CONTENTS

Summary

1.0 Introduction and Scope of Study
2.0 Planning Background and Development Plan Framework
3.0 Geology and Topography
4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background
   including Map Regression Exercise
5.0 Site Conditions and the Proposed Development
6.0 Summary and Conclusions

Sources Consulted

APPENDIX 1
HER Baseline Data

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig 1 Site Location
Fig 2 Yelden Tithe Award 1842
Fig 3 1901 Ordnance Survey map 6” mile
Fig 4 1901 Ordnance Survey map 6”
Fig 5 Chelveston Airfield in 1945
Fig 6 Aerial photograph of the airfield in 1947
Fig 7 Chelveston airfield in 1958 showing the changes to the airfield in 1952.
Fig 8 Aerial photograph from 1976 showing the start of demolition of the 1950s airfield, the remnants of the Second World War airfield can be seen to the north
Fig 9 Chelveston in 2006.
Fig 10 Aerial photograph from 1991
Fig 11 Surviving magazines from1944
Fig 12 Sites and Monuments data from Northamptonshire County SMR
Summary

Evidence from map, archive, published and other sources has been examined to assess the potential of significant archaeological evidence to exist within the proposed Biomass Plant site at Chelveston, Northamptonshire. Cropmarks in the vicinity suggest the possible survival of evidence from the Iron Age and Roman periods but almost certainly no significant deposits from the post Roman period onwards. In recent years the construction of an airfield on the site in 1941, the decommissioning and demolition of this airfield, its replacement by an airfield capable of supporting bombers carrying nuclear weapons and the subsequent demolition of this airfield in the late 1970s and its subsequent replacement by a Wireless Transmitter Station in the early 1980s has been so destructive that it is unlikely any significant archaeological deposits now survive.

The proposals for a Biomass Plant are such that the foundations will be located within areas of previous demolition **

In light of the small scale of the below ground disturbance and the location of the plant in areas of previous disturbance, no further mitigation measures have been identified.
1.0 INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF STUDY

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 This archaeological desk based assessment considers the archaeological potential of the former Chelveston Airfield which straddles the county boundary between Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire (Fig. 1). The proposed development site in Northamptonshire is currently almost entirely farmland, grazed by sheep, with a small central area occupied by radio masts and accompanying buildings. Within the site are the remnants of a former World War II airfield and its Cold War successor, as well holdfasts and fencing from an RAF transmitting station established in 1977.

1.1.2 This report was prepared by Michael Dawson of CgMs on behalf of Phillips Planning Services and Wykes Engineering in support of a Planning Application to redevelop the site as a Renewable Energy Park.

1.2 Scope of Study

1.2.1 The objectives of the report can be summarised as follows (Scoping Report 2006):

- To assess the survival of archaeology at the site, its depth, condition and extent.

- To assess the potential of the site to contain archaeological evidence.

- To assess and evaluate the potential significance of any archaeology and to examine whether this might be the subject of further evaluation or mitigation.

- To assess whether the archaeological evidence, or potential evidence, would provide a constraint to development.

1.2.2 Evidence has been examined at the Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire County Records Offices, Local Studies Libraries and Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire Heritage Environment Records (HER) for the proposed development site. In addition, HER records and other evidence up 1km surrounding the proposed development site have been examined to determine the pattern of archaeological and historic development of the
landscape. The latter provides the basis for assessing the potential presence of archaeological data.

1.2.3 The Indirect Impact of the Renewable Energy Park on Listed Buildings (Scoping Report 2006) will be considered in the Environmental Impact Assessment, Cultural Heritage Chapter 12, and Landscape and Visual Impact Chapter 5, of the Environmental Statement.

1.2.4 The site was visited by Michael Dawson on Friday 11\(^{th}\) and Friday 25\(^{th}\) August 2006 and an inspection made.

1.2.5 In addition to published and archive sources the site has been discussed with Paul Francis, author of 'British Military Airfield Architecture' and a specialist in military airfield archaeology. The advice of English Heritage and Northamptonshire County Council has also been sought with regard to the proposed scheduling of an Igloo nuclear bomb store.
2.0 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN FRAMEWORK

2.1 In November 1990 the Department of the Environment issued Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) "Archaeology and Planning", providing guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains.

2.1.1 In short, government guidance provides a framework which:
- Protects Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- Protects the settings of these sites
- Protects nationally important un-scheduled ancient monuments
- Has a presumption in favour of in-situ preservation of important remains
- In appropriate circumstances seeks adequate information (from field evaluation) to enable informed decisions
- Provides for the excavation and investigation of sites not important enough to merit in-situ preservation.

