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# Airfield Hangers East, Additional Area, Daedalus Airfield, Lee-on-Solent, Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Planning Ref: Fareham Borough Council Planning Application P/14/0679/FP  
Ref: 89355.03  
November 2014



**Airfield Hangers East, Additional Area, Daedalus Airfield  
Lee-on-Solent, Hampshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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**November 2014**

**89355.03  
Fareham Borough Council Planning Application  
P/14/0679/FP**



## Quality Assurance

<b>Project Code</b>	89355	<b>Accession Code</b>		<b>Client Ref.</b>	
<b>Planning Application Ref.</b>	Fareham Borough Council Planning Application P/14/0679/FP	<b>Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)</b>	456980 102100		

<b>Version</b>	<b>Status*</b>	<b>Prepared by</b>	<b>Checked and Approved By</b>	<b>Approver's Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
v01	F	PO/AIM	SF	SF	18 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2014
File:	\\projectserver\wessex\Projects\89355\_Reports\Eval report draft october 2014 89355.docx				
File:					
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\* I = Internal Draft; E = External Draft; F = Final

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# Airfield Hangers East, Additional Area , Daedalus Airfield Lee-on-Solent, Hampshire

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Plate 3: North west facing section of Trench 141 showing layer 14103

Front cover: View of evaluation area from the east



# **Airfield Hangers East, Additional Area, Daedalus Airfield Lee-on-Solent, Hampshire**

## **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

### **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Ray Hole Architects on behalf of Universal Tool & Production Co Ltd (the Client) to undertake a programme of archaeological trial trenching within a parcel of land at the Hangers East area at Daedalus Airfield, Lee-on-Solent.

A programme of archaeological work, comprising the evaluation of five 20m trenches) was undertaken on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October 2014. The evaluation identified one possible archaeological feature, an undated ditch (**13804**), in **Trench 138** with the remaining trenches containing only modern services.

The results of the evaluation are similar to the evaluation undertaken immediately to the west. The undated ditch (**13804**) is similar in nature and orientation to late prehistoric and medieval field systems found nearby. However, the lack of other archaeological features confirms that the overall density of activity within the eastern section of the Phase 1C site is far lower than that seen within excavation areas further to the south.



# **Airfield Hangers East, Additional Area, Daedalus Airfield Lee-on-Solent, Hampshire**

## **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

### **Acknowledgements**

Wessex Archaeology were commissioned by Ray Hole Architects on behalf of Universal Tool & Production Co Ltd (the Client) and would like to thank Martin Leonard (the Client), Garry Reynolds (RH Architects), Alan Gregory of Gregory Associates, James Moss and Kevin Lendon (Amiri Construction), Andy Walters (Airfield Management), Shane Meaker and Martin Foster (EOD Contracts Ltd) and Niki Wagstaff (HCA) for their help and assistance during the course of the project. We would also like to thank David Hopkins (Hampshire County Archaeologist) who monitored this project on behalf of Hampshire County Council and the LPA.

The evaluation was undertaken by Piotr Orczewski and Peter Capps. This report was written and compiled by Piotr Orczewski and Andy Manning. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Andy Manning.



# Airfield Hangers East, Additional Area, Daedalus Airfield Lee-on-Solent, Hampshire

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Ray Hole Architects on behalf of Universal Tool & Production Co Ltd (the Client) to undertake a programme of archaeological trial trenching at the Hangers East area at Daedalus Airfield, Lee-on-Solent, PO13 9PF, hereafter 'the Site' (**Figure 1**), centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 456980 102100.
- 1.1.2 The Daedalus Airfield has been identified as the Solent Enterprise Zone, designated as a key area for business and economic growth. Outline planning consent (P/11/0436/OA) was approved for development of up to 50,000m<sup>2</sup> of new buildings, including this development. In December 2013 a planning application (P/13/1115/FP) was made for the Phase 1C Hanger East development which will cover a 2.4ha area, located at the eastern edge of the Airfield. The proposed development comprises redevelopment of the existing hangers and surrounding area for the construction of an industrial unit with ancillary office and staff accommodation, with associated access and parking.
- 1.1.3 An alternative planning proposal (P/14/0679/FP) for development at the eastern edge of the Phase 1C Hangers East area has also been submitted, and this is the area considered in this report.
- 1.1.4 The Site lies approximately 350m to the north of the new CEMAST building, which has been the subject of recent archaeological investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2013). The results of this investigation, and earlier studies, indicated that the Hanger East area was likely to have some potential to contain significant archaeological remains.
- 1.1.5 Initial consultation was undertaken with the Hampshire County Council Principal Archaeological Officer (David Hopkins), who advises the Local Planning Authority. He advised that a programme of archaeological evaluation should be undertaken, together with a programme of future archaeological mitigation, if appropriate, based on the results of the evaluation.
- 1.1.6 The full detailed methodology of the archaeological works was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Wessex Archaeology 2014e), which was submitted to, and approved by the Hampshire County Council Principal Archaeological Officer.
- 1.1.7 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008).

