WADENHOE HYDRO SCHEME,

ADJACENT RIVER NENE,

CHURCH STREET,

WADENHOE,

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NGR REF: TL 01185 83308

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
(OASIS ID: independ1-310903)

MARCH 2018

PREPARED BY CHRISTER CARLSSON

CONTENTS

Summary

Archaeological Monitoring was conducted by Independent Archaeology Consultants for the construction of a new hydro power station adjacent to the River Nene, Church Street, Wadenhoe, Northamptonshire. The monitoring area, however, showed no evidence of human activity from earlier periods.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Archaeological monitoring was carried out during the groundworks for Wadenhoe Hydro Scheme adjacent to the River Nene, Church Street, Wadenhoe, Northamptonshire (NGR: TL 01185 83308) (Figure 1-2).

1.2 The investigation was carried out in accordance with the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014), as well as discussions with Liz Mordue, Archaeological Officer at Northamptonshire County Council.

1.3 Independent Archaeology Consultants is an archaeological consultancy company based in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. The company subscribes to the Code of Conduct issued by the CIfA. All relevant CIfA Codes of Practice will be adhered to throughout the course of the project.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

2.1 Planning Permission has been granted (11/00925/FUL) for a new development adjacent to the River Nene, Church Street, Wadenhoe, Northamptonshire. The development comprised the construction of a new hydropower generator scheme comprising a channel from the Mill Leat to the scheme plus a hut to cover the generator, gearbox and control system.

2.2 The scheme was stretching over a length of some 126m at an average height of 24m AOD. The site was located between two branches of the River Nene, just to the south of Wadenhoe village core. The works were undertaken within an area of grassland bounded by trees on a large island formed by the two branches of the river. The geology of the site comprised alluvial clay, silt, sand and gravel over Northampton Sand and Ironstone (British Geological Survey).

2.3 The site was situated within an area of archaeological potential, as defined by Northamptonshire HER. Therefore, archaeological monitoring and documentation was required prior to the proposed construction works. This condition was mentioned in the Planning Permission granted by East Northamptonshire District Council, and was in line with standards described in *NPPF* (2012).

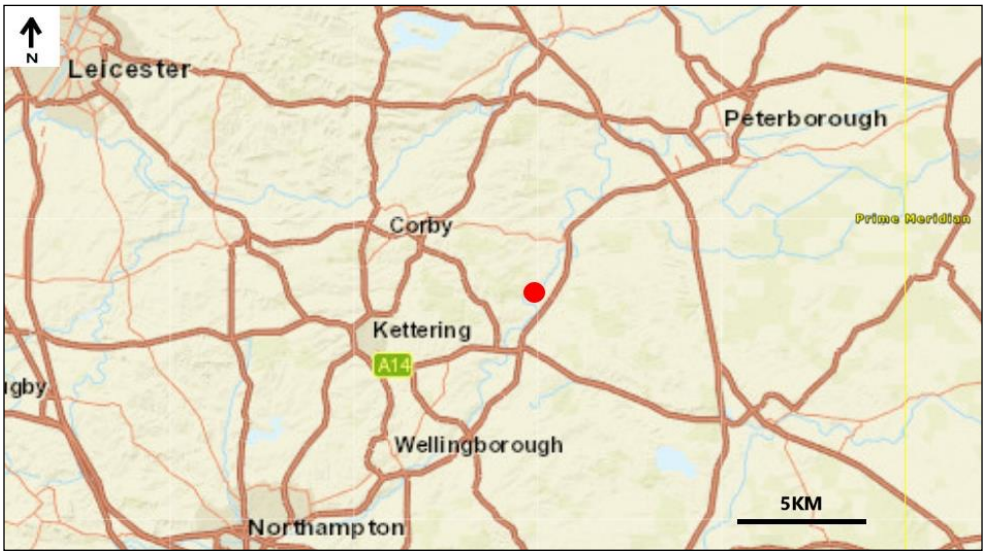

Figure 1. The location of Wadenhoe in England.

Figure 2. Site location in Wadenhoe.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The application site was located on the edge of the area of known medieval settlement. A short distance to the west, on the opposite side of the river, was a Scheduled Monument, the site of a late Anglo-Saxon or early medieval fortified manor complex (DNN3418). The 12th-14th century village church was located just outside the southern edge of the scheduled area (DNN4709).

