
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2013/157	Parish: Eriswell
RAF Lakenheath Building 950 ERL 235	Planning Application No.: Pre Application
	OASIS No. suffolkc1-167126
	HER Event No.: ERL 235
Address: RAF Lakenheath Building 950 IP27 9NA	Grid Reference: TL 734 804
	Number of Site visits: 1
	Date of visits: 16/12/2013
<p>Introduction:</p> <p>The project monitored the hand excavation of two square test pits and a cable trench running parallel and adjacent to the western edge of Building 950, RAF Lakenheath (Fig. 2).</p> <p>Previous work in the area consists of an excavation (ERL 139) across the footprint of building 950 which identified a series of ditches that were expected to be visible within the cable trench (Fig.2). Excavations (ERL 116) to the north of the development area identified severe truncation that was expected to extend into the northern portion of the monitoring area. Both identified evidence of Middle Saxon occupation.</p>	
<p>Trenches:</p> <p>The two test pits measured 0.6m by 0.6m in plan and were excavated by hand to a depth of approximately 0.59m. The cable trench measured approximately 70m and was mechanically excavated to a depth of 0.5m by a mini-digger fitted with a 0.4m wide toothed bucket. A ditching flat bladed ditching bucket is preferred for archaeological purposes although one was not available for this project.</p>	

