RAF Newton Nottinghamshire



Archaeological Evaluation Report



December 2005



Client: CgMs

Issue N^O: Draft OA Job N^O: 6443 NGR: SK 688 412 Client Name:

CgMs

Client Ref No:

Document Title:

RAF Newton, Nottighamshire

Document Type:

Evaluation

Issue Number:

National Grid Reference: SK 688 412

Planning Reference:

OA Job Number:

6443

Site Code:

RAFNEW05

Invoice Code:

RAFNEWEV

Receiving Museum:

Brewhouse Yard Museum

Museum Accession No:

NCMG2005-148

Prepared by: Position:

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Date:

28th November 2005

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14th December 2005

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Document File Location

Newton Final.doc

Graphics File Location

Servergo:\oaupubs1 RthruZ\RAFNEW05

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RAF Newton, Nottinghamshire

NGR SK 688 412

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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SUMMARY

In November 2005, Oxford Archaeology carried out a field evaluation at RAF Newton, Nottinghamshire (SK 688 412) on behalf of CgMs Consulting.

The evaluation demonstrated the presence of a number of features towards the south-east corner of the site. Among these was a curvi-linear ditch of Roman date, possibly part of an enclosure, which produced a good assemblage of Roman pottery including some fine wares. One other Roman ditch and a small group of undated, but possibly truncated prehistoric pits were also revealed in this area. The Roman ditches could be associated with fields relating to a putative Roman Villa located some 260 m to the east of the site. Some field walking was also carried out in this part of the site. The results did not suggest any significant activity in the area.

Within the RAF Base itself a dispersed scatter of probably modern linear features was found.

1 Introduction

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) has been commissioned by CgMs Consulting (CgMs) on behalf of Newton Nottingham LLP to carry out an archaeological evaluation on the RAF Base at Newton (Fig. 1), Nottinghamshire as part of a pre-planning application assessment of the potential impact of groundwork.
- 1.1.2 A specification for the work was prepared by CgMs (CgMs 2005) and approved by Ursilla Spence, Planning Archaeologist for Nottinghamshire County Council. A Written Scheme of Investigation detailing how Oxford Archaeology would implement the requirements with regard to the trial trenching programme has been produced (OA 2005).
- 1.1.3 The site is centred at National Grid Reference SK 688 412. This phase of evaluation is situated in the central area of the site which comprises RAF buildings and farmland to the immediate east of these, which will be the focus for the new build. A desk-based assessment and previous evaluation were previously undertaken on the site (discussed below 1.3.1).

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The Site is underlain by bedrock comprising Mercia Mudstone on top of Sherwood Sandstone. Drift deposits of glacial head are locally shown to overlie the bedrock. There is some localised alluvium in the vicinity of former watercourses which crossed the airbase.
- 1.2.2 The Site comprises an area of approximately 43 ha, of which 15 ha is the central area to be redeveloped. The Site falls from west to east, lying at 45 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the west, around 33 m aOD in the central area and 25 m aOD at the eastern end. In the central area of the site there is also a general trend of the land sloping down from

- the northern entrance of the site (c 41.5 m aOD) to the area around Trench 34 (32.86 m aOD).
- 1.2.3. The site is part of a former RAF base which is bounded by the Newton Road to the north, the A46 Fosse Way to the east, open fields to the south and the airfield to the west. The village of Newton lies 1 km to the north-west of the Site. The River Trent terraces begin 1.3 km to the west of the Site, with the Trent itself being located some 3-3.5 km further west of the Site.
- 1.2.4 Within the RAF base, the Site can be divided into three areas. The western area comprises hangers, control tower and other buildings that are to be retained. The eastern third comprises RAF Officers mess, married quarters and associated structures. It is proposed that this area is returned to green belt and has already been evaluated (BUFAU 2002). The central area comprises RAF buildings and farmland to the immediate east of these, which will be the focus for the new build and of this report. The Site is centred at National Grid Reference SK 688 412.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 A number of archaeological investigations have been undertaken relating to the Site. These included an archaeological desk-based assessment (CgMs 2002) undertaken in relation to an application to redevelop the area of the Officers' Mess and married quarters by the Home Office, a trial trenching exercise of this area (BUFAU 2002) and a further desk based assessment produced in relation to the current application (Wessex Archaeology 2005). The findings of these investigations are summarised as follows.
- 1.3.2 Two Scheduled Ancient Monuments lie within a 1 km radius of the Site (SAM 4 and SAM 29902), however the proposed development of the Site would not have an impact on these sites or their setting. The Site does not lie within a Conservation Area and contains no listed buildings.
- 1.3.3 A Palaeolithic hand axe was found c 250 m from the site. However, there are no known sites or finds spots within the Site of this date and Mesolithic evidence is similarly absent from the site and its vicinity. A low to nil potential is identified.
- 1.3.4 A series of probable prehistoric cropmarks is recorded close to the Site. Residual activity of Neolithic and Bronze Age date were retrieved during excavations at *Margidunum* in 1910-36. No finds or features from these periods were recovered during the evaluation of the Officers' mess and married quarters area.
- 1.3.5 A small assemblage of pre-Roman pottery was recovered during fieldwalking to the north-east of the site. Further limited evidence of Iron Age activity was recorded during the evaluation of the Officers' mess and married quarters area.
- 1.3.6 The Roman Fosse Way lies to the immediate east of the site and the town of *Margidunum* and its associated cemetery lies less than 1 km to the north-east of the site. The town of *Margidunum* was first constructed around AD 50-55. Excavations within the town in the

1920s and the late 1960s recorded the town's earthworks, housing, a bathhouse, an inhumation cemetery, a workshop and the foundations of the town wall. The town encompasses approximately $6^{1}_{/2}$ acres and measures 200 by 250 yards inside a town ditch. The evaluation of the Officers' mess and married quarters area confirmed the presence of Roman activity on the Site and while this may extend into the central area of the development site the main focus is towards the east and the A46.

- 1.3.7 A putative Roman Villa is recorded some 260 m to the east of the Base, where quantities of stone, tegulae, opus signinum (Roman concrete) and pottery have been found as surface scatters.
- 1.3.8 Cartographic evidence from the 18th century onwards suggests that the Site was part of an agricultural landscape until the construction of the RAF airbase in the late 1930s. A low potential is identified.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The evaluation was undertaken on behalf of CgMs. Thanks are extended to Greg Pugh of CgMs for advice and background information and to Ursilla Spence, Planning Archaeologist for Nottinghamshire County. The site supervisor for OA was Guy Cockin.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

- 2.1.1 The objectives of the evaluation are to clarify the presence/absence and extent of prehistoric and/or Roman deposits evidencing settlement at the site and to identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the site.
- 2.1.2 Also to assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

- 3.1.1 The built area will be targeted by 20 trenches located away from services, buildings and hard standing which would have disturbed archaeological deposits. In the area of farmland 14 trenches have been located to provide a representative sample of the site (Fig. 2). There was an additional contingency of up to 432 m² of trenching to be excavated if deemed necessary. After the discovery of a couple of worked flints found in the ploughsoil of the farmland area, fieldwalking was also recommended by the Planning Archaeologist Ursilla Spence. The programme of fieldwalking was carried out as part of the evaluation in agreement with CgMs (Fig. 3).
- 3.1.2 Where possible, trenches were located at topographical high points or on the break of slope. Trench locations have been moved slightly in a few cases in light of ground

