

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

## RAF LAKENHEATH, INSTALL STREET LIGHTING ERL 146

### A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF THE INSTALLATION OF STREET LIGHTING AT RAF LAKENHEATH SEWAGE WORKS.

Planning Application No.:not applicable

NGR: TL 729 807

Oasis Ref. Suffolkc1- 9160

Funded by: Defence Estates USF

SCCAS Report no. 2005/99

### Summary

Monitoring carried out during the installation of street lighting at the sewage works on RAF Lakenheath revealed the upper 0.5m of ground to be disturbed. Wind blown grey sand was observed in one of the lamp post pits, which was found to overlay archaeological deposits on the adjoining site, ERL 023. By analogy with this site it is likely that archaeological levels are preserved beneath the area of the street lighting.

### Introduction

Monitoring was carried out during the excavation of pits to install street lighting at the sewage works on RAF Lakenheath and on the connecting cable trenches (Figures 1-2). The site lies adjacent to Caudle Head and an area which has produced evidence of settlement from the Iron Age to Saxon periods, ERL 023, (Tester 1993). Visits were made to the site during the excavation of c. 40% the connecting trenches. Only two of the lighting pits were examined.

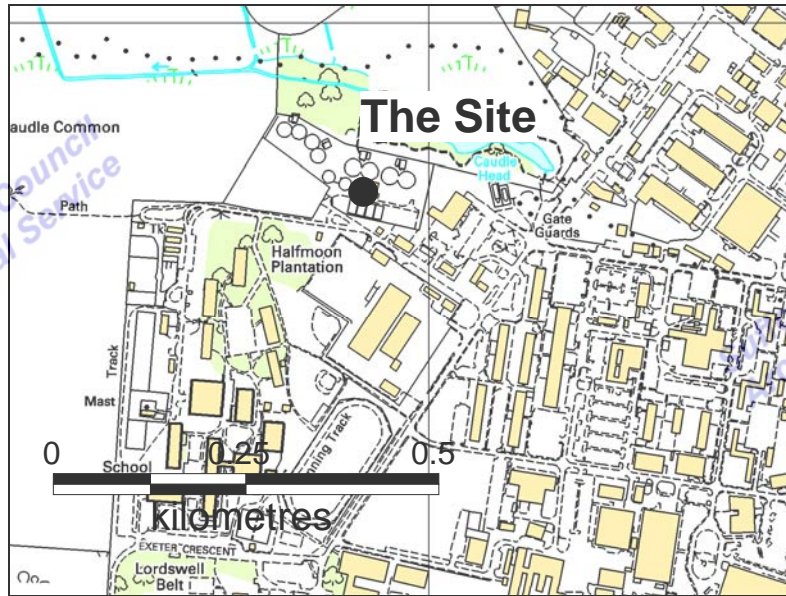
### Results

The connecting trenches were narrow, c.0.25m, and for the entire length where the trenches were seen they were excavated into built-up or disturbed ground. Two of the lighting pits were seen after excavation. The eastern-most of these was also dug into disturbed ground. The western-most pit, 0002, was excavated to a depth of 0.7m; the upper 0.5m was disturbed ground and topsoil, from 0.5m to the base of the trench was an homogeneous layer of very dark grey black sand. No archaeological features were exposed.

### Conclusion

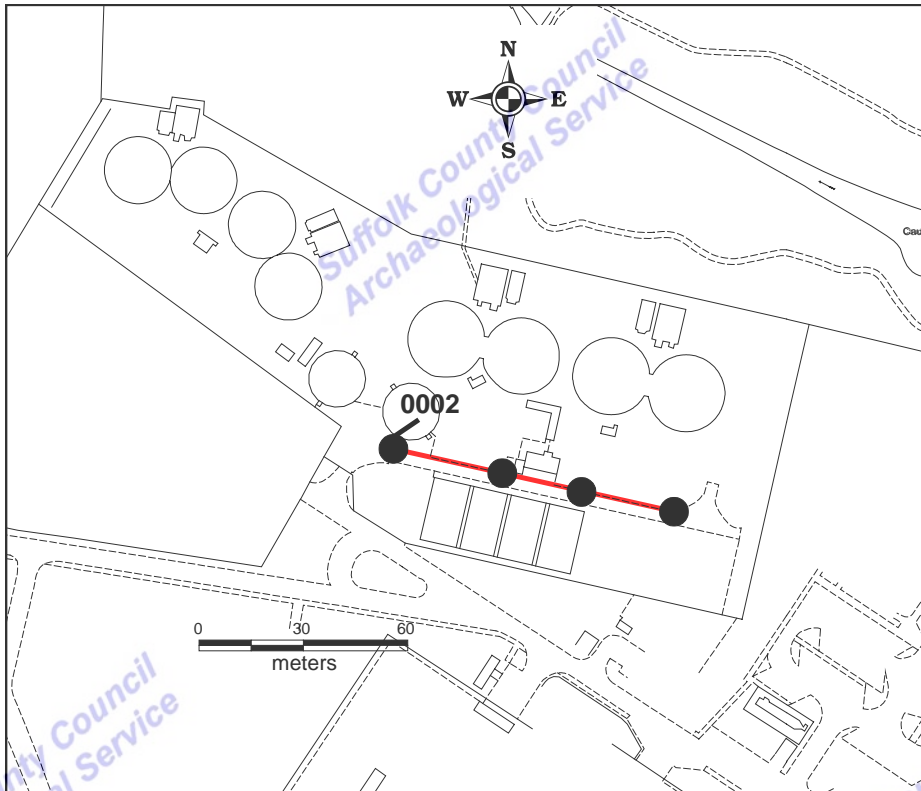
Most of the ground in this area has been disturbed by the construction of the sewage works; however, in one of the two slightly deeper holes an homogenous sand layer was observed intact; this layer is interpreted as a windblown soil which on the adjoining site ERL 023 was seen to mask very extensive archaeological deposits. The likely survival and continuation of archaeological deposits is also suggested by the recent monitoring of storm drains, ERL 141, immediately outside the sewage works.

Andrew Tester July 2005



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Figure 1 Site location



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Figure 2 Details of works