

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

## Munitions Loading Area, Building 1466, RAF Lakenheath LKH 237

### A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF A NEW MUNITIONS LOADING AREA AND HARDSTANDING ADJACENT TO BUILDING 1466.

Planning Application No.:F/2002/122

NGR: TL 7326 8256

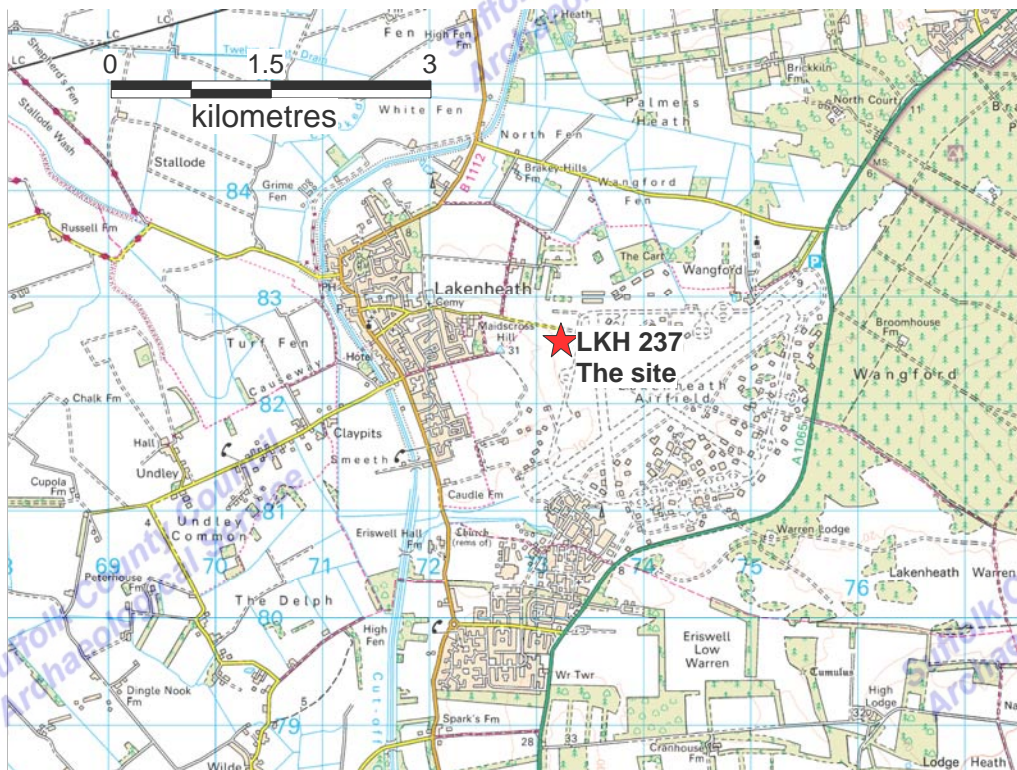
Oasis Ref. Suffolkc1-4349

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## Summary

Archaeological monitoring during the construction of a new munitions loading bay alongside Building 1466 at RAF Lakenheath showed a predominantly truncated soil profile. The least truncated east side of the site contained one, undated, east-west aligned ditch.



