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95/72

# SUFFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

## EVALUATION REPORT

RAF LAKENHEATH  
HOSPITAL ZONE MAINTENANCE FACILITY  
ERL 086

95/72

July 1995



SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

- Alfreda Thistlethwaite • Acting County Planning Officer •
- St Edmund House • County Hall • Ipswich • IP4 1LZ •
- Switchboard Ipswich 01473 230000 • Fax 01473 288221 •

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

**RAF Lakenheath: Hospital Zone Maintenance Facility  
ERL 086 TL 7282 8070**

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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Hospital Maintenance Facility --RAF Lakenheath  
ERL 086

### Introduction

The evaluation was conducted during July '95 on the proposed site of the new Hospital Maintenance Facility building. It was to establish the archaeological potential of the proposed development area, and the threat posed by the putative building.

The site (SMR No. ERL 086) lies at TL 7282 8070, and is about 250m southwest of Caudle Head Mere. Previous excavations, and the archaeological monitoring of various ground works, suggest that the mere was the focus of an extensive settlement. Evidence of Pre-historic, Roman and Early Anglo-Saxon occupation has been recorded at several locations around it (see fig 1). Well preserved Roman levels have been found at the sewerage works (ERL 023) which is adjacent to the evaluation site.

### Methodology

72.7 sq m of trench was opened using a machine fitted with a 1.5m wide bucket. At the request of the client the trench positions were altered from those suggested by the specification (Appendix 1), this was agreed as the changes did not compromise the effectiveness of the evaluation. The trenching followed the outline of the building and the NE edge of its associated carpark. The outline of these were marked out by the client. It later transpired, during the preparation of this report, that the development area appears to have been marked out twice its actual size. A consequence of this was only trenches 1 and 2 were within the proposed development area (covering 16.5% of the area under threat), with 3 and 4 occurring a little outside.

The excavation of the trenches was kept to a minimum, removing only what was necessary to establish the extent and date of the deposits, avoiding the undue disturbance of archaeological layers. Excavation through archaeological layers to the sub-soil level occurred in selected area to examine the depth of the deposits and the hidden underlying feature density.

All of the archaeological features were recorded in plan (fig 3) and sample sections were drawn of the trench sides to illustrate the soil profiles (fig 4).

Finds were collected from each of the soil horizons to date the deposits and all exposed or disturbed soil was metal-detected.

### Results

The trenching demonstrated that substantial and well preserved archaeological deposits survived right across the development area. There was evidence that the complete ancient soil profile was intact and there was no sign of any disturbance or damage to the archaeological layers. The upper layers are just below the present surface with only 10-15cms of topsoil or overburden covering them.

In trenches 1, 2 and 3 was an occupation layer of black charcoally sand, this was up to 30cms deep and contained Early-Saxon and Roman pottery, worked flint, animal bone and tile fragments. This overlay a 20cm deep layer of orange/brown sand

which was more extensive, covering virtually all of the site. Wherever these layers were removed features were observed sealed beneath them and cutting the subsoil.

#### Trench 1

The occupation layer of black sand (0004) was observed over the full trench length. This was removed along with the underlying orange/brown sand to the sub soil level at each end of the trench. At the NE end two large ditches (numbered 0011 and 0012) were recorded cutting the subsoil. Ditch 0011 ran N/E-S/W along the south edge of the trench, so the trench side presented a longitudinal slice through it's upper fill. Ditch 0012, an earlier ditch, ran across the trench and was cut by 0011. Excavation of these features was limited as their antiquity was already established by their position sealed beneath the occupation layer. An exploratory section was dug into 0011 to assess the nature of this feature, a deep, steep sided ditch, and a small quantity of Iron-Age pottery and a Roman nail were found within it.

At the SW end of the trench three large ditches were uncovered below the occupation layer, these were substantial features, over 1.20m deep which occupied the entire trench width and depth. The ditches represented at least two phases of activity as 0006 was cut once 0023 had been filled in. pottery collected from ditch 0006 was dated as Early-Saxon.

#### Trench 2

Trench 2 illustrated the spread of the black occupation layer, which extended to approximately mid-trench. Finds collected from this layer numbered 0002 included two sherds of Early-Saxon pottery. Beyond and below this layer was a further archaeological horizon, an orange/brown sand numbered 0018, Roman pottery was collected from it's surface but it was otherwise left intact.

A sample was excavated through the occupation layer at the S/E of the trench this revealed another large ditch 0022. This feature ran N/E- S/W and was filled with black charcoally sand. The lower part of the ditch remained unexcavated but was at least 0.7m deep.

#### Trench 3

Trench 3 was cut directly to sub-soil level, removing the occupation soil and the underlying brown sand which were observed in the section. Three ditches were recorded traversing the trench below these layers. The ditches were not excavated as their date, Roman or earlier, was already established by their relationship with the occupation layer.

#### Trench 4

Trench 4 revealed a continuing spread of the archaeology across this end of development area. Roman and Iron-Age finds were collected from a mottled dark grey and orange sand, 0019, which covered most of the trench length. Two small sondages cut into this layer revealed an underlying black sand, 0020, a further strata of archaeology beneath 0019. 0020 did not extend to the N/W end of the trench and at this end, 0019 became shallower. Two features a ditch, 0021, and small pit/posthole were recorded at the far end of the trench. A sherd of early Roman pottery was collected from the surface of the ditch but none of the fill was excavated. The small pit/posthole was half sectioned but this produced no finds.

