



## Small gate modifications and kerb removal

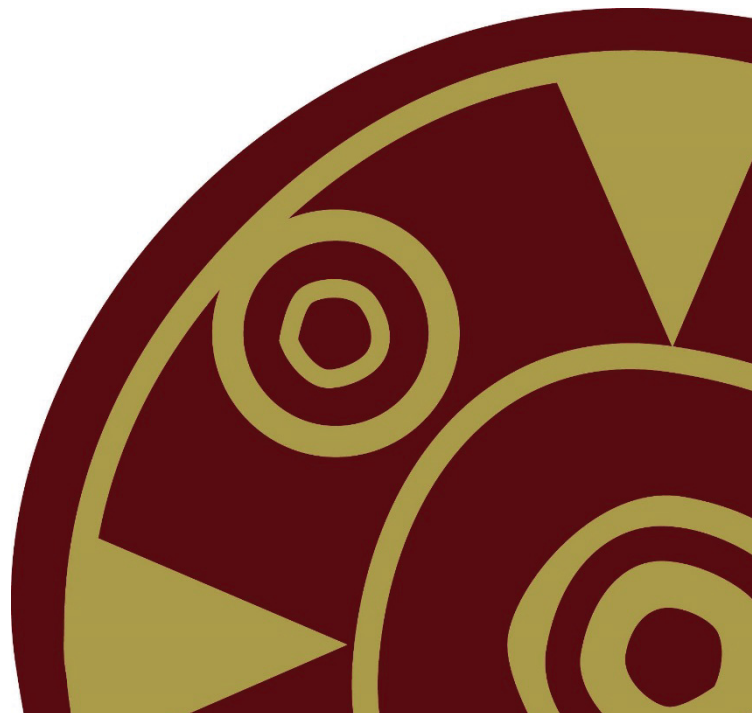
RAF Lakenheath, Suffolk

**Client:**  
Defence Infrastructure Organisation

**Date:**  
August 2015

ERL 237, LKH 371 and 372, WNG 052 and 053

Archaeological Monitoring Report v0.2  
SACIC Report No. 2015/029  
Author: Rob Brooks  
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## HER Information

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**Site Codes and Names:** Kerb Side Removal – WGN 047 (ESF22961)  
Small Gate Modifications – LKH 371 (ESF22903),  
LKH 372 (ESF 22904), WNG 052 (ESF 22905) and  
WNG 053 (ESF 22907)

**Report Number** 2015/029

**Planning Application No:** N/A

**Date of Fieldwork:** 19th February 2015 – 31st July 2015

**Grid Reference:** TL 73069 80600, TL 7292 8118, TL 7323 8270,  
TL 7544 8324 and TL 7574 8283

**Oasis Reference:** suffolka1-205650, suffolka1-204394 and  
suffolka1-204403

**Project Officer:** Rob Brooks

**Client/Funding Body:** Defence Infrastructure Organisation

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:

<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

Prepared By: Rob Brooks

Date: 04/08/2015

Approved By: Jo Caruth

Position: Senior Project Officer

Date: 04/08/2015

Signed:



## **Introduction**

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A monitoring was carried out across the parishes of Eriswell, Lakenheath and Wangford on RAF Lakenheath airbase in Suffolk (Fig. 1) during security modifications to four gates and the removal of kerbs and topsoil. The work was carried out from the 19th February 2015 to the 31st July 2015 and was carried out under the supervision of Rob Brooks and managed by Jo Caruth of Suffolk Archaeology CIC.

All work was funded by MoD Defence Infrastructure Organisation, commissioned through Volker Fitzpatrick. Suffolk Archaeology is grateful to Claire Bushnell, DIO and Tim Dunnington and Oliver Blackwell, Volker Fitzpatrick and members of their team for their support throughout the project.

RAF Lakenheath is located in West Suffolk, immediately east of Lakenheath village, approximately 2.5km north of Mildenhall and 9.5km west of Thetford.

## **Groundworks**

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The groundworks were undertaken by Volker Fitzpatrick for the Defence Infrastructure Organisation, working under the supervision of Rob Brooks. The groundworks consisted of a variety of bollard pits, gate post pits and kerbside area strips. Each gate was set up slightly differently (Figs. 2-5), whilst two small areas were stripped for the kerb works.

