FORT NELSON, NEAR
FAREHAM, HAMPSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SITE CODE: PFNF08

MARCH 2011

PCA REPORT NUMBER: R11005

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

FORT NELSON, NEAR FAREHAM, HAMPSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Project Number	K2231
Report Number	R11005

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Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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An Archaeological Evaluation at Fort Nelson, Near Fareham, Hampshire

Site Code: PFNF08

Central National Grid Reference: SU 6070 0710

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March 2011

PCA Report Number: R11005

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1 ABSTRACT

1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken on land at Fort Nelson near Fareham in Hampshire. The evaluation was commissioned by the Royal Armouries in advance of a proposed redevelopment of the land, and took place between the 1st and 5th of March 2010. Additional work took place on March 11th 2010. The area of evaluation was situated to the south-east of the fort on the northern side of Portsdown Hill Road.

1.2 An evaluation comprising of eight 10m x 2m trenches were required within this area of the site as part as part of the planning permission (Ref. No: 08/02330/FUL). The planning permission relates to improvements to the Royal Artilleries exhibition which is situated within the fort itself. These improvements include a new building for the purposes of displaying artillery exhibits and a new Admissions Complex. The area in which the evaluation was undertaken will be converted into a car park with associated footpaths.

1.3 Apart from Trench 3, all of the evaluation trenches were sealed by modern topsoil. Beneath this topsoil a sequence emerged comprising of subsoil overlying the natural chalk. In Trenches 1, 5, 6 and 8 the subsoil sealed patches of brickearth which in turn overlay the natural chalk. In Trench 3 modern made ground directly overlay the chalk.

1.4 No archaeological remains were encountered predating the 19th century. In Trench 3 a deep, apparently linear feature was cut through the natural chalk and lined on both sides with red brick walls. It was revealed extending into both the northern and southern limits of excavation. Material recovered from the backfill of this feature suggested that it was demolished during the late 19th century and that the structure itself was likely to be contemporary with the fort. With so little of this feature revealed it could not be accurately interpreted, although it may once have functioned as either a tunnel or a sunken thoroughfare.

1.5 Two shallow linear cuts containing backfilled demolition material (including compressed asbestos sheeting) were observed in Trenches 6 and 7. A further continuation of the Trench 7 feature was also noted during the machining process in Trench 5. These cuts were all interpreted as foundation trenches for a military building erected outside of the fort during World War I. Following the demolition of this building and the removal of the shallow foundations, the footing trenches were subsequently backfilled with demolition material, presumably from the building itself.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. on land at Fort Nelson near Fareham in Hampshire. The evaluation took place between the 1st and the 5th of March 2010 with additional work undertaken on March 11th of the same year.

2.2 All eight evaluation trenches were located on open land to the south-east of Fort Nelson itself. The site was bounded to the north by agricultural land, to the east by Monument Lane and the Nelson Monument, to the south by Portsdown Hill Road and to the west by both a car park and Fort Nelson itself.

2.3 A detailed Written Scheme of Investigation and was prepared prior to the fieldwork (Bradley and Matthews 2010) in accordance with the Tender Specification documents (Gifford Report 13187/AC/R04 Revisions C & D; Gifford Drawing 13187-AC-100).

2.4 The National Grid Reference of the site is SU 6070 0710.

2.5 The site was given the code PFNF08.

2.6 The project was monitored for the client by Andy Shelley of Gifford on behalf of the Royal Armouries and for the local planning authority by Tracy Matthews, Archaeological Officer at Winchester City Council. The site was project managed by Tim Bradley and supervised by the author, Alexis Haslam.

Figure 1
Site Location
1:20,000 at A4

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 The proposed development of the site comprises of the construction of a new building designed to display artillery exhibits and a new Admissions Complex (Planning Permission Ref. No: 08/02330/FUL). The open land to the south-east of the fort will be converted into a car park with associated footpaths. Fort Nelson is a Scheduled Monument and a Grade 1 Listed Building. Scheduled Monument Consent has been granted for the development (HSD 9/2/10763).

3.2 Two archaeological conditions (Nos. 5 and 6) attached to the planning permission:

Condition 5

No development, or site preparation prior to development which has any effect upon disturbing or altering the level or composition of the land, shall take place within the site until the applicant (or their agents or successors in title) has secured and implemented a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation to be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority.

Condition 6

No demolition or alteration to structures on the site shall take place until the applicant (or their agents or successors in title) has secured and implemented a programme of recording in accordance with a written scheme of investigation to be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority.

3.3 Historic Building Recording has taken place on Fort Nelson and the methodology for this process is covered in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Bradley and Matthews 2010). As the evaluation report comprises of the archaeological evaluation only, the planning background associated with the building recording process will be covered in the Building Report.

3.4 The relevant Development Plan Framework in regards of the archaeology is provided by the Winchester District Local Plan adopted on the 7th of July 2006. This Plan contains the relevant policies which provide a framework for the consideration of development proposals affecting archaeological and cultural heritage features:

Policy HE.1

Where important archaeological sites, monuments (whether above or below ground), historic buildings and landscape features, and their settings (as identified and recorded in the Sites and Monuments Record), whether scheduled or not, are affected by development proposals, permission will not be granted for development unless the Local Planning Authority is satisfied that, where appropriate, adequate provision has been made for their preservation in situ and ongoing management, conservation and protection.

Where such preservation is not possible or desirable, the Local Planning Authority will permit development to take place only where satisfactory provision has been made for a programme of archaeological investigation, excavation and recording before, or during, development and for the subsequent publication of any findings, where appropriate.

Policy HE.2

Where there is evidence that archaeological sites, monuments (whether above or below ground), historic buildings and landscape features, and their settings may be present on a site, but their extent and importance is unknown, the Local Planning Authority will refuse applications which are not supported by adequate archaeological assessment which clarifies the importance of the feature and demonstrates the impact of development.

4 GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The Fort Nelson site is underlain by Upper Cretaceous chalk of Santonian Age (100-65 Ma) and is situated on the South Downs, a ridge of chalk hills which stretch from the eastern side of Hampshire, extending through Sussex and ending at Beachy Head.

4.2 The topography of the site slope slopes down from north to south from a high of 88.10m OD to a low of 84.61m OD. From Portsdown Hill the whole of Portsea Island and all of its surroundings are clearly visible.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The archaeological and historical background to the site has previously been set out in the Tender Specification document (Gifford Report 13187/AC/R04 Revision C). The following section reproduces the information detailed in that document:

5.1 Palaeolithic and Mesolithic

5.1.1 To the west of Fort Nelson a portion of Slindon Raised Beach – a Palaeolithic shoreline – has been identified near Fort Wallington approximately 400m to the south of Fort Nelson (Hampshire SMR 24537). Here, a 120m long section was made through the raised beach at Downend Chalk pit in 1972. To the east the beach is visible as surface flint pebbles on a sloping bench bounded to the north and south by steeper slopes. Further to the east at Slindon Park thirty five hand-axes, rough-outs and nearly three hundred flakes have been retrieved from the raised beach.

5.1.2 Several metres beneath Fort Wallington's Slindon Raised Beach and approximately 800m to the south of Fort Nelson, excavations at Red Barns unearthed an extremely large quantity of Palaeolithic finds (Hampshire SMR 2426 and 50753). During a watching brief in 1973 and an excavation in 1975 prior to the construction of a new housing development, a total of 6,656 lithic artefacts were recovered. These included hand-axes, cores, flake tools and debitage. Amino acid dating of a molluscan assemblage from the site provided a date of between 425,000 – 200,000 BP.