2.2 In considering any planning application for development, the planning authority will be guided by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance PPG16, by current Development Plan policy and by other material considerations.

2.3 Aspects of the archaeological evidence at the site will be subject to the provisions of PPG 16 and to the policies of Northamptonshire County Council and East Northamptonshire District Council (see below).

2.4 Relevant Structure and Local Planning Policies are quoted below and provide the framework for decisions regarding the affects of development on any archaeological resource, or potential resource, identified in this assessment.

2.4.1 NORTHAMPTONSHIRE STRUCTURE PLAN 1998 -2016, ADOPTED MARCH 2001

Cultural Heritage

POLICY AR6

PROVISION WILL BE MADE TO CONSERVE, AND WHERE APPROPRIATE ENHANCE, THE FOLLOWING ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS:
- NATIONALLY IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS, WHETHER SCHEDULED OR NOT, OR THEIR SETTINGS;
- THE CHARACTER, APPEARANCE OR SETTING OF CONSERVATION AREAS;
- THE ARCHITECTURAL OR HISTORIC INTEREST OF LISTED BUILDINGS, OR THEIR SETTINGS;
- THE SITE OR SETTING OF REGISTERED PARKS AND GARDENS;
- THE SITE OR SETTING OF REGISTERED BATTLEFIELDS; AND
- HEDGEROWS PROTECTED UNDER THE HEDGEROW REGULATIONS.

PROPOSALS AFFECTING THESE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS WILL BE REQUIRED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THEY WILL BE CONSERVED AND, WHERE APPROPRIATE, ENHANCED.

WHERE DEVELOPMENT AFFECTS AREAS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL, THE DEVELOPER WILL BE REQUESTED TO PROVIDE AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AS PART OF ANY PLANNING APPLICATION.

WHERE KNOWN SITES OF COUNTY OR LOCAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE WILL BE AFFECTED BY DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING PERMISSION MAY BE GRANTED WHERE PROVISION IS MADE FOR PRESERVATION OF REMAINS IN SITU. IN CASES WHERE THIS IS NEITHER FEASIBLE NOR MERITED, PLANNING PERMISSION MAY BE GRANTED SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY PROVISION BEING MADE FOR EXCAVATION AND RECORDING.

2.4.2 EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE DISTRICT ADOPTED LOCAL PLAN 1996

SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST

POLICY EN23

PLANNING PERMISSION WILL BE GRANTED FOR DEVELOPMENT WHERE THERE WOULD BE NO ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE CHARACTER AND SETTING OF SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS OR OTHER IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

POLICY EN24

WHERE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS AFFECT IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES WHERE PHYSICAL CONSTRAINTS PERMIT, AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION SHOULD BE SUBMITTED PRIOR TO ANY PLANNING APPLICATION BEING DETERMINED. IN THE FEW CASES WHERE DEVELOPMENT IS PERMITTED, AND IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO PRESERVE REMAINS IN SITU, PLANNING CONDITIONS WILL BE IMPOSED REQUIRING PROVISION TO BE MADE FOR EXCAVATION AND RECORDING, BEFORE OR DURING DEVELOPMENT.
3  GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

3.1  Geology

3.1.1  The proposed development site at Chelveston is located within the clay lands which characterise north Bedfordshire and eastern Northamptonshire. The British Geological Survey indicates that the solid geology of the proposed development site comprises the Oxford clays with Kellaway Beds of Jurassic date. Drift deposits of Pleistocene date comprise Boulder Clay up to 25m thick.

3.1.2  The surface disturbance of the site is extensive and the soil types are heavy clay loams significantly degraded by re-working when the airfield was dismantled.

3.2  Topography

3.2.1  The proposed development site lies on one of the clay ridges which characterise the region. It occupies a generally concave location on a clay ridge above the villages of Chelveston and Caldecott in Northamptonshire and Yelden in Bedfordshire at some 90m OD. The site lies on the watershed between the catchment of the River Nene which flows to the north-west, and the River Great Ouse. It is close to the River Till a tributary of the Great Ouse (OS 6” 1950 XL NE). There is an unnamed tributary stream and several ditches leading from the site boundary to the north east and west.
4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND
INCLUDING MAP REGRESSION EXERCISE

