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Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Watching Brief on  
Land at Naseby Lane, Clipston,  
Northamptonshire**

**NGR SP 70907 81538**

Stephen Baker




**ULAS Report No 2019-121**

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**An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at Naseby Lane,  
Clipston, Northamptonshire  
NGR: SP 70907 81538**

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**For: Msquare Architects Ltd**

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**ENN109619**

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# **An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at Naseby Lane, Clipston, Northamptonshire**

**Stephen Baker**

## **Summary**

*University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an intermittent watching brief on land at Naseby Lane, Clipston, Northamptonshire, NGR SP70907 81538 in September 2019, during the stripping of, and ground reduction associated with the preliminary formation levels for one of two residential properties. Much of the ground was disturbed from previous land use and no archaeological deposits were observed. The site archive will be held by ULAS under site code ENN109619.*

## **1. Introduction**

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on land at Naseby Lane, Clipston, Northamptonshire, SP70907 81538 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS), on 5th September 2019. This was undertaken in order to ensure that any surviving archaeological deposits encountered were investigated and recorded in mitigation of the impact of the ground reduction associated with the preparation of the proposed building footprints.

In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12, Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment, this document forms the report for an archaeological observation, with an assessment of the potential impact on buried archaeological remains from groundworks associated with the development.

## **2. Site Description, Topography and Geology**

The site lies west of Naseby Road in the village of Clipston, Northamptonshire. The works were within an area of unused land containing scrub grass and trees. The site also contains a tarmac and gravel access from Naseby Road, and an area of hardstanding. It is bounded by development to the north and south, with an open field to the west and Naseby Road to the east. The site lies at a height of 142m aOD. The British Geological Survey identifies the bedrock geology of the area as Whitby Mudstone overlain by diamicton till.



Figure 1: Northamptonshire and Clipston Location



Figure 2: Site, Naseby Lane

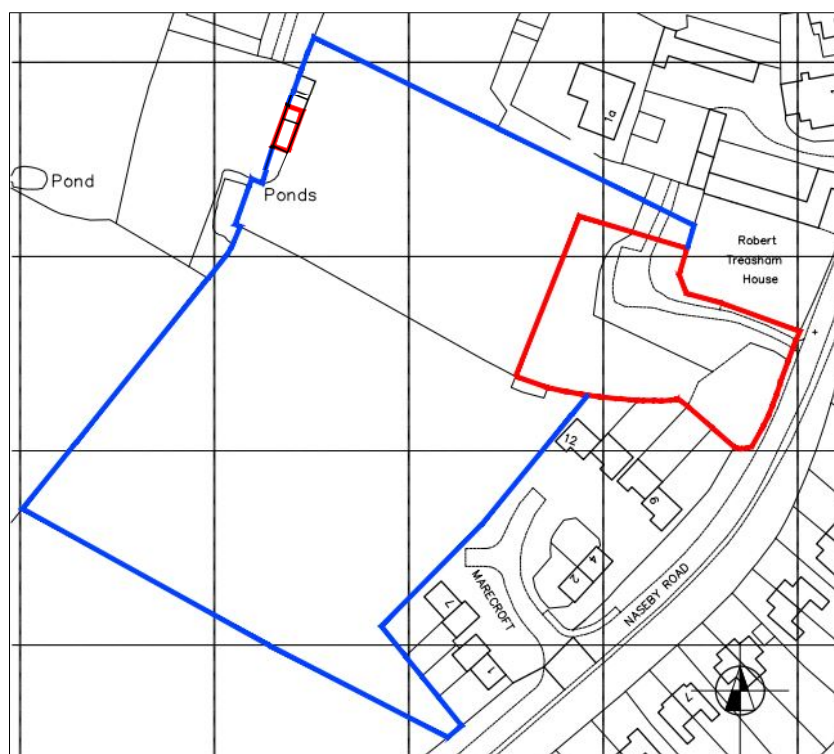


Figure 3: Investigation area

### 3. Historical and Archaeological Background

The place-name Clipston is derived from the Norse personal name ‘Klippr’ (or Klyppr) and the Old English ‘tun’, meaning a farm or settlement (KEPN). The size of Clipston village at any one time is impossible to ascertain as the parish also included the now deserted village of Nobold, and both settlements were always recorded together. Clipston appears in the Domesday Book of 1086 where its taxable value shows it to be a large settlement of 41 households with enough land for 7 plough teams.

