



# Northamptonshire Archaeology

## Archaeological Mitigation Works at 60 High Street, Naseby, Northamptonshire



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**Report 13/84**

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## **QUALITY CONTROL**

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman		
Verified by	Adam Yates		
Approved by	Steve Parry		

**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		<b>Oasis No. 151063</b>	
Project title	A Programme of Archaeological Mitigation Works at 60, High Street, Naseby, Northamptonshire		
Short description	An archaeological investigation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on removal of overburden and the machine excavation of house foundations at 60 High Street, Naseby, Northamptonshire. No archaeological features or finds were present.		
Project type	Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication		
Site Status	-		
Previous work	None		
Current land use	Garden		
Future work	None		
Monument type and period			
Significant finds	None		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address	60 High Street, Naseby, Northamptonshire		
Post code			
OS co-ordinates	SP 688 778		
Area (sq m/ha)	-		
Height aOD	c188m		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>			
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)		
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council Assistant Archaeological Advisor		
Project Design originator	NA		
Director/Supervisor	Christopher Jones and James Ladocha		
Project Managers	Adam Yates		
Sponsor or funding body	S J & M J Nightingale		
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>			
Start date	01-05-2013		
End date	15-05-2013		
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession no.)</b>	<b>Contents</b>	
Physical	NA store		
Paper		Site records (1 small archive box)	
Digital		Client report PDF	
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)	
Title	A Programme of Archaeological Mitigation Works at 60, High Street, Naseby, Northamptonshire		
Serial title & volume	13/84		
Author(s)	Christopher Jones		
Page numbers			
Date			

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# **A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION WORKS AT 60 HIGH STREET, NASEBY, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

## **Abstract**

*An archaeological investigation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on the removal of overburden and machine excavation of house foundations at 60 High Street, Naseby, Northamptonshire. No archaeological features or finds were present.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

