1EW03 - Enabling Works Central

AWHd - Report for Archaeological Monitoring at Chalfont St Peter Vent Shaft Temporary Access Road (Site Code 1C19ASHAM)

MDL:

Document no.: 1EW03-FUS-EV-REP-CS02_CL04-035126

Revision	Author	Checked by	Approved by	Date approved	Reason for revision
C01	Dave Taylor	Marit Leenstra	Iain Williamson	25.10.2019	First Issue

Contents

Summary

This report details the results of archaeological monitoring at Chalfont St Peter Vent Shaft Temporary Access road. The Site Code for these works are 1C19ASHAM.

The site is located to the south and southwest of the Chalfont St Peter Vent Shaft site, between the Vent Shaft worksite and the A413.

The excavation of 13 numbered geotechnical test pits were monitored by an archaeologist, with topsoil sieving taking place at each location.

The specific GWSI: Historic Environment Research and Delivery Strategy (HERDS) objectives of the archaeological investigation have been listed in the Project Plan; these are the following:

- KC5: Identifying settlement location and developing models for settlement patterns for Mesolithic, Neolithic and Early Bronze Age
- KC11: Does the high density of prehistoric settlement evidence in the Colne Valley reflect a genuine focus of activity or does or reflect bias in the archaeological record?
- KC21: Assess the evidence for regional and cultural distinctiveness along with the length of the route in the Romano-British period, with particular regard to the different settlement types encountered along the route.
- KC35: Investigate the impacts on rural communities of social and economic shocks in the mid-14th century
- KC40: Identify patterns of change within medieval rural settlement from the 11th to mid-14th century.

The stratigraphic sequence observed was topsoil straight onto natural river terrace gravels. In the south of the study area there was chalk underlying the gravels.

No archaeological features were observed in any of the test pits meaning no contribution could be made to HERDS objectives KC5, KC21, KC35 and KC40 for this investigation. However, a limited contribution to KC11 was possible as a struck flint was collected from the topsoil sieving in a number of test pits.

1 Introduction

1.1.1 This report describes the results of the archaeological monitoring of geotechnical trial pits in advance of the temporary access road for the Chalfont St Peter Vent Shaft. The excavation of the geotechnical pits was carried out by Structural Soils Ltd working under the main works contractor Align.

1.1.2 The site lies within Community Forum Area (CFA) CFA8 (Chalfont and Amersham) Archaeological Sub-Zone (ASZ)2 (land either side of Chesham Lane/Ashwell's Farm (Chalfont St Peter Vent Shaft)). This zone is considered to have a potential for remains dating from the Mesolithic to the Romano-British periods, possibly taking the form of unstratified artefacts within the plough soil.

1.1.3 Potential for prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains has been identified on the site from historical records and aerial photography. Ashwell's farm to the north of the site is thought to have originated in the medieval period, which increases the potential for medieval remains on the site. However previous geophysical work and archaeological trial trenching, to the north of the study area, showed no evidence of archaeological features.

1.1.4 The archaeological monitoring was required to confirm the presence /absence of any archaeological remains within the test pits and to inform the need for further archaeological investigation prior to construction.

1.1.5 The specific aims of the archaeological monitoring were identified as:

- record the stratigraphic sequence and natural geological substrate within each test pit
- identify and record, the presence/absence, extent, date, character, state of preservation and significance of any archaeological remains present
- to assess the survival of artefacts from all periods within the topsoil/ploughzone of the site

1.1.6 In addition to monitoring, the topsoil from each test pit was dry sieved equivalent in volume to a 0.5m square test pit, approximately 0.75m^3, for artefact recovery.

2 Project Background

2.1.1 High Speed Two (HS2) is a new railway network proposed by Government to provide a new link between London, the West Midlands, the East Midlands, South Yorkshire, Leeds and Manchester. Phase One of Hs2 will involve the construction of a new railway approximately 230km (143 miles) in length between London and the West Midlands. Powers for the construction, operation and maintenance of Phase One are conferred by the High Speed Rail (London-West Midlands) Act 2017.

2.1.2 The overall framework within which archaeological work will be undertaken is set out in the Environmental Minimum Requirements (EMR), in particular the Heritage Memorandum, the Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) for HS2 Phase One and the GWSI: HERDS. Accordingly the nominated undertaker or the Contractor are required to implement appropriate and reasonable measures to identify, avoid or where practicable reduce impacts to the significance of heritage assets prior to the start of the construction.

2.1.3 The project plan (Document 1EW03-FUS-EV-REP-CS02 _CL04-001607) and the change of control to include the archaeological monitoring (Document 1EW03-FUS-EV-REP-CS02_CL04-035125) identify the following HERDS objectives:

- KC5: Identifying settlement location and developing models for settlement patterns for Mesolithic, Neolithic and Early Bronze Age
- KC11: Does the high density of prehistoric settlement evidence in the Colne Valley reflect a genuine focus of activity of activity or does it reflect a bias in the archaeological record
- KC21: Assess the evidence for regional and cultural distinctiveness along the length of the route in the Romano-British period, with particular regard to the different settlement types encountered along the route.
- KC35: Investigate the impacts of rural communities of social and economic shocks in the mid-14th century and thereafter and their contribution to settlement desertion.
- KC40 Identify patterns of change within the medieval rural settlement from the 11th to mid-14th century.

3 Site Description

3.1 Site Location

3.1.1 The site is situated to the south and southwest of the Chalfont St Peter Vent Shaft site, between the Vent Shaft worksite and the A413. The centre of the site is at NGR SU 99896 92956.

