

# Halifax Street, RAF Lakenheath ERL 217

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2011/130 Client: Mansells Author: John Craven August 2011

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Archaeological Evaluation Report SCCAS Report No. 2011/130 Author: John Craven Report Date: August 2011 © SCCAS

### **HER Information**

Report Number:	2011/130
Site Name:	Halifax Street, RAF Lakenheath
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#### 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.

Prepared By: John Craven Date: 09/09/2011

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#### Summary

An archaeological evaluation carried out in advance of the demolition of a housing estate centered on Halifax Street, RAF Lakenheath, Eriswell demonstrated that, despite the site's recent landuse, the natural subsoil surface and elements of the original topography, together with potential archaeological horizons, were relatively intact.

Evidence of past human activity prior to the 20th century however was slight across the majority of the site, particularly when compared to the multi-period sites known immediately to the north, west and south. However isolated activity in the Iron Age was identified, together with evidence of early Roman activity in two small areas.

The date of the finds material suggests that this Roman activity is contemporary with activity seen at ERL 147 to the south, but earlier than the 2nd/3rd century occupation known to the west. The trenching has demonstrated that the site clearly appears to lie beyond the eastern edge of this latter site.

## **Drawing Conventions**

Plans				
Limit of Excavation				
Features				
Break of Slope				
Features - Conjectured				
Natural Features				
Sondages/Machine Strip				
Intrusion/Truncation				
Illustrated Section	S.14			
Cut Number	0008			
Archaeological Features				

#### Sections

Limit of Excavation	
Cut	
Modern Cut	
Cut - Conjectured	
Deposit Horizon	
Deposit Horizon - Conjectured	
Intrusion/Truncation	
Top of Natural	
Top Surface	
Break in Section	
Cut Number	0008
Deposit Number	0007
Ordnance Datum	18.45m OD

## 1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of the demolition of a housing estate centered on Halifax Street, RAF Lakenheath, Eriswell, Suffolk (Fig. 1). As part of the larger Liberty Village site, the development was subject to a condition on planning application F/2005/0857 which required a program of archaeological work to firstly assess the archaeological potential of the site and, if required, mitigate the impact of development on archaeological deposits.

The evaluation to assess the site's potential was carried out to meet a Brief and Specification issued by Judith Plouviez (SCC Archaeological Service, Conservation Team). The work was funded by the developer, Mansells.

### 2. Geology and topography

The site, an area of 2.6ha, lies at a height of c.10m-14m AOD, on a slight north-facing slope which descends from the edge of a natural chalk plateau to the south of Lord's Walk. To the west of the site ground levels descend to the fen-edge, the modern 'Cut-Off Channel' lying c.900m away.

To the north the natural slope bottoms out in a small east-west valley along the line of Brandon Street. Ground levels then rise again on the other side before continuing north across the base at c.7m OD. A natural spring lies at Caudle Head and immediately beyond the northern edge of the airbase lies Wangford Fen.

The site lies on deep sandy soils over glaciofluvial drift (Ordnance Survey 1983).

## 3. Archaeology and historical background

RAF Lakenheath covers some 760ha across the parishes of Lakenheath, Eriswell and Wangford. Following its initial development during World War II it has been occupied and developed by the United States Air Force since 1948. Situated on the western edge of Breckland, RAF Lakenheath lies within the dense band of prehistoric, Roman and

Anglo-Saxon activity that is recorded along the margins of the fens in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER).

Within the airbase extensive redevelopment since the late 1980's has seen significant levels of fieldwork with some 175+ projects having previously been carried out by the SCCAS Field Team. In brief these sites contain scattered evidence of Mesolithic and Neolithic activity and elements of the preserved natural landscape of fluctuating marshland, sand dunes and hollows and freshwater ponds. Bronze Age and Early and Middle Iron Age occupation or funerary activity has been identified in specific areas, in particular two Early Bronze Age barrows at ERL 148 and ERL 203, 150m to the south of the Halifax Street estate. Evidence of Late Iron Age/Early Roman agricultural activity has also been identified at ERL 089, 120, 130 and 147.

Evidence of Roman occupation has previously been seen immediately to the west in small excavations and monitorings in the area of Kennedy Street/Nato Place (ERL 112, 212) and Thunderbird Way (ERL 111, 142 and 212). Recent excavation at ERL 214 to the north of Brandon Street has identified a possible Roman shrine. The main area of Roman settlement however lies 600m to the north, focused on the natural spring at Caudle Head.

Of particular importance is the substantial Early Anglo-Saxon funerary activity consisting of three cemeteries, which lie 200m to the north-east. Occupation of a similar date has been identified to the south of these at ERL 154 and also extends to the north, via Caudle Head, through to the airfield. Middle Saxon burials have also been recorded at ERL 203, apparently focused on the Early Bronze Age barrow.

During the medieval and post-medieval periods the airbase appears to have predominantly been open land, either pasture or arable agricultural land, or common grassland, lying between the villages of Lakenheath and Eriswell. This limited activity is reflected in the general absence of archaeological deposits from these periods. The First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1882 (Fig. 2) shows the site as lying wholly within a single field, bounded by Lord's Walk to the south, and strips of trees called Lordswalk Belt to the east and Lordswell Belt to the north. The outline of the current airbase still follows, to some extent, this post-medieval layout and Lordswalk Belt still largely surviving.

Despite the development of the base since the mid 20th century, which has in effect created a 'new town', preservation of archaeological sites has often been good. In particular this is probably due to low levels of agricultural erosion since the airbase was enclosed in the 1940's and to the fact that many of the original airbase structures were built on shallow foundations or above ground concrete pads. The housing estate to be demolished consisted of bungalows, probably on relatively shallow foundations, set amidst significant areas of undeveloped gardens, road frontages and other open spaces.

