

## **1EW03 – Enabling Works Central**

# **AWHe Summary Report for Trial Trench Evaluation at Upper Bottom House Farm, Chalfont St. Giles, Buckinghamshire (AC100/9) Site Code: 1C18BOTTT**

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# 1 Summary

- 1.1.1 A trial trench evaluation was undertaken on land at Upper Bottom House Farm, near Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire totalling c.13ha (NGR SU 97524 94751) in three phases in December 2018, June 2019 and December 2019, ahead of construction of Phase One of the new High Speed Two (HS2) railway. The works were required in advance of construction of the Chalfont St Giles vent shaft, spoil storage areas and associated temporary compound and widened access road. The Site code for the work was 1C18BOTTT.
- 1.1.2 A total of 48 trenches were excavated targeted on geophysical anomalies identified by the geophysical survey, cropmarks identified through LiDAR imagery and aerial photographs (undertaken as part of the Environmental Statement), and 'blank areas' where no archaeological anomalies were identified. Three trenches revealed archaeological features: an undated ditch in Trench 010 in the north of Site at 107.11m aOD; a probable post-medieval ditch in Trench 047 in the east of Site at 77.11m aOD; and a large post-medieval quarry pit in Trench 022 in the west of Site at 106.54m aOD. Trenches 045 and 046 revealed palaeochannels in the east of Site, at 78.63m aOD and 77.38m aOD respectively, to the south of the current River Misbourne. The remainder of the Trenches produced negative results.
- 1.1.3 The ditch in Trench 010 did not produce any finds and the ditch in Trench 047 produced only two small fragments of heavily abraded residual medieval pottery. Map regression suggests the latter of the ditches may relate to an orchard boundary attached to Harewood Downs House c.50m northeast of Site. Dating evidence retrieved from the large pit suggests this is a post-medieval quarry pit. Residual medieval pottery sherds recovered from the quarry pit and the ditch in Trench 47 are indicative of medieval manuring practices. No dating evidence was recovered from the palaeochannels.
- 1.1.4 The Site appeared to have been utilised during the post-medieval period for quarrying chalk for possible localised building material. The landscape appears to have undergone very little change, with evidence suggesting the fields were cultivated since at least the medieval period. The presence of the two palaeochannels shows the River Misbourne had meandered across the valley floor.