



## A&B Ramps

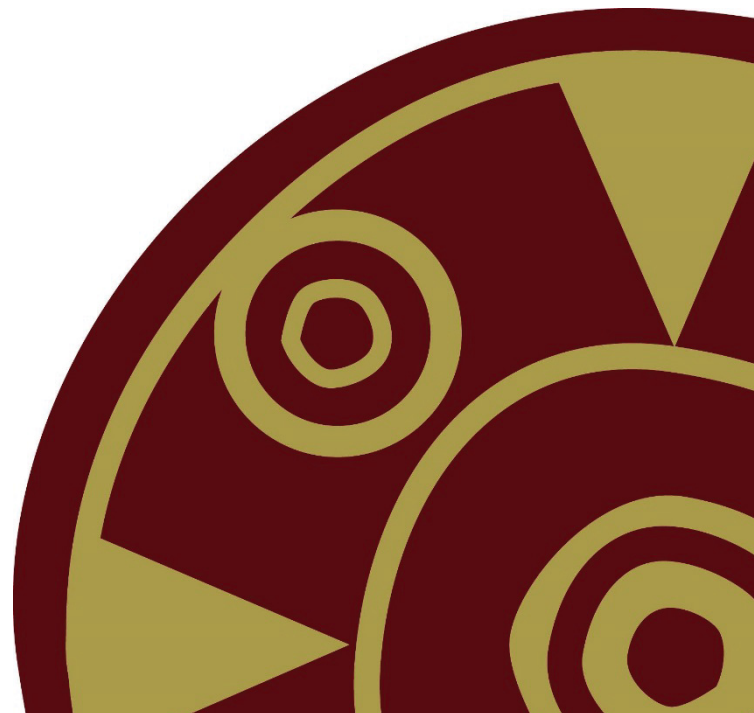
RAF Lakenheath, Suffolk

**Client:**  
Defence Infrastructure Organisation

**Date:**  
February 2016

LKH 383, ESF23285

Archaeological Monitoring Report v0.1  
SACIC Report No. 2015/080  
Author: Rob Brooks  
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## HER Information

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**Site Code/Event Number:** LKH 383/ESF 23285  
**Report Number** 2015/080  
**Planning Application No:** N/A  
**Date of Fieldwork:** 29th October 2015 – 18th February 2016  
**Grid Reference:** TL 7406 8113  
**Oasis Reference:** suffolka1-229800  
**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: 19/02/2016

Approved By: Jo Caruth  
Position: Senior Project Officer  
Date: 19/02/2016  
Signed:



## **Introduction**

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A monitoring was carried out on the southern side of the RAF Lakenheath runway at grid reference TL 7406 8113 (Fig. 1) during modifications to the A and B Ramps. The work was carried out from the 29th October 2015 to the 18th February 2016 and was carried out under the supervision of Rob Brooks and managed by Jo Caruth of Suffolk Archaeology CIC. An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolka1-229800 – Appendix 1) and a digital copy will be submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>).

All the work was funded by the MoD Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO), commissioned through Volker Fitzpatrick. Suffolk Archaeology is grateful to Claire Bushnell (DIO) and Brian Donovan (Volker Fitzpatrick) and members of their teams 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 site strip was undertaken by subcontractors working for Volker Fitzpatrick, under instruction from the DIO. The groundworks consisted of widespread ground level reduction. This encompassed two areas that had previously been grass (the areas targeted in Test Pits A and B), as well as the surrounding concrete hardstanding and its associated subbase. The concrete and subbase was stripped using breakers and large diggers and further levelling was carried out with bulldozers across the whole area.

