

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/220

Lakenheath Playing Fields, Eriswell Road, Lakenheath LKH 323

E. Muldowney
© August 2009
www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/e-and-t/archaeology

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

HER Information

Planning Application No: F/2009/0126/FUL

Date of Fieldwork: 25.08.2009

Grid Reference: TL 717 820

Funding Body: Lakenheath Playing Fields Association

Curatorial Officer: Dr Jess Tipper

Project Officer: Liz Muldowney

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-63759

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

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

Summary

	Page
1. Introduction	1
2. Geology and topography	1
3. Archaeological and historical background	1
4. Methodology	6
5. Results	6
5.1 Introduction	6
5.2 Trench 1 (Fig. 4)	7
6. Finds and environmental evidence	9
6.1 Introduction	9
6.2 Ceramic Building Material	10
6.3 Post-medieval bottle glass	10
6.4 Animal bone	10
7. Discussion	10
8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work	11
9. Archive deposition	11
10. Contributors and acknowledgements	11
11. Bibliography	11
Disclaimer	11

List of Figures

1. Site location showing trenches (black) and development area (red) 2
2. Selected HER references within the vicinity of the development area (shaded red) 5
3. 1st edition OS map (1880's) showing development area (shaded red) and trenches 5
4. Plan and sections 8

List of Tables

1. Selected HER references 3
2. Trench summary 7
3. Finds quantities 9

List of Appendices

1. Brief and specification
2. Context Information

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at the Lakenheath Playing Fields on the 25th August 2009, in advance of the construction of a new sports pavilion, associated car parking and a below ground heating system. Two trenches were excavated: Trench 2 was devoid of archaeology; Trench 1 contained three intercutting post-medieval ditches and a modern pit.

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

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at the Lakenheath Playing Fields, Eriswell Road, Lakenheath on the 25th August 2009. The work was carried out in accordance with a brief and specification issued by Dr Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team). This document is included as Appendix 1. The brief and specification was supplemented by a written scheme of investigation (WSI) produced by Andrew Tester (Tester 2009). The work was undertaken in advance of the construction of a new sports pavilion with associated below ground heating system and car parking. Funding for the work was provided by the Lakenheath Playing Fields Association.

2. Geology and topography

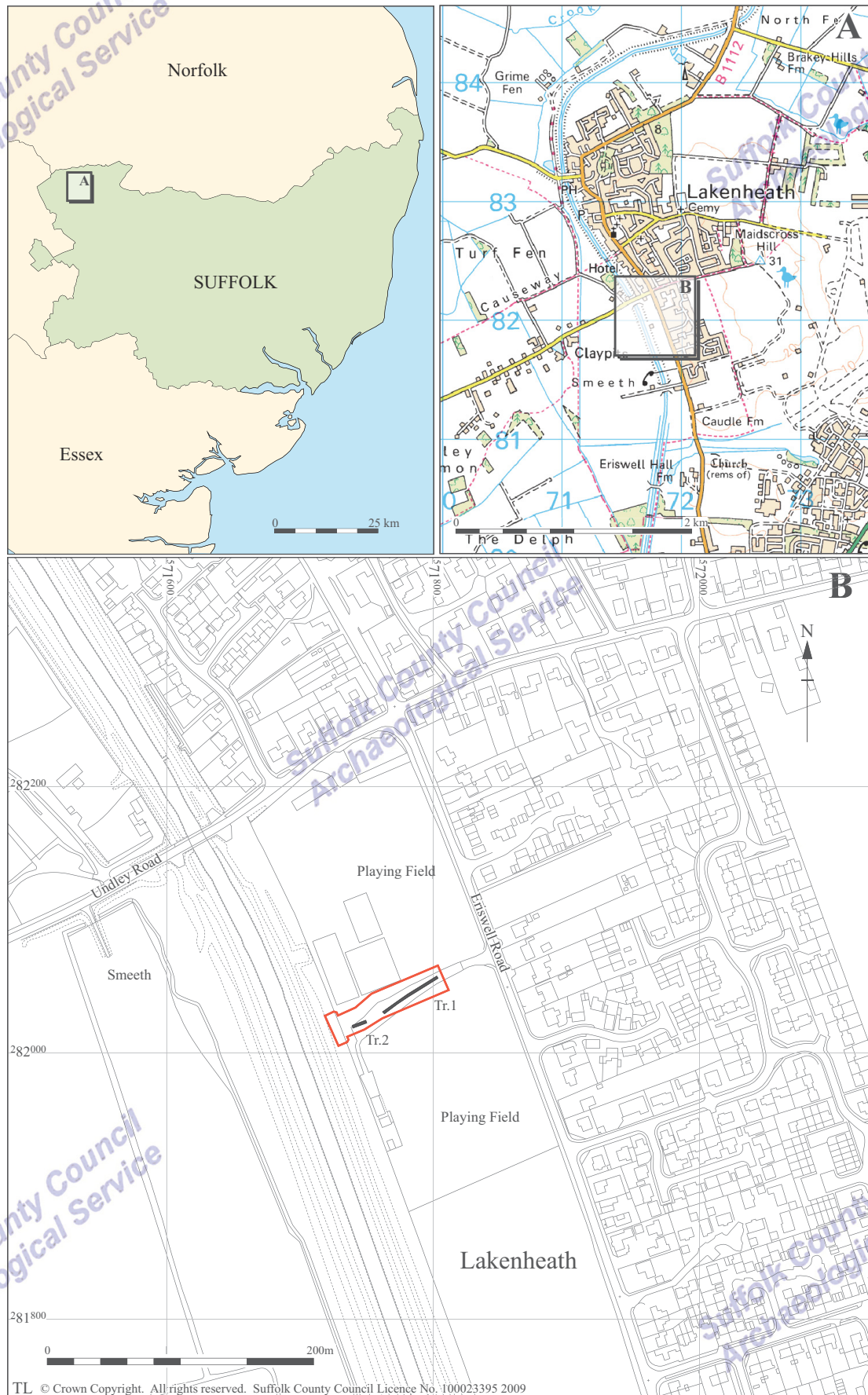
The site lies at TL 717 820 to the south-west of the core of the modern village of Lakenheath on the edge of the fens. The Playing Fields are located between the B1112, Eriswell Road to the east and the mid 20th century drainage feature, the Cut Off Channel to the west (Fig 1). The development area measured 0.18 hectares and encompassed the footprint of the proposed new building, the car park and the heating system. It is currently used as an access road for the playing fields to the north and south and leads to the current cricket pavilion to the south. The ground surface sloped very gently from the road to the north-east down to the bank of the Cut Off Channel. At the north-east end of the development area the access road surface is at 5.3m OD, and at the south-west end it is at 4.5m OD. This change in height is mirrored at the geological horizon where the level is at 4.74m OD at the north-east and 3.8m OD at the south-west. The geological horizon consisted of orangey yellow sands, with the site located on the western edge of the Methwold series of deep sands with chalky drift where it meets fen peat over glaciofluvial drift. No peat was encountered in the development area.

