



**Rochford District Council**

# **ROCHFORD DISTRICT HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT CHARACTERISATION PROJECT**

**March 2006**





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## **Abbreviations**

CBA	Chris Blandford Associates
ECC	Essex County Council
GIS	Geographical Information system
HECA	Historic Environment Character Area
HECZ	Historic Environment Character Zone
HER	Historic Environment Record
HLC	Historic Landscape Characterisation
NMP	National Mapping Programme
PPG 16	Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 Archaeology and Planning

## **Acknowledgements**

This Rochford Historic Environment Characterisation Project builds upon and develops the methodology used in The Historic Environment Characterisation Thames Gateway Project carried out by Chris Blandford Associates. The archaeological, landscape and urban historic character areas and the combined Historic Environment Character Areas created by the study carried out by the CBA have been utilised with minor modifications and extensions where necessary for this report. The methodological descriptions also rely heavily on the outlines provided in the CBA report.

The Rochford Historic Environment Characterisation Project report was prepared by Nigel Brown, Vanessa Clarke and Richard Havis with the assistance of Sally Gale, Teresa O'Connor and Alison Bennett of Essex Country Council's Historic Environment Branch. Thanks are due to Shaun Scrutton of Rochford District Council for encouragement during the course of the project and comment on earlier drafts.

# **Rochford Historic Environment Characterisation Project**

## **1 Introduction**

This study has been commissioned by Rochford District Council to inform long term planning for the management and conservation of its historic environment, with particular regards to the creation of its Local Development Framework.

The historic environment is a central resource for modern life. It has a powerful influence on peoples' sense of identity and civic pride. Its enduring physical presence contributes significantly to the character and 'sense of place' of rural and urban environments. In Rochford this resource is rich, complex and irreplaceable. It has developed through a history of human activity that spans over 450,000 years. Some of the resource lies hidden and often unrecognised beneath the ground in the form of archaeological deposits. Other elements, such as the area's historic landscape, supply a highly visible record of millennia of agriculture, industry and commerce and now form an integral aspect of peoples' daily lives. The 'built' part of the historic environment is equally rich, with towns, villages and hamlets.

As a fundamental aspect of the District's environmental infrastructure the historic environment has a major role to play in Rochford's future. At the same time, the historic environment is sensitive to change, it needs to be properly understood before change is planned, to ensure effective management and conservation of the historic environment so that it can make its full contribution to shaping sustainable communities.

It is important that the many opportunities for the enhancement of the historic environment are realised and that adverse impacts associated with development are minimised. The historic environment lends character to places and can



provide a positive template for new development. It can play a key role in creating a 'sense of place' and identities as new communities are created and existing ones enhanced.

The Rochford Historic Environment Characterisation project is designed to build on the Thames Gateway Historic Environment Characterisation Project (2004) prepared by Chris Blandford Associates (CBA) on behalf of English Heritage, Essex County Council, and Kent County Council. The Rochford project provides a much more detailed assessment of the historic environment within the District of Rochford, it is intended to inform the creation of the Local Development Framework and should also prove useful for a range of purposes.

The CBA report developed character assessments of the historic urban, historic landscape and archaeological character. The results of these studies were then combined to create large Historic Environment Character Areas. Only the southern part of Rochford District was included in the CBA study, accordingly the present project initially expands the work of the CBA across the rest of Rochford District. The archaeological, landscape and historic urban character areas and the combined Historic Environment Character Areas created by CBA study have been utilised, with modifications and extensions where necessary, for the present project. The methodological descriptions used here also rely heavily on the outlines provided in the CBA report.

The assessment has then been taken into a further phase where the large Historic Environment Character Areas are broken down into more specific and more detailed Historic Environment Character Zones which are more suitable for informing strategic planning, within Rochford District.

## **1.1 Purpose of the project**

The principle purpose of the project is to facilitate conservation and enhancement of the historic environment as an integrated part of development within Rochford District. This project has been developed to primarily to serve as a tool for Rochford District to use in the creation of the Local Development Framework. The report reveals the diversity, character and sensitivity of the historic environment within Rochford District, and should facilitate the development of positive approaches to the integration of historic environment objectives into spatial planning for Rochford District.

The project offers a range of potential benefits which include:

- **A framework within which the determination of the broad scale and location of development can be facilitated in a sustainable way with regard to the historic environment.**

The report will allow planners, with support from specialist historic environment advisors, to integrate the protection, promotion and management of the historic environment assets both within Local Development Documents and master plans for major developments.

- **Guidance to Planners at the early stages of development proposals**

The report will provide planners with an overview of the historic environment covering the whole District. This can be used at an early stage for identifying the impact on the historic environment, highlighting the need for informed conservation, enhancement and mitigation.

- **An effective framework for engagement between planners, developers, local communities and other interested parties.**

The report provides a means of engaging professionals, other agencies and the wider public with the historic environment, in every aspect of planning including Village Design Statements and the Community Strategy.

## 2 THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF ROCHFORD DISTRICT

### 2.1 *Geological setting and Palaeolithic occupation*

The geological foundations of Rochford District have had a profound impact on the nature and location of human settlement in the area, and the District's geological deposits *actually contain* the evidence for Palaeolithic occupation. To achieve a useful understanding of the District's geology it is best to consider a slightly wider context comprising Rochford District, Castle Point District and the Borough of Southend on Sea. This area is bounded on the west by the relatively high ground from Benfleet to Hockley, where the Tertiary rocks of the London Basin out crop along a ridge aligned south-west to north-east. These rocks are mainly London Clay, Claygate Beds and, on the highest ground in the area at Thundersley about 84m OD, Bagshot Beds, giving rise to podsolised heaths, as at Daws Heath and Hadleigh.

East of the Tertiary ridge there is a flight of descending river terraces. The Rivers Crouch and Roach cut through these terraces and have contributed little to their formation. The sands and gravels upon the terraces reflect a long history of the development of the major rivers, the Thames and Medway, reacting to glacial episodes, changing sea levels and local subsidence. The highest and earliest gravels, preserved in small patches on the Rayleigh Hills, are of Middle or possibly Early Pleistocene date, and relate to the Medway and not the Thames. The gravels pre-date the Anglian Stage of the British Quaternary sequence. At this time the Thames flowed along a very different course, through the Vale of St Albans. The Medway flowed east of the Benfleet-Hockley ridge. The drainage pattern was drastically altered by the advance of the Anglian ice sheet, which dammed the Thames and eventually diverted it into its present valley.

Some of the river terraces are wide and well preserved and there are clear bluffs in between them where head deposits have developed. Southend airport utilises the extensive spread of the Rochford and adjacent terraces. A detailed survey has also recently been made by Bridgland (1994), with particular reference to the lithological composition of the various gravels and the longitudinal profiles of the terraces. These studies demonstrate the frequent differences in lithology of deposits at the same height and contradict the notion of a simple sequence based on the order of descending altitudes of the terraces. There are, for example, deep buried channels underlying Terraces 1-3 which probably relate to a low sea level of the Anglian Stage, whereas the gravels and brickearths above them are more recent. The question of the Pleistocene succession is only directly relevant to considerations of the Palaeolithic period, and Palaeolithic remains in the form of flintwork, particularly handaxes, are widespread (Fig. 1). A particularly important Palaeolithic site associated with a wide range of environmental data is present at Barling.



Fig. 1 Palaeolithic artefacts from Barling (photo Southend Museum Service)

The Barling Terrace extends from the Crouch to the Thames roughly between Paglesham and Shoeburyness. For the most part a yellow brown silt referred to usually as brickearth covers about 4m of fluvial sand and gravel, with its bench level at about 0m OD. The brickearth is a blanket cover of fine sediment with a loessic component, it extends westwards on to the higher terraces. It was mainly deposited during the last glacial episode in Britain, termed the Devensian Stage. A buried parabraunerde soil has been recorded in a section of brickearth at Cherry Orchard Lane at a depth of 1.22m a potentially unique occurrence in Britain. The presence of brickearths dating to earlier glacial stages is very likely but there is no dating evidence and, apart from the section mentioned above, there is a distinct lack of visible buried palaeosols as are found so frequently in northern France.

The brickearth is calcareous and contains small nodules of calcium carbonate. Weathering has produced the Grade A agricultural soil of the area and it was undoubtedly the fertility of this soil, its relative ease of working and reasonable drainage properties that attracted prehistoric settlement. Also, it is the calcareous nature of the soil which has been so conducive to the preservation of archaeological evidence in the form of bone and shell, rarely surviving on the more acid, gravelly soils.

To the east the Barling Terrace slopes gently down to the extensive low lying flats of estuarine alluvium of Foulness and adjacent islands, separated by tidal creeks. Some understanding of the changes that have occurred here during the last five or six millennia is critical for interpreting the settlement changes indicated by the archaeological evidence from the District. Changing coastlines mean that land surfaces have either been drowned or reclaimed. Throughout the last few decades detailed studies of Foulness and the Flandrian history of the Lower Thames Estuary has been undertaken, much of it precipitated by the danger of a rise in sea level (3.4mm per year at Southend) and the necessity for

a Thames Barrier. Such studies are continuing often as an integral part of longer term planning for flood-risk management.

A borehole at the north end of Foulness, referred to as Ridgemarsh 2, penetrated 22m of clays and shelly sands, radiocarbon date of 5566± 250 BC (Bim 242) was obtained from peat at -18.50m OD. A rapid Flandrian marine transgression was a major factor in the development of the North Sea Basin, the English Channel and the present configuration of the coastline of Rochford District. For example, the land surface of c.2000 BC is – 2.00m at Crossness, Erith, -6.00m at Tilbury and -8.30m at Foulness.

The changes in the coastline, with gradual loss and perhaps occasional gain of low-lying fertile land to the east and south-east of Rochford District will have had a profound influence on settlement. The geography of the eastern end of the District was very different in the early post glacial period, with land surfaces extending several miles into what is now the North Sea and a sea level some 30-40m below the present.

The prehistoric occupation of Rochford District must be considered against such a background. During the first millennium BC, the coastline would have assumed something of its present form, with numerous tidal creeks and inlets, rendering much of the peninsula very accessible by watercraft, and producing a rich habitat for many types of shellfish in addition to marine fish.

## **2.2 Mesolithic**

This period is well represented in Rochford District particularly along the Crouch estuary, on the relatively high and sandier soils at Rayleigh and Thundersley, and on the brickearth-covered or gravel terraces. The flint assemblages, especially the microliths, suggest an Early Mesolithic date of c.8000-6800 BC. Axes are common finds and may relate to initial clearing of the woodland. At this

stage the sea level would have been 30-20m below OD, and any settlement site along the Thames would now be buried beneath alluvium, settlement would have been possible on dry land beneath what is now the southern North Sea.

Mesolithic sites, revealed by inter-tidal survey, along the Crouch Estuary are mainly on its north bank, but occur on the south side at Rawreth, Hullbridge, South Fambridge and Canewdon. These sites are on an old landsurface that was not buried by peats and clays until the Bronze Age, and the Mesolithic material recovered may extend over a long period of time. They would have been dry land sites next to fresh water streams.

Some of the microlithic forms indicate that there was activity along the Crouch well into the later Mesolithic of the 6<sup>th</sup> and possibly 5<sup>th</sup> millennium BC. Recent work in the Crouch Estuary by Wilkinson and Murphy (1995) has established the Holocene stratigraphy. A radiocarbon date of 2245±70 BC (HAR-5226) has been obtained for the base of the lower Peat above the Mesolithic site at Hullbridge. The same peat elsewhere in the Crouch Estuary covers both Mesolithic and Neolithic sites.

### **2.3 Neolithic**

Neolithic activity in Rochford District is represented by a considerable concentration of finds of diagnostic flint artefacts such as chipped or ground flint axes, (including a fine hoard from Canewdon Fig. 2), stone axes and leaf-shaped arrowheads. The findspots when plotted spatially against the geological map, show a two-fold distribution. One group, like the Mesolithic axes, follows the gravel or brickearth covered terraces fringing the heavier clay soils. The other group is on the Barling Terrace between Great Wakering and Shoeburyness. To the south, a collection of very fine early Neolithic pottery has been excavated at North Shoebury (Wymer and Brown 1995).



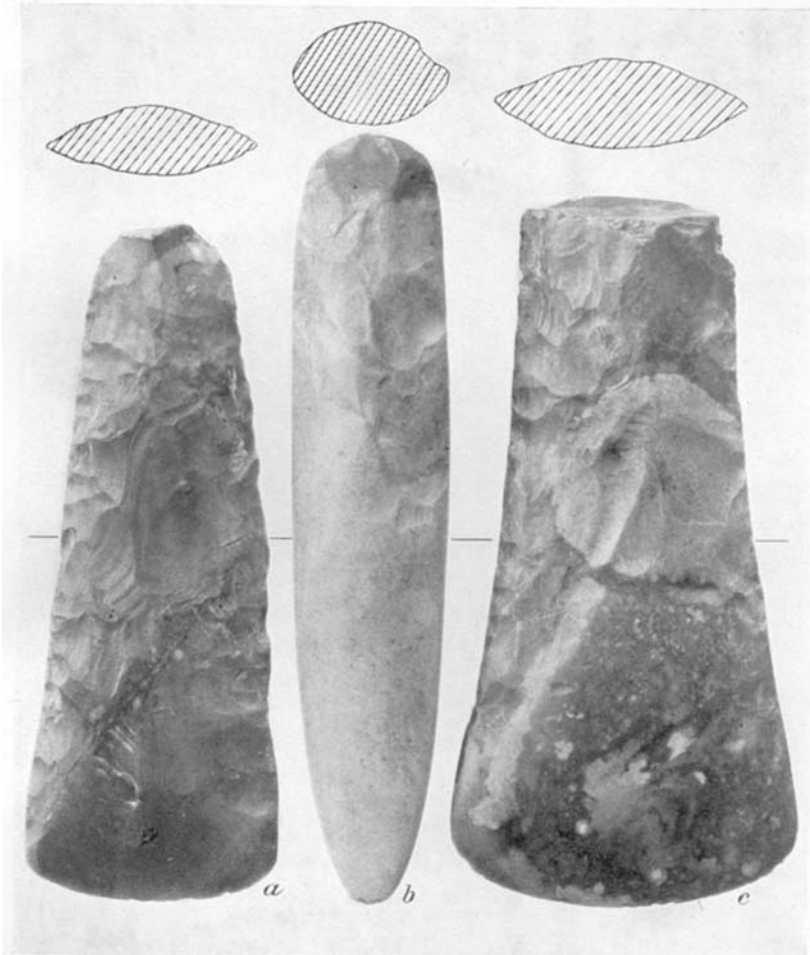


Fig. 2: Flint axes from a hoard at Canewdon (photo Southend Museum Service)

The only surface Neolithic flints recorded in any quantity come from the highest part of the district, at Hamborough Hill, Rayleigh. Neolithic people seem to have chosen the same areas as Mesolithic probably for the same reasons i.e. ease of clearance, good drainage, availability of flint and nearby freshwater. A flint sickle has been found at Rayleigh with other sickles coming from low-lying land at Stambridge and Baldwin's Farm, Barling.

Settlements along the north bank of the Thames would have been below present Ordnance Datum and would now be buried. There is good evidence for the existence of the so-called "Lyonesse" landsurface now deeply buried beneath

alluvium off Foulness and the Maplin Sands. Reference has been made to the borehole evidence and unlike its counterpart between Clacton and Dovercourt, or in the Crouch Estuary does not lie at an intertidal level but at a considerable depth below low water mark. The boreholes on Foulness have proved organic deposits at depths of greater than 5.20m below OD, radiocarbon dated to around 2000 BC. It may be that these once low-lying flats and marshes were the most favoured places for Neolithic settlement in the area.

## **2.4 Early Bronze Age**

There is a fairly general spread of characteristic flint artefacts including barbed and tanged arrowheads. Some barrows may have existed. There is an antiquarian reference to one being destroyed at Prittlewell and another is said to have been levelled at Great Wakering. Cropmarks of ring-ditches, probably the remains of barrows, are recorded at Paglesham.

Positive evidence for burials is comparatively rich, with Beaker burials discovered just outside Rochford District about 1km south-west of North Shoebury Church at Thorpe Hall Brickfield. Beaker vessels or sherds have also been recorded from Great Wakering, but their exact provenances or associations are uncertain. There is also a conical amber bead from Great Wakering.

A burial of the Early Bronze Age was discovered in 1914, by soldiers digging trenches at Rochford in what is now Southend Airport. It is recorded that fragments of a cinerary urn were found over some beads, of which 6 amber and 2 gold covered shale examples survive in Colchester Museum. A clue to the location of this burial may be the more recent find of a jet bead at Three Ashes Farm, Rochford. A Collared urn, probably from a cremation burial, has been recovered from Paglesham.

## **2.5 Middle Bronze Age**

Just outside Rochford District, to the south, at North Shoebury a settlement of this period has been excavated. A variety of evidence indicates a mixed farming economy, faunal remains show sheep, cattle and pigs were kept, and carbonised plant remains indicate wheat, and possibly oats were grown. Mussels were brought from the nearby coast, and a single carbonised elder seed probably represents the seasonal gathering of wild plant produce. Fragments of Greensand and ferruginous sandstone querns attest to grain processing. Cylindrical loomweights, indicate the importance of cloth production. Extensive marshland pasture would have been available to the east towards Foulness.

It is clear that the settlement at North Shoebury was one of a series occupying the eastern end of Rochford District. Middle Bronze Age occupation was recorded at Baldwin's Farm Gravel Pit Barling, further settlement has been revealed elsewhere at Barling and also at Great Wakering. A wide range of social and economic exchanges with neighbours near and far would have taken place at every level from agricultural activity to the acquisition of marriage partners. Occasionally material evidence of such contacts survives, such as quern stones probably derived from a source south of the Thames and most obviously in the form of Bronze Weapons and tools.

## **2.6 Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age**

Again extensive Late Bronze Age settlement has been excavated at North Shoebury and settlement evidence is widespread throughout the area. Settlement is known from Tithe Barn, Great Wakering and at a number of other sites in Great Wakering and also at Barling. Late Bronze Age pottery and other artefacts have been recovered to the south and west during late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century brickearth and gravel extraction. In addition the wider area of south-east Essex area has produced the largest concentration of Late Bronze Age

metalwork deposits in Essex including many individual finds of metal items and major hoards from Wakering and Barling.

The evidence indicates intensive Late Bronze Age occupation. Besides these numerous settlement sites and finds of metalwork, environmental evidence also indicates agricultural intensification, including the adoption of new crops. The exploitation of the creeks and estuaries is shown by the discovery of a complete wooden paddle dated to 900BC (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3: Complete wooden paddle recovered from the Crouch Estuary and radio carbon dated to c. 900 BC.

Extensive Early Iron Age evidence has been excavated at North Shoebury, and similar evidence has been recorded at Great Wakering. This site also included evidence of pottery manufacture and cloth production.

### ***2.7 Middle- Late Iron Age 300 BC-43 AD***

Two earthworks might belong to this period, at Prittlewell Camp, a circular earthwork survives immediately to the south of the District boundary overlooking

the upper Roach estuary. Whilst at Shoeburyness recent work at the so-called Danish Camp has revealed extensive Middle Iron Age occupation.

A distinctive curvilinear pottery bowl containing a cremation burial has been recovered from Canewdon.

Evidence for occupation in south-east Essex is widespread in this period and mainly consists of a series of cremation burials recorded during the late 19<sup>th</sup>-early 20<sup>th</sup> century. A wide range of Iron Age coins have been recovered. Settlement evidence has been recorded at Great Wakering, Barling, and Hampton Barns, Stambridge.

## **2.8 Roman Period AD 43-410**

Numerous finds of Roman material have been recorded in south-east Essex. The finds are concentrated in the area south of Rochford, although this is likely to be a fortuitous consequence resulting from brickearth/gravel extraction, and building work associated with the development of Southend. At Marshall's Farm, a number of small excavation trenches have revealed, midden deposits, a pond or irregular well with waterlogged timbers in its fill, one 'corn dryer', part of another 'dryer', ditches and pits. One of the ditches included a large dump of burnt grain and daub, presumably the result of a granary fire. Another ditch contained fragments of a human skull, some of which were resting on top of a cow's skull which lay on the natural gravel at the base of the ditch, so it seems likely that they were deliberately deposited in the ditch.

The mound at Plumberow Mount, which is a scheduled Ancient Monument, is thought to date to the Roman period representing the remains of a burial mound (Fig. 4).



Fig. 4: Survey work taking place at Plumberow Mount to inform a management scheme for the monument

There is evidence from south-east Essex, of an economy exploiting the free draining brickearth for cereal production, and the coastal marshes for grazing sheep and salt production. Oyster shell forms a major component of refuse in the Roman ditches, and there is evidence for the exploitation of both natural and managed beds. Whelks appear for the first time, and this also implies an intensification of the exploitation of marine resources. Whelks cannot be collected from the foreshore like mussels and oysters, but require a different technique involving baited pots.

Numerous red hills associated with salt production are known around the Roach and Crouch estuaries and on Foulness, Potten, Havengore, Rushley and Canvey



islands (Fig. 5). Outside Rochford District survey work in the Thames Estuary has revealed what may well be the waste from a fish processing site on Canvey Island (Wilkinson and Murphy 1995). The same site has produced a bone assemblage dominated by sheep/goat bones. This may support the notion that the Essex marshes were used as sheep pasture in the Roman period, as they are known to have been in the medieval period. The estuaries themselves were used for collection and cultivation of shell-fish and fishing. It seems clear that these activities provided not only the subsistence needs of the local communities, but also surplus for export to other areas. This included most obviously salt; but probably also wool, cheese, cereals, fish and shell-fish.



Fig. 5: Red hills visible on aerial photographs after ploughing.

## **2.9 Early Saxon AD 410-AD700**

Evidence of Saxon settlement is plentiful throughout south-east Essex and many of the placenames appear to refer to early settlements. Saxon loomweights, metalwork and bone combs have been recovered from the brickfields at Great Wakering, excavations at Barling have revealed a sunken floored building. A

complete Great Square Headed brooch is recorded from Paglesham. A Saxon cemetery has recently been excavated at Rayleigh. A recently recorded concentration of Saxon metalwork recovered by metal detectorists is likely to derive from another cemetery. The excavation at Rayleigh identified a cremation cemetery, mainly buried in single vessels, however a single inhumation was identified buried with a bead necklace (Fig. 6).



Fig. 6: Bead necklace from the Saxon cemetery at Rayleigh

Some of the best evidence for early Saxon settlement comes from the banks of the Prittle Brook running from Southend across the boundary into Rochford District. The close proximity of Saxon and Roman sites is suggestive of continuity, with perhaps some slight settlement shift. At Prittlewell part of a large cemetery dating to the 7<sup>th</sup> century was recorded during road and railway construction in 1923 and 1930, and, of course, the tomb of one of the kings of the East Saxons has also recently been excavated at Prittlewell. Loomweights were recorded during construction work in 1909 east of the cemetery site, and another



was recovered from North Street to the south. Prittlewell church has a Saxon arch (possibly 7<sup>th</sup> century) in the chancel. To the north excavations at Temple and Fox Hall Farm have revealed sunken floored structures. Further north again at Hampton Barns, Stambridge, on the Roach Estuary early Saxon pottery has been recorded. A cluster of 'Leah' placenames in the west of the peninsula indicates that this area was well wooded as it is today. One of the combs from Wakering may be of Frisian origin. Occasional finds of Merovingian and Byzantine coins may also be a reflection of external contacts.

