

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

## Nitrate Removal Plant, RAF Lakenheath LKH 276

### A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF THE INSTALLATION OF A NEW NITRATE REMOVAL PLANT AT RAF LAKENHEATH

Planning Application No.:F/2005.0735

NGR: TL 7393 8083

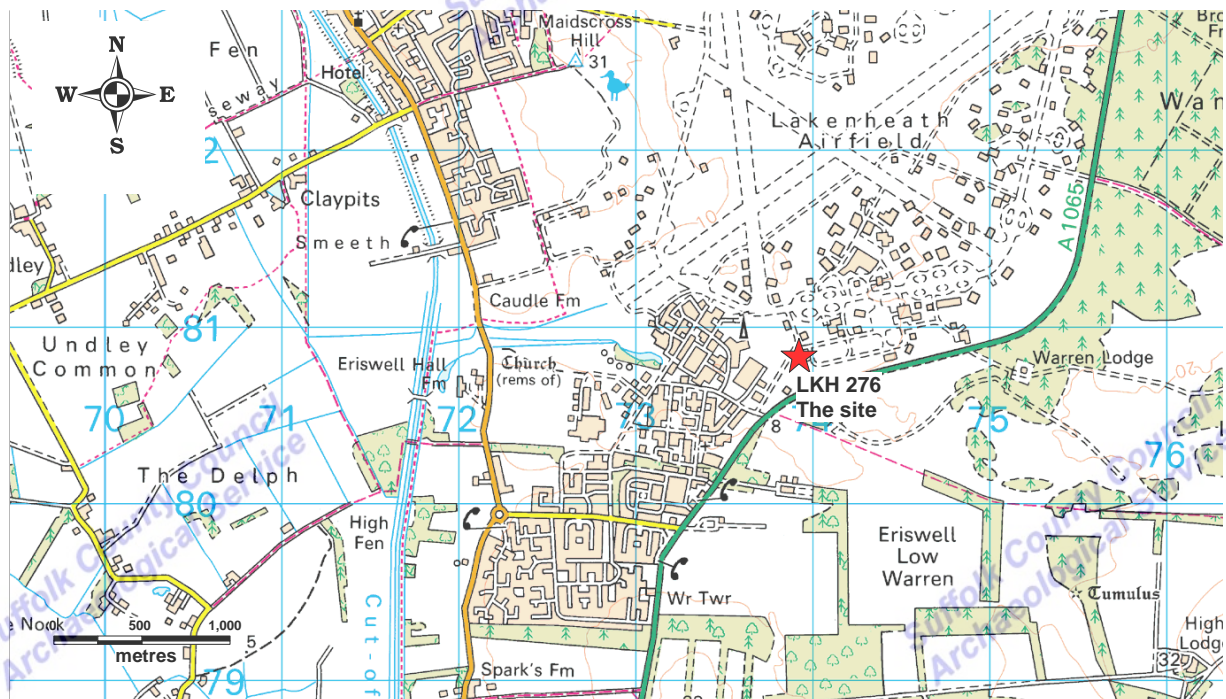
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### Summary

Archaeological monitoring during the construction of a Nitrate Removal Plant at RAF Lakenheath identified blown sand deposits and an ancient buried topsoil. No archaeological features were seen.



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Figure 1. Site location

## Introduction

Two visits were made during the ground reduction for a new Nitrate Removal Plant off Douglas Avenue at RAF Lakenheath. The project had originally included the construction of a new access road but this was later dropped. The only part of the final project plan with archaeological implications was the construction of a concrete ground slab, 8.5m x 14.2m. The groundworks for this were observed during excavation on 1st and 2nd August 2006.

## Results

Monitoring of the excavations for the concrete slab revealed modern redeposited soils 0.12m deep overlying yellow-brown blown sand, 0.28m deep over a 0.04m deep thin buried topsoil horizon, which in turn overlay an earlier pinky-brown blown sand to 0.5m (Fig. 2). Excavated levels varied between 0.3 and 0.5m as the ground level sloped and natural sand was not seen. Examination of a deeper hole excavated for services in the southern edge of the site showed the pinky-brown blown sand present to a depth of c. 0.8m onto natural bright yellow sand.