4.1 Introduction

### Prehistoric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time period</th>
<th>Start</th>
<th>End</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Palaeolithic</td>
<td>450,000</td>
<td>-12,000 BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mesolithic</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>- 4,000 BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neolithic</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>- 1,800 BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronze Age</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>- 600 BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron Age-</td>
<td>600 BC</td>
<td>- AD 43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Historic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time period</th>
<th>Start</th>
<th>End</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roman</td>
<td>AD 43</td>
<td>- 410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saxon/early medieval</td>
<td>AD 410</td>
<td>- 1066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medieval</td>
<td>AD 1066</td>
<td>- 1485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Medieval</td>
<td>AD 1486</td>
<td>- 1700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern</td>
<td>AD 1700</td>
<td>Present</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 1 Timescales used in this report*

4.1.1 Evidence of archaeological interest in the region of the proposed development site is varied. This reflects the development in the area which has concentrated in recent years on the towns of Rushden, Higham Ferrers and Raunds together with extensive quarrying in the Nene Valley between Wellingborough and Ringstead. Significant archaeological research projects have been carried out in Raunds and around Stanwick as well as the Extensive Urban Survey of the small towns (Foard and Ballinger 2000, Ballinger 2000a, Ballinger 2000b). In contrast development south of the proposed development area has been limited, a reflection of the rural character of much of north Bedfordshire.

4.1.2 Where investigations have taken place nearby, the evidence focuses on early medieval and medieval activity (RCHM 1975, 26-7; Page 1912, 123, 132-134, 175-177; Salzman 1937, I, 8-10, 17-20, 27-29). However, it is not the purpose of this document to create a detailed archaeology or history of the area, noting every sherd of pottery or lithic flake, but to provide an assessment of the area’s history and archaeology, and to document known
resources on the application site and predict the potential for as yet to be discovered archaeology.

4.2 Prehistoric periods

4.2.1 The earliest archaeological evidence from the study area includes several areas of cropmarks probably of prehistoric settlement (NHER 1324, 1325, 1327, 1376). Typically these are likely to date to the late Bronze Age or Iron Age. A possibly earlier monument, a ring-ditch, perhaps the remains of a barrow marking the location of Bronze Age burial has been identified to the west (NHER7291). Undated cropmark enclosures in Bedfordshire (BHER 8313, 570, 12905) may also be of prehistoric date.

4.3 Iron Age

4.3.1 Iron Age settlement has been identified by crop-mark complexes (NHER1799, 2145) and confirmed by excavation. It is possible that so far undated cropmarks at (NHER1326, 6778) may include a late prehistoric component.

4.4 Roman

4.4.1 The Roman period is better represented in the vicinity of the proposed development site with dating confirmed by ceramics at two settlement sites (NHER1325, 1799). Two further settlements have been noted at NHER3157, 3159, 3160. In Bedfordshire Roman and Iron Age settlement has been recorded in Yelden at TL005671 where fragments of pottery and tesserae had been brought up by ploughing and where Rev Baker excavated the almost ploughed out remains of a Roman villa in 1882 (BHER 341). The climax vegetation of this area of heavy soils is likely to have been oak, and from the extent of cropmarks of late prehistoric and Roman period date it seems likely that much of the proposed development site and surrounding area was largely cleared of its woodland cover by the beginning of the Roman period (RCHM 1975, 48; White 1977, 4).

4.5 Saxon - Early Medieval

4.5.1 It is the middle Saxon period that has come to characterise the archaeology of the southern slopes of the Nene valley (Parry et al., forthcoming). However, to the south, the area of the proposed development site is largely unknown territory. It is likely that early
settlement after a period of decline in the post-Roman period focussed on the existing villages at Chelveston, Yielden, Dean and Hargrave possibly as early as the 9th century. In the 9th and 10th century the Danes may have held the territory of Dean and Shelton under the Danelaw (White 1977, 3) and White suggests that the parish of Yielden may have been extensively wooded in the 11th century because of its proximity to Newton Broomswold. The Brunewald is the extensive area of forest close to Huntingdon from which Hereward the Wake led his revolt against the Normans.

4.6 The Medieval Landscape

4.6.1 When the Domesday Survey was written, the proposed development site lay across the boundary of the Stodden and Higham Ferrers Hundreds. The site also lies at the boundary between the parishes of Chelveston cum Caldecotte, Dean and Yielden, with the majority in Chelveston. The village of Chelveston is first recorded in 1086 by Domesday as Celuestone and as Chelveston in 1206. The name means Ceolwulf’s tun or farm. Ceolwulf is a Saxon name suggesting an origin perhaps in the 9th century AD. Yielden is recorded as Giveldene in Domesday and in 1272. The name means the denn or swine pasture, possibly denu or valley, of the Gifie or Ivel an Old British name recorded in the Tribal Hideage which suggests the survival of a British speaking community amongst an area of Saxon settlement. Dean is also first recorded by Domesday, but as Dene, meaning, in Old English, a valley. In all three parishes settlement focussed on the village centres and there is no evidence of early outlying farms, hamlets or ends. The latter is a characteristic of shrunken villages in Bedfordshire (White 1977, 2-3).