### **2.10 Late Saxon AD 700-1066**

Archaeological evidence for this period is a little sparse. A hoard of *sceattas* dating from the early 8<sup>th</sup> century was recovered from Thorpe Hall Brickfield to the south of Rochford District. In the 9<sup>th</sup> century the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle records the Danes using fortified bases at Shoebury and Benfleet. It has been suggested that the silver pennies of King Alfred and Plegmiund (Archbishop of Canterbury 890-914) from a grave at Leigh-on-Sea represent a Viking burial. Thorpe placenames in the Southchurch area may represent Scandinavian settlement, although they are more likely to be of English origin. A coin of King Canute is said to have been recovered from grave digging in Ashingdon Churchyard, and local tradition holds that the battle of *Assandune* was fought somewhere between Ashingdon and Canewdon. Ashingdon church claims to be the Minster built by Canute at the battle site, and maintain links with Denmark on that basis. However, current scholarly opinion tends to favour Ashdon in north Essex as the site of the battle. Rochford District had substantial tracts of planned co-axial rectilinear field systems. Two possible dates for the planning of this can be suggested; firstly the middle to late Saxon period before the fragmentation of landholding in the area, or secondly in the late-11<sup>th</sup> to mid-12<sup>th</sup> centuries during the area's control by Swein and his family (Rippon 1991). A possible Minster site and planned landscape has been identified at Great Wakering (Medlycott 2003). Excavations in advance of a churchyard extension have provided further

evidence of this in the form of a major enclosure ditch, which contained a large fragment of decorated stone (Fig. 7)



Fig. 7: Carved stone from Great Wakering

### ***2.11 Medieval AD 1066-1500***

The medieval settlement pattern of south-east Essex was generally dispersed in character with church/hall complexes providing focal points. The church and hall are generally sited in close proximity, however in the coastal parishes there is a tendency for the church to be located on the higher ground with the hall placed close to the marsh or creek so as to benefit from access to the sea.

The principal town was the castle town of Rayleigh, which formed the focal point of the Honor of Rayleigh. There was a settlement at Rayleigh in 1066, the castle

was built by Swein of Essex in the years between 1066 and 1086. It was sited on the western edge of the medieval town on a slight spur jutting out from the Rayleigh Hills, approximately halfway between the Thames and the Crouch and potentially controlling access to the peninsula between those estuaries. Swein owned much of this area of south-east Essex, and it has been calculated that he had grazing for over 4,000 sheep on the marshes in the area. The castle was taken into royal ownership in 1163 and altered and repaired in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century. In the late 13th century Queen Eleanor founded a stud at Rayleigh, probably in and around the castle. The town itself grew up within the outer bailey of the castle and as ribbon development along the main road. Essex County Council has recently been commissioned by the National Trust to undertake a conservation plan for Rayleigh Castle (Fig. 8, Gascoyne 2005).



Figure 12: Character Areas

Scale 1 to 2000

Essex County Council 2005

Rayleigh Mount Conservation Plan

Fig. 8: Figure from the Conservation Plan showing character areas of Rayleigh Castle

Rochford was a market town, located some distance to the east of the church/hall complex of Rochford Hall. The town received a market charter and fair in 1257, and its development began at this point. It is possible that it moved from the church/hall complex to its present location at this date also. The original medieval market-place is thought to have consisted of the area of Horner's Corner and the current rectangular market-place on the north-eastern end of West Street. The southern side of Market Square is formed by a series of short plots backed by Back Lane. These plots continue as the southern side of West Street and may be contemporary with the rectangular market place. There was medieval 'ribbon development' along South Street to the bridge over the Roach.

There are a few villages which formed nucleated settlements, in particular Great Wakering and possibly Canewdon, both of which appear to have Saxon antecedents. The remaining villages were dispersed settlements in the medieval period, comprising the church/hall complex, moated sites, a few cottages and scattered farms. It is of interest that many of the current farms occupy sites that can be traced through the documentary and archaeological evidence back to the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. The rectilinear field pattern which covered much of Rochford District was already old by the medieval period (see above), however there is evidence of further agricultural clearance and enclosure particularly in the Rayleigh Hill woods.

The Rayleigh Hills in the west of Rochford District remained relatively well wooded in the medieval period. The Domesday Book records surprisingly little of this, but there is sufficient evidence to suggest that manors located elsewhere in south-east Essex held enclaves of woodland in the Rayleigh hills. In the same way these manors had grazing rights on distant coastal marshes, such as those of the Foulness archipelago. This pattern of marshland enclaves continued into the post medieval period. The practice may be reflected in the old parish boundaries, with the pasture of Canvey, Wallasea and Foulness islands divided up between distant parishes.

Economic evidence recovered during excavations in Rochford District indicate that the same range of marine molluscs was exploited as during the Roman period, with oysters gathered from managed beds. Carbonised plant remains included wheat, barley, oats, rye and peas. It has been suggested that the main function of the Essex estates of St Paul's Cathedral, which included lands in south-east Essex, was grain production, barley and oats were the main cereals grown, followed by rye, with wheat in fourth place. Ward (1987) notes the importance of oats as a crop in south Essex. Given the great fertility of soils developed on the brickearths of south-east Essex, high yields may have been relatively easy to maintain, although there appears to be some evidence to suggest soil exhaustion in parts of south Essex around AD 1300.

Sheep played an important role in the economy of Essex as a whole and south Essex in particular with marsh pasture being particularly important. A number of sites in south-east Essex have produced archaeological evidence of the exploitation of the marshes during the medieval period, with the Red Hills left by Late Iron Age and Roman salt working providing convenient raised areas for temporary occupation by shepherds. A Red Hill on Canvey produced a series of medieval deposits almost 1m thick above the Roman levels which yielded ceramics from the early 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> centuries and remains of three hearths. The animal bone, as would be expected, was dominated by sheep, but with some pig and rabbit. Oyster was the most common shellfish with mussel, whelks, cockles and winkles also represented. A Red Hill in Great Wakering produced similar evidence.

The creeks and estuaries around the coast of south-east Essex provided valuable resources in the form of fish and shell fish. The creeks and estuaries were equally important for the transportation of goods into and out of south-east Essex. For instance corn from the lands of St Paul's at Barling was shipped via Barling Creek and the Thames Estuary to London. There are frequent

references to the transportation of timber by water from the Royal Parks in south-east Essex (Rackham 1986, 19).

### ***2.12 1500-Present***

Throughout most of the post-medieval period, south-east Essex remained essentially rural. During the 16<sup>th</sup> century sheep pastured on the marshes remained an important part of the economy. Norden noted the 'great and huge cheeses of such admiration for weight and magnitude' produced in south-east Essex.

Foulness supported large flocks of sheep during the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The exploitation of fish and shellfish continued to play an important subsidiary role to agriculture. Oyster beds were particularly common in the creeks around the Crouch and Roach estuaries. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century shrimps, whitebait and cockles also became staple products of the local fishing industry as they are today. Other coastal activities which contributed to the economy of south-east Essex included the collection and sale of seaweed as manure and smuggling.

The North Sea linked the area with the Netherlands and North Germany and the Thames Estuary was frequented by the English and Dutch fleets during the wars of the 17th century. More amicable relations are represented by the imported ceramics that have been found during excavations in Rochford. The circular 'Dutch' houses at Canvey and Rayleigh are traditionally associated with the employment of Dutch engineers in marshland reclamation, though the link is perhaps tenuous. Such close contacts between Essex and areas across the North Sea were not a phenomenon of the post-medieval period; they had operated since at least the later Bronze Age.

Whilst in many ways a fertile and productive area, south-east Essex (in common with much of south and east Essex) was deadly to outsiders throughout much of

the post-medieval period. In the early 18th century Defoe (1724-6), referring particularly to Fobbing, Benfleet, Prittlewell, Wakering and Great Stambridge, said it was not uncommon to meet a man who had had numerous wives. The custom being to marry women from inland, when the brides '...came out of their native air into the marshes among the fogs and damp, there they presently changed their complexion, got an ague or two, and seldom held it above half a year or a year at the most.' The ague was malaria, it was only eradicated with the draining of the marshes and the introduction of quinine as a cure in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Southend began to be developed in the late 18th century, but expanded rapidly in the second half of the 19th, after the arrival of railways. The expansion has continued throughout the present century with a consequent effect on Rochford District as its hinterland. The quiet village of Hockley changed forever in 1889 when the Great Eastern Railway reached Hockley. With the village now easily accessible to London, local landowners grasped the opportunity and sold off their farmland for development. Hockley had one brief moment of fame when in 1843 a mineral spa was established in the village. A pump room and a hotel to accommodate the expected visitors were built. Unfortunately the fashion for taking the waters was on the wane, with people preferring instead to visit the new seaside resorts such as Southend, and the venture failed.

During both World Wars Rochford District was heavily defended. The numerous pillboxes (Fig. 9) are the most obvious remains of these defences. However there are all types of remains, such as the fighter base at Rochford (now Southend Airport), the Radar station at Canewdon and the ubiquitous cross-shaped cropmarks of trenches dug in the marshes to prevent the flat ground being used as a landing place for gliders.





Fig. 9: Members of the Rochford Hundred Group recording a pill box at Canewdon

At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup>-century, agricultural depression meant that many Essex farms were semi-derelict or abandoned, particularly on the heavy London clay lands of south Essex. Entrepreneurs purchased these farms at bargain prices and split them up into individual plots to be sold separately. They were advertised as an opportunity to live in a rural setting, and promoted with cheap train excursions to view the plots and free refreshments. The 'Plotlands' proved very attractive to people living in the cramped slum condition of the East End of London. However such informal development brought many problems, particularly the absence of services such as water, sewage and made roads. The high point of plotland development came between the World Wars. Ashingdon and southern Rochford contain examples of these, both of 'plotlands' that were subsequently regularised by the District Council and a few areas of original unadopted plotland.



Extensive quarrying of the brickearths for the brick industry and gravel extraction have also shaped and influenced the current landscape character of Rochford District, this is most evident in the Barling and Wakering areas.

### 3 Characterisation of the Resource

The characterisation analysis built on the work carried out by the Thames Gateway Historic Characterisation Project (CBA 2004) and involved a number of distinct processes. Three separate characterisation exercises, one for each of the strands of the historic environment, namely: ***Historic Landscape Character***, ***Archaeological Character*** and ***Historic Urban Character*** and then weaving these together into a single combined ***Historic Environment Characterisation***.

Although the characterisation of all the three strands drew on existing approaches, e.g. Historic Landscape Characterisation and Landscape Character Assessment, in terms of its scope, subjects and style, the characterisation work undertaken for this and the Thames Gateway project was novel and challenging.

The Rochford Project has taken the Thames Gateway Characterisation a step further by breaking the large Historic Environment Character Areas down into Historic Environment Character zones. These are much smaller areas which can be used to inform the planning process, from the production of Local Development Frameworks, masterplans, through to the initial considerations of planning applications (see section 1.1).

The detailed methodology is outlined in appendix 1. Historic Landscape Character Areas, Archaeological Character Areas and Historic Urban Character Areas extended from the Thames Gateway Historic Environment Characterisation Project are presented in appendix 1. The Historic Environment Character Areas extended from the Thames Gateway Historic Environment Characterisation Project to cover the whole of Rochford District are set out below (with methodology described in Appendix 1.4). The sub-division of these areas into Historic Environment Character Zones which forms the core of this study is presented in section 4 and 5.

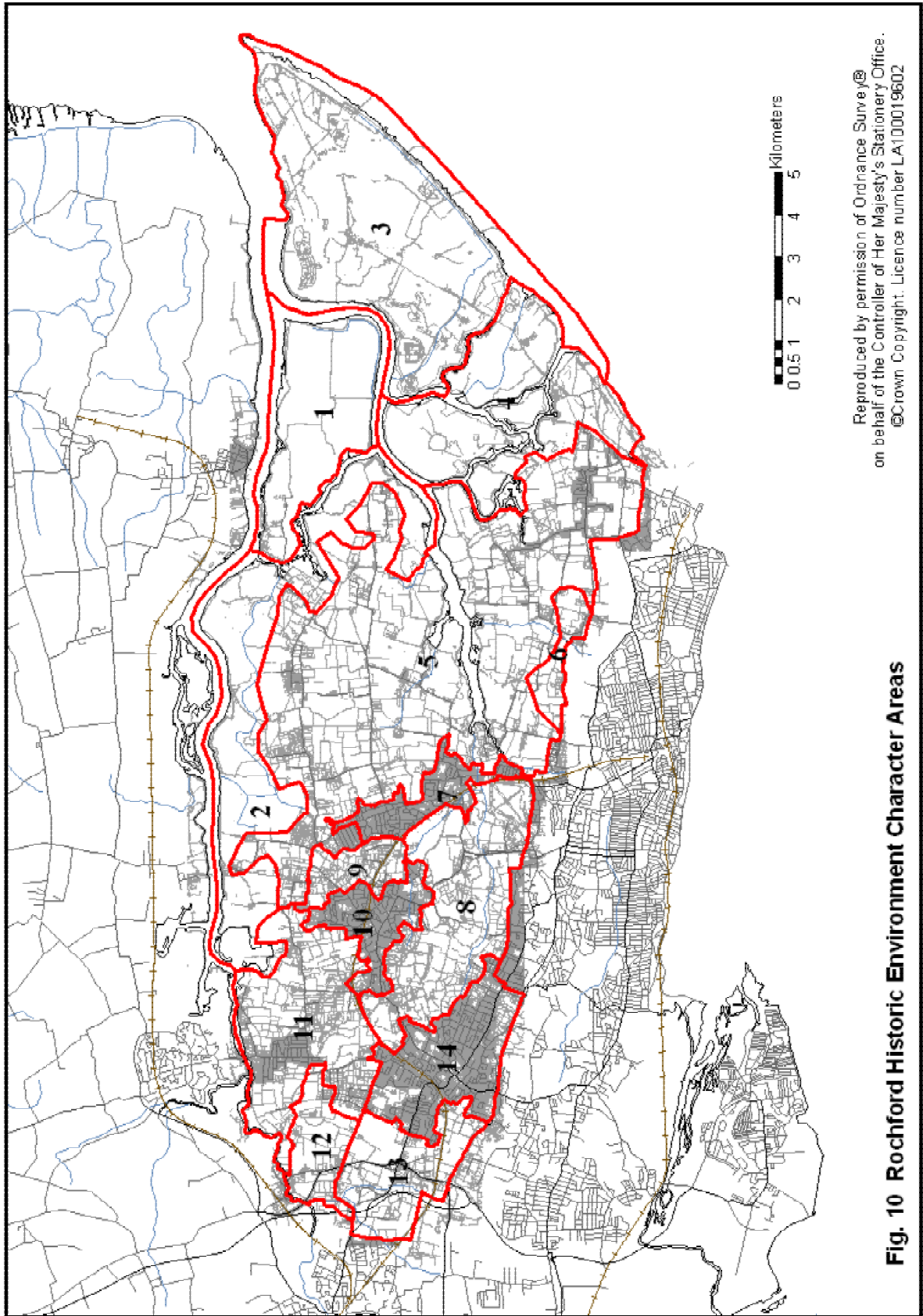
### **3.1 Historic Environment Character Areas**

#### **HECA 1: Wallasea Island**

**Summary:** Wallasea is a large island of reclaimed land between the River Crouch and River Roach. The geology is estuarine clay and silts with an area of sand along its eastern edge. Most of the island is Grade 3 agricultural land owned by a single farm business; the remainder is reed beds with areas of 'saltings' at its edge and an area of industrial and leisure (the Essex Yacht Marina) at its western end. The island has been extensively changed due to modern drainage practices. With very few exceptions archaeological deposits have been destroyed by agricultural improvements in the middle part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century on the island, but are likely to survive on the salt-marsh and inter tidal areas beyond the sea wall.

*Historic Landscape:* Up till the middle of the twentieth century a complex and distinctive historic environment survived on the island. However, the entire island was levelled and underwent extensive re-drainage works in the mid and late 20<sup>th</sup> century, which destroyed virtually all historic environment features. This work wiped out the historic settlement and field pattern in its entirety and replaced it with a regular system of watercourses and ditches running north to south which discharge through sluices to the surrounding rivers.

*Archaeological Character:* The Island's resources have been utilised since prehistory and it cannot be ruled out that deeply buried archaeological features and deposits may survive, within the alluvial deposits on the island. Spreads of material associated with former farmsteads were identified during a walkover survey in 2002 (Hepell, 2002). However, the greatest potential for areas of archaeology to survive is within the areas of salt marsh outside the perimeter sea wall and within the intertidal zone. Similar features to those identified by archaeological survey of the intertidal zone of many other parts of the Essex



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**Fig. 10 Rochford Historic Environment Character Areas**

coast are likely to be present. These are likely to comprise the sites of landings/quays, relicts of the oyster industry and a number of abandoned hulks, salterns, fish traps, and preserved land surfaces. A probable former pier has been identified at the Essex Yacht Marina, extant oyster pits on the northern shore and at least three wrecks at Overland Point.

## **HECA 2: The estuary marshes of the Roach and Crouch**

**Summary:** An area of historic marshland, found beside the estuaries of the Rivers Crouch and Roach, drained by dykes and protected from flooding by the sea by a perimeter sea wall and 'counter' walls, with in places saltings outside. The marsh occupies an area of rich fertile alluvial clay and silts historically used as grazing marsh down to the middle of the twentieth century when much of the area began to be ploughed for arable exploitation. The landscape is level, hedge-less and treeless, dissected by drainage and protected by sea walls. The area contains a variety of Prehistoric, Roman, Medieval and Post-Medieval remains.

*Historic Landscape Character:* A flat landscape of medieval /post medieval grazing marshland on the southern bank of the river crouch and northern bank of the river Roach. The area contains little settlement and few buildings. The fields are regular and irregular in shape perhaps reflecting varying stages of development and reclamation. There is a strong sense of openness and space with wide expansive views across the estuary

*Archaeological Character:* Description: An area, along the edge of the Crouch and Roach Estuary, of primarily clay and silt with some deposits of sand and gravel. It has distinctive units of rectilinear and curvilinear drained reclaimed marshland bordered by the river to the north. There are a number of recorded finds of prehistoric worked flint and tools eroding out of the cliffs and along the foreshore. The area also contains a number of red hills, which are likely to be

Roman in date and run in a line along the River Crouch. The course of post-medieval relict sea walls has been identified by aerial photography at Landsend Point and northwest of Pudsey Hall. Stretches of former sea walls also surviving as earthworks on the reclaimed marsh. In addition lines of oyster pits survive with interconnecting channels and banks.

### **HECA 3 Foulness Island**

**Summary:** Foulness is part of an open estuarine system comprising grazing marsh, saltmarsh, inter-tidal mudflats, cockleshell banks sand-flats and arable. The surface geology is a mixture of clay, sand and silt. There is abundant evidence for the historic environment surviving in the form of historic settlement and field patterns, relict earthworks and archaeological deposits.

*Historic Landscape Character.* The area is characterised mostly by dispersed settlement (although there are the two nucleated villages of Church End and Courtsend) in the form of isolated farmsteads and moated sites associated with individual embanked marshes and wicks dating from the medieval period. Many of the original boundaries of the latter survive and can be identified within the present field pattern, which mostly comprises areas of reclaimed pre-18<sup>th</sup> century drained curvilinear fields and post 18<sup>th</sup> century rectilinear drained fields, with some later enclosure. A clear example is the area of Arundel Marsh 'inned' by 1420 in the north-eastern corner of the island.

The settlement pattern originated in the medieval period, continued throughout the post-medieval period and survives in use today. A number of farmhouses date to the late medieval and early post-medieval periods. There is also a good survival of old roads and tracks across the island as well as the 'Broomway', which survives in the intertidal area. These survive (some in use) upon the earthworks of relict sea walls and counter sea walls, the former serving once as

perimeter walls around the island and the latter embanking and protecting individual marshes from all but the worst inundation. Limited investigation suggests that some of the latter are likely to be medieval in origin. The preserved boundaries of individual marshes, relict sea walls and dykes are all important historic environment features.

*Archaeological Deposits:* In addition to the abundance of historic environment features that survive, a wealth of archaeological features and deposits has been recorded from the island and there is the potential for many more to be identified.

There is rich evidence of Romano-British settlement and burial, including the Scheduled site at Little Shelford and a number of 'Red Hills' concentrated on the marshland and near tidal inlets. The island appears to have been more extensively settled from the medieval period onwards when much of its present day shape and form came into being. There is the potential for occupation deposits relating to all periods of settlement on the island to survive and evidence for activities relating to its coastal location. A section of medieval sea bank has been recorded revealing a timber framework of the late 15<sup>th</sup> century.

**HECA: 4 Potton, Rushley Islands and adjacent marshlands** (Equivalent to and extension of Thames Gateway report area 81 )

**Summary :**A rural area of present and former grazing marshes dominated by agriculture. There is minimal settlement with few buildings. The area has a high archaeological potential although few sites have been identified.

*Historic Landscape Character:* This is a flat landscape of medieval /post medieval grazing marshland. The area contains little settlement and few buildings. There is a strong sense of openness and space with wide expansive views, particularly to the east. Predominantly rural the fields in the area are

regular and irregular in shape perhaps reflecting varying stages of medieval and post-medieval development and reclamation.

*Archaeological Character:* An area of alluvial reclaimed marshland with few identified archaeological sites. There is potential for a range of archaeological deposits and sites in the intertidal zone of the creeks and estuaries. The alluvial deposits are likely to contain and mask archaeological and palaeo-environmental deposits from a range of periods. Identified archaeology has included significant Palaeolithic deposits found within the area and its environs and extraction works on the neighbouring Barling Marsh revealed considerable evidence for prehistoric activity close to the land / marsh edge.

**HECA: 5 Central Rochford District** (Equivalent and extension of Thames Gateway report area 086)

**Summary:** There are a number of historic settlements, which have a high potential for associated archaeological deposits. The area has already yielded a number of finds from multiple time periods. The geology is such that Palaeolithic evidence may survive within the brickearth. Overall the archaeological potential of the area is considered to be relatively high, where extraction has not already removed archaeological deposits.

*Historic Landscape Character:* The area can be broadly divided into two, the area north of the River Roach and the area south of the River Roach. The southern area is located between Southend-on-Sea and the River Roach. The area is dominated by prairie fields, some areas of older regular and irregular fields surviving. Settlement is predominately rural, with linear roadside development extending N-S across the area. In addition, there are several scattered farmstead sites, some of which are on medieval moated sites. The historic settlement pattern is dispersed, with church/hall complexes, scattered farms and moats. To some extent this pattern survives, with some 20th century linear roadside development. The northern area is characterised by a gently



undulating landform and arable fields. As with the southern area there is a strong grid structure of ancient origin, with N-S and E-W roads and tracks, many of which dogleg around fields. The historic settlement structure consists of small nucleations, moats and scattered farmsteads. These largely survive although in the north of the area roads have become a focus for settlement. In many places boundary loss has created prairie fields, although the strong historic grid structure has been maintained. In some limited areas ancient Dengie-form co-axial field systems (named after the Dengie Peninsula where they cluster) seemingly still survive.

*Archaeological Character:* A mix of prehistoric and early medieval archaeology has been identified in this area indicating a relatively long history of occupation and usage of this area. Along the intertidal zones of the creeks and estuaries there is potential for a range of archaeological deposits and sites. Brickearth deposits overlaying patches of gravel have a potential for significant Palaeolithic deposits. The area around Barling Marsh has been subject to extraction activity revealing considerable evidence for prehistoric activity and occupation close to the marsh edge. The north of the area is less disturbed with patches of the land previously subjected to brickearth extraction suggesting the area has a high archaeological potential. Around the historic settlements such as Great Wakering, which was an important Saxon planned settlement there may be significant archaeological deposits. Identified archaeological sites tend to be clustered around existing areas of dispersed settlement.

**HECA: 6 Shopland** (Equivalent to Thames Gateway report area 85)

**Summary:** Predominately recreational and rural, the area is comprised of golf courses, scattered farmsteads and agricultural fields mostly of the large 'prairie' type. As a result of the low levels of development, there has been little archaeological investigation, however, the location of a possible Iron Age Oppida

and a number of finds point to settlement and activity dating from the prehistoric to the medieval periods.

*Historic Landscape Character:* This area is located between Southend-on-Sea and the River Roach and there is a strong urban fringe character around the boundary of Southend. The area is dominated by modern recreational uses including a golf course. The historic settlement pattern is dispersed, with church/hall complexes, scattered farms and moats. To some extent this pattern survives, with some 20th century linear roadside development. Though the dominant field type is prairie fields, some areas of earlier regular and irregular fields do seemingly survive.

*Archaeological Character:* The area is sited at one end of a distinctive E-W raised ridge composed of London Clays, overlain by deposits of sand and gravel. The area is largely undeveloped with some small scale built development and landscaping works. Limited archaeological analysis has been undertaken in the area due to this limited development, although the area is known to have been field walked. There are a number of prehistoric and Roman find spots and most significantly, Prittlewell Camp. This indicates occupation and utilisation of the area over a long time period. Medieval occupation of the area focuses on a number of discrete dispersed settlements such as Shopland Hall and Fox Hall.

