

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

---

## Phase 3, Liberty Village ERL 151

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2007  
(Planning app. no. F/2004/0092/GOV)

Jo Caruth  
Field Team  
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

© April 2007

Lucy Robinson, County Director of Environment and Transport  
Endeavour House, Russel Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

# Contents

List of Figures  
List of Tables  
Acknowledgements  
Summary  
SMR information

Introduction  
Methodology  
Results  
Discussion  
Conclusion and Recommendations

Appendix 1: Brief and specification

## List of Figures

1. Site location
2. Location of Phases 1-3
3. Map showing military camps of Cold War date (pale grey) transcribed from the 1959 aerial photographs
4. Trench location plan
5. Cold War buildings alongside Radcliffe Road

## List of Tables

1. Trench descriptions

## Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Mansells plc on behalf of MOD Defence Estates and managed for Mansells plc by David Chambers and Neil Smith. The archaeological work was specified and monitored by Jude Plouviez, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), Conservation Team and carried out by members of SCCAS, field team under the direction of Jo Caruth. SCCAS is grateful for the assistance given during the field work from James (Mansells) and Joe (Mervyn Lambert Plant).

## Summary

Evaluation of an area of c.6.4ha at the south end of RAF Lakenheath, in advance of the construction of Phase 3, Liberty Village revealed an apparently open landscape with no evidence of pre-modern human activity.

## SMR information

Planning application no.	F/2004/0092/GOV
Date of fieldwork:	March 19th-26th 2007
Grid Reference:	TL 7300 7940
Funding body:	MOD Defence Estates (USF)
Oasis reference	Suffolkc1-26024

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

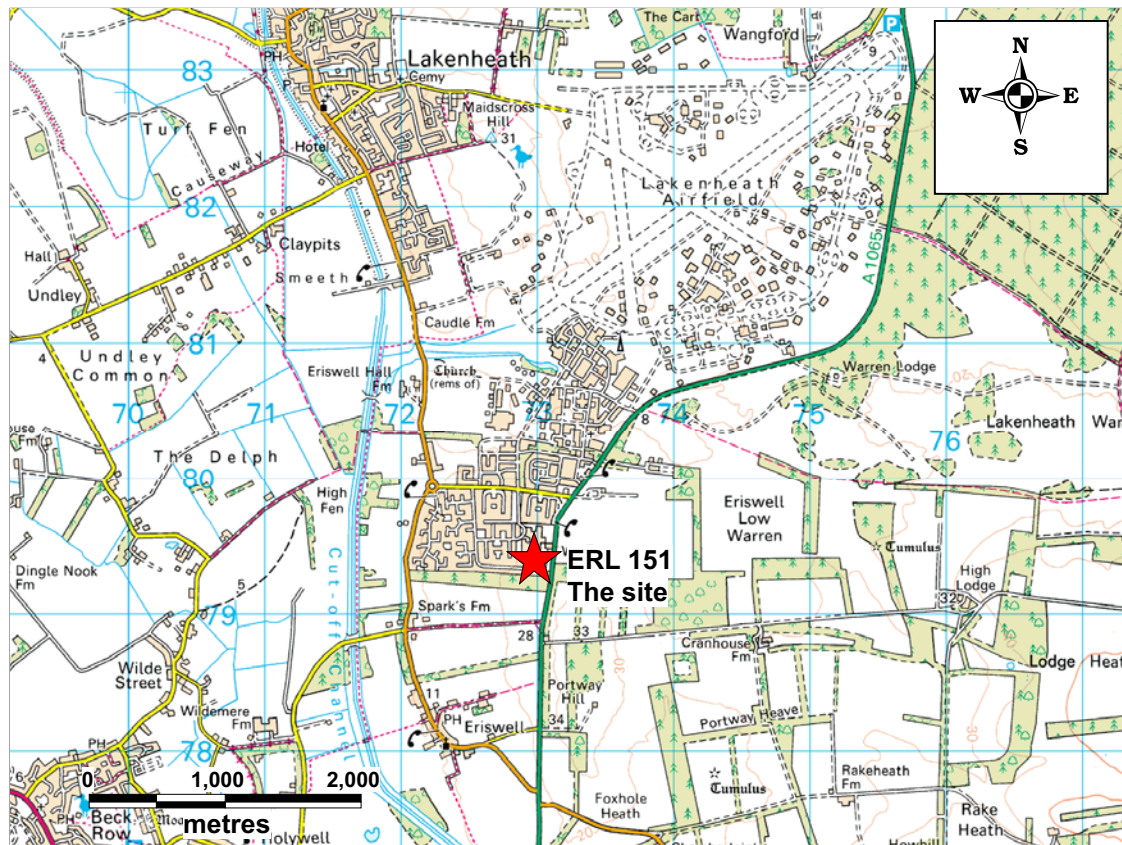
Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

