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Event LS 2078

Humber Field Archaeology

Archaeological Consultants and Contractors

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

AT

Humberside Airport Kirmington

National Grid Reference: **TA 0916 1060**
SMR Reference: **NLSMR/AW/DE03/04**
Site Code: **WB2003.034**
Museum Reference: **KIMBI**

for

Humberside Airport

Watching Brief Report Number: 605
June 2003

Contents

The Old School
Northumberland Avenue
Kingston upon Hull
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Summary

Archaeological fieldwork was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology during groundwork associated with the initial stages of construction of an aircraft parking area to the south of the Eastern Airways hanger and apron, on Franklin Way, at Humberside Airport, Kirmington, North Lincolnshire, DN39 6YH.

Previous watching briefs, undertaken both to the north of the site in 1996 and to the south of the site in 1995, revealed archaeological features, in the form of ditches containing Romano-British pottery dated to the 2nd century AD. Cropmark evidence and the results of a geophysical survey of the area strongly suggested the presence of further similar features on the site of the proposed development.

Monitoring of the site strip revealed a number of archaeological features, which were dominated by two parallel linear ditches, probably representing a ditched trackway. Further ditches were seen to the east of the trackway and represented the boundaries of, and sub-divisions within, a series of associated rectangular enclosures. A number of small pits, of unknown use, were also noted lying within the confines of the enclosures. A moderate assemblage of Romano-British pottery was recovered during the progress of the watching brief, which indicated that the site had been occupied during the earlier part of the 2nd century AD.

There seems little doubt that the trackway and associated enclosures were a south-western continuation of a Romano-British civil settlement that developed around a late 1st century AD military fort situated to the north of the A18.

The pottery recovered from the site has close parallels with a number of 2nd century AD Romano-British rural settlements in North Lincolnshire, notably Glebe Farm near Barton on Humber, Dragonby and Old Winteringham.

The trackway and some enclosure ditches were seen to extend beyond the southern boundary of the development site, and any further work in that area would almost certainly find archaeological features Romano-British date.

1. Introduction

Archaeological fieldwork was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology on behalf of Humberside Airport, during the initial stages of the groundwork associated with the construction of an aircraft parking area, to the south of the Eastern Airways hanger and apron, on Franklin Way, Humberside Airport, Kirmington, North Lincolnshire, DN39 6YH (*Figure 1*). The work was carried out over a five day period between 22nd and 28th April, 2003.

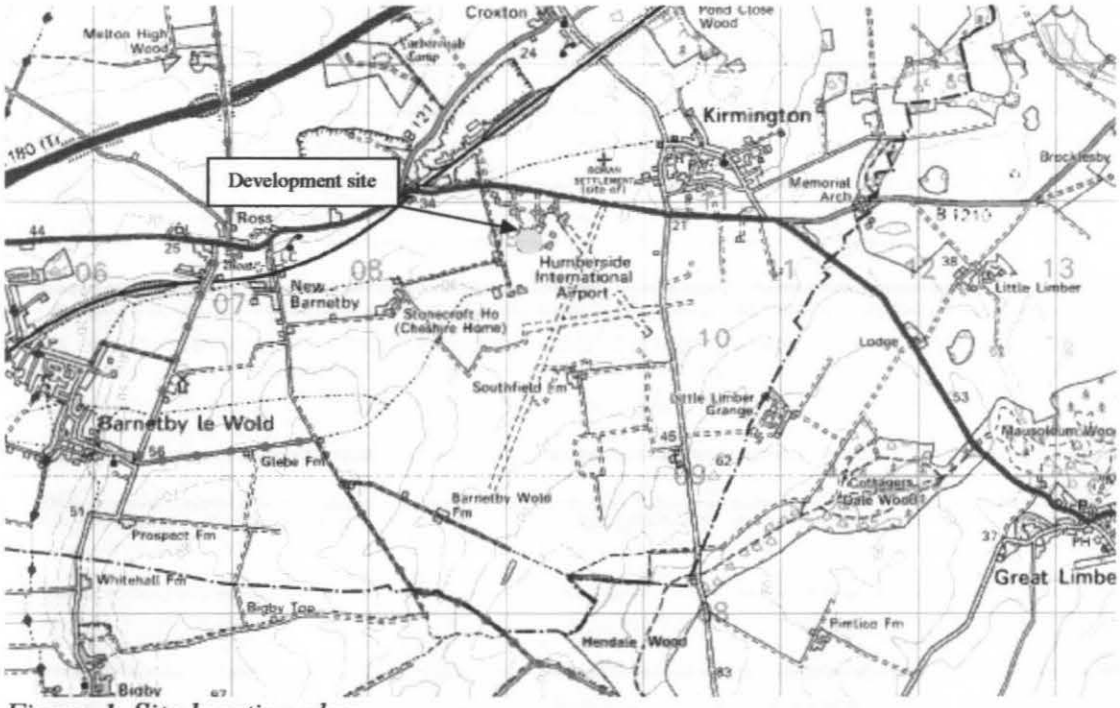

Figure 1. Site location plan.

Site Code: WB2003.034
National Grid Reference: (centre) TA 0916 1060
SMR Reference: NLSMR/AW/DE03/04
Museum Reference: KIMBI

The development site occupies 3,078 sq.m of land, located on the south-west side of the Eastern Airways hanger and hanger apron on Franklin Way (NGR: centre TA 0916 1060). It lay approximately mid-way between Hall Way to the north and the fire station and fuel farm to the south; the airport runway lay to the east. Prior to development the site consisted of an unused, flat, grassed area, lying at approximately 25.0m OD.

2. Archaeological Background

The underlying geology consists of an 'island' of high level laminated clay and glacial lake deposits of the Quaternary Age, set in to the Upper Cretaceous Welton Chalk of the Lincolnshire Wolds (British Geological Survey 1982, Sheet 89 Brigg, Solid and Drift editions, 1:50,000 series). The soil cover consists of well drained, coarse, loamy, brown earths (the Wick series), intermixed with gleyic brown earths (the Arrow series) and typical brown sands (the Newport series), (Soils of England and Wales, 1983, Sheet 1 Northern England, 1:250,000).

The airport lies in the area of the Kirmington-Barnetby Gap, a major valley through the northern section of the Lincolnshire Wolds, and was thus a natural line of east to west communication. This route appeared to have been a natural focus for human activity, in use from the early prehistoric period (Williams 2003 NLSMR).

The site of the development lies to the south of the scheduled Roman fort and Iron Age/Romano-British settlement at Kirmington (Scheduled Monument County no. 217), which is situated to the north of the A18. Aerial photographic information, geophysical survey and evidence from field-walking have shown that the settlement extended over a large area. A series of enclosures lie adjacent to a north-east to south-west aligned, ditched track-way that runs from the scheduled area to the north, through this part of the airport. A number of enclosures appear to be located in the area of the development, situated between Hall Way and the fire station.

Archaeological features and artefacts dating from the Romano-British period have been recorded during a series of watching briefs carried out at the airport over the last decade. A watching brief undertaken in 1996 during construction of the Eastern Airways hanger and apron, revealed the presence of features in the form of linear ditches, dating from the 2nd to possibly the 4th century AD, in the area immediately to the north of current development (Atkinson 1996). Further evidence of occupation during the Romano-British period was found during the construction of the airport fire station to the south of the current area, when ditches containing 2nd century pottery were recorded.

