

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

TWO STORAGE BUILDINGS, CAMBRIDGE RD RAF LAKENHEATH LKH 194

for

Ministry of Defence

Contents

Summary

Introduction

Methodology

Results

Discussion

Conclusions and Recommendations

Fig. 1 Site Location Plan

Fig. 2 Trench Location Plan

Fig. 3 Trench Plans

Fig. 4 Sections

Fig. 5 Sections

Appendix 1 Brief and Specification

Appendix 2 Context List

Appendix 3 Finds List

Appendix 4 Pottery Identification

**Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Field Projects Division**

PJ Thompson MSc CEng FICE County Director of Environment and Transport
St Edmund House, County Hall, Ipswich. IP4 1LZ.

SCCAS Report No. 97/8

Summary

Archaeological evaluation in advance of the construction of two new storage buildings and the realignment of an adjacent road revealed further occupation relating to the extensive Roman settlement around Caudle Head mere. A finds rich occupation soil survived in the south of the evaluation area close to site LKH 191 excavated in new heating duct trenches in August 1996. This settlement appeared to continue into the northern area within the existing compound although here the upper soil layers had been truncated by repeated resurfacing and the features identified had much paler fills with few finds. At least one Early Saxon feature was identified in this area.

Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in advance of redevelopment of an area close to an extensive Roman settlement on the edge of Caudle Head mere. Evidence of this settlement has been found in several locations (see fig. 1) but the full extent of the settlement is not yet known. The evaluation area is adjacent to the route of new heating duct trenches excavated in August 1996 and which revealed a dark finds rich occupation layer over numerous features.

Methodology

Four trenches 1.5m wide and totalling 37.05m long were excavated by machine with ditching bucket; two (trenches 1 and 2) along the proposed new road-line and two (trenches 3 and 4) within the proposed footprints of the storage buildings (see fig. 2). Because extensive digging (heating ducts - LKH 191 SCCAS report no. 96/59) had already taken place in the suggested location for trench 2 (see appendix 1) this trench was positioned to sample an undisturbed area but was greatly reduced in size in order to disturb the minimum possible amount of the remaining archaeology whilst establishing that the archaeological layers were present and intact. Trenches 1 and 2 were machined to the top of the occupation layer; in the west end of trench 1 this was partially removed (c. half depth) by machine in order to recover a representative sample of finds and a narrow trench was dug by hand through the layer on the south side of the trench to establish the presence of features below the occupation soil. A small section was dug by hand through the occupation layer in trench 2 in order to establish the depth to subsoil, but this turned out to be over a north-south aligned ditch. The subsoil in both these trenches was chalk.

Trenches 3 and 4 were within a hard-surfaced compound and excavation here revealed c. 30cm of various modern layers sitting directly on top of clean sand subsoil and archaeological features. Sections (c. 10% of ditches and 30-50% of postholes) were excavated by hand in order to recover datable finds from the fills. There were several modern pipes and cables crossing these evaluation trenches and once noticed, not knowing which were live and which were not, no further excavation was undertaken in the immediate area.

All finds were kept and a systematic metal detector search was undertaken during all stages of the evaluation. Plans and sections were drawn at 1:20 and black and white print and colour slide photographs were taken. Spot levels were taken beside trenches 1 and 4 in order to compare subsoil levels.

Results

Trenches 1 and 2 (see figs. 3 and 4)

These trenches both showed modern topsoil and sand layers varying between 30 and 40cm. These overlay a thin c. 8cm layer of even red-brown sand containing few finds which in turn overlay a dark grey-brown sand layer (0002 and 0005) with frequent chalk flecks and numerous finds. This is the continuation of the dark Roman occupation soil identified in neighbouring excavations (LKH 146 and 191). Three features (0003 and 0007 in trench 1 and 0006 in trench 2) and a patchy grey soil layer (0004) were revealed in the slit trenches dug through 0002/0005. It was not possible to definitely classify the features identified but all three appeared to be ditches although any could possibly be pits. The finds were all mid to late Roman (see appendix 4).

Trenches 3 and 4 (see figs. 3 and 5)

Both these trenches showed extensive modern disturbance - both in the form of service trenches into subsoil and repeated resurfacing laying directly onto subsoil and the surviving archaeological layers and features. Trench 4 was more severely affected than trench 3 with c. 53% of the trench length unexcavatable due to pipes etc. There was no sign of the dark occupation soil found in trenches 1 and 2 and few finds were recovered from the spoil. All the features had relatively light, pale fills compared to those in trenches 1 and 2 and the heating ducts (LKH 191) and few finds. The possible remnants of an archaeological layer of pale to mid brown sand (0013) a maximum of 10cm deep was identified overlying the features in the centre of trench 3.