5.1.3 To the north-west of the Fort Nelson site, Mesolithic flint flakes were recovered during a field walking survey on Boarhunt road (Winchester MWC883). Further evidence for Mesolithic activity was revealed during excavations approximately 800m to the west of the Fort where a number of flint cores, microlith blades, end scrapers and waste materials were recovered from both the surface and from within later features (Hamshire SMR 20004),

5.2 Bronze Age

5.2.1 At a distance of approximately 400m to the south-west of the Fort a late Bronze Age cremation burial was revealed prior to the construction of the M27 (Hampshire SMR 24499). This urn had been deposited in a pit and may once have been covered by a cairn or mound. Approximately 500m to the east along the M27 a further cremation urn burial dating to the middle Bronze Age was also excavated during works for the same road scheme.

5.3 Iron Age

5.3.1 Approximately 800m to the west of the Fort an Iron Age settlement with at least three phases of occupation was revealed during an archaeological excavation. The exposed features comprised of ditches, gullies, building structures, pits, hearths and postholes (Hampshire SMR 20005, 20007, 20011, 20057-20059, 22674).

5.3.2 To the north-east of the Iron Age settlement a series of cropmarks have been recorded (Hampshire SMR 3519). These are mainly linear in form but also include curvilinear and circular marks, some of which may relate to the Bronze Age and Iron Age presence within the area. As recorded, these features pass some 250m south-west of the fort.

5.3.3 To the north of the Fort Nelson site Iron Age pottery was found at Ashley Down Farm (Winchester MWC544).

5.4 Roman

5.4.1 To the south-east of the Fort there are traces of early Roman occupation (1st century AD) underlying Portchester's fort, which is situated on a low-lying promontory. Construction of the 9-acre Roman fort began in the late 3rd century and much of its architecture survives today. The fort formed part of the 'Saxon Shore' defences which were designed to defend the coast from raiding parties. The fort was temporarily abandoned in *c*. 370 before being re-occupied in the late 5th and early 6th centuries.

5.4.2 The course of a Roman road leading to Portchester Fort passes approximately 500m to the west of Fort Nelson, running from the north-west to the south-east. To the north of the study site, at Ashley Down Farm, 1st – 2nd century pottery has been recovered along with associated animal bones (Winchester NWC881). Occupation of the Roman fort at Portchester continued throughout the Saxon period and included a number of structural additions.

5.5 Medieval

5.5.1 During the 12th century the Roman fort at Portchester was converted into a medieval castle. A keep was constructed in the north-west corner and the rest of the enclosure became a large outer bailey. In the late 12th and early 13th centuries the castle gained in importance as a royal fortress and, after a short period of neglect, became a royal residence in the 14th century. By the 15th century it had declined in significance and was used as a prison during the 1500's.

5.5.2 At a short distance to the west of Fort Nelson lies the original location of Boarhunt

Hall House, tentatively dated to the 14th century (Winchester MWC7535). This was a timber framed structure with brick walls and a thatched roof. The building itself was removed and reconstructed at the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum in 1971.

5.6 Post-Medieval and Modern

5.6.1 The middle of the 19th century was a period of great change in terms of naval warfare as modern science began to have an impact on both design and tactics. The relationship between Britain and France was always somewhat strained, but during this period there was an unsettled and growing mistrust of the possible intentions of France towards Britain. The development of steamships and France's motivation to improve her navy led to an exaggerated fear that Britain would be left lacking if an attack was planned, and following the launch of France's first ironclad '*Gloire*' it was felt that England could potentially lose control of the sea (Mitchell & Cobb 2003, 1). Military opinion at home repeatedly described Britain's defences as inadequate and it was felt that Britain's dockyards and arsenals were open and vulnerable to attack.

5.6.2 The panic brought about by these political fears led to the establishment of the Royal Commission, called upon by Prime Minister Lord Palmerston in 1859, to further examine Britain's defences. The recommendations from the Commissioner's report for Portsmouth comprised of a line of seven detached works on Portsdown Hill. The introduction of the Sir William Armstrong Co.'s rifled breech loading gun had led to fears that if the Fench landed with similar long ranging and accurate weapons, they could emplace batteries on Portsdown Hill and bombard the dockyard below (Mitchell & Cobb 2003, 1). For this reason, five major forts (rather than the originally intended seven) were to be situated at Crookhorn (Fort Purbrook), Widley Mill (Fort Widley), the Fir Clump (Fort Southwick), Nelson's Monument (Fort Nelson) and above Wallington Village (Fort Wallington) (Mitchell & Cobb 2003, 1-2). Two smaller works were also proposed and a continuous line was intended to link all of the forts and extend down to the harbours on either flank. Five granite sea forts were planned on the shoals at Spithead to protect against iron-clad warships, and a number of forts were to be built on the Gosport peninsula at Newgate (Fort Fareham), Roome and Lee Farm. These smaller works along with two of the sea forts and the forts at Roome and Lee Farm were never constructed as efforts had to be made to reduce costs (Mitchell & Cobb 2003, 2).

5.6.3 By the 1850's the latest continental forts were based on the 'polygonal' system which had been introduced by the Frenchman Montalembert at the end of the 18th century. This design was further enhanced by Carnot before being adopted by the Prussians, and provided a more compact fort with a wide field of fire coupled with the ability to

concentrate its main firepower on the besieger. On Portsdown Hill five such forts would be able to defend one another with overlapping covering fire, removing the necessity for long lines of fortification. These polygonal forts were also designed to blend in with their surroundings making the structures invisible from the north, the expected direction of attack (Mitchell & Cobb 2003, 4). The five Portsdown Forts were all designed by Lt. William Crossman RE who was on the staff of the Inspector General of Fortifications (Mitchell & Cobb 2003, 4).

5.6.4 Fort Nelson was built by the contractor William Tredwell (Mitchell & Cobb 2003, 5) and was substantially developed by 1869. It was fully complete by 1870.

5.6.5 The fort itself was named after the monument to Lord Nelson in the neighbouring field, a large column and bust of Horatio Nelson constructed in 1807 to mark England's greatest naval victory at Trafalgar in 1805 and the death of the admiral.

5.6.6 The original fort was constructed with a dry moat and was six sided with a two-storey triangular redan at the rear. Designed to be manned volunteers it lies between Fort Wallington to the west and Fort Southwick to the east. It was constructed from locally manufactured red brick with Portland stone lintels and granite cills in the embrasures (Mitchell & Cobb 2003, 5).

5.6.7 The ditches were protected by two-storey demi-caponiers on the east and west angles and a two-storey double caponier at the north salient. Above each of the caponiers was a mortar battery with three guns. These batteries were obsolete by 1892/3.

5.6.8 The triangular redan has two short flanks and protected the two original entrances to the fort. The embrasures within the redan were sited so that maximum fire could be directed at an enemy intending to force an entrance. To the left of the lower western entrance gate a number of bombproof rooms provided various functions including a guardroom, cells, a coal store and stables, forage and harness rooms (Mitchell & Cobb 2003, 18).

5.6.9 The two original entrances allowed for access into the fort at two levels. The upper east gate provided access into the fort at parade ground level while the main entrance (the lower west gate) provided access at the barrack block level. The entrances were both fitted with drawbridges to enable the garrison to withdraw and prevent an enemy from battering down the gates. These gates were known as Guthrie rolling bridges and were entirely hand operated. They were arranged with counterbalances so that the end of the bridge would not fall into the ditch.

5.6.10 The caponiers were designed to cover the ditches of the fort against infantry attack and formed the second line of defence. They had embrasures facing in either both directions (double caponier) or in a single direction (demi-caponier) and were

arranged so that they could sweep the ditch with grapeshot offering no cover for the attacking enemy.

5.6.11 When the fort was constructed it was intended to mount thirty guns on the terreplein with a further 48 guns for immediate defence. Each gun would have been fitted on a traversing carriage and slide and would have been fired through an embrasure cut into the parapet of the rampart, offering a lateral range of 30˚. By the time the forts were complete however, these positions were outdated due to developments in artillery design and new concrete emplacements had to be installed in 1893.