- conditions but the new location was approved by the consultant prior to excavation (see below, section 3.2).
- 3.1.3 The width of each trench was 1.80 m. The length of each trench varied between 10 and 50 m in the area of the RAF buildings (Fig. 2). The trenches located in the farmland all measured 30 m in length, including contingency trenches except Trench 36, which was 10 m long.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 3.2.1 The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision by a tracked 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. Excavation proceeded to the top of the natural geology, or to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon, whichever was encountered first.
- 3.2.2 The trenches were cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and where possible to retrieve dating evidence. All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers.
- 3.2.3 Trenches where archaeological features were encountered were planned at a scale of 1:50. Section drawings of features and sample sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. All features, sections and trenches were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures detailed in OA's *Fieldwork Manual* (OAU, 1992).
- 3.2.4 Trenches 1 and 2 were abandoned as they were located in an existing storage yard.
- 3.2.5 Trench 32 was started and excavated for approximately 10 m before it too was abandoned due to the discovery of some degraded asbestos within a make-up layer in the trench.
- 3.2.6 An additional trench (20 m in length) was excavated between Trenches 24 and 26 to determine the alignment of a Roman ditch found in Trench 26. This additional trench was empty so was immediately backfilled and Trench 26 was subsequently extended at its western end to the north in order to trace the location of the ditch. It was found to be curvilinear, turning towards the north-east of the site. Two further trenches, Trenches 35 and 36, were excavated to the south and east of Trench 26 in order to find the southern extent of the same feature.
- 3.2.7 Trench 28 was also extended at its southern end by approximately 3.5 m on either side of the trench in order to determine the extent of the activity in this area.
- 3.2.8 Fieldwalking was undertaken from south to north in 20 m transects as shown on Figure 3.

3.3 Finds

3.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the evaluation and bagged by context.

3.4 Presentation of results

- 3.4.1 A general description of the soils, ground conditions, stratigraphic sequence and distribution of archaeological deposits is given below. Trenches containing no archaeology have only a basic description. Trenches containing features are described fully in detail.
- 3.4.2 The trench descriptions are followed by a summary and discussion of the results. A table detailing individual contexts is given in Appendix 1.

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

- 4.1.1 The Site generally slopes gently downwards from the northern entrance of the RAF Base to the north down to Trenches 33 and 34 to the south.
- 4.1.2 The underlying geology was generally drift deposits of glacial head overlying outcrops of Mercia Mudstone. Natural glacial features, such as ice wedges, were regularly encountered within the drift deposits. Several of these features were investigated in order to ascertain their nature. Extensive cleaning and excavation proved these to be, without a doubt, geological.
- 4.1.3 All the evaluation trenches came down onto natural geology represented by either firm grey or red clay, or outcrops of Mercia Mudstone. The natural geology tended to be overlain directly by a subsoil, a friable to firm mid-reddish brown silty clay, which in turn was overlain by a modern ploughsoil, within the farmland area, or topsoil in the RAF Base itself.
- 4.1.4 Ground water was not encountered during the excavations. However, conditions changed after heavy rain and some of the lower lying trenches became inundated with water that would subsequently not drain away.

4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

4.2.1 A total of seven trenches (5, 11, 24, 26, 27, 28, and 35) contained archaeological features or deposits. Overall there was a grouping of trenches containing archaeology towards the east of the farmland area of the site. The remaining two trenches with archaeological features were towards the west of the RAF Base.

5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Description of deposits in the evaluation trenches

RAF Base Area

5.1.1 The RAF Base Area consisted of twenty trenches (1-20) of which Trenches 1 and 2 could not be excavated for reasons discussed above (3.2.4). The remaining trenches displayed a

- very similar stratigraphic sequence overlying the natural, a firm greyish red clay. This consisted of a friable reddish brown silty clay subsoil of varying depth (0.1 to 0.56 m) overlain by friable dark brown silt topsoil, 0.15 to 0.45 m thick.
- 5.1.2 Three trenches, 5, 13 and 15 also contained a levelling layer consisting of redeposited natural red clay containing fragments of modern brick and building rubble. This layer was respectively 0.2 m, 0.48 m and 0.26 m thick. In all three cases this layer directly overlay subsoil and was in turn overlain by c 0.18 m of modern topsoil and turf. These layers are probably related to the works associated with the building of the RAF Base in the 1930s.
- 5.1.3 Trenches 17 and 19 both contained a secondary subsoil underlying, but very similar in nature to, the later subsoil as seen elsewhere across the site. These sterile deposits were approximately 0.25 m thick and were probably filling depressions in the natural ground.

Trench 5 (Fig. 4)

- 5.1.4 Trench 5 was excavated 0.55 m deep to natural blue grey clay (507). In its base were revealed two linear features, 508 and 510. Ditch 508 ran east-west for 14.5 m from the trenches north-eastern end. This feature was 0.45 m wide and 0.19 m deep and consisted of a rounded base and moderate concave sides, its fill (509) was a mid-brown clay loam which produced no finds. Another ditch (510), running north-south almost perpendicular to 508 was seen 4.5 m to the north-west of 508. Ditch 510 was 0.78 m wide and 0.14 m deep, it had a rounded base and slightly convex sides with a step on the north-west side. Its fill (511), a dark brown clay loam, produced modern (19th century) pottery.
- 5.1.5 Sealing these features was a friable light brown silty clay subsoil (502), 0.29 m thick, overlain by topsoil (501). Also seen in the base at the north-west end of Trench 5 was one modern service and a field drain. These modern intrusions cut through subsoils (505 and 506), the latter of which was equivalent to 502. Overlying 505, was a levelling layer (504) consisting of redeposited natural red clay, 0.2 m thick. This layer extended for approximately 15 m from the north-west end of the trench and was overlain by a thin layer of dumped black charcoal and hearth waste

Trench 11 (Fig. 5)

5.1.6 Natural red clay was reached at a depth of 0.66 m in Trench 11. Cutting this was a small ditch or gully (1104). Aligned north-south, gully 1104 was 0.65 m wide and 0.26 m deep. It had a rounded base and moderate regular sides. One fragment of modern tile was recovered from its mid-grey brown sandy silt fill, 1105. This feature was sealed by subsoil (1102), which in turn was overlain by topsoil (1101).

The Farmland Area

5.1.7 As discussed above (3.1.1) the Farmland Area consisted of 14 trenches (21-34) of which Trench 32 was abandoned due to the discovery of asbestos. The remaining trenches displayed a very similar sratigraphic sequence overlying the natural, a firm greyish blue clay. This consisted of a friable reddish brown silty clay subsoil of varying depth (0.12 to

0.66 m) overlain by a friable dark brown silt ploughsoil, 0.17 to 0.42 m thick. The southern part of this area (Trenches 30, 31, 32, 33, and 34) had been levelled up using redeposited red clay natural. This material was deposited directly onto the pre-existing topsoil in all of these trenches, and contained large amounts of modern rubble and building material. Overlying this levelling layer was the present topsoil.

Trench 24 (Fig.6)

5.1.8 Trench 24 was excavated to a depth of 0.78 m to a tenacious mid grey blue clay natural (2403). Cutting this material and sealed by subsoil were seen two ditches and a pit. Ditch 2405 was aligned NW-SE, 10 m from the eastern end of the trench. This linear feature was 1.2 m wide and 0.32 m deep with a concave base and moderate slightly stepped sides. Its fill (2406) consisted of a dark grey brown silty sand, representing a slow silting episode which produced pottery of a Roman date. Ditch 2410, which runs north-south approximately 2.5 m to the west of ditch 2405 was 0.76 m wide and 0.1 m deep. The fill of this shallow feature was a dark grey brown silty sand which produced no finds. A possible pit (2407), was revealed 3 m to the west of 2410. This feature was 1.27 m in diameter and 0.14 m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. A primary fill (2408) consisted of a mottled blue and orange silty clay which may represent the initial stabilisation of the features sides and was overlain by a secondary silty fill, 2409. Neither of these fills produced any finds.

