



# Tendring District Historic Environment Characterisation Project

2008

Front Cover: Iron Age enclosure and field system, St Osyth

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## **Abbreviations**

ACA	Archaeological Character Area
CBA	Chris Blandford Associates
ECC	Essex County Council
GHQ	General Headquarters
GIS	Geographical Information system
HECA	Historic Environment Character Area
HECZ	Historic Environment Character Zone
HER	Historic Environment Record
HLC	Historic Landscape Characterisation
HLCA	Historic Landscape Character Area
HUCA	Historic Urban Character Area
NMP	National Mapping Programme
OS	Ordnance Survey
PPG 16	Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 Archaeology and Planning
VDS	Village Design Statement

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# **Tendring District Historic Environment Characterisation Project**

## **1 Introduction**

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 Tendring District this resource is rich, complex and irreplaceable. It has developed through a history of human activity that spans many thousands of 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, are 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 Tendring's future. At the same time it is sensitive to change and it needs to be properly understood before change is planned in order to ensure proper management and conservation so that the historic environment 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 so as to avoid unnecessary degradation. The historic environment lends character to places and provides 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 Tendring Historic Environment Characterisation project is designed along similar lines to that of the Thames Gateway Characterisation report produced by Chris Blandford Associates (2004) on behalf of English Heritage, Essex County Council, and Kent County Council, although on a more detailed level. A number of Councils across Essex have now had Historic Environment Characterisation projects completed including Rochford, Chelmsford, Basildon, Castle Point and Thurrock, with further

reports underway for Colchester and Uttlesford. The characterisation work for Tendring has been undertaken using the methodology refined during the previous projects. The Characterisation work is intended to inform the creation of the Local Development Framework, but should also be useful for a range of other purposes.

The Historic Environment has been assessed using character assessments of the urban, landscape and archaeological resource of Tendring. The results of these studies were then combined to create large Historic Environment Character Areas.

The 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, and master planning activity within the District.

There are 20 Conservation Areas within the district and Conservation Area Appraisals have been written. These cover all or much of the historic cores of the larger settlements such as Harwich and Frinton and also a number of the historic villages.

## **1.1 Purpose of the project**

This project has been developed to primarily serve as a tool for Tendring District to use in the creation of the Local Development Framework. The report reveals the sensitivity, diversity and value of the historic environment resource within the District. The report should facilitate the development of positive approaches to the integration of historic environment objectives into spatial planning for the District.

In addition to this primary purpose there are a range of other potential benefits:

- **Provide the opportunity to safeguard and enhance the historic environment as an integrated part of development within Tendring District.**

The report provides the starting point for identifying opportunities for the integration of historic environment objectives within action plans for major development proposals but also offers a means by which conservation and management of the historic environment can be pursued by means outside the traditional planning system.

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

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

The report will provide planners with information on the historic environment covering the whole District. This can be used at an early stage for identifying the Historic Environment elements which will be affected and lead to highlighting the need for informed conservation or enhancement, and effective communication and co-ordination between appropriate services.

- **Provide a means for local communities to engage with their historic environment.**

The report may provide a means of engaging the wider public with the historic environment, for example during the creation of Village Design Statements (VDS).

## 2 The Historic Environment of Tendring District

### 2.1 Palaeolithic and Pleistocene

Tendring District, and in particular the southern coastal area from Clacton to Jaywick is known to contain Palaeolithic deposits of international importance.

For a long period of time prior to around 450,000 years BP, the River Thames flowed not in its present position but across north Essex and into Suffolk. At the same time, the River Medway flowed north to join the Thames in the region of modern Clacton. These rivers bore little resemblance to those we see now. Being larger and more powerful and heavily braided they deposited the large areas of sands and gravels (the Kesgrave) that cover much of this part of Essex. About 450,000 years BP, the Anglian ice sheet moving south diverted the course of these two rivers to approximately their current position.

Over 200 Palaeolithic flint tools known as 'handaxes' were recovered during mineral extraction at the Gants Pit quarry in Dovercourt, the largest assemblage ever recovered in Essex. The deposits in the Clacton area are particularly significant, they have produced a range of flint artefacts and the tip of a wooden spear, the oldest wooden artefact ever recovered from Britain. This site has given the name 'Clactonian' to an industry of European flint tool manufacture that dates to 300,000–200,000 years ago; these were made by Homo Erectus rather than modern humans. In addition these deposits have proved to be rich in palaeo-environmental remains, including pollen, plant microfossils, molluscs, small mammals and much larger animals including horse, red deer, bison, rhinoceros, giant beaver, lion and straight tusked elephant.



Fig. 1 Palaeolithic wooden spear tip from Clacton

## **2.2 Mesolithic**

The Mesolithic period is characterised by a trend of rising sea levels associated with glacial ice melt and the appearance of new tool technologies and is generally accepted to begin around 11,000 years BC and end around 5000 years BC. Sporadic finds of Mesolithic material are spread across the district and attest to the presence of groups of people whose lifestyle was transient and based on an economy of hunting a variety of wild game. Marine and freshwater fishing is also likely to have been important dependant on location and time of year. Lower sea levels resulted in large areas of the North Sea being dry land throughout much of the Mesolithic period. This is clearly demonstrated by frequent finds of bone and teeth from large animals such as mammoths and occasional artefacts dredged up from the sea floor or caught in fishing nets off the Tendring coast.

