

# Foul Drainage, RAF Lakenheath, Eriswell ERL 228

## **Archaeological Monitoring Report**

**SCCAS Report No. 2013/013**

**Client: Defence Infrastructure Organisation**

Author: Rob Brooks

September/2013

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SCCAS Report No. 2013/013

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## HER Information

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**Site Code:** ERL 228

**Site Name:** Foul Drainage monitoring

**Report Number** 2013/013

**Planning Application No:** N/A

**Date of Fieldwork:** 20th August – 5th October, 2012

**Grid Reference:** TL 7284 8077 (northern end)  
TL 7295 8046 (mid point)  
TL 7273 8019 (southern end)

**Oasis Reference:** suffolkc1-142725

**Curatorial Officer:** Jude Plouviez

**Project Officer:** Rob Brooks

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

**Client Reference:** N/A

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:  
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

### Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately 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 services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Prepared By: Rob Brooks  
Date: 26/09/2013

Approved By: Jo Caruth  
Position: Senior Project Officer  
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



## **Summary**













Monitoring of a foul drainage pipe trench on RAF Lakenheath, within the parish of Eriswell in Suffolk, revealed a Roman skeleton with evidence of a coffin stain and several coffin nails. Additionally several ditches are thought to be Roman, relating to the occupation seen at the northern end of the pipe trench, whilst a limited quantity of later prehistoric worked flint and pottery indicate a low level of later prehistoric occupation in this area.

# Drawing Conventions

## Plans

- Limit of Excavation 
- Features 
- Break of Slope 
- Features - Conjectured 
- Natural Features 
- Sondages/Machine Strip 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Illustrated Section  S.14
- Cut Number  0008
- Archaeological Features 

## Sections

- Limit of Excavation 
- Cut 
- Modern Cut 
- Cut - Conjectured 
- Deposit Horizon 
- Deposit Horizon - Conjectured 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Top of Natural 
- Top Surface 
- Break in Section 
- Cut Number  0008
- Deposit Number 0007
- Ordnance Datum  18.45m OD

## **1. Introduction**

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Thirty-three test pits as well as the excavation of an 860m long pipe trench were monitored as part of a project to lay a new foul drainage pipe at RAF Lakenheath, in Suffolk (Fig. 1). An archaeological monitoring was required for the project in order to record any archaeological features and recover any finds that could otherwise be uncovered or destroyed by the groundworks. The work was carried out under the supervision of Jude Plouviez (SCCAS Conservation Team). The client, Defence Infrastructure Organisation funded the work that was carried out between 20th August and 5th October, 2012.

## **2. Geology and topography**

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The site's topography is fairly flat, being positioned on the 10m contour. Levels close to the site have been recorded between 10m and 16m above the Ordnance Datum. The general area gently slopes very slightly up to the west, before falling again at the fen edge.

There is no recorded superficial geology for the site, although bedrock formations of Holywell Nodular Chalk and New Pit Chalk are listed (BGS, 2013). On site, the geology presented itself as yellow and orange sand, with chalk uncovered in places.

## **3. Archaeology and historical background**

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Eriswell and the neighbouring parishes of Lakenheath and Wangford are renowned for possessing a rich, multi-period archaeological landscape. RAF Lakenheath itself has a particularly concentrated archaeological horizon that continues from the Prehistoric through to the Anglo-Saxon period.

Notable prehistoric sites nearby comprise two Bronze-Age barrows to the south of the site at ERL 148 and 203. Late Iron Age and early Roman agricultural activity was identified on sites at ERL 089, 120, 130 and 147.

The hub of Roman settlement is located at the northern end of the site at the natural spring, Caudle head. Excavations at Nato place (ERL 212), Kennedy Street (ERL 112)

and Thunderbird way found evidence of Roman occupation whilst excavations to the west of the site revealed a possible Early Roman shrine (ERL 214). Other notable Roman sites are positioned at the northern end of the pipeline, marking intensive settlement (ERL 086, 135 and 141).

Three large Anglo-Saxon cemeteries have been excavated to the east at ERL 046, 104 and 114, with ERL 104 immediately east of the pipeline. Anglo-Saxon evidence has been found to the south of these at ERL 154 and further south still at ERL 203 where several inhumations were cut into the Bronze Age monument.

Medieval occupation for Eriswell is focused around the church of St Peter (ERL 011 to the west of the development area (adapted from Beverton, 2012).

