

1EW03 - Enabling Works Central

AWHh Trial Trench Evaluation at Three Bridge Mill, Twyford, Buckinghamshire (AC250/28) 1C19THBTT

Summary Report

Document no.: 1EW03-FUS_COP-EV-REP-CS06_CLog-000003

Revision	Author	Checked by	Approved by	Date approved	Reason for revision
C01	Peter Boyer	Peter Boyer	Richard Brown	30/11/2020	First Issue
C02	Peter Boyer	Mark Hewson	Dan Hounsell	15/06/2021	Second Issue

Code 5 - Not client reviewed

1 Summary

- 1.1.1 A Trial Trench Evaluation was undertaken at Three Bridge Mill, Twyford, Buckinghamshire (hereafter referred to as 'the Site'; NGR 467013, 226479) in advance of utilisation of the area for HS2 rail alignment formation and associated earthworks, excavation of an ecological mitigation pond, creation of a stockpile area and for construction of several access roads. The location for the Trial trench Evaluation was selected to address construction programme risk to land required for the proposed development.
- 1.1.2 The Site is located on alluvial and gravel terrace deposits associated with a tributary of the Padbury Brook, which may preserve Pleistocene and Palaeolithic artefacts. It may also have been suitable for later prehistoric settlement. No Roman period remains have been found within the Site although a Late Iron Age/Roman settlement was found during HS2 works at Calvert, 1.5km to the south-east. The geophysical survey identified archaeological remains that could be Saxon or medieval in date and during the post-medieval period the Site was used for agricultural purposes associated with the nearby settlement of Twyford.
- 1.1.3 The Trial Trench Evaluation encompassed two parcels of land: C25077 and C25082, which lay within the Calvert, Steeple Clayton, Twyford and Chetwode Community Forum Area (CFA 13). The work comprised the Trial Trench Evaluation of 29 trenches, most of which, were targeted on features of possible archaeological potential recorded during earlier non-intrusive surveys.
- 1.1.4 Within land parcel C25077 features were broadly focused north/south in the eastern half of the parcel, with a dense grouping in Trench 9. Features in Trenches 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 reflected activity associated with a likely trackway and enclosure arrangement, with Trench 7 probably reflecting elements of this too. Within land parcel C25082 features were widely distributed throughout, with little evidence of particular foci of activity. A small cluster of features could be seen in Trenches 23 and 24, where the results of the geophysical survey are unclear, but elsewhere features reflected the widely distributed evidence of pits and ditches indicated in the survey results.
- 1.1.5 Three main phases of activity were identified, dating to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period, the Mid – Late Roman period and agricultural activity dating to the wider medieval / post-medieval periods. Activity within the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period was extensive across the Site and the earliest evidence of activity across the Site dates from this transitional period.
- 1.1.6 Finds of this transitional period were recorded widely in features; mainly ditches, but also gullies and pits. Finds of purely Roman origin, from the Early Roman period through to the Late Roman period were recovered from all trenches in land parcel 25077, except Trenches 1 and 10. Finds of these dates were recovered from only eight trenches in land parcel 25082; Trenches 13, 16, 18, 22 – 24, 26 and 28. Many were recovered in contexts of discard, away from their original point of use and were likely to have been dumped as rubbish along with

other domestic debris. There were no firmly identified remains of domestic settlement, however, the finds do hint at domestic occupation close by.