## Finds

The evaluation produced 525grms of pottery, 80 grms of struck flint and 150grms of roof tile, animal bone was also present but not collected. The metal finds included four late Roman coins, a finger ring and metal-working waste. The earliest finds were Mesolithic flint blades, the Iron-Age and Early Saxon periods were also represented in the spread of material. Detail records of the finds are in the accompanying appendices

## Conclusions

The indications are that features here are a continuation of the settlement surrounding the Caudle Head parts of which have already been excavated at the sites SMR No. ERL 023 and LKH 146.

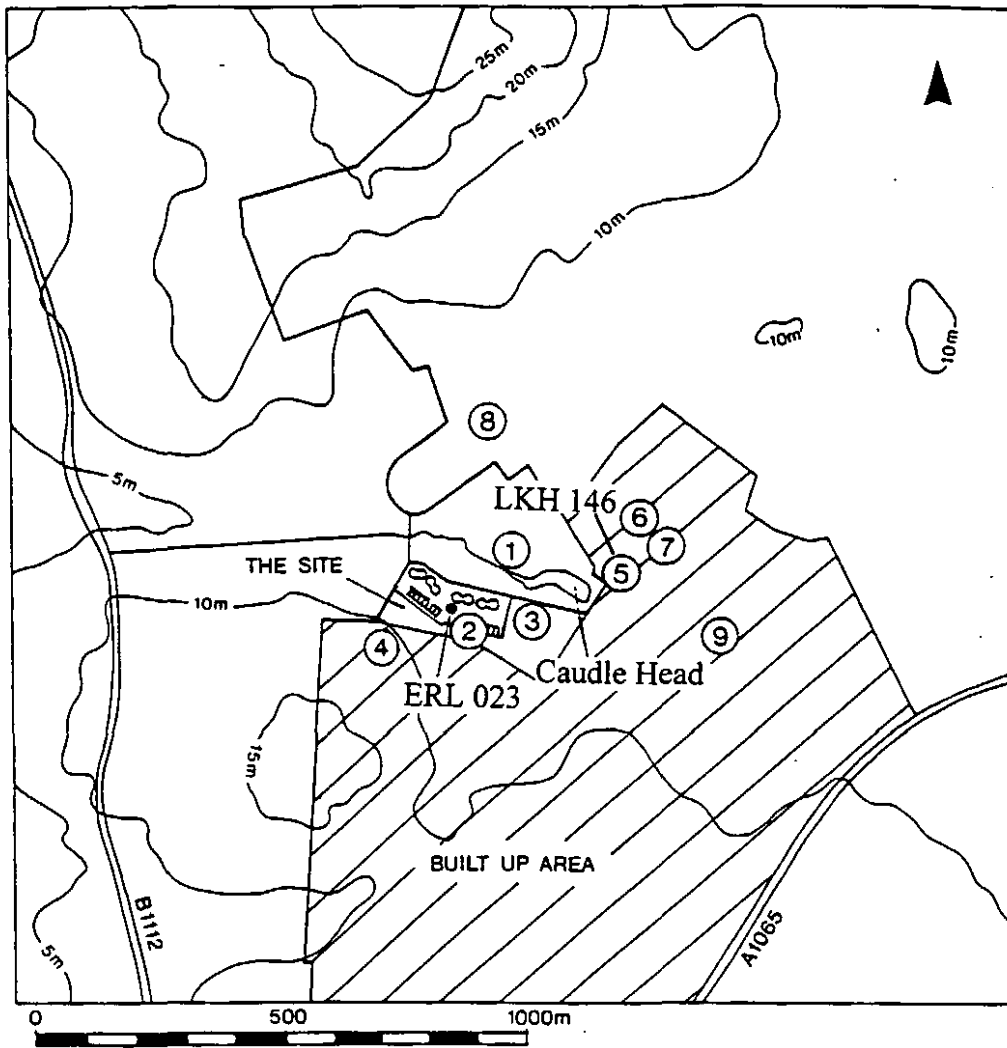
A detailed interpretation of the evaluation results is not possible as the sample of the archaeology is too small, the evidence however does suggest an established long running occupation with examples of activity from the Mesolithic to Early-Saxon period.

The settlement appears to be flourishing during the Roman period and most of the features date from this phase. The collection of Roman pottery included, as well as the locally produced greywares, some regional imports illustrating the settlements participation in trading networks.

The ditches probably served as boundary markers delineating properties and encircling enclosures, these divisions would have changed during the history of the site and the relationships between the intersecting ditches in the evaluation show that several different phases of settlement layout were represented here.

The occupation layer illustrated the height of the ground level during the Roman period. This material is a deposit of domestic rubbish which would have either accumulated around the area of occupation or been dumped as a surface midden a little distance away. Its deposition probably occurred at the very end of the Roman period with late C4th coins and early Saxon pottery found within it.

The evaluation shows that the whole of the proposed development is within an archaeologically sensitive area. It contains substantial and well preserved archaeological deposits, and there is no evidence that the ground has been disturbed since the early Saxon period. The material began close to the surface, barely 10-15cms below the present ground level and consequently would be vulnerable to any re-working of the soil profile.



