

1EW03 - Enabling Works Central

AWH-Summary Report for Trial Trench Evaluation at Culworth Road, Northamptonshire AC310: Site Code 1C20CULTT

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Code 1 - Accepted

Summary

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken between July and August 2020 on a land parcel designated C31033, which lies immediately north of Culworth Road, 600m east of the village of Chipping Warden in Northamptonshire (NGR centre 450691 248951).
- 1.1.2 The Site (1C20CULTT) covered a total area of 7.53ha and was on a level plateau overlooking the valley of the River Cherwell, which lies c.600m to the south.
- 1.1.3 The depth at which natural geology or archaeology was encountered varied across the site between 0.1m and 0.7m below ground level. The natural geology comprised mixed mid-brown or yellowish-brown compacted clay and yellow/brown mudstone over patches of ironstone. Topsoil and subsoil depths varied erratically across the site. Topsoil measured between 0.07m and 0.32m deep and generally comprised mid-brown silty clay loam. Subsoil measured 0.1m to 0.35m in depth and was similar to the topsoil but more compact.
- 1.1.4 In total, 42 trenches were excavated, of which 14 contained archaeological features, predominantly furrows. Finds included Early Neolithic and Bronze Age flints, Iron Age, Roman, Medieval and Post-Medieval pottery, clay building material, clay tobacco pipes and animal bone. The most significant find was a piece of carved animal bone resembling the bridge of a stringed musical instrument. The object measured 36mm long, 15mm tall and 5mm wide. Although it was recovered from subsoil it was found with a ceramic jar fragment dating between AD 1100–1400.
- 1.1.5 Prehistoric evidence comprised five pieces of worked flint – three flakes, one blade and one leaf-shaped arrowhead dating from the Early Neolithic to the Bronze Age. These were recovered from a pit, a pit or gully terminal, a ditch, a furrow and from the subsoil. All but one flint was residual.
- 1.1.6 An Iron Age ditch with a V-shaped profile measured 1.2m wide by 0.5m deep, and possibly functioned as a field boundary ditch. It contained animal bone and Iron Age pottery.
- 1.1.7 A Roman ditch with steep sides and a flat base measured 0.84m wide by 0.24m deep. The probable boundary ditch contained pottery dating to c.AD40–410. Residual Roman pottery dating to AD 150–410 was also found within the subsoil.
- 1.1.8 Medieval–post-medieval furrows were found across much of the site, with alignments suggesting at least two phases (extant ridge and furrow was present at the eastern end of the site). The furrows survived up to 0.25m deep and ranged between 0.48m and 2.03m wide.
- 1.1.9 Medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered from across the site within the topsoil and subsoil, but no sherds were recovered from secure contexts.