

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/125

Norwich Road and Exeter Crescent Road realignment, RAF Lakenheath ERL 161

Jo Caruth
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HER Information

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Summary

An archaeological excavation was carried out in advance of the realignment of the junction of Norwich and Plymouth Roads and Exeter Crescent at RAF Lakenheath, which lies close to an area from where 267 Anglo-Saxon burials were found in 1997. The work was carried out in stages in order to minimise disruption to the traffic flow between April 2007 and August 2008. Three Anglo-Saxon burials were identified during the final stages of the work linking the existing Norwich Road into the new road, two of which were new discoveries and one of which was the second half of a burial found during pipelaying works in 2002. An Iron Age pit was also found in this area. The rest of the works revealed a series of undated E-W and NE-SW aligned ditches, which probably form part of the wider Roman and Saxon field systems identified on previous sites. Examination of the soil profiles also identified the limits of a N-S aligned linear hollow in this area.

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1. Introduction

Archaeological excavation and monitoring was carried out during groundworks for the construction of a new roundabout and associated road realignment at the junction of Norwich Road, Exeter Crescent and Plymouth Road at RAF Lakenheath. The work was undertaken to satisfy a condition on planning application SCCAS ref: LAK 5.11 - Road and was carried out in accordance with an outline brief issued by Robert Carr, SCCAS, Conservation Team and detailed in a Project Design, Method Statement and Risk Assessment by Jo Caruth (Appendix 1). The fieldwork was undertaken in stages between April 2007 and August 2008.



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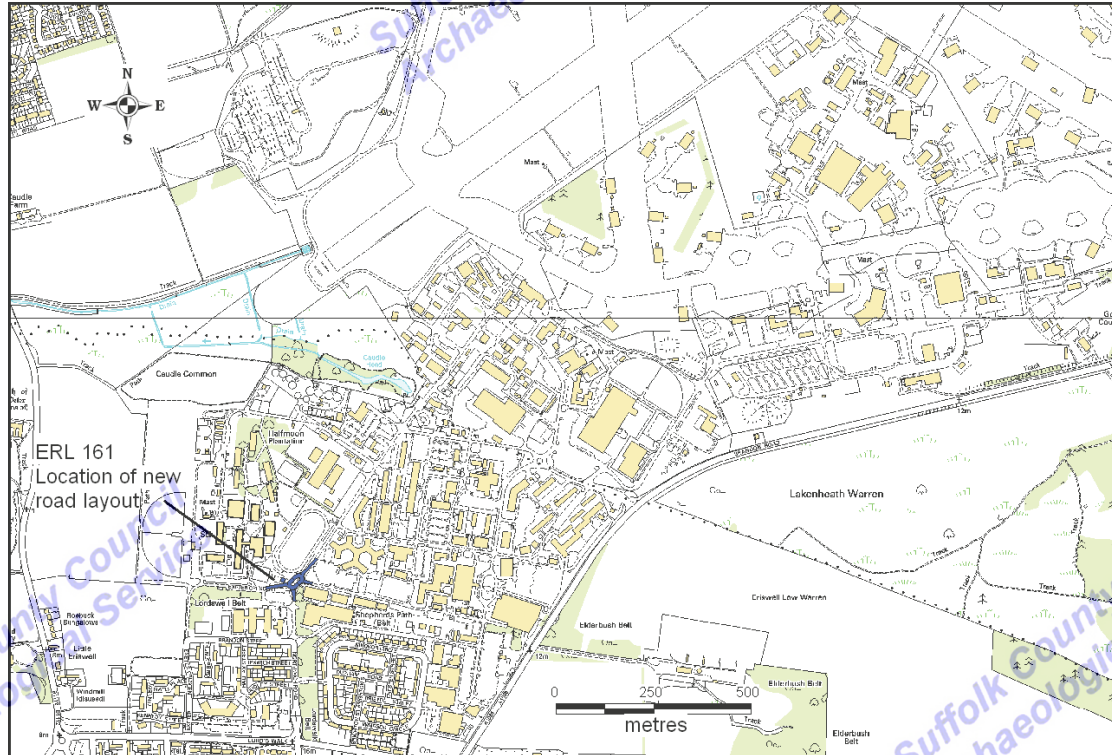
Figure 1. Site location

2. The excavation

2.1 Site location

RAF Lakenheath covers 760 hectares and lies on the eastern edge of the fens (Fig. 1), on the west edge of the Breckland Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) centred on grid reference TL 739 815 within the parishes of Eriswell, Lakenheath and Wangford.

Site ERL 161 (Fig. 2) lies at TL 7286 8032, in a small hollow immediately west of and adjacent to an Anglo-Saxon cemetery from where 267 graves were excavated between 1997 and 2002. It was, therefore anticipated that further burials would be identified during the work at the north end of the new roundabout where it joined the existing Norwich Road. Other archaeological features had been seen during minor works across the rest of the development area and the possibility of other features across the rest of the site was highlighted.



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Figure 2. Site location, detail

2.2 Geology and topography

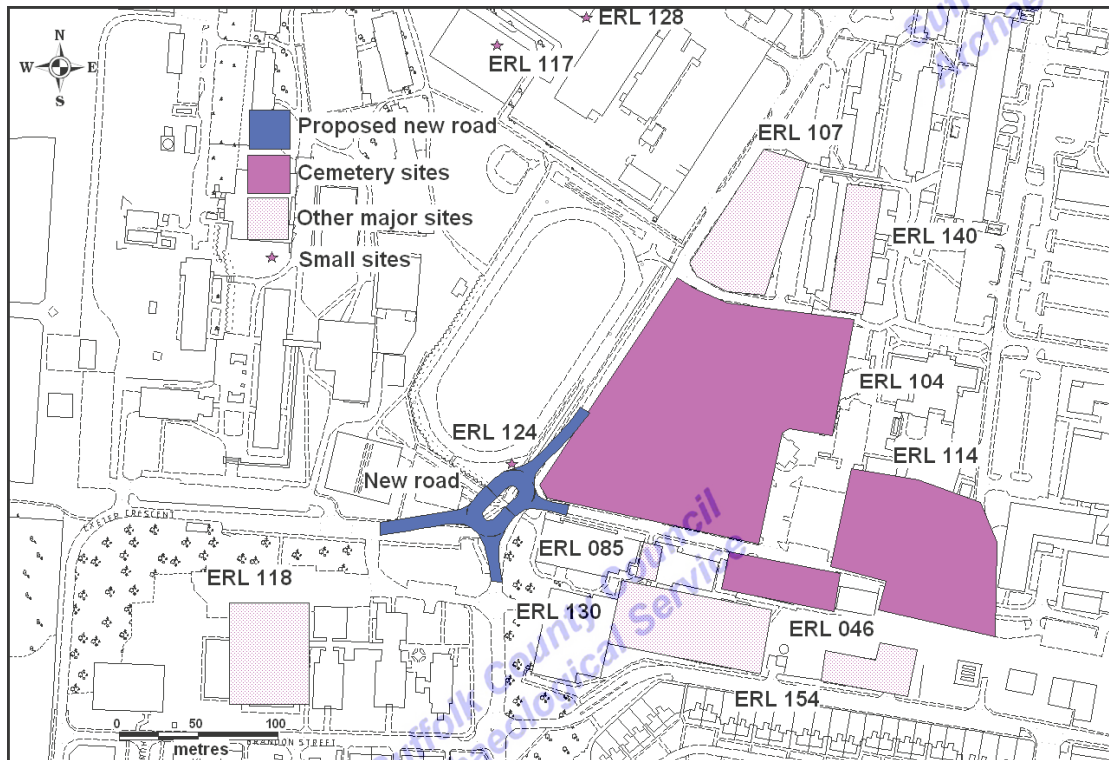
The underlying geology is chalk, which rises to the surface towards the western half of the Base, but which is otherwise covered with light Breckland sands. A natural spring, Caudle Head Mere (Fig. 2) is to be found in the centre of the air-base providing a focus for occupation of all periods. The airfield lies in an area of natural sand dunes and hollows, with Wangford Fen lying at its northern boundaries but is now level at c.7m OD, although at the western edge Maid Cross Hill rises steeply from the perimeter fence. The built-up part of the Base lies generally between 9 and 15m OD – rising gradually to the south. Occasional slight E-W valleys and broad hollows are observable across the southern area of the Base. Site ERL 161 runs across one of these hollows, although the levels here have been disturbed by the levelling for the running track where a combination of truncation and building up has clearly happened. The area adjacent to the running track, lying between Norwich Road and Exeter Crescent is the lowest part of the site and lies at just under 9m OD, but levels rise along the lines of each of the road exits from the existing staggered junction to between 10m and 10.5m OD.

2.3 Archaeological and historical background

Archaeological discoveries dating from the Mesolithic to medieval periods were first made during the early-mid 20th century during works to set up and enhance RAF Lakenheath as an active airfield. More recently, over the last 20 years, numerous archaeological interventions in advance of construction work have identified extensive multi-period occupation in the southern half of the air-base comprising prehistoric, Roman and Saxon funerary and domestic activity. In particular, Late Iron Age, Roman and Early Saxon settlement is focussed around Caudle Head Mere, and an extensive Early Saxon cemetery complex was excavated between 1997 and 2002 c.0.5mile south of the settlement occupation (Fig. 3).

This site lies west of and adjacent to the largest of the Anglo-Saxon cemeteries from where 263 graves were excavated in 1997. An additional four burials were subsequently identified in 2002 during excavations for a new water pipe under the pavement on the east side of Norwich Road. It was, therefore anticipated that further burials would be identified during the work at

the north end of the new roundabout where it joined the existing Norwich Road. Early Roman occupation has been found 200m to the south-west of the site, ERL 118 and 300m to the north (Fig. 3), ERL 117.



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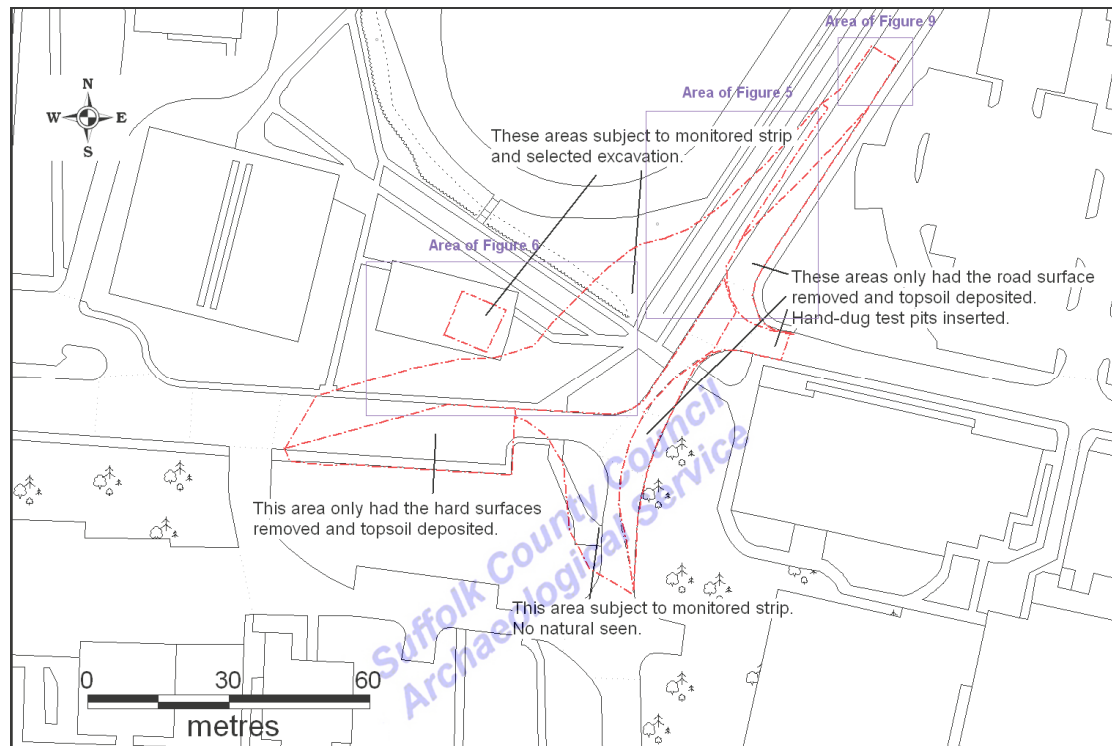
Figure 3. Nearby sites

3. Methodology

The work was undertaken over the course of 13 months, with a first phase of work in early August 2007 involving monitoring of the re-routing of a BT cable prior to the road construction. A length of trench across the Norwich Road was continuously monitored due to its close location to the Saxon cemetery and the remainder of the trench was monitored through occasional visits. Sample sections were recorded at 1:20 and digital photographs taken but no archaeological finds or features were identified.

The initial site strip for the main works started in March 2008 (Fig. 4) and was continuously monitored, as was the initial excavation for the soakaways. Where the formation level for the road was lower than the level at which archaeological features were likely to be observed, the strip was undertaken in two stages to allow time for the recording of any archaeology. Where

archaeological features were observed the exposed surface was cleaned and sections excavated through features by hand, to at least the minimum standards of the specification. Features were recorded in plan by hand and where possible using either a TST or GPS to record the location. Sections were drawn at 1:20 and digital photographs taken.



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Figure 4. Outline of areas and methodology

The areas at the north end of Norwich Road, nearest to the Anglo-Saxon cemetery were cleaned by hand, even where features were not seen following machining in order to be sure that no burials had been missed. Where the site strip in this area did not quite reach the archaeological level, slots were hand-dug across the area to sample the soil profile and the sections drawn at 1:20. Elsewhere where the natural surface was not revealed, test pits were dug by hand to plot the depth to natural and any deep holes dug by the contractors were recorded.

Where burials were identified these were recorded using the usual SCCAS methodology which ensured compatibility of recording with the rest of the

cemetery site. The Ministry of Justice was informed and a licence for removal of remains obtained.

The excavation for service trenches was monitored through occasional visits, targeted on areas that had already identified archaeological potential. The groundworks were completed at the end of August 2008.

The site data was input into a Microsoft Access database, and map and plan data into MapInfo, Liscad and Autocad programmes.