Significant collections of Mesolithic flintwork are known from the coastline around Walton on the Naze indicating at least seasonal occupation. These consist mainly of microliths (small pieces of worked flint used in composite tools) which have eroded from exposed ancient land surfaces. This microlith technology is typical of the Mesolithic period. Recognisable within these collections are examples of microliths which can be attributed to both the early and late Mesolithic, indicating the attractiveness of the area throughout the period.

## **2.3 Neolithic**

After around 4000BC, the gradual introduction of the cultivation of crops, the domestication of animals, the introduction of pottery and new flint technologies, marks the beginning of more settled societies and the start of the Neolithic period. Evidence for Neolithic activity is abundant across Tendring District with a wide variety of sites and monuments known.

Cropmark evidence is suggestive of a range of monuments within the Tendring area including some major Neolithic monuments, such as the St. Osyth causewayed enclosure and possible cursus, and several long enclosures and mortuary enclosures. The causewayed enclosure at St Osyth, a roughly circular monument defined by a number of elongated pits and the cursus, a form of processional way, may form part of

an important Neolithic ceremonial landscape. The St Osyth site has been extensively excavated, and produced a large assemblage of flintwork and decorated Early Neolithic Pottery. A range of radiocarbon dates from the site indicate that the initial phase of activity lasted for perhaps just a single generation in the 4th millennium BC. The cropmark long and mortuary enclosures are related to Neolithic funerary practices. A ring-ditch excavated at Brightlingsea contained a centrally placed cremation burial covered by a highly decorated bowl. The surrounding ditch, which had been recut a number of times, perhaps indicating a protracted period of use yielded a large quantity of early Neolithic pottery. The pottery from Brightlingsea together with that from St Osyth mean that Tendring has produced one of the largest collections of early Neolithic ceramics of anywhere in the East of England.



Fig.2 Cropmark of a Neolithic Henge-like ring ditch, Lawford

During the Neolithic the sea level was still considerably lower than it is today; as a result large areas now within the intertidal zone were then dryland. In a number of places around the Tendring coast Neolithic settlements sites are preserved within the intertidal zone. Pioneering investigations of a number of sites off Clacton and Stone Point, Walton, in the 1930s, resulted in one of the first multidisciplinary investigations of archaeological sites in England, and placed Tendring at the heart of our understanding of coastal archaeology. Similar Neolithic sites have been investigated more recently off Dovercourt.

Many of these intertidal sites produced Late Neolithic occupation often with a type of highly decorated pottery known as Grooved Ware, one of the substyles of which is named after Clacton. One of the largest assemblages of Grooved Ware in The East of England was recovered during the excavation of a Late Neolithic midden surrounded by a ring-ditch at Lawford in the 1970s.

## **2.4 Bronze Age**

Evidence of the Bronze Age, spanning c.2000 – 750BC is particularly apparent within Tendring. The early Bronze Age is represented by numerous finds of Beaker pottery not only from the coastline but from further inland with the discovery of a beaker burial at Ardleigh containing a near complete vessel. Extensive excavations near St. Osyth identified a pond barrow and a number of distinctive collared urns typical of the period. Radiocarbon dating of the cremated bone contained within these urns places them in the Early Bronze Age.

Well known and important are the Middle Bronze Age cremation cemeteries at Ardleigh, Brightlingsea and Little Bromley. Dating for the most part from the middle Bronze Age, these consist of clusters of ring ditches (the ploughed out remains of a once upstanding barrow) with frequent cremations placed between the barrows. The cremations are often contained within large straight sided Bucket Urns displaying elaborate decoration. Both the form of the pottery and the funerary tradition displayed at these sites is distinctive of the area and largely confined to north east Essex. These cemeteries with their many barrows would have been important landmarks in the middle Bronze Age landscape. Excavation at these cemeteries has yielded important assemblages of this locally distinctive and often almost complete Bronze Age pottery. A large number of

other smaller clusters of ring ditches are also known from cropmarks from across the District and more have recently been excavated at Lodge Farm, St Osyth. Bronze Age burials have also recently been identified eroding out of the cliffs north of Walton which at the time of deposition would have been some distance inland.



Fig. 3 Bronze Age Bucket Urn from Ardleigh

Apart from the cemeteries no other major Bronze Age monuments have as yet been identified. By the later Bronze Age (c1000BC) it is probable that an agricultural economy was fully developed within a landscape of small farms and settlements.

Given the probable importance and value of bronze itself in the Bronze Age, the relative paucity of metalwork finds from the District is unsurprising. No doubt the metal would have been both scarce and well curated. Nonetheless, occasional finds of middle Bronze Age palstaves (a type of axe) have been found in the north of the district and a small dispersed hoard of four palstaves have been found at Great Bromley. Interestingly, one of the four pieces belongs to an earlier phase and perhaps reinforces

the idea of a well looked after resource. Further, later Bronze Age axe hoards are known from south of Harwich and chance finds of socketed axes of similar date have been made in the area around Elmstead Market.

## **2.5 Iron Age**

Early Iron Age pottery has been recovered from a number of sites in the District. Several Middle Iron Age settlements are known including those at Ardleigh and Lodge Farm, St Osyth. Excavations at Ardleigh identified one substantial Middle Iron Age roundhouse and other evidence for domestic occupation set amongst an extensive field system. Late Iron Age cremation burials indicate long lived occupation on the site. The St. Osyth site revealed an extensive settlement of 19 Middle Iron Age roundhouses and a number of post built structures in an area which had also clearly been important in the Neolithic and Bronze ages.

