

LAND AT DUNKESWELL AERODROME, DUNKESWELL, EAST DEVON

NGR ST 1288 0783

Results of an Archaeological Trench Evaluation

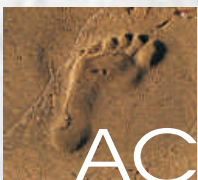
East Devon District Council Planning Reference
13/1112/FUL

Prepared by:
Alex Farnell

On behalf of:
Mr Brendan Procter

Report No: ACD778/2/0

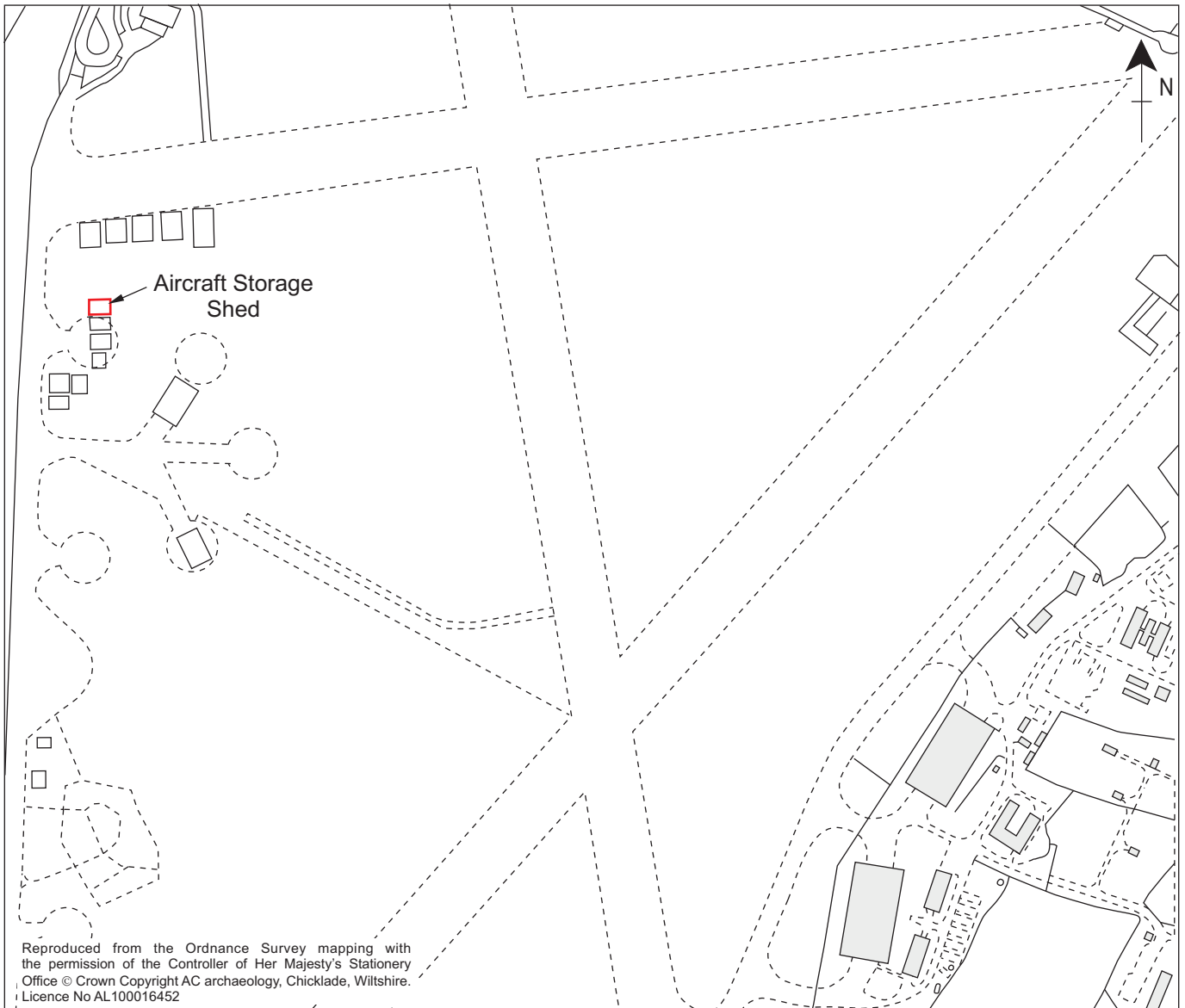
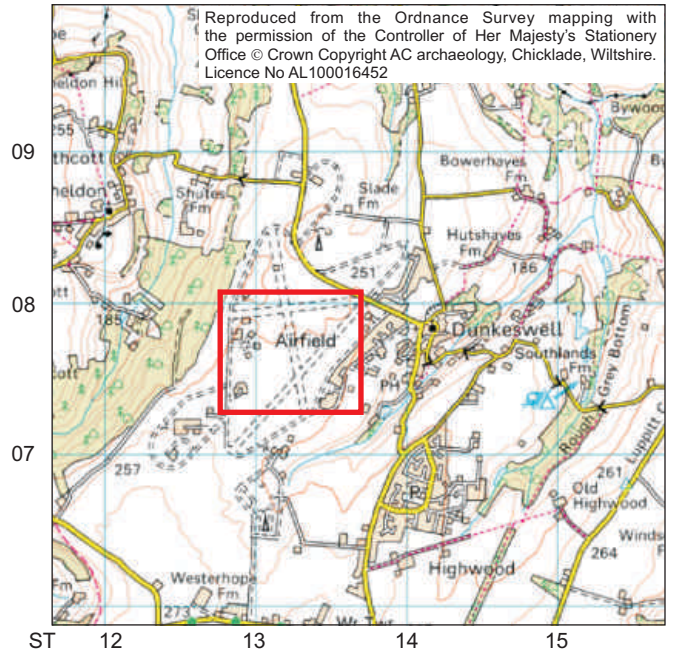
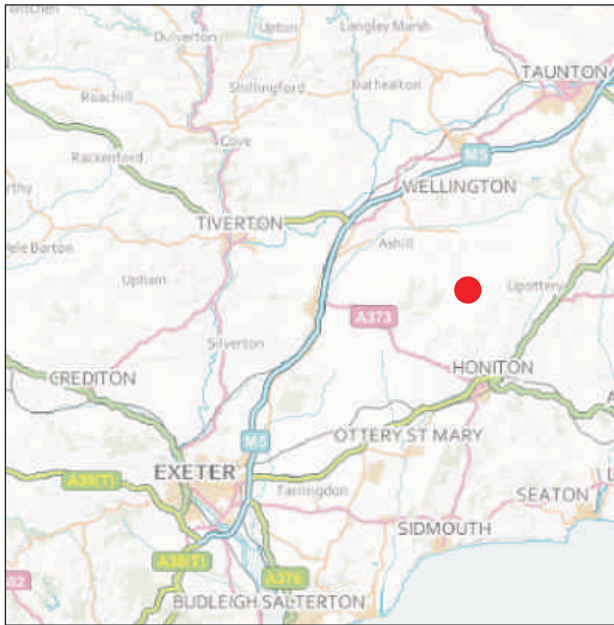
Date: November 2013



