



**Northamptonshire
County Council**

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological Mitigation Strategy
and
Watching Brief
at
Barnes Meadow, Northampton
Nov – Dec 2005



Anne Foard-Colby

August 2006

06/102

Northamptonshire Archaeology

2 Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton NN4 8BE

w. www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk

t. 01604 700493/4

f. 01604 702822

e. sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk



**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

AUGUST 2006

NGR SP 768 595

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION STRATEGY
AND
WATCHING BRIEF
AT
BARNES MEADOW, NORTHAMPTON**

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2005

06/102

BARNES MEADOW, NORTHAMPTON

STAFF

Project Manager	Tony Walsh BA
Fieldwork	Karen Deighton MSc David J. Leigh BA Carol Simmonds BA
Metal Detection	Steve Critchley MSc
Text	Anne Foard-Colby Cert Ed
Illustrations	Jaqueline Harding HND BA

QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	P Chapman		
Verified by	Tony Walsh		
Approved by			

BARNES MEADOW, NORTHAMPTON

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project title	Archaeological Mitigation Strategy & Watching Brief at Barnes Meadow, Northampton	
Short description (250 words maximum)	Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out an archaeological mitigation strategy and a watching brief on an area of registered Battlefield which lies within the River Nene Regional Park during ground works for the creation of a wetland habitat. There was no archaeology present.	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Watching Brief	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	NA - Earthwork survey & watching brief 2003, desk-based assessment 2005, metal detecting survey and test pits 2005	
Future work (yes, no, unknown)	Unknown	
Monument type And period	River Nene Regional Park Registered Battlefield	
Significant finds (artefact type and period)		
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address (including postcode)	Barnes Meadow, Northampton	
Easting (use numerical 100km grid square no.)	477000	
Northing	259650	
Height OD	47-57m	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council Historic Environment Team	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Karen Deighton	
Project Manager	Tony Walsh	
Sponsor or funding body	Wildlife Trust for Northamptonshire	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	7 November 2005	
End date	5 December 2005	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper		
Digital		
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title		
Serial title & volume		
Author(s)		
Page numbers		
Date		

Contents

1 INTRODUCTION	1
2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY	1
3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	2
4 OBJECTIVES OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF	2
5 METHODOLOGY	2
6 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS	3
7 CONCLUSIONS	3
BIBLIOGRAPHY	4

Figures

Fig 1: Site location

Fig 2: Watching brief and layout of wetland features, 1:2000

Plates

Report cover: Excavation for wetlands, looking north-east

Plate 1: Topsoil stripping, looking north

Plate 2: Depth of excavation, looking north-east

Plate 3: Overview of ground works, looking north-west

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION STRATEGY
AND
WATCHING BRIEF
AT
BARNES MEADOW, NORTHAMPTON
NOV - DEC 2005**

ABSTRACT

Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out an archaeological mitigation strategy and a watching brief on an area of registered Battlefield which lies within the River Nene Regional Park during ground works for the creation of a wetland habitat. No archaeological features or finds were revealed by the excavations. Observations confirmed that the area of Barnes Meadow contained extensive dumps of 19th and or 20th century dredged material above river alluvium.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out Archaeological Mitigation Strategy and a Watching Brief from 7th November to 5th December 2005 on land at Barnes Meadow, Northampton, (centred on NGR: SP 768 595; Fig 1).

The work was undertaken as stages 2 and 3 of a programme of archaeological mitigation and watching brief on wetland creation as part of the River Nene Regional Park's (RNRP) 'Tangible Projects' led by Northamptonshire County Council, funded by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) and under consultancy from the Wildlife Trust.

The watching brief was designed to meet the requirements of a brief for Archaeological Mitigation Strategy & Watching Brief issued by Northamptonshire County Council Historic Environment Team (NCCHET).