4.6.2 The history of the villages, in particular the descent of the manors in each parish, derived from surviving documents, has been published by the Victoria County Histories (Page 1912, Salzman 1937) and needs no repetition. The significant aspect of the proposed development site is that it lies at the boundary between parishes, typically a location which is often marginal ground some distance from the centres of settlement. The character of the landscape as arable farmland for much of its medieval history is evident from the extensive survival of ridge and furrow as late as the 1940s where it is visible in aerial photographs (RAF 4407 13 Apr 1947) across the whole of the proposed development site.

---

1 The Hundred is an administrative division of the shire and the forerunner of the modern district. Important in the Saxon period, it was the territorial basis of a court held monthly in the open by the Hundred reeve, representing the king and consisted of freeholders who considered minor criminal and civil cases. They could also levy taxes. It probably originated with the association of a hundred families or was based on 100 hides. The land which would support one family over a year.

2 Tribal Hidage is an 8th century tax assessment.
4.6.3 The general characteristic of the landscape in the study area is one of open fields. Significant buildings in all three parishes remained within the villages, surrounded by areas of open field cultivation. However as agricultural practice changed in the later medieval period to include sheep and cattle, small animal hovels were constructed in the fields evident today as small dense areas of stone (BHER 12047, 8162, 8196, 8193, 3903). Perhaps as early as the 17th century outlying buildings such as High Barns in Yielden may have been improved by the addition of accommodation. High Barns became Manor Farm in the 19th century. To the east, Lodge Farm in Dean and Shelton3 is sited on the allotment to Barnwell Hospital. Possibly a stone built farmhouse known as Shelton or Fisher Lodge it was associated with the Parson Latham’s Hospital in Barnwell St Andrews, Northamptonshire founded in 1604.

4.7 Post Medieval Landscape

4.7.1 The pattern of field boundaries established in the early 19th century reflects a combination of early enclosure in the three parishes and the late survival of open field cultivation. The latter resulted in large open fields along the southern side of Chelveston parish (Chelveston Enclosure 1807 CRO Map 3007). Yielden (White 1977) is more unusual in that much of the parish was never formally enclosed and 592 acres remained in open field cultivation until the last quarter of the 19th century, with strip fields visible on the 1842 Tithe Award (CRO MAT 54). Today this area is characterised by the large fields immediately north of Yieldsen village and running along the county boundary.

4.8 The Modern Landscape

4.8.1 The late 19th century landscape is captured by the 1st edition OS 1” mile and 6” surveyed in 1883-4 (See Figs, 2 & 3, OS 6” 2nd ed). In Chelveston parish the OS shows a geometric pattern of generally rectangular fields in the area south east of Chelveston village as far as the county boundary. A T-shaped area of woodland, Long Spinney, occupies two enclosures midway to Yielden. In Yielden parish rather larger fields occupy the central and south western part of the parish boundary area with smaller enclosures between. This pattern remains on maps of 1902 and 1924 and is even published in 1950 long after Chelveston Airfield had been built.

3 The civil parish of Dean and Shelton was created in 1934 by the amalgamation of the parishes of Dean and Shelton, although acquired the ecclesiastical parishes remain separate.
4.8.2 Chelveston Airfield was built in 1940-1 and opened on 15 August 1941. The airfield comprised a standard RAF A pattern airfield and its fully developed form is recorded in contemporary plans and photographs (Chelveston. Record Site Plan Site No1 [Airfield Site] October 1941). In mid 1942 the airfield was established as the base for the USAAF 301st Bomb Group, replaced in December by the 305th Bomb Group. During the winter months of 1942/43 the airfield’s runways and dispersal areas were expanded to accommodate the B17s of the 305th Bomb Group. At the end of the war the airfield was returned to the RAF and from October 1945 to May 1947 it remained a sub-site of 25 Maintenance Unit (Figs. 5 and 6).