5.6.12 A large vaulted water tank was also constructed at the same time as the fort and was to be used for both fire fighting and at times of water shortage (presumably when besieged). This tank is located inside the fort to the north of the upper east gate. The water supply to this tank was piped from Fort Southwick by gravity and then from Fort Nelson down to Fort Wallington. The water works at Farlington supplied the water.

5.7 Revised Defences 1892-3

5.7.1 Between 1892 and 1893 the Fort was revised due to rapid innovations in artillery design and both the gun positions and magazines were altered.

5.7.2 The threat of invasion by the French had evaporated by the time the Portsdown Forts were completed as France had been invaded and defeated by Prussia. These structures were however maintained and were used in military manoeuvres during the late 19th century.

5.7.3 From 1902 onwards the armament in the Fort was gradually withdrawn. By 1903 all five Portsdown Forts were declared obsolete and were used as barracks, mostly for the Royal Garrison Artillery. The magazines were used to store ammunition for field artillery (Mitchell & Cobb 2003, 2) and by 1904 only machine guns and mobile artillery remained.

5.8 World War 1

5.8.1 The period up to and including World War 1 witnessed major changes at the Fort as it became a holding base for soldiers en route to fight in France. The three mortar batteries and the caponiers were converted into accommodation for the men. An army issue building (brick footings, clapboard and corrugated iron) was constructed outside the Fort to the south at this time to act as a kitchen and dining room for the men. The location of this building is known from oral history and from observations during landscaping works undertaken in the late 1980's and early 1990's. The building was most probably demolished shortly after World War 1. Throughout the

war the five forts were used to accommodate the Portsmouth Garrison which at times reached 25,000 men (Mitchell & Cobb 2003, 2).

5.9 World War 2

5.9.1 By the beginning of World War 2 the Fort formed a key part in strategic planning and was used for the storage of anti-aircraft ammunition. Ten ammunition sheds were constructed (of which two now survive), the ramparts were trimmed and a concrete road was constructed around the perimeter of the parade ground. The east gate was widened at parade ground level and the moat was infilled with chalk from the ramparts in order to facilitate the movement of heavy loads across the bridge. A red brick police lodge was constructed on the inside of the gate to monitor traffic, with vehicles moving in an anti-clockwise direction within the interior of the Fort, loading at the western end of the armament sheds before exiting via a new gateway constructed to the west of the original lower gateway. All three gates were fitted with steel doors by 1939.

5.9.2 The magazines under the parade ground were used extensively and a conveyor belt was constructed in the main tunnel to allow for the quick loading and unloading of munitions. These munitions were then loaded onto a railway constructed between the barrack block and the gorge. A turntable took the carriages through the original west gateway into the moat where they were loaded onto trucks on a concrete loading platform

5.9.3 A bungalow was constructed outside the Fort in 1939 for the Commanding Officer (a typical Type C army issue building). A transformer house and a standby generator were built at the same time on the eastern side of the site and tapped straight into the national grid. Steel lightning conductors were positioned on top of the Haxo casemates to protect the ammunition and the ammunition sheds were earthed.

5.9.4 The fort was defended by bricking up all of the ground floor openings and slit trenches were dug in various positions for local defence. During the last 25 years the transformer house and eight of the ammunition sheds have been removed.

5.10 Post World War 2

5.10.1 The post war history of Fort Nelson includes a long period of abandonment. Immediately after the war it was used as a naval store (Mitchell & Cobb 2003, 3) until it became too derelict, and by 1979 when the site was acquired by Hampshire County Council it had become completely overgrown. Renovation works began in the 1980's although there was no fixed idea for the future use of the building. The site was leased to the Royal Armouries in 1988 and is currently used to house and exhibit a

large portion of the Royal Armouries' artillery collection. The fully established artillery museum and historic monument was opened to the public in 1995. In addition to its main function the fort has also been used as a venue for business meetings and civil weddings. The lease of the Fort by the Royal Armouries was renewed for a period of 99 years in 2000.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

6.1 In accordance with the Tender Specification and Written Scheme of Investigation, eight evaluation trenches were excavated in order to determine the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. The trenches were targeted on the areas of potential highlighted by a preceding geophysical investigation (Roseveare, 2010), with a number of trenches targeted on blank areas to test the results of the geophysics.

6.2 All of the trenches were opened up with the use of a rubber tracked 360˚ mechanical excavator using a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket. Further machining was required in Trenches 3, 5 and 6 on the 11th of March 2010 and this work was carried out with the use of a JCB type mechanical excavator fitted with a small toothed bucket. All machining was monitored by the archaeologist, checking for archaeological deposits and features through the topsoil and subsoil and onto the natural deposits of chalk and brickearth. All machining was preceded by scanning for live services with the use of a CAT scanner.

6.3 All of the trenches were hand cleaned, examined and recorded in both plan and section. Metal detecting was also conducted along the length of the trench bases and on any exposed features and the topsoil and subsoil deposits removed during the excavation process were also scanned.

6.4 The recording system used was the single context recording system, with individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated and exposed entered onto pro-forma recording sheets. All plans and sections of archaeological deposits and features were recorded on polyester based drawing film, the plans being drawn at a scale of 1:20 and the sections at 1:10.

6.5 Baselines for the trenches were surveyed in with the use of a GPS System which was also used to establish a Temporary Bench Mark (TBM) on the site with a value of 86.19m OD.

6.6 Photographs, on colour slide, black and white print film and in digital format were taken of the trenches and archaeological features where relevant.

6.7 Compressed asbestos sheeting was found to be present on site within cut features in Trenches 5, 6 and 7. None of these features were excavated by hand.