3.1.2 The site consists of 3 horse paddocks, which fall outside the Limits of Land to be Acquired or Used (LLAU) for HS2 Phase 1 and therefore do not have assigned land parcel numbers.

3.1.3 The site is bounded by Chesham Lane to the East and the A413 to the south further paddocks and Turners Wood to the west.

3.2 Geology and topography of the site

3.2.1 The underlying geology of the site as mapped by (BGS) is Seaford Chalk formation and Newhaven Chalk formation (undifferentiated) overlain by Beaconsfield Gravel. The parent material gives rise to freely draining slightly acidic loamy soils (Project Plan).

3.2.2 The topography of the site is quite varied as the site follows the slope of the Misbourne Valley with the River Misbourne located to the west and southwest of the site. The site ranges from 109m AOD in the north to 77m AOD in the south.

3.3 Archaeological Background

3.3.1 The archaeological background of the site is described fully in the Project Plan (Document number 1EW03-FUS-EV-REP-CS02_CL04-001607) and is summarised below.

Prehistoric

3.3.2 Evidence for prehistoric activity in the Chilterns typically takes the form of surface scatters of worked flint, the closest example of which to the site is recorded at Horn Hill (CHA008) c.1.5km to the south east. This scatter comprised Neolithic material including a polished flint axe-head, flint flakes, flint axe-heads, and barbed and tanged flint arrowheads. A similar array of discoveries was identified at Misbourne Farm (CHA030) a little under 2km north-west of the site.

Roman

3.3.3 It appears that the higher ground on the Chiltern dip-slope was generally avoided for settlement during the late Iron Age and Roman periods, with valleys on the dip-slope specifically that of the Misbourne, being more favourable. The only evidence for occupation during this period in the vicinity of the site is a possible Romano-British villa site at Misbourne Farm (CHA030), while Shire Lane (CHA006), which defines the boundary between Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire and passes 1.5km to the east of the site, may follow the route of the Roman road running from Chorleywood to Langley Park (Viatores Route 163b).

Early to Late Medieval

3.3.4 The broad pattern of landscape and settlement which exists in the area today is thought to have been laid out during the medieval period. Dispersed settlements and isolated farmsteads surrounded by agricultural hinterland predominated, with scattered manors in the surrounding countryside. The landscape was likely to have been at least partially wooded. The HS2 Phase 1 ES identified Ashwell's Farm as possibly having medieval origins, with a reference to 'Ashwells' recorded in 14th century rental documents for the area.

Post-Medieval to Modern

3.3.5 During the post-medieval period, further farmsteads were established, and both Tubbs Farm (CHA012) and Gorelands Farm (CHA018) are shown on the 1st Edition OS map of 1876. The

present Ashwell's Farmhouse was constructed in the 17thy Century. The HS2 Phase 1 ES described the area west of Chesham Lane, which includes the site, as characterised by pre-18th century irregular enclosures. Modern and historic mapping and field survey indicate that an avenue (CHA015) once extended from Chesham Lane near Ashwelll's Farm to Newlands Park, now the site of Academy Newland Park.

3.4 Previous Works

3.4.1 A trial trench evaluation was undertaken on the site of the proposed Chalfont St Peter vent shaft site c.200m south of Ashwell's farm. Seven trenches were excavated revealing no archaeological remains. Topsoil sieving for artefact collection across the site recovered a small number of modern finds which has been previously reported on (Doc. Ref. 1EW03-FUS-EV-REP-CS02_CL04-035002).

3.4.2 A fluxgate gradiometer survey (AC100-2) of a 0.69ha area immediately south of the vent shaft site detected no anomalies of probable or possible archaeological origin. The geophysical results primarily reflect ferrous responses associated with the current land use as horse paddocks, natural processes within the soils and geology and agricultural activity.

4 Specific objectives and aims

4.1 Needs and aims

4.1.1 Archaeological monitoring of geotechnical pits and topsoil sieving was required to confirm the presence/absence of any archaeological remains and to inform the need for further archaeological investigation.

4.1.2 The aims of the archaeological monitoring were to:

- record the stratigraphic sequence and natural geological substrate within each test pit
- identify and record the presence/absence, extent, date, character, state of preservation, and significance of any archaeological remains present
- to assess the survival of artefacts from all periods within the topsoil/ploughzone of the site.

4.2 Contribution to specific objectives

4.2.1 Any evidence retrieved during the works has been assessed in light of the objectives set out in section 3 of the project plan, within the change of control and Table 1 below:

Table 1 HERDS site specific objectives

Specific Objective	Contribution
KC5: Identifying settlement location and developing models for settlement patterns for Mesolithic,	Prehistoric flintwork has been recovered within the wider landscape surroundings of the site, and indicates

Neolithic, and Early Bronze Age	some potential for similar remains to be encountered. If present any remains found during the archaeological monitoring will contribute to our understanding of prehistoric occupation in the surrounding landscape, and will provide a level of baseline data to assist in addressing this objective, in formulating strategies for further investigation, and in refining the objective.
KC11: Does the high density of prehistoric settlement evidence in the Colne Valley reflect a genuine focus of activity or does it reflect a bias in the archaeological record?	The topsoil sieving here will provide useful comparative data with the sites on the edge of the Colne valley and help to place activity into context
KC21: Assess the evidence for the regional and cultural distinctiveness along the length of the route in the Romano-British period, with particular regard to the different settlement types encountered along the route	Romano-British settlement is known in the wider landscape and suggests a focus within the Misbourne valley, to the west of the site. The results of the archaeological monitoring whether positive or negative will contribute to the understanding of Romano-British settlement distribution densities and will provide a level of baseline data to assist in addressing this objective, in formulating strategies for further investigation and in refining the objective.
KC35: Investigate the impacts on rural communities of social and economic shocks in the mid-14th century and thereafter and their contribution to settlement desertion	If as the HS2 Phase 1 ES suggests, Ashwells Farm had medieval origins the archaeological monitoring may provide evidence for this in the wider environs and may identify features that indicate continuity or discontinuity of settlement.
KC40: Identify patterns of change within medieval rural settlement from the 11th to mid-14th century.	The site lies within the vicinity of Ashwells farm, which may have originated as a medieval farmstead. As such there is potential within the site for evidence of medieval agricultural material which would enhance understanding of medieval settlement in the area.

