

1EW03 - Enabling Works Central

AWHe Interim Report for Archaeological Monitoring at Grove Farm – Small Dean North Embankment - Wendover - Buckinghamshire (AC210/7) Site Code: 1C19GRVAM

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1 Executive Summary

- 1.1.1 Archaeological Monitoring was undertaken on land at Grove Farm, located between Great Missenden and Wendover, Buckinghamshire (NGR 487118 206775). A total of c.o.14ha was stripped of topsoil where areas of hard standing were to be located for the enabling works. No features or finds were noted during the monitoring of ground reduction.

2 Introduction

- 2.1.1 This report details the results of Archaeological Monitoring, conducted during September 2018 and November 2019, on land designated as Grove Farm, near Wendover, Buckinghamshire (Figure 1).
- 2.1.2 The Site lies on the western side of a dry valley through the Chilterns, on undulating hills to the south of the town of Wendover (NGR: 487118 206775). The Site comprised a single land parcel (C21009) of which the Archaeological Monitoring of c.o.14ha was conducted within two separate pasture fields (Figure 2).
- 2.1.3 The Site was required for the construction of the main construction assets of Small Dean North Embankment and the Wendover Green Tunnel and associated works. The Archaeological Monitoring undertaken in September 2018 was conducted for the construction of an area of hardstanding for enabling works prior to the archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation, in the area of Trenches 19 and 20. The Archaeological Monitoring undertaken in November 2019 was conducted for the construction of a haul road to be utilised for enabling works by the National Grid, and an associated pylon base.
- 2.1.4 The site code for the works was 1C19GRVAM.
- 2.1.5 The aim of the Archaeological Monitoring was to confirm the presence/absence and potential extent of any surviving archaeological remains within the stripped overburden of Site. This was to ensure the enabling works did not impact on the archaeological resource.
- 2.1.6 The Archaeological Monitoring was instigated through fieldwork change control (doc. ref: 1EW03-FUS-EV-NTE-CS03_CL06-000007).

3 Archaeological Background

- 3.1.1 An Environmental Statement (ES 3.5.2.10) was prepared in 2013 which provided the evidence base against which the assessment of assets that may be affected by the construction of the Proposed Scheme could be determined. It contained information about known and potential heritage assets from a variety of sources and presented a chronological description and discussion of the development of the study area, placing assets within their historical and archaeological context.
- 3.1.2 The remote sensing survey undertaken for the 2013 ES identified some areas of poorly surviving ridge and furrow earthworks within the Site, indicating that parts of the Site at least,

were under cultivation in the medieval or post-medieval period. Several linear anomalies were interpreted as either natural in origin or representative of old field boundaries (C252-ETM-EV-REP-020-000221_P02). Two possible field boundary banks on approximate north/south alignments are also visible on LiDAR imagery in the field to the south-east of Grove Farm.

- 3.1.3 The Site lies within two Archaeological Character Sub-Zones (ASZs); 10-16 and 10-17. These ASZ's have very little archaeological potential other than possible Late Medieval/Post-Medieval features. Three Early Bronze Age barrows are recorded on Bacombe Hill c.500m west of Site. These scheduled monuments comprise a bell barrow, a pond barrow and a bowl barrow (DWH100) and represent the only examples of their type in the wider area.
- 3.1.4 Metal detecting rallies and field walking surveys have been prolific throughout the area, with various finds from all periods being recovered, however the larger quantity of finds appears to be of Prehistoric date. Surveys carried out at the foot of Bacombe Hill recovered surface finds of Late Bronze Age and Iron Age, including a coin and a tanged chisel (Historic England Ref; 1013935 and 1013936). At the foot of Coombe Hill c.700m west of Site, two silver and two gold coins were recovered (DWH095). Iron Age metal work was found by metal detecting within the Site (DWH076) including a Romano-British key.
- 3.1.5 A Trial Trench Evaluation conducted earlier this year at Wellwick Farm c.900m north-west of Site uncovered a large Iron Age enclosure, with Late Bronze Age and Roman activity (Document Ref: 1EW03-FUS-EV-REP-CS03_CL06-009416). A second Trial Trench Evaluation conducted at Ellesborough Road Hospital c.200m north of Site also uncovered Late Bronze Age to Iron Age occupation with potential Iron Age/Saxon inhumations and Medieval ditches (Document Ref: 1EW03-FUS-EV-REP-CS03_CL06-009424).
- 3.1.6 Early Medieval and Medieval presence in the area is limited and this is shown in the fewer metal detecting and field walking rallies finds, with a Medieval seal matrix found on Site (DWH076) and a fragment of gilded disc brooch recovered during metal detecting south-east of Wendover (DWH121). Potential low earthworks and building platforms were also noted in Wendover (DWH117). A Later Medieval chapel and hospital are possibly located north of the Site and a 15th/16th century Clerk's Mill (DWH076) in the southern extremities of the Site, however the subsequent ES geophysical survey did not note anything of interest in this area
- 3.1.7 The Site had previously been subject to Trial Trench Evaluation which identified a concentration of activity towards the west side of centre of the Site, this included a cluster of postholes and pits suggesting activity of undefined character and date and linear features towards the centre of Site suggesting the presence of a potential field system (Document Ref: 1EW03-FUS-EV-REP-CS03_CL06-009420). . Elsewhere on the Site, dating material retrieved from two features including a pit towards the north of the Site suggests a date of late Bronze Age/early Iron age, and pottery from a ditch towards the centre of Site was dated to the Iron Age.
- 3.1.8 The potential extent of the area which required monitoring was outlined in the change control document.. No survey data for the extents of the monitored area were supplied from the construction sub-contractor, and onsite surveying and recording was restricted by the