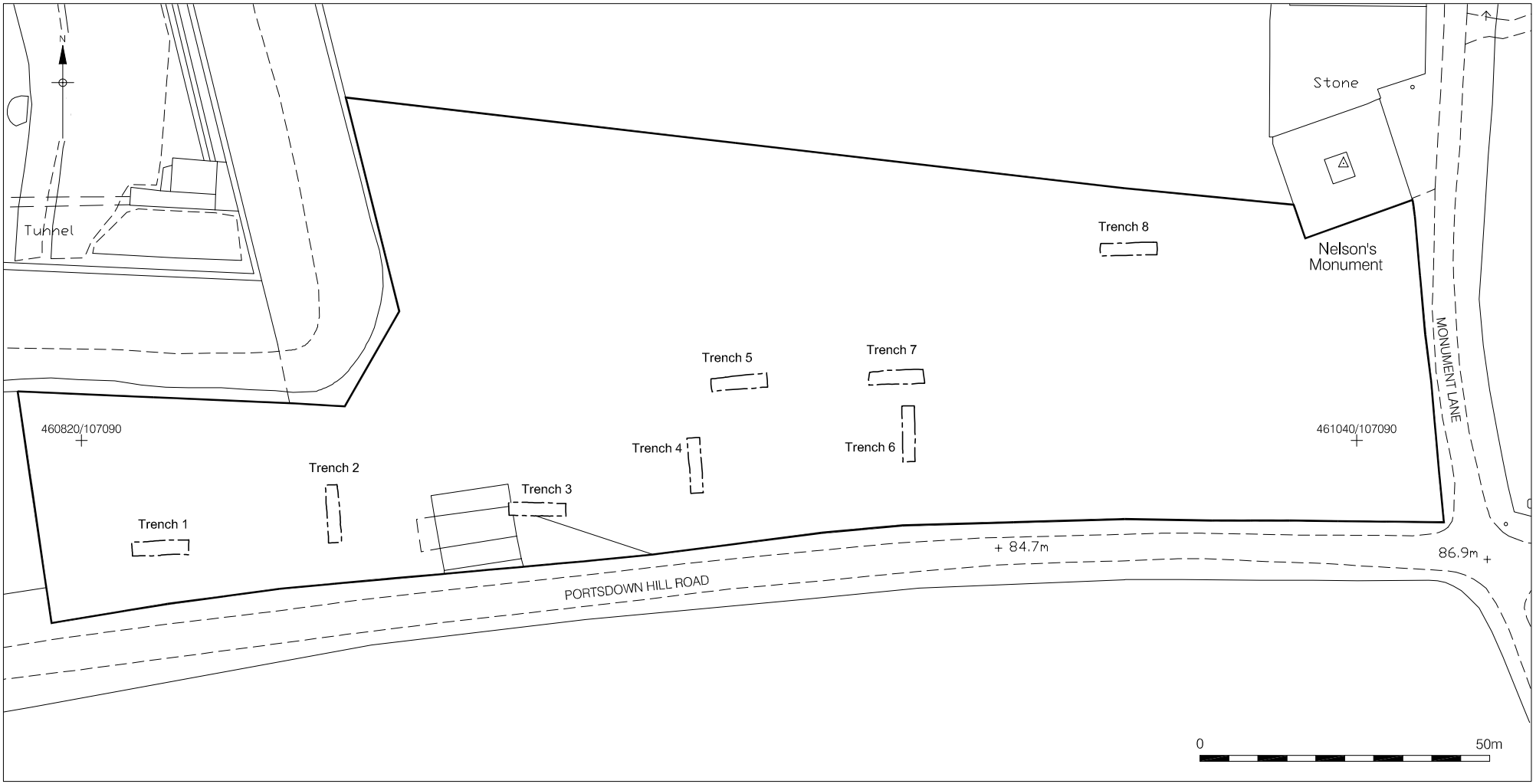


Figure 2
Trench Location
1:1,000 at A4

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION

7.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

Phase 1 – Natural

7.1.1 Trench 1 measured 9.90m in length from east to west and 2.44m in width from north to south. The earliest deposit encountered at the base of this trench was the natural chalk [8], which was observed at between 84.33m OD and 84.20m OD and was compact and white in colour. Filling the naturally formed cryoturbated cracks within the chalk were patches of brickearth [7], which was described as a firm, red brown deposit of silty clay containing occasional flints. A test slot across one of these cracks revealed that the brickearth extended up to a maximum of 0.43m in depth at a highest level of 84.33m OD.

Phase 2 – Subsoil

7.1.2 Sealing [7] was the subsoil, [6] which extended up to 0.38m in thickness at 84.72m OD and was described as a firm to friable deposit of red brown silty clay. Inclusions comprised of occasional small sub-angular flints and fragments of chalk.

Phase 3 – Late 19th century

7.1.3 Cutting through the subsoil at the eastern edge of Trench 1 was a circular cut [12] which measured 0.52m from north to south, 0.42m from east to west and 0.13m in depth at 84.39m OD. Recorded with shallow concave sides and a concave base it was filled by [11], a firm deposit of friable, mid grey brown silty clay containing occasional fragments of CBM (see Appendix 2). The dimensions of this feature suggested that it was unlikely to have functioned as a posthole, and for this reason the interpretation of a small pit originally cut from approximate modern ground level seems most likely.

Phase 5 – Modern

7.1.4 Modern topsoil [+] sealed the trench and extended up to 0.12m in depth at 84.77m OD.

7.2 Trench 2 (Fig.2)

Phase 1 – Natural

7.2.1 Trench 2 measured 10m in length from north to south and 2.26m in width from east to

west. Recorded at the base of the trench was the natural chalk [9] which was recorded at between 84.63m OD and 84.18m OD and was identical to deposit [8] in Trench 1.

Phase 2 – Subsoil

7.2.2 Sealing [9] was subsoil [10] which was identical to deposit [6] in Trench 1 and measured 0.15m in thickness at 84.80m OD.

Phase 5 – Modern

7.2.3 Modern topsoil [+] sealed [10] at between 85.02m OD and 84.61m OD, extending up to 0.07m in thickness.

7.3 Trench 3 (Figs. 2 & 3)

Phase 1 – Natural

7.3.1 In total, Trench 3 measured 9.84m in length from east to west and 2.20m in width from north to south. The earliest deposit encountered at the base of this trench was the natural chalk [16] which was identical to [8] in Trench 1 and was observed at between 84.21m OD and 84.34m OD.

Phase 3 – Late 19th century

7.3.2 Cutting through the chalk was a large construction cut [17] which extended into both the northern and southern limits of excavation. As seen it measured 2.46m in length from north to south and 4.46m in width at 84.29m OD and was filled by [18], a loose deposit of mixed, mid brown grey rubble containing large quantities of fragmented brick and mortar. A hand excavated sondage measuring 1m x 1m was excavated in the north-western corner of this feature to a depth of 1.20m from the top of the trench, but as it was clear that the base had not been reached it was decided to machine excavate a slot through the backfill.

7.3.3 The machine slot revealed that [17] extended up to 2.01m in depth and that the cut itself had vertical sides and a flat base. Of particular interest however was the fact that both sides of [17] were lined with brick walls constructed from red unfrogged brick bonded in an English cross pattern with a yellow grey concrete sandy mortar. The western wall was assigned the context number [35] whilst the eastern wall was given the number [36]. Due to health and safety reasons [35] could not be accurately examined, but [36] survived at up to 1.31m in height. Bricks relating to the demolition of [35] and [36] and recovered from backfill [18] have been dated to the later 19th or

early 20th century.

7.3.4 With so little of this feature revealed it was very difficult to accurately interpret its function. The fact that the sides of [17] were vertical and that it was lined with internal brick walls suggested that it was linear and that it was aligned in a north-south direction. The absence of a floor surface at the base of the cut meant that it was unlikely to have functioned as a cellar, and with no other structural evidence recorded within Trench 3 it clearly did not form part of a previously upstanding building. The brick fabrics used within the construction of both [35] and [36] implied a contemporary date with Fort Nelson itself, whilst the width and depth of [17] was also suggestive of a subterranean feature, possibly in the form of a tunnel or sunken thoroughfare. The large quantities of fragmented red brick within backfill [18] clearly related to the demolition of this structure, although a single fragment of 19th-century refined whiteware bowl (Appendix 3) did not provide a definitive date for this action.

Phase 5 – Modern

7.3.5 Sealing [18] was modern made ground [+] which extended up to 0.69m in thickness at 84.98m OD.

7.4 Trench 4 (Fig. 2)

Phase 1 – Natural

7.4.1 Trench 4 measured 9.66m in length from north to south and 2.20m in width from east to west. The earliest deposit encountered at the base of the trench was the natural chalk [31] which was identical to deposit [8] and was observed at between 84.91m OD and 84.38m OD.

Phase 2 – Subsoil

7.4.2 Overlying [32] was subsoil [31]. This deposit was identical to deposit [6] in Trench 1 and measured up to 0.30m in thickness at 85.31m OD.

Phase 5 – Modern

7.4.3 Topsoil [+] up to 0.17m thick sealed the subsoil at between 85.43m OD and 84.79m OD.

7.5 Trench 5 (Figs. 2, 4 & 5)

Phase 1 – Natural

7.5.1 Trench 5 measured 9.76m in length from east to west and 2.18m in width from north to south. The earliest deposit encountered at the base of the trench was the natural chalk [30] which was observed at between 85.72m OD and 85.61m OD and was identical to deposit [8]. At the eastern end of the trench a patch of natural brickearth [29] was recorded as overlying the chalk at 85.68m OD and was identical to deposit [7].

Phase 2 – Subsoil

7.5.2 Sealing the brickearth was subsoil [28] which was identical to deposit [6] and measured up to 0.31m in thickness at 85.92m OD.

