

1 The River Nene survey project

by I Meadows

Introduction

This project was designed by Northamptonshire Archaeology and Exeter University to present the evidence of the character of the relationship between the environmental and archaeological record and variations in the watertable for the Nene Valley from its source in Northamptonshire to Peterborough. It was felt that such a synthesising project was overdue because, despite the amount of archaeological excavation in the valley, little synthetic work has been carried out, the exceptions being two very general pieces by Robinson (Robinson 1992). Both of these articles were written over a decade ago and have a narrow point of origin as most of the information they present is derived from the Raunds Area Project.

It was because of this gap in knowledge of the valley as a whole that the grant was initially sought from English Heritage. The successful bid (PNUM 3453) was designed to correct the balance and identify valley-wide trends and also gaps that might be filled by whatever future fieldwork may take place either as a result of developer lead excavations or even perhaps as part of research projects. It is envisaged that the formal reports will form a resource both to researchers and planners as well as being informative to the mineral industry as to appropriate management of the remaining resource and suitable restoration schemes.

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Bibliography

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