

**HS2 Phase 1 Central Section
HERDS ROUND UP BCC HER FORUM
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Archaeologist**

4 Mar 2019 –Buckinghamshire County Council, County Hall,
Walton Street, Aylesbury

C1/2A



C2B



Site Review – Stage 1 evaluations

- **Dews Farm/Colne Valley**
- **West of Tilehouse lane**
- **West Hyde**
- **North portal Great Missenden**
- **Grim's Ditch**
- **Wellwick Farm**
- **St Mary's and Roman activity**
- **Doddershall north and south**

Dews Farm

- Several Pleistocene channels in filled with alluvium and colluvium have been recorded.
- Burnt pits and a number of ditches/ gullies correspond to remains recorded by CSJV for the original HP07 diversion route
- Trenches 070 and 074 have revealed later prehistoric remains including a ring gully and post-holes indicative of a roundhouse and 4no. gullies and several pits of Late Iron Age date respectively



Colne Valley Viaduct Moorhall Road LTP Site

- Trial pit evaluation of a small area of land within the Colne Valley revealed a relatively shallow sequence of topsoil, overlying organic alluvium, over well humified peat which sealed compact gravels.
- No artefactual material was recovered from the deposit sequence; although, environmental samples are being processed.



West of Tilehouse lane

- Discrete activity
- Trench 242 - revealed three 'tree boles' containing LBA/EIA pottery and charcoal. These features were truncated by large pit/ditch which extended beyond the limits of the trench. These features produced 355 sherds of pottery LBA/EIA representing 49 vessels.
- Trench 254 – revealed a possible cremation containing LBA/EIA pot, struck flints and 33 fragments of burnt bone. The bone is reported as 'Sheep sized' mammal based on size and wall thickness - calcined and burnt at c.700 C.

Trench 242 -Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age pit



West Hyde- 7 ha strip and map

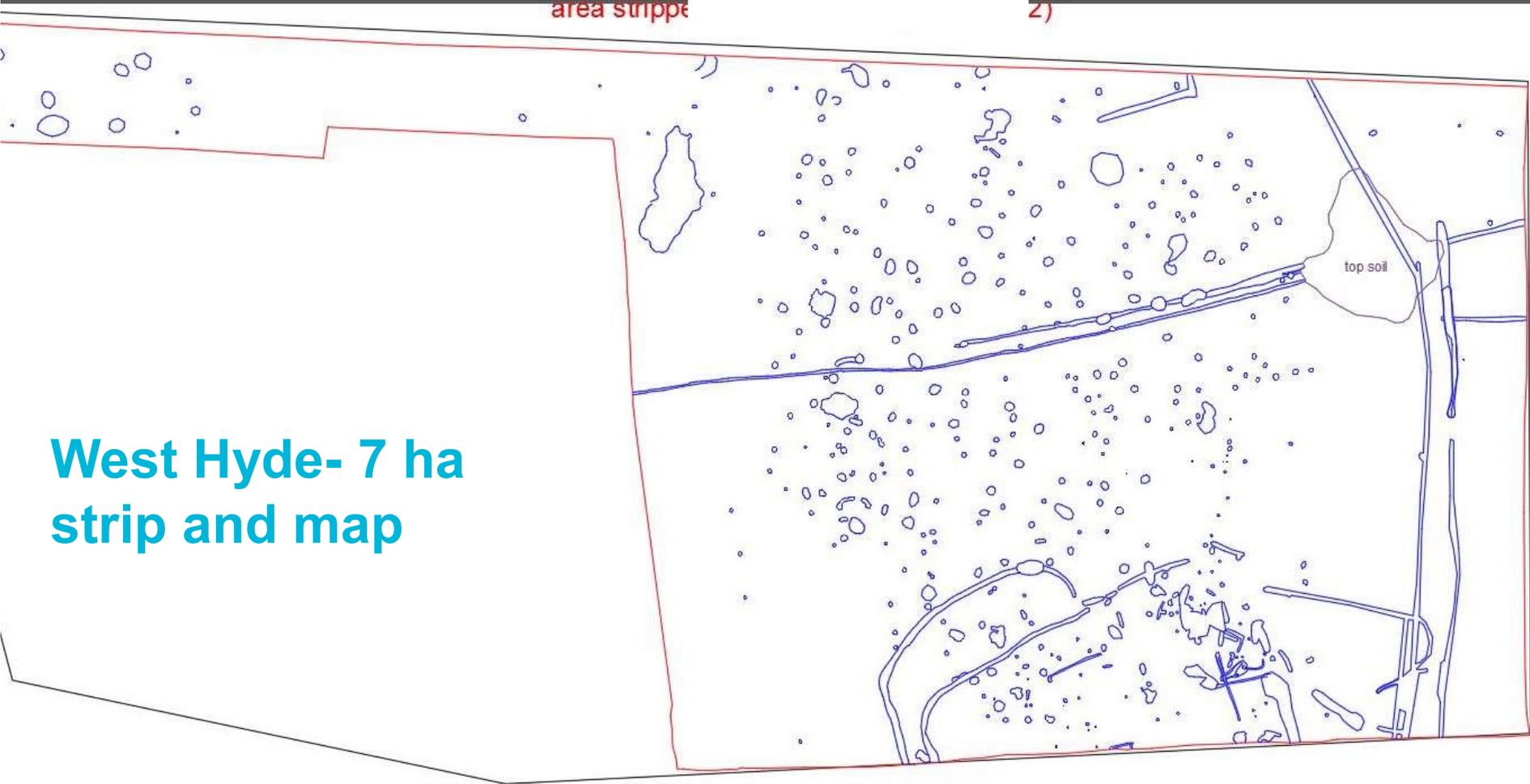
- C.400 archaeological features located on a promontory overlooking a series of dry valleys and the western side of the Colne Valley
- Residual Mesolithic flints including debitage, cores and blades provide evidence for earlier activity
- Very large quantity of pits was recognised of possible Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date. Work flints recovered from several pits suggest a potentially early Neolithic date
- However excavation shows PRE material is residual and these features relate to a Roman period enclosed farmstead overlooking Colne Valley