The site's location amidst this evidence of multi-period occupation meant that it had high potential for significant archaeological deposits which would be affected by the planned re-development.



Figure 1. Site location, showing development area (red) and HER sites mentioned in the text (green)



Figure 2. 1882 Ordnance survey map with site outline superimposed

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### 4. Methodology

Thirty-nine trenches, measuring 640m in total length, were excavated by a mechanical excavator equipped with a ditching bucket, under the supervision of an archaeologist, to the top of the undisturbed natural subsoil or archaeological levels. At 1.6m wide this amounted to 1024sqm of trenching, or 3.94% of the 2.6ha area. This is lower than the 5% specified in the brief due to the presence of standing buildings which significantly reduced the available area, and factors such as live buried services or mature trees which heavily affected trench placement, meaning that the proposed trench plan detailed in the projects Written Scheme could only be broadly adhered to.

Unstratified finds were collected during the machining and recorded under individual contexts dependent upon their location. Sites and spoilheaps were thoroughly surveyed by an experienced metal-detectorist both during the machining and subsequent hand-excavation of features.

Archaeological features were normally clearly visible following cleaning by hand. All features were investigated by hand, generally 50% of pits and postholes, and 1m wide sections across ditches. Additional sections were also placed where required to investigate stratigraphic relationships. Bulk soil samples were collected from selected contexts for environmental analysis.

The site was recorded using a single context continuous numbering system. No small finds numbers were issued. Trench outlines and section positions and levels were recorded using an RTK GPS or Total Station Theodolite. Individual feature plans, sections and levels were recorded at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50 onto A3 gridded permatrace sheets. Digital colour and black and white print photographs were taken of all stages of the fieldwork, and are included in the digital and physical archives.

Site data has been input onto an MS Access databases. Bulk finds have been washed, marked and quantified, with the resultant data also being entered onto databases.

An OASIS form has been initiated for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-92631) and a digital copy of the report will be submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit) upon completion of the project.

The site archive is kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under HER No ERL 217.



Figure 3. Trench location plan

## 5. Results

The majority of the trenching showed a similar profile with topsoil or modern deposits overlying a layer, 0001, of light grey/brown/orange silty sand. The depth and thickness of both topsoil and this layer varied considerably, depending on levels of landscaping and truncation or the underlying topography of the natural ground surface.

In Trenches 1, 2, 4 and 7 layer 0001 overlaid further deposits which appeared to infill natural hollows in the natural ground surface. Layer 0002 in Trench 1 contained mid 1st century Roman pottery and is likely to be part of the Roman soil horizon previously seen to the east in monitoring of groundworks at Thunderbird Way (ERL 212 etc).

Trenches 2 and 4, being of considerable depth, showed a sharp drop in the natural groundsurface, indicating the position of the base of the shallow east-west valley now occupied by Brandon Street. In these trenches layer 0001 sealed 0003, a thick deposit of mid brown silty sand.

In Trench 7 an apparent hollow was infilled with 0015, a deposit of mid yellow/brown silty sand, above which lay 0001, here numbered as 0014

Unstratified material was collected from three trenches, 03, 06 and 26 and recorded as 0013, 0016 and 0021 respectively. 0013 and 0021 consisted of mid 1st century Roman pottery sherds while 0016 was issued to a small deposit of animal bone and early/mid 1<sup>st</sup> century pottery recovered from an irregular natural pit or treehole in the natural ground surface.

Of the thirty-nine trenches only nine contained archaeological cut features of which there were seventeen in total (Table 1). Full descriptions of each trench are given in Appendix 1 and context descriptions in Appendix 2.

A majority of the features lay in a small area, within trenches 26, 27, 29, 30 and 31, near the centre of the site. The finds material collected indicates a phase of low-level and scattered Iron Age occupation, then a slightly more intensive phase of early Roman activity.

Trench No	Feature No's	Description
03	Ditches 0004 and 0008	Pair of undated parallel, intercutting, ditches although sherds of Roman and early Anglo-Saxon pottery (0010) were collected during initial cleaning.
	Pit 0006	Shallow undated pit.
04	Posthole 0011	Small undated posthole identified at c.1.3m depth under layer 0003.
26	Ditch 0017	Undated ditch aligned north to south.
27	Ditch 0019	Undated ditch aligned north to south.
29	Pits 0022, 0025, 0027 and 0029	Cluster of 4 small undated pits.
30	Pit 0030	Large pit or ditch terminus containing Late Iron Age and Roman pottery.
	Pit 0038	Shallow spread or base of truncated pit containing high amounts of charcoal and fragments of fired clay.
	Ditch 0033	Undated ditch aligned north-west to south-east containing small quantity of animal bone.
31	Ditch 0034	Ditch, aligned east to west, containing sherds of ditch of mid 1 <sup>st</sup> century pottery.
	Pit 0040	Deep pit containing undated fragments of fired clay.
35	Pit 0043	Small pit containing sherds of Iron Age pottery and small assemblage of worked flint.
39	Pit 0044	Single undated pit.