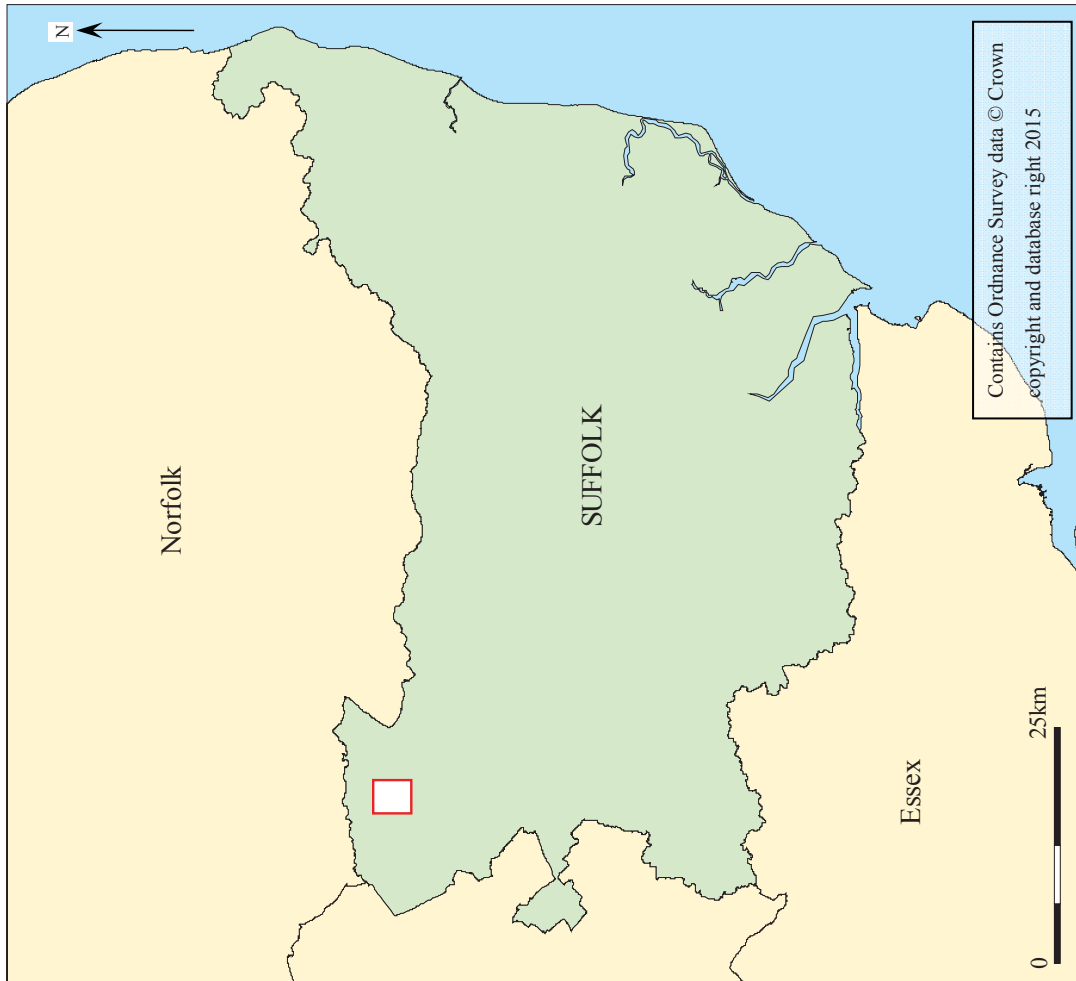
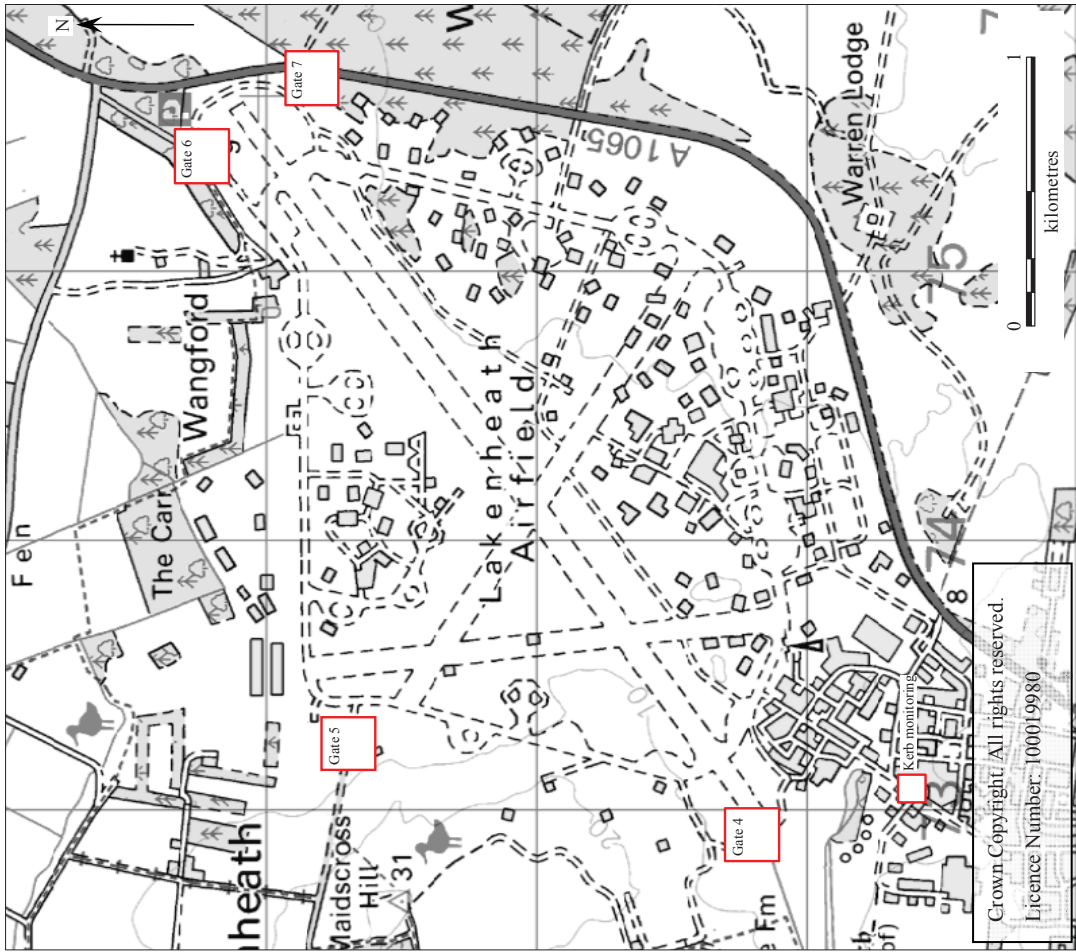


Figure 1. Site locations (red)

## Results

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The four gates and kerbside strips were all monitored and full details of the soil profiles are provided in Table 1. The results tend to indicate that many of the gates had been previously levelled. In the case of Gate 4 the levels had been artificially built up, whilst elsewhere there were differing degrees of truncation, then overlaid with imported topsoil/turf.

### **Gate 4 – LKH 371 (Figs. 2 and 7)**

In this area the natural geological layers were not reached. Much of the soil profile appeared to be made up of redeposited layers that had been used to build up the ground, with the levels sloping away noticeably (by c.0.5m-1m) immediately west of the airbase boundary fence. In places the original topsoil horizon appeared to survive.



Plate 1. Gate 4, northern bollard strip (1m scale, facing south-west)

### **Gate 5 – LKH 372 (Figs. 3 and 8)**

A shallow depth of imported topsoil/turf and in places tarmac (associated with the existing gate) overlaid redeposited horizons of chalk and sand over much of this area. Underlying this, a layer of what appeared to be levelled natural sand was recorded. In

the northern bollard strip the original topsoil-heathland soil interface may have survived, buried under the redeposited levelling layers.