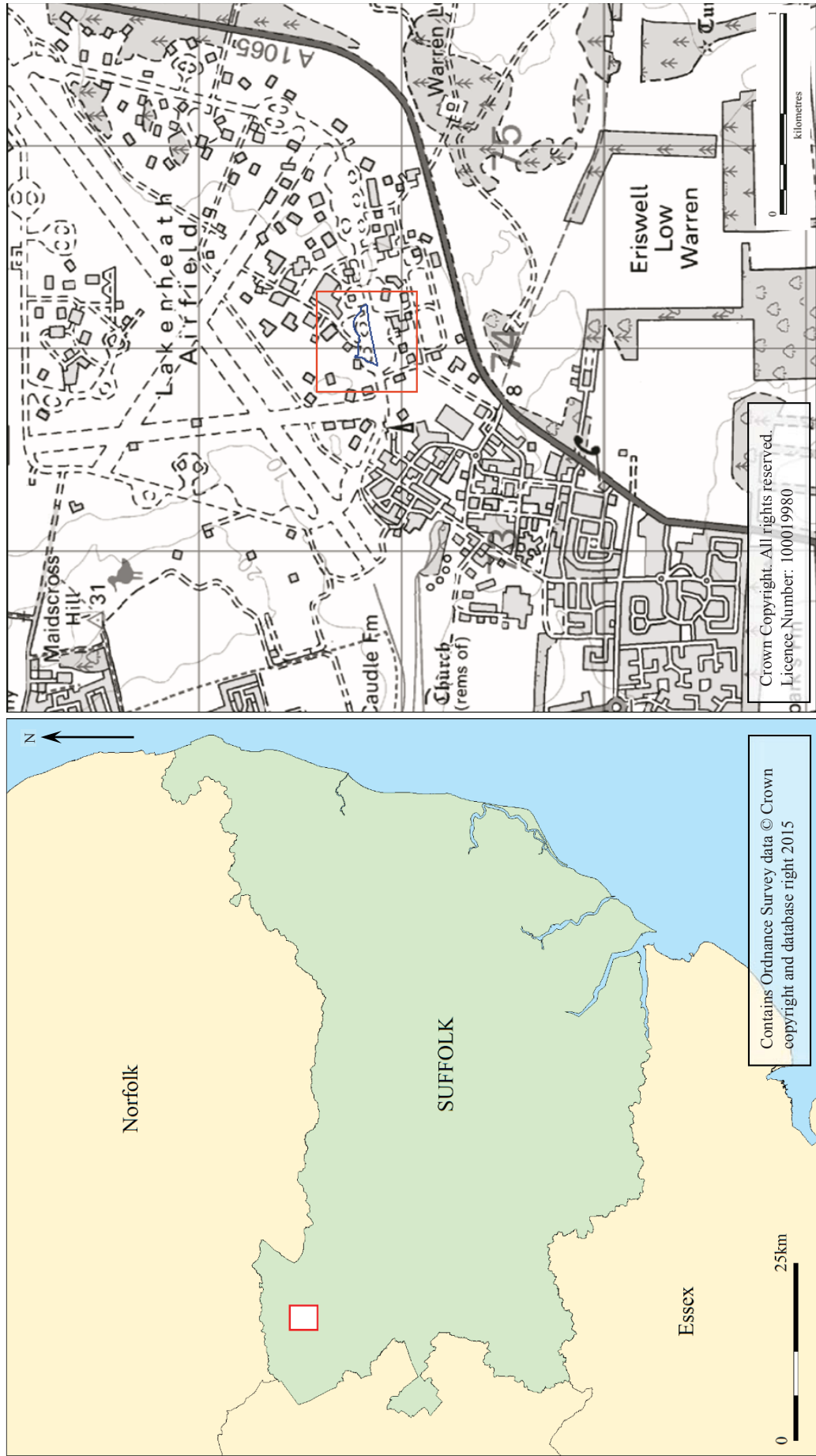


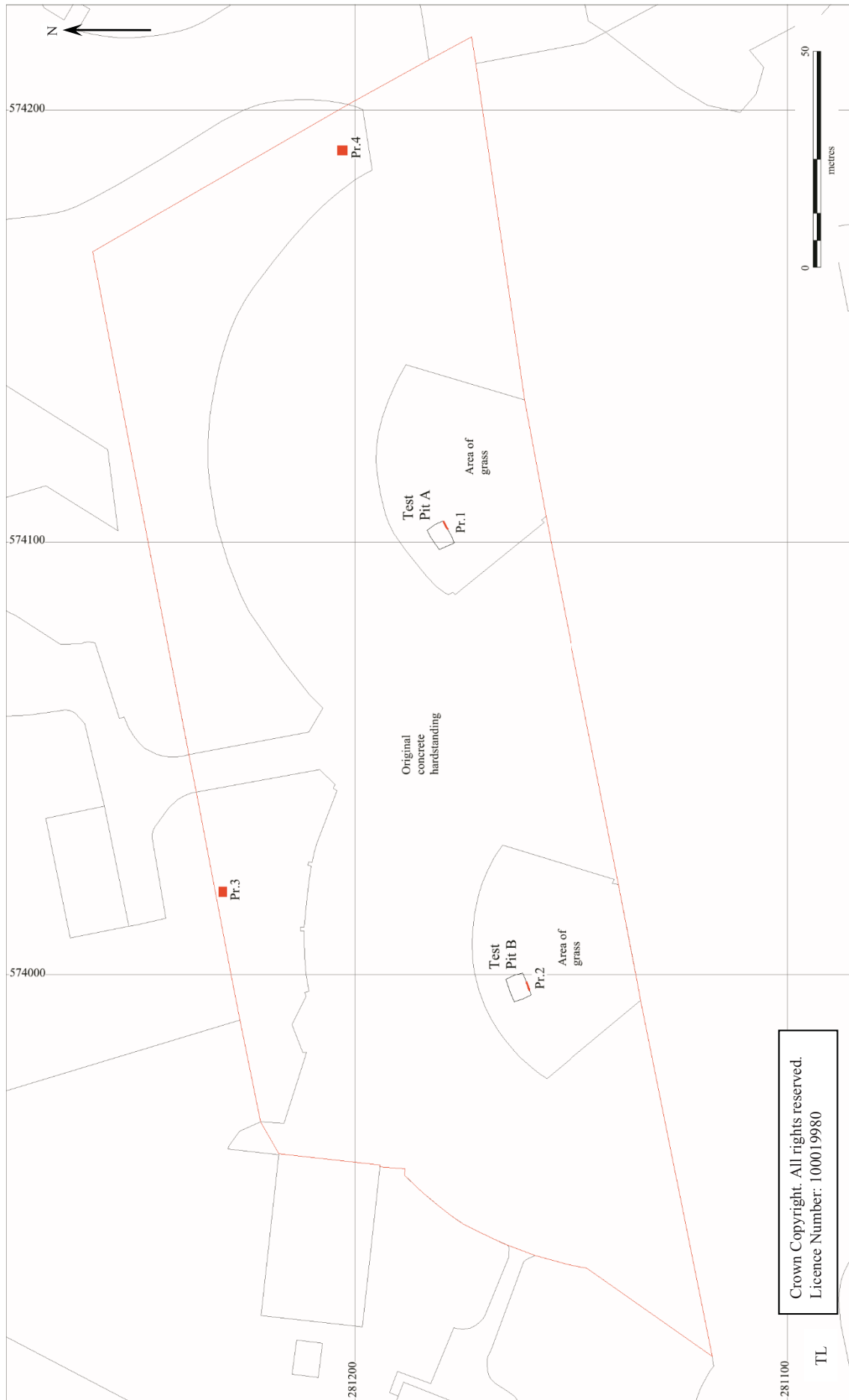
Figure 1. Location map

## Results

Various parts of the strip were monitored and full details of the recorded soil profiles are provided in Table 1 with photos in Appendix 2. The results tend to indicate that most, if not all of the area had previously been truncated and otherwise disturbed during the initial laying of the runway/taxiway. The high levels of machine movement associated with the new development (involving large diggers, lorries and bulldozers) had also further disturbed the area. In general, 0.35m of concrete was removed, overlying a compacted subbase of orange sand and stone, below which the upper horizon of the truncated natural geology, or layers of redeposited natural mixed with modern material were recorded.

