

1EW03 - Enabling Works Central

AWHi– Summary Report for Construction Integrated Recording at Chetwode Mill, Buckinghamshire, AC250. Site Code 1C21CWMCI

Document no.: 1EW03-FUS_COP-EV-REP-CS06_CL10-000007

Revision	Author	Checked by	Approved by	Date approved	Reason for revision
C01	Julian Newman	Derek Evans	Iain Williamson	16.06.22	For acceptance

1 Summary

- 1.1.1 Construction Integrated Recording (CIR) was undertaken at Chetwode Mill, Buckinghamshire (hereafter the 'Site') during May-July 2022, in advance of the construction of Chetwode Embankment and associated assets. The Site, covering 986 sq. m, is centred at NGR: 464852 228407, within the parish of Chetwode, c. 1.5km south-east of Chetwode's historic centre. The Site lies within an area of poorly understood archaeological potential. Trial trenching approx. 200m west of the Site revealed pits and ditches associated with a late Roman farmstead. To the immediate north, a geophysical survey identified only modern ferrous disturbance.
- 1.1.2 A watermill at Chetwode is recorded in the Domesday Book (compiled in 1086), as part of an earlier Anglo-Saxon estate which developed after AD 949 to support the burh at Buckingham. Historical evidence indicates continued activity through the medieval period, with the watermill, leat, bypass channel, mill race and tail race layout remaining unchanged from 1638 and probably for longer. The watermill is depicted on historic maps in the early 17th century and fell into disuse by 1825. Occupation of the associated building continued until demolition in the 1940s. The watermill landscape is still extant on Site.
- 1.1.3 The CIR revealed prehistoric, medieval, post-medieval and modern activity, truncated by 1940s demolition. An undated ring ditch, of probable prehistoric date, was truncated by post-medieval quarrying. A residual Mesolithic mace head was recovered from the quarry backfill internal to the ring ditch. Two intercutting ditches of 13th–14th century date represent the earliest evidence of watermill features. Three timber beams set in clay packing, of tentative 16th–17th century date, form the corner of a structure likely supporting a waterwheel.
- 1.1.4 The final phase of 13th–14th century ditches was backfilled with clay in the 16th–17th century, likely forming the foundation platform for a structure, of which there are no surviving remains. A stone retaining wall was later added to the platform fronting the mill race. The final phase of watermill structures was constructed in the late post-medieval period, defined by the substantial mill race walls. The surviving building remains, constructed predominantly with stone and occasional CBM, were heavily truncated by 1940s demolition. Two rooms survive centrally to the building plot identified on historic mapping, dating to the 18th century onwards.
- 1.1.5 No evidence of the Anglo-Saxon watermill recorded in the Domesday Book was identified. Despite the intensive use of the Site from the medieval period onwards, it is unlikely that all artefacts and features associated with an earlier watermill would have been removed, indicating that the Anglo-Saxon watermill was sited elsewhere. The probable location of the waterwheel was unavailable for excavation during the CIR. No evidence of the waterwheel or metalwork associated with the watermill mechanisms were present on Site.