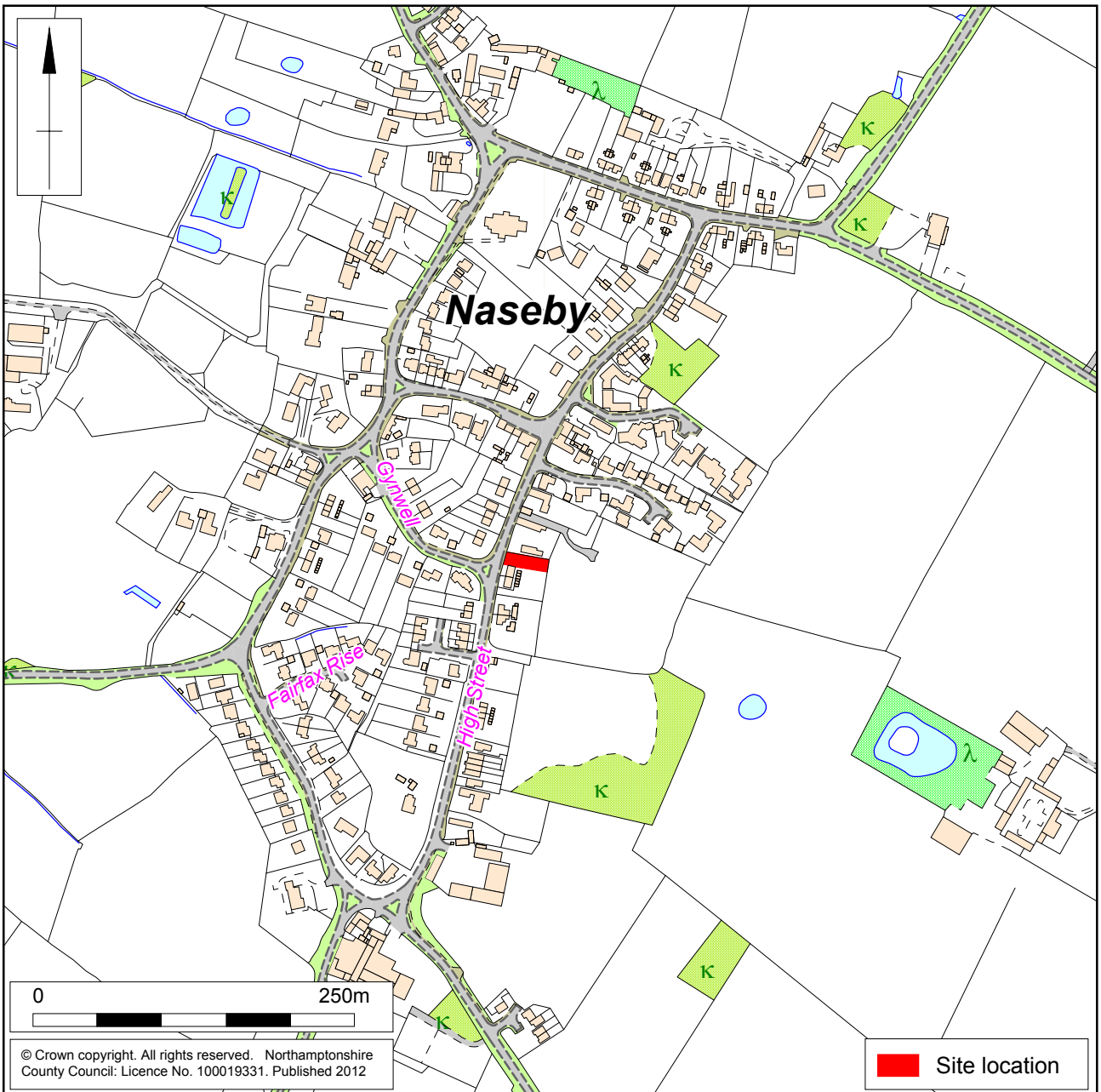
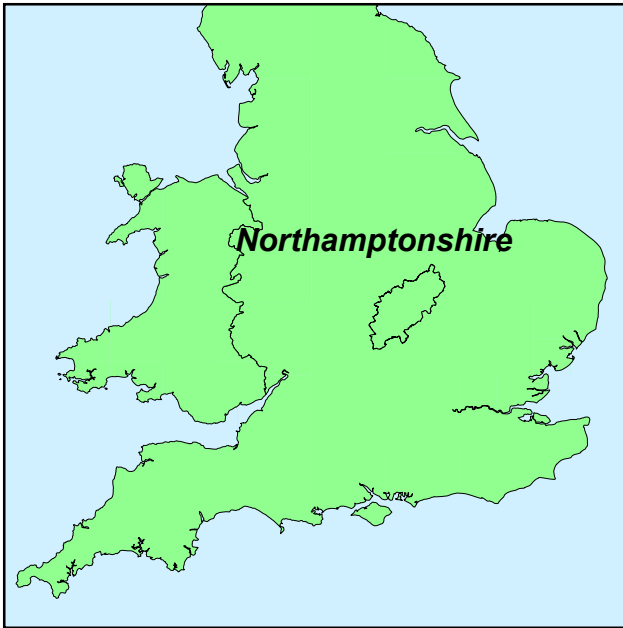
Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by S J & M J Nightingale to carry out an archaeological investigation through continuous observation of groundworks the construction of a single dwelling at 60 High Street, Naseby, Northamptonshire in May 2013 (NGR SP 688 778; Fig 1).

The investigation was carried out to fulfil the objectives of a request for archaeological investigation as required by the Assistant Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council (NCC 2013) in accordance Section 12, paragraph 128 and Appendix 2 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012). The works were undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2013). This comprised the archaeological observation of groundworks followed by the investigation and recording of any remains present.

## **2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY**

The village of Naseby lies in the north-western part of the county. The development area lies on the eastern edge of the village, bounded by the High Street to the west, by cottages to the south, a builders yard to the north and open fields to the east.