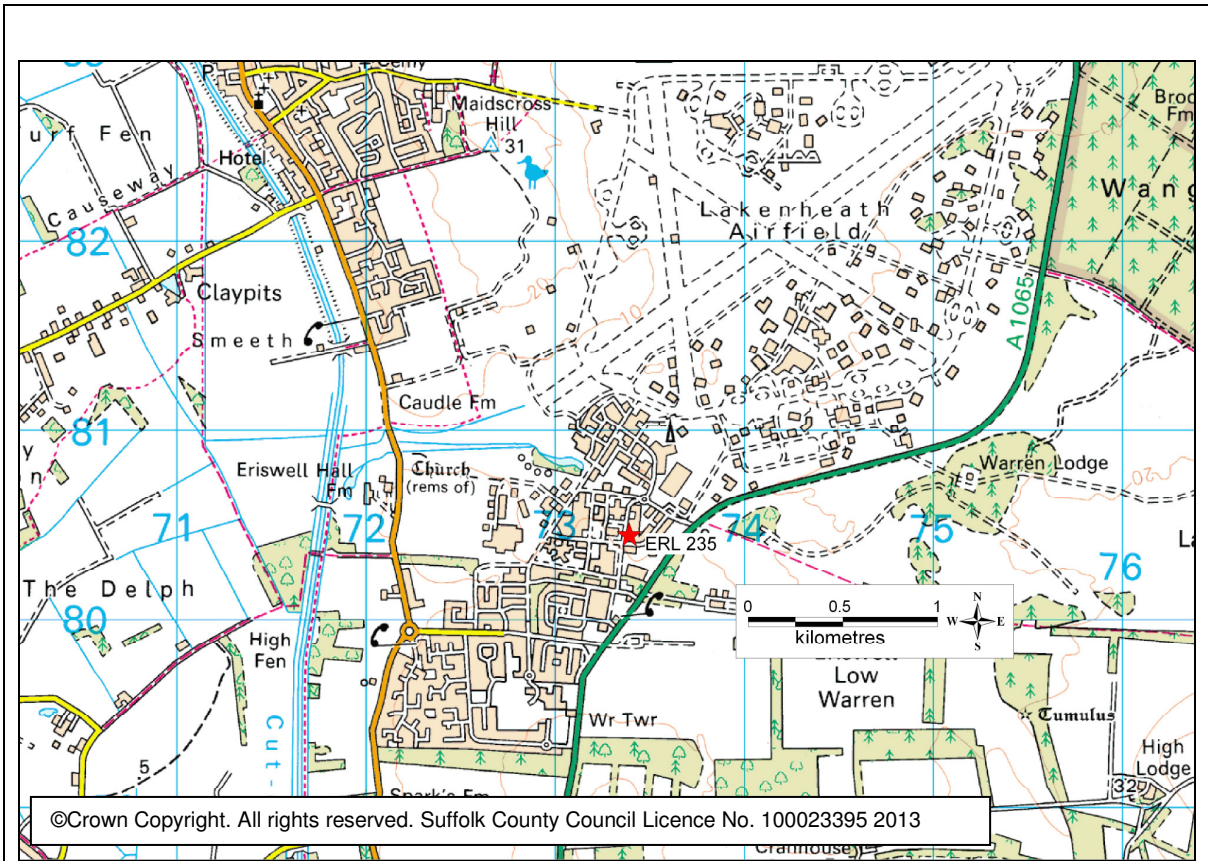


Figure 1. Site location

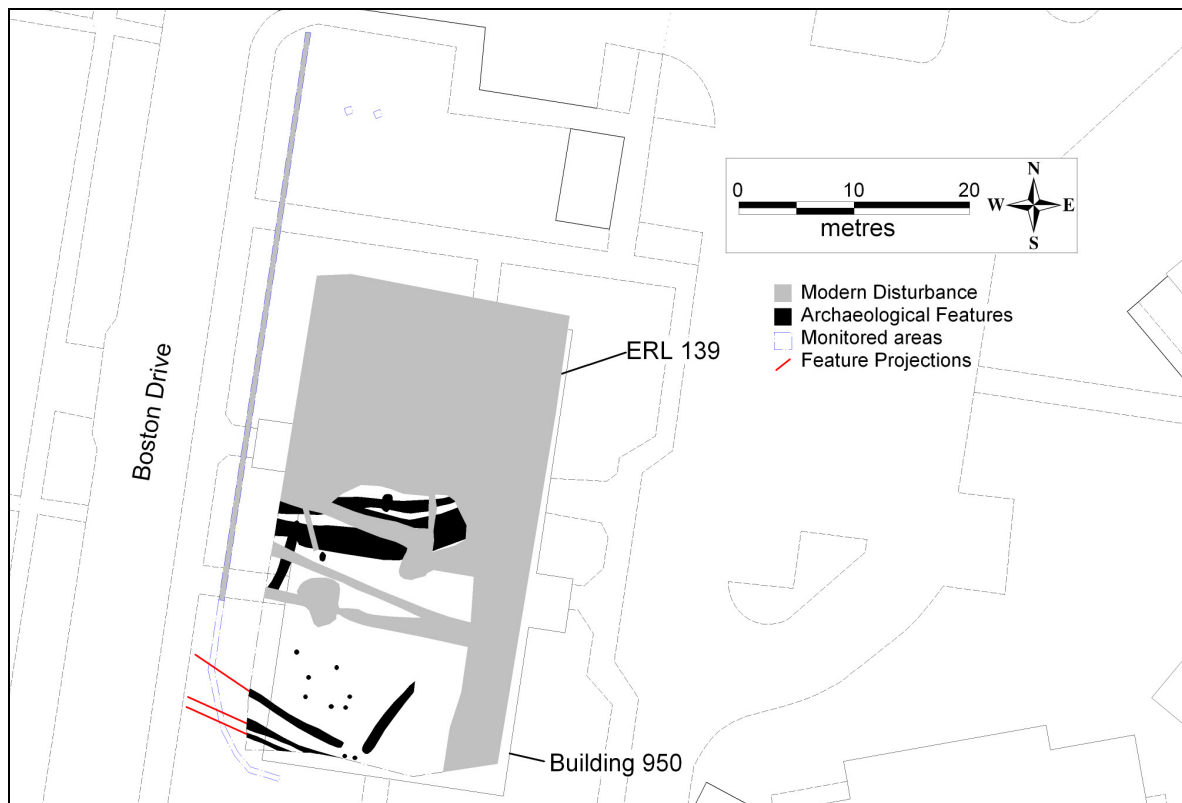


Figure 2. Site plan showing ERL 139 results and expected feature projections.

Results:

The natural geology across the development area was superficial deposits of very fine sand that lay over a bedrock of Holywell nodular chalk which, in places, appear directly below the subsoil layers.

The monitoring identified two soil profiles; the first profile was recorded across both test pits and the northern majority of the cable trench. The profile comprised topsoil (0.16m) over a clean mid greyish-brown silty-sand (0.23m) which lay over a dark layer of greyish-brown silt (0.2m) that contained large concrete fragments (Pl. 1).

The second profile was identified across the southern portion of the cable trench and consisted of topsoil (0.16m) over a thicker layer of greyish brown silty-sand (0.32m) (Pl. 2).

The presence of a thick layer of dark greyish brown silt containing fragments of concrete truncation across the northern majority of the site demonstrates that the truncation recorded to the north (ERL 116) and north-east (ERL 139) continued into the project area and likely continues westwards (Fig. 2).

The shallower profile recorded across the southern end of the cable trench was initially assumed to represent an undisturbed horizon. Three ditches recorded during excavations to the east (ERL 139, Fig. 2) could be expected to have continued across the trench although no evidence of this continuation was identified on site. This may be due to the ditch alignments changing between the two areas but it seems more likely that the severe truncation identified to the north has actually extended further south but has been backfilled with cleaner material making it harder to identify as disturbed in such a limited view.

Recorded by: Andy Beverton

Date: 16/12/2013

Plates:



Plate 1. Soil profile in test pit. 1m scale, looking North-East



Plate 2. Soil profile at southern end of cable trench. 1m scale looking North-East

Appendix 1. OASIS form

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OASIS ID: suffolkc1-167126

Project details

Project name	ERL 235 RAF Lakenheath Building 950 Monitoring, Eriswell
Short description of the project	The project monitored the hand excavation of two square test pits and a cable trench running parallel and adjacent to the western edge of Building 950, RAF Lakenheath. Two test pits were excavated by hand to a depth of approximately 0.59m. The cable trench measured approximately 70m and was mechanically excavated. No features or finds were recorded and the soil profiles were thought to be disturbed, as recorded in much of this part of the Airbase.
Project dates	Start: 02-12-2013 End: 02-12-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	ERL 235 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	ERL 235 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	2013/157 - Contracting Unit 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	Voluntarily actioned by DIO (not subject to planning application)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK FOREST HEATH ERISWELL ERL 235 RAF Lakenheath Building 950 Monitoring
Study area	29.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 734 804 52.393684017 0.5487133943 52 23 37 N 000 32 55 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Jude Plouviez
Project director/manager	Jo Caruth
Project supervisor	A Beverton
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 County Council Archaeological Service
Digital Archive ID	ERL 235
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Paper Archive ID	ERL 235
Paper Contents	"Survey"
Paper Media available	"Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Entered by Rob Brooks (rob.brooks@suffolk.gov.uk)

Entered on 16 January 2015

OASIS:

Please e-mail English Heritage for OASIS help and advice

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