area stripp

2)

West Hyde- 7 ha strip and map



North portal Great Missenden

- four flint fragments Mesolithic/Neolithic
- a substantial enclosure ditch with a possible defensive function
- single inhumation, alongside large possible storage pits within enclosure
- Pottery mid-Bronze Age to late Iron Age was recovered from several features – but dating evidence sparse
- Faunal Remains- Fragments no.525
- Flora- Charred cereals/seeds are exceedingly scarce

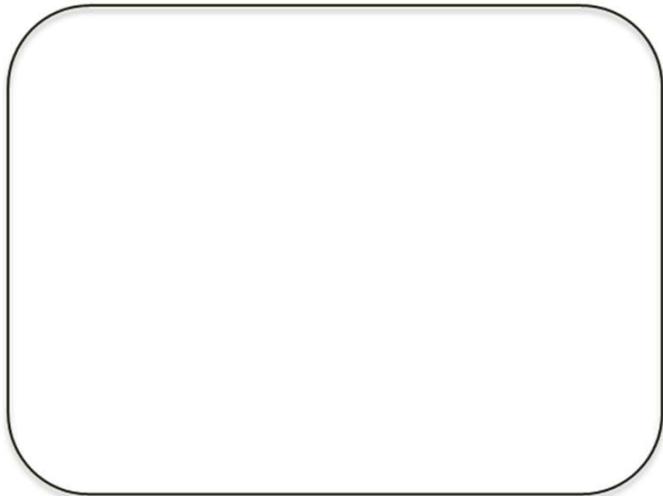


Plate 15 - Ditch [115121], view east



Plate 18 - Pit [12504], view north

Grim's Ditch

- Geophysical surveys completed
- Project plans in preparation – no works yet at this site
- Evaluation est. later 2019





Wellwick Farm- Interim

- The site appears to have a domestic function within the prehistoric period, with daub, loom weights and a fair assemblage of ceramics and animal bone present from the Bronze Age through to the Iron Age.
- Postholes were fairly infrequent and did not definitively show a structure, however these were apparent alongside concentrations of Iron Age pits towards the central southern side of the site.

Bronze Age / Iron Age cut features – linears, storage pits, postholes buried soil horizon etc. Pottery and animal bone recovered



St Mary's- churchyard

A total of 111 burials were identified, 91 of which were excavated, with the remaining burials left *in situ*.



