



**Archaeological observation and recording
on land north of Lilford Lodge,
Barnwell, Northamptonshire
January 2014**

Report No. 14/44

Authors: Anne Foard
Mark Holmes

Illustrator: Amir Bassir



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Quality control and sign off:

Issue No.	Date approved:	Checked by:	Verified by:	Approved by:	Reason for Issue:
1	24.02.14	Pat Chapman	Mark Holmes	Andy Chapman	Draft for client review

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		Oasis No. molanort1 - 172460	
Project title	Archaeological observation and recording on land north of Lilford Lodge, Barnwell, Northamptonshire, January 2014		
Short description	MOLA (formerly Northamptonshire Archaeology) undertook observation and recording of groundworks associated with construction of a solar park on land north of Lilford Lodge, Barnwell, Northamptonshire. No archaeological features or finds were present.		
Project type	Archaeological observation, recording and publication		
Site Status	None		
Previous work	Geophysical survey (Fisher 2013)		
Current land use	Arable fields		
Future work	None		
Monument type and period	N/A		
Significant finds	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address	Lilford Lodge, Barnwell, Northamptonshire		
Post code	PE8 5SA		
OS co-ordinates	TL 040 851		
Area (sq m/ha)	0.9ha		
Height aOD	36-37m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (now operating as MOLA)		
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council Assistant Archaeological Advisor		
Project Design originator	Mark Holmes MOLA		
Director/Supervisor	Anne Foard		
Project Managers	Mark Holmes		
Sponsor or funding body	Lilford Lodge Lakes		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	14/02/2014		
End date	14/02/2014		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents	
Physical		None	
Paper		Site records (1 small archive box)	
Digital		Client report PDF	
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)		
Title	Archaeological observation and recording on land north of Lilford Lodge, Barnwell, Northamptonshire, January 2014		
Serial title & volume	14/44		
Author(s)	Anne Foard-Colby, Mark Holmes		
Page numbers	8 pages		
Date	24 February 2014		

Contents

1	INTRODUCTION
2	TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY
3	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND
4	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
5	EVALUATION METHODOLOGY
6	THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE
7	DISCUSSION
	BIBLIOGRAPHY
	APPENDIX: CONTEXT TABLE

Figures

Front cover: Solar panel framework and foundation, looking north-west

Fig 1: Site location, 1:10,000

Fig 2: General view of pipe trench at southern end, looking north

Fig 3: Northern field through hedge line, looking north

Fig 4: Section showing clay natural (105), looking west

Fig 5: Section showing limestone layer (103), looking west

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING ON LAND NORTH OF
LILFORD LODGE, BARNWELL, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
JANUARY 2014**

Abstract

MOLA (formerly Northamptonshire Archaeology undertook observation and recording of groundworks associated with construction of a solar park on land north of Lilford Lodge, Barnwell, Northamptonshire. No archaeological features or finds were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

Planning permission has been granted to Lilford Lodge Lakes Ltd for the construction of a solar park on land north of Lilford Lodge, Barnwell, Northamptonshire (NGR 504045 285061; Fig 1). A condition placed upon the consent required a program of archaeological works to be undertaken.

MOLA (formerly Northamptonshire Archaeology) was commissioned by S B Rice Consulting Ltd, acting on behalf of Lilford Lodge Lakes Ltd, to carry out an archaeological observation and recording of groundworks associated with the construction of the solar park.

