

**RED LION LODGE,
MAIN STREET,
CLOPTON,
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

NGR REF: TL 06083 8049



ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

(OASIS ID: independ1-382319)

(EVENT NR: ENN109575)

JANUARY 2020

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Summary

A program of archaeological monitoring was conducted by Independent Archaeology Consultants for the construction of three new dwellings on land at the Red Lion Lodge, Main Street, Clopton, Northamptonshire. The investigation area was much disturbed due to earlier construction and contained no finds or features of archaeological interest.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The site was located on land adjacent to the Red Lion Lodge, Main Street, Clopton, Northamptonshire (NGR: TL 06083 80495) (Figure 1-3). A larger area was stripped prior to the footings were being dug for the three new dwellings. The investigation was, however, unable to identify any finds or features of archaeological interest. The project was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (CifA 2014), as well as discussions with Liz Mordue, Assistant Archaeological Officer at Northamptonshire County Council. The project was based on a WSI, which complies with the principles of the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework 2012).
- 1.2 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 were adhered to throughout the course of the project.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning Permission has been granted (15/00548/OUT) for a new development at the Red Lion Lodge, Main Street, Clopton, Northamptonshire. The development comprised the removal of the existing motel room block and the construction of three dwellings on land adjacent to the Red Lion Lodge.
- 2.1 The development site was located in the central parts of the village of Clopton. It enclosed an area of some 2100m² at an average height of 74m AOD. The southern and western sides of the site were occupied by existing dwellings, while Berry Green Park was limiting the site in the north. A green field with existing medieval ridge and furrow systems was adjacent to the development site in the east. The geology of the site comprised Oadby Member Diamicton over Oxford Clay Formation Mudstone (British Geological Survey).
- 2.2 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). The project was also carried out in accordance with the following document: *East Midlands Research Framework* (<https://archaeologicaldataservice.ac.uk/researchframeworks/eastmidlands/wiki/>).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Clopton probably originated in the Saxon period, and its name is recorded in the Domesday Book as “*Clotone*”.
- 3.2 In ca. 1250 A. D. Clopton belonged to the Peterborough Abbey fee, which had 4 hides and 1 great virgate. It also belonged to the Lovetot fee, which had 1 hide and 1 great virgate (Hall 1993).
- 3.3 The shrunken village of Clopton is one of the few Medieval settlements in Northamptonshire with a deliberately planned rectangular layout, the remains of which survive as earthworks in the form of house platforms and a network of hollow ways (Hall 1993, Fig. 2). House platforms survive particularly along the north side of the main street, surrounding Clopton Manor and in the area to the north of the village church where at least ten ditched closes have been identified.
- 3.4 The existing properties on the north side of the street have remains of larger crofts behind them. In the undeveloped areas in between the current housing, the crofts extend up to the street and have building platforms within them (RCHME 1975).
- 3.5 Clopton lies within a medieval landscape of ridge and furrow cultivation, which comprises several furlongs with headlands and joints. Some ridges are low profile with ditches representing old enclosure hedges (Hall 1993). The proposed development site was located within an area of crofts along the north side of Main Street and to the south of surviving medieval ridge and furrow.
- 3.6 The Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record lists a number of archaeological sites in the vicinity of the proposed development, which comprise largely medieval features, including crofts, building platforms, ponds and an agricultural landscape dominated by ridge and furrow beyond the village core.
- 3.7 The medieval parish church of Clopton, probable of late 13th Century to early 14th century date, is located some 500m southeast of the site. A shaft from a Saxon cross with interlace has been recorded, although its current location was not ascertained upon investigation in 1969. A chapel to the Holy Trinity was allegedly built in 1250 in the churchyard, although there is no other mention of it in later documents. Here is also Clopton Old Hall located, an 18th century house with early 17th century gatehouse.
- 3.8 Medieval or Post Medieval triangular earthworks exist some 200m south of the parish church and suggests a possible moat, decoy pond or drainage ditch was once present here. Previously considered to be a homestead moat, although this is doubtful (360783).
- 3.9 A possible medieval moat, which consists of a small rectangular island surrounded on three sides by an up to 7 metres wide and 1 metre deep ditch, is located some 150m south of the site and just across Main Street. There is a rectangular pond on the north east side. The interior of the site is flat and level with the adjacent land, and the surrounding ditch is linked to other ditches which divide the nearby areas of ridge and furrow (361171).

