

1EW03 - Enabling Works Central AWHi Summary Report for Archaeological Recording at Grove Farm and Rocky Lane, Buckinghamshire (AC210) Site Code: 1C20GRVAR

MDL:

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Summary

- 1.1.1 Archaeological Recording was undertaken in two locations; on land at Rocky Lane (centred on NGR: 487645 206113) and Grove Farm near Wendover, Buckinghamshire (centred on both NGR: 486981 207076 and 486981 207076). The Archaeological Recording comprised three land parcels; Rocky Lane (Land Parcel C21032), Grove Farm North (C21033) and Grove Farm West (C21034). The archaeological investigation at Rocky Lane encompassed an area measuring 0.12ha, and five evaluation trenches. The site at Grove Farm North measured 0.13ha and at Grove Farm West measured 0.89ha.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken between August and September 2020 and the Site is required to enable the construction of the rail alignment formation associated with Small Dean North Embankment and the Wendover Green Tunnel, Small Dean South Embankments and Rocky Lane Cutting. Works include tunnel entrance construction, main and satellite construction compounds, temporary stockpile areas, haul road and realignment of existing services, and subsequent landscape mitigation planting ahead of construction of Phase One of the new High Speed Two (HS2) railway.
- 1.1.3 At Rocky Lane (C21032 & associated trenches) five Trial Trenches and an Archaeological Recording area were targeted on an area to investigate further evidence of a prehistoric pit that was recorded during the previous Trial Trench Evaluation. This investigation produced no features of archaeological origin. Several potential features were investigated but these proved to be variations in the geological substrate.
- 1.1.4 The Archaeological Recording at Grove Farm North (C21033) targeted an area that produced features and artefacts dating to the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age. A layer of colluvium was present, possibly in-filling a dry valley feature suggesting a change in the landscape; areas of deforestation producing greater soil erosion, or a lowering of the water table. Underlying the colluvium were eight pits that contained Middle Neolithic pottery, clustered in the central and northeastern part of the area. Undated features were also recorded comprising 15 pits, 3 postholes and a curvilinear feature. Four of the pits contained abundant charcoal and fruit/nut fragments, recovered from the soil samples.
- 1.1.5 Truncating the colluvium was a cluster of eight unlined bell-shaped storage pits that contained decorated pottery attributed to the Middle Iron Age together with animal bone that had evidence of cut marks and rodent gnawing. A triangular loom weight recovered from the upper fill of one of the pits suggests an Iron Age/Early Roman date.
- 1.1.6 Dispersed across the central and eastern part of the Site were eight small cremation pits containing burnt material: charcoal and human bone fragments. Two of the cremations also contained animal bone comprising pig and sheep/goat. Finds recovered from four of the cremations comprised a copper alloy Roman hinged broach, part of a copper alloy tubular hollow bracelet and melted pieces of a brooch of the Hod Hill type dated to 1st century AD. One of the cremations was deposited with a pedestal urn, and a cordoned necked jar also dated to the 1st century AD.

- 1.1.7 The Archaeological Recording at Grove Farm West (C21034) targeted undated archaeological features recorded in the previous Trial Trench Evaluation. Furrows, identified in the Lidar survey, were recorded on Site . Artefacts recovered included ceramic tiles, slag, pottery and a fragment of copper alloy.
- 1.1.8 A single circular pond feature was interpreted as a possible extraction feature for resources removal and / or water hollow. Additionally, five undated small discrete features were identified across the area comprising four pits and one posthole. An undated isolated cremation pit was also recorded in the southeastern part of the area. It is uncertain at this time whether it is related to those recorded in C21033 as there were no diagnostic finds.
- 1.1.9 Most of the Archaeological activity was centred within land parcel C21033 and consisted of three phases: Neolithic, Iron Age/Roman transition and Roman. The findings from the other land parcels (C21032 and C21034) comprised natural/geological and post-medieval features.