The excavated surface was examined for finds, but most of the upcast soil was being removed from site, although the surface of the contents of one small dumper truck load were scanned. No finds were seen.

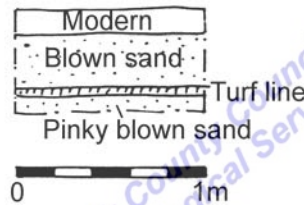
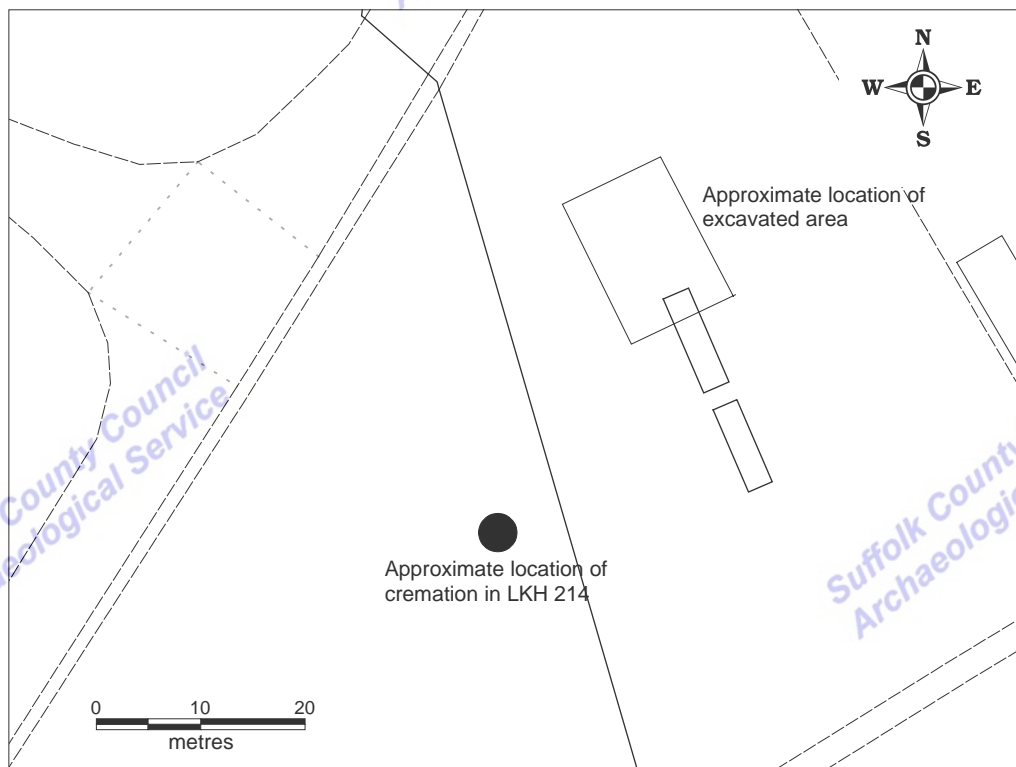


Figure 2. Section at west side of excavated area.



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Figure 3. Site location and nearby cremation

## Conclusion

This site lies in a part of RAF Lakenheath where scattered prehistoric, largely Bronze Age deposits and features are found. The nearest known sites are LKH 214 with scattered Bronze Age features and from where a late Bronze Age or Iron Age cremation was found c.30m (Fig. 3) from here (Fig. 3), and LKH 200 where scattered Bronze Age pits were seen c.70m from the site. No features were seen at LKH 276 as the natural surface into which features could be expected to be visible was not exposed but the evidence of repeated sand blows and a sealed topsoil horizon add to the body of environmental knowledge for this area.

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