

Rushmere Sports Club, The Street,  
Rushmere St Andrew, Suffolk

RMA 034

**Archaeological Excavation Report**

**SCCAS Report No. 2013/113**

**Client: Ipswich School**

Author: Kieron Heard

September 2013



Rushmere Sports Club, The Street,  
Rushmere St Andrew, Suffolk

RMA 034

Archaeological Excavation Report  
SCCAS Report No. 2013/113

Author: Kieron Heard

Contributions by:  
Gemma Adams (graphics)

Report Date: September 2013



## HER Information

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**Site Code:** RMA 034

**Site Name:** Rushmere Sports Club, The Street, Rushmere St Andrew, Suffolk

**Report Number** 2013/113

**Planning Application No:** C/13/0519

**Date of Fieldwork:** 16 September 2013

**Grid Reference:** TM 2013 4612

**Oasis Reference:** suffolkc1-159019

**Curatorial Officer:** Dr. Jess Tipper

**Project Officer:** Kieron Heard

**Client:** Ipswich School

**Consultant** Dr Tim Lodge

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

### **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: Kieron Heard  
Date: September 2013

Approved By: Rhodri Gardner  
Position: Head of Archaeology Contracting  
Date: September 2013  
Signed:



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## Summary

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RMA 034, Rushmere Sports Club, The Street, Rushmere St Andrew: A small excavation (10m x 10m) was carried out in relation to a planning application for a sports field development.

The site was on level ground at approximately 40m OD. The natural stratum was a mixture of boulder clay and glaciofluvial sand.

The excavation revealed topsoil and turf overlying the natural stratum. No archaeological deposits or features were seen. An unstratified prehistoric flint flake was found below the topsoil in an area of obvious root disturbance.

In the light of these limited results no further archaeological work is recommended in relation to the proposed development. This excavation report will be disseminated *via* the OASIS online archaeological database.



## 1. Introduction

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A small excavation was carried out in relation to a planning application for a sports field development at Rushmere Sports Club, The Street, Rushmere St Andrew. Dr. Tim Lodge commissioned the project on behalf of Ipswich School. Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), Field Team, conducted the fieldwork.

The purpose of the excavation was to investigate a positive discrete anomaly of possible archaeological interest recorded during a recent geophysical survey (RMA 033; Britannia Archaeology Report No. R1032). The trench is located on Figure 1.

## 2. Geology and topography

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Red Crag (sand) bedrock underlies Rushmere St Andrew, and is capped by various superficial deposits. The development site is located at the junction of two such units of superficial geology, with Lowestoft Formation (glacial till) to the north and glaciofluvial deposits of sand and gravel to the south. These superficial deposits support deep and well-drained sandy soils of the Newport 4 Series.

The site is on level ground at approximately 40m OD. Current use is as a sports field, and prior to this the area of excavation was part of a potato field (site manager, *pers comm*).

## 3. Methodology

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The archaeological excavation was carried out in accordance with a Brief issued by Jess Tipper of SCCAS, Conservation Team (Tipper, 2013; Appendix 1) and a Written Scheme of Investigation by Rhodri Gardner of SCCAS, Field Team (Gardner, 2013).

The excavation took place on 16 September 2013 and was conducted by SCCAS, Field Team. The trench was dug using a small, 360° excavator, with mechanical excavation continuing to just below the surface of the natural stratum. The trench measured 10m x

10m and was generally 0.50m deep; a small area in the northwest corner of the trench was excavated to 0.90m depth in order to assess the natural strata.

Site records were made in a field notebook and have been reproduced in full in this report, which therefore represents the complete written archive for this site. A single context number 0001 was allocated to an unstratified find. Due to the limited results of the excavation no drawn records were produced.

A photographic record was made, consisting of high-resolution digital images (archived as HTW 001–0002) and all images are reproduced in this report.