Phase 4 – Early 20th century

7.5.3 Cutting through the subsoil was a large ditch [34] which extended into the northern and southern limit of excavations, measuring 2.20 from north to south and 3.90m from east to west as seen. Initially a 1.10m x 1.04m sondage was excavated into the north-western corner of this feature, but as the base of the cut was not reached it was decided to excavate a slot into backfill [33] with the use of a machine. This machine slot did not reach the base of [34] but revealed that the cut extended up to at least 1.54m in depth. It was recorded with steeply sloping, slightly concave edges, and the fill [33] was composed almost entirely of clean redeposited chalk. One fragment of compressed asbestos tile was recovered from the fill, suggesting a possible early 20th century date for this feature. Feature [34] is likely to form part of the north-south orientated ditch previously identified during the geophysical evaluation (Roseveare, 2010; Feature 12).

7.5.4 In the extreme south east of the trench the edge of an east-west aligned linear cut [37] was recorded extending for a length of 3.50m from the eastern into the southern limit of excavations, with a maximum exposed width of 0.15m. The mixed rubble and sandy silty fill contained compressed asbestos sheeting and the feature was therefore not excavated. This backfill is likely to relate to an episode of demolition, most probably the destruction of a temporary army issue building constructed during World War I, with cut [37] likely to have once housed the footings for the World War I building. The feature aligned with cut [25] recorded to the east (see para. 7.6.3 below) and is likely to form part of the same, or an immediately adjacent, structure.

Phase 5 – Modern

7.5.5 Topsoil [+] sealed [33] and was up to 0.19m thick at between 86.22m OD and 85.97m OD.

7.6 Trench 6 (Figs. 2, 4 & 5)

Phase 1 – Natural

7.6.1 Trench 6 measured 9.66m in length from north to south and 2.20m in width from east to west. The earliest deposit encountered at the base of this trench was the natural chalk [15] which was identical to deposit [8] and was observed at between 85.57m OD and 85.21m OD. A patch of brickearth [14] recorded at the northern end of the trench overlay the chalk and was identical to deposit [7]. A slot excavated through the brickearth revealed that it extended up to 0.37m in depth at 85.57m OD.

Phase 2 – Subsoil

7.6.2 Sealing [14] was subsoil [13] which was identical to deposit [6] and extended up to 0.24m in thickness at 85.87m OD.

Phase 4 – Early 20th century

7.6.3 Cutting through [13] at the southern end of the trench and extending into the western and eastern limits of excavation was an east-west aligned linear cut [20] measuring 1.80m in width and 2.20m in length as seen at 85.25m OD. The fill of this feature [19] was found to contain significant quantities of compressed asbestos sheeting, and for this reason it was not excavated by hand. A machine slot across the width of the cut revealed that [20] extended up to 0.35m in depth and it was recorded with concave sides and a flat base. The precise function of [20] was unclear, although the asbestos sheeting present within [19] suggested that it was backfilled during the 20th century.

7.6.4 The width of the cut and the fact that it was backfilled with rubble material suggested that it related to an episode of demolition, most probably the destruction of a temporary army issue building constructed during World War I. As such, [20] is most likely to have once housed the footings for the World War I building, although these shallow foundations had clearly been removed prior to backfilling the construction cut with demolition rubble. A machine pressed brick recovered from [19] provided a post-1850 date of deposition (Appendix 2), which would fit with this hypothesis.

Phase 5 – Modern

7.6.5 Topsoil [+] sealed [19] and was up to 0.14m thick at between 85.96m OD and 85.45m OD.

7.7 Trench 7 (Figs 2 & 4)

Phase 1 – Natural

7.7.1 Trench 7 measured 9.66m in length from east to west and 2.36m in width from north to south. The earliest deposit encountered at the base of the trench was the natural chalk [27]. Identical to deposit [8] in Trench [1], [27] was recorded at a highest level of 85.86m OD.

Phase 2 – Subsoil

7.7.2 Sealing [27] was subsoil [26] which was identical to [6] and measured up to 0.17m in thickness at between 85.96m OD and 86.07m OD.

Phase 4 – Early 20th century

7.7.3 Cutting through the subsoil was linear cut [25] which was recorded at a highest level of 86.05m OD. As seen this feature extended into the western, northern and southern limits of excavation and was aligned in an east-west direction before returning at a right angle towards the south at its eastern end. Measuring 7.42m in length as seen the east-west alignment of this feature totalled 0.84m in width whilst the north-south return extended up to 3.20m in width. The entire feature was backfilled with [24], a loose deposit of dark grey demolition rubble containing compressed sheet asbestos, brick rubble and fragments of tar roofing.

7.7.4 Due to the presence of asbestos this feature was not excavated, but with the backfill containing material identical to that within cut [20] in Trench 6 it was clear that these two features were contemporary. As such, cut [25] was interpreted as a former shallow foundation cut associated with a World War I army issue building. Following the demolition of this early 20th-century structure and the removal of its footings, construction cut [25] was backfilled with rubble, presumably from the building itself. A continuation of the east-west alignment of [25] was also observed to the west in the south-eastern corner of Trench 5, although this portion of the cut was removed by machine during the evaluation process.

Phase 5 – Modern

7.7.5 Topsoil [+] sealed [24], measuring up to 0.12m in thickness at between 86.09m OD and 86.39m OD.

7.8 Trench 8 (Fig. 2)

Phase 1 – Natural

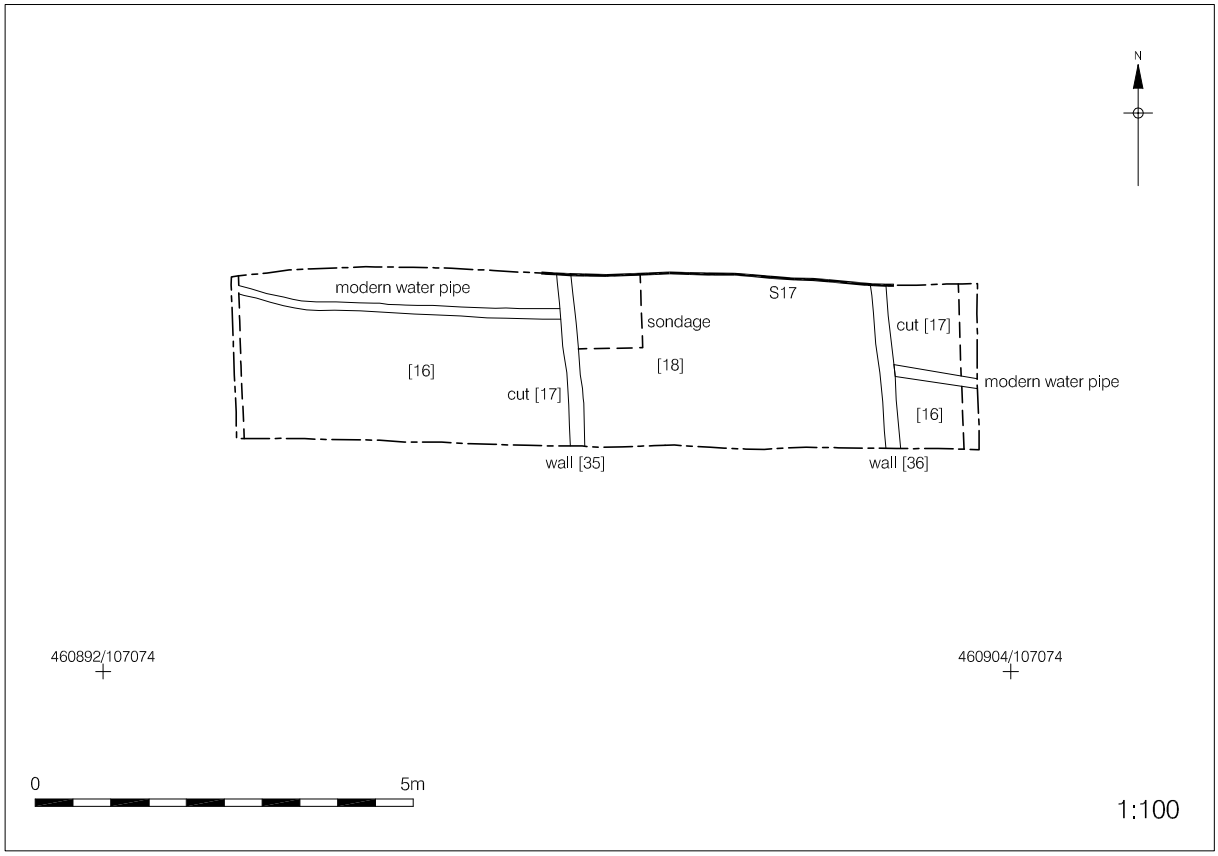
7.8.1 Trench 8 was aligned in an east-west direction measuring 9.76m in length and 2.16m in width. The earliest deposit encountered at the base of the trench was the natural chalk [23] which was observed at between 87.57m OD and 87.67m OD and was identical to deposit [8] in Trench 1. At the eastern end of the trench a deposit of brickearth [22] was recorded as overlying the chalk and was described as identical to context [7]. A 0.56m wide sondage was hand excavated across this natural deposit which extended up to 0.21m in depth at 87.66m OD.

