

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT**  
**ON**  
**LAND NORTH OF THE EARL SHILTON BYPASS,**  
**LEICESTERSHIRE**

**SP 460 967**

*On behalf of*

*JPPC*

**MAY 2010**

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Origins of the report**

This archaeological desk-based assessment was commissioned by JPPC. It has been prepared at the request of the landowner with the aim of submitting an application for outline permission for the development of the proposed site.

The proposed project comprises of the development of land north of the Earl Shilton bypass for residential purposes. This Desk-Based Assessment is intended to outline the historical and cartographic background and draw that together with the results of previous archaeological work in the area of the proposed development in order to establish its archaeological impact.

### **1.2 Planning Guidelines and Policies**

This report has been prepared in accordance with *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS 5 2010) and the Blaby District Local Plan. The site lies within an area of known archaeological significance as highlighted by the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record and therefore requires an archaeological response. In format and contents this report conforms to the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' guidance paper for desk-based assessments (IFA 2008).

#### **1.2.1 Government Planning Policy Guidance**

This report has been prepared in accordance with *Planning Policy Statement 5. Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5 2010) provides guidance related to archaeology within the planning process. The following Policy points are key to this development:

HE4.1 Local planning authorities should consider whether the exercise of permitted development rights would undermine the aims for the historic environment. If it would, local planning authorities should consider the use of an article 4 direction to ensure any development is given due consideration

HE6.1 Local planning authorities should require an applicant to provide a description of the significance of the heritage assets affected and the contribution of their setting to that significance. The level of detail should be proportionate to the importance of the heritage asset and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on the significance of the heritage asset. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets themselves should have been assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary given the application's impact. Where an application site includes, or is considered to have the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where desk-based research is insufficient to properly assess the interest, a field evaluation.

HE6.2 This information together with an assessment of the impact of the proposal should be set out in the application (within the design and access statement when this is required) as part of the explanation of the design concept. It should detail the sources that have been considered and the expertise that has been consulted.

HE6.3 Local planning authorities should not validate applications where the extent of the impact of the proposal on the significance of any heritage assets affected cannot adequately be understood from the application and supporting documents.

In format and contents this report conforms to the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' guidance paper for desk-based assessments (IFA 2008).

### **1.2.2 Local Government Planning Policy Guidance**

The Blaby District Local Plan states;

"Archaeological remains are an important historic resource which can contain irreplaceable information about our past and the potential for an increase in future knowledge. There are numerous sites of archaeological interest in Blaby District, which form part of the area's heritage." (9.4)

"Where nationally important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or not, and their settings are affected by proposed development, there will be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation. The policy approach is therefore to preserve all-important archaeological sites, and to seek to protect, wherever possible, other archaeological sites. In cases where preservation in situ is not warranted, the Borough Council will ensure that adequate arrangements are made for investigation and recording." (4.8.2)

Policy CE2 defines the appropriate steps required to incorporate archaeology into the planning process.

"Where there is no over-riding case for the preservation of an archaeological site and planning permission is granted for its development, that development will be conditional upon the developer making satisfactory provision for the recording of remains. Such excavation and recording will be carried out before development commences, and/or during development, in accordance with a project brief prepared by the district council, in consultation with the Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service. Provision shall be made, where appropriate, for the sealing and preservation of archaeologically significant layers prior to construction."

### **1.3 Desk-Based Assessment Aims and Objectives**

The primary aim of the desk-based assessment is to provide a professional appraisal of the archaeological potential of the site. This follows Government guidance in PPS5 by presenting a synthetic account of the available archaeological and historic data and its significance at an early stage in the planning process. The report will provide the evidence necessary for informed and reasonable planning decisions concerning the need for further archaeological work. The information will allow for the development of an appropriate strategy to mitigate the effects of development on the archaeology, if this is warranted.

In accordance with PPS5, the report presents a desk-based evaluation of existing information. It additionally follows the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Standard* definition of a desk-based assessment (IFA 2008). In brief, it seeks to identify and assess the known and potential archaeological resource within a specified area ('the site'), collating existing written and graphic information and taking full account of the likely character, extent, quantity and worth of that resource in a local,

regional and national context. It also aims to define and comment on the likely impact of the proposed development scheme on the surviving archaeological resource.

The IFA *Standard* states that the purpose of a desk-based assessment is to inform appropriate responses, which may consist of one or more of the following:

- The formulation of a strategy for further investigation, whether or not intrusive, where the character and value of the resource is not sufficiently defined to permit a mitigation strategy or other response to be devised.
- The formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource
- The formulation of a project design for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research

In accordance with PPG16, the desk-based assessment forms the first stage in the planning process as regards archaeology as a material consideration. It is intended to contribute to the formulation of an informed and appropriate mitigation strategy.

#### **1.4 Desk-Based Assessment Methodology**

The format and contents of this section of the report are an adaptation of the standards outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' guidance paper for desk-based assessments (IFA 2008).

The work has involved the consultation of the available documentary evidence, including records of previous discoveries and historic maps, and has been supplemented with a synthesis of previous fieldwork in the area. The format of the report is adapted from an Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standard Guidance* paper (IFA 2008).

In summary, the work has involved:

- Identifying the client's objectives
- Identifying the cartographic and documentary sources available for consultation
- Assembling, consulting and examining those sources
- Identifying and collating the results of recent fieldwork

The principal sources consulted in assessing this site were:

- The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record
- The Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland
- Promap

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environmental Record holds details of all known archaeological and historic sites and findspots in the vicinity of the proposed development. The Record office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland holds copies of early tithe and enclosure maps for the area. Promap was used to obtain current Ordnance Survey map data.

The assessment of the likely condition of any potential archaeological remains has relied upon a study of the available historic maps and archaeological reports, which provide evidence for the impact of previous land-use on the site. The archaeological gazetteer is limited to the archaeology within 1km of the proposal site.

## **2 THE SITE**

### **2.1 Location (Figure 1)**

The site is located to the south of the village of Earl Shilton in Blaby District, in the southwest of Leicestershire. The proposed development site occupies an approximately triangular area between Elmesthorpe Lane to the west and Station Road at the apex to the east, with the A47 Earl Shilton bypass forming the southern boundary to the site.

### **2.2 Description**

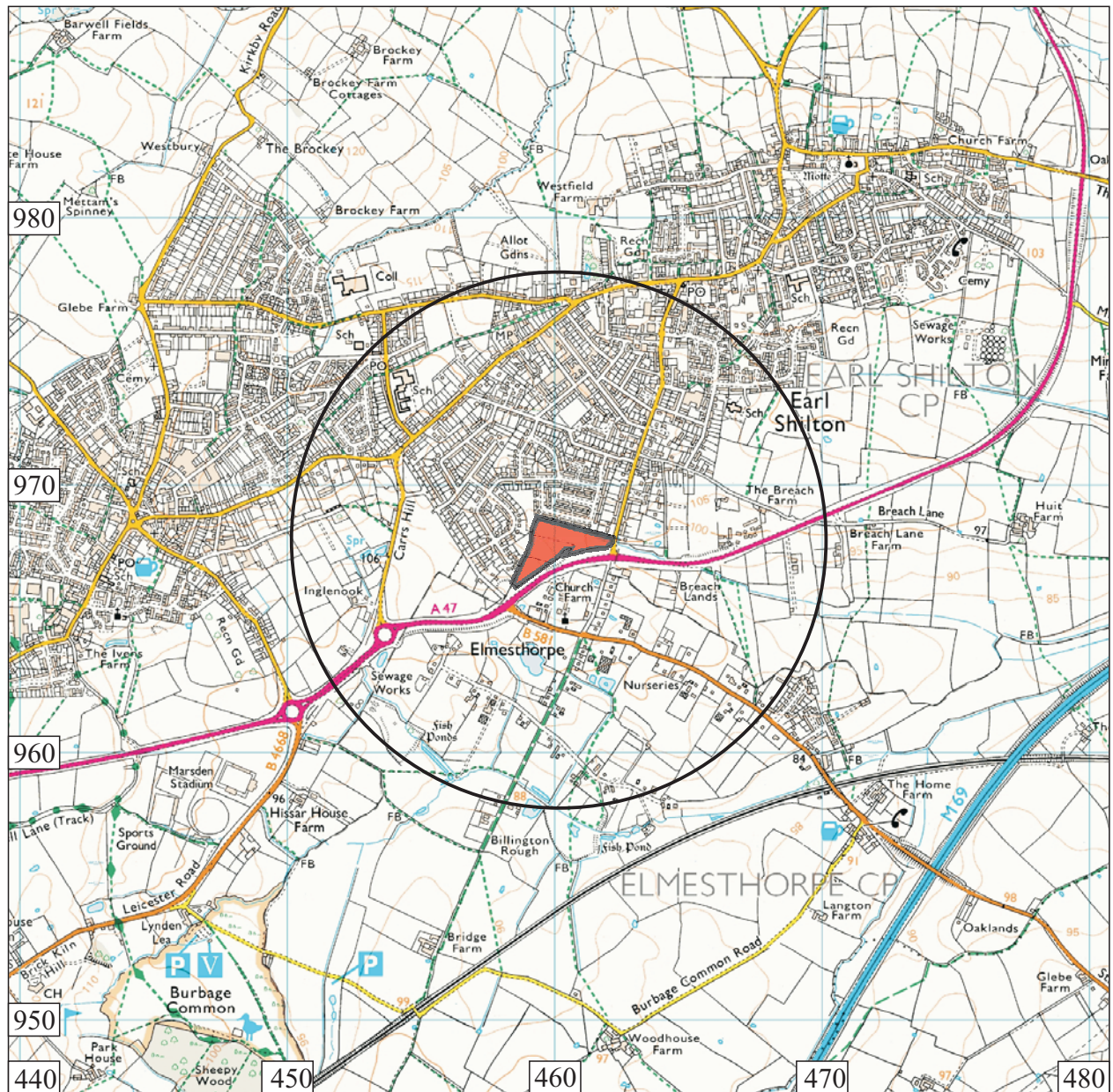
The site lies within a landscape of known archaeological significance. The medieval and post-medieval village of Earl Shilton is located to the north and the remnants of post-medieval Elmesthorpe Hall and medieval Elmesthorpe village to the south. The proposal site is in the form of an irregular triangle, defined by residential development in the northeast and northwest and the A47 Earl Shilton bypass in the south. The land is currently unoccupied.

### **2.3 Topography**

The site is located within a gently undulating landscape at approximately 100m OD. The land slopes away from the site to the east and southwest to approximately 80m OD. Made watercourses, dams and fishponds supplement areas of natural drainage to the south and southwest.