Plate 2. Gate 5, northern gate post pit (2 x 1m scale, facing east)

#### **Gate 6 – WNG 052 (Figs. 4 and 9)**

Profiles for this gate recorded differing levels of truncation. In the western bollard strip a deposit of topsoil (thought to be imported because a flat chalk lens ran along the base of the layer) was recorded over natural sand. In the eastern bollard strip a thin lens of eluviated dark grey sand survived underneath the imported topsoil, possibly representing the remains of the original topsoil.

#### **Gate 7 – WNG 053 (Figs. 5 and 10)**

In the southern bollard strip for this gate, topsoil/turf overlaid remnants of an eluviated horizon, before revealing the natural, whilst in the northern strip very little of the eluviated layer survived. The topsoil/turf deposit across the area was very flat with a sharp horizon, suggesting that the area had been levelled and the upper deposit imported.





Plate 3. Gate 7, southern bollard strip (1m scale, facing south-west)



Plate 4. Gate 7, northern bollard strip (1m scale, facing north-west)

## Kerb monitoring – ERL 237 (Fig. 6)

The northern kerbside had been infilled prior to archaeological monitoring. The southern strip was heavily truncated by modern services, whilst in places natural orange-yellow sand was recorded. The area was metal detected, but no finds were recovered.

Area	Profile and size	Profile
Gate 4	Northern bollard strip, 5.6m <sup>2</sup>	0.3m of topsoil (imported) 0.18m of pale grey sand (imported) 0.44m-0.54m of dark grey-brown silty-sand (original topsoil?) >0.36m of mid grey-brown sand (subsoil B-horizon?)
Gate 4	Southern gate post pit, 3.2m <sup>2</sup>	>0.6m of imported topsoil/made ground
Gate 4	Middle gate post pit, 4.8m <sup>2</sup>	C.0.5m of imported topsoil/made ground over >0.4m of mottled brownish-orange and mid grey silty-sand subsoil
Gate 4	Northern gate post pit, 1.4m <sup>2</sup>	Hole dug and sides fully shored prior to archaeological monitoring
Gate 5	Northern gate post pit, 4.5m <sup>2</sup>	0.1m of topsoil and/or tarmac 0.2m of redeposited pale orange and yellow sand (very sharp, flat horizons) 0.15m-0.28m of orange stony-sand natural (superficial geology) >0.49m of orange sand with chalk outcrops (superficial and bedrock geology)
Gate 5	Southern gate post pit and bollards, 3.75m <sup>2</sup> and 13m <sup>2</sup>	0.1m of topsoil and/or tarmac 0.1m-0.12m of redeposited chalk (sub-base for tarmac) or orange and mid brown sand/subsoil underlying topsoil >0.82m of orange sand superficial geology with chalk bedrock outcrops
Gate 5	Northern bollard strip, 10.6m <sup>2</sup>	0.28m of dark probably imported topsoil 0.18m of mottled mid grey sand, orange sand and grey-brown sand with chalk flecks (slightly disturbed original topsoil to natural interface)
Gate 6	West bollard strip, 19.3m <sup>2</sup> including east strip	0.12m topsoil (very low in organics). Orangish-brownish-grey sand with frequent small flints >0.2m pale yellowish-orange sand with frequent small angular flints and occasional chalk flecks (superficial geology)  Disturbed by a SW-NE pipe trench
Gate 6	East bollard strip, 19.3m <sup>2</sup> including west strip	0.18m of grey sandy topsoil, with a chalky lens at base (made-up ground) C.0.06m of eluviated dark grey sand (buried topsoil remnants?) >0.2m of natural yellow sand
Gate 7	Southern bollard strip, 26m <sup>2</sup>	0.2m of topsoil/turf Up to 0.28m of very pale orangish-brown sand with occasional small flints >0.34m of orange sand natural with occasional small flints
Gate 7	Northern bollard strip, 35.9m <sup>2</sup>	0.14m of topsoil/turf Up to 0.08m thick sporadic lens of pale to mid orange sand >0.58m-0.68m of orangish-yellow natural sand with occasional small flints
Kerb monitoring	Southern kerb, 8.4m <sup>2</sup>	Area heavily disturbed by multiple service trenches. In limited instances, natural orange-yellow sand was visible, found c.0.2m-0.25m below ground level. C.0.1m topsoil C.0.1m of brown-grey sand subsoil, over natural
Kerb monitoring	Northern kerb, 8.1m <sup>2</sup>	Back filled prior to archaeological monitoring.