**HECA: 7 Rochford and Ashingdon** (Thames Gateway report area 087)

**Summary:** The area covers the settlement of Rochford and is comprised of modern expansion areas and a small historic core. The latter may have associated archaeological deposits.

*Historic Urban Character:* The historic core of the market town of Rochford has an intact street layout and pattern, with a number of listed buildings and Conservation area. The small core of the historic settlement of Ashingdon lies on

the northern border of the area and Ashingdon Hall has been subsumed into the area. Surrounding the historic cores are large expanses of 20th century housing. This 20th century housing is interspersed with modern suburbs some of which occupy street patterns developed in the early 20th century. The density of housing was not achieved until post-WWII, prior to that the area had a less densely settled character, reflecting the piecemeal plot-land type development of the area.

*Archaeological Character:* The area has acted as a focus for settlement for millennia. Outside areas of intensive development it is highly likely that archaeological deposits may be encountered. The historic cores of the settlements in the area are also likely to contain significant archaeological deposits. The historic towns of Rochford and Ashingdon have evidence for Saxon and Medieval occupation and there is evidence for Roman settlement and occupation in the wider area. Ashingdon has been subject to a historic town survey.

**HECA: 8 Upper Roach Valley** (Equivalent to Thames Gateway report area 088)

**Summary:** This area has an open fieldscape pattern of modern fields interspersed with large tracts of ancient woodland and occasional older fields. Parts of the area have been developed, e.g. Southend Airport, but for the most part the area retains a strong rural character. The area contains a number of known archaeological sites from a range of periods, in particular along the western edge of the area.

*Historic Landscape Character:* Located between Hawkwell and Rayleigh, this area of rolling hills and valleys contains little settlement and few roads. There are a significant number of ancient woodlands, many in conservation ownership. The

south east of the area contains golf courses, extractive sites and Southend Airport. Areas of irregular and regular fields survive. In the east of the area 20th century boundary loss has created prairie fields, although this area was historically one of large fields.

*Archaeological Character:* Few archaeological sites have currently been identified in the area, this reflects stable patterns of land use in the area and a lack of development. In this area significant elements of historic landscape survive, including ancient woodland with a range of earthworks. The area forms part of a distinctive topographical unit, which would have formed a focus for activity throughout history. It is located on part of a raised ridge and valley slopes composed of a mixture of head, sand and gravel and clay around the upper Roach valley and to the east is an area of brickearth deposits overlaying patches of head and gravel. There is a concentration of prehistoric find spots and sites, along the western rim of the area. This dramatic position on the crest of the slope overlooking the surrounding clay plain is a classic position for prehistoric burial / occupation sites and it is likely that further remains await discovery in the area.

**HECA: 9 Land between Ashingdon and Hockley** (Equivalent to and extension of Thames Gateway report area 139)

**Summary :** Primarily rural this patchwork landscape retains many of its historic features in the form of irregular and regular fields and sites of ancient woodland. Archaeology in the area is numerous, with significant concentrations of prehistoric findspots and the Early Saxon settlement of Ashingdon with its associated deposits. There is a high potential for more significant archaeological sites.

*Historic Landscape Character:* This is an area of rolling topography between the settlements of Hawkwell and Ashingdon. It is a mixed patchwork landscape consisting of small areas of regular and irregular fields, interspersed with ancient woodland and secondary woodland. The historic settlement pattern was

dispersed and is now augmented by plotlands. It is a well-settled area and is influenced by the neighbouring urban areas.

*Archaeological Character:* The area is situated on the large area of flat clay plain around the headwaters of the Crouch and its tributaries, concentrations of archaeology in the wider area are often associated with historic settlement or areas of recent archaeological activity. However, virtually no sites have been identified in this area. This reflects both stable patterns of land use in the undeveloped areas and a lack of archaeological work. Development in the area is likely to have damaged / truncated archaeological deposits.

**HECA: 10 Hockley** (Equivalent and extension of Thames Gateway report area 089)

**Summary:** The area is broadly modern development with some of its historic characteristics retained in the historic core of Hockley. Archaeology that has been identified is generally associated with the historic core of Hockley. The low density of evidence reflects a lack of work rather than a lack of archaeological features.

*Historic Urban Character:* The area broadly encompasses the settlement of Hockley. Some elements of the historic core survive, including a number of buildings and the original road layout, however much of the area has been redeveloped. North of the historic core of Hockley is a small long established area of modern industrial development with adjacent modern suburban developments. The rest of the area comprises expanses of pre-WWII and post-WWII housing, interspersed and edged with large modern suburbs. The overall density of housing was generally not achieved until post-WWII, prior to that the area had a less densely settled character. This reflects the piecemeal plot-land type development of the area.

*Archaeological Character:* The western end of the area and part of the town of Hockley are situated at the end of a ridge above the surrounding clay areas. These parts of the study area are likely to have been settled for many millennia and prehistoric activity has been identified in the area. The majority of the area is, however, situated on the generally, if later, clay plain situated around the headwaters of the Crouch and its tributaries. Concentrations of archaeology are often associated with historic settlement or areas of recent archaeological activity. The relatively low density of early material in these areas reflects a lack of work rather than necessarily a lack of archaeology. The development in the area is likely to have damaged / truncated archaeological deposits however there are regular find spots of roman, prehistoric and early medieval material, indicating a long period of occupation/use.

**HECA: 11 Area around Hullbridge** (Equivalent and extension of Thames Gateway report area 090)

**Summary:** A small area of mixed historic landscape character just NW of Hockley. The area includes an extensive swathe of plot-land type development surrounded by a golf course and a mix of field types. Little archaeological work has been carried out in the area, but the low numbers of identified sites should not be taken as an indication of low archaeological potential.

*Historic Landscape Character:* An area of rolling topography north-west of Hawkwell. The area has a patchwork landscape consisting of small areas of regular and irregular fields, interspersed with woodland, plotlands and more scattered houses, which is being influenced by the neighbouring urban areas and is well settled. The area also contains a large golf course. The area also contains patches of predominately post-WWII-housing laid out along a pre-WWII plotland type road network. The historic core of Hullbridge is situated just north of the area.

*Archaeological Character:* An area of generally flat clay plain around the headwaters of the Crouch and its tributaries, with concentrations of archaeology, often associated with historic settlement or areas of recent archaeological activity. The relatively low density of early material in the area reflects a lack of work rather than necessarily a lack of archaeology. There are pockets of development in the area and these are likely to have damaged / truncated archaeological deposits

**HECA: 12 Upper Crouch Estuary** (Equivalent and expansion of Thames Gateway report area 102)

**Summary:** The area comprises parts of a wider series of gently undulating valley sides. Around the area settlement is largely confined to the settlement of Battlesbridge, supplemented by a small number of scattered farmsteads. Medieval Moated sites are relatively common across the wider area and represent a pattern of dispersed settlement common to the period and region. Limited amounts of archaeological material have been recovered which reflects the lack of work rather than an absence of material.

*Historic Landscape Character:* The small area comprises part of a series of gently undulating valley sides around the rural limit of the Crouch estuary. Within the area there is little settlement and Battlesbridge marks the northern border. The fields have experienced boundary loss and are now classed as prairie fields. The grid structure persists in the area on a broad N-S axis.

*Archaeological Character:* Medieval Moated sites are relatively common across the wider area and represent a pattern of dispersed settlement common to the period and region. There are pockets of development in the area and these are likely to have damaged / truncated archaeological deposits. The relatively low density of early material in other parts of the area reflects a lack of work rather than necessarily a lack of archaeology.

**HECA: 13 Rawreth** (Equivalent to and expansion of Thames Gateway report area 100)

**Summary:** The area comprises a large expanse of low-density residential development situated within a network of fields, common and woodland / scrub. Few archaeological sites have been identified in the area, reflecting a lack of modern fieldwork.

*Historic Urban Character:* The area comprises a large expanse of low-density residential development situated within a network of fields, common and woodland / scrub. The majority of the development has evolved in a piecemeal fashion during the mid to late 20th century.

*Archaeological Character:* The area straddles the boundary between the clay plains and the ridge rising up to Rayleigh and Thundersley. Little archaeological work has been carried out in the area, but significant archaeological sites have been identified in and around the wider

**HECA: 14 Rayleigh** (Equivalent to Thames Gateway report area 91)

**Summary:** The area encompasses the historic town of Rayleigh with its medieval historic core and its expansion zones of modern development. The area forms a distinctive topographical unit of a raised ridge / plateau running E-W and N-S composed of a mixture of head, sand and gravel and clay. Archaeological sites from a range of periods have been identified in the area and there is a high potential of encountering further deposits.

*Historic Urban Character:* The area encompasses the town of Rayleigh with its historic core, which includes the castle and High Street and the modern redevelopment and infill that has happened since. The historic street pattern has survived relatively intact in the historic core of Rayleigh, but the paucity of listed buildings and lack of Conservation area status perhaps indicates that much of the historic fabric has been removed.



Surrounding the core are modern industrial estates and areas of housing that developed in the late 19th and early 20th century including a small area of linear roadside housing. Furthermore there are areas of modern residential development including a large area of predominately post-WWII residential housing whose layout and form began to evolve in the late 19th and early 20th century. The area's strong linear grid-like pattern relates to its late 19th / early 20th century layout. However there is also an area to the south, which contains early to mid 20th century plot land development that was not subject to intensive development post-WWII.

*Archaeological Character:* The region rises above the surrounding flat clay plain and the Thames, forming a distinctive topographical unit of a raised ridge / plateau running E-W and N-S composed of a mixture of head, sand and gravel and clay. This dramatic position would have proved attractive to earlier occupants of the area and numerous Roman and prehistoric find spots have been identified. Historic settlements developed here due to the landscape a key example being the historic settlement of Rayleigh. The castle, church and medieval core of the town sit on the crest of the hillside overlooking the clay plain below. The majority of the area has been subject to development but it is anticipated that further archaeological deposits would be present in the medieval core of the town and other deposits may have survived in other parts of the area.

## **4 Creation of Historic Environment Character Zones**

### **4.1 General Background**

The original Thames Gateway Characterisation Project was designed to inform strategic planning for the whole of Thames Gateway. This section of the report is designed to look at the Historic Environment in more detail aiming where possible to break down the Historic Environment Character Areas into smaller Historic environment Character Zones of a size more suitable for strategic planning within Rochford District. These can be used at an early stage for identifying the impact on the historic environment, highlighting the need for informed conservation, enhancement and mitigation, providing the framework for engagement outlined in section 1.1.

### **4.2 Methodology**

Through a combination of analysing the main datasets such as Ancient Woodland, historic mapping, Historic Environment Record data, and secondary sources, it was possible to develop a series of character zones within the Historic Environment Character Areas. These zones were digitised and descriptions for each were prepared.

The descriptions drew on a range of sources and attempted to reflect, simply, clearly and briefly the reasoning behind the definition and, where possible, relate that zone to its wider historic context. The descriptions sought to highlight the key characteristics in an area and identify any particular significant aspects of the zones historic environment. Preparation of the descriptions of the zones clarified their nature and their boundaries, so that an iterative process between description and boundary definition resulted in the creation of robust Historic Environment Character Zones.

For each character zone the description comprises an overall summary, a summary of archaeological character and either a summary of historic landscape character or Historic Urban character as appropriate.

### **4.3 The scoring of the Historic Environment Character Zones**

Each character zone has been scored on a range of criteria for which separate scores are retained within the GIS metadata. The following system is based on scoring developed for the English Heritage Monuments Protection Programme (MPP); modified to consider broad zones rather than particular monuments.

Seven criteria have been used:

- Diversity of historic environment assets
- Survival
- Documentation
- Group Value Association
- Potential
- Sensitivity to change
- Amenity Value

Each of these criteria have been scored for each of the zones with a rating of 1, 2, or 3 with, 1 as the lowest and 3 as the highest. Where in a few instances a score of 1/2 or 2/3 is given in the text the lower score is shown on the metadata.

#### **4.3.1 Diversity of historic environment assets**

This indicates the range of Historic Environment Assets within the zone, which may be chronologically diverse. For example a zone with multi-period settlement sites, or a zone with a range of assets, such as church, village, farmstead, field systems of the

same date would both score highly, whilst a zone containing a limited range of historic environment assets would score low.

- 1 = Very few known assets or many assets of a limited range of categories.
- 2 = Contains a range of assets of different date and character
- 3 = Contains a wide range of assets both in date and character

#### **4.3.2 Survival**

This relates to the state of completeness of the range of historic environment assets within the character zone. The zone may be relatively well preserved or it may have been disturbed by hostile land-use/development and/or erosion. Even where such factors have adversely affected assets within a zone there may be potential for well preserved but deeply buried deposits.

- 1 = Zone extensively disturbed by for instance quarrying or development. Likelihood is that whilst many of the assets have been disturbed or destroyed there is the potential for survival in some areas or of some types of assets.
- 2 = Zone has little disturbance but there are few known assets, or there are many known assets but there has been some adverse effects from, for instance, development or quarrying.
- 3 = Zone contains known assets which are well preserved.

#### **4.3.3 Documentation**

The level of documentation for a zone reflects the extent of investigations that have taken place. Such work includes; Excavation, field survey/recording, historical documentation, research project work (this includes for example the National Mapping Programme, coastal zone survey etc).

- 1 = Little or no documentation.
- 2 = A range of documentation containing elements of the above

3 = A wide range of documentation.

#### **4.3.4 Group Value Association**

Two forms of association are considered either historic environment assets of a similar nature or historic environment assets of a similar date. For example a zone with red hills all of the same date or a zone with multi period historic environment assets associated with coastal exploitation would both score highly, whilst a zone with a wide range of diverse assets, which are not associated would score low.

1 = Contains few historic environment assets of a similar date or nature.

2 = Contains a limited range of historic environment assets which are related or of a similar date.

3 = Contains a range of historic environment assets which are related such as moats with well preserved field systems of medieval origin or salt working sites of different dates.

#### **4.3.5 Potential**

The potential is assessed with reference to the expected average circumstances within the zone. The score considers the nature of the historic environment assets based on current evidence and indicates the likelihood of further assets being present.

1 = The potential for surviving historic environment assets within the zone has been significantly reduced by for instance quarrying or development.

2 = There are limited known historic environment assets however the landscape has not been significantly disturbed and current lack of knowledge is probably the result of lack of investigation rather than poor preservation.

3 = Current evidence and little disturbance indicates that a range of high quality assets probably survive within the zone.

#### **4.3.6 Sensitivity to Change**

Each Historic Environment Zone is assessed with regard to the sensitivity of the area to medium to large scale development, specifically housing expansion. The score is an indication of the vulnerability of the historic environment assets within the zone to this type of change. A lack of sensitivity to change should not be taken as an indication that no historic environment mitigation would be required to accommodate development. It would be possible to consider sensitivity to other types of change e.g. flood risk management.

1 = The historic environment of the zone could accommodate medium to large scale development, however specific historic environment assets may suffer adverse effects.

2 = Medium to large scale development is likely to have a considerable impact on the historic environment character of the zone.

3 = The zones historic environment is highly sensitive to medium to large scale development.

#### **4.3.7 Amenity Value**

Relates to the actual and/or potential amenity value of the historic environment zone and this is indicated in the description box. If there are specific elements which would warrant enhancement these are also indicated in the description box. The score may relate to uniqueness, historical associations, key landmarks, good access, and interest for visitors and educational value etc.

1 = Historic environment do not lend itself to display or visitor attraction. Current knowledge gives limited potential for the historic environment to play a significant role in creating a definable and promotable identity to the area.

2 = Historic environment could does or could help define a sense of place of the area. There may be specific elements which are or could be promoted such as woodlands, castles etc.

3 = The historic environment plays or could play a key role in the zones sense of place for the local people and visitors. Contains assets which, are or could be, promoted for the benefit of local people or visitors.

## 5 Historic Environment Character Zones

### 1. Intertidal area around Foulness

**Summary:** This character zone comprises a strip of mud flats parallel to the east coast of Foulness and incorporates the Broomway. Salt marsh is restricted to an area of 88ha, between Northern Corner and Foulness Point, mainly located behind the shelter of a shell ridge, which is the largest example in Britain extending for approximately 20 ha. The salt marsh is divided from the island by a perimeter sea wall. There are a number of known archaeological sites within the intertidal area and high potential for further sites to be identified through archaeological survey, providing evidence for the interface between settlement and other activity around the estuary. The Character Zone is part of the Maplin Sands, the largest continuous intertidal zone in Britain with a total area of 8588ha, the intertidal mudflats extend to a width of 6km.

*Historic Landscape:* The character zone lies outside the sea wall and is adjacent to the most recent areas of reclamation on Foulness and incorporates the Broomway which was historically one of the main access routes to the Island.

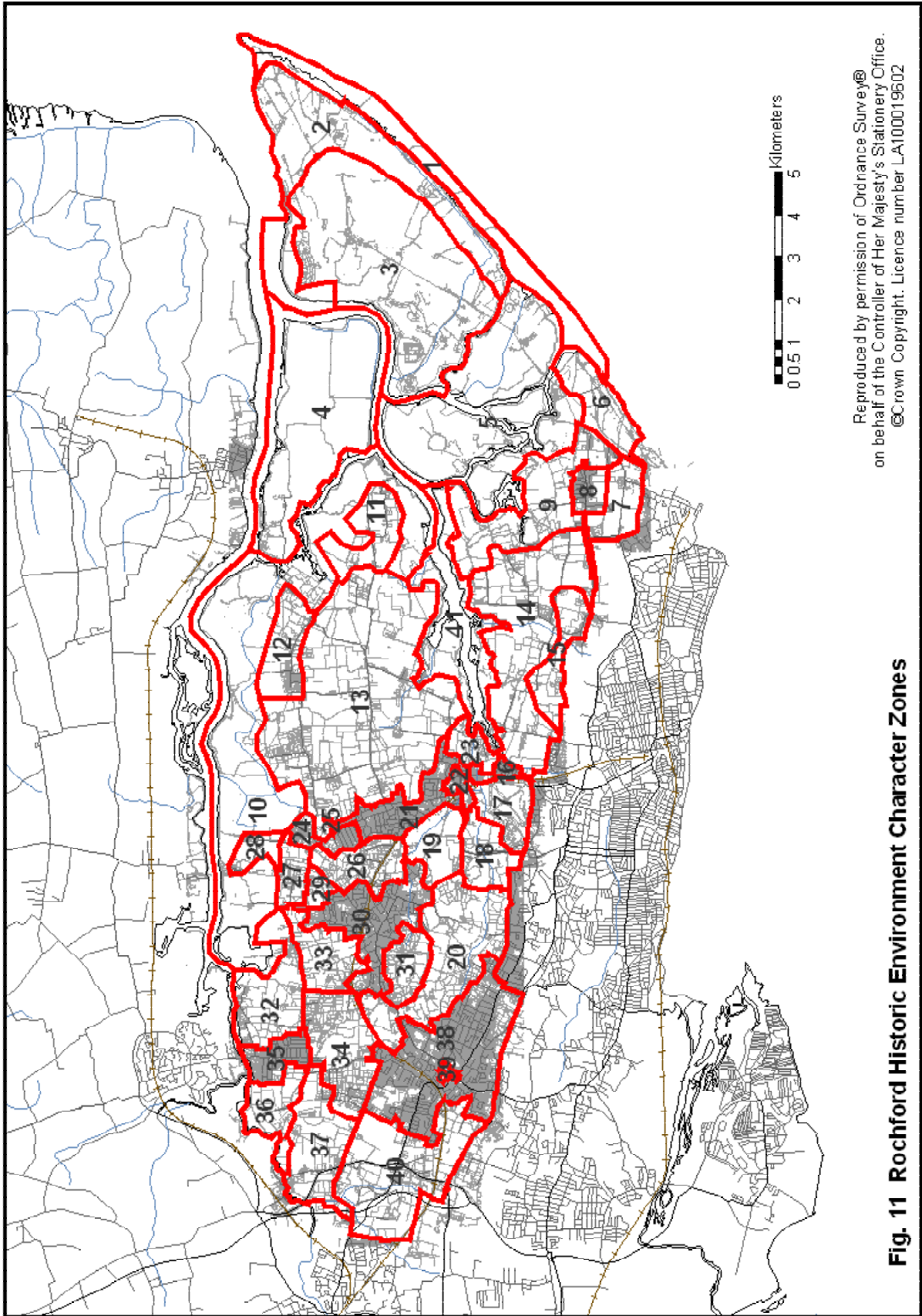
*Archaeological Character:* The intertidal zone comprises the area lying between high and low watermarks, it contains archaeological deposits on its surface and stratified to a considerable depth, sealed below alluvial sequences. There is the potential for ancient surfaces and for environmental evidence for the past vegetational history to survive well in organic levels buried beneath the alluvium but in this zone they are very deeply buried. The waterlogged conditions within the zone greatly aid the survival of organic artefacts and ecofacts whilst being more accessible than subtidal deposits. The archaeological survey of other areas of the Essex coast has identified a wide variety of archaeological sites and deposits including oyster pits and larger ponds, timber fishtraps, and salterns.



The Broomway is a very important historic feature within the intertidal zone off Foulness and was a track which served to provide access to and from the island and its farms at low tide. It runs for a distance of approximately 10 kilometres across the Maplin Sands, following the contour of the land about 0.4 kilometres from the shore. The track is thought to be Roman or Medieval in origin and was traditionally marked by branches and bundles of twigs like inverted besoms which marked the seaward side of the track. At several points, side tracks, called 'headways' led up to the local farms. Recent archaeological survey towards the southern end of the Broomway has revealed some short stretches of wooden hurdle work which had been used to reinforce part of the trackway.

*Zone 1 Intertidal area around Foulness*

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of multi-period deposits in the inter tidal zone	2
• Survival	Relatively good survival due to limited disturbance and waterlogged deposits	2
• Documentation	Recent survey work, HER data, historical studies	3
• Group Value Association	Range of deposits associated with exploitation of the sea and estuary	2
• Potential	High potential of further deposits surviving especially with waterlogged conditions	3
• Sensitivity to change	Easily damaged by dredging or sea defences	3
• Amenity Value	Importance of the intertidal zone both for historic and natural environment high, limited by military restrictions	2



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**Fig. 11 Rochford Historic Environment Character Zones**

## 2. Foulness Post medieval reclamation

**Summary:** This zone comprises those parts of the island, which were reclaimed from areas of 'saltings' in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is a flat, open landscape situated on sand and silts, with a distinct rectilinear ditch pattern resulting from enclosure and drainage of the saltings in the post-medieval period. There are a range of World War II monuments within the zone.

*Historic Landscape:* Foulness as it existed in the medieval period, comprised a number of marshes, each with its own defensive walls or 'counter' walls erected at an early date, a number of which can still be seen (Character zone 3). To this 'original' part of the island successive 'innings' over several centuries have added approximately another 1,632 acres. When the 'saltings' were ready to be 'inned' or 'reclaimed', a sea wall was constructed to keep out the sea altogether. This was mostly only possible in areas of shore bordering the Thames, as those bordering the Crouch and Roach did not receive an adequate build-up of deposits suitable for conversion to marsh, due to the fast pace of the rivers.

The practice of reclamation (see description of character zone 3) culminated in 1833 when the whole of the saltings lying off the south shore were 'inned'. This pattern of piecemeal 'inning' is visible in the present landscape and field pattern of Foulness, as discrete parcels of land bounded by a relict earthen bank or seawall added to the 'original' island. The parcels have a curving shape which follow the coastline of Foulness and each added 'inning' projects successively further off the north-eastern and eastern coast of Foulness. These parcels are mostly formed of small rectangular fields, which date to the post-medieval period. However, there are a number of smaller areas of drained curvilinear fields, which may be earlier in date, as well as later enclosure.

*Archaeological Character:* The zone is characterised by relict earthworks, former sea walls, counter walls, and post-medieval farm buildings and associated trackways.

There are also a number and variety of World War II remains along the Foulness coast. These include the MOD Firing Range at Eastwick, an Observation Post between Fishermans Head and Eastwick Head, a line of Pillboxes on the eastern side of the island and Divers sites comprising heavy anti-aircraft gun platforms and Nissan Huts together with a range of post war military installations.