### **2.4 Geology**

The 1:50000 scale geological maps of the area (Sheet 155: Coalville and Sheet 169: Coventry) that have been produced by the British Geological Survey and section 13 of the A47 Earl Shilton Bypass Environmental Statement (Vol. 1) show that the geology of the area is mostly comprised of drift materials overlying Mercia mudstone of the Triassic Age. The drift materials include alluvium of recent age and Glacial Till, Glacial Sand and Gravels and Glacial Lake Clay of Pleistocene age. During testing undertaken for the A47 Earl Shilton bypass it was found that directly to the east of the site Glacial Lake Clay, consisting of soft clay with occasional gravel, was not as extensive as shown on the geological maps. The higher ground east of Elmesthorpe Lane (west of the proposed development zone) had a greater depth of Glacial Deposits, with a thickness of up to 16 metres.



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Figure 1. Site location



### **3 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

The current desk-based assessment has been prepared as supporting documentation for the assessment of any future development of land north of the Earl Shilton by-pass for residential purposes. No further details are available at this time.

### **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

#### **4.1 The Historical Development of Earl Shilton and Elmeſthorpe**

The Victoria County History has not yet been prepared. Consequently, it has not been a source for the desk-based assessment.

Evidence of prehistoric occupation in Leicestershire and Rutland is quite rare, however research by Graf (2002) suggests at least sparse and intermittent occupation for over half a million years (Graf 2002: 35). Graf suggests the likelihood of a greater density of population in the Hinckley-Nuneaton area, evidenced by concentrations of quartzite surface scatters (Graf 2002: 35). Graf concludes that the discovery of flint tools suggests at least intermittent post-Anglian occupation, with probable abandonment around 160,000 BC, until reoccupation in the Devensian period after 60,000 BC (Graf 2002: 1).

Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age activity in the area is difficult to quantify. The Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Ages are represented in Leicestershire and neighbouring Rutland by lithic scatters, cropmarks varying widely in form, occasional metal finds and pottery (Clay 2001: 3). In the vicinity of Earl Shilton and Elmeſthorpe archaeological discoveries suggest a focus of activity to the southeast of the study area. ULAS excavated a pit alignment and barrows during 2007 (focused on SP 483 978). Prehistoric monumental landscapes tend to be dispersed, often extending over large areas and including features from multiple phases.

Evidence of the later Bronze Age/Early Iron Age periods in Leicestershire is similarly difficult to quantify. The identification of settlement of this period is often reliant on diagnostic ceramic material that has poor survival qualities within surface scatters (Jackson and Denham forthcoming in Clay 2001: 2) and there is some ambiguity in the dating of cropmark enclosures (Clay 2001: 2). There is more reliable evidence for Later Iron Age settlement and land-use, indicating a gradual movement of settlement into lower floodplain areas of the county (Clay 2001: 3). This period sees a wider variety of settlement types represented, from farmsteads to hillforts (Clay 2001: 3).

During the Iron Age Leicestershire was inhabited by the Corieltavi (formerly called the Coritani). Todd refers to agricultural settlement in the region encompassing Earl Shilton and Elmeſthorpe as being 'scattered' during the Iron Age (Todd 1973: 75). However, as Clay (2001) has demonstrated, evidence for much more intensive Iron Age settlement on the Boulder Clay substrata of Leicestershire (previously believed to be barren of settlement) has increased since 1990 and the advent of PPG16. However, soils in western Leicestershire do tend to vary and therefore the viability of the land for agricultural use fluctuates. Approximately sixty percent of Leicestershire and

Rutland has clay substrata (Clay 2001: 1). In the area around Hinkley (approximately eight kilometres to the west of the study area) mudstones, marls and sandstones produce soils of a highly mixed quality, although some of this is arable (Lewis, C. et al: 2001:41). Chapman (2004) suggests that in addition to subsistence agriculture, it is likely that there was an emphasis on pastoral farming including the horse on sites of the middle Iron Age, based on a consistent lack of cereal remains (Chapman 2004: 78).

The Roman invasion in AD43 appeared to have little impact on the Corieltavi, and it has been hypothesised that they welcomed the Romans as a source of protection from their aggressive neighbours, the Briganti to the north, and the Catuvellauni to the south. There is evidence of continuity of settlement in Leicestershire and Rutland and many dated Roman sites have some evidence of late Iron Age origins (Clay 2001: 2-3). By AD47 the territory of the Corieltavi was garrisoned by a network of forts positioned along the alignments of the Ermine Street and the Fosse Way (Todd 1973: 21).

Anglo-Saxon settlers moved into Britain with the departure of the Romans in the 5<sup>th</sup> century. The study area lies within the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Mercia and was inhabited by a cultural group known as the Middles Angles. Towards the end of the eighth century Viking incursions into Britain were becoming more common. It was not until the mid ninth century that a Danish army moved up the River Trent, attacked Nottingham and moved into north Leicestershire. The Danish presence in the area can still be seen in local place names including Elmesthorpe, a derivation of *Æpelmær's thorp* (Ekwall 1960: 164), *thorp* indicating a farmstead in Old Norse.

The first reference to Earl Shilton occurs in Domesday of 1086 where it is referred to as *Sceltone*. This refers to the village's position on a hill, literally meaning 'farmstead or settlement on a shelf' (Mills 2003). The area is listed as belonging to Hugh de Grandmesnil, a knight who accompanied William the Conqueror during the Norman invasion. Domesday tells us that;

"The same man [Hugh de Grandmesnil] holds 5 carucates of land in Earl Shilton [*Sceltone*]. In demesne are 3 ploughs with 1 slave; and 10 villans with a priest and 4 sokemen and 5 bordars have 3 ploughs. There are 12 acres of meadow, and a mill rendering 16d. [and] woodland 8 furlongs long and 3 broad. It was worth 5s; now 70s." (Williams and Martin (eds.) 2003: 633)

Elmesthorpe is not listed under the name it now holds, it has been suggested that it is the settlement described under *Chircheby* (Kirkby Mallory) as consisting of two and half ploughlands, also held by Hugh de Grandmesnil (Nichols 1811: 603).

"The same man [Hugh de Grandmesnil] holds 2 ½ carucates of land in Kirkby Mallory [*Chercheby*]. There is land for 1 plough. There are 2 villans and 2 sokemen have 1½ ploughs. It was worth 12d; now 10s." (Williams and Martin (eds.) 2003: 633)

The later Curia Regis Rolls of 1207 refer to *Ailmerestorp*, and the Valuation of Norwich of 1254 to *Ailmerstorp* 1254 (Ekwall 1960: 164). According to Nichols the

etymological origins of Elvesthorpe are uncertain but he suggests that the current name is derived from the many old elm trees growing in the area (Nichols 1811: 603).

During the medieval period many villages in rural Leicestershire were abandoned or suffered extreme depopulation. In Elvesthorpe it is documented that no houses remained by 1622 but the “chief house, and antient church” (Burton in Nichols 1811: 604). Nichols says that when Richard III stopped in Elvesthorpe on the 17<sup>th</sup> August, 1485, no accommodation could be found and the officers had to sleep in the church. Within the deserted village site the only standing remains in 1792 were those of the Elvesthorpe Church, as depicted by J. Pridden on July 8<sup>th</sup> (Pl. 16 in Hoskins 1957: 29). The cause of this depopulation is widely debated. It has been hypothesised that the plague may have caused many of the smaller villagers to disappear. In 1611 and 1612 forty-one people died of the plague in Shilton, with 23 and 22 in the preceding two years (Nichols 1811: 778).

In 1619 the lordship of Elvesthorpe was sold to Sir William Cockayne, sheriff of London from 1609. It is likely that he carried out extensive works on the grounds of Elvesthorpe Hall (Jarvis 2009: 18). In 1676 an act was passed enabling the current owner, Bryan Viscount Cullen, to sell lands in Elvesthorpe. In 1710 another was passed allowing Charles Lord Cullen to sell off the manor, advowson of the church of Elvesthorpe and associated lands to trustees, in order to pay of his substantial debts (Nichols 1811: 604).

The Enclosure Act of 1778 meant that many of the common areas surrounding the study area were enclosed. This included *Shilton Heath*, *The Hall Fields* (‘Near Hall Field’, ‘Middle Hall Field’ and ‘Far Hall Field’ (Figure 7)) and *The Breach Meadow* (Most likely ‘Breach Field’ in Mills 1958 map). Elvesthorpe manor appears to have been enclosed at an earlier date and then later subdivided for farming (Nichols 1811: 605).

At some point in the eighteenth century the ruins of the old hall were demolished, and a farmhouse built in its place. According to Nichols in 1800 Earl Shilton contained 248 inhabited houses with a total population of 1287 (Nichols 1811: 778). A windmill was also erected for the grinding of grain.

In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries Earl Shilton was known for its boot, knitwear and hosiery industries, and numerous workhouses and factories were located within the village.

## **4.2 Known Archaeological Sites**

Earl Shilton and the nearby village of Elvesthorpe evidence a diverse range of archaeological remains. Previous evaluations and discoveries in the area indicate activity throughout multiple periods. The archaeological record contains sites from the prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and Post-Medieval periods. These known archaeological remains are listed on the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record.

There are thirty areas of archaeological interest in the study area (within 1 kilometre of SP 460 567).



#### **4.2.1 The Prehistoric Period (Figure 2)**

A perforated Mesolithic/late Neolithic mace head was found in the yard of 105-7 Wood Street in 1950 (JMHS 2).

An evaluation by Gifford south of Breach Lane recovered a number of worked flints dating from the Neolithic to Early Bronze Age in 2004 (JMHS 4).

Trial trenching by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) in 2007 recovered two worked flints, one of which may be a scraper dating from the Early Neolithic to Early Bronze Age (JMHS 5). Construction of the A47 Earl Shilton bypass has removed this find site.

Digging in the Heath Lane Sand Pit in 1938 uncovered the remains of an Early Bronze Age collared urn containing burnt human bone, (measuring 27.7cm high with a 18.5cm mouth diameter, 22cm girth and 9.1cm foot), standing upright within a straight sided pit and dark fill deposit (JMHS 3).

Aerial photographs taken north east of Heathfield High School revealed the cropmark of a likely Early Bronze Age ring ditch, presumably the ploughed out remains of a barrow, showing as a parch mark on a playing field (JMHS 1).