Trench 26 (Fig. 7)

- 5.1.9 Natural clay was reached at 0.6 m in Trench 26. In the base of this trench at the western end was seen curvilinear feature 2604 running in a general north-south direction. This feature was 2.7 m wide and 0.32 m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (2605), a mid grey brown sandy clay produced a relatively large assemblage of fine Roman pottery dated to the late 2nd century AD. A possible pit, 2609, cut by ditch 2604 was seen at the immediate western end of Trench 26. Pit 2609 had a flat base and very shallow sides and was 1.4 m in diameter and 0.3 m deep. Its fill (2610) produced no finds. Two natural glacial features were also investigated in this trench.
- 5.1.10 After discussions with Greg Pugh (CgMs) and Ursilla Spence, Planning Archaeologist for Nottinghamshire County, it was agreed to attempt to trace the alignment of ditch 2604 by excavating a parallel trench midway between Trenches 24 and 26. This additional trench failed to reveal any archaeological features and it was decided to extend Trench 26 (Fig. 14) for 10 m to the north and follow the ditch alignment. Ditch 2604 appeared to be curving towards the north-east. A further intervention was excavated through this section of the ditch (2607) producing a similar profile, and more Roman pottery from its fill (2608). The 44 sherds of pottery from 2608 were dated to the 3rd-4th centuries AD so later than that of 2605.

Trenches 35 (Fig. 10) and 36

- 5.1.11 A further trench, Trench 35, was excavated to the south of Trench 26 in order to pick up ditch 2604 to the south. This trench was excavated for 28.5 m within which a similarly aligned linear feature (3504) was revealed 7 m from the eastern end of the trench. The ditch ran NW SE and was 1.6 m wide and 0.3 m deep. Its profile consisted of a flat base and near vertical sides. The fill of this feature (3505), a mottled grey brown and orange brown sandy clay, was very clean and produced no finds. The lack of artefacts may cast some doubt as to whether this feature really was the continuation of ditch 2604, which produced a large amount of pottery from its fill (2605). The profile of the two ditches also appear to be different.
- 5.1.12 Additional Trench 36 was excavated at the eastern ends of Trenches 26 and 35 (see Fig. 2), to assure that ditch 2604 did not run at a 90° angle between Trenches 26 and 35. No archaeological features were found in this short trench (10 m long). A modern land drain ran along its length.

Trench 27 (Fig. 8)

5.1.13 Natural clay 2703 was reached at 0.6 m in this trench. One linear feature, ditch 2704 was aligned east-west towards the northern end of the trench. This feature was 0.75 m wide by 0.25 m deep, its flat base inclined from north to south and its southern side was steep whilst the northern side was more moderate. Its fill (2705) was a grey brown sandy clay which produced some flint flakes.

Trench 28 (Fig. 9)

5.1.14 Trench 28 was excavated 0.6 m deep down to natural clay. Cut into the natural (2804) at the southern end of the trench were three shallow pit features. After discussions with Greg Pugh (CgMs) and Ursilla Spence (Planning Archaeologist), it was decided to extend the trench around these features to find their full extent and establish whether they were part of a larger group. The trench was therefore extended for 3.5 m on either side around these features which allowed a view of their full extent, but produced no evidence of further features. Feature 2806 was a 2.0 m long, 0.9 m wide and 0.15 m deep, sub-rectangular pit. Its dark grey brown sandy clay fill (2807) contained frequent charcoal flecks but produced no finds. One metre to the south-east, another shallow pit (2808) was discovered, 0.7 m in diameter with near vertical sides and a concave base. Its fill produced no finds, but also contained charcoal flecks. A possible posthole (2810) was located 0.5 m to the south of 2808. This feature was 0.5 m in diameter, had vertical sides and a flat base and its fill (2809) contained large angular pieces of mudstone possibly used as packing. None of these features produced any finds, worked flint however was recovered from the subsoil (2802) in the immediate vicinity of these features.

5.2 Field walking

5.2.1 Field walking of the farmland area was undertaken as part of this phase of evaluation in agreement with CgMs and on the request of the Planning Archaeologist.

- 5.2.2 The area was walked in 20 m transects as shown on Figure 3.
- 5.2.3 The finds recovered during the field walking included 1 sherd (2 g) of Roman pottery, 8 sherds (121 g) of post-medieval pottery, a post-medieval clay pipe and 22 fragments (1012 g) of building material. No worked flint was recovered.

5.3 Finds

Pottery

Roman pottery by Edward Biddulph

- 5.3.1 The assemblage comprises a total of 262 sherds of pottery weighing 2516 g. All but a single sherd was recovered in the evaluation.
- 5.3.2 The pottery was rapidly examined and spot-dated. The total sherd count and weight for each context can be found in Table 1 below. Fabrics were assigned codes from OA's standard recording guidelines for later prehistoric and Roman pottery (Booth nd). Brief descriptions of the forms present were also given.
- 5.3.3 The small Roman assemblage spanned the later 2nd to 4th century AD, though could be confined within a late 2nd-3rd century date range. Context 2608 provided the largest group, which was dated to the late 2nd century and included black-burnished ware and local sandy grey ware dishes, mortaria from Mancetter-Hartshill, Nene Valley fine ware, and samian ware. An *amphora* sherd was also retrieved, as was the substantial part of an oxidised bag-shaped beaker whose base had been deliberately removed in antiquity. The pottery from the remaining contexts was less diagnostic though was consistent with that from 2608. The condition of the pottery was variable. Large pieces, particularly those belonging to dishes, were found among small and worn sherds. The assemblage to some extent had fragmented after deposition; the bag-beaker, though substantially complete in terms of the proportion of the vessel present, had broken into many pieces.
- 5.3.4 The range and general condition of the pottery and size of context groups suggests that the pottery had not moved far before final deposition and is likely to derive from a nearby settlement.

Post-Roman Pottery by John Cotter

- 5.3.5 The assemblage comprises a total of 30 sherds of pottery weighing 277 g. Of this 22 sherds (156 g) came from the evaluation and 8 sherds (121 g) from the field walking.
- 5.3.6 All the pottery was examined and spot-dated during the present assessment stage. For each context the total pottery sherd count and weight were recorded in Table 1, followed by the context spot-date which is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types in the context are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation. Comments

- on the presence of datable types were also recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc.) and any other attributes worthy of note (eg. decoration etc.).
- 5.3.7 The assemblage consists of fairly small scrappy sherds dating from the 17th to the early 20th century, or possibly just from the 18th to the early 20th century. It comprises an unremarkable range of Midlands-type black and brown-glazed earthenwares, one or two pieces of Nottingham stoneware and a range of 19th century Staffordshire-type refined white earthenware and modern stoneware.