Area	Profile and other observations
Test Pit A and surrounding area of grass Profile 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No archaeology observed</li> <li>• The Test Pit measured up to 4.3m x 5.7m x 0.75m deep and the entirety of the excavation revealed only disturbed layers (29/10/2015). No archaeology or natural geology was observed.</li> <li>• The remainder of the grass around this Test Pit was then stripped (10/11/2015), revealing disturbed/modern layers across the area, which usually did not reveal natural. When it did, the upper horizon of the geology was truncated.</li> </ul> <p><b>Profile (uppermost to lowest layer)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0.1m-0.15m of heavily disturbed topsoil mixed with orange sand</li> <li>• 0.4m-&gt;0.65m of redeposited natural pale to mid orange sand, with patches of chalk (small chalk nodules and completely crushed chalk) and common small flints, as well as lenses of mid orangish-brown and dark grey–brown sandy-silt, with pieces of concrete, tarmac and ventilation brick throughout</li> <li>• Natural geology was revealed sporadically, but was disturbed</li> </ul>
Test Pit B Profile 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No archaeology observed</li> <li>• This Test Pit measured up to 4.6m x 5.2m x 0.3m deep, at which depth natural sand was uncovered (29/10/2015). However, this material had already been truncated by previous groundworks associated with the upper layer of modern/redeposited material recorded in the profile.</li> </ul> <p><b>Profile (uppermost to lowest layer)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• C.0.23m-0.3m of redeposited natural, topsoil and concrete fragments</li> <li>• Natural sand – very pale yellow to mid orange coarse sand, with common small flints and degraded chalk patches.</li> </ul>
Profile 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No archaeology observed</li> </ul> <p><b>Profile (uppermost to lowest layer)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0.15m of turf/topsoil</li> <li>• 0.2m of orange sand, mottled with pale grey sand, containing common small flints</li> <li>• 0.16m of 60%-70% gravel and larger flints, within a matrix of orange and grey sand (interpreted as imported material, given the quantity of stones and mixed nature of the deposit). This had a very sharp/flat lower horizon with the natural geology</li> <li>• &gt;0.18m of degraded sandy-chalk natural</li> </ul>
Profile 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No archaeology observed</li> </ul> <p><b>Profile (uppermost to lowest layer)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &gt;0.4m of orange natural sand with common small flints. No overlying layers were present, excluding the former subbase and concrete hardstanding</li> </ul>

Table 1. Soil profiles



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Figure 2. Site plan



## **Conclusions**

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There were no archaeological features or finds recorded in these works, despite several visits to monitor the redevelopment of the area. It is presumed (given the site's position close to Caudle Head and zones of known Roman and Saxon settlement) that the construction of the original A and B ramps had truncated the whole development area. In the areas where natural geology was uncovered, its upper horizon had consistently been disturbed and levelled.



## Appendix 1. OASIS form

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

### Printable version

**OASIS ID: suffolka1-229800**

#### Project details

Project name	LKH 383 RAF Lakenheath A and B Ramps Monitoring, Lakenheath, Suffolk
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at RAF Lakenheath, in Suffolk. The works were located on the southern edge of the runway. The area had previously been concrete hardstanding and this was being replaced and upgraded. No features or finds were recorded in the works, despite the site's proximity to Caudle Head and areas of Roman and Saxon occupation. The whole area appeared to have been heavily truncated by the laying of the original concrete and its subbase.
Project dates	Start: 29-10-2015 End: 18-02-2016
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	LKH 383 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	ESF 23285 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
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 LAKENHEATH LKH 383 RAF Lakenheath A and B Ramps Monitoring
Postcode	IP27
Study area	18160 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 7406 8113 52.400030722518 0.558783390636 52 24 00 N 000 33 31 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 8.75m Max: 8.81m