4. Results

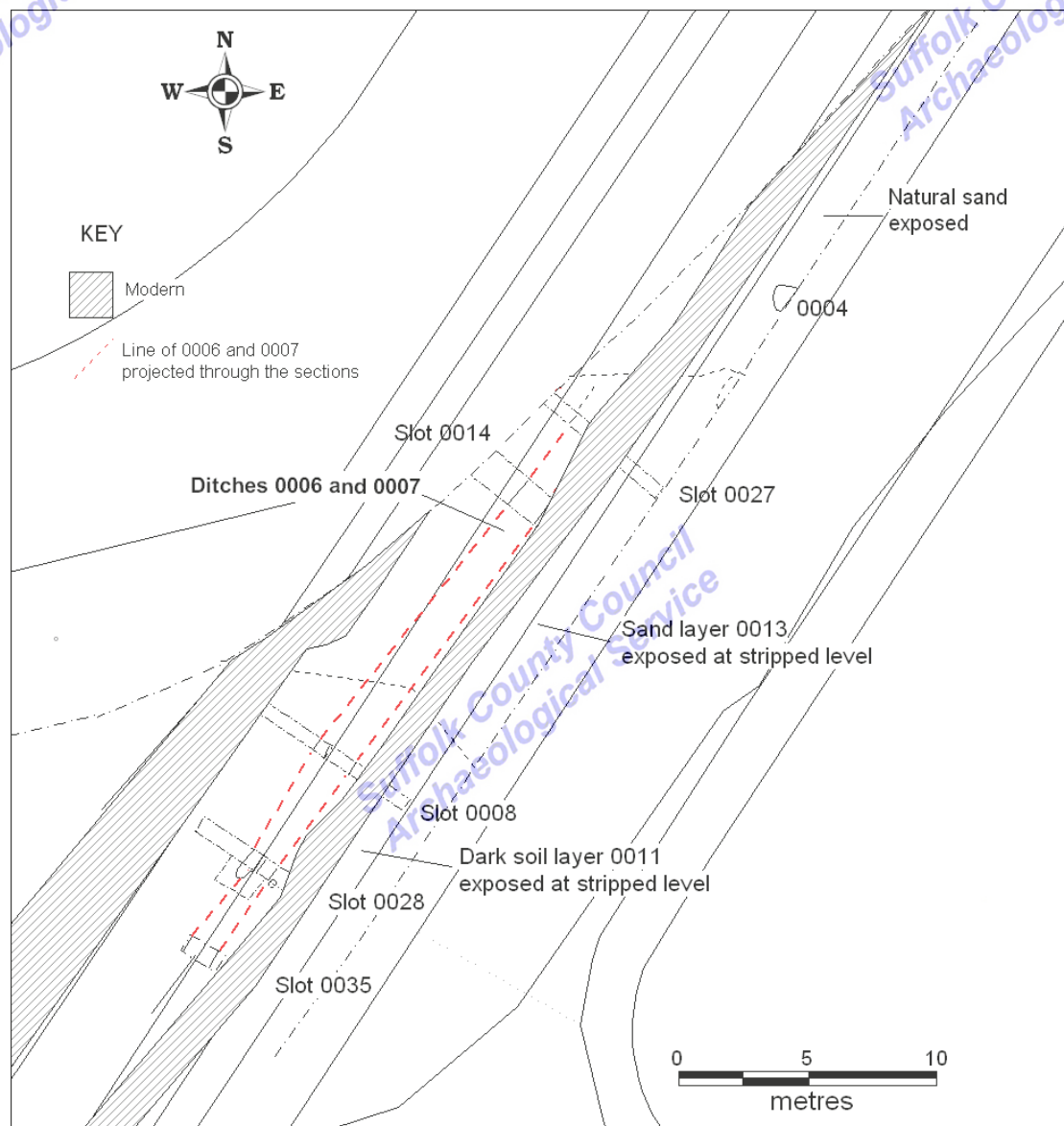
4.1 Introduction

The site lay within a hollow c.1.5m deep leading down to the Exeter Road junction, and the results of the monitoring identified that this was a natural landscape feature, filled with a number of accumulated and wind-blown deposits. Over much of the site the formation level for the road construction did not remove these layers and did not reach the archaeological levels. It was possible to plot the approximate extent and depth of this hollow by the insertion of small hand-dug test holes.

Archaeological features were identified against the Norwich Road and to the north of the Exeter Road line (Figs. 5 and 6), which formed the northern and western edges of the hollow. The feature comprised mainly ditches and appeared to indicate two phases of recut ditches, on an E-W and NE-SW alignment. None of the features contained datable material, but are likely to form part of the Roman and Saxon field systems identified within the vicinity. Occasional pit-like features contained no finds, and some may have been tree bowls and animal disturbances.

Three burials and an Iron Age pit were identified at the point where the new road linked back into the existing Norwich Road. These lay at the south-western edge of the cemetery and all were east-west aligned and contained Anglo-Saxon finds. The human remains were fragmentary, but evidence from

the grave-goods suggests that two were male and one female - all were likely to be adult.



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Figure 5. Results of excavation on the west side of the Norwich Road

4.2 Features

Ditches -

Description

Eight ditches lengths (0006, 0007, 0050, 0055, 0058, 0060, 0066 and 0068) were identified during the archaeological work, none could be traced right across the site either because they ran into the hollow and were masked by later deposits, or because they were truncated beyond the edges of the hollow. Ditches 0006 and 0007 (Figs. 5 and 7) were largely only identified in a

series of slots dug through the site as the machined level did not fully remove overlying deposits.

Feature	Description
0006	The earlier cut of a pair of north-south aligned ditches running along the east edge of the site. 0006 was recorded under cut numbers 0015, 0020 and 0032 and was steeply sloped with a concave base, and was observed to be between 1.8m wide at the north end and 0.85m at the south end, and between 0.74m and 0.44m deep north to south, suggesting some truncation from north to south. It was filled with slightly compacted, mid yellowish-orangey brown sand with few inclusions and from which no finds were recovered. Fig. 7 Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4
0007	The later of the two ditches in group 0074, which cut 0006. This had moderately sloped sides, with a concave base and was seen to be between 1.3m and 0.6m wide and between 0.46m and 0.3m deep, with all dimensions reducing from north to south. It was filled with slightly compacted mid-light yellow brown slightly silty sand, with few inclusions and from which no finds were recovered. Fig. 7 Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4
0050	A SW-NE aligned ditch varying in width between 58m and 0.9m and c. 0.28m deep with a concave base and steeply sloping sides. It was only seen in one part of the site, north of Exeter Road, and was obscured by later soil layers as it ran into the central hollow, where machined levels did not reach natural. It contained two fills, 0051 to the north, a mid-pale brown sand with fine iron pan lenses and a pale yellow-brown sand, 0054, to the south. No finds were recovered from it. This cut ditch 0058 and probably cut ditch 0055. Fig. 7, Sections 5 and 6
0055	An E-W aligned ditch, cut by ditch 0060, and probably cut by ditch 0050 which was obscured at the east end by an overlaying layer of compacted red sand 0065 and cut deposit 0064. This was 0.44m wide x 0.3m deep with a rounded profile, steep sides and concave base. The fill was yellow-brown sand which contained no finds. Fig. 7, Section 7 and Fig. 8. Section 10.
0058	A NW-SE aligned ditch, 0.6m wide x 0.23m deep, with a steep triangular profile on the south side with shallow profile on the north edge. 0058 was cut by ditch 0050 but its relationship with ditch 0060 was unclear, however it was not visible beyond 0060 where most of the ditches merged and were sealed by the gradually deepening red sand layer 0065. Fig. 7, Section 8.
0060	A SW-NE aligned ditch parallel to and immediately south-east of ditch 0050, 0.76m wide x 0.4m deep, with steep vertical sides and a flat base. This disappears into modern disturbance at the south end and under red sand layer 0065 to the north. It was filled with orange-brown gravelly sand and looks to cut ditch 0055. No finds were recovered. Fig. 7, Section 9.
0066	A curving ditch 0.38m wide x 0.24m deep with a triangular profile, filled with grey sand, 0067. This was cut by modern disturbance and was shallower and apparently truncated towards the north as it approached the site edge. It was not seen in the soakaway excavations. There were no finds. Fig. 8, Section 11.
0068	A roughly east-west aligned ditch with a shallow sloped upper cut and deep triangular cut in base. This had two fills a mid brown sand filling the upper cut and a very pale sand in the steeper basal cut, possibly suggesting that this filled quickly after excavation. Fig. 8, Section 12.