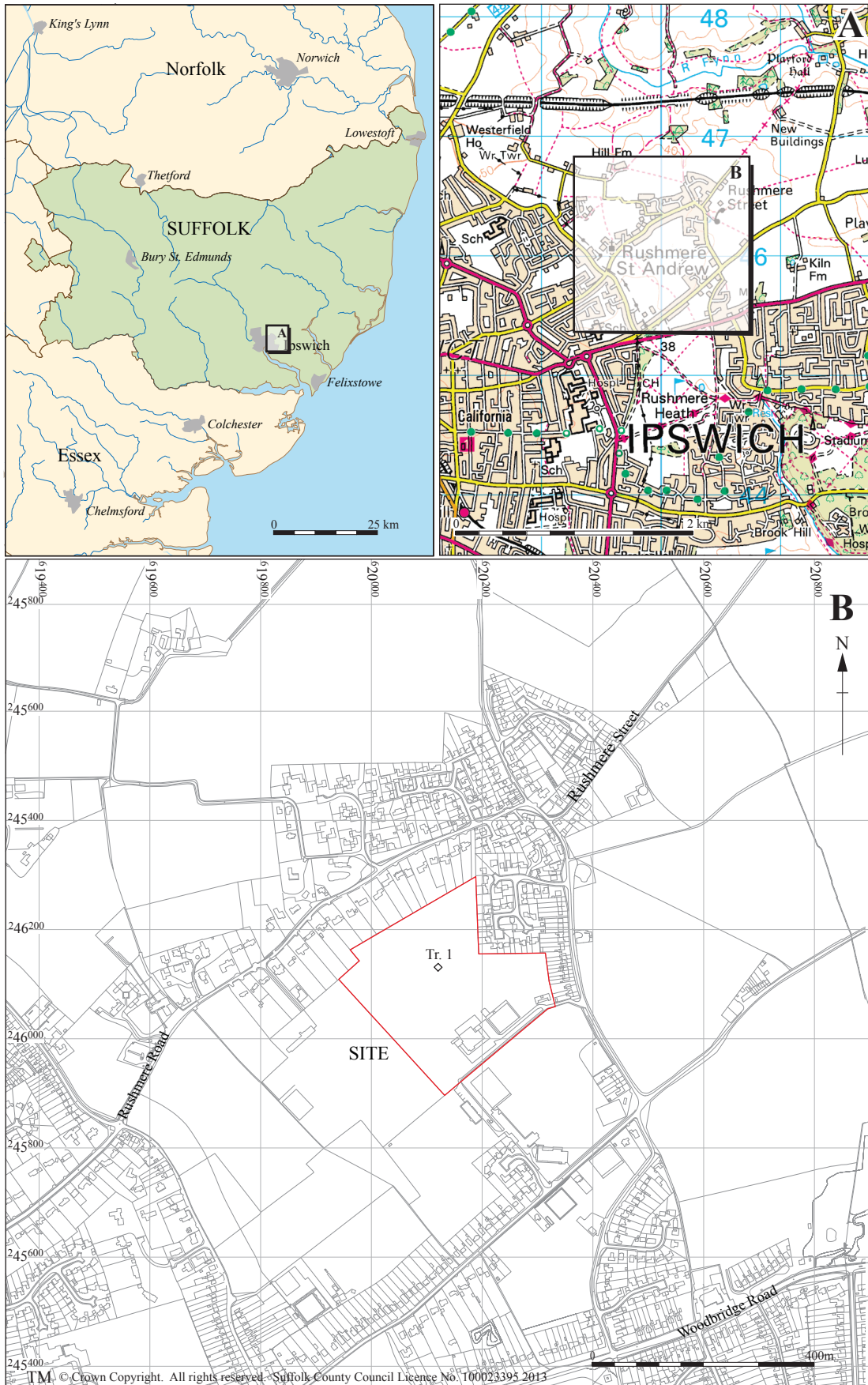


Figure 1. Site location with trench position

## 4. Results

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### Trench summary

*Dimensions: 10m x 10m x up to 0.90m deep*

Feature/deposit type	Depth below G.L	Location
Turf and topsoil	0.00m	Trench-wide
Natural stratum	0.36m	Trench-wide

Table 1. Summary of deposits

The natural stratum was a heterogeneous deposit of compact, light yellowish brown clayey sand containing frequent fine to medium sub angular pebbles, with pockets of hard, light brown clay/silt with flints and light yellowish brown chalky clay. It had a well defined interface with the overlying topsoil.