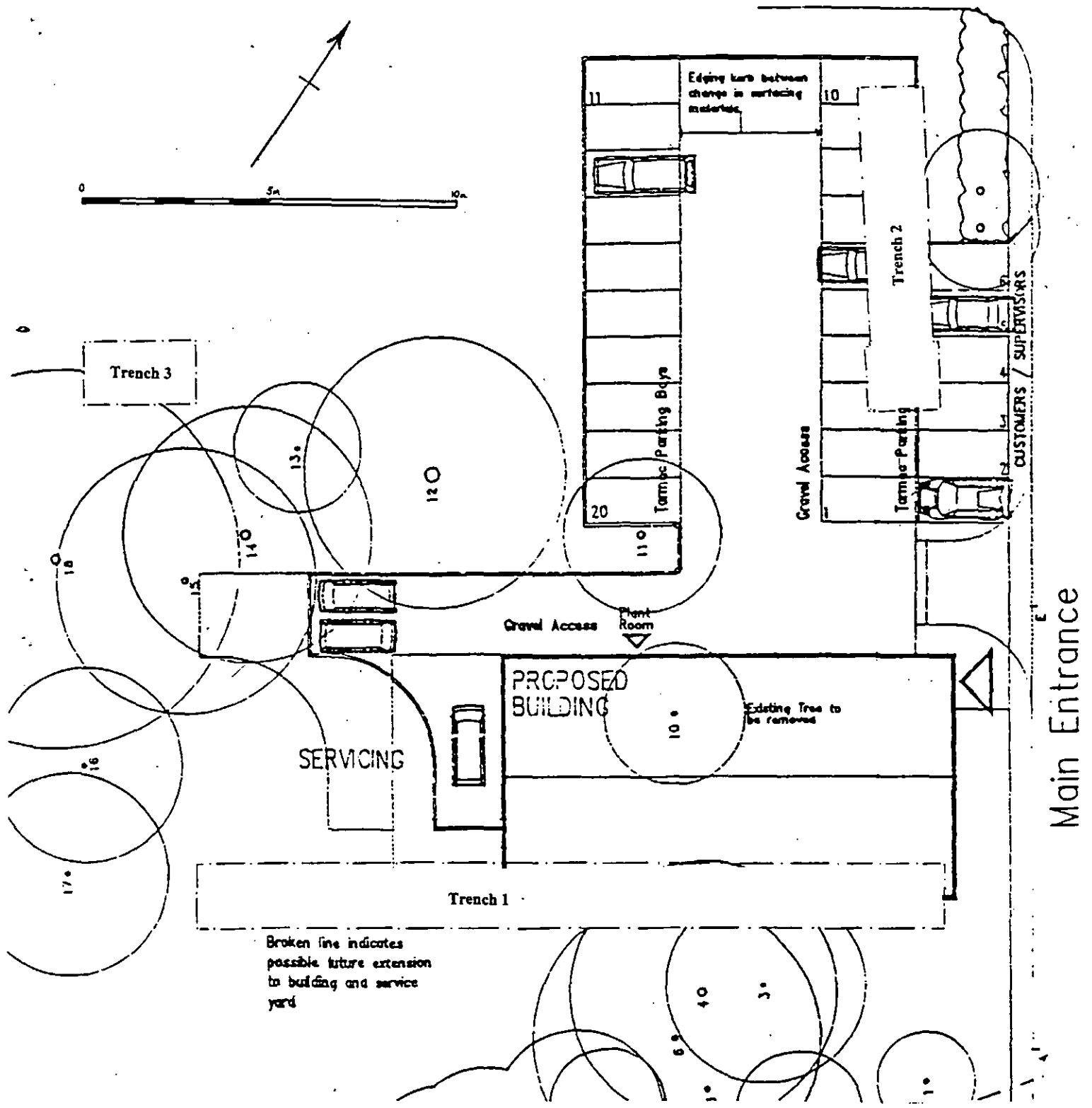
**Fig 1**  
**Site location plan showing archaeological**  
**findspot around Caudle Head mere**

KEY TO FIG. 1

	<u>COUNTY SITES &amp; MONUMENTS CODE</u>	<u>DATE OF DISCOVERY</u>	<u>SUMMARY OF FINDS</u>
1.	ERL 009	1933	Finds of Roman pottery and coins C2-C4 and a 'Trumpet Brooch.
2.	ERL 023	1948	Skeletons in wooden coffins. C4 Roman pottery and coins.
3.	ERL 024	1953	Roman pottery associated with male burial.
4.	ERL 006	1932	'Much Roman Pottery' finds spot approximate.
5.	LKH 114	1987	Roman pottery, ditches, probably boundary ditches with 2 burials possible C1 or C2. Also Iron Age storage pit C4 BC.
6.	LKH 146	1993	Excavation produced Roman pottery, ditches, fence lines and a well and 2 burials. Also some undated earlier ditches, including a possible round house and several sherds of early Saxon pottery.
7.	LKH 030	1924	Roman pottery, palisade ditches and cemetery (sic) inhumation.
		1943	Roman coins, pottery and burials.
		1951	Further finds by workman

