



Northamptonshire  
County Council

# Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief  
during the installation of an electricity supply  
to Wadenhoe Lock, Wadenhoe,  
Northamptonshire  
February 2006



David J Leigh

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Report 08/182

## Northamptonshire Archaeology

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**QUALITY CONTROL**

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Steve Parry		
Verified by	Iain Soden		
Approved by	Andy Chapman		

**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	An archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the laying of a new electricity supply to Wadenhoe lock, Wadenhoe, Northamptonshire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks for the laying of a new electricity supply to Wadenhoe Lock, Wadenhoe, Northamptonshire. Undisturbed soils were noted throughout the route of the service trench. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	Agricultural/pastural land	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period		
Significant finds		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Electrical supply route between the village of Wadenhoe and Wadenhoe Lock, Wadenhoe, Northamptonshire	
OS Easting & Northing	Centred on TL 011 833	
Height OD		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	The Historic Environment Team, Northamptonshire County Council	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	David J. Leigh	
Project Manager	Steve Parry	
Sponsor or funding body	BK Property Assets Consultancy, Nottingham	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	March 2006	
End date	March 2006	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession no.)</b>	<b>Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)</b>
Physical		
Paper	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Watching brief forms (2) Colour slides (4) black and white contact prints (8) Digital photographs (15)
Digital		Report text and figures

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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF DURING THE INSTALLATION  
OF A NEW ELECTRICITY SUPPLY TO  
WADENHOE LOCK, WADENHOE, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE  
MARCH 2006**

*Abstract*

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in March 2006 during groundworks for the laying of a new electricity supply to Wadenhoe Lock, Wadenhoe, Northamptonshire. Undisturbed soils were recorded throughout the length of the cable trench. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in March 2006 during groundworks for the laying of a new electricity supply to Wadenhoe Lock from the village of Wadenhoe (NGR TL 011 833: Fig 1). The work was carried out on behalf of BK Property Assets Consultancy acting for their clients East Midlands Electricity Plc following a specification produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Leigh 2004) in response to a request for archaeological attendance and observation by The Historic Environment Officer, The Historic Environment Team, Northamptonshire County Council on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2004.

**2 BACKGROUND**

**2.1 Location and Topography**

The site is located on undeveloped land to the south of the present village of Wadenhoe. The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey of Great Britain as comprising Jurassic Clay and Limestone.

**2.2 Historical Background**

The site lies within an area of archaeological interest and occupies land that was once part of the medieval open fields of Wadenhoe.

No previous archaeological work is recorded as having been carried out within the area of the new electricity supply route. Up to the present application the land through which the new electricity supply runs has been left as pasture.

### 3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the watching brief were to:

- ◆ Observe the groundworks connected with the excavation of the trench for the new electricity supply, and to record all archaeological deposits uncovered.
- ◆ Determine the date, character, state of preservation and depth of any archaeological deposits observed and to retrieve all datable artefacts.
- ◆ Create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.

The fieldwork comprised intermittent visits to the site during the excavation of the trench for the new electricity supply. The groundworks were carried out using a 360° mini digger fitted with a 0.70m toothless bucket.

A photographic record in both black and white negative and colour slide was kept, with supplementary photographs in digital format. The written record used Northamptonshire Archaeology pro-forma sheets. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the standards and guidelines for an archaeological watching brief (IFA 2000).

### 4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

A consistent stratigraphy was recorded throughout the cable trench. This comprised grey/brown natural clay overlain by mid brown silt loam, up to 0.25m thick, containing occasional irregular stones. Sealing this was grey/brown topsoil/turf layer up to 0.15m thick, containing occasional irregular stones.