Kirmington Airfield itself was constructed for RAF Bomber Command during the Second World War, work beginning in late 1941 and completed in mid-1942. The airfield was initially used by No.15 (Pilots) Advanced Flying School, but was later home to 166 Squadron, flying Wellington and Lancaster bombers.

Any groundworks in this area had the potential to encounter archaeological deposits relating to the Iron Age and Romano-British periods.

3. Methodology

The on-site work associated with this project was carried out by staff from Humber Field Archaeology in accordance with the archaeological specification produced by The North Lincolnshire Sites & Monuments Record Office, Date: 09/01/03, NLSMR Reference: AW/DE03/04.

The on-site recording methodology employed was in accordance with the procedures laid down in a site specific Project Design for archaeological fieldwork (Atkinson, January 2003).

The scheme of works comprised the monitoring of the site strip over a period of five days between the 22nd April and the 28th April 2003 in which time it was possible to monitor the topsoil strip. Any exposed areas of subsoil and lower stratigraphic units were examined for archaeological deposits.

The excavated dimensions of the development area were noted, as were the depth sequences of the exposed stratigraphy. Where archaeological features were detected, they were recorded by appropriate means: plans/sections and a photographic record, where conditions permitted.

Archaeological artefacts found during the on-site work were bagged according to their context, and returned to Humber Field Archaeology for further specialist analysis.

4. Results

The first visit to the site was made on the 22nd April 2003 with the intention of monitoring the first part of the site strip. This was not possible due to the fact that the arrival of the mechanical excavator had been delayed by a day.

During the subsequent four visits undertaken between 23rd and 28th of April it was possible to observe the stripping of the topsoil and the ground reduction, at some stages, both of which appeared to be happening concurrently. Initially a flat toothless bucket was used, but this was soon abandoned in favour of a larger, toothed bucket. This was due to a combination of the hard ground conditions encountered and the contractors' fear of falling behind schedule. The use of the toothed bucket and the amount of machinery on the site at one time made the identification and subsequent recording of the archaeological features very difficult indeed. The site was then bulldozed and stoned-up.

The underlying natural subsoil [1008] was encountered on average 0.30m–0.40m below the surface of the topsoil and was seen to consist of mixed patches of brownish-pink clay and white chalk gravel. Along the southern edge of the site, where the ground reduction was at its deepest (1.30m), the natural subsoil [1008] was seen to consist of a 0.70m thick layer of clay and gravel, sitting on top of a more compacted, cleaner, brownish-pink clay, which was at least 0.30m deep (23.20m OD-24.20m OD).

Situated towards the western edge of the site were two, parallel north-east to south-west aligned ditches [1031] and [1025]. The western-most of the two [1031], was seen to have been at least 18.0m long and had a maximum width of 4.0m. It appeared to terminate to the north-east, however, there was a possibility that it may have continued, but was not visible due either to the ground conditions, or by having been truncated during the machining. Part of the western edge of ditch [1031] also appeared to have been disturbed by a modern sewer trench [1047], that ran for 24.0m along the western edge of the development area. Ditch [1031] contained a fill [1030] which consisted of a compacted, mottled, mid-dark, red-orange and grey-brown, silt-clay, containing chalk and flint gravel and occasional charcoal flecks. At its highest surviving point the surface of the ditch fill [1030] was encountered at a depth of 23.73m OD. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Lying approximately 6.0m to the south-east of [1031] was ditch [1025]. It was seen well to the north, but less so to the south. Its recorded length was at least 12.0m, but it may well have run across the whole of the development site. It had a maximum width of 4.5m. The fill [1024] consisted of a mixed, grey and red-brown, silt-clay with moderate chalk pieces. Romano-British pottery sherds, including Greyware and Shell-tempered ware, dating to the earlier part of the second century AD century, along with a residual flint flake (RF 1), were recovered from the ditch fill. The surface of the ditch fill was encountered at a height of 23.44m OD.

Running in an easterly direction from ditch [1025], along the northern edge of the site, was an east-west aligned ditch [1007]. It was at least 30.0m long, was 4.0m wide and at its eastern extent appeared to turn to run off in a north-easterly direction. At that point the ditch narrowed to become 2.20m wide. The ditch fill [1006] was a compacted, mid orange-brown, sandy, silt-clay with frequent chalk pieces. Romano-British pottery of early 2nd century AD century date was recovered from the ditch and included Greyware, Shell-tempered ware and Rusticated ware. A perforated ceramic disc made from the base of a Greyware pot (RF 2), probably used as a spindle whorl, was also recovered from the ditch fill. A possible animal burial [1019], which lay between the depths of 23.31m and 23.37m OD, appeared to have been inserted into the ditch fill towards the eastern end. Pottery recovered from around [1019] was of the same date as the ditch. This possible animal burial was taken as an environmental sample (environmental sample No. 2). At its highest surviving point towards the western end the surface of ditch fill [1006] was encountered at 23.82m OD. At the eastern end it was encountered at a depth of 23.79m OD. The relationship between ditches [1025] and [1007] could not be established.

A further stretch of ditch [1018] was noted running eastwards from the point where ditch [1007] changed alignment. It was at least 10m long, 1.50m wide and it petered out at the eastern end where it had been truncated by the machining. It ran on the same alignment as ditch [1007] and may have been a precursor to it. It contained a fill [1017] which consisted of a firm, mid-brown, sandy, silt-clay containing occasional chalk pieces. Sherds of Romano-British Greyware pottery from the earlier 2nd century AD were recovered from this fill. At its highest surviving point the top of fill [1017} was seen to lie at a depth of 23.80m OD. At its eastern end, ditch [1018] had survived to a depth of 23.41m OD, but ceased to exist at a depth below that.

Lying approximately 7.0m to the south-east of, and on the same north-east to south-west alignment as ditch [1025], was a narrow ditch [1023]. To the north it extended beyond the development area and to the south it appeared to have been truncated by ditch [1007]. It was at least 4.0m long and 1.0m wide and it contained a fill [1022], which consisted of a firm, mottled, red-brown and grey, silt-clay, with moderate chalk flecks. At its highest surviving point it lay at 23.82m OD. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Part of a similar narrow, north-south aligned ditch [1021] was seen to run south from the northern edge of the development area for approximately 10.0m before being lost to the ground conditions. It was 1.0m wide and contained a fill [1020], which was a soft, mid grey-brown silt-clay with chalk and flint inclusions. Finds recovered from this feature included oyster shell, animal bone and Romano-British pottery of early 2nd century AD date.

Situated to the south of the eastern end of ditch [1007] were a group of five pits. Four of the pits [1033], [1035], [1037] and [1041] were similar in nature, being roughly circular in shape, with diameters of between 0.80m and 0.84m. The fills [1032], [1034], [1036] and [1040] were also fairly similar and consisted of orange-brown, sandy-silt with occasional chalk gravel and charcoal flecks. There were no finds recovered from any of the above pits. Pit [1039] was slightly larger and was oval in shape. It was 1.30m long, 0.90m wide and contained a fill [1038] which was a mid grey-brown, sandy-silt containing occasional chalk and flint gravel and charcoal flecks. No finds were recovered from any of these pits.

Lying approximately 10.0m to the south-west was a larger pit [1046]. It was circular in plan with a diameter of 2.0m. The pit fill [1045] consisted of a firm, mid grey-brown, friable, sandy-silt with occasional chalk flecks. No finds were recovered from this pit.