8.	LKH 031	1950	Roman pottery.
9.	LKH 033	1955	Republican coin Cl BC.





**Fig 2**  
**Trench location plan**  
**trenches shown in relation to proposed development**

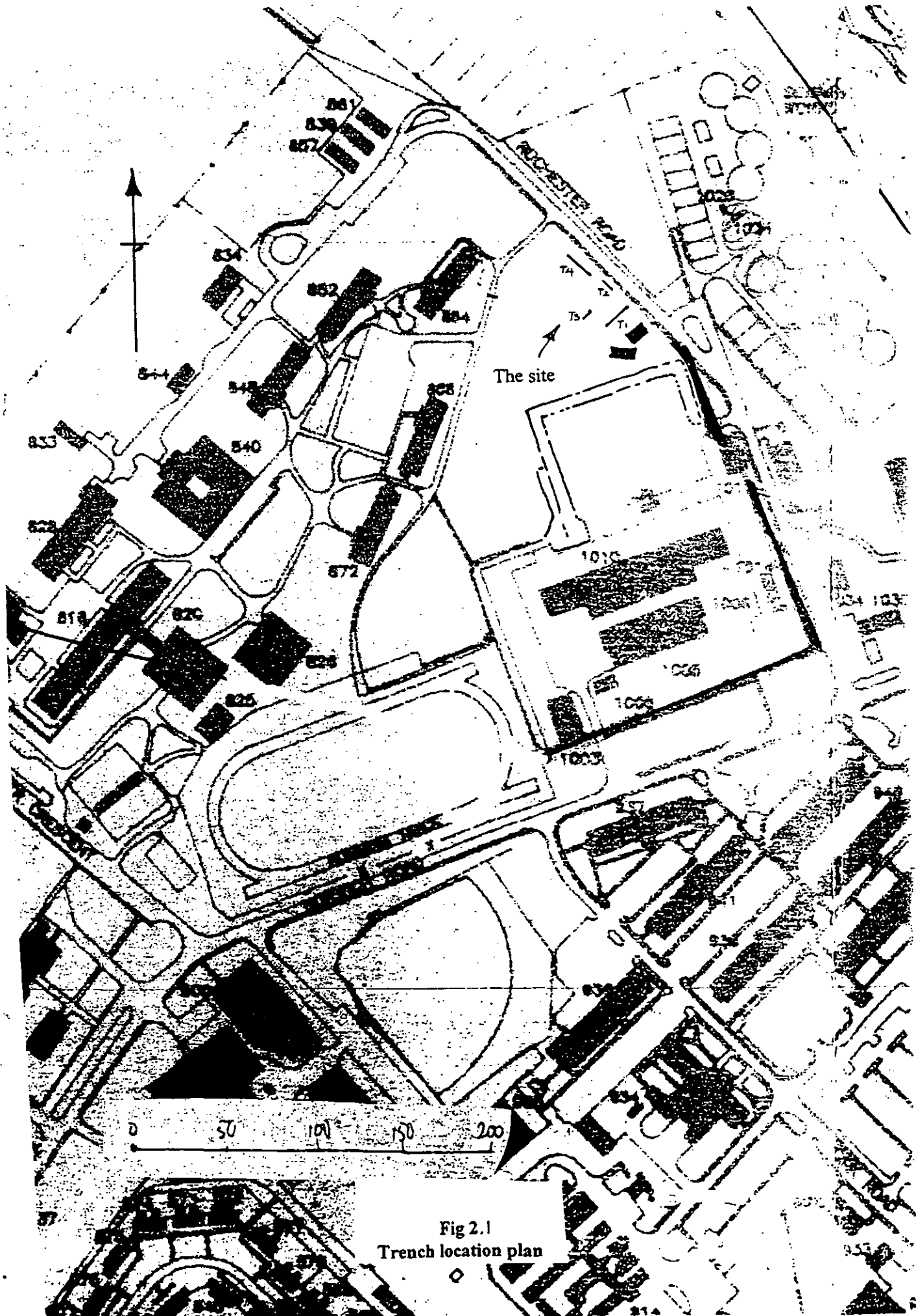
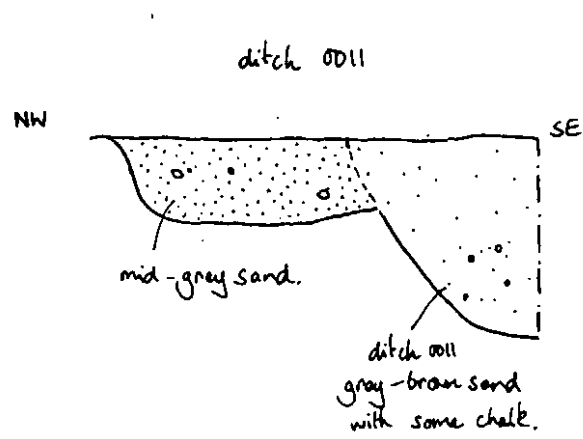
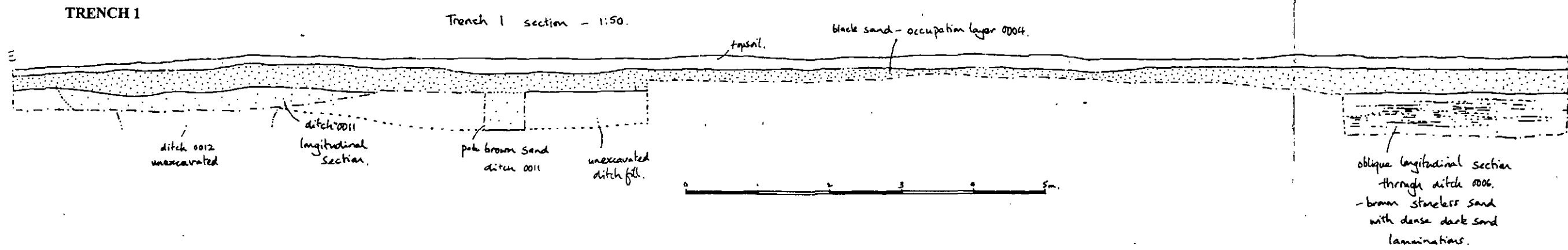
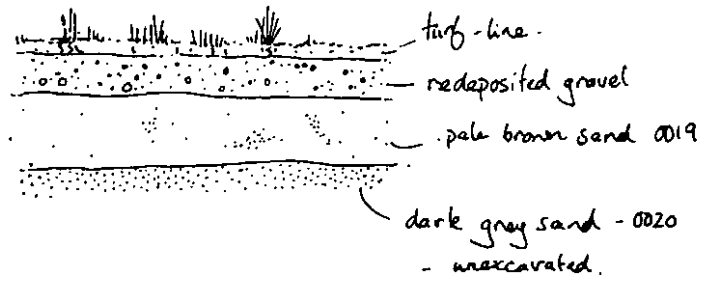