- 3.10 A complex of Roman, and/or possibly Iron Age, rectilinear ditched enclosures, probably marking the site of settlement, are recorded as cropmarks on EH Reconnaissance aerial photographs taken in July 2011 some 600m east of the site. They extend over a rectangular area measuring about 250 metres by 125 metres. The site appears to have two possible linked phases each comprising enclosures in a 'ladder' arrangement. The west side of the site is defined by a double ditch giving the complex the appearance of the large ditched boundaries sometimes associated with Roman villas. The south east corner of the site comprises a broad ditched enclosure which was mapped from EH Reconnaissance aerial photographs taken in July 2006 (1499643).
- 3.11 A linear arrangement of rectilinear ditched enclosures are recorded as cropmarks on EH Reconnaissance aerial photographs taken in July 2011 some 800m southeast of the site. They extend along a ditched boundary for over 500 metres. The enclosures range in size from about 10 metres to 50 metres across and may indicate the site of former settlements (1590058).
- 3.12 Iron Age and/or Roman irregular curvilinear ditched enclosures and boundaries, probably marking the site of a settlement, are recorded as cropmarks on EH Reconnaissance aerial photographs taken in July 2011 some 800m south of the site. The enclosure encloses a sub-circular area measuring about 600m across. It is cut through by a modern farm track. The boundary of a partially visible enclosure extends parallel to the north and eastern parts of the sub-circular enclosure forming a larger enclosure measuring at least 80 metres long (1590067).
- 3.13 Iron Age and/or Roman ditched enclosures and boundaries, probably marking the site of a settlement, are recorded as cropmarks on EH Reconnaissance aerial photographs taken in July 2011 some 600m south of the site. Two conjoined rectilinear enclosures extend over an area measuring about 75 metres by 50 metres and appear to be appended to the south side of a ditched roughly east-west aligned boundary measuring at least 100 metres long. The westernmost enclosure has a curved south-west side. Parallel to this, within the enclosure, is a curved enclosure measuring about 15 metres across (1590070).
- 3.14 In 2015 staff from Independent Archaeology Consultants were able to investigate and fully document a building dating from the 13th and 14th century at 14-15 Main Street, some 50m south of the development site (Carlsson 2015).

4 AIMS

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

* to establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation in the development site;

* to establish the relationship of any remains found in the surrounding contemporary landscapes;

- * to recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
- * to recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions as an intrinsic part of the investigation;
- * to inform a strategy for the recording, preservation and/or management of the identified assets;
- * to mitigate potential threats,
- * to inform proposals for further archaeological investigations (namely targeted area excavations) within the ongoing programme of research;
- * to define the sequence and character of activity at the site, as reflected by the excavated remains;
- * 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, (Knight, D; Vyner, B; Allen, C) *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (2012), *English Heritage Archaeology Division Research Agenda* (1997); *Discovering the Past, Shaping the Future: Research Strategy 2005 - 2010* (English Heritage 2005).

