

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2011/206	Parish: Lakenheath
Missile Coolant Recharge LKH 337	HER Event No.: LKH 337
	Oasis No. suffolkc1-116734
Address: Building 1253, RAF Lakenheath, Lakenheath, Suffolk.	Grid Reference: TL 746 819
	Number of Site visits: 3
	Date of visits: 12th, 13th, 21st September
<p>Groundworks at Building 1253, RAF Lakenheath, were archaeologically monitored on the 12th, 13th and 21st of September 2011. The monitoring observed the mechanical excavation of a new access road and footings trenches for an extension to the existing building and was carried out according to a verbal brief supplied by Jude Plouviez, SCCAS/CT.</p> <p>The development area lies within the bounds of the Lakenheath warren (LKH 174) approximately 290m from its northern edge.</p> <p>The Historic Environment Record (HER) contained four entries within a 500m radius of the development area (Fig. 1) which are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LKH 111. Basil Brown noted that eleven sherds of coarse (Iron Age) pottery were recovered from the warren 'just north of road to Wangford and just within the Lakenheath boundary' by R. Rainbird Clarke in 1937. • LKH 221 indicates the site of the post-medieval warren lodge noted as a symbol on the 1853 Lakenheath warren map. • In 1990 a large deep brown struck flake and the 'blade' end of a large triangular, bifacially worked arrowhead of medium-dark grey flint were recovered (LKH 138). 	

- **LKH 246** is the site of a previous monitoring that identified desiccated peat with brown sand and a black mineralised sand much like that discovered during this project.

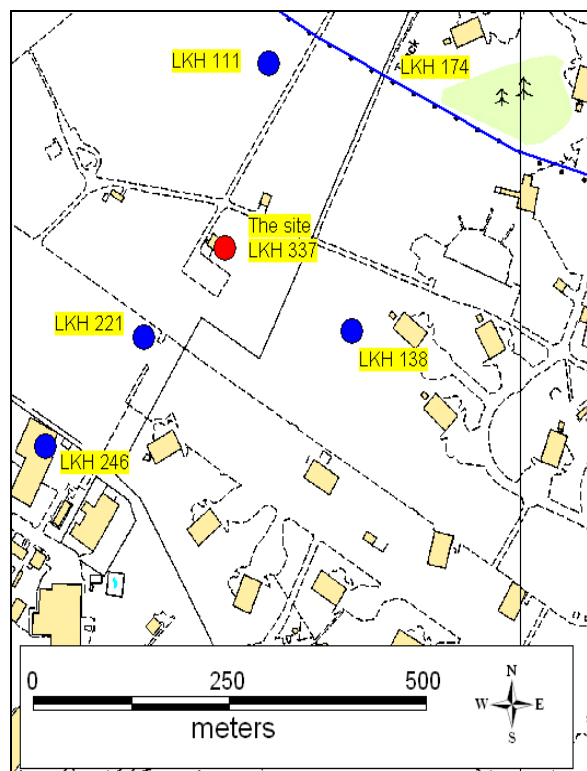
The new access road and extension footings were excavated with a 360 degree mechanical digger mounted with a 1.8m ditching bucket.

Soil horizons were hand cleaned and recorded digitally after it was established that there was no surviving archaeological horizon. The footing pads for the building extension were too loose and deep to be safely entered and were digitally recorded from outside the trench.

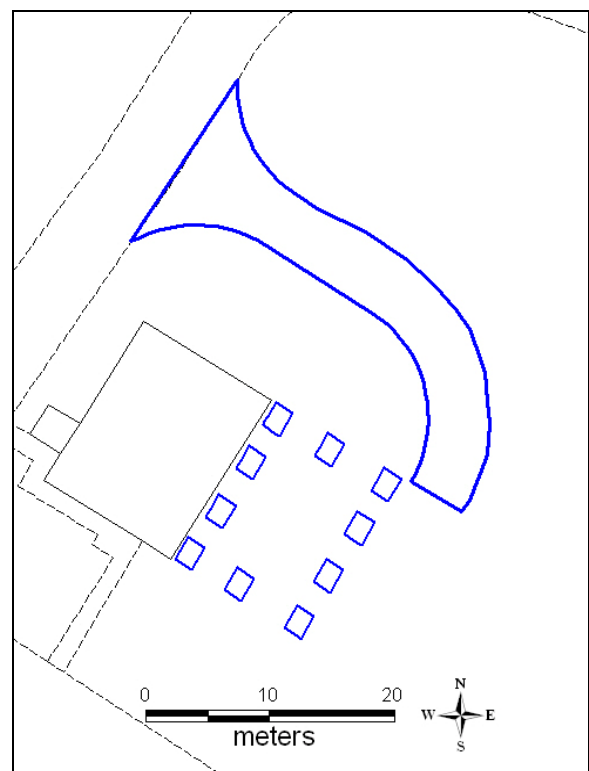
Trenches:

Ten footing trenches were observed measuring 1m by 1m with an approximate depth of 1.2m. The footprint for the access road measured approximately 37m in length by 5m in width with a maximum depth of 0.6m.

Location Map:



Trench plan:



Results:

The monitoring observed a severe degree of modern truncation across the site. This is likely to originate from the construction of the runway and building 1253 or later related works. No archaeological horizon was identified.

The access road and footing pad excavations produced soil profiles comprising 0.12m of modern topsoil overlying approximately 0.3m of mixed mid/light greyish brown silty-sand subsoil containing modern rubble inclusions and striations of windblown sands. This subsoil was underlain, in areas, by a dark greyish-brown, friable sandy-silt which measured 0.1m in depth and contained frequent, undulating striations of windblown sand. This layer contained small quantities of modern brick and cement.

The natural geology within the development area consisted of a common Breckland morphology of fine windblown sands overlying a solid chalk with periglacial scarring. Appearing sporadically throughout the fine sand, possibly surviving in natural hollows, are patches of dark brownish-black mineralised, granular sand (podsol). Similar podsoles were noted to the south at LKH 242 and also by the author at LKH 329 to the west. This phenomenon arises from the leaching of acidic soils, commonly found in Breckland and Heathland, into the permeable natural sand below (Sussams, 1996).

Conclusion:

The monitoring concluded that the development area has suffered severe truncation resulting in the loss of any possible archaeological horizon. Therefore, no further work is recommended.

Bibliography:

Sussams, K., 1996 The Breckland Archaeological Survey. Suffolk Archaeological

Archive:

Paper and Photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds.

Digital archive: R:\Environmental

Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\RAFLakenheath\LKH 337

Recorded by: Andrew Vaughan Beverton

Date: 13/12/2011