A 12.0m long stretch of ditch [1043] was noted lying to the east of pit [1046]. It was aligned west-north-west to east-south-east, it was 0.82m wide and its eastern and western extents were not visible due to the ground conditions. It contained a fill [1042] which was a firm, mid-dark, mottled grey-brown and orange, silt-clay containing moderate chalk and flint gravel and occasional charcoal flecks. The fill contained no finds.

Another partial stretch of ditch [1003] was noted towards the eastern edge of the development area. It was aligned north-east to south-west and was at least 9.5m long and was 3.70m wide. At its south-western extent it appeared to have turned to run in a north-westerly direction, however its true course was obscured by the ground conditions. At its north-eastern extent it appeared to either turn to run off to the south-east, or was joined by a separate south-east to north-west aligned ditch. The true course of the ditch to the north-east was obscured by an area of disturbed soil, presumably spoil resulting from the construction of modern services and associated man-hole [1048]. Ditch [1003] contained a fill [1002] which consisted of a compacted, mid orange-brown, sandy, silt-clay with frequent chalk pieces. At its highest surviving point fill [1002] was encountered at a depth of 23.91m OD. Animal bone, slag and Romano-British pottery of early 2nd century AD date, including Greyware and Shell-tempered ware, were recovered from the fill of the ditch.

A further west-north-west to east-south-east aligned ditch [1016] was seen to run across the southern corner of the site. It was at least 20.0m long, at least 2.10m wide and contained a fill [1015] which consisted of a firm, mid orange-brown, sandy, clay-silt containing moderate chalk pieces. At its highest surviving point it was encountered at 24.13m OD. No finds were recovered from this ditch.

Running roughly north from its junction with ditch [1016] was ditch [1012]. It ran for approximately 13.0m before being obscured by the ground conditions. It was 2.70m wide at its maximum point and it contained a fill [1011], which was a firm, mid grey-brown, sandy clay-silt containing moderate chalk pieces. At its highest surviving point the surface of ditch fill [1011] lay at 24.13m OD. Sherds of Romano-British pottery dated to the earlier part of the 2nd century AD were recovered from this ditch and included Greywares, Shell-tempered ware, Rusticated ware and Samian.

Towards the visible northern extent of ditch [1012] two further ditches [1029] and [1014] were seen to join [1012] at right-angles, both being aligned roughly east to west. The western ditch [1028] was at least 26.0m long and was 1.30m wide. The western extent of the ditch remained unclear. The fill [1028] consisted of a firm, mid grey-brown, silt-clay with chalk and flint pieces and charcoal flecks. Animal bone and early 2nd century AD Romano-British pottery were recovered from the fill, the surface of which was encountered at 23.86m OD. Some late medieval sherds of Humberware were also recovered and were considered to have been either intrusive to the ditch or having resulted from the topsoil stripping, where they may have indicated medieval manuring of the fields. The eastern ditch [1014] ran eastwards from its junction with [1012], which was positioned directly opposite the junction between [1012] and [1029]. The recorded length of ditch [1014] was 5.0m, but it was considered to have continued eastwards for at least 18.0m. It was 1.55m wide and contained a firm, orange-brown, sandy, clay-silt fill [1013], with occasional chalk inclusions. The surface of [1013] lay at 23.86m OD and no finds were recovered from this fill.

Situated 1.20m to the south of the junction of ditches [1014] and [1012] was a small ditch or large slot [1010]. It ran eastwards from its junction with [1012] for 4.0m before turning through 90 degrees to run off southwards for 8.0m where it joined ditch [1016]. The fill [1009] was encountered at a depth of 24.05m OD and consisted of a firm, orange-brown, sandy, clay-silt. A dark grey patch within the fill, located adjacent to the junction with ditch [1012], appeared to contain burnt material and was taken as an environmental sample (environmental sample No. 1). Pottery from the earlier part of the 2nd century AD including Greywares, Shell-tempered ware and Rusticated ware, along with animal bone, were recovered from fill [1009]. There was a possibility that small ditch or slot [1010] was cut by ditch [1012].

One further small ditch or large slot [1027] was seen to lie to the west of ditch [1012]. It was aligned north-east to south-west, was 9.0m long, was 1.20m wide and appeared to have been truncated to the north by ditch [1029} and to the south by ditch [1016]. It contained a fill [1026] which consisted of a firm, mid-light, grey-brown, silt clay containing moderate chalk gravel. Some sherds of Romano-British pottery of earlier 2nd century AD date were recovered from fill [1026].

All of the above features were sealed below a layer of compacted subsoil [1044], which was on average 0.20m thick and consisted of a mid brown, silt-clay with moderate chalk gravel.

Cutting through subsoil [1044] and running along the full length of the site was the modern construction cut [1005] for the runway apron to the north. The backfill of which consisted of a compacted, mixed grey-brown clay [1004], which contained large amounts of chalk, brick and concrete rubble. The modern service trenches [1047] and [1048] already mentioned above, were also cut through subsoil layer [1044].

The whole site was sealed below the topsoil [1001] which varied in thickness between 0.10m and 0.20m and consisted of a firm, mid-dark, grey-brown, friable loam with chalk gravel, flint pieces and brick fragments. The surface of the topsoil rose by approximately 0.60m from north, where it lay at c. 3.90m OD, to south where it lay at 4.50m OD.