3. Archaeological and historical background

The development area lies within an area of archaeological interest, although few archaeological interventions have taken place within the vicinity. Thirty-one Historic

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service



Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Figure 1. Site location showing trenches (black) and development area (red)

Environment Records (HER) are located within approximately 1.5km radius of the evaluated area. These are listed in Table 1 below and their positions shown on Figure 2. Of these thirty-one references, nineteen represent find spots for artefacts recovered from the surface of fields and metal detected finds. These artefacts range in date from Palaeolithic to post-medieval with all periods between represented. Four archaeological interventions have taken place: a Romano-British ditch (LKH 076) was recorded during an excavation; an early Anglo Saxon cemetery (LKH 042) was excavated on Maids Cross Hill to the north-east; multi-period artefacts were recovered during monitoring (LKH 202) on a property close to the Cut Off Channel to the north and a prehistoric pit was recorded during an excavation on land to the east of Eriswell Road (LKH 269). Beyond the 1.5km radius within the fen edge environment numerous find spots and archaeological sites have been recorded including a large Anglo Saxon cemetery to the south-east of the development area within the USAF airbase at RAF Lakenheath.

The development area lay to the south of the medieval core of the village and therefore it was considered unlikely that archaeology of this date would be encountered. However, the density of the find spots within the vicinity indicated that occupation dating from the prehistoric, Romano-British or Anglo-Saxon period was quite likely. The 1st edition OS map (1880's) shows that in the late post-medieval period the development area was within fields west of the Eriswell Road, bounded to the south-west by fenland drains (Fig. 3).

Reference	Type	Form	Date	Description
LKH 026	Find spot	Metalwork	Romano-British	3rd century AD coin
LKH 028	Find spot	Metalwork	Romano-British	4th century AD coin
LKH 035	Find spot	Various	Palaeolithic, Iron Age	Late Palaeolithic flint hand axe; double Iron Age cremation urn containing burnt human bone discovered in 1914
LKH 036	Find spot	Flint	Palaeolithic	Flint implements recovered from gravel pits
LKH 041	Find spot	Various	Bronze Age, Iron Age, Anglo-Saxon	Bronze Age spearhead found in carrot wash in 1972 Iron Age brooch plate said to have been in a grave found in 19th century Anglo-Saxon beads found on many skeletons in c. 1888
LKH 042	Excavation	Cemetery	Anglo-Saxon	Early Anglo-Saxon pottery found with inhumed skeletons and with cremated remains in 1952-3
LKH 043	Map ref.	Barrow	Unknown	Possible site of prehistoric barrow
LKH 047	Find spot	Metalwork	Medieval	Two silver pennies
LKH 048	Find spot	Flint	Bronze Age	Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead, half a javelin head
LKH 051	Find spot	Flint	Neolithic	Leaf shaped arrowhead from ploughsoil
LKH 053	Find spot	Metalwork	Bronze Age	Mid to late Bronze Age palstave
LKH 057	Find spot	Pottery	Medieval	Medieval pottery found on edge of new Cut Off Channel
LKH 058	Find spot	Pottery	Medieval	Medieval pottery recovered from upcast of Cut Off Channel
LKH 076	Excavation	Ditch	Romano-British	2nd to 4th century pottery recovered from a

