

**Archaeological Recording
at Manor Farm, Naseby,
Northamptonshire**

2000

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
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**Archaeological Recording at
Manor Farm, Naseby, Northamptonshire**

by
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1.0 Summary

Archaeological recording was carried out at land adjacent to Manor Farm, Naseby, Northamptonshire (centred on NGR SP 691 780) in October 2000, prior to the commencement of residential development. Naseby is believed, on the basis of place-name evidence, to have middle Saxon or earlier origins possibly centred on a prehistoric fortification (Phillips 2000). The development site itself lies adjacent to the Manor House, at the northern end of Naseby Medieval Village.

Despite the proximity of the Manor House, only one feature, a linear ditch, was identified as being medieval in date. Two other linear features were encountered, but these did not produce datable evidence.

2.0 Introduction

This report describes the results of archaeological recording carried out prior to the commencement of residential development on land adjacent to Manor Farm, Naseby (Planning ref. DA99/0619; NGR SP 691 780). The work was carried out by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit on behalf of Laing Homes. The archaeological recording was conducted in accordance with guidelines set down in *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999) and in *Policy and Guidance for Archaeological Fieldwork Projects in Northamptonshire* (Northamptonshire Heritage), a Brief prepared by Northamptonshire Heritage, Northamptonshire County Council (Phillips 2000) and a Specification prepared by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (Dingwall 2000).

3.0 The Site and its Location (Figure 1)

The site is located adjacent to the Manor House, at the northern end of Naseby Medieval Village. The site formerly contained residential housing, outbuildings and gardens, and it lies at approximately 190m Above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey as mainly Boulder Clay, with a small amount of Northamptonshire Ironstone bordering the street frontage (Phillips 2000).

4.0 Objective

The objective of the archaeological recording was to obtain a record of any surviving archaeological remains revealed during topsoil stripping for the proposed residential

development, in order to contribute to an understanding of the nature, extent and significance of archaeological remains in the area.

5.0 Method

The topsoil and other non-archaeologically significant materials were removed from the area under continuous archaeological supervision using a 360 degree excavator fitted with a wide toothless ditching bucket down to the subsoil surface. All stratigraphic sequences were recorded, even when no archaeological features or deposits were present. Contextual information was supplemented by scale sections, plans and photographs which, together with recovered artefacts, form the site archive. This is presently housed at Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit.

6.0 Archaeological Results (Figure 2)

Three features were encountered upon removal of the topsoil (1000). A shallow linear ditch aligned approximately north-south, was identified in the south-east corner of the site (F102). This ditch varied between 2.5m and 3m in width and was approximately 0.36m deep. The fill (1004) was a soft, orange-brown silty-clay that contained one fragment of medieval pottery, and one fragment of degraded bone.

A smaller linear ditch (F101) was located to the west of F102 on a similar north-south alignment. This ditch (F101) was approximately 1.1m wide and 0.4m deep, becoming narrower towards the north. The fill (1003) contained no finds.

A slightly curving linear gully (F100) was located central to the stripped area. This gully was approximately 0.4m – 0.6m wide and 0.2m deep. The fill (1002) contained no finds.

All three features cut the natural subsoil (1001), a yellow-orange sand and sandstone with patches of pink boulder clay. No other features were identified in the proposed development area. The topsoil (1000) was a mixture of organic brown silt, re-deposited natural and modern debris that varied in depth between 0.1m and 0.5m. The topsoil directly overlay the natural subsoil (1001).

7.0 Discussion

Despite the proximity of the medieval manor to the south-east of the development site there was little surviving archaeology of this period, or any other period, encountered within the area monitored. One feature (F102) was dated to the medieval period and this may represent a field boundary. The other two features were undated.

The scarcity of archaeological deposits or features may be due to a low degree of activity in the area. However, the varying depth of topsoil also suggests the possibility of truncation or removal of archaeological deposits due to modern landscaping or land use associated with the previous buildings on the site.