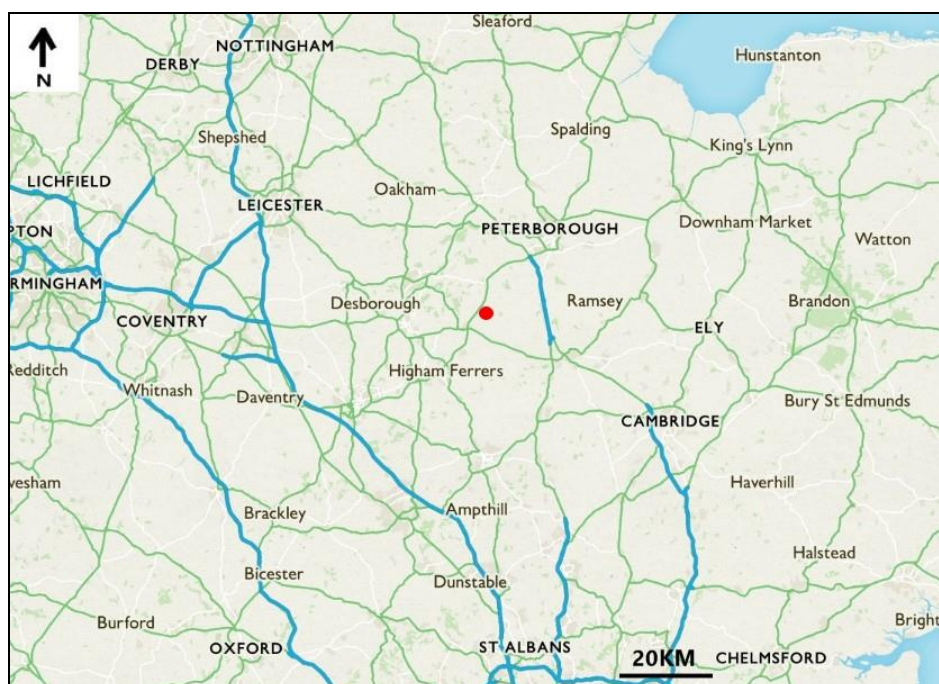


Figure 1. The location of Clopton in England.



Figure 2. Site Location in Clopton.

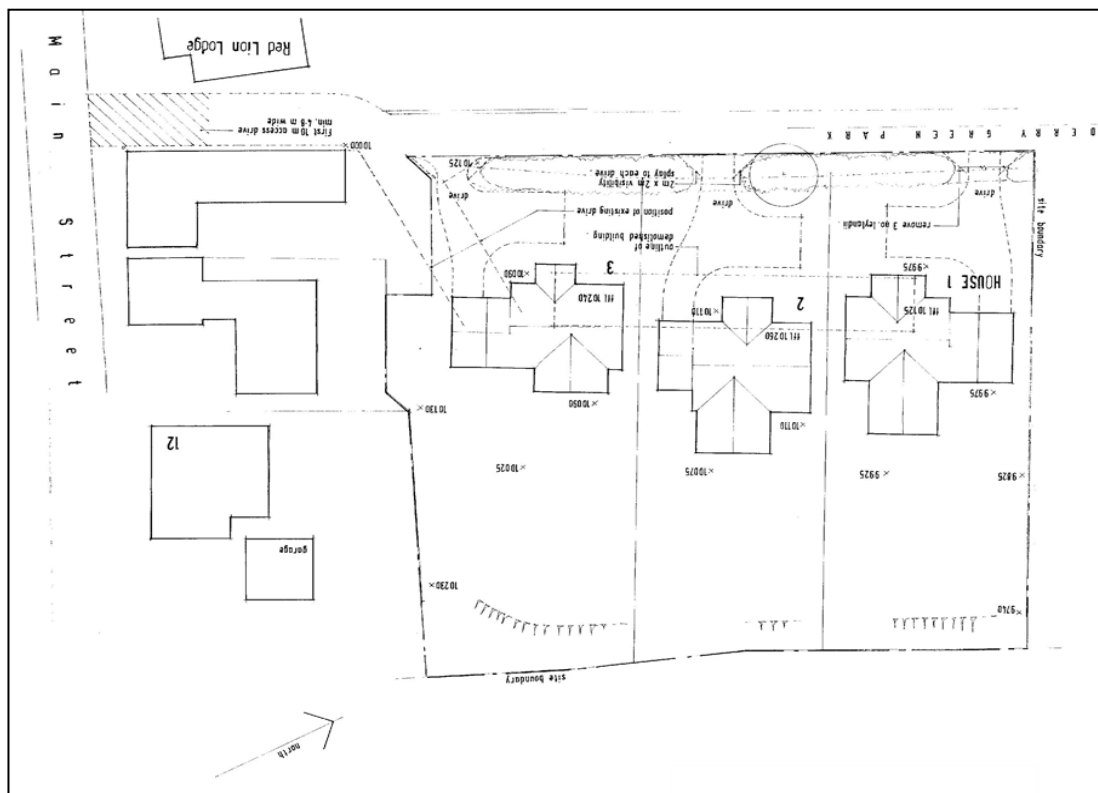


Figure 3. Site Outline and the positions of the three plots.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Monitoring of Groundworks

A programme of controlled archaeological investigation and recording was undertaken during the groundworks. The archaeological investigation consisted of the continuous observation of removal of overburden within the development footprints, followed by the investigation and recording of any potential archaeological features that were revealed. All service trenches were also monitored.

All groundworks took place under constant archaeological supervision using a flat bladed ditching bucket. When potential archaeological features were encountered, they were investigated and recorded according to the parameters described below.

The program of fieldworks took into consideration potential above- and below-ground constraints and/or hazards, such as trees, utility trenches, overhead cables and areas of modern disturbance.