Zone 2 Foulness post medieval reclamation

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Remains relate to coastal defences, post medieval farming and military remains	2
• Survival	Military remains and sea defences survive well	2
• Documentation	Recent survey work by English Heritage (as yet not available), HER data	3
• Group Value Association	Military remains form an important group both within this zone and in relation to neighbouring zones.	2
• Potential	Good potential for further important deposits being identified	2
• Sensitivity to change	Sensitive landscape to major change	2
• Amenity Value	Military deposits and overall history of Foulness, limited by military restrictions.	2

### 3. Foulness Island

**Summary:** This comprises the oldest part of Foulness Island and its adjacent creeks and estuaries. It comprises a complex landscape of salt marsh, grazing marsh, arable fields, post medieval farms and widespread evidence of 20<sup>th</sup> century military activity. The surface geology is a mixture of clay, sand and silt. There is abundant evidence for the historic landscape and archaeological character surviving in the form of historic settlement and field patterns, relict earthworks and archaeological deposits.

*Historic Landscape:* The zone is characterised by dispersed settlement, in the form of isolated farmsteads and moated sites associated with individual embanked marshes and

wicks dating from the medieval period with two principal focal points at Church End and Courtsend. Many of the original medieval marsh boundaries survive and can be identified within the present field system, which mostly comprises areas of reclaimed pre-18<sup>th</sup> century drained curvilinear fields and post 18<sup>th</sup> century rectilinear drained fields, with some later enclosure. A clear example is the area of Arundel Marsh 'inned' by 1420 in the north-eastern corner of the island.

The settlement pattern originated in the medieval period, a number of farmhouses date to the late medieval and early post-medieval periods and many continue in occupation down to the present. There is also good survival of old roads and tracks across the island. These survive (some in use) upon the earthworks of relict sea walls and counter sea walls, the former serving once as perimeter walls around the island and the latter embanking and protecting individual marshes from all but the worst inundation. Limited investigation suggests that some of the latter are likely to be medieval in origin. The preserved boundaries of individual marshes, relict sea walls and dykes are all important historic environment features. Historically, the marsh pasture lay in detached portions being managed from inland parishes. Recent survey of the creeks and estuaries to the south and west of the Island has revealed remains of many small landing sites and quays emphasising access to the farms from the creeks.

*Archaeological Character:* A wealth of archaeological features and deposits has been recorded from the island and there is the potential for many more to be identified.

There is extensive evidence of Romano-British settlement and burial, including the Scheduled site at Little Shelford and a number of 'Red Hills' concentrated on the marshland and near tidal inlets. The island was more extensively settled from the medieval period onwards when much of its present day shape and form came into being. There is the potential for occupation deposits relating to all periods of settlement on the island and evidence for activities relating to its coastal location. A section of medieval sea bank has been recorded revealing a timber framework of the late 15<sup>th</sup> century.

Recent survey of the creeks and estuaries to the south and west of the Island have revealed remains of many small landing sites and quays often related to the individual farms and reflecting the over whelming importance of water bourne transport to the islands economy. Oyster pits and other evidence of exploitation of coastal resources are also present.

Zone 3 Foulness Island

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Extensive range of multi-period deposits including Roman, medieval and post medieval occupation, with extensive upstanding and buried remains relating to exploitation of marsh land/coastal zone. Wide range of military remains.	3
• Survival	Very good survival especially in coastal areas. Also large amount of military structures some still in use	3
• Documentation	Extensive documentary work by local society and ECC. Also survey work by ECC and English Heritage	3
• Group Value Association	Military structures and coastal exploitation features, medieval and post medieval landscape	3
• Potential	Survey work has identified many new intertidal sites and the military significance of the island is important	3
• Sensitivity to change	Deposits are highly sensitive, the military establishments as a whole are an important group of structures.	3
• Amenity Value	Has a high potential to be promoted as important for the area. The extent of promotion is limited by military restrictions.	2/3

#### 4. Wallasea Island

**Summary:** Wallasea is a large island (approximately 920 hectares) of reclaimed land between the Crouch and Roach Estuaries part of the south-east Essex marshland archipelago. The geology is estuarine clay and silts with an area of sand along its eastern edge. It is connected to the mainland by a short tidal road. Most of the island is Grade 3 agricultural land; the remainder is reed beds with areas of saltings at its edge and an area of industrial and leisure use at its western end. The island has been extensively changed due to agricultural improvement as a result of arable subsidies. With few exceptions archaeological deposits have been destroyed by these agricultural improvements in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century on the island, but are likely to survive on the salt-marsh and inter tidal areas beyond the sea wall.

*Historic Landscape:* Up till the middle of the twentieth century a complex and distinctive historic environment survived on the island. However, agricultural improvements resulted in the entire island being levelled and undergoing extensive re-drainage works in the mid and late 20<sup>th</sup> century, which destroyed virtually all historic environment features. This work destroyed many red hills and other upstanding earthwork features and wiped out the historic settlement and field pattern almost in its entirety and replaced it with a regular system of watercourses and ditches running north to south which discharge through sluices to the surrounding estuaries.

*Archaeological Character:* The Island's resources have been utilised since prehistory and it cannot be ruled out that deeply buried archaeological features and deposits may survive, within the alluvial deposits on the island. Spreads of material associated with former farmsteads were identified during a walkover survey in 2002 (Heppell, 2002). However, the greatest potential for areas of archaeology to survive is within the areas of salt marsh outside the perimeter sea wall and within the intertidal zone. Similar features to those identified by archaeological survey of the intertidal zone of many other parts of the Essex coast are likely to be present. These are likely to comprise the sites of landings/quays, relicts of the oyster industry and a number of abandoned hulks,

salterns, fish traps, and preserved land surfaces. A probable former pier has been identified at the Essex Yacht Marina, extant oyster pits on the northern shore and at least three wrecks at Overland Point.

Zone 4: Wallasea Island

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Largely destroyed by agricultural improvement apart from in the inter tidal area, some deeply buried deposits and limited remains elsewhere.	1
• Survival	Very limited except in inter tidal and some deeply buried deposits and limited remains elsewhere.	1
• Documentation	Detailed research largely by ECC	3
• Group Value Association	Mostly destroyed	1
• Potential	Very limited except in inter tidal and some deeply buried deposits and limited remains elsewhere.	1
• Sensitivity to change	Only coastal areas will be particularly sensitive	1
• Amenity Value	Despite high level of destruction thorough understanding of the Islands history could facilitate appreciation of the areas character particularly in context of habitat recreation/managed realignment.	2

## 5. Potton, Havengore, New England and Rushley Islands

**Summary:** Potton, Havengore, New England and Rushley Islands form part of the south-east Essex marshland archipelago. This area also includes the eastern edge of the mainland. Potton is the most westerly of the islands. Havengore is a low lying marshy island, linked by bridges to the mainland and New England Island from which the road continues to Foulness. Rushley is situated between Potton and Havengore. The geology consists of estuarine clay and silts with small areas of saltings surviving. The landscape on the whole is flat and treeless and comprises grazing marshland and



arable. There is little settlement and few buildings. Recent survey has found extensive archaeological sites and deposits in the intertidal and foreshore areas.

*Historic Landscape:* Potton, Havengore and New England and the eastern edge of the mainland are characterised by a surviving pattern of pre-18<sup>th</sup> century reclaimed curvilinear fields and post- 18<sup>th</sup> century reclaimed rectilinear fields. Rushley is comprised solely of the former. The difference in shape and form probably reflects varying stages of development and reclamation. The islands of New England and Havengore have both witnessed further areas of reclamation on their margins since the 1950's.

The settlement pattern is dispersed and historically the islands were characterised by a very low level of occupation. Great Potton farm on Potton is recorded on the 1777 Chapman and Andre map and survives to this day. New England is no longer inhabited. Havengore Farm on Havengore is also recorded on the 1777 map and still exists, as does Rushley Farm on Rushley, which is recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map. Historically, the marsh pastures lay in detached portions from inland parishes and were managed by detached properties.

*Archaeological Character:* Many sites containing surviving timbers have been identified principally in the intertidal zones between Rushley and Havengore Island, many of which represent the remains of sluices and former quays. A number of Red Hills have also been identified on Potton, Havengore and New England Islands and a possible medieval moated site on Havengore. There is also high potential for extant oyster pits, wreck sites, relict sea walls and World War II sites to survive.

Zone 5 Potton, Haven, New England and Rushley Islands

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Extensive multi-period deposits and landscape features associated with coastal industries such as fishing and salt production	3
• Survival	Extensive deposits and landscape features	3

	surviving especially on coast and inter tidal areas	
• Documentation	Some survey work undertaken especially in area between Rushley and Havengore Islands	2
• Group Value Association	Extensive inter tidal sites potentially related	3
• Potential	Further deposits and landscape features likely to be identified if survey work undertaken	2
• Sensitivity to change	Historic Environment highly sensitive to change. Highly sensitive to changes in sea level and changes in coastal protection	3
• Amenity Value	The historic environment character of this zone linked to the wider South East Essex archipelago has considerable potential for promotion. This is in part affected by military restrictions	2

## 6. Samuels Corner

**Summary:** An open area of drained coastal marshland on the mainland, protected along its north-eastern and south-eastern edge by a perimeter sea wall. Saltings exist bordering Havengore Creek and to the southeast along the edge of the Thames Estuary. Multi-period archaeological deposits survive however the existing records are dominated by World War II monuments.

*Historic Landscape:* Units of post-medieval drained reclamation, both pre-18th century curvilinear fields and post 18th century rectilinear fields, which are more abundant, dominate the area. A small number of surviving tracks depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey maps cross the area leading from settlement areas to the saltings. Historically, there appears to have been little settlement on this area of marsh, with strong evidence for its utilisation by the Shoebury Garrison. One of two sets of shooting butts shown on the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map survive as earthworks in the north-eastern corner of the zone.

*Archaeological Character:* World War II and earlier military remains including anti-tank ditches, bomb craters, pillboxes, railway line, anti-invasion beach scaffolding from Pig's Bay to Waking Stairs, dominates the archaeology. In addition there are indications of Roman settlement, Red Hills and relict sea walls.

Zone 6 Samuals corner

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of deposits survive from the Roman period onwards, however the main known historic environment assets relate to military remains	2
• Survival	Reasonable survival of military remains	2
• Documentation	World War II survey of Rochford	2
• Group Value Association	Military remains	2
• Potential	Potential for further below ground deposits from the prehistoric period onwards	2
• Sensitivity to change	Coherence of military remains and the potential buried deposits would suffer if significant change occurred	2
• Amenity Value	Limited amenity value, could be enhanced by promotion of the wider coastal area zones 1-5, limited by military restrictions.	1/2

## 7. Land south of Great Waking

**Summary:** This zone is situated on the southern boundary of Rochford District, on an extensive area of brickearth covered gravel terrace and is mostly cultivated. Large parts comprise restored landscape following brickearth quarrying. The built-up areas of North Shoebury and Southend lie immediately to the south and southwest whilst Great Waking village forms the northern border. This zone is characterised by a rectilinear pattern of land boundaries of ancient origin. The zone contains extensive archaeological deposits of multi-period date.

*Historic Landscape:* The zone retains elements of a distinctive rectilinear field pattern of ancient origin. It is part of a wider area of such fields which although generally regular, lack uniformity and distinct blocks with their own varying orientation which can be identified.

*Archaeological Character:* Major excavations to the south of the zone at North Shoebury and recording during brick earth extraction within the zone have demonstrated continuous settlement from at least the Middle Bronze Age. It is apparent that a reorganisation of the landscape took place in the later Iron Age and the layout became orientated roughly north south to east west. This layout survived and developed throughout the Roman period, and into the early Saxon. The early Medieval Settlement and field system was laid out on different lines. Major elements of the Early Medieval landscape influenced the layout of the rectilinear pattern of land divisions, which survives in small part in this zone today.

There is high potential for further archaeological remains to be identified in those areas not previously subject to quarrying. The zone also contains a number of important military remains dating from World War 1 and II including pillboxes, and anti-aircraft batteries.

Zone 7 Land south of Great Wakering

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Wide range of multi-period archaeological deposits known in the area	3
• Survival	Good below ground archaeological survival outside quarried areas	2
• Documentation	HER data, finds reports and rescue excavation records	2
• Group Value Association	Archaeological recording has shown related settlement activity over a long period	2
• Potential	Surviving areas have high potential for below ground deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Areas not quarried have a high sensitivity to change for below grounds deposits, however	1

	the extensive quarrying has significantly altered the historic landscape	
• Amenity Value	Potential to use the results of archaeological investigation as part of an enhanced appreciation of the development and importance of Great Waking.	2

## 8. Great Waking

**Summary:** The zone is located in the southeast corner of the District on a brickearth covered gravel terrace, at less than 10m above sea level, and close to creeks and marshes to the north and east. It encompasses the historic core of Great Waking, which includes the church and medieval and post-medieval village. It is known that a Late Saxon Minster existed in Waking. The village appears to have been a planned settlement originating in either the 8<sup>th</sup>- 9<sup>th</sup> centuries or the 11<sup>th</sup> –12<sup>th</sup> centuries, growing rapidly in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The village and wider landscape contains a range of archaeological sites and deposits and historic landscape features.

*Landscape Character.* Great Waking is one of the small historic settlements within Rochford. A detailed assessment of the village has been undertaken showing its importance from the early medieval period (Medlycott, 2003).

This zone comprises the historic core of Great Waking, which has been subject to modern expansion. Evidence suggests that Great Waking is a planned settlement, forming part of a much wider planned landscape and originating in the middle Saxon period, or possibly the 11<sup>th</sup> to mid-12<sup>th</sup> centuries under the control of Swein and his family (see section 2.11). The present re-claimed marsh land would have been subject to tidal influence and there may well have been access to the sea via the tidal creek to the north of the village. Cartographic evidence suggests that the planned settlement at this date comprised crofts facing onto the High Street with long narrow tofts behind them. A few of these original boundaries survive and every effort should be made to preserve them.

The extent of the village in the late medieval period can be surmised from the 1777 Chapman and Andre map which shows the settlement extending along both sides of the High Street, with isolated farms to the east along the marsh edge. There was a period of settlement expansion in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, growth afterwards was slow until the later part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century agriculture and fishing formed the basis of the local economy, in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> and first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries the brickfields became the largest employer in the area.

*Archaeological Character:* There is a high potential for prehistoric and Roman remains to be located in the vicinity of the village. Many have been previously identified in the immediate vicinity of the area in the Great and Little Wakering brickfields.

Three Late Bronze Age settlements have been recorded in the Great Wakering Area. Evidence for an Iron Age and Roman settlement, including a cremation cemetery and possible building behind the Church, suggesting that the site of the later village was already a focal point for settlement by the Roman period.

The present village has its origins during the Saxon period with a Minster located on the site of the present church. Saxon finds and features have been found in the brickfields to the north and south of the village, and excavation to the east of the church have revealed features relating to the Minster, including its boundary ditch.

It is evident that archaeological deposits survive below the ploughsoil in those areas immediately outside the village that have not been quarried, and comparison with the results from similar settlements in Essex would also suggest that archaeological features relating to the development of the settlement survive along the street frontage under the present buildings and potentially in garden and yard areas.

Further details of the archaeological background and the development of Great Wakering can be found in the Historic Settlement Assessment (Medlycott 2003).

Zone 8 Great Wakering

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Wide range of archaeological deposits of multi-period date and the historic village	3
• Survival	Good level of survival within the settlement and associated landscape	2
• Documentation	Historic village assessment and site reports	3
• Group Value Association	Historic village, layout, church and earlier Minster and associated field boundaries	3
• Potential	Extensive deposits surviving, excavation for churchyard extension shows high potential	3
• Sensitivity to change	Highly sensitive to large scale change	3
• Amenity Value	Existing understanding of the historic importance of Great Wakering and its surrounding areas could be further developed.	2/3

## 9. Barling and Little Wakering

**Summary:** This zone comprises the historic parishes of Little Wakering and Barling Magna where large scale quarrying for brickearth and sand and gravel has taken place. Extensive Palaeolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, and Saxon finds and features have been recorded during gravel extraction. The historic landscape survives in unquarried areas and the multi-period archaeological deposits identified will extend into these areas.

*Historic Landscape:* A large amount of the historic landscape has been lost due to quarrying. However, there are remnants of pre-18<sup>th</sup> century reclaimed drained curvilinear fields surviving in the north-eastern corner of this area bordering Paglesham Creek and Barling Marsh. Wakering Common survives in the south of the area and may be medieval or earlier in origin. The settlement pattern in common with most of Rochford District was mostly unnucleated comprising dispersed farms with focuses at the church/hall complexes at Little Wakering and Barling. Extensive ribbon development has developed in the 20<sup>th</sup> century linking Great Wakering, Little Wakering and Barling.

*Archaeological Character:* Extensive Palaeolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, and Saxon finds and features have been identified during previous gravel extraction outside of the villages and there is the potential for similar sites and finds. Medieval archaeology is likely to be present around existing farms and church/hall complexes, in addition there is the potential for other sites occupied in the medieval period but since abandoned. Oyster pits have been identified along the creeks and the inter tidal zone has the potential for preservation of a wide range of archaeological sites and deposits.

Zone 9 Barling and Little Wakering

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Extensive historic environment assets of multi-period date from the Palaeolithic onwards.	3
• Survival	Potential survival in unquarried areas and in the inter tidal areas. Good potential for Palaeolithic remains in unquarried areas and quarry edges.	2
• Documentation	Excavation reports and HER data	2
• Group Value Association	Historic Environment assets associated with coastal exploitation and extensive Bronze Age and Iron Age activity.	2
• Potential	Those areas unquarried and the inter tidal areas have good potential for surviving archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Unquarried and coastal areas are sensitive to major change. The coastal area will also be sensitive to changes in sea defences.	2
• Amenity Value	The long history of settlement and relationship of settlement to coastal occupation provide potential for promotion of the historic environment.	2

**10. The estuary marshes of the Roach and Crouch**

**Summary:** A zone of historic marshland, beside the estuaries of the Crouch and Roach, drained by ditches and protected by a perimeter sea wall and ‘counter’ walls, with in places saltings outside. The rich fertile alluvial clay and silts were historically



used as grazing marsh down to the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when much of the area began to be ploughed for arable exploitation. The area contains a variety of Prehistoric, Roman, Medieval and Post-Medieval remains particularly related to marshland and coastal exploitation.

*Historic Landscape:* This zone is dominated by medieval and post medieval land reclamation with a pattern of surviving pre-18<sup>th</sup> century curvilinear and post-18<sup>th</sup> century rectilinear, ditched fields. The very low islands of high ground such as Beckney and Pudsey provided focal points for early settlement. The zone has been subject to a protracted process of reclamation and drainage, areas of tidal marsh and saltings were surrounded by a bank or wall to exclude the sea, drainage ditches were dug within the embanked area, and a form of sluice installed to allow water to drain through the sea wall at low tide. Accordingly this zone is criss-crossed by a complex network of relict banks, walls and sluices, many of which are used as roads and farm tracks. It is characterised by a lack of large villages and contains a small scatter of isolated farms. A number of these have disappeared, but as outlined above the distinctive pattern of ditches associated with them are still discernible.

*Archaeological Character:* This zone is characterised by the presence of a large number of red hills within the reclaimed areas of the marsh and indicates the exploitation on a large scale of the coastal wetlands in the Roman period. There is potential for archaeological deposits and features, including relict land surfaces, to be sealed below alluvium. Archaeological survey of the inter-tidal zone has revealed a remarkable range of prehistoric archaeological deposits and sites. This work resulted in the discovery of a complete Bronze Age paddle preserved at the edge of the Crouch Estuary north of Canewdon. A number of relict seawalls, oyster pits, a duck decoy pond, timbers, and military remains have also been identified and more may be revealed.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Wide range of assets, especially associate with exploitation of the coast and marshes	3
• Survival	Good survival both in the reclaimed and inter-tidal areas although some have been damage through ploughing. Waterlogged deposits in both intertidal and reclaimed areas.	2
• Documentation	Survey work, HER data	2
• Group Value Association	Large amount of sites associated with exploitation of the coast and land reclamation	3
• Potential	High potential particularly in inter-tidal and coastal edge, unploughed grazing marsh.	3
• Sensitivity to change	Historic landscape and archaeological deposits highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	The historic environment character of this zone linked to neighbouring coastal areas (zones 1-5) has considerable potential for promotion.	2

## 11. Paglesham

**Summary:** This zone encompasses two of the chief focal points, Church End and East End, of the dispersed settlement pattern of Paglesham, located on brickearth and loam covered gravel terraces. The archaeological evidence is limited due to the lack of excavations in the area however, aerial photographic evidence and chance finds indicates occupation from the Bronze Age.

*Historic Landscape:* Paglesham is an example of a medieval dispersed polyfocal settlement, with foci at Church End next to the church/hall complex and at East End close to the coast; the remainder of the settlement comprises farms and cottages strung out along the roads linking the foci.

The cartographic evidence shows that Pagelsham grew very slowly throughout the post-medieval period, the principal change being the building of cottages along Church Road.

In agriculture the emphasis switched from stock-rearing to arable cultivation in the years around the First World War.

The historic settlement assessment of Paglesham (Medlycott 2003) shows that there were approximately 250 people in Pagelsham between 1841-1881, trades including oystermen, agricultural workers, cobblers, blacksmiths, bakers, builders, thatchers, carpenters and a range of professions associated with its coastal location including boat builders, ships, carpenters, sailmaker and marine store dealers. This provides a valuable insight into the range of economic activity carried out in Paglesham in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and probably reflects the broad nature of Paglesham's economy from at least the medieval period.

*Archaeological Character:* The upstanding archaeological evidence comprises the standing buildings, including the church, Church Hall, East Hall, West Hall and South Hall, and a number of medieval moated sites and oyster pits along the coastal marsh. However, the majority of the evidence for the origins and development of Paglesham is probably contained within below ground archaeological features and layers. Although, only limited fieldwork has taken place within the historic settlement area it is evident that archaeological remains do survive. Prehistoric and Roman settlement is attested by a Bronze Age burial and a range of cropmark evidence together with a number of Red Hills largely along the landward edge of the old coastal marsh to the northeast of the village. The earliest evidence for Saxon occupation in the area is a sixth century brooch.

This is one of the few areas within Rochford that contains cropmark evidence. Areas to both the north and south of Paglesham have complex archaeological cropmarks. It is likely that the creeks and inter tidal zone which have not been subject to archaeological survey will contain a range of sites and deposits. It has been suggested that the remains of the Beagle on which Darwin sailed, lie preserved but deeply buried beneath existing salt marsh.

Zone 11: Paglesham

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Wide range of Historic Environment assets including those associated with the coast and the historic settlement of Paglesham.	3
• Survival	Good survival	3
• Documentation	Historic Settlement survey, aerial photographic and HER data	3
• Group Value Association	Coastal deposits and associated settlements	2
• Potential	High potential particularly within the settlement and in coastal and estuary areas	3
• Sensitivity to change	Settlement and coastal area highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	The historical environment of Paglesham, particularly with regard to the exploitation of coastal areas has considerable potential for promotion	2

## 12. Canewdon

**Summary:** This zone comprises the historic village and associated landscape around Canewdon bordering the Crouch estuary. The village and church are located on a hill of London Clay, south of the marshes and command wide views across the Crouch Estuary. Despite a lack of formal archaeological excavations a range of sites and deposits are known reflecting multi-period occupation from at least the Neolithic.

*Historic Landscape:* The Historic Settlement Assessment of the village has shown its importance from the early medieval period (Medlycott, 2003). Canewdon is as an example of a late Saxon/early medieval settlement with a primary focus on the church/hall complex surrounded by a wider dispersed pattern based on the manorial halls of Canewdon, Pudsey, Apton, Scotts and Lambourne, a settlement pattern which was developed to exploit the economic potential of upland marsh land and creek. There is a rectilinear pattern of fields along the axis of the main east-west roads.

A degree of nucleation took place in the later medieval and post-medieval period, with the development of the village along the High Street east of the church/hall complex. The extent and location of the later medieval settlement can be ascertained from the 1777 Chapman and Andre map, which shows a line of dwellings along the southern side of the High Street, the five manorial halls and a scatter of smaller farms and cottages.

By 1881 the High Street had buildings on both the north and south sides, there was a slight increase in rural settlements, particularly in the form of purpresture (building on the road margins), and the occasional isolated building on the marshlands themselves.