## Introduction

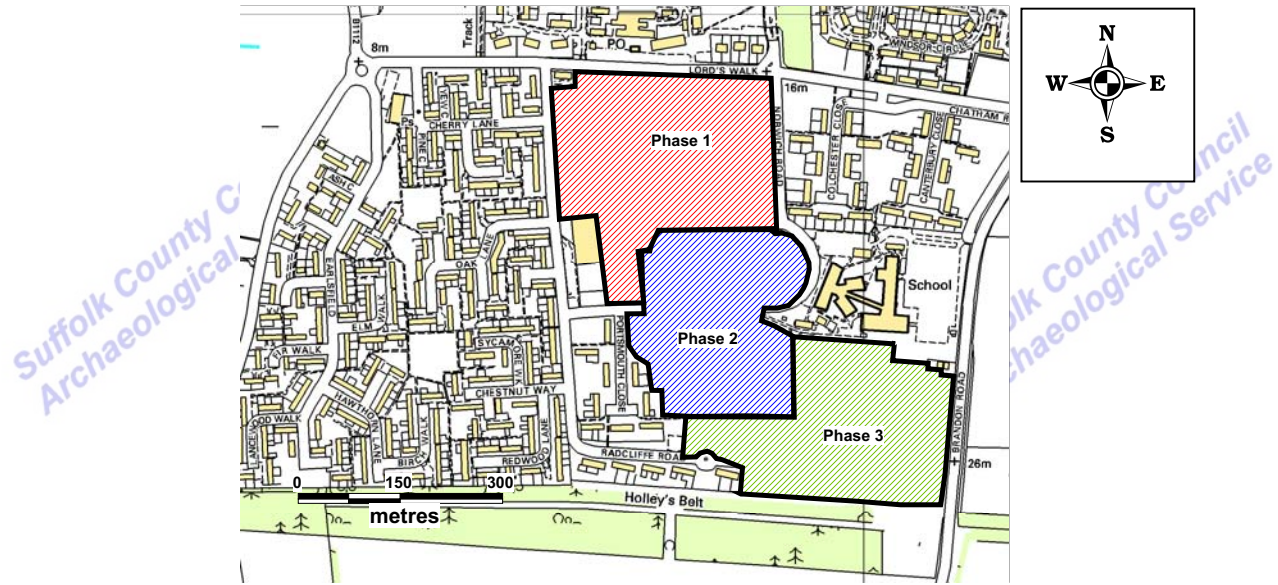
Archaeological evaluation was undertaken in the area of the proposed Phase 3 development at Liberty Village, RAF Lakenheath. The site covers an area of 6.4 hectares, centred at grid ref: TL 7300 7940, on a north facing slope, between c. 26 and 19m OD (Fig. 1). Evaluation of the Phase 2 area in 2006 (Fig. 2), SCCAS report no. 2006/089 and subsequent monitoring of groundworks have demonstrated that that area was devoid of archaeological activity, however the sloping topography present in the Phase 3 area is often favoured for the siting of Bronze Age barrows and Iron Age settlements, evidence for both of which have been found in Phase 1 of the Liberty Village development. Therefore it was felt that there was a higher degree of archaeological potential in Phase 3 than Phase 2.



© Crown Copyright. All Rights Reserved.  
Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2007