AC archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Dunkeswell, East Devon	National Grid Reference ST 1286 0783	Number:
Subject: Land at Dunkeswell Aerodrome: Results of an archaeological trench evaluation		Photo attached: Plates 1-4
Planning Ref: East Devon District Council 13/1112/FUL	Recipient museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter	
OASIS ID: 164200	Temporary reference no: RAMM: 13/60	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD778	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 09 October 2013	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>An archaeological trench evaluation was undertaken by AC archaeology on land adjacent to a new aircraft storage shed at Dunkeswell Aerodrome, on behalf of Mr Brendan Procter. The work was required by East Devon District Council as a condition (4) of planning consent, as advised by the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCCHET). The location of the site is shown on Fig. 1.</p> <p>Archaeological background</p> <p>Dunkeswell Aerodrome was an RAF airfield built in 1942 and was extensively landscaped during its construction. The site lies on the edge of former common, enclosed at some time after 1844. The layout of the pre-enclosure field boundaries is characteristic of medieval strip fields extending out from the historic core of the village.</p> <p>Evidence for historic ironworking has been found at a number of locations in the vicinity including, most recently, ten undated, intercutting, iron ore extraction pits (Devon County Historic Environment Record ref. 56366)</p> <p>Results (Fig. 2; Plates 1-4)</p> <p>The evaluation comprised the machine-excavation of two trenches, positioned along the exterior length of the northern and eastern walls of a new aircraft storage shed.</p> <p>Trench 1 measured 18m long, 1.5m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.42m. Natural subsoil was encountered at a depth of 0.38m below approximately 0.11m of firm, mid yellowish brown, clay subsoil (101). Two 19th-20th century land drains crossed the trench, cutting subsoil 101. A section was excavated across one of these to confirm function (F103). Approximately 0.27m of soft, grey brown clay loam topsoil overlay subsoil across the trench.</p> <p>Trench 2 measured 12m long, 1.5m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.45m. Natural subsoil was encountered at a depth of 0.40m below approximately 0.12m of firm, mid yellowish brown, clay subsoil (201). A 19th-20th century land drain crossed the trench, cutting subsoil 201. Approximately 0.28m of soft, grey brown clay loam topsoil overlay subsoil across the trench.</p> <p>Comments</p> <p>No pre-modern archaeological features or deposits were present in the excavated trenches and no finds were recovered from the topsoil and subsoil layers. The overlying layer sequence was, however, still <i>in situ</i>, so if archaeological features were present then they are unlikely to have been removed during landscaping associated with airfield construction.</p> <p>The paper and digital archive will not be retained, subject to agreement with DCCHET.</p>		
Recorder: Alex Farnell, AC archaeology		Date sent to HER: 15 November 2013