The development area was excavated to the upper interface of secure archaeological deposits or, where these were not present, to the upper interface of natural deposits. Thereafter, hand-excavation was required to sample any features exposed.

The monitoring was not carried out at the expenses of the heritage assets and was minimally intrusive to archaeological remains.

5.2 Metal Detecting

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

6 RESULTS

6.1 The archaeological monitoring project at the Red Lion Lodge, Main Street, Clopton, Northamptonshire indicated that no archaeological finds or features were present within the development area.

6.2 The development consisted of three new dwellings and the northwest parts of the area had until recently been covered by a brick motel block from the 1970s. The footings, services and carpark linked to this structure had caused much damage in the ground and no archaeological finds or features could be seen anywhere within the three plots (Figures 4-6).

6.3 The untouched strips of land that could be spotted indicated that the up to 0.20m thick topsoil (101) consisted of dark brown, soft silty clay with occasional stones, roots and building material mixed into it. The subsoil (102) consisted of up to 0.30m thick light brown, soft silty clay with occasional mixed in roots, stones and building material.

- 6.4 The untouched areas of land did not contain any traces of the medieval ridge and furrow systems that are preserved in the field north of the development site. A similar conclusion was reached in *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the County of Northamptonshire, Volume 1* where the site was not included in the area with preserved ridge and furrow systems.

7 DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The program of archaeological monitoring which was carried out on land adjacent to the Red Lion Lodge, Main Street, Clopton, Northamptonshire indicated that no archaeological finds or features were present within the investigation area.
- 7.2 The likelihood of finding medieval remains was seen as fairly large prior to the investigation as a number of linear features, house platforms and a ridge and furrow landscape was known from the surrounding area. However, as no finds or features were uncovered during the investigation it is likely that the medieval settlement of Clopton did not stretch into the development area.
- 7.3 It is mainly along Main Street that medieval buildings have been uncovered during previous archaeological investigations. In 2015, for instance, staff from Independent Archaeology Consultants were able to investigate and fully document a building dating from the 13th and 14th century at 14-15 Main Street, some 50m south of the development site (Carlsson 2015).
- 7.4 The investigation area, therefore, did not give the impression of having been developed in the medieval period, but the site had largely been truncated by the footings, services and carpark of the former brick motel block which until recently covered a large part of the site.



Figure 4. Plot 1 from northwest.



Figure 5. Plot 2 from southwest.



Figure 6. Plot 3 from southeast.

8 ARCHIVE

The archive consists of the following:

Paper Record

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

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

The Archaeological Collections for Northamptonshire County Council.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the County of Northamptonshire, Volume 1, Archaeological Sites in North-East Northamptonshire. Originally published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1975.

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The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda (Ed. Nicholas J. Cooper) Leicester Archaeology Monograph No. 13.

APPENDICES

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context nr	Depth (m)	Description	Younger than	Older than
(101)	0.20	Topsoil of dark brown, soft silty clay. Occasional roots, stones and building material	(102)	-
(102)	0.30	Subsoil of light brown, soft silty clay. Occasional roots, stones and building material.	Natural	(101)
Natural	-	Light yellow, soft sandy silt. Frequent stones and occasional roots.	-	(102)

Red Lion Lodge, Clopton: Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication

OASIS ID: independ1-382319

Project details

Project name	Red Lion Lodge, Main Street, Clopton, Northamptonshire
Short description of the project	Stripping of topsoil and archaeological monitoring of groundworks for 3 new dwellings.
Project dates	Start: 20-01-2020 End: 21-01-2020
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	RLC16 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	15/00548/OUT - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	N/A None
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	"Field observation","Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORTHAMPTONSHIRE EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE CLOPTON Red Lion Lodge, Main Street, Clopton, Northamptonshire
Postcode	NN14 3DZ
Study area	2100 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 06083 80495 52.411772283296 -0.44018910046 52 24 42 N 000 26 24 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 73m Max: 75m

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	Nothamptonsire County Council
Physical Contents	"other"
Digital Archive recipient	Nothamptonsire County Council
Digital Contents	"none","other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector"
Paper Archive recipient	Nothamptonsire County Council
Paper Contents	"none","other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Red Lion Lodge, Main Street, Clopton, Northamptonshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Carlsson, C
Date	2020
Issuer or publisher	Independent Archaeology Consultants
Place of issue or publication	Peterborough
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Entered on	24 January 2020