The economy until recent years was based on coastal industries, agriculture and the brick industry. The local building materials are reflective of the areas surface geology. The village has expanded in the modern period to the north and south.

*Archaeological Character.* There has been no archaeological excavation within the village of Canewdon. However, gravel extraction in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century to the north of the church revealed a cremation cemetery of unknown date. In the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century gravel extraction revealed an important range of prehistoric remains including a Neolithic axe hoard and Iron Age burials. The shores of the River Crouch were surveyed as part of the Hullbridge Survey, which as a result the internationally important Bronze Age Canewdon paddle was recovered. It is reasonable to suppose on the basis of comparison with other settlements of a similar nature that below ground archaeology survives within the historic settlement. The area surrounding Canewdon is characterised by a line of Iron Age or Roman Red Hills to the north of the present settlement marking the edge of the coastal marsh at that date.

Zone 12 Canewdon

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Wide range of Historic Environment assets including those associated with the coast and the historic settlement of Canewdon.	2
• Survival	Wide range of chance discoveries supplemented by some field work has shown good survival.	3
• Documentation	Canewdon settlement assessment, HER data	3
• Group Value Association	Settlement, coastal assets	2
• Potential	High potential of surviving deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Archaeological deposits, assets associated with the historic settlement pattern, marshland and coastal exploitation are particularly sensitive.	3
• Amenity Value	The historical environment of Canewdon, particularly with regard to the exploitation of coastal areas has considerable potential for promotion	2

### 13. Stambidge and the area North of the Roach

**Description:** This zone is characterised by a gently undulating landform and arable fields north of the Roach and west of Rochford and Ashingdon. The geology is mixed, with London Clay overlain with patches of brickearth, loam and sand and gravels, there has been a small amount of mineral extraction, however it is likely that extensive archaeological deposits survive.

*Historic Landscape:* The historic settlement pattern was originally dispersed and polyfocal with church/hall complexes, farmsteads and moats. This largely survives, although in the northern part of the zone, roads have become a focus for ribbon development. The zone possesses a strong grid structure, which is ancient and planned, with north to south and east to west roads and tracks many of which dog-leg around existing fields. In many places recent boundary loss has created large prairie fields, although the strong historic grid structure has been maintained.

*Archaeological Character:* This zone is characterised by archaeological deposits and features of multi-period date with a number of medieval moated sites. There is a focus of prehistoric and Roman activity centred on the settlement of Great Stambridge, which itself possesses a church of Saxon origin. World War II and Cold War Military remains lie on the periphery of the built-up area of Rochford.

Zone 13 Stambridge and the area North of the Roach

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Historic settlement and overall structure of fields, tracks and roads survives well. Limited investigations have resulted in low level of recorded historic assets which probably does not reflect the true situation.	2
• Survival	Historic dispersed settlement pattern and overall structure of fields, tracks and roads survives well.	2
• Documentation	HER data	1
• Group Value Association	Characterised by known dispersed medieval farms and associated fields	2
• Potential	Likelihood of extensive archaeological deposits and lack of development indicates good potential	2
• Sensitivity to change	Coherence of dispersed settlement and structure of historic landscape together with potential buried deposits would suffer if significant change occurred	2
• Amenity Value	Limited investigation hampers a full understanding and potential for promotion at present	1

**14. Sutton, Stonebridge and the area to the south of the Roach**

**Summary:** This zone is located between Southend-on-Sea to the south and the River Roach to the north, on sand and gravel terraces with areas of brickearth. The historic

settlement pattern is dispersed, with both irregular and regular field systems. Although there has been little formal archaeological fieldwork chance finds indicate multi-period occupation.

*Historic Landscape:* The historic settlement pattern was originally dispersed and polyfocal with church/hall complexes, farmsteads and moats. The zone possesses a strong grid structure, which is ancient and planned, with north to south and east to west roads and tracks many of which dog-leg around existing fields. In many places recent boundary loss has created large prairie fields, although the strong historic grid structure has been maintained.

*Archaeological Character:* This zone is characterised by archaeological deposits and features of multi-period date with a number of medieval moated sites. Throughout the area chance finds of prehistoric and Roman period artefacts are common, indicating occupation of the area throughout this timescale. Archaeological deposits along the edge of the Roach Estuary are visible in some areas as cropmark evidence.

Zone 14 Sutton, Stonebridge and the area to the south of the Roach

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Historic settlement and overall structure of fields, tracks and roads survives well. Limited investigations have resulted in low level of recorded historic assets which probably does not reflect the true situation.	2
• Survival	Historic dispersed settlement pattern and overall structure of fields, tracks and roads survives well.	2
• Documentation	Very limited, result of little research in area	1
• Group Value Association	Characterised by known dispersed medieval farms and associated fields	1
• Potential	Likelihood of extensive archaeological deposits and lack of development indicates good potential	2
• Sensitivity to change	Coherence of dispersed settlement and	2



	structure of historic landscape together with potential buried deposits would suffer if significant change occurred	
• Amenity Value	Limited investigation hampers a full understanding and potential for promotion at present	1

## 15. Shopland and the area to the north of Southend

**Summary:** This zone encompasses part of a distinctive east to west raised ridge sited on London Clays overlain by deposits of head and gravel. The south-western quarter encompasses development associated with the urban conurbation of Southend-on-Sea, comprising golf courses, municipal cemeteries, crematoriums and industrial estates. The remainder is composed of recent nucleated settlement to the east and dispersed settlement elsewhere. The zone lies close to the Scheduled Monument of Prittlewell Camp and is likely to contain extensive multi-period archaeological deposits.

*Historic Landscape:* Very little survives of the historic landscape in the south-western corner of this zone, most having been destroyed by the growth of Southend. In the remainder, there are small areas of nucleated settlement and dispersed farmsteads. There are small areas of co-axial fields of ancient origin surviving with some boundary loss.

*Archaeological Character:* There are numerous multi-period archaeological deposits surviving in this zone, albeit disturbed in its south-western corner. The area lies directly to the north of Prittlewell Camp, a partly upstanding earthwork likely to be the remains of an Iron Age Hillfort with a wide range of Prehistoric and Saxon finds being made in the area.

Zone 15 Shopland and the area to the north of Southend

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Wide range of prehistoric and Saxon deposits	3
• Survival	Likely to survive well, however, modern	2

	development has disturbed part of the zone.	
• Documentation	Excavation reports, HER data	2
• Group Value Association	Very limited	1
• Potential	In those areas which have not been disturbed there is a high potential of surviving deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Those areas not damaged are sensitive to significant change	2
• Amenity Value	There is potential to develop a better understanding of the historic environment of this zone in relation to neighbouring zones.	2

## 16. Southern Rochford

**Summary:** This zone is located to the immediate east of Southend Airport and to the south of modern and historic Rochford and is situated on brickearth, sand and gravels. It comprises a single area of plotland, originally developed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Archaeological deposits are known adjacent to the Prittle Brook and are thought to extend across this whole area comprising a Roman rural settlement.

*Historic Landscape and Historic Urban Characterisation:* Sutton Road bounds the area of plotland to the north, Southend Road to the west and the Prittle Brook to the east. This particular area of plotland was developed between 1897 and 1936 incorporating the earlier workhouse on its periphery, with the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map depicting the layout of the plotland. The roads and boundaries of the present estate are those of the original plotland development, buildings mainly comprise brick built bungalows.

*Archaeological Character:* Within this zone archaeological excavations at Marshalls Farm identified ditches, corn drying kilns and other features of Roman date. The modern urban development overlies both the early 20<sup>th</sup> century plotlands and the Roman deposits. The Roman deposits form part of a much larger rural Roman settlement whose extent are not fully known. Chance finds of prehistoric material have also been made indicating earlier occupation. Any open spaces within this zone have a high potential for surviving archaeological deposits.

Zone 16 Southern Rochford

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Known prehistoric, Roman and post medieval occupation	2
• Survival	Those areas covered by housing will be disturbed, areas not developed have high potential for survival	2
• Documentation	HER data and excavation summaries	1
• Group Value Association	Little group value	1
• Potential	High potential in undeveloped areas	2
• Sensitivity to change	Zone largely comprises urban expansion of Rochford. Limited sensitivity to change except in the relatively few undeveloped areas particularly adjacent to the Prittle Brook.	1/2
• Amenity Value	Limited but could contribute to a better understanding of the historic environment in relation to neighbouring areas.	1

**17. Southend Airport**

Summary: This zone comprises the commercial London Southend Airport, located to the southwest of Rochford on a brickearth covered gravel terrace. It was first established as a landing ground for the Royal Flying Corps during World War I and requisitioned again at the outbreak of World War II to become an important fighter station. The use of this area by the military, and now as a civil airport has potentially protected archaeological deposits.

*Historic Landscape:* Little of the 1918 airfield survives, thought now only to consist of a metalled perimeter track. The original landing ground is now part of Southend Airport, while the buildings along Eastwoodbury Lane have been replaced by a housing estate with the exception of the 11<sup>th</sup> century St Laurence and All Saints church across the District boundary in Southend.

*Archaeological Character:* The use of this zone by the military, and now as a civil airport has potentially protected a large amount of the below ground archaeology. Archaeological evaluation for the proposed transport facility has identified surviving Bronze Age settlement and medieval occupation.

Although outside Rochford the most important upstanding monument in the locality is the 11<sup>th</sup> century St Lawrence and All Saints church.

A surprising amount of the World War II military defences still survives at the airport. Many of the fifty pillboxes, which protected the airfield, are still extant. Between the runways, two of the three retractable types, the Pickett Hamilton forts, are thought to remain embedded in the grass. Around the immediate perimeter, six pillboxes still survive including a rare ‘mushroom’ type and an even rarer anti-aircraft type FW3/23. The underground rooms of the battle headquarters, which were used to co-ordinate the defence of the airfield, still survive. Within a three-mile radius as many as twenty-three further pillboxes survive.

Zone 17 Southend Airport

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Airport has protected below ground archaeology from disturbance. Extensive WW II assets	2
• Survival	WW II assets survive well, evaluation has indicated below ground deposits also survive. Original historic landscape removed	2
• Documentation	Military report, evaluation report and HER data	3
• Group Value Association	High value associated to WW II elements	3
• Potential	Has high potential for WW II and below ground archaeology	3
• Sensitivity to change	Below ground and military survival is sensitive	2
• Amenity Value	WW II assets have high amenity potential	3

## 18. Area between Stroud Green and Eastwood

Summary: This zone is situated immediately to the north of the built-up area of Eastwood and to the south of the hamlet of Stroud Green. It is primarily rural with the exception of a golf course in its north-eastern corner and an industrial area at its centre. The western half of the area has been subject to extensive brickearth quarrying. The remainder of the landscape retains a patchwork pattern of irregular and regular shaped hedged arable fields, mixed with an area of secondary woodland. There are many archaeological sites of multi-period date within this zone.

*Historic Landscape:* Apart from the quarried area this is a zone of gently undulating landscape between the settlements of Stroud Green and Eastwood west of the confluence of the Roach and the Prittle Brook. It is mainly a patchwork landscape consisting of small areas of regular and irregular fields of late enclosure with some more recent boundary loss. There is a single area of secondary woodland. The historic settlement pattern comprised dispersed farmsteads and this largely survives to the present day.

*Archaeological Character:* Quarrying around Cherry Orchard Lane has revealed a range of archaeological sites and deposits reflecting multi-period occupation. Archaeological evaluation at West Barrow Hall Farm has revealed very extensive and well preserved archaeological remains of Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and medieval settlement and associated field systems. In addition two World War II camps are recorded together with a Scheduled Monument comprising a World War II anti aircraft battery.

Zone 18 Area between Stroud Green and Eastwood

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Evaluation has identified multi-period activity. In unquarried areas field pattern and dispersed settlement survive.	2
• Survival	In unquarried areas historic environment assets survive well	2

• Documentation	Evaluation and site reports, HER data	2
• Group Value Association	Settlement evidence revealed in evaluation and rescue recording	2
• Potential	High potential for surviving below ground deposits in unquarried areas	2
• Sensitivity to change	Below ground deposits and historic landscape sensitive in unquarried areas	2
• Amenity Value	Limited at present but could be developed to promote the historic development of settlement and landscape in association with adjacent zones.	1

## 19. South West of Hawkwell

**Summary:** This zone comprising the north-east side of the Upper Roach Valley is bordered by Hawkwell to the north and Rochford to the north-east. The large hedged regular and irregular fields are under arable cultivation. The limited archaeological knowledge probably relates more to the lack of fieldwork than to a genuine lack of early settlement.

*Historic Landscape:* A zone of regular and irregular shaped hedged fields with a dispersed settlement pattern, including moated sites.

*Archaeological Character:* The recorded archaeological deposits within this zone are mainly military in nature, relating to the defence of Rochford in World War II. Little archaeological fieldwork has been undertaken in the area resulting in very little knowledge of the surviving archaeological deposits.

Zone 19 South West of Hawkwell

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Knowledge of the diversity of the historic environment is limited by lack of investigation in zone. Currently recorded evidence mainly relates to World War II remains.	1
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• Survival	Historic landscape survives well probably with little damage to below ground deposits.	2
• Documentation	HER data. Military survey	2
• Group Value Association	Military sites	1
• Potential	Potential for surviving below ground deposits and historic landscape features	2
• Sensitivity to change	Historic Environment and surviving archaeological deposits will be sensitive to change.	2
• Amenity Value	Has potential for enhanced understanding of the historic environment in conjunction with the neighbouring zones. Would require investigation before this could be developed	1/2

## 20. Upper Roach Valley

**Summary:** The hills in the area of Rayleigh, Hockley and Hadleigh are composed mainly of Bagshot and Claygate Beds over London Clay. There is extensive tree cover and bosky skylines, contrasting with the adjacent plain, particularly since the loss of the hedgerow elms on the latter. Few archaeological deposits are known in the area largely as a result of lack of archaeological investigations.

*Historic Landscape:* This zone to the south of Hockley and north of Rayleigh forms a sequence of rolling hills and slopes forming the Upper Roach Valley containing dispersed settlement of individual farms. The area contains a number of ancient woodlands many in conservation ownership. The fieldscape lacks a strong grid pattern as elsewhere but instead responds to historical routeways and topography. The area forms part of a distinctive topographical unit along with zone 31. It is located on part of a raised ridge composed of a mixture of head, sand and gravel and clay with slopes down to the Upper Roach valley and to the east is an area of brickearth deposits overlaying patches of head and gravel.

*Archaeological Character:* Few archaeological sites have currently been identified in the zone, this reflects stable patterns of land use in the area and a lack of development. Significant elements of historic landscape survive, including ancient woodland with a range of earthworks. There is a concentration of prehistoric find spots and sites along the western rim of the area. Their dramatic position on the crest of the slope overlooking the surrounding clay plain is a classic position for prehistoric burial / occupation sites and it is likely that further remains await discovery in the area.

Zone 20 Upper Roach Valley

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Features relating to dispersed settlements, associated field boundaries	2
• Survival	Good survival of historic landscape pattern including farms, field boundaries and woods. Below ground deposits, probably also survive well.	3
• Documentation	HER data, Report on historic woodlands	2
• Group Value Association	Surviving landscape	3
• Potential	Has high potential for surviving below ground deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Historic landscape sensitive to change as well as the potential below ground deposits	3
• Amenity Value	The existing nature and potential of the historic environment of this zone offers considerable potential for promotional development.	3

**21. Built up area of Rochford and Ashingdon**

**Summary:** Large expanse of generally pre and post World War II housing interspersed with more recent suburbs. Few archaeological deposits have been recorded and dense housing is likely to have damaged any archaeological deposits that are present.

*Historic Urban Character:* Comprises large expanse of generally pre and post World War II housing interspersed with more recent developments. The present density of housing



was not achieved until after World War II, prior to that the area had a much less densely settled character, reflecting a piecemeal plotland style of development in this zone.

*Archaeological Character:* Due to the nature and chronology of development in this zone little archaeological work has been undertaken. The area is located on a mixture of head, sand and gravel and clay which would have been conducive to multi-period occupation.

Zone 21 Built up area of Rochford and Ashingdon

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Largely built up area with little known archaeology	1
• Survival	Built up area would have damaged historic environment assets	1
• Documentation	HER data	1
• Group Value Association	Little known in area	1
• Potential	Open areas may preserve archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Largely already built up	1
• Amenity Value	Very limited might be possible to develop an understanding of the 20 <sup>th</sup> century housing development in association with other zones.	1

## 22. Historic Town of Rochford

**Summary:** This zone comprises the historic core of Rochford Town located on an area of complex glacial and post glacial deposits overlying London Clay and Claygate Beds. Rochford retains much of the appearance of an 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century market town. Extensive urban archaeological deposits are likely to survive beneath the present town centre.

*Historic Urban Character:* The zone broadly encompasses the historic core of the market town of Rochford. The historic built environment is dominated by the many listed

buildings and the surviving street pattern. The original market-place is thought to have consisted of the area of Horner's Corner and the current rectangular market-place on the north-eastern side of West Street. Horner's Corner was infilled in the 15<sup>th</sup> century and the eastern end of the rectangular market-place had been infilled by the post-medieval period. The southern side of Market Square is formed by a series of short plots backed by Back Lane. These plots continue as the southern side of West Street and may be contemporary with the rectangular market-place. There was medieval ribbon development along South Street to the bridge over the Roach.

The historic town plan appears to have expanded little in the post medieval-period, although internal rebuilding and infilling took place and there is the possibility that parts of East Street may be a later addition. Extensive ribbon development developed in the 20<sup>th</sup> century to the north and south (HECZ 21 and 16).

*Archaeological Character:* Below ground there are some indications of Roman occupation in the area of East Street. Saxon occupation is recorded in the Domesday Book but it is possible that this is located at Rochford Hall to the west of the main settlement which is adjacent to the church. Rochford Hall comprises the remains of an elaborate early Tudor brick built mansion and its associated farming and landscape features. It is possible that this church/hall complex was a focal point for an earlier dispersed settlement pattern prior to the foundation of the town.

The medieval period is well represented by the standing buildings but archaeological deposits also survive well. The historic town survey (Medlycott 1999) has shown that archaeological deposits survive relatively undamaged in areas where excavations have taken place. Recent evaluation has shown that the gardens of the frontage properties contain surviving archaeological deposits.

Zone 22 Historic Town of Rochford

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diversity of historic environment assets</li> </ul>	Important medieval deposits, listed buildings, street pattern	3
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assets		
• Survival	High quality surviving buildings and street pattern, and below ground deposits	3
• Documentation	Historic Town report, town booklet HER data.	3
• Group Value Association	Historic Environment Assets are all linked to the historic town.	3
• Potential	High potential of surviving deposits below ground and for better understanding of the existing built heritage	3
• Sensitivity to change	Street Pattern, road frontages, buildings and below ground deposits highly sensitive	3
• Amenity Value	Historic identity of town has a high promotional value and is well understood by the local people	3

### 23. Zone to the south-east of Rochford

**Summary:** Zone to the south east of Rochford on the sand and gravel terrace with some brickearth edged by the river Roach to the south. Parts of a strong rectilinear field pattern of ancient origin survive with a range of archaeological finds made during quarrying. Archaeological evidence found during quarrying indicates multi-period deposits survive in the zone.

*Historic Landscape:* The zone is characterised by a gentle undulating landform and arable fields to the north of the Roach Estuary. The historic settlement structure consists of a moat and scattered farms which largely survive. The southern part of the area has been extensively quarried and is occupied by a large industrial estate.

*Archaeological Character:* The southern part of the zone has been largely quarried. A number of archaeological finds have been made during quarrying and building work indicating that multi period occupation survives within the unquarried areas.

Zone 23 Area to the South East of Rochford

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Multi-period deposits identified during quarrying	2
• Survival	Potential of surviving deposits in areas that have not been quarried	2
• Documentation	HER data	1
• Group Value Association	Limited	1
• Potential	Those areas not quarried have potential for surviving deposits of multi-period date	2
• Sensitivity to change	Quarrying has changed historic landscape, in unquarried areas likely to have surviving deposits	1/2
• Amenity Value	Limited potential for promotion	1

## 24. Plotlands in area of Ashingdon

**Summary:** Comprising the modern settlement of Ashingdon, formed from 2 separate areas of plotlands originally developed in the twentieth century lying on a mixture of clay, silt and sand. One of these was eventually adopted by the District Council and regularised whilst the other survives unregularised.

*Landscape and Historic Urban Characterisation:* Comprises two areas, one to the west of Ashingdon Road and one to the north of the historic settlement of Ashingdon. The area to the north of the historic settlement of Ashingdon developed in the 1920's with the third edition OS map showing the layout of plotlands. This group of plotlands largely survives through to the present day. The area to the west of Ashingdon Road originated in the 1930's but was eventually adopted by the local Council and was fully developed following the Second World War preserving the original plotland road layout.

*Archaeological Character:* The known archaeological deposits comprise mainly the development of the site as plotlands. The development of the zone adjacent to Ashingdon Road would have damaged surviving archaeological deposits predating the housing development. The plotlands to the north preserve much of the original character of plotland development. A cropmark of an enclosure is recorded between

the two areas. A detailed Historic Settlement assessment has been completed for Ashingdon (Medlycott 2003) and incorporates these areas.

Zone 24 Plotlands in area of Ashingdon

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Two areas of plotland, some cropmarks known	2
• Survival	One area of plotland remains unimproved. Potential of surviving below ground deposits	2
• Documentation	Ashingdon settlement survey, HER data	2
• Group Value Association	Two areas of plotland	2
• Potential	The northern area has a higher potential than the southern one for surviving below ground deposits	1/2
• Sensitivity to change	Northern area of Plotlands still represents the original nature of plotland settlement and this would be sensitive to change.	2
• Amenity Value	Limited amenity value but could be developed in relation to the understanding of the historic development of housing in the 20 <sup>th</sup> century particularly related to plotland and in conjunction with the other zones.	1/2

## 25. Historic Ashingdon

**Summary:** The historic core of Ashingdon is small comprising a church and manor complex. The church and manor are located on Ashingdon Hill. From the hilltop there are extensive views over the Crouch estuary and the Canewdon area.

*Historic Landscape:* This is a very small area comprising the medieval focal point of the church and hall of Ashingdon situated on the prominent Ashingdon Hill. The zone comprises the church and its graveyard and the associated manor house.

*Archaeological Character:* The settlement of Ashingdon in the medieval period remained very small with only 2 households in 1086, and even by 1777 this had only increased to 6 households. A detailed Historic Settlement Assessment has been completed on Ashingdon (Medlycott 2003).

Zone 25 Historic Ashingdon

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Listed buildings, church, probably below ground medieval deposits	2
• Survival	Surviving buildings and probably below ground deposits	2
• Documentation	Historic Settlement Survey, HER data	3
• Group Value Association	Strong Medieval component above and probably below ground	2
• Potential	High potential of surviving deposits below ground	3
• Sensitivity to change	Medieval core highly sensitive both for its setting and above and below ground historic assets	3
• Amenity Value	Historic identity of medieval settlement pattern complex has a promotional value. The historic association of the church and hall are well appreciated locally.	3

**26. Land between Hockley and Ashingdon**

**Summary :** Primarily rural this patchwork landscape retains many of its historic features in the form of irregular and regular fields and sites of ancient woodland. Archaeological finds in the zone are relatively numerous with a significant concentration of prehistoric find spots. There is a high potential for more significant archaeological sites and deposits to be identified.

*Historic Landscape:* This is a zone of rolling topography between the settlements of Hawkwell and Ashingdon. It is a patchwork landscape consisting of small areas of regular and irregular fields, interspersed with ancient woodland and secondary woodland. The historic settlement pattern was dispersed and is now augmented by plotland style development.

*Archaeological Character:* The zone is situated on a ridge and slopes down to the Crouch Estuary between Hawkwell and Ashingdon, on a mixed geology of sand, silt and clay. The historic settlement was dispersed and this pattern still survives. There are a number of find spots, particularly of prehistoric material, but there has been little formal archaeological investigation. Part of the area to the immediate west of Ashingdon has been quarried quarrying.