2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

Barnes Meadow Local Nature Reserve covers an area of approximately 24 hectares and lies on a level area between the two arms of the River Nene, at the east side of Northampton. The predominant underlying geology consists of alluvium, with First Terrace Gravel and Upper Lias clays at the north and south of the site (BGS, sheet 185 1974).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies within part of the registered Battlefield of the Battle of Northampton and is defined on English Heritage's Battlefields Register as of national importance. Further details of the battle and battlefield and other neighbouring archaeological sites and finds have previously been discussed in Thorne & Walsh, (2005) and Thorne (2005).

4 OBJECTIVES OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were to identify opportunities for positive management of the historic environment and mitigate the impact on archaeological remains and the historic landscape during the ground works for the creation of the wetlands.

The primary objectives were:

- To identify and characterize the nature, extent and date of any significant archaeological remains exposed during groundworks, in particular those which may be associated directly or indirectly with the battle of 1460.
- To utilize metal detecting survey to locate and recover any metalwork of medieval or later date in particular that which may be associated directly or indirectly with the battle of 1460.
- To confirm that the project had not caused extensive or other major adverse impact on archaeology, in particular the site of the 1460 battlefield.

5 METHODOLOGY

The watching brief consisted of eight visits to monitor the ground works for the creation of the wetlands (Fig 2). These involved earth removal by a 360° excavator and a bulldozer. The topsoil was removed and stacked to one side and then the hollows were created by machine (Plates 1-3). The topsoil was used to create a retaining lip to the water channels.

A photographic record, comprising digital photographs was compiled, showing various stages of fieldwork and a record of each visit was made. A metal detector survey was undertaken over the topsoil and subsoil.

All works were carried out according to the IFA Code of Conduct and *Standards and*

Guidelines for Archaeological Evaluation (IFA 1995), and all procedures complied with the Northamptonshire County Council Health and Safety provisions and Northamptonshire Archaeology Health and Safety at work Guidelines.

6 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

No archaeological features or finds were revealed by the excavations or the metal detector survey.

Generally the same sequence of deposits was encountered as has been previously reported (Thorne 2005). In some of the deeper parts of the excavations was a lower deposit of mid grey clay alluvium with patches of sand and gravel. This was overlain by slightly compacted orange/brown clay containing pockets of dark blue/grey silty clay along with occasional fragments of modern ceramic building material, which measured between 0.2m and over 1m thick. This was probably the product of 19th century or later dredging. Overlying this was topsoil approximately 0.1-0.2m thick.

7 CONCLUSIONS

No archaeological features or finds were revealed by the excavations, or the metal detector survey. A similar sequence of deposits was observed as has been recorded during the excavation of test pits in February 2005, which confirmed that the area of Barnes Meadow contained extensive dumps of 19th and or 20th century dredged material above river alluvium.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS 1974 *Solid and Drift Edition Northampton Sheet 185*, British Geological Survey