3.2 On the site of the village hall, across the river from the north western end of the proposed channel, observation during building works in 1989 retrieved medieval and post-medieval pottery (ENN2203) (Dix, B, 1992).

3.3 Archaeological monitoring during the installation of an electricity supply to the lock in 2006 did not identify any archaeological remains (ENN104462) (NA 2008). The focus of the investigation described in this report was therefore the area of the scheme above the lock, and nearer to the Scheduled Monument and the village of Wadenhoe.

4 AIMS

4.1 The aims of the monitoring were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:

i) to gain information about the heritage assets within the proposed development area;

ii) to provide detailed information regarding the date, nature, extent, integrity and degree of preservation of the identified heritage assets;

iii) to inform a strategy for the recording, preservation and/or management of the identified assets;

iv) to mitigate potential threats;

v) to inform proposals for further archaeological investigations (namely targeted area excavations) within the ongoing programme of research;

vi) to define the sequence and character of activity at the site, as reflected by the excavated remains;

vii) to interpret the archaeology of the site within its local, regional and national archaeological context.

4.2 The monitoring also considered the general investigative themes outlined by: *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda* (Ed. Nicholas J. Cooper) Leicester Archaeology Monograph No. 13, *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated*

Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands (Knight, D; Vyner, B; Allen, C. 2012), *English Heritage Archaeology Division Research Agenda* (1997) and *Discovering the Past, Shaping the Future: Research Strategy 2005-2010* (English Heritage 2005).

4.3 Specifically, the following investigative aims were accommodated in the programme of archaeological work:

*characterisation of the sites in the broader landscape;
*characterisation of the activities identified on the site;
*characterisation of changes affecting land-use through time

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Stripping of topsoil and overburden within the investigation area

The archaeological monitoring consisted of continuous observation during the removal of topsoil and overburden within the development area.

The stripping of overburden was conducted under constant archaeological supervision using a flat bladed ditching bucket. The investigation area was mechanically stripped to the upper interface of natural deposits. Thereafter, hand-excavation was required to sample any deposits present within the site.

The excavation of the site took into consideration potential above- and below-ground constraints and/or hazards, such as trees, utility trenches, overhead cables and areas of modern disturbance. All spoil heaps were also searched for artefacts of archaeological interest.

The investigation was not carried out at the expenses of the heritage assets within the area.

5.2 Metal Detecting

Thorough metal detector sweeps of exposed deposits and spoil heaps were carried out in advance of, and during, the excavation process.

5.3 Hand Excavation

All man-made deposits were hand cleaned, photographed, excavated and documented. Apparently natural features (such as tree throws) were sampled sufficiently to establish their origin and to characterise any related human activity. Hand excavation and sampling of the deposits were sufficient to establish the date, character and relationships with other deposits. Deposits and layers (including buried horizons of top- and subsoils) were sampled sufficiently to enable a confident interpretation of their character, date and relationships with other features.

The investigation provided a full documentation and interpretation of the site's stratigraphy at no significant cost to the value or integrity of the historical remains therein. Judgement regarding the removal of structural remains, or other special remains or deposits, was led by this consideration, and was made in consultation with the Archaeological Advisor for Northamptonshire County Council.

The developer was informed that provision had to be made for delays caused by the need for archaeological recording or bad weather.

5.4 Recording

A numbered single context-based recording system, written on suitable forms and indexed appropriately, was used for all elements of the archaeological recording programme.

Measured plans were produced that show all exposed deposits and excavated areas. Excavation plans and sections in the scales 1:50 and 1:20 were produced for all excavated areas and deposits. These were accurately tied in to trench plans/trench location plans, that in turn were accurately related to the Ordnance Survey grid and to suitably mapped local features (boundaries, buildings, roads, etc.). All sections and plans were related accurately to Ordnance Datum.

A photographic record comprising monochrome and digital photos formed part of the excavation record. A selection of digital photos was also used in this report (a maximum of two photos per A4 sheet). The photographic record followed the outlines in NAAWG 2014 paragraph A1.10.9 for site photographic guidance.

6 RESULTS

6.1 The lowest deposit encountered within the site was the Natural ground, which consisted of orange-yellow, firm gravel. The Natural showed no traces of human activities, and no potentially archaeological features were cut into this deposit.