The topsoil was compacted, light to mid brownish grey loam, up to 0.28m thick. It contained moderate pebbles and occasional small fragments of post-medieval brick. It was sealed by a turf layer, up to 80mm thick, forming the current ground surface.

No archaeological features were found. A single, unstratified artefact was recovered from the base of the trench in an area of obvious root disturbance. This was a snapped flint flake, unpatinated and probably of later prehistoric date.

### Discussion

The positive discrete anomaly recorded during the geophysical survey was not confirmed as an archaeological feature. This suggests that it must have been confined to the topsoil and therefore of no archaeological significance.





Plate 1. General view of the trench, looking northeast



Plate 2. East-facing section in the NW corner of the trench (1m scale)

## **5. Conclusion and recommendations**

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No archaeological deposits or features were found and only one unstratified artefact (a prehistoric flint flake) was recovered. The results of the excavation are therefore of limited significance and no further archaeological work is recommended in relation to the proposed development of the site.

This excavation report will be disseminated *via* the OASIS online archaeological database.

## **6. Archive deposition**

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Digital archive: R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Current Recording Projects\Rushmere St Andrew\RMA 034 Excavation

Digital photographic archive: R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HTA-HTZ\HTW\HTW001-002

## **7. Acknowledgements**

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Dr. Tim Lodge of Agrostis Sports Surface Consulting commissioned the project on behalf of Ipswich School.

Dr. Jess Tipper (SCCAS, Conservation Team) produced the Brief and monitored the project. Dr. Rhodri Gardner managed the project and Kieron Heard carried out the fieldwork with the assistance of Roy Damant (SCCAS, Field Team).

Graphics are by Gemma Adams.



## 8. Bibliography

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Gardner, R., 2013, *Rushmere Sports Club, The Street, Rushmere St Andrew, Suffolk: Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation*, SCCAS (unpubl)

Tipper, J., 2013 *Brief for Archaeological Excavation at Rushmere Sports Club, The Street, Rushmere St Andrew*, SCCAS (unpubl)



## Appendix 1. Brief and specification

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### Brief for Archaeological Excavation

AT

RUSHMERE SPORTS CLUB,  
THE STREET,  
RUSHMERE ST ANDREW

<b>PLANNING AUTHORITY:</b>	Suffolk Coastal District Council
<b>PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:</b>	C/13/0519
<b>HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:</b>	RMA 033
<b>GRID REFERENCE:</b>	TM 201 461
<b>DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:</b>	Creation of outdoor artificial sports courts, parking and landscaping
<b>THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:</b>	Jess Tipper County Archaeologist Conservation Team Tel. : 01284 741225 E-mail: <a href="mailto:jess.tipper@suffolk.gov.uk">jess.tipper@suffolk.gov.uk</a>
<b>Date:</b>	12 August 2013

#### Summary

- 1.1 The Local Planning Authority (LPA) has applied a condition that an agreed programme of archaeological investigation work take place before development commences in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been approved in writing by the LPA. This is in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (paragraph 141).
- 1.2 The archaeological contractor must submit a copy of their Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) or Method Statement, based upon this brief of minimum requirements (and in conjunction with our standard Requirements for Archaeological Excavation 2012 Ver 1.1), to the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS/CT) for scrutiny; SCCAS/CT is the advisory body to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) on archaeological issues.

