

Archaeological evaluation at Hutton Parish Hall, Rayleigh Road, Hutton, Essex, CM13 1LY

September 2016



by Laura Pooley

figures by Ben Holloway and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Ben Holloway, Sarah Carter and Alec Wade

**commissioned by Norman Gill
on behalf of Hastingwood Developments Ltd**

NGR: TQ 628 952 (centre)

Planning ref.: 15/01594/FUL

CAT project ref.: 16/03i

ECC code: BWHPH16

Chelmsford Museum accession code CHMRE: 2016.067

OASIS ref.: colchest3-247110



Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: archaeologists@catuk.org

CAT Report 1010
September 2016

Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Results	1
5	Finds	2
6	Discussion	3
7	Acknowledgements	3
8	References	3
9	Abbreviations and glossary	3
10	Contents of archive	4
11	Archive deposition	4

Figures

after p5

List of photographs, tables and figures

Cover: general site shot

Photograph 1 T1, looking NW 2

Fig 1 Site location with evaluation trench in relation to proposed development (blue)

Fig 2 Evaluation results

Fig 3 Feature (F1) and representative trench sections

1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching was carried out on the site of the demolished Hutton Parish Hall, Rayleigh Road, Hutton in advance of the construction of six new dwellings. Despite being located within the later medieval settlement of Hutton no significant archaeological horizons were identified. Four modern postholes and the remains of two grubbed out walls were associated with the demolished parish hall. However, thirteen sherds of Bronze Age/Early Iron Age and late prehistoric/early Roman pottery were recorded within the subsoil with a small fragment of lava quernstone.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on the site of the demolished Hutton Parish Hall, Rayleigh Road, Hutton, Essex which was carried out on 5th September 2016. The work was commissioned by Norman Gill, on behalf of Hastingwood Developments Ltd in advance of the construction of six new dwellings. The work was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Helen Saunders advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for archaeological trial-trenching*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Helen Saunders (ECCPS 2016), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2016).

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 utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford.

The EHER shows the proposed development lies within the historic extent of the post-medieval settlement of Hutton (EHER 19120). The manor of Hutton is documented from the Domesday Book and so is likely to be Saxon in origin. The medieval settlement was likely to have been concentrated close to the church/hall complex; however by the later medieval period settlement had expanded along the roads and outlying farms. The Chapman and André maps of 1777 depict settlement in the location of the proposed development. The current building on the site dates from around the 1920's and was originally built as a working men's club and later used as a parish hall. There is the possibility that evidence relating to earlier settlement survives within the proposed development site and would be disturbed/destroyed by the proposed development.

4 Results (Figs 2-3)

A single evaluation trench 20m long by 1.8m wide was machine dug under archaeological supervision. Three layers were identified. A mix of modern topsoil and

crush from the demolition of the parish hall (L1, c 90-100mm thick) sealed a silty-clay subsoil (L2, c 290-300mm thick) which sealed natural clay (L3).

Four modern postholes (F1, F3-F5) were recorded along with two lengths of grubbed-out wall foundation from the demolished parish hall (F2 and F6). No significant archaeological horizons were identified.



Photograph 1 T1, looking NW

5 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

Archaeological finds from L2, finds number 1 were retained for analysis and are listed in Table 1. Modern brick and concrete were noted from F1-F6 but not retained for analysis.

Description	Date
Prehistoric pottery: 11 sherds (40g)	Bronze Age or Early Iron Age
Pottery: 2 sherds (6g)	Late Prehistoric or Early Roman
Single abraded fragment of lava quernstone, broken into several pieces during excavation (126g)	Roman or later

Table 1 All finds from L2, finds number 1

The pottery is quite broken-up consisting of small-medium sherds that have various degrees of abrasion. Most of the sherds are in a coarse, relatively poorly sorted, flint-

tempered fabric with small-medium and large flint inclusions and appear to all be part of the same pot. One sherd has rather more dense flint, but may well also be from the same pot as the other pieces. The fabric is dark but with some reddish-brown areas on surfaces. Some of the sherds are up to 12mm thick, but appear to come possibly from the flat base of the pot. The nature of the pieces suggests a Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date. With these are two other sherds in sand-tempered fabrics. Both are abraded. One is a plain body sherd in a slightly soft, coarse sand, fabric. The other appears to be either from a rim or probably more likely from the edge of a base and is in a relatively fine sand fabric that is also relatively soft. There is a deposit, possibly a remnant of a glaze, on the internal face; although this is not clear as a similar small area of deposit extends over the break. While both are difficult to date closely, on balance, the relatively soft fabrics suggest that a late prehistoric or early Roman date is probably more likely than a later one.

