LAND TO THE WEST OF A38
FILTON
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

AIRBUS

CA REPORT: 06016

FEBRUARY 2006

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

LAND TO THE WEST OF A38
FILTON
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CA PROJECT: 2119
CA REPORT: 06016

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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

SUMMARY

Site Name:	Land to the West of A38
Location:	Filton, South Gloucestershire
NGR:	ST 6025 7963
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	15-17 February 2006
Location of Archive:	Bristol Museum and Art Gallery
Site Code:	AIR 06

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2006 at the request of Airbus on land to the west of the A38, Filton, South Gloucestershire. Six trenches were excavated within the proposed development area.

Although no significant archaeological features were identified, the presence of an alluvial deposit and of modern archaeological features indicates that the original ground level is preserved along the north-eastern, south-eastern and southern edges of the site. Within these areas the archaeological potential identified in the Environmental Statement for the site, primarily for the presence of features associated with the medieval settlement of Filton, remains.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In February 2006 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for AYH on behalf of Airbus at Land to the West of the A38, Filton, South Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: ST 6025 7963; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a condition (condition 31) attached to outline planning approval requiring a programme of archaeological investigation prior to development of the site for industrial use.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed WSI produced by CA (2006) that was approved by David Haigh, Archaeologist for South Gloucestershire County Council, the archaeological advisor to South Gloucestershire Council. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects II* (EH 1991). It was monitored by Mr Haigh, including a site visit on 16 February 2006.

The site

1.3 The site lies within the Filton industrial centre with the Airbus works to the north-east and north-west, BAE land to the south-west and the A38 to the south-east (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 65m AOD. The ground level originally rose to the south but has been reduced within and surrounding the footprint of a building which formerly occupied much of the site. This building had been demolished, including the removal of the foundations, prior to the current evaluation. Trenches 1-5 were located within the footprint of this former building, with Trench 6 being located beyond the buildings boundary within an area that had not previously been truncated.

1.4 The underlying geology of the area is mapped as Lower Lias Clay of the Jurassic geological era, overlying beds of limestone (BGS 1974).

Archaeological background

1.5 Archaeological interest in the site has been summarised in an Environmental Statement (ES) which details the known and potential cultural heritage resource

within the site and its immediate environs (Atkins 2005, Chapter 11). It is not intended to fully reprise the findings of the ES here; instead a summary of the archaeological interest in the area is offered below.

1.6 No prehistoric sites have been identified within Filton. Romano-British settlement may be attested to through the discovery of finds of this date, including a Quern found at Filton Rectory and a coin hoard recovered from the banks of Filton Brook. However, no cut features of this date have yet been identified within Filton.

1.7 The main archaeological potential of the site stems from its proximity to the medieval settlement of Filton to the east. In addition, Cartographic evidence from the 19th century indicates the presence of medieval or post-medieval farmsteads in the immediate vicinity of the site.

Archaeological objectives

1.8 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date, significance and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will assist the Local Planning Authority in making an informed judgement on the likely impact upon the archaeological resource by the proposed development.

Methodology

1.9 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of six trenches, all 25m in length x 2.4m wide. All were located in the positions agreed with Mr Haigh with the exception of Trench 6 which was adjusted slightly due to the presence of live services.

1.10 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Excavation Recording Manual* (1996).

1.11 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other*

samples from Archaeological Sites (2003). All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995).

1.12 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive will be deposited with Bristol Museum and Art Gallery.

2. RESULTS

2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix 1. Trenches 2, 4 and 5 contained no features or deposits of archaeological significance and will not be discussed further in the results section.

Trench 1

2.2 The earliest encountered deposit was the natural substrate, 103, which comprised blue-grey clay and which was encountered at *c.*0.8m below present ground level. It was overlain by a thin layer of dark silty clay, 102, which was probably an alluvial deposit. This was itself sealed by modern rubble layer 101.

Trench 3

2.3 The earliest encountered deposit was natural mudstone substrate 303. This was overlain by a further layer of natural substrate, 302, which comprised orange silty clay and which was encountered at *c.*0.5m below present ground level. The natural clay had been cut by two stone-filled land drains, 305 and 306, and by modern service trench 304. The foregoing deposits were sealed by modern rubble layer 301.

Trench 6

2.4 The earliest encountered deposit was the natural substrate, 602, which comprised blue-green to yellow clay and which was encountered at depths of between 0.2m and 0.6m below present ground level. It was cut by 613, the construction cut for an undated limestone wall and limestone-lined culvert. It was also cut by shallow linear feature 604. Although this feature remained undated, it was on a similar alignment to two modern land drains and was probably a furrow. The remaining features were demonstrably modern in date, since they included modern finds within their fills.