Table 1 - Description of ditches

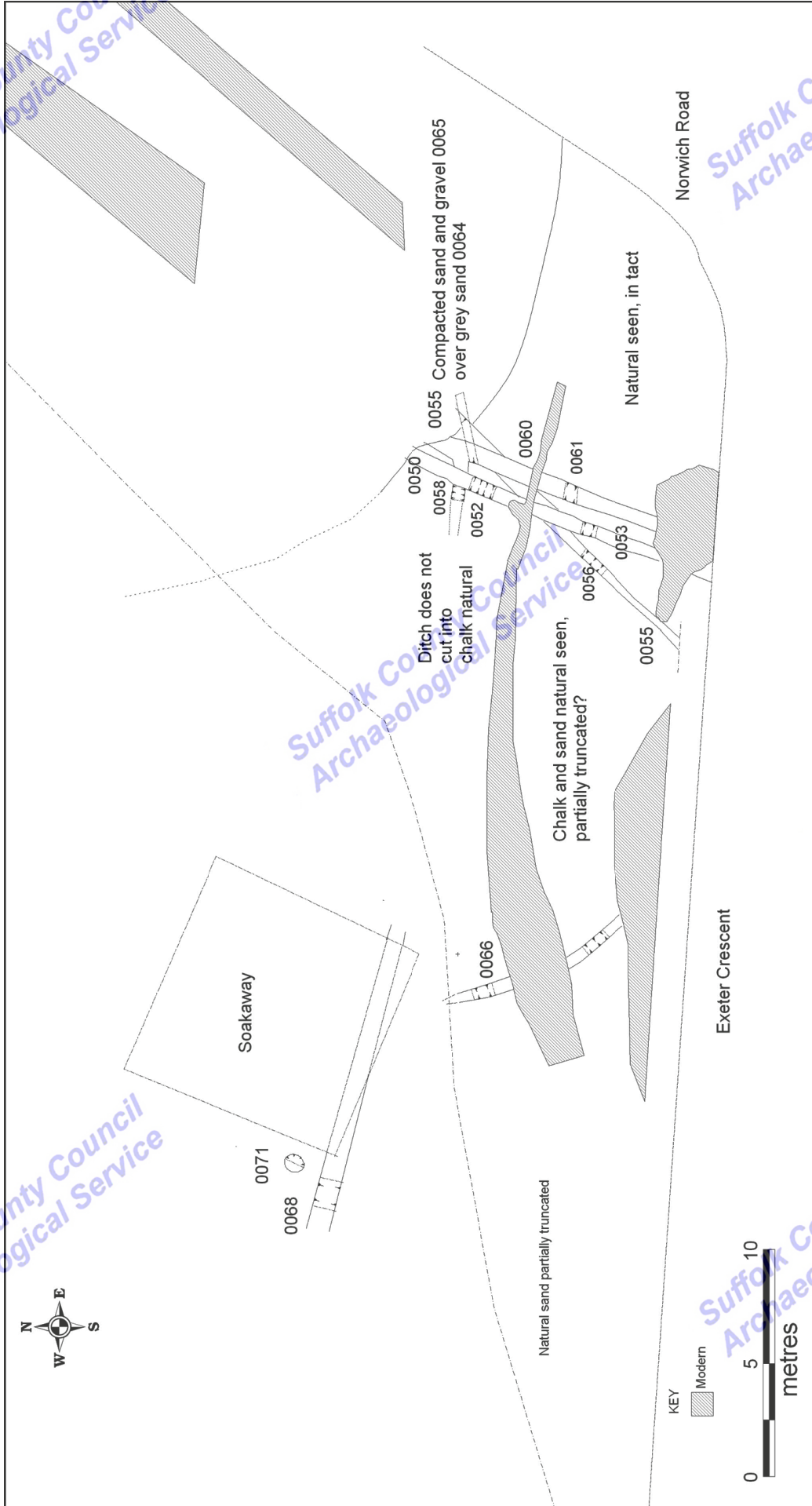


Figure 6. Close up plan of area beside Exeter Crescent

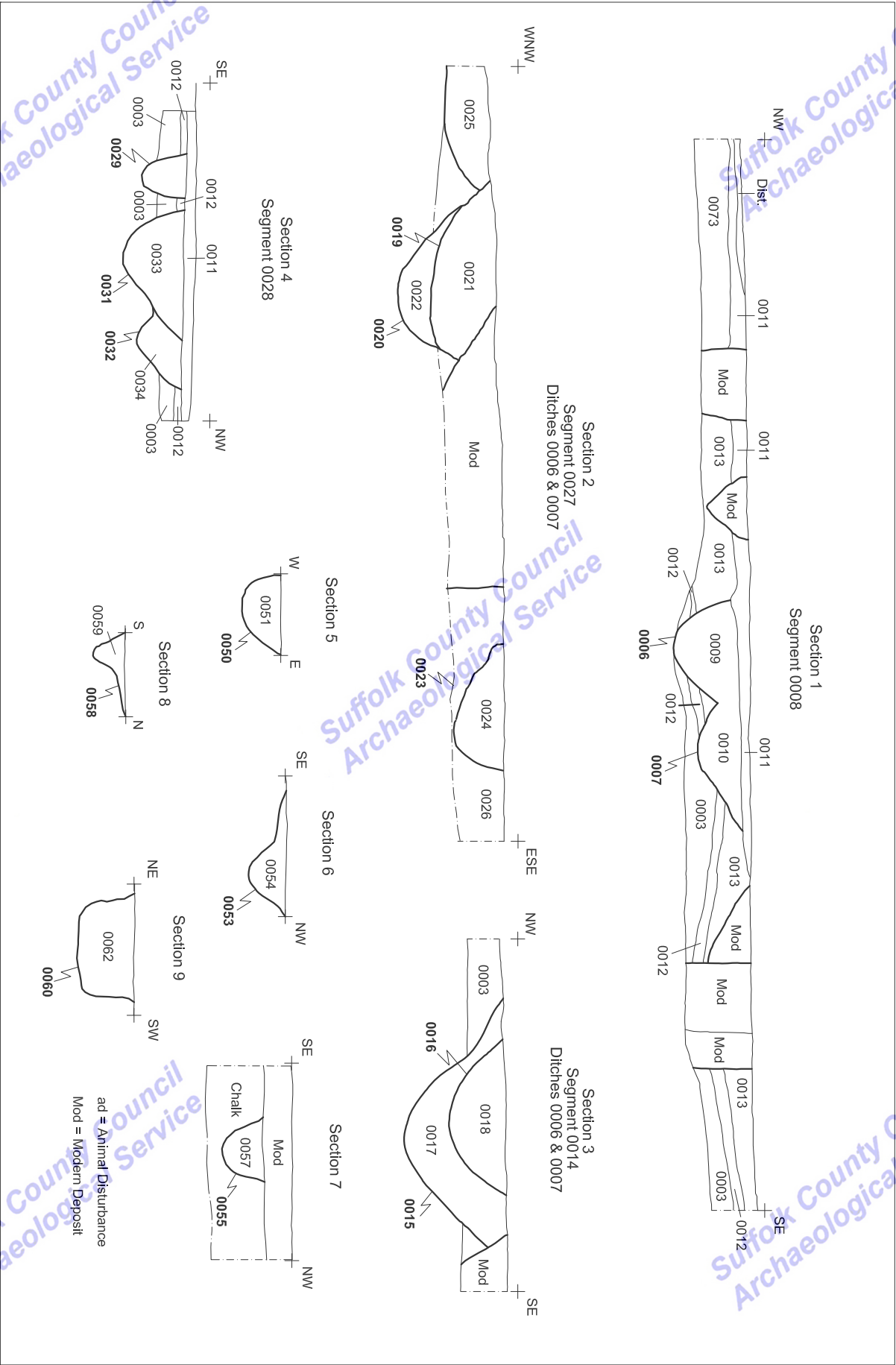


Figure 7 Sections, scale 1:40 on A4

Pits

Description

Six pits were identified, two of which, 0101 and 0116, were within the cemetery area. Pottery that was identified as probably Iron Age was recovered from layers 0117 and 0119. The others were difficult to interpret, one possibly a tree-bowl, 0029, another shallow and ill-defined, 0072. Sub-square pit 0004 was filled with similar material to the ditches in that area and could possibly have been contemporary with them, but it was not fully exposed as it ran under the Norwich Road, so cannot be interpreted. Feature 0023 looked like a small pit or posthole, although it could alternatively have been a small ditch or gully terminus.

Feature	Description
0004	An apparently sub-square pit, 1.2m across x 0.24m deep which was only half exposed at the east edge of the site. This had gradually sloped sides with a roughly flat base and was filled with mid pink-orange-brown slightly silty-sand which was moderately compact with no inclusions. Fig. 8, Section 13.
0023	A possible pit/ tree bowl whose section was unclear because of modern and root disturbance. This appeared to be roughly oval but was only half exposed within the excavated slot, c. 0.9m long x > 0.4m wide and 0.34m deep. The fill was a disturbed mid orange-brown silty sand with occasional small flint inclusions. Fig. 7, Section 2.
0029	A probable pit/posthole, only partly contained within the excavated slot 0.3m wide and 0.3m deep with a u-shaped profile and concave base. The fill was mid orange-brown almost stoneless sand, similar to that of ditches 0006 and 0007 which it was adjacent to. 0029 could possibly be a ditch terminus, but no corresponding feature was found in the next slot to the south to confirm this, so it is more likely to have been a small pit or posthole. Fig. 7, Section 4.
0048	An irregular shaped possible pit c. 1m x 0.8m and 0.38m deep filled with mixed grey sand. Probably a tree bowl. A single broken large balde flint fragment was recovered from the fill. Fig. 8, Section 15
0072	A possible circular pit, near 0068, but which was ill defined and shallow, 0.6m in diameter x 0.12m and filled with brown sand. Fig. 8, Section 14.
0101	A very shallow sub-square pit c. 1m x 0.9m and 0.14m deep, with a flat, slightly sloping base and filled with mottled pale brown sand with very occasional blobs of slightly burnt clay which became darker with possible staining at the base. Fig. 8, Section 16
0116	A sub-rectangular pit, with vertical sides and flat base, 1.34m long x 1m wide x 0.26m deep, filled in two episodes with charcoal rich fine sand separated by a layer pale brown sand (wind blown?) which suggests that the pit was left open between the deposits of charcoal. The basal charcoal layer contained some burnt bone and some burnt quartzite pebbles but the base of the pit was unburnt suggesting that the fill was deposited cold. 0116 was cut by shallow pit 0101. Pottery was found in two fills, 0117 and 0119, which has been dated to the Iron Age period. Fig. 8, Section 17

Table 2. Pit descriptions

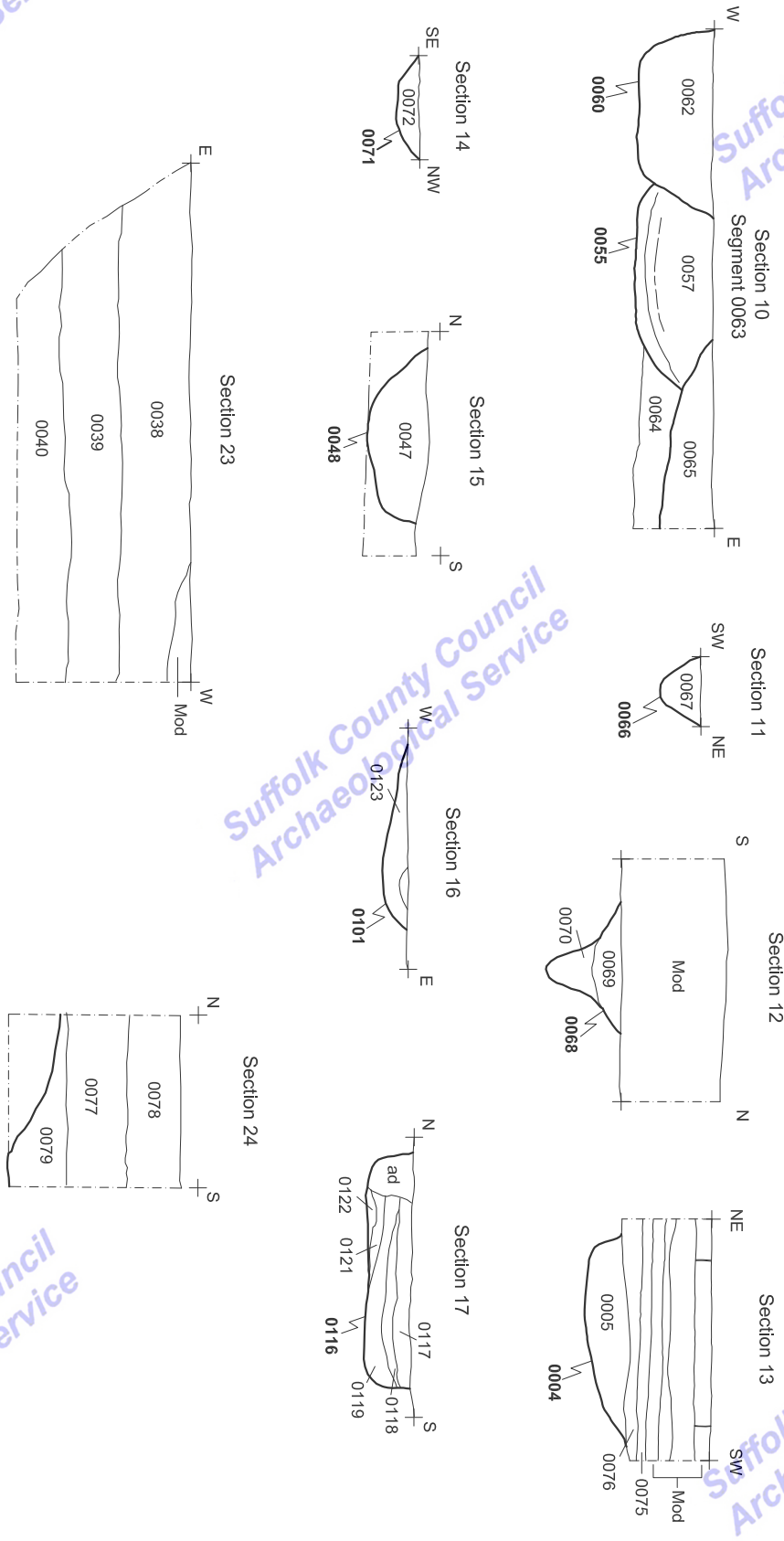


Figure 8 Sections, scale 1:40 on A4

ad = Animal Disturbance
Mod = Modern Deposit

Burials

Description

Three burials were found in the northernmost 10m of the construction area. These were all E-W aligned, with little bone surviving and a range of grave goods recovered.