Contractor. The extents of the monitored areas are based on field observations made by the monitoring archaeologist and are approximate.

- 3.1.9 The impact area of the 2018 groundworks which required monitoring encompassed c. 0.32ha. The monitored compound area overlapped with Trenches 19 and 20 which were excavated at the time of the archaeological monitoring ahead of the rest of the trenches. Trenches 19 and 20 both contained no archaeological features.
- 3.1.10 The impact area of the 2019 groundworks which required monitoring encompassed c.0.14ha. The monitored pylon base area overlapped with Trench 49 which had not contained any archaeological features. The monitored area including the haul road was within an area encompassed by Trenches 44, 47, 48, 52, 54, 55, 60 and 61. Trenches 48, 52 and 54 had contained no archaeological features. Trench 44 had contained two undated northwest-southeast aligned ditches [504403] and [504405], an undated pit [504407] and an undated tree-bole [504409]. Trench 47 had contained a northwest-southeast oriented ditch [504707] dated to the Iron Age towards its eastern end, along with two further undated ditches [504705] and [504711], an undated ditch terminus and an undated pit towards the middle of the trench. Trench 55 had contained the undated southwest terminal end of a ditch [505505]. Trench 60 had contained two undated ditches, [506005] and [506031] aligned east-west and northeast-southwest respectively, along with a cluster of 8 stake-holes, these were contained within one of the ditches itself and were interpreted as being part of an east-west palisade; these features were all located towards the south end of the trench. Of these features, ditches [505505], [506005] and [506031] and the palisade in Trench 60 could have extended into the monitored area.

4 Preliminary Results

4.1 Site Geology

- 4.1.1 The overburden was comprised of topsoil, which was a dark grey brown friable silty clay (c. 0.3m thick) and subsoil, which was a dark brown grey silty clay with chalk and stone inclusions (0.09 – 0.46m thick). The natural geology found across the Site during the trial trenching comprised of chalk, with the lower southern slopes comprised of sandy clays with bands of flint.

4.2 Archaeological Monitoring Summary

- 4.2.1 The natural geological horizon, or archaeological horizon was not reached during the stripping of the topsoil, which was removed to an average depth of c.0.3m (Figure 2). No features were noted cutting through the topsoil or subsoil where it was exposed, and no finds were recovered.

4.3 Archaeological Results

- 4.3.1 The area to be stripped and Archaeologically Monitored in 2018 and 2019 encompassed c. 0.32 ha. and c.0.14ha. No archaeological features or finds were revealed during the monitoring due to the archaeological horizon not being reached during the groundworks (Figure 2; Plates 1-3).

5 Summary

- 5.1.1 The Archaeological Monitoring in September 2018 was conducted for the construction of an area of hard standing for enabling works prior to Trial Trench Evaluation being conducted. The stripping of the topsoil exposed the upper surface or interface with the subsoil in places and no archaeological features were noted cutting through the topsoil or subsoil where it was exposed. No finds were recovered from the overburden.
- 5.1.2 The Archaeological Monitoring in November 2019 was conducted for the construction of a haul road to be utilised for enabling works by National Grid along with an associated pylon base. This was conducted after the Trial Trench Evaluation had uncovered ditches, pits and postholes concentrated toward the centre of Site. As with the previous works, the topsoil stripping only exposed the upper surface of the subsoil in places and no archaeological features were noted cutting through the topsoil or subsoil. No finds were recovered from the overburden.
- 5.1.3 The monitoring of the stripping of overburden in both areas was archaeologically negative.