Zone 26 Land between Hockley and Ashingdon

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Historic field pattern survives as well as ancient woodland. Area has little known archaeology however spot finds suggest extensive prehistoric occupation	2
• Survival	Surviving historic pattern of the landscape together with the lack of development which indicates high level of surviving assets	3
• Documentation	Woodland report, HER data	1
• Group Value Association	Pattern of field boundaries and woodland	2
• Potential	Potential for above ground earthworks and below ground deposits.	2
• Sensitivity to change	Landscape and archaeological deposits highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	Promotion could be developed in relation to the understanding of the historic development of the rural landscape	2

## 27. Plotlands to the north of Ashingdon and Hockley

**Summary:** Zone of plotlands to the north of Ashingdon and Beckney Woods on clay silt and sand, overlooking the Crouch estuary.

*Historic Landscape:* This is a patchwork landscape consisting of small areas of regular and irregular fields. The historic settlement pattern was dispersed and is now augmented by plotlands.

*Archaeological Character:* The low level of development in the zone has provided limited opportunities for archaeological research. The plotlands survive in good condition. It is probable that multi-period archaeological deposits will survive within this zone.

Zone 27 Plotlands to the north of Ashingdon and Hockley

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Few identified historic environment assets, good surviving plotlands. Limited information due to lack of investigation	1/2
• Survival	Potential good survival for deposits due to lack of modern development.	2
• Documentation	HER data	1
• Group Value Association	Limited apart from surviving plotland style occupation	1
• Potential	Potential for multi-period surviving deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Landscape and below ground deposits sensitive to change.	2
• Amenity Value	Limited, further investigation may facilitate better understanding and promotion of the environment.	1

## 28. South Fambridge Spur

**Summary:** Spur of high ground leading northwards from the plotlands (area 27) towards the river Crouch. The zone is surrounded by reclaimed marshland (zone 10). The zone



contains a manor and church complex and small 19<sup>th</sup> century development of South Fambridge and is likely to have been a focus of early settlement.

*Historic Landscape:* The zone comprises a spur of land running north into the reclaimed marshland containing the settlement of South Fambridge. The settlement includes a small 19<sup>th</sup> century development of pub, housing and industry.

*Archaeological Character:* Fambridge is a manor church complex of medieval origin, the church was rebuilt in the post medieval period. The overall position of this zone within the marshes makes it a prime site for prehistoric to medieval occupation. Several red hills are located in the area. There is a close relationship between this zone and zone 10. The relative lack of development pressure has resulted in little formal archaeological investigation.

Zone 28 South Fambridge Spur

• Diversity of historic environment assets	This spur is likely to have been a focus of medieval and earlier settlement.	2
• Survival	Potential good survival for deposits due to lack of modern development.	2
• Documentation	HER data	1
• Group Value Association	Limited perhaps largely due to lack of investigation	1
• Potential	High potential for surviving deposits particularly marsh edge occupation	3
• Sensitivity to change	Landscape and below ground deposits sensitive to change	2
• Amenity Value	Further investigation may facilitate better understanding and promotion of the environment.	2

**29. Beckney Woods Ancient woodland**

**Summary:** Area of ancient woodland to the north of Hockley located on a slightly higher piece of land comprising mainly of clay, silt and sand, but also sand and gravel. The woodland contains an impressive boundary bank and internal earthworks and has the potential to protect and preserve archaeological deposits of an earlier date.

*Historic Landscape:* Contains the remains of Ancient Woodland with areas of plotland and open country surrounding it.

*Archaeological Character:* The woodland contains a massive boundary ditch which has been encroached upon in some places. Within the woodland earthworks survive in the form of further boundary banks. The woodland would have also protected evidence of earlier occupation from plough damage.

Zone 29 Beckney Woods Ancient Woodland

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Woodland features, woodland also potentially protect other earlier historic environment assets	2
• Survival	Earthworks survive well, potential of other deposits within woodland surviving.	2
• Documentation	HER data, reports	2
• Group Value Association	Woodland features	3
• Potential	High potential for earlier deposits, and earthworks surviving in woodland	3
• Sensitivity to change	Woodland and associated landscape features highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	Considerable potential for promoting the historic environment	2

### 30. Hockley

**Summary:** The urban zone of Hockley largely developed with dense housing since World War II. The present built up area of Hockley began to develop following the arrival of the railway in 1889. This made Hockley easily accessible to London and facilitated

plotlands developments. The plotlands were regularised and more densely developed following World War II.

*Historic Urban Character:* During the 1840's an attempt was made to establish a mineral spa in the village. The spa did not thrive but the pump room remains. Most of the zone comprises a large expanse of generally pre and post World War II housing development interspersed with modern suburbs. The density of housing was not achieved until after World War II, prior to that it comprised largely dispersed plotland style development. On the western side of the area there is a small area of modern industrial development.

*Archaeological Character:* The only recorded archaeological deposits within the modern settlement at Hockley comprise a series of Neolithic flint tools and two brickworks of post medieval date. An element of quarrying would have been associated with these brickworks. Apart from open spaces it is probable that the development of Hockley in the post war period has had a severe adverse impact on any archaeological deposits.

#### Zone 30 Hockley

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Largely modern development, some historic buildings and below ground deposits	2
• Survival	Extensive disturbance in built up areas. Reasonable survival of historic built elements. Open spaces may have some survival of below ground deposits	2
• Documentation	HER data	1
• Group Value Association	Little group value	1
• Potential	Extensively disturbed, possible surviving deposits in open areas	1
• Sensitivity to change	Extensive development over the last 50 years has significantly altered the Historic Environment.	1
• Amenity Value	Despite extensive recent development the historic development of Hockley has considerable potential for promotion in conjunction with neighbouring zones.	2

### 31. Hockley Woods

**Summary :** The Ancient Woods are one of the largest continuous native woods in Eastern England. These are situated within an area of rolling hills and valleys containing little settlement and few roads whose geology is composed mainly of Bagshot and Claygate Beds over London Clay. The lack of agricultural production within the area means that archaeological deposits will be well preserved. Earthworks relating to the ancient woodland are preserved.

*Historic Landscape:* The group of woods to the south of Hockley form one of the largest continuous native woodlands in Eastern England. In tree communities they are the most varied woods in south east Essex containing willow and cherry woods (which are nationally rare types) and oak woods as well as a full sequence of hornbeam, chestnut and ash woods.

*Archaeological Character:* There is extensive physical evidence of the historic development and management of these woods in the form of surviving earthworks. There are also many written records for the woods. The Anglo-Saxon perimeter has been encroached upon, but the internal boundary banks survive amazingly well. The woodland would have preserved any earlier, prehistoric or Roman, occupation.

#### Zone 31 Hockley Woods

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Large area of ancient woodland with associated earthwork features and the potential for surviving earlier features and deposits.	2
• Survival	Woodland earthworks survive well	3
• Documentation	Woods of South Essex, HER data	3
• Group Value Association	Woodland management features especially important	3
• Potential	Potential Roman and earlier deposits protected by woodland	3

• Sensitivity to change	Highly sensitive to any change	3
• Amenity Value	Considerable potential already partly realised for the promotion of the historic environment both within this zone and in relation to neighbouring zones.	3

### 32. Land to the east of Hullbridge

**Summary:** Zone of open farm land on a mixture of clay, silt and sand overlooking the Crouch Estuary. The settlement pattern comprises dispersed farmsteads all within a rectangular field system. The lack of recorded archaeological sites within this area is largely a result of the lack of archaeological field work undertaken itself a reflection of the lack of development pressure.

*Historic Landscape:* This is flat open agricultural land on the southern side of the Crouch Estuary. The field pattern comprises large rectilinear fields with widely dispersed farms.

*Archaeological Character:* Few archaeological sites or finds are recorded from this zone. The present settlement pattern is dispersed, a form in use in this area from the at least the medieval period through to the present day. Since this area lies close to the Crouch Estuary it is likely that red hills and other sites and deposits associated with coastal exploitation will be present.

#### Zone 32 Land to the East of Hullbridge

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Little investigation undertaken, historic field systems survive	2
• Survival	Surviving historic pattern of the landscape together with the lack of development indicates potential for high level of surviving assets	2
• Documentation	HER data	1
• Group Value Association	Little group value on present evidence	1
• Potential	Potential for multi-period deposits surviving in the zone	2

• Sensitivity to change	Limited recent development indicates the historic environment will be sensitive to change	2
• Amenity Value	Further investigation may facilitate better understanding and promotion of the historic environment.	2

### 33. Land to the north of Hockley

**Summary :** The zone contains low density residential housing, with the original village church and manor of Hockley, within a network of open fields and ancient woodland. Few archaeological sites are recorded in the zone largely due to lack of development.

*Historic Landscape:* The historic settlement pattern within this zone was dispersed, with church hall complexes, moated sites and scattered farmsteads. The field pattern has a strong north-south or north-east south-west grid pattern of ancient origin with a mixture of ancient and secondary woodland. Some areas have suffered significant boundary loss leading to large prairie fields.

*Archaeological Character:* The zone contains Hockley church with its unusual octagonal tower standing on a high hill to the west of the village with magnificent views across the Crouch valley. The geology largely comprises clay, silt and sand. The present church dates mainly from 1220 when it was rebuilt and enlarged. This area also contains the Scheduled monument of Plumberow mount a burial mound probably of Roman date. The relative lack of development pressure has resulted in little formal archaeological investigation but it is likely that evidence of multi-period occupation will be present.

Zone 33 Land to the north of Hockley

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Contains dispersed settlement pattern of medieval or earlier date and associated landscape features. Finds suggest much earlier occupation as well	2
• Survival	Surviving historic pattern of the landscape and	3

	surviving settlement pattern together with the lack of development indicates potential for high level of surviving assets	
• Documentation	HER data	1
• Group Value Association	Historic landscape features and character of dispersed settlement	3
• Potential	High potential of surviving historic environment assets	3
• Sensitivity to change	Historic landscape, buildings and below ground deposits sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	Potential for promoting history of settlement and historic countryside	2

### 34. Plotlands between Hullbridge and Rayleigh

**Summary:** The settlement pattern is dispersed with moats and churches set within a rectilinear field pattern of ancient origin. Superimposed on this are more recent 20<sup>th</sup> century plotlands and leisure activities.

*Historic Landscape:* This is a patchwork landscape consisting of small zones of regular and irregular fields. The historic settlement pattern was dispersed and is now augmented by plotlands. A large golf course lies in the centre of the zone.

*Archaeological Character:* The low level of development in the zone has provided limited opportunities for archaeological research. The comparison with other zones indicates that a range of archaeological sites and deposits will be present.

Zone 34 Plotlands between Hullbridge and Rayleigh

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Dispersed settlement pattern of medieval origin and associated field boundaries	2
• Survival	Potential for good survival of below ground deposits and character of dispersed settlement and fields survives reasonably well.	2

• Documentation	HER data	1
• Group Value Association	Dispersed settlement and associated fields	1
• Potential	Potential of surviving deposits due to lack of development	2
• Sensitivity to change	Historic landscape and below ground deposits sensitive to change	2
• Amenity Value	At present limited but further investigation may facilitate better understanding and promotion of the historic environment in conjunction with neighbouring zones.	1

### 35. Hullbridge

**Summary:** The built up area of Hullbridge formed largely from post World War II housing. The urban areas northern boundary fronts onto the Crouch estuary.

*Historic Urban Character:* The settlement is laid out on a regular grid street pattern developed from plotland settlements. The rectangular roads of the plotland development is itself a clear reflection of the pre existing strongly rectilinear field system which are likely to be of ancient origin. The present street pattern follows the original plotland layout, although now heavily infilled with post 1950 development.

*Archaeological Character:* Within the built up area a moated site is recorded, however the housing development has probably significantly damaged this. The inter-tidal zone of the Crouch Estuary is likely to contain a range of archaeological site and deposits including remains of a medieval timber bridge which crossed the river at Hullbridge.

#### Zone 35 Hullbridge

• Diversity of historic environment assets	The plotland layout survives within the present road system. Potential for buried deposits in the north of the zone relating to the marshland and coast line in zone 10	1/2
--------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----



• Survival	The plotland layout survives within the present road system and replicates the earlier field system layout. Built up area has disturbed much of the below ground deposits	2
• Documentation	HER data	1
• Group Value Association	Limited but structure of plotland settlement and its relationship to later development is clear	2
• Potential	Potential for buried deposits in the north of the zone relating to the marshland and coast line in zone 10	2
• Sensitivity to change	Built up area has little sensitivity to change except that the strongly rectilinear nature of the 20 <sup>th</sup> century development which itself reflects the earlier field pattern is significant and sensitive to change	2
• Amenity Value	Limited amenity value although there is good potential for promoting the historic development of plotland in conjunction with other areas of Rochford District.	1/2

### 36. Area to the West of Hullbridge

**Summary:** This zone is located at a bend in the Crouch Estuary to the west of Hullbridge. Has a very mixed geology with clay, silt, sand and some gravel.

*Historic Landscape:* The zone lies within the bend of the Crouch Estuary, having minimal recent occupation. Only a single road enters the zone. The field system comprises a rectilinear pattern of land boundaries of ancient origin.

*Archaeological Character:* Archaeological deposits are rare, however a raised mound is recorded, probably a farmstead platform. Prehistoric sites are recorded in the inter-tidal area which, in common with the rest of the zone, has the potential for further archaeological deposits to survive.

Zone 36 Area to the West of Hullbridge

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Historic landscape features survive well and the inter tidal zone contains range of assets	2
• Survival	Good survival with little disturbance	2
• Documentation	HER data	1
• Group Value Association	Inter tidal deposits	2
• Potential	Has potential for extensive surviving deposits, due to relatively little modern disturbance	3
• Sensitivity to change	Open area sensitive to development	2
• Amenity Value	Limited value at present, promotion of the historic environment could be pursued in conjunction with neighbouring areas.	1

### 37. Rawreth

**Summary:** The zone comprises a gently undulating valley slope above the upper Crouch Estuary. Within the zone settlement is now largely confined to small ribbon development along roads, particularly at Rawreth and down towards Battlesbridge. Medieval Moated sites are relatively common across this and neighbouring zones, and part of a pattern of dispersed medieval settlement typical of the region.

*Historic Landscape:* The zone comprises a gently undulating valley slope above the upper Crouch Estuary. Historically the settlement pattern was dispersed with scattered farmsteads and a focal point at Rawreth Church. There is a rectilinear field system of ancient origin which has suffered recent boundary loss.

*Archaeological Character:* Medieval moated sites are relatively common across the zone and represent a pattern of dispersed settlement common to the period and region. The relatively low density of early material in this zone reflects a lack of archaeological work rather than necessarily a lack of archaeological sites and deposits. To the west this is clearly demonstrated by excavations south of Rawreth Shot where multi-period

occupation has been found both in 1968 during road diversions and during the recent A130 construction.

Zone 37 Rawreth

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of historic landscape and archaeological features	3
• Survival	Good survival with little modern development	3
• Documentation	HER data, site reports	2
• Group Value Association	Medieval dispersed farmsteads and church	2
• Potential	Has high potential for wide range of surviving deposits with relatively little modern disturbance	3
• Sensitivity to change	Open landscape and surviving deposits sensitive to change.	2
• Amenity Value	Diverse range of features and historic countryside give potential, at present largely latent, for promotion	2

### 38. Rayleigh outside the historic core

**Summary:** This zone encompasses the modern urban expanse of Rayleigh. The zone forms a distinctive topographical unit of a raised ridge/plateau running east-west and north-south composed of a mixture of head, sand and gravel and clay. Archaeological deposits have been identified in the area and there is potential for encountering further deposits.

*Historic Urban Character:* A large area of predominantly post World War II residential housing. Development began to evolve in the later nineteenth century, and prior to World War II was lightly settled, comprising plotland type character and layout. Following World War II much more intensive housing was built, however the strong linear grid like pattern still retains elements of the original plotland layout.

*Archaeological Character:* The dramatic position of Rayleigh sitting on the raised ridge/plateau would have been attractive to early occupation which is supported by the

numerous Prehistoric and Roman find spots in the area. Many of the archaeological deposits in this area would have been destroyed by modern housing, however, as in the case of Park School where an early Saxon cemetery was recently excavated, open areas which have not been developed have the potential to contain important surviving deposits.

#### Zone 38 Rayleigh

• Diversity of historic environment assets	A range of archaeological sites and finds are recorded and still being revealed by field investigation	2
• Survival	Post War housing disturbed large areas	1
• Documentation	HER data, site reports	2
• Group Value Association	Wide range of unrelated deposits	1
• Potential	Open areas have high potential as shown by Park School	2
• Sensitivity to change	Largely developed so little sensitivity to change	1
• Amenity Value	Sites such as Park School and the wider historic environment of this zone relates to other zones, 39 particular, and has considerable potential to build enhanced understanding of historic development of the area.	2

### 39. Historic Town of Rayleigh

**Summary:** This zone encompasses the historic core of Rayleigh which includes the castle, windmill and the church. The core of the medieval town is formed from the funnel shaped original medieval market place. The historic core sits on a raised ridge/plateau composed of a mixture of head, sand, gravel and clay.

*Historic Urban Character:* This forms the historic core of Rayleigh but has been subject to some modern redevelopment and infill. The core of the medieval town is formed from the funnel shaped original medieval market place the form of which is largely preserved by the line of the property boundaries fronting the High Street. Rayleigh Mount, to the

north west of the High Street, is the remains of one of the earliest Motte and Bailey Castles in England. This castle and the town of Rayleigh lay at the heart of the extensive lands owned by Swain of Essex, one of the most important lords of the early Norman period and one of the very few land owners who had held land at the time of Edward the Confessor and still owned it at the time of the Domesday Survey. The parish church is sited at the north-eastern end of the town, its location perhaps marking the site of the original Domesday settlement. At this point the east-west route of London Hill meets the north-west route of the High Street. To the south of the church is a triangular built-up area, delimited by London Hill, Bellingham Lane and High Street. It is probable that this area originally formed part of the market-place which was already partly built-up by the 14th and 15th centuries.

During the post-medieval period Rayleigh remained a small market town serving the needs of the immediate countryside. It had the usual range of small-scale industry found in urban areas, including a gas works, brewery and smithy, as well as three corn mills. All three were demolished in the late 19th century, however the mound survives of the Hockley Road site. In 1809 a fourth windmill, comprising a brick built tower mill, was built in the area between the castle and Bellingham Lane. This still survives today and was refurbished in the 1990's. Ribbon development has taken place along the main road, but it was the arrival of the railway in the 1890's that stimulated its growth, with considerable expansion in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to its current size as it became a commuter town for London and to a lesser extent Southend.

*Archaeological Character:* The present High Street potentially represents a cigar shaped market place. Excavations have identified 14-15<sup>th</sup> century occupation in the area of London Hill. The earliest parts of the present Holy Trinity Church date back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. It was substantially rebuilt in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

The Motte and Bailey Castle lies just west of the medieval town, sitting on a spur jutting out from the Rayleigh Hills. Substantial earthworks survive but no internal structures. The Castle was constructed between 1066 and 1086 making it one of the earliest

Norman castles in England. The castle lost its importance in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, eventually being used as a stone quarry for the construction of Hadleigh Castle.

Further details of the archaeological background on the development of Rayleigh can be found in the Historic Town report (Medlycott 1999). A Conservation Plan has been commissioned by the National Trust for Rayleigh Mount (Gascoyne 2005).

Zone 39 Historic town of Rayleigh

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Wide range of deposits from the early medieval period onwards and important association of an early Norman castle and town.	3
• Survival	Street pattern and castle survive well, below ground deposits, relatively limited built heritage	2
• Documentation	Historic town report, HER data, excavation reports	3
• Group Value Association	Association of town and castle	3
• Potential	Excavations within the castle and town have shown high potential for surviving archaeological deposits.	2
• Sensitivity to change	The castle and medieval street pattern reflecting the original market place together with buried archaeological deposits are all particularly sensitive.	3
• Amenity Value	The history of the town, its castle and windmill are already quite well understood locally but there is potential for further and fuller promotion.	3

**40. Land to the West of Rayleigh**

**Summary:** The zone comprises a large expanse of low density residential development situated within a network of fields, common, and woodland /scrub. The lack of archaeological sites within this area is largely a result of the lack of archaeological field work undertaken itself a reflection of the lack of development pressure.

*Historic Landscape:* The historic settlement pattern was dispersed with moated sites and scattered farmsteads, now augmented by localised plotland style development and roadside settlement. The field pattern has a strong north-south or north-east south-west grid of ancient origin, significant boundary loss has created prairie fields although the strong rectilinear pattern is preserved and in some places areas of smaller fields survive.

*Archaeological Character:* The zone straddles the boundary between the clay plains and the ridge rising up to Rayleigh. The low level of development in the area has limited opportunities for archaeological research, however excavation in the late 1960s on the A129 revealed multi-period settlements. Similar evidence was revealed during the recent construction of the A130. The field pattern may be of late Saxon origin.

Zone 40 Land to the west of Rayleigh

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Historic landscape features and excavated evidence suggest wide range of assets	3
• Survival	Lack of development means good survival	3
• Documentation	HER data and excavation reports	2
• Group Value Association	Limited due to lack of research in area	1
• Potential	Potential as shown by the new A130 excavations	2
• Sensitivity to change	Open landscape and archaeological deposits sensitive to change	2
• Amenity Value	Limited knowledge at present reduces potential for enhanced presentation and understanding, but could be developed through research in conjunction with other areas.	1

#### **41. River Roach marshland**

**Summary:** A zone of present and former marsh land, beside the estuary of the River Roach, drained by ditches and protected from tidal flooding by a perimeter sea wall,

with, in places, saltings outside. The area contains a variety of Roman, Medieval and Post-Medieval remains.

*Historic Landscape:* This area is dominated by post medieval land reclamation with a pattern of surviving pre-18<sup>th</sup> century curvilinear ditched fields and post-18<sup>th</sup> century rectilinear ditched fields.

*Archaeological Character:* Red hills, oyster pits and other evidence of exploitation of the coastal zone are present in this area. There is potential for archaeological deposits and features to be sealed below alluvium. At Hampton Barns material recovered from gravel extraction indicates multi-period settlements including Saxon occupation. An upstanding mound preserved at Butlers Farm has yielded evidence of post medieval occupation, perhaps re-using an earlier mound. There is a complex of mill buildings located at Stambridge at the head of the Roach Estuary.

Zone 41 River Crouch Marshland

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of archaeological deposits present largely from the Roman period onwards	3
• Survival	Good survival especially in the inter tidal areas	3
• Documentation	HER data	1
• Group Value Association	Range of features associated with coastal exploitation	3
• Potential	High potential of surviving deposits especially in the inter tidal areas	3
• Sensitivity to change	Highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	Potential for promotion of the historic environment in relation to Marshland and coastal exploitation and in conjunction with neighbouring zones.	2



# APPENDICES

## 1 Historic Environment Character Area Methodology

The development of the Historic Environment Character Areas (HECAs) involved an initial 3 stage process:

Analysis and creation of Historic Landscape areas,  
Analysis and creation of Historic Urban Character areas  
Analysis and creation of Archaeological Character areas;

### ***1.1 Creation of Historic Landscape Character areas***

#### ***1.1.1 General Background***

The rural landscape of Essex is a much treasured resource whose form and character reflects millennia of human activity and underlying topographical and geological influences. It has been well-researched but still has surprises and new findings to offer. It is a living, dynamic and changing entity that alters in response to natural factors, e.g. climate change, as well as human intervention e.g. 20th century farming practices. The landscape of an area has many qualities and values including its visual character, biodiversity, recreational uses and economic value to those who farm and own it. It is also an important historical resource that catalogues the activities and lifestyles of past communities.

Rochford District encompasses large areas of both rural and urban landscapes. This part of the assessment has confined itself to examining the historic rural landscape of the District, the urban areas are addressed in the Historic Urban Character section and the archaeology of the District is assessed in the Archaeological Character section.

Rochford has a highly varied historic landscape reflecting a range of influences and patterns. Some of the key human and cultural drivers behind the development of the landscape include:

- The use of the marshes and estuaries throughout history as a key resource for agriculture, fishing, transport and industry;
- The emergence, in the later prehistoric period, of an agricultural economy which integrated upland, marshland and creeks;
- The development in the later prehistoric period of large-scale landscape organisation and field systems which along with the patterns of transhumance have had a strong influence on the grain of the landscape;
- The reclamation of the marshes during the medieval period onwards;
- The development of a distinctive pattern of dispersed settlement across Rochford District;
- 20th century of urban expansion.