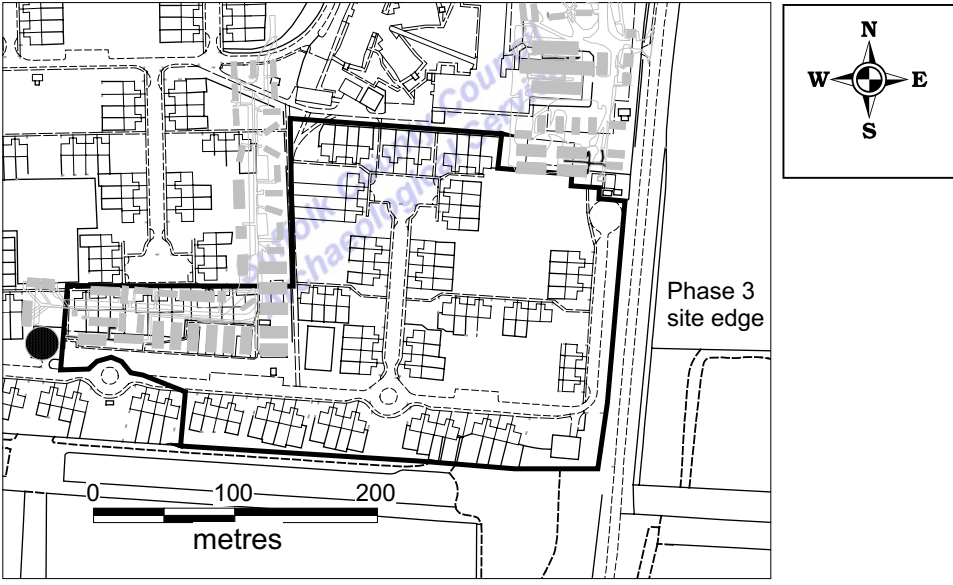
Figure 1. Site location

A search of the aerial photographic archive for the whole Liberty Village area was carried out for the Phase 2 evaluation (SCCAS report no. 2006/089) and this showed that in the middle of the 20th century most of the land was being ploughed, but that there were scattered military buildings across the site. One group of these could be seen to be within the north-west corner of Phase 3 (Fig. 3), five of which still survive, but are scheduled for demolition as part of the new development. A slightly curving bank was also identified on the aerial photographs but this is now in the area of the east-west length of Radcliffe Road and therefore not surviving.



©Crown Copyright. All Rights Reserved.  
 Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2007

Figure 2. Location of Phases 1-3



©Crown Copyright. All Rights Reserved.  
 Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2007

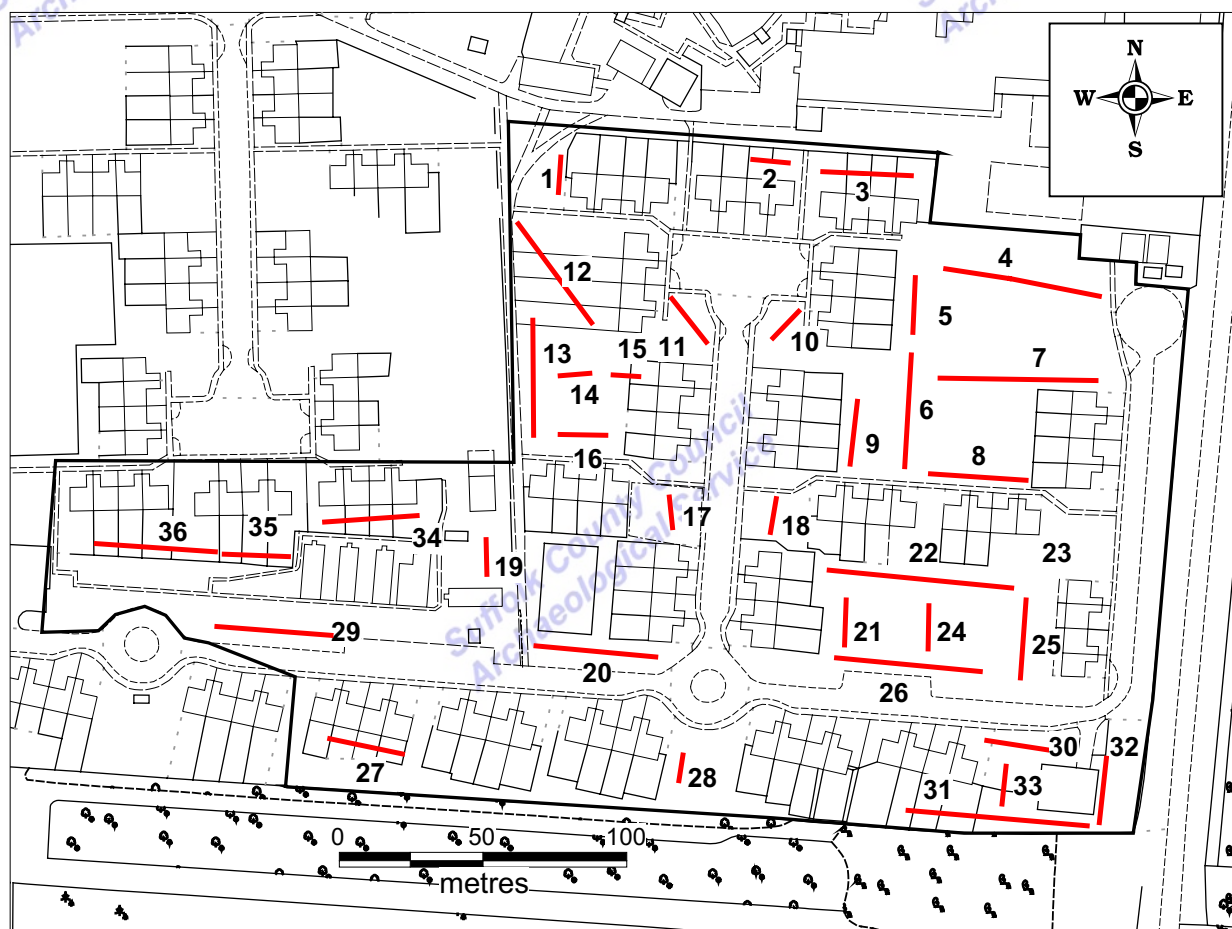
Figure 3. Map showing military camps of Cold War date (pale grey) transcribed from the 1959 aerial photographs