The evidence from St Osyth suggests a mixed economy of arable and pastoral farming. Probable granaries are suggestive of efficient crop production and this pattern was likely throughout the Tendring District. The salt marsh and wetter areas were probably extensively used for grazing stock including both sheep and cattle. Many pieces of loomweight imply that wool production was a significant industry. During the later Iron Age, it is probable that *Camulodunum* (near modern Colchester), one of the largest and most important Iron Age settlements in the country and tribal capital of the *Trinovantes*, would have exerted a considerable influence on the economy of the area.

In common with much of the Essex coastline, Tendring displays a number of red hills. These are the remains of salt production sites that almost certainly started in the Iron Age and grew in importance in the Roman period.

## **2.6 Romano-British**

Tendring District lies to the east of Colchester, the earliest and one of the most important towns of Roman Britain. It is likely that Roman Colchester would have had a significant influence on the economy of the area creating a ready market for many local products such as grain, meat, fish, shellfish and salt. The estuary of the River Colne was a major artery serving not only Colchester itself but its hinterland within Tendring. It

is probable that the Stour estuary was also important in trade but little is currently known of Roman settlement in the area.

Although no major urban settlements are known within Tendring, the evidence for life in the period suggests well established rural and agricultural communities spread across the district and served by a number of roads radiating out from Colchester. Evidence for continuity of activity and occupation from the Iron Age into the Roman period is frequently found at excavated sites such as Ardleigh and St Osyth. At Ardleigh, the evidence suggests the continuation of a farming community throughout most of the Roman period. The provision of defensive works for the community probably sometime around the Boudiccan revolt of AD60 suggests at least a measure of local importance. Kilns and the discovery of large quantities of 'wasters' demonstrate a small scale industry, producing pottery for local use and probably for sale in the ready market of Colchester. A small cemetery containing both cremations and later inhumation burials served the needs of the community. At the St Osyth excavations, elements of a Roman date field system and contemporary trackway were identified presumably related to an as yet unidentified settlement.

There is some evidence, including probable villa sites, to suggest Roman occupation at Brightlingsea which may have had a function as a port on the Colne estuary. Villas, most likely representing locally important centres of farming and agriculture are found in a small cluster in the south-west of the district around St. Osyth and the River Colne, with further known examples at Little Oakley and Dovercourt. At Little Oakley, excavations have shown that a large timber building was constructed in the early Roman period but replaced with a 'corridor villa' on masonry foundations in the second century AD. This building was altered at least once more in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century and a bath block inserted. In close proximity to the villa were a number of timber buildings and a fishpond. Although the economy was largely based on farming, the area was also important for a number of other industries largely based around the coast. Septaria, a fairly low grade building stone, was mined extensively in the Harwich area, where it naturally outcrops, and used widely throughout Essex. The production of salt which probably started in the Late Iron Age continued on an increasing scale and is demonstrated by the large number of red hills in the coastal zone.



Fig.4 Computer reconstruction of Roman salt working and the creation of Red Hills.

## 2.7 Saxon

Evidence for the early Saxon period in Tendring is sparse. Finds of pottery and distinctive Saxon buildings at Little Oakley and Dovercourt Roman villas suggest either reoccupation of previously abandoned sites or possibly Saxon settlers playing an active role in the work of late Roman villa estates. Recent excavations outside Clacton have produced a large assemblage of middle Saxon ceramics and a possible post built structure indicative of domestic occupation. Other finds of early Saxon material occur throughout the District but are generally rare and occur in small quantities. Part of an irregular field system has been excavated at Ardleigh.

A seventh century minister church was located at St Osyth, and monastic establishment is known to have existed there by the 8<sup>th</sup> century AD. The town is named after Osyth, a nun and the daughter of a Saxon King, who was reputedly martyred by the Vikings. The recovery of Ipswich Ware pottery from St. Osyth and Merovingian coins (derived from France) to the south are indicative of involvement in sea based trading networks. From around 640AD onwards large land grants were made to St Paul's cathedral centred on the royal holdings at St Osyth but also across the Tendring peninsula. Brightlingsea and Lawford were both locations of important royal *vills* or manorial land holdings.

Further evidence for the period comes from a limited number of finds of Anglo-Saxon metalwork from the district. Included are a notable late 6<sup>th</sup>/early 7<sup>th</sup> century gold sword pommel cap from Ardleigh parish and a later 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> century lobed sword pommel from Little Bromley. Other metal finds of the period are mainly coins and strap ends of a wide range of dates and from across the district.

Evidence for later, Viking settlement is rare in Essex. However, both Thorpe-le-Soken and Kirby-le-Soken are names of wholly Danish origin which imply at least limited settlement in the area towards the end of the Saxon period.

## **2.8 Medieval**

The medieval landscape of the Tendring peninsula is one of dispersed settlements, hamlets and individual farms, with focal points provided by church/hall complexes, greens and commons; linking the dispersed settlements was an extensive network of lanes. The settlements were set within a variety of field types: including common-fields which were mostly sub-divided long before parliamentary enclosure, former deer parks and demesne fields which were divided and hedged in the late medieval and Tudor period.

Moated sites, one of which has been excavated at Gutteridge Hall, are a characteristic medieval site type for Essex, but less common on the Tendring peninsula, with only 19 known examples (including Gutteridge Hall) recorded on the Essex Historic Environment Record. The majority appear to have been built between 1275 and 1350, with a revival in the late medieval and early Tudor period.