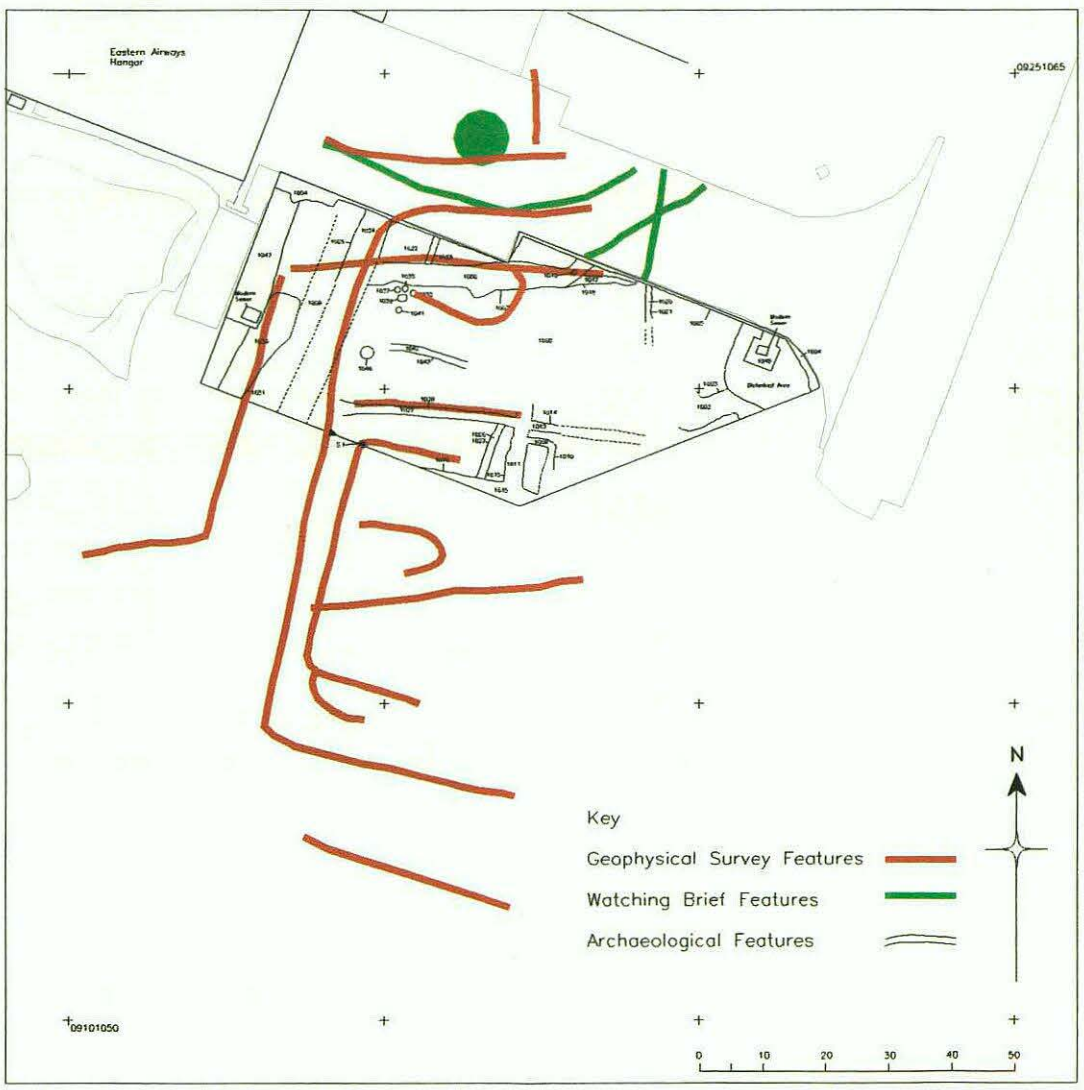

Figure 2 Plan showing the features in relation to those recorded by Geophysical survey and watching brief

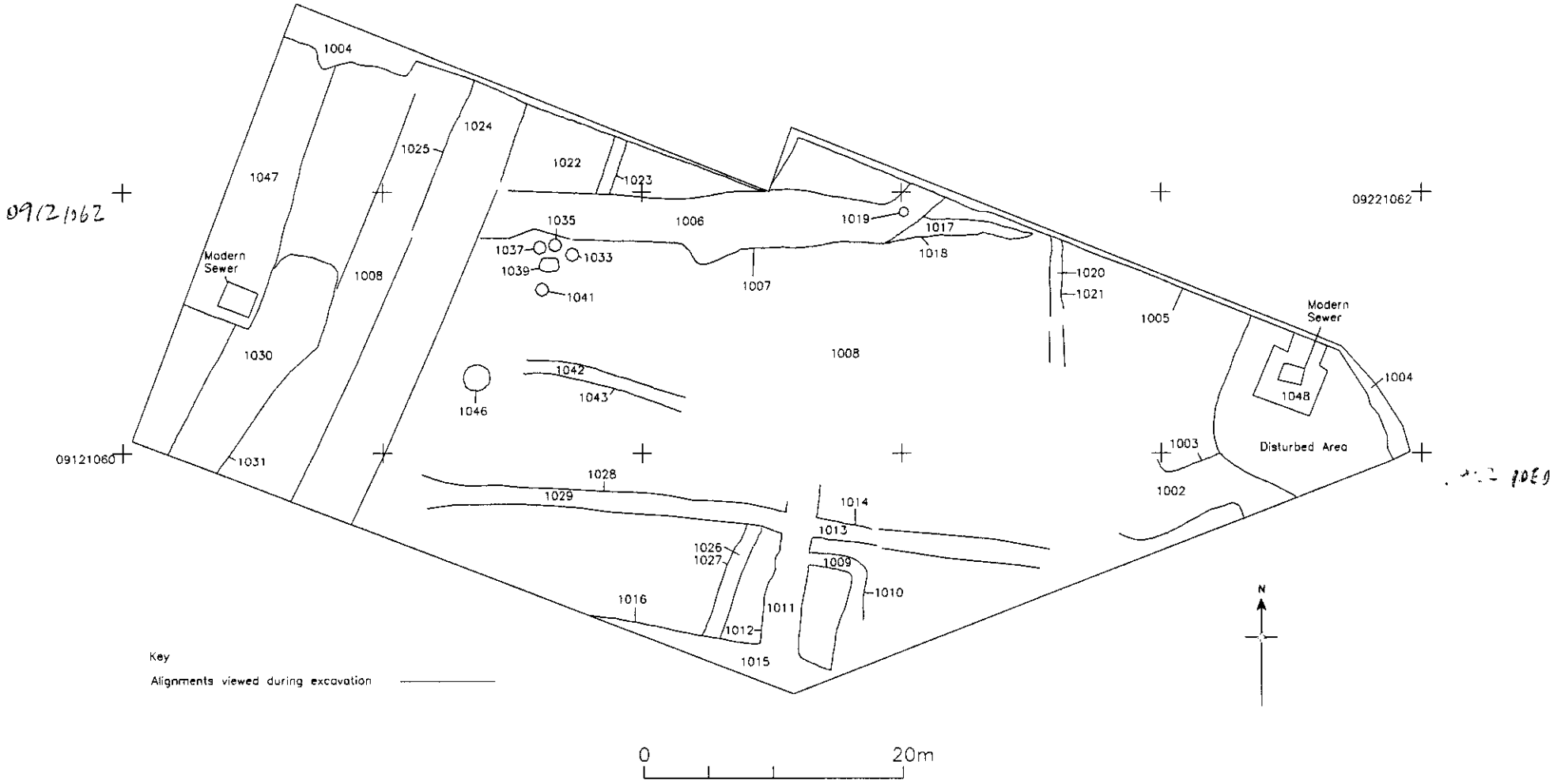

Figure 3 Recorded features in plan

5. The Finds

The Pottery *by Peter Didsbury M. Phil.*

Introduction and methodology

A total of 399 sherds, weighing 7546 grams, and having an average sherd weight of 18.9 grams, were submitted for examination. All but two sherds were of Romano-British date (see further below).

The assessment was undertaken over a period of two days in May 2003, and the amount of time available has dictated the level of assessment.

All material was quantified by the two measures of number and weight of sherds, according to fabric category within archaeological context. Data was entered onto an Access database, which is submitted as an integral part of this report, and which should be consulted on matters of detail where appropriate.

Fabric codes employed in the database are given in an appendix (below).

Spatial, chronological and fabric distribution of material

With the exception of a small number of unstratified sherds (context [1000]) all material came from ditches, specifically from the fills of Ditches [1003], [1007], [1010], [1012], [1018], [1021], [1025], [1027] and [1029]. Most assemblages were small, containing from 2 to 21 sherds. Three assemblages were significantly larger, however: Ditches [1007], [1010] and [1012] had 59, 193 and 66 sherds respectively, and between them accounted for 85.3% of the stratified assemblage by sherd count.

The material from all the above features derives from a single ceramic phase of second-century date and appears to represent closely contemporary deposition into the various cut features. Only in the case of fill [1011] of Ditch [1012] is there any sign of later material, represented by sherds of, no doubt intrusive, late medieval Humberware. Given the chronological homogeneity of the assemblages, the site assemblage is discussed as a single unit in the following section.

