Synthetic Survey of the Environmental Archaeological and Hydrological record for the River Nene from its source to Peterborough

Part 1: The Archaeological and Hydrological Record

Ian Meadows, WA Boismier and Andy Chapman

Prepared for English Heritage

Contents

Part 1: The Archaeological and Hydrological Record

1	The River Nene survey project by I Meadows1		
		Introduction	
		Acknowledgements	
2	Arc	Archaeology	
	2.1	Introduction by I Meadows	
	2.2	Palaeolithic and Mesolithic by WA Boismier9	
		The Palaeolithic period The Mesolithic period Discussions and conclusions Bibliography	
	2.3	The Neolithic to Middle Bronze Age by Andy Chapman33	
		Chronology The Mesolithic to Neolithic transition Elements of settlement and land use The distribution of monuments The end of the monuments (1500-1000 cal BC) Bibliography Plates	
	2.4	Late Bronze Age and Iron Age by I Meadows65	
		Fields Hillforts Middle-Late Iron Age settlement Other enclosures Communications Religion and burial Iron Age-Roman transition in the valley Bibliography Plates	

The military presence Major settlements Lesser settlements Rural sites Agriculture Industry Religion and burial The end of the Roman period Bibliography Plates

2.6 The Later Saxon and medieval valley by I Meadows.....125

Towns Villages Fields Place names River crossings Mills Churches Castles Conclusion Bibliography Plates

3 Hydrology by I Meadows.....143

Origin of the Nene Valley The Iron Age and Roman river The medieval river The sixteenth and seventeenth-century river The eighteenth-century river The nineteenth-century river The twentieth-century river Discussion Bibliography Plates

Tables

Table 3.1: Gradient of the River Nene

Table 3.2: Basal level of Romano-British wells at Stanwick

Figures

- 2.1.1 Location of River Nene and its tributaries
- 2.1.2 River Nene related to schematised relief
- 2.1.3 River Nene related to schematised solid geology
- 2.2.1 Chronological Framework for the Quaternary
- 2.2.2 Distribution of Palaeolithic sites mentioned in the text
- 2.2.3 Handaxes from the Northampton area: 1. Hardingstone; 2. Little Houghton; 3. Earls Barton; 4. Denton
- 2.2.4 Lyngby axe from Grendon. Reproduced by permission of the Prehistoric Society
- 2.2.5 Distribution of Mesolithic sites mentioned in the text
- 2.2.6 Mesolithic tranché axe from Flore
- 2.3.1 The distribution of Neolithic sites in the Nene Valley
- 2.3.2 The Neolithic causewayed enclosures: Briar Hill, Dallington, Southwick and Upton (after Oswald *et al* 2001)
- 2.3.3 The Neolithic mortuary enclosures and long barrow: Aldwincle; Grendon Quarry, ring ditch V; Tansor Crossroads; Stanwick, Redlands Farm (after Chapman 1997)
- 2.3.4 The Aldwincle Neolithic and Bronze Age monument complex (after Jackson 1976)
- 2.3.5 The Grendon Neolithic and Bronze Age monument complex (after Gibson and McCormick 1985 and Last 2005)
- 2.3.6 The Raunds, Stanwick and Irthlingborough monument complex (after Harding and Healy 2007)
- 2.3.7 The Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments at Raunds, West Cotton (after Harding and Healy 2007)
- 2.3.8 The distribution of Bronze Age round barrows along the Nene Valley
- 2.4.1 Distribution map showing sites mentioned in the text
- 2.4.2 Pit alignments in the Midlands
- 2.4.3 Pit alignments in Northamptonshire
- 2.4.4 Hillforts in Northamptonshire (after Jackson 1993-4)
- 2.4.5 Wollaston, plan of sub site 6
- 2.4.6 Wollaston, plan of Iron Age features
- 2.5.1 Roman sites mentioned in the text
- 2.5.2 Projected line of the road around Warmington over the Warmington excavation results
- 2.5.3 Roman roads and towns
- 2.5.4 Plan of monuments at Titchmarsh
- 2.5.5 Irchester town and suburbs
- 2.5.6 The Wollaston landscape
- 2.5.7 Artist's impression of the vineyard at Wollaston
- 2.5.8 Location of Saxon cemeteries and burials
- 2.5.9 Wollaston princely burial
- 2.6.1 Saxon and medieval sites mentioned in the text
- 2.6.2 Magnetometer survey of Warmington Manor
- 2.6.3 Excavated results at Warmington Manor

- 2.6.4 Hachure survey of earthwork remains of Chester on the Water
- 3.1 Palaeochannels around Wollaston