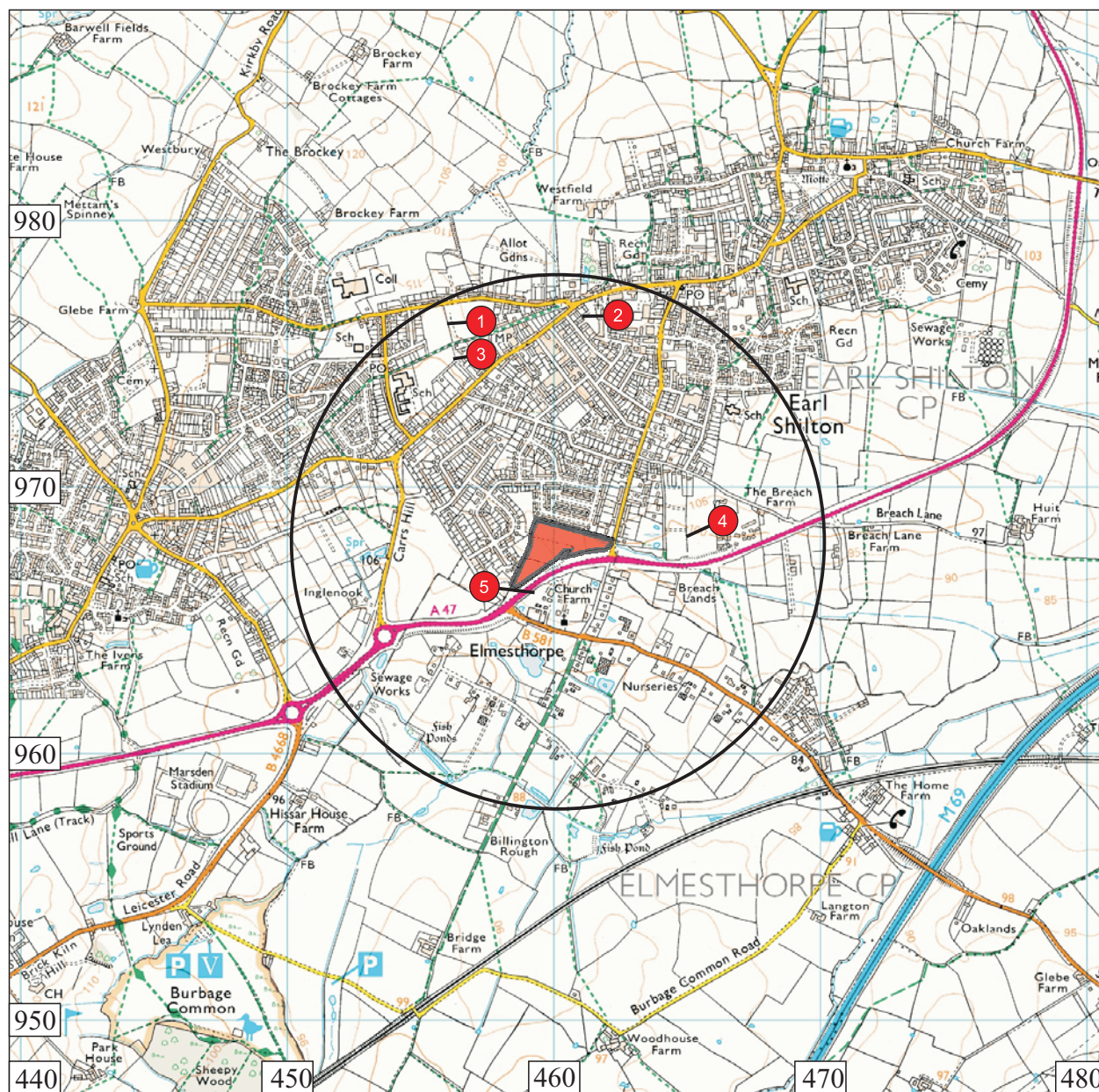
#### **4.2.2 The Roman and Anglo-Saxon Periods (Figure 3)**

Excavations north-northeast of Heathfield High School revealed the remains of a Roman pottery kiln considered to have been used in the production of 2<sup>nd</sup> century greyware (JMHS 6). Finds associated with the kiln included kiln furniture, tile and a pottery sherd dating from 43 AD to 409 AD. Clark hypothesised that the kiln was not in use for a long period of time due to the lack of wasters and the subsequent levelling of the site (Clark 1952: 43-7).

An evaluation of Breach Lane in 2004 recovered four sherds of abraded Roman pottery (JMHS 7).

Trial trenching in 2007 by ULAS north of Church Farm recovered shallow north-south aligned ditch, over 4 metres long and 1 metre wide (JMHS 9). This ditch contained two fills. The upper fill contained pottery, animal bone and ceramic building materials. Pottery included oxidised and Black Burnished wares of 2nd century AD date (or slightly later). A sherd of 12th-13th century Coventry D ware was also recovered. It was noted that disturbance in the area was possible, due to the presence of medieval pottery within the feature and in the surrounding area (Jarvis 2009).

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century a resident of Station Road claimed to have uncovered mosaic flooring in his garden and then covered it up again (JMHS 10). The provenance for this information and the exact location of the alleged mosaic is unknown.



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	Site
1-5	Prehistoric

Figure 2.Prehistoric

The only Anglo-Saxon remains in the study area were recovered during archaeological work carried out by ULAS in 2007/8, west of Church Farm (Jarvis 2009). These investigations recovered a gully aligned north south, measuring over 1.8 metres in length, 0.6 metres wide and 0.27 metres in depth (JMHS 8). The grey sandy leached fill produced a single sherd of probable hand-made Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon period pottery. The ditch was located under the line of the present A47 Earl Shilton bypass.

#### **4.2.3 The Medieval Period (Figure 4)**

The medieval core of the village of Earl Shilton (JMHS 11) contains six listed buildings (1918/40/11/58; 1918/40/11/49; 1918/40/11/47; 1918/40/11/51; 1918/40/11/42) and a Scheduled Ancient Monument, the Earl Shilton motte and bailey castle (SAM 17035). The castle was founded in the 11<sup>th</sup> century and destroyed in the 12<sup>th</sup>. It survives as a mutilated earthwork with the circular motte measuring 50m in diameter, 3m high on the south side and 1.5m high on the north side. The remains of the ditch and bailey can be seen on the south side. Only the southwestern extent of the medieval village extends into the study area.

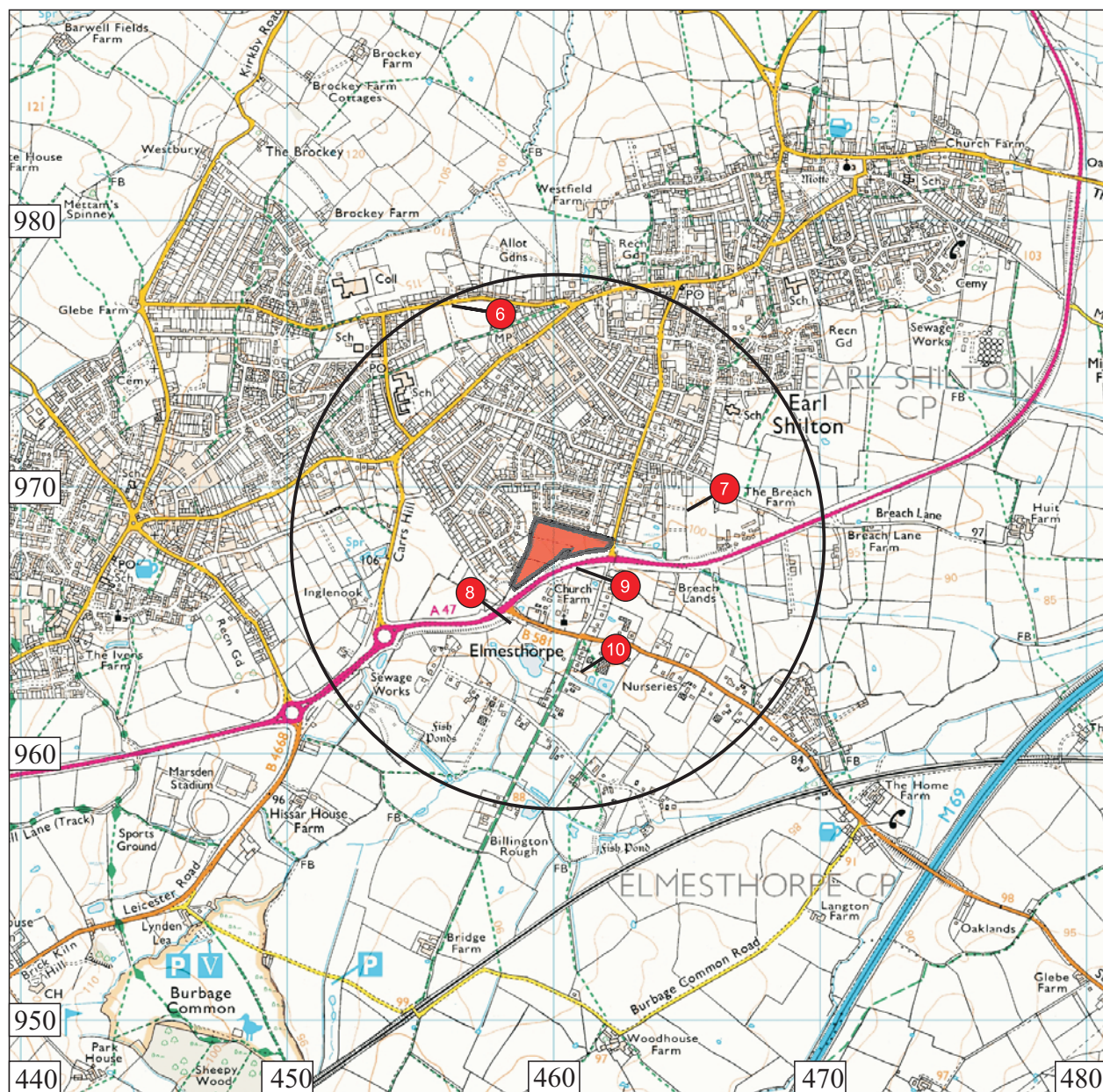
A geophysical survey undertaken by GSB Prospection Ltd in 2002 south of Breach Lane revealed agricultural marks. In 2004 an evaluation of the site by Gifford recorded further evidence of medieval land use including ridge and furrow earthworks and former field boundaries (JMHS 12).

A site northeast of Church Farm consists of a large fishpond with one small island and the traces of two others (JMHS 13). The pond is typical of shallow medieval stock holding fishpond constructed on gently sloping ground. Earthworks on three sides were constructed to contain the water. The eastern end of the pond has been removed/obscured by the construction of Wilkinson Road. A small island, possibly associated with fishing or waterfowl, is situated at the western end. In 2007 ULAS machine-excavated parts of the earthwork's embankments to ascertain their construction and found that it was made up of successive layers of earth. The earthworks in these types of pond are often constructed using material quarried from the interior. Much of the dam was destroyed by the construction of the Earl Shilton bypass.

A late medieval mirror case was found west of Inglenook (JMHS 14).