Phase 2 – Subsoil

7.8.2 Sealing the brickearth was subsoil [21], described as identical to context [6] in Trench 1 and extending up to 0.19m in thickness at 87.89m OD.

Phase 5 – Modern

7.8.3 Topsoil [+] overlay the subsoil measuring up to 0.19m in thickness at between 87.91m OD and 88.10m OD.



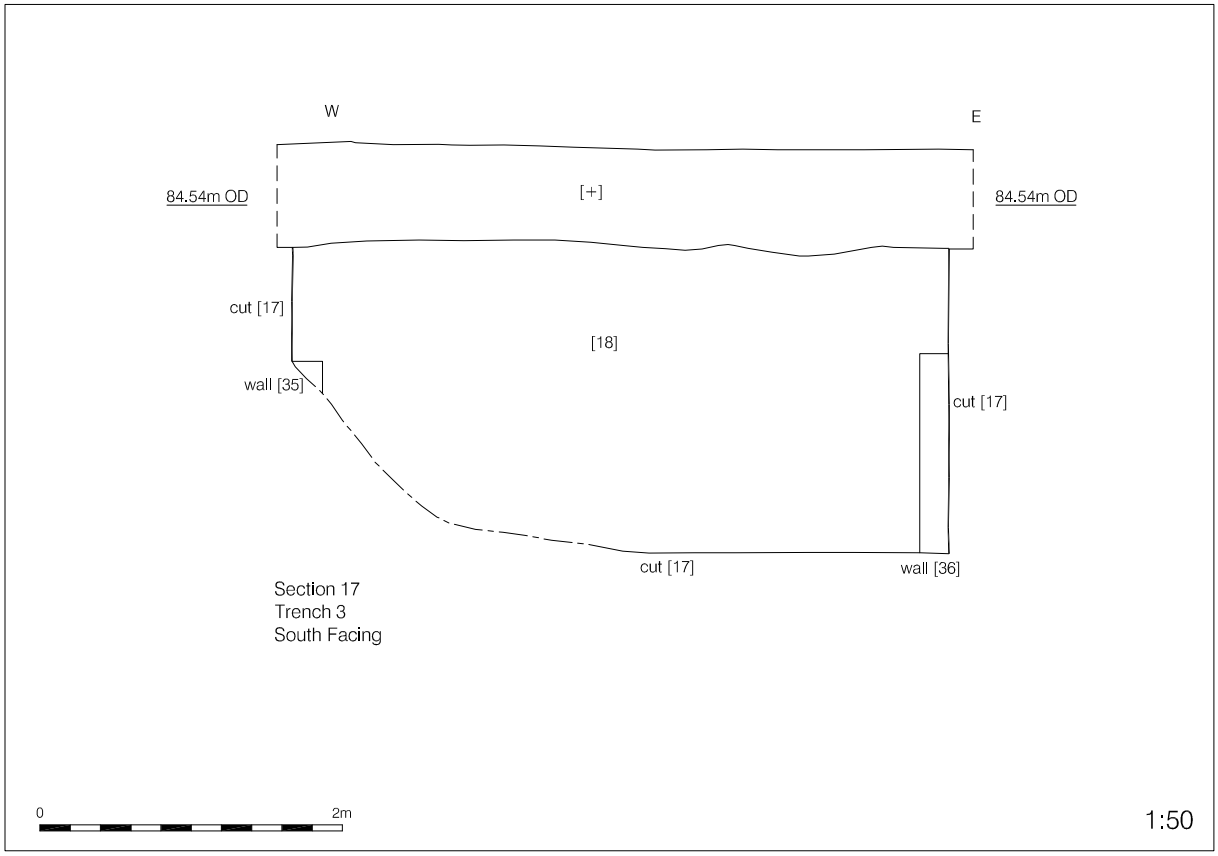


Figure 3
Trench 3 and Section 17
Plan 1:100; Section 1:50 at A4

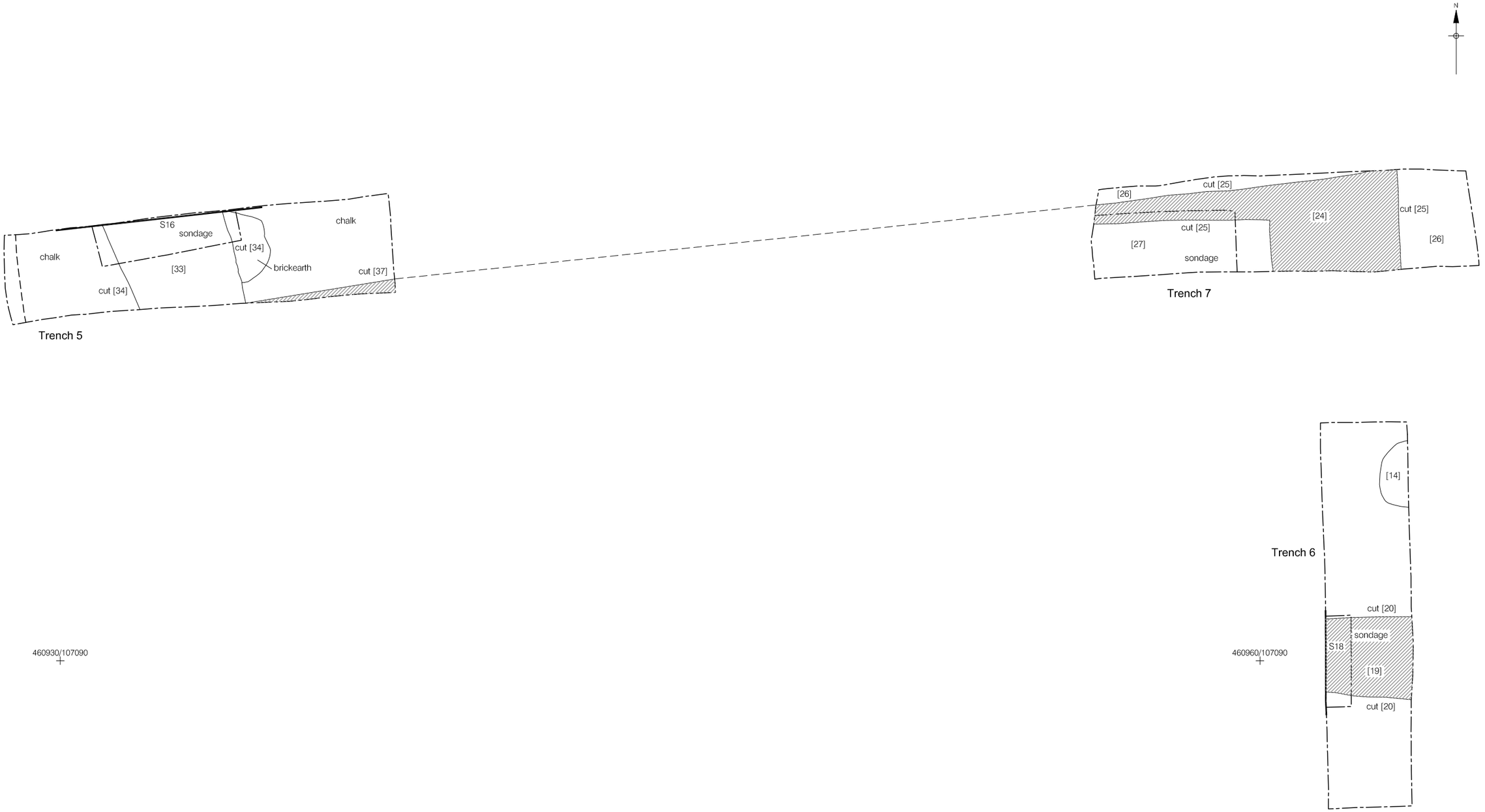
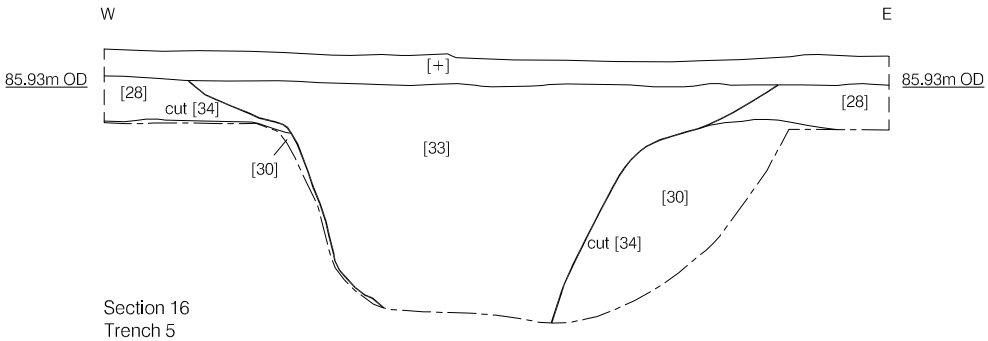
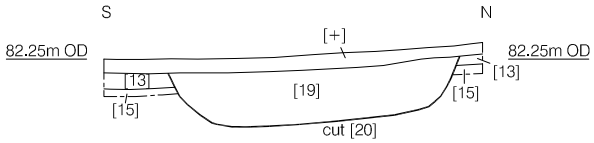


Figure 4
Plan of Trenches 5, 6 & 7
1:100 at A3



Section 16
Trench 5
South Facing



Section 18
Trench 6
East Facing

0 2m

Figure 5
Sections 16 & 18
1:50 at A4

8 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

8.1 One of the principal objectives of the archaeological evaluation was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological activity of any period.

8.2 No archaeological activity predating the 19th century was discovered during the evaluation. In Trench 3 however, a deep linear cut lined on both sides with red brick walls was recorded as extending into both the northern and southern limits of excavation. The demolition material situated within this feature suggested that it was backfilled during the late 19th century and that the structure itself was likely to be contemporary with the fort. With so little of this feature revealed it could not be accurately interpreted, although it may once have functioned as either a tunnel or a sunken thoroughfare, possibly providing covered access to the fort.

8.3 Shallow linear cuts containing backfilled demolition material (including compressed asbestos sheeting) were observed in Trenches 6 and 7. A further continuation of the Trench 7 feature was also noted during the machining process in Trench 5. These features had previously been identified during the geophysical survey of the area, and were subsequently targeted by the evaluation trenches. These cuts were all interpreted as foundation trenches for the army issue buildings erected to the south and east of the fort during World War I as part of a major transit camp containing accommodation for a large number of personnel and stabling. The geophysical survey of the site suggested a tight grid formation, with at least four rows of three units visible. The evaluation has demonstrated that following the demolition of these buildings and the removal of the shallow foundations, the footing trenches were subsequently backfilled with demolition material, presumably from the building itself.

8.4 Within Trench 5 a north-south orientated possible boundary ditch was recorded which had previously been identified during the geophysical survey of the site. The layout of the World War I camp buildings either side of this boundary suggests that it had been backfilled by this time, although the presence of a fragment of compressed asbestos tile within the backfill would suggest that this process took place immediately prior to the construction of the camp.