Plates

- 2.3.1 Reconstruction of the Earlier Neolithic causewayed enclosure at Briar Hill, Northampton, lying on the slopes overlooking the River Nene (Ken Connor for Northampton Development Corporation)
- 2.3.2 The Stanwick Redlands Farm long barrow, showing the side ditches, the eastern façade trench, and the Middle Bronze Age cremations (foreground) (Oxfordshire Archaeology)
- 2.3.3 The Neolithic mortuary enclosure at Tansor, Northamptonshire under excavation, with the mortuary enclosure surrounded by the barrow ditch (foreground) (Northamptonshire Archaeology)
- 2.3.4 The *in situ* crouched inhumation (foreground) and redeposited bones beside a post-pit (background) from the mortuary structure at Aldwincle, Northamptonshire (Dennis Jackson)
- 2.3.5 The steep-sided and flat-bottomed barrow ditch at the Tansor Neolithic mortuary enclosure (Northamptonshire Archaeology)
- 2.3.6 Transverse view of part of the Neolithic Long Mound at West Cotton, Raunds, showing the bay structure formed by transverse and marginal lines of stakeholes from former hurdles (Northamptonshire Archaeology)
- 2.3.7 The northern terminal of the Neolithic Long Enclosure at West Cotton, Raunds, with the southern end lying beyond the modern hedge (background) (Northamptonshire Archaeology)
- 2.3.8 Reconstruction of the Neolithic and Bronze Age monument complex lying beside the River Nene at West Cotton, Raunds, showing the Long Mound (right), the Long Enclosure (left) and the Beaker round barrow (right foreground) (Northamptonshire Archaeology)
- 2.3.9 The Later Neolithic alder trunks in the river palaeochannel at West Cotton, Raunds under excavation (it has been suggested that these may have been felled by beavers) (Northamptonshire Archaeology)
- 2.3.10 The Later Neolithic U-shaped timber structure within the Briar Hill causewayed enclosure, Northampton (Andy Chapman)
- 2.3.11 The Beaker round barrow at West Cotton, Raunds (Northamptonshire Archaeology)
- 2.3.12 The crouched Beaker inhumation from West Cotton, Raunds, showing the crushed Beaker, flint dagger and jet button (by the feet) and a small flint knife (by the hands) (Northamptonshire Archaeology)
- 2.3.13 The flint dagger that accompanied the Beaker burials at West Cotton, Raunds (Northamptonshire Archaeology)
- 2.3.14 The Beaker, accompanying an Early Bronze Age, Beaker, inhumation at Warmington (Northamptonshire Archaeology)
- 2.3.15 The flint implements and V-perforated jet buttons accompanying an Early Bronze Age, Beaker, inhumation at Warmington (Northamptonshire Archaeology)
- 2.4.1 Pit alignment at Warmington (Northamptonshire Archaeology)
- 2.4.2 Pit alignment at Wollaston (Northamptonshire County Council)
- 2.4.3 Experimental pit alignment at Wollaston (Northamptonshire Archaeology)
- 2.4.4 Experimental pit alignment at Wollaston (Northamptonshire Archaeology)
- 2.4.5 Crow Hill cropmark (Northamptonshire County Council)
- 2.4.6 Wollaston, sub site 6, waterlogged ditch (Northamptonshire Archaeology)
- 2.4.7 Pole-axed cattle skull from a ditch terminal by the entrance to a farmstead, sub site 6, Wollaston (Northamptonshire Archaeology)

- 2.4.8 Tightly flexed body, Wollaston (Northamptonshire Archaeology)
- 2.4.9 Etruscan bucket from Northampton (Northamptonshire Archaeology)
- 2.4.10 Artist's impression of a sword being cast into the River Nene at Orton Longueville (drawn by R McKenna)
- 2.5.1 Probable bridge at Grendon (Northamptonshire Archaeology)
- 2.5.2 Vine bedding trench showing root holes and postholes (Northamptonshire Archaeology)
- 2.5.3 Ashton late Roman cemetery (Northamptonshire Archaeology)
- 2.5.4 Fitting from Castor (Northamptonshire Archaeology)
- 2.5.5 Hanging bowl fragments from Castor (Northamptonshire Archaeology)
- 2.5.6 Helmet from princely grave at Wollaston (Northamptonshire Archaeology)
- 2.6.1 The Late Saxon manor at West Cotton, Raunds (Northamptonshire Archaeology)
- 2.6.2 A reconstruction of Furnells Manor, Raunds in the thirteenth century (Drawn by Alex Thompson)
- 2.6.3 A reconstruction of West Cotton, Raunds at the beginning of the fourteenth century (Drawn by Alex Thompson)
- 2.6.4 A fourteenth to fifteenth-century courtyard tenement at West Cotton, Raunds (Northamptonshire Archaeology)
- 2.6.5 The thirteenth to fourteenth-century malt house at West Cotton, Raunds (Northamptonshire Archaeology)
- 2.6.6 Tenth to eleventh-century watermill at West Cotton, Raunds (Northamptonshire Archaeology)
- 2.6.7 The eleventh to twelfth-century watermill at West Cotton, Raunds (Northamptonshire Archaeology)
- 3.1 High groundwater level in Iron Age enclosure ditch at Sub-site 1, Wollaston (Northamptonshire Archaeology)
- 3.2 Roman well at Wollaston (Northamptonshire Archaeology)
- 3.3 Section across palaeochannel at Turnell's Mill Lane (Northamptonshire Archaeology)
- 3.4 Section showing depth of alluvial clays at Wollaston (Northamptonshire Archaeology)
- 3.5 River Nene at Irthlingborough before dredging (River Nene Catchment Board)
- 3.6 River Nene at Irthlingborough after dredging (River Nene Catchment Board)
- 3.7 River Nene from South Bridge, Northampton before dredging (River Nene Catchment Board)
- 3.8 River Nene from South Bridge, Northampton after dredging (River Nene Catchment Board)
- 3.9 River Nene from Bedford Road, Northampton, before dredging (River Nene Catchment Board)
- 3.10 River Nene from Bedford Road, Northampton, after dredging (River Nene Catchment Board)
- 3.11 Peterborough Bridge Street timber revetment (Northamptonshire Archaeology)

Appendix 3.1: Gradient of the River Nene from Northampton Lock to Stanground Lock (Dog in a Doublet)