6 Bibliography

Title	Reference
HS2 Change Control for Trial Trench Evaluation at Grove Farm, Small Dean North Embankment, Wendover, Buckinghamshire (AC210/7)	1EW03-FUS-EV-NTE-CS03_CL06-000007
HS2 AWHe Fieldwork Report for Trial Trench Evaluation at C21009 Grove Farm – Small Dean North Embankment – Wendover – Buckinghamshire (AC210/7)	1EW03-FUS-EV-REP-CS03_CL06-009420
HS2 AWHe Fieldwork Report for Trial Trench Evaluation at C21013 Wellwick Farm – Wendover Green Tunnel - Wendover – Buckinghamshire AC210/8	1EW03-FUS-EV-REP-CS03_CL06-009416
HS2 AWHe Fieldwork Report for Trial Trenching at C21015 Ellesborough Road Hospital – Wendover Green Tunnel – Wendover – Buckinghamshire (AC210/9)	1EW03-FUS-EV-REP-CS03_CL06-009424
HS2. Generic Written Scheme of Investigation: Historic Environment Research and Delivery Strategy	HS2-HS2-EV-STR-000-000015
HS2. Location Specific Written Scheme of Investigation for Trial Trench Evaluation at Rocky Lane, Small Dean South Embankment, Upper Wendover Dean Farm, Rocky Lane Cutting, Grove Farm, Small Dean north Embankment, Wellwick Farm and Ellesborough Road Hospital, Wendover Tunnel, Wendover, Buckinghamshire (AC210/W3).	1EW03-FUS-EV-REP-CS03_CL06-002529

HS2 Phase One Environmental Statement, Supplementary Environmental Statements and Geophysical Survey Reports	ES 3.2.1.10 ES 3.5.2.10.4 ES 3.5.2.10.5 ES 3.5.2.10.6 ES 3.5.2.10.7 C252-ETM-EV-REP-020-000221_P02P1C2-ETM-EV-REP-000-000008_P01
HS2. Project Plan for Trial Trench Evaluation at Grove Farm, Small Dean Embankment, Wendover, Buckinghamshire.	1EW03-FUS-EV-REP-CS03_CL06-002525
HS2, Technical Standard Specification for historic environment investigations.	HS2-HS2-EV-STD-000-000035

7 Glossary of Terms and Acronyms

The following terms have been used in this report:

Terms

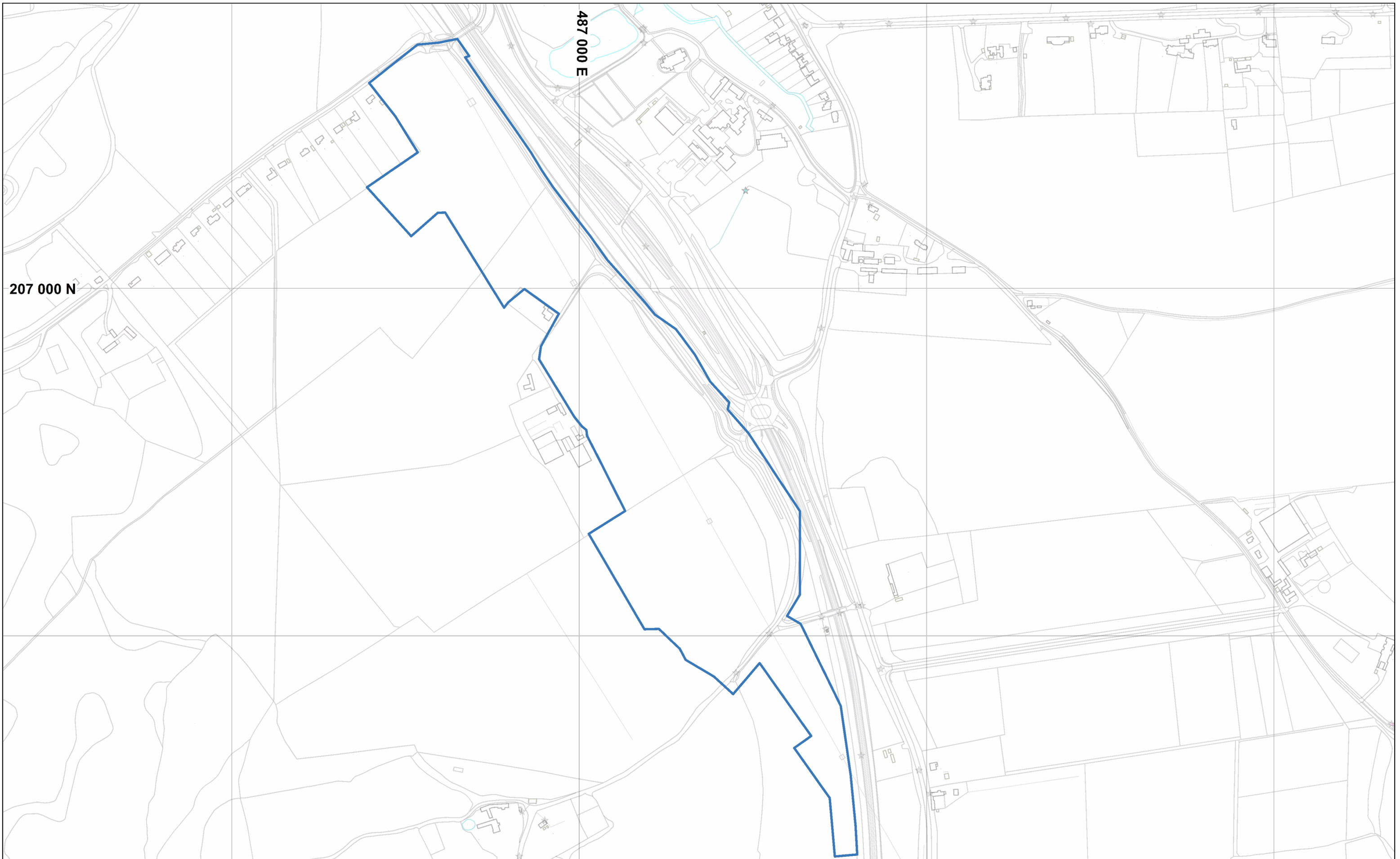
The Contractor	The organisation undertaking the Enabling Works for Area Central on behalf of the Employer.
Generic Written Scheme of Investigation: Historic Environment Research and Delivery Strategy (GWSI: HERDS)	The framework for delivering all historic environment investigations undertaken as part of the HS2 Phase 1 programme.
The Employer	The organisation responsible for delivery of HS2 Phase One Scheme and all terms and conditions, policies, procedures, and payments
Location	A specific HS2 worksite or group of worksites that are being addressed as a combined historic environment investigation programme of assessment, evaluation and investigation.
Location Specific Written Scheme of Investigation (LSWSI)	Specification document assembling one or more Project Plans within an area of land defined primarily for construction programme purposes.
Project Plan	Specification document for each specific package of activity (e.g. a survey, desk-based assessment, excavation, recoding project). The plans would respond to the Specific Objectives set out in the GWSI: HERDS and be delivered within an agreed budget.

Trial Trench Evaluation	A form of archaeological investigation involving the excavation of trenches to help determine the character and date of any discovered archaeology
Works	The specific historic environment assessment, evaluation or investigation works at each

Acronyms


ES	Environmental Statement
ha	Hectare
HE	Historic Environment
HERDS	Historic Environment Research and Delivery Strategy
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
m	Metre
mm	Millimetre
NGR	National Grid Reference
No.	Number

Appendix 1- Figures



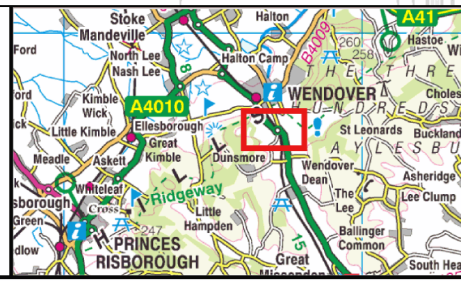
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Legend

 Site extent

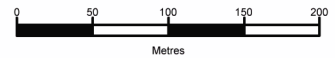

High Speed Two
Grove Farm
Figure 1. Site location

Published





Scale at A3: 1: 5,000



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Legend

- Site extent
- Excavated evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
- Archaeological monitored area, no survey data supplied, extent based on field observation

High Speed Two
Grove Farm
Figure 2. Approximate location of archaeological monitoring 2018

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Legend

- Site extent
- Excavated evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
- Archaeological monitored area, no survey data supplied, extent based on field observation, pylon base
- Haul road, no survey data supplied, extent based on field observation

High Speed Two
Grove Farm
Figure 3. Approximate location of
archaeological monitoring 2019

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Appendix 2- Plates



Plate 1 - Topsoil removal at southern extent of haul road adjacent to site entrance, looking southeast



Plate 2 - Overview of haul road after topsoil removal, looking northwest



Plate 3 - Representative section through haul road showing depth of topsoil removal, looking northeast