These features included land drains 606 and 608, pit 610, which had been used as a "bottle dump", and two modern services.

The Finds

2.5 Early 20th-century pottery and bottle glass was recovered from the fill of pit 610 whilst 19th/20th-century pottery and brick fragments were recovered from land drains 606 and 608. Due to its limited significance this material has not been retained.

The Biological Evidence

2.6 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the course of the evaluation.

3. DISCUSSION

Introduction

3.1 Only Trenches 1, 3 and 6 contained archaeological features or deposits. The alluvium in Trench 1 remained undated whilst the probable furrow in Trench 6 is likely to be medieval or post-medieval in date. The wall and culvert identified in Trench 6 remained undated but may be post-medieval or modern in date based on the white lime mortar used as a bond for the wall. The land drains in Trench 3 were also undated but were similar to those identified in Trench 6 which contained modern finds. The pit in Trench 6 was also modern.

3.2 Although no significant archaeological features were identified during the course of the evaluation, the survival of the alluvium in Trench 1 and of the features in Trenches 3 and 6 does indicate that the original land surface in the vicinity of these trenches was not greatly truncated during the construction of the former building which stood on the site.

Conclusions

3.3 The evaluation has demonstrated that whilst much of the site has been greatly truncated the original ground level is preserved along the north-eastern and south-eastern edges of the site and in the vicinity of Trench 6. Within these areas the archaeological potential identified in the Environmental Statement, primarily for the presence of features associated with the medieval settlement of Filton, remains.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jonathan Hart This report was written by Jonathan Hart with illustrations prepared by Jemma Elliott. The archive has been compiled by Jonathan Hart, and prepared for deposition by Ed McSloy. The project was managed for CA by Clifford Bateman.

5. REFERENCES

Atkins 2005 *Airbus Technology Park: Environmental Statement*

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1974 *Geological Survey of England and Wales. 1:50,000 series, solid and drift. Sheet 264: Bristol*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2006 *Land to the West of A38, Filton, South Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

KEY: BPGL = below present ground level

Trench 1

101	Modern rubble layer derived from demolition material. 0.8m thick.
102	Probable alluvium: dark brown-black silty clay with preserved wood (twigs). 0.03m thick.
103	Natural substrate: blue-grey clay encountered at 0.83m BPGL.

Trench 2

201	Modern rubble layer derived from demolition material. 0.3->2.10m thick.
202	Natural substrate: yellow clay with limestone fragments overlying layer 205. Encountered at 0.3m BPGL
203	Modern foundation trench excavated to 1.8m BPGL without the base being reached. Filled by 201.
204	Modern foundation trench excavated to 2.10m BPGL without the base being reached. Filled by 201.
205	Natural substrate: limestone encountered at 0.38m BPGL.

Trench 3

301	Modern rubble layer derived from demolition material. 0.54m thick.
302	Natural substrate: yellow clay with limestone fragments overlying layer 303. Encountered at 0.5m BPGL
303	Natural substrate: limestone encountered at 0.54m BPGL.
304	Modern service or foundation trench filled by 301 (no service present).
305	Undated stone-filled land drain.
306	Undated stone-filled land drain.