Table 1. Trench and feature list



Figure 4. Trench 1, plan and section







Figure 6. Trench 3, plan and sections

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Figure 7. Trench 4A and 4B, plans and sections



Figure 8. Trench 26, plan and section



Figure 9. Trench 27, plan and section



Figure 10. Trench 29, plan and sections







Figure 12. Trench 31, plan and sections



Figure 13. Trench 35, plan and section



Figure 14. Trench 39, plan and section

Cathy Tester

### 6.1 Introduction

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

Context	Potte	ery	Flint		Animal	bone	Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g		-
0002	2	13						MC1
0010	3	29						ESax, Rom
0013	3	13	1	18	10	8		MC1, IA
0016	3	37			25	349		E/MC1
0021	1	18						MC1
0031	1	1	1	7				Rom
0033					3	11		
0035	2	3						MC1
0036	2	16			1	31		LIA, Preh
0039	1						FClay 21-121g, Bt flint 2-59g	
0041							FClay 14-75g, Bt flint 2-11g, Bt	Preh
							Stone 1-363g	
0042	39	144	94	383				IA
Total	56	275	96	408	39	399		

#### Table 1. Finds quantities by context

#### 6.2 Pottery

#### Introduction

A total of 56 sherds of pottery weighing 275g and ranging in date from the prehistoric to Early Saxon period was collected from nine contexts in seven evaluation trenches. The pottery was quantified by count and weight by fabric and form by context and a date or broad period was assigned to each sherd. The quantities by ceramic period and fabric are shown in Table 3 and the full catalogue in context order is shown in Appendix 3.

Fabric name or description	Code	No	% No	Wt g	% Wt
Medium flint and organic	F1	4	7.1	50	18.2
Medium flint and quartz sand	F2	42	42.9	75	27.3
Medium flint and fine silty sand	F3	2	3.6	7	2.5
Quartz sand tempered	QS1	10	17.9	16	5.8
Total prehistoric fabrics		40	71.4	148	53.8
Black surfaced wares	BSW	1	1.8	5	1.8
Micaceous wares (black-surfaced variant	GMB	9	16.1	50	18.2
Belgic grog-tempered wares	GROG	5	8.9	53	19.36
Total LIA-Roman fabrics		15	68.2	108	39.3
Early Saxon grass tempered	ESO1	1	4.5	19	9.5
Total post- Roman fabrics		1	4.5	19	6.9
Total pottery		56	100.0	275	100.0

Table 3. Pottery fabric quantities by period

### Prehistoric pottery

Forty undecorated sherds of prehistoric pottery weighing 148g and representing a minimum of seven vessels were recovered from two contexts in two evaluation trenches. All but one of the sherds came from pit 0043 in Trench 35 (0042) in the lower SE corner of the site and this number includes thirty-four fragments (76g) which were recovered from the non-floating residue in Environmental Sample 1. A single sherd was unstratified in Trench 3 (0013). The majority of the pottery (132g) consists of flint tempered bodysherds, non-diagnostic, but probably Iron Age. A small amount of quartz sand tempered sherds (16g) are very abraded but probably from the same vessel and also Iron Age in date.

#### Late Iron Age and Roman pottery

Fifteen sherds of wheel-made Late Iron Age-Roman pottery were collected from nine contexts in six evaluation trenches. Most of the sherds are undiagnostic, fragmentary and dispersed, occurring singly in unstratified, subsoil and surface collections in Trenches 01, 03, 06 and 26 and from ditches 0030 and 0034 in Trenches 30 and 31. Overall, the pottery has a very narrow date range of early to mid 1st century AD and includes nothing that has to be any later than the mid 1st century.

Three local or regional coarseware fabric groups were identified. The earliest are 'Belgic' grog-tempered wares (GROG) which belong to the first half of the 1st century AD and are found in two contexts. A large jar with a rim diameter of 260mm and a non-diagnostic bodysherd from a different vessel were identified in deposit 0016, Trench 6.

An uncertain jar rim and a small abraded fragment of a combed storage jar were identified in ditch 0030 in Trench 30. A single very abraded Black-surfaced ware (BSW) sherd with a 'romanising' fabric was recovered during surface cleaning above ditches 0004 and 0008 (0010) in Trench 3. Nine Grey micaceous ware sherds in the black-surfaced variant (GMB) were also recovered from six contexts. Although the sherds are small, fragments of two 'Braughing jars' in contexts 0013 and 0035 were identified by their distinctive incised line shoulder decoration. A fragment from a cordoned jar was unstratified in Trench 26 (0021), an uncertain dish or platter was recovered from the subsoil (0002) and the rest of the sherds are non-diagnostic.

#### Post Roman pottery

A single flat base sherd of Early Saxon pottery hand-made in a very abundantly grass/chaff-tempered fabric (ESO1) was collected from the surface of ditches 0004 and 0008 in Trench 3 (0010).

### 6.3 Fired clay

A total of twenty-one fragments (121g) of fired clay were recovered from the fill of pit 0038 in Trench 30 (0039). Sixteen fragments (70g) are probably the remains of structural daub. They are made in a fine buff/orange sandy fabric (fs) with few other inclusions. Seven pieces have one flat or smoothed surface and three of these have roundwood impression on the opposite face. A further five fragments (51g) made in a medium sandy fabric (mscp) with clay pellets and small voids were also found. All surfaces are abraded and the function is unknown.

Fourteen small fragments (75g) from a possible fired clay 'object' were recovered from the fill of pit or possible ditch terminus 0040 in Trench 31 (0041). None of the pieces are large enough to certainly identify the function, but two curved surfaces appear to meet at an acute angle. It is made in a fine medium sandy fabric with sparse fine to medium chalk (msc) and has darker grey reduced exterior surfaces and an orange-brown core.

#### 6.4 Flint

Sarah Bates

#### Introduction

Ninety-six struck flints were recovered from three contexts during the evaluation of the site. The flint is almost all mid to dark grey and cortex where present is a dirty greyish white mainly of medium thickness with only a few pieces having thicker cortex. Only one flake is patinated. The flint is summarised in Table 4 and listed by context in Table 5. All of the flint discussed in the report is from context 0042, the fill of pit 0043 in Trench 35 unless otherwise noted.