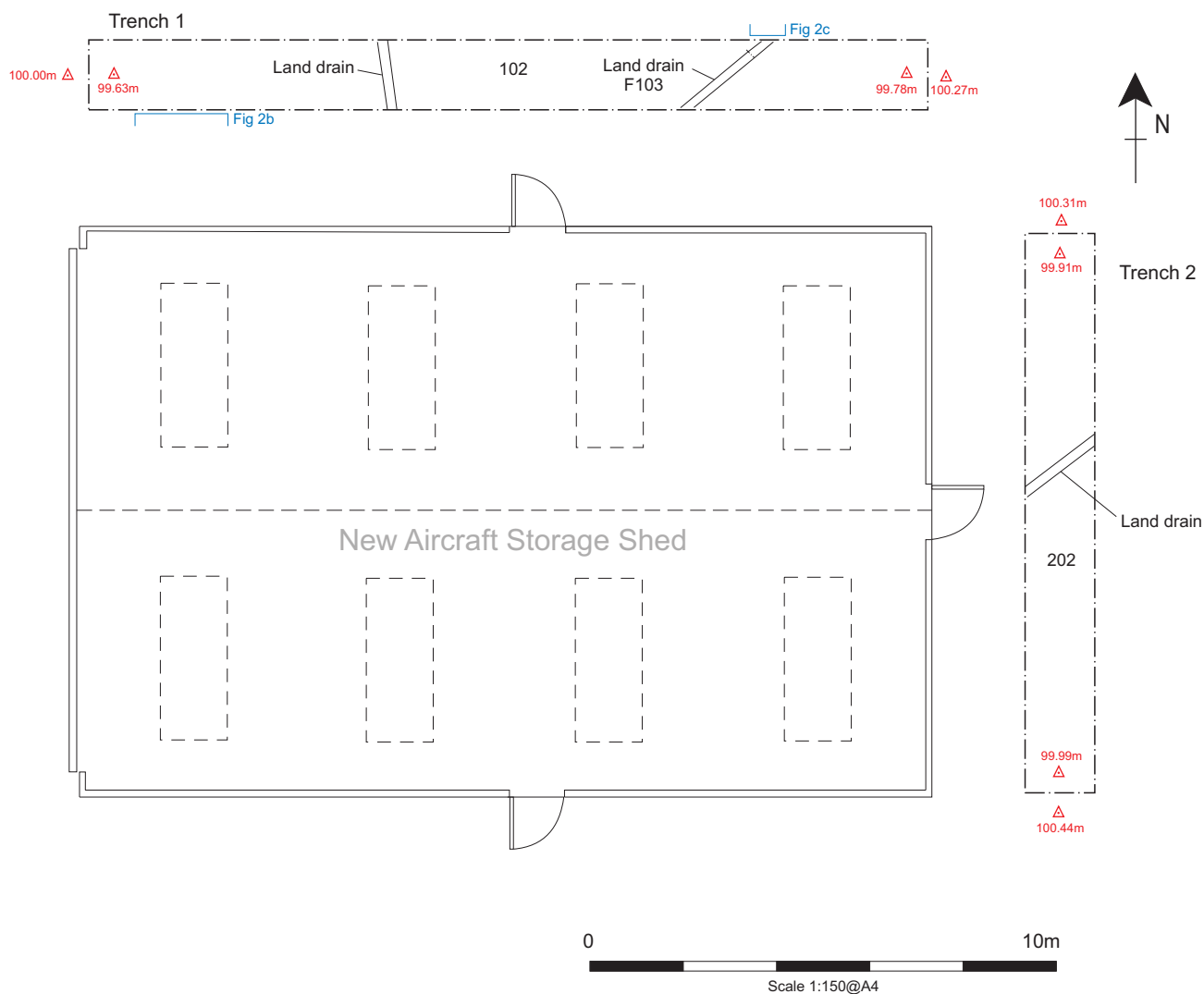
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PROJECT
Dunkeswell Airfield, Dunkeswell, Devon