6 Discussion

Despite being located in an area of archaeological importance no significant archaeological horizons were identified. The postholes and grubbed out wall foundations were all associated with the demolished Hutton parish hall. However, a small quantity of finds of a Bronze Age/Early Iron Age and early Roman date indicate activity nearby.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Norman Gill and Hastingwood Developments Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway, S Carter and A Wade. Figures are by BH and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Helen Saunders.

8 References

CAT	2014	<i>Health and Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2015	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation and building recording at Hutton Parish Hall, Rayleigh Road, Hutton, Brentwood, CM13 1LY</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Dept of Communities and Local Government.
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14 . Ed. D Gurney
EAA 24	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 , by Maria Medlycott
ECCPS	2015	<i>Brief for Archaeological photographic record of the present hall and trial trenching at the Hutton Parish Hall, Rayleigh Road, Hutton</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> (English Heritage)

9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHHER	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 of soil
medieval	period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to c AD 1800
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
Section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

10 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1010)

ECC Evaluation Brief, CAT Written Scheme of Investigation

Original site record (Feature and layer sheets, Finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log, Architectural plans, Attendance register, Risk assessment

11 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 Chelmsford Museum under accession code CHMRE: 2016.067

Distribution list:

Norman Gill
Hastingwood Development Ltd
ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