The area of Phase 3 has been modified slightly since the original Phase plans were issued and the trench plan was adapted during the evaluation in order to ensure that all relevant areas were included.

**Methodology**

36 trenches 1.6m wide were inserted into available areas of the proposed development (Fig. 4) using a wheeled excavator and ditching bucket. These totalled 964.5m in length, 2.4% of the total area (64,200m<sup>2</sup>), which was less than originally intended, but sampled 4.9% of the soft areas (31,516m<sup>2</sup>, some inaccessible fenced gardens are included within this second figure). Proposed trench locations were set out prior to the evaluation (Fig. 4) but it was expected that some of these would have to be altered to avoid services and other hazards. Because the area of Phase 3 had changed slightly, extending south-west from the original plans, additional trenches, 29 and 34-36 were inserted to sample this area.

The trenches were excavated to the top of the natural chalk, sand or gravel, removing a clean red-orange silty, chalky sand that lay above the chalk although this may have been natural. This ensured that no features could be obscured by overlying deposits. A sample section, each issued with a context number between 0002 and 0071, was drawn of one face at each end of each trench and digital photographs were taken of these sections. All possible features were sampled, but with exception of one very shallow possible pit these were all shown to be modern or geological. Trench locations were plotted using a Total Station Theodolite (TST). Upcast soil was scanned for finds and all pre-modern finds kept (a single piece of animal bone). The site is recorded under the Suffolk Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) parish code ERL 151, and a copy of the report lodged with the OASIS on-line database, reference suffolkc1-26024.



©Crown Copyright. All Rights Reserved.  
Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2007

Figure 4. Trench location plan

## Results

### Summary of results

This evaluation identified a single possible archaeological feature, a shallow pit 0041, in Trench 3, however there were no finds associated with this. Another feature, 0028 in Trench 6, was investigated but found to be geological although a very abraded fragment of animal bone from a small to medium mammal (R. Goffin, pers. comm.) was recovered from this. The area of Phase 3 has been quite fully developed, with play areas, sports courts and fuel tanks in addition to the roads and houses. The site lies on a moderate slope and areas of levelling around the house and play areas were apparent, with areas of both clearly built-up and truncated ground. At the southern edge of the site were groups of mature trees which are planned to remain and therefore trenching was located to avoid any damage to these.

Ploughlines on E-W and N-S orientations were seen cutting the natural chalk in most areas of the site. These were broad, mould-board plough marks and were filled with the homogeneous brown sand found immediately above them, indicating that this represented a former ploughsoil. Modern rubble was occasionally found within this, and the ploughlines looked modern, probably 19th century onwards. The aerial photographs from the 1940's and 50's show much of this area as under plough and it is likely that it is this period of cultivation that is represented. The ploughsoil and ploughlines lay beneath all instances of overburden demonstrating that wherever it occurred the ground has been built-up relatively recently.

The highest part of the site was the south-east corner and eastern edge of the site and in these areas the natural was a flinty gravel rather than the expected chalk with sandy patches seen over the rest of the site and in Phases 1 and 2.