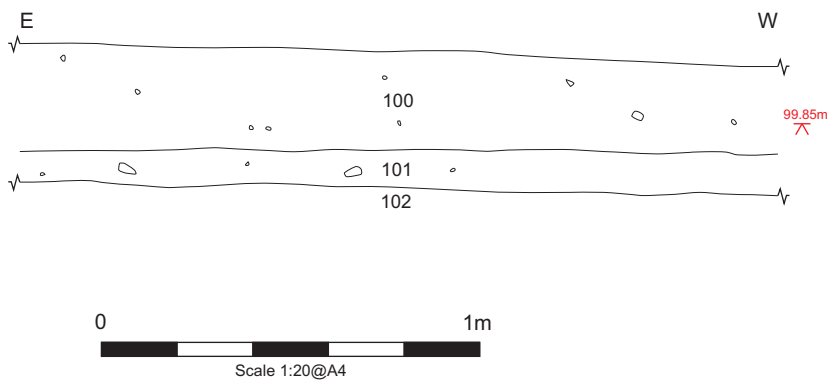
TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of site

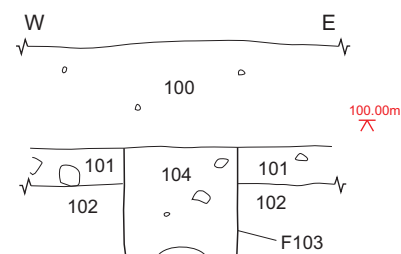
a) Plan of trenches



b) Representative section



c) Section of land drain F103



PROJECT

Dunkeswell Airfield, Dunkeswell, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 2: Plan and sections



Plate 1: General view of site, looking southwest



Plate 2: Trench 1, looking east. Scale 1m



Plate 3: Trench 2, looking south. Scale 1m



Plate 4: Trench 1, showing land drain F103, looking north. Scale 1m

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