Colchester Archaeological Trust

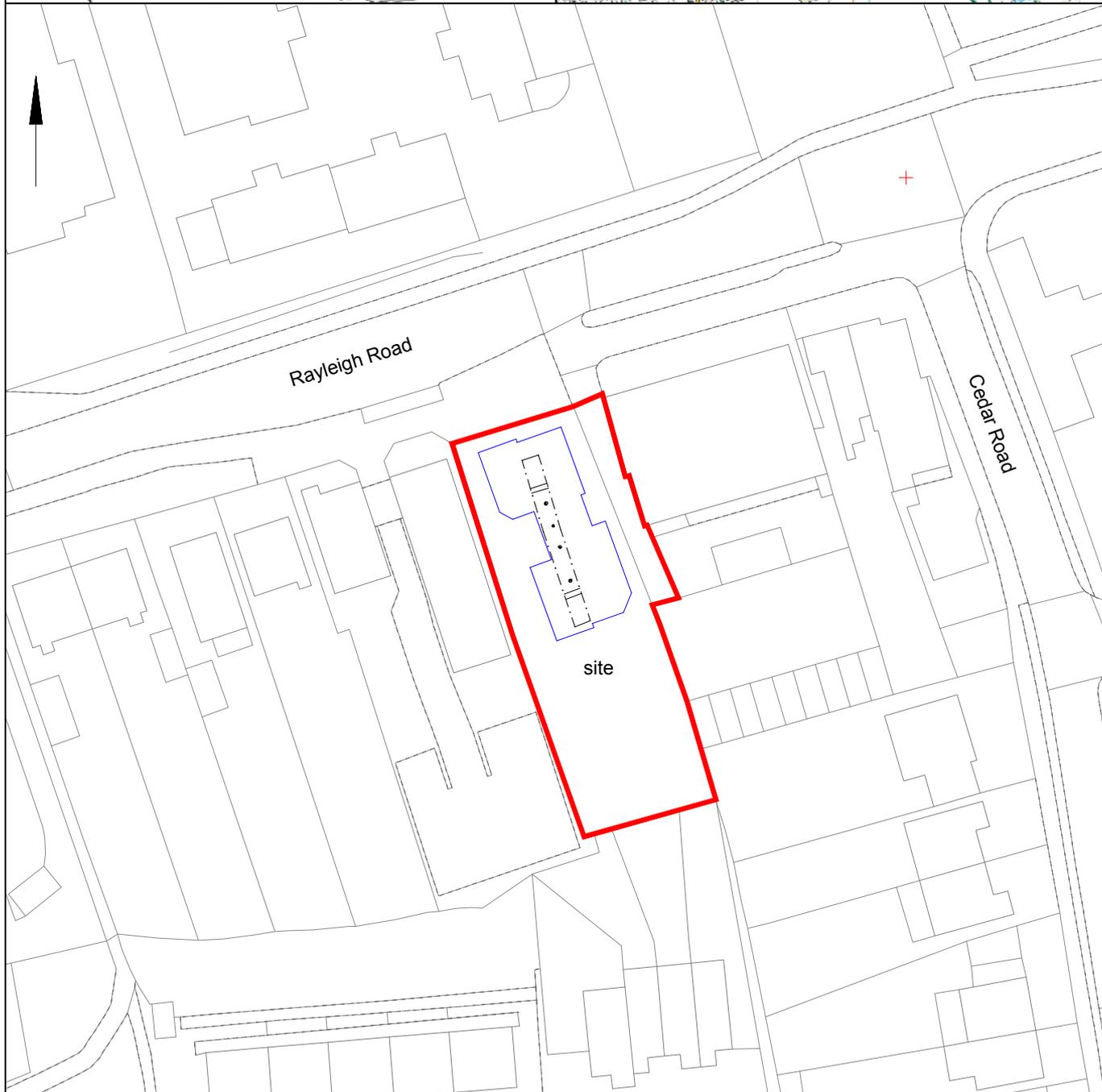
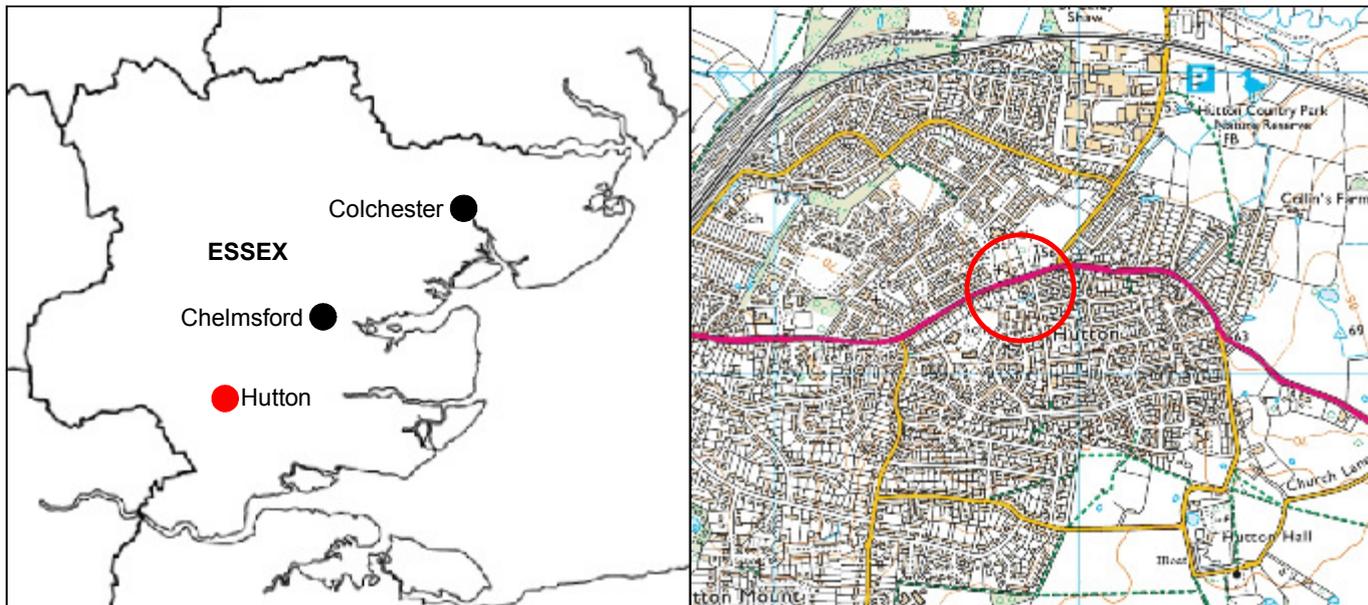
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: archaeologists@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 7.9.2016



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.

Fig 1 Site location with evaluation trench in relation to proposed development (blue)