## Project creators

Name of Organisation	Suffolk Archaeology CIC
Project brief originator	Not applicable - not under planning jurisdiction
Project design originator	Not applicable - not under planning jurisdiction
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 383/ESF 23285
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk HER
Paper Archive ID	LKH 383/ESF 23285
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Report","Section"

## Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	A and B Ramps, RAF Lakenheath, Suffolk, Archaeological Monitoring Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Brooks, R.
Other bibliographic details	SACIC Report No. 2015/080
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	SACIC
Place of issue or publication	Needham Market
Description	A4, comb bound, short report, in colour, card covers.

Entered by Rob Brooks (rob.brooks@suffolkarchaeology.co.uk)

Entered on 18 February 2016

## OASIS:

Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice

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Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm?id=243080> for this page



# Appendix 2. Plates

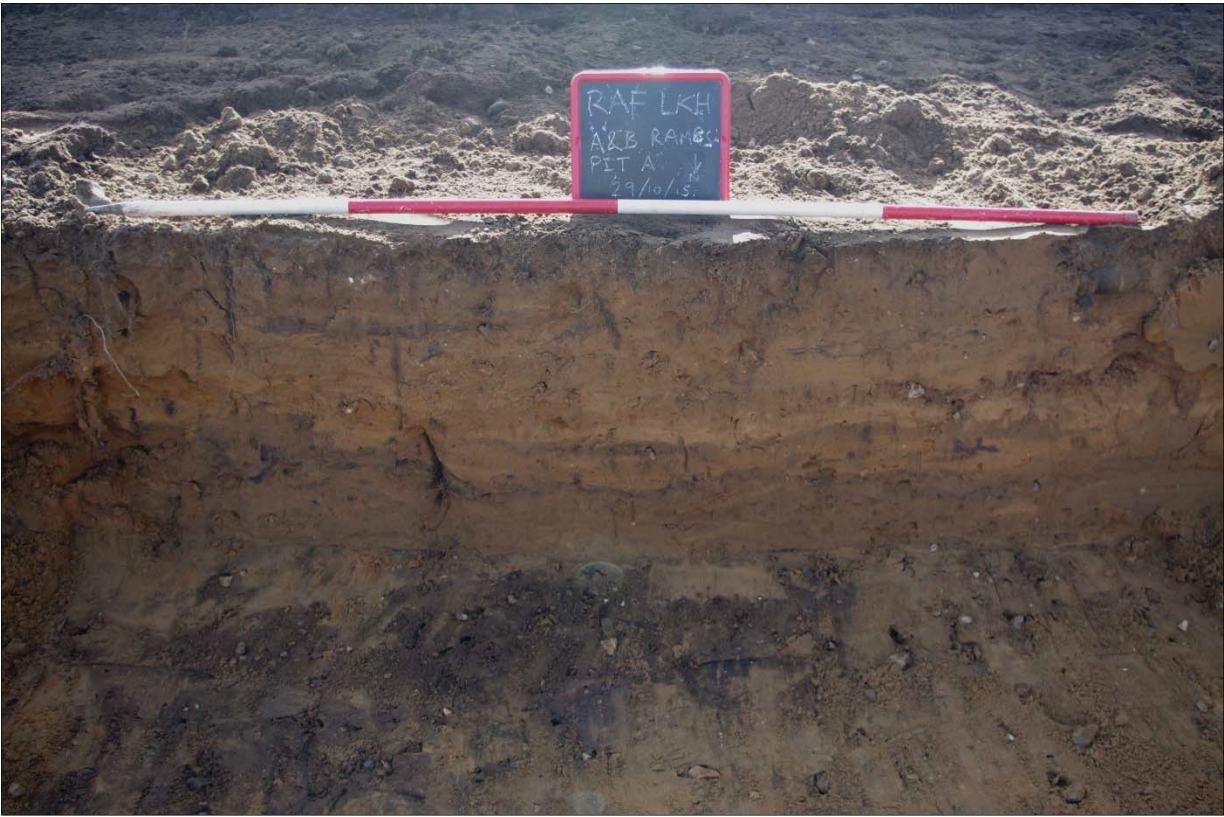


Plate 1. Test Pit A, Profile 1 (2m scale, facing south-south-east)