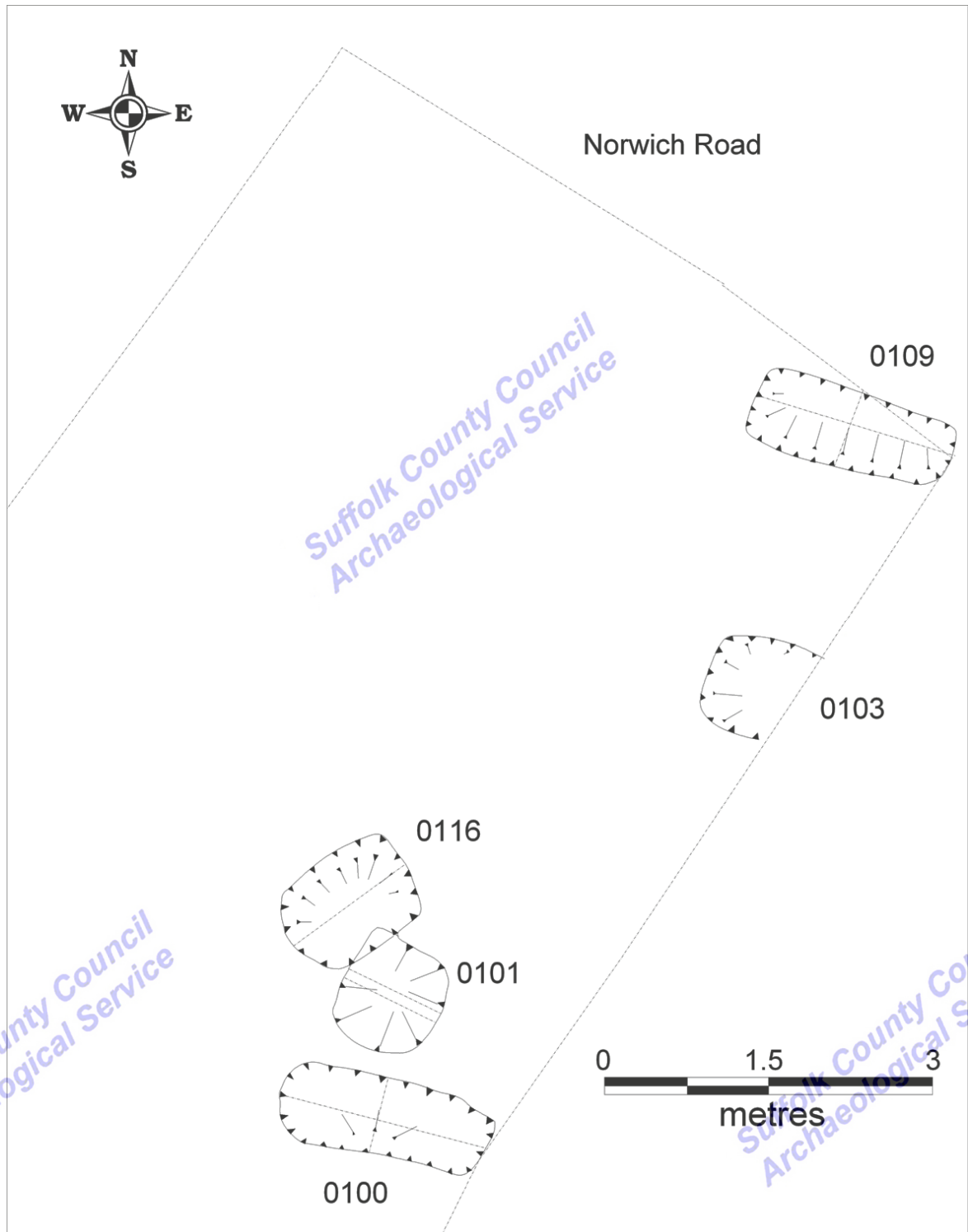


Figure 9. Plan of burials

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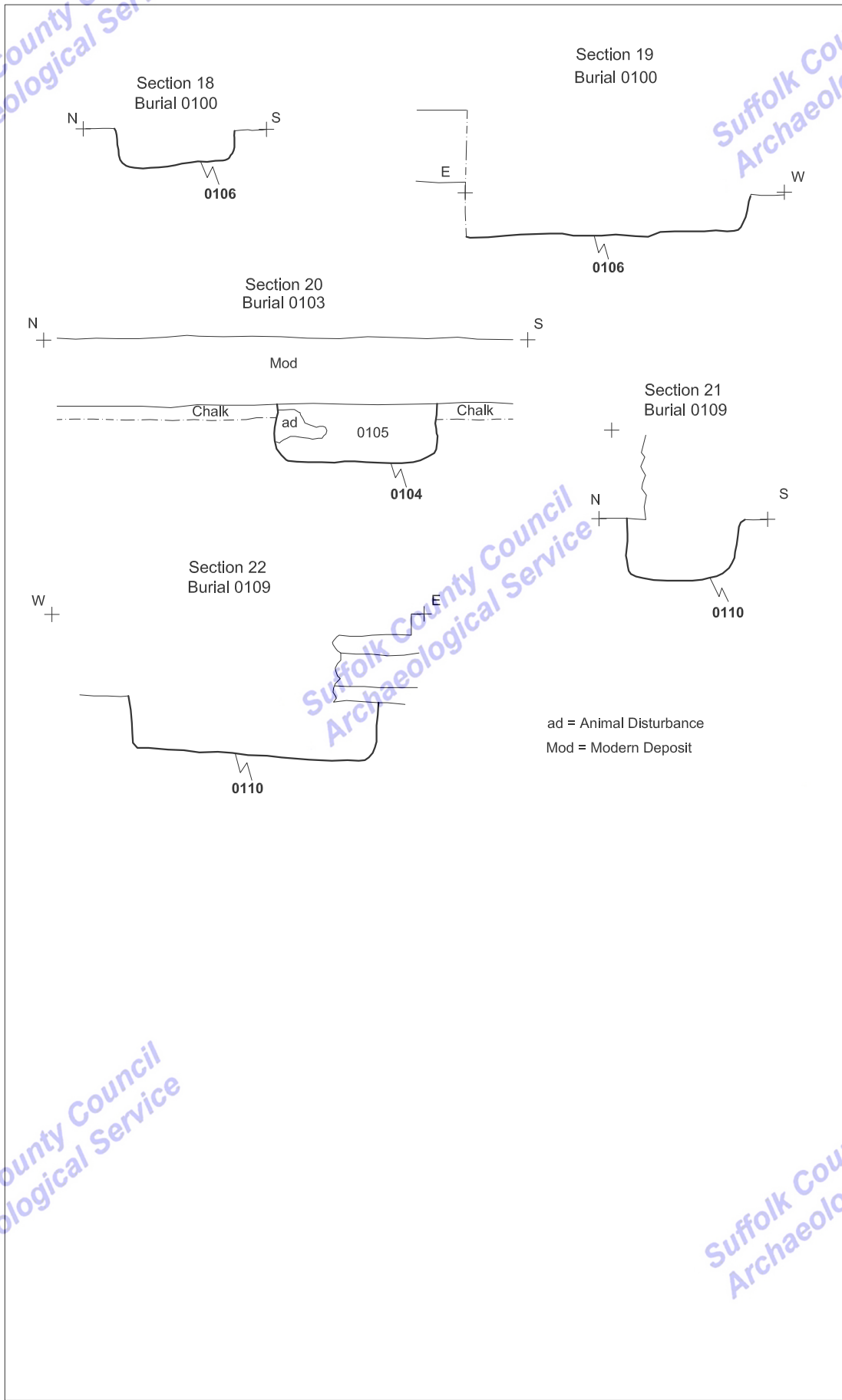


Figure 10 Sections, scale 1:40 on A4

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Plate 1. Grave 0100 and pits 0101 and 0116 before excavation



Plate 2. Grave 0109



Plate 3.
Grave 0109, close up of pots in situ



Plate 4.
Close up of beads in burial 0109



Plate 5.
Close up of stamps on Early Saxon
pottery in burial 0109

Group	Description
0100	E-W aligned burial with sub rectangular, steep sided cut, 0106, 2m long by 0.8m wide and 0.3m deep from the level of natural. The west end just undercut the road edge and the grave edges were illdefined in places and appeared to be slightly curving. The fill, 0107, was a uniform grey sand, until the base of the grave where pale brown and pale mottled yellow sands lay beside the skeleton. The skeleton, 0108, was in poor condition, with only some very fragmentary bone surviving at the knee and skull, but could be identified as having been in a slightly flexed position. It is assumed to be a male burial as he was buried with a spear and knife. Fig. 10, Sections 18 and 19.
0103	Burial running E-W extending out of the eastern site edge. This is the same as ERL 104 4733 which was partially excavated in 2002 in a pipe trench. It has a wide rectangular steep sided cut, extending 1m into the site, x 0.9m wide and 0.4m deep under modern deposits. The grave fill was mottled grey-brown sand which had some fragments unfired clay within this. No human remains were found but a small spearhead was recovered from the south-west corner of the grave. Fig. 11, Section 20
0109	An E-W aligned burial at the extreme north end of the site and which ran under the existing road. The grave cut was 1.9m long x 0.9m wide x 0.4m deep, below the road base and had almost vertical sides and a flat base. The upper fill, 0111, was mottled pale grey-brown-yellow sand in which was found a complete pot (0112) placed at the west, head end of the grave, with a fill of coarse, stony yellow sand, 0114, in the centre of the grave and a mid purple/grey sand outside this, 0115, with a further layer of pale brown sand between 0115 and the edge of the cut, within which was found pot 0113. The skeletal remains were in very poor condition with only fragments of decayed bone surviving although it was possible to identify the approximate position of the body, which was lying slightly flexed. This had annular brooches at the shoulders, a cruciform brooch at the chest with glass and amber beads, and wristclasps, a latchlifter, suspension ring and knife. Fig. 10, Sections 21 and 22

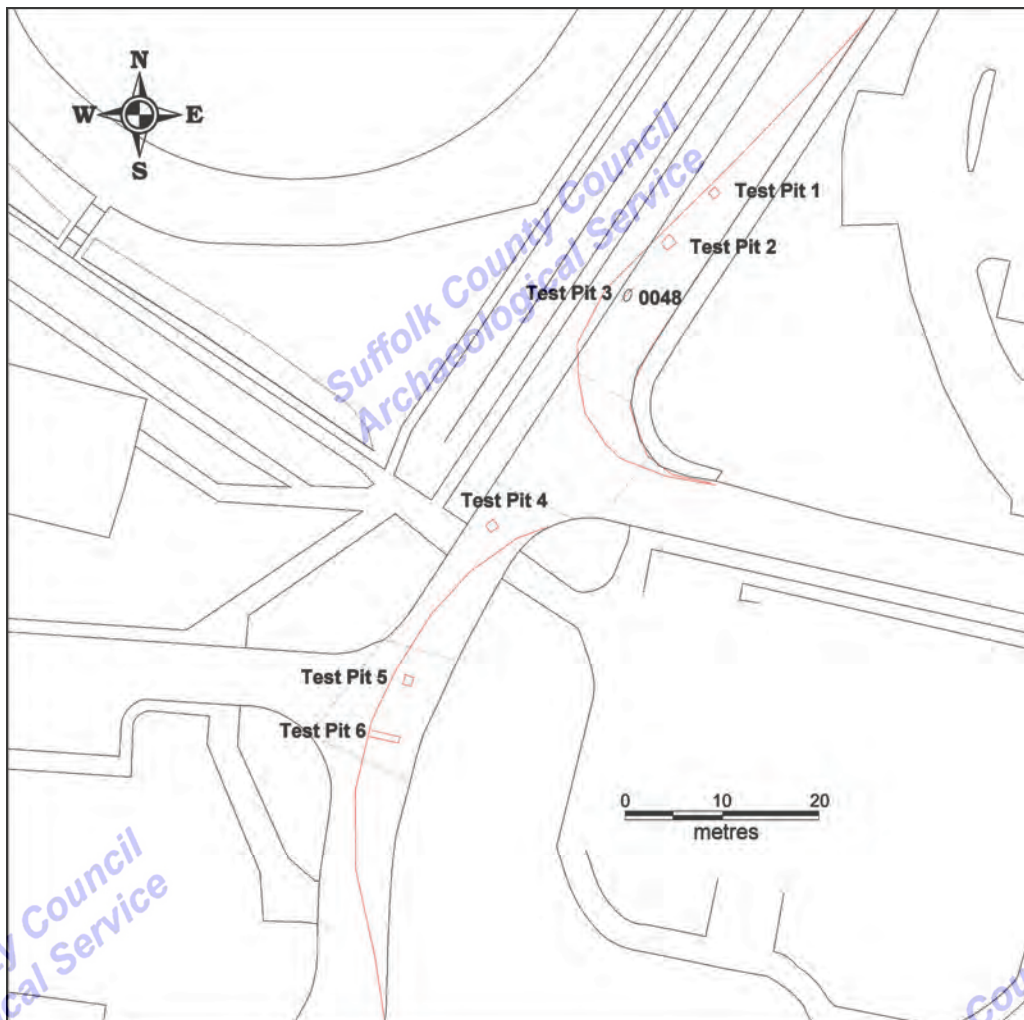
Table 3. Descriptions of burials

4.3 Test pit results

Where the formation level was above the archaeological level hand-dug test pits were inserted to the top of the natural sand in order to record the soil profile and to attempt to define the ancient landscape. This established an enhanced edge to the hollow that was visible in the current landscape, identifying where modern ground levels were built up (deliberately or naturally) and truncated.

Plotting of the level of the natural sand was done in c. 20 places and this identified a linear N-S hollow, the base of which lay at c.8.3m OD. At the south end the base of this was filled with grey sand 0073 which was generally seen to be c.0.2-0.3m deep. A single sherd of fine, sandy greyware pottery was recovered from this, but which was of uncertain date. This was not seen at the north end, near the running track where existing ground levels were already lower than the surrounding area, although at the base of the hollow, natural sand lay directly under c. 0.7m of modern redeposited material, as evidenced on site ERL 124. In the lowest area the grey sand was overlain by

pale windblown deposits, but along the against Norwich Road, where the levels were slightly higher, the grey sand was not present, but the natural sand was overlain by a layer of gravelly/stony sand, interpreted as a deflated former surface, which in turn was overlain by a yellow-red-brown sand with few inclusions which was probably also windblown. The features cut all these layers, although the fills of ditches 0006 and 0007 were so similar as to be invisible until the slots across the site were excavated. It is assumed that these sand layers predate the grey sand layer 0073, and that these represent the latest in the sequence of 'natural' sands, predating any human occupation here. There were not identified elsewhere in the soil profiles.



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Figure 11. Location of Test Pits and tree bowl 0048

Natural sand rose sharply out of Exeter Crescent up to a N-S ridge on which the High School and other structures stand, overlooking the Norwich Road. There was evidence of truncation along the Exeter Road length, where the steep rise had been levelled. In contrast the rise out along the Norwich Road was less severe flattening off at the north end at c.9.3m OD. The construction work at the south end, where Norwich Road exited the roundabout did not show natural rising, and the edge of the hollow is not defined here, but the existing ground level but examination of the data from existing ground levels suggests that natural rises quite steeply out of here immediately beyond the edge of the development. Natural was not seen within the Plymouth Road area as only limited work was carried out here, but again examination of the levels suggests an edge to the hollow immediately beyond the construction area.

A single possible feature, filled with pale grey sand, 0079, lay under 0073 in Test Pit 4. Unfortunately so little of this was visible that it was not possible to determine its type or alignment.



Plate 6. Layer 0073 at the base of Test Pit 5



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Figure 12. Thematic plot of hollow

4.4 Phasing and dating

Many of the features identified were undated, although some stratigraphic relationships allowed limited sequencing to be identified.

Phase 1 - Iron Age-Roman?

A single pit, 0116 has been dated to the Iron Age, from both the pottery and environmental remains recovered.

The grey and blown sand layers, 0073, identified within the hollow were cut by all features, suggesting that these were early. Unfortunately the only sherd of pottery recovered from it was of uncertain date and could have been Roman, Early Saxon or medieval. The degree of animal disturbance generally observed on this part of the Base and the presence of tree-bowls also allows for the pottery to be intrusive or residual. A layer similar to the basal layer, 0073, was found filling a shallow hollow on the adjacent cemetery site, ERL 104 (Caruth 2005) and this was initially interpreted as Iron Age but and more recently has been tentatively interpreted as an Early Saxon occupation layer, due to the number of finds of this date recovered from throughout it. However

this layer was cut by many Saxon features and further analysis is required to confirm the dating.

A single possible grey sand filled feature, 0079 was seen lying under the dark grey sand 0073, in Test Pit 4, and this would therefore be earlier than 0073, but too little of it was seen to allow interpretation.

Phase 2 - undated

All the ditches have been allocated to Phase 2 (Fig. 12) although none of these are dated, however the known presence of Roman and Saxon field systems within this area suggests that these are probably of this date.

Phase 2a

Ditch 0055 was the earliest ditch identified in Area 2. This has a similar alignment to ditch 0006 against Norwich Road and its recut 0007, so it is suggested that these all form the earliest phase of cut features on the site but no dating evidence was recovered.

Phase 2b

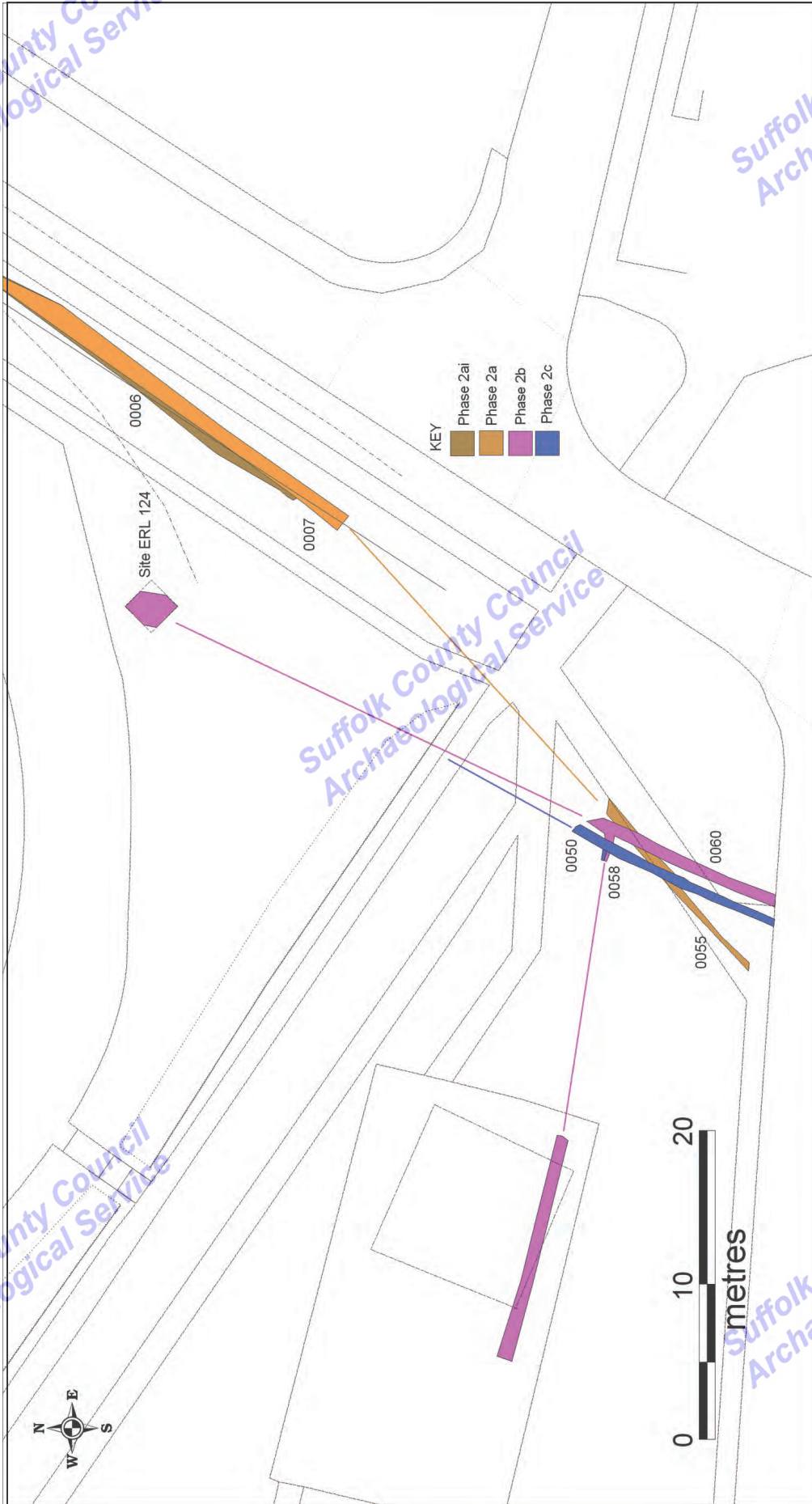
Ditches 0060 and 0058 appeared to relate to each other forming part of a rectilinear enclosure. Ditch 0068 may be a continuation of 0058 and a part of this system