Whilst there were no known archaeological remains in the site itself, the housing development lay within the north-east corner of an Open Fields Project Areas of Survival of Ridge & Furrow. However, LiDAR data and aerial photography showed that this corner, and the site in particular, had almost no surviving ridge and furrow earthworks. The proposed stables building also lay within a Scheduled Monument – Clipston medieval settlement.

Evidence from the HER for Clipston indicates activity from the Saxon and medieval eras. Early Saxon activity is suggested by an inhumation grave 490m east of the site, which comprised a skeleton with grave goods including a seal, knife, and spearhead.

Medieval activity was suggested by extensive cropmarks, earthworks, embankments and hollow ways of settlement remains which were noted c.150m north-west of the site. This is the site of the deserted village of Nobold, with Nobold End manor house, which still stood in 1752, presumably somewhere amongst these earthworks. In addition, the northern edge of the site borders the medieval shrunken village boundary of Clipston.. Medieval pottery was also recovered from animal scrapes on the platform adjacent to the hollow way, c.290m north of the site.

The mid 18th-century Grade II\* Listed building, The Chestnuts lies 65m north-west of the site. Other listed buildings are located further from the site towards the centre of Clipston.

Cartographic evidence shows that the site was an open field in 1885, with the trackway leading from Naseby Road to the courtyard of the buildings to the north also evident at this time.

## 4. Aims and Objectives

### 4.1 General

The main objectives of the archaeological work 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 ground works.
- To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscape and to advance understanding of the heritage assets.
- To recover artefacts and ecofacts to compare with other assemblages and results
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

Within the stated project aims, the principal objective of the recording is to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, and significance of the heritage assets within their local and regional context.

### 4.2 Research Objectives

At the outset of the project, local and regional academic research objectives were identified from the East Midlands Research Framework (Cooper ed. 2006) and strategy (Knight et al. 2012), and also considered in relation to national research aims. Research aims were reviewed and updated as the work progressed and new information came to light.

It was considered that the following research objectives had the potential to be addressed by the project

The archaeological monitoring was considered in respect to the East Midlands Research Framework (Cooper ed. 2006), the updated Research Agenda and Strategy (Knight *et al* 2012) and the online resource:

<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/researchframeworks/eastmidlands/wiki/>

The presence of medieval earthworks in the area suggested a potential for further features of this date. It was therefore possible to determine some initial objectives derived from *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda* (2006) and *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (2012).

### Medieval

There was some potential for the furthering of high medieval research aims relating to rural settlements (Research Agenda 7.2), specifically:

1. How can we elucidate further the development of nucleated villages, and in particular the contribution of the Danelaw to changes in village morphology? (7.2.1).
2. Can we clarify further the processes of settlement desertion and shrinkage, especially within zones of dispersed settlement? How can we shed further light upon the origin and development of dispersed hamlets and farms in champion and pastoral areas? (7.2.4).

## 5. Methodology

A ULAS presence and monitoring was maintained whilst ground workers undertook ground reduction in archaeologically controlled spits with a 360° excavator, to pre-determined heights across the footprints of the buildings. This was recorded photographically and the required levels achieved using a Topcon electronic levelling instrument. Two areas were proposed for investigation, with Plot 2 the subject of the September 2019 stage of work.