HER No.	Description
ERL 107	A shallow natural sand filled hollow containing Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flints was found during excavation. Excavating either side of building 937, in advance of redevelopment, uncovered Roman & Saxon features.
ERL 140	Large area with the entire centre badly truncated. Ditches seen on east and west edge, indicative of settlement but cannot be dated or defined.
ERL 124	Undated ditch found on opposite side of Norwich Road to cemetery, ERL 104.
ERL 117	Monitoring during June and July 2001 revealed presence of Late Iron Age and Roman features.
ERL 109	Roman. Several features seen at south-east corner of Building 868.
ERL 086	Roman. Evaluation trenches revealed extensive area of features and buried soil with prehistoric and mainly Rom finds.
ERL 128	Undated (probably Rom) pit and ditches found during monitoring of footing trenches.
ERL 024	Roman. Male skeleton found in digging posthole, associated with rim sherd (S1)(R1).
ERL 098	Preh and Rom. Fieldwalking' survey by SAU, mainly of molehills/rabbit workings, prior to creation of 'Peacekeeper Park' by USAF.
ERL 152	Monitoring identified Roman features in the eastern half of the site.
ERL 160	Rom. Monitoring, located a buried soil, and an area of dense features seen in a pipe trench.
ERL 058	Saxon burials & finds reputedly found during original excavations for swimming pool construction (? 1960s-1970s).
ERL 008	Saxon. Inhumation cemetery.
ERL 092	Prehistoric(?) 'dark brown feature with diffused edges which produced (a) burnt flint during surface cleaning'.
ERL 118	Late Iron Age, early Roman and undated ditches found during evaluation for classroom extensions.
ERL 217	Evaluation identified isolated Iron Age activity with evidence of early Roman activity in two small areas.
ERL 211	Monitoring identified a continuation of the late Iron Age and early Roman settlement, including pits, field ditches and evidence of a building or entrance structure.
ERL 213	Evaluation identified Iron Age features and finds, a single Bronze Age cremation and a series of undated rectilinear field system.
ERL 105	Rectangular enclosure (earthwork?), circa 90m x 50m depicted on OS 1:2500 map (S1).