At Lofts Farm, St. Osyth, medieval features included evidence for a post built structure, possibly a barn or large shed, a pond and a large number of pits. It is thought that these belonged to a 13/14<sup>th</sup> century croft which must have existed in the near vicinity.



Fig. 5 Cropmark of a medieval windmill, Little Bentley

Documentary sources for Essex suggest a widespread adoption of windmills during the medieval period. Two windmill sites excavated at Little and Great Bentley were in existence by the early 13<sup>th</sup> century. The medieval pottery from the Great Bentley site included Scarborough Ware dated from c.1200-1225AD and illustrating coastal trade probably into one of the local ports.

Urban settlement in medieval Tendring was strongly tied to the coast and coastal trade, Manningtree, Brightlingsea and St. Osyth developed in the medieval period as small trading centres on the Stour and Colne respectively. Excavations at St. Osyth have identified a timber wharf probably in use between the late 15<sup>th</sup> and early 16<sup>th</sup> century. The majority of trade for these small ports was probably with London and other smaller ports in Essex and North Kent, although goods certainly arrived from further a field. Shipbuilding and ship repair was probably a significant local industry.

The main urban centre in Tendring District was undoubtedly Harwich. Founded in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century by the Earls of Norfolk as a commercial venture, the town quickly became one of the major east coast ports with both local and continental trading links. A market, a Borough Charter and a licence to build town walls were quickly granted. Trade, fishing and shipbuilding were important in the local economy. Archaeological deposits are well preserved within the town and large assemblages of Dutch and French pottery emphasise the importance of the town in medieval continental trade.

St Paul's Cathedral continued to hold large estates around St Osyth and throughout Tendring. The Augustinian Priory at St Osyth was established for the Augustinian Canons shortly after 1120. Elements of the original building survive along with more remains of 13<sup>th</sup> century construction. The most imposing feature however and one which dominates the town to this day is the late 15<sup>th</sup> century gatehouse presenting a magnificent façade to the outside world both then and now. After the Dissolution many of the buildings were pulled down and the priory was granted to Lord D'Arcy who began a programme of secular rebuilding in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. In sharp contrast to the rich establishment at St. Osyth, was the small and poor Benedictine Priory at Wix, founded in 1123 for Benedictine nuns and dissolved quite early in 1525.

Areas of saltmarsh along the coast continued to constitute an important element of pastoral farming being extensively utilised for the grazing and rearing of both sheep and cattle. The medieval period saw the beginning of the reclamation of areas of saltmarsh with the construction of embankments and ditches with the land being used for grazing, arable farming or the production of hay.

The coastline, in the north of the area appears to have suffered considerable erosion in the period with the medieval village of Walton being lost to the sea. St. Paul's records include references to 'lands lost to the sea' in the vicinity of Walton.

## **2.9 Post Medieval**

Harwich continued to grow in importance throughout the post –medieval period as an international trading port, although remaining largely within its medieval limits. Stimulated by a series of wars against the Dutch in the 17<sup>th</sup> century the town took on an increasingly important role as a naval base and centre of shipbuilding. An important

survival is the timber built Harwich Crane dating from the late 17th century. The town defences went through typical cycles, of decay during peace, and refortification during times of conflict or threat of war.

The port at Manningtree thrived throughout the period largely due to its role in the shipping and transport of the area's agricultural produce and its growing role in the malting industry. Previously, the brewing of ale and beer had been predominantly on a small, domestic scale. The post-medieval and modern periods saw the gradual introduction of brewing on an increasing scale generating a thriving malting industry in this part of the county. Brightlingsea continued in existence as a trading port and smaller wharves existed at Beaumont cum Moze, St Osyth and elsewhere along the coast.

The Chapman and Andre map of 1777 shows the settlement landscape dominated largely by dispersed farmsteads and halls closely associated with a network of roads established since at least the medieval period. Larger settlements included St Osyth, Thorpe le Soken, Walton, Great Clacton, Great Oakley and Great Bentley. Areas of heathland, originally common land providing pasture and fuel, are shown surviving from the medieval period.

The 1530s saw the dissolution of the monasteries nationwide and selling of their properties and lands into private hands. Wix Priory quickly succumbed followed eventually by St. Osyth. Although nothing survives above ground at Wix, Lord D'Arcy's conversion and re-use of buildings at St. Osyth has ensured that at least some medieval fabric survives along with a range of later buildings associated with the post medieval mansion. The priory precinct was eventually landscaped by the 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Rochford in the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.



Fig.6 St Osyth Priory. The Abbot's Tower on the right was built by Lord D'Arcy c.1553

Chapman and Andre's map of 1777 illustrates significant areas of saltmarsh around Dovercourt, Walton and Jaywick no doubt continued to provide grazing throughout the period. The saltmarsh was particularly valued for its sheep grazing and for the quality of the meat and cheese that ensued. Duck decoys, newly introduced within these areas, provided large numbers of wildfowl for consumption and sale.

The process of reclamation of the natural saltmarsh continued during the post medieval period, the resulting land providing both important grazing and arable. A good example is the loss of a large area at St Osyth Marsh south of Wigborough Wick and Jaywick which was reclaimed in the post-medieval period and is associated with a string of marsh edge 'wick' (dairy) farms.