5 Scope and Methodology

5.1 Archaeological monitoring and topsoil sieving

5.1.1 Archaeological monitoring of geotechnical test pits was carried out between 8th and 19th July 2019 and was completed in accordance with specific guidance produced by HS2, as contained within:

- AWHe- Change Control for Archaeological Monitoring at Chalfont St Peter Vent Shaft Temporary Access Road 1EW03-FUS-EV-REP-CS02_CL04-035125
- The Project Plan for Trial Trench Evaluation at Ashwell's Farm Vent Shaft, Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire, 1EW03-FUS-EV-REP-CS02-CL04-001607, P02
- The LS-WSI for Trial Trench evaluation at Chalfont St Peter Vent Shaft, Chalfont St Giles Vent shaft and Amersham Vent Shaft, Chiltern Tunnel, Buckinghamshire

(AC100/W5), 1EW03-FUS-EV-REP-CS02_CL04-002519, P01

- Technical Standard- Specification of historic environment investigations HS2-HS2-EV-STD-000-000035, P03
- Generic Written Scheme of Investigation, HERDS, HS2-HS2-EV-STR-000-000015, P03

5.1.2 The archaeological monitoring was required to determine presence/absence of archaeological remains within the test pits to inform the need for further archaeological investigation.

5.1.3 Test pits were located according to engineering requirements and were not targeted for archaeological investigation.

5.1.4 The engineering design consisted of 15 numbered test pits, however two test pits had to be descoped during works and four had to be relocated.

5.1.5 Works on each pit were monitored until beyond any horizon of archaeological interest, recorded photographed. At each location the topsoil was sieved for archaeological finds.

5.2 Recording

5.2.1 All recording was undertaken in accordance with the specifications of the project plan (1EW03-FUS-EV-REP_CS02_CL04-001607) (Section 4.2), the Employer's Technical Standard – for historic environment investigations (Hs2-HS2-EV-STD-000-000035) and the code of practice of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA ,2015). Contexts were given unique numbers. All recording was undertaken on pro forma record sheets that conform to accepted archaeological standards. All stratigraphic relationships were recorded.

5.2.2 Surveying of the test pits was carried out by the GI contractor Structural Soils Ltd.

5.3 Assumptions and limitations

5.3.1 A number of changes were made to the original engineering design these are detailed below.

5.3.2 ML034-TP409 was descoped due to, the landowner stating that work at this location would block his access to his horses.

5.3.3 ML034-TP404 was descoped as it was located on the hedge line and moving it would have left it to close to ML034-TP405.

5.3.4 ML034-TP403 was moved approximately 5m southeast to move it far enough away from the hedge line to meet ecological requirements.

5.3.5 ML034-TP400 was moved approximately 5m west to ensure it was no longer positioned within a bush.

5.3.6 ML034-TP411 and ML034-TP412 were relocated as it was decided that the soakaway tests would be better in the new locations

6 Results and observations

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A total of 13 test-pits were archaeologically monitored. Excavations were carried out with a toothless bucket. The trenches were 0.60m wide and varied between 3-4m long. At each location the topsoil was sieved.

6.2 Topsoil sampling and artefact collection

6.2.1 At each location the topsoil was sieved to a volume equivalent to a 0.50m² test pit that would have been between 0.2 and 0.3m in depth. The results of the topsoil sieving are summarised in the table below see Fig 1. for TP locations.

Table 2 Results of artefact collection

Test pit	Artefacts recovered
ML034-TP400	No artefacts recovered
ML034-TP401	No artefacts recovered
ML034-TP402	1 piece of ceramic building material (cbm)
ML034-TP403	No artefacts recovered
ML034-TP405	2natural flints originally thought to be partial flint cores
ML034-TP406	No artefacts recovered
ML034-TP407	1 piece of cbm and 1 piece of glass
ML034-TP408	1 struck flint
ML034-TP410	No artefacts recovered
ML034-TP411	No artefacts recovered
ML034-TP412	No artefacts recovered
ML034-TP413	1 struck flint and 1 piece of cbm
ML034-TP414	No artefacts recovered

6.3 ML034-TP400

6.3.1 ML034-TP400 was the most southernly of the test pits observed, closest to the A413. The test pit was 3m long and 0.60m wide aligned north-south with the ground level OD height recorded at 76.55m. The stratigraphic sequence consisted of a light greyish-brown silty gravel topsoil 0.20m thick overlying, yellowish-brown gravelly clay transitioning to clayey gravel with

depth interpreted as the Beaconsfield gravels this was 0.90m thick. Below this deposit was the bedrock chalk. Natural gravels were observed at 76.35m OD.

Plate 1 : test pit ML034-TP400 looking northeast

6.4 ML034-TP401

6.4.1 ML034-TP401 was located in the southern paddock. The test pit was 3.00m long 0.60m wide aligned east-west with the ground level recorded at 77.63m OD. The stratigraphic sequence observed consisted of 0.30m of light greyish brown gravelly silt topsoil. Underlying this was 0.50m of slightly clayey yellowish-brown gravel, the Beaconsfield gravels. The chalk bedrock was observed at 0.8m Below Ground Level (BGL). The natural gravels were observed at 77.33m OD.