Table 1. Soil profiles

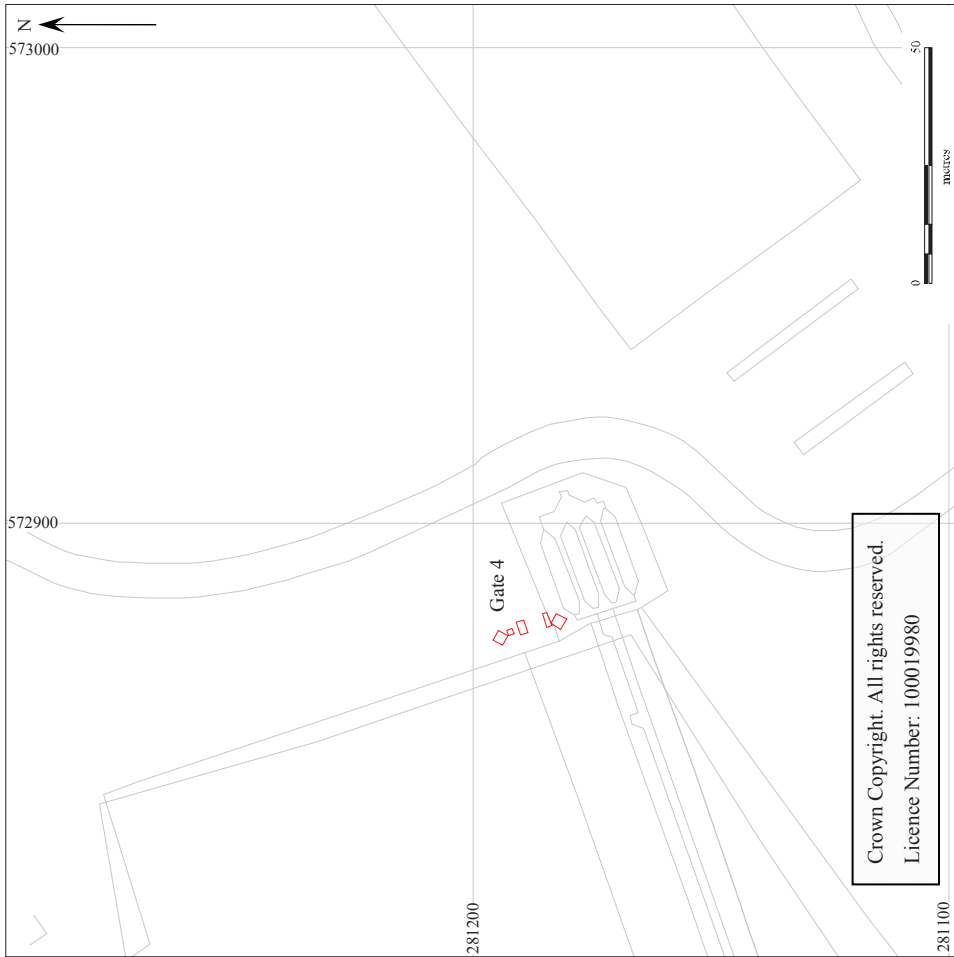


Figure 2. Gate 4 monitored groundworks

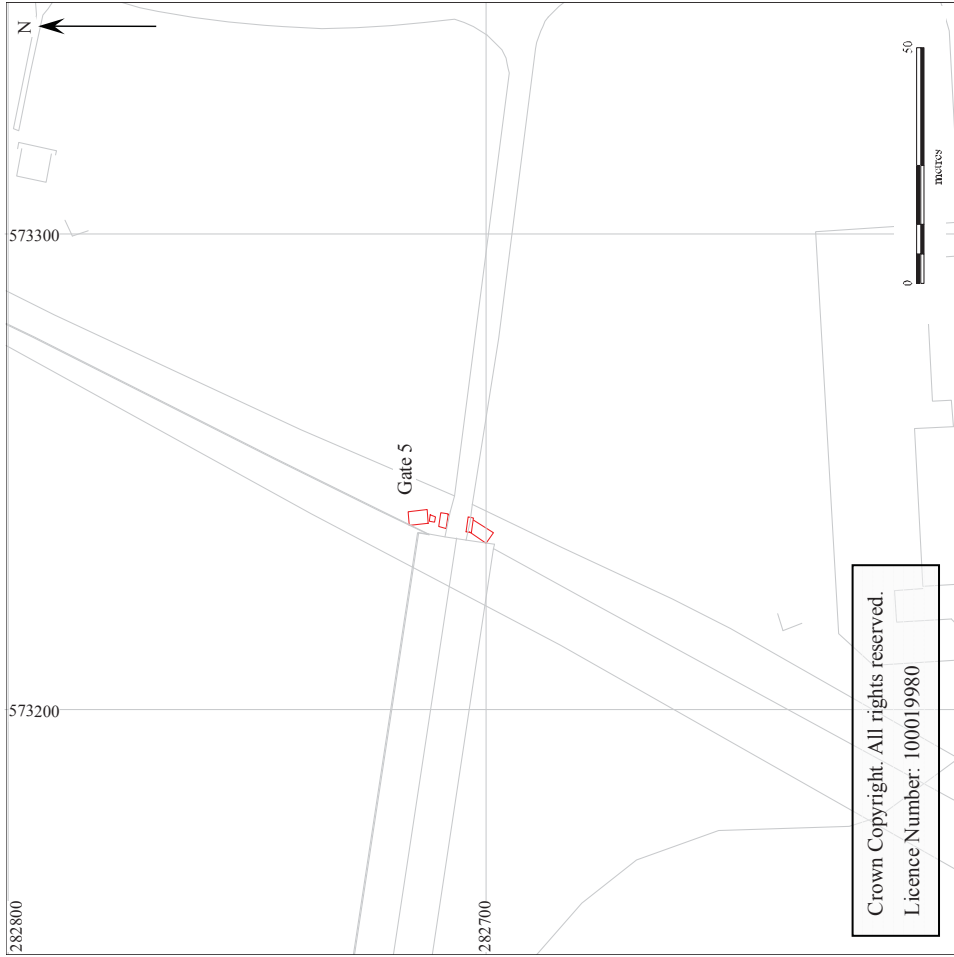


Figure 3. Gate 5 monitored groundworks

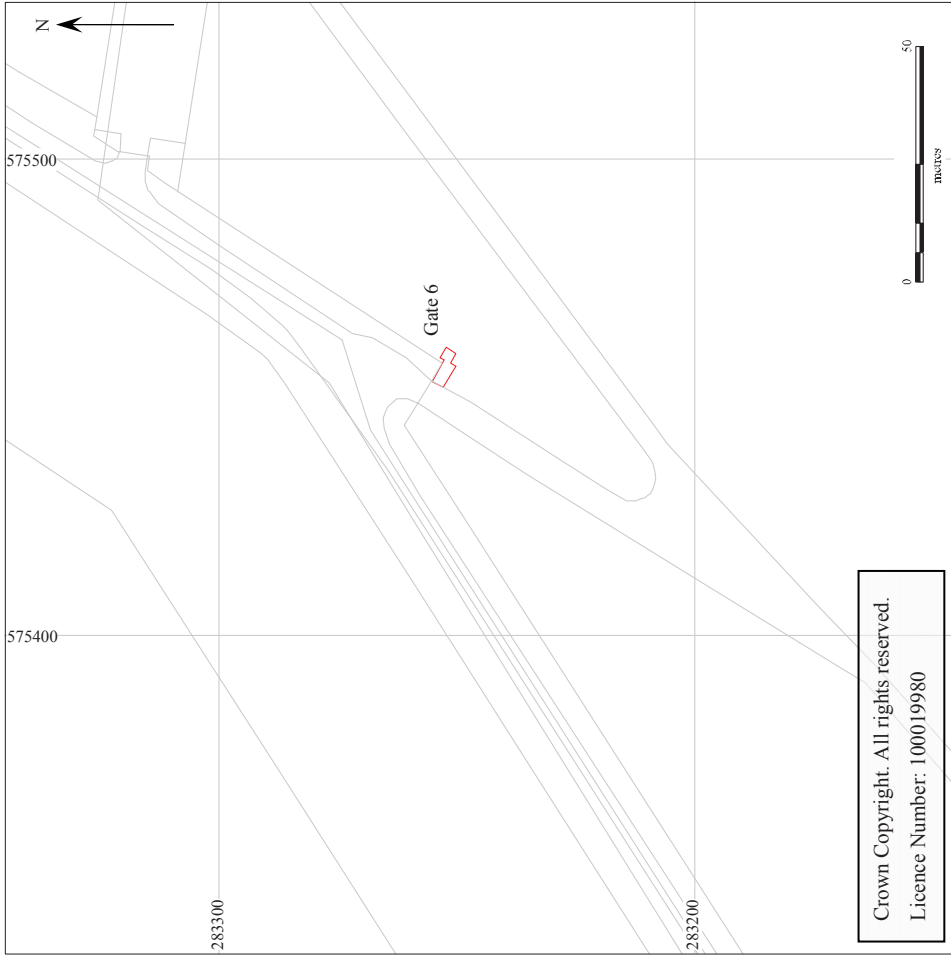


Figure 4. Gate 6 monitored groundworks

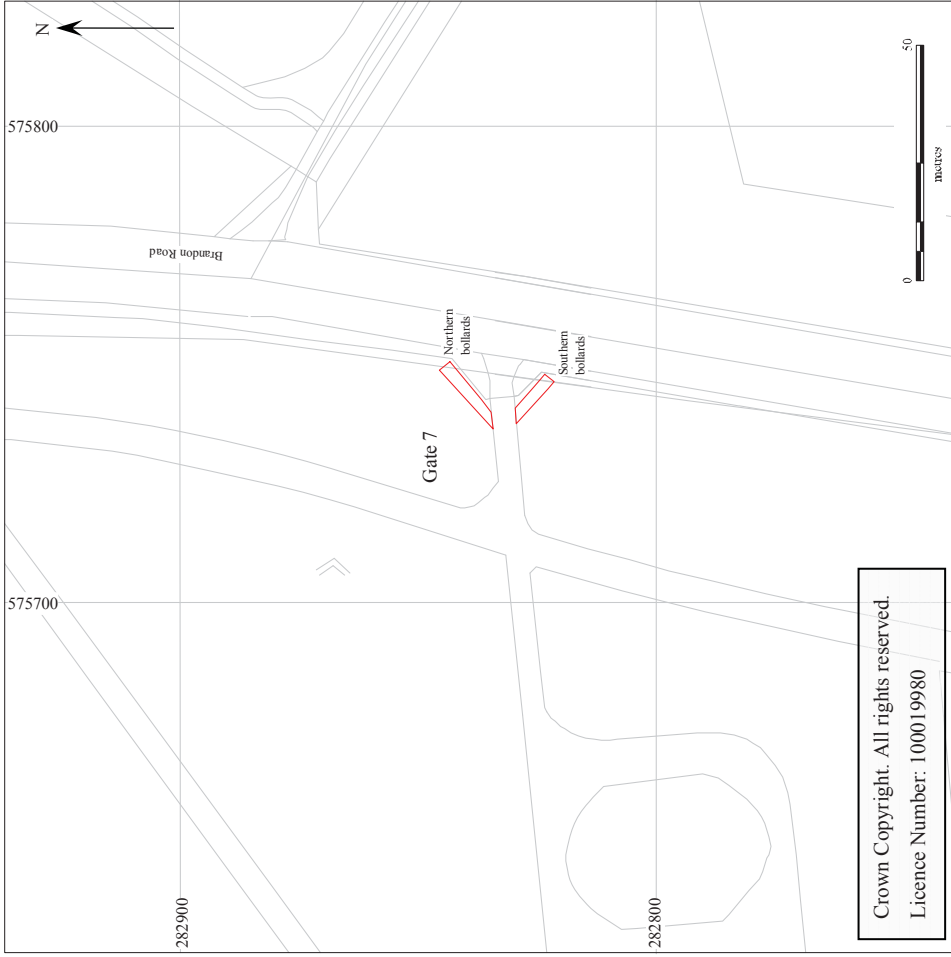


Figure 5. Gate 7 monitored groundworks

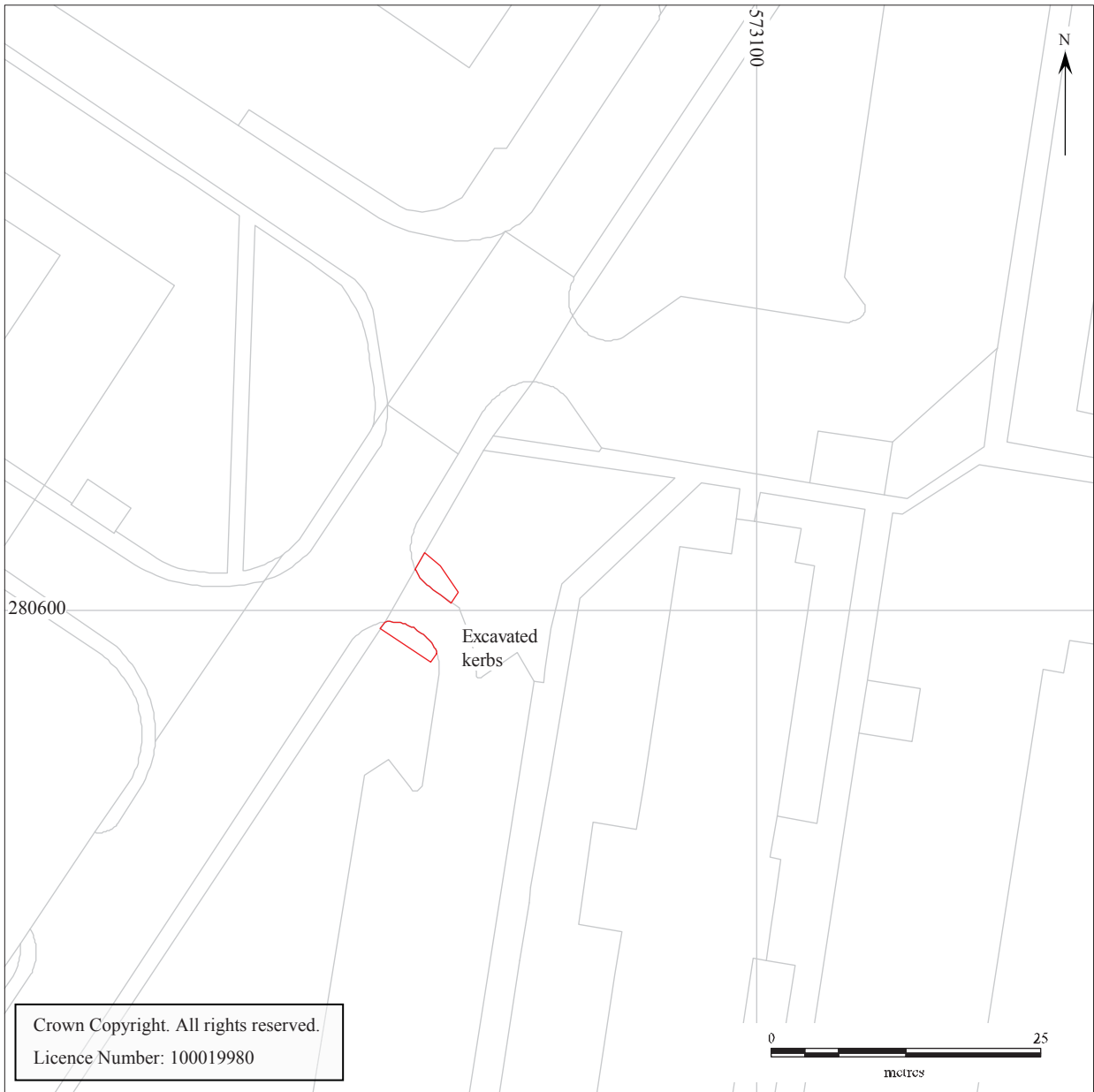


Figure 6. Kerb groundworks

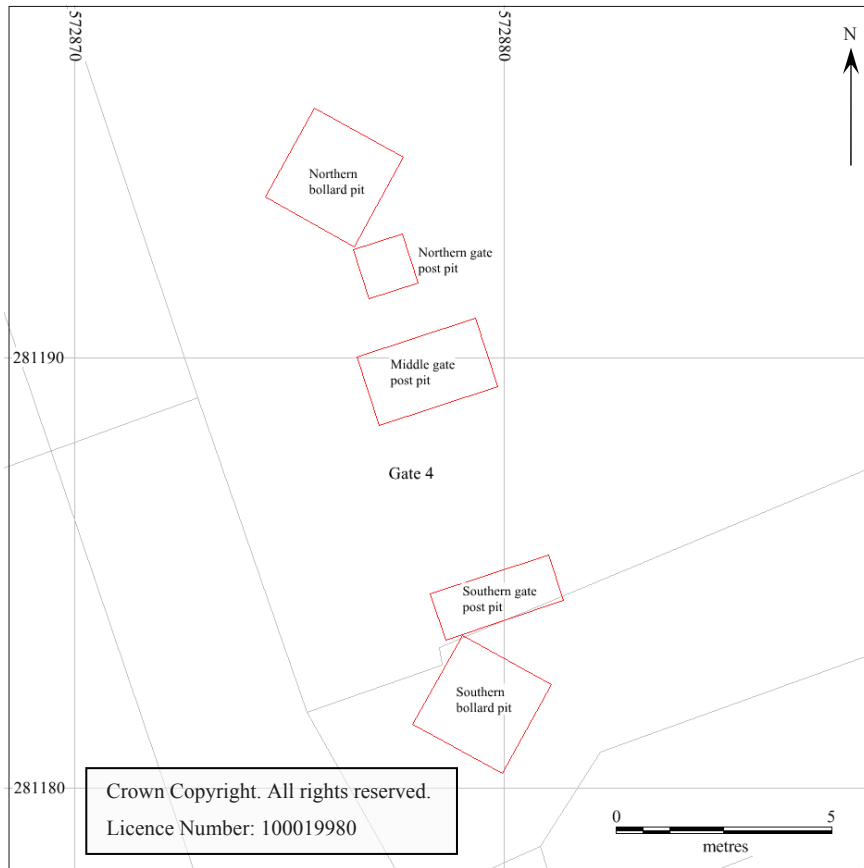


Figure 7. Gate 4 detail

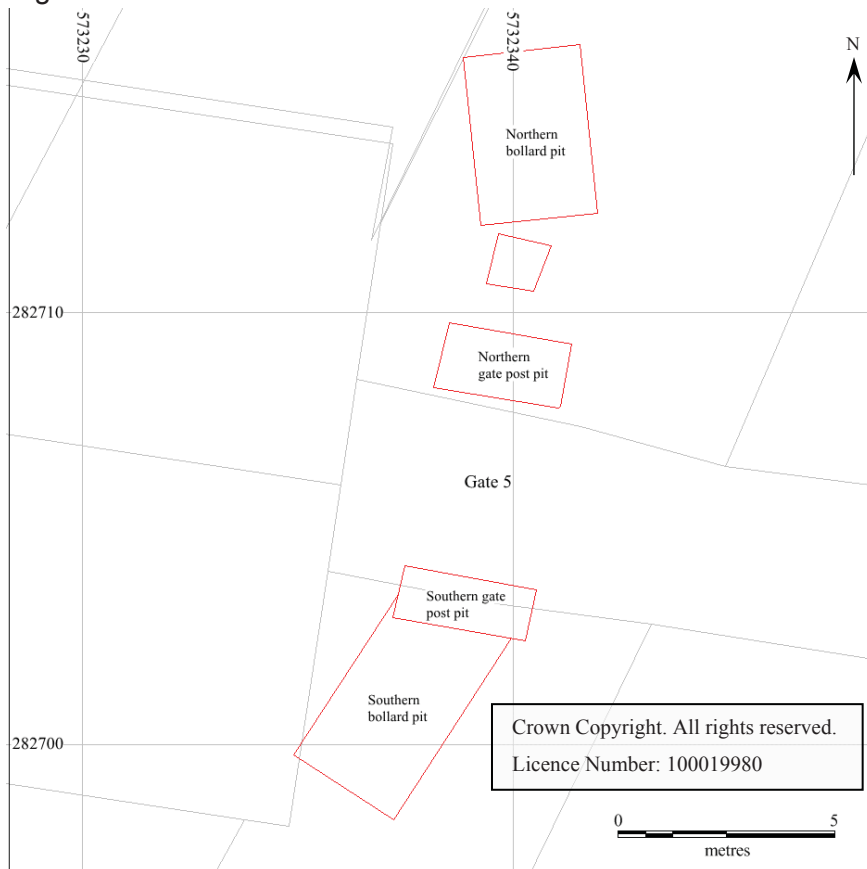


Figure 8. Gate 5 detail

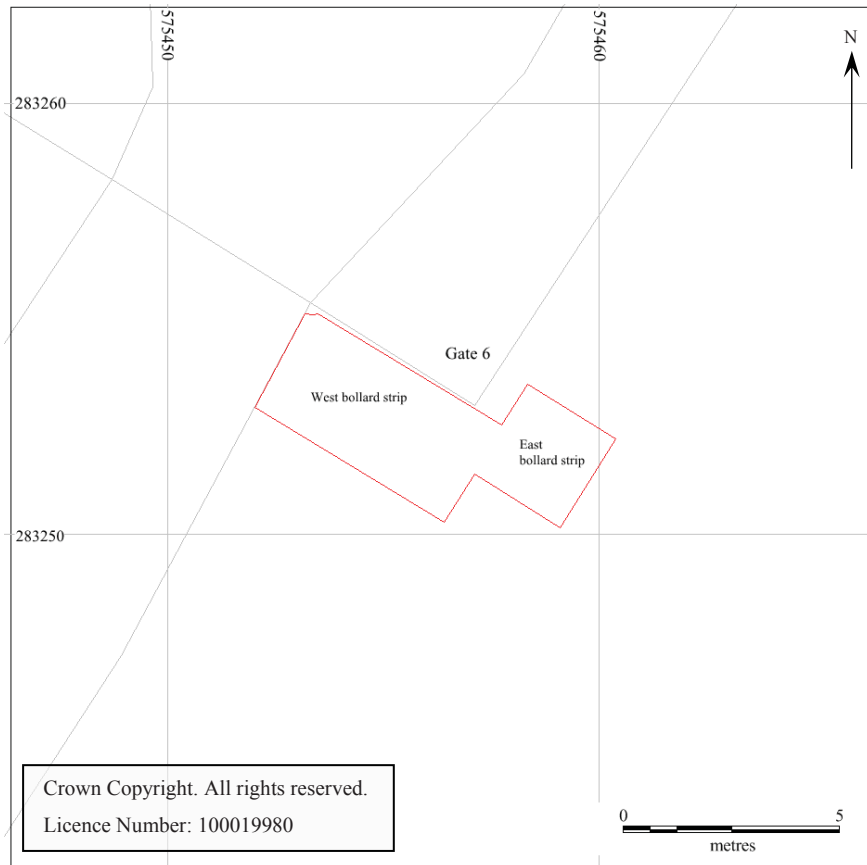


Figure 9. Gate 6 detail

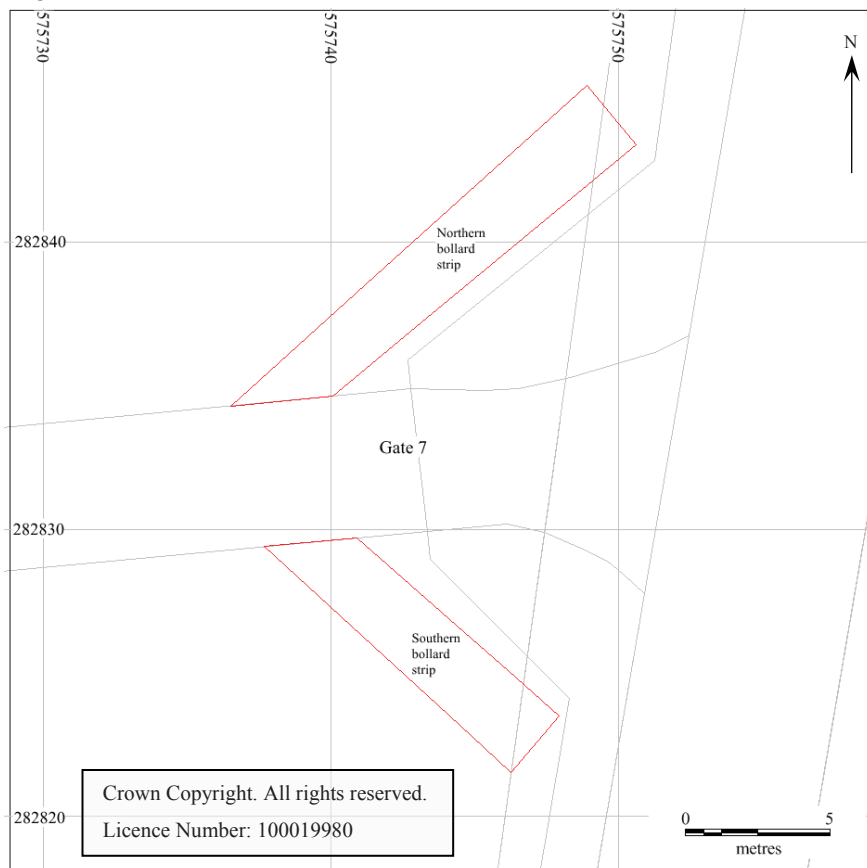


Figure 10. Gate 7 detail





## Appendix 1. OASIS forms

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### Printable version

**OASIS ID: suffolka1-204394**

#### Project details

Project name	LKH 371 and 372, RAF Lakenheath Gate Modifications Monitoring, Lakenheath
Short description of the project	Four security gates were monitored during modifications at RAF Lakenheath, in Suffolk. This OASIS entry covers Gates 4 and 5. The project was integrated with the monitoring of two areas of kerbside. No archaeological features or finds were recorded during any of the groundworks, which often revealed disturbed archaeological profiles as a result of modern services, or leveling work relating to the airfield.
Project dates	Start: 19-02-2015 End: 31-07-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	LKH 371 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	LKH 372 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	ESF 22903 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	ESF 22904 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	suffolka1-205650 - OASIS form ID