Phase 2c

Ditch 0050 cuts 0058, and parallels 0060 and may represent a replacement for 0060. It is possible that 0058 continued in use, as no cut was visible against its west edge with 0050. A ditch identified in earlier work monitoring the bases for the floodlighting columns (ERL 124) aligns with 0050 and 0060, and probably represents a continuation of this boundary.

Phase 3 - Early Saxon

The only securely dated features are the burials which are all Early Saxon. Pit 0101 may also be Saxon as it cut pit 0116.



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Figure 13 Summary of ditch phasing

5. The finds evidence

5.1 Introduction

Bulk finds were collected from eleven contexts as shown in Table 4.

Feature	Context	Pottery		Fired clay		Flint		Misc	Spotdate
		No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
Tree bole 0048	0049					1	3		preh?
Hollow 0073	0040	1	2						ESax?
Grave 0100	0107			5	1	1	1		preh?
	0108							human bone	
Grave 0103	0105			3	239				ESax?
Grave 0109	0111					2	42		preh?
	0112	130	783						ESax
	0113	12	225						5th/6th c.
	0120							human bone	
Pit 0116	0117	14	35						Neo/IA?
	0119	4	45						Neo/IA?
	Total	161	1090	7	240	4	46		

Table 4. Finds quantification by context

5.2 Pottery

A total of 161 sherds of pottery were recovered. Only those from Grave 0109 were diagnostically of Early Saxon date. These comprised a partial biconical jar with stamped and incised decoration on the upper half (0113) and a near-complete globular jar with smoothed/burnished surfaces (0112). It is possible that the incomplete biconical jar, which is probably of 5th/6th-century date, may be residual in this grave as the globular jar is more likely of 6th-century date.

Other pottery comprised a single sherd from hollow fill 0040, and fragments of three vessels in pit 0116. The single sherd from the hollow was in a fine sandy greyware but the inner surface was lost. It was comparable with the fine fabric of the biconical jar in Grave 0109, but it is also possible that it could be of Roman or even medieval date. The upper fill of pit 0116 contained several black sherds tempered with coarse flint, whilst the lower produced two body sherds in a fine sandy fabric and two fragments of a 'footstand' base in a soft fabric with occasional organic inclusions. Whilst it is possible that these sherds could be Early Saxon, the fabric type and the 'wiped' surface treatment of the base sherds suggests that an Iron Age date is likely (Edward Martin, pers.comm).

5.3 Fired clay

Fragments of a large rounded lump of fired clay with smoothed surfaces were collected from Grave 0103. The piece is not a Saxon loomweight as it has no central hole, but is of similar size and fabric (red-firing medium with occasional flint/quartz). Only two small pieces of the surface survive and its function is therefore uncertain. It may be a residual prehistoric find as other prehistoric material is present on the site.

Tiny fragments of ?fired clay were collected from the upper fill of Grave 0100. The pieces appear to be part of a flat, thin fragment, but they may just be natural material which was burnt accidentally.

5.4 Flint

Four worked flints were collected. A piece from 0049 appears to be the snapped end of a large blade. A small blade or large microlith was collected from grave fill 0107. Two large flakes with partial cortex, one of which shows evidence of retouch along one edge, were found in grave fill 0111. A Neolithic or Bronze Age date for these pieces is likely.

5.5 Small finds

A single copper alloy Roman coin was recovered (SF 1001) from the main excavation area. It is a late Roman *nummus* dating to c 330-335 AD Constantine 1st or 2nd, Trier mint (Andrew Brown, pers. comm.).

All finds from the cemetery area will be analysed and published as part of the larger ongoing project to publish the evidence from the Anglo-Saxon cemeteries at RAF Lakenheath. Quantification of the small finds from the graves is contained in the table below.

Type	Feature/ grave no.	No	Weight	Material
Bead	0109	55		Glass/amber
Spearhead	0103	1		Iron
Spearhead	0100	1		Iron
Annular brooch	0109	2		Copper alloy
Cruciform brooch	0109	1		Copper Alloy
Knife	0100	1		Iron
Wrist clasp	0109	2		Copper Alloy
Knife	0109	1		Iron
Tab	0109	1		Iron/copper alloy
Ring	0109	1		Iron
Rivet	0109	1		Copper Alloy
Latchlifter	0109	1		Iron

Table 5. List of small finds from cemetery area

5.6 Human bone

The two skeletons recovered from graves 0100 and 0109 will be reported on as part of the cemetery excavations at ERL104. Both skeletons are of adult individuals and 0108 is probably male, but both are in poor condition. See Appendix 5 for catalogue

5.7 Plant macrofossils and other remains

Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

A single sample of the basal fill of a pit of a possible Iron Age date was taken for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblage. The fill also contained a quantity of burnt bone fragments, one of was later identified as being of human origin.

The sample was processed by manual water flotation/washover, and the flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flot was scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed on Table 6. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred.

The non-floating residue was collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and sorted when dry. All artefacts/ecofacts were retained for further specialist analysis.

Results

Although the assemblage was largely composed of charcoal/charred wood fragments, grains of barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) were also reasonably common along with pieces of heather (*Ericaceae*) stem and occasional spelt wheat (*T. spelta*) glume bases. The assemblage also contained a large number of grains, which were so severely puffed and distorted (probably as a result of high temperature combustion) that accurate identification to species was not possible. Burnt and calcined bone fragments were common along with a number of pieces of un-burnt bone, which were of a deep amber colour and appeared to be mineralised. The numerous fragments of black porous and tarry material were probable residues of the combustion of organic remains at very high temperatures.

Sample No.	0001
OP No.	0119
Feature No.	0116
Feature type	Pit
Plant macrofossils	
Hordeum sp.(grains)	x
Triticum sp. (grains)	xx
T. spelta L. (glume bases)	x
Cereal indet. (grains)	xxx
Charcoal <2mm	xxxx
Charcoal >2mm	xxx
Charred root/stem	xx
Ericaceae indet. (stem)	xx
Other remains	
Black porous 'cokey' material	xx
Black tarry material	x
Bone	x xxxb
Burnt/fired clay	x
Mineralised bone frags.	xx
Sample volume (litres)	30
Volume of flot (litres)	0.1
% flot sorted	100%

Table 6. Plant macrofossils and other remains

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

Although elements within the assemblage initially appear to be consistent with a cremation, it is possibly of note that most of the bone fragments are relatively lightly burnt rather than calcined. Also, the presence of mineralised bone is, perhaps, more consistent with a midden deposit. Charred cereal grains do appear within cremations as offerings to the deceased, but they are equally abundant within refuse deposits containing both domestic and agricultural waste. In addition to these points, the type of grain present within this deposit appears to be at variance with the proposed date of the feature.

The wheat grains are large and predominantly of a 'drop-form' shape typical of spelt; a small number of spelt glume bases are also recorded.

Although this assemblage does contain a sufficient density of material for quantification (i.e. 100+ specimens), analysis would add little to the overall interpretation of the feature until the issues of date and origin can be resolved. It should be noted that grains from this assemblage could be extracted and submitted for AMS dating if required.

6. Discussion

The three burials all conformed to the general pattern of those found in the main cemetery, E-W aligned, with head to the west end, lying slightly flexed (where observable), and with Early Saxon grave goods. Two had spearheads, indicating male graves, and one beads and brooches, indicating a female grave. One of the burials was the west (head) end of one partially excavated in the 2002 water pipe trench. All were cut into sand, which resulted in the human remains being in extremely poor condition. All three



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Figure 14. Plot showing relationship of new burials to ERL 104 cemetery

burials lay against the eastern edge of the site and none were found further west or south, suggesting that these probably represent the south-western edge of the cemetery, extending the known limits from those identified during the main excavations, however it is likely that further burials lie to the north under Norwich Road, and the western limit for the cemetery is still unknown. Full analysis of the burials and the grave goods remains to be done, this will be undertaken as part of the main publication project for the cemetery, currently underway.



Plate 7. Pit 0116 section

The pits are mostly hard to interpret, with 0023, 0029, 0048 and 0072, being difficult to define and/or of uncertain identification. Pit 0004 lay near the cemetery area, and unusually appeared to be the diagonal half of a square pit, however there was no evidence within the fill of a function for this and the other half. None of these were dated. Pit 0101 lay within the area of burials and was well defined, cutting pit 0116, however it was shallow and there was no indication amongst the fill of a function. Pit 0116 had two charcoal fills separated by a band of fine brown sand, suggesting that these two fill had occurred as separate event with a t least a short interval when the pit was left open and blown sand able to accumulate. Neither charcoal deposit had burnt the sides of the pit suggesting that it was neither burnt in situ nor deposited hot. The lower fill contained fragments of lightly burnt bone and charred grains typical of a midden deposit. The pottery recovered from both the

charoocal rich deposits was tentively identified as Iron Age with the possibility of being Anglo-Saxon, but the recovery of spelt within the environmental sample makes it unlikely to be Anglo-Saxon as spelt was not a cereal known to have still been cultivated by the Anglo-Saxon period. Although features containing similar deposits were found within the cemetery area and may have had a funerary function, possibly containing pyre or other material for ritual purposes, the evidence from pit 0116 suggests that it is Iron Age and that the materials within the deposits are more typical of those found in middens rather than pyres.

7. Conclusions and significance of the fieldwork

This work demonstrated a continuation of the ERL 104 cemetery into an area further SW than it had been previously seen, but also seemed to demonstrate the limits of the cemetery in this direction as no further burials were seen beyond those found in the eastern extreme of the site. These three burials will contribute to the major study of all the cemetery finds currently being undertaken and further analysis of pit 0116 also has good potential for contributing to the study of the earlier activity in this immediate area.

The presence of the ditches will be noted amongst the study planned for the field systems in this area and further work examining them alongside dated ditches may enable some dating from them to be suggested. Whilst inconclusive on their own, as part of the larger picture of the nature of early farming at RAF Lakenheath, their presence has more significance.

Jo Caruth

June 2009

8. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds T:\archive field projects\RAF Lakenheath\ERL161, new road layout.

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds.

9. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The excavation was carried out by a number of archaeological staff, (Andy Beverton, Jo Caruth, David Gill John Sims and Jonathan Van Jennians,) all from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was directed by Andy Beverton and Jo Caruth, and managed by Jo Caruth.

The post-excavation was managed by Richenda Goffin and finds processing and the production of sections was carried out by Gemma Adams, and the specialist finds report by Other specialist identification and advice was provided by The report was checked by...