Plate 2: testpit ML034-TP401 looking north

6.5 ML034-TP402

6.5.1 ML034-TP402, located in the southern paddock, was 3.00m long and 0.60m wide aligned east-west, the ground level was recorded at 81.17m OD. The stratigraphic sequence consisted of a light greyish-brown gravelly silt topsoil 0.25m thick, overlying yellowish-brown gravelly clay which transitioned to clayey gravel with depth, including large flint cobbles and nodules, this unit was 0.75m thick. The bedrock chalk was observed at 1.00m BGL. The natural gravels were observed at 80.92m OD.

Plate 3: testpit ML034-TP402 looking north

6.6 ML034-TP403

6.6.1 ML034-TP403, located in the southern paddock, was 3.20m in length and 0.60m in width, the ground level was recorded at 87.23m OD. The test pit consisted of light greyish brown gravelly silt topsoil 0.30m thick, overlying yellowish brown gravelly clay which transitioned to reddish brown gravels with depth (Beaconsfield gravels), the chalk was observed at 1m BGL directly below the gravel. The gravel was observed at a depth of 86.93m OD.

Plate 4: test pit ML034-tp403 looking north

6.7 ML034-TP405

6.7.1 ML034-TP405, located in the middle paddock, measured 4.10m in length and 0.60m in width, the ground level was recorded at 93.93m OD. The observed stratigraphic sequence consisted of light greyish brown gravelly silt topsoil, 0.25m thick. This overlay yellowish grey silty gravels that transitioned into reddish brown gravels with depth, and this is the Beaconsfield gravels. The chalk bedrock was observed at 1.35m BGL. The natural gravel was observed at a depth of 93.68m OD.

Plate 5: test pit ML034-TP405 looking northwest

6.8 ML034-TP406

6.8.1 ML034-TP406, located in the middle paddock measured 4.10m in length and 0.60m in width, the ground was recorded at 97.96m OD. The stratigraphic sequence consisted of 0.30m of light greyish brown gravelly silt topsoil overlying yellowish grey sandy gravels which transitioned to reddish brown slightly clayey sandy gravels with depth (Beaconsfield gravels). The bedrock chalk was observed at 1.80m BGL. The natural gravel was observed at a depth of 97.66m OD.

Plate 6: test pit ML034-TP406 looking northwest

6.9 ML034-TP407

6.9.1 ML034-TP407, located in the middle paddock measured 4.00m in length and 0.60m in width aligned east to west, the ground level was recorded at 100.37m OD. The stratigraphic sequence consisted of 0.30m of light greyish brown silty topsoil overlying, light yellowish grey gravels consisting of small to medium angular to sub-rounded flints. The bedrock chalk was not observed in this test pit which was excavated to a depth of 3.50m. The gravels were observed at 100.07m OD.

Plate 7: test pitt ML034-TP407 looking south

6.10 ML034-TP408

6.10.1 ML034-Tp408, located in the middle paddock measured 3.90m in length and 0.60m in width, aligned east to west, the ground level was recorded at 101.184m OD. The stratigraphic sequence consisted of light greyish-brown sandy silty gravel topsoil to 0.20m thick, overlying yellowish-brown sandy gravel consisting of small to large angular to sub-rounded flints darkening to a reddish brown with depth. The underlying chalk bedrock was not observed in this test pit which was excavated to a depth of 3.5m BGL. The gravel was recorded at a depth of 100.98m OD.

Plate 8: test pit ML034-408 looking northwest

6.11 ML034-TP410

6.11.1 ML034-TP410 located in the north paddock, aligned east to west and measured 3.90m in length and 0.60m in width, the ground was recorded at 102.08m OD. The stratigraphic sequence consisted of 0.20m of a light greyish-brown sandy gravelly silt topsoil overlying yellow gravelly sand. The sand was fine to medium transitioning to reddish brown slightly sandy gravels consisting of small to medium sub-rounded to sub-angular flints. The chalk bedrock was not observed in this test pit which was excavated to a total depth of 3.50m. The natural gravel was observed at a depth of 101.88m OD.

Plate 9: test pit ML034-410 looking northwest

6.12 ML034-TP411

6.12.1 ML034-TP411, located in the southern paddock to the east of the planned access road the ground level recorded at 77.11m OD, measured 3.20m in length and 0.60m in width aligned east-west. The stratigraphy consisted of a light greyish brown gravelly silt topsoil 0.20m thick overlying yellowish-brown gravelly clay, with the bedrock chalk observed at a depth of 1.60m BGL. The gravels were observed at a depth of 76.91m OD.

Plate 10: test pit ML034-TP411 looking west

6.13 ML034-TP412

6.13.1 ML034-TP412, located in the southern paddock to the east of the planned access road the ground level was recorded at 77.16m OD, measured 3.20m in length and 0.60m in width, aligned east west. The stratigraphic sequence observed consisted of light greyish-brown gravelly silt topsoil 0.20m thick. This overlay a yellowish-brown gravelly clay. The underlying bedrock chalk was observed at 1.00m BGL. The gravel was observed at a depth of 76.96m OD.