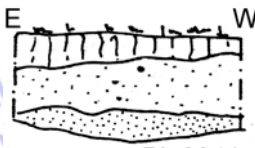


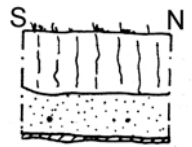
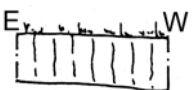
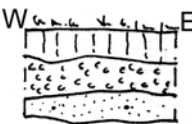

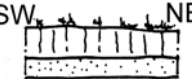

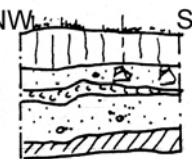





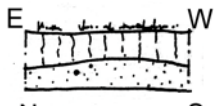

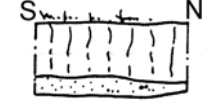
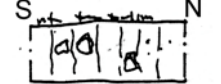

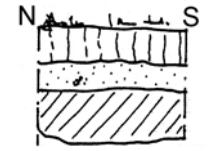

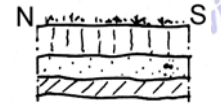
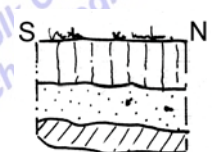
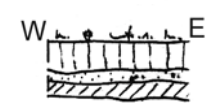
Figure 5. Cold War buildings alongside Radcliffe Road

### Trench details

Trench no.	Length in m.	Depth to natural	Orientation	Approx grass level in m. OD	Description	Section
1	13	55cm	N-S	18.85	Thin band of topsoil immediately under the grass, over c.50cm of redeposited brown sand and chalk containing frequent modern debris, concrete, brick etc. Natural of mixed chalk and sand.	
2	13	54cm	E-W	19.36	Brown sand topsoil, 39cm deep over red-brown sand-silt subsoil, with occasional stones. Natural chalk and silty sand.	



Trench no.	Length in m.	Depth to natural	Orientation	Approx grass level in m. OD	Description	Section
3	31	41cm	E-W	19.21	Brown sand topsoil, 18cm deep over grey-brown sand, c.20cm deep over a thin band of red-brown subsoil. Natural all chalk.	
4	53	30-43cm	E-W	20.53-21.34	Brown sand topsoil over a thin layer of grey-brown sand subsoil over natural sand and chalk. The depth to natural deepened to 43cm towards the east end.	
5	19	54cm	N-S	20.69-21.57	N-S ploughlines were visible cutting the chalk natural at the base of the trench. These were filled with the brown sand of the overlying layer, c. 25cm deep, a buried ploughsoil. This in turn was sealed by a slightly more yellow brown silt, interpreted as a modern redeposited soil.	
6	39	40cm	N-S	21.69-23.06	N-S ploughlines were visible cutting the chalk natural at the base of the trench. These were filled with the brown sand of the overlying layer, c.18-28cm deep, which in turn was overlain by a darker topsoil, c.10cm deep at the top of the soil profile. A thin layer of red-brown subsoil was visible at the interface between natural and the buried ploughsoil.	
7	52	26-57cm	E-W	21.87-22.98	This was cut into built-up ground at the east end onto which the houses were constructed. At the west end chalk natural was found at 26cm directly under topsoil. The soil profile at the east end showed c.25cm of topsoil over brown sand filled with building debris, with grey-brown sand at the base of the profile. The natural at this end was red-orange sand and gravel from c.20m from the east end. N-S ploughlines were visible cutting the chalk.	
8	33	40-46cm	E-W	23.16-23.7	This had topsoil over grey-brown sand over natural chalk at the west end. Towards the east the soil profile deepened with the addition of a layer of redeposited chalk between the topsoil and brown sand. N-S ploughlines were visible cutting the chalk.	
9	22	33cm	E-W	21.86-22.68	This was shallow with N-S ploughlines cutting the natural chalk and sand, with c.15cm of topsoil over grey-brown sand.	
10	13	26cm	NE-SW	20.47	This was shallow with natural chalk under topsoil and grey-brown sand with some modern debris throughout. The chalk looked truncated and the adjacent house sat at the same level in a slight hollow.	
11	19	40cm	NW-SE	19.90-20.44	This had topsoil and grey-brown sand overlying natural chalk, which looked truncated as the house sat in a shallow hollow. Some modern debris was present throughout the soil profile.	
12	43	40-63cm	NW-SE	19.34-19.91	This was deep, 63cm to natural at the NE end and 40cm to the SW. There was 10cm of red-brown subsoil underlying grey-brown sand, c.22cm deep at the base of the profile which was overlain by redeposited chalk and sands containing modern debris.	
13	41	30-50cm	N-S	19.89-20.46	This had c.18cm of topsoil over grey-brown sand to natural sand and chalk. A thin layer of red-brown subsoil was present in patches. N-S ploughlines cut the natural.	