Aerial view of Group C trenches under excavation, looking north



Working shot of decorated coffin burial under excavation

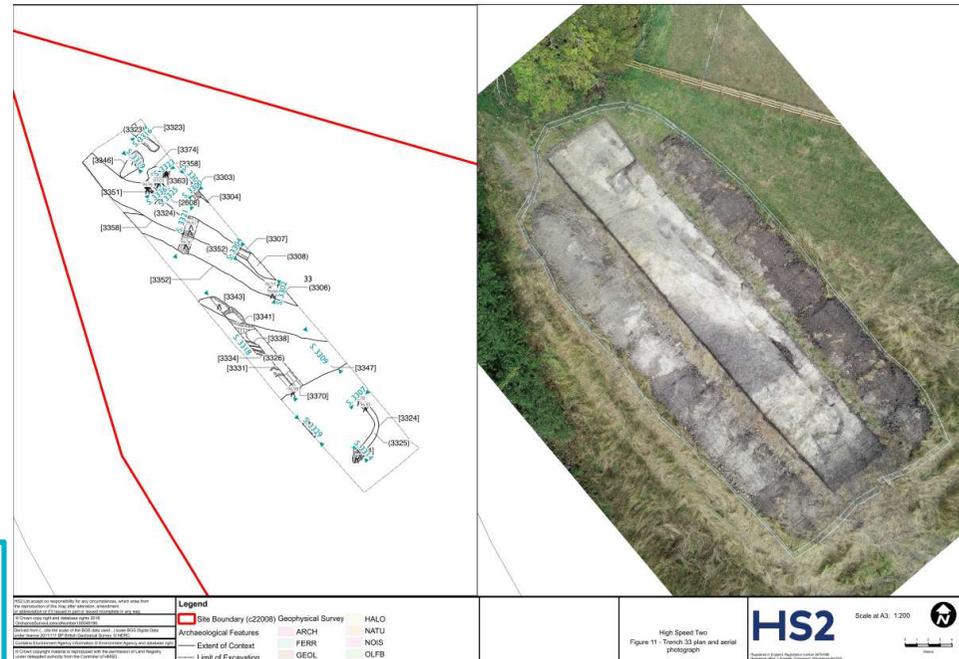
Stoke House Farm

- Prehistoric – cut linear features contained worked flints and Late Bronze Age to Iron Age pottery. Unclear what type of activities these relate to - likely occupational, possible Roman activity has destroyed / obscured it.
- Roman – extensive evidence for Roman occupational activity. Boundary ditches, post holes, pits. Some ditches showed evidence for cleaning out / re-cutting. Pottery ranges from 1st – 4th Centuries AD. Finds also include CBM (roof and floor tiles), stone building materials,
- Medieval – furrows (agricultural), cut linears, pits. Pottery dates primarily from 12-14th Centuries but some also of 15th century date.

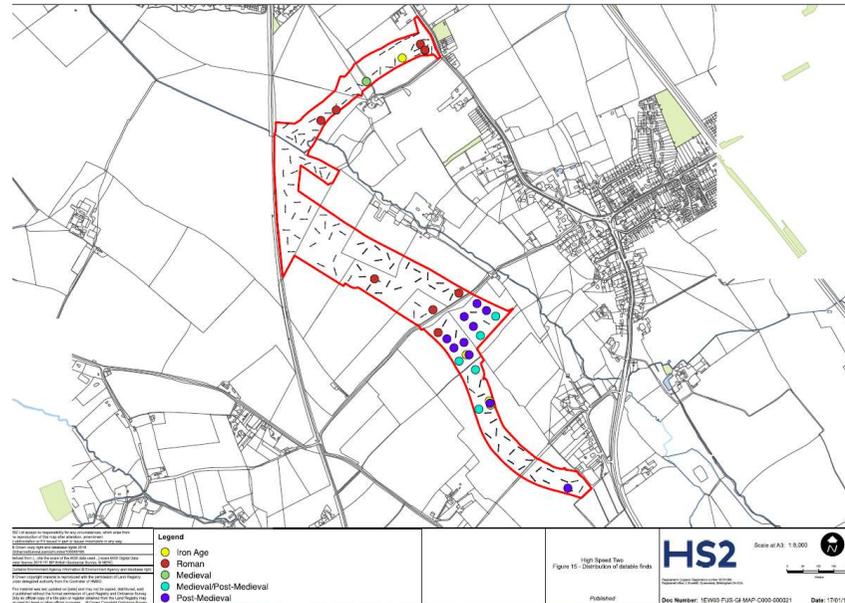
Enviro samples – vast majority showed no bio data or had significant root contamination.

A total of 3015 sherds of pottery were recovered in total, the bulk of the material dating from the late Saxon to later Medieval period.

1,181 fragments of faunal remains -cow (*Bos Taurus*), sheep goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*), pig (*Sus scrofa* sp), horse (*Equus caballus*), chicken (*Gallus gallus*), rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) and rat (*Ratus ratus*).