Plate 11: test pit ML034-TP412 looking south west

6.14 ML034-TP413

6.14.1 ML034-TP413, located on the southern limit of the main Align compound, just north of the public bridleway that crosses the site, measured 3.50m in length and 0.60m in width, aligned east west. The ground level at this location was recorded at 101.72m OD. The stratigraphic sequence consisted of light greyish brown sandy silt topsoil 0.2m thick, overlying 0.7m of yellowish-brown clayey silt. This in turn overlay reddish brown gravels consisting of sub-angular to sub-rounded flints, small to large in size getting larger with depth. Within the gravels, pockets and lenses of sandy clay could be observed. The gravels were observed at a depth of 100.82mOD.

Plate 12: test pit ML034-TP413 looking northeast

6.15 ML034-TP414

6.15.1 ML034-TP414, located to the west of the main Align compound, measured 3.00m in length and 0.60m in width aligned east west. The ground level was recorded at this location was 100.52m OD. The stratigraphic sequence consisted of light greyish-brown silt topsoil 0.30 thick, overlying yellowish-brown slightly gravelly sandy clay 0.50m thick. Underlying this deposit was reddish-brown sandy gravel with small to large sub-angular to sub-rounded flints. The underlying chalk was not observed in this test pit. The gravel was observed at 99.72m OD.

Plate 13: test pit ML034-tp414 looking northeast

7 Assessment and interpretation of results against original expectations and Specific Objectives

Table 3 HERDS site specific objectives

Specific Objective	Contribution
KC5: Identifying settlement location and developing models for settlement patterns for Mesolithic, Neolithic, and Early Bronze Age	No features of this date were observed consequently the objective was not met.
KC11: Does the high density of prehistoric settlement evidence in the Colne Valley reflect a genuine focus of activity or does it reflect a bias in the archaeological record?	Topsoil sieving did produce one struck flint which does indicate struck flint is present in the landscape, however in such small numbers, we are not able to establish the level of potential for prehistoric settlement in this area.
KC21: Assess the evidence for the regional and cultural distinctiveness along the length of the route in the Romano-British period, with particular regard to the different settlement types encountered along the route	No archaeological features were present however there was one piece of possible Roman tile in ML034-Tp413. One fragment of tile is not suggestive of Romano-British activity in the area.
KC35: Investigate the impacts on rural communities of	No features or finds of this period were found therefore

social and economic shocks in the mid-14th century and thereafter and their contribution to settlement desertion	the objective was not met.
KC40: Identify patterns of change within medieval rural settlement from the 11th to mid-14th century.	No archaeological features were present however two medieval/post-medieval tile fragments were found in ML034-TP402 and ML034-TP407 There is a possibility this material could be related to the settlement at Ashwell's farm or another nearby settlement. However, the size of the fragments are too small and in too few numbers to reach any conclusions

8 Conclusions and recommendations

8.1.1 Over the course of investigation carried out in 13 test pits, no archaeological features or deposits were identified. Although the topsoil sieving did produce a very small assemblage typical of rural locations, it is too small to reach any conclusions.

8.1.2 Taking into account the results of the evaluation, no further archaeological work is recommended on the Site.

9 Consideration of the results and conclusions within their wider context

9.1.1 The lack of archaeological evidence on the Site does not provide any contribution to regional discussion of Neolithic settlement patterns, Romano-British cultural distinctiveness or medieval settlement patterns. In isolation the lack of archaeological remains does not contribute to an understanding of a regional bias in the Colne Valley, but may add to that discussion when considered alongside other sites investigated by the HS2 project.

10 Evaluation of the methodology employed and the results obtained

10.1.1 The archaeological monitoring of the Site was carried out in accordance with specific guidance produced by HS2 (see section 7.1.1) and the code of practice of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2015), applying the methodology set out in the Project Plan for the Site (Section 4).

10.1.2 All completed test pits achieved contact with the geological substrate and demonstrated a consistent deposit sequence across the area of the evaluation. None of the recorded deposits and artefacts had archaeological character with the exception of one struck flint.

10.1.3 A high level of confidence can be placed on the results of the evaluation.

11 Archive deposition

11.1.1 In addition to the fieldwork report, the results of the evaluation will be made publicly available by means of a database in digital form (OASIS), to permit inclusion of the Site data in any future academic researches into the development of the area.

11.1.2 The Site archive containing original records will be stored in accordance with the Historic Environment Physical Archive Strategy and Procedure (HS2-HS2-EV-STR-000-000018 and HS2-HS2-EV-STD-000-000039) with a Museum Association accredited store in accordance with the Employer's archive deposition strategy.

12 References

Title	Reference
LS-WSI for Trial Trench Evaluation at Chalfont St Peter vent shaft, Chalfont St Giles Vent Shaft and Amersham Vent Shaft, Chiltern Tunnel, Buckinghamshire (AC100 W5)	1EW03-FUS-EV-REP-CS02_CL04-002519
Project plan for Trial trench Evaluation at Ashwell's farm Vent shaft Chalfont St Peter Buckinghamshire	1EW03-FUS-EV-REP-CS02_CL04-001607
Change Control for Archaeological Monitoring at Chalfont St Peter Vent Shaft Temporary Access Road	1EW03-FUS-EV-Rep-SC02-CL04-035125
Archaeological trial trenching at the Ashwell's Farm Vent Shaft, Chalfont St Peter Buckinghamshire (AC100/8)	1EW03-FUS-EV-REP-CS02_CL04-035002
Cultural Heritage GIS Specification	HS2-HS2-GI-SPE-000-000004
Generic Written Scheme of Investigation: Historic Environment Research and Delivery Strategy	HS2-HS2-EV-STR-000-000015
Technical Standard - Specification for historic environment investigations	HS2-HS2-EV-STD-000-000035
Technical Standard: Historic Environment Digital Data Management and Archiving Procedure	HS2-HS2-EV-STD-000-000040
Historic environment physical archiving strategy	HS2-HS2-EV-STR-000-000018
Technical Standard - Historic environment physical	HS2-HS2-EV-STD-000-000039

archiving procedure	
Standard and guidance for an archaeological field evaluation	CIfA, 2015