### **1.1.2 Methodology**

Through a combination of analysing and simplifying the regional Historic Landscape Characterisation data, drawing in other key datasets such as Ancient Woodland, historic mapping, historic parks and gardens and secondary sources, a series of character areas have been developed that reflect distinct combinations of Historic Landscape Character types and landscape character attributes.

Once the initial area had been defined written descriptions were prepared. The descriptions drew on a range of sources and attempted to reflect, simply, clearly and briefly the reasoning behind the definition and, where possible, relate that area to its wider historic context. The descriptions sought to highlight the key characteristics in an area and identify any particular significant aspects of the areas historic landscape character. Preparation of the descriptions of the zones clarified their nature and their boundaries, so that an iterative process between description and boundary definition resulted in the creation of robust Historic Landscape Character areas.

### **1.1.3 Outline of Results**

Figure 9 shows the location and extent of the Historic Landscape Character Areas. Each of these areas is accompanied by a short description. Each of the Character Areas has been given a name and its relationship to the Thames Gateway Historic Environment Characterisation Area numbering system is indicated e. g. “extension of and equivalent to Thames Gateway no. XX”. This data is also available in the accompanying GIS.

#### **HLCA : 1 Rawreth Equivalent and extension of Thames Gateway no. 325**

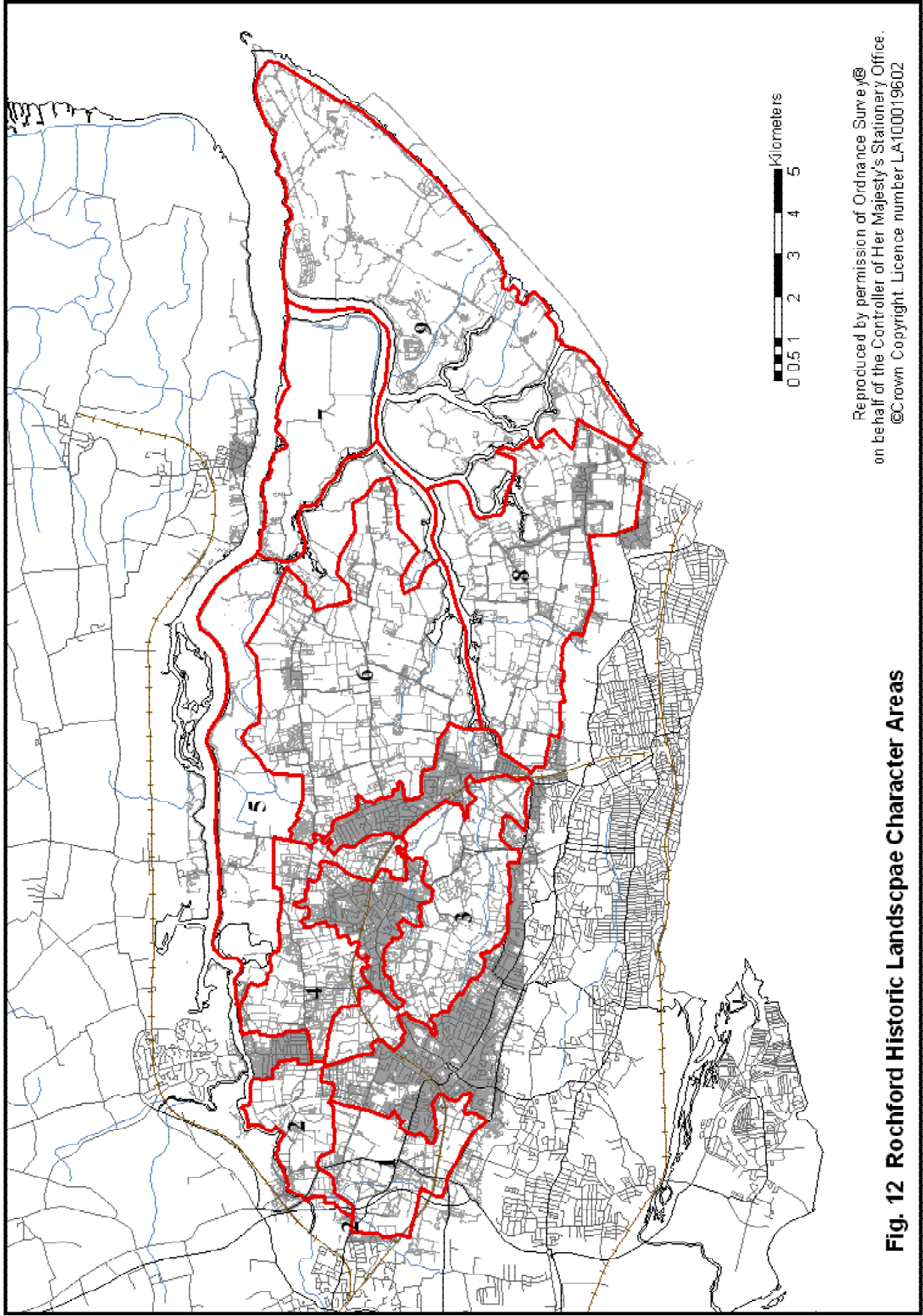
##### **Description:**

- This is an urban edge landscape, containing several large road corridors running both North-South and East-West, and an East-West railway line. Several lines of power pylons ‘march’ across the landscape.
- The historic settlement pattern was dispersed with church/hall complexes, moated sites and scattered farmsteads, now augmented by localised plotland development and roadside settlement.
- The field pattern has a strong N-S or NE-SW grid of ancient origin, significant boundary loss has created prairie fields although in some places areas of smaller field survive.

#### **HLCA: 2 Upper Crouch Estuary Equivalent and extension of Thames Gateway no. 326**

##### **Description:**

- A gently undulating series of valley sides, around the tidal limit of the Crouch estuary
- Within the area the historic settlement pattern largely survives with the settlement of Battlesbridge, supplemented by a small number of scattered farmsteads
- The fields have experienced boundary loss and are now classed as prairie fields
- The grid structure persists in the area on a broad N-S axis



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**Fig. 12 Rochford Historic Landscape Character Areas**

### **HLCA: 3 Upper Roach Valley**

**Equivalent and extension of Thames Gateway no. 327**

#### **Description:**

- Located to the south of Hawkwell, Hockley and Rayleigh, this area of rolling hills and valleys contains little settlement and few roads
- The area contains a significant number of ancient woodlands, many in conservation ownership.
- The south east of the area contains golf courses, extractive sites, and Southend Airport
- Areas of irregular and regular fields survive, though 20th century boundary loss particularly to the east has created some prairie fields, although in parts of this area there were already large fields.
- The Fieldscape lacks a strong grid and instead seems to respond to historical routeways and topography

### **HLCA: 4 Land between Ashingdon Hockley and Hullbridge**

#### **Description:**

- This is an area of rolling topography surrounding the settlements of Hockley, Hawkwell and Ashingdon
- This is a patchwork landscape consisting of small areas of regular and irregular fields, interspersed with ancient woodland, secondary woodland,.
- The historic settlement pattern was dispersed and is now augmented by plotlands
- This area is influenced by the neighbouring urban areas and is well settled

### **HLCA: 5 Crouch and Roach Marshes**

#### **Description:**

- A flat landscape of medieval /post medieval grazing marshland on the southern bank of the river crouch and northern bank of the river Roach.
- The area contains little settlement and few buildings
- The fields are regular and irregular in shape perhaps reflecting varying stages of development and reclamation
- There is a strong sense of openness and space with wide expansive views across the estuary

**HLCA: 6 Central Rochford District  
no. 331**

**Equivalent and extension of Thames Gateway**

**Description:**

- The area is characterised by a gently undulating landform and arable fields north of the Roach estuary.
- This area has a strong grid structure of ancient origin, with North-South and East-West roads and tracks, many of which dogleg around fields
- The historic settlement structure consists of small nucleations, moats and scattered farmsteads largely survive, although to the north of the area roads have become a focus for settlement.
- Historically this area was largely devoid of woodland and this is still the case with only small blocks of woodland scattered across the area
- In some places boundary loss has created large prairie fields although the strong historic grid structure has been maintained. In some areas Dengie-form co-axial field systems (named after the Dengie Peninsula where they cluster) still survive.

**HLCA: 7 Wallasea Island**

**Description:**

- A flat landscape comprising all of Wallasea Island
- The area contains little settlement and few buildings
- The field pattern is dominated by post 1950 drainage work which has destroyed all original field patterns
- There is a strong sense of openness and space with wide expansive views across the estuaries

**HLCA: 8 Land between Southend and Roach Estuary Thames Gateway no. 332**

**Description:**

- This area is located between Southend-on-Sea and the River Roach, There is a strong urban fringe character around the boundary of Southend.
- The historic settlement pattern was dispersed, with church/hall complexes scattered farms and moats, with a single village at Great Wakering. To some extent this pattern survives, with much 20th century linear roadside development
- Though the dominant field type is prairie, some areas of regular and irregular fields do survive
- Historically this area was largely devoid of woodland and this is still the case.

**Description:**

- Located at the eastern end of Rochford a series of Islands largely comprising reclaimed grazing marshland of medieval /post medieval date
- The area contains the small settlement of Church End on Foulness Island and a number of small farmsteads. Foulness is also the home of a nuclear test centre and artillery range.
- The fields are regular and irregular in shape perhaps reflecting varying stages of development and reclamation
- There is a strong sense of openness and space with wide expansive views, particularly to the east

**1.2 Creation of Historic Urban Character areas for Rochford****1.2.1 General Background**

Rochford contains extensive areas of suburban and urban landscapes. Some of these, e.g. Rayleigh, have their origins in the medieval period whilst others, such as Hockley, were developed post World War II. The built-up areas have developed both organically as the result of long-term historic trends, and as the result of concentrated episodes of town planning. Much of the south and west of the District is dominated by 19th and 20<sup>th</sup> century suburban development.

Key themes in the development of the urban landscape of the region include:

- The growth of medieval markets and ecclesiastical centres;
- The growth of the railway network which supported commuting;
- Plotland development;
- Late 19th and 20th century suburban development;

**1.2.2 Method and Approach**

The Rochford historic environment characterisation project has expanded on the identification of the structure, evolution and form of the urban areas carried out by the

Thames Gateway Characterisation Project. This has been undertaken using desk-based sources and has not involved comprehensive field analysis and survey, although some areas were briefly examined on the ground during the course of the project. This involved examination of historic mapping sources, HER data, Historic Town Surveys, historic settlement assessments, listed building data and conservation area data. The characterisation defined the dominant architectural / structural character of an area. This has involved developing an understanding of current and past land use, evolution of the street layout and form, the identification of major episodes of change and the nature of that change e.g. planned vs organic (unplanned) development.

The key datasets used in the process were:

- OS Modern Mapping;
- OS Historic Mapping (1st to 4th Editions);
- Conservation area boundary data;
- Listed building data;
- Historic Town Surveys
- Historic Settlement Assessments

### ***1.2.3 Characterisation and Description***

Through a detailed analysis of the historic OS mapping, coupled with other data held in the Historic Environment Record, it has been possible to identify, in broad terms, the surviving historic cores of the urban settlements in Rochford. From these cores the analysis worked its way out through the settlements developing an understanding of how the later urban form was created, demolished and redeveloped. This has led to the definition of the character areas.

The character areas predominantly reflect survival of different periods of urban landscape, in terms of both the survival of the layout and form of an area as well as its built fabric.



The characterisation was accompanied by structured descriptions, which catalogued the dominant periods, uses and the nature of development e.g. planned or organic. The listed building descriptions and conservation area descriptions were used during the description process to aid understanding.

#### **1.2.4 Outline of results**

Figures 10 show the location and extent of the identified Historic Urban Character Areas. Each of these areas is accompanied by a short description. This data is also available in the accompanying GIS.

#### **Historic Urban Character**

##### **HUCA 1**

##### **Equivalent to Thames Gateway no 1201**

**Town / Urban Area Name:**

Hullbridge

**Predominant Period:**

Mid to late 20th Century

**Secondary Period:**

Early to Mid 20th Century

**Predominant Type:**

Residential

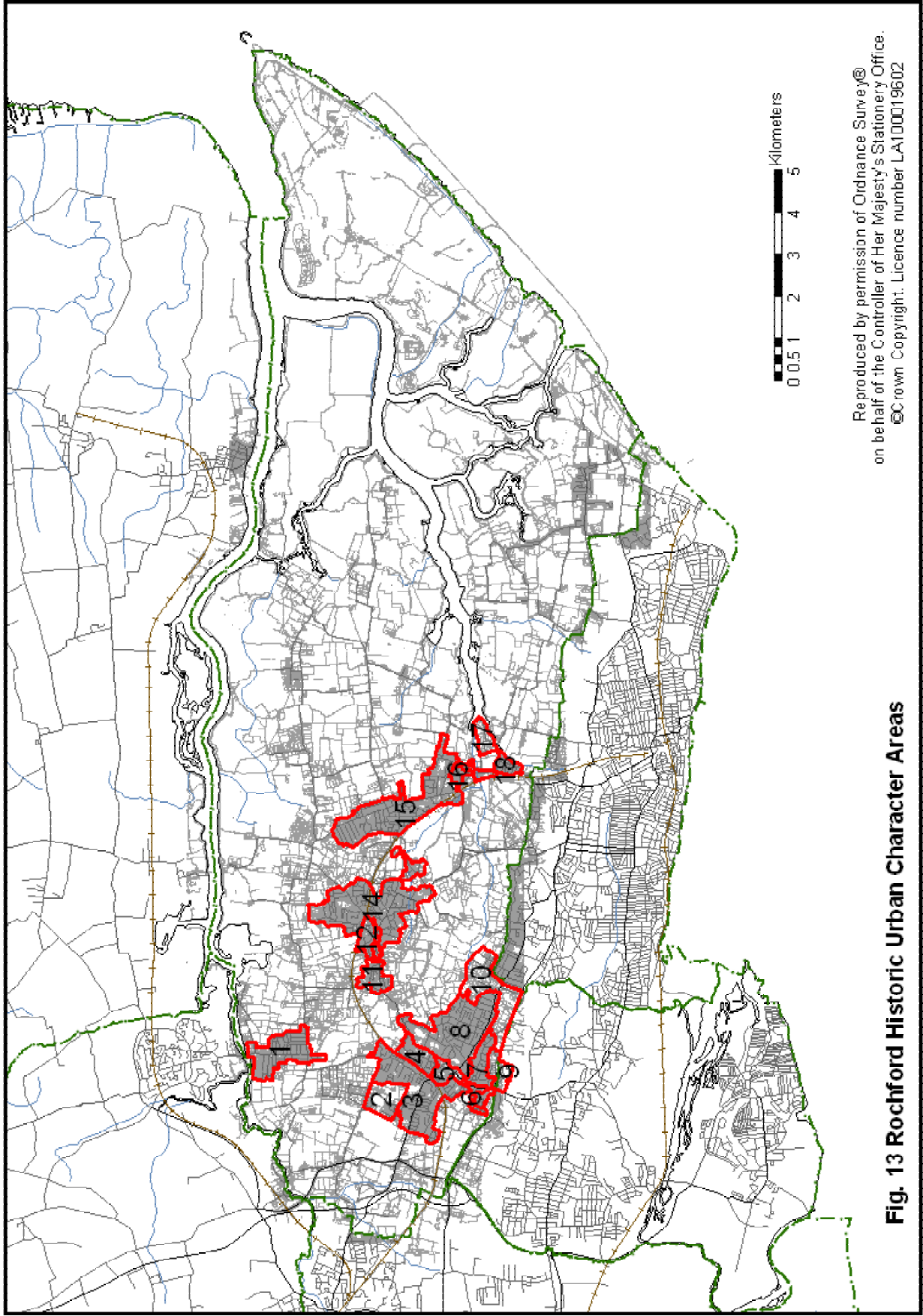
**Other Types:**

**Form / Pattern:**

Organic

**Description:**

- An area of predominantly post World War II housing laid out along a pre World War II plotland type road network.
- The historic core of Hullbridge is situated at the far northern end of the area on the edge of the Estuary.



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**Fig. 13 Rochford Historic Urban Character Areas**

**HUCA 2 Equivalent to Thames Gateway no 1190**

**Town / Urban Area Name:** Rayleigh, Park School area

**Predominant Period:** 20th century

**Secondary Period:**

**Predominant Type:** Open Space

**Other Types:** Residential

Industrial

**Form / Pattern:** Organic

**Description:**

- A small area of urban fringe open space with industrial / commercial development and areas of modern housing

**HUCA 3 Equivalent to Thames Gateway no 1189**

**Town / Urban Area Name:** Rayleigh, west of the railway and either side of the A129

**Predominant Period:** Later 20th Century

**Secondary Period:** Early to Middle 20<sup>th</sup> century

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Other Types:**

**Form / Pattern:** Organic

**Description:**

- A large area of predominately post-WWII residential housing
- The layout and form of the area began to evolve in the early to mid 20th century with some plotland style development
- The area's strong linear grid-like pattern relates to its early 20th century plotland layout which itself partly relates to the earlier field layout.

**HUCA 4 Equivalent to Thames Gateway no 1191**

**Town / Urban Area Name:** Rayleigh East of the railway

**Predominant Period:** Second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century

**Secondary Period:**

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Other Types:**

**Form / Pattern:** Organic

**Description:**

- An area of predominately modern housing

**HUCA 5**

**Equivalent to Thames Gateway no 1188**

**Town / Urban Area Name:** Historic Core of Rayleigh

**Predominant Period:** Mixed

**Secondary Periods:** Modern, post medieval, medieval

**Predominant Type:** Commercial

**Other Types:** Residential

**Form / Pattern:** Organic

**Description:**

- This area broadly encompasses the historic core of Rayleigh including its castle and High Street
- The historic street pattern has survived relatively intact.
- The area has been subject to extensive modern redevelopment and infill

**HUCA 6**

**Equivalent to Thames Gateway no 1192**

**Town / Urban Area Name:** Rayleigh, South of the High Street

**Predominant Period:** 20th Century

**Secondary Period:** 19th Century

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Other Types:**

**Form / Pattern:** Organic

**Description:**

- A small area of late 19th and early 20th century residential ribbon development

**HUCA 7**

**Equivalent to Thames Gateway no 1186**

**Town / Urban Area Name:** Rayleigh South of Eastwood Road A1015 and either side of the A1229

**Predominant Period:** Modern

**Secondary Period:**

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Other Types:**

**Form / Pattern:** Organic

**Description:**

- A small area of modern residential development

## **HUCA 8**

### **Equivalent to Thames Gateway no 1187**

**Town / Urban Area Name:** Rayleigh

**Predominant Period:** Mid to Late 20th Century

**Secondary Period:** Early 20<sup>th</sup> century

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Other Types:**

**Form / Pattern:** Planned

**Description:**

- A large area of predominately post-WWII residential housing
- The layout and form of the area began to evolve in the late 19th and early 20th century
- Prior to WWII the area was lightly settled and of the plot land type of development, the post-WWII period saw the establishment of the majority of housing in the area
- The area's strong linear grid-like pattern relates to its early 20th century plotland layout which itself partly relates to the earlier field layout.

## **HUCA 9**

### **Equivalent to Thames Gateway no. 1185**

**Town / Urban Area Name:** Rayleigh adjacent to A127

**Predominant Period:** 20<sup>th</sup> Century

**Secondary Period:**

**Predominant Type:** Industrial

**Other Types:**

**Form / Pattern:** Organic

**Description:**

- A small area of modern industrial estates

## **HUCA 10**

### **Equivalent to Thames Gateway no. 1168**

**Town / Urban Area Name:** Land between Rayleigh and Eastwood  
**Predominant Period:** 20th Century  
**Secondary Period:**  
**Predominant Type:** Residential  
**Other Types:**  
**Form / Pattern:** Organic

**Description:**

• An area of early to mid 20th century plot land development, which unlike its neighbours to the east (1167) and west, was not subject to intensive development post-WWII remaining relatively undeveloped. Rectilinear pattern of field boundaries of ancient origin survives and has shaped boundaries of plotlands.

**HUCA 11 Equivalent to Thames Gateway no 1200**

**Town / Urban Area Name:** Hockley  
**Predominant Period:** Mid to Late 20th Century  
**Secondary Period:** Early 20<sup>th</sup> century  
**Predominant Type:** Residential  
**Other Types:** Commercial  
**Form / Pattern:** Organic

**Description:**

• An area of predominately post WWII-housing developed around a historic road network

**HUCA 12 Equivalent to Thames Gateway no 1198**

**Town / Urban Area Name:** Hockley  
**Predominant Period:** Late 20<sup>th</sup> century  
**Secondary Period:**  
**Predominant Type:** Residential  
**Other Types:** Industrial  
**Form / Pattern:** Organic

**Description:**

• A small area of modern industrial development, on a long established site, with adjacent modern suburban developments to the north of the historic core of Hockley

**HUCA 13** **Equivalent to Thames Gateway no 1199**

**Town / Urban Area Name:** Hockley  
**Predominant Period:** 19th Century  
**Secondary Period:** Mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> century  
**Predominant Type:** Residential  
**Other Types:**  
**Form / Pattern:** Organic

**Description:**

- The area broadly encompasses the historic roadside settlement of Hockley
- Some elements of the historic core survive, including a number of buildings and the original road layout

**HUCA 14** **Equivalent to Thames Gateway no 1197**

**Town / Urban Area Name:** Hockley  
**Predominant Period:** Mid to Late 20th Century  
**Secondary Period:** Early 20<sup>th</sup> century  
**Predominant Type:** Residential  
**Other Types:**  
**Form / Pattern:** Organic

**Description:**

- A large expanse of generally pre-WWII and post-WWII housing interspersed with modern suburbs.
- The density of housing was not achieved until post-WWII, prior to that the area had a less densely settled character, reflecting the piecemeal plot land type development of the area

**HUCA 15** **Equivalent to Thames Gateway no 1196**

**Town / Urban Area Name:** Modern extent of residential Rochford  
**Predominant Period:** Mid to late 20th Century  
**Secondary Period:** Early 20<sup>th</sup> century  
**Predominant Type:** Residential  
**Other Types:**

**Form / Pattern:** Organic

**Description:**

- A large area of generally pre-WWII and post-WWII housing interspersed with modern suburbs.
- The density of housing was not achieved until post-WWII, prior to that the area had a less densely settled character, reflecting the piecemeal plot land type development of the area

**HUCA 16**

**Equivalent to Thames Gateway no 1195**

**Town / Urban Area Name:** Historic core of Rochford

**Predominant Period:** Medieval and post medieval

**Secondary Period:** 19 and 20<sup>th</sup> century

**Predominant Type:** Commercial

**Other Types:** Residential

**Form / Pattern:** Organic

**Description:**

- The area broadly encompasses the historic core of the market town of Rochford
- The street layout and pattern has survived
- Much of the character and fabric of the historic core survives.

**HUCA 17**

**Equivalent to Thames Gateway no 1194**

**Town / Urban Area Name:** Industrial estate to the south east of Rochford

**Predominant Period:** Modern

**Secondary Period:**

**Predominant Type:** Industrial

**Other Types:**

**Form / Pattern:** Organic

**Description:**

- A small area of modern industrial development of the site of a former shipyard and claypits

**HUCA 18**

**Equivalent to Thames Gateway no 1193**

**Town / Urban Area Name:** Southern Rochford

**Predominant Period:** 20th Century



**Secondary Period:**

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Other Types:**

**Form / Pattern:** Organic

**Description:**

- A small area of post WWII housing that occupies a street pattern originating in the early 20th century as a plotland style development

### ***1.3 Creation of Archaeological Character Assessment in Rochford***

#### ***1.3.1 General Background***

As described in the overview of the historic environment the archaeological resource of Rochford is complex and varied. It represents over 400,000 years of human / hominid activity and encompasses every aspect of life from settlement and farming; to religion and ritual; and industry and commerce.

Our knowledge of this resource is also highly varied and while many places have a long history of archaeological investigation other areas have been subject to little or no research. In recent years our understanding of the archaeological resource has been enhanced by extensive archaeological research, e.g. the Hullbridge Survey and the National Mapping Programme. It has also been improved by the considerable range of archaeological investigations undertaken in advance of development under the aegis of PPG16.