8.5 The underlying geology of the site comprised of weathered upper chalk of Santonian Age (100-65 Ma). In places this chalk had been cryoturbated (frost churned), with the resulting cracks subsequently being filled with deposits of brickearth.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Andy Shelley of Gifford for commissioning the work on behalf of the client, the Royal Armouries. Thanks also to Tracy Matthews, Archaeological Officer at Winchester City Council, for monitoring the site on behalf of the Local Planning Authority,

9.2 The author would like to thank Aidan Turner for all of his assistance on site; Jenny Simonson for the illustrations; Nathalie Barrett for the surveying and Tim Bradley for his project management and editing.

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APPENDIX 1 – CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Site Code	Context	Phase	Type	Trench No.	Sec. No.	Description
PFNF 08	6	2	Layer	1	12	Subsoil
PFNF 08	7	1	Natural	1	11	Brickearth
PFNF 08	8	1	Natural	1	-	Chalk
PFNF 08	9	1	Natural	2	10	Chalk
PFNF 08	10	2	Layer	2	10	Subsoil
PFNF 08	11	3	Fill	1	-	Fill of [12]
PFNF 08	12	3	Cut	1	-	Small Pit
PFNF 08	13	2	Layer	6	13	Subsoil
PFNF 08	14	1	Natural	6	13	Brickearth
PFNF 08	15	1	Natural	6	13, 18	Chalk
PFNF 08	16	1	Natural	3	-	Chalk
PFNF 08	17	3	Cut	3	17	Deep Linear Cut
PFNF 08	18	3	Fill	3	17	Fill of [17]
PFNF 08	19	4	Fill	6	18	Fill of [20]
PFNF 08	20	4	Cut	6	18	Demolition Cut
PFNF 08	21	2	Layer	8	14	Subsoil
PFNF 08	22	1	Natural	8	14	Brickearth
PFNF 08	23	1	Natural	8	14	Chalk
PFNF 08	24	4	Fill	7	-	Fill of [25]
PFNF 08	25	4	Cut	7	-	Demolition Cut
PFNF 08	26	2	Layer	7	19	Subsoil
PFNF 08	27	1	Natural	7	19	Chalk
PFNF 08	28	2	Layer	5	16	Subsoil
PFNF 08	29	1	Natural	5	-	Brickearth
PFNF 08	30	1	Natural	5	16	Chalk

PFNF 08	31	2	Layer	4	15	Subsoil
Site Code	**Context**	**Phase**	**Type**	**Trench No.**	**Sec. No.**	**Description**
PFNF 08	32	1	Natural	4	15	Chalk
PFNF 08	33	4	Fill	5	16	Fill of [34]
PFNF 08	34	4	Cut	5	16	Pit
PFNF 08	35	3	Masonry	3	17	Wall on Western Side of [17]
PFNF 08	36	3	Masonry	3	17	Wall on Eastern Side of [17]
PFNF	37	4	Cut	5	-	Demolition Cut

APPENDIX 2 – BUILDING MATERIAL

Kevin Hayward

Two shoe boxes of ceramic building material and burnt flint from Fort Nelson, Fareham were examined to determine the fabric type and date. Essentially the three whole bricks retained from Trench 3 [18] and Trench 6 [19] are machined, deep frogged brick with fresh Roman and Portland mortar. Machine-frogged bricks were only produced after 1850 and a more precise date of 1880 -1950 should be given for both contexts as the bricks have such fresh mortar and sharp arrises. It is probable that these red bricks relate to the construction of the fort or, more probably, 1892-3 repairs.