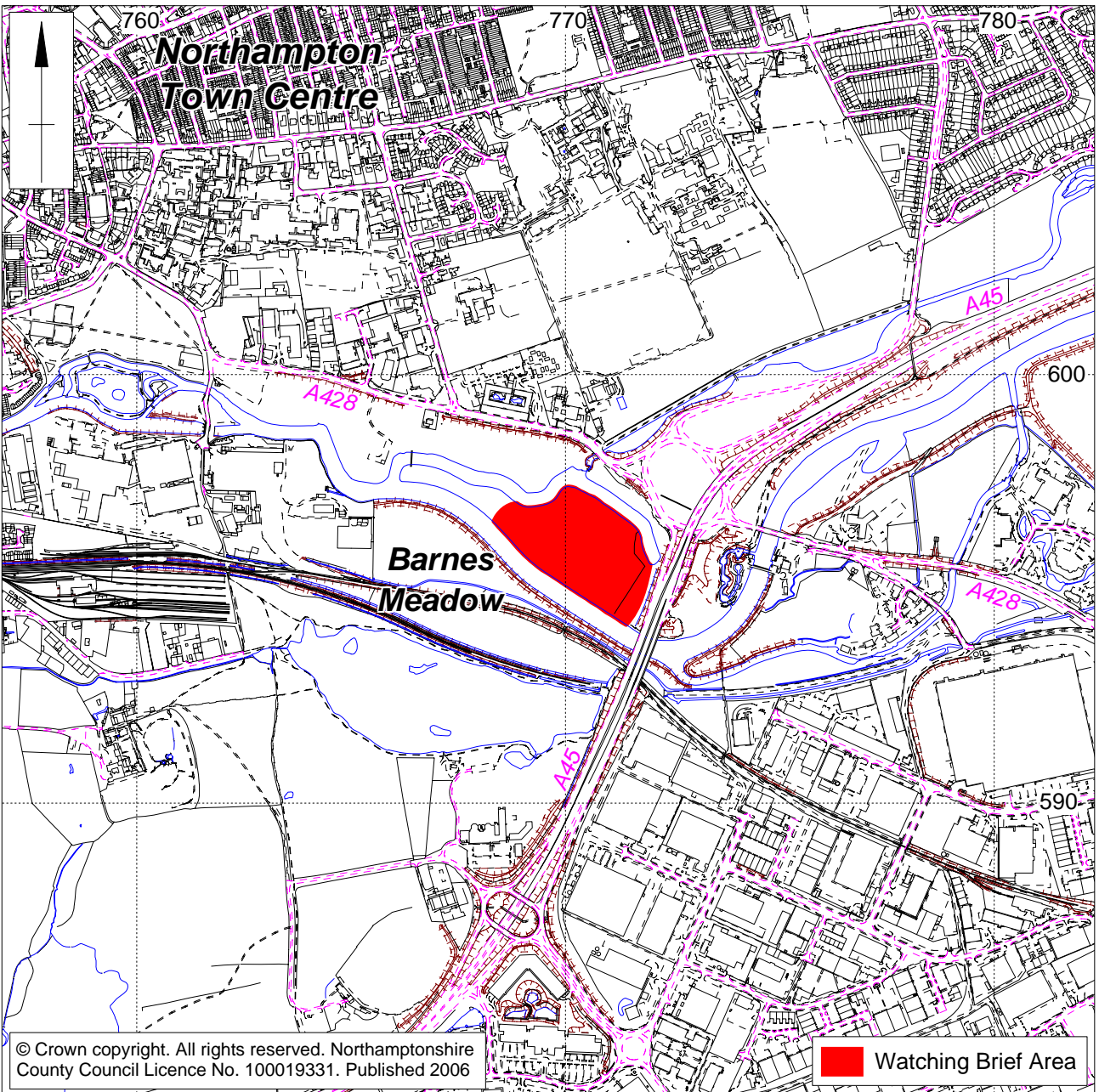
Cadman, G, *Northampton, Barnes Meadow – RNRP Project Site Brief for Archaeological Mitigation Strategy & Watching Brief*, NCC Historic Environment Team

IFA 1999 *Code of Conduct, Standards, Guidelines and Practices of the Institute of Field Archaeologists*, Institute of Field Archaeologists

NCCNH 2003 *Health and Safety provisions and Northamptonshire Archaeology Health and Safety at Work Guidelines*, Northamptonshire County Council, Northamptonshire Heritage

Thorne, A and Walsh, A, 2005 *Archaeological Desk-based Assessment, Topographical and Metal-detecting Surveys at Barnes Meadow, Northampton*, Northamptonshire Archaeology Report 05/04

Thorne, A, 2005 *Archaeological Test Pits at Barnes Meadow, Northampton*, Northamptonshire Archaeology Report 05/39