10. Bibliography

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Appendix 1

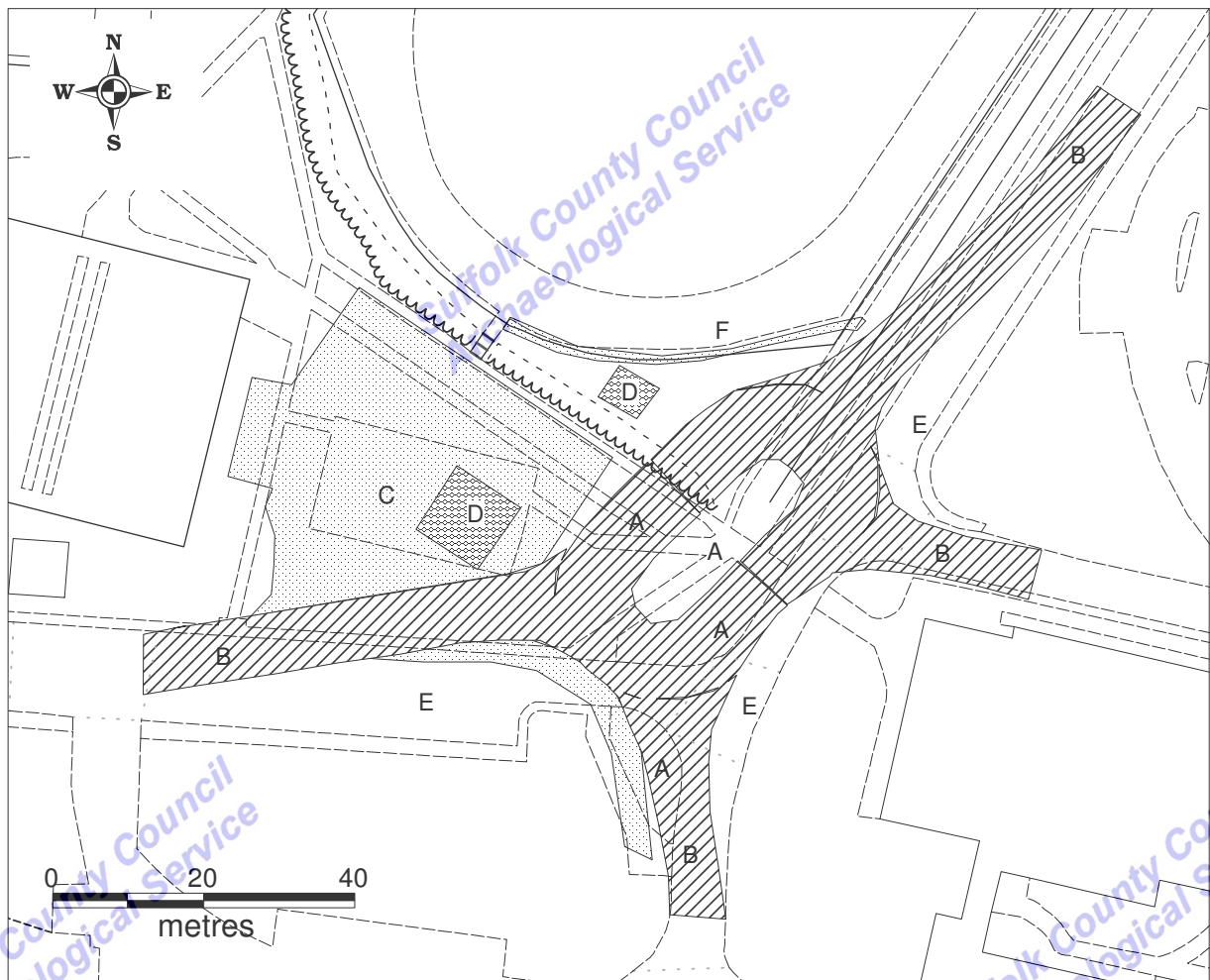
New road layout, RAF Lakenheath Project Design, Method Statement and Risk Assessment for archaeological excavation and monitoring

1 Background

1.1 There is a proposal to change the road layout at Norwich Road, Plymouth Road and Exeter Crescent at RAF Lakenheath, grid ref: TL 7286 8032.

1.2 The site lies at 10m OD in a slight valley with gentle (2-3m) east and west facing slopes either side. The underlying subsoil is weathered chalk overlain by blown sand. The chalk outcrops to the surface in places.

1.3 The project involves excavation over an area of c.4,200 (Fig. 1) and includes the construction of a new road layout (A and B), carparking (C), soakaways (D), footpaths (F), drainage and the removal of existing surfaces and landscaping (E). Much of the new construction work is located into soft ground (shown in green on Fig. 2) but some will involve the relaying of existing roads (B – Figs 1 and 2).



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Figure 1. Proposed new layout

1.4 This Project Design, Method Statement, Risk Assessment with a costing for the archaeological work has been prepared by Jo Caruth, Senior Project Officer, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS).



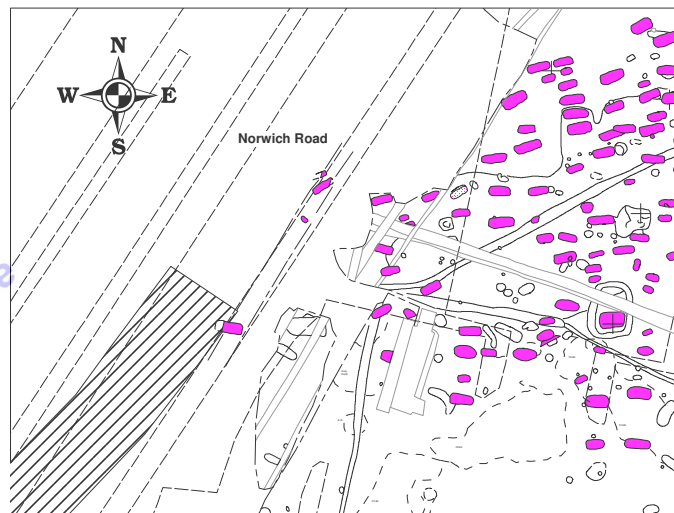
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Figure 2. Plan showing existing soft areas

2. Project aims

2.1. The aim of the project is to record archaeological deposits that are threatened with damage or destruction during the construction works.



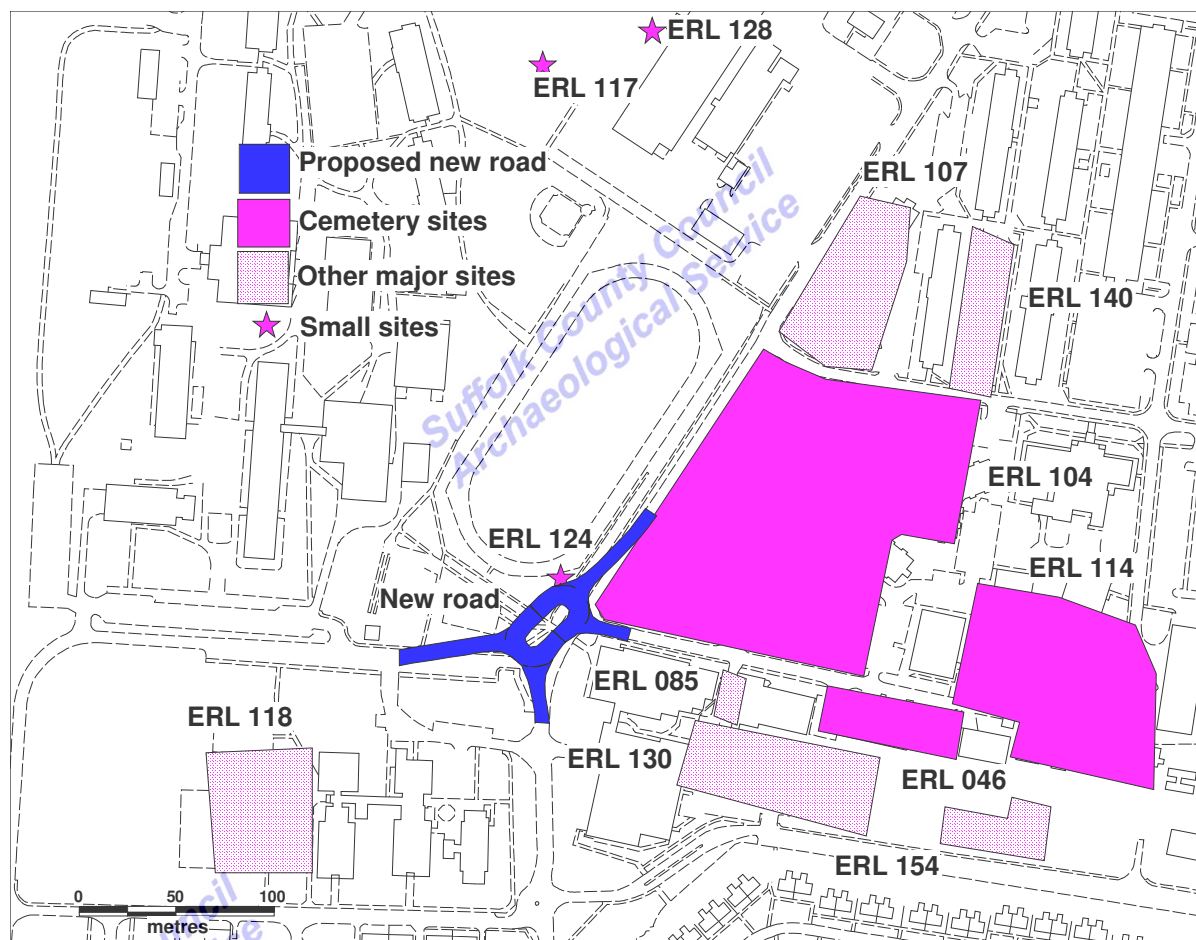
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Figure 3. Location of nearest burials to the development (at the point where the new road joins the existing Norwich Road).

2.2. The site lies immediately southwest of the site of an Early Anglo-Saxon cemetery excavated in 1997 and the closest burials lie right at the north-west edge of the proposed development (Fig. 3). This forms the westernmost of a group of three cemeteries excavated between 1958 and 2002 from which 446 burials have been identified (Caruth 2005)

These and other excavations (Fig. 4) east of Norwich Road, ERL 107(Caruth 2005), ERL 101 (Tester 2006), ERL 130 (Craven 2006), ERL 140 (Caruth 2006) have identified field systems dating from the prehistoric to the early medieval periods. Less archaeological work has been carried out west of Norwich Road, but small projects here have seen evidence of a continuation of the field systems into here, ERL 124 (Caruth 2005) and Phase 4 of the Base Water System (Caruth in prep). 180m to the south-west of the area and 280m to the north-west evidence of Early Roman occupation has been identified, ERL 118 (Caruth 2001), ERL 117 (Caruth 2002), ERL 128 (Gill 2003) with both features and buried soil found. Sites nearest the development (ERL 124, Phase 4, ERL 104) suggest that natural will largely be found at about 0.35-4m below the current surface but in places it may be as much as 0.7m.



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Figure 4. Plan showing nearby sites.

2.3. Archaeological deposits are likely to be present on the site. Anticipated results are the discovery of a continuation of the early Saxon cemetery in the northern part of the Norwich Road length, both under the line of the new road and where the old road is removed, although fewer than 10 burials are likely. It is expected that ditches forming part of the various field systems will be found in the area south of the running track. This may also contain other Early Roman features, as the evidence from other investigations suggests a band of Roman occupation running through the western part of the development area, but the density or nature of this occupation is unknown. There is a possibility of outlying Early Saxon burials but this area is

generally thought to be beyond the edges of the cemetery. Archaeological levels are likely to be found at c. 0.4m below the current ground surface.

2.4. The research aims for the project are primarily to add to the body of knowledge and therefore the understanding of the archaeological development of RAF Lakenheath. In addition the results may address local and regional research aims (Brown and Galzebrook 2000) for the prehistoric, Roman and Saxon periods. In particular these are likely to relate to:

- Processes of economic and social change and development during the Late Iron Age/Early Roman transition
- The nature of agricultural production in the Roman period
- Early Anglo-Saxon Population studies
- Early medieval land-use
- Origins and development of the agricultural economy throughout the prehistoric to medieval periods.

3 Excavation specification and method statement

3.1 The excavation will be carried out in accordance with a specification issued by Mr R.D. Carr of the SCCAS conservation team. Fieldwork standards will be guided by ‘Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England’ EAA Occasional Papers 14.

3.2 The excavation work will be carried out by members of the SCCAS field team led by Jo Caruth or John Craven (Project Officer). The digging team will comprise up to 6 experienced SCCAS excavators. Specialist staff will be experienced in local and regional types and periods for their field. Members of the project team will be responsible for taking the project to archive and assessment levels.

3.3 All finds will be brought back to the SCCAS Bury St Edmunds office at the end of each day for processing, preliminary conservation and packing. Much of the archive and assessment preparation work will be done at the Bury St Edmunds office, but in some circumstances it may be necessary to send some categories of finds to specialists working in archaeology and university departments in other parts of the country.

3.4 All artefacts and site records will be catalogued and indexed using a new Sites and Monuments Record number, BSE 231.

3.5 An OASIS form will be initiated prior to the start of fieldwork and updated as necessary.

3.6 *Method statement*

3.6.1 It is anticipated that the work will take several forms including full excavation in advance of development and monitoring with contingency for excavation during development. **It should be noted that delays during the construction programme should be anticipated.** This document will highlight the most likely areas where delay is to be expected.

3.6.2 The different construction areas can be assumed to have a variable impact on archaeological deposits but it is likely that the roads, soakaways and car parking certainly have the potential to cause significant damage to archaeological levels.

3.6.3 Currently part of the area is under grass and/or footpaths and the remainder under existing roadways. It is not certain what the construction sequence will be and whether there will be an attempt to create an alternative traffic route around the west side of the proposed new

roundabout before removing the existing road areas or whether it is intended to close the entire route during construction. **It should be noted that the construction of any temporary surface outside this area to enable re-routing of traffic would also need to have archaeological input.**

3.6.4 A method statement and costing have been produced to allow for both alternatives, but detailed discussion with the construction contractors will be essential to ensure minimal delays to the construction projects whilst promoting the full recording the archaeological deposits.

3.6.5 It may be desirable to carry out a trenched evaluation of the soft ground either before or at the start of the project in order to quickly establish the depth and density of archaeological deposits likely to be encountered. This would enable more accurate prediction of archaeological excavation times and costs, and allow some early planning of the timetable and better inform the contractor of the potential for delays.

3.6.6 *If access to the entire construction area is available*, it is suggested that the best course of action would be for the contractor first to remove all hard surfaces and then to carry out a reduced level dig of the entire construction area (roads, car parking soakaways) to archaeological levels **under the direct control of an archaeologist**. Whilst concrete breaking and lifting can be done using a breaker and toothed bucket care must be taken not to damage underlying archaeological deposits. Following the removal of the concrete all subsequent work must be done using a back-acting machine equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. No part of the site may be accessed by the contractors machinery or vehicles until released back to the contractor by the archaeologist. A formal procedure for this including a written hand-over can be arranged if required. A time allowance of 6 weeks prior to the start of construction should be made to enable the archaeological work to be completed, although it may be possible to release parts of the site in advance of this.

3.6.7 *If the work has to take place in two or more stages* a similar method for the reduced level dig to the above can be used for each area as it is available. Prior to start of any construction work a proposed plan of working and timetable needs to be discussed with the senior project archaeologist. This needs to clearly outline which areas will be available at which time and any critical timescales or deadlines. Good lines of communication between DE, the contractor and SCCAS will be essential to minimise delays. Whilst the archaeological contractor will exercise flexibility to accommodate construction requirements it must be noted that certain aspects of the archaeological work e.g. excavation of a number of burials will be time consuming and may impact on the construction contractors timetable. An allowance of 5 days per 500m² should be made, with an additional 5 days contingency for the area at the north end of the Norwich Road section which is most likely to contain burials.