13 Figures

Figure 1 Scheme design

[placeholder page]

14 OASIS archaeological report form

OASIS ID: hs2molah1-363751

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Monitoring at Chalfont St Peter Vent Shaft Temporary Access Road
Short description of the project	A report detailing the results of an archaeological watching brief on geotechnical test pits in advance of a temporary access road connecting the A413 with he Ashwells farm vent shaft site.
Project dates	Start: 09-07-2019 End: 19-07-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	1C19ASHAM - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	1C17ASHTT - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other

Significant Finds	FLINT Uncertain
Significant Finds	CBM Uncertain

Project location

Country	England
Site location	BUCKINGHAMSHIRE CHILTERN CHALFONT ST PETER Ashwell's Farm Vent Shaft
Postcode	HP8 4RP
Study area	2.81 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 99810 92905 51.62562502962 -0.557938290192 51 37 32 N 000 33 28 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 76.35m Max: 100.82m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	MOLA Headland Infrastructure (MHI)
Project brief originator	Fusion
Project design originator	Fusion

Project director/manager	Marit Leenstra
Project supervisor	David Taylor
Type of sponsor/funding body	HS2

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	to be designated
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	to be designated
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	to be designated
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring at Chalfont Sgt Peter Vent Shaft Temporary

	Access Road
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Taylor D
Date	2019
Entered by	David Taylor (dtaylor@mola.org.uk)
Entered on	15 August 2019

15 Finds report

Finds recovered all came from top soil samples taken from the pit, see Table 2 and section 6.2.

15.1 Building Materials

Ian Betts (MHI)

15.1.1 Three fragments of building material were recovered from 1C19ASHAM. All have been retained.

15.1.2 ***Context [413001]*** **-**A small fragment of what may be Roman tile. No surface area survives.

15.1.3 ***Contexts [402001, 407001]*** **-**These contexts produced one definite (context [407001]) and one probable fragment (context [402001) of medieval/post-medieval roofing. Both tiles are 11mm in thickness.

15.2 Glass

Jacqui Pearce (MHI)

7.1.1 Three fragments of glass were recovered from 1C19ASHAM. All have been retained.

15.2.1 ***Context [407001]*** - A single fragment of green bottle glass was recorded (weight 13 g). It appears to have come from the neck, although the form of the bottle is unidentifiable. It is most likely a wine bottle, although a beer bottle is also possible. Dating therefore can only be very broad, based on the range during which the most likely forms were in production, and is given here as c 1680–1900. The fragment is heavily chipped around the edges and has clearly been buried for some time.

15.3 Flint

Yvonne Wolframm-Murray (MHI)

15.3.1 Two possible flint cores and one struck flint were recovered from the topsoil. The possible flint cores were determined as being non-archaeological; the struck flint has been assessed by a flint specialist.

15.3.2 **Context [413001]** -A piece of worked flint was recovered from the topsoil. The proximal portion of a blade measures 34mm long and 17mm wide. Heavy post-depositional edge damage in the form of frequent nicks to the edges are present. The raw material is a light grey opaque flint, possible obtained from local river gravels. The worked flint is not directly dateable. No further work is required.

15.4 Environmental evidence report

15.4.1 In the view of the negative results of the evaluation, there was no requirement to collect and retain bulk samples from any of the natural deposits recorded on the Site.

16 Appendix 1

Contextual summary by test pit

The following tables present all contexts recorded during the trial trenching in trench order.

Test pit Number		ML034-TP400	**Orientation:**			N-S
Length		3m	**Width**			0.6m
OD height: 76.55m						
Minimum depth to geological deposit/level of archaeological significance		0.2m BGL	**Minimum depth to geological deposit/level of archaeological significance**			0.20m BGL
Context No.	**Description (Layer, Cut, Fill)**		**Dimensions (as appropriate)**			
			Diameter	**Length**	**Width**	**Thickness**
400001	Topsoil: Light greyish brown silty gravel		-	-	-	0.20m
400002	Geological substrate: yellowish brown gravelly clay		-	-	-	0.90m
400003	Geological bedrock: Chalk		-	-	-	unknown

Test pit Number		ML034-TP401	**Orientation:**			E-W
Length		3m	**Width**			0.6m
OD height: 77.63m						
Minimum depth to geological deposit/level of archaeological significance		0.3m BGL	**Minimum depth to geological deposit/level of archaeological significance**			0.30m BGL
Context No.	**Description (Layer, Cut, Fill)**		**Dimensions (as appropriate)**			
			Diameter	**Length**	**Width**	**Thickness**
401001	Topsoil: Light greyish brown gravelly silt		-	-	-	0.30m
401002	Geological substrate: yellowish brown gravelly clay		-	-	-	0.50m
401003	Geological bedrock: Chalk		-	-	-	unknown

Test pit Number		ML034-TP402	**Orientation:**			E-W
Length		3m	**Width**			0.6m
OD height: 81.17						
Minimum depth to geological deposit/level of archaeological significance		0.25m BGL	**Minimum depth to geological deposit/level of archaeological significance**			0.25m BGL
Context No.	**Description (Layer, Cut, Fill)**		**Dimensions (as appropriate)**			
			Diameter	**Length**	**Width**	**Thickness**
402001	Topsoil: Light greyish brown gravelly silt		-	-	-	0.25m