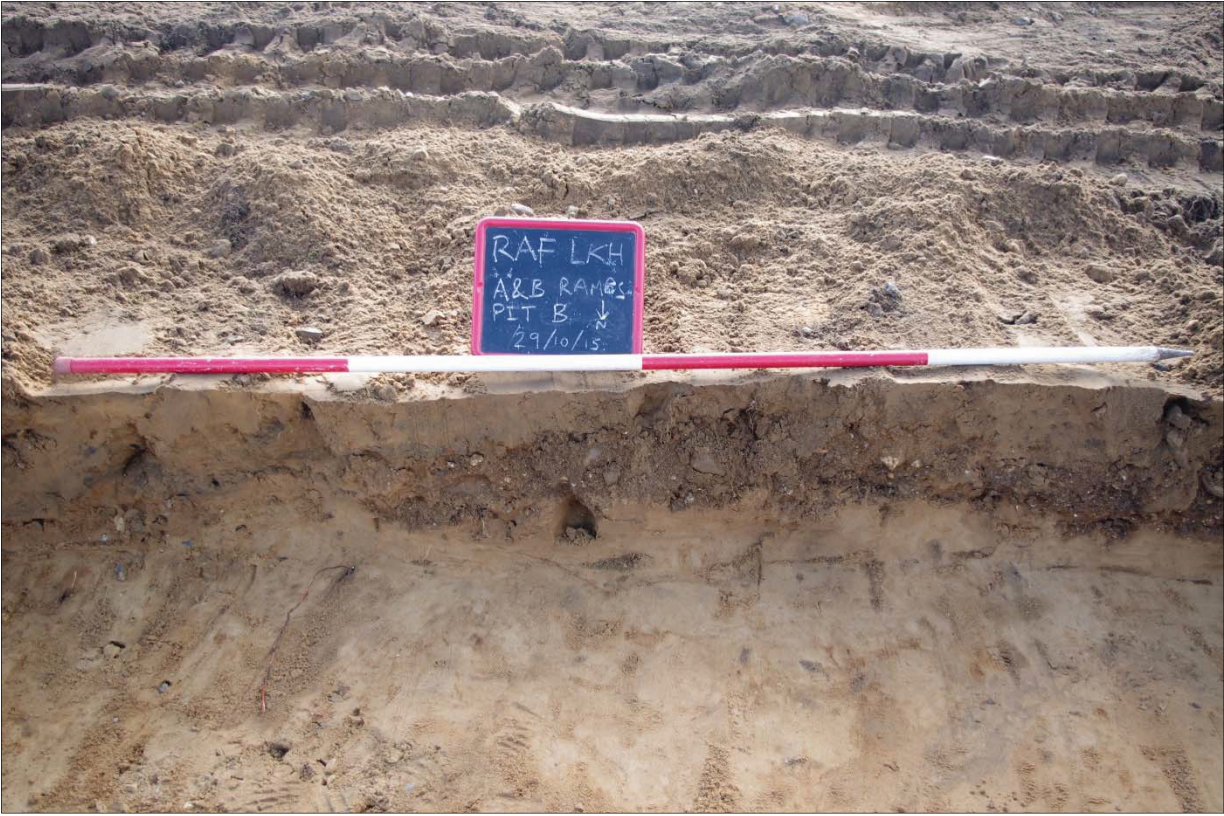


Plate 2. Test Pit B, Profile 2 (2m scale, facing south-south-east)



Plate 3. Profile 3 (0.5m scale, facing north-north-west)





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