Five ditches/gullies and six postholes were found in trench 3. All the ditches/gullies were NE-SW aligned; the fill of the gullies (0011, 0012 and 0015) was pale grey or brown sand and they were between 32cm and 60cm wide and 10cm and 14cm deep. The two ditches showed on the surface as one (0010) but had separate cuts at the base (0026 and 0027). 0026 could be seen clearly cutting 0027 and was filled with mottled yellow and pale grey and brown sands, one of the lower fills possibly being brown sand layer 0013. The ditch was 1.12m deep (from ground level) and the basal cut was c. 1.05m wide (N.B. the section of both these ditches is at an oblique angle). 0027 had a lower fill of pale grey sands and an upper fill of mottled yellow sand (possibly the same as that found in the base of 0026) and underlay 0013. It was 92cm deep (from ground level) and the basal cut was c. 60cm wide.

A charcoally grey sand filled posthole (0009) cut gully 0011. This was shallow (c. 6cm deep) and contained the bones of two infant mammals - possibly lambs - immediately under which lay a single sherd of Early Saxon pottery. The remaining five postholes (0014 (2), 0016, 0017, 0018) were situated in a group. They were all pale grey or brown sand filled, between 24cm and 28cm across and 10cm and 30cm deep. Occasional small sherds of mid to late Roman pottery were recovered.

Seven features were excavated in trench 4 but five of these (0019-0022 and 0025) were probably modern as the fills were all dark brown sand similar to the modern sand layer above. Features 0023 and 0024 were both shallow pits 85cm and 75cm across and 10cm and 20cm deep respectively. 0023 was filled with mid brown sand and 0024 with dark grey-brown and orange-yellow sand. Late Roman pottery was recovered from 0023. These features both had a similar appearance to those in trench 3 and are probably part of the same occupation.

Discussion

Trenches 1 and 2 demonstrated a continuation of the Roman archaeology found nearby into this area. They showed good preservation of the Roman occupation layers the top of which lay 35cm below the present grass level. Archaeological features were proved to exist under these layers. In trenches 3 and 4 the level of preservation was less good due to modern disturbance but numerous features and the vestiges of the base of a possible occupation layer were identified. The compound within which trenches 3 and 4 were situated appears to have been repeatedly stripped and resurfaced and the modern layers sat directly on top of the archaeological features in trench 4 and at the north and south ends of trench 3. However the fact that postholes and the thin archaeological layer 0013 have survived suggests that at subsoil level the archaeological features are intact and have not been truncated even if occupation horizons have largely been lost.

The archaeological evidence from trench 3 suggests a similar occupation pattern to that of trenches 1 and 2. The presence of a group of postholes may well be indicative of a structure and the density of features suggests intense occupation. Early Saxon pottery was found in the brown sand layer 0013 and posthole 0009 which also contained infant animal remains. These would have been too small to be a source of food and were possibly a ritual deposit. Ditch 0026 might also be Early Saxon as it appears to have 0013 in its fill and it is later than ditch 0027. Mid to late Roman finds were recovered from the posthole group and from feature 0023 in trench 4 and all the features except 0009 and 0026 were overlain by 0013 which suggests that most of these features represent a continuation of the Roman settlement.

Despite the loss of the occupation layers in trenches 3 and 4 the difference in the feature fills between trenches 1 and 3 was unexpected. This may indicate a change in the nature of the occupation here or simply be the result of natural silting up in the base of the features.

Levels taken beside the surface of trenches 1 and 4 showed the surface within the compound to be 12cm lower than the grass south of the road but it also showed that the subsoil level in trench 1 where subsoil was chalk was 23cm lower than in trench 3 where it was sand possibly suggesting that this area had been a slight sand ridge or hillock.