Table 1: Quantification of pottery by context

Context	Sherds	Weight (g)	Spot-date	Comments		
0	18		19C	Staffs-type white earthenwares. Mod stoneware. Notts stoneware. Some 18C wares incl Staffs white stoneware & brown and black-glazed earthenware & slip-decorated dish rim		
511	4	19	19C	Staffs-type white earthenwares		
2406	3	28	Roman	R30		
2605	214	1716	L2C	B10, R30 bead-rimmed dishes, M23 flanged mortaria, W1 flagon, amphora, S30, S40 (Drag37), F52, O20 ring-necker flagon, near-complete bag-beaker with perforated base		
2608	44	770	3-4C	R30 cooking-pot type jar, R20 lid-seated jar, necked jar, S30 (?residual)		
TRS F2	1	12	17-18C	Midlands blackware-type earthenware jug neck or drinking vess		
TRS F3	1	28	19-E20C	Staffs white earthenware - thick late-looking plain cup		
TRS F14	1	16	18-19C	Notts stoneware jug/jar base		
TRS H7	1	12	18-19C	Midlands blackware-type earthenware		
TRS H10	2	38	18-19C	Midlands blackware-type earthenware - incl late-looking ?jar rim		
TRS 18]	1	19C	Staffs-type white earthenware		
TRS 111	1	14	17-18C	Midlands blackware-type earthenware		
TRS 113	1	2	M2-M3C	Samian		
TOTAL	292	2793				

Building Materials

by Cynthia Poole

5.3.8 A small quantity of ceramic building material was recovered from the excavation of the evaluation trenches and slightly larger group, which included stone and fired clay, from the field walking. The material from the evaluation amounted to eight fragments weighing 300 g from two contexts, both ditch fills. The field walking material amounted to 22 fragments weighing 1012 g. The material was examined using a x10 hand lens to identify the range of fabrics for the ceramic material and these are described in the appendix below. All the material is fully catalogued in Appendix 2.

The building material from the evaluation

5.3.9 An 18th-19th century roof tile was found in the fill (1105) of a small ditch (1104). From the fill (2605) of a larger ditch (2604) came seven fragments of ceramic building material. A collection of Roman pottery was also found in this context. None of the fragments retained any diagnostic characteristics, and it remains uncertain whether some or all are of Roman date. The brick fragments in fabric 3 are likely to be Roman. The fragments in fabric 4 were initially regarded as probably post-medieval, though there is perhaps no intrinsic reason for them not to be Roman, except that amongst the field walking material fabric 4 appears to have been used for medieval or early post-medieval forms. The fabric of the unidentified form is Roman in appearance, though the thickness is more characteristic of a medieval roof tile.

The building material from field walking

- 5.3.10 The majority of this (60%) comprises fragments of ridge tile, almost all in fabric 4 and probably of medieval date. Two fragments in fabric 3 are probably of post-medieval date. The later pieces appear to have a simple semi-circular profile, whilst the earlier type has evidence of a low triangular ridge in cross section, but otherwise plain without the decorative element of high medieval crested roof tiles.
- 5.3.11 The remainder of the ceramic building material comprised field drain pipe (19th-20th century), a brown glazed sewer pipe (19th century), two fragments of brick (19th-20th century) and some unidentified fragments. In addition, there were two pieces of grey Welsh slate roofing, also likely to be of 19th-20th century date. A fragment of fine cream refractory clay with a vitrified and cindered surface probably derives from some sort of industrial process and is likely to be post-medieval in date.

Conclusions

- 5.3.12 There is very little Roman material and some doubt must remain whether material from ditch 2605 includes later building materials of medieval or post-medieval date.
- 5.3.13 The field walking material is most notable for being dominated by ridge tile. It is curious that there appears to be an absence of flat roof tile fragments and though the crest implies that these are indeed ridge tiles, the possibility of them being fragments of an early variety of field drain should be regarded as a possibility. If this were the case, then the majority of the field walking material would relate to agricultural activities with very little material indicative of occupation or structural activity.

Flint

By Rebecca Devaney

5.3.14 A total of eight pieces of worked flint and one piece of possible worked chert were recovered from the evaluation at RAF Newton (Table 2). Just one piece, that from context 2705, was found in an archaeological feature, the rest coming from the topsoil and subsoils. The assemblage has suffered from slight to moderate post-depositional damage

- which suggests a certain degree of movement and is consistent with the materials presence in unstratified contexts and overburden.
- 5.3.15 The material is not technologically or chronologically diagnostic and so dating cannot be suggested.

Table 2: Summary of worked flint

Context	U/S	2601	2705	2801	2802	Total
Flake	2	1	1	1	1	6
Blade				1	1	2
Irregular waste				1		1
Total	2	1	1	3	2	9

Animal Bones

By Kristopher Poole

5.3.16 A total of 44 fragments of animal bone, weighing 37 g, were recovered from context 2605. All were identified as highly fragmented pieces of horse teeth, and probably represent only 2-3 teeth at most.

Miscellaneous

- 5.3.17 A single pipe-stem fragment weighing 2g. was produced from the field walking (TRS E6). This appears to be of 18th to early 19th century date (identification by John Cotter).
- 5.3.18 A further three fragments of undiagnostic stone from contexts 2605, 2608 and unstratified were also recovered.
- 5.3.19 An unstratified penny (dated 1917) was also found.

5.4 Palaeoenvironnement

5.4.1 No deposits were identified that warranted environmental sampling.

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

6.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 6.1.1 Conditions in the field were dry during the machining of the trenches. After heavy rain however, some of the trenches, particularly towards the south, became inundated with rainwater which would then not drain away, but this was after the trench had been recorded. There was intrusion by modern features such as services and land drains, again particularly (in the case of field drains) towards the south of the site. The percentage sample, and distribution of the evaluation trenches have given a good understanding of the overall archaeological potential of the site.
- 6.1.2 Archaeological features were easily identified within the natural drift geology of clay, and the frequent glacial striping that occurred in many trenches could easily be differentiated from archaeological features after hand cleaning and further examination had been undertaken.