Reference	Type	Form	Date	Description
LKH 102	Find spot	Flint	Neolithic	Romano-British ditch Leaf shaped arrowhead
LKH 103	Find spot	Metalwork	Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon, medieval	Three bronze Romano-British brooches found in garden. Anglo-Saxon bronze dress fitting. Medieval buckle, bookmount, fittings, pin and stud
LKH 104	Find spot	Metalwork	Anglo-Saxon	Late Anglo-Saxon brooch
LKH 110	Find spot	Metalwork	Anglo-Saxon	Metal detected finds including coins and brooches
LKH 112	Building	Church	Medieval	St Mary's church, Norman structure with 13th century modifications
LKH 116	Find spot	Flint	Bronze Age	Barbed and tanged arrowhead
LKH 129	Map ref.	Windmill	Post-medieval	Windmill recorded on 1783 Hodskinson's map and 1850 tithe map. Mound survives below modern bungalow
LKH 130	Find spot	Various	Medieval, post-medieval	Items recovered from metal detecting and field walking including coins, a seal, a button, tokens, pilgrim badges, glass and a bone comb
LKH 131	Map ref.	Windmill	Post-medieval	Site of windmill recorded on 1850 tithe map and 1880 1st edition OS map
LKH132	Map ref.	Windmill	Post-medieval	Site of windmill and house recorded on 1854 tithe map
LKH 134	Cropmark	Unknown	Unknown	Rectangular marks seen by USAF pilots
LKH 151	Map ref.	Limekiln and chalk pit	Post-medieval	Chalk pit shown on 1880s OS map associated with a lime kiln
LKH 156	Find spot	Flint	Prehistoric	Burnt flint found during field walking
LKH 161	Map ref.	Windmill	Post-medieval	Windmill recorded on 1783 Hodskinson's map
LKH 181	Find spot	Various	Bronze Age, Iron Age, Romano-British, medieval, post-medieval	Metal detected finds including a Bronze Age rapier point, an Iron Age coin, 3rd to 4th century AD brooch, buckles, tokens and coins and seals. All recovered from Bell Meadow
LKH 202	Monitoring	Various	prehistoric, Anglo-Saxon, medieval	Burnt and worked flint, mid Anglo-Saxon and medieval pottery
LKH 269	Evaluation	Pit	Prehistoric	A single small prehistoric pit recorded during an evaluation at 6 Eriswell Drive

