

# Land adjacent to Hangar 2, Dunkeswell Industrial Estate

## Results of an archaeological watching brief

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On behalf of:  
Mr S. Parr

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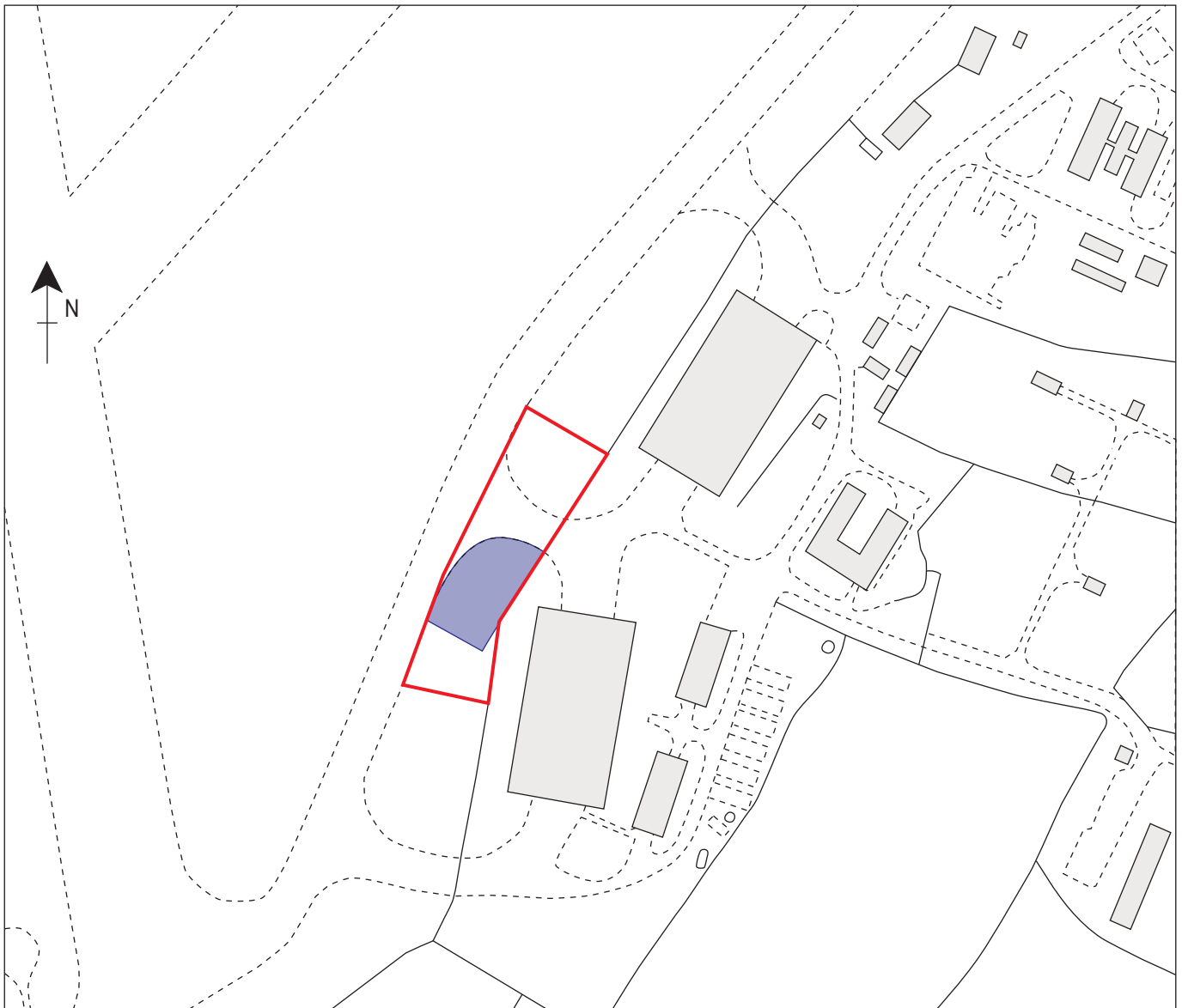
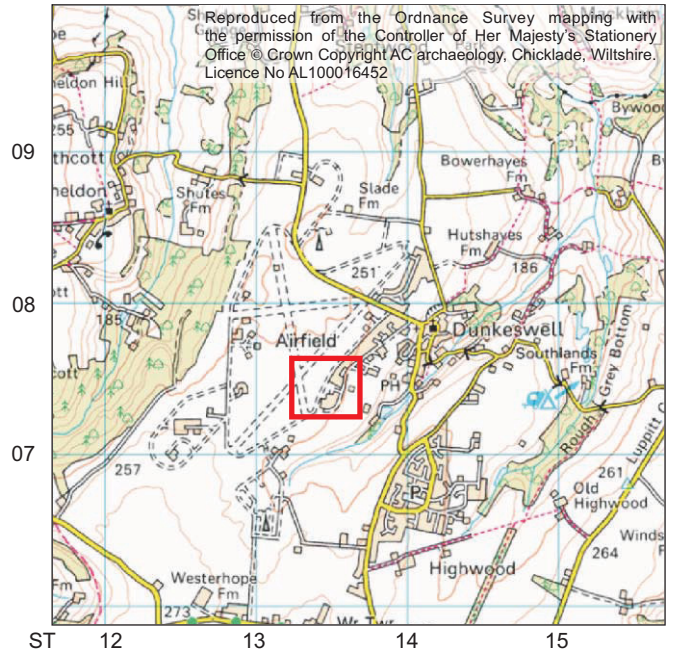
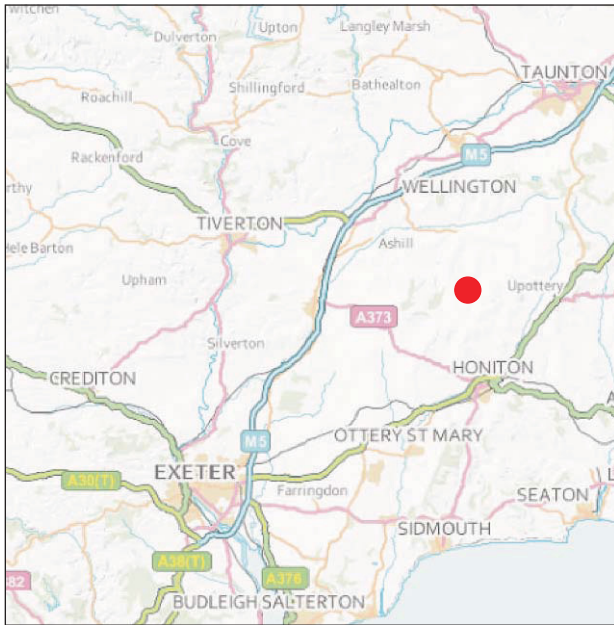
archaeology

