

# Archaeological evaluation at Rowhedge Recreation Ground, Rectory Road, Rowhedge, Essex, CO5 7EG

July 2020



**by Dr Elliott Hicks**

figures by Chris Lister, Ben Holloway and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Sarah Carter

**commissioned by Elizabeth Nelson-Hayes  
on behalf of East Donyland Parish Council**

NGR: TM 02669 21540 (centre)

CAT project ref.: 20/06f

ECC code: ECC4530

OASIS ref.: colchest3-397055



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**CAT Report 1583**  
August 2020

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out at Rowhedge Recreation Ground, Rectory Road, Rowhedge, Essex in advance of the construction of a new multi-use gaming area. The site lies to the north of the site of a deserted medieval village, and in the midst of several cropmark complexes. Despite being situated in an archaeologically-sensitive area, however, no archaeological remains were encountered.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation at Rowhedge Recreation Ground, Rectory Road, Rowhedge, Essex which was carried out on 17th July 2020. The work was commissioned by Elizabeth Nelson-Hayes on behalf of East Donyland Parish Council in advance of the construction of a multi-use gaming area and was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER/CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). This recommendation was for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for a Trial Trenched Evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Dr Jess Tipper (CBCAA 2019), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2020).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (English Heritage 2006), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

## 3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer ([www.colchesterheritage.co.uk](http://www.colchesterheritage.co.uk)):

There has been little archaeological investigation of Rowhedge. However, as the village is situated in a topographically favourable location, lying at the confluence of the Roman River with the River Colne, evidence of early occupation of all periods may be present.

Cropmarks located to the north and south of the village indicate the presence of linear features, pits and trackways, but no dating evidence has been recovered from them (MCC8979 & MCC8974). Neolithic axes have been recovered close to East Donyland Hall (MCC8225-6) and a Roman flagon in Donyland Heath (MCC8955). An undated tumulus (burial mound) also lies nearby.

The development site is located immediately to the north of a deserted medieval village. This village was referred to in the Domesday book as being held by Count Eustace. In 1428 it was not separately listed or included in the list of parishes exempt from a subsidy issued in that year (MCC8956). A medieval penny of Henry II and a large bronze circular mound or stud decorated with the arms of either of Edmund Plantagenet, Earl of Cornwall (1272-1300) or Henry de Bohun (c 1216-1272) have been recovered to the southwest of this area (MCC8973 & MCC4925). A couple of surviving late medieval buildings are located along the High Street (MCC3994 & MCC3998).

East Donyland Hall, built in the early 17th century and rebuilt in the 19th century, lies to the south of the site (MCC3991). The hall is moated with fish ponds and has outbuildings dating to late 18th to early 19th century (MCC8958).

An evaluation carried out to the east at Rowhedge Wharf in 2017 uncovered no archaeological remains. However, it was found that the ground level at the site had been reduced prior to the construction of warehouses in 1979 which had presumably truncated any archaeological deposits which may have been present at the site (CAT Report 1075, ECC3925).

#### 4 Aim

The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits and to assess the archaeological potential of the site to allow the CBCAA to determine if further investigation is required.

#### 5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Two trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Trench T1 was 5m long by 1.8m wide and trench T2 was 10m long by 1.8m wide.

The trenches were cut through modern topsoil (L1, 0.05-0.14m thick, firm, dry light grey sandy-silt), an accumulation layer (L2, c 0.25-0.31m thick, hard, dry light yellow/grey sandy-silt with charcoal flecks) onto natural (L3, hard, dry very light yellow silty-sand, encountered at a depth 0.34-0.44m below current ground level). Sondages were excavated in both trenches to confirm the identification of L3 as natural.

No archaeological remains were encountered.



**Photograph 1** T2 trench shot – looking south southwest



## 6 Finds

### 6.1 Ceramic finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

Accumulation layer L2 contained a small sherd of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile (10g) and a sherd of post-medieval red earthenware pottery (fabric F40) (11g) dating to c 1500-19th/20th century.

### 6.2 Other finds

by Laura Pooley

A small and undated hollow iron tube came from accumulation layer L2. The tube had been squashed closed at one end and broken at the other. It was 70.5mm long, 12.7mm in diameter and weighed 13.3g.

## 7 Conclusion

Despite being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, no archaeological remains were uncovered during excavations at this site.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Elizabeth Nelson-Hayes and East Donyland Parish Council for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with S Carter. Figures are by C Lister, B Holloway and E Holloway. The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Dr Jess Tipper.

## 9 References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

Brown, D	2011	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
	(2nd ed.)	
CAT	2019	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2020	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation at Rowhedge Recreation Ground, Rectory Road, Rowhedge, Essex, CO5 7EG</i>
CAT Report 1075	2017	<i>Archaeological evaluation at Rowhedge Wharf, High Street, Rowedge, Colchester, Essex, CO5 7ET, January-February 2017</i> , by L Pooley
CBCAA	2019	<i>Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation at Rowhedge Recreation Ground, Rectory Road, Rowhedge, CO5 7EG</i> , by J Tipper
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14)
Historic England (HE)	2015b	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT Colchester Archaeological Trust

CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	period from c 4000 – 2500 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
peg-tile	rectangular thin tile with peg-hole(s) used mainly for roofing, first appeared c AD1200 and continued in use to present day, but commonly post-medieval to modern
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsj	written scheme of investigation

## 11 Contents of archive

**Finds:** none retained

### **Paper record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1583)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (trench sheet, sections)

Site digital photos and log

### **Digital record**

The report (CAT Report 1583)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

Survey data

## 12 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum under project ref. ECC4530.

**Distribution list:**

Elizabeth Nelson-Hayes, East Donyland Parish Council  
Dr Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services  
Essex Historic Environment Record