A further important industry around Walton and Brightlingsea was that of copperas production. Iron pyrites in the form of 'copperas stones' eroded onto the beach were turned by a complicated process into copperas (Ferrous Sulphate) itself, a valuable chemical used in the dyeing and tanning industries and also in the production of ink, sulphuric acid and medicines. Copperas Bay on the Stour Estuary provides a further indication of the significance of the industry.

The 18<sup>th</sup> century saw the development of spa towns throughout Britain. Richard Rigby brought in the famous architect Robert Adam to help fulfil his grand vision of turning Mistley into a spa town. Unfortunately the plans were never fully brought to fruition but the area acquired much of its Georgian character from this episode and important architectural survivals include both Mistley Towers and the Swan Fountain.

## 2.10 Modern

The repeated threat of invasion since the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century has left indelible marks on the Tendring coastline. The Martello towers that sit along the coast marked a shift in strategy in the early 1800s towards defeating a French invasion force before it could land. Linked with the Martello towers, the Harwich Redoubt, Bathside Bay battery and Beacon Hill battery are significant Napoleonic era defences emphasising the strategic importance of the naval facilities at Harwich. Although the Martello towers and the Bathside Bay battery quickly fell into disuse, the Redoubt and Beacon Hill battery were modernised and re-armed several times during the later 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Redoubt survives in excellent condition today.

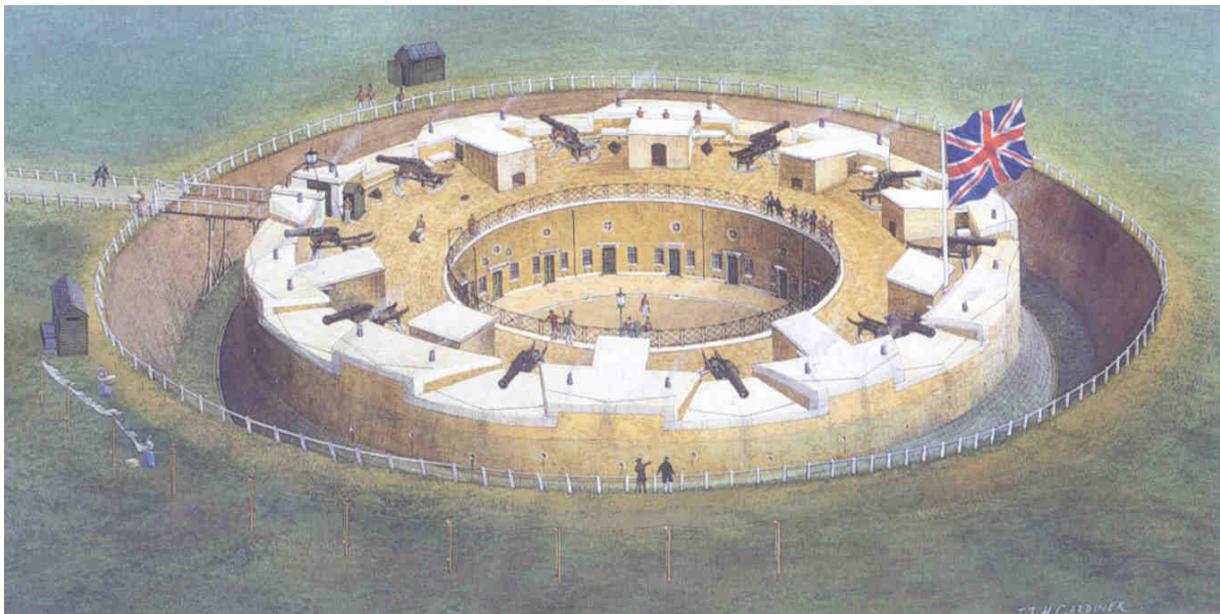


Fig. 7 Reconstruction painting of the Harwich Redoubt

Defences dating from WWII, mainly pillboxes, occur frequently along the coast. Although appearing innocuous today these would have formed a strong defence line in conjunction with other features such as barbed wire entanglements, minefields and anti tank defences (a large number of which survive). A searchlight emplacement and 12

pounder casemate survive at Harwich. Beacon Hill Battery, now a Scheduled Monument, was also rearmed with powerful coastal artillery and continued in use for some time after the war had finished.

At Mistley, an interesting Cold War survivor remains. Built for the Royal Artillery in 1951, this concrete bunker was bought by the County Council in 1961 as a command centre and refuge for local government officials in the event of nuclear war.

As its military importance declined, the commercial port of Harwich has expanded during the modern period with the growth of major international facilities at Parkeston quay. The expansion of Dovercourt starting in the late 19th century with its development as a resort and continuing through the 20<sup>th</sup> century, has effectively linked this area with the medieval town at Harwich.

Clacton-on-Sea as a town and resort was effectively begun by the efforts of the Victorian engineer and entrepreneur Peter Bruff. Purchasing a significant amount of land in 1864 he proceeded to put in place the infrastructure necessary for the development of a successful seaside resort including the pier in 1871 and the Royal Hotel in 1872. His efforts proved a success and the town expanded rapidly after the coming of the railway in 1882 opened the market for ever more people.

The history of modern Walton-on-the-Naze begins with the opening of the Marine Hotel in 1829 and pier in 1830. Again it was Bruff who was instrumental in the further development of the town as a resort, both bringing the railway in 1867 and building a pier, an important part of any Victorian seaside resort.

The introduction of the railway and lines to Harwich, Walton and Clacton during the 19<sup>th</sup> century promoted not only traditional industrial growth but a whole new industry based on leisure and recreation. Between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps, a period of around 15 years, Clacton shows significant growth from Bruff's small resort to a burgeoning town. The town at Clacton continued to develop and became the area's premier seaside resort throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, overshadowing Walton in terms of size and popularity.