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# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Dunkeswell, East Devon	<b>National Grid Reference</b> ST 1342 0741	<b>Number:</b> (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
<b>Subject:</b> Land adjacent to Hangar 2, Dunkeswell Industrial Estate: Results of an archaeological watching brief		<b>Photo attached?</b> Y
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 10/2333/FUL	<b>Recipient museum:</b> RAMM	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> 124358	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> RAMM reference number 12/23	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b>  ACD288	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b>  13 April 2012	
<p><b>Description of works.</b></p> <p>A watching brief was maintained during initial ground reduction for the creation of bases for the drying of cob blocks. The site lies adjacent to Dunkeswell Airfield, within the technical area of the former RAF wartime airfield, between the former perimeter track (that is still used as an access track) and the industrial estate partially housed within former RAF buildings (Fig. 1).</p> <p>An area measuring 28m by up to 46m was stripped of topsoil down onto a subsoil (Fig. 2; Plate 1). The topsoil (100) comprised soft mid grey-brown silt, and was generally 0.15m thick, but shallower towards the perimeter track. The subsoil (101) comprised compact mid-light yellow-brown silty clay containing brick fragments. Three features were exposed cutting into the subsoil – two probable wheel ruts and a brick light foundation.</p> <p>The wheel ruts (104 and 106) were aligned northwest to southeast and spaced 1m apart. They measured 0.70m and 0.80m wide by 0.05m and 0.07m deep respectively, and had gently sloping sides with wide flat bases. They were filled with soft mid grey-brown clay-silts (105 and 107) containing modern glass, and brick and rubble respectively. Although orientated on the same alignment as the historic field system pre-dating the airfield, their ephemeral nature and nature of the finds within their fills indicate that they are likely to represent vehicle tracks rather than remnants of a field system, and they may have been created during the construction of the airfield in 1942-3.</p> <p>The light foundation comprised a rectangular edging (103) measuring 1.06m by 0.90m that was constructed of standard red bricks bonded in cement that was also used as a lining to the interior surface (Plate 2). Within the structure were two bricks forming the base of the light; below this passed an electric cable. Francis' (1996, 21) survey of the airfield describes the use of Drem Mk. 2 Type T1 lighting for the perimeter track. Foundation 103 may represent the base of such a light fitting, however surviving examples at other airfields have been found set into the edges of the perimeter tracks rather in the adjacent grassed areas.</p> <p>In summary, no archaeological features pre-dating the construction of RAF Dunkeswell in 1942-3 were exposed. The recorded features comprised a brick base, probably for a perimeter track light, and a pair of possible vehicle tracks.</p> <p><b>Reference.</b> Francis, P., 2006, <i>Blackdown Hills Airfield Survey Dunkeswell and Upottery</i></p>		
<p><b>A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.</b></p>		
<p><b>Recorder:</b>  Andrew Passmore, AC archaeology</p>		<p><b>Date sent to HER:</b>  11 May 2012</p>