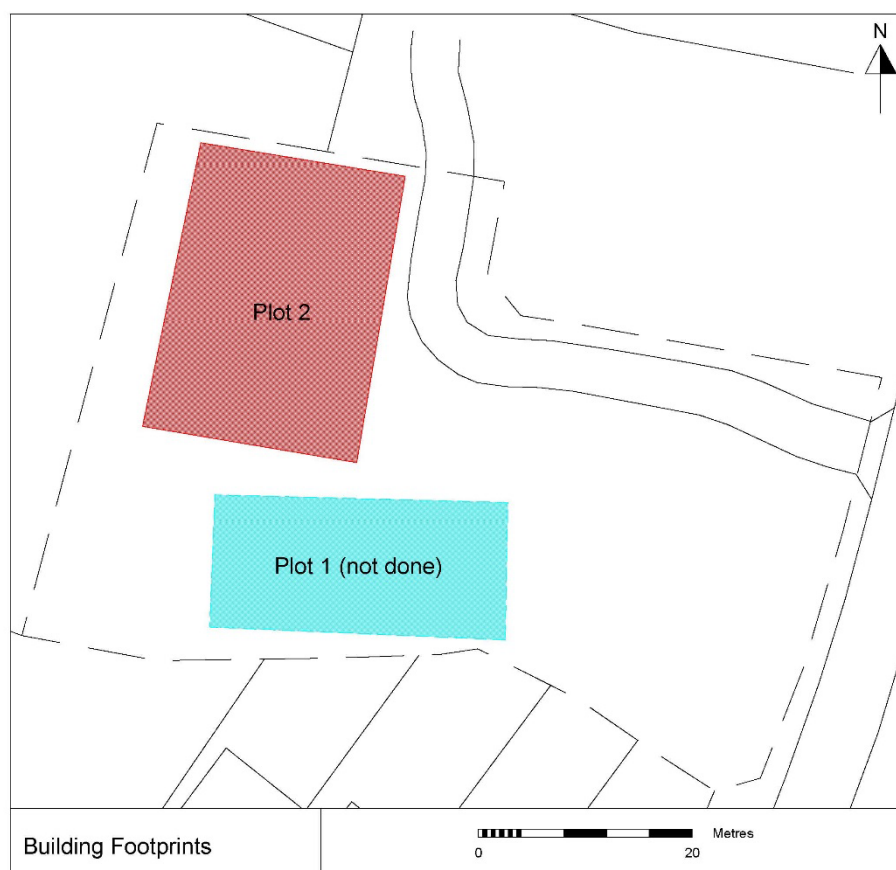


Figure 4: Building Footprints



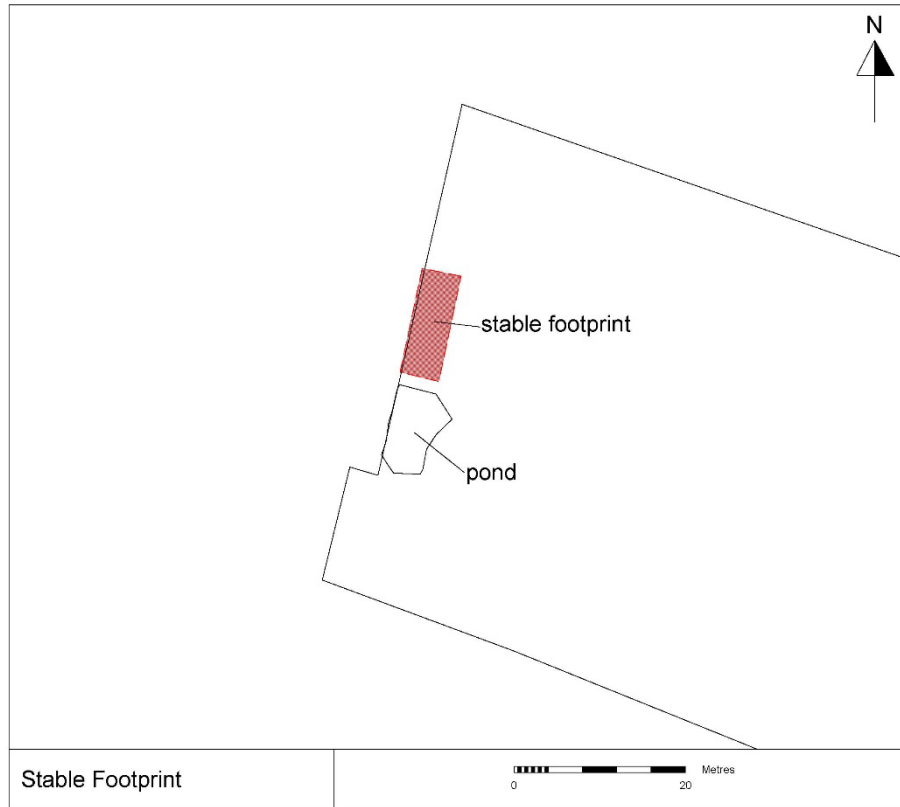


Figure 5: Stable building footprint

The work followed the approved design specification (Buckley 2016) and adhered to the Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (2013).