Northwest of the present town of Elme Thorpe are the remains of a possible deserted Early Medieval/Early Post-Medieval village (JMHS 27). Nichols describes a hollow way marking the remains of a single irregular street, and refers to foundations removed during ploughing (Nichols 1811: 605). In the 1980s a site survey noted the remains of ponds and various earthworks. Trial trenching by ULAS in 2007/8 recovered numerous 13<sup>th</sup> century medieval pottery sherds and some medieval/post-medieval ceramic building material. The deserted village site includes the Church of St Mary including a ruined nave and west tower, protected as Scheduled Ancient Monuments (Leicestershire SAM 96). The Church was constructed between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century, with rebuilding of the chancel in 1868 (JMHS 15). Documentary evidence shows the church was in bad repair in 1633 and 1639. According to Nichols





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	Site
6-10	Roman & Anglo Saxon

Figure 3. Roman and Anglo Saxon

the interior of the ruined church had been used at times as a garden and cattle pen (Nichols 1811: 606).

He also refers to the discovery of human remains in the “church-yard at the end of the chancel” during the digging of a saw-pit “some years ago” (Nichols 1811: 606). The nave is currently roofless.

A survey in 1985 revealed a small rectangular pond lying to the south of Church Farm. It is believed to date to the medieval period (JMHS 16).

Documentary evidence for a medieval windmill at the site of Old House Close is first mentioned AD1296, gone by AD1783 (JMHS 17).

A 1960s survey outlined the site of the ‘Reed Pool’ showing it consisted of a medieval fishpond with two small islands in the northwest corner (JMHS 18). The site destroyed in 1985. The name ‘Reed Pool’ is recorded on the Elvesthorpe tithe map.

The site of Billington Rough consists of a large dry pond with a large dam and many islands (JMHS 19). Nichols (1811) calls it as ‘The Old Pool’ and refers to 26 islands. It was scheduled as ‘the deserted village at Billington Rough’ (SAM 91454), but was descheduled in 2005 when the site was discovered to be medieval fishponds. ULAS recorded the course of the original stream during an evaluation in 2005. The site is currently used as a fishery and has suffered damage in recent years.

#### **4.2.4 The Post-Medieval Period (Figure 5)**

An earthwork north of Church Farm records the site of a post-medieval fishpond (JMHS 20). It is likely part of a series of large ponds found to the southwest of Elvesthorpe, belonging to the 17<sup>th</sup> century Elvesthorpe Hall.

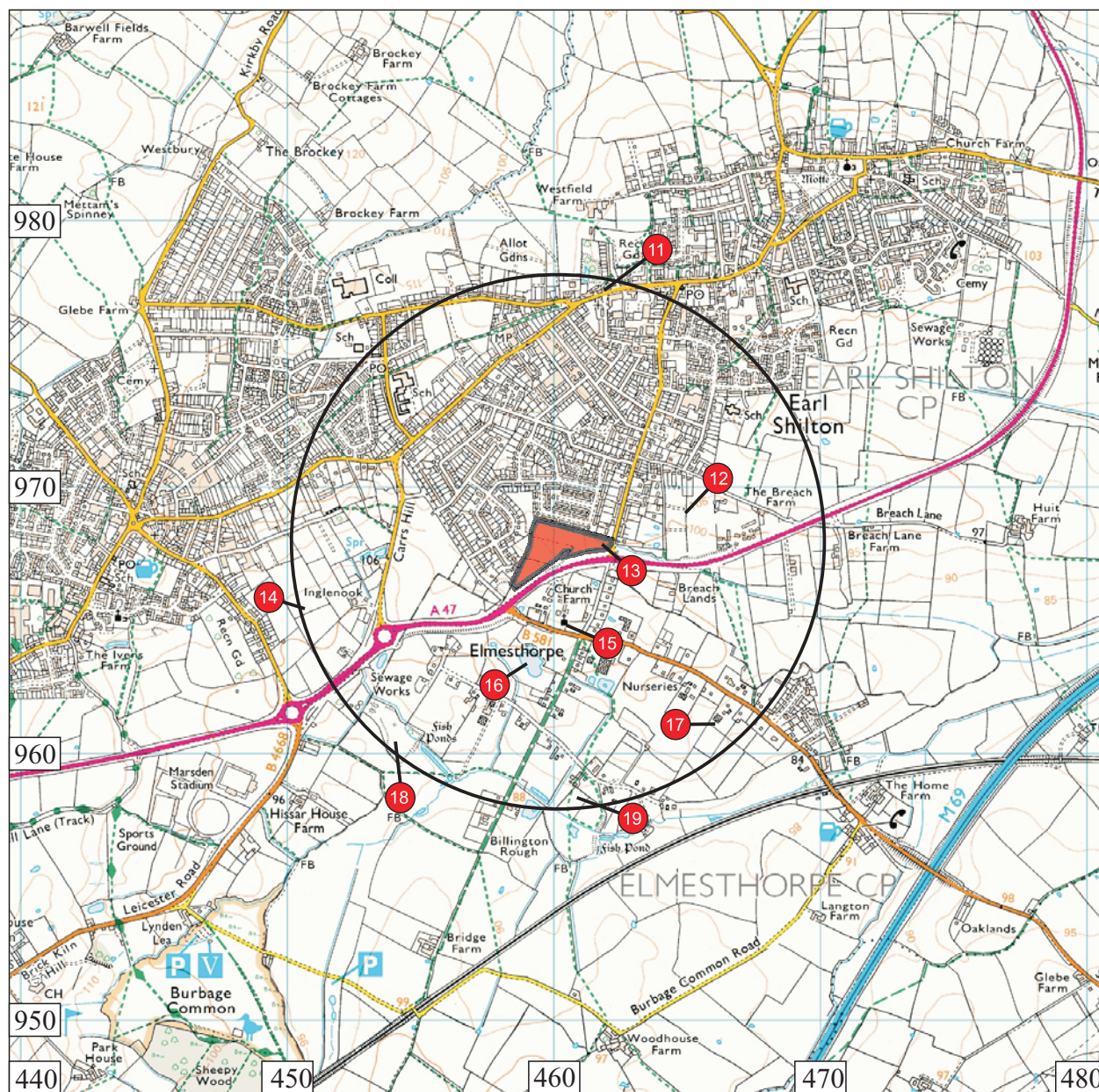
An evaluation by Gifford south of Breach Lane in 2004 recorded agricultural features including a trackway, relict hedge lines, steam plough ridge and furrow, post holes, features associated with the management of a spring and some post-medieval pottery (JMHS 21). A geophysical survey by GSB Prospection Ltd in 2002 also showed agricultural markings and relict hedge lines.

The site of Beechome house in Candle Lane (JMHS 22) was built in 1928 in the mock Tudor style for Henry Cotton, a local boot and shoe manufacturer. The house and gardens were recorded by CgMs Consulting (East Midlands) in 2007 and include ornamental gardens and streams.

Documentary evidence refers to a post-medieval windmill at Coopers Mill (JMHS 23). The site is marked on the Surveyor's Map and on the 1st edition OS map as ‘Corn Mill’.

A survey completed in the 1980s revealed a small rectangular pond located in the northeast corner of a rectangular area surrounding Church Farm (JMHS 24). It is likely part of Lord Cullen’s ‘pleasure garden’, associated with the Old Elvesthorpe Hall from the 17<sup>th</sup> century.





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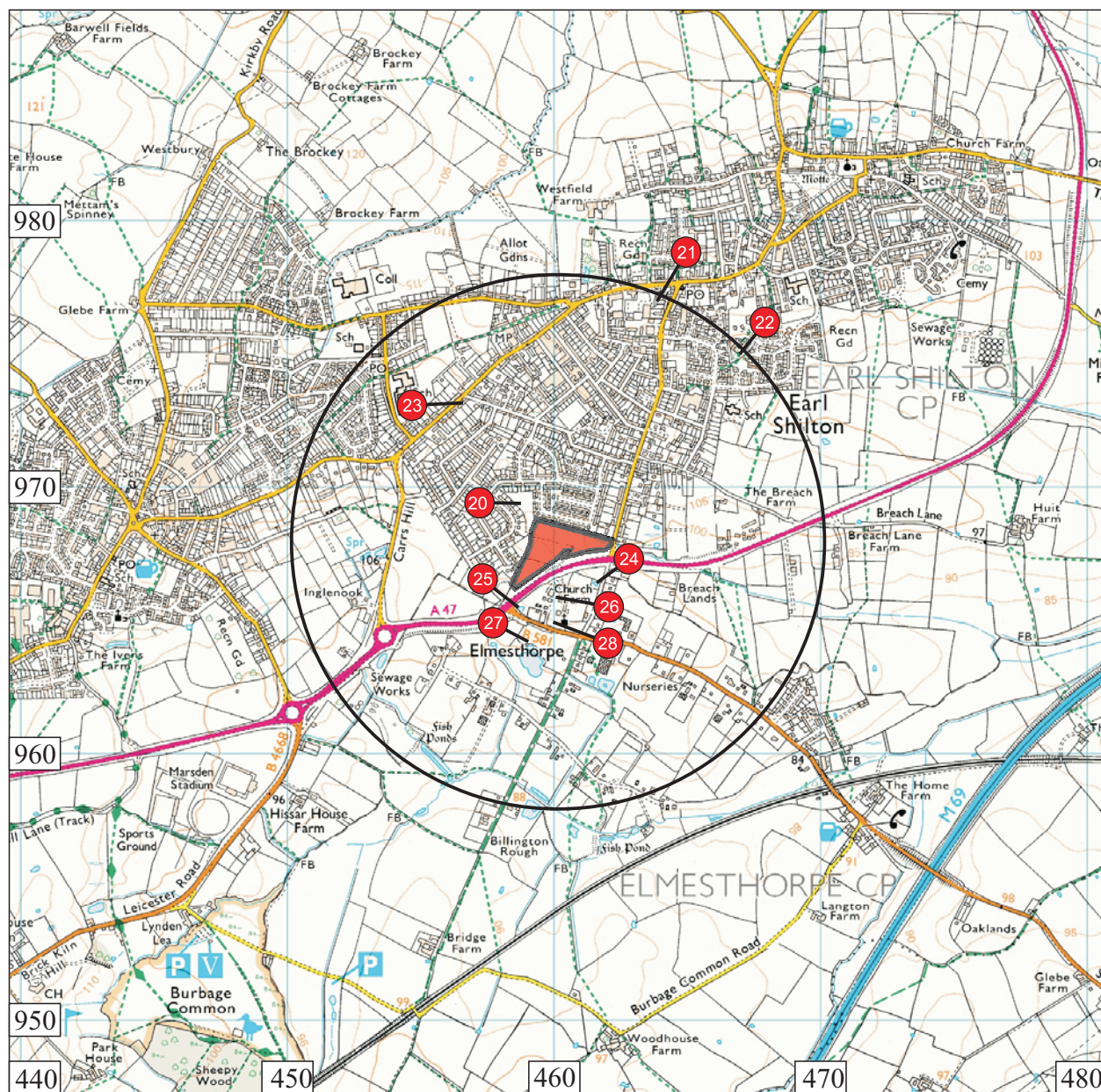
	Site
11-20	Medieval

Figure 4. Medieval





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	Site
21-28	Post Medieval

Figure 5. Post Medieval

At the same time, survey recorded a small irregular pond south west of Church Farm (JMHS 25) at the corner of a rectangular area delimited by a ditch and furrow. The pond was originally a garden feature, possibly connected to a pleasure ground owned by Lord Cullen who held Elmesthorpe Hall in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

A pond site north of Church Farm consists of four ponds set in a square formation (JMHS 26). R. F. Hartley originally surveyed the site in the 1980s (Hartley 1989) and depicted the four ponds, showing the eastern and southernmost ponds connected. Further work by ULAS in 2007/8 consisted of topographic survey, photographic survey, trenching and auguring. Each pond compartment measured up to 20m across and up to 1.5m in depth (Jarvis 2009). Test trenching showed that the outer bank was much wider, over a metre, than the inner partitions, up to 0.8m, creating a walkway from which the pond could be viewed. The banks were constructed of layers of redeposited local soils. ULAS noted that no attempt appears to have been made to use more impermeable natural clays, instead a mixture of materials were used including subsoils. A layer of buried soil (possibly hillwash) was uncovered at the base of the construction sequence that contained pottery of 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century date (e.g. glazed Fine Stamford Ware). A ditch oriented east-west in front of the ponds was also identified as a possible ornamental canal (Jarvis 2009). The presence of ridge and furrow earthworks to the north was also noted. ULAS concluded that the ponds were post-medieval ornamental garden ponds dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> century manorial complex associated with Elmesthorpe Hall.