Trench no.	Length in m.	Depth to natural	Orientation	Approx grass level in m. OD	Description	Section
14	9	30cm	E-W	20.21	This is shallower than the eastern length with topsoil over grey-brown sand onto chalk natural into which N-S ploughlines were cut.	
15	8	45cm	E-W	20.42-20.73	This has c. 30cm of grey-brown sand under some redeposited chalk and topsoil. There is a slight natural rise in the natural towards the east, but the houses are also sitting on built-up ground.	
16	15	30cm	E-W	20.49-20.75	This had topsoil over grey-brown sand with a thin band of red-brown subsoil overlying the chalk natural. The red-brown sand and chalk were cut by E-W ploughlines.	
17	12	36cm	N-S	21.54-22.1	This had brown sand and topsoil containing modern debris (brick and concrete) throughout.	
18	13	44cm	N-S	22.30-22.91	This had topsoil and redeposited chalk with modern rubble etc. throughout overlying natural chalk.	
19	12	30cm	N-S	21.82	This had a thin layer of modern rubble mixed with brown sand directly overlying truncated chalk.	
20	44	40cm	E-W	22.81-23.85	This had topsoil over modern rubble in the top 25cm of the soil profile overlying 5cm of brown sand over 12cm of red-brown subsoil onto natural chalk.	
21	16	38-54cm	N-S	23.81	This was deeper at the south end with 20cm topsoil over 13cm grey-brown sand over 21cm red-brown sand. At the north end the topsoil and grey-brown sand lay directly over natural chalk. E-W ploughlines were visible cutting the natural and red-brown sand.	
22	64	32cm	E-W	23.39-24.41	This had topsoil and grey-brown sand lying directly onto natural sand and chalk. N-S ploughlines were visible cutting natural sand to 12.8m from the east where there was an extensive modern disturbance which continued to 17.50, at which point the trench was interrupted to avoid a cable and restarted at 18.8m. At the restart there was chalk at c.25cm below topsoil and grey-brown sand but here the ploughlines were E-W aligned.	
23	4		N-S		This was aborted due to the presence of numerous services, no alternative location in this area could be found.	No section
24	15	35cm	N-S	24.28	This was shallow with orange sand and gravel natural at the south end and chalk patches to the north. The upper soil layers were topsoil and grey-brown sand with up to 10cm of red-brown sand overlying natural chalk.	
25	27	40-47cm	N-S	25.33-24.62	This had topsoil, c.20cm over grey-brown sand, c.20cm over chalk at the north end of the trench, with a similar profile but with c.7cm of red-brown sand over flinty gravel at the south end. E-W ploughlines were visible cutting natural.	
26	50	29cm	E-W	23.93-24.93	This had topsoil over a tin, c.8cm band of grey-brown sand over red-brown sand onto natural which was a mix of chalk patches with orange flinty (up to 12cm across) sand. E-W aligned ploughlines were visible in places.	



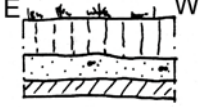
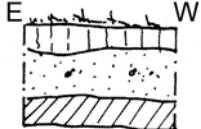
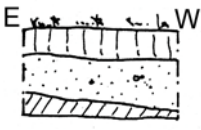
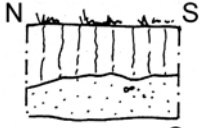
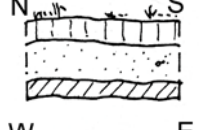