#### ***1.3.2 Approach to the Analysis***

The Archaeological Character Analysis has sought to respond to this situation not by characterising the archaeological resource itself (because so much of it – perhaps the majority - remains unknown), but by characterising our current *understanding and knowledge* of the archaeological resource. This has been done through the definition of discrete geographical areas that are likely, based on current knowledge, to be distinctly

different in terms of the nature, type and survival of archaeological resources contained within them.

The Archaeological Character Analysis does not seek to present a comprehensive and new understanding of the archaeological resource, nor does it attempt to predict the location of individual archaeological sites. It has sought to present our understanding of the archaeological resource in a manner that is compatible with the approaches used for the historic landscape characterisation and Urban Historic Characterisation as well as being understandable to specialists and non-specialists alike.

### ***1.3.3 Outline of Approach and Methodology***

Key to these approaches is the definition of generalised areas that share definable and distinctive characteristics. This generally relies on the analysis of consistent datasets, something that it's not always possible with pure archaeological data as this has historically tended to be collected on a site-by-site basis rather than as the result of systematic and comprehensive survey.

A number of factors were examined in an attempt to determine the boundaries of character areas. These included historic settlement pattern; extent of modern development; topography; geology; known archaeological sites and findspots; and secondary source analysis. Because the analysis was seeking to address complex patterns of survival, visibility of archaeology (in the broadest sense), past exploration and current knowledge, it was decided that patterns of modern and historic development were key to developing the extents of areas, as these have influenced both the deposition and survival of archaeological deposits.

Other consistent datasets relating to past human activity, including topography and geology, also formed part of the basis of the analysis. The methodology reflects the concept that the geology and topography of an area influences the visibility and survival

of archaeological deposits and the broad types of activity that may have occurred in an area at different times.

The archaeological character of each of these identified areas was then explored through an analysis of available data including Historic Environment Record data, Scheduled Monument data, various secondary sources, historic mapping and other available digital datasets. The work also involved a considerable body of professional judgement. Through this process some character area boundaries were revised and edited, some amalgamated and new areas created.

#### **1.3.4 Description and Review**

This was perhaps the key stage of the process where the results of the broad-brush characterisation were subject to more detailed scrutiny and examination. This involved examining a broad range of data sources including:

- Historic Environment Record Data;
- National Mapping Programme (NMP) cropmark plots;
- Historic Town and Settlement Assessment reports;
- Roman roads;
- Selected Secondary sources:

Each of the preliminary areas was then analysed and described using a combination of this data and the background geology / topographical and historic development information. This led to the creation of a number of new areas and the identification of key sites and deposits, particularly within the historic core of the urban areas. The boundaries of many areas were also revised and edited.

### **1.3.5 Outline of Results**

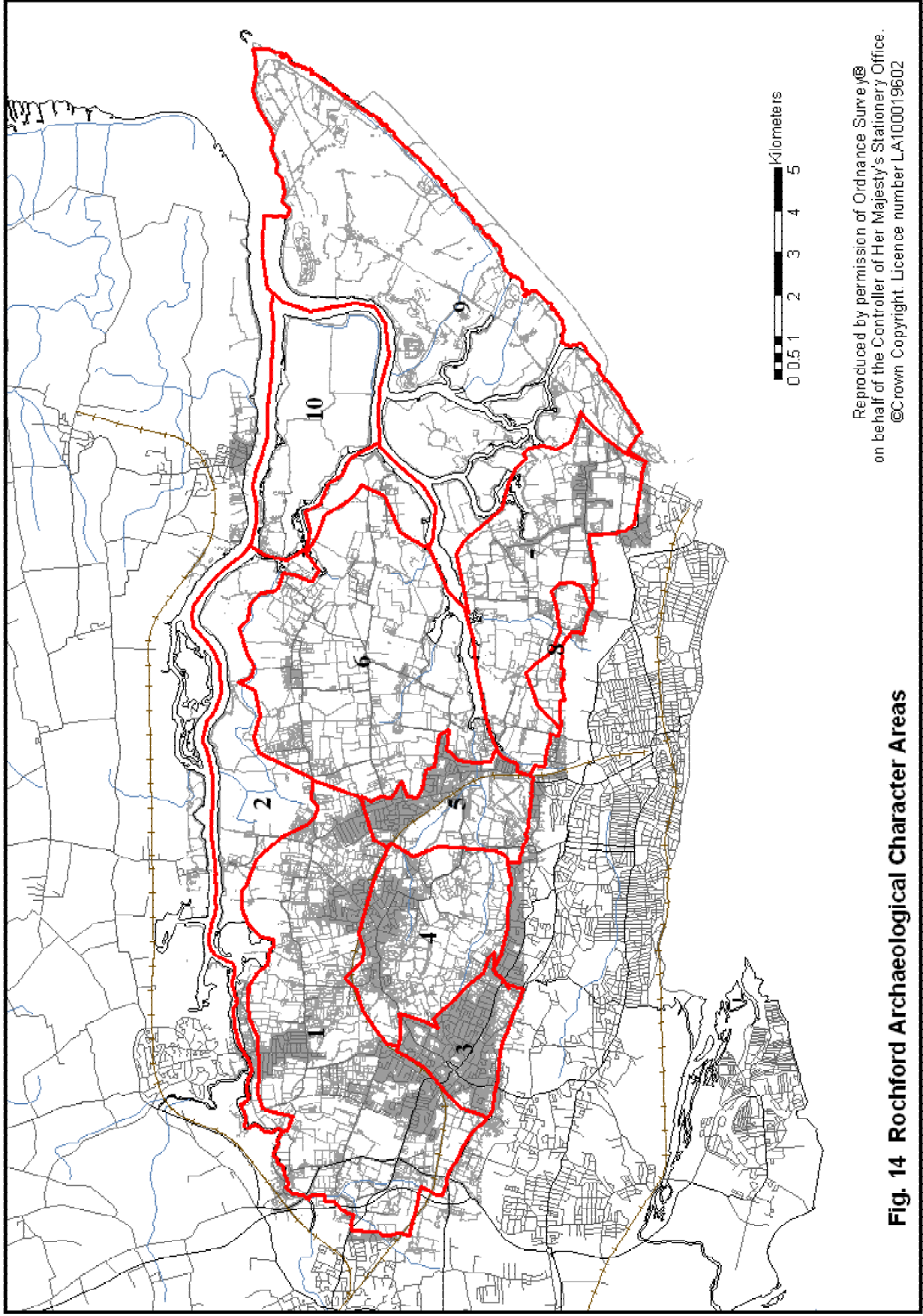
The descriptions aim to give a broad indication of the nature of the known archaeology of the area as well as identifying factors that may have influenced the survival and preservation of that archaeological resource. The data is presented in a standard bullet-point format and is designed to give a summary of the character area.

Figure 14 shows the location and extent of the identified Archaeological Context Areas. Each of these areas is accompanied by a short description of the archaeological context. This data is also available in the accompanying GIS.

#### **1 Land north of Rayleigh, Hockley and Rochford (Equivalent and extension of Thames Gateway no. 79)**

##### Description

- A large area of generally flat clay plain south of the upper Crouch Estuary rising to the south to the Hockley/Rayleigh ridge.
- The relatively low density of early material within the area reflects a lack of work rather than a lack of archaeology.
- There are regular find spots of Roman, prehistoric and early medieval material.
- The Saxon and medieval settlement of Ashingdon is of particular note and archaeological interest and has been the subject of a historic settlement assessment.
- Medieval moated sites are relatively common across the area and represent a pattern of dispersed settlement common to the period and region.
- There are pockets of development in the area and these are likely to have damaged/truncated archaeological deposits.



**Fig. 14 Rochford Archaeological Character Areas**

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## **2: Crouch and Roach Estuary**

### Description:

- The intertidal zone of the Crouch and Roach Estuaries and the adjacent present and former grazing marsh.
- Distinctive unit of rectilinear and curvilinear drained reclaimed marshland bordered by the river to the north.
- There are a number of recorded finds of prehistoric worked flint, tools, and other finds such as the Canewdon paddle along the foreshore, and the remains of a Prehistoric Land Surface in places with associated wooden structures and/or preserved trees.
- The area also contains a number of red hills, which are likely to be Late Iron Age and Roman in date and run in a line along the Crouch Estuary.
- The course of relict sea walls has been identified by aerial photography at Landsend Point and northwest of Pudsey Hall. Stretches of former sea walls also surviving as earthworks on the reclaimed marsh. In addition lines of oyster pits survive with interconnecting channels and banks. Remains of landing stages and mooring points are present in the intertidal zone.

## **3 Rayleigh (Equivalent and extension of Thames Gateway no. 71)**

### Description:

- Part of a raised ridge/plateau running east-west and north-south composed of a mixture of head, sand and gravel and clay.
- The region rises above the surrounding flat clay plain and the Thames, forming a distinctive topographical unit. This ridge formed a focus for settlement and activity throughout history.

- This area is focussed on the historic town of Rayleigh. The castle, church and medieval core of the town sit on the crest of the hillside overlooking the clay plain below.
- This dramatic position seemingly proved attractive to earlier occupants of the area and numerous Roman and prehistoric find spots have been identified in the area.
- The majority of the area has been subject to development but it is anticipated that further archaeological deposits will be present in the medieval core of the town and may have survived in other parts of the area.

#### 4 **Upper Roach Valley (Equivalent of Thames Gateway no. 68)**

Description:

- Part of a raised ridge and valley slopes composed of a mixture of head, sand and gravel and clay around the upper Roach valley
- The region forms a distinctive topographical unit, which would have formed a focus for settlement and activity throughout history
- This area has a mix of development and open land, significant elements of historic landscape survive, including ancient woodland with a range of earthworks.
- Few archaeological sites have currently been identified in the area, this reflects both stable patterns of land use in the undeveloped areas and a lack of archaeological work to accompany the development of Hawkwell and Hockley in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- There is a concentration of prehistoric find spots and sites, along the western rim of this area. This dramatic position on the crest of the slope overlooking the surrounding clay plain is a classic position for prehistoric burial / occupation sites and it is likely that further remains await discovery in the area.

## **5 Rochford and Land to the east of Rochford (Equivalent to Thames Gateway no. 77)**

### Description

- An area of brickearth deposits overlaying patches of head and gravel.
- The Eastern part of the area has been developed whilst other areas retain their rural character.
- Prehistoric sites have been identified in the vicinity of Southend Airport.
- The historic town of Rochford has evidence for Saxon and medieval occupation and there is evidence for Roman settlement and occupation in the wider area.
- The area contains the church and hall complex of Rochford. The hall includes substantial remains of an early Tudor brick built mansion.
- There are a range of World War 2 defences associated with the airfield.

## **6 Area to the North of the Roach (Equivalent and extension of Thames Gateway no. 74)**

### Description

- An area of brickearth deposits overlaying patches of head and gravel, with potential for significant Palaeolithic deposits.
- The area contains a mix of prehistoric and early medieval archaeology indicating a relatively long history of occupation and usage.
- The historic settlement pattern is dispersed
- Identified archaeological sites tend to be clustered around existing areas of dispersed settlement.
- There is potential for a range of archaeological deposits and sites in the intertidal zone of the creeks and estuaries.
- Virtually the whole of the area is undeveloped although some brickearth extraction has occurred.



## **7 Land South of the Roach Estuary (Equivalent and extension of Thames Gateway no. 75)**

### Description

- An area of brickearth deposits overlaying patches of head and gravel.
- Many places have been subject to extraction activity, especially in the eastern half of the area. This has revealed considerable evidence for prehistoric occupation of the area.
- Significant Palaeolithic deposits are present.
- Great Wakering is an important Saxon planned settlement and Minster.
- There is potential for a range of archaeological deposits and sites in the intertidal zone of the creeks and the estuaries.
- Overall the archaeological potential of the area is considered to be relatively high, where extraction has not already removed the archaeological deposits.

## **8 Area South of Shopland (Equivalent and extension of Thames Gateway no. 73)**

### Description

- One end of a distinctive east-west raised ridge composed on London clays overlain by deposits of head and sand and gravel
- The area is largely undeveloped, although some small scale built development and landscaping works have taken place.
- There are a number of prehistoric and Roman find spots and an Iron Age hillfort/oppida which point to occupation and utilisation during this period.
- Medieval occupation of the area focuses on a number of discrete dispersed settlements such as Shopland Hall and Fox Hall
- The area has been subject to only light modern development and little archaeological analysis has taken place, although areas are known to have been fieldwalked.

## **9 Foulness Island, associated Islands and adjacent present and former marshland (Equivalent and extension of Thames Gateway no. 78)**

### Description

- Part of the south east Essex Archipelago, the island has numerous identified archaeological features, deposits and historic environment components.
- Rich evidence of Romano-British settlement and burial, including the Scheduled site at Little Shelford and a number of 'Red Hills' concentrated on marshland and near tidal inlets.
- Good survival of old roads and tracks across the island, including a large and well-preserved timber causeway across the Maplin Sands, the 'Broomway', thought to be Roman or Medieval in date, connected to Foulness by a number of ancillary tracks.
- Contains a number of relict perimeter sea walls and counter sea walls protecting individual marshes, which survive as earthworks with roads and tracks on top. Limited investigation suggests that a number are likely to be medieval in origin. In addition undated relict sea walls and timbers have been recorded as eroding out of the mud along the foreshore.
- Dispersed settlement in the medieval period in the form of isolated farmsteads and moated sites, associated with individual marshes and wicks. This settlement pattern continuing into the post-medieval period.
- There are a number and variety of WWII military remains on Foulness. These include the MOD Firing Range at Eastwick, an Observation Post between Fisherman's Head and Eastwick Head, a line of Pillboxes on the eastern side of the island and Diver sites comprising heavy anti-aircraft gun platforms and Nissan huts.
- Some recorded wreck sites and the potential for a further number to survive.

## 10: Wallasea Island

### Description

- Part of the Essex Archipelago. The majority of the island is under arable cultivation, the remainder is reed beds or grassland, with areas of saltings at its edge. The geology is estuarine clays and silts.
- The entire island was levelled and underwent extensive drainage works in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, which destroyed an unknown number of archaeological sites and wiped out the historic settlement and field pattern and replaced it with a regular system of water courses and ditches running north to south which discharge through sluices to the surrounding rivers. The islands resources have been utilised since prehistory and it cannot be ruled out that archaeological deposits and features may survive on the island, albeit heavily disturbed.
- An area of prehistoric land surface has been identified within the vicinity of the island by the Hullbridge Survey (Wilkinson and Murphy 1995, 199) and there is the potential for further areas to be identified.
- The greatest potential for archaeological deposits and features to survive is within the areas of salt marsh and the intertidal zone, and these are likely to comprise the sites of landings/quays, relicts of the oyster industry and a number of abandoned hulks. A probable former pier has been recorded at Essex Yacht Marina and extant oyster pits have been identified on the northern shore.

## **1.4 Creation of Historic Environment Character Areas**

The three independent sets of boundaries were overlain on a single drawing. This produced a series of boundaries, some of which corresponded, some of which remained isolated. Areas where Historic Landscape Character Areas and Archaeological Context Areas, and Urban Historic Character Areas and Archaeology Context Areas, coincided were quickly highlighted and these formed the basic structure for the combined areas.

Where area boundaries did not correspond, decisions were made as to the relative primacy of different themes. For the most part the historic landscape boundaries dominated in the rural areas and urban boundaries dominated in urban areas as these reflect visible and recognisable boundaries; their edges also often tend to be more absolute than the archaeological boundaries. However there were some instances where the difference in the archaeological context between parts of the emerging HECAs was strong enough to warrant sub-division or the refinement of a boundary.

### **1.4.1 Description and Revision**

These descriptions for these draft areas were then rapidly compiled by drawing on the relevant elements of each of the themes in a single description.

Each of the character areas was then described using a standard format:

- *Summary*: Outlines key messages and general character.
- *Historic Landscape Character*: Presents the historic landscape characterisation of the area. This includes broad information on settlement pattern in rural areas. In urban areas this section is omitted.
- *Historic Urban Character*: This presents the urban character of the area drawing on the urban characterisation. In rural areas this section is omitted.

- *Archaeological Character*: Presents a summary of the area's archaeological context based on the archaeological context analysis.

#### **1.4.2 Results**

Figure 10 shows the location and extent of the Historic Environment Character Areas (HECAs). Each of these areas is accompanied by a short description and this data is available in the accompanying GIS.

## Glossary

- Barrow      Upstanding remains of prehistoric burial mound
- Bronze Age    *The Bronze Age is characterised by the first use of copper and bronze dating in this area to 2000 – 700 BC*
- Causewayed Enclosure  
*Major curvilinear Neolithic monument with numerous gaps or entrances, probably ritual*
- Church/Hall complex  
*In the medieval period, frequently found close association of church and manor house often forming a focus of a generally dispersed medieval settlement pattern.*
- Cropmark    *Differential crop growth generally viewed from the air and indicative of buried archaeological features*
- Cursus      *Major long narrow rectilinear Neolithic monument consisting of bank and ditch with probable ritual function. Frequently found in association with ritual or burial monuments.*
- Evaluation    *Archaeological strategy designed to assess the significance of a development site prior to the determination of a planning application. .*
- GHQ Line    *Major defence line consisting of anti-tank ditch and strong points, constructed in 1940 with the aim of stopping enemy advance on London.*
- Historic Environment Record (HER)  
*An integrated database and geographic information system, with supplementary archive information, comprising records of archaeological sites and Listed Buildings within the administrative area of Essex including Thurrock. This is maintained and updated to inform decision-making on land-use planning and management, and is also available for public consultation.*
- Iron Age      *The Iron Age is characterised by the use of iron, initially overlapping with Bronze Age traditions. The Iron Age dates from 700 BC – 43 AD*
- Linear features    *In this context, viewed as cropmarks and generally indicative of buried ditches, trackways etc.*

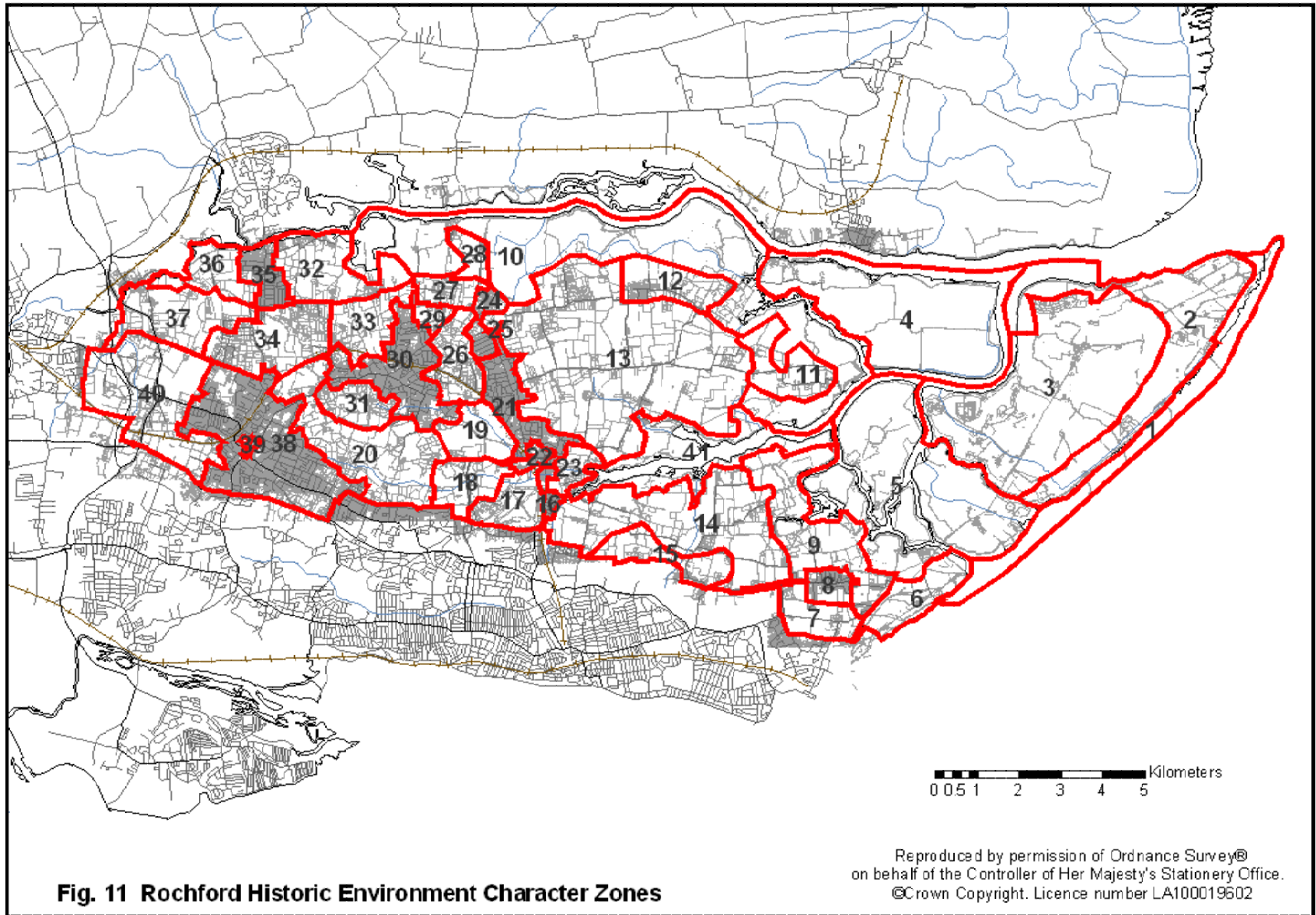
Loess	<i>Windblown silt deposited during glacial periods commonly called brickearth.</i>
Medieval	<i>The medieval period is generally dated from the Norman invasion through to the sixteenth century 1066 – 1536 AD.</i>
Moated Site	<i>Medieval occupation site enclosed by a wet moat for the purposes of security, display, drainage etc. These moats are common throughout Essex, generally rectangular and date mostly from the 13th – 14th centuries.</i>
Mesolithic	<i>Period dating from 10,000 – 4000 BC. The majority of the evidence comes from flint work.</i>
Microlith	<i>A very small flint blade used as a tool, especially in the Mesolithic Period</i>
Minster	<i>The Minster Church was the core of the organisation of the Church in the 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> centuries, prior to the emergence of the parochial system in the 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> century. They were generally founded by members of the ruling class and had attached a community of clergy, and in many cases, religious women.</i>
Model Farm	<i>Planned farm buildings dating from the age of agricultural improvements in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.</i>
Modern	<i>This period dates from 700 – Present Day. Many of the monuments relate to the expansion of industry and changes in agricultural production and too the two World Wars.</i>
Neolithic	<i>The period from 4000 – 2000 BC characterised by the economy based on agriculture. During this period the clearance of forests begins</i>
National Mapping Programme	<i>A project undertaken over the last 10 years, involving the mapping of all archaeological features, identifiable from aerial photographs.</i>
Palaeolithic	<i>The earliest period of human habitation dating from 500,000 – 10,000 BC. At this period the economy was based on hunting and gathering. The archaeological evidence for this period is dominated by flint artefacts.</i>
Pillbox	<i>WWII defensive structure generally constructed of brick and/or reinforced concrete many of which survive in Essex.</i>
Pleistocene	<i>Of or belonging to the geologic time, rock series, or sedimentary deposits of the earlier of the two epochs of the Quaternary Period, characterized by the alternate appearance and recession of ice sheets.</i>

- Plotland *The 'Plotlands' represent a unique period in the social history of Essex . During the early 1900's agricultural land was auctioned off in small plots to people mainly from the east end of London. These plots allowed many families to enjoy weekends and holidays away from the city, gradually blossoming into a bustling estate.*
- Post Medieval *The period from 1536 – 1700 AD.*
- Prehistoric *In Britain, all time periods prior to the Roman invasion of 43AD*
- Red Hill *Red Hills are locations where crystalline salt was extracted from brine, and usually comprises a series of pits and hearths. These are frequently represented by small mounds in coastal locations or as red areas within ploughed fields.*
- Ring ditch *Circular ditch, generally viewed as a cropmark. Often occurring in groups they are most frequently indicative of cremation burials of Bronze Age date, representing all that remains of a ploughed out round barrow.*
- Roman (Romano-British)  
*The period from 43 – 410 AD.*
- Saxon *This period dates from the end of the Roman period through to the Norman invasion (410 – 1066 AD).*



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**Fig. 11 Rochford Historic Environment Character Zones**