Elmesthorpe Hall (JMHS 28), according to Nichols, stood on the site of the current farmhouse (Nichols 1811: 605). He wrote that;

“The antient hall stood on an eminence, and was a very large and extensive building; and about 1750 the remains of the porter’s lodge were taken down, and an old coat of arms, dated 1610. From the traces which now remain of the extensive pleasure-grounds, &c. it appears to have been a large and commodius residence.” (Nichols 1811: 605)

Nichols comments on the previous size and eminence of the hall based on the remnants of the extensive pleasure gardens. Nichols also describes several large fishponds and trees, including ‘The Reed Pool’ and ‘The Old Pool’ (Billington Rough) where Lord Cullen was said to have hidden one of his horses during the civil wars. Throsby (1790) refers to the unearthing of parts of the old Hall, but places it in the vicinity of Church Farm.

Archaeological work carried out by ULAS in 2003 concluded that while none of the earthworks in the immediate vicinity of Church Farm could be directly attributed to the old hall, it was likely that deposits could remain under the surface. Geophysical survey undertaken during the site evaluation identified a possible demolished structure and medieval ridge and furrow (Jarvis 2009).

#### **4.2.5 Undated (Figure 6)**

A geophysical survey undertaken by GSB Prospection Ltd in 2002 recorded various linear and pit shaped anomalies, most likely related to agriculture (JMHS 29). Trial trenching by the ULAS in 2008 recorded two possible postholes and a single thin linear feature that may be natural.



Aerial photographs west of Wortley Cottages reveal a cropmark of a possible sub-rectangular enclosure (JMHS 30).

### **4.3 The Cartographic Evidence**

The cartographic evidence comprises a number of maps from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards. This analysis has been confined to those maps that show the proposed development site at a sufficient scale to provide details about its past character. Up until the 1889 Leicestershire Ordnance Survey maps the area selected for development is depicted as open field. Because Elmesthorpe is located within the next parish, the Earl Shilton parish maps do not show detail of the site beyond its northern boundaries.

#### **4.3.1 The Eighteenth Century (Figure 7)**

The Earl Shilton enclosure map of 1778 shows the site bounded in the northwest by land held by Lord Wentworth and Samuel Queenborro. This is possibly the same Mr. Queenborough who lived at Elmesthorpe hall at the time of Nichols writing in 1811 (Nichols 1811: 605). Samuel Cheney held part of the northeast boundary, with a gravel pit marked further to the north.

The Parish of Earl Shilton Prior to the Enclosure Award of 1778 map (Based on John Sanders' original map by D.R.Mills, 1958) shows the triangular study area bounded in the northeast and northwest by the Common. Parts of 'Breach Field' along the eastern boundary of the site are marked as having been enclosed prior to the award of 1778

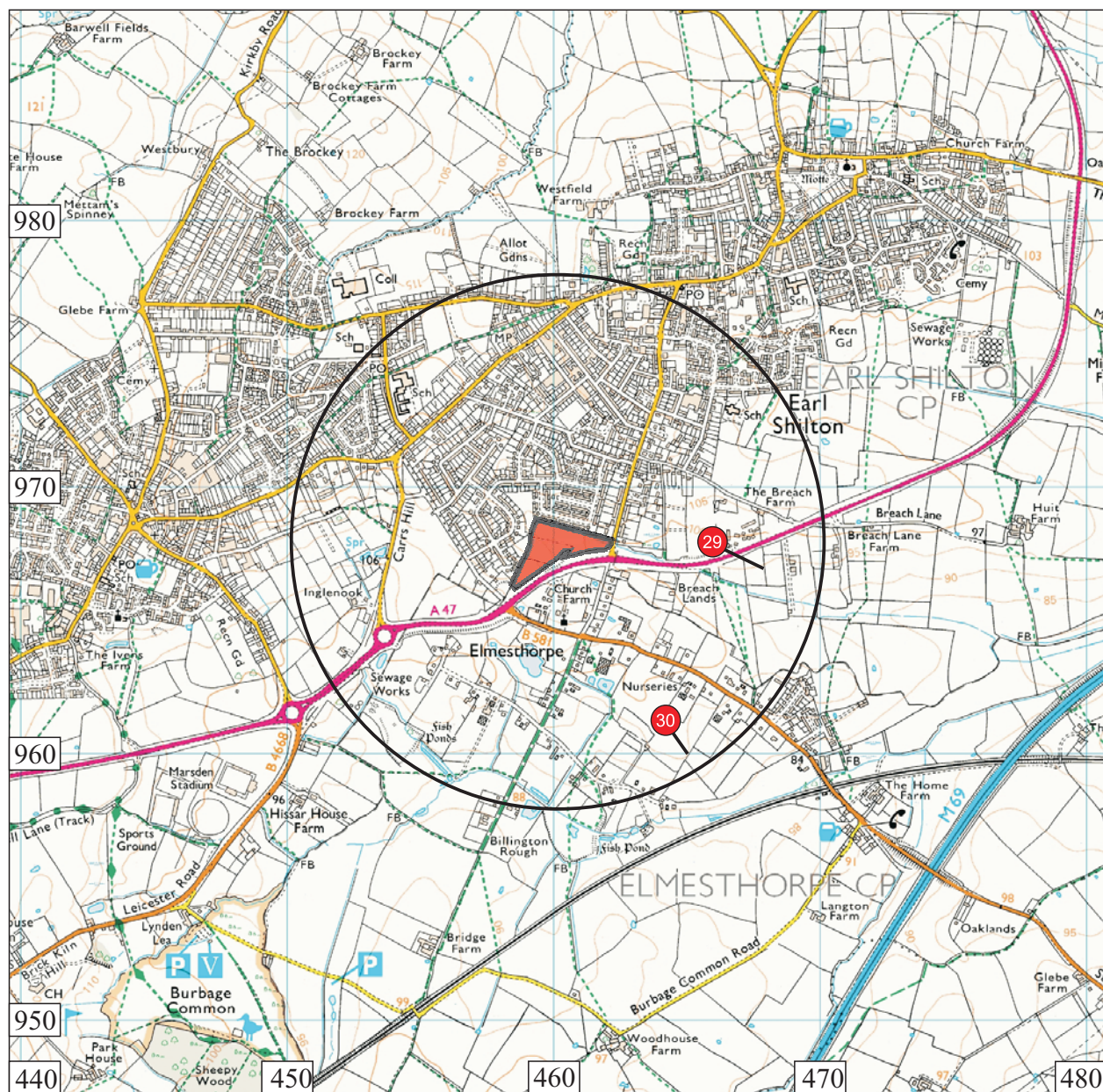
#### **4.3.2 The Nineteenth Century (Figures 7, 8 & 9)**

Henry Stevens's map of 1814 shows the village of Earl Shilton. Elmesthorpe village is depicted as having a church, presumably St Mary's, and three additional buildings. Whilst field boundaries are clearly indicated, nothing is pictured in the vicinity of the study area.

The first series of the ordnance survey maps for Leicestershire of 1835 give us no new information. Both Earl Shilton and Elmesthorpe are depicted, with vacant field in the study area.

The 1835 Tithe Map for the parish of Earl Shilton lists field names in the area surrounding the site but is missing the accompanying apportionment. These correspond to known features in the landscape. For example, the area known as the 'Old Gravel Pit' in later OS maps is here called 'Sand pit'. A field listed as 'Gravel Pit' further to the north is also listed on the 1778 Earl Shilton Enclosure map. 'Far Heath' defines the boundaries of the site in the northwest and 'Dew Croft' and 'Rains Close' to the northeast. To the east of the site are 'Elmesthorpe Meadow' and 'Elmesthorpe Close'. These fields were originally part of the old Elmesthorpe Manor, with the field names carrying on this association.