Scale 1:15,000

Site location Fig. 1

Scale 1:2000

Watching brief and layout of wetland features

Fig. 2

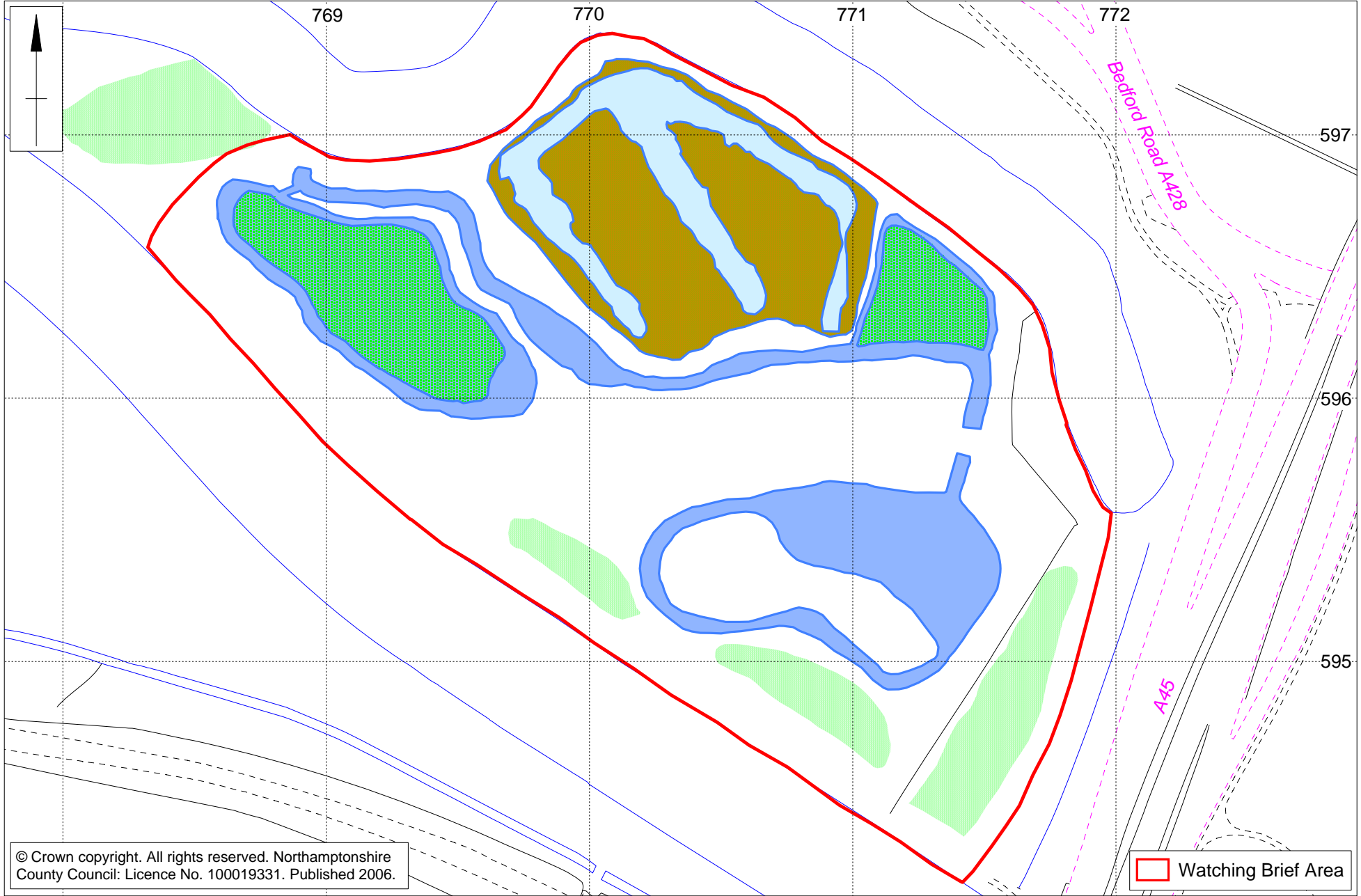




Plate 1 Topsoil stripping, looking north



Plate 2 Depth of excavation, looking north-east



Plate 3 Overview of ground works, looking north-west