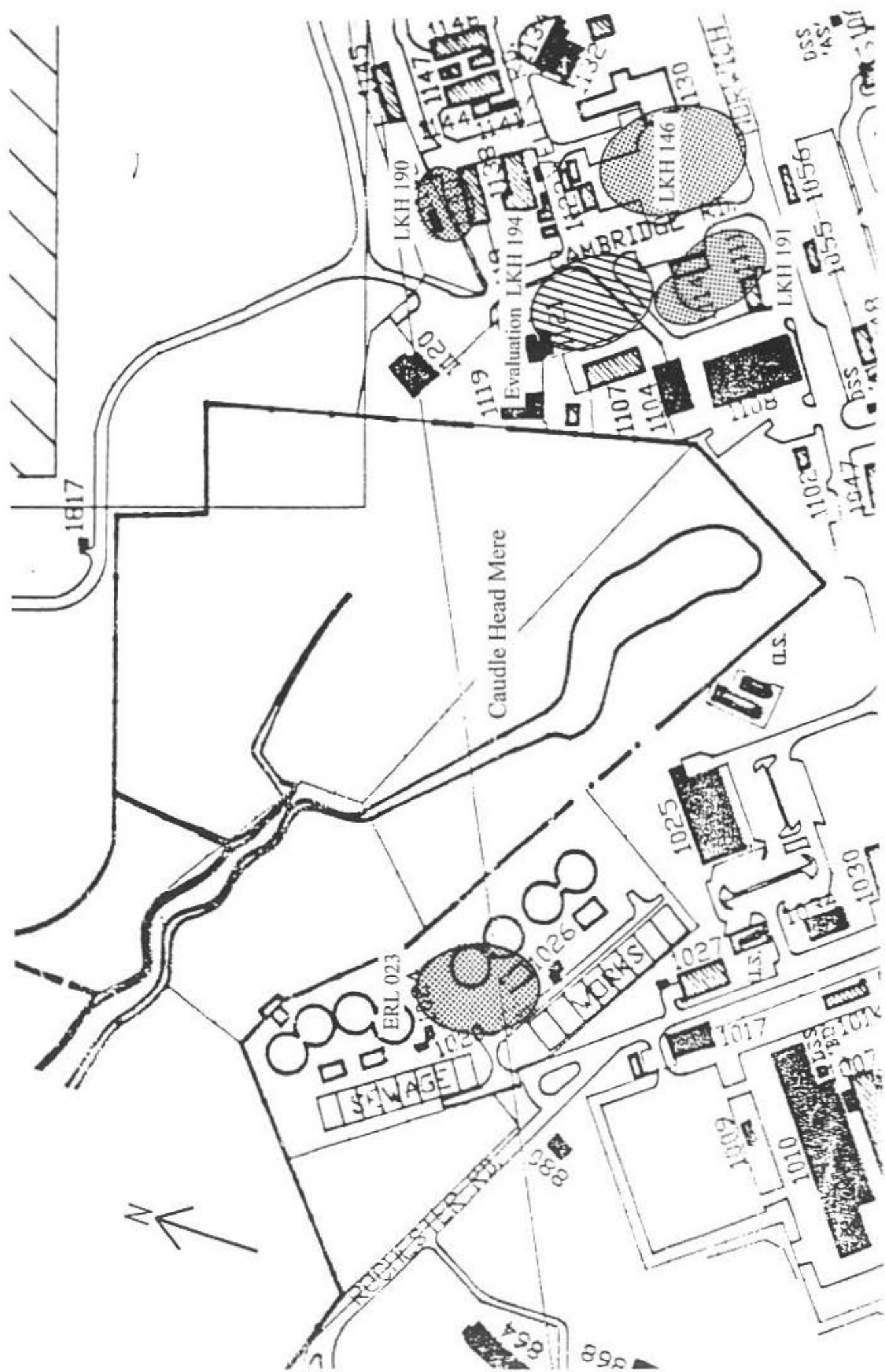
Conclusions and Recommendations

The archaeology in trenches 1 and 2 comprises a finds rich occupation layer 35-40cm below the present ground surface, overlying settlement features. This is in the area of the proposed road re-alignment and if excavated would require the hand excavation of the occupation layer and the features, however the presence of the occupation layer would afford protection to the features should soil stripping be kept to c. 30cm.

The archaeological features in trenches 3 and 4 are much more vulnerable as they lie only 25cm to 30cm below the ground surface directly under modern surfaces. It is probable that *any* mechanical excavation (including surface stripping and resurfacing) in this area would pose a threat to the archaeology. The presence of only a patchy, thin sandy occupation layer with sand filled features and sand subsoil combined with a lesser quantity of finds means that with careful machining this area would be considerably easier and quicker to excavate than the area to the south.

Jo Caruth
3rd February 1997

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Division alone. The need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its archaeological advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting service cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.