The 1852 Elmesthorpe Tithe map shows three ponds in the vicinity of 'House farm buildings, yards, gardens and church' (current location of Church Farm, St Mary's Church and a depot). The westernmost of these can be identified as JMHS 25. The



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0 m 1000 m  
1:25000


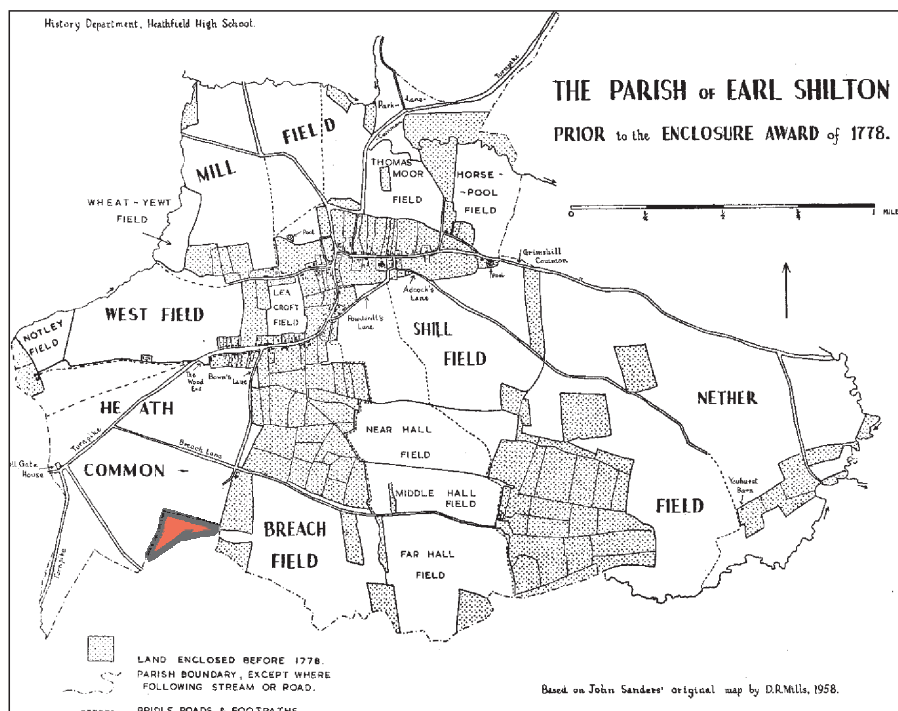
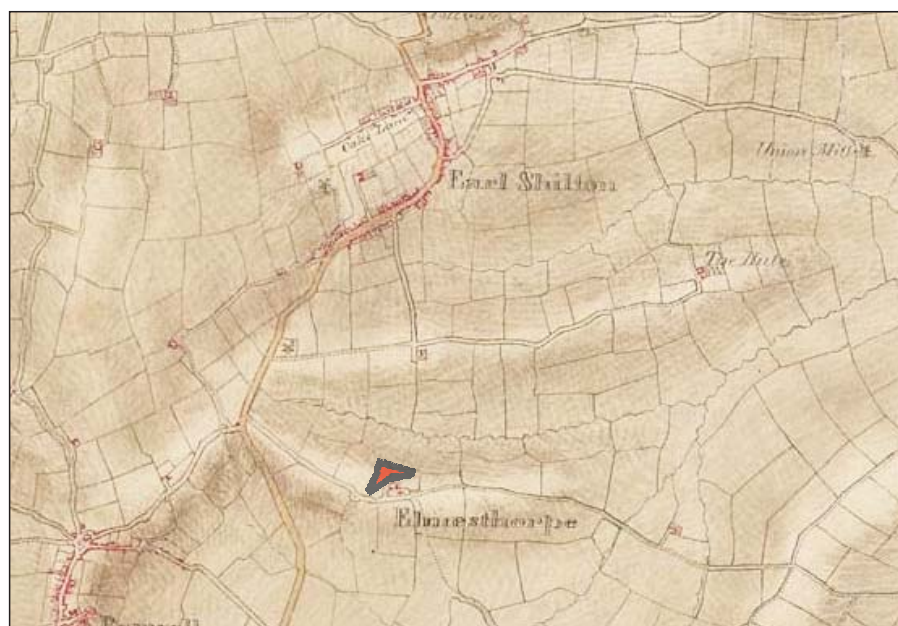
	Site
29-30	Undated

Figure 6 . Undated



Mills 1958 after Sanders

Approximate Site Location  
Not to Scale



Stevens 1814

Approximate Site Location  
Not to Scale

Figure 7. Mills 1958 & Stevens 1814



larger pond to the south is probably the northern extent of JMHS 16. It is located within 'Wash Pit close', suggesting that the pond was being reused at this time, possibly for agricultural activities such as sheep washing. A smaller pond to the east of Church Farm is probably an unlisted pond that appears on later and current OS maps. The majority of the study area is within 'Judd Croft', with 'Judd Croft Meadow' to the northeast. 'Judd Croft Hill' and 'Judd Croft Piece' are located to the south, just outside the boundaries of the site. The name 'Judd' may indicate a relationship, such as glebe land, with the Church of St Simon and St Jude in nearby Earl Shilton. The name 'Rain Close' continues in the area (from the 1835 parish map) but has moved location further to the east of the development zone and Church Farm.

The Leicestershire ordnance survey of 1889 provides us with more information. It clearly depicts the earthworks associated with the large medieval shallow fishpond (JMHS 13) and shows the earthworks of the post-medieval ponds (JMHS 26) in square formation as being practically complete. These are marked as the 'Old Fish Ponds'. It also marks out the 'Old Gravel Pit' to the south west of the site. The church of St Mary and Elmesthorpe Farm are also labelled.

### **4.3.3 The Twentieth Century (Figure 10)**

The 1903 map of Leicestershire again shows the earthworks associated with JMHS 13 and JMHS 26. JMHS 26 is still depicted as being virtually complete. The previously mentioned gravel pit is also present.

By the 1945 Ordnance Survey of Great Britain New Popular Edition, JMHS 26 is missing the southernmost pond and only the northernmost linear earthwork of JMHS 13 is depicted. The earthwork associated with the gravel pit is still present although not labelled.

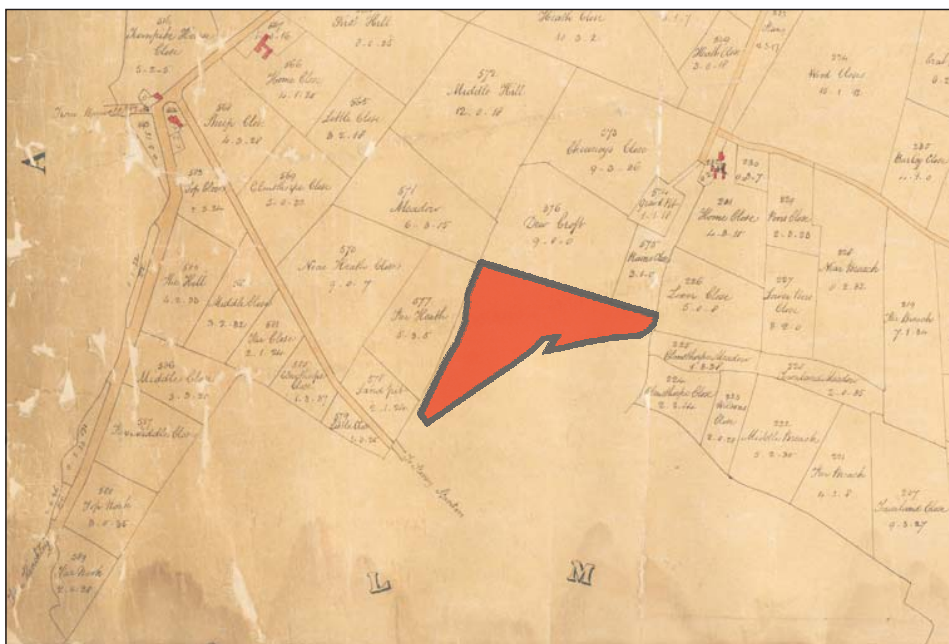
## **5 DISCUSSION**

### **5.1 The Archaeological Potential of the Site**

There is only a single archaeological event on the proposed development site (JMHS 13), a fishpond believed to be part of a network of ponds associated with the medieval/post-medieval manorial complex at Elmesthorp. These ponds have been investigated as part of work carried out by ULAS in preparation for the construction of the A47 Earl Shilton bypass.

However, the proposed development site is located within an area of known archaeological potential.

Prehistoric activity is scattered throughout the study zone. The Neolithic to early Bronze Age periods are represented by examples of worked flint. Cropmarks indicate the location of a possible Bronze Age barrow and evidence of burial practises are represented by the discovery of a Bronze Age collared urn. There is therefore some suggestion of more intense activity in the area during the Late Neolithic and Bronze Age periods, further supported by the discovery and excavation of barrows and pits



Tithe Map 1835

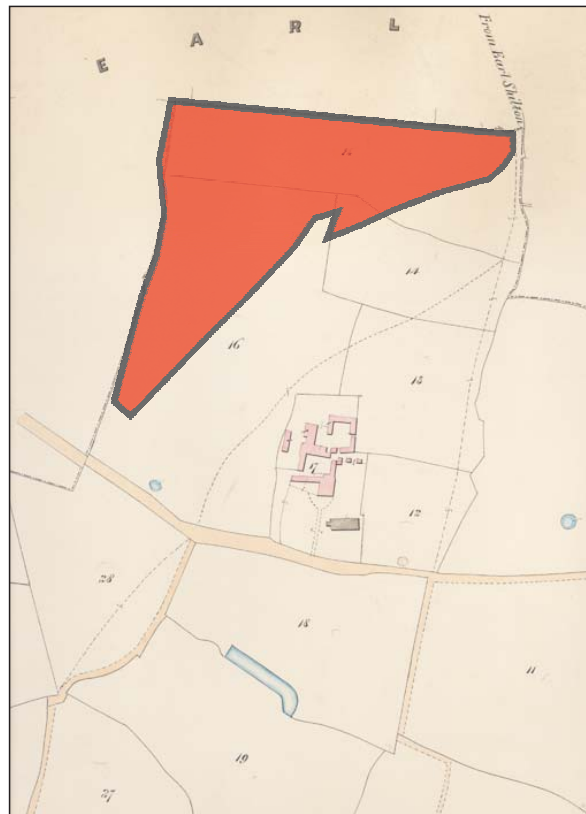
Approximate Site Location  
Not to Scale



Ordnance Survey 1835

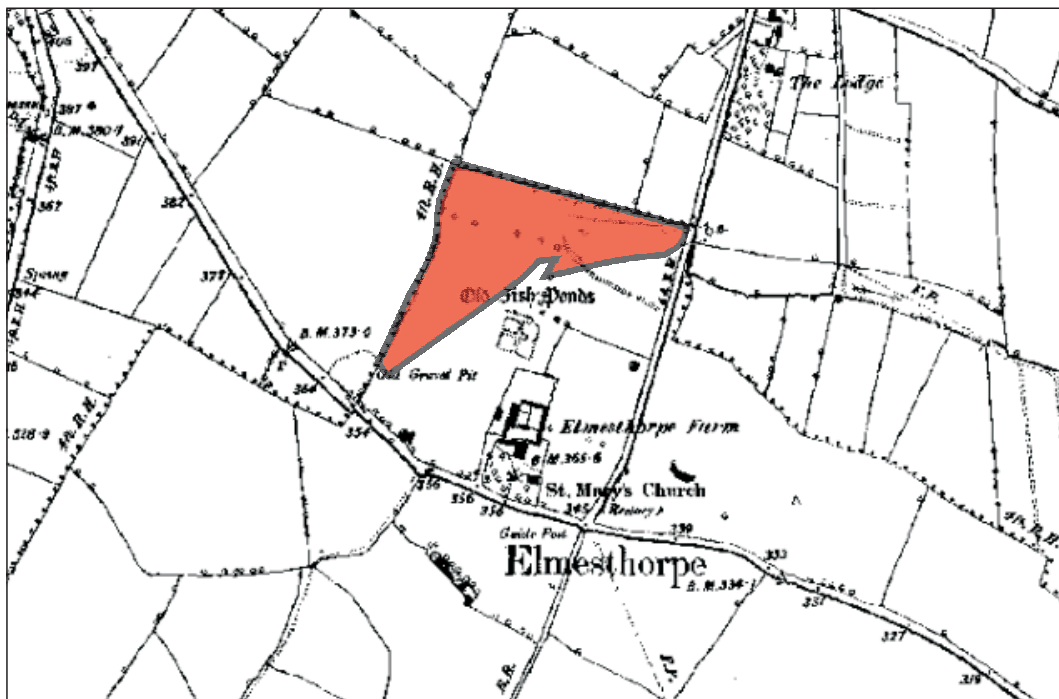
Approximate Site Location  
Not to Scale