Stoke Mandeville Bypass



Roman – majority of finds and features are Roman. Cut features, mostly linear. Pottery dates 2nd – 4th century.

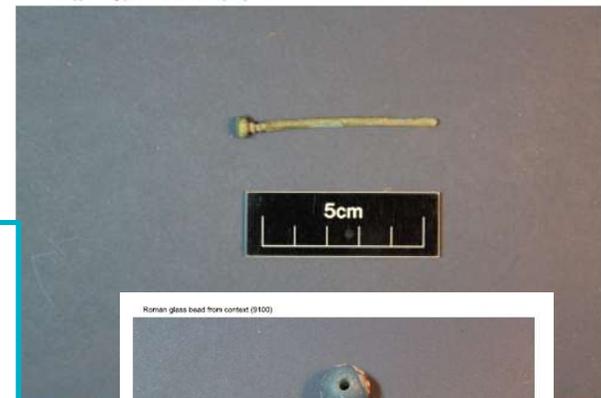
Glass bead recovered from a ditch with enamelled decoration. No specific date can be given other than Roman.

Fragments of imbrex and tegula recovered. Probably relates to occupational activity identified over the road during construction of housing estate.

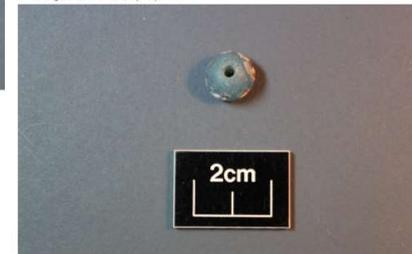


A selection of pottery from various sooted jar sherd.

Roman copper alloy pin found in context (406)

