered within the buildings footprint.

#### **6. DISCUSSION**

Natural deposits of clay relate to the underlying drift geology of glacial till. Above this was a subsoil, perhaps formed through the interment of burials around the church.

No archaeological deposits were revealed during the investigation and only a number of modern artefacts were recorded, though none were retained.

#### **7. CONCLUSION**

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at St Michael and All Angels' church as groundworks may reveal archaeological deposits relating to the medieval church.

However, only natural, subsoil and topsoil deposits were encountered with no archaeological features recorded. Modern finds were observed but not retained.

#### **8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Sue Watford of Eastwell Parochial Church Council for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Steve Malone who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Elizabeth Bates kindly allowed access to the library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

#### **9. PERSONNEL**

Project Coordinator: Steve Malone  
Site Supervisor: Liz Murray  
Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth  
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner  
Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner



## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ekwall, E, 1989 *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-names* (4<sup>th</sup> edition)

GSGB, 1976, *Melton Mowbray, Drift geology*, 1:50 000 map sheet **142**

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales **13**

Pevsner, N, 1992, *Leicestershire, The Buildings of England* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, revised E Williamson)

Williams, A and Martin, GH, 1992 *Domesday Book. A Complete Translation*

## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain



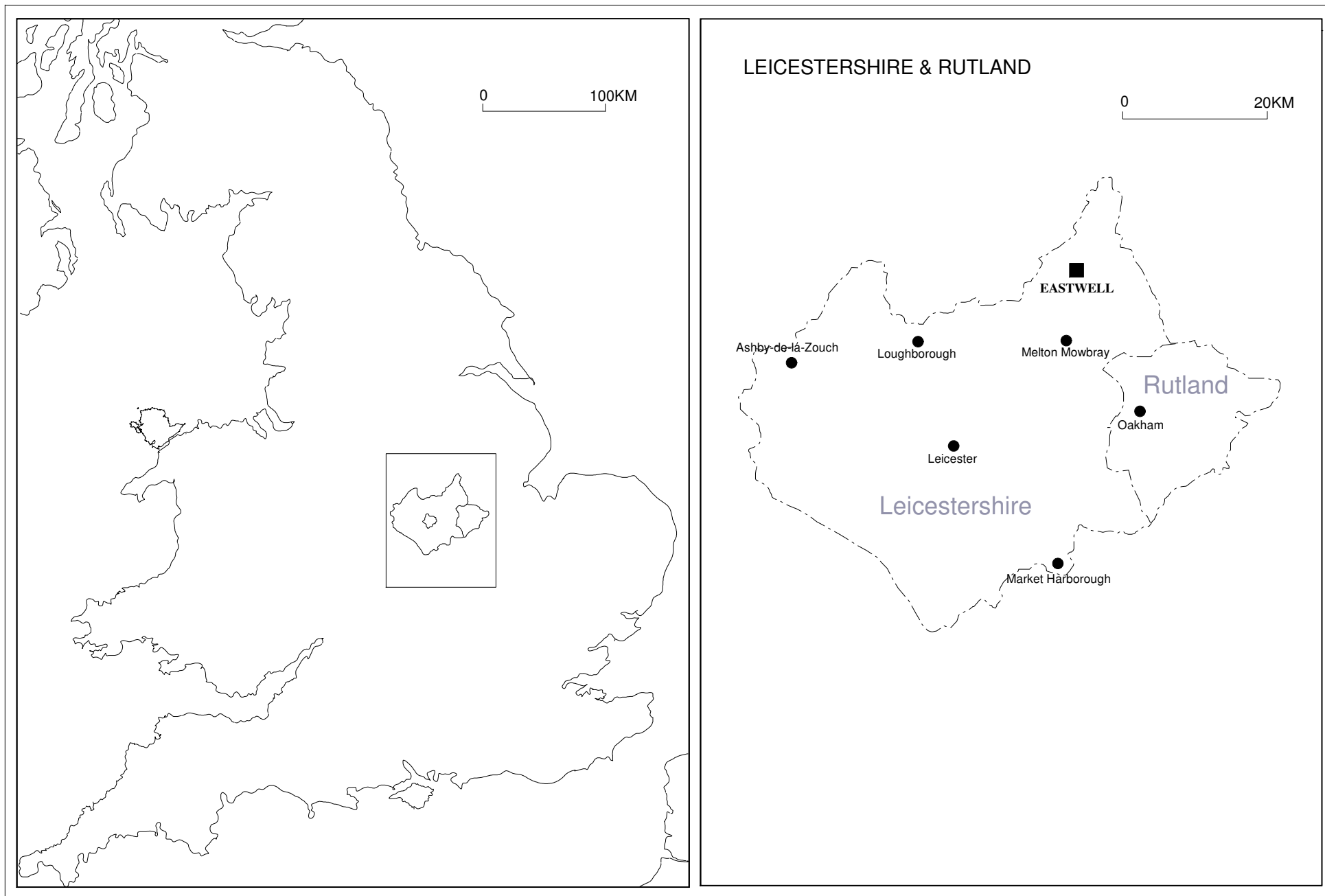
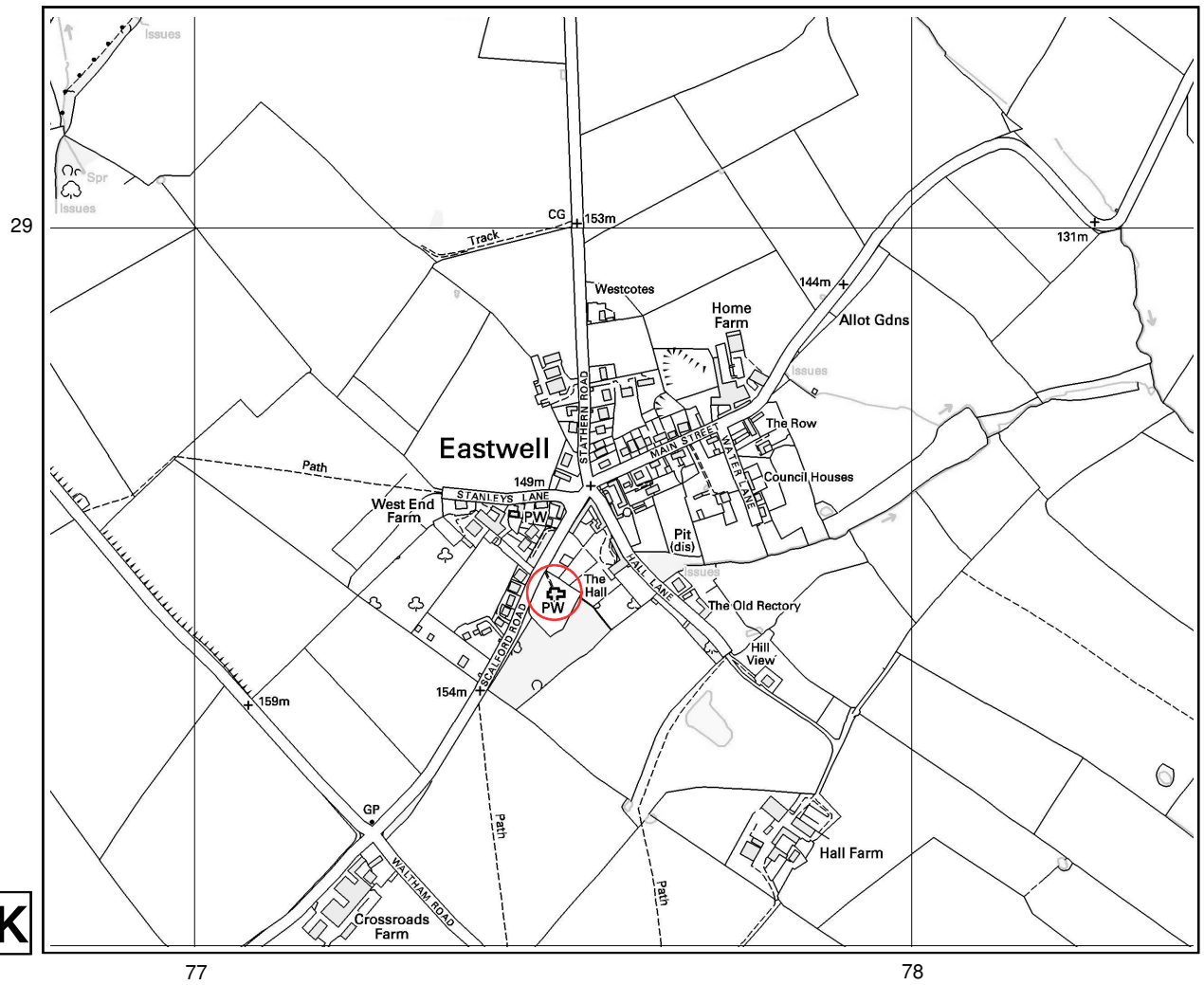



Figure 1 - General location map





 St Michael and All Angels' church



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	Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: St Michael and All Angels, Eastwell			
Scale 1:10000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 68/13	