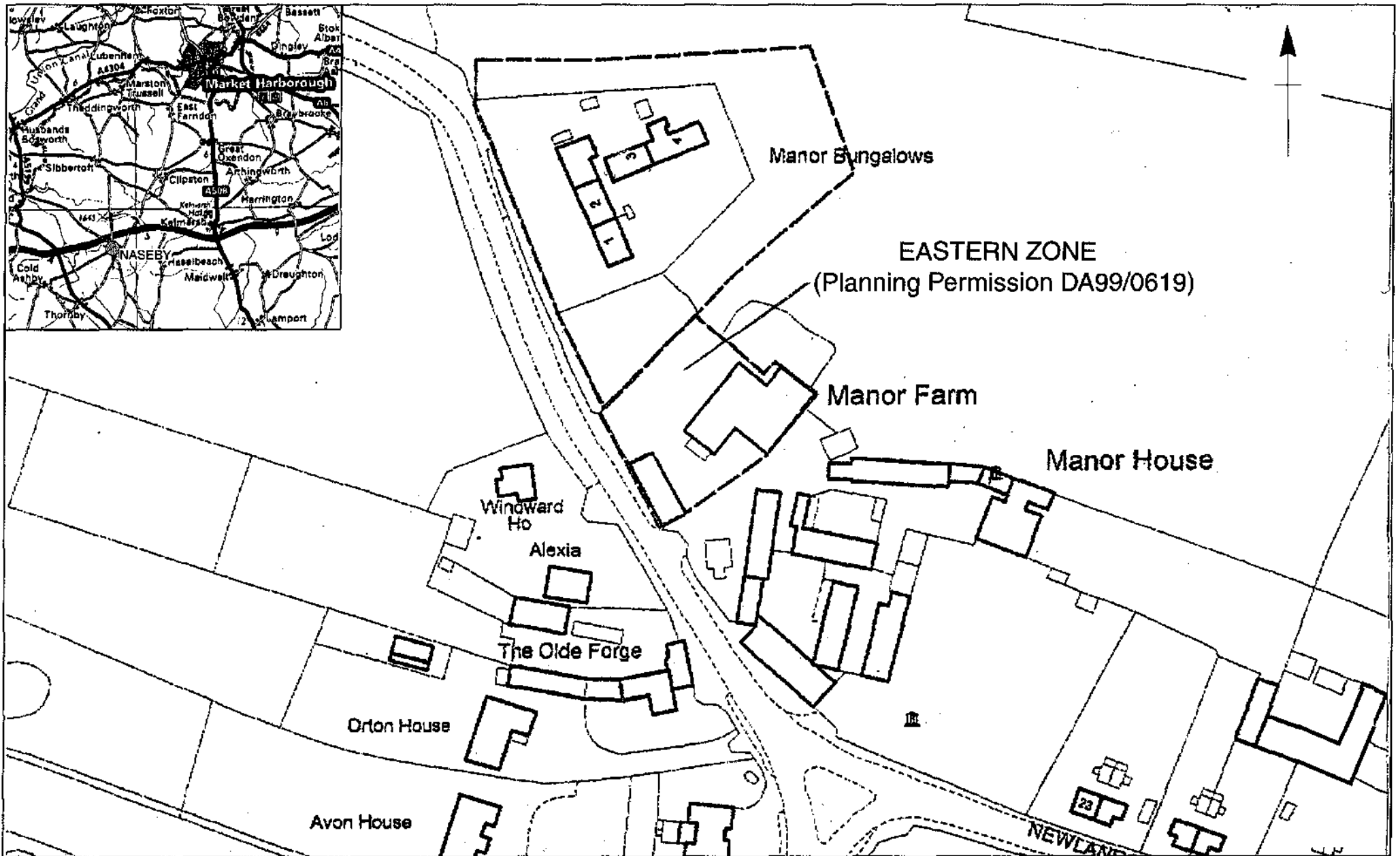
8.0 References

Dingwall, L. 2000 *Manor Farm, Naseby, Northamptonshire: Written scheme of investigation for Archaeological Recording.*

Phillips, G. 2000 *Naseby, Land Adjacent to Manor Farm : Archaeological Recording Action Brief.*

9.0 Acknowledgements

The project was sponsored by Laing Homes. Thanks are due to Greg Phillips, Planning Assistant (Archaeology), Northamptonshire Heritage, Northamptonshire County Council for his help and advice. The fieldwork was carried out by Chris Patrick, Eleanor Ramsey and Dan Slater. This report was written by Eleanor Ramsey and edited by Catharine Mould. The illustrations were prepared by Nigel Dodds.