Spot Dates

Context	Fabric	Form	Size	Date range of material		Latest dated material		Spot date
unstrat Trench 4	3117	Burnt Flint	2	10000BC	1600	10000BC	1600	Prehistoric
11	Local silty peg tile	Abraded Peg Tile Silty	1	1450	1900	1450	1900	1450-1900
18	3033 3101	Machine frogged local red brick Roman cement some reuse	3	1850	1950	1880	1950	1880-1950
19	3033 3101	Machine frogged local red brick Portland cement	2	1850	1950	1850	1950	1880-1950

APPENDIX 3 – THE METAL FINDS

Märit Gaimster

Around 80 metal objects were retrieved from the excavations, with the majority consisting of iron nails, tacks, nuts and other structural fittings in the form of an incomplete hinge and iron straps or mounts. All finds are listed in the tables below. Personal finds, in the form of dress accessories, are present in the form of four buttons (Trench 1, 2 and 6); a simple D-shaped iron buckle may be from a belt strap (Trench 2). Only three finds, fragments of World War II shell shrapnel (Trench 2 and 7) and a copper-alloy military general service button (Trench 1), have a specific connection to the military function of the site. With the exception of a residual Roman coin, all finds are post-medieval to modern in date.

Recommendations

The metal finds from Fort Nelson form an integral part of the material recovered during excavation and should, where relevant, be included in any further publication of the site. The current assemblage, however, does not appear to merit any further work, although, if required, it might be useful to seek further identification of the lead alloy fitting from Trench 2 (?possibly part of a mouth organ). The residual Roman coin should be further identified as a matter of course.

TRENCH 1			
context	**description**	**date**	**recommendation**
0	copper-alloy coin	Roman	further id
	copper-alloy wire; one folded-up length; gauge 1.3mm	pmed	
	domed copper-alloy military general service button with the Royal Coat of Arms of the United Kingdom and the King's crown; complete; marked FIRMIN & SONS LTD, LONDON, diam. 17mm	1875+	
	lead-alloy dished suspender button; diam. 14mm	pmed	
	iron square nut; complete; 30 x 32mm	pmed	
	Iron strap/wedge with tongue-shaped end; incomplete; W 35mm	pmed	
	iron nails; 21 mostly incomplete; four machine cut Type B	19th century	discard
11	iron nail; machine cut Type B; L 95mm	19th century	

TRENCH 2			
context	**description**	**date**	**recommendation**
0	lead-alloy dished suspender button; diam. 17mm	pmed	
	simple tinned-iron strap buckle; complete D-shaped; W 30mm; L 35mm	pmed	
	rectangular 28 x 140mm lead-alloy plate/fitting with 16 rectangular cut slots of increasing length, 7-13mm; ?part of mouth organ	pmed	?further id
	iron hinge with narrow rectangular 20 x 100mm plates; incomplete	pmed	
	iron screw-grip nail with domed head and circular rubber washer;; L 80mm	modern	discard
	WW2 metal shell shrapnel; two fragments; circular base with central hole; exterior threading and band of knurled indentations	pmed	

TRENCH 3			
context	**description**	**date**	**recommendation**
18	iron strap mount; rectangular with three holes for fixing at each end; L 200mm; W 37mm	pmed	
	iron square-section pin/spike with angled and slightly domed head; L 135mm	pmed	
	iron tacks with large circular heads; three complete; head diam. 20mm	pmed	

TRENCH 4			
context	**description**	**date**	**recommendation**
0	copper-alloy strip/waste; W 4mm; L 45mm	pmed	
	iron square nut; complete; 27 x 27mm	pmed	
	iron pin/screw with hexagonal head; incomplete; gauge 5mm	pmed	
	iron tacks with large circular heads; three complete; head diam. 20mm	pmed	
	iron nails; ten incomplete	pmed	discard
	iron tacks with large circular heads; three complete; head diam. 20mm	pmed	

	iron wire; six pieces	pmed	discard
	threaded iron object; three pieces; ht. 35mm	pmed	

TRENCH 6			
context	**description**	**date**	**recommendation**
0	copper-alloy coat/blazer button with plain flat disc and wire fastening loop; diam. 14mm	pmed	
	iron ?tin lid; three pieces; moulded surface; one edge pierced for fixing	pmed	
	iron rectangular strap/mount; substantial with one hole at each end for fixing; W 25mm; L 190mm	pmed	

TRENCH 7			
context	**description**	**date**	**recommendation**
0	iron tin or vessel; several large fragments	pmed	
	iron ?wire/fence tightener; two parallel iron pins fixed to a spiral coil at each end; L 305mm	pmed	
	iron strap/mount; W 25mm; L 240mm	pmed	
	small iron staple for fence wire; complete		
	iron tacks with large circular heads; five complete; head diam. 20mm	pmed	
	lead washer; circular sheet with coarsely made central hole; diam. 35mm	pmed	
	lead sheet waste; one 15 x 30mm folded-up piece	pmed	
	WW2 metal shell shrapnel; one fragment only with exterior threading above band of knurled indentations	pmed	

TRENCH 8			
context	**description**	**date**	**recommendation**
0	iron square nut; complete; 34 x 34mm	pmed	
0	iron nails; two incomplete	pmed	discard

APPENDIX 4 – POTTERY

Chris Jarrett

A single sherd of pottery was recovered from the excavation. This was retrieved from Phase 3, fill [18] of the construction cut [17] (Trench 3). The pottery sherd consists of the base sherd from a refined white ware rounded bowl with a footring. The pottery dates from 1805-1900.

The pottery has little significance and there are no recommendations for further work.

APPENDIX 5 – OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-74428

Project details

Project name	Fort Nelson, Near Fareham, Hampshire
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land at Fort Nelson near Fareham, Hampshire. The evaluation comprised of eight evaluation trenches measuring 10m x 2m. No evidence of archaeological activity was recorded predating the 19th century. In Trench 3 a deep north-south aligned linear cut was revealed and was lined on both sides by red brick walls. The backfilling of this feature dated to the late 19th century suggesting that the structure itself was contemporary with the Fort, possibly in the form of a tunnel or sunken thoroughfare. Shallow linear cuts recorded in Trenches 5, 6 and 7 were interpreted as construction cuts for a military building constructed outside the Fort during WW1. They had all been backfilled with contaminated demolition material.
Project dates	Start: 01-03-2010 End: 11-03-2010
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	PFNF08 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	TUNNEL? Post Medieval

Monument type	LINEAR FEATURES Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Metal Detectors','Targeted Trenches'
Developmen t type	Car park (flat)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE WINCHESTER BOARHUNT Fort Nelson, Near Fareham, Hampshire
Study area	9680.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 6070 0710 50.8596627664 -1.137462761330 50 51 34 N 001 08 14 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 84.18m Max: 87.67m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Gifford
Project design originator	Tim Bradley and Charlotte Matthews
Project director/manager	Tim Bradley
Project supervisor	Alexis Haslam

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Winchester Museums
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass','Metal'
Digital Archive recipient	Winchester Museums
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Digital Media available	'Survey','Text'
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Diary','Drawing','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey ','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at Fort Nelson, Near Fareham, Hampshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Haslam, A
Date	2010
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Brockley
Entered by	Alexis Haslam (ahaslam@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	17 March 2010

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