#### 1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 Daedalus Airfield is situated within the town of Lee-on-Solent, some 5km to the south of Fareham and 4km to the west of Gosport. The Site comprises approximately 2.3ha of land situated at the eastern boundary of the airfield.





- 1.2.2 The Site is currently occupied by hardstanding areas connected by tarmac access roads. Two former hangers and two office buildings were originally located within the Site, although both hangers have been recently recorded and demolished (Hannah Fluck *Pers comm.*).
- 1.2.3 The Site is located at a height of approximately 8m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology of the area is brickearth over river terrace deposits of sand and gravel (British Geological Survey). The underlying gravel deposits are mapped as belonging to Terrace 2 of the Eastern Solent, dating from MIS 7, c. 200 kya (Briant *et al* 2009, 25-32) and have been identified as potentially containing Palaeolithic archaeological remains.
- 1.2.4 The underlying gravel deposits lie at a depth of over 1.25m below the present ground surface and will not be impacted by the proposed development.

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Archaeological potential

- 2.1.1 The Hampshire and Historic Building Record (HAHBR) has been consulted and a number of sites are noted, close to the proposed Site and this has been detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2014e) and will not be repeated here. However, the Site does lie adjacent to a number of areas which has been subject to recent archaeological investigation.
- 2.1.2 An archaeological evaluation and subsequent mitigation was carried out on the CEMAST development site which lies approximately 300m to the south (Wessex Archaeology 2013) (**Figure 1**). This identified a number of Late Bronze Age pits, whilst several undated ditches may represent part of a former prehistoric field system. A number of pits and postholes containing medieval pottery and worked stone were also found.
- 2.1.3 Within the interior of the airfield, archaeological investigation has proved largely negative, although recent evaluations at the MCA Coastal Safety Training Hub and Coastguard Rescue Station (Wessex Archaeology 2014a) and Hangers West and Waterfront area (Wessex Archaeology 2014b) both found small quantities of heavily abraded Late Bronze Age pottery in the subsoil.
- 2.1.4 Archaeological work at the iESE New Innovation Centre, which lies immediately to the west of the CEMAST site identified a small number of archaeological features comprising a Late Bronze Age boundary ditch and pit, a ditch containing medieval material and a further ditch and pit of uncertain date, which may be related to those found within the CEMAST site (Wessex Archaeology 2014c).
- 2.1.5 It appears highly likely that these features represented a low level of activity related to a known prehistoric midden and hearth site (see Wessex Archaeology 2014e, **HAHBR 19656/19712 Figure 1**) and a possible medieval settlement at Cherque Farm (**HAHBR 39280**) and associated chapel (**HAHBR 38748**), respectively, all found nearby on the opposite side of the Broom Way Road.
- 2.1.6 As part of the archaeological evaluation to inform the determination of the main planning application (P/13/1115/FP) 18 trenches were excavated along the proposed road line and office and parking areas in the area immediately to the west of the Site. The southern part of the proposed development area, in particular, showed evidence of significant modern disturbance which would have significantly impacted, and possibly removed, any potential archaeological features and deposits surviving in this locality.



- 2.1.7 Relatively little evidence for archaeological activity was found. Three archaeological features were identified and investigated, including; a pit of possible 19th-20th century date (Trench 30); a small undated pit (Trench 31) and a shallow undated field boundary ditch containing burnt flint and animal bone which may suggest a possible later prehistoric date (Trench 41) (Wessex Archaeology 2014d).