6.2 Overall interpretation

- 6.2.1 The archaeological and historical background of the area highlighted potential for Roman remains on the site. Its proximity to the Fosse Way and the Romano-British town of Margidunum suggested a high potential for archaeological features of this date.
- 6.2.2 The evaluation demonstrated the presence of a limited number of features towards the south-east corner of the site. One of these, a curvi-linear probable Roman enclosure in Trench 26, produced a good assemblage of Roman pottery including some fine wares. This probably relates to an enclosure of outlying fields maybe associated with the putative roman villa 260 m to the east.
- 6.2.3 Another Roman ditch, was seen just to the north in Trench 24, and this probably does represent a Roman field boundary.
- 6.2.4 A small concentration of archaeological features in the area of Trench 28 consisted of a small group of undated, but possibly prehistoric pits. These features were however very shallow and the extension of the trench failed to reveal any further Prehistoric activity. The field walking also failed to demonstrate the presence of redeposited artefacts possibly associated with such activity in the area.
- 6.2.5 Within the RAF Base itself was found a dispersed scatter of probably modern linear features, in Trenches 5 and 11, possibly field boundaries pre-dating the establishment of the RAF Base.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench	Ctxt No	Туре	Width (m)	Thick.	Comment	Finds	No./ wt	Date
003								
	301	Layer		0.26	Topsoil			
	302	Layer		0.24	Subsoil			
	303	Layer			Natural			
004								
	401	Layer		0.24	Topsoil			
	402	Layer		0.56	Subsoil			
	403	Layer			Natural			
005								
	501	Layer		0.15	Topsoil			
	502	Layer		0.29	Subsoil			
	503	Layer		0.08	Levelling Layer			
	504	Layer		0.20	Levelling Layer			
	505	Layer		0.22	Subsoil			
	506	Layer		0.12	Subsoil			
	507	Layer		-	Natural			
	508	Cut	0.45	0.19	Linear			
	509	Fill		0.19	Fill of 508			
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	510	Cut	0.75	0.14	Linear			
	511	Fill		0.14	Fill of 510	Pot	4	C19th
006	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~		,		,			
	601	Layer		0.22	Topsoil			
~~~~	602	Layer		0.28	Subsoil			
	603	Layer		-	Natural			
007								
1	701	Layer		0.45	Topsoil			
	702	Layer		0.15	Subsoil			
	703	Layer		-	Natural			
800								

Trench	Ctxt No	Туре	Width (m)	Thick, (m)	Comment	Finds	No./ wt	Date
	801	Layer		0.3	Topsoil			
	802	Layer		0.1	Subsoil			
	803	Layer		-	Natural			
009								
	901	Layer		0.32	Topsoil			
	902	Layer		0.25	Subsoil			
	903	Layer	***************************************	-	Natural			
010			•					
<del></del>	1001	Layer		0.22	Topsoil			
	1002	Layer		0.17	Subsoil			
	1003	Layer		-	Natural			
011	<u> </u>							
	1101	Layer		0.38	Topsoil	Transcential design		
	1102	Layer		0.28	Subsoil			
****	1103	Layer		_	Natural			
	1104	Cut	0.65	0.26	Ditch			
	1105	Fill		0.26	Fill of 1104	СВМ	1	C18-19tl
012				•				
	1201	Layer		0.2	Topsoil			
	1202	Layer		0.34	Subsoil			
	1203	Layer		-	Natural			
	1204	Cut	1.5	0.22	Tree Throw			
	1205	Fill		0.22	Fill of 1204			
013	•			***************************************	-			
	1301	Layer		0.19	Topsoil			
	1302	Layer		0.48	Levelling Layer			
	1303	Layer		0.14	Buried Topsoil			
	1304	Layer		0.15	Subsoil			
	1305	Layer		-	Natural			
014		•	<u> </u>				h	·····
	1401	Layer		0.15	Topsoil			
	1402	Layer		0.26	Subsoil			

Trench	Ctxt No	Туре	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No./ wt	Date
	1403	Layer		-	Natural			
015								
	1501	Layer		0.18	Topsoil			
	1502	Layer		0.26	Levelling Layer			
	1503	Layer		0.16	Buried Topsoil			
	1504	Layer		0.29	Subsoil			
	1505	Layer		-	Natural			
016								
	1601	Layer		0.2	Topsoil			
	1602	Layer		0.24	Subsoil			
	1603	Layer		_	Natural			
017								