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

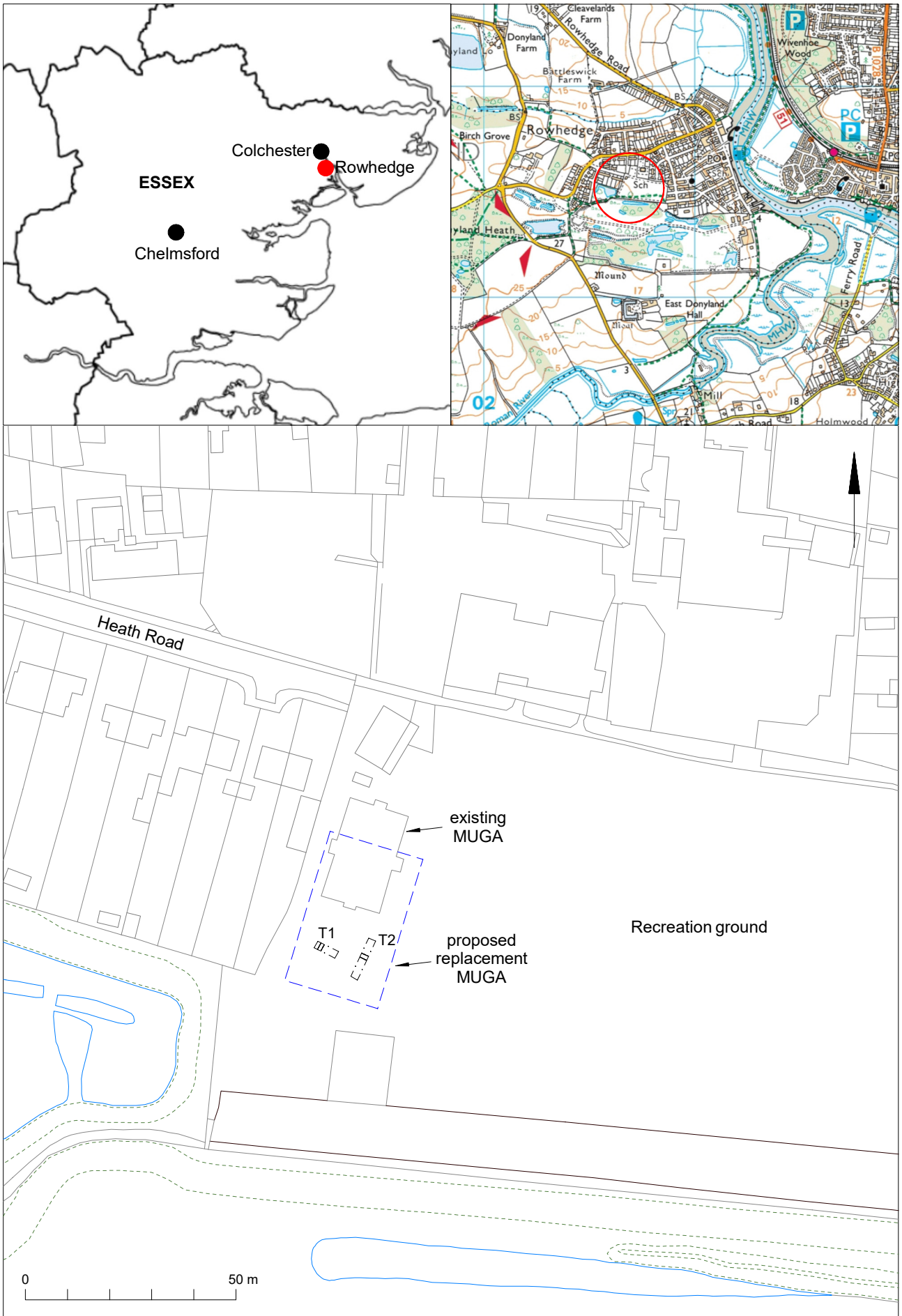
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Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 10.08.2020



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Fig 1 Site location and layout of trenches in relation to proposed development (indicated by the dashed blue lines).

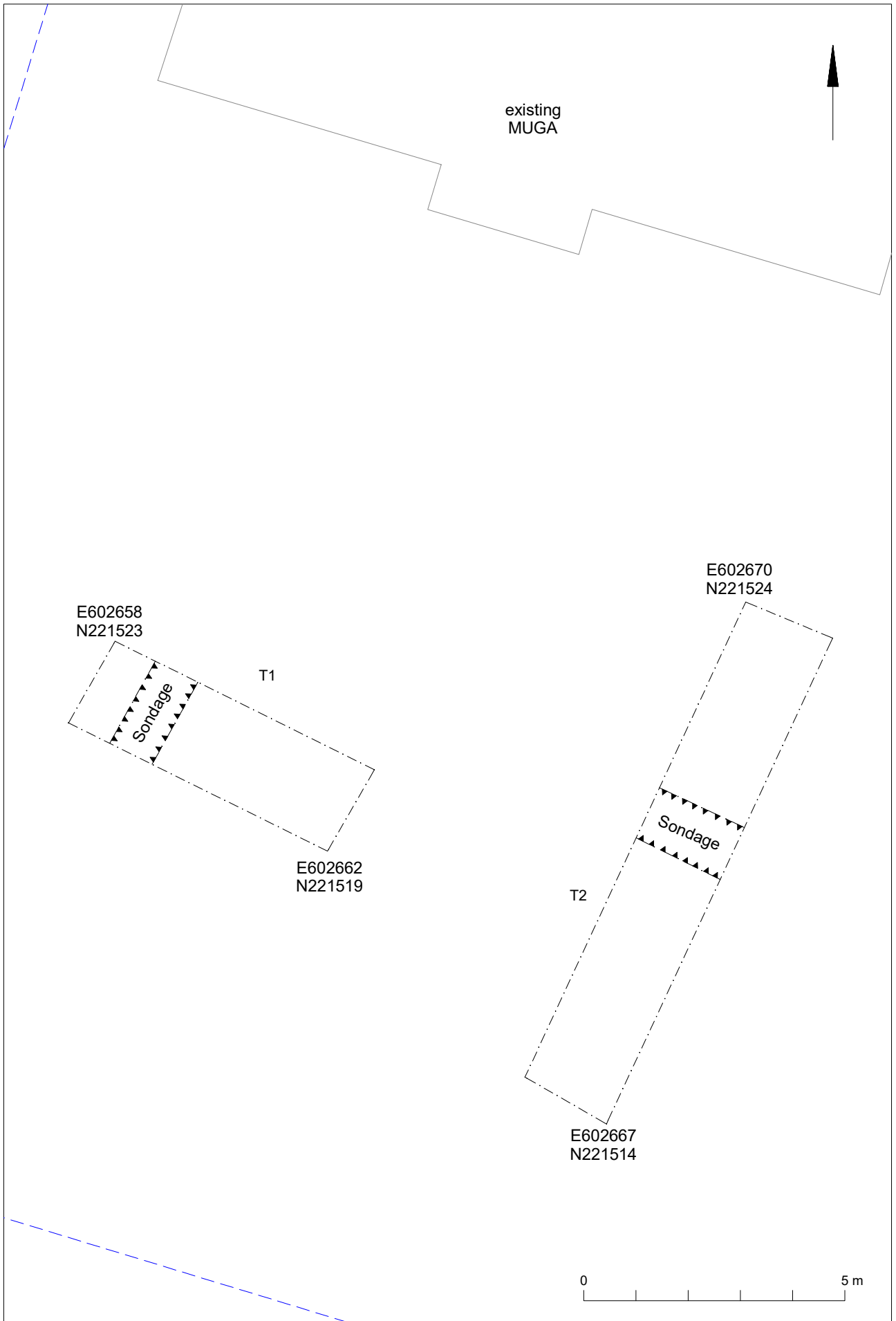


Fig 2 Evaluation results.