The range of fabrics present is tabulated below (Table 1). It may be observed that no mortaria were present, and only a single sherd of samian. Specialist opinion would be required in order to date the samian and the single amphora sherd.

Table 1. Fabric profile, whole site assemblage

Fabric	% no sherds (n = 399)	% weight of sherds (n = 7546 grams)
Fired clay	0.3	0.02
Humberware	0.5	0.8
Amphorae	0.3	1.5

Greyware	59.6	63.8
Coarse greyware	23.3	9.9
Greyware (greensand)	1.8	0.5
Rusticated	1.5	0.3
Oxidised	0.8	0.4
Samian	0.3	0.1
Shell-tempered	11.8	22.5
TOTALS:	100.2	99.8

Discussion

No chronological succession can be observed between the different assemblages. No cross-contextual joins were observed at this stage of assessment.

In general terms, the forms and fabrics represented are those commonly found in late first- and second-century assemblages on North Lincolnshire sites. Most material can be paralleled at three particular sites in the region. These are Glebe Farm, Barton on Humber (Didsbury, forthcoming); Dragonby (May 1996); and Old Winteringham (Stead 1976). The Humberside Airport site assemblage may be compared with those from Phase 1 at Glebe Farm (*c.* 125/150- 200); Horizons II and III (Flavian to early second century, and second century) at Dragonby; and the late first to earlier second-century groups at Old Winteringham.

The earliest chronologically diagnostic material present is rusticated ware, which was in production from *c.* AD 70-130. It appears in small amounts, possibly because the main production period was already drawing to a close when deposition took place. It is not likely that its absence indicates an end to ceramic deposition at the beginning of its production period. The question is also, however, complicated by questions relating to the way this highly distinctive product, most often associated with the proximity of the Roman military, was acquired on civilian sites.

A number of specific forms from these ditches first appear at Dragonby in the "Flavian to early second-century" Horizon II. These are noted in the database, but one particular type may be mentioned here, viz. a shallow dish with internally beaded rim which appears in Ditches [1007], [1012] and [1029]. Many such forms continue into Horizon III at Dragonby, but certain notable absences at Humberside Airport suggest that ceramic deposition ceased some considerable time before the end of the second century. There is no Dalesware present, a type which probably occurs first at Winterton Villa before AD 200, and nor are there any of the proto-Dalesware or shell-tempered everted rim jars which precede it in regional assemblages of the later second century. By far the greatest component of the assemblage consists of jars and bowls with horizontally everted or thickened ("clubbed") rims in black-faced fabrics. There is a succession of such types in North Lincolnshire. They evolve out of Late Iron Age prototypes and develop through hand-made and wheel-thrown, or partially wheel-thrown, versions in fabrics still within the indigenous tradition, into fine sand-tempered greywares as the century progresses. The fabrics and colouration of the examples from Humberside Airport suggest a point in the middle of this sequence, though it is difficult to ascribe precise chronological dates to the latter. Subjective opinion would suggest that these assemblages are unlikely to end much later than the

middle of the century, and this gains some support from comparison with the assemblages from Glebe Farm, Barton, which in general seems to present as a closely comparable assemblage from a rural site which has access to some quality Romanising products but was not fully integrated into Roman patterns of pottery consumption. Glebe Farm seemed to acquire no samian before *c.* AD 160, and its earliest possible mortaria cannot have pre-dated the early to mid Antonine period, *c.* AD 130-170. Likewise, colour-coated wares, completely absent at Humberside Airport, do not appear, and then only in small amounts, until Phase 2 (first and possibly second quarters of the third century).

Conclusions and recommendations

As an apparently chronologically homogeneous site assemblage of the earlier second century, the material from Humberside Airport has some potential for publication as a key regional group of this period. With the exception of Dragonby, and in advance of publication of the Glebe Farm material, no substantial groups of this period have been published to modern standards in the generation since the Winterton Villa report (Stead 1976). The present assemblages have re-building and illustration potential, and it is therefore recommended that the pottery should be brought to publication in a short discursive account, supported by illustrations, in a suitable regional journal. Refinement of fabric characterisation, and further literature search, could be undertaken at such a report stage. Specialist opinion on one sherd of samian, and one of amphora, would be required in connection with this.

All the material should be retained in an appropriate museum, in the interests of future ceramic research in the region.

Pottery data

ID	CTXT	RF	FABRIC	NO	WT	REMARKS
1	1026		RG	2	5	Two joining fragments (fresh fracture) from a carinated jar, Flavian through Antonine.
2	1006	2	RG	1	38	Sherd from base of vessel with original basal diameter of c. 90 mm. Black-faced sandy brown fabric. Central perforation with original diameter c. 20 mm made post cocturam.
3	1006		RSH	16	289	Black-faced shell-tempered wares with varying amounts and sizes of fossil shell. Part of jar base, diameter c. 130 mm, with a post cocturam perforation originally c. 10 mm diameter, close to the basal angle. Two rim sherds from jars with horizontally outbent rims, one of them with groove on upper rim surface close to edge. Cf. Phase 1 (AD 125/150-200) forms at Glebe Farm, Barton (Didsbury, forthcoming); earliest illustrated vessel at Dragonby is in the mid second-century Horizon IIIb (May 1996, fig. 20.8, no. 883).
4	1006		RGRUST	3	15	Body sherds, same vessel. Light grey, fine sandy ware. Heavy rustication.
5	1006		RGC	4	19	Scrap, same vessel. Mixed sand, grog, and calcareous matter. Red margins.
6	1006		RGGSQ	1	11	Body, abundant greensand quartz.

7	1006		RG	33	341	Includes dish with internally beaded rim (from Horizon II at Dragonby, Flavian to early second, cf. May 1996, fig. 20.5, no. 816; jar marked and grooved shoulder in same pit as latter at Dragonby (Pit F. 715). Narrow-mouthed jar probably contemporary. Part of footring base in fine silky black fabric.
8	1024		RSH	1	78	Large body sherd, sparse to moderate shell. Vesicular on interior, and possibly some internal sooting/residues.
9	1024		RG	1	2	Body.
10	1019		RG	2	6	Body.
11	1019		RGC	1	3	Scrap.
12	1000		RA	1	112	Body. Not typical Dressel 20, but specialist opinion would be needed to attribute correctly.
13	1000		RG	12	94	Includes small greyware beaker with slack profile and everted rim (range of similar forms at Dragonby in Horizons II and III); form with horizontally everted rim in black silky ware. Non-diagnostic sherds from several other vessels.
14	1000		RSH	3	81	Bodies. One entirely wheel-thorwn, essentially a shell-tempered greyware.
15	1000		RGGSQ	5	24	Fragment from jar with thickened outbent rim
16	1000		RGC	5	16	Scrap.
17	1028		RSH	6	450	Base of a coarseware heavy-duty jar. Sparse to moderate medium shell in a buff body. Hand-built? Rims of two club-rimmed jars, Flavian to Antonine. Horizontally outbent jar (?) rim with internal beading.
18	1028		RGGSQ	1	6	Body.
19	1028		RGC	3	7	Scrap.
20	1028		RG	11	157	Dish as that in 1006 (Flavian to early second). Bodies from several other vessels. Tiny bead rim fragment in dark faced redware. Grooved shoulder sherd, possibly from Dragonby-type "barrel jar" of Horizons II and III.
21	1011		HUM1	2	63	Fourteenth- or fifteenth-century. Body and basal angle, two different vessels.
22	1011		RGRUST	1	5	Fourteenth- or fifteenth-century. Body and basal angle, two different vessels.
23	1011		RS	1	5	Body. Small cup form. Internal micro-grooving. Specialist opinion needed.
24	1011		RSH	7	377	Bodies. Large rim sherd from bowl with massive horizontally outbent wedge rim.
25	1011		RG	52	710	Circa half a dish cf. the type in 1006 and 10028, almost complete profile, in fine silky blackware.
26	1011		RGC	3	53	Bodies same vessel, wheel-thrown, but with large (up to c. 5 mm) grog and stone inclusions. Rim and carination fragment from two different carinated jars. Greyware pie-dish with neat triangular rim (present in Horizon II at Dragonby and continues to late second century). Six black jars with horizontally outbent rims. Dish/bowl with similar rim. Narrow-mouthed necked jar in black sandy ware. Curved rim fragment of bowl (?) in light greyware. Shoulder with groove and stab decoration, cf Dragonby barrel jars. Stabbing often Flavian-Trajanic (Brough on Humber) and does not outlast second.