### 3 METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Project aim and objectives

- 3.1.1 With due regard to the IfA *Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation* (IfA 2008), the generic aim of the project was:

- To locate, identify and to investigate and record the presence/absence of archaeological features or deposits;
- To, where possible, confirm the extent, date, character, relationship, condition and significance of archaeological features, artefacts and deposits within the proposed development area;
- To inform the scope and nature of any requirements for any potential further fieldwork, whether additional watching brief, excavation or post-excavation work;
- To enable the preservation by record of any archaeological features or deposits uncovered;
- To place any identified archaeological remains within their historical context.

#### 3.1 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.1.1 The full detailed methodology of the archaeological works was set out in a WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2014e) and is summarised below:
- 3.1.2 The evaluation comprised the excavation of five trenches; each 20m by 1.6m. The location of these trenches is shown on **Figure 1**. The length of one trench was adjusted slightly during the course of the fieldwork due to existing service constraints.
- 3.1.3 The evaluation trenches were accurately located using GPS survey equipment and excavation was carried out by mechanical excavator in discrete 0.20m spits to the top of significant archaeological features/deposits or the *in-situ* natural geology, whichever was encountered first.
- 3.1.4 Topsoil and subsoil/overburden deposits were stored separately and scanned for artefacts and stored at a minimum of 1m from the trench edge. The trenches were backfilled with the excavated spoil, topsoil last in order to preserve the soil stratigraphy.
- 3.1.5 Where archaeological features were encountered they were investigated by hand, with a sufficient sample of each layer/feature type excavated in order to establish, as was possible, their date, nature, character, extent and condition.
- 3.1.6 Any archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. Archaeological features and deposits were hand-drawn at either 1:10 or 1:20, including both plans and sections; these were referred to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels were calculated. A



representative section of each trench was recorded showing the depth of the overburden deposits.

- 3.1.7 A digital photographic record was compiled showing the trenches and their location within the general context of the Site. Digital images have been subject to a managed quality control and curation process which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and ensures the long term accessibility of the image set.
- 3.1.8 The survey was carried out with a Leica Viva series GNSS unit using the OS National GPS Network through an RTK network with a 3D accuracy of 30mm or below. All survey data was recorded using the OSGB36 British National Grid coordinate system.
- 3.1.9 A unique site code **89355** was allocated to the Site, and was used on all records and finds.

## **3.2 Health and safety**

- 3.2.1 Health and safety considerations were of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practices will override archaeological considerations at all times.
- 3.2.2 All work was carried out in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974* and the *Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

### **4.1 Introduction**

- 4.1.1 The general stratigraphic sequence encountered varied slightly between the trenches. In **Trenches 138** and **139**, the stratigraphy consisted of approximately 0.25m of modern topsoil overlying 0.30m of subsoil. Beneath this was the natural brickearth. In **Trenches 137, 140** and **141**, the natural brickearth was exposed at a depth of approximately 0.40m below the current ground surface. Details of individual excavated contexts and features are retained in the project archive. Summaries of the excavated sequences can be found in **Appendix 1**.

### **4.2 Archaeological features**

- 4.2.1 No significant dated archaeological features or artefactual material were found during the course of the evaluation.
- 4.2.2 Only one archaeological feature, an undated ditch, was identified in **Trench 138**. The shallow northwest-southeast orientated ditch (**13804**), measuring 0.92m in width and 0.21m in depth, contained a single fill (**Figure 2, Plate 1**). The whole of the exposed section of ditch was excavated to try and obtain any datable material but no archaeological finds were recovered.

### **4.3 Modern services/deposits**

- 4.3.1 Modern disused services were noted in four of the five trenches. **Trench 139** also contained two modern concrete plinths (**Plate 2**).
- 4.3.2 In **Trench 141**, part of a buried dump deposit (**14103**) was recorded (**Plate 3**). This deposit, sealed by topsoil and subsoil, consisted of dark greyish brown silty clay and contained fragments of brick and slag fragments.