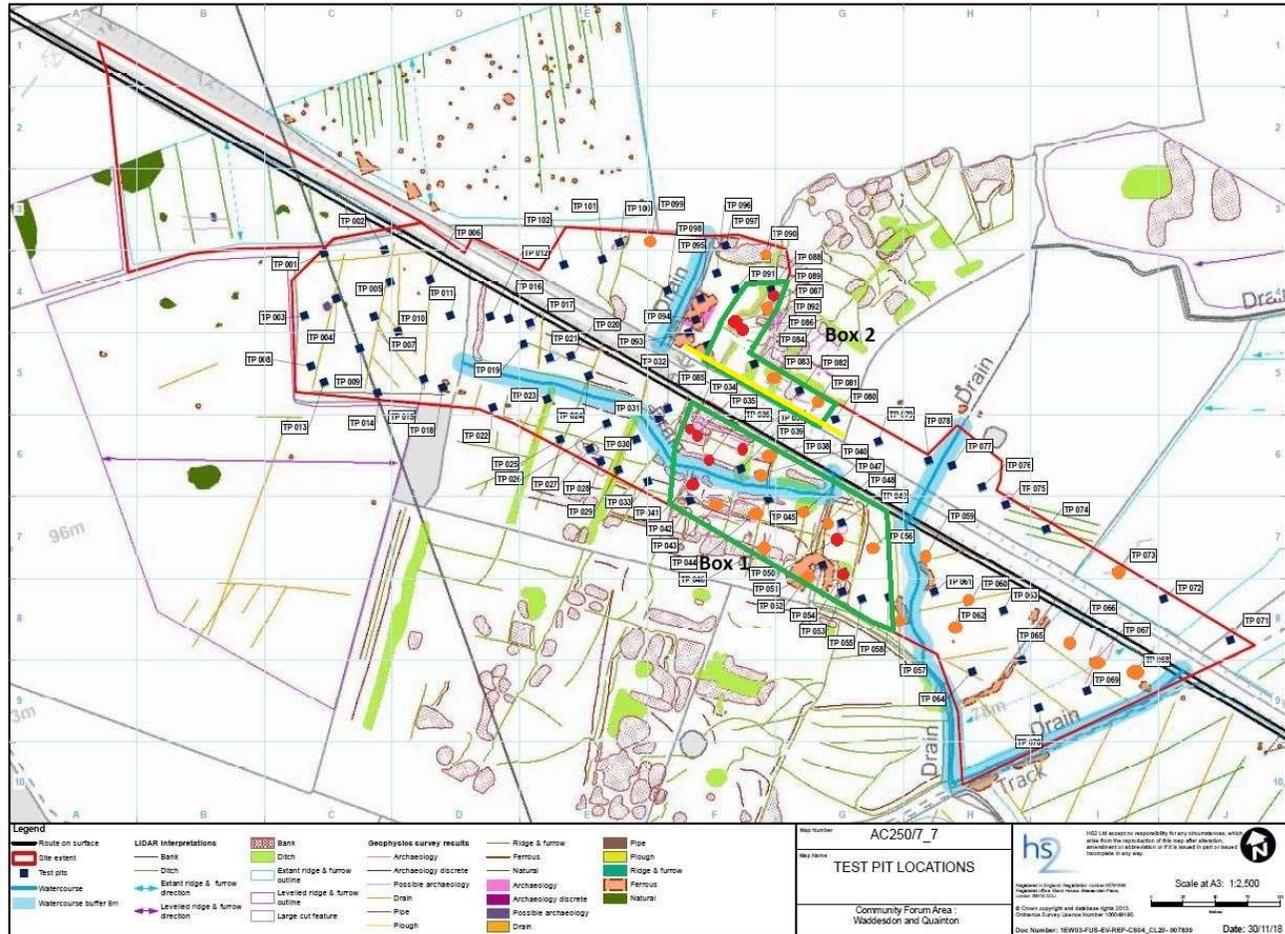


Roman glass bead from context (9100)



Doddershall DMV

- Archaeological features limited to central zone
- Cobbled surfaces, preserved timbers, a ditch and areas of in situ burning and charcoal, evidence for housing
- No pottery report yet but very few early MED forms noted in interim – pottery from adjacent land is c. AD 1250-1400



Doddershall South [Roman]

- A farmstead in use throughout the Roman period. It is one of a group of sites that is within the vicinity of Akeman Street, and a number of similar elements can be recognised in the region
- Comprising rectilinear enclosures, pits, postholes and at least one trackway late Iron Age/early Roman period
- Evidence of Iron smelting : slags deriving from non-tapping or minimally tapping furnaces. Iron smelting has been demonstrated at a number of rural Roman sites in the vicinity of Doddershall, suggesting that this activity was widespread in the region
- 7% of the prehistoric and Roman pottery was spot-dated to the late Iron Age/early Roman period (c. 50 BC-AD 100)
- 7% the same amount dated specifically to the early Roman period (c. AD 43-100/125).
- Approximately half of the Roman pottery assemblage was attributed to the late Roman period (c. AD 240/50-410).

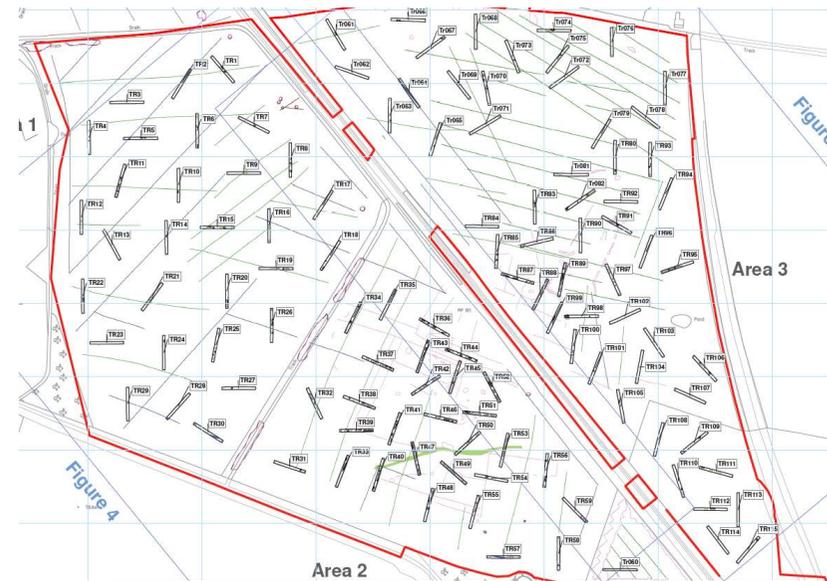
1764 animal bone specimens – fair to poor condition

120 fragments of ceramic building (CBM) weighing 6 kilo

Roman tile :96 fragments weighing 4.3 kilo

1277 sherds of pottery, weighing 21 kilo

grain is mostly in poor condition, being fragmentary and vitrified leading to a 'clinkered' appearance and resulting in an inability to fully identify the grains.



late Iron Age/early Roman and early Roman groups tending to come from the western part of the area, with the later Roman material coming from trenches further east.

Interim results so far...

45 site areas for investigation

16 known-red

29 new-blue