27	1017		RG	4	57	All different vessels. Largest is a complete base and lower body of a jar with turned base, basal diameter c. 65 mm.
28	1020		RG	8	41	Includes carinated fragment from a Flavian to Antonine carinated jar, and a curved rim fragment, form unknown.
29	1020		RGC	3	36	Same vessel, wheel-thrown, but with large grog and stone inclusions.
30	1002		RG	7	53	Bodies. Different vessels.
31	1002		RO?	1	14	Lid? Sandy orange fabric resembles those in the regional medieval Orangeware tradition, and a thirteenth- to fourteenth-century date for this item cannot be ruled out (cf. presence of Humberware in 1011.
32	1002		RSH	6	139	Includes thick, horizontally outbent rim of very large jar/bowl, and fragment of small bowl with similar rim.
33	1002		FC?	1	2	Amorphous lump.
34	1009		RGRUST	2	13	Bodies. Heavy nodular rustication. Two different vessels.
35	1009		RSH	8	286	Contains rim and upper body sherds from a round-bodied jar with horizontally everted rim, sooted on the rim and exterior; and a necked jar. Both at least partly wheel-thrown. Both with sparse calcareous material in a coarse grey matrix. An almost identical necked jar in coarse greyware is available as early as Horizon II at Dragonby (May 1996, fig. 20.5, no 815).
36	1009		RO?	1	8	Body.
37	1009		RGC	74	611	Includes a wide-mouthed jar or bowl with horizontally everted rim and grooved shoulder, and small undiagnostic curved rim fragments.
38	1009		RO	1	9	Small dish or bowl in fine sandy black fabric with reddish orange surfaces. Thin, expanded, bead and flange rim, grooved towards upper edge.
39	1009		RG	105	3310	Circa eleven vessels represented by rims. Large parts of some vessels present. Drawing potential. Two thickened rim bowls cf Dragonby no. 838 etal (Horizon IIIa); jar with rim cf. Dragonby 877 (Horizon IIIb-IIIc); horizontally everted rim jars and a small bowl; slack jar/bowl with thickened rim, et al. Fine rouletted whiteware with blue-grey surface (Nene Valley??).

The Finds *by Sophie Tibbles*

The Recorded Finds

Introduction

The following report aims to assess the potential of the recorded finds for further analysis, to meet the requirements of MAP2, Phase 3, 'Assessment of potential for analysis', (English Heritage, 1991). The structure of this report is based on guidelines set out by the Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group 700-1700 AD (1993), and the Institute of Field Archaeologists Finds Group (1991).

All finds were appropriately packed for long term storage, in accordance with conservation and museum guidelines.

The flint was identified by R. Head.

Quantification of Recorded Finds by Material and Function

Two recorded finds were recovered during the fieldwork, however, one flint object (RF No.1) was allocated a recorded finds number during the initial assessment. The flint was unworked (identification by R. Head) and is now considered to be a non-recorded find. The flint was discarded after recording.

This gives a total of one recorded find for the evaluation

Function	Interpretation	Quantity
Miscellaneous	Perforated Disc	1
Total		**1**

General Characteristics of the Finds

The ceramic artefact was in fair condition.

Individual Finds of Intrinsic Interest

Perforated Disc
Incomplete. Made from a basal sherd of Romano-British Greyware of 'black-faced sandy brown fabric (identification by P. Didsbury). The edge is worn and a ?drilled central hole is evident with wear on internal surfaces. The disc may have been used as a spindle-whorl.
Length: 75mm Width: 45mm Thickness: 10mm
Internal Hole Diameter: 15mm Weight: 37.4g
RF No: 2 Context: [1006]

Assessment of Potential

Due to the particularly small size, the potential of the assemblage on its own is limited. However, it may indicate the undertaking of small scale textile working on or within the vicinity during the Romano-British period.

Although substantial archaeological remains of a 2nd century ladder settlement were recorded, there is a noticeable paucity of artefacts within the recorded finds assemblage. This paucity may be attributed to the machine stripping of the area.

Recommendations

No further work is deemed necessary of the recorded finds assemblage.

The Bulk Finds

Introduction

The evaluation produced a small bulk finds assemblage that comprised five material categories. All material types were quantified by count and weight.

Brick

The fills of two Romano-British ditches; [1006] and [1009] produced two fragments of brick with a weight of 75g and 50g respectively. The fragments bore no diagnostic features and had a fabric colour range of Reddish Brown (2/5YR/5/4) to Red (2.5YR/4/6). The fragment recovered from context [1006],was of an early post medieval date (J. Tibbles *per comm*) and the remainder from context [1009], was identified as a 'beart' type brick, dated from the 19th/20th century. This fragment was discarded after recording and both are likely to be intrusive within the contexts.

Roof Tile

One fragment of roof tile was recovered from topsoil [1001] with a weight of 25g. The fragment was identified as a ?nib from a medieval flat roof tile (J. Tibbles *pers comm*). The fragment has been retained.

Fired Clay

Context [1009] the fill of a Romano-British ditch produced two fragments of fired clay with a weight of 20g. Both were of a Red fabric colour (2.5YR/5/6) and one fragment displayed an original flat surface. The fragments bore evidence of heat discolouration which suggests that they may have originated from an oven or hearth.

Slag

A fragment of ferrous-based slag, with a weight of 100g was recovered from [1000] the unstratified context for the evaluation. The fragment was retained for further study if required.

Vitrified Residue/Slag?

Context [1002] the fill of a ditch produced two fragments of vitrified residue/slag with a weight of 75g.

Recommendations

No further work is deemed necessary for the bulk finds assemblage. A selective discard policy should be undertaken prior to deposition.

6. The Biological Remains

by Deborah Jaques and John Carrott

Summary

Deposits of 2nd century date, encountered during fieldwork at Kirmington Airport, North Lincolnshire, produced small assemblages of bone and shell. These, together with material from the washovers and residues of two processed sediment samples were submitted, for an evaluation of their bioarchaeological potential.

Ancient plant remains were scarce and limited to small quantities of charred material of little interpretative value. Most, if not all, of the recovered invertebrate remains were likely to be modern contaminants.

The hand-collected shell remains were too few to provide useful information.