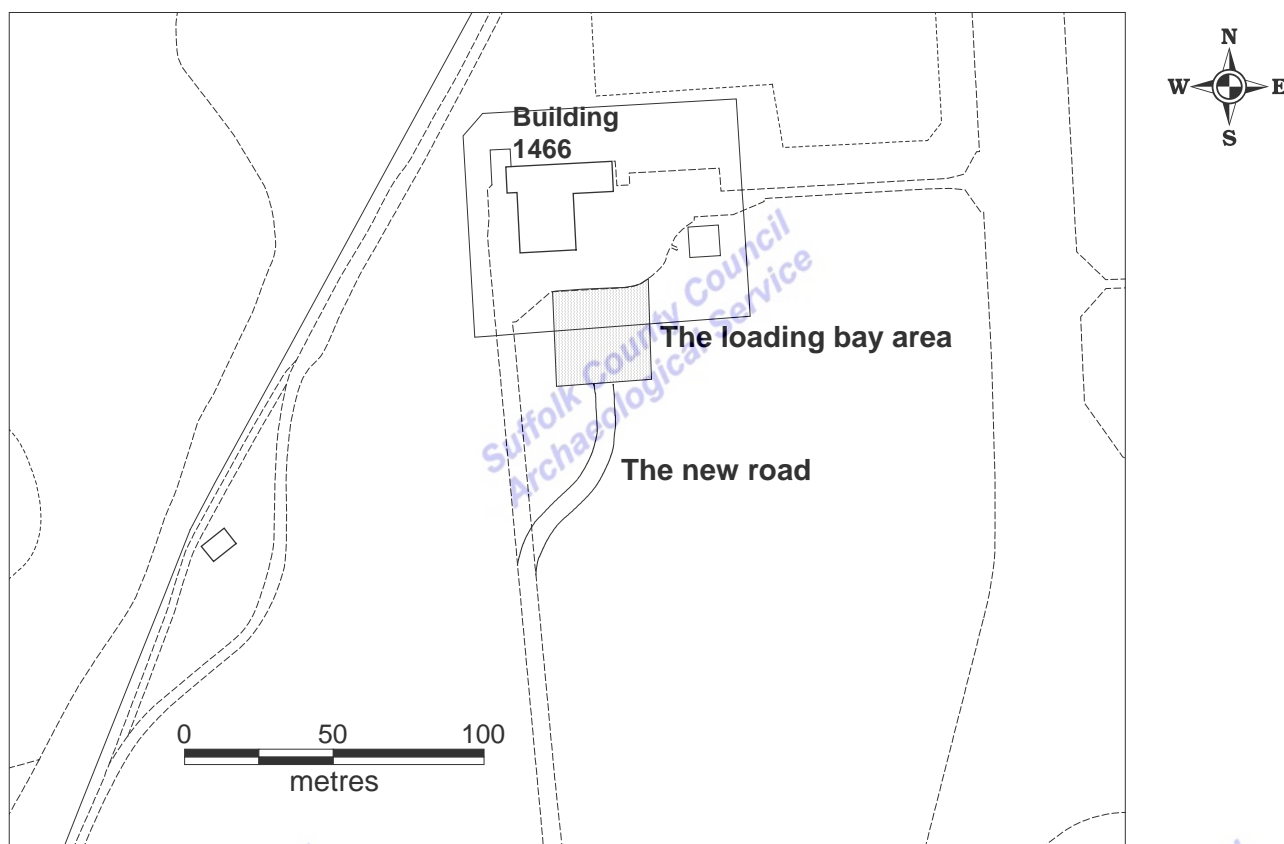
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Figure 1 Site location

## Introduction

Archaeological monitoring was carried out during the construction of a new Munitions Loading Bay and Access Road beside Building 1466 at RAF Lakenheath (Figs. 1 and 2). The site lies at the west edge of the airfield, c.250m south of an area of Early Iron Age features, LKH 211 (Caruth 2001).

The monitoring consisted of some continuous observation of the untruncated east edge of the site and further occasional visits to the remainder. Approximately 30% of the machining was monitored. The final visit was made when the road was c.60% stripped and no further visits were considered likely to be profitable. Sections and plans were recorded at 1:20 and 1:100 as appropriate. The most important evidence recorded was of landscape changes which probably occurred during the construction and/or expansion of the airfield in the second half of the twentieth century. The site was recorded under the SMR number LKH 237 and five context numbers issued (see Table 1).



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Figure 2 Detailed site location

## Results

A single east-west aligned ditch was identified in the east side of the Munitions Loading Bay area. This could be traced for c.8m but was then lost as increasing truncation of the subsoil was evident (Fig. 3). The ditch was 0.8m wide x 0.7m deep (at eastern section) and lay directly under topsoil (Fig. 4). No other features were seen and no finds were recovered.

The site was level grassland prior to this development, but the excavation for the loading area and road clearly showed that the area had been formerly truncated. The best preserved subsoil surface could be found in the north-east corner of the loading bay area. The truncation of the subsoil (orange sand) could be seen to increase to the west, and the natural topography beyond

the site showed a steep slope at the perimeter fence leading to the natural east facing slope of Maids Cross Hill, outside the Base. This evidence seems to suggest that a, probably gentle, east facing slope extending from this site to the perimeter of the airfield was truncated during the construction of and/or extension to the airfield in the middle part of the 20th century. In places, along the western edge of the site, a buried soil could be seen to survive under modern topsoil, but much of this also looked recent and it is probably the result of modern redeposition during levelling.

