



# HS2 Phase 1 Central Section: Heritage sub-group June 2019 update

**Fusion Historic Environment Team June 14 2019** 

#### **2019 update Fusion Central Section HERDS Report**

- Progress update
- Recent discoveries and investigations
  - Archaeology and historic landscape/built heritage
- Look ahead Jul–Dec 2019
- Contribution to HERDS objectives
- Key themes /patterns emerging
- Community, sector, and academic engagement

Stage 1	Geophysics Routewide	Scope to go	Progress	Stage 1 intrusive surveys	Progress
GLA/ Herts	Completed earlier	0	100%	359/401 interventions- 10 site areas in progress- MHI	89%
Bucks	693ha – 67 locations	133ha	93%	1080/1197 interventions -25 site areas in progress - Infra/LP Archaeology/Connect	90%
N'Hants	396ha - 30 locations	45ha	87%	231/685 interventions -13 site areas in progress MHI and Connect	33%
Oxon	65ha -15 locations	0ha	100%	45 interventions – 2 site areas complete -Connect	100%
Warks	205 ha – 10 locations	17ha	95%	91/119 interventions – 2 site areas- Connect	76%
Total	1359 ha	195ha	94%	1806/2447 interventions - 52 sites	73%

#### **Stage 2 archaeology– commencing August 2019**

- Stage 2 intrusive surveys derived from geophysical results at 32 new sites across central section covering 666ha
- Trial trench project plans no. 28 completed
- and Routewide project plans (not started) for:
- *Palaeoenvironment* (further evaluation of Pleistocene and Holocene sequences at 13 locations derived from GDBA and latest HS2 GI data)
- Parish boundary and important hedgerow survey (classification and investigation form and date of 11 key township boundaries to support open field development research)
- Ancient Woodland survey (woodland survey and test pits at 6 locations to investigate origins and pre woodland land-use)
- *Topsoil sampling strategy* (site selection for further test pits to sample topsoil finds distribution for early prehistoric and late roman to early medieval material)

# **Stage 1 Built Heritage/landscape**

- 6 setting recordings completed for designated and non designated sites
- 4 building recordings complete
  Stage 2 Built Heritage/landscape
- 17 project plans for further building recording completed comprising:
  - 5 setting/historic landscape recording
  - 12 building recording

# 20th century conflict



#### SOE transmitter Portway Farm



Calves Close Spinney, RAF Dispersed site





Wireless transmitting Station RAF Greatworth Park

# **Report on 2019 mitigation works C1/C2**

- Dews Farm
- South Portal (West Hyde)
- North Portal (Great Missenden)
- Planned later 2019:
  - Wellwick Farm, Wendover
  - Doddershall DMV and RB farmstead



**North Portal** 



Area E - Early (prehistoric), low level, use of the site for quarrying flint and possible transient occupation. Roman period quarrying. Significant Anglo Saxon occupation of the area – long houses etc. Use of the site not clear but likely to be related to quarrying

Area E - Early (prehistoric), low level, use of the site for quarrying flint and possible transient occupation. Roman period quarrying. Significant Anglo Saxon occupation of the area – long houses and pitting. Poor finds and environmental assemblages.



#### **North Portal**





### West Hyde

Occasional coin and CU alloy adornments

Moderate CBM

Moderate quern stone fragments



C 2<sup>ND</sup>-3<sup>RD</sup> TIMBER BUILDING Late 3<sup>RD</sup> post built structures Late 3<sup>RD</sup> post built palisade/ stock enclosure Poor preservation of animal bone

Moderate ceramic assemblage





# **Dews Farm TR84**









ROMAN FARMSTEAD TEMPLE

## Edgcote



- C31028 Late Prehistoric
- Romano-British Settlement –
- Trial Trenching planned













# **Emerging themes**

- Expected site distribution playing out e.g. EPRE Colne Valley
- The "blank middle"- soils/geology/long lived primary woodland?
- Impact of millennia of ploughing
- Assemblages generally material poor
- LBA to ROM clear evidence accumulating for landscape organisation
- EMED evidence typically low level some settlement and possibly burial sites

# **Key opportunities Stage 2**

- Digital archives and updating HERs
- Digital excavation data: the opportunity
- Pottery type series
- Compare Lidar versus magnetometry coverage for Ridge
  and Furrow
- Map headlands and open field structure
- Can we date development of open field system?
- What evidence for 5-9<sup>th</sup> century settlement?
- Trace EPRE activity in other river valleys

#### **Community, sector, and academic engagement**

- 17 events completed 2018
- 7 events 2019 so far...
- St Mary's volunteer programme and open days
- Continuing voluntary talks across route
- Regular attendance at community drop in sessions
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Bucks Archaeology conference planned for 2019
- Plan to collaborate with Durham University on dating earthworks
- 1 no. work experience placement with Fusion team now