- 1.3 Following acceptance by SCCAS/CT, it is the commissioning body's responsibility to submit the WSI to the LPA for formal approval. No fieldwork should be undertaken on site without the written approval of the LPA.
- 1.4 The WSI should be approved before costs are agreed with the commissioning client, in line with Institute for Archaeologists' guidance. Failure to do so could result in additional and unanticipated costs.
- 1.5 The WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the brief will be adequately met. If the approved WSI is not carried through in its entirety (unless a variation is agreed by SCCAS/CT), SCCAS/CT will be unable to advise discharge of the condition.

### **Archaeological Background**

- 2.1 A geophysical survey carried out by Britannia Archaeology in July 2013 (R1032) identified a positive discrete anomaly of potential archaeological interest on the northern edge of the development area.

### **Fieldwork Requirements for Archaeological Investigation**

- 3.1 Archaeological investigation is to be carried out prior to development: Controlled strip, map and excavation of a boxed 10x10m area around the discrete positive geophysical anomaly identified on the northern edge of the development footprint. Detailed requirements for excavations are to be found in our Requirements for Archaeological Excavation 2012 Ver 1.1 (copy also attached).
- 3.2 A contingency should be allowed for the potential extension of this area of excavation, dependant on the results of the fieldwork required under section 3.1 of this brief. The extent of any further work is to be agreed with SCCAS/CT.

### **Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation**

- 4.1 The project has a unique code number from the geophysical survey (RMA 033). This number must be confirmed with the HER officer before work starts and the appropriate number clearly marked on all documentation and archive material relating to the work.
- 4.2 The composition of the archaeological contractor's staff must be detailed and agreed by SCCAS/CT, including any subcontractors/specialists. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 4.3 A timetable for fieldwork and assessment stages of the project must be presented in the WSI and agreed with SCCAS/CT before the fieldwork commences.
- 4.4 All arrangements for the excavation, the timing of the work and access to the site, are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 4.5 If the archaeological excavation is scheduled to be undertaken immediately before construction, the commissioning body should be aware that there may

be a time delay for excavation and recording if unexpected and complex archaeological remains are defined. Adequate time is to be allowed for full archaeological recording of archaeological deposits before any construction work can commence on site (unless otherwise agreed by the LPA on the advice of SCCAS/CT).

- 4.6 The project manager must also carry out a risk assessment and ensure that all potential risks are minimised, before commencing the fieldwork. The responsibility for identifying any constraints on fieldwork, e.g. designated status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites and other ecological considerations, and land contamination, rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor.
- 4.7 The WSI must state the security measures to protect the site from vandalism and theft, and to secure any deep holes.
- 4.8 Provision should be included in the WSI for public benefit in the form of communication and outreach activities.
- 4.9 The archaeological contractor will give SCCAS/CT ten working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to agreed locations and techniques in the WSI.

### **Post-Excavation Assessment and Archival Requirements**

- 5.1 Within four weeks of the end of fieldwork a written timetable for post-excavation assessment, updated project design and/or reporting must be produced, which must be approved by SCCAS/CT. Following this, a written statement of progress on post-excavation work – whether assessment, analysis, report writing and publication or archiving – will be required at six monthly intervals.
- 5.2 A post-excavation assessment (PXA) report on the fieldwork should be prepared in accordance with the principles of *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006). The PXA will act as a critically assessed audit of the archaeological evidence from the site; see *East Anglian Archaeology Draft Post Excavation Assessments: Notes on a New Guidance Document* (2012).
- 5.3 In certain instances a full PXA might be unnecessary. The need for a full PXA or otherwise should be discussed and formally agreed with SCCAS/CT within four weeks of the end of fieldwork.
- 5.4 The PXA must present a clear and concise assessment of the archaeological value and significance of the results, and identifies the research potential, in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3, 8 and 24, 1997, 2000 and 2011). It must present an Updated Project Design, with a timetable, for analysis, dissemination and archive deposition. The PXA will *provide the basis for measurable standards* for SCCAS/CT to monitor this work.
- 5.5 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared, consistent with the principles of *MoRPHE*. It must be adequate to perform the function of a final

archive for deposition in the Archaeological Store of SCCAS/CT or in a suitable museum in Suffolk (see Archaeological Archives Forum: a guide to best practice 2007).