Trench 4

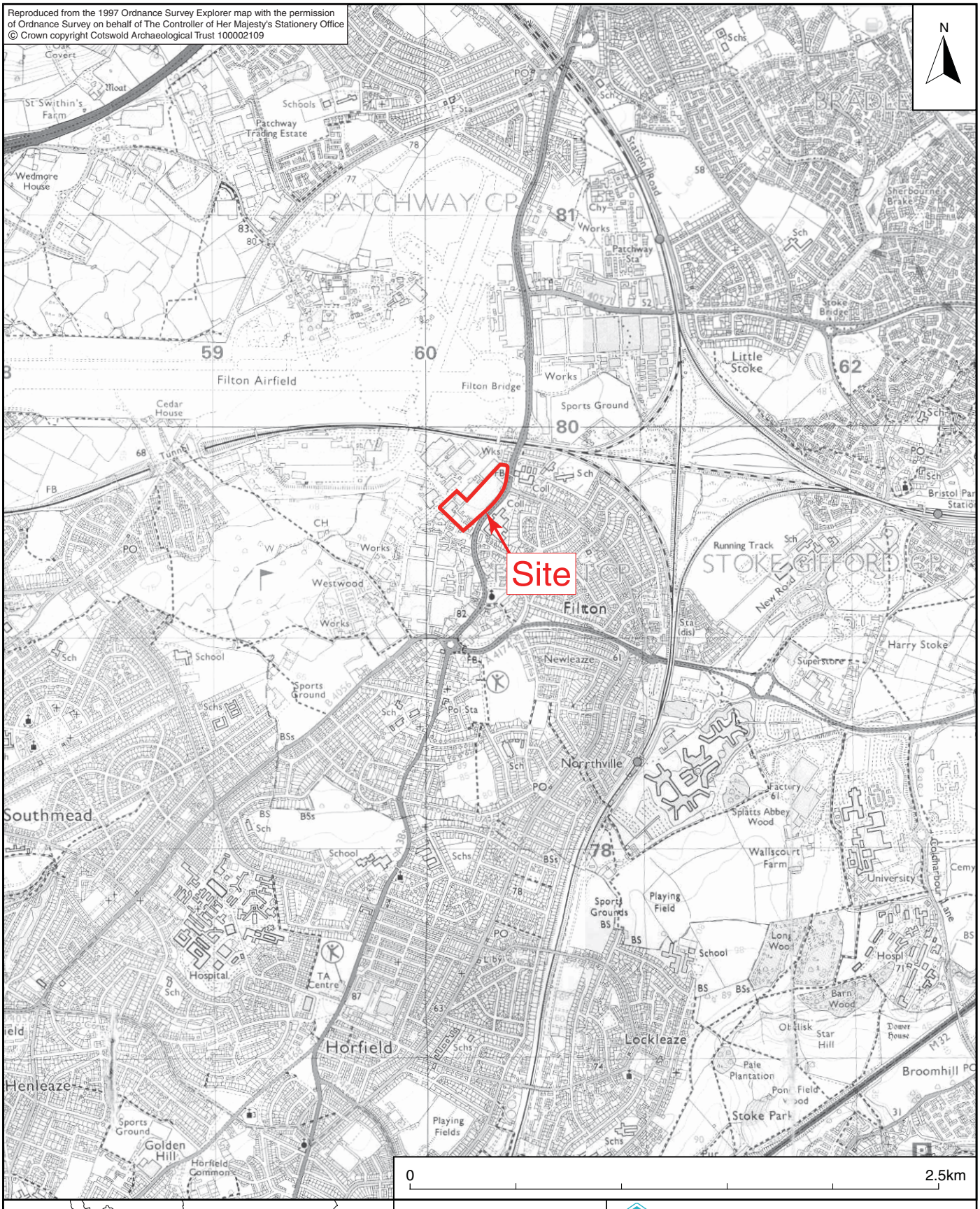
401	Modern rubble layer derived from demolition material. 0.1-0.9m thick.
402	Natural substrate: blue-grey clay encountered at 0.4m BPGL.
403	Natural substrate: yellow clay with limestone fragments. Encountered at 0.1m BPGL
404	Modern service or foundation trench (no service present). Filled with 405.
405	Fill of 404: modern hardcore.

Trench 5

501	Modern rubble layer derived from demolition material. 0.4-3.5m thick.
502	Natural substrate: blue-grey clay encountered at 3.5m BPGL.
503	Modern foundation trench. 3.5m deep, filled with 501.
504	Natural substrate: limestone encountered at 0.4m BPGL.
505	Modern foundation or service trench filled by 506.
506	Fill of 505: modern hardcore.

Trench 6

601	Modern layer: dumped deposit comprising topsoil, shredded vegetation and building rubble. 0.3-0.6m thick
602	Natural substrate: blue-green clay with weakly-formed stone encountered at 0.3-0.6m BPGL.
603	Wall: roughly squared limestone blocks with white lime mortar bonding. 0.6m wide. Butted by 612.
604	Cut for probable furrow. 0.5m wide x 0.03m deep.
605	Fill of 604: mid grey-brown clay silt.
606	Land drain.
607	Stone fill of 606.
608	Land drain.
609	Brick rubble fill of 608.
610	Sub-circular pit.
611	Fill of 610: dark grey-brown clay silt with large quantities of modern china plate fragments and bottle glass.



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
Land to the west of A38, Filton, South Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
JE	1:25,000@A4	2119	**1**

N

600

800

LC

LC

56m

A38

A38

CLEVE ROAD

Coll

NEW ROAD

T1

T2

T3

T4

T5

T6

FILTON CP

GLOUCESTER ROAD NORTH

Coll

RODNEY CRESCENT

BOVERTON ROAD

ST

0 250m

site

archaeological trench

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
Land to the west of A 38, Filton, South Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
JE	1:2500@A3	2119	**2**