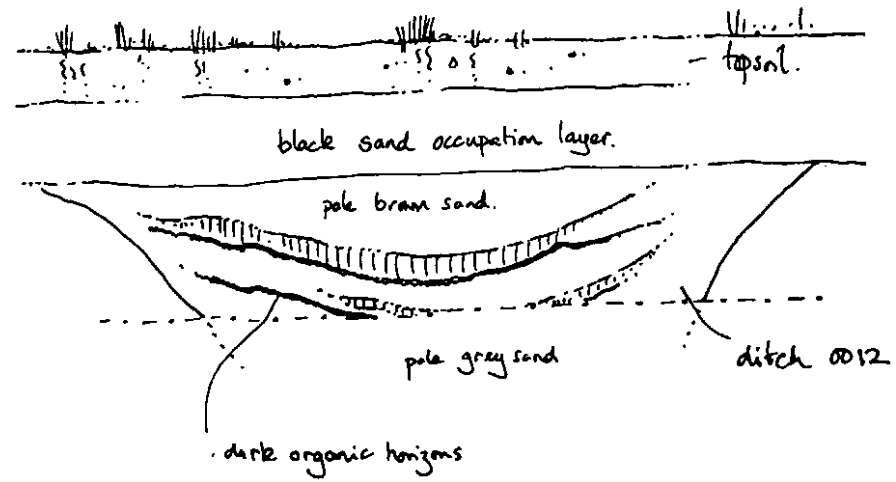
Fig 2.1  
Trench location plan



soil profile Trench 4.



Ditch 0012 + Soil profile Trench 1.



soil profile Trench 3.

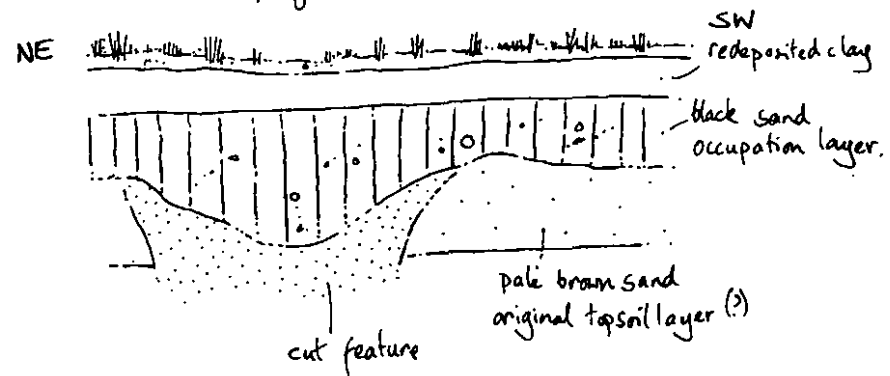
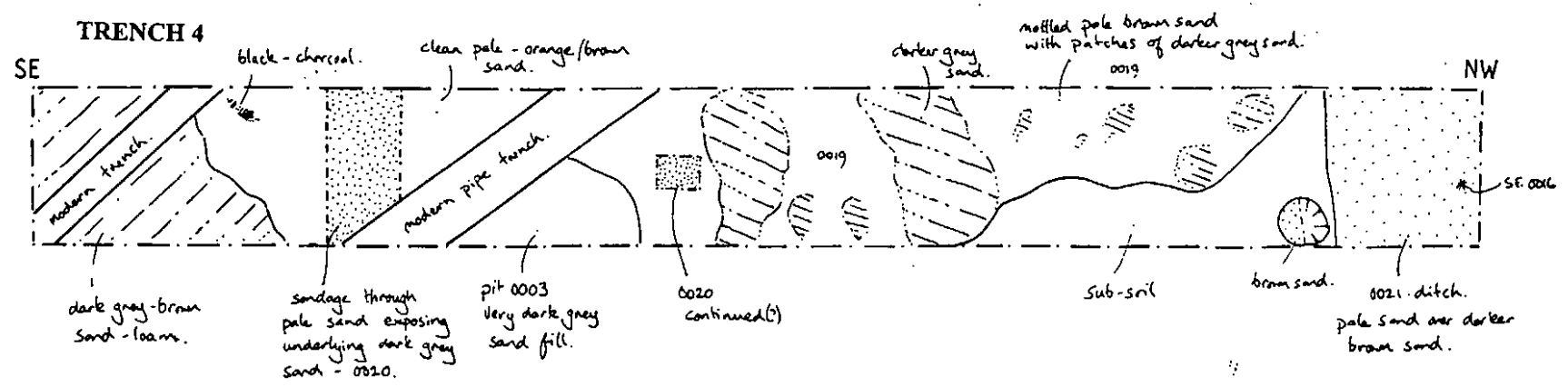
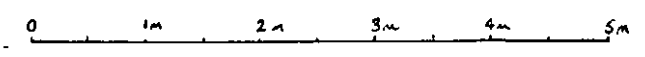
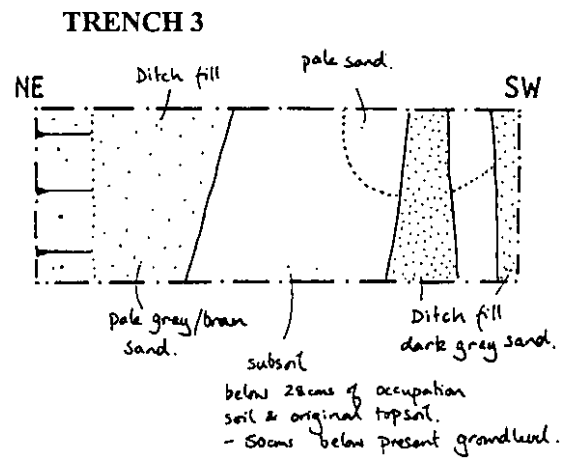
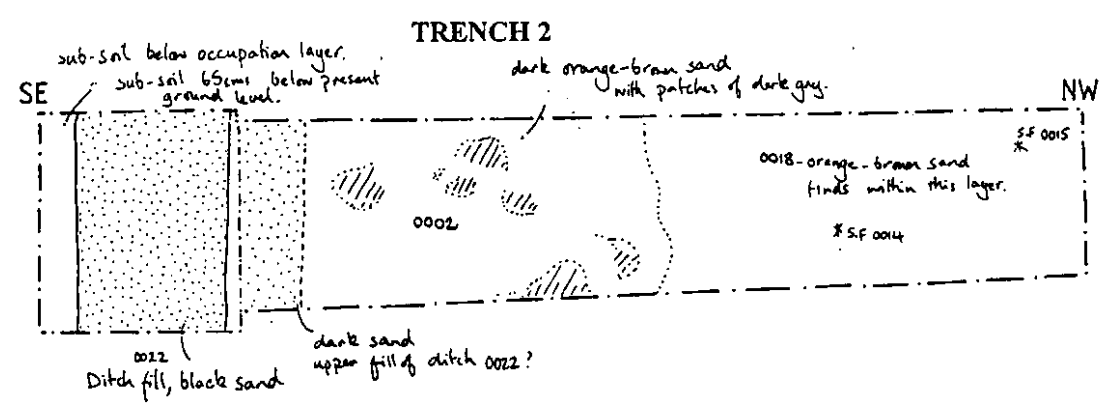
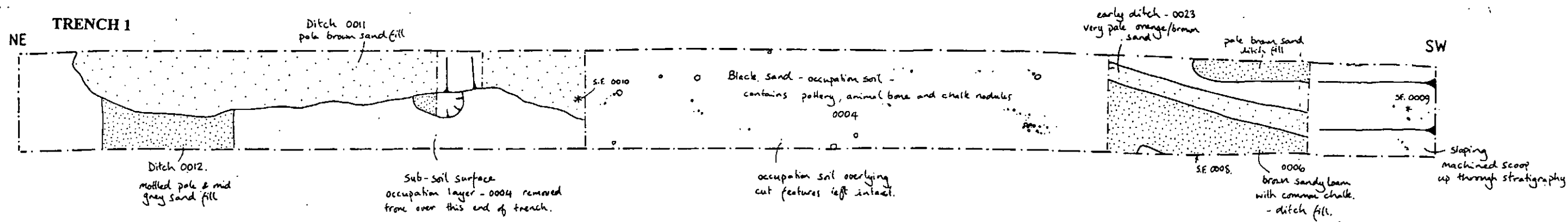