- 5.6 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with guidelines from *The Institute of Conservation* (ICON).
- 5.7 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation, and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition. The intended depository must be prepared to accept the entire archive resulting from the project (both finds and written archive) in order to create a complete record of the project. A clear statement of the form, intended content, and standards of the archive is to be submitted for approval as an essential requirement of the WSI.
- 5.8 The PXA should offer a statement of significance for retention, based on specialist advice, and - where it is justified – the UPD should propose a discard strategy. This should be agreed with the intended archive depository.
- 5.9 For deposition in the SCCAS/CT's Archaeological Store, the archive should comply with SCCAS Archive Guidelines 2010. If this is not the intended depository, the project manager should ensure that a duplicate copy of the written archive is deposited with the Suffolk HER.
- 5.10 The UPD should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), or similar digital archive repository, and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 5.11 An unbound hardcopy of the PXA and UPD (or grey literature report if otherwise agreed), clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated. Following acceptance, a single hard copy of the report should be presented to the Suffolk HER as well as a digital copy of the approved report.
- 5.12 On approval of an adequate PXA and UPD, SCCAS/CT will advise the LPA that the scheme of investigation for post-excavation analysis, dissemination and archive deposition has been agreed.
- 5.13 Where appropriate, a copy of the approved PXA should be sent to the local archaeological museum, whether or not it is the intended archive depository. A list of local museum can be obtained from SCCAS/CT.
- 5.14 SCCAS/CT supports the OASIS project, to provide an online index to archaeological reports. 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. When the project is completed, all parts of the OASIS online form must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A .pdf version of the entire report should be uploaded to the OASIS website.
- 5.15 Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report must be prepared, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual

'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the work takes place, whichever is the sooner.

### **Standards and Guidance**

Detailed requirements are to be found in our Requirements for Archaeological Excavation 2012 Ver 1.1 and in SCCAS Archive Guidelines 2010

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.

The Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological excavation* (revised 2008) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

### **Notes**

There are a number of archaeological contractors that regularly undertake work in the County and SCCAS will provide advice on request. SCCAS/CT does not give advice on the costs of archaeological projects. The Institute for Archaeologists maintains a list of registered archaeological contractors ([www.archaeologists.net](http://www.archaeologists.net) or 0118 378 6446).

**This brief remains valid for 6 months. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the brief may need to be revised and re-issued to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy and techniques.**





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**OASIS ID: suffolkc1-159019**

### Project details

Project name	RMA 034: Rushmere Sports Club, The Street, Rushmere St Andrew
Short description of the project	A small excavation (10m x 10m) was carried out in relation to a planning application for a sports field development. The site was on level ground at approximately 40m OD. The natural stratum was a mixture of boulder clay and glaciofluvial sand. The excavation revealed topsoil and turf overlying the natural stratum. No archaeological deposits or features were seen. An unstratified prehistoric struck flint was found below the topsoil in an area of obvious root disturbance.
Project dates	Start: 16-09-2013 End: 16-09-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	RMA 033 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	RMA 034 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	FLAKE Late Prehistoric
Investigation type	"Full excavation"
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL RUSHMERE ST ANDREW Rushmere Sports Club, The Street
Study area	100.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 2013 4612 52 1 52 04 08 N 001 12 43 E Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator	Dr Jess Tipper
Project director/manager	Rhodri Gardner
Project supervisor	Kieron Heard
Type of sponsor/funding body	Land owner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Ipswich School

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County SMR
Physical Archive ID	RMA 034
Physical Contents	"Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County SMR
Digital Archive ID	RMA 034
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County SMR
Paper Archive ID	RMA 034
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Report"
Entered by	Kieron Heard (kieron.heard@suffolk.gov.uk)
Entered on	17 September 2013

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