Table 1. Selected HER references

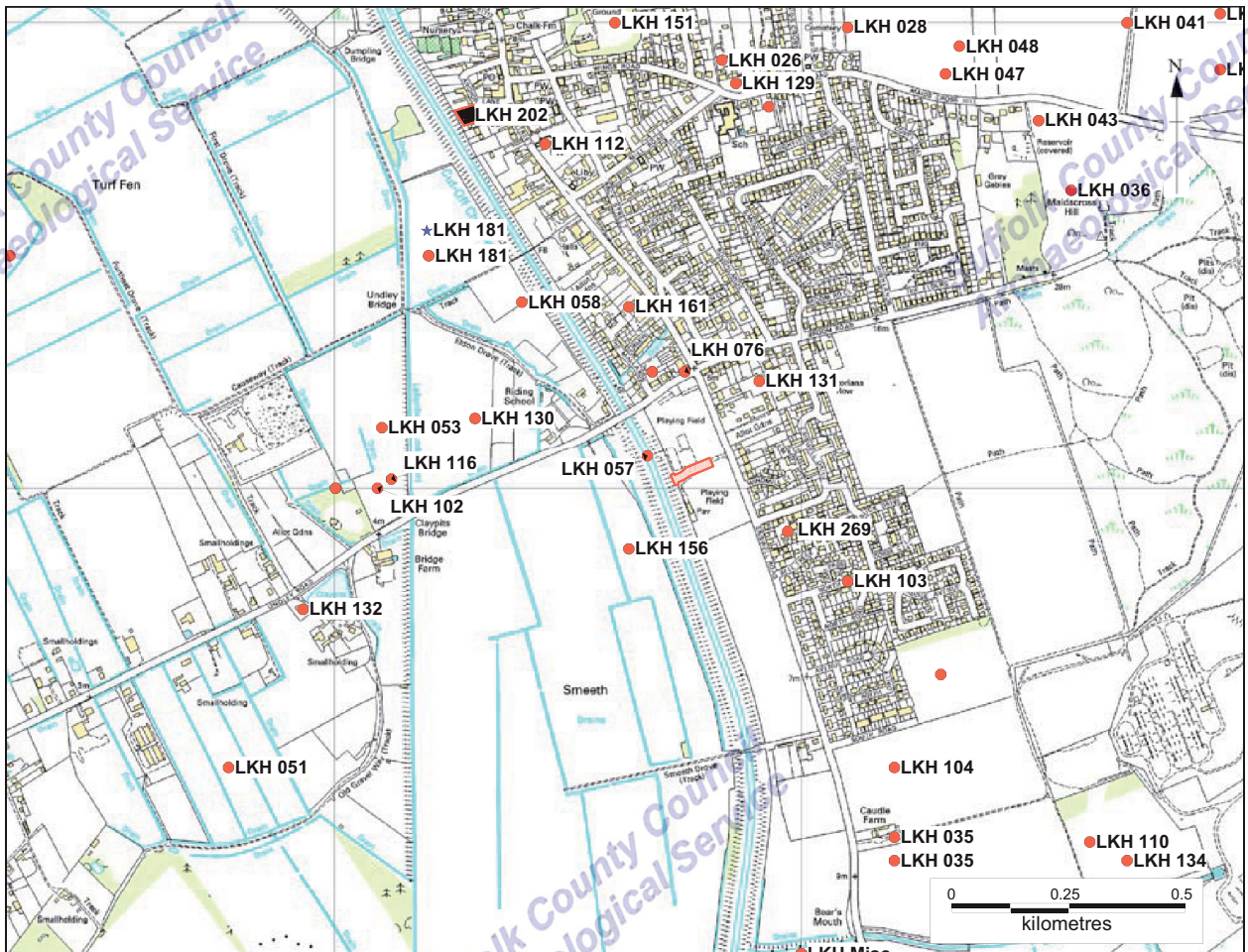


Figure 2. Selected HER references within the vicinity of the development area (shaded red)

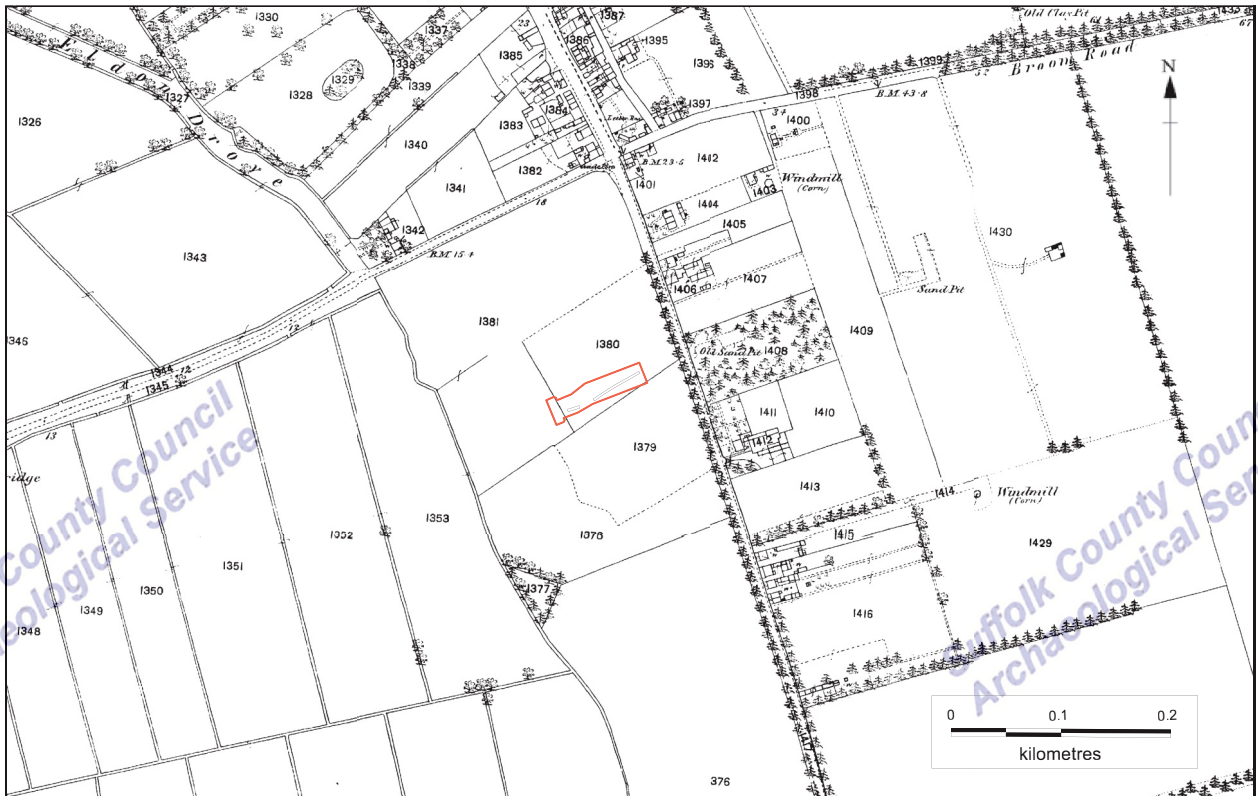


Figure 3. 1st Edition OS map (1880's) showing development area (shaded red) and trenches

