

1EW03 – Enabling Works Central

AWHi Summary Report for Archaeological Recording at Land North of Nash Lee, Buckinghamshire Site Code: 1C2oNNLAR

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HS2 Ltd - Code 1 Accepted

1 Summary

- 1.1.1 Archaeological Recording was undertaken at the Land North of Nash Lee, Buckinghamshire on two land parcels (C22030 and C22031) totalling c.0.7 ha (NGR 485088 208694) during March-April 2020, ahead of construction of Phase One of the new High Speed Two (HS2) railway. The land at Nash Lee was targeted to enable the construction of a haul road and two compounds that will be required prior to the main HS2 works. The road and compound will be required for National Grid works. During the main phase of works this area will be used by the HS2 rail alignment formation and associated earthworks and landscaping works during construction of a new footbridge to carry an existing Public Right of Way (PRoW), the Nash Lee overbridge, one attenuation pond and a satellite compound. The Site code for the work was 1C2oNNLAR.
- 1.1.2 The Archaeological Recording has investigated two areas of activity that were selected for excavation based on the results of previous the trial trench evaluation, and the Roman Road of Icknield Way is thought to pass in-between land parcels C22031 and C22032.
- 1.1.3 The first period of activity identified belonged to the Middle/Late Bronze Age. It was represented by a single pit in C22032 and by a small number of residual finds in later features.
- 1.1.4 The second period of activity identified was the Middle Iron Age, most of the activity recorded in the excavation areas belonged to this period. The evidence in land parcel C22031 was limited to two field boundary ditches, but the bulk of the evidence was in C22032 and within that land parcel it could be broadly separated into three phases.
- 1.1.5 The first phase began with the laying out of a field boundary indicating the Site was under some form of cultivation and a series of successive construction occurred to the north side of this boundary, consisting of the part of one probable roundhouse and up to 12 other structures, most of which appeared to represent parts of 'four-post' structures that may have functioned as raised granaries. The second phase was represented by a D-shaped ditched enclosure that could have functioned as a holding area for animals. The third phase saw a re-establishment of the boundary line first established in Phase 1 and the land use may have reverted to a similar arrangement as it had been prior to the installation of the enclosure which by this time was no longer in use.
- 1.1.6 The Middle Iron Age evidence at the Site appears to represent part of a settlement locale on the fringe of settlement at Wellwick Farm *circa* 500m to the south-east and it could be that some form of specialist activities is represented at the Site, notably this is suggested by the concentration of four-post structures assigned to Phase 1 of the activity and by the enclosure assigned to Phase 2 of the activity.

- 1.1.7 A third period of activity was possibly represented by a single pit of Middle-Late Iron Age date, during which the Site probably continued to be under cultivation. A possible fourth period of activity was indicated by a small number of Late Iron Age / Roman finds, it appears that the Site was no longer a foci for settlement during this time but may have continued to be used for cultivation. There was no further evidence for activity at the Site except for evidence of its agricultural exploitation during the medieval and post-medieval periods, and the Site probably remained under some form of cultivation through to the present day.