## 5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 No finds of archaeological significance were uncovered during the evaluation.

## 6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

### 6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Due to lack of suitable deposits no samples were taken.

## 7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1.1 The evaluation identified only one undated ditch feature within the proposed development area. This feature (Ditch **13804**) in size and form is similar to late prehistoric and medieval field system ditches, which have been noted during investigations in the vicinity of the Site.

7.1.2 In **Trench 141**, the buried deposit of burnt material was noted in the general vicinity of a Roman kiln site. However, this deposit was found close to the former second World war buildings and the inclusion of modern brick and slag fragments strongly suggests this layer is more likely related to modern construction in this part of the airfield.

7.1.3 The results of the evaluation are similar to the evaluation undertaken immediately to the west. The undated ditch (**13804**) is similar in nature and orientation to late prehistoric and medieval field systems found within the adjacent evaluation area and the iESE New Innovation Centre and CEMAST excavation areas.

7.1.4 Although the evaluation has shown that elements of a field system do extend into the evaluation area, the lack of other archaeological features confirms that the overall density of activity within the eastern section of the Phase 1C site is far lower than the iESE New Innovation Centre and CEMAST excavation areas further to the south.

## 8 STORAGE AND CURATION

### 8.1 Archive

8.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the fieldwork be deposited with Hampshire Museums Service under the accession code **89355**. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project.

8.1.2 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records and graphics, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Hampshire Museums Service, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

### 8.1 Copyright

8.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The recipient museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003.



- 8.1.2 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

## 8.2 Security copy

- 8.2.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011) on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

## 9 REFERENCES

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## APPENDIX 1: TRENCH TABLES

Trench 137	Dimensions:	20m x 1.6m x 0.58m	Top of trench m aOD	c.8.2m
Context	Category	Description		Depth BGL
13701	layer	Topsoil – greyish mid brown sandy clay loam. Established turf with shallow rooting. Common to abundant gravel inclusions (30mm) and sparse CBM fragments.		0m-0.2m
13702	layer	Subsoil – Brownish dark grey silty clay. Frequent patches of iron staining and moderate small to medium sizes sub rounded gravel (60mm)		0.2m-0.38m
13703	layer	Natural – yellowish light brown sandy clay with frequent gravels (30mm)		0.38m-0.54m
13704	layer	Natural – Greyish mid to light brown clay with abundant gravel.		0.54m+

Trench 138	Dimensions:	20m x 1.6m x 0.52m	Top of trench m aOD	c.8.3m
Context	Category	Description		Depth BGL
13801	layer	Topsoil – greyish mid to dark brown sandy clay loam. Established turf with shallow rooting. Sparse small to medium sized rounded gravel.		0m-0.24m
13802	layer	Subsoil – Greyish mid to light brown sandy clay with sparse rounded and subangular gravel (30mm)		0.24m-0.57m
13803	layer	Natural – Reddish light brown clay with patches of sub angular gravel (70mm)		0.57m+
13804	cut	Cut of ditch – narrow ditch with concave sides. Ditch has single fill, 0.92m in width and 0.21m in depth.		
13805	fill	Fill of ditch – yellowish mid brown sandy clay secondary fill with rare, small rounded flint and no anthropogenic material.		

Trench 139	Dimensions:	20m x 1.6m x 0.55m	Top of trench m aOD	c.8.3m
Context	Category	Description		Depth BGL
13901	layer	Topsoil – greyish mid to dark brown sandy loam. Established turf and heavily rooted. Sparse small rounded stones (20mm)		0m-0.25m
13902	layer	Subsoil – Greyish mid brown with reddish brown patches sandy clay. Small sub rounded and sub angular gravel (40mm)		0.25m-0.45m
13903	layer	Natural – Reddish brown sandy clay with rare small rounded gravel (10mm) and moderate manganese flecks.		0.45m+