Figure 8. 1835 Tithe Map & 1835 Ordnance Survey



Tithe Map 1852

Approximate Site Location  
Not to Scale

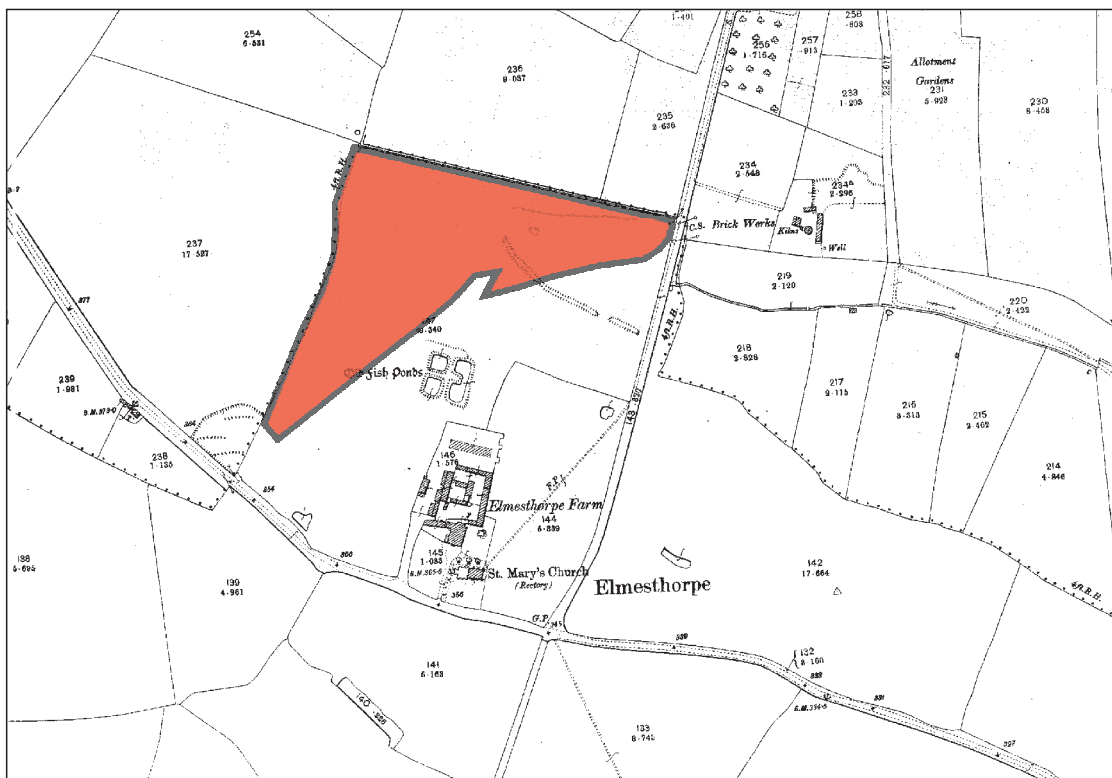


Ordnance Survey 1889

Approximate Site Location  
Not to Scale

Figure 9. 1852 Tithe Map & 1889 Ordnance Survey





Ordnance Survey 1903

Approximate Site Location  
Not to Scale



Ordnance Survey, Popular Edition, 1945

Approximate Site Location  
Not to Scale

Figure 10. 1903 Ordnance Survey and 1945 Ordnance Survey

from the Late Neolithic period onwards outside the immediate study area by ULAS in 2007/8. Although this activity seems to be focused towards the northeast of the study zone, the extensive nature of prehistoric monumental landscapes cannot preclude the presence of similarly dated remains extending into the study area that are currently unknown. Therefore, the potential is moderate to high for the presence of prehistoric archaeological remains to be present on site.

Roman period finds and sites in the study area are quite disparate and no relationship between the sites can be accurately established. This suggests that although there was Roman activity in the area, it was not particularly intensive. A Roman kiln provides the only conclusive evidence for industry and possible settlement in the area (Clark 1952: 43-7). A Roman ditch (JMHS 9) in close proximity to the proposed development site does suggest some activity in the vicinity of the development area. Ditches are often associated with agricultural land use and the presence of ditches and building materials suggests there may be associated structures nearby as discarded building materials are rarely found far from their place of use. There is moderate potential for the presence of Roman remains on site.

Evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity in the study area is limited to a single pottery sherd from a north-south aligned gully JMHS 8. The re-use of Roman farm sites is known from the Anglo-Saxon period. The nearby Roman ditch JMHS 9 and Anglo Saxon gully are both oriented east-west making re-use of the area a possibility. There is low to moderate potential for the presence of Anglo-Saxon remains on site.

Medieval activity in the area is well documented and is represented by ten sites. The proposed development site is located between the medieval village complex of Earl Shilton to the north, incorporating several listed buildings and the remnant motte and bailey castle (a Scheduled Ancient Monument) and the medieval manorial complex of Elmesthorpe to the south, incorporating several fishponds and the Church of St Mary, also scheduled. Although the current church dates to the 14<sup>th</sup> century it is possible that earlier religious structures could exist in the adjacent churchyard. Fishponds have been an important part of the landscape since the medieval period, serving a variety of economic and ornamental functions. R. F. Hartley outlined the extent of medieval fishing practises in Leicestershire (1988), concluding that during the period fishponds could be associated with monasteries, monastic granges, castles, deer parks or manorial estates (Hartley 1988: 294). Fishponds were a luxury reserved for the upper classes as their construction and maintenance required skilled staff and specialised materials (Hunt & Jarvis in Jarvis 2009: 17). Most well maintained fishponds were therefore located on large manorial estates. Medieval household records also show that most freshwater fish consumed by the aristocracy were sourced from their own estates (Hunt & Jarvis in Jarvis 2009: 17). As the medieval period progressed more estate ponds were leased to tenant farmers, who then sold excess fish stock at market. Manorial estates therefore became more reliant on local markets to obtain their fish, with the result that use of fishponds became widespread less of a high-status landscape feature (Hunt & Jarvis in Jarvis 2009: 18). During the 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century a rise in the popularity of ornamental garden features within pleasure gardens led to the construction of more formal ponds, often geometric in formation (Hunt & Jarvis in Jarvis 2009: 18). As well as the manorial complex, documentary evidence referring to a windmill and probable ridge and furrow earthworks exist in the vicinity of Elmesthorpe (Butler 2003 in Jarvis 2009). This suggests agricultural land use during



the period with the possible existence of associated structures and earthworks. There is therefore moderate potential for the presence of medieval remains on site.

Nine sites represent the post-medieval period. Many of these have a history that carries through from the medieval period, including the site of Elmesthorpe medieval/post-medieval village and the church of St Mary. The probable site of Elmesthorpe Hall is also a significant component of this medieval/post-medieval landscape, incorporating three pond networks within its extensive grounds. Land use practises are represented by documentary evidence referring to a windmill north of the development site, and agricultural features north east of the site including steam plough ridge and furrow and relict hedge lines. A 20<sup>th</sup> century building represents the region's history of boot and shoe production. There is a moderate to high possibility that post-medieval remains will be found on the site.

## **5.2 The Impact of Previous Development on Potential and Known Archaeological Remains**

The proposed development site is currently not in use. The construction of the A47 Earl Shilton bypass in 2009 has likely had a significant impact on archaeological remains in the area. The most significant of these is on the fishponds site JMHS 13 in the eastern part of the development area which was partially removed by ground clearance in preparation for construction of the bypass. In addition to this impact, the ornamental post-medieval ponds (JMHS 26) associated with Elmesthorpe Hall have likely been completely removed.

## **5.3 The Impact of the Proposal Area on Potential and Known Archaeological Remains**

At this stage no specific details (apart from the known boundaries of development) are available, so the impact on potential archaeological remains can only be considered in the broadest terms.

Buried remains are possible on the site. If present they are most likely to be part of the medieval manorial complex and post-medieval hall at Elmesthorpe located further to the south, of which the fishponds form part of the extended grounds. However, trial trenching carried out in preparation for the A47 Earl Shilton bypass to the south of the site has shown that material from the prehistoric, Anglo-Saxon and Roman periods is also possible.

It is difficult to assert unequivocally how deep any archaeology might be as little archaeological excavation has been carried out on the site to any real depth. ULAS carried out localised test trenching on the earthworks associated with the shallow fishpond (JMHS 13) in 2007/8 but this was confined to a trench over the earthwork embankment. No known work has been carried out in the areas further to the west.

The table below summarises the known sites of archaeological significance in closest proximity to the development zone, and the predicted impact of development. The proposed development will directly impact on a known archaeological site, and will pass close to a further eight sites.

Site Ref.	Description	Distance from proposed development	Impact
5	Two worked flints discovered during trial trenching	50m to south, prior to construction of the A47 bypass.	None, already removed
8	North south aligned gully with Anglo-Saxon pottery	50m to south, prior to construction of the A47 bypass.	None, already removed
9	Roman ditch	50m to south, prior to construction of the A47 bypass.	None, already removed
13	Shallow medieval fishpond	Within development area	Severe
20	Post-medieval pond	50m to north.	Possible
24	Post-medieval pond	140m to south	None
25	Post-medieval pond	140m to south	None
26	Rectangular formation of four post-medieval ponds.	50m to south (if any remains survive)	Possible, if any remains survive
28	Possible site of Elmesthorpe Hall	250m to south	None

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

The proposal site is in the form of an irregular triangle, defined by residential development in the northeast and northwest and the A47 Earl Shilton bypass in the south. The site lies within a landscape of known archaeological significance. Prehistoric activity is well documented in close proximity to the study area. The possibility of Roman remains is also high. In addition to this, any levelling or excavation work on the eastern portion of the site will directly impact on JMHS 13, which is part of a wider medieval and post-medieval landscape consisting of Elmesthorpe Hall and the medieval village of Elemesthorpe to the south.

The geology of the area consists of drift alluvial and sand material overlying Mercia mudstone. This type of geology is not ideal for geological survey (English Heritage 2008: 16). Due to this, and the difficulty of assessing the depth of any archaeology within the study zone, it is likely that trial trenching or an evaluation may need to take place in order to fully ascertain the archaeological potential of the area. This would be particularly useful in the western half of the site where no previous archaeological investigations have taken place.