4.8.3 The Second World War Airfield officially closed in 1947 but in 1951 it was re-commissioned to accommodate USAF B-47 bombers capable of carrying nuclear weapons. This required the construction of a rectangular concrete apron, headquarters building and crash tender shed and a new control centre in addition to a new runway, dispersal and taxiways. On 1st December the based was handed over to the USAF Third Air Force. Between 1951 and 1954 the airfield was entirely re-built (Fig. 7). The former runways and taxi-paths partially removed to accommodate the new designs (Smith 2006, 58, 60, 65). The Airfield remained under the jurisdiction of the USAF until 1st August 1962. In 1977 the runways and most of the perimeter tracks were removed to be used as hardcore in the development of Milton Keynes (Fig. 8). Later in the year the airfield site was recommissioned (B/TP/75/1492/A) as a Radio Transmitter site under the 81st Signals Unit (Fig. 10). Eighteen aerial masts were erected on the site of the former airfield and remained in use until December 2003. In June 2005 the site was sold by Bruton Knowles selling agents (Fig. 9).
5 SITE CONDITIONS AND THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

5.1 Site Conditions

5.1.1 A site inspection in August 2006 recorded the condition of the proposed site. In brief the development site comprises an open area of largely sheep pasture subdivided by a series of fences and characterised by uneven ground which remains after the removal of runways, taxi-paths, dispersal and other facilities and buildings dating from the Second World War and Cold War periods.

5.1.2 The general land surface comprises grassland established on degraded topsoil. Of the Second World War facilities, the majority of structures have been removed down to sub-foundation level throughout the airfield. In Yelden parish, on the south side of the site, a single stretch of concrete taxiway remains in use as a farm track and areas of the southern runway are visible in the landscape as negative features where the concrete apron has been removed. In the east, in Chelveston parish, on the boundary with Dean and Shelton parish are the remains of bomb storage areas, access roads and other munitions storage with some remaining part demolished blast shields.

5.1.3 Of the Cold War facilities little remains (Cocroft 2001) within the proposed site boundaries. The main runway is still visible as a negative feature crossing the site from west to east identifiable by the wide hollow over 1m deep from which the concrete runway was removed in 1977. A line of surviving manholes remains from the drain which once ran down the side of the runway. To the north, the taxi path, reduced in width, is now used as a farm track. Of the Control Tower and Hangars nothing now remains, the last J type Hangar used from the 1940s was dismantled in 1998. Within the proposed site a nuclear bomb shelter, one of the so called Igloo groups (Cocroft 2001, sec 7, 25) apparently remained in good but derelict condition in 2000. Although identified by English Heritage as a possible site for Scheduling (NHER 1292) at TL01146 69642 this was the result of misinterpretation⁴.

⁴ The nuclear bomb shelter or ‘igloo’ group was identified in 2001 in English Heritage’s Cold War Monuments: an assessment by the Monuments Protection Programme 2001, London: English Heritage in sec 7, 25 where the building was described as United States Airforce Igloo groups, Chelveston disused. Site inspection in 2006 failed to locate the Igloos or substantial remains of them. Correspondence with Graham Cadman at Northamptonshire County Council helped establish the context of the stores but no further clarity (ex litt GC 8th September 2006). The Sites and Monuments entry for SMR 1296/2 Politically, atomic bomb stores represent the physical manifestation of a close relationship between the USA & UK in respect of nuclear weapons policy. In the early 1950’s distinctive bomb stores constructed on US bases to support SAC & USAF aircraft stationed in the UK. Referred to at the time as Special Storage Areas, the individual mounded bomb stores...
5.2 The Proposed Development

5.2.1 The proposed development entails the construction of a single Biomass Plant together with connection to the central electricity grid. The Biomass Plant will be located amongst the remains of the former airfields and wireless transmitter station situated where today the wireless mast and adjoining buildings are situated.

Within these areas being termed 'Igloos'. Nuclear Bomb stores at Chelveston are one of two suggested for Scheduling in Northants by MPP, the other being at Wittering. The Chelveston Nuclear Bomb Store at TL00976951 is described as a well-preserved & relatively unaltered example of a distinctive 1950's USAF munitions storage area. Squadrons based at the airfield during the 1950's and early 1960's were assigned to USAF's Strategic Air Command, carriers of the West's principal nuclear deterrent until the introduction of Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles. "The munitions storage area comprises characteristic storage bunkers or 'Igloos', inspection buildings, and perimeter fencing." Currently disused. The MPP report list of principal US airfields 1950s/60s in England includes Chelveston occupied between 1955-62 by SAC; Igloos present; current use bomb stores and USAF communications. No other USAF airfields wholly within Northants". However, SMR 1296/1/2 describes the Nuclear Bomb Stores at Chelveston as “a well-preserved and relatively unaltered example of a distinctive early 1950's United States Air Force munitions storage area. The squadrons based at the airfield during the 1950's and early 1960's were assigned to USAF's Strategic Air Command, carriers of the West's principal nuclear deterrent until the introduction of Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles. The munitions storage area comprises characteristic storage bunkers or 'Igloos', inspection buildings, and perimeter fencing. The site was recommended for scheduling in the MPP Cold War assessment. Having visited the site, it was discovered that the stores are of an earlier design and are not therefore of national importance. However, should the site come up for redevelopment EH would recommend recording prior to demolition."
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