Туре	Number
single platform flake core	1
core fragment	1
flake	51
blade-like flake	6
blade	3
spall	30
piercer	2
retouched flake	2
Total	96

Table 3. Summary of flint types

Context	Cat.	Туре	No
0013	retf	retouched flake	1
0031	pecr	piercer	1
0042	blad	blade	3
0042	core	core fragment	1
0042	core	single platform flake core	1
0042	flak	blade-like flake	1
0042	flak	blade-like flake	5
0042	flak	flake	3
0042	flak	flake	48
0042	flak	spall	30
0042	pecr	piercer	1
0042	retf	retouched flake	1

Table 4. Flint catalogue by context

### The assemblage

A small squat fragment has a few flakes struck from one edge but cortex extends around most of the other sides (0042). An irregular angular fragment from the same context has a small area at one end which has been struck by hard hammer. The fragment is probably from another core. Fifty-two unmodified flakes and thirty spalls are present. All but one of them are from context 0042 and they are small or, mostly, very small in size, quite thick and mainly squat in shape. A few short very thick flakes may have resulted from the trimming of irregular overhangs and/or platforms which had been worked to an acute angle. Many of the flakes have a similar quite thick dirty whitish grey cortex and a few have cortex on their platforms (although some of these have been classified as spalls due to their small size and, for these, cortex has not been recorded). One thin flake is on a different pale brownish grey flint and it has an abraded platform. It is probable a residual earlier piece. One other flake stands out from the rest of the assemblage; it has a glossy a mottled light bluish grey patina. It has some edge damage which post-dates the patina and might represent the reuse of a flake.

Six blade-like flakes and three small blades were found. Two of the former and all three of the blades are neat thin pieces and one has possible abrasion of its platform edge. A very small pointed flake has its distal tip and left side slightly retouched as a piercer (0042) and a small flake with cortex over much of is dorsal face is also retouched along both sides to its distal point (0031).

A thin flake with broader obliquely sloping distal edge has abrupt retouch of that, cortical, edge.

#### Distribution

Almost all of the flint was found in pit 0043 (0042) and is very similar in both raw material type and nature of its working and the resulting debitage. Flakes are small, squat and often thick. It seems clear that the flint is from the same knapping episode and much of it may have been struck from the same core.

A small cortical flake, retouched as a possible piercer was found in the fill of ditch 0030 (0031) and a patinated flake was an unstratified find from the spoil heap (0013). It has some possible 'retouch' to its edge but, considering the context of the find, it is possible that this is accidental edge damage.

#### Discussion

Flint dating from the Mesolithic to the later prehistoric period has previously been found at many other sites excavated in the vicinity of ERL 217 and it is clear that activity occurred in the area at various different prehistoric periods. Almost all of the flint from the present site was, however, recovered from the fill of a single pit and the similar nature of most of the pieces suggests that they derived from a single knapping episode. The flint is sharp and this, as well as the presence of many very small flakes suggests that the flint is probably contemporary with the pit (in which some sherds of earlier Iron Age pottery were also found). The hard hammer struck flakes, their short squat nature and the occurrence of wide, sometimes obtuse, platforms and unprepared cortical platforms certainly suggests that a later prehistoric date is likely for the material (Humphrey 2007). It is notable however, that there is considerable consistency and 'neatness' within the pit assemblage which perhaps suggests a degree of deliberation. This includes the possible trimming of some platforms edges which suggests rather more than the purely expedient use of flint usually associated with the period (Butler 2005, 189). Only two retouched pieces came from the pit and these are undiagnostic. A very small number of flints from the pit are likely to be residual earlier pieces as they differ in nature from the rest of the material. These include two or three small, guite neat blade-type pieces and a thin flake which is on a pale-coloured transparent flint and has an abraded platform.

A further 200 struck flints were recovered from the non-floating residue in the environmental sample. They have been briefly examined but not catalogued in detail. Like the group above, all are unpatinated and quite sharp, consisting mainly of unmodified flakes and spalls including a great many very small pieces.

#### 6.5 Burnt flint and stone

Four fragments (70g) of burnt flint 'pot boiler' were collected from pit 0038 (0039), Trench 30 and pit 0043 (0042), Trench 35. A fragment of heat-altered quartzite pebble or cobble (363g) was also present in pit 0043.

### 6.6 Animal bone

Thirty-nine fragments of animal bone (399g) were collected from four contexts in three trenches. The bone is in poor condition and includes many small fragments but the identifiable pieces are mainly from cattle and probably represent the remains of food waste.

The largest group (25+ pieces, 349g) came from context 0016, an irregular deposit of finds within the natural subsoil in Trench 06. The group includes cattle ulna and metacarpal fragments as well as a tibia with an unfused epiphyseal union from a young individual. The bone was found in association with grog-tempered LIA-Early Roman pottery of early to mid 1st century date. A very deteriorated cattle tooth was found in ditch 0032 (0033) and a cattle astragalus in the fill of ditch 0034 in Trench 31 (0036). A further ten+ very deteriorated fragments (8g) were untratified finds from spoilheaps in Trench 3 (0013).

### 6.7 Environmental samples

A bulk environmental sample for the retrieval and evaluation of plant macrofossils was taken from context 0042, the fill of pit 0043 in Trench 35. The sample was subsequently processed and a full assessment is given in Appendix 4. Apart from a quantity of hazelnut shells and abundant charcoal flecks, plant remains were minimal and appear to be general background waste. There was no evidence for cess disposal or large numbers of plant remains that could indicated plant food/craft waste. No further work is recommended on the plant remains.

### 6.8 Discussion of the finds and environmental evidence

Finds ranging in date from prehistoric to Early Anglo-Saxon period were collected from twelve contexts in six evaluation trenches, five of them (Trenches 3, 6, 31, 30 and 26 from West to East) in the northern part of the evaluated area and one from Trench 35 in the lowest SE corner.