Fig 4  
Section drawings  
1:20





**Fig 3**  
**Trench plans**

APPENDIX I

RAF Lakenheath  
 Hospt. Maintenance Evaluation ERL 086

Context list

OPNOS	TRENCH	IDENTIFIER	DESCRIPT	CUTS	CUTBY	OVER	UNDE	FINDS	SMFINDS
0001	1 2 2	layer	Horizon of v. dark grey sand identified in trenches 1,2,and 3 .Immediately below turf level overlying brown sand (?)Roman topsoil						
0002	2	layer	Occupation layer 0001 within trench 2			0018		y	
0003	5	pit	Pit (?) within trench 4. Circular feature filled with dark grey sand. Feature not excavated finds from feature surface	0019					
0004	1	layer	Occupation layer 0001 within trench 1. Dark grey/black sand with pottery, animal bone and crushed chalk			0012 0011 0005		y	y
0005	1	ditch fill	Ditch fill, horizon of pale brown sand, below 0004, uniform throughout its depth. Probably fill of ditch 0006 which excavated by machine along with 0				0004	y	
0006	1	ditch	Large ditch running E-W at S/W end of trench 1. Not identified until removal of 0005, 0005 possibly upper fill of 0006. 0006 cuts earlier ditch 0023	0023			0005		
0007	1	small find	Ae finger ring, Roman, with incised decoration . Unstratified from trench 1						y
0008	1	small find	Ae coin -(Tetricus II 270-296) from occupation layer 0004						
0009	1	small find	Ae coin (Late C4th) from occupation layer 0004						
0010	1	small find	Fe nail from ditch 0011						
0011	1	small find	Ditch running N/E-S/W along edge of trench 1. Pale brown sand fill , under 0004 cuts ditch 0012	0012			0004		
0012	1	ditch	Ditch running across N/E end of trench 1. Pale grey sand fill. Cut by 0011. 0012 not excavated		0011		0004		
0013	4	small find	Pb casting waste unstratified from trench 4						
0014	4	small find	Ae coin (Valens 364-378) from layer 0018 see plan for location						
0015	5	small find	Pb blob from layer 0018						
0016	5	small find	Ae buckle (Tudor)						
0017	1	small find	Ae coin (Constantius II 348-50) from layer 0004						
0018	2	layer	Layer of orange/brown sand with darker grey mottles, beneath 0002 within trench 2 . Possibly same as 0019 in trench 4.				0002		
0019	2	layer	Layer of orange/brown sand with darker grey mottles. Possibly same as 0018 in trench 2, overlies layer 0020		0003	0020			
0020	4	layer	Layer of black sand beneath 0019 within trench 4				0019		
0021	4	ditch	Ditch crossing N/W end of trench 4, pale brown sand fill.						
0022	2	ditch	Large ditch within trench 2. Black sand fill.						
0023	1	ditch	Ditch parallel to and cut by 0006 pale sand fill.				0005		

