



# Northamptonshire Archaeology

## An Archaeological Watching Brief at Sulby DMV, Northamptonshire March 2012



### Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Northamptonshire  
County Council

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Report 12/87

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**QUALITY CONTROL**

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**OASIS REPORT FORM 124717**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	Sulby, Park Farm Watching Brief, March 2012	
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology undertook a single visit watching brief to the site of Sulby Deserted Medieval Village (DMV), Northamptonshire. The work was carried out during trenching to replace cables by Weston Power Distribution adjacent to Park Farm and its adjacent coppice. No buried archaeological deposits were present.	
Project type	Archaeological watching brief	
Site status		
Previous work		
Current Land use	Pasture	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	Medieval DMV	
Significant finds	None	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Sulby DMV, Northamptonshire	
Study area	4m by 0.50m trench	
OS Easting & Northing	SP 6538 8154	
Height OD		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	English Heritage	
Project Design originator	Ben Robinson (verbal)	
Director/Supervisor		
Project Manager	Iain Soden	
Sponsor or funding body	Western Power Distribution	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	March 2012	
End date	March 2012	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>Content</b>
Physical	NA Stores	n/a
Paper		n/a
Digital		photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Sulby DMV, Northamptonshire, March 2012	
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Front Cover: The site, looking east

Fig 1: Site location

Fig 2: The cable trench, backfilled looking east

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT  
SULBY DMV, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE  
MARCH 2012**

**Abstract**

*Northamptonshire Archaeology undertook a single visit watching brief to the site of Sulby Deserted Medieval Village (DMV), Northamptonshire. The work was carried out during trenching to replace cables by Weston Power Distribution adjacent to Park Farm and its adjacent coppice. No buried archaeological deposits were present.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

In March 2012 an archaeological watching brief was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) during cable trenching at Sulby DMV, Northamptonshire (NGR: SP 6538 8154). The trenching consisted of the excavation of about 4m of cable-trench for a repair to existing cables.

This report has been prepared to meet the requirements of a request for an archaeological presence by Ben Robinson, Inspector of Ancient Monuments at English Heritage. All works complied with Appendix 4 of the English Heritage procedural document *Management of Archaeological Project 2* (EH 1991), relevant sections of *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (EH 2006) and the appropriate national standards and guidelines, as recommended by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA).

**2 BACKGROUND**

**2.1 Topography and geology**

The site of Sulby DMV is located on pastureland near the village of Welford, Northamptonshire and amongst the scattered farms which today constitute Sulby. The site lies at about 152m above Ordnance Datum.

The underlying geology comprises the Lias Group (mudstone, siltstone, sandstone), overlain by boulder clay (BGS survey sheet 170).