A small assemblage of prehistoric pottery consisting mainly of flint-tempered bodysherds of probable Iron Age date was recovered from two contexts in two trenches. Of particular note was the combination of a large group of struck flint from pit 0043 which is thought to represent a single knapping episode and to be possibly contemporary in deposition and use to the Iron Age pottery also found in the pit. Although not datable in themselves, burnt flint and stone recorded in two contexts are also an indicator of prehistoric activity, especially when found in association with other prehistoric dated finds.

A small amount of wheel-made Late Iron Age or Early Roman pottery includes three local or regional coarseware fabric groups that are all regarded as chronologically early. The assemblage has a narrow date range which includes nothing that has to be later than the mid 1st century AD.

The latest dated find is a single sherd of hand-made Early Saxon pottery (4th to 7th century) which was a surface find in Trench 03.

## 7. Discussion

Despite the sites development as a housing estate during the late 20th century, with all its associated buried services and landscaping, the trenching has shown that the natural subsoil surface is relatively intact under a variable deposit of sands (0001).

Surviving elements of the original topography were evident in Trench 07 and particularly in Trenches 02, 04 and 16, where the sudden increase in depth indicated a natural channel along the base of the small east-west aligned valley immediately north of the site.

Evidence of past human activity prior to the 20th century was slight across the majority of the site, particularly when compared to the multi-period sites known immediately to the north, west and south. However some activity in the Iron Age is apparent, mainly represented by the single isolated pit 0043 in Trench 35. A more substantial phase of early Roman activity was also identified in two areas; on the western edge in Trench 01, closest to the Roman occupation evidence seen at Thunderbird Way and in Trenches 30 and 31 near the centre of the site. A cluster of undated features in the trenching in this latter area may be of contemporary date.

The date of the finds material suggest that this Roman activity is contemporary with activity seen at ERL 147 to the south, but earlier than the 2nd/3rd century occupation at Thunderbird Way. The trenching has demonstrated that the site clearly appears to lie beyond the eastern edge of this latter site.

## 8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The evaluation has demonstrated that the majority of the site is of low potential and that any future re-development will have only a limited impact upon archaeological deposits. There are small three areas however which are of further interest, with archaeological deposits that will be affected by groundworks, and these should be investigated further either prior to or during development.

Although at this time there is no plan for redeveloping the site, with the area to be returned to open ground for the time being, SCCAS has been informed that MoD would like to complete any archaeological works that would be required in advance of development now, so that any future development can be planned and carried out with little or no need for archaeological recording.

Two small excavations (Fig. 15) in the area of Trenches 29 – 31 (860sqm) and Trenches 01, 03 etc (1400 sqm) should be carried out, prior to demolition works, to further investigate and preserve by record the Roman and currently undated features.

Finally monitoring of any groundworks within 20m of the Iron Age pit 0043 in Trench 35 is recommended to establish whether it is indeed an isolated feature. Such groundworks include any activity associated with the current estate demolition, or with any future redevelopment.

The remainder of the site is of little or no potential and is of no further interest. The housing blocks in this area can be demolished, foundations removed and the area redeveloped with no further archaeological recording or monitoring.



Figure 15. Recommendations for further work

## 9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\ Archive\RAF Lakenheath\ERL 217 Halifax St

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\ Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds.

### 10. Acknowledgements

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## Appendix 1. Trench list

Trench Number	Length	Orientation	Geology	Topsoil Depth	Depth to Natural	Description	Summary
01	12	N-S	Mid orange sands	0.3m	0.8m- 1.1m	At south end 0.3m of topsoil overlaid 0.3m thick layer 0001, then 0.4m of layer 0002. Layer 0002 did not continue south beyond a modern pipe trench. Natural subsoil descends to north until topsoil overlaid 0.8m of layer 0001.	0002 - Roman occupation soil layer
02	8	E-W	Mid orange/yellow sands or chalk	0.6m	1.2m+	Trench excavated as two separate 4m long sections due to depth. 2a: Abandoned at 1.2m, 0.6m of modern deposits overlying 0.5m thick layer 0001 then 0.6m of layer 0003. Small sondage excavated to 1.6m depth failed to find base of 0003 or natural subsoil. 2b: 0.5m topsoil overlying 0.7m thick layer 0001. Chalk natural slightly discoloured - once waterlogged?	0003 layer - possibly same as 0002.
03	30	E-W	Mid yellow/orange sands	0.2m- 0.3m	0.3m- 0.8m	Topsoil over layer 0001, natural subsoil descends slightly to west. At western end there is some modern disturbance with 0.6m of modern deposits directly overlying 0.2m of mid/dark grey sands spreading out from ditches 0004/0008.	Layer 0001. Ditches 0004 and 0008 and 0010 surface finds. Pit 0006. 0013 unstratified finds.
04	8	E-W	Not seen		1.3m	Trench excavated as two separate 4m long sections due to depth. 4a: Abandoned at 1.2m depth apart from small sondage. 0.4m topsoil over 0.3m of layer 0001, then 0.6m of layer 0003. Sondage exposed posthole 0011. 4b: 90% filled by modern service trench running along trench. Clean profile on north side showed same profile as Trench 4a.	0001 and 0003 layers 0011 posthole
05	10	E-W	Mid yellow/orange sands	0.3m	0.3m	Topsoil directly overlying natural sands.	None.
06	18	N-S	Mid yellow sands and chalk	0.3m	0.3m- 0.4m	0.3m of topsoil overlying thin and patchy layer 0001. Slight slope down to north. Several areas of modern services.	0016 animal bone
07	31	N-S	Yellow/orange sands and chalk	0.3m	0.3m- 0.8m	Topsoil over natural subsoil apart from at south end where a natural hollow was infilled with 0014 and 0015. Several areas of modern disturbance.	0014 (same as 001) and 0015 layers
08	14	E-W	Mid yellow/orange sands and chalk	0.3m	0.3m	Topsoil directly overlying natural subsoil.	None.
09	27	E-W	Mid yellow/orange sands and chalk	0.3m- 0.4m	0.5m- 0.7m	West end - 0.3m topsoil over 0.4m of layer 0001. Natural subsoil gradually rises to east, with 001 thinning and then disappearing in centre of trench. In east half of trench subsoil descends with 0001 reappearing to be 0.3m thick.	None.
10	26	E-W	Mid yellow/orange sands	0.2m	0.3m- 0.5m	Topsoil over layer 0001. Slopes down gently to west.	None.
11	17	N-S	Mid yellow/orange sands and occasional chalk	0.25m	0.4m	Topsoil over layer 0001.	None.