6.2 Covering the Natural was the up to 0.39m thick Subsoil (102), which consisted of light brown, soft silty clay with occasional stones.

6.3 The uppermost deposit with the investigation area was the up to 0.32m thick Topsoil (101), which consisted of dark brown, soft silty clay with occasional stones and roots.

6.4 No archaeological finds or features were encountered anywhere within the investigation area.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 The archaeological monitoring during the groundworks for Wadenhoe new Hydro Power Scheme revealed no archaeological remains within the development area.

7.2 The Natural deposits contained no traces of previous human activity in the area, and no archaeologically significant artefacts could be seen anywhere in the topsoil or subsoil.

7.3 It seems, therefore, as the island in the River Neneon which the new Hydro Power Station was being built has never formed part of the actual settlement of Wadenhoe itself, but has rather been an unpopulated island in the River Nene. This conclusion matches the results of the 2006 archaeological investigation, which was not able to locate any traces of previous human activity on the island.

Figure 3. Overview photo of investigation area. East facing photo.

Figure 4. Overview photo of investigation area. West facing photo.

8 ARCHIVE

The archive consists of the following:

<u>Paper Record</u>

The project brief	The project report
Written Scheme of Investigation	The primary site records
The photographic and drawn records	Finds

The archive is currently maintained by Independent Archaeology Consultants. The archive will be transferred to:

The Archaeological Collections for Northamptonshire County Council.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

APP (2007) *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*: Archaeological Archive Forum (2007).

Cooper, NJ (ed.), 2006, The Archaeology of the East Midlands: an archaeological resource assessment and research agenda, University of Leicester/ English Heritage.

ENGLISH HERITAGE (1991b) *Exploring Our Past*.

ENGLISH HERITAGE (1997) *English Heritage Archaeology Division Research Agenda* (Unpublished draft).

ENGLISH HERITAGE (2011) *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from sampling and recovery to post excavation (second edition)* (Centre for Archaeology Guidelines).

ENGLISH HERITAGE (2009) *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* and *MoRPHE Project Planning Note 3: Excavation* (2008).

INSTITUTE FOR ARCHAEOLOGISTS (2014 revision) *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring.*

INSTITUTE FOR ARCHAEOLOGISTS (2014 revision) *Standards and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials.*

Knight, D; Vyner, B; Allen, C (2012) *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (University of Nottingham/York Archaeological Trust).

NAAWG (2014) *Northamptonshire Archaeological Archives Standard* (Standards Working Party of Northamptonshire Archaeological Archives Working Group).

Treasure Act of 1996. London.

APPENDICES

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context nr	Depth (m)	Description	Younger than	Older than
(101)	0.32	Topsoil of dark brown, soft silty clay with occasional stones and roots.	(102)	-
(102)	0.39	Subsoil of light brown, soft silty clay with occasional stones.	Natural	(101)
Natural	-	Natural of orange yellow, firm gravel.	-	(102)

OASIS ID: independ1-310903

Project details

Project name	Wadenhoe Hydro Scheme, Wadenhoe, Northamptonshire
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief for the construction of a new hydro scheme along the River Nene.
Project dates	Start: 01-03-2018 End: 02-03-2018
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	WHN17 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	11/00925/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	N/A None
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORTHAMPTONSHIRE EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE WADENHOE Wadenhoe Hydropower Scheme, Wadenhoe, Northamptonshire
Postcode	PE8 5ST

Study area	420 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 01185 83308 52.437984898443 -0.511329137237 52 26 16 N 000 30 40 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 23m Max: 25m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Independent Archaeology Consultants
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Independent Archaeology Consultants
Project director/manager	Christer Carlsson
Project supervisor	Christer Carlsson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Nothamptonshire County Council
Physical Contents	"other"
Digital Archive recipient	Northamptonshire County Council
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector"
Paper Archive recipient	Northamptonshire County Council
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	ARCHAEOLOGIOCAL MONITORING AT CHURCH STREET, ADJACENT RIVER NENE

Author(s)/Editor(s)	Carlsson, C
Date	2018
Issuer or publisher	Independent Archaeology Consultants
Place of issue or publication	Peterborough
Entered by	Christer Karlsson (contact@independentarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	6 March 2018