<b>Trench 140</b>	<b>Dimensions:</b>	20m x 1.6m x 0.58m	<b>Top of trench m aOD</b>	c.8.3m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>		<b>Depth BGL</b>
14001	layer	Topsoil – greyish mid brown silty loam. Established turf, heavily rooted. Sparse to rare small rounded stones (20mm)		0m-0.2m
14002	layer	Subsoil – Greyish dark brown silty clay with some rooting and moderate small to medium sized sub rounded stones (60mm)		0.2m-0.43m
14003	layer	Natural – Reddish brown sandy clay with a pinkish hue. Rare small rounded stone (10mm)		0.43m-0.65m
14004	layer	Natural – Yellowish light brown sandy clay with sparse sub rounded and sub angular stone (20mm)		0.65m+

<b>Trench 141</b>	<b>Dimensions:</b>	20m x 1.6m x 0.7m	<b>Top of trench m aOD</b>	c.8.2m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>		<b>Depth BGL</b>
14101	layer	Topsoil – Greyish mid brown sandy loam, friable. Established turf and heavily rooted with rare small, rounded stones (10mm)		0m-0.19m
14102	layer	Subsoil – Mottled yellowish light brown sandy clay and greyish light brown silty clay. Some rooting and small to medium sized sub rounded stones (40mm)		0.19m-0.42m
14103	layer	Layer– Greyish dark brown silty clay with moderate to small sized sub rounded stones (40mm) and rare brick and slag fragments.		0.42m-0.66m
14104	layer	Natural – Very firm light yellowish brown sandy clay with small rounded stones (10mm) and moderate manganese fle#cks.		0.66m+



## APPENDIX 2: OASIS SUMMARY

### OASIS ID: wessexar1-195581

#### Project details

Project name	Daedalus, Hangers East, Phase 1C, additional area
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Ray Hole Architects on behalf of Universal Tool and Production Co Ltd (the Client) to undertake a programme of archaeological trial trenching within a parcel of land at the Hangers East area at Daedalus Airfield, Lee-on-Solent. A programme of archaeological evaluation (5x 20m trenches) was undertaken on the 27th and 28th October 2014. The evaluation identified one possible archaeological feature, an undated ditch (13804), in Trench 138 with the remaining trenches containing only former modern services. The results of the evaluation match that from the evaluation of the development area immediately to the west. The undated ditch (13804) is similar in nature and orientation to late prehistoric and medieval field systems found nearby. However, the lack of other archaeological features confirms that the overall density of activity within the eastern section of the Phase 1C site is far lower than that seen within excavation areas further to the south.
Project dates	Start: 27-10-2014 End: 28-10-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	89355 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 2 - Other transport infrastructure
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural commercial
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE FAREHAM FAREHAM Daedalus Airfield
Postcode	PO13 9PF
Study area	0.50 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 569 021 50.8150862867 -1.19223084688 50 48 54 N 001 11 32 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 7.50m Max: 8.00m