The site is situated on ground at a height of c. 188m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), although the topography displayed a marked slope from east to west. The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey as comprising Whitby Formation mudstone.



Scale 1:5,000

Site location Fig 1



### 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the work was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of the archaeological site in its cultural and environmental setting.

The aims of the investigation were to:

- Identify, investigate and record all archaeological deposits, exposed during the groundworks for the new extension;
- recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
- Determine and record the date, extent, character, state of preservation and depth of burial of any archaeological deposits.

### 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies within an area of the historic settlement of Naseby.

A Roman ditch containing 1st-2nd century pottery was been found c 150m to the south-west of the site during development at Brookfield (Historic Environment Record no 6629/0/1; Mudd 1995). A Roman coin hoard has been found c 50m to the north of the site (HER no 1586/0/1).

Naseby was mentioned in the Domesday Book, but is thought to have older origins, since Naseby is a partly Scandinavian place-name, meaning the fortified place of *Hnaef* (RCHM 1981). The relatively simple layout form of the village, characterised by two parallel north-south aligned streets criss-crossed by four lanes, appears to be misleading because its development is much more complex.

The modern village is, in fact, composed of two former settlements, Naseby and Nutcote, with the boundary between the two thought to have been formed by a small stream still partially visible to the north of Fairfax Drive (Fig 1). Excavations at Brookfield, in the area of the former green associated with Nutcote, found evidence of Saxon enclosures with an origin in the 10th century, although the excavation area was too small to properly interpret function or form (HER no 2390/0/15; Mudd 1995).

Extensive village earthworks recorded by the Royal Commission are concentrated to the east and south of the village and include remains of former closes, lanes and fishponds. Remains of some closes were also recorded to the east of the site (HER 1017/0/9). A map of the village dated 1630 depicts around 60 structures, thought to be houses and correlates well with the results of the earthwork survey. The map shows that in the early 17th century, the east side of High Street was occupied by a number of long, narrow closes, most of which had a property fronting the street. In the area of the site was a close belonging to *Garret*.

Ordnance Survey 1st (1885) and 2nd (1900) Edition maps show the site as being undeveloped, although the cottages immediately to the south are shown. This remained the case until the later part of the 20th century, when the builders yard immediately to the north was shown on the 1974 map. Until recently the plot was occupied by a garage which was demolished in advance of the current works.

## 5 WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

The character, composition and general depositional sequence of stratification was recorded on Northamptonshire Archaeology watching brief sheets. All recording followed the guidelines detailed in the Northamptonshire Archaeology *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual* (2011).

All records were compiled during fieldwork into a comprehensive site archive in accordance with the guidelines of Appendix 3 in the English Heritage procedural document, *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (1991).

Work was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2008) and *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010).

In order to facilitate construction the site was levelled prior to the cutting of foundations. This involved the mechanical removal of up to 1.2m of material at the eastern of the site including natural deposits using a JCB mini-excavator using a toothless ditching bucket (Figs 2 and 3). The depth of strip at the western street frontage end was much shallower, and did not reach natural deposits. Following the levelling of the site a series of foundation trenches were excavated, approximately 0.6m wide and up to 1.2m deep. The works comprised the observation of the initial levelling followed by observation of foundation cuts where natural deposits had not already been observed.



Site during stripping looking west, previous garage visible on the right Fig 2

## 6 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

The natural substrate comprised ironstone, generally encountered at a depth of 0.4-0.5m below the ground surface. Directly overlying this was the topsoil, which comprised mid-dark grey brown clay-loam. Modern artefacts were observed within this deposit (plastics, pottery and brick) but not retained. No archaeological features were present.



Site during stripping looking east, showing depth of cut

Fig 3

## 7 DISCUSSION

Archaeological observation, investigation and recording on the machine excavation of the foundations for the construction of a single dwelling. The excavation revealed no archaeological features or finds. The absence of a subsoil horizon may indicate that the site has previously been stripped, probably also accounting for the presence of only modern material in the topsoil.

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