

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2013/091	Parish: Lakenheath
<p>Accessible Community</p> <p>Play Area,</p> <p>RAF Lakenheath</p> <p>LKH 353</p>	Planning Application No.: N/A
	OASIS No. Suffolkc1-154147
	HER Event No.: LKH 353
	Grid Reference: TL 7381 8064
	Number of Site visits: 3
Date of visits: 27/06/13-02/07/13	

Three visits were made to view the excavated footings for the play area and individual equipment foundations during the ground works. Previous evaluation suggested the possible presence of buried relict soil surfaces at approximately 0.4m below current ground level and the majority of the new play area was only excavated to c. 0.2m below surface level, however four areas (highlighted blue in Figure 2 below) had deeper (0.3m) foundations which were carefully monitored for archaeologically relevant deposits and artefacts.

Figure 1. Location Map:

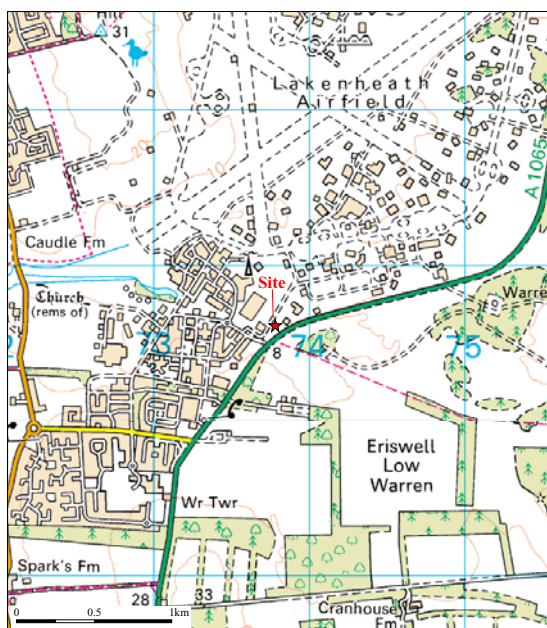
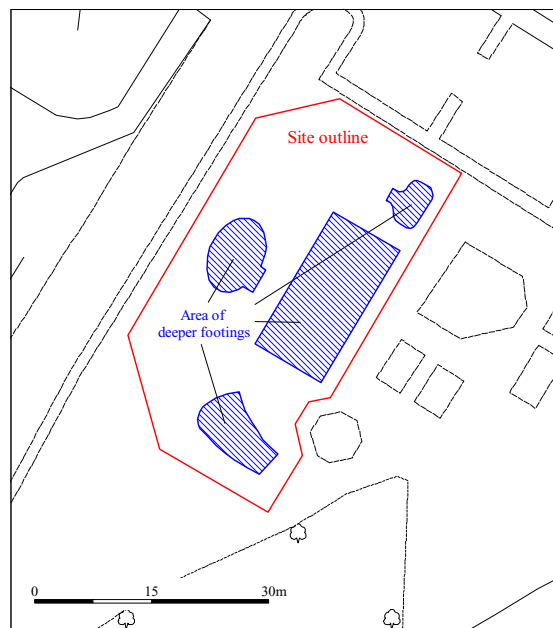


Figure 2. Detailed site plan:



Results:

The site was stripped in two phases – the first involved the removal of grass and topsoil to a depth of c.0.2m across the whole site while the second phase involved further excavation in the areas shown in Figure 2, to a depth of c.0.4m below previous ground level. These areas were observed during stripping in order to check if any preserved peat/occupation layers would be encountered below the overlying wind-blown sands, with individual hand-dug test pits to confirm the presence/absence of the underlying peat/occupation layers if they were not encountered by machine stripping. The general stratigraphy encountered consisted of c. 0.1m of mid brown silty sand topsoil over 0.4-0.45m of windblown soft pale greyish yellow sands. In places this overlay a pale/mid creamy brown soft silty sand up to 0.05m thick – the buried occupation layer. Natural mid yellow sands were observed under this layer. This buried layer was only encountered in hand-dug test pits, with the machine stripping for the new play area not penetrating deep enough to intersect it. Some small flints were recovered from the wind-blown sand layer, though they were all waste-flakes/debitage and not finished flint tools.



Plate 1. Hand-dug test-pit 3, showing observed stratigraphy

Finds: Small worked flint debitage flakes were found within the windblown sand deposits. None were of diagnostic or interpretative use and were discarded after inspection.

Retained N/A

Recorded by: Simon Cass

Date: 09/08/2013