3.6.8 *In the areas of minor ground disturbance (e.g. footpaths or service trenches are the only disturbance)* e.g. area G sufficient archaeological mitigation would be the recording of soil profile either after or during excavation. The necessity for an archaeologist to observe the excavation whilst it is carried out will be dependent on the part of the site the work lies in and the results of any previous archaeological work. The work has been costed on the basis of a constant monitoring being required.

3.6.9 *In areas where hard surfaces are to be landscaped* the breaking out and removal of the concrete and asphalt needs to be monitored by an archaeologist to record any archaeological deposits that are exposed. The length of Norwich Road adjacent to the cemetery ERL 104 will need to be observed whilst the work is carried out. Any graves that are disturbed during the breaking out will require excavation. It is important to establish whether the cemetery continues

into this area and in the context of the cemetery, because of the overriding academic importance of it as a nearly complete cemetery, it will be essential that all graves are excavated. Preservation *in situ* is not an option.

3.6.10 The archaeologist in charge will make a judgement about the level of work required and the excavation depths as the ground level is reduced, bringing in an archaeological team as soon as their presence is required. In the event of a low level of archaeological deposits over part or all of the site it may be possible for the archaeologists to keep up with the machining and hand back part or all of the site almost immediately. Where archaeological levels are found to be more than 100mm below the construction formation levels a decision as to the necessity of the removal of soil to archaeological levels will be made in conjunction with archaeological Planning Officer (Mr R.D.Carr) for this project.

3.6.11 Depending on the density and nature of any archaeological features identified it may be necessary to hand clean all or part of the construction area in order to define the archaeological potential. In this case some delay to the contractor is inevitable.

3.6.12 Where buried soils are present these will be sampled by hand, including sieving through a 1cm mesh, and a decision about whether these can be removed by machine or require full hand digging, will be made following the sampling. This decision will take into account the nature and date of the deposit and the quality of the archaeological information likely to be gained from it.

3.6.13 All features will be hand sampled to the SCCAS standard minimum requirements of 10% of each linear feature, 50% of each pit and 100% of all features that could be interpreted as structural. If graves are encountered these will be excavated using the excavation methodology established during work on the adjacent cemeteries (Caruth, 2005).

3.6.14 If human remains are uncovered these will not be excavated until a Home Office License for the Removal of Human Remains has been obtained. All burials will be 100% excavated even if this means extending the edges of the excavation area to expose the complete grave.

3.6.15 Plans and sections will be drawn at scales of between 1:10 and 1:50 depending on the complexity of the archaeological finds. Normal Field Team conventions, compatible with the County SMR, will be used during the site recording. All features and excavation edges will be plotted onto the National Grid using a Total Station Theodolite and relative levels recorded.

3.6.16 Black and white print and digital photographs will be taken of all stages of the archaeological work.

3.6.17 The excavations will be metal detected by a person experienced in the use of metal detectors.

3.6.18 All pre-modern finds will be kept. No discard policy will be considered until the excavations are finished. Finds on site will be treated according to 'First Aid For Finds', and a conservator will be available for on-site consultation as required.

3.6.19 The fills of all datable, interpretable features (with the exception of graves) will be sampled for macrofossils. Further advice will be sought from the Regional Science Officer if buried soils, waterlogged or extensive burnt deposits are found.

3.6.20 An allowance has been made for radiocarbon dating should suitable material be recovered. Other dating methods, eg. archaeomagnetic, dendrochronology will be considered if appropriate.

3.6.21 The site will be recorded under the SMR number ERL 161. Four figure numbers 0001-0999 will be allocated to context numbers and 1000-1499 to small finds.

3.6.22 Finds will be processed and receive an initial assessment during the fieldwork phase and this information will be fed back to site to inform the excavation policy.

3.6.23 Following excavation a report of the work will be produced. This will include a summary of results, and brief description of the background to the project, a statement of the excavation methodology, a description of the fieldwork, a report on the finds, including quantifications and contributions from specialists as appropriate and an overall discussion indicating how these results relate to other archaeological finds from RAF Lakenheath. A statement of further work and potential for analysis and publication will also be made. If Early Saxon or prehistoric burials are found these will be included in analysis and publications that have already been proposed. A contingency for this has been included in the costing.

3.6.24 The project will be recorded with the OASIS on-line database prior to the start of work and a copy of the report will be lodged here at the conclusion of the project. A copy of the report will be sent to the Environmental Officer with responsibility for archaeology at RAF Lakenheath to allow access to the results for Base personnel.

4 Risk Assessment

4.1 The monitoring will follow the Suffolk County Council statement on health and safety at all times. On this site particular hazards are seen to be as follows:-

4.2 *Work in close proximity to mechanical plant.* Staff will protective footwear at all times. When plant is on site high visibility vests/jackets, hard hats and ear defenders if necessary, will be worn.

4.3 *Injury from manual work.* A fully charged mobile will be on site at all times. At least one trained First Aider will be on site at all times and First Aid equipment will be immediately available.

4.4 *Use of hand tools.* All staff are experienced in the use of hand tools. Full training will be given if unfamiliar tools are used.

4.5 *Trip hazards.* All staff and visitors will be made aware of uneven ground surfaces. Safe access routes will be created.

4.6 *Work in close proximity to roads.* Staff will be made aware of the volume of traffic along the nearby roads and hi-visibility clothing will be worn at all times.

4.7 *Live services.* The site will checked for live cables prior to machining and any such cables, if exposed will be tagged with hi-visibility tape and all staff and visitors appraised of their presence. Care will be taken not to strike cables and pipes with hand tools.

4.8 *Deep holes on site.* If any deep features are investigated they will be excavated using battered/stepped sides or shoring as appropriate. These will be fenced and/or covered when not in use.

4.9 *Lone working.* Where staff are working unaccompanied they will report their arrival and departure from the site to the site manager. A fully charged mobile phone will be carried at all times.

4.10 *Extremes of weather.* Staff will be issued with waterproof clothing and will be made aware of the dangers of extreme temperature.

4.11 Site staff, volunteers and official visitors are covered by Suffolk County Council insurance policies.

4.12 It is envisaged that there will be interest in the site from the public and efforts will be made to accommodate this, however access to the site will be dependent on safe routes being available.

4.13 All staff will follow the Contractors health and safety requirements at all times.

4.15 It is hoped that it will be possible to share welfare facilities with the main contractor, but if not SCCAS will hire a portable toilet.

4.16 The base emergency number is 01638 527911 and MOD police can be contacted on 01638 523784.

5. Archive/Assessment Specification

5.1 The archive will be consistent with 'Management of Archaeological Projects' (English Heritage, 1991), Appendix 3.

5.2 The site archive will meet the following requirements:

5.3 All site data will be entered on a computerised database compatible with the County SMR.

5.4 All site plans and sections will be inked in to form a permanent archive on archivally stable base material. Ordnance Datum levels will be on the section sheets.

5.5 The photographic archive will be fully catalogued within the County SMR photographic index.

5.6 All finds will be processed, marked and bagged/boxed to County SMR requirements.

5.7 Where appropriate finds will be marked with a site code and a context number.

5.8 Metal finds on site will be stored in accordance with UKIC guidelines and assessed for significance before dispatch to a conservation laboratory within 4 weeks of the end of the excavation.

5.9 All pre-modern silver, copper alloy and ferrous metal artefacts will be x-rayed and coins will be x-rayed if necessary for identification. Sensitive finds will be conserved if necessary and deposited in bags/boxes suitable for long term storage to UKIC standards.

5.10 All coins will be identified to a standard acceptable to normal numismatic research.

5.11 Bulk finds will be fully quantified on a computerised database compatible with the County SMR. Quantification will fully cover weights and numbers of finds by OP and context with a clear statement for specialists on the degree of apparent residuality observed.

5.12 Provision has been made for drawing some finds for archival/assessment purposes and to illustrate published site summaries.

5.13 Specialist reports will be done in-house or commissioned as necessary to meet the following requirements at assessment level:

- The site archive will meet the standards set by 'The Guideline for the preparation of site archives and assessments of all finds other than fired clay vessels' of the Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD700 - 1700 (1993).
- The pottery will be recorded and archived to a standard comparable with 3.3.1 above (Draft Guidelines of the Medieval Pottery Research Group and Guidelines for the archiving of Roman Pottery, SGRP (ed. M.G. Darling, 1994).
- Environmental samples will be processed and assessed to standards set by the Regional Environmental Archaeologist with a clear statement of potential for further analysis.
- Animal and human bone will be quantified and assessed to a standard acceptable to national and regional English Heritage specialists.
- An industrial waste assessment will cover all relevant material (i.e. fired clay finds as well as 'slag').

5.14 The assessment report will contain a comprehensive site summary that can stand alone. It will also contain a clear separation of the objective account of the archaeological evidence from its archaeological interpretation. It will contain sufficient information to stand as an archive report should further analysis and publication not be appropriate.

5.15 There will be a clear statement of the excavation methodology within the assessment report.

5.16 The assessment report will give an opinion as to the potential of the site data for further analysis and publication. The assessment will take full account of the East Anglian Resource Assessment (1997) and Research Agenda (draft, 1997).

Jo Caruth
November 2006

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Context	Feature	Group	Segment	Identifier	Type	Description	Interpretation	Cuts	Cut By	Under	Over	Width	Length	Diameter	Depth
0015	0015	0074	0014	Ditch	Cut	Linear in plan running NW - SE across site, u-shaped in section, SE side is truncated by modern pipeline at surface by [0016], has straight side, 45-50 degrees. Nw side has a slightly shallow (40deg) b.o.s.a convex side and a smooth base. Concave base, SEE SHEET FOR MORE INFORMATION	Linear running across site, truncated by modern and probable re-cut [0016]					1.8m	1.2m		0.7m
0016	0016	0074	0014	Ditch	Cut	Linear plan, u-shaped in section, slightly above average BOS (50), concave sides and smooth, average BOB, concave base. Axis of inclination is slightly SE, Aligned NE-SW, Cuts [0015]	Linear running across site	0015				1.1m	0.5m		0.4m
0017	0015	0074	0014	Ditch	Fill	Mid orangy-brown slightly silty sand, no inclusions, slightly compact	Sandy fill of [0015]					1.8m			0.6m
0018	0016	0074	0014	Ditch	Fill	Mid/light yellow-orangy-brown silty sand, ni inclusions, slightly compact	Fill of [0016]								0.4m
0019	0019	0074		Ditch	Cut	Cut of ditch [0019], full section unclear due to the modern and root disturbance, BOS 45 degrees, BOB 25 degrees, curved sides and base, linear in plan, re-cut of [0020], aligned NE- SW		0020	Modern feature						0.44m
0020	0020	0074	0027	Ditch	Cut	NE- SW aligned ditch, BOS approx. 45 degrees, gently curved sides and base, truncated by [0019], root and animal disturbance			0019			1.0m			0.24m
0021	0019	0074	0027	Ditch	Fill	Fill of ditch [0019], mid orangy/ brown silty sand, occasional flint inclusions (small)						1.4m	0.52m		0.44m
0022	0020	0074	0027	Ditch	Fill	Light orang/ brown silty sand, occasional small flint inclusions, compact						1.0m	0.52m		0.24m
0023	0023		0027	Pit	Cut	Cut of possible pit/ tree bowl, section unclear because of modern and root disturbance, sub-oval in plan							0.9m		0.34m
0024	0023		0027	Pit	Fill	Fill of pit/ tree bowl, mid orange/ brown silty sand, occasional small flint inclusions						0.52m	0.9m		0.3m
0025			0027	Layer	Deposit	Layer in seg [0027], mid orange/ brown sand. Overlies natural. Sloping in (Cut?) at NW end of section.	Sand fill of hollow - shows start of steep hollow profile? Or feature?		0021		nat	0.9m			0.3m
0026			0027	Layer	Deposit	Area of disturbed natural mixed red and yellow sand, some flint, disturbed by modern and roots	Natural		0023				1.9m		0.4m
0027			0027	Segment	Segment	Segment contains ditches [0019] (0021), [0020] (0022), pit/ tree bowl [0023] (0024) and deposits (0025), (0026)						0.5m	5.5m		0.66m
0028			0028	Segment	Segment	Segment no. across [0029], [0031], [0032], shows an unclear relationship of [0031] cutting [0032] SEE SHEET FOR MORE INFORMATION									
0029	0029		0028	Pit	Cut	Circular in plan, u-shaped in section with a steep sharp BOS and a smooth abrupt BOB, small concave base, no truncation, SEE 0028 FOR SECTION AND PLAN						0.3m	0.3m		0.3m
0030	0029		0028	Pit	Fill	Mid yellowy-brownish grey, no inclusions, slightly compact						0.3m	0.3m		0.3m
0031	0031	0074	0028	Ditch	Cut	Linear plan, u-section, steep BOS at SE side, average BOS at NW side, average, smooth BOB, Sides are concave, no truncation, runs NE-SW						0.82m			0.4m