402002	Geological substrate: yellowish brown gravelly clay	-	-	-	0.75m
402003	Geological bedrock: Chalk	-	-	-	unknown

Test pit Number	ML034-TP403	**Orientation:**			E-W
Length	3.2m	**Width**			0.6m
OD height: 87.23					
Minimum depth to geological deposit/level of archaeological significance	0.3m BGL	**Minimum depth to geological deposit/level of archaeological significance**			0.30m BGL
Context No.	**Description (Layer, Cut, Fill)**	**Dimensions (as appropriate)**			
		Diameter	**Length**	**Width**	**Thickness**
403001	Topsoil: Light greyish brown gravelly silt	-	-	-	0.30m
403002	Geological substrate: yellowish brown gravelly clay	-	-	-	0.70m
403003	Geological bedrock: Chalk	-	-	-	unknown

Test pit Number	ML034-TP405	**Orientation:**			E-W
Length	4.1m	**Width**			0.6m
OD height: 93.93m					
Minimum depth to geological deposit/level of archaeological significance	0.25m BGL	**Minimum depth to geological deposit/level of archaeological significance**			0.25m BGL
Context No.	**Description (Layer, Cut, Fill)**	**Dimensions (as appropriate)**			
		Diameter	**Length**	**Width**	**Thickness**
405001	Topsoil: Light greyish brown gravelly silt	-	-	-	0.25m
405002	Geological substrate: yellowish grey silty gravels	-	-	-	1.10m
405003	Geological bedrock: Chalk	-	-	-	unknown

Test pit Number	ML034-TP406	**Orientation:**			E-W
Length	4.1m	**Width**			0.6m
OD height: 97.957m					
Minimum depth to geological deposit/level of archaeological significance	0.3m BGL	**Minimum depth to geological deposit/level of archaeological significance**			0.30m BGL
Context No.	**Description (Layer, Cut, Fill)**	**Dimensions (as appropriate)**			
		Diameter	**Length**	**Width**	**Thickness**
406001	Topsoil: Light greyish brown gravelly silt	-	-	-	0.30m
406002	Geological substrate: yellowish grey	-	-	-	unknown

	sandy gravels				

Test pit Number	ML034-TP407	**Orientation:**			E-W
Length	4m	**Width**			0.6m
OD height: 100.36					
Minimum depth to geological deposit/level of archaeological significance	0.3m BGL	**Minimum depth to geological deposit/level of archaeological significance**			0.30m BGL
Context No.	**Description (Layer, Cut, Fill)**	**Dimensions (as appropriate)**			
		Diameter	**Length**	**Width**	**Thickness**
407001	Topsoil: Light greyish brown gravelly silt	-	-	-	0.30m
407002	Geological substrate: yellowish grey gravels	-	-	-	unknown

Test pit Number	ML034-TP408	**Orientation:**			E-W
Length	3.9m	**Width**			0.6m
OD height: 101.184m					
Minimum depth to geological deposit/level of archaeological significance	0.2m BGL	**Minimum depth to geological deposit/level of archaeological significance**			0.20m BGL
Context No.	**Description (Layer, Cut, Fill)**	**Dimensions (as appropriate)**			
		Diameter	**Length**	**Width**	**Thickness**
408001	Topsoil: Light greyish brown gravelly silt	-	-	-	0.20m
408002	Geological substrate: yellowish brown sandy gravel	-	-	-	unknown

Test pit Number	ML034-TP410	**Orientation:**			E-W
Length	3.9m	**Width**			0.6m
OD height:102.082					
Minimum depth to geological deposit/level of archaeological significance	0.25m BGL	**Minimum depth to geological deposit/level of archaeological significance**			0.25m BGL
Context No.	**Description (Layer, Cut, Fill)**	**Dimensions (as appropriate)**			
		Diameter	**Length**	**Width**	**Thickness**
410001	Topsoil: Light greyish brown gravelly silt	-	-	-	0.30m
410002	Geological substrate: yellowish brown gravelly clay	-	-	-	0.50m

Test pit Number	ML034-TP411	**Orientation:**	E-W
Length	3.2m	**Width**	0.6m
OD height:77.11m			
Minimum depth to geological deposit/level of	0.2m BGL	**Minimum depth to geological deposit/level of archaeological**	0.20m BGL