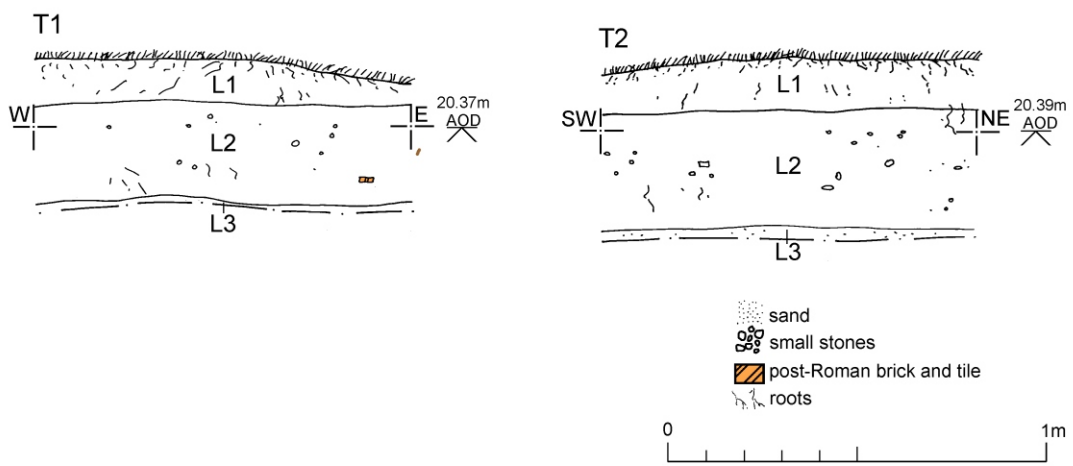


Fig 3 Representative section.



# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> Rowhedge Recreation Ground, Rectory Road, Rowhedge, Essex, CO5 7EG	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TM 02669 21540 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 20/06f CHER ref: ECC4530 OASIS ref: colchest3-397055
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 17th July 2020	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 0.08ha
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester museum	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> Not known	<b>Related CHER/SMR number:</b> CHER MCC3991, MCC3994, MCC3998, MCC4925, MCC8225, MCC8226, MCC8955, MCC8956, MCC8958, MCC8973, MCC8974, MCC8979; ECC3925
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1583	
<b>Periods represented:</b> -	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out at Rowhedge Recreation Ground, Rectory Road, Rowhedge, Essex in advance of the construction of a new multi-use gaming area. The site lies to the north of the site of a deserted medieval village, and in the midst of several cropmark complexes. Despite being situated in an archaeologically-sensitive area, however, no archaeological remains were encountered.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> None	
<b>CBC monitor:</b> Dr Jess Tipper	
<b>Keywords:</b> -	<b>Significance:</b> -
<b>Author of summary:</b> Dr Elliott Hicks	<b>Date of summary:</b> August 2020

# Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation at Rowhedge Recreation Ground, Rectory Road, Rowhedge, Essex, CO5 7EG.

**NGR:** TM 02669 21540 (centre)

**District:** Colchester

**Parish:** East Donyland

**Commissioned by:** Elizabeth Nelson-Hayes

**Client:** East Donyland Parish Council

**Curating museum:** Colchester

**CHER project code:** ECC4530

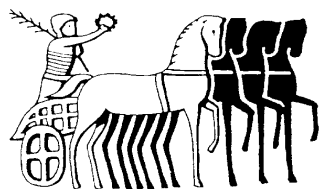
**CAT project code:** 2020/06f

**Oasis project ID:** colchest3-397055

**Site manager:** Chris Lister

**CBC monitor:** Jess Tipper

**This WSI written:** 19/06/2020 revised



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## Site location and description

The proposed development site on the southern side of the village of Rowhedge, at Rowhedge Recreation Ground, Rectory Road, Rowhedge, Essex, CO5 7EG (Fig 1). The land currently contains a smaller multi-use games area and grassed sports pitches. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 02669 21540.

## Proposed work

The project involves the removal of an existing multi-use games area (MUGA) and replacement with a new larger one and any associated groundworks.

## Archaeological background

The following archaeological background is based on extracts of the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (search MCC/ECC numbers at [www.colchesterheritage.co.uk](http://www.colchesterheritage.co.uk)):

There has been little archaeological investigations carried out in Rowhedge, and as the village is situated in a topographically favourable location at the confluence of the Roman River with the River Colne, evidence of early occupation of all periods may be present.

Undated cropmarks recorded through aerial photography are noted to the north and south of the village. These include linear features, pits and trackways (MCC8979 and MCC8974).

Evidence of activity prior to the medieval period near the site include find spots for Neolithic axes close to East Donyland Hall (MCC8225-6), a Roman flagon found in Donyland Heath (MCC8955) and an undated tumulus c20m wide by 3.5m high.

The proposed site is located to the immediate north of an area the CHER records as a deserted medieval village. This village was referred to in the Domesday book as being held by Count Eustace as a manor of 1.5 hides. By 1428 it was not separately listed or included in the list of parishes exempt from the 1428 subsidy (MCC8956). A couple of finds spots to the southwest of this area include a medieval penny of Henry II (MCC8973) and a large bronze circular mound or stud decorated with the arms of either of Edmund Plantagenet, Earl of Cornwall (1272- 1300) or Henry de Bohun (c. 1216- 1272) (MCC4925). A couple of late medieval historic buildings still survive along the High Street (MCC3994 and MCC3998).