0 100m  
Scale 1:2500@A4

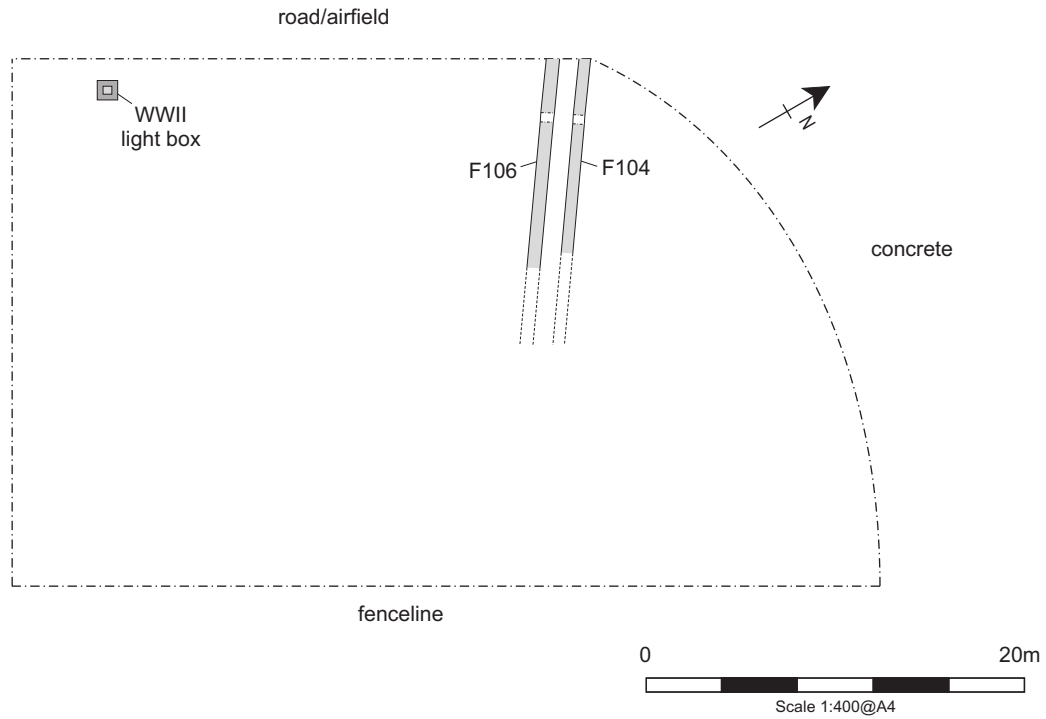
- Application area
- Excavation

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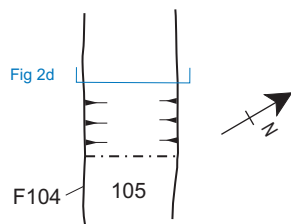
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Fig. 1: Location of site

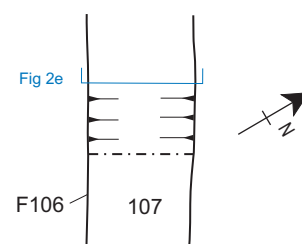
### a) Plan of site area



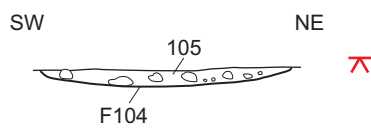
### b) Plan of F104



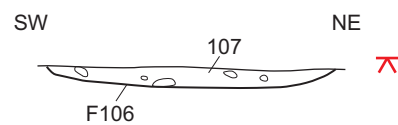
### c) Plan of F106



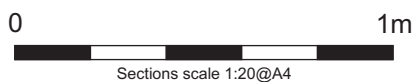
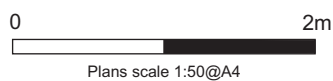
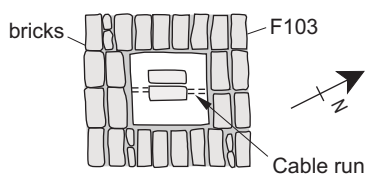
### d) Section of F104



### e) Section of F106



### f) Plan of WWII light box 103



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Fig. 2: Plans and sections



Plate 1: General view of the excavation, viewed from the southwest



Plate 2: The brick light base 103, viewed from the southeast. Scale 1m



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