Appendix 2.1

FINDS QUANTIFICATION

Table Records (ERL086GF.DBF)

OPNOS	POTKGMS	POTNOS	BONEKGMS	TILEKGMS	TILENOS	FLINTKGMS	FLINTNOS	BFLINTKGMS	BFLINTNOS
0001	0.000	0	.	.		0.000	0	0.000	0
0002	0.190	17	.	.		0.015	1	0.000	0
0003	0.045	1	.	.		0.025	1	0.055	4
0004	0.050	7	0.040	0.150	2	0.030	2	0.000	0
0005	0.070	1	.	.			0	0.000	0
0006	0.010	1	.	.		0.000	0	0.000	0
0007	0.000	0	.	0.000	0	0.000	0	0.000	0
0008	0.000	0	.	.		0.000	0	0.000	0
0009	0.000	0	0.000	.		0.000	0	0.000	0
0010	0.000	0	.	.		0.000	0	0.000	0
0011	0.025	2	0.030	.		0.000	0	0.000	0
0012	0.000	0	.	.		0.000	0	0.000	0
0013	0.000	0	.	.		0.000	0	0.000	0
0014	0.000	0	.	.		0.000	0	0.000	0
0015	0.000	0	.	.		0.000	0	0.000	0
0016	0.000	0	.	.		0.000	0	0.000	0
0017	0.000	0	.	.		0.000	0	0.000	0
0018	0.000	0	.	.		0.000	0	0.000	0
0019	0.110	11	.	.		0.010	1	0.000	0
0020	0.005	1	.	.		0.000	0	0.000	0
0021	0.020	2	.	.		0.000	0	0.000	0
0022	0.000	0	.	.		0.000	0	0.000	0
0023	0.000	0	.	.		0.000	0	0.000	0

Appendix 2.2

Suffolk Archaeological Unit

ROMAN COIN IDENTIFICATION

SITE:

SITE CODE: ERL 086

OP	ctxt	Metal	Denom	Emperor/Obverse legend	Reverse type/legend	Mint Mark	Ref	Cond. etc.	Date	Period
008		Ae3	Raed.	CP SYTET Radiata. Tetricus II	SPES Spes fcy. L. ncky. ? flower			Damaged	270 -96	
009		Ae4		Illeg. COPY.	D 2 victorias fcy. one another with wreath				LC4 <sup>+</sup> p. 113	
0014		Ae3		LEN AV Valens.	RITAS REIP Victory with wreath withy. L.	OFF II in field		Damaged	364 -75	
0017		Ae3		DNCONSTANTIVSPFAVG Constantius II	FEL. T. MP. (Legend is a bit blurred) Phoenix on globe	TRP.		Very good.	348 -50.	

Continued?  (N)

by J. A. L. 21/1/95

## Appendix 2.3

Suffolk Archaeological Unit  
POTTERY SPOT DATING

SITE:

SITE CODE:

OP	Fabric	No.	Form	No.	Comment	Date
0002	GX	13.			Misc. body shards	Rom.
	SG	2				LC3+
	H.M	2			1 sand tempered	E. Sax.
					1 sand + veg. tempered.	" "
0003	GX.					
0003	GX	1			body shard (?) Harningsea	C2+
0004	NV	1				LC3+
	RC	1			? body shard.	
	GF.	1			1 flanged bowl rim	C3+
	GX	4				Rom.
0005	NV	1	6.19.2		burnt.	LC3+
0006	H.M.	1			handmade body shard (?) Early Saxon.	
0001	I.A.	2.			2 body shards one with finger impressed decoration.	I.A.
0019	GX.	9			?	Rom.
	H.M.	2.			1 flint-gilted b.s	I.A
					1 I.A or Early Saxon(?)	
0020	GF.	1			Rim:	C1/2 (?)
0021	SG	1			Storage vessel - b.s.	
	GX.	1			chalf-fabric greyware	C3+.

Continued? Y / N



## APPENDIX 3

### Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation

#### RAF LAKENHEATH: CE HOSPITAL ZONE MAINTENANCE FACILITY (LAK94-1045)

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 An application (F/94/633) has been made to build at Rochester Road, RAF Lakenheath.
- 1.2 In order to establish the full archaeological implications of this application the planning authority has been advised that an archaeological evaluation of the application area should be required of the applicant.
- 1.3 The site (SMR No ERL 086) lies at TL 7282 8070, it is about 250m southwest of the Caudle Head mere and lies just to the south of the well preserved area of Roman activity previously recorded in the sewage works (ERL 023). Small test pits on the present site in 1994 showed that a buried soil layer and archaeological features are present but gave no idea of the density or date range of these deposits.
- 1.4 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, and access to the site, are to be negotiated with the commissioning body.