5.3 This archaeological desk based assessment has examined evidence from written, map, archive and published sources for past activity on land at Chelveston Airfield. The site is located on the boundary between Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire and is presently in mixed use, including sheep farming and a wireless transmitter station.

5.4 Some archaeological investigation has occurred within the parishes of Chelveston, Yelden and Dean and Shelton close to the proposed site, but intensive archaeological activity is a characteristic of the area further north in the River Nene Valley focused on the Roman villas at Stanwick and the medieval town of Raunds. The archaeological investigations which have taken place in the river valleys have established the potential significance of the area but it is the map data and emerging crop mark patterns which characterize the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

5.5 Sedentary settlement activity in the region of the proposed development site probably began to emerge during the Iron Age and continued throughout the Roman period. Declining population in the aftermath of the Roman period seems to have resulted in a reduced density of activity on the higher clay lands of Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire. In the vicinity of the proposed development site, place names suggest a sparse population in the early medieval period based on farmsteads. These farms may have grown into hamlets or villages by Domesday, to form the centres of ecclesiastical parishes. There were few outlying or isolated farms and none close to the proposed development site. Open field cultivation seems to have characterized all three parishes until the 18th century, unusually surviving until the late 19th century in Yelden.

5.6 In 1941 an airfield was constructed at Chelveston subsequently occupied by elements of the 8th USAAF. After the Second World War the airfield was remodeled and the early station dismantled with runways demolished and rebuilt to accommodate bombers capable of carrying nuclear weapons during the Cold War. This airfield was demolished in 1976 and replaced by a Transmitter Station. In turn this too was de-commissioned and in 2005 the site was sold.

5.7 The potential significance of any archaeological evidence at the site has been assessed, as has its potential for survival. The evidence of demolition and removal of the runways, taxi paths and other facilities during the renewal of the airfield at the start of the Cold War and
the dismantling of this airfield’s facilities prior to re-commissioning as a wireless station will have removed much of the areas limited potential for archaeology. The Biomass Plant is located in an area of significant disturbance on ground in the centre of the former airfield once occupied in the 1950 and 1970s by fire station, fuel storage tanks, flammable stores electrical sub-stations (DE 1001680/1/FIG4). The extent of disturbance in this area suggests that the Biomass Plant will have no significant impact on any surviving archaeological deposits.

5.8  No mitigation measures are considered necessary to deal with what might have been the direct impacts of the Biomass Plant.

5.9  The final aspect of the Biomass Plant is the impact of the central grid connection and the temporary works associated with construction. In the case of the connection to the central grid the trenching may reveal the remains of negative features of unknown significance and should be subject to a watching brief whilst the temporary works will employ the existing concrete routeways and have no impact on below ground archaeology.

5.10 Indirect impacts on the surviving fabric of the airfield have also been assessed, in particular the setting of the remains of a nuclear bomb shelter, an Igloo unit, which was identified by English Heritage as a candidate for Scheduling as an Ancient Monument in 2000. This has been found to be mis-identified and is therefore excluded from further consideration. Other indirect impacts on Listed Buildings noted in the Scoping response have been considered in the Landscape and Visual Impact section of the Impact Assessment.
6 SOURCES CONSULTED

Bibliography

Ballinger J 2000 *Rushden, Extensive Urban Survey*, NCC

Ballinger J 2000 *Raunds, Extensive Urban Survey*, NCC


Bourne J, 1996 *Anglo Saxon Landscapes of the East Midlands*, Leics Mus & Recs Service


Francis P 1996 *British Military Airfield Architecture*, PSL:Sparkford


Malim T 2000 The Ritual Landscape of the Neolithic and Bronze Age in the Middle and Lower Great Ouse Valley, in Dawson (ed) 2000.


Parry S (forthcoming) *The Raunds Area Survey*, London:EH


Royal Commission on Historical Monuments 1975 *An Inventory of Archaeological Sites in North East Northamptonshire*, Vol 1 HMSO


Willis S 2006 The later Bronze Age and Iron Age, in Cooper N (Ed) 2006.