Site Location Plan at 1:2500

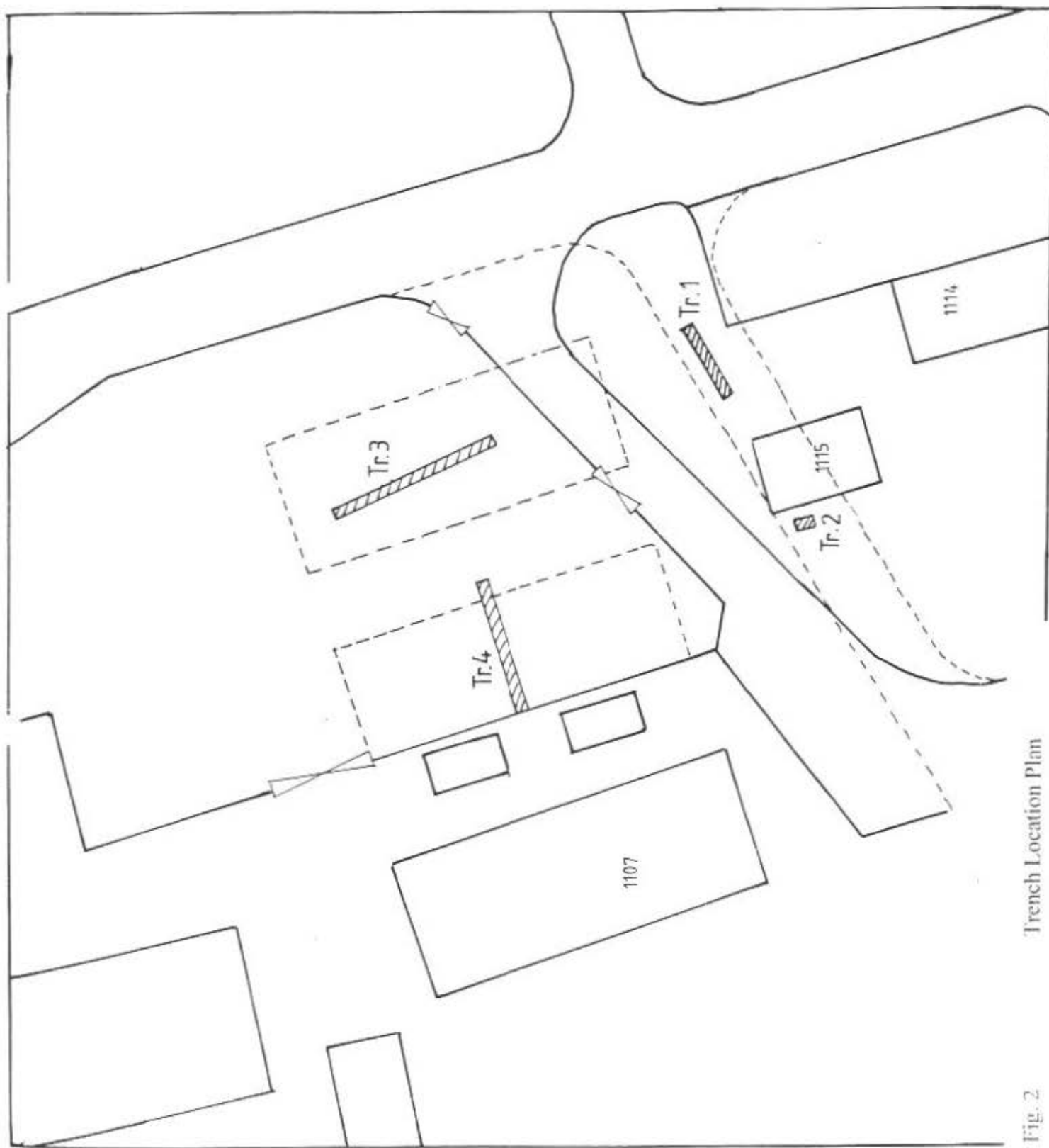


Fig. 2 Trench Location Plan

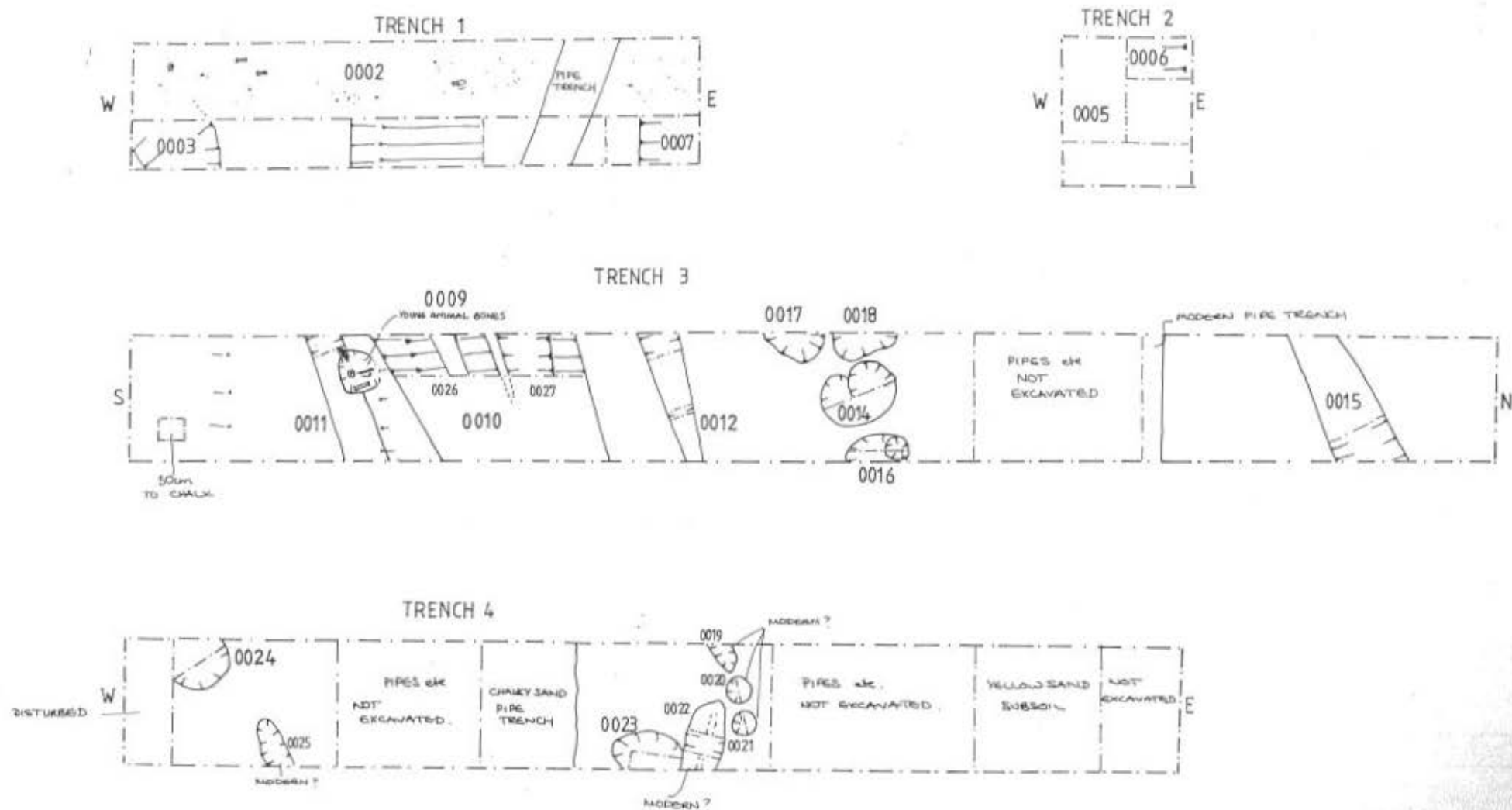


Fig. 3

Trench Plans



TRENCH ONE