EASTERN ZONE
 (Planning Permission DA99/0619)

Fig.1

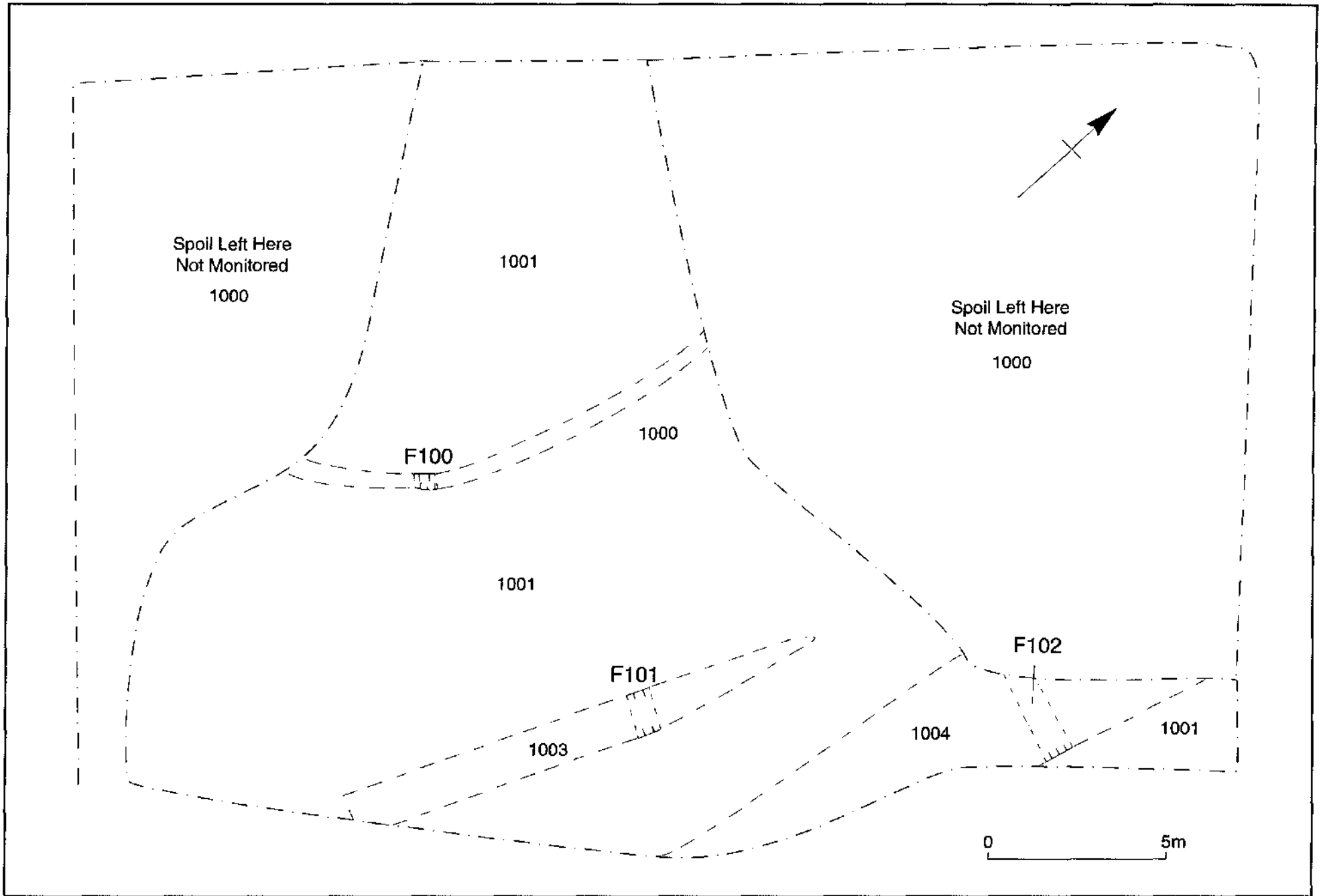


Fig.2