	1701	Layer		0.3	Topsoil			
	1702	Layer		0.24	Subsoil			
	1703	Layer		0.32	Subsoil			
	1704	Layer			Natural			
018								,
	1801	Layer		0.2	Tarmac			
	1802	Layer		0.25	Buried Topsoil			
	1803	Layer		0.15	Subsoil			
	1804	Layer			Natural			
019	<b>_</b>	·y······						•••
	1901	Layer		0.22	Topsoil			
	1902	Layer		0.3	Subsoil			
	1903	Layer		0.1	Subsoil			
	1904	Layer		0.12	Subsoil			
	1905	Layer		-	Natural			
020	r	1	<b>1</b>	ı				7
	2001	Layer		0.32	Topsoil			
	2002	Layer		0.30	Ploughsoil			
	2003	Layer		0.17	Subsoil			
	2004	Cut	0.67	0.22	Natural Feature			

Trench	Ctxt No	Туре	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No./ wt	Date
	2005	Fill		0.22	Fill of 2004			
	2002	Layer		,-	Natural			
	2006	Layer			Natural			
021					÷			
	2101	Layer		0.17	Modern ploughsoil			
	2102	Layer		0.2	Subsoil			
	2103	Layer		>0.3	Natural			
022								
	2201	Layer		0.12	Modern ploughsoil			
	2202	Layer		0.17	Subsoil			
	2203	Layer		-	Natural			
	2204	Layer		-	Natural			
023								
	2301	Layer		0.23	Modern ploughsoil			
	2302	Layer		0.12	Subsoil	į		
	2303	Layer		-	Natural			
	2304	Layer		-	Natural			
024								
	2401	Layer		0.42	Modern ploughsoil			
	2402	Layer		0.36	Subsoil			
	2403	Layer		-	Natural			
	2404	Layer		-	Natural			
	2405	Cut	1.2	0.32	Cut			
	2406	Fill		0.32	Fill of 2405	Pot	3	Roman
	2407	Cut	0.60	0.27	Pit			
	2408	Fill		0.14	Fill of 2407			
	2409	Fill		0.14	Fill of 2407			
	2410	Cut	0.76	0.1	Gully			
	2411	Fill		0.1	Fill of 2410			
	2412	Cut	0.22	0.18	Land Drain			
	2413	Fill		0.18	Fill of 2412			

Trench	Ctxt No	Туре	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No./ wt	Date
	2501	Layer		0.27	Modern ploughsoil			
	2502	Layer		0.22	Subsoil			
	2503	Layer		-	Natural			
	2504	Layer		-	Natural			
026								
	2601	Layer		0.35	Modern ploughsoil	Flint	1	
	2602	Layer		0.2	Subsoil			
	2603	Fill		-	Natural			
	2604	Cut	2.7	0.32	Ditch			
	2605	Fill		0.32	Fill of 2604	Pot, bone, CBM	214 44 7	Late C2th
	2606	Layer		-	Natural			
	2607	Cut	2.2	0.3	Ditch			
	2608	Fill		0.3	Fill of 2607	Pot	44	C3-4th
	2609	Cut	0.78	0.3	Possible pit			
	2610	Fill		0.3	Fill of 2609			
027						•		
	2701	Layer		0.35	Modern ploughsoil			
	2702	Layer		0.22	Subsoil			
	2703	Layer		-	Natural			
	2704	Cut	0.75	0.25	Linear Feature			
	2705	Fill		0.25	Fill of 2704	Flint	1	
	2706	Layer		<b></b>	Natural			
028								
	2801	Layer		0.2	Modern ploughsoil	Flint	3	
	2802	Layer		0.21	Subsoil	Flint	2	
	2803	Layer		_	Natural			
	2804	Layer			Natural			
	2805	Fill		0.16	Fill of 2806			
	2806	Cut	0.9	0.16	Pit			
	2807	Fill		0.15	Fill of 2808			
	2808	Cut	0.5	0.15	Pit			***************************************

Trench	Ctxt No	Туре	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No./ wt	Date
	2809	Fill		0.2	Fill of 2810			
	2810	Cut	0.4	0.2	Posthole			
029								
	2901	Layer		0.3	Modern ploughsoil			
	2902	Layer		0.28	Subsoil			
	2903	Layer		-	Natural			
	2904	Layer		-	Natural			
030								
	3001	Layer		0.3	Modern ploughsoil			
	3002	Layer		0.66	Subsoil			
	3003	Layer		0.5	Made ground			
	3004	Layer		•	Natural			
	3005	Layer		-	Natural			
031								
	3101	Layer		0.24	Modern ploughsoil			
	3102	Layer		0.32	Made ground			
	3103	Layer		-	Natural			
	3104	Layer		-	Natural			
	3105	Layer		0.24	Subsoil			
	3106	Cut	0.8	0.32	Tree throw			
	3107	Fill		0.32	Fill of 3106			
032								
	3201	Layer		0.25	Modern ploughsoil			
	3202	Layer		0.75	Made ground			
	3203	Layer		-	Natural			
033								
	3301	Layer	ana, ana ana ana ana ana ana ana ana ana	0.35	Modern ploughsoil			
	3302	Layer		0.3	Made ground			
	3303	Layer		_	Natural			
	3304	Layer		0.15	Buried Topsoil			
	3305	Layer		0.15	Subsoil			

Trench	Ctxt No	Туре	Width (m)	Thick.	Comment	Finds	No./ wt	Date
	3401	Layer		0.25	Modern ploughsoil			
	3402	Layer		0.7	Made ground			
	3403	Fill		0.15	Buried Topsoil/made ground			
