

1EW03 - Enabling Works Central

AWHh Summary Report for Palaeoenvironmental Scope at Edgcote Battlefield, Northamptonshire

Site Code: 1C18BLGTT and 1C20PAEBO

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Summary

- 1.1.1 A Palaeoscope borehole investigation around the River Cherwell. The work was carried out in two phases the first phase completed in September 2020 focused on two landparcels (C31015 and C31013) at Blackgrounds Farm, Northamptonshire to the north of the Cherwell. The second phase of work completed in April 2021 focused on the southern floodplain of the Cherwell at the junction with the Culworth Brook across four landparcels (F24_0016, F24_0018, F24_0020 and F24_0022) at Edgcote Battlefield.
- 1.1.2 The works at Blackgrounds Farm were carried out under site code 1C18BLGTT whilst the works at Edgcote Battlefield were carried out under site code 1C20PAEBO.
- 1.1.3 The works consisted of 22 boreholes and 4 test pits. The stratigraphic sequence observed was broadly similar in all interventions consisting of modern topsoil overlying oxidised or partially oxidised alluvium up to 4.3m thick which sealed pre-Holocene deposits. The pre-Holocene deposits were either floodplain gravels, or bedrock. Across the site the underlying bedrock varies. BGS mapping shows Dyrham formation, Charmouth Mudstone Formation and Marlstone Rock formation, all of which are Tertiary in date and subsequently have no archaeological interest.
- 1.1.4 No peat was recovered in the boreholes except in WS85 in landparcel F24_0022, wood from this recovered at 4.5m below ground level was radiocarbon dated to 2496-2340 cal BC suggesting a Neolithic date for deposition.
- 1.1.5 Deposit modelling of the results from the Palaeoscope investigation show that the southern floodplain is up to 4m lower than the northern floodplain, which may indicate that the Cherwell was originally wider to the south or has migrated northwards during the Holocene.
- 1.1.6 Some of the boreholes within the land parcel C31025 lie over a palaeochannel (WS87, TP47 and WS88) adjacent to the main (current) channel course of the Cherwell, whilst the remaining boreholes lie in close proximity to this palaeochannel. In land parcel C31015, WS95 lies on the higher terrain overlooking the lower paleochannel area sampled in WS94.