Any associated project reference codes	suffolka1-204403 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 4 - Regularly improved
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"

Prompt Voluntary/self-interest  
Prompt MOD land - not subject to planning conditions

### Project location

Country England  
Site location SUFFOLK FOREST HEATH LAKENHEATH LKH 371 and 372 RAF Lakenheath Gate 4 and 5 Modifications Monitoring, Lakenheath and Wangford  
Postcode IP27  
Study area 46.85 Square metres  
Site coordinates TL 7292 8118 52.4008425512 0.542068502204 52 24 03 N 000 32 31 E Point  
Site coordinates TL 7323 8270 52.4143970631 0.547407766019 52 24 51 N 000 32 50 E Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Suffolk Archaeology CIC  
Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body  
Project design originator Jude Plouviez  
Project director/manager Jo Caruth  
Project supervisor Rob Brooks  
Type of sponsor/funding body Military body  
Name of sponsor/funding body Defence Infrastructure Organisation

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No  
Digital Archive recipient Suffolk HER  
Digital Archive ID LKH 371 and 372  
Digital Contents "Survey","other"  
Digital Media available "Database","Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"  
Paper Archive recipient Suffolk HER  
Paper Archive ID LKH 371 and 372  
Paper Contents "Survey","other"  
Paper Media available "Context sheet","Plan","Report","Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Small gate modifications and kerb removal, RAF Lakenheath, Suffolk, Archaeological Monitoring Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Brooks, R.
Other bibliographic details	SACIC Report No. 2015/029
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	SACIC
Place of issue or publication	Needham Market
Description	A4, comb bound, in colour.
Entered by	Rob Brooks (rob.brooks@suffolkarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	4 August 2015

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: suffolka1-204403**

### Project details

Project name	WNG 052 and 053, RAF Lakenheath Gate 6 and 7 Modifications Monitoring, Wangford
Short description of the project	Four security gates were monitored during modifications at RAF Lakenheath, in Suffolk. This OASIS entry covers Gates 6 and 7. The project was integrated with the monitoring of two areas of kerbside. No archaeological features or finds were recorded during any of the groundworks, which often revealed disturbed archaeological profiles as a result of modern services, or leveling work relating to the airfield.
Project dates	Start: 19-02-2015 End: 31-07-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	suffolka1-204394 - OASIS form ID
Any associated project reference codes	suffolka1-205650 - OASIS form ID
Any associated project reference codes	WGN 052 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	WGN 053 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	ESF 22905 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	ESF 22907 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 4 - Regularly improved