To the south of the site is East Donyland Hall, built in the early 17th-century and rebuilt in the 19th-century (MCC3991). The hall is moated with fish ponds (MCC8958) and has notable outbuildings dated to late 18th to early 19th-century.

No archaeological remains were found during an evaluation to the east at Rowhedge Wharf in 2017, however, the site had been subject to significant ground reduction in c 1979 then covered by a concrete slab and warehouses. It was noted that these groundworks had caused significant modern disturbance over most the site when they were removed prior to the evaluation (CAT Report 1075, ECC3925).

## Project background

Colchester Borough Council Planning Department was approached in January 2019 by East Donyland Parish Council for advice. As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological evaluation was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA) prior to determination of the proposal. The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

## **Requirement for work (Fig 1)**

The required archaeological work was for an archaeological evaluation. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2019).

The brief requires systematic linear trenching to cover a 5% sample of the area of the proposed development, this equates to two evaluation trenches, T1 measuring 5m in length, and T2 10m in length, both 1.8m wide. This equates to 15m of trenching covering an area of 27m<sup>2</sup> (see Fig 1). The Trench will be widened in localised areas to facilitate excavation of deep archaeological features if required.

The evaluation is required to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified, and will be completed prior to determination of the planning application. It is also required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival, condition and significance of environmental evidence
- Include a contingency for soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floor and dark earth deposits. In addition, particular attention should be given to the collection of micro-remains preserved within and/or directly over floors
- Establish an archaeological deposit model for below-ground archaeological remains across the site
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

Further archaeological evaluation could be required if unusual deposits or other archaeological finds of significance are recovered, this decision will be made by the CBCAA and will be the subject of an additional brief and WSI.

## **General methodology**

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2019)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2019).

Professional CAT field archaeologists will undertake all specified archaeological work, for which they will be suitably experienced and qualified.

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to CBCAA one week before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to CHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A unique HER event number will be obtained from the CBCAA prior to the commencement of fieldwork. The curating museum will be notified of the details of the project and the event code, which will be used to identify the project archive when depositing at the end of the project.

## **Staffing**

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One supervisor plus one archaeologist for one day.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway/Mark Baister.

## **Evaluation methodology**

Where appropriate, modern overburden and any topsoil stripping/levelling will be performed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. If no archaeologically significant deposits are exposed, machine excavation will continue until natural subsoil is reached.

Where necessary, areas will be cleaned by hand to ensure the visibility of archaeological deposits.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered time will be allowed for these to be excavated, planned and recorded.

All features or deposits will be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) in 1m wide sections, and 100% of complex structures/features. Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns, ovens or burials will be carefully cleaned, planned and fully recorded, but where possible left *in situ*. Only if it can be demonstrated that the complex structure/feature is likely to be destroyed by groundworks will it be removed, or on the rare occasion where full excavation (or exhumation in the case of burials) is necessary to achieve the objectives of the evaluation.

Burials, if encountered, will be left *in situ* at this evaluation stage with an on site human bone specialist available to record as much information as possible (see human remains section below).

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

A sondage will be excavated in each trench to test the stratigraphy of the site. This will occur in every trench unless it can be demonstrated that a feature excavated within a particular trench has clearly penetrated into natural.

A representative section will be drawn of each trench, to include ground level, the depth of machining within the trench and the depth of any sondages.

A metal detector will be used to examine the trench, contexts and spoil heaps, and the finds recovered.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on proforma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

## **Site surveying**

The evaluation trench and any features will be surveyed by Total Station or GPS, unless the particulars of the features indicate that manual planning techniques should be employed.

Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of evaluation trenches will be located by NGR coordinates.

### **Environmental sampling policy**

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphological and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming context is large enough).

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- the range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality
- concentrations of macro-remains
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer / Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Trained CAT staff will process the samples and the flots will be sent to Val Fryer or Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF or LG will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged 'organic' features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF/LG and/or the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking of monolith samples.

A contingency will be made in the budget for scientific assessment/analysis if suitable deposits are identified. This can include soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floors and dark earth deposits and/or absolute dating (such as archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice.

### **Human remains**

CBCAA will be notified immediately if any human remains are encountered during the evaluation.

Burials, if encountered, will be left *in situ* at this evaluation stage. Following HE guidance (HE 2018) if the human remains are not to be lifted, the project osteologist will be available to record the human remains *in situ* (i.e. a site visit).

If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site, the following criteria would be applied; if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Department of Justice for a licence to remove them. Conditions laid down by the DoJ license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and the CBCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Human remains removed from site for analysis may be sent for radiocarbon dating.

### **Photographic record**

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared



on site, and included in site archive. Digital site photographs will be taken and archived as per Historic England guidelines (HE 2015a).

## **Finds**

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number. CAT may use local volunteers to assist the CAT Finds Officer with this task.

Most of our finds reports are written internally by CAT Staff under the supervision and direction of Philip Crummy (Director) and Howard Brooks (Deputy Director). This includes specialist subjects such as:

ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material): Matthew Loughton

animal bones: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman, small groups only)

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley

non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley

flints: Adam Wightman

environmental processing: Bronagh Quinn

project osteologist (human remains): Meghan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

animal and human bone: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

radiocarbon dating: SUERC Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, Glasgow

conservation/x-ray: Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation) / Norfolk Museums Service,  
Conservation and Design Services

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

flint: Hazel Martingell

prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey

Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Jo Mills / Val Rigby /  
Gwladys Monteil

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black / Ian Betts (MOLA)

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

small finds: Nina Crummy

other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and the coroner informed immediately, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to CBCAA.

A contingency will be made in the budget for scientific assessment/analysis if suitable deposits are identified. This can include soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floors and dark earth deposits and/or absolute dating (such as archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice.

## **Results**

Notification will be given to CBCAA when the fieldwork has been completed

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (HE 2015b).

The report will be submitted within three months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to CBCAA as a PDF.

The report will contain:

- Location plan of groundworks. At least two corners of which will be given 10 figure grid references.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An EHER summary sheet will also be completed within four weeks and supplied to CBCAA.

Results will be published, to at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance will be made in the project costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series.

### **Archive deposition**

It is a policy of Colchester Borough Council that the integrity of the site archive be maintained (i.e. all finds and records should be properly curated by a single organisation), with the archive available for public consultation. To achieve this desired aim it is assumed that the full archive will be deposited in Colchester Museums *unless otherwise agreed in advance*. (A full copy of the archive shall in any case be deposited).