Table 1. HER listings as shown on Figure 1

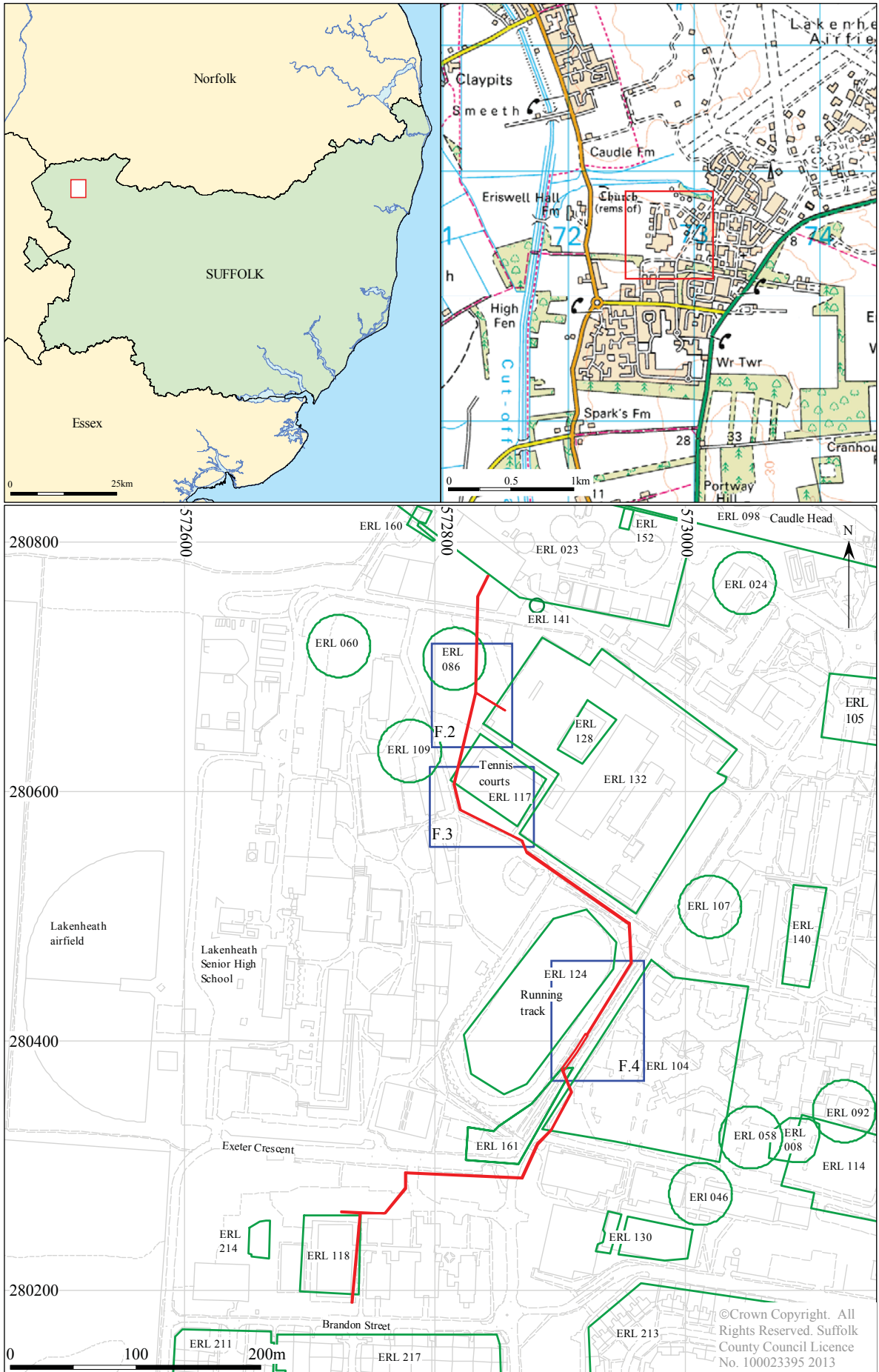


Figure 1. Trench location (red) with HER listings (green) and figure outlines (blue)

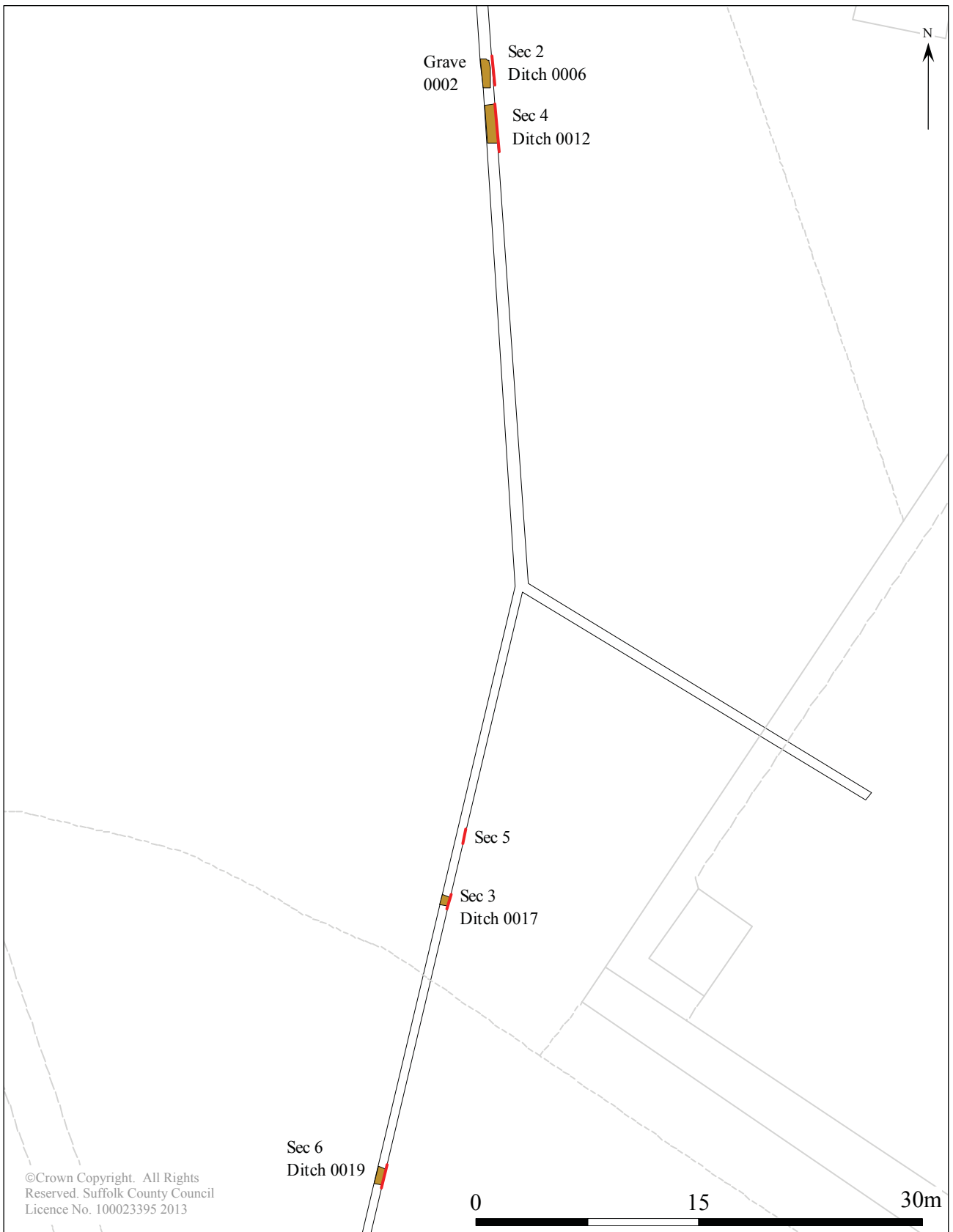


Figure 2. Northern sections with grave 0002 and extrapolated features (brown) along length of foul drain (black)