4. Methodology

A programme of evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief and specification provided by Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team), supplemented by a written scheme of investigation produced by Andrew Tester (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team). This required the excavation of 5% of the 0.18 hectare development area. Two linear trenches were excavated within the footprint of the proposed structure and the associated below ground heating system. These trenches measured 59.7m in total length, covering an area of 137.31m², 7.7% of the total development area. The trenches were excavated by an 18 tonne tracked 360 degree Hitachi excavator fitted with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision.

The excavation and recording was carried out in accordance with SCCAS guidelines, and all records were created using SCCAS proformas. Plans and sections were produced at an appropriate scale and photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits on 35mm monochrome print film and high resolution (7 megapixel) digital images were also taken. Differential GPS (Leica GPS 1200) was used to locate the trenches and to establish heights AOD for the features and trenches. All finds, except those that were obviously modern were retained for inspection, and no environmental samples were taken.

5. Results

5.1 Introduction

Two trenches were excavated within the development area; four archaeological features were encountered in Trench 1, but Trench 2 was devoid of archaeology. Both trenches were excavated through the present Playing Fields access road. The trenches are summarized in Table 2 below; the features and deposits are then described in stratigraphic order below.

Trench	Size	Orientation	Road surface depth	Topsoil depth	Subsoil depth	Overall depth	Archaeology	Notes
1	48.4m x 2.1m	NE- SW	0.10m	0.12m	0.22m	0.50m	3 ditches and a modern pit	Modern pit unexcavated
2	11.3m x 2.1m	ENE- WSW	0.20m	0.17m	0.15m	0.55m	None	

Table 2. Trench Summary

5.2 Trench 1 (Fig. 4)

Four features were recorded in Trench 1; three ditches and a square pit. Fill descriptions will be included where relevant, and full context descriptions are included in Appendix 2.

Ditch 0002 (Fig. 4, Section 1) was a north-east to south-west oriented linear feature, cut into the natural geological horizon. It was partially obscured by the north-west baulk, and its south-east side was steep with a gradual break of slope to a concave base. It measured 13.5m+ in length, 0.5m+ in width and 0.40m in depth. Lower fill 0003 was mid orangey grey silty sand 0.12m in depth showing evidence of in-wash from the sandy edges of the ditch. Upper fill 0004 was light orangey grey silty sand. Neither fill contained artefacts. Ditch 0002 was either the same as, or keyed into north-north-west to south-south-east oriented ditch 0012. It did not continue to the south-west beyond ditch 0012.

Ditch 0012 (Fig. 4, Section 2) was north-north-west to south-south-east oriented, linear in plan with a gradual eroded upper edge becoming steeper with a sharp break of slope to a flat base. It measured 1.2m in width, and 0.50m in depth. It cut the natural geological horizon and appeared to be connected to perpendicular ditch 0002, forming a T-shaped ditch junction. Lower fill 0013 was similar to and merged with fill 0003 in the base of ditch 0002. Upper fill 0014 was mid grey brown silty sand; it merged with the upper fill of later ditch 0005 on the surface where the two could not be distinguished. Neither fill contained artefacts. Upper fill 0014 was cut by ditch 0005.

Ditch 0005 (Fig. 4, Sections 1 and 2) was linear in plan, adjacent to and parallel with ditch 0012. It clipped the east-north-east side of ditch 0012 and cut across the line of ditch 0002. It had gradual upper sides becoming steep with a sharp break of slope to a near vertical-sided channel with a sharp break of slope to a flat base. It measured 1.14m in width and 0.42m in depth. The ditch contained three fills; basal fill 0006 was