Both Clacton and Walton in particular exhibit specific associated architectural types with hotels, piers, marine gardens and guest houses prevalent and there are fine examples of modernist seaside buildings at Clacton. In sharp contrast is Frinton-on-Sea, a later, largely Edwardian development, very much quieter in nature and displaying a notable development of Modern Movement style houses at Frinton Park and Cliff Way.



Fig.8 Walton Pier, Walton-on-the-Naze

The 20<sup>th</sup> century saw further development along the coast with new growth in areas such as Jaywick and Point Clear and the establishment of a number of holiday caravan parks.

Situated next to the medieval port at Manningtree, the village of Mistley developed a thriving malting industry in the 19<sup>th</sup> century supplying malt to large scale brewing companies with much going to the London market. By the end of the century and aided by effective rail and sea transport, Mistley had become a major centre of the industry. Eight brick built malthouses incorporating a number of technological innovations pioneered by Robert Free were erected which dominated the town. The surviving maltings at Mistley, along with associated features such as the railway station, dock facilities, office block, workers housing and school form a group of national importance and have been the subject of extensive study. Another important and earlier malting (1874-1882) built by Robert Free can be found at Thorpe-le-Soken with a smaller rural malting surviving as part of a farm complex at Little Bentley.

In the farming industry several of the existing pre-industrial farmsteads were remodelled as 'model farms' in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century in line with new thinking on efficient agricultural practice.

The ever increasing needs of the aggregates industry has resulted in significant areas of mineral extraction across the Tendring peninsula since the Second World War. The main occurrences of extraction are at Ardleigh, Alresford, Brightlingsea and St. Osyth. Archaeological investigations prior to work beginning on these sites has revealed much about the influence and activities of man on the Tendring landscape.

### 3 Characterisation of the Resource

The characterisation analysis formed the initial stage of this project, with the methodology based on the work carried out by CBA for the Thames Gateway Historic Characterisation Project and the more refined work undertaken for Rochford, the Thames Gateway and Chelmsford Historic Environment Characterisation Projects by Essex County Council which involved a number of distinct processes. These focussed on preparing three separate strands of characterisation, one for each strand of the historic environment, namely: **Historic Landscape Character**, **Archaeological Character** and **Historic Urban Character** and then weaving these together into combined **Historic Environment Character Areas**. The detailed methodology and the results of the three separate strands of the characterisation are presented later in this report and within the GIS data, and the Historic Environment Character Areas presented within section 3 of this report.

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 previous projects is novel and challenging.

The Tendring Characterisation Project, following the methodology used for the Rochford and Chelmsford Historic Environment Characterisation Reports, has divided the Historic Environment Character Areas, which are divisions at a high strategic level, down into Historic Environment Character Zones. These form the core of this report and are smaller zones which can be used at all stages of the planning process, from the production of Local Development Frameworks and Master Plans, through to the initial considerations of planning applications (see section 1.1).

The detailed methodology is outlined in Appendix 1. Historic Landscape Character Areas (HLCA) are detailed in Appendix 2, Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCA) are detailed in Appendix 3 and Archaeological Character Areas (ACA) are described in Appendix 4. The Historic Environment Character Area (HECA) methodology is given in Appendix 1 and the area descriptions are in section 3.1 of this report. The sub division

of these areas into Historic Environment Character Zones (HECZ), which form the core of this study, is presented in section 5.

