

LAYER-DE-LA-HAYE (Essex)

TL 96269 19787

The Layer-de-la-Haye lies in Colchester, Essex on a flat plateau near a series of springs over London clay and sandy and gravely soils (Robertson 2005, 3). Essex County Council Field Archaeological Unit excavated the site in October 2005 in advance of extensions of a water treatment works (Robertson 2005, 3). Excavations investigated nearly 6 ha including the opening of 32 trenches (totalling 2560 square metres excavated) (Robertson 2005, 1). The archaeological sequence indicated prehistoric and post-Medieval activity at Layer-de-la-Haye (Robertson 2005, 1). Archaeological evidence from the Late Iron Age consists of four possible ring ditches, which may be roundhouses, and three cremation deposits (Robertson 2005, 18-19). The cremations lie to the west of the ring ditches (**Figure 2**) and it is unsure whether they are contemporary or were from different times in the Late Iron Age. The three cremation burials are the only Iron Age human remains occurrences from Layer-de-la-Haye and Joyce Compton and Helen Walker analysed all the finds (including the cremations) from the site.