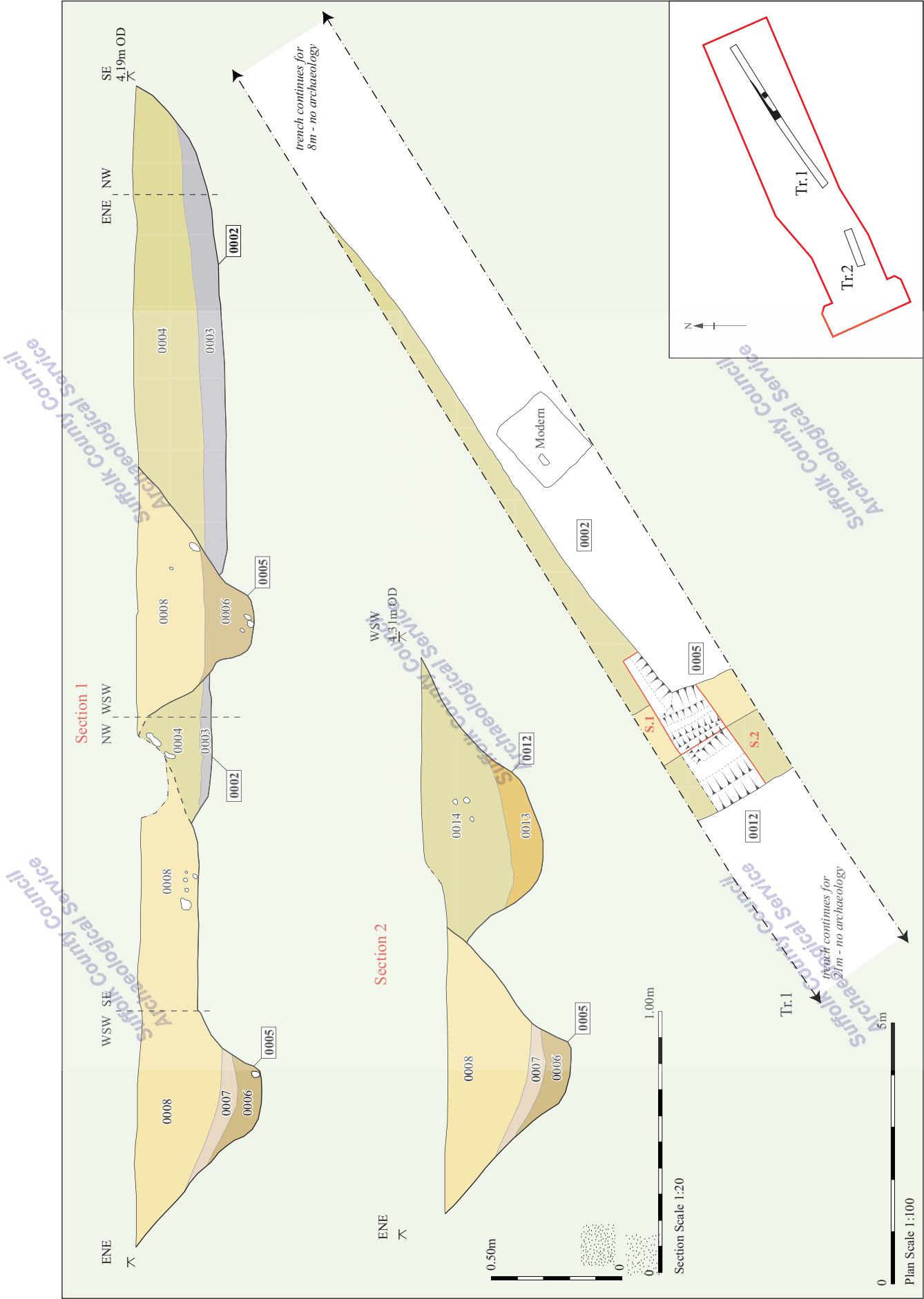


Figure 4. Plan and sections

firm dark orangey grey silty sand with some clay content. This fill was confined to the narrow channel in the base and contained part of a large cow or horse rib bone. This was sealed by fill 0007, light whitish yellow loose sand that had entered the ditch from the east-north-east side and represented a slump of the natural sandy edge of the ditch. This was sealed by upper fill 0008, mid greyish brown friable silty sand. It contained a fragment of bovine ankle bone, a fragment of post-medieval wine bottle glass dating from the 18th to 19th century and a post-medieval tile fragment. The ditch appeared to be sealed by subsoil 0009.

Subsoil 0009 was a layer of mid yellowy brown friable silty sand measuring approximately 0.22m in depth in Trench 1 (0.15m in Trench 2). It sealed ditch 0005 but was cut by the uncontexted modern pit (Fig. 4).

An unexcavated square pit was observed cutting the subsoil from just below the topsoil during machining. It was recorded in plan where it cut natural. The pit had a mixed mid greyish brown silty sand fill with moderate charcoal flecks. An unfrosted well-fired half brick (10.5cm in width by 6cm in height) was recovered from the fill.

Topsoil 0010 sealed this pit. It was dark brownish grey friable silty sand measuring between 0.12m and 0.17m in depth. This layer was sealed by road surface 0011.

Road surface 0011 comprised a mixture of gravel, concrete, tarmac and rubble and was between 0.10 and 0.20m in depth. This formed the access road between the playing fields leading to the existing cricket pavilion.