**By accepting this WSI, the client agrees to deposit the archive, including all artefacts, at Colchester & Ipswich Museum.**

The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with the curating museum. If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the curating museum.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum or an alternate repository (approved by COLEM and CBCAA) within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA. Digital archives will be curated with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar accredited digital archive repository, that safeguard the long-term curation of digital records. Prior to deposition CAT's data management plan (based on the official guidelines from the Digital Curation Centre [DCC 2013]) will ensure the integrity of the digital archive.

The CBCAA will be notified of the archiving timetable throughout the project and once deposition has occurred.

A digital / vector drawing of the site be given to the CBCAA for integration into the HER.

### **Monitoring**

CBCAA will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given to CBCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with CBCAA prior to them being carried out.

CBCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of CBCAA shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

## References

Note: CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

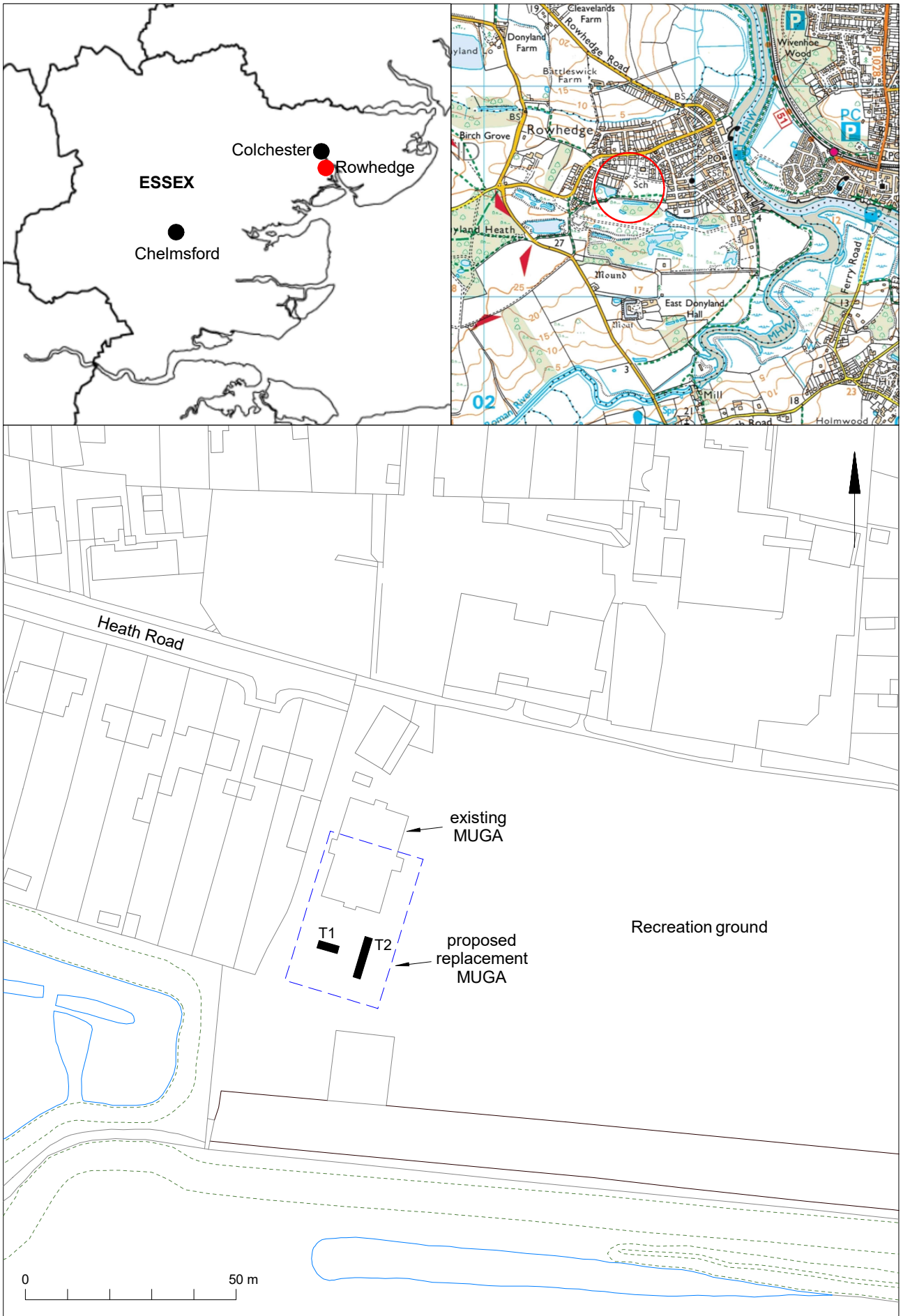
- |                       |       |   |
|-----------------------|-------|---|
| Brown, D              | 2011  | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> . 2nd Edition                          |
| CAT                   | 2019  | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>   |
| CAT Report 1075       | 2017  | <i>Archaeological evaluation at Rowhedge Wharf, High Street, Rowhedge, Colchester, Essex, CO5 7ET, January-February 2017</i> . By L Pooley      |
| CBCAA                 | 2019  | <i>Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation at Rowhedge Recreation Ground, Rectory Road, Rowhedge, CO5 7EG</i> . By J Tipper                      |
| CIfA                  | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>  |
| CIfA                  | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>                           |
| Gurney, D             | 2003  | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).                         |
| Historic England (HE) | 2015a | <i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice</i> . By S Cole & P Backhouse   |
| Historic England (HE) | 2015b | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>   |
| Historic England (HE) | 2018  | <i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project</i> . By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell                            |
| Medlycott, M          | 2011  | <i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24) |
| MHCLG                 | 2019  | <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.  |

E Holloway



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Fig 1 Site location and layout of trenches in relation to proposed development (indicated by the dashed blue lines).