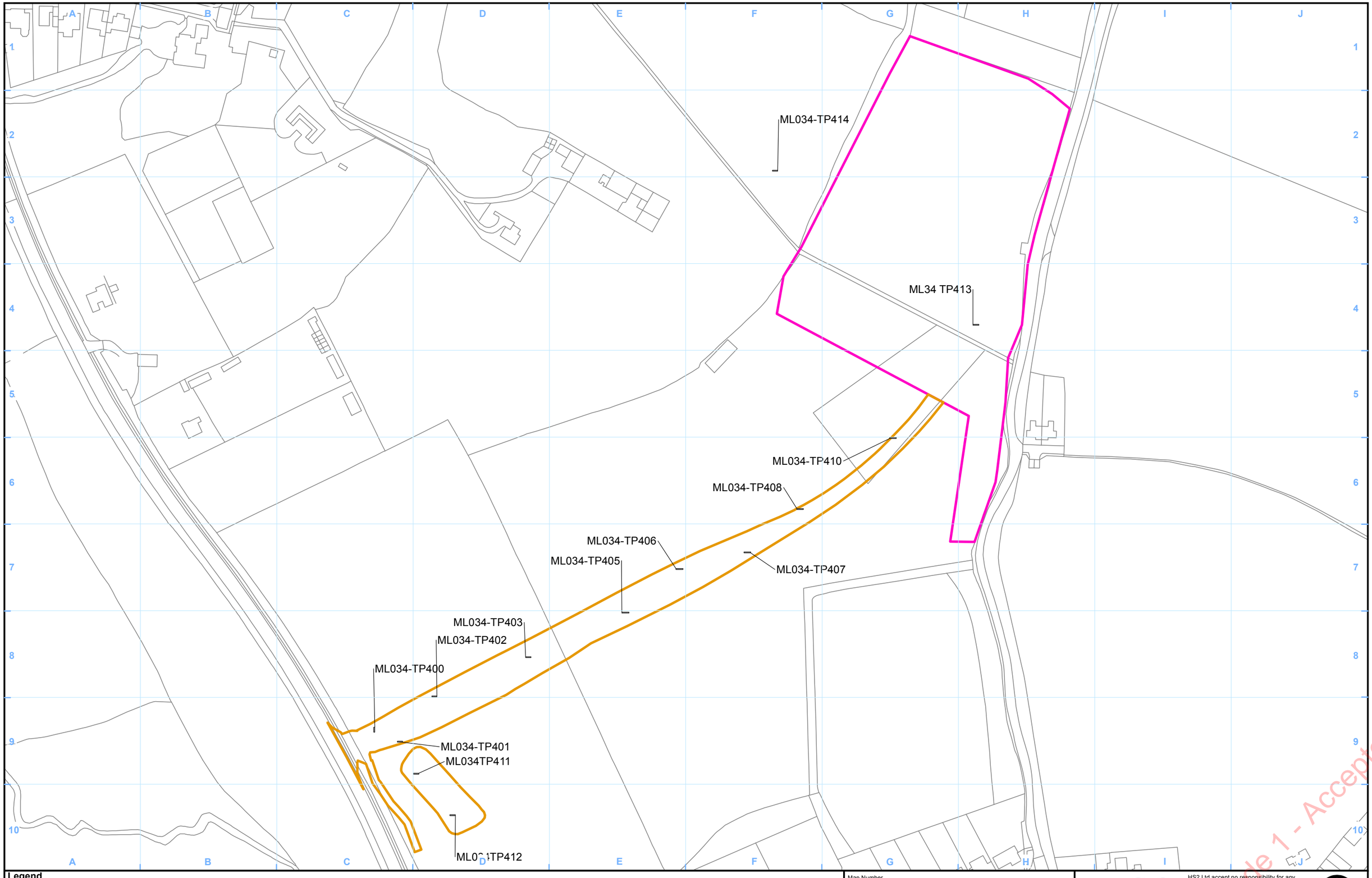
archaeological significance		**significance**			
Context No.	**Description (Layer, Cut, Fill)**	**Dimensions (as appropriate)**			
		Diameter	**Length**	**Width**	**Thickness**
411001	Topsoil: Light greyish brown gravelly silt	-	-	-	0.20m
411002	Geological substrate: yellowish brown gravelly clay	-	-	-	1.4`m
411003	Geological bedrock: Chalk	-	-	-	unknown

Test pit Number	ML034-TP412	**Orientation:**			E-W
Length	3.2m	**Width**			0.6m
OD height: 77.16m					
Minimum depth to geological deposit/level of archaeological significance	0.2m BGL	**Minimum depth to geological deposit/level of archaeological significance**			0.20m BGL
Context No.	**Description (Layer, Cut, Fill)**	**Dimensions (as appropriate)**			
		Diameter	**Length**	**Width**	**Thickness**
412001	Topsoil: Light greyish brown gravelly silt	-	-	-	0.30m
412002	Geological substrate: yellowish brown gravelly clay	-	-	-	0.80m
412003	Geological bedrock: Chalk	-	-	-	unknown

Test pit Number	ML034-TP413	**Orientation:**			E-W
Length	3.5m	**Width**			0.6m
OD height: 101.72m					
Minimum depth to geological deposit/level of archaeological significance	0.2m BGL	**Minimum depth to geological deposit/level of archaeological significance**			0.20m BGL
Context No.	**Description (Layer, Cut, Fill)**	**Dimensions (as appropriate)**			
		Diameter	**Length**	**Width**	**Thickness**
413001	Topsoil: Light greyish brown gravelly silt	-	-	-	0.20m
413002	Subsoil: yellowish brown clayey silt	-	-	-	0.5
413003	Geological substrate: yellowish brown gravelly clay	-	-	-	unknown

Test pit Number	ML034-TP414	**Orientation:**			E-W
Length	3m	**Width**			0.6m
OD height: 100.515m					
Minimum depth to geological deposit/level of archaeological significance	0.3m BGL	**Minimum depth to geological deposit/level of archaeological significance**			0.30m BGL
Context No.	**Description (Layer, Cut, Fill)**	**Dimensions (as appropriate)**			
		Diameter	**Length**	**Width**	**Thickness**
414001	Topsoil: Light greyish brown gravelly silt	-	-	-	0.30m

414002	Subsoil: yellowish brown sandy Clay	-	-	-	0.50m
414003	Geological substrate: yellowish brown sandy gravel	-	-	-	



Legend

- Site outline 1C19ASHAM
- Site outline 1C18ASHTT
- Test pit

Map Number
1EW03-FUS-GI-MAP-CS02_CL04-000008

Map Name
Figure 1 Scheme design

Community Forum Area CFA-08: The Chalfonts & Amersham

HS2

Registered in England. Registration number 06791686.
Registered office: 2 Snowhill, Queensway, Birmingham B4 6GA.

Scale at A3: 1:2,000

0 20 40 60 80
Metres

Doc Number: Figure 1

This figure forms part of report 1EW03-FUS-EV-REP-CS02_CL04-035126 Revision C01

Date: 22/10/19