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"

Prompt Voluntary/self-interest

### **Project location**

Country England  
Site location SUFFOLK FOREST HEATH WANGFORD WNG 052 and 053, RAF LAKENHEATH GATE 6 AND 7 MODIFICATIONS MONITORING, WANGFORD  
Study area 81.20 Square metres  
Site coordinates TL 7574 8283 52.4147610827 0.584346058752 52 24 53 N 000 35 03 E Point  
Site coordinates TL 7544 8324 52.4185403402 0.580154334704 52 25 06 N 000 34 48 E Point

### **Project creators**

Name of Organisation Suffolk Archaeology CIC  
Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body  
Project design originator Jude Plouviez  
Project director/manager Jo Caruth  
Project supervisor Rob Brooks  
Type of sponsor/funding body Military body  
Name of sponsor/funding body Defence Infrastructure Organisation

### **Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists? No  
Digital Archive recipient Suffolk HER  
Digital Archive ID WNG 052 and 053  
Digital Contents "Survey","other"  
Digital Media available "Database","Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"  
Paper Archive recipient Suffolk HER  
Paper Archive ID WNG 052 and 053  
Paper Contents "Survey","other"  
Paper Media available "Context sheet","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

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### Printable version

**OASIS ID: suffolka1-205650**

#### Project details

Project name	WGN 047 RAF Lakenheath Kerbside works monitoring, Eriswell
Short description of the project	Two areas of kerbside were stripped and monitored at RAF Lakenheath, in Suffolk. This project was integrated with the monitoring of security gate modifications (LKH 371 and 372, WGN 052 and 053). No archaeological features or finds were recorded during any of the groundworks, which often revealed disturbed archaeological profiles as a result of modern services, or leveling work relating to the airfield.
Project dates	Start: 19-02-2015 End: 31-07-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	suffolka1-204394 - OASIS form ID
Any associated project reference codes	suffolka1-204403 - OASIS form ID
Any associated project reference codes	WGN 047 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	ESF 22961 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Other 12 - Verge
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Voluntary - site not governed by planning restrictions

#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK FOREST HEATH ERISWELL WGN 047 RAF Lakenheath Kerbside works monitoring, Eriswell

Study area 16.50 Square metres  
Site coordinates TL 73069 80600 52.3955855954 0.543956771522 52 23 44 N 000 32 38 E Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Suffolk Archaeology CIC  
Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body  
Project design originator Jude Plouviez  
Project director/manager Jo Caruth  
Project supervisor Rob Brooks  
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Digital Archive ID WGN 047  
Digital Contents "Survey","other"  
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"  
Paper Archive recipient Suffolk HER  
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