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: colchest3-397055**

### Project details

Project name	An archaeological evaluation at Rowhedge Recreation Ground, Rectory Road, Rowhedge, Essex, CO5 7EG.
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out at Rowhedge Recreation Ground, Rectory Road, Rowhedge, Essex in advance of the construction of a new multi-use gaming area. The site lies to the north of the site of a deserted medieval village, and in the midst of several cropmark complexes. Despite being situated in an archaeologically-sensitive area, however, no archaeological remains were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 17-07-2020 End: 17-07-2020
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2020/06f - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4530 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	colchest3-397055 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Significant Finds	PEG-TILE Medieval
Significant Finds	PEG-TILE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Amenity area (e.g. public open space)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER EAST DONYLAND Rowhedge Recreation Ground, Rectory Road, Rowhedge, Essex
Postcode	CO5 7EG
Study area	0.08 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 02669 21540 51.855057817574 0.943285835967 51 51 18 N 000 56 35 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 20.07m Max: 20.1m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Emma Holloway
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding	Parish Council

body

Name of sponsor/funding body  
East Donyland Parish Council

**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Digital Archive ID ECC4530

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Text"

Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Paper Archive ID ECC4530

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Report","Section"

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Archaeological evaluation at Rowhedge Recreation Ground, Rectory Road, Rowhedge, Essex, CO5 7EG: July 2020

Author(s)/Editor(s) Hicks, E.

Other bibliographic details CAT Report 1583

Date 2020

Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust

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URL <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

Entered by Dr Elliott Hicks (eh2@catuk.org)

Entered on 12 August 2020

**OASIS:**

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**Colchester Borough Council**

Rowan House, 33 Sheepen Road, Colchester, CO3  
3WG

**Policy and Corporate**

**Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation**

AT

Rowhedge Recreation Ground, Rectory Road, Rowhedge CO5 7EG

**DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:** Redevelopment of the MUGA

**GRID REFERENCE:** TM 02669 21540

**THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:** Jess Tipper  
Archaeological Advisor  
Tel.: 01206 508920  
E-mail: jess.tipper@colchester.gov.uk

**Date:** 28 November 2019

**Summary**

- 1.1 The applicant has been advised that the location of the proposed development could affect important archaeological deposits.
- 1.2 The applicant is required to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the proposed development site prior to determination of the proposal, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation. This information should be incorporated in the design and access statement, in accordance with the NPPF (paragraphs 189 and 190), in order for the LPA to be able to take into account the particular nature and the significance of any below-ground heritage assets at this location.
- 1.3 The archaeological contractor must submit a copy of their Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), for each stage of the evaluation, based upon this brief of minimum requirements, to the Archaeological Advisor for Colchester Borough Council (CBC).
- 1.4 The WSI should be approved before costs are agreed with the commissioning client, in line with the Chartered 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 (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected.

**Archaeological Background**

- 2.1 The location of the MUGA is within an area of archaeological interest recorded in the Colchester Historic Environment Record, close to the recorded location of a deserted medieval settlement (HER Monument no. MCC8956). Groundworks relating to the proposals would cause ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposits that exist.

## Fieldwork Requirements for Archaeological Evaluation

3.1 The following staged archaeological evaluation is required to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified:

- systematic trial-trenching.

This evaluation work must be completed prior to determination of any planning application.

3.2 Linear trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area of the proposed extension to the MUGA (i.e. outside the area of the current MUGA) prior to determination of the planning application. The sample will result in 15m of trial trenching at 1.80m in width.

The trenches shall be positioned in a systematic grid array to sample all parts of the area. Trenches may need to be widened in localised areas to facilitate excavation of deep archaeological features (if encountered).

3.3 Trial Trenching is required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation. The WSI should provide for a contingency in the event of the need for absolute dating (radiocarbon and archaeomagnetic dating).
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival, condition and significance of environmental evidence.
- The WSI should provide for a contingency for soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floor and dark earth deposits. In addition, particular attention should be given to the collection of micro-remains preserved within and/or directly over floors.
- Establish an archaeological deposit model for below-ground archaeological remains across the site.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

3.4 A scale plan showing the proposed location of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by CBC before fieldwork begins.

3.5 Further evaluation could be required if unusual deposits or other archaeological finds of significance are recovered; if so, this would be the subject of an additional brief. A human osteologist should be available to record human remains *in situ*, if they are encountered in the evaluation, CBC's Archaeological Officer should be informed immediately to discuss if it will be necessary to lift and analyse the remains; a contingency should be provided for this work.

## Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation

- 4.1 The composition of the archaeological contractor's staff must be detailed and agreed by CBC, including any subcontractors/specialists. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 4.2 All arrangements for the evaluation of the site, the timing of the work and access to the site, are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 4.3 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 rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor.

#### **Reporting and Archival Requirements**

- 5.1 The project manager must obtain a Colchester HER Event number for each stage of evaluation from CBC's Archaeological Officer for the fieldwork; this will be the unique reference number for the work in the Colchester HER.
- 5.2 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository (Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service) before the WSI is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation, and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition; agreement in principle for deposition should be obtained prior to approval of the WSI. 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. The WSI should include a Selection Strategy (<https://www.archaeologists.net/selection-toolkit>). An inventory of the site archive should be included in the report.
- 5.3 It is a policy of CBC that the integrity of the site archive be maintained (i.e. all finds and records should be properly curated by a single organisation), with the archive available for public consultation. It is expected that the landowner will deposit the full site archive, and transfer title to, the Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service, and this should be agreed before the fieldwork commences. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate. Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with guidelines from the Institute of Conservation (ICON).
- 5.4 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar accredited digital archive repository, and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>). CBC's Archaeological Advisor should be notified when the digital archive has been deposited with the preferred digital archive repository. The WSI should also include a Data Management Plan.

- 5.5 A copy of the report (or reports), clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to CBC for approval within three months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance.
- 5.6 The results should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the Colchester HER. The report should present the results of the evaluation in the spatial and temporal context, relating the site to the information, including historic maps, held in the Essex Record Office.
- 5.7 The results of the evaluation must be related to the specific development proposals, and incorporate an archaeological impact assessment. The report should include an archaeological deposit model for below-ground archaeological remains across the site, and include an assessment of the significance of archaeological remains on the site.
- 5.8 Following acceptance of each draft report, a .pdf digital copy (in PDF/A or PDF/Archive format) should be presented to the Colchester HER.
- 5.9 A digital vector plan should be included with each evaluation report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the Colchester HER. AutoCAD files should also be exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a .dxf or .TAB files).
- 5.10 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 (or each staged of the evaluation) should be uploaded.
- 5.11 A copy of the WSI should be appended to each report.
- 5.12 This brief remains valid for six 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.