Context	Feature	Group	Segment	Identifier	Type	Description	Interpretation	Cuts	Cut By	Under	Over	Width	Length	Diameter	Depth
0032	0032	0074	0028	Ditch	Cut	Linear plan, u-section with a truncated SE side and a slightly steep NW BOS, NW side is slightly convex coming to an abrupt BOB, concave base, Truncated by [0031] SEE [0028] FOR PLAN AND SECTION	Linear running NE-SW across the site					0.6m			0.3m
0033	0031	0074	0028	Ditch	Fill	Mid orangy-yellow brown silty sand (20/80) , No inclusions, slightly compact, SEE [0028] FOR SKETCHES	Fill of [0031]					0.82m			0.4m
0034	0032	0074	0028	Ditch	Fill	Mid yellow-grey-brown silty sand (20/80) , No inclusions, slightly compact, SEE SECTION AND PLAN ON [0028]	Fill of [0032]					0.6m			0.3m
0035			0035	Segment	segment	Segment number, Seg through [0036], SEE SHEET FOR SECTION SKETCH									
0036	0036	0074	0035	Ditch	Cut	Linear in plan, u-section, moderately steep (70 degree) , diffuse at NW side, Concave sides, abrupt, slightly angular BOB, Flat slightly concave base, no truncation, running NE-SW, SEE SEG [0035].						~1m			0.55m
0037	0036	0074	0035	Ditch	Fill	Mid-light orange-yellow-brown silty sand, occasional shingle (~10% evenly distributed) , slightly compact	Fill of linear [0036]					~1.0m			0.55m
0038	0038		0041	Layer	Deposit	Layer of yellow-orange sand, very fine with v occasional stones and frequent fine horizontal lenses throughout. Seen in section/slot dug by contractors	Blown sand				0039				0.4m
0039			0041	Layer	Deposit	Beige, fine sand layer, v. occasional stones, fine horizontal banding as in [0038], seen in contractors slot 0041	Blown sand layer			0038	0040				0.35m
0040	0073		0041	Layer	Deposit	Layer of dark grey sand, fine, few stones, included pottery	Basal layer in hollow - same as on opposite side of excavation			0039	nat				7.3m
0041			0041	Slot	segment	Slot dug by contractors - soil profile drawn - SEE [0028], [0039], [0040]									
0042				Layer	Deposit	Mid greyish-yellow/brown sand, very occasional sub-angular pebbles (0.02m) sorted ~5%, concentrated along the base of the deposit, loose, not free flowing, SEE SHEET FOR MORE INFORMATION	Top layer visible in TP1 (and across site) . Natural				0043				~0.55m
0043		N		Layer	Deposit	Mid reddish-orange/ brown coarse sand, occasional sub-angular pebbles (~15% D=0.01-0.02m) sorted, Loose (not free flowing) , TP1	Natural			0042	0044				~0.1m
0044		N		Layer	Deposit	Mid yellow-grey/ Brown sand with Fe panning streaks running through, no inclusions, loose (not free flowing)	Wind blown sand? Natural			0043	0045				0.22m
0045		N		Layer	Deposit	Mid yellow/brownish-red coarse sand, occasional angular stones (sorted D=0.04m) - 10-15%, Loose (not free flowing)	Natural			0044	0046 0047				~0.08m
0046		N		Layer	Deposit	Yellow-grey/ Brown v. slightly silty sand, no inclusions, loose (v. slightly compact) , root disturbance	Disturbed natural deposit			0045					0.2m
0047		N		Layer	Deposit	Mid brown yellowish grey sand, occasional Fe pan located at base, quite loose	Natural sand deposit			0045					0.3m
0048				Feature	Cut?	?possible feature, irregular shape with grey sand fill	?tree bowl								
0049	0048			Feature	Fill	Mixed grey sand with animal disturbance, ? Tre bowl, one flint found									
0050	0050			Ditch	Cut	SW-NE aligned ditch cut, concave base, steeply sloping sides, centre of the site		0055, 0058							

Context	Feature	Group	Segment	Identifier	Type	Description	Interpretation	Cuts	Cut By	Under	Over	Width	Length	Diameter	Depth
0051	0050			Ditch	Fill	Mid-pale brown sand with iron pan bands/ lenses throughout, no finds					0051	0.58m	1.15m		0.28
0052	0050		0052	Ditch seg	seg	Excavated length of [0050], where cuts 0058									
0053	0050		0053	Segment	seg	Segment of [0050], S of 0052, No finds, fill = 0054									
0054	0050		0053	Ditch	Fill	Fill of 0053, pale yellow-brown sand with slightly darker patch near top, no finds					0050	0.9m	0.75m		0.26m
0055	0055			Ditch	Cut	E-W aligned ditch, probably cut by [0050], This disappears at E end under an overlaying layer of red sand, see hand -dug section 0063, Rounded profile with steep sides and concave base			0050		0057, 0065				
0056	0055		0056	Segment	seg	Exc. Segment of 0056							1.2m		
0057	0055		0056	Ditch	Fill	Fill of segment 0056 in ditch [0055], yellow-brown sand, no finds			0050		0055	0.44m			0.3m
0058	0058			Ditch	Cut	NW-SE aligned ditch cut by 0050, relationship with 0060 unclear, steep triangular profile on S side with shallow profile on N edge. This is not visible beyond 0060 where most of the ditches merge and are sealed by gradually deepening red sand layer			0050		0065				
0059	0058			Ditch	Fill	Fill of 0058, pale yellow-brown sand with Iron pan bands						0.6m	0.6m		0.23m
0060	0060			Ditch	Cut	SW-NE aligned ditch parallel and immediately SE of 0050, Disappears into modern disturbance at S end and under red sand layer to N. Looks to cut 0055, steep vertical sides and flat base.		0055			0062, 0065	0.76m			0.4m
0061	0060		0061	Segment	seg	Segment of 0060						0.76m	0.6m		0.4m
0062	0060		0061	Ditch	Fill	Orange-brown gravelly sand fill of 0060 in segment 0061, no finds						0.76m	0.6m		0.4
0063			0063	Segment	seg	Segment hand dug across 0055, 0060 and through layers 0064 and 0065, This shows 0060 cutting 0055 and 0055 cutting 0064. 0064 is under 0065 which also cuts 0055									
0064	0073		0063	Layer	Deposit	Grey sand filling natural hollow and seen in many places across the site. This is cut by ditches and underlies a modern? Dense red stony layer	Accumulated deposit in base of natural hollow, underlies modern		0055		0065				
0065	0065	M	0063	Layer	Deposit	? Modern layer of compacted dark red stony sand overlaying all features in area of natural hollow. Machined off over higher areas of the site.	Deliberate deposit to assist levelling and consolidating of this area under paths, leisure facilities etc.								
0066	0066			Ditch	Cut	Curving ditch with triangular profile found near large soakaways at north end of the site.									
0067	0066			Ditch	Fill	Grey sand fill of 0066					0066				
0068	0068			Ditch	cut	Ditch seen truncated by large soakaway. Profile with deep triangular cut in base and shallow sloped upper cut.				0070					
0069	0068			Ditch	Fill	Mid brown fill of upper part of 0068. Suggest that this is the bit that was left open after lower steep cut filled quite quickly.					0070				
0070	0068			Ditch	Fill	Very pale brown sand fill of lower cut in ditch 0068				0069	0068				

Context	Feature	Group	Segment	Identifier	Type	Description	Interpretation	Cuts	Cut By	Under	Over	Width	Length	Diameter	Depth
0071	0071			Pit?	Cut	Possible circular pit north of 0068. Shallow flat based cut. Ill-defined and a bit dubious.									
0072	0071			Pit	Fill	Brown sand fill of 0071.									
0073	0073			Layer	Deposit	Dark grey sand at base of soil profile overlying natural found in various test slots across the central area of the hollow	Accumulated deposit in base of natural hollow, underlies modern								
0074	0074	0074		Ditch	Cut	group number for pair of ditches running approx north-south along east edge of site									
0075				Layer	Deposit	Dense brown sand, possible buried turf line									
0076				Layer	Deposit	Yellow-brown sand under 0075 - original sub-soil									
0077	0073			Layer	Deposit	Dark grey sand overlying natural and 0079 in test pit 4				0078	0079				
0078				Layer	Deposit	Modern deposits at top of test pit 43									0078
0079				Layer	Deposit	Pale grey sand under 0078 in test hole 4. This seems to be within a sloped cut, but too little seen to be sure or too identify the alignment.	Possible E-W ditch.			0077					
0100		0100		Burial											
0101		0101		Pit	cut	Very shallow sub-square pit, flat bottomed filled with mottled pale brown sand, base layer becomes darker (?) staining, v. occasional blobs of slightly burnt clay									
0102		0102		Pit	cut	Same as [0116] Sub-rectangular pit, with vertical sides and flat base, filled in two episodes with charcoal rich fine sand. NO. 0102 ON PLAN, cut by shallow pit 0101									
0103		0103		Burial no.	Burial	Head end of grave in 2002 pipe trench									
0104	0104	0103		Grave	Cut	Wide rectangular steep sided cut, runs under path, E-W aligned, W end only						0.95	>0.8m		
0105	0104	0103		Grave	Fill	Mottled grey-brown sand some unfired clay within this									
0106	0106	0100		Grave	Cut	Sub rectangular, steep sided cut									
0107	0106	0100		Grave	Fill	Grey sand fill									
0108	0106	0100		Skeleton	Skeleton	Male skeleton with spear, almost gone, reduced to a coffee coloured stain, very decayed bone at knee and head of left (?) femur. Skull very decayed, no jaw only fragment of surface enamel from teeth. Length of femur - from stain= 490mm									
0109		0109		Burial	Burial	Burial at N end going under road									
0110	0110	0109		Grave	Cut										
0111	0110	0109		Grave	Fill	Mottled pale grey-brown-yellow sand, upper fill od [0110], Pot 0112 within this									
0112	0110	0109		Pot	Find	Pot at W end of [0109] in fill (0111)									
0113		0109		Pot	Find	Pot against S edge of grave									
0114	0110	0109		Grave	Fill	Coarse, stony yellow sand in centre od grave, under (0111)				0111					
0115	0110	0109		Grave	Fill	Outer fill of grave [0110] - under (0111)				0111					

Context	Feature	Group	Segment	Identifier	Type	Description	Interpretation	Cuts	Cut By	Under	Over	Width	Length	Diameter	Depth
0116	0116			Pit	Cut	Sub-rectangular pit, with vertical sides and flat base, filled in two episodes with charcoal rich fine sand. NO. 0102 ON PLAN, cut by shallow pit 0101			0101						
0117	0116			Pit	Fill	Top fill of [0116], very fine charcoal sand					0118				
0118	0116			Pit	Fill	This layer of pale brown sand separating charcoal fills - suggest that pit was left open between deposits of charcoal					0119				
0119	0116			Pit	Fill	Basal layer of pit [0116], dense fine charcoal sand, contains some burnt bone and some burnt quartzite pebbles red, base of pit unburnt suggesting fill deposited cold, fills 0117 and 0119 v. similar									
0120		0109		Skeleton	skeleton	Skelly in [0109], lower jaw and frag of right arm only, femur position visible as pale sand									
0121	0116			Pit	Fill	Pale brown streaked sand under 0119. Only present in north end of the pit.				0119	0121				
0122	0116			Pit	Fill	Dirty dark sand under 0121.				0121	0116				
0123	0101			Pit	Fill	Small patch of burnt clay in the top of pit 0101, over fill 0123					0123				

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Appendix 3

ERI 161 small finds list

SFNO	CONTEXT	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
1101	0105	Fe	Spearhead	See plan
1102	0100	Fe	Spearhead	See plan
1103	0109	Ae	Annular Br	See plan
1104	0109	Ae	Annular Br	See plan
1105	0109	Ae	Cruciform Br	See plan
1106	0109	Textile/leather	Associated with 1105 but loose	See plan
1107	0109	Bead	Trowelled up from area of other beads	See plan
1108	0109	Bead	Trowelled up from area of other beads	See plan
1109	0109	Bead	Trowelled up from area of other beads	See plan
1110	0109	Bead	Trowelled up from area of other beads	See plan
1111	0109	Bead	Trowelled up from area of other beads	See plan
1112	0100	Fe	Knife	See plan
1113	0109	Ae	Wristclasp	See plan
1114	0109	Ae	Tab with Iron rivet, rivet head upwards	See plan
1115	0109	Fe	Knife	See plan
1116	0109	Fe	Ring	See plan
1117	0109	Ae	Rivet - centrally along knife	See plan
1118	0109	Fe	Latchlifter laying immediately under 1115	See plan
1119	0109	Ae	Wristclasp	See plan
1120	0109		Beads	See plan
1121	0109		Beads	See plan
1122	0109		Beads	See plan
1123	0109		Beads	See plan
1124	0109		Beads	See plan
1125	0109		Beads	See plan
1126	0109		Beads	See plan
1127	0109		Beads	See plan
1128	0109		Beads	See plan
1129	0109		Beads	See plan
1130	0109		Beads	See plan
1131	0109		Beads	See plan
1132	0109		Beads	See plan
1133	0109		Beads	See plan
1134	0109		Beads	See plan
1135	0109		Beads	See plan
1136	0109		Beads	See plan
1137	0109		Beads	See plan
1138	0109		Beads	See plan
1139	0109		Beads	See plan
1140	0109		Beads	See plan
1141	0109		Beads	See plan
1142	0109		Beads	See plan
1143	0109		Beads	See plan
1144	0109		Beads	See plan
1145	0109		Beads	See plan

SFNO	CONTEXT MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
1146	0109	Beads	See plan
1147	0109	Beads	See plan
1148	0109	Beads	See plan
1149	0109	Beads	See plan
1150	0109	Beads	See plan
1151	0109	Beads	See plan
1152	0109	Beads	See plan
1153	0109	Beads	See plan
1154	0109	Beads	See plan
1155	0109	Beads - not used	See plan
1156	0109	Beads	See plan
1157	0109	Beads	See plan
1158	0109	Beads	See plan
1159	0109	Beads - not used	See plan
1160	0109	Beads	See plan
1161	0109	Beads	See plan
1162	0109	Beads - not used	See plan
1163	0109	Beads	See plan
1164	0109	Beads	See plan
1165	0109	Beads	See plan
1166	0109	Beads	See plan
1167	0109	Beads	See plan
1168	0109	Beads	See plan
1169	0109	Beads	See plan

Appendix 4: ERL161 Skeleton Catalogue

Sk. 0108

Male, Young

Condition:

Poor

Description:

Very fragmented, comprises pieces of skull (mostly from R. side), fragments of L. pelvis, legs and feet.

Sex determination:

Large nuchal crest, robust bones (FeHd=48mm).

Age determination:

Head of femur - epiphyseal line still visible within cancellous bone.

Sk. 0120

Female, Young

Condition:

V.poor

Description:

Fragments of mandible, teeth, R. clavicle and R. humerus. Green staining on all surviving fragments.

Sex determination:

Mandible gracile (DF -2.0), teeth very small.

Age determination:

Tooth wear slight.

Teeth

-	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		1	2	3	4	5	6	-	-
8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Attrition:

-	2-	3-	2-	2-	2+	2	3-		3-	2-	2+	2-	2-	3-	-	-
1	-	-	2-	2+	2+	2+	3-		3-	3-	2+	2-	2+	-	-	1

Calculus:

Slight-Medium

Hypoplasia:

c.2-5

Caries:

None

Non-metrics:

slight shovelling upper incisors

Dental Path:

calc on ant. lower teeth; hyp slight ridges lower canine; alv res v slight