The vertebrate assemblage included the remains of horse, pig and sheep/goat, but poor preservation rendered few of the fragments identifiable. A part skeleton of a sheep/goat was recovered from one of the ditch fills. It appeared to have been dumped in the ditch and there was no evidence to suggest that it represented a deposit of ritual significance.

Further work on the current assemblages is not warranted. Despite the tight chronological framework, the small quantity and poor preservation of the biological material suggests that additional excavation in this area is unlikely to produce sufficient material for useful archaeological interpretation.

Introduction

The small assemblages of hand-collected bone and shell, together with material from the washovers and residues of two sieved sediment samples, were submitted for an evaluation of their bioarchaeological potential.

Methods

Sediment samples

The two sediment samples were described, sieved (to 1 mm, with 500 micron washover) and sorted by Humber Field Archaeology. The washovers ('flots') resulting from processing and the biological remains recovered from the residues were submitted to PRS for examination.

Hand-collected vertebrate remains

For the hand-collected vertebrate remains, subjective records were made of the state of preservation, colour of the fragments, and the appearance of broken surfaces ('angularity'). Other information, such as fragment size, dog gnawing, burning, butchery and fresh breaks, was noted, where applicable.

Fragments were identified to species or species group using the PRS modern comparative reference collection. The bones which could not be identified species were described as the 'unidentified' fraction. Within this fraction, fragments were grouped into a number of categories: large mammal (assumed to be cattle, horse or large cervid), and medium-sized mammal (assumed to be caprovid, pig or small cervid).

Results

Sediment samples

The results for the samples are presented in context number order. Archaeological information, provided by the excavator, is given in square brackets. A brief summary of the processing method, and an estimate of the remaining volume of unprocessed sediment follows (in round brackets) after the sample numbers.

Context 1009 [upper fill of ditch 1010]
Sample 1 (14 kg sieved to 1 mm, with 500 micron washover; 1 kg of unprocessed sediment remains)

Dry, friable to crumbly, dark brown sandy silt, with chalk gravel inclusions. Charcoal, ?ash and animal bone was also present.

The tiny washover was mostly of modern rootlets, with a little charcoal (to 12 mm) and some sand grains. There were also a few poorly preserved charred grains (mostly ?*Bromus* sp. with 1 or 2 of ?wheat – cf. *Triticum* sp.) and some snails. All but one of the snail remains were of *Cecilioides acicula* (Müller), the exception being one fragment of another, unidentified, land snail.

The residue was also tiny and mostly of charcoal (charred root/twig fragments, to 20 mm), with a few poorly preserved charred grains (including ?wheat) and a single land snail fragment (*Trichia* sp.). Several small and rather poorly preserved fragments of bone were recovered from this sample. None could be identified to species.

Context 1019 [animal burial within ditch 1006]
Sample 2 (9 kg sieved to 1 mm, with 500 micron washover; 1 kg of unprocessed sediment remains)

Moist, brown silt clay with degraded animal bone.
There was a tiny washover mostly of modern rootlets. A few *Cecilioides acicula* (and one or two other unidentified land snail fragments), a very little charred plant material, one tiny (to 3 mm) piece of bone, and some ?modern beetle fragments, were also present.

A total of 61 somewhat poorly preserved and very fragmented bones, probably representing the remains of a single sheep/goat were recovered from this sample. Mandibles, and skeletal elements from both the fore and hind limbs were present, although all were damaged by fresh breakage. Dental attrition suggested that the animal represented was adult, aged between 4 and 6 years.

Hand-collected shell

Very small amounts of hand-collected shell were recovered from two Contexts [1020 and 1028]. The remains amounted to a single oyster (*Ostrea edulis* L.) valve from each deposit and one individual of *Cepaea/Arianta* sp. from Context 1020. The right oyster valve from Context [1028] was well-preserved and showed damage characteristic of that caused by opening using a knife or similar implement. The oyster valve from Context [1020] was poorly preserved and of indeterminate side.

Hand-collected vertebrate remains

Hand-collected vertebrate remains amounted to just 20 fragments (Table 1), representing five deposits, although a further 74 bones were recovered from the two samples; those (69 fragments) from Context [1019] (Sample 2) probably representing a single individual.

Preservation of the remains was quite variable, with the surface of many fragments being damaged by chemical erosion and root etching. Fresh breakage damage was noted throughout.

A large proportion of the assemblage could not be identified to species and was mostly assigned to the large mammal size category (Table 1). Identified species included the remains of horse, pig and sheep/goat. None of the fragments were measurable and no mandibles with teeth *in situ* were recovered.

Discussion and statement of potential

Ancient plant remains recovered from the samples were restricted to small amounts of charred material of no real interpretative value. Most, if not all, of the recovered invertebrate remains are likely to be modern contaminants—in particular, *C. acicula* is a burrowing species and almost certainly intrusive to the deposits.

The hand-collected shell remains were too few for useful interpretation.

The vertebrate assemblage recovered from deposits at Kirmington Airport was poorly preserved and somewhat limited by its small size. Much of the material probably represented a mixture of both butchery and domestic refuse. The part skeleton from Context [1019] appeared to have been dumped in the ditch rather than being deliberately buried; there was no evidence to suggest that it represented a deposit of ritual significance.

Recommendations

No further work on the current material is warranted. The small size of the recovered vertebrate assemblage precludes any further detailed recording and interpretation.

The poor preservation and paucity of the biological remains suggests that these deposits show little potential for the recovery of this type of material.

Retention and disposal

The material need not be retained.

Archive

All material is currently stored by Palaeoecology Research Services (Unit 8, Dabble Duck Industrial Estate, Shildon, County Durham), along with paper and electronic records pertaining to the work described here.

Table1. Hand-collected vertebrate remains from a watching brief at Kirmington Airport, North Lincolnshire: No. frags.=total number of fragments.

Species		**No. frags.**
Equus f. domestic	horse	2
Sus f. domestic	pig	1
Caprovid	sheep/goat	1
Large mammal		14
Medium-sized mammal		3
Total		**21**

7. Discussion & Recommendations

This fieldwork has identified the location of a number of archaeological features during the groundworks for a new aircraft parking area at Humberside Airport, Kirmington, North Lincolnshire.

Situated towards the western edge of the development area were two, roughly parallel, north-east to south-west aligned ditches [1031] and [1025]. Due to the poor ground conditions only parts of these ditches were visible and their proposed extents were projected from their known alignments. These projected alignments appear as dotted lines on the site plan. It would appear that these two ditches represented the north-east to south-west aligned stretch of a ditched trackway of Romano-British date that is clearly visible on the geophysical survey of the area. Pottery recovered from ditch [1025] dated to the earlier part of the 2nd century AD and it seemed reasonable to assume that the undated ditch [1031] was contemporary.

The visible northern extent of the eastern trackway ditch [1025], tied in well with the position of a linear anomaly seen on the geophysical survey. Its projected course to the south-west lay slightly to the west of the anomaly seen on the geophysics plot, but

clearly represented the same feature. The exposed southern part of the western trackway ditch [1031] tied in reasonably well with the geophysics plot. The projected northern extent of ditch [1031], which was not clearly visible on the ground, lay in an area that was not surveyed. It would seem likely that it continued in a north-easterly direction, running parallel to the eastern trackway ditch [1025].

Immediately to the north of the current development site, the geophysical survey indicated that the ditched trackway turned to run in an easterly direction. At least one of these ditches may have been seen during the watching brief carried out by Humber Field Archaeology in 1996.