Scoping Report (Response) 2006 *Chelveston Aerodrome Environmental Statement Topic Areas for Assessment*, collated by Philips Planning Services 2006

Smith J N 2006 *Chelveston. One Name Two Airfields. An Airfield Focus Special*, GMS:Peterborough

Stafford P, 1985 *The East Midlands in the Early Middle Ages*, LUP
Sutherland D 2003 *Northamptonshire Stone*, Dovecote Press


Tingle M 2004 *The Archaeology of Northamptonshire*, NAS 2004


**General**

**BEDFORDSHIRE HERITAGE ENVIRONMENT RECORD (BHER)**

HER data from the parishes of Dean and Shelton, Melchbourne and Yelden, Chelveston based on OS 1:10,560 TL06NW, TL06NE, TL06SE, TL06SW (1958 ed)

**Documents Consulted in the Bedfordshire HER:**

White R 1977 *Parish Survey Dean and Shelton* nd
White 1977 *Parish Survey Melchbourne* nd
White R 1977 *Parish Survey Yelden or Yelden* nd
Yelden Castle, Description of the Monument AA 40871/1

**Aerial Photographs**

RAF 4407 (CPE/UK/1994) 13th April 1947 F/20 58 Sqdn
HSL 24/6/76 R14 1226, 1225
HSL 5/9/86 R17 2225
HSL 22/6/81 R16 9593, 9594, 9595
Aerofilms 91/col/125 7/9/91 R8 5329, 5328
Aerofilms 96c/558 15/7/96 R8 0253, 0253

**BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY RECORDS OFFICE**

Enclosure Award Dean 1802 MA21
Tithe Award Melchbourne 1841 MAT 32
Tithe Award Yelden 1842 MAT 54
Estate Lord St John, dean Xi/96a

Planning Appl: MOD (Air) EEI 8770 RAF Chelveston Tx Station B/TP/75/1492/A (Circ 80/71)

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HERITAGE ENVIRONMENT RECORD (NHER)

Documents Consulted in the Northamptonshire HER

Monument Protection Programme Cold War Monuments, English Heritage 2001

Aerial Photographs

For areas: TL07SW, TL08SW, SP96NE

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY RECORDS OFFICE

Chelveston Enclosure 1807 CRO Map 3007
Chelveston field names 1932
Duchy of Lancaster 1789 CRO Map 1140
Duchy of Lancaster Land sale 1891 CRO Map 3103

Various wartime photographs CRO ROP 807, and later military records NRO Lby 255

Abbreviations

ASC Anglo Saxon Chronicle (E)
BHER – Bedfordshire Heritage Environment Record
BM - index to the Charters and Rolls in the British Museum. London
B A B - British Archaeological Bibliography
Cl - Close Rolls
CRO – County Records Office
DB - Domesday survey AD 1086
DBA - Desk Based Assessment
Fr – Documents preserved in France, Rolls Ser 1899
NHER – Northamptonshire Sites and Monuments Record
SAM – Scheduled Ancient Monument
APPENDIX 1

HER Baseline Data
APPENDIX 1:
SOURCES OF INFORMATION

BEDFORDSHIRE HERITAGE ENVIRONMENT RECORD (BHER)

HER data from the parishes of Dean and Shelton, Melchbourne and Yelden, Chelveston based on OS 1:10,560 TL06NW, TL06NE, TL06SE, TL06SW (1958 ed)