### **Standards and Guidance**

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. The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (2014) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

The following Historic England Guidelines are directly relevant to this project:

*Preserving Archaeological Remains. Decision-taking for Sites under Development* (2016),  
*Geoarchaeology. Using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record* (2007),  
*Environmental Archaeology* (2011),  
*Animal Bones and Archaeology. Guidelines for Best Practice* (2014),  
*Archaeometallurgy. Guidelines for Best Practice* (2015),

*Organic Residue Analysis and Archaeology. Guidance for Good Practice* (2017),  
*Science and the Dead. A guideline for the destructive sampling of archaeological human remains for scientific analysis* (2013),  
*The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project* (2018).

### **Notes**

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

Site: Rowhedge Rec MUGA EVAL

Site code: ECC4530

Layer No.

Interpretation Turfed top soil

Period Post-medieval

Location Both trenches

1

**SOIL DESCRIPTION**

Consistence very loose soft friable firm hard dry moist wet  
✓ ✓

Colour very light medium dark yellow orange green grey brown black  
✓ ✓

Soil sand silt clay loam clay silt sand  
Type ✓ ✓

charcoal oyster daub brick tile

Inclusions: flecks

gravel % stone % tile/brick % pot %

Inclusions: pieces

**RECORDING**

Plan nos

Section nos

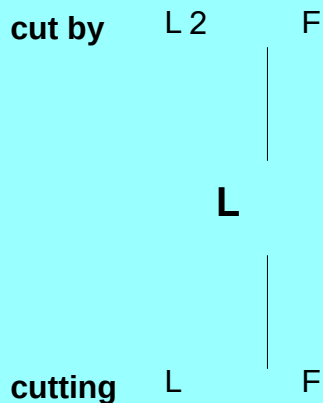
pre-exc ex post-ex

Photos taken

**FINDS**

Find Nos:

**NOTES** Modern turfed top soil.



By SC Date 17/07/20



Site: Rowhedge Rec MUGA EVAL

Site code: ECC4530

Layer No.

Interpretation Sub soil

Period Post-medieval

Location Both trenches

**2**

**SOIL DESCRIPTION**

Consistence very loose soft friable firm hard dry moist wet  
✓ ✓

Colour very light medium dark yellow orange green grey brown black  
✓ ✓ ✓

Soil sand silt clay loam clay silt sand  
Type ✓ ✓

Inclusions: flecks charcoal oyster daub brick tile  
✓

gravel % stone % tile/brick % pot %

Inclusions: pieces

RECORDING 1:10 sx drawing

Plan nos

Section nos

pre-exc ex post-ex

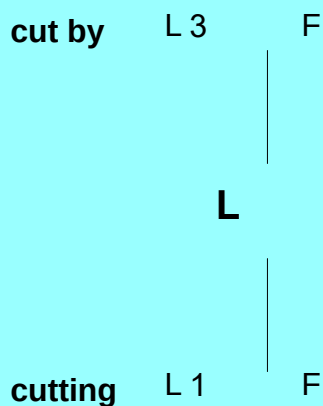
Photos taken

**FINDS**

Find Nos:

1

**NOTES** Hard subsoil layer, light and dusty occasional charcoal flecks.



By

Date 17/07/20

Site: Rowhedge Rec MUGA EVAL

Site code: ECC4530

Layer No.

Interpretation Natural

Period Post-glacial

Location Both trenches

**3**

**SOIL DESCRIPTION**

Consistence very loose soft friable firm hard dry moist wet  
✓ ✓

Colour very light medium dark yellow orange green grey brown black  
✓ ✓ ✓

Soil Type sand silt clay loam clay silt sand charcoal oyster daub brick tile  
✓ ✓

Inclusions: flecks

gravel % stone % tile/brick % pot %

Inclusions: pieces

RECORDING 1:10 sx drawing

Plan nos

Section nos

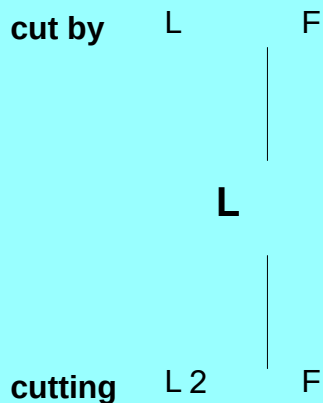
pre-exc ex post-ex

Photos taken

**FINDS**

Find Nos:

**NOTES** Natural slightly silty, sand.



By SC Date 17/07/20

Site: Rowhedge Rec MUGA EVAL

Site code: ECC4530

Feature No. Layer No. u/s

Find No.

CONTEXT

2

1

upper fill

middle fill  
✓

lower fill

?

good  
✓

poor

?

Notes T1 sub-soil finds

Pottery

whole frags prehis Roman Saxon Med Post-med Mod ?  
✓ ✓

CBM

R Brick R Tile box tile tessera unfrogged frogged Peg tile  
P-R Brick ✓

Organics

Animal bone Human bone shell leather wood

other

flint fe nail R glass P-R glass painted plaster mortar slate clay pipe burnt stone

