

1EW03

HS2 Phase One Central Section, EWC, Archaeological Works

Trial trenching and archaeological monitoring at Windmill Hill, Ladbroke Site Code 1C17WMHTT - Summary Report

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CODE 1 - ACCEPTED

1 Summary

- 1.1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation commissioned by Fusion was undertaken at Windmill Hill, north-east of Ladbroke, Warwickshire (NGR 442153 259252) between 5th and 19th February 2018, ahead of construction of Phase One of the new High Speed Two (HS2) railway network. The site comprised a single area of land, c. 11.81ha, currently in use as an arable field. The site is required for proposed ecological habitat creation works including the construction of mitigation ponds and grassland planting. The fieldwork consisted of eight 30m trenches. Archaeological monitoring was also undertaken during excavation of the mitigation ponds.
- 1.1.2 The site is located within the former medieval open field system surrounding Ladbroke; however, there is little evidence of archaeological activity in the surrounding area and the site has likely been used for agricultural activity throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods. Southam, c. 2km north, has also been a local centre since the medieval period. Find spots of Roman pottery and a single coin have been recorded near Southam.
- 1.1.3 Archaeological monitoring on the mitigation ponds revealed no deposits of archaeological interest. Trench 3 revealed a northwest-southeast aligned ditch which was cut through subsoil and is visible on historic mapping. This ditch contained a single fragment of post-medieval ceramic building material and is very likely to be of late post-medieval date. Three northwest-southeast aligned furrows were revealed in Trench 6, two of which were excavated. The furrows did not contain any artefactual material.
- 1.1.4 The results of the evaluation and archaeological monitoring reveal that the site was used for agricultural purposes during the medieval to post-medieval periods, associated with the settlement of Ladbroke.