	3404	Cut	1.8	0.2	Subsoil			
	3405	Layer		*	Natural			
035								
	3501	Layer		0.38	Modern ploughsoil			
	3502	Layer		0.38	Subsoil			
	3503	Layer			Natural			
	3504	Cut	1.6	0.3	Ditch			
	3505	Fill		0.3	Fill of 3504			
	3506	Layer		**	Natural			
036								
	3601	Layer		0.38	Modern ploughsoil			
	3602	Layer		0.38	Subsoil			
	3603	Layer		_	Natural			
	3604	Layer		**	Natural			

#### APPENDIX 2 **BUILDING MATERIALS TABLES**

Table 3: The Fabric Types

Fabric code	Colour	Matrix	Fine inclusions	Coarse inclusions	Other comments
1	Reddish yellow, with fine buff streaks	laminated clay	freq med-coarse qtz sand and red pellets of ferric oxide or clay pellets (R)0.5-3 mm. Very rare fine sand/silt sized mica.	~	~
1	Orange / red; reduced grey core	laminated clay with fine yellowish streaks	low density of med qtz sand (R)	~	Moulding sand: white - clear med- coarse qtz (SR)
	brown, pinkish brown; orange	fine silty clay	low density of med sand - qtz & other rock sand, poorly mixed & occurring patchily in clay matrix. Freq Fe oxide grains (R) - coarse sand size		Variant of 3: is better mixed more even texture, but contains similar constituents.

Fabric code	Colour	Matrix	Fine inclusions	Coarse inclusions	Other comments
4	Brownish red; red	sandy clay	high density of med & coarse sand (R) - qtz, Fe oxide grains & other minerals	Common - frequent coarse grits (R) of pink quartzitic sst. 13mm and light brown sst 1-13 mm. Grog or clay pellets 0.5-8 mm; red ferric sst grit. Occasional calcite (A) 2 mm	Variant of 4: contains maroon Fe st. (R) 0.5-5 mm and clay matrix is very broken made up of lots of unwedged clay fragments & pellets.
5	Pale, cream	fine clay	red or cream silty clay pellets or grog c. 0.5-1 mm	~	~
6	Red	gritty textured clay	low density of Fe sst or ferric oxide inclusions c. 0.5 mm	~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	~

Table 4: The ceramic building material from excavated features

Context	Nos	Wt	Fab	Form	Size	Comments	Date	Abrasion
		(g)						
1105 [1104]	1	44	4		17 mm thickness	Corner fragment of peg or nib tile	18th -	low
							19th C	
2605 [2604]	1	38	2	Unid	16 mm	Rough irregular underside with finger tip depression and thickly covered in moulding sand. Most of upper surface has sheared off. Though fabric appears to be Roman, the thickness is more in line with P-med roof tile, however Roman tegula or imbrex are possible.	Ro?	low
2605	3	111	3	Brick	33 mm+	One flat straight edge. Probably not much thicker than measured, but lower surface does not survive. Probably Roman.	Ro?	heavy
2605	3	107	4	Brick	25+ x 40+ mm	One flat smooth surface - coarse fabric and thickness suggests post-med brick fragments. 2 fragments join.	P- med ?	mod

Table 5: Ceramic building material catalogue from the field walking.

Context	Nos	Wt (g)	Fab	Form	Dimensions	Comments	Date	Abrasion
TRS D2	3	178	5	Pipe	100 mm diam x >100 mm L x 12 mm th	Cylindrical clay pipe straight cut end: field drain.	19th- 20th C	low
TRS D2	1	33	U	FL	35 x 40 mm th	Curving irregular surface vitrified & cindered: fine cream clay with cracks & fissures from rapid heating.	P-med ?	low
TRS D2	1	20	6	Brick		One flat smooth surface - machine made.	20th C	low
TRS D2	1	73	Slate	Roof	5 mm th	Grey Welsh slate, thinly split with straight dressed chamfered edge.	P-med - modern	low

Context	Nos	Wt (g)	Fab	Form	Dimensions	Comments	Date	Abrasion
TRS E3	1	25	4	Roof: ridge	12-20 mm th; int diam 90 mm	Small fragment with inner surface cylindrical, exterior appears to be flat; possibly some sort of crested ridge tile.	Med	low
TRS E4	2	124	Roof: ext diam c. 130 mm, int c. 100 mm; 18 mm th		mm, int c. 100	Inverted U shaped profile. Moulding sand on lower surface. Straight edge with sharp arris to upper surface, rounded arris to lower surface. Straight cut end surface.	Med	low