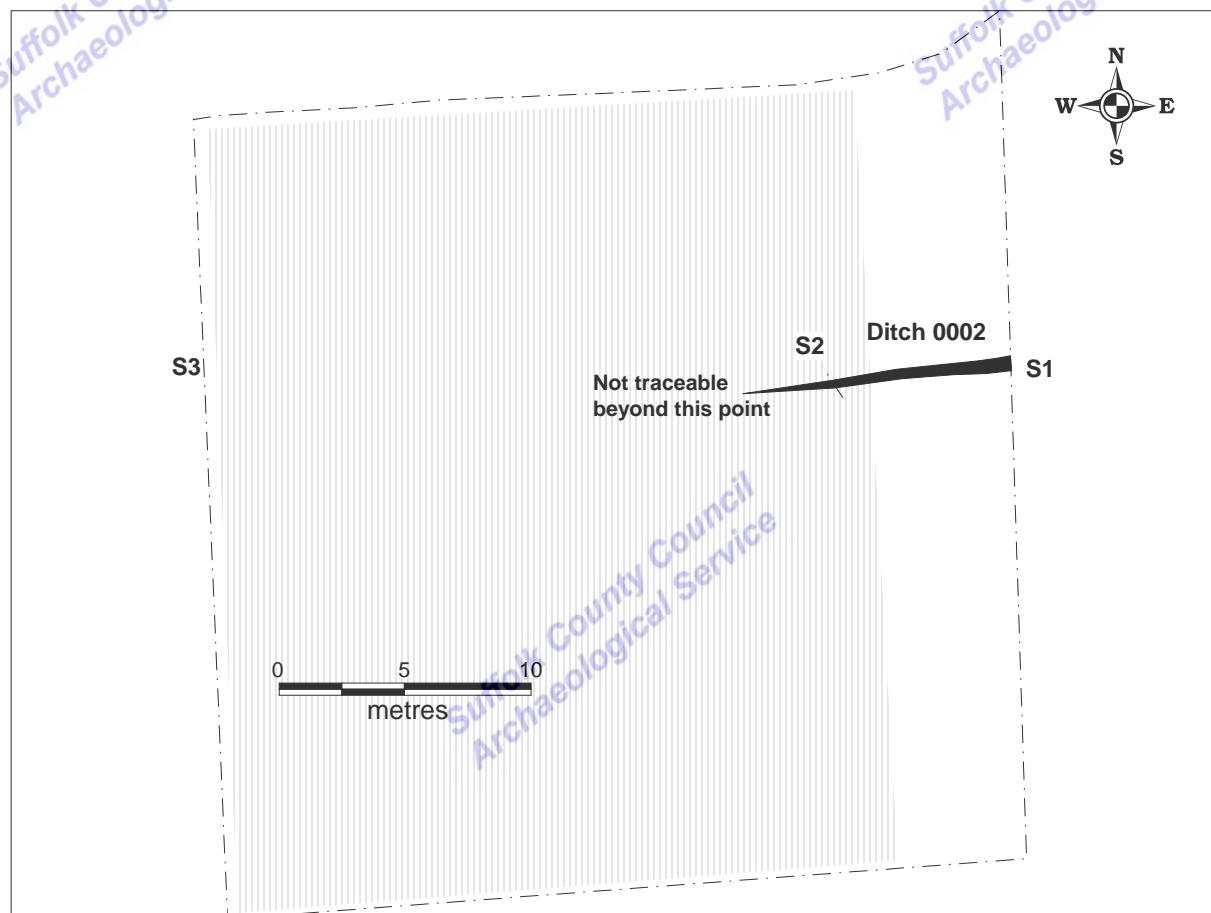


Figure 3 Feature in Munitions Loading Bay

OPNO	Feature	Identifier	Description
0001	0001	Unstratified finds	Number issued to U/S finds, of which there were none.
0002	0002	Ditch cut	East-west aligned ditch, only visible for 8m at east edge of site, truncated elsewhere. No finds.
0003	0002	Ditch fill	Fine, almost stoneless grey-brown sand fill of ditch 0002 at section 2. Central fill in section 1. No finds
0004	0002	Ditch fill	Mid grey upper sand fill of 0002 in section 1. No finds
0005	0002	Ditch fill	Basal fill of ditch 0002 in section 1. Mid-dark grey sand. No finds

Table 1 Context list

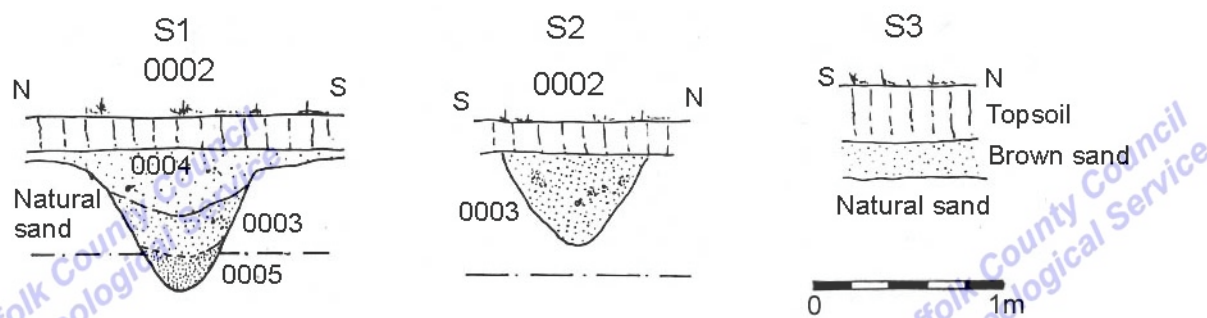


Figure 4 Ditch plan and section

## Conclusion

The presence of a single, undated ditch indicates an archaeological presence, however the extensive truncation of the subsoil makes it impossible to interpret this further.

Jo Caruth  
July 2005

## Reference

Caruth, J., 2001 *Archaeological Monitoring Report, New Perimeter Road, RAF Lakenheath, LKH 211*. SCCAS Report no. 2005/96