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## 7.2 Historic Maps

### 18<sup>th</sup> Century

AD 1778	Earl Shilton Enclosure map
AD 1778 (?)	Mill 1958 after Sanders (prior to enclosure)

### 19<sup>th</sup> Century

AD 1814	Stevens 1 Mile (1: 31680)
AD 1835	Ordnance Survey 1 <sup>st</sup> Series 1:63360
AD 1835	Earl Shilton Tithe map
AD 1852	Elmesthorpe Tithe map
AD 1889	Ordnance Survey 1:10,560

### 20<sup>th</sup> Century

AD 1903	Ordnance Survey 1:10,560
AD 1945	Ordnance Survey 1:63360

**7.3 Gazetteer of Historic Environment Records**

PERIOD	JMHS ID	HER ID	NGR (SP)	DESCRIPTION
<b>Prehistoric</b>				
	1	MLE2854	SP 456 976	Observations north east of Heathfield High School; Aerial photographs revealed the cropmark of a likely Early Bronze Age ring ditch, presumably the remains of a barrow, showing as a parch mark on a playing field.
	2	MLE7237	SP 461 976	Find at 105-7 Wood Street; A perforated Mesolithic/late Neolithic mace head was found in the yard of 105-7 Wood Street in 1950.
	3	MLE2857	SP 456 974	Find to the north east of Heathfield High School; Digging in the Heath Lane Sand Pit in 1938 uncovered the remains of an Early Bronze Age collared urn (measuring 27.7cm high with a 18.5cm mouth diameter, 22cm girth and 9.1cm foot) containing burnt human burn, standing upright within a straight sided pit and dark fill deposit.
	4	MLE10231	SP 465 968	Evaluation south of Breach Lane; An evaluation by Gifford recovered a number of worked flints dating from the Neolithic to Early Bronze Age in 2004.
	5	MLE17742	SP 459 966	Find north-west of Church Farm; Trial trenching by ULAS in 2007 recovered two worked flints, one of which may be a scraper dating from the Early Neolithic to Early Bronze Age.
<b>Roman</b>				
	6	MLE2855	SP 456 977	Excavations north north east of Heathfield High School; Ground clearance revealed the remains of a Roman pottery kiln considered to have been used in the production of 2 <sup>nd</sup> century greyware. Finds associated with the kiln included kiln furniture, tile and a pottery sherd dating from 43 AD to 409 AD.
	7	MLE10232	SP 465 969	Evaluation south of Breach Lane; An evaluation of Breach Lane in 2004 recovered four sherds of abraded Roman pottery.
	9	MLE17740	SP 461 967	Trial trenching north of Church Farm; Trial trenching in 2007 by ULAS recovered a ditch aligned north south, over 4 metres long and 1 metre wide. The ditch fill contained pottery, animal bone and building materials dating to the Early Roman period.
	10	MLE10311	SP 461 963	Observation south of Elmeathorpe crossroads; In the early 20 <sup>th</sup> century a resident of Station Road claimed to have uncovered mosaic flooring in his garden and then covered it up again. The provenance for this information and the exact location of the alleged mosaic is unknown.
<b>Anglo-Saxon</b>				
	8	MLE17739	SP 458 965	Anglo-Saxon remains west of Church Farm; Archaeological work carried out by ULAS in 2007/8 recovered a gully aligned north south and a single sherd of probable Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon period pottery.

PERIOD	JMHS ID	HER ID	NGR (SP)	DESCRIPTION
<b>Medieval</b>				
	11	MLE9535	SP 470 980	Village of Earl Shilton; The medieval core of the village was deduced. It contains six listed buildings (references 1918/40/11/58; 1918/40/11/49; 1918/40/11/47; 1918/40/11/51; 1918/40/11/42) and a Scheduled Ancient Monument, the Earl Shilton Motte and Bailey castle (SAM 17035). The castle was founded in the 11 <sup>th</sup> century and destroyed in the 12 <sup>th</sup> . It survives as a mutilated earthwork with the circular motte measuring 50 metres in diameter, 3 metres high on the south side and 1.5 metres high on the north side. The remains of the ditch and bailey can be seen on the south side.
	12	MLE10230	SP 465 969	Evaluation of Medieval remains south of Breach Lane; A geophysical survey undertaken by GSB Prospection Ltd in 2002 showed agricultural marks. In 2004 an evaluation of the site by Gifford recorded further evidence of medieval land use including ridge and furrow earthworks and former field boundaries.
	13	MLE71	SP 461 967	Excavation northeast of Church Farm; The site consists of a large fishpond with one small island and the traces of two others. Earthworks on three sides were constructed to contain the water. The eastern end of the pond has been removed/obscured by the construction of Wilkinson Road. A small island, possibly associated with fishing or waterfowl, is situated at the western end. In 2007 ULAS put in a section across the embankment and found that it was made up of successive layers of earth.
	14	MLE10249	SP 450 965	Find west of Inglenook; A late medieval mirror case found.
	15	MLE11899	SP 460 964	Church of St Mary, Elmeſthorpe Lane (north side); The church was constructed between the 14 <sup>th</sup> and 16 <sup>th</sup> century, with rebuilding of the chancel in 1868. The nave is currently roofless. The church is listed (reference 1326/32/1/23) and protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Leicestershire SAM 96).
	16	MLE75	SP 459 963	Survey of the pond south of Church Farm; A survey in 1985 revealed a small rectangular pond lying to the south of Church Farm. It is believed to date to the medieval period.
	17	MLE78	SP 466 961	Site of Old House Close; Documentary evidence for a medieval windmill first mentioned AD1296, gone by AD1783.
	18	MLE72	SP 454 959	Survey of The Reed Pool; The site consists of a medieval fishpond with two small islands in the northwest corner. The site was surveyed in 1960 and destroyed in 1985. The name 'Reed Pool' is listed on the Elmeſthorpe tithe map.
	19	MLE73	SP 460 957	Evaluation of the fishponds at Billington Rough/The Old Pool; The site consists of a large dry pond with a large dam and many islands. Nichols (1918) refers to it as 'The Old Pool'. It was scheduled as the deserted village at Billington Rough (SAM 91454), but was descheduled in 2005 when the site was discovered to be medieval fishponds. ULAS recorded the course of the original stream during an evaluation in 2005. The site is currently used as a fishery and has suffered damage in recent years.

PERIOD	JMHS ID	HER ID	NGR (SP)	DESCRIPTION
<b>Medieval</b>				
	27	MLE70	SP 459 964	Trial trenching at Elvesthorpe deserted medieval village; The site is believed to be that of a deserted Early Medieval/Early Post-Medieval village. In the 1980's a site survey noted the remains of numerous ponds and various earthworks. Trial trenching by ULAS in 2007/8 recovered numerous early medieval pottery sherds and some medieval/post-medieval ceramic building material. The Church of St Mary, ruined nave and west tower are protected as Scheduled Ancient Monuments (Leicestershire SAM 96).
<b>Post-medieval</b>				
	20	MLE2856	SP 458 969	Site of dam north of Church Farm; The dam of the post-medieval fishpond is represented by a recorded earthwork. It is likely part of a series of large ponds found to the southwest of Elvesthorpe, belonging to the 17 <sup>th</sup> century Elvesthorpe Hall.
	21	MLE10233	SP 465 969	Evaluation south of Breach Lane; An evaluation by Gifford in 2004 recorded agricultural features including a trackway, relict hedge lines, steam plough ridge and furrow, post holes, features associated with the management of a spring and some post-medieval ceramics. A geophysical survey by GSB Prospection Ltd in 2002 also showed agricultural markings and relict hedge lines.
	22	MLE16995	SP 467 975	Site of Beechome, Candle Lane; Beechome was built in 1928 in the mock Tudor style for Henry Cotton, a local boot and shoe manufacturer. The house and gardens were recorded by CGMS Consulting (East Midlands) in 2007 and include ornamental gardens and streams.
	23	MLE2851	SP 457 973	Site of Coopers Mill; Documentary evidence refers to a post-medieval windmill. Marked on the Surveyor's Map and on the 1st edition OS map as 'Corn Mill'.
	24	MLE77	SP 461 966	Survey of pond north-east of Church Farm; The small rectangular pond is located in the north-east corner of a rectangular area surrounding Church Farm. A survey undertaken in the 1980's suggested that it was part of Lord Cullen's 'pleasure garden', associated with the Old Elvesthorpe Hall from the 17 <sup>th</sup> century.
	25	MLE76	SP 458 965	Survey of a pond south-west of Church Farm; The site consists of a small irregular pond at the corner of a rectangular area delimited by a ditch and furrow. A survey in 1985 suggested it was originally a garden feature, possibly connected to a pleasure ground owned by Lord Cullen who held Elvesthorpe Hall in the 17 <sup>th</sup> century.
	26	MLE69	SP 460 966	Excavations north of Church Farm; The site consists of four ponds set in a square formation. R. F. Hartley surveyed the site in the 1980's. Further work by ULAS in 2007/8 consisted of topographic survey, photographic survey, trenching and augering. This revealed that the ponds were likely post-medieval ornamental garden ponds dating from the 17 <sup>th</sup> century.



PERIOD	JMHS ID	HER ID	NGR (SP)	DESCRIPTION
<b>Post-medieval</b>				
	27	MLE70	SP 459 964	Trial trenching at Elvesthorpe deserted medieval village; The site is believed to be that of a deserted Early Medieval/Early Post-Medieval village. In the 1980's a site survey noted the remains of numerous ponds and various earthworks. Trial trenching by ULAS in 2007/8 recovered numerous early medieval pottery sherds and some medieval/post-medieval ceramic building material. The Church of St Mary, ruined nave and west tower are protected as Scheduled Ancient Monuments (Leicestershire SAM 96).
	28	MLE16977	SP 460 965	Site of Elvesthorpe Hall; According to Nichols, writing in 1811, Elvesthorpe Hall stood on the site of the current farmhouse. Throsby (1790) refers to the unearthing of parts of the old Hall, but places it in the vicinity of Church Farm. Archaeological work carried out by ULAS in 2003 concluded that while none of the earthworks in the immediate vicinity of Church Farm could be directly attributed to the old hall, it was likely that deposits could remain under the surface. Geophysical survey undertaken during the site evaluation also identified possible structures.
<b>Undated</b>				
	29	MLE16848	SP 468 967	Geophysical survey south of Breach Lane; A geophysical survey undertaken by GSB Prospection Ltd in 2002 recorded various linear and pit shaped anomalies, most likely related to agriculture. Trial trenching by the ULAS in 2008 recorded two possible postholes and a single thin linear feature that may be natural.
	30	MLE67	SP 465 960	Observations west of Wortley Cottages; Aerial photographs show a cropmark of a possible sub-rectangular enclosure.