#### 2. Brief for archaeological evaluation.

The object of the evaluation is to:

- 2.1 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

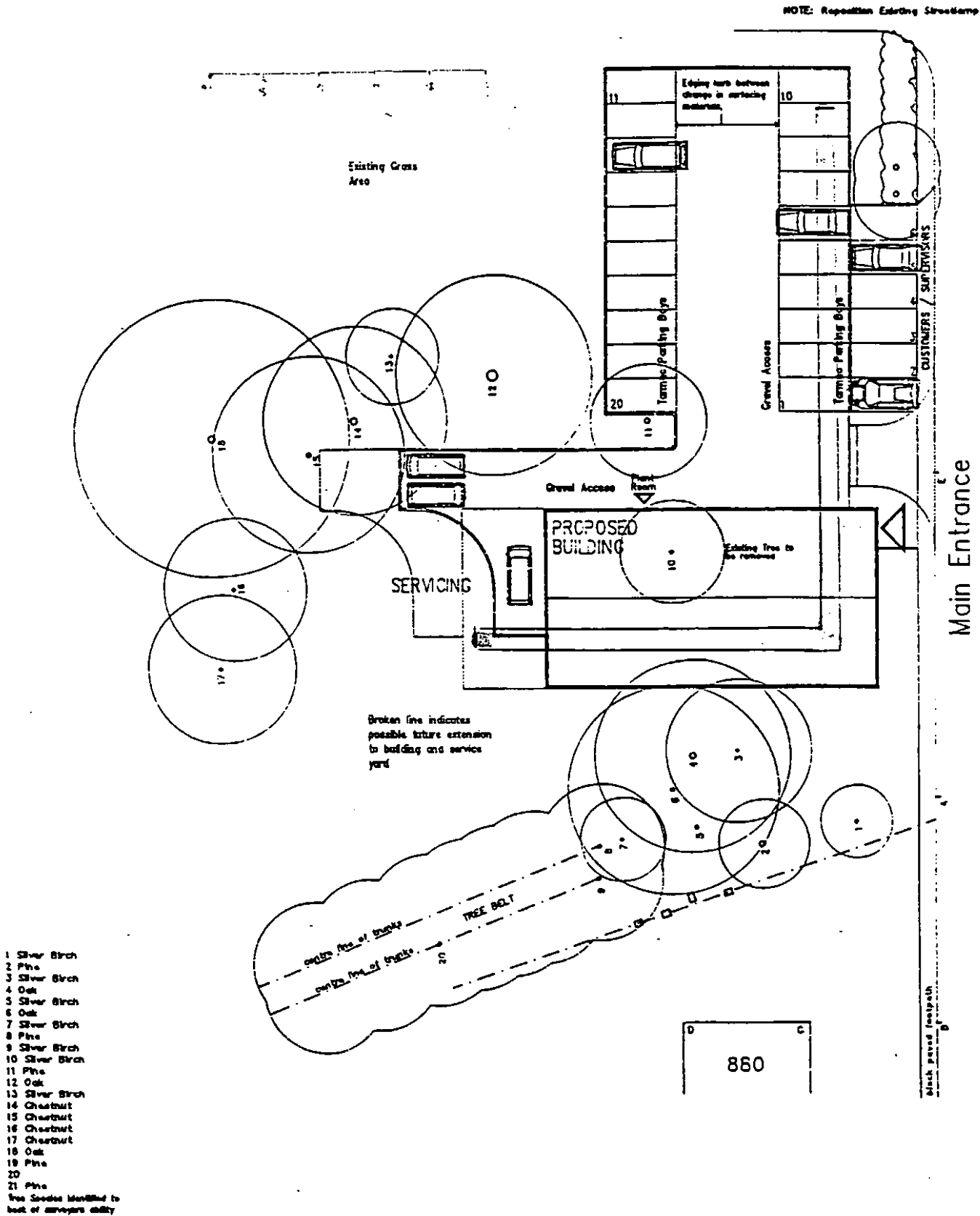
#### 3. Specification

- 3.1 In view of the present land use of the site, the evaluation will require excavated trial trenches.

#### 4. Field Evaluation Method

- 4.1 Excavated trial trenches should cover about 5% of the site area and be positioned to sample all areas of the site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method, and a suggested layout is indicated on the attached plan.
- 4.2 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine (fitted with a toothless bucket) and other equipment. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.

# CONSTRUCT CE HOSPITAL ZONAL MAINTENANCE



SITE PLAN: SCALE 1:200

- 4.3 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. The decision as to the proper method of further excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit; there is a presumption that excavation of archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown that there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine.
- 4.4 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled.
- 4.5 It may not be necessary to reduce all trenches to subsoil level, but there must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the depth and nature of archaeological deposits across the site.
- 4.6 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 4.7 Metal detector searches should take place at all stages of the excavation.
- 4.8 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with the County Planning Officer during the course of the evaluation).
- 4.9 Human remains should be left in situ except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site.
- 4.10 Plans and sections to be at 1:20. A photographic record to be prepared of monochrome negatives and colour transparencies.
- 4.11 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

## 5. General Management

- 5.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences.
- 5.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any sub-contractors).
- 5.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.

5.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.

6. Report requirements

6.1 An archive of all records and finds to be prepared consistent with the principle of 'Management of Archaeological Projects', English Heritage 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).

6.2 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.

6.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation. The conclusion should include a statement of the archaeological potential of the site.

6.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope should be given. A second phase will not be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established. A second-phase can be neither developed in detail or costed at this stage.

6.5 Finds should be appropriately conserved [in accordance with UK Inst Conservators Guidelines]. Every effort should be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the finds with the County SMR.

6.6 The site archive should be deposited with the County Sites and Monuments Record within 3 months of the completion of work.

6.7 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology journal, should be prepared and included in the project report.

Specification by: Judith Plouviez

Suffolk County Planning Department  
Shire Hall  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Date: 15 May 1995

Reference: /lakenhe05