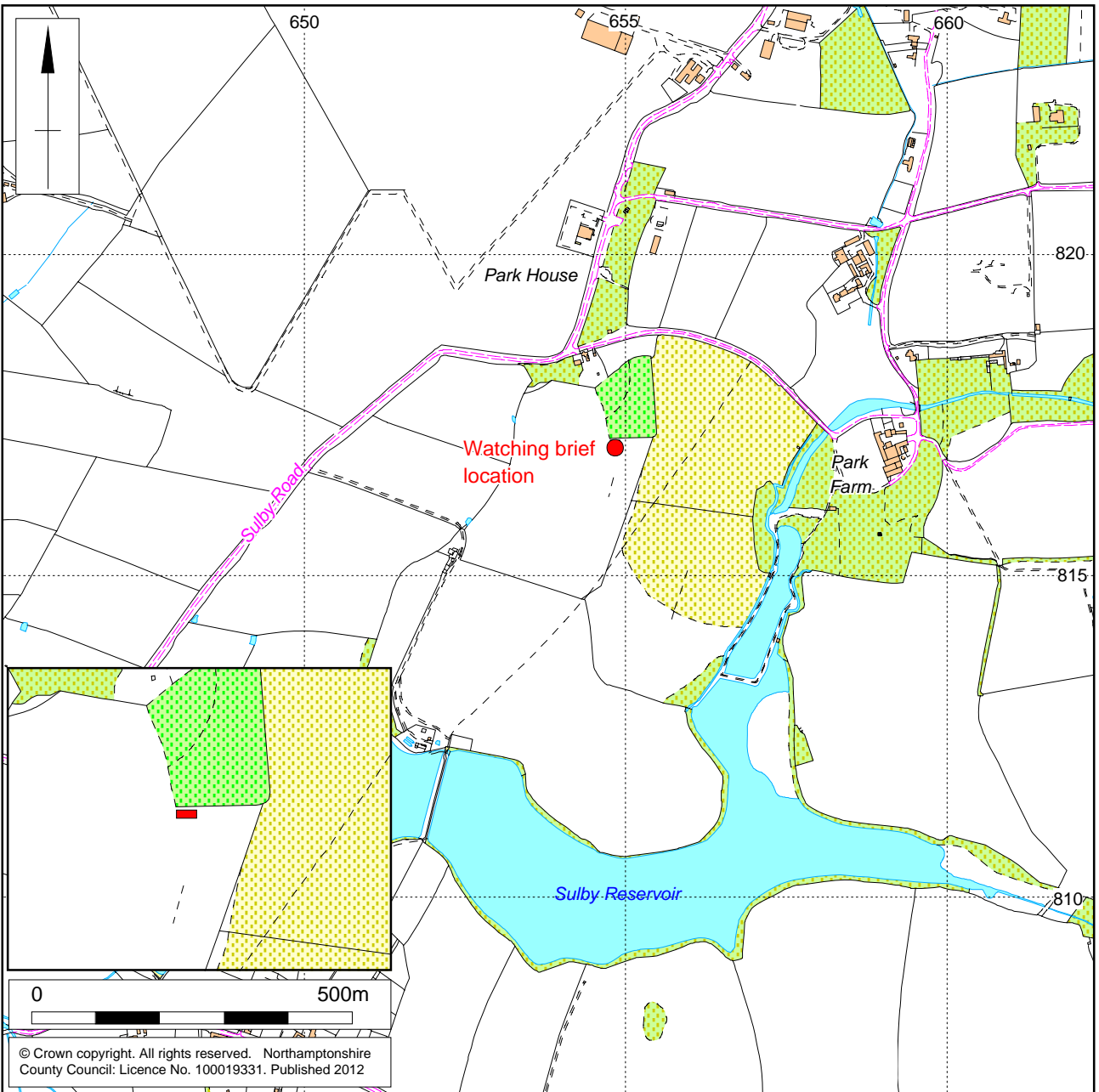
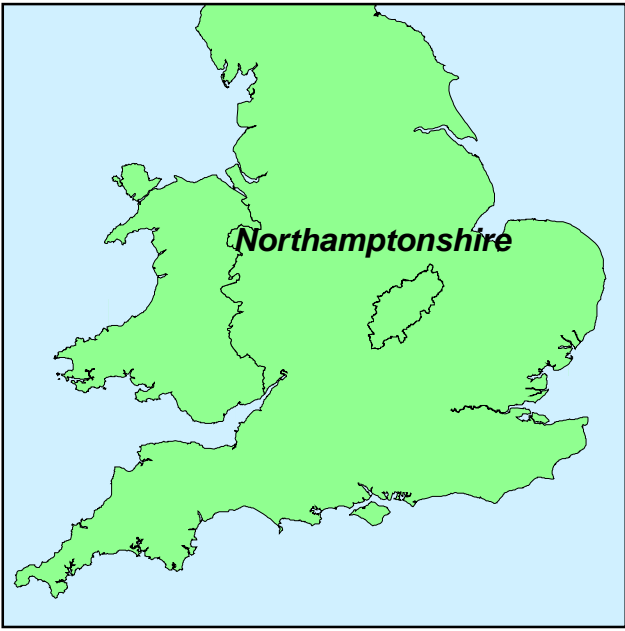
**2.2 Historical background**

Sulby DMV has been fully characterised by the former Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England (RCHME 1981, 184-7). It is a site of extensive earthworks and a number of house-plots have been surveyed, together with the earthworks of its former field system and the hollow-ways of its infrastructure.

**3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The general aim of the observation was

- To provide information regarding the presence/absence, sequence and character of archaeological remains at the site, but restricted to the depth of the proposed engineering or construction disturbance.



Scale 1:10,000, inset 1:5000

Site location Fig 1

#### **4 METHODOLOGY**

A single visit was made to the site during works. The site was photographed and the upcast of the works scanned for finds.

#### **5 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE**

A total length of about 4m of cable trench, was dug and observed. The work reused existing cable lines laid through the former agricultural tilth into the natural geology. No archaeological levels or finds were present.

The field in which the works took place contains the earthworks of ridge-and-furrow cultivation. It is close to the hedge boundary with a modern house-plot (Park Farm), beyond which the ground has been cultivated in recent times and is very slightly higher and flatter (Fig 2). It lies at the very northern end of the DMV earthworks.



The reinstated trench, looking east Fig 2

#### **6 DISCUSSION**

The watching brief on the service trench revealed no archaeology. The location re-used existing cable lines and so no new ground was disturbed. The field in which the work took place retains vestigial ridge-and-furrow cultivation earthworks so may be considered peripheral to the Deserted Medieval Village of Sulby.

No archaeology was disturbed by these minimal works.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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NA 2011 *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

RCHME 1981 *An inventory of the Historical Monuments in the County of Northampton; Vol III: Archaeological Sites in North-West Northamptonshire*, Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England