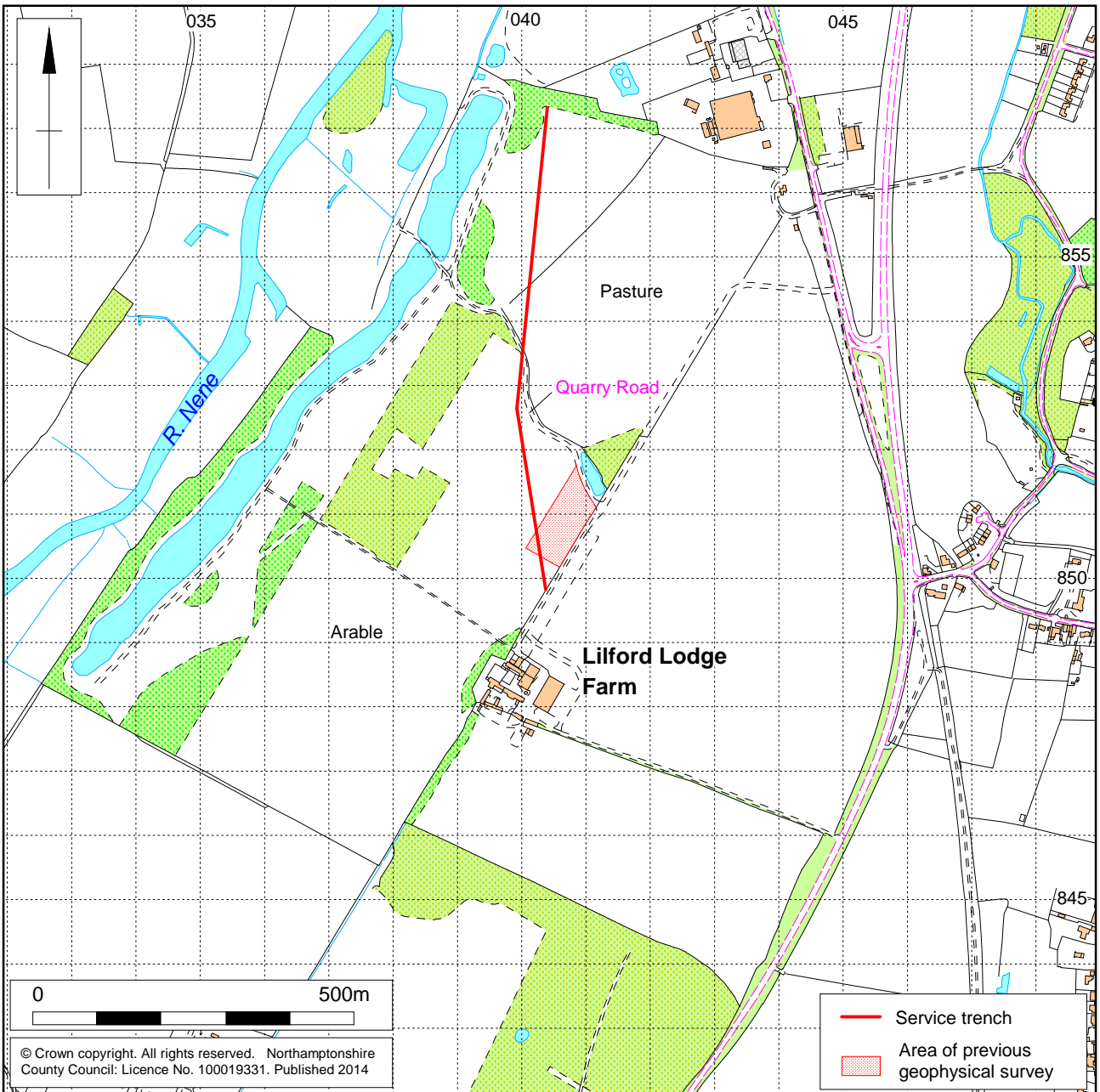
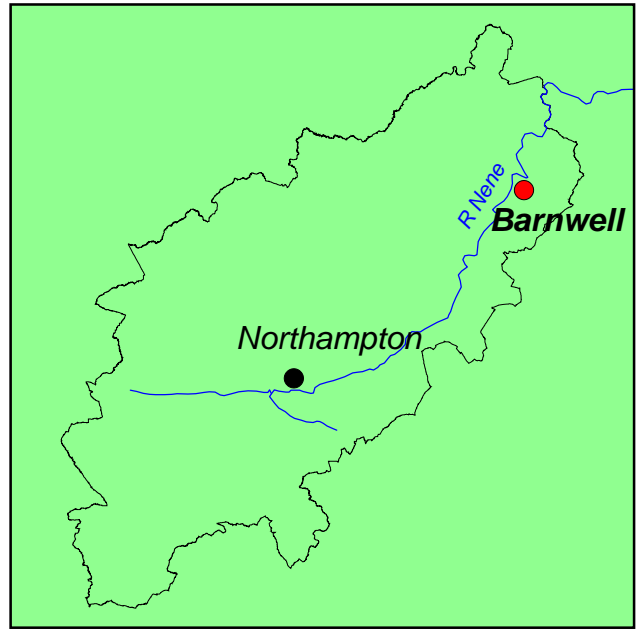
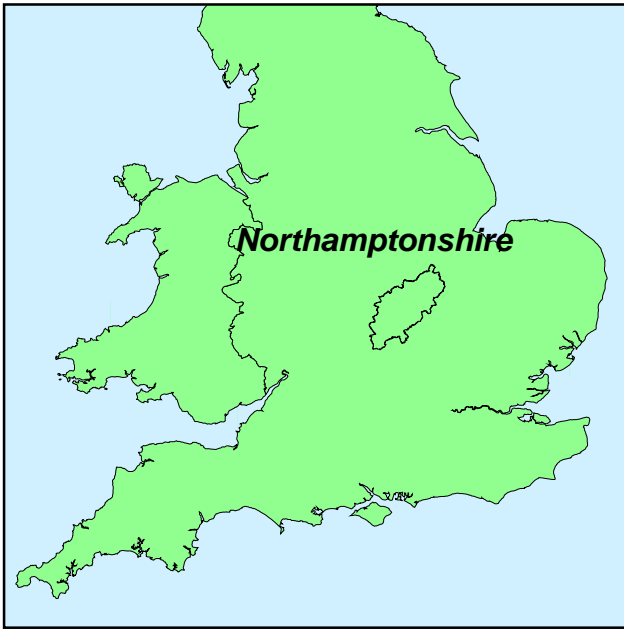
The works for the solar park comprised the installation of the solar panels and the excavation of an associated service trench. The area of the solar panels themselves had been subject to a previous geophysical survey as part of the planning condition (Fisher 2013).