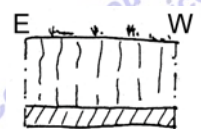
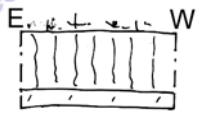
Trench no.	Length in m.	Depth to natural	Orientation	Approx grass level in m. OD	Description	Section
27	25	28-41cm	E-W	NA	This had natural chalk under topsoil full of modern rubbish, plastic etc.. A thin layer of sand/cement lay directly over chalk which could be seen to be truncated by at least c.15cm.	
28	9	42cm	N-S	24.23	This trench was foreshortened by the presence of services but showed topsoil and brown sand over red-brown sand onto dark orange gravelly and flinty sand.	
29	34	40-75cm	E-W	20.65-21.09	This cut through the edge of a 13m square earthwork c.30cm high located in front of building 121. The soil profile of the trench showed topsoil over grey-brown sand over 10cm of red-brown subsoil. In the area of the earthwork the grey-brown sand was overlain by a dense deposit of rotted wood, 20cm thick, under topsoil. It is not clear what this deposit represented but it is certainly 20th century.	
30	23	54cm	E-W	25.26-25.71	This had topsoil over grey-brown sand over red-brown subsoil onto a mixed natural of flinty orange sand, with patches of coarse orange sand and dense chalk crumbs. There was a hollow on the north side of the trench filled with coarse dark orange-brown sand, which came down onto chalk at c.85cm.	
31	62	50cm	E-W	25.02-25.96	This also had a mixed natural of flinty sand with patches of dense chalk crumbs and coarse sand. The upper layers were topsoil and grey-brown sand and E-W ploughlines cutting natural were visible along its length.	
32	23	50cm	N-S	26.02	This had 30cm of topsoil lying over 20cm of red-brown subsoil onto natural which was a mix of soft yellow sand and orange gravel with large flints (up to 10cm).	
33	13	25cm	N-S	25.51	This was shallow with 25cm of topsoil and pale brown sand directly onto natural which was a mix of chalk patches and flinty gravel. E-W ploughlines were visible cutting natural.	
34	31	10-40cm	E-W	20.26-20.59	This was severely truncated (by c.80cm) at the east end where the nearby houses were set into an artificial hollow. The trenches deepened to the west, but the overlying material contained a lot of modern debris which frequently cut into natural chalk. A modern trench ran diagonally across the west end.	
35	22	40cm	E-W	20.15	This had N-S aligned concrete footings, 50-60cm wide positioned from the east end of the trench at 0.6-1.1m, 6.9-7.4m, 13.1-13.7m and 19.4-19.9m cutting into natural sand and chalk. The soil profile showed c.30cm of topsoil over c.10cm pale-brown silt.	
36	45	45cm	E-W	19.77-20.04	This showed 35cm of topsoil over 10cm of red-brown sand-silt over mainly chalk natural. N-S 20th century footings were seen at 4.4-4.8m, 13.7-14.1m, 17.6-18m, 19.3-19.6m, 20.2-20.7m from the east end. The topsoil was relatively clean with little modern debris.	

Table 1. Trench descriptions

## Discussion

This evaluation has revealed similar results to that of Phase 2 with a surprising dearth of archaeological features of any sort. A single possible pit was so shallow and lacking in finds that it was not possible to be certain that it was real and other possible features investigated were demonstrated to be geological, sand slumps between patches of chalk. The only find recovered was an abraded and broken fragment of animal bone and despite thorough searching and metal detecting, nothing except a 1960's dime was found. This is an extraordinary lack of finds even for heathland and the occasional post-medieval casual loss was expected.

Whilst no evidence of prehistoric burials was found, the nature of evaluation trenching, particularly on a site with so many areas that could not be investigated means that the possibility of burials and associated monuments cannot be ruled out. There is therefore still a small possibility that burials could be found during future groundworks.

Almost the whole area was under cultivation in the middle of the 20th century and it is likely that the ploughlines found relate to this. Where ploughlines were seen, c.60% of the natural chalk surface was truncated to a depth of at least 10cm. Modern deposits were frequently seen overlying the ploughsoil, and on occasions the ploughsoil was completely truncated and modern deposits lay directly onto natural. The rubble nature of these deposits indicates that they relate to the construction of the houses in the 1960's and level platforms for the groups of houses, either truncating or built-up terraces, were seen over most of the site.

Several of the trenches had a band of orange-red sand immediately over natural which was cut by the ploughlines. This may be geological, but is very similar in appearance to a sand layer found in many areas in the south-east corner of the base and apparently post-Saxon in date. This has been tentatively interpreted as a medieval agricultural horizon, although there is little supporting evidence for this conclusion. On this site it has been severely truncated by later activity.

In the highest parts of the site the natural was a dense red-orange flinty sand effectively forming a gravel hill in the south-east and eastern edges of the site. The limits of this are evidenced in the trench descriptions.

## Conclusion and Recommendations

This evaluation has demonstrated a marked absence of archaeological features or finds of any type. It is known that there has been some cultivation of the site and that this has been very damaging to the surface of the natural, the point at which archaeological features might be expected to be found. However it is unlikely that this accounts for the total absence of archaeological evidence and whilst there may have been some features which have been entirely destroyed it is probable that this has always been uninhabited chalk heathland (utilised perhaps for grazing livestock, although there was no evidence of field boundaries or pens) apart from a short period of cultivation during the 20th century. There is no doubt that the house construction in the 1960's has also damaged the archaeological potential, and it is possible that during this work large amounts of topsoil were stripped and redeposited, but the evidence of the similarity of soil between the ploughlines and overlying soil suggests that this is not the case over much of the site.

Because of the limitations on the trenching due to the nature of the site, it is recommended that, despite the negative results of the evaluation, a low level of archaeological monitoring of the initial soil strip and groundworks for the new houses is carried out. This would allow the examination of areas not accessible during the evaluation and the recording of any archaeological remains should they be uncovered.