### 5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive comprising:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	2
Colour slides	4
Black and white contacts and negatives	8
Digital photographs	15

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

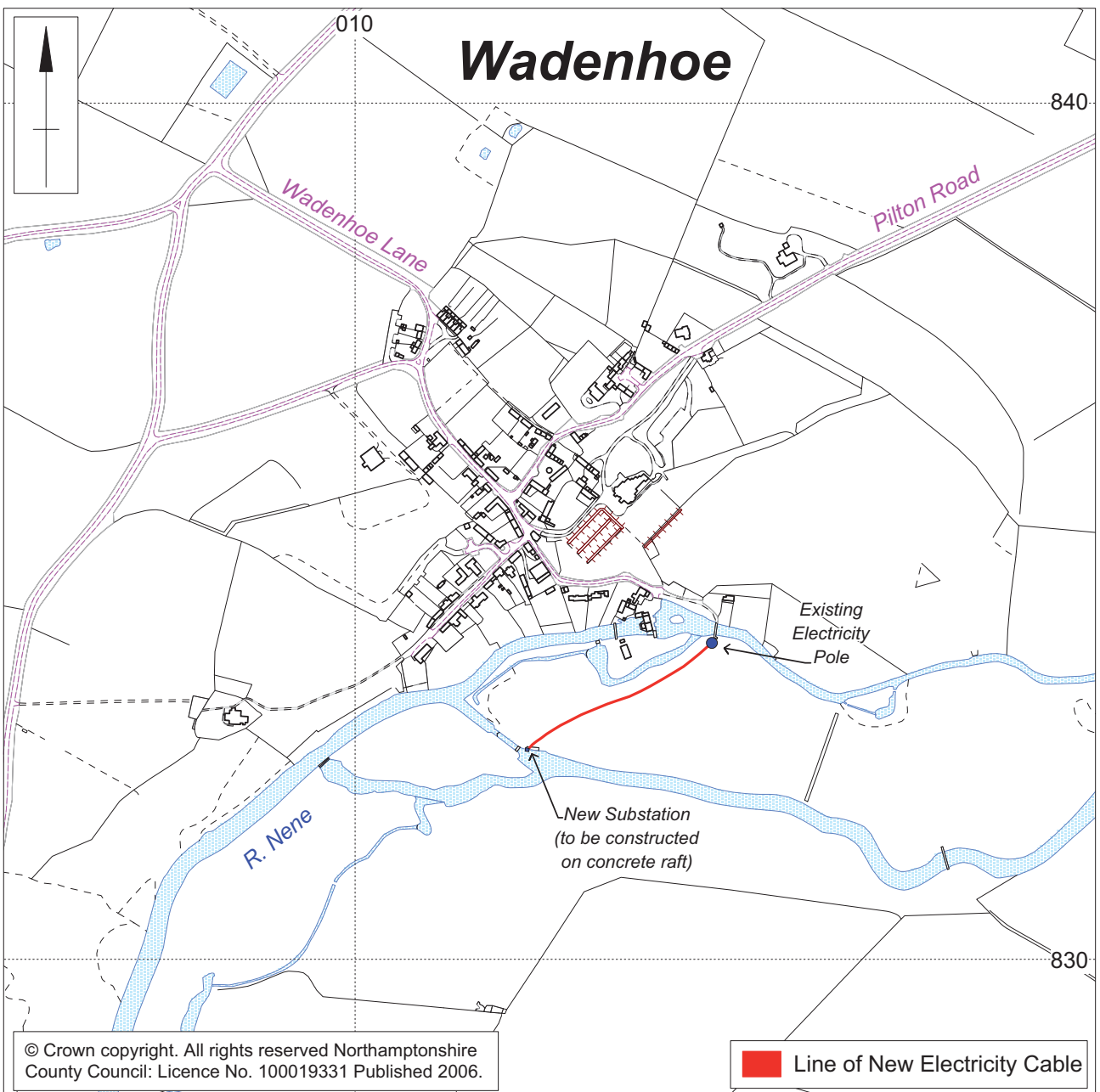
Undisturbed soils were recorded throughout the length of the cable trench. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present. The lack of any artefactual evidence suggests that no significant archaeological deposits are present within the immediate vicinity of the electrical supply route.

The watching brief was carried out in favourable conditions and the results are considered to be reliable.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

IFA 2000 *Standards and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Institute of Field Archaeologists

Leigh, D J, 2004 *Specification for archaeological watching brief during the installation of an electrical supply to Wadenhoe Lock, Northamptonshire* Northamptonshire Archaeology



Scale 1:7500

Site Location Fig 1



Plate 1: The fording point at Wadenhoe Village



Plate 2: View along the electricity supply route towards Wadenhoe Lock



Plate 3: The excavation of the cable trench in progress



Plate 4: The new electricity cable prior to backfilling the trench