Figure 2 - Site location plan



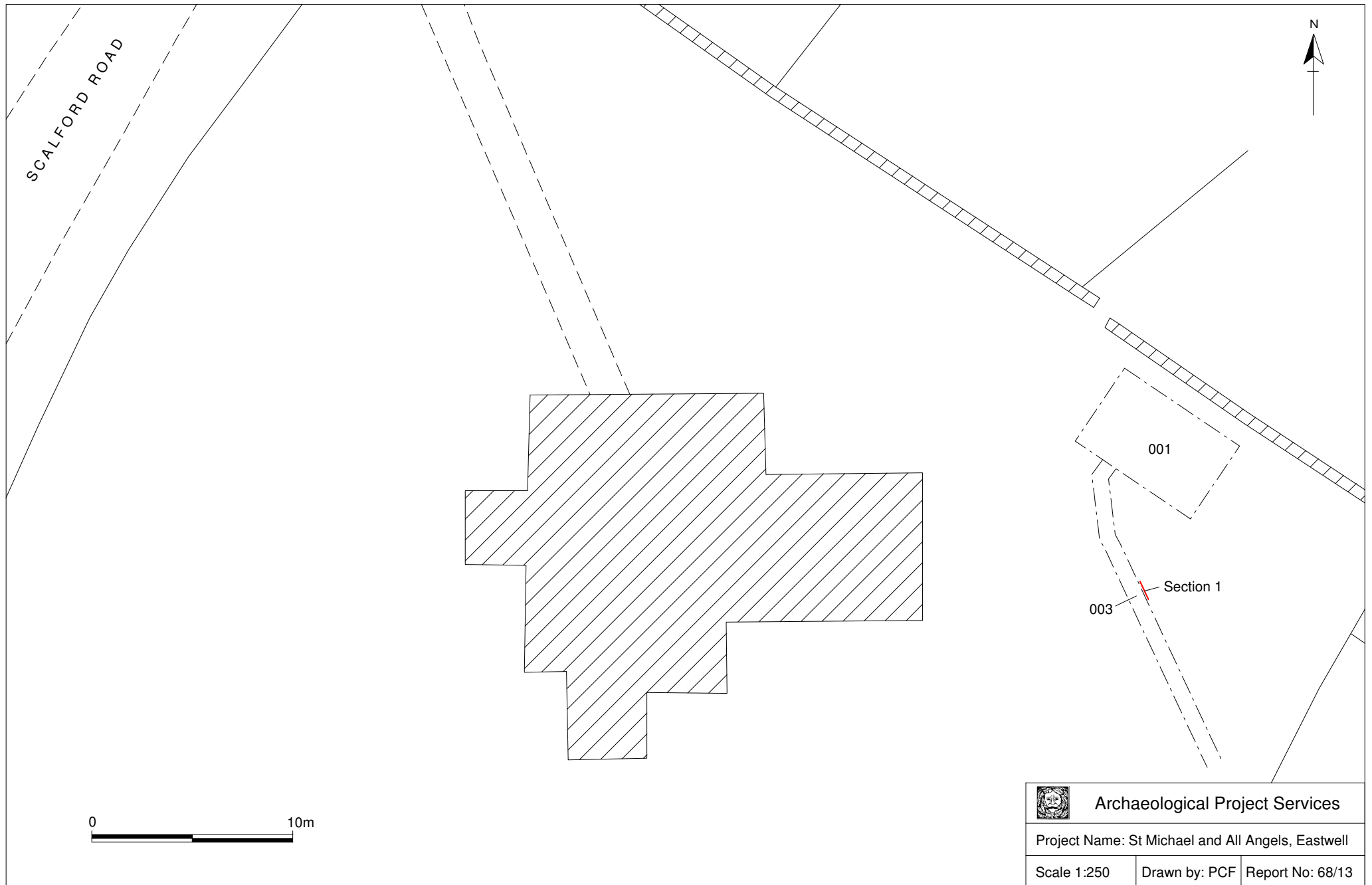


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing location of drawn section





NW SE



Section 1



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: St Michael and All Angels, Eastwell

Scale 1:20 Drawn by: PCF Report No: 68/13

Figure 4 - Section 1





Plate 1 – View of the stripped area upon completion, looking southeast



Plate 2 – View of the excavated drainage trench, looking southeast



Plate 3 – Section 1, looking northeast



## **Appendix 1**

### **LAND AT ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, EASTWELL, LEICESTERSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

#### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during construction of a toilet and store at St Michael and All Angels Church, Eastwell, Leicestershire.*
- 1.2 *Eastwell is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 and St Michael and All Angels church is of 13<sup>th</sup> century origin.*
- 1.3 *The archaeological work will consist of a watching brief during development works on the site.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the watching brief. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

#### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for archaeological watching brief during construction of a toilet and store at St Michael and All Angels Church, Eastwell, Leicestershire.
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts:
  - 2.2.1 Overview.
  - 2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.
  - 2.2.3 List of specialists.
  - 2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

#### **3 SITE LOCATION**

- 3.1 Eastwell is located approximately 10km north of Melton Mowbray in the Melton district of Leicestershire. St Michael and All Angels lies on the southern edge of the village, on the southeast side of Scalford Road, at National Grid Reference SK 775 285.