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Hampshire County Council





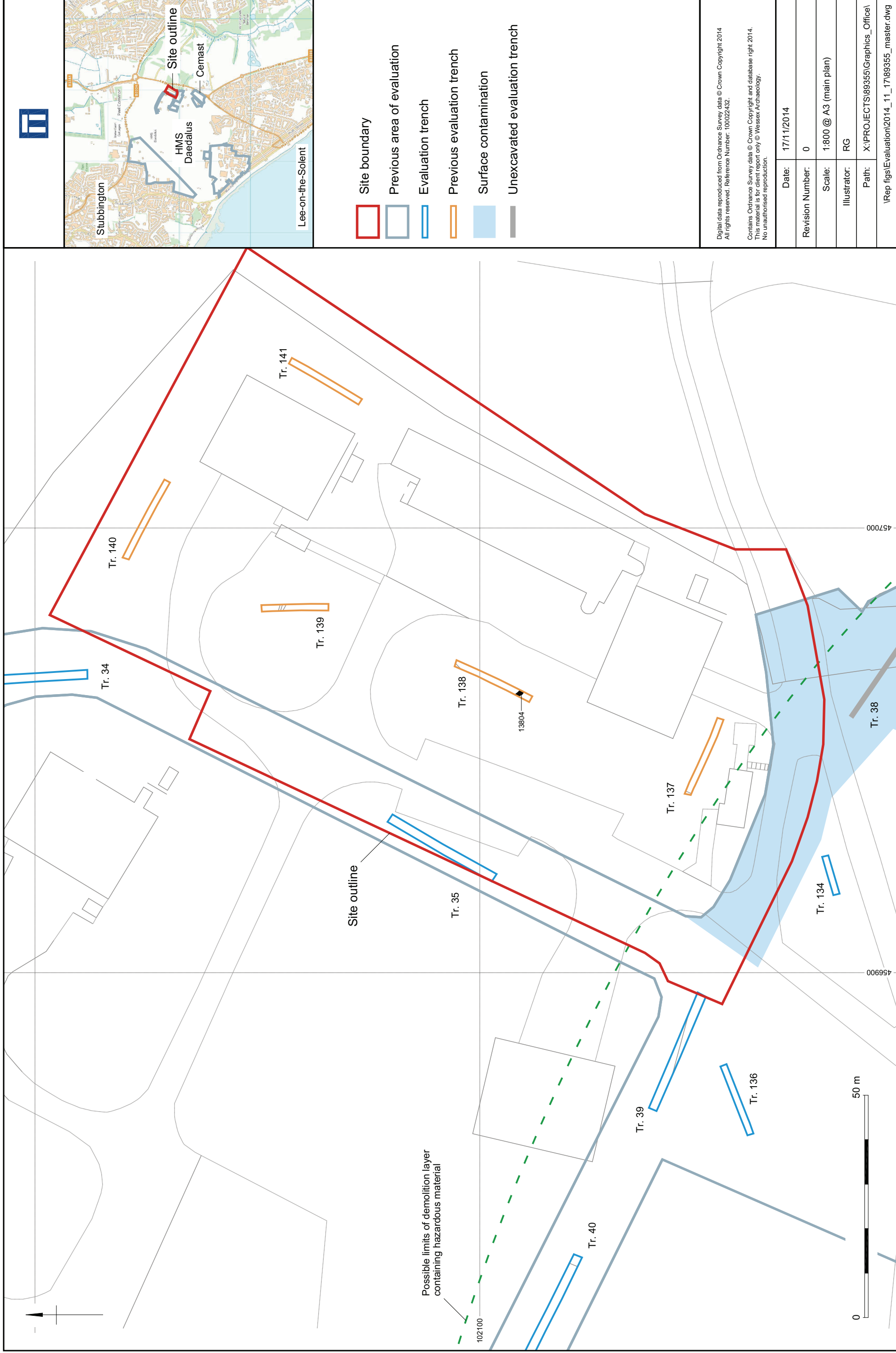
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	A Manning
Project supervisor	Mike Dinwiddy
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Universal Tool & Production Co Ltd

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Hampshire County Museums Service
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Hampshire County Museums Service
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Airfield Hangers East, Additional Area, Daedalus Airfield, Lee-on-Solent, Hampshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Piotr Orczewski, P and Manning, A
Other bibliographic details	89355.03
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Salisbury
Description	Standard illustrated soft-back evaluation report, c. 16 pages
Entered by	A Manning (a.manning@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	18 November 2014



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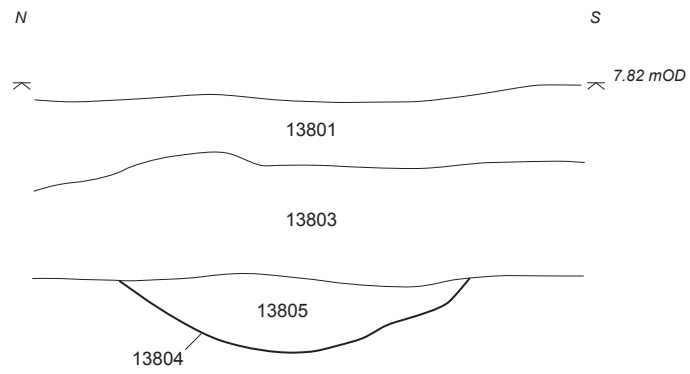
Date:	17/11/2014
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Site and trench location plan

Figure 1



Plate 1: North west facing section of Trench 138 showing ditch 13804



Section of ditch 13804


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Plate 2: South facing view of Trench 139 illustrating concrete plinths



Plate 3: North west facing section of Trench 141 showing layer 14103

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