Sites noted within 1km of the proposed development site include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beds HER No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>NGR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>340</td>
<td>Roman building</td>
<td>TL06NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3307</td>
<td>Trackway</td>
<td>TL06NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3903</td>
<td>Cropmarks</td>
<td>TL06NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5221</td>
<td>Stone buildings, 3 cottages</td>
<td>TL06NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>341</td>
<td>Deserted medieval building &amp; castle at Yelden</td>
<td>TL06NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17079</td>
<td>Medieval village of Yelden</td>
<td>TL06NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15618</td>
<td>High street, Spring Lane, Yelden</td>
<td>TL06NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1472</td>
<td>Rabbit warren</td>
<td>TL06NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14005</td>
<td>Cropmark group</td>
<td>TL06NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3902</td>
<td>Stone buildings</td>
<td>TL06NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8217</td>
<td>Stone buildings</td>
<td>TL06NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8313</td>
<td>Crop mark complex</td>
<td>TL06NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>570</td>
<td>Crop mark complex</td>
<td>TL06NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12905</td>
<td>Cropmark enclosure</td>
<td>TL06NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12047</td>
<td>Stone buildings</td>
<td>TL06NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8162</td>
<td>Stone buildings</td>
<td>TL06NW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HERITAGE ENVIRONMENT RECORD (NHER)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Northants HER No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>NGR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1296/1/2</td>
<td>J Class hanger (demolished)</td>
<td>TL 001 681</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1296/2/1</td>
<td>Nuclear bomb store</td>
<td>TL01146 69642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1296</td>
<td>RAF Chelveston</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1318</td>
<td>Undated cropmark enclosure</td>
<td>TL 0215 7074</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1324</td>
<td>Prehistoric settlement (?)</td>
<td>TL0080 6960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1325</td>
<td>Prehistoric field system/Roman ceramics</td>
<td>TL0070 6990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1326</td>
<td>Cropmark enclosure</td>
<td>TL06NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1327</td>
<td>Prehistoric field system</td>
<td>TL0052 6962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1376</td>
<td>Enclosure with Iron Age/Roman Late Roman ceramics</td>
<td>TL07SW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1381</td>
<td>Possible prehistoric activity</td>
<td>SP 9933 6888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1788</td>
<td>Undated cropmark enclosure</td>
<td>TL0251 7044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1795</td>
<td>Enclosure (RCHM 1975, 48)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1799</td>
<td>Enclosure with Iron Age/Roman Late Roman ceramics</td>
<td>TL07SW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2145</td>
<td>Possible Iron Age settlement</td>
<td>TL 000 686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3157</td>
<td>Roman settlement</td>
<td>SP9960 6920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3159</td>
<td>Roman ditches/settlement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3160</td>
<td>Roman settlement</td>
<td>SP96NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3161</td>
<td>Possible Iron Age settlement</td>
<td>SP 9894 6745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3251</td>
<td>Medieval activity</td>
<td>SP 9925 6950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5337</td>
<td>Undated cropmark enclosure</td>
<td>SP 9896 6772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6778</td>
<td>Romano-British enclosure(?)</td>
<td>TL 0010 6976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7291</td>
<td>Ring ditch, enclosure, linear ditches</td>
<td>TL06NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7703</td>
<td>Neolithic activity</td>
<td>SP 99300 69501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7942</td>
<td>Anti aircraft battery</td>
<td>SP 9875 6849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8208</td>
<td>Undated cropmark enclosure</td>
<td>TL 0152 7040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9347</td>
<td>Undated cropmark enclosure</td>
<td>SP 9953 6971</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fig 1 Location plan of the proposed development site of the Renewable Energy Park at Chelveston on the Bedfordshire Northamptonshire border.
Fig 2 Yelden Tithe Award 1842.
Fig 3 Yelden OS XL SE 1901 6” mile. The large fields are the result of open field cultivation into the late 19th century. Indicative proposed development site boundary in red.
Fig 4 Chelveston OS XL NE 6” mile 1901. The map shows the area straddling the county boundary as well as the parishes of Yelden and Chelveston. The location of Chelveston airfield is outlined in red.
Fig 5 Chelveston Airfield in 1945
Fig 6 Aerial photograph of the airfield in 1947. The underlying pattern of 19th century fields together with the ridge and furrow of medieval furlongs can clearly be seen (©BCC).
Fig 7 Chelveston airfield in 1958 showing the changes wrought to the airfield in 1952.
Fig 8 HSL aerial photograph from 1976 showing the start of demolition of the 1950s airfield, the remnants of the Second World War airfield can be seen to the north (HSL UK 76 23)©BCC.
Fig 9 Chelveston in 2006. Most of the hardstanding and runways of the former airfields were removed in 1976/77 to be replaced by the Radio Transmitter station (centre). The large shaded area (13) represents gas works waste. (For details see Defences Estates RAF Chelveston, Northamptonshire Land Quality Assessment Phase 2, Project No 10373 February 2004 MWH)
Fig 10 Aerial photograph from 1991 shows the location of the radio masts of the radio Transmitter Station built after 1977 together with the shadowy outline of the 1940s and 1950s airfields now removed but remaining as negative features in the ground (©Aerofilms 1991. 91/Col/125 7/9/91 run 8)
Fig 11 Magazines surviving from 1944 and confused with Igloo nuclear bomb stores of 1950s data (see NSMR 1296/1/2).
Fig 12.1 Northamptonshire SMR data north of the former airfield

Fig 12.2 Northamptonshire SMR data north west of the former airfield
Fig 12.3 Northamptonshire SMR data west of the former airfield

Fig 12.4 Northamptonshire SMR data south west of the former airfield