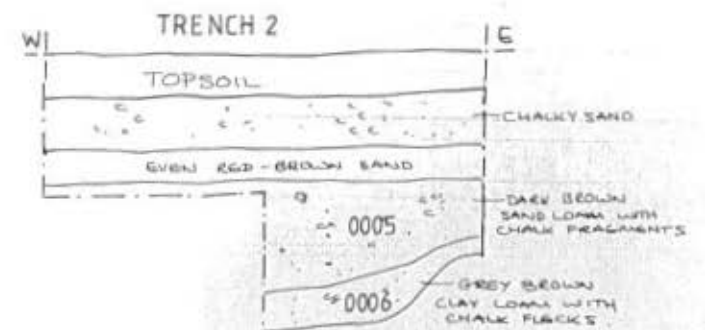
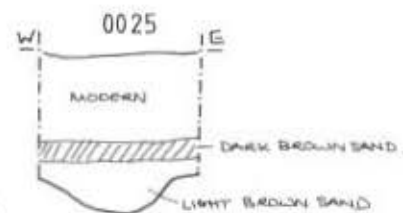
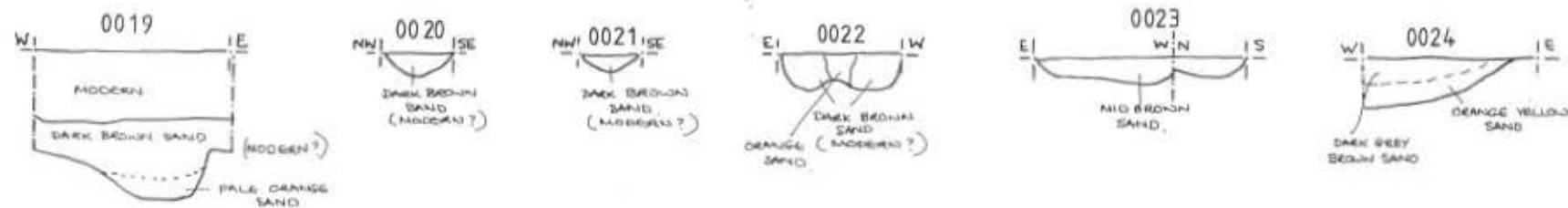
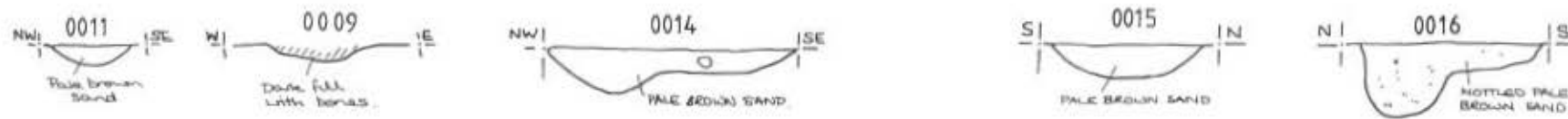
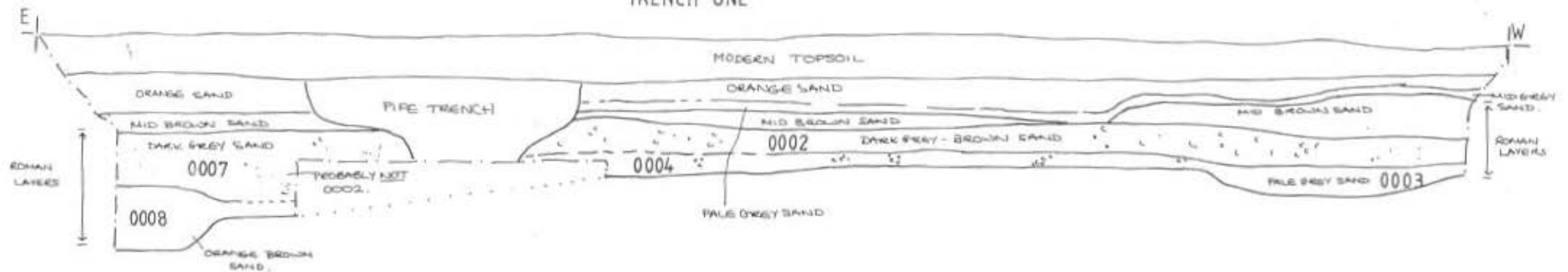