6. Finds and environmental evidence

6.1 Introduction

Finds were collected from two contexts, as shown in the table below.

Context	CBM		P-Med glass		Animal bone		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0006					1	31	
0008	1	127	1	26	1	31	18th -19th C
Total	1	127	1	26	2	62	

Table 3. Finds quantities

6.2 Ceramic building material

A curved fragment of ceramic building material, probably part of a pantile was recovered from ditch fill 0008. It is made of poorly mixed red medium sandy clay, with coarse red and white grog and occasional ferrous inclusions. Although similar to estuarine fabrics of medieval date, the tile is most likely to be post-medieval.

6.3 Post-medieval bottle glass

A single fragment from the lower part of a post-medieval wine bottle was identified in ditch fill 0008. It is cylindrical in shape and dates to the 18th-19th century.

6.4 Animal bone

A large rib fragment was collected from lower ditch fill 0006 and part of a chopped bovine astragalus was present in ditch fill 0008.

7. Discussion

It is likely that the three ditches in Trench 1 are all of post-medieval date. Ditches 0002 and 0012 formed a T-shaped ditch and were probably in contemporary usage; their basal fills (0003 and 0013) were very similar in composition and merged in plan. Ditch 0012 if it continued on the same alignment would have been parallel with Eriswell Road 60m to the north-east and on a broadly similar alignment to the fenland drains to the south-west recorded on the 1st edition OS map (Fig. 3). Ditch 0002 was set at right angles to ditch 0012 on its north-east side and was on a similar orientation to the field boundaries recorded on this map (Fig. 3). Despite the lack of dating evidence for these features it seems likely that they were post-medieval field boundaries and drainage ditches predating the late 19th century system that shared these alignments.

Ditch 0005 was probably a recut of the north-north-west to south-south-east boundary ditch 0012. It cut across and marked the disuse of the boundary ditch 0002 at this point. The bottle glass fragment recovered from upper fill 0008 indicated an 18th or 19th century date for the disuse of the ditch.

The uncontexted square pit is likely to have been of either 19th or early 20th century date, on the basis of the brick seen in the fill and its stratigraphic position cutting subsoil 0009 which appeared to seal the three ditches.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

Despite the potential for encountering archaeological remains of prehistoric, Romano-British or Anglo-Saxon date, only post-medieval and modern features were encountered within the development area. The post-medieval ditches are likely to have been field boundary ditches of 18th or early 19th century date. The low density and late date of the features encountered suggest that further mitigation within the relatively confined development area is likely to be unproductive.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

T:\Arc\ALL_site\Lakenheath\playing fields 2009

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds. Store Location: Parish Box H/80/5

10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The evaluation was carried out by Liz Muldowney from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was directed by Liz Muldowney, and managed by Andrew Tester.

The post-excavation was managed by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing was carried out by Jonathon van Jennians, and the specialist finds report was produced by Richenda Goffin. The report was checked by Richenda Goffin.

11. Bibliography

- Craven, J.A., 2006 Land to the rear of 6 Eriswell Drive, Lakenheath LKH 269. SCCAS Report No. 2006/173
- Tester, A., 2009 Lakenheath Playing Fields, Archaeological Evaluation, Project Design, Method Statement and Risk Assessment. SCCAS

Disclaimer

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

Appendix 1 Brief and specification

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation LAKENHEATH PLAYING FIELDS, ERISWELL ROAD, LAKENHEATH, SUFFOLK (F/2009/0126/FUL)

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities.

1. The nature of the development and archaeological requirements

1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Forest Heath District Council (F/2009/0126/FUL) for the erection of a pavilion building and associated works at Lakenheath Playing Fields, Eriswell Road, Lakenheath (TL 717 820). Please contact the developer for an accurate location plan.

1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins (PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition).

1.3 The area of the proposed development (which measures c. 90.00 x 25.00m in area) is located on the west side of Eriswell Road and on the east side of The Cut-Off Channel, above the fen edge. It is situated close to the interface between chalky drift (deep sand), to the east, and fen peat over glaciofluvial drift, to the west, at c. 5.00m AOD.

1.4 This application lies in an area of high archaeological potential, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. Archaeological evaluation to the south-east of this site defined a prehistoric pit (HER No. LKH 269) that is indicative of further occupation remains within this area. There is high potential for encountering late prehistoric occupation deposits at this location and in this landscape setting, above the fen edge. There is also high potential for encountering palaeo-environmental deposits at this location. Aspects of the proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

1.5 In order to inform the archaeological mitigation strategy, the following work will be required:

A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area; allowance should be made also for palaeo-environmental assessment if remains are encountered.

1.6 The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. Decisions on the need for and scope of any mitigation measures, should there be any archaeological finds of significance, will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of an additional specification.