Figure 6: Machining Plot 2 (September 2019)

## 6. Results

The ground was reduced to various architecturally required levels but to a maximum of 600mm from existing ground level. A dark grey-brown topsoil was recorded with a depth of between 200 – 300mm, across Plot 2, and beneath this a lighter interface/subsoil above a light-brown clay mudstone. Some field drains traversed the area of Plot 2. Much of the area investigated in the first stage of works, and over the footprint of the stables, was disturbed by the construction and demolition of previous brick built ancillary buildings with concrete foundations. No archaeological deposits were observed during the first stage of the works (September 2019).



Figure 7: Machining Stable footprint

## 7. Conclusion

No deposits of interest or features, positive or negative, were observed in the 2019 Plot 2 development area.

## **8. Archive**

The site archive will be held by ULAS under Event No. ENN109619

The archive contains:

- 3 Watching Brief Record Sheets
- 1 Photograph Record Sheet
- CD containing digital photographs and report
- Thumbnail print of digital photographs

## OASIS data entry

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>	<b>Oasis No</b>	universi1-390140		
	<b>Project Name</b>	An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at Naseby Lane, Clipston, Northamptonshire		
	<b>Start/end dates of field work</b>	September 2019 (Phase 1)		
	<b>Previous/Future Work</b>	No / Not known		
	<b>Project Type</b>	Watching Brief		
	<b>Site Status</b>	None		
	<b>Current Land Use</b>	Agriculture		
	<b>Monument Type/Period</b>	None		
	<b>Significant Finds/Period</b>	None		
	<b>Development Type</b>	Residential		
	<b>Reason for Investigation</b>	NPPF		
	<b>Position in the Planning Process</b>	Planning condition		
	<b>Planning Ref.</b>	DA/2018/02 & DA/2016/0680		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	<b>Site Address/Postcode</b>	Naseby Lane, Clipston, Northamptonshire		
	<b>Study Area</b>	c.2800m <sup>2</sup>		
	<b>Site Coordinates</b>	SP 70907 81538		
	<b>Height OD</b>	142m aOD		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	ULAS		
	<b>Project Brief Originator</b>	Daventry District Council		
	<b>Project Design Originator</b>	ULAS		
	<b>Project Manager</b>	Richard Buckley		
	<b>Project Director/Supervisor</b>	Stephen Baker		
	<b>Sponsor/Funding Body</b>	Msquare Architects Ltd		
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVE</b>		<b>Physical</b>	<b>Digital</b>	<b>Paper</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>	NA		
	<b>ID (Acc. No.)</b>		ENN109619	ENN109619
	<b>Contents</b>		Photos	Watching brief records Photo records
<b>PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>Type</b>	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	<b>Title</b>	An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at Naseby Lane, Clipston, Northamptonshire		
	<b>Author</b>	Stephen Baker		
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	<b>Date</b>	2019		
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	<b>Description</b>	Developer Report A4 pdf		

## 10. Publication

10.1 The report has been added to the Archaeology Data Service's (ADS) Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) database held by the University of York.

## 11. Bibliography

- CIfA 2014a, *Code of Conduct*. The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, December 2014.
- CIfA 2014b, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*. The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, December 2014.
- CIfA 2014c, *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*. The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, December 2014.
- Knight, D. et al. 2012 *East Midlands Heritage: An updated research agenda and strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*.

## 11. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was undertaken for Msquare Architects Ltd and was carried out by Stephen Baker of ULAS. Richard Buckley managed the project.

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