2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The site is located within the River Nene valley, to the west of Barnwell village and immediately north of Lilford Lodge Farm. The River Nene flows approximately 400m to the north-west and the site lies at c 36-37m aOD.

The solar panels are situated in the north-east corner of an arable field. The associated service trench leads north-north-west across the field before turning to the north-north-east across another field of rough pasture. The length of the service trench is approximately 750m.

The solid geology comprises Cornbrash Formation – Limestone in the south and Blisworth Clay in the north. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2014).



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

A desk-based assessment (Flitcroft 2013) was prepared in advance of works and discusses the historical and archaeological background in detail.

The site lies within an area of archaeological interest, with remains of prehistoric, Roman and medieval date known in and around the village of Barnwell, to the east. A watching brief undertaken during the construction of fishponds to the north-west of the application area revealed a range of discarded artefacts dating from the Neolithic through to the Middle Ages in alluvial deposits, suggesting regular flooding of the area over the last 5000 years (HER ENN100533). No finds or archaeological monuments are recorded from the application area itself.

There are a small number of prehistoric cropmarks along the lower reaches of the Nene valley to the north at Barnwell Mill Farm, and on the west bank of the Nene in the parishes of Pilton to the south-west and Stoke Doyle to the west. They are rectilinear in form and may be of later prehistoric date. Cropmarks in the field adjoining the application area to the east, possibly represent prehistoric funerary activity (HER 2360/1/2).

Evidence for Roman settlement lies both north and east of Barnwell and includes a stone structure and hypocaust building at TL 074 848. All are located a considerable distance from the site.

Medieval remains are largely confined to Barnwell village and comprise evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation, the manor house, a castle and possible moat (RCHME 1975).

An archaeological geophysical survey was previously undertaken in the area proposed for the solar panel installation, as part of the planning condition (NA 2013). This identified medieval ridge and furrow cultivation but no other archaeological features.

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

In order to examine the archaeological resource within the proposed development area the objectives of the investigation were to:

- ◆ Identify, investigate and record all archaeological deposits, exposed during the groundworks for service trenches associated with the proposed solar array;
- ◆ Determine and record the date, extent, character, state of preservation and depth of burial of any archaeological deposits;
- ◆ Create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.

5 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

The works were undertaken in accordance with *the National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012) and with a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2014).

All works were conducted in accordance with the IfA's *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008) and *Code of conduct* (IfA 2010).

Observations were made along the length of the service trench but some parts of it had been completed prior to arrival on site. A written, drawn and photographic record was made of the stratigraphic sequences present.

6 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

The cable trench was c 2 metres wide and varied between 1.0m to 1.2m deep. The southernmost part, up to the quarry road, had been backfilled save for a couple of locations where the trench had been left open, for connection of cables to the solar panels (Fig 2).

In the north, the cable trench cut an extant field hedge (Fig 3). A British Telecomm cable, a water pipe, a conduit for fibre optic cable and another for high voltage cable were laid in the base of the trench.



General view of pipe trench at southern end, looking north Fig 2



Northern field through hedge line, looking north

Fig 3

The natural substrate throughout was mid-dark blue-brown clay (105), which was generally overlain by a further natural layer of mid orange-brown sandy clay (104) with some limestone and gravel inclusions (Fig 4). Mid orange-brown clayey loam subsoil (102) was generally present as a thin layer, approximately 0.10m thick and was in turn overlain by a mid to dark orange-brown clayey loam topsoil (101), 0.30m thick, which was present in all fields.



Section showing clay naturals (105), looking west

Fig 4

Along parts of the service trench, particularly close to the quarry road in the northern field, natural clay (105) was directly overlain by subsoil (102). Occasional layers of limestone (104), varying in thickness from 0.02m to 0.55m also overlay the orange-brown clay natural (102) in places (Fig 5).



Section showing limestone layer (103), looking west

Fig 5

There were no archaeological features or finds present. Several broken ceramic land drains were observed in the trench.

7 DISCUSSION

The groundworks did not reveal any significant archaeological features or deposits with the strata throughout the area being natural in origin. The lenses of limestone pieces that occurred sporadically possibly derive from outcroppings of the Blisworth Limestone Formation geology.

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APPENDIX: CONTEXT TABLE

		NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
		TL 040 854	36m aOD	0.40m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
101	Topsoil	Mid to dark orange-brown clay loam.	0.30m thick	—
102	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown clay loam	0.10m thick	—
103	Layer	Occasional patches of irregular limestone pieces.	0.02 to 0.55m thick	—
104	Natural	Mid orange-brown sandy clay	—	—
105	Natural	Dark blue-brown clay.	—	—



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