Fig. 4

Sections

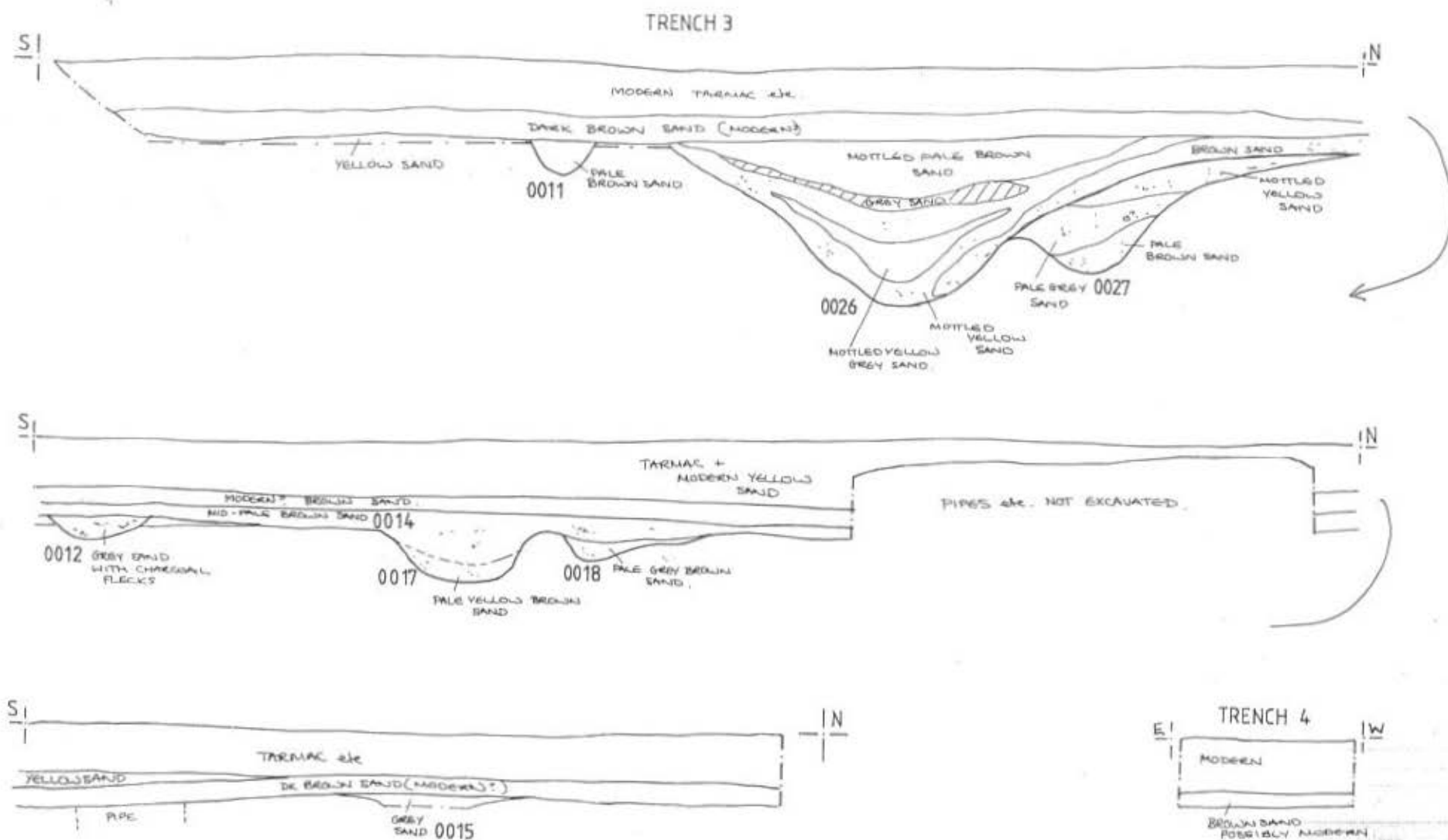


Fig. 5

Sections

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation

TWO STORAGE BUILDINGS, CAMBRIDGE ROAD, RAF LAKENHEATH

1. Background

- 1.1 An application (F/96/337) has been made to construct two buildings and re-align a road at Cambridge 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 development area is at TL 7319 8095 within the extensive area of prehistoric, Roman and early Saxon occupation on the north side of Caudle Head. Archaeological deposits were excavated at LKH 146 to the north east and dark soil layers and ditches were observed in car park construction just south west of this site (LKH 160). It is very likely that Roman occupation deposits exist within the development area, unless there has been extensive disturbance during this century. As elsewhere within this complex site there is the potential for good preservation of deposits which have not been subjected to modern ploughing.
- 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 the Archaeological Evaluation.