Trench Number	Length	Orientation	Geology	Topsoil Depth	Depth to Natural	Description	Summary
12	11	E-W	Mid yellow/orange sands and occasional chalk	0.3m	0.4m- 0.5m	Topsoil and modern deposits over layer 0001.	None.
13	9	E-W	Mid yellow/orange sands and gravel	0.3m	0.4m- 0.5m	Topsoil over layer 0001.	None.
14	7	NW-SE	Mid yellow/orange sands and occasional chalk	0.3m	0.5m	Topsoil and modern deposits over layer 0001. Heavy root disturbance.	None.
15	9	N-S	Mid yellow/orange sands and occasional chalk	0.3m	0.4m- 0.5m	Topsoil and modern deposits over layer 0001.	None.
16	15	E-W	Mid yellow sands	0.6m	1.1m	Topsoil and modern deposits over 0.5m thick layer 0001. Eastern 5m truncated by large modern pit, services at western end.	Layer 0001.
17	14	E-W	Mid yellow/orange sands	0.4m	0.7m	Topsoil over layer 0001.	Layer 0001.
18	10.5	E-W	Mid yellow/orange sands	0.3m	0.3m	Topsoil over layer 0001.	Layer 0001.
19	34	E-W	Mid yellow/orange sands	0.3m	0.7m	Topsoil over layer 0001.	Layer 0001.
20	12	N-S	Mid yellow/orange sands	0.25m	0.55m	Topsoil over layer 0001.	Layer 0001.
21	10	NE-SW	Mid yellow/orange sands	0.35m	0.55m	Topsoil over layer 0001.	Layer 0001.
22	8	N-S	Mid yellow/orange sands	0.15m	0.55m	Topsoil over layer 0001.	Layer 0001.
23	13	E-W	Mid yellow/orange sands	0.15m	0.6m	Topsoil over layer 0001.	Layer 0001.
24	15	N-S	Mid yellow/orange sands	0.3m	0.5m	Topsoil over layer 0001.	Layer 0001.
25	10	N-S	Not seen.	0.15m	Unknown	Entire trench heavily disturbed by modern services etc.	None.
26	8.5	NE-SW	Mid yellow/orange sands	0.3m	0.5m	Topsoil over layer 0001.	Ditch 0017.
27	27	E-W	Mid yellow/orange sands	0.22m	0.6m	Topsoil over layer 0001.	Layer 0001. Ditch 0019.
28	14	N-S	Mid yellow/orange sands and occasional chalk	0.3m	0.5m	Topsoil over layer 0001.	Layer 0001.
29	31	E-W	Mid yellow/orange sands and occasional chalk	0.3m	0.3m - 0.5m	Topsoil over natural subsoil or layer 0001.	Layer 0001. Pit 0022. Postholes 00245, 0027 and 0029.

Trench Number	Length	Orientation	Geology	Topsoil Depth	Depth to Natural	Description	Summary
30	30	E-W	Mid yellow/orange sands and occasional chalk	0.3m	0.6m	Topsoil over layer 0001. Frequent modern disturbance.	Pit 0030. Ditch 0032. Pit 0038.
31	18	N-S	Mid yellow/orange sands and occasional chalk	0.3m- 0.35m	0.35m- 0.45m	Topsoil over natural subsoil or layer 0001.	Ditch 0034. Pit 0040.
32	19	E-W	Mid yellow/orange sands	0.35m	0.45m	Topsoil over natural subsoil or layer 0001. Evidence of ploughing damage to 0001.	0001 layer.
33	16	N-S	Mid yellow/orange sands	0.35m	0.45m	Topsoil over natural subsoil or layer 0001. Evidence of ploughing damage to 0001.	0001 layer.
34	18	E-W	Mid orange sands	0.35m	0.45m	Topsoil over natural subsoil or layer 0001. Evidence of ploughing damage to 0001.Modern service trench running along south half of trench.	0001 layer.
35	10.5	E-W	Mid orange sands and occasional chalk	0.25m	0.45m	Topsoil over layer 0001.	0043 pit.
36	15	N-S	Mid orange sands and occasional chalk	0.3m	0.4m- 0.5m	Topsoil over layer 0001 which thickens slightly to south.	0001 layer.
37	28.5	NW-SE	Mid orange sands and occasional chalk	0.2m	0.45m	Topsoil over layer 0001.	0001 layer.
38	11.5	E-W	Mid yellow/orange sand and occasional chalk	0.3m	0.45m	Topsoil over layer 0001. Modern services across centre of trench.	0001 layer.
39	14.5	N-S	Mid yellow/orange sand and occasional chalk	0.5m	0.6m- 0.7m	Topsoil over layer 0001.	0001 layer. 0044 pit.