TRS E6	1	23	4	Roof: ridge	17 mm th .	Small fragment with similar characteristics & diam to others in this fab.	Med	med
TRS F1	1	4	3?	Unid	~	Broken fragment; no surfaces	2	fresh
TRS F2	I	60	4	Pipe 15mm th; c. 1 mm diam		Ceramic pipe glazed dark brown inside & out. Start of thickened collar round end suggestive of sewer pipe.	19th C	fresh
TRS F3			16 mm th; int diam c. 60 mm	Crested ridge tile: the crest appears to be a simple raised triangular cross section creating a total tile thickness at the ridge of c. 32 mm. It is without any of the decorative cut shapes of high medieval crested ridge tiles.	Med	low		
TRS F10	1	183	4	Roof: ridge	17-20 mm th	Fragment of ridge tile with inverted U profile with straight edge with same characteristics as E4 fragment.	Med	low
TRS F7	1	18	1	Unid	11 mm th	Flat possibly with remnant of peg hole, but this could just be a worn broken surface.	Med	high
TRS G1	1	5	4 var	Brick		Small fragment with v sharp arris and wire cut faces. The fabric is a variant of 4 having the same constituents, but the clay made up of lots of unwedged clay fragments & pellets. & it appears to have a lot more of the maroon Fe st fragments (v. R).	19th - 20th C	low
ΓRS G2	1	31	4	Roof: ridge	15-16 mm th; c. 100 mm diam	Fragment of ridge tile.	Med	low
TRS 310	1	39	3 var	Roof: ridge	16 mm th; ext diam c. 110 mm	Fragment of ridge tile.	P-med	low
TRS 311	1	21	4	Roof: ridge	18 mm th	Fragment of ridge tile.	Med	mod-high
rrs 311	1	8	slate	Roof	4 mm th	small broken frag	19th- 20th C	low
	1	10	3 var	Roof:		Fragment of ridge tile.	P-med	low

# APPENDIX 3 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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OAU, 1992 Field Manual, (ed. D. Wilkinson)

Wessex Archaeology, 2005 Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment, RAF Newton, Nottinghamshire

# APPENDIX 4 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: RAF Newton, Nottinghamshire

Site code: RAFNEW 05

Grid reference: SK 688 412

Type of evaluation: Thirty six trenches of varying length totalling 1,706 m². A fieldwalking covering

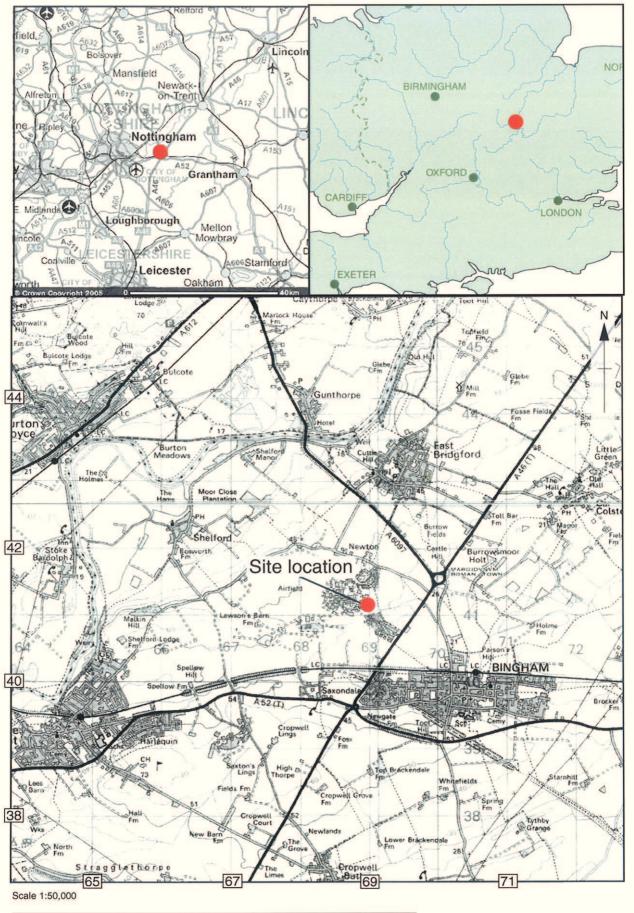
31531 m² was carried out in the farmland area.

Date and duration of project: 07/11/05-17/11/05, 10 days

Area of site: 15 ha

Summary of results: The evaluation revealed mainly linear features of a modern date, and two Roman linear features in Trenches 24 and 26. An area of possibly prehistoric pits was also revealed to the south of Trench 28 but fieldwalking failed to confirm the presence of Prehistoric activity in the area.

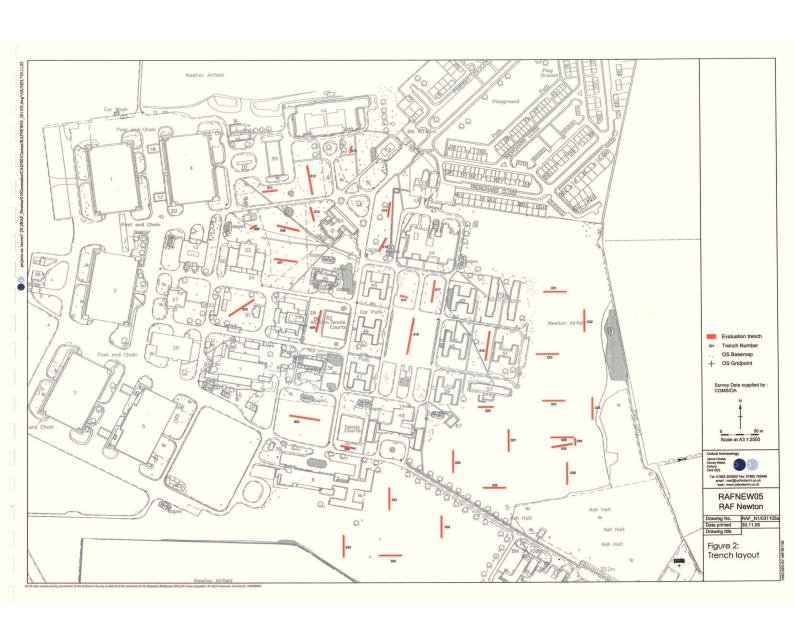
Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Brewhouse Yard Museum in due course, under the following Accession Number: NCMG2005-148.

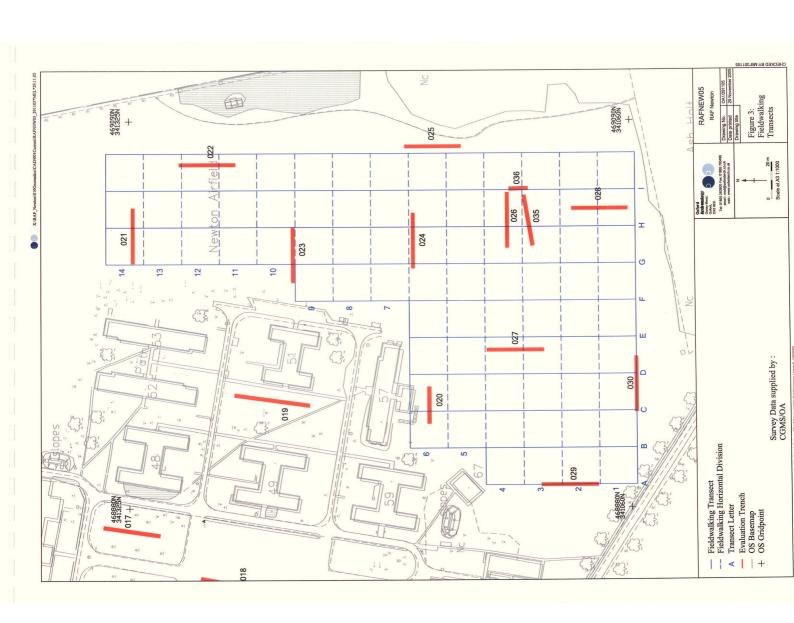


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Figure 1: Site location







Scivergo/Oatspass_KninZ*RAriscivo/*RAFNciscio*RAFNEwyoremw*28:11.0cm

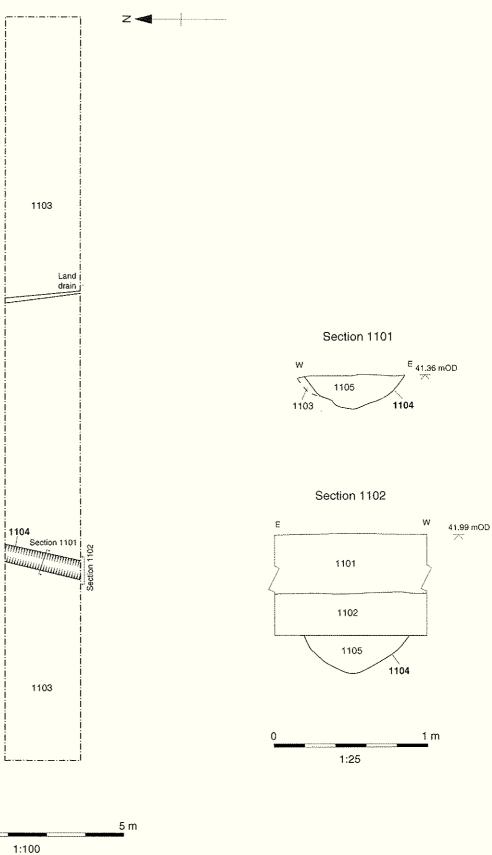
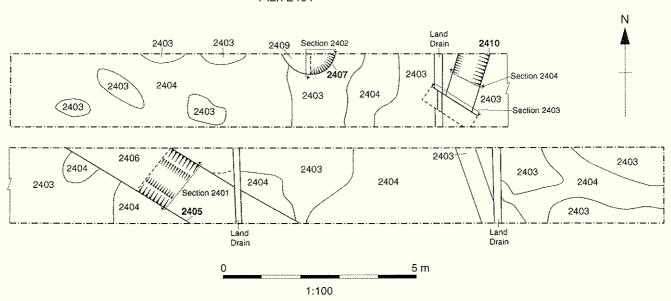


Figure 5: Trench 11 - plan and sections.





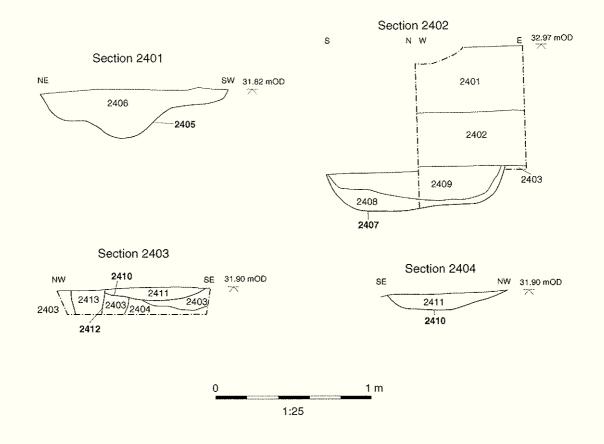
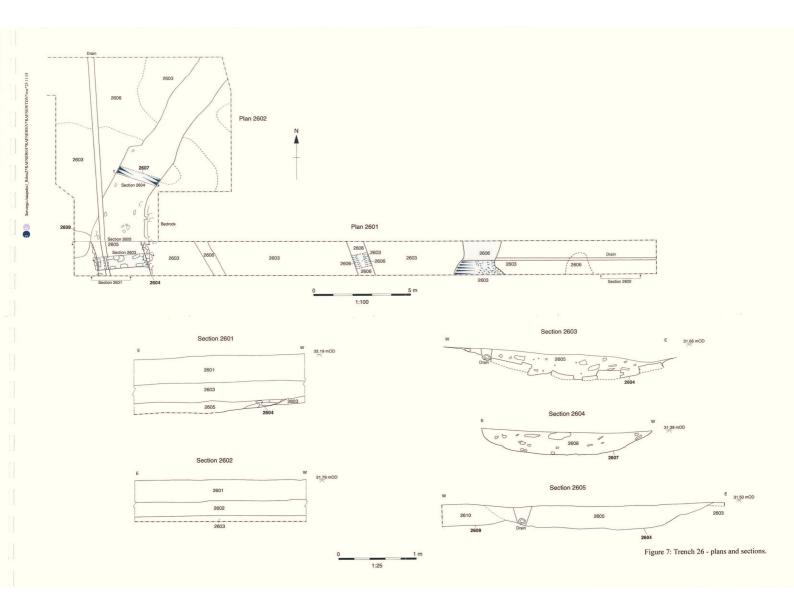
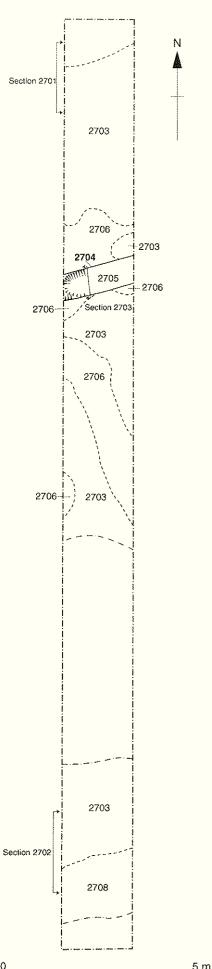
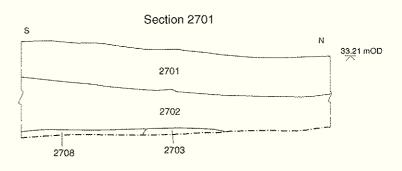


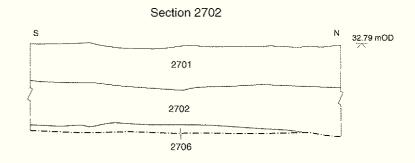
Figure 6: Trench 24 - plan and sections.





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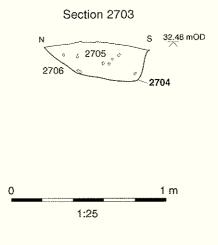
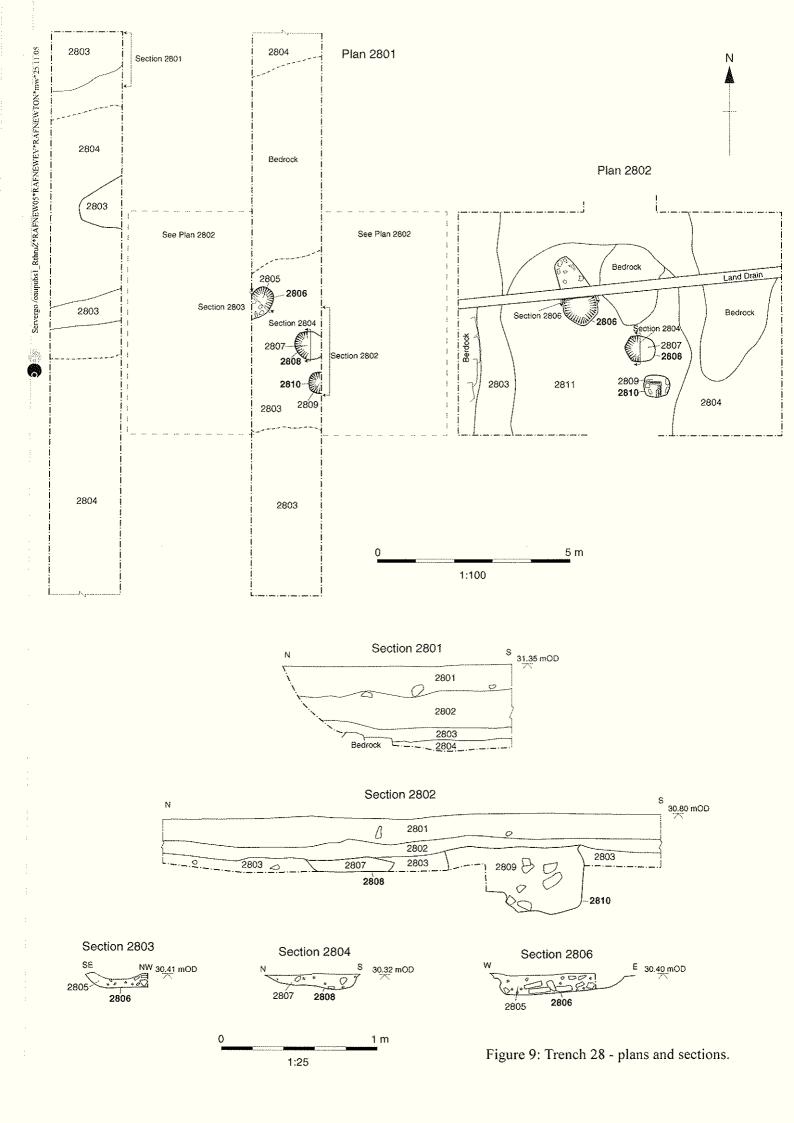
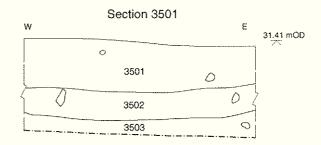


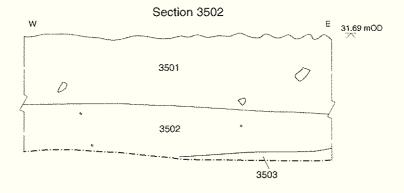
Figure 8: Trench 27 - plan and sections.



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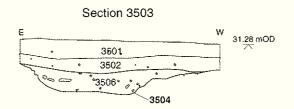




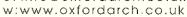
Figure 10: Trench 35 - plan and sections.



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