1.7 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.

1.8 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.

1.9 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 Written Scheme of Investigation (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 (9 – 10 The Churchyard, 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 WSI as satisfactory. The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to satisfy the requirements of the planning condition.

1.10 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 the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of SCC (SCCAS/CT) before execution.

1.11 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work, e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.

1.12 Any changes to the specifications that the project archaeologist may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS/CT and the client for approval.

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*.

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 the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.

2.4 Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.

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 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.

2.7 The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT (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. 3

2.8 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.

2.9 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3. Specification: Trenched Evaluation

3.1 One or more trial trenches are to be excavated to cover the area of the new pavilion and also the area of parking/ground source heat slinkies. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this should result in a minimum of 75.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width.

3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.50m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins.

3.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket, down to the interface layer between topsoil and subsoil or other visible archaeological surface. 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 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. For guidance:

For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min.) should be excavated across their width;

For discrete features, such as pits, 50% of their fills should be sampled (in some instances 100% may be requested).

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 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeo-environmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. The contractor shall show what provision has been made for environmental assessment of the site and must provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeo-environmental and palaeo-economic 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 Rachel Ballantyne, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.

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 SCCAS/CT 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. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with SCCAS/CT.

3.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.

3.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

3.15 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT.

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 SCCAS/CT. The archaeological contractor will give not less than five days written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.

4.2 The composition of the archaeology contractor staff must be detailed and agreed by this office, including any subcontractors/specialists. For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this evaluation there must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites and publication record. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.

4.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfil the Brief.

4.4 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.

4.5 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.

4.6 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) 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 report should reflect the aims of the WSI.

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 evaluation 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, including an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. 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 The results of the surveys should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County Historic Environment Record (HER).

5.8 A copy of the Specification should be included as an appendix to the report.

5.9 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain an HER number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.

5.10 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.

5.11 The project manager should consult the SCC Archive Guidelines 2008 and also the County HER Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive.

5.12 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure the proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).

5.13 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the finds with the County HER or a museum in Suffolk which satisfies Museum and Galleries Commission requirements, as an indissoluble part of the full site archive. If this is not achievable for all or parts of the finds archive then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate. If the County HER is the repository for finds there will be a charge made for storage, and it is presumed that this will also be true for storage of the archive in a museum.

5.14 The site archive is to be deposited with the County HER within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.

5.15 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 6 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 SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.

5.16 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.

5.17 An unbound copy of the evaluation report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.

Following acceptance, two copies of the report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT together with a digital .pdf version.

5.18 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County HER. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.

5.19 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.

5.20 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper
Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Service Delivery
9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR
Tel: 01284 352197
Email: jess.tipper@suffolk.gov.uk

Date: 8 July 2009 Reference: / PlayingFields-Lakenheath2009 **This brief and specification remains valid for six 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.**

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 2 Context Information

Context	Within Cut	Filled by	Category	Type	Description	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
0002		0003, 0004	Cut	Ditch	Linear East to West	Linear ditch truncated by north to south ditch 0005. Does not continue to the west beyond ditch 0005. Either turns or stops - after further excavation this ditch appears to join or is same as north to south oriented ditch 0012 forming a t-shaped ditch	1.4	0.5	0.4
0003	0002		Fill	Ditch	Firm Mid orangey grey	Rare rounded flint pebbles			0.12
0004	0002		Fill	Ditch	Loose Light orangey grey	Occasional sub-angular flints			0.26
0005		0006, 0007, 0008	Cut	Ditch	Linear North to South	Ditch cutting across ditch 0002. Probable post-medieval boundary	1.4	1.0	0.42
0006	0005		Fill	Ditch	Firm Dark orangey grey	Basal fill of ditch in channel, contained a ?cow rib bone.			0.15
0007	0005		Fill	Ditch	Loose Light whitish yellow	Slump of sand from east side of ditch			0.08
0008	0005		Fill	Ditch	Friable Mid greyish brown	Upper fill of ditch, contains animal bone, a post-medieval glass bottle fragment and a handmade tile fragment. Tile looks late medieval. Could be deliberate backfill of ditch			0.30
0009			Layer	Subsoil	Friable Mid yellowy brown				
0010			Layer	Topsoil	Friable Dark brownish grey				
0011			Layer	Surface		Playing field access road composed			

Context	Within Cut	Filled by	Category	Type	Description	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
0012		0013, 0014	Cut	Ditch (external)	Linear North to South	of gravel, rubble, concrete and tarmac North to south ditch cut by ditch 0005 on same alignment, could continue as ditch 0002. If not same as 0002 the two key into each other.	1.1	1.2	0.5
0013	0012		Fill	Ditch	Firm Dark orangey grey	Lower fill of ditch			0.10
0014	0012		Fill	Ditch	Loose Mid grey brown	Upper fill of ditch 0012			0.4