



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
June 2011

## Archaeology

## ARCH2

### Unit 2 Archaeological Skills and Methods

Friday 20 May 2011

9.00 am to 10.45 am

**For this paper you must have:**

- an AQA 12-page answer book
- a Sources Booklet (enclosed).

**Time allowed**

- 1 hour 45 minutes

**Instructions**

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen. Do **not** use pencil or gel pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Examining Body** for this paper is AQA. The **Paper Reference** is ARCH2.
- Answer **seven** questions.  
Answer **all** of the questions in Section A and **one** question from Section B.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work that you do not want to be marked.

**Information**

- The maximum mark for this paper is 90.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- Sources for use in answering the questions in Section A are printed in a separate Sources Booklet.
- Quality of Written Communication (QWC) will be assessed in Section B of this paper.
- In answering the questions in Section A, you must clearly demonstrate that you have used or drawn upon all the sources to which you are specifically directed. You must also use your own knowledge and understanding as appropriate to each question.
- You may use a magnifying glass to assist interpretation of figures.

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## Introduction: The Roman Legionary Fortress of Inchtuthil

The legionary fortress at Inchtuthil (the most northerly in the Roman Empire) occupies a site some 500 metres from the River Tay in Scotland (**Maps 1 and 2**). The fortress sits on a plateau of thin soil overlying gravels that even today forms a small island in times of extreme flood. The fortress was established by the 20<sup>th</sup> Legion as part of the proposed conquest of northern Scotland, but had a very short period of occupation from AD 83 to the late 80s. This makes Inchtuthil fortress, together with its associated temporary construction camp, an invaluable resource in understanding the construction techniques and priorities of a Roman legion operating in hostile territory.

The site, which has largely been ploughed out, has been used for a golf course, for pasture and arable farming. It was subject to intensive aerial survey from 1945. These surveys led to more intensive fieldwork including a series of excavations of parts of the site from 1952 to 1965. Less than 5% of the site was excavated. This, together with comparative evidence from similar sites, helped the archaeologists to understand more about the fortress and its relationship with the surrounding area and associated Roman structures.

The fortress defences were discovered to have been initially constructed with ditches and a turf rampart, which was subsequently cut back to accommodate a stone wall. The interior buildings were timber-framed.

A number of artefacts were found, including pottery and tile, but the most significant find was a large hoard of large iron nails found in the *fabrica* (workshop) which were probably manufactured on-site.

**Map 1 Great Britain showing the approximate location of Map 2**




## Map 2 Inchtuthil fortress (A) in its surroundings.

Note the adjacent temporary construction camp (B), Cargill Roman fortlet to the south-east, and Gourdie Roman fort to the north.



Contours are in feet (1ft = 0.3m)



**Key:**  marshland

### Glossary:

Burn – a small stream

Cleaven Dyke – a much earlier

Neolithic earthwork

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**Section A**

Answer **all** questions in this section.

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**Question 1**

**0 1** Study the **Introduction, Figures 1 and 2** and use your own knowledge.

Explain why some, but not all, of the archaeological features are visible from the air.  
You may use simple sketches to illustrate your answer. *(14 marks)*

**Question 2**

**0 2** Study **Map 2, Figures 1, 2 and 3** and use your own knowledge.

Outline the uses and limitations of antiquarian sources such as General W Roy's map  
(**Figure 3**) to archaeologists. *(6 marks)*

**Question 3**

**0 3** Study **Figures 1, 4 and 5** and use your own knowledge.

What are the uses and limitations of the excavation technique illustrated? *(8 marks)*

**Question 4**

**0 4** Study the **Introduction, all the Figures** and use your own knowledge.

What geophysical techniques would be most likely to yield good results in a survey of  
Inchtuthil fortress, and why? *(12 marks)*

**Question 5**

**0 5** Study **Figure 6** and use your own knowledge.

Outline the evidence that the archaeologists could have used to arrive at the  
reconstruction illustrated. *(8 marks)*

**Question 6**

**0 6** Study the **Introduction, all the Figures** and use your own knowledge.

Outline the most likely methods which modern archaeologists could use in order to  
assign dates to the finds and features at Inchtuthil. *(12 marks)*

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**Section B**

Answer **one** question from this section.

You must use case studies, which may include Inchtuthil, to illustrate your answer.

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**Question 7**

0	7
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Inchtuthil is a site in a rural area. Explain the similarities and differences between excavating sites in urban and rural settings.

*(30 marks)*

**Question 8**

0	8
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Outline the methods archaeologists could use to recreate a past landscape, such as that surrounding the Roman site of Inchtuthil.

*(30 marks)*

**Question 9**

0	9
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Describe and explain the finds processing techniques, apart from dating, that would take place today on a site like Inchtuthil where there have been significant finds of iron nails, pottery, tile and glassware.

*(30 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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