#### **4 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 A planning application (12/00496/FUL) was submitted to Melton Borough Council for the construction of a toilet and store at St Michael and All Angels. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the undertaking of a watching brief during groundworks associated with the development.

#### **5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 5.1 The church lies at about 160m OD in the Leicestershire Wolds above the headwaters of the River Devon. Soils at the site are mapped as brashy fine and coarse loamy ferruginous soils of the Banbury Association developed on Jurassic ironstone (Hodge *et al.* 1983, 103).

#### **6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW**

- 6.1 Eastwell is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086, indicating that the settlement was in existence in the late Saxon period, at which point it was quite a prosperous village. St Michael and All Angels church dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> century (Pevsner 1992).

#### **7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 7.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:
- 7.1.1 To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavations for the foundation and drainage and other areas of ground disturbance.
- 7.1.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
- Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
  - Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
  - As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
  - Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

## 8 SITE OPERATIONS

### 8.1 General considerations

- 8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
- 8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIfA). Archaeological Project Services is IfA Registered Organisation No. 21.
- 8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

### 8.2 Methodology

- 8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
- 8.2.2 Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
- 8.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
- the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within excavated areas.
  - groups of features where their relationship is important
- 8.2.5 Should human remains be located they will be left in situ if possible. Disturbed remains will be passed to the incumbent for reburial.

## 9 POST-EXCAVATION

## 9.1 Stage 1

9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.

9.1.2 All finds recovered during the fieldwork will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

## 9.2 Stage 2

9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.

9.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

## 9.3 Stage 3

9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.

9.3.2 This will consist of:

- A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
- A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
- Description of the topography of the site.
- Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
- A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
- A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
- Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
- Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
- Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

## **10 REPORT DEPOSITION**

10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the Client; Melton Borough Council Planning Department; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

## **11 ARCHIVE**

11.1 The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered

into the format acceptable to Leicestershire Museums Service. This sorting will be undertaken according to the document titled *The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service* for long-term storage and curation.

## **12 PUBLICATION**

- 12.1 Details of the investigation will be input to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS).
- 12.2 A report on the results of the investigation will be submitted for inclusion in the journal *Transactions of the Leicestershire Historical and Archaeological Society*.
- 12.3 If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date; and *Church Archaeology*.

## **13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

- 13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with Melton Borough Council and the DAC archaeological advisor. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project.

## **14 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES**

- 14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 14.2 In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the archaeological curator.
- 14.3 Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.
- 14.4 Any contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or post-excavation analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the archaeological curator and the client.

## **15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS**

- 15.1 The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work.
- 15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- 15.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one person-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half person-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about four days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

## **16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT**

- 16.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any



particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric – D Trimble, APS with D Knight Trent & Peak Archaeology Roman – A. Beeby, APS Post-Roman – A. Beeby APS/Dr A Irving, independent specialist
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist, or G Taylor, APS
Animal Bones	M Holmes, independent specialist
Environmental Analysis	V Fryer, Independent Specialist

## **17 INSURANCES**

17.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

## **18 COPYRIGHT**

18.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.

18.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.

18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

## **19 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13

IfA 1994 *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Pevsner, N., 1992 *Leicestershire and Rutland*, The Buildings of England (2<sup>nd</sup> ed)



## Appendix 2

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

<b>No.</b>	<b>Descriptions</b>	<b>Interpretations</b>
001	Loose dark greyish brown sandy silt, 0.15m thick	Topsoil
002	Friable mid reddish brown silty clay, 0.35m thick	Subsoil
003	Plastic light brownish yellow clay, >0.1m thick	Natural deposit



## Appendix 3

### GLOSSARY

<b>Context</b>	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
<b>Layer</b>	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
<b>Medieval</b>	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
<b>Natural</b>	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
<b>Till</b>	A deposit formed after the retreat of a glacier. Also known as boulder clay, this material is generally unsorted and can comprise of rock flour to boulders to rocks of quite substantial size.



## Appendix 4

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

3	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Sheet of scale drawings
1	Daily Record Sheet

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services  
The Old School  
Cameron Street  
Heckington  
Sleaford  
Lincolnshire  
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services  
Room 500  
County Hall  
Leicester Road  
Glenfield  
Leicester  
LE3 8TE

Accession Number: X.A57.2013

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: ESMA 13

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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