### 3.1 Historic Environment Character Area descriptions

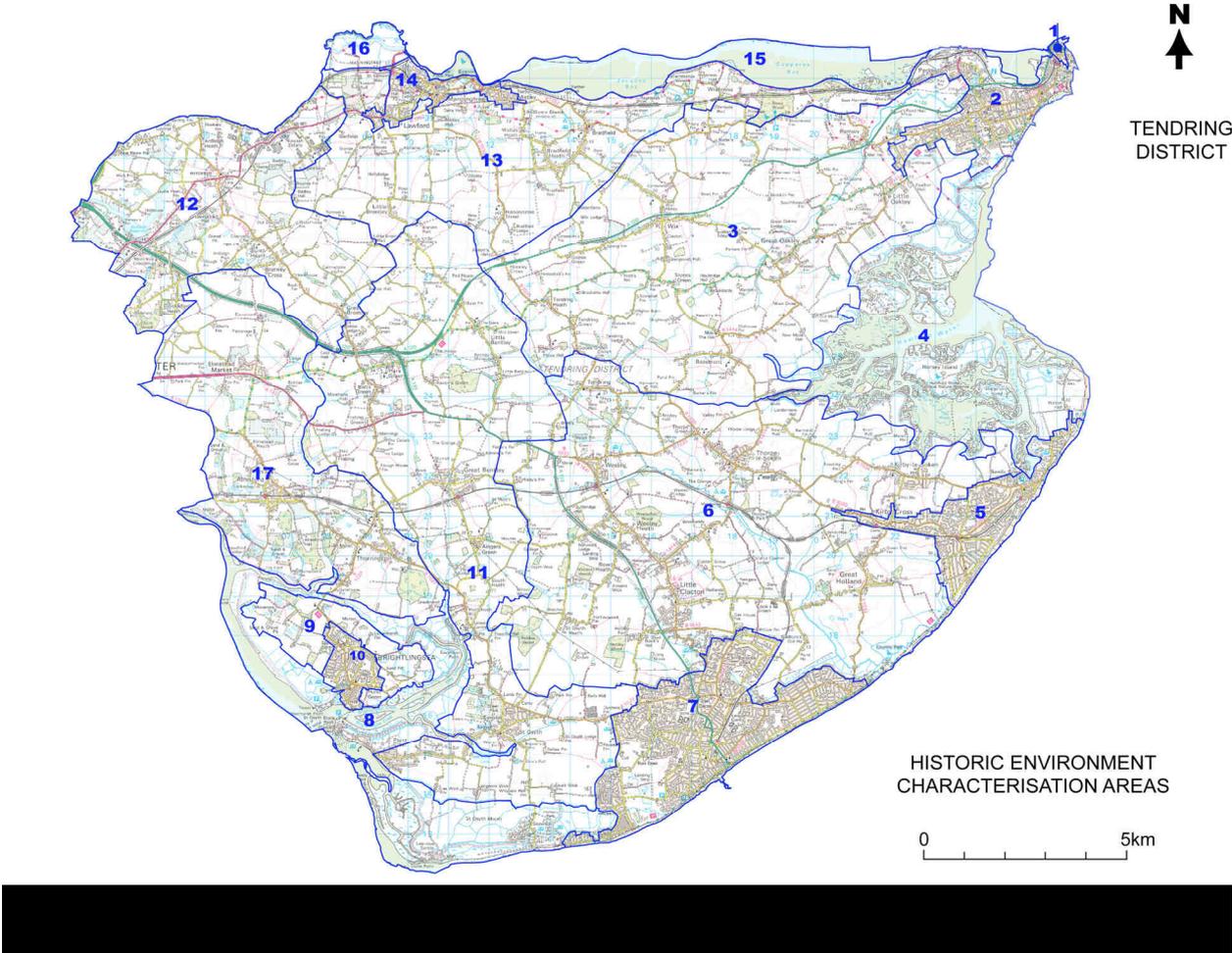


Fig.9 Tendring Historic Environment Character Areas

### 3.1.1 HECA 1 Historic Harwich



Fig. 10 HECA 1 Historic Harwich

**Summary:** This area comprises the historic extent of the medieval ‘plantation’ town (established in the 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> centuries), and the post-medieval expansion of the naval dockyard and Harwich Green area. The built heritage includes a significant number of timber framed buildings of late medieval and post medieval date, but has a largely Georgian character due to a predominance of 18<sup>th</sup> century facades. There are many listed buildings and a high potential for well preserved archaeological deposits.

*Historic Urban Character:* The town was planted by the Earls of Norfolk sometime around the late 12<sup>th</sup>/early 13<sup>th</sup> century as a commercial venture at the mouth of the Stour and Orwell estuaries. A grant of murage in 1338 set the topographical limits for the future medieval and post medieval development of the town and resulted in dense development on fairly small plots. West Street, Church Street and Kings Head Street are the main thoroughfares running the length of the town from the quay in the north towards the main gate in the south. A number of side streets connect the main streets into a rough grid pattern. The town defences were a combination of masonry walls to the east and substantial bank and ditch to the west which went through cycles of decay and restoration. Historic quays and wharfs, which developed as part of the Harwich’s shipbuilding industry and because of its role as a Navy yard, are situated to the north

and north east of the planned town. The Harwich Green area was used intermittently as a temporary garrison site over several centuries.



Fig. 11 The historic town of Harwich showing the grid like street layout with the church of St Nicolas in the foreground and the harbour in the distance.

19<sup>th</sup> century structures relating to the development of steam packets and ferry's to the continent, built along the northern shoreline, include the half penny pier and train ferry berth.

There is a high proportion of Listed Buildings and the entire medieval town is a conservation area. Many of the buildings are timber framed and date from the late medieval and early post-medieval periods but the face presented is largely Georgian due to the number of re-frontings in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

*Archaeological Character:* A number of archaeological excavations have taken place within historic Harwich which clearly demonstrate the high potential of the area. Archaeological investigations within the quay area have uncovered masonry and timber

quay structures dating to the 14th and 15<sup>th</sup> century. The sea front and intertidal zone are characterised by navigation structures. Deeply stratified deposits have been excavated at the Kings Head Garage, Kings Head Street, Church Street and St. Austins Lane revealing 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century occupation and episodes of dumping of thick layers of beach sand followed by new building in an action to raise levels and combat flooding. The post-medieval expansion to the north and east in the area of the naval dockyard and Angelgate was constructed on a layer of dumped material deriving from waste from the town; several phases of expansion and rebuilding are known to have taken place in this area.

Ceramic evidence shows that the medieval port was engaged in a wide ranging east coast trade from London to Scarborough. Continental pottery indicates direct trade with Europe, also known from documentary sources. There is a high potential for the survival of waterlogged deposits which would be likely to contain well preserved organic artefacts. These may include waterfront and quayside deposits and features.