Three east-west aligned ditches [1007], [1029] and [1016], from north to south respectively, were all seen to run in an easterly direction from the ditched trackway. These probably represented elements of rectangular, ditched enclosures that were associated with the trackway. All three of the ditches tied in closely with linear anomalies seen on the geophysical survey. At its eastern end ditch [1007] appeared to turn to run in a north-easterly direction and can be seen to be the same as one of the ditches recorded in the 1996 watching brief. It may also have had a precursor, represented by an easterly extension [1018]. A further extent of east-west aligned ditch [1014] may have been a continuation of the boundary formed by ditch [1029]. Pottery recovered from the enclosure ditches indicated that they were of earlier 2nd century AD date and were contemporary with the ditched trackway.

Fragments of other substantial ditches, especially [1012] and possibly [1003], represented enclosure ditches, whilst the smaller ditches, or large slots, [1010], [1027], [1043], [1023] and [1021] would have represented sub-divisions within these enclosures. The pottery recovered from these features indicated that they were closely contemporary with the ditched trackway and the enclosure ditches themselves. Ditch [1021] appeared to be the same feature as a north-south aligned ditch discovered during the 1996 watching brief. The only other evidence of possible activity seen within the enclosures, was a series of pits [1033], [1035], [1037], [1039], [1041] and [1046]. However these remained undated and were of unknown usage, being presumably too large for post-pits.

The archaeological features discovered and recorded during the fieldwork appear to relate to part of an early 2nd century AD, Romano-British ladder settlement, consisting of a roughly north-east to south-west aligned, linear ditched trackway, with a number of associated rectangular, ditched enclosures lying along its eastern edge. Evidence of internal subdivision of the enclosures was noted, but little evidence of further occupation was seen.

It seems more than likely that these features were a part of a further continuation, in a south-westerly direction, of a major Romano-British civil settlement that lies to the north of the A18. The civil settlement superseded a late 1st century AD, trapezoidal-shaped, military fort and consisted of an extended network of irregular roads, ditched droveways and enclosures, some containing smaller closes and rectangular buildings. Cropmark evidence shows the settlement extending in a south-westerly direction from the site of the fort. A ditched trackway with associated enclosures can be seen extending as far as the former airfield perimeter track and was thought to run through

this part of the airfield. The results of the geophysical survey gave further support to this.

The evidence appears to confirm the previously suspected continuation, through this part of the airfield, of a substantial civil Romano-British ladder settlement, that had developed around a late 1st century AD military fort. The pottery recovered from the features during the watching brief formed a closely contemporary assemblage of earlier 2nd century AD date. The forms and fabrics are those most commonly found in late 1st and 2nd century AD assemblages from sites in North Lincolnshire. Much of the pottery has parallels with that recovered from other late first and second century rural settlements in the area, most notably Glebe Farm near Barton on Humber (Didsbury, forthcoming), Dragonby (May 1996), Old Winteringham (Stead 1976) and more recently Winterton landfill site (Fraser 2003). A number of sherds of Rusticated ware were more unusual. This was a ware which was in production from *c.* AD 70-130 and was most often associated with the proximity of the Roman military. The location of the Roman fort lying less than 800m to the north-east of the development site would appear to account for the presence of this military product on a rural, civil settlement.

During the fieldwork it was seen that a number of the archaeological features extended beyond the limits of the development area, most notably to the south where the continuation of the ditched trackway, along with associated enclosures, appears to be confirmed by the geophysical survey. It is the recommendation of Humber Field Archaeology that should further development take place in the area, then a more detailed programme of recording should be undertaken to ascertain the nature and depth of these deposits.

8. Contributors

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The Finds	S. Tibbles
The Biological Remains	D. Jaques and J. Carrott *Palaeoecology Research Services*
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Report	D. Atkinson & R. George

9. Acknowledgements

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Appendix

Fabric codes employed in the database

Code	*Fabric type*

All codes commencing in "R" refer to Roman material.

FC	Fired Clay
HUM1	West Cowick-type Humberware (of fourteenth- to sixteenth-century date)
RA	Amphorae
RG	Greyware
RGC	Coarse greyware
RGGSQ	Greyware with greensand quartz temper
RGRUST	Rusticated ware
RO	Oxidised ware
RS	Samian
RSH	Shell-tempered ware

Note: RGC has been employed almost solely in respect of fabrics containing mixed sand, grog and occasional calcareous temper, generally having dark surfaces and oxidised cores or margins. RG contains both completely and partly wheel-thrown vessels in a variety of fine to coarse fabrics, predominantly with black surfaces.

Plate 1. The site strip in progress with ditch [1007] in the foreground, looking west

Plate 2. Ditch [1023] looking southwest

Plate 3 Site stripping in progress looking south

Plate 4. [1019] animal burial

Plate 5. Compacting the stripped area, looking north

Plate 6. Stripping in progress looking south

Plate 7. The Terram sheeting being laid prior to stoning up

Plate 8. The stoning-up of the southwest corner of the site

Plate 9. Features [1035, 1039 and 1041] seen during the bulldozing of the site

Plate 10. The northeast part of the site after stripping.

Plate 11. Features [1010 and 1012] viewed from the east

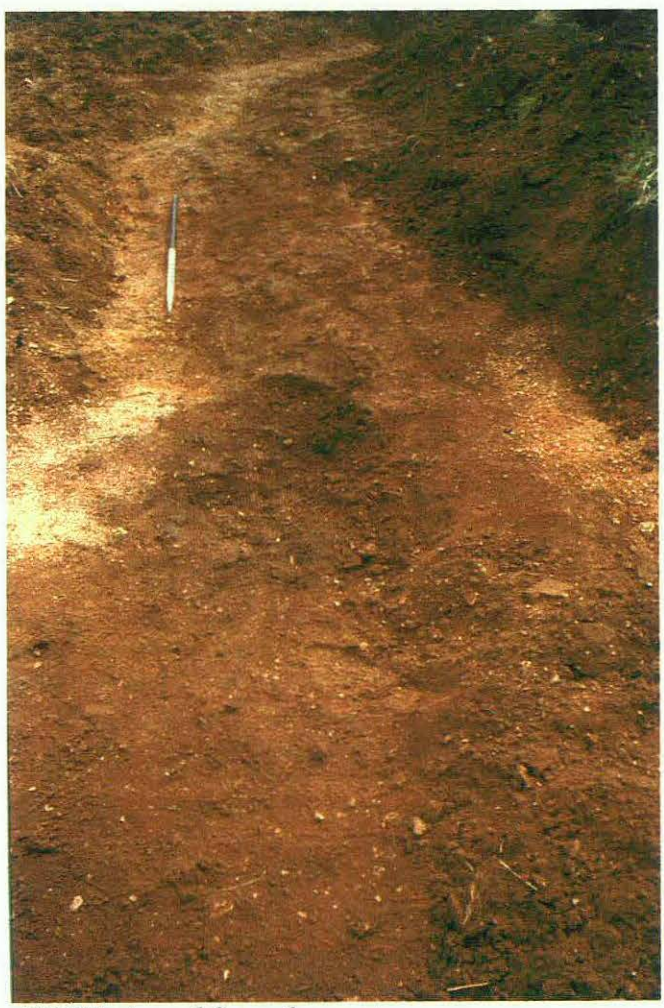

Plate 12. Feature [1010] viewed from the west

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