## Appendix 2. Context List

Context Number	Trench	Feature Type	Category	Description		Width	Depth
0001		Subsoil	Layer	Layer of light grey/brown/orange silty sand subsoil, appears throughout trenching sealed below topsoil deposits. Thickness varies depending on truncation or underlying topography.			
0002	01	Subsoil	Layer	Layer of dark brown/grey silty sand, traces of charcoal. Present in south half of Trench 02, does not reappear south of modern service trench as ground levels descend.			
0003	02	Subsoil	Layer	Mid brown silty sand layer, sealed under 0001 in trenches 2 and 4 so may be same as/contemporary with 0002, although less evidence of charcoal/dark earth etc.			
0004	03	Ditch	Cut	Linear ditch aligned south-east to north-west, alongside and parallel to 0008 Unclear profile in section. Irregular sides with narrow concave base. Possibly cuts ditch fill 0009.			0.56m
0005	03	Ditch	Fill	Mid yellow/brown silty sand. Friable with occasional stones.			
0009	03	Ditch	Fill	Mid yellow/brown silty sand with rare flints.			
0006	03	Pit	Cut	Rectangular pit, aligned east-west. Gradual sloping sides, steeper on north side. Slightly concave base.			
0007	03	Pit	Fill	Light grey/brown silty sand with traces of charcoal.			
0008	03	Ditch	Cut	Linear ditch, southern edge truncated by parralel ditch 0004. Steep convex sides and a concave base.		0.56m	0.48m
0010	03	Finds	Other	Three pottery sherds recovered from initial cleaning of ditches 0004 and 0008.			
0011	04	Posthole	Cut	Square posthole, vertical sided with flat base.		0.4m	0.08m
0012	04	Posthole	Fill	Dark brown silty sand with charcoal flecks.			
0013	03	Finds	Unstratified	Unstratified finds from Trench 03 spoilheaps.			
0014	07	Subsoil	Layer	Layer of mid orange/brown silty sand with rare flints, upper fill of naturral hollow at south end of trench. Probably same as 0001.			0.58m
0015	07	Subsoil	Layer	Mid yellow/brown silty sand			0.26m
0016	06	Finds	Other	Deposit of unarticulated animal bone found in irregular patch of mid grey/brown sand, probably infilling natural disturbance in natural subsoil surface.			
0021	26	Finds	Unstratified	Unstratified finds in Trench 26.			
0031	30	Pit	Fill	Upper ditch fill, light grey/brown silty sand.			0.22m
0033	30	Ditch	Fill	Mid grey/yellow/brown silty sand with occasional flints.			0.3m
0035	31	Ditch	Fill	Mid brown silty sand with occasional flints.			
0036	30	Pit	Fill	Central ditch fill. Dark brown silty sand with occasional flecks of charcoal.			1
0039	30	Pit	Fill	Very dark grey/black silty sand with high charcoal content.			0.08m
0041	31	Pit	Fill	Orange/grey silty sand with chalk flecks.			
0042	35	Pit	Fill	Dark grey/brown/black silty sand with occasional flints			
0017	26	Ditch	Cut	Linear ditch, aligned north-south, concave base and sides.			
0018	26	Ditch	Fill	Mid brown silty sand.			
0019	27	Ditch	Cut	Linear ditch, aligned north-south, concave sides and base			
0020	27	Ditch	Fill	Mid grey/brown silty sand.			
0022	29	Pit	Cut	Possible oval pit, aligned east-west and partially under north edge of trench. Steep, near straight sides and flat base.	0.98m	0.45m+	0.28m
0023	29	Pit	Fill	Firm, mid brown silty sand with rare flints and charcoal.			0.28m

0024	29	Pit	Fill	Mid brown silty sand with rare flints.			0.14m
0025	29	Pit	Cut	Circular pit, concave sides and base.	0.3m	0.3m	0.14m
0026	29	Pit	Fill	Dark grey/brown silty sand with occasional flints and frequent flecks of charcoal.			
0027	29	Pit	Cut	Sub-circular pit, shallow profile. Slightly concave sides and a concave base. Similar to 0029.	0.4m	0.4m	0.1m
0028	29	Pit	Fill	Dark grey/brown silty sand with occasional flints.			
0030	30	Pit	Cut	Large pit or ditch terminus. Steep sided, flat base			0.82m
0032	30	Ditch	Cut	Linear ditch, aligned north-west to south-east. Shallow stepped sides with slight concave base.		1.3m	0.3m
0029	29	Pit	Cut	Sub-circular pit, slightly concave sides and base. Similar to 0027.	0.4m	0.4m	0.08m
0045	39	Pit	Fill	Light grey/yellow/brown silty sand with occasional flints.			0.2m
0034	31	Ditch	Cut	Linear ditch, aligned east-west. Gradual sloping concave sides and concave base		1.06m	0.42m
0037	30	Pit	Fill	Lower ditch fill. Light orange/brown silty sand.			0.65m
0038	30	Pit	Cut	Shallow oval pit, aligned north to south.			0.08m
0040	31	Pit	Cut	Pit or ditch terminus. Deep with near vertical sides.			
0043	35	Pit	Cut	Sub-circular pit, steep concave sides and concave base.	0.62m	0.6m	0.28m
0044	39	Pit	Cut	Partially exposed pit, sub-rectangular and aligned north-west to south-east. Gentle sloping sides.	1.3m	1m	0.2m