Jo Caruth  
April 2007

## **Disclaimer**

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

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

## Appendix 1

### SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

#### *Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation*

#### PHASES 2 & 3, LIBERTY VILLAGE, RAF LAKENHEATH

This is the brief for the first part of a programme of archaeological work. There is likely to be a requirement for additional work, this will be the subject of another brief.

*The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety and other responsibilities, see paragraphs 1.7 & 1.8*

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 Planning consent [F/2004/0092/GOV] has been given for redevelopment of the housing area south of Lords Walk at RAF Lakenheath.
- 1.2 The planning consent contains a condition requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work before development begins (Planning Policy Guidance 16, paragraph 30 condition). An archaeological evaluation of the consent area is required as the first part of that programme of archaeological work; decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work will be based upon the evaluation and will be the subject of additional briefs.

This brief covers the evaluation of those parts of the total area shown as Phases 2 and 3 on a Masterplan of April 2005 supplied in October 2005.

- 1.3 The development areas are centred at TL 727 795 (Phase 2) and TL 730 794 (Phase 3); Phase 2 is *c.*4.5 ha and Phase 3 is *c.*5.8 ha. The areas are on ground rising gently towards the south-east, between 15m and 25m OD, overlooking the Eriswell Lode valley to the west. The only recorded archaeological site within Phases 2 and 3 is ERL 093, a tree-lined avenue on Hodskinson's map (1783) running east-west across Phase 2. However, there has been little opportunity for archaeological investigation within this area. A general desktop study of the context of the whole Liberty Village area outlines the archaeological potential (Plouviez 2003). Evaluation and excavation of Phase 1 produced evidence for prehistoric, particularly Iron Age and Roman settlement activity, mainly to the west towards the valley, but also a Bronze Age round barrow on the higher chalk ridge to the east. There remains high potential for activity particularly of prehistoric date, throughout the Liberty Village area, although Phase 1 also demonstrates some plough damage.
- 1.4 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.
- 1.5 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.

- 1.6 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the PD/WSI as satisfactory. The PD/WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.
- 1.7 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with this office before execution.
- 1.8 The responsibility for identifying any restraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c.) rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such restraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation**
- 2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ* [at the discretion of the developer].
- 2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- 2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses and natural soil processes. Define the potential for existing damage to archaeological deposits. Define the potential for colluvial/alluvial deposits, their impact and potential to mask any archaeological deposit. Define the potential for artificial soil deposits and their impact on any archaeological deposit.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for waterlogged organic deposits in the proposal area. Define the location and level of such deposits and their vulnerability to damage by development where this is defined.
- 2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.



- 2.6 Evaluation is to proceed sequentially: geophysical survey will precede trenching. The results of the geophysics are to be used to inform the trenching design. This sequence will only be varied if benefit to the evaluation can be demonstrated.
- 2.7 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design, this document covers only the evaluation stage.
- 2.8 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.
- 2.9 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.
- 2.10 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

### 3. **Field Evaluation**

- 3.1 Geophysical survey (magnetometer and resistance) is to be carried out over sample areas (dictated by gaps in the existing housing pattern) to a maximum of 1 ha area. The objective is both to identify potential archaeology and to assess the usefulness of the methods in this context. Detailed proposals should be included in the PD/WSI (1.6 above). NB this was changed to a comprehensive air photo search following advice from Bradford Geophysical Services that the site was unsuitable for geophysical survey.
- 3.2 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover between 2% and 5% by area of the development area and shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site within the constraints of current use, buildings etc. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.8m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' must be used. The trench design must be approved by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service before field work begins.
- 3.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine fitted with toothless bucket and other equipment. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.

- 3.4 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of further excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 3.5 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled.
- 3.6 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 3.7 The contractor shall provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from J Heathcote, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy and Wiltshire 1994) is available.
- 3.8 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 3.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.11 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.
- 3.12 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. Any variations from this must be agreed with the Conservation Team.
- 3.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies.
- 3.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

#### 4. **General Management**

- 4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service.
- 4.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors).
- 4.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.
- 4.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.5 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* and for *Field Evaluations* should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

#### 5. **Report Requirements**

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 5.2 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 5.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further archaeological work and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established
- 5.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 5.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.7 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County SMR if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.8 The site archive is to be deposited with the County SMR within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.

- 5.9 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to the Conservation Team, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.10 County SMR sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.11 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.12 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the SMR. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Judith Plouviez

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service Conservation Team  
Environment and Transport Department  
Shire Hall  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Tel: 01284 352448

Date: 24 October 2005

Reference: /RAFLak-Liberty2&3-10

**This brief and specification remains valid for 12 months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.**

**If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.**