### 3.1.2 HECA 2 Dovercourt, Harwich and Parkeston

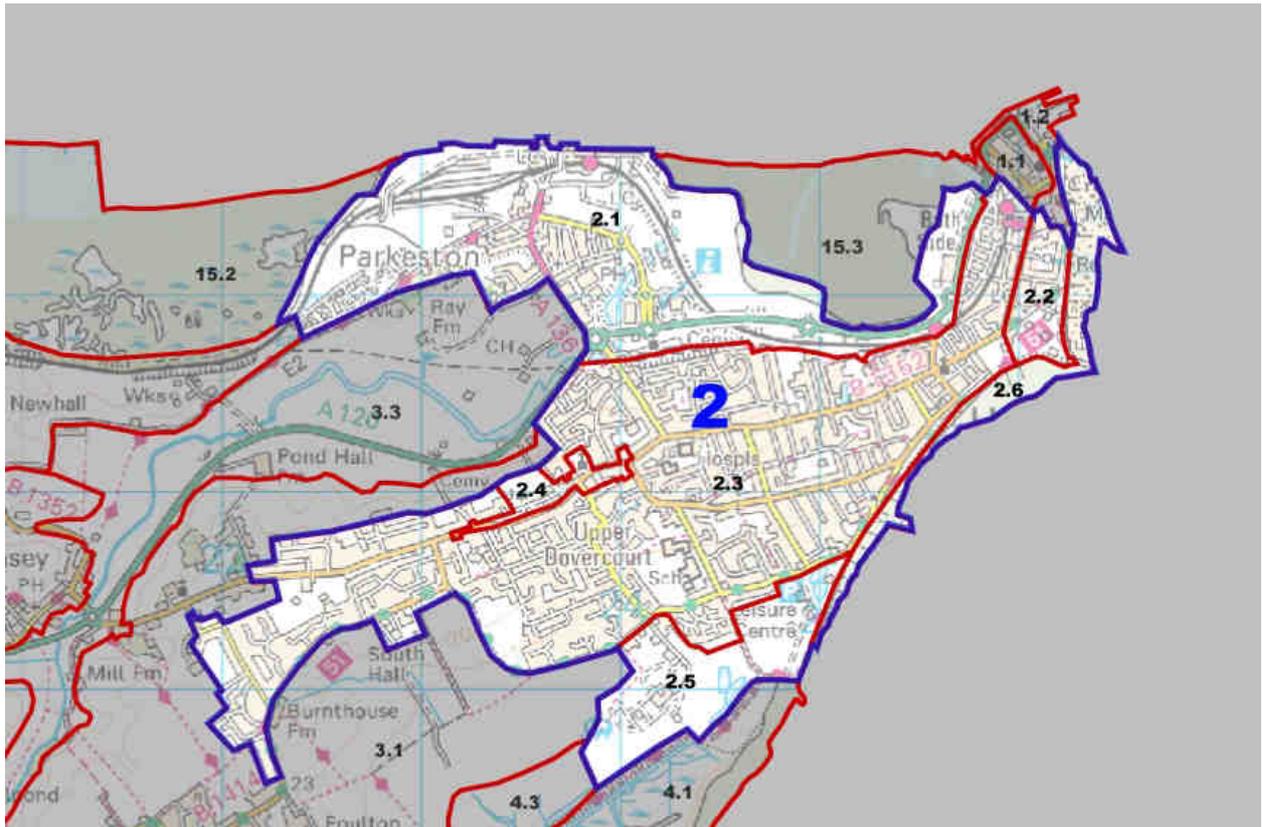


Fig. 12 HECA 2 Dovercourt, Harwich, Parkeston

**Summary:** This area contains the 19<sup>th</sup> century and modern expansion of upper and lower Dovercourt, Parkeston Quay, and Harwich Harbour, which resulted from industrial, military and port related development and the area's role as a popular seaside resort. The area is bisected by the main road leading into the historic core of Harwich and the Manningtree to Harwich railway line runs through the northern part of the area. The port's strategic importance resulted in the construction of significant defensive works during the Napoleonic era and WWII.

*Historic Urban Character:* Prior to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century the area was largely agricultural with a highly dispersed settlement pattern situated alongside the roads, focal points around All Saints Church and a linear green, with a larger centre at Lower Dovercourt. Parkeston Quay was developed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century on reclaimed land located at the mouth of the River Stour.

The expansion of Lower Dovercourt began in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century with its success as a seaside resort. Although Dovercourt had been a resort from earlier in the 19<sup>th</sup> century,

its popularity and expansion really began with the arrival of the railway and the resort had its hey day during the pre- and post-war periods. Steady growth is indicated between the 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> Ordnance Survey maps with more rapid growth shown by the extent of the built up area shown on the 4<sup>th</sup> edition map immediately preceding WWII. Modern development associated with Dovercourt's role as a seaside resort is particularly evident at the southern end of the developed area, with holiday caravan parks, beach huts and leisure facilities.

A further focus of late 19<sup>th</sup> century growth in the area was around the terminus of the railway south of Harwich historic core, providing housing for a growing industrially based population. Similar, localised growth occurred at Parkeston in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century with workers at the new Parkeston Quay and associated railway station being accommodated in a new housing development. A brick and tile works was located close to Main Road and a cement works was in existence to the north of main road in Lower Dovercourt.

From WWII onwards the area has shown steady growth; the modern area is largely residential with a commercial centre around the High Street in Dovercourt. Industrial activity (a refinery) is concentrated in the Parkeston area with further light industry along Ramsey/Main Road.

The seaward side of the Dovercourt area has long been important to the defence of Harwich; the Harwich Redoubt is a well preserved Napoleonic fort, and significant surviving multi-period military remains are to be found at both Tower and Beacon Hills.

*Archaeological Character:* Gants Pit, now occupied by Spring Meadows Primary School is a Palaeolithic site of national importance. A significant number of hand axes and fossilised