Small Find? Small Find No. Small Find type

Sample? Sample No. Sample type



001



002





003



004





005

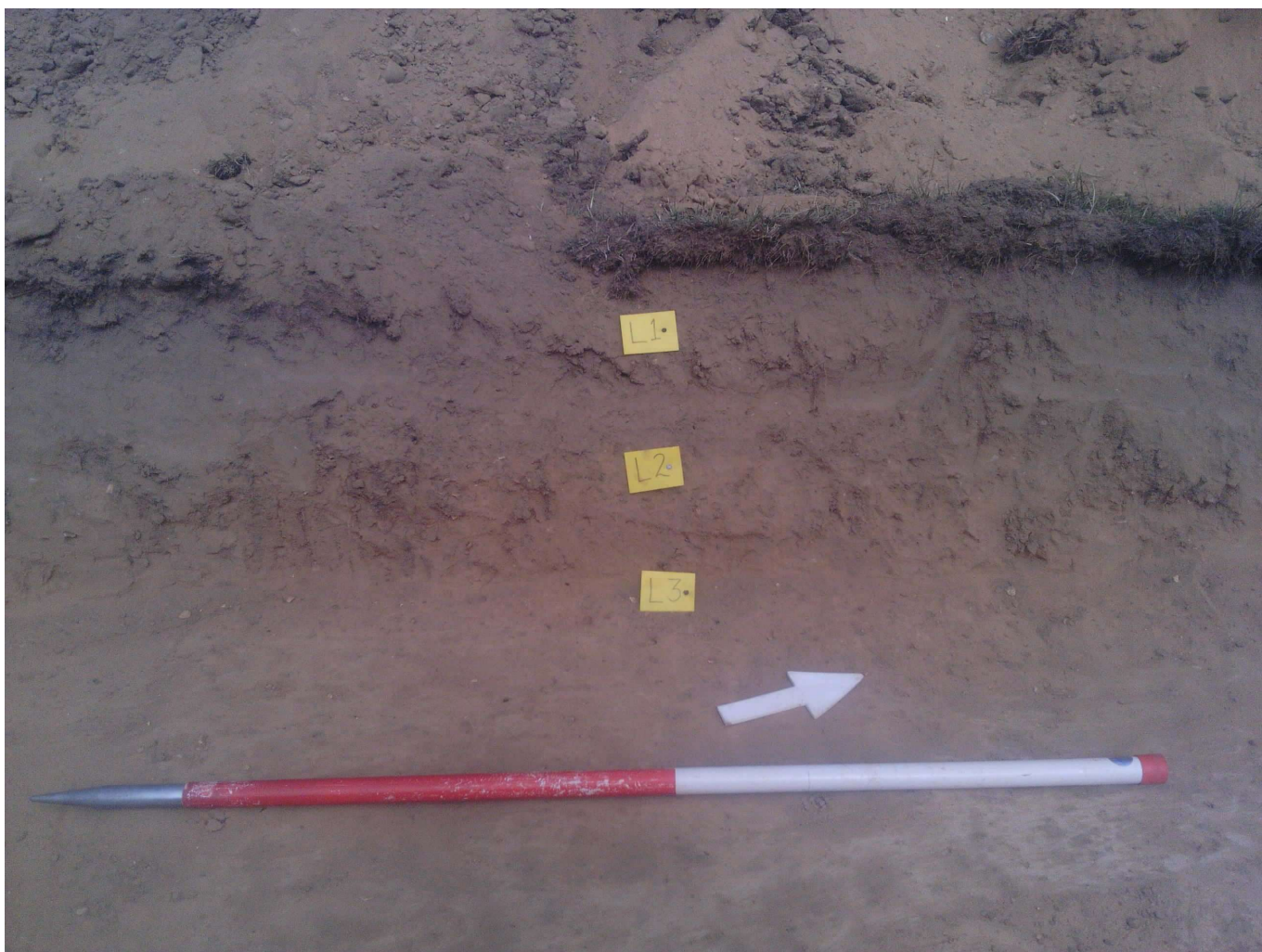


006





007



008





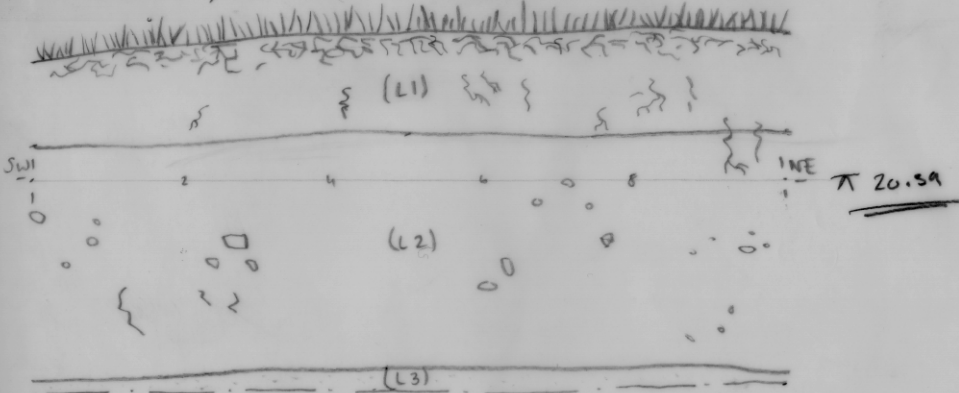
009



ECC4530\_Rowhedge-Recreation-Ground-Rowhedge\_EVAL\_PhotographicLog

Filename With Ext	annotation
ECC4530_PhotoGraph_001.jpg	Working shot
ECC4530_PhotoGraph_002.jpg	Site shot
ECC4530_PhotoGraph_003.jpg	Site shot
ECC4530_PhotoGraph_004.jpg	T2 trench shot - looking south southwest
ECC4530_PhotoGraph_005.jpg	T2 trench shot - looking north northeast
ECC4530_PhotoGraph_006.jpg	T1 trench shot - looking west northwest
ECC4530_PhotoGraph_007.jpg	T1 trench shot - looking east southeast
ECC4530_PhotoGraph_008.jpg	T2 rep sx - looking west northwest
ECC4530_PhotoGraph_009.jpg	T1 rep sx - looking north northeast

T2 REPSX, SE FACING, 110, SC, 17/07/20

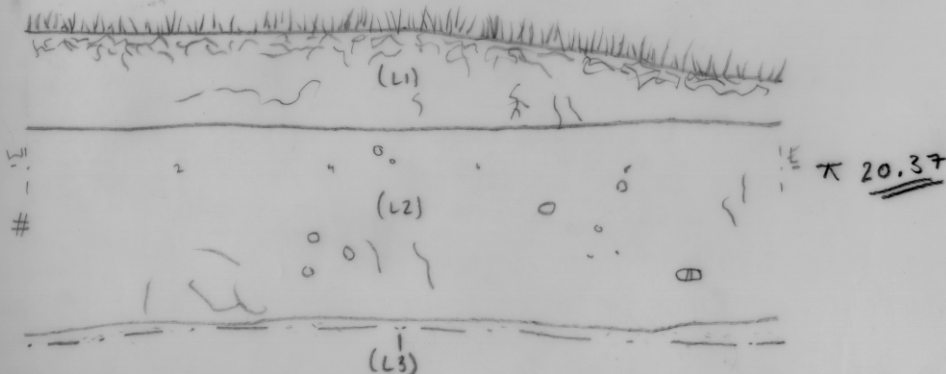


L1 - Topsoil

L2 - Light grey brown ~~fff~~ sandy silt with occasional stones.

L3 - Natural silty sand.

T1 REPSX, S FACING SX, 110, SC, 17/07/20



NEN MUGA. ROWHEDGE RECREATION GROUND  
ECC4530 2020/06f