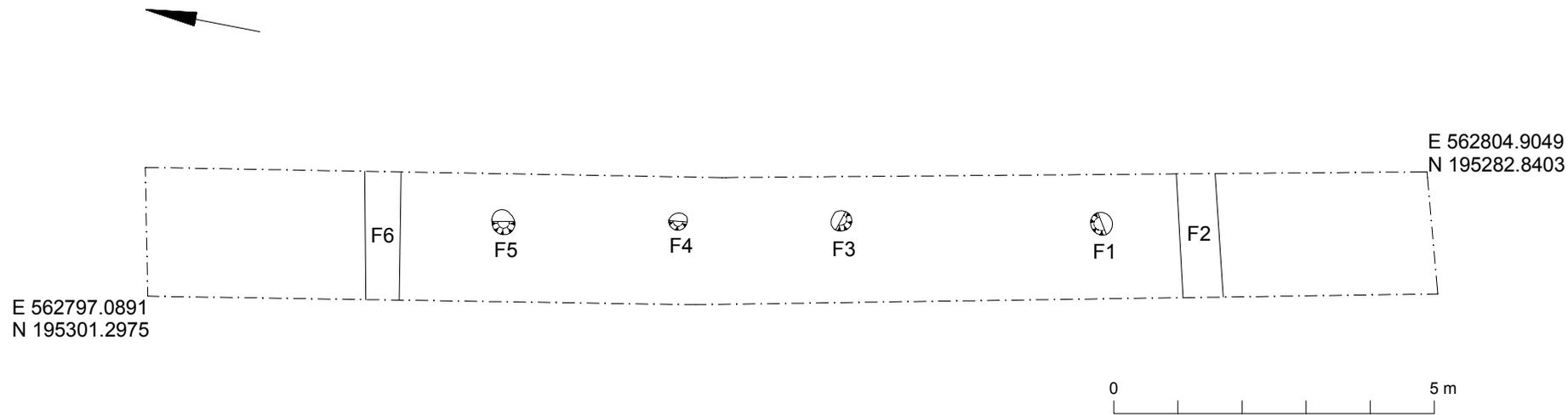


Fig 2 Evaluation results

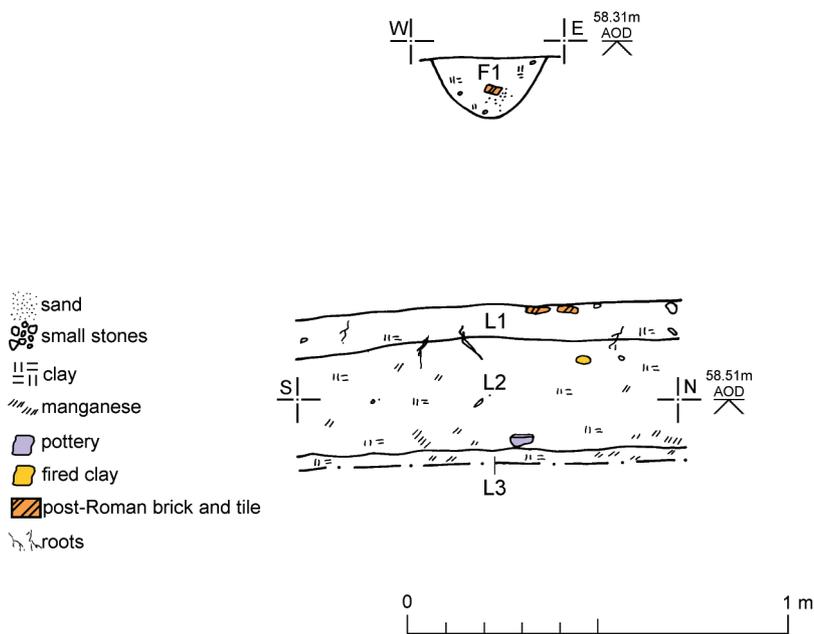


Fig 3 Feature (F1) and representative trench sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Hutton Parish Hall, Rayleigh Road, Hutton, Essex, CM13 1LY	
Parish: Brentwood	District: Brentwood
NGR: TQ 628 952 (centre)	Site code: CAT project code: 16/03i ECC project code: BWHPH16 OASIS project ID: colchest3-247110
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 5th September 2016	Size of area investigated: One trench 20m by 1.8m (totalling 36m ²)
Location of curating museum: Chelmsford Museum accession code CHMRE: 2016.067	Funding source: developer
Further seasons anticipated? Not known	Related EHER number: EHER 19120
Final report: CAT Report 1010	
Periods represented: Modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching was carried out on the site of the demolished Hutton Parish Hall, Rayleigh Road, Hutton in advance of the construction of six new dwellings. Despite being located within the later medieval settlement of Hutton no significant archaeological horizons were identified. Four modern postholes and the remains of two grubbed out walls were associated with the demolished parish hall. However, thirteen sherds of Bronze Age/Early Iron Age and late prehistoric/early Roman pottery were recorded within the subsoil with a small fragment of lava quernstone.	
Previous summaries/reports: –	
Keywords: –	Significance: –
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: September 2016