

1EW03– Enabling Works Central

AWH C2a Trial Trenching at C21013 Wellwick Farm - Wendover Green Tunnel – Wendover - Buckinghamshire Summary Report

Document no.: 1EW03-FUS-EV-REP-CS03_CL06-009417

MDF ref:

Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Approved by	Revision Details:
Co1	21/03/2019	R. Morgan	S. Roper	David Bonner	For acceptance

1 Summary

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at Wellwick Farm C2a, near Wendover, Buckinghamshire by Infra between November 2018 and January 2019. The works were required for the construction of the Wendover Green Tunnel and the Wendover North Cutting, part of the High Speed 2 scheme.
- 1.1.2 A total of 148 trenches exposed substantial ditches, large pits, postholes and a buried prehistoric soil horizon. Prehistoric occupation was attested by probable Bronze Age pits, large Iron Age ditches, clay-lined storage pits, pits and postholes. A few ditches and pits also produced Roman wares, indicating a later occupation of the site. Ditches and pits of medieval date were also present. Post-medieval cut features were largely absent; however, a large quantity of post-medieval ceramics was recovered from the overburden across site. This strongly suggested the fields remained open with a similar layout to the present.
- 1.1.3 The finds assemblage indicated a possible domestic function within the prehistoric period. Daub, loom weights and a fair assemblage of ceramics and animal bone were present from the Bronze Age through to the Iron Age, with peaks of activity in the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age and in the late Iron Age/early Roman, with middle Iron Age activity suspected.
- 1.1.4 The postholes were infrequent, however, and displayed no obvious structural configurations. They were clustered alongside concentrations of Iron Age pits toward the central southern side of site. Medieval finds were predominantly domestic and recovered from ditches forming possible rectangular parcels and driveways, with pottery dated to the 12th to 14th centuries. Medieval features were mostly concentration towards the central portion of the site, with the frequency and size of features diminishing toward the east, and to a lesser extent toward the west.
- 1.1.5 The present-day ground surface descended sharply from the southern fields to the northern fields along the central portion of site. The underlying geology mirrored this with a shallower dip. The natural topography appeared to have been emphasised by plough headlands in later periods which resulted in the burial of a prehistoric soil horizon approximately 10-15m wide, underlying which were numerous intercutting pits of prehistoric date.
- 1.1.6 The results of the trial trench evaluation indicate the presence of a focus of domestic activity which dated primarily from the Bronze Age through to the early Roman period, with later, medieval agricultural features and evidence of post-medieval manuring practices. These features will be investigated further as part of the archaeological mitigation of the site.