## Appendix 3. Finds catalogue

Context	Fabric	Sherd	No	Wt/g	Form	Notes	Spotdate
0002	GMB	b	1	9		Burnished exterior	
0010	ESO1	ba	1	19	jar	Flat base. reddish-brown surf and margins and black core. Int battered	ESAX
0010	BSW	b	1	5		Flaked & abraded. Burnished ext oxy marg	ERom
0010	GMB	1	1	6		small bodysherd	ERom
0013	GMB	rb	2	9	4.1	Braughing jar. Rim 7 (140mm,10%). Oxidised core . Band horiz incised line on shoulder	MC1
0013	F1	b	1	4		Med angular flint (up to 4mm) + black organic material. Grey-brown surfs, dark grey core	IA
0016	GROG	r	1	26	jar	Jar rim type 7 (260mm,7%) V abraded	1-60AD
0016	GROG	b	2	11		Sv patchy colour orang/black	1-60AD
0021	GMB	b	1	18	jar	Cordoned vessel curved nec-bulge. black fabric( early)	E/MC1
0031	GMB	b	1	1		Small abraded bodysherd	Rom
0035	GMB	b	1	1		Abraded	Rom
0035	GMB	b	1	2	jar (Braugh)	incised fine horiz. lines on shoulder (Braughing jar)	MC1
0036	GROG	r	1	10	jar	Upright bead rim. bead cordon at base of neck. Black. battered	E/MC1
0036	G1	b	1	6		Abraded. Buff fab w buff grog combed surface	Preh
0042	F1	b	1	26		Med flint+ chaffy looking voids/imp. buff brown surf , dark core	IA
0042	F1	b	1	5		Med flint + organic (voids/imp) abraded. Dk grey core	IA
0042	F1	b	1	15		Smoothed surfaces	IA
0042	F2	b	16	18		V fragmentary – poss. one vessel	IA
0042	F2	b	7	27		light surface, darker core. sparser flint	IA
0042	F2	b	1	30		Medium angular flint (5mm)	IA
0042	F3	b	2	7		Buff-brown ext black core and int.abraded. very dense silty matrix + flint	
0042	QS1	b	10	16		V abraded. One vessel?	IA

## **Appendix 4**

#### ASSESSMENT OF ONE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLE TAKEN DURING AN EXCAVATION AT RAF LAKENHEATH, HALIFAX ROAD DEMOLITION (ERL 217).

Author: Lisa Gray MSc MA AIfA Archaeobotanist www.lisagray.co.uk

October 2011

All comments in this report are provisional and should not be considered as the author's final opinion until stratigraphic analysis is complete, other specialist assessments have been written and any further processing or analysis carried out. The author would like to be consulted before any part of this report is used in any situation other than its place in the assessment archive and updated project design.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION – AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

One sample was presented for assessment. This sample was taken from an undated deposit containing heat altered flint.

This report will assess the type and quality of preservation of organic (mainly botanical) remains and any inorganic materials in these samples and consider their potential and significance for further analysis. It will also suggest items suitable for radio-carbon dating.

#### 2. SAMPLING AND PROCESSING METHODS

Sampling, flotation and residue sorting was carried out by the client. Processing was carried out using a flotation tank with a 300 micron mesh sieve (*pers.comm*. Anna West). Each sample was completely processed.

Once with the author the flots were scanned under a low powered stereo-microscope with a magnification range of 10 to 40x. The whole flots were examined. The abundance, diversity and state of preservation of eco- and artefacts in each sample were recorded. A magnet was passed across each flot to record the presence or absence of magnetised material or hammerscale. All data was recorded onto paper record sheets for tabulation. These sheets are kept with the author's archive and copies available on request.

Identifications were made using modern reference material (author's own and the Northern European Seed Reference Collection at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) and reference manuals (such as Beijerinck 1947; Cappers *et al.* 2006; Charles 1984; Fuller 2007; Hillman 1976; Jacomet 2006).Nomenclature for plants is taken from Stace (Stace 2010). Latin names are given once and the common names used thereafter. Due to the low number of non-charcoal charred plant remains these were counted. Uncharred plant remains, fauna and magnetic fragments were given estimate levels of abundance.

#### **3. RESULTS**

This sample produced abundant charcoal flecks (2mm<sup>2</sup>) and uncharred rootlet fragments. The most interesting items in this sample were the 92 fragment of hazel (*Corlyus avellana* L.) nutshell.

Very low numbers of clover (*Trifolium* Ps.) seeds and moss leaf fragments were also present. These are probably intrusive and the presence of rootlet, a worm egg and an ant suggest that bioturbation is likely to have taken place.

Inorganic material consisted of moderate (>50) fragments of magnetic material. No hammerscale was clearly visible. Heat altered flint was also present in the deposit.

#### 3.5. Biases in Recovery, Residuality, Contamination

The evidence for bioturbation has already been mentioned here. No other observations were supplied regarding residuality or contamination.

#### 3.6. Significance and Potential of the Samples and Recommendation for Further Work

It is possible that the hazelnut shells were saved to burn as fuel or simply disposed of on a fire. The wood charcoal flecks are too small to allow identification and the uncharred plant remains are probably modern. No further work is recommended on the plant remains. There is no evidence for cess disposal or large numbers of plant remains that could indicated plant food/craft waste. These plant remains appear to be general background waste entering the features incidentally during backfilling.

#### 3.7. Recommendations for Radio-carbon Dating

The hazelnut shell fragments are suitable for radiocarbon dating.

#### 3.8. Concluding Summary and Key Points

One sample was presented for assessment. This sample produced 92 hazelnut shell fragments that could have been used as fuel. Not other plant remains were of value.

#### 3.9. Acknowledgements

The author wishes to thank Anna West (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service) for providing her with background information.

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#### Table 1: Sample contents

Spotdate	undated
Sample No.	1
Context No.	42
Cut No.	43
Feature type	layer
<b>Charred Plant Remains</b>	
Corylus avellana L. (nutshell)	92
Charcoal <2mm <sup>2</sup>	+++++
<b>Uncharred Plant Remains</b>	
<i>Trifolium</i> sp.	+
Bryophte (leaf fragments)	+
Uncharred root/rhizome fragments	+++++
Other Invertebrates	
Worm eggs	+
Ant	1
Sample volume (litres)	40
Volume processed (litres)	40
Volume of flot( litres)	0.1
Other remains	
Magnetic Material	+++

Key - + =1-10, ++=11-50,+++=51-150,++++=151-250,+++++=>250



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