The object of the evaluation is to:

- 2.1 Establish whether archaeological deposits survive within the area.
- 2.2 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. Field Evaluation

- 3.1 Trial trenches should be excavated to cover at least 2% 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.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 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.

- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of an archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 Metal detector searches should take place at all stages of the excavation.
- 3.8 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.9 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.
- 3.10 Plans of the archaeological features on the site should be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. Any variations from this will need to be agreed with the Conservation Team.
- 3.11 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies.
- 3.12 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

4. General Management

- 4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service.
- 4.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any sub-contractors).
- 4.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.
- 4.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.5 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* and for *Field Evaluations* should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

5. Report requirements

- 5.1 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).

- 5.2 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 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 cannot be developed in detail at this stage.
- 5.5 Finds should be appropriately conserved (in accordance with *UK Institute of 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.
- 5.6 The site archive should be deposited with the County Sites and Monuments Record within three months of the completion of work.
- 5.7 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*, should be prepared and included in the project report.

Specification by: J Plouviez
 Suffolk County Council
 Archaeological Service Conservation Team
 Environment and Transport Department
 Shire Hall
 Bury St Edmunds
 Suffolk IP33 2AR

Tel: 01284 352448

Date: 11 December 1996

Reference: /raflaken12

This brief and specification remains valid for 12 months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.

The results of this evaluation, if they are to be used as part of a planning application, will need to be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeology Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for making the recommendation to the appropriate Planning Authority.

F/96/3377



FOREST HEATH
DISTRICT COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT
SERVICES SECTION

RECD -3 JUL 1996

FILE REF

ACTION BY

COPIES

CONT

= development as shown on planap

possible trench locations, c.1:500

LKH 194 Evaluation Context List

OP	FEATURE	COMP	IDENTIFIER	DESCRIPTION	CUTS	CUTBY	OVER	UNDER	SPOTDATE
0001			Unstratified finds						
0002	0002	Tr. 1	Layer	Dark soil layer in trench 1. Dense dark sand with chalk lumps.			0003		C3?
0003	0003	Tr. 1	Feature	Linear? feature under 0002. Chalky grey fill.				0002	Rom.
0004		Tr. 1	Layer	Greyish layer under 0002 - same as that filling 0003 - continues east.				0002	L. C3+
0005	0002	Tr. 2	Layer	Same as 0002 in trench 2.			0006		Rom.
0006		Tr. 2	Layer	Grey brown chalky clay loam under 0005. Ditch fill in tr. 2				0005	C4
0007		Tr. 1	Feature - fill	Dark grey brown sand. Upper feature fill at east end of tr. 1. Rel. with 0002 unclear - may cut 0002.			0008		
0008		Tr. 1	Layer	Brown sand layer under 0007. Lower feature fill.				0007	C2-3
0009	0009	Tr. 3	Feature	Shallow posthole with small animal bones in fill. Cuts 0011	0011				E. Sax
0010	0010	Tr. 3	Ditch.	Large E-W ditch. Two cuts, southern is later than the northern. Fills pale grey and brown sands.					
0011	0011	Tr. 3	Gully	Pale grey-brown sand filled gully in tr. 3. Cut by 0009.		0009			
0012	0012	Tr. 3	Feature	Possible gully - appears to cross trench, although a bit vague in places.					
0013		Tr. 3	Layer	Brown sand layer N. of 0010. Some machined off and some c. 30% removed by hand. Modern finds in it - seen when machining, but could be disturbed archaeological layer. Looks fairly even.					
0014	0014	Tr. 3	Postholes	Pair of possible postholes. Pale brown sand fill. No finds.					
0015	0015	Tr. 3	Gully	N. end of trench 3. Pale grey fill.					
0016	0016	Tr. 3	Posthole	Pale brown sand. In group with 0014. Animal disturbance				0013	L. Rom
0017	0017	Tr. 3	Posthole	Pale grey brown sand. In group with 0014				0013	Mid to L. Rom
0018	0018	Tr. 3	Posthole	Pale brown sand fill - quite a lot of animal disturbance.				0013	
0019	0019	Tr. 4	Feature	Dark brown sand fill - modern					
0020	0020	Tr. 4	Posthole	Dark brown sand fill - modern?					
0021	0021	Tr. 4	Posthole	Dark brown sand fill - modern?					
0022	0022	Tr. 4	Feature	Dark brown sand fill - modern trench end?	0023				
0023	0023	Tr. 4	Posthole	Mid grey brown sand fill. Real but cut and disturbed by modern activity		0022			L. C3+
0024	0024	Tr. 4	Feature	Edge of feature - possible small pit?. Dark grey brown sand fill.					
0025	0025	Tr. 4	Feature	Dark brown sand fill. Animal disturbance or modern probably.					Rom
0026	0010	Tr. 3	Ditch	Ditch - E-W aligned - south of 0027. Mottled pale sand fills	0027				
0027	0010	Tr. 3	Ditch	Ditch E-W aligned. North of 0026. Mottled pale sand fills.		0026		0014	
0028			Coin	From spoil heap of trench 1					
0029			Coin	From spoil heaps in compound					
0030			Ae wire	From spoil heaps in compound					

Appendix 3

Cambridge Road, Lakenheath Air Base (LKH 194): General Finds Quantities

OP No.	Pottery Kg No.	Bone Kg No.	Tile & Brick Kg No.	Fired clay Kg No.	Flint Kg No.	Burnt flint Kg No.	Quernstone Kg No.	Iron Kg No.	Miscellaneous
0002	0.410	24	0.616	23					Ae pierced sheet strip frag.
0004	0.031	3							
0005	0.445	40	0.082	8	0.049	2	0.013	1	0.266 50 0.002 1
0006	0.077	3	0.038	1					
0007	0.031	6	0.071	5	0.009	1			
0008	0.138	9			0.002	1		0.001	1
0009	0.018	2	0.038	24					
0010			0.019	1			0.017	4	
0012	0.006	2	0.040	2					
0013	0.008	2							
0015					0.001	1			
0016	0.008	3							
0017	0.016	2			0.001	2	0.007	1	
0019					0.002	1			
0020	0.001	1							
0022			0.002	2			0.012	1	
0023	0.004	3			0.002	1			
0024			0.011	1					
0025	0.006	1							
0028									Ae coin.
0029									Ae coin.
0030									Ae thick wire frag.
Total	1.199	101	0.917	67	0.058	3	0.003	3	0.035 8 0.019 2 0.267 51 0.002 1

<u>OP</u>	<u>FABRIC</u>	<u>SHERD</u>	<u>FORM</u>	<u>NUM</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>
0002	SA	rim	31	2	Central Gaulish	Ant.
0002	WX	bs	Flagon	1	Looks like PKM fabric	
0002	NA	rim	4.	1	Jar (Nar valley)	C3/C4
0002	NA	rim	4.	1		C3/C4
0002	NA	bs	Jar	4		C3/C4
0002	NA	base	Jar	1		C3/C4
0002	GM	bs	6.21	1		C3/C4
0002	GM	rim	JAR	1		
0002	GM	bs		2		
0002	GX	bs		8		Rom
0002	GX	base		1	Base form 2	
0002	SG	bs		1	Small frag. could be intrusive	LC3/C4
0004	WX	bs	Flagon	1		
0004	GX	bs		1	Tiny frag.	
0004	MH	bs		1	Burnished	LC3/C4
0005	NA	rim	4.	1		C3/C4
0005	NA	base		1	'Cheesewire base'	C3/C4
0005	NA	bs		4		C3/C4
0005	NV	bs	3.3	1	Scale dec.	C3
0005	NV	rim	bowl	1	Dark red colour coat	C3/C4
0005	GM	rim	6.18	1		MC2+
0005	GM	rim	4.	1	Jar	C2+
0005	GM	bs		1	Lattice dec.	MC2+
0005	GM	rim	3.	1		
0005	GM	bs		12	Burnished	
0005	GM	base	JAR	1	Base 3	
0005	GM	base		1	Base 2	
0005	GX	bs		7		Rom
0005	RX	bs		3		
0005	GX	bs		1	With rouletting and white slip	
0005	GX	bs		1	Neck sherd with band of vertical burnished dec.	
0005	unk	bs		2	Black burnished surface, interior looks slipped.	Rom
0006	GX	rim	Bottle	1	Complete neck and rim	
0006	GM	bs		1		Rom
0006	GX	bs		1		Rom
0007	MH	bs		1	Stamped dec.	LC3/C4
0007	NA	bs		2		C3/C4
0007	GX	bs		3		Rom
0008	GM	rim	6.18	1		MC2+
0008	GM	bs		2	Burnished	
0008	GX	rim	4.1	1		C2+
0008	GX	bs	4.	1	Coarse barbotine dot	MC2+
0008	GX	bs		1		
0008	NA?	base		1		C3/C4
0008	NA	bs		1	Incised dec.	C3/C4
0008	RX	bs		1	Combed dec.	
0009	HM	bs		2	Shell/organic	E. Sax
0013	NA?	bs		1		C3/C4
0013	MH	bs		1		C3/C4
0016	NA	bs		2		C3/C4
0016	RX	bs		1	Tiny frag.	
0017	GX	rim	bowl	1	Flaked and abraded	Rom (late)
0017	GM	rim		1	Wavy dec. beneath rim.	Rom
0023	NV	bs		1	Brown colour coat	LC3/C4
0023	GM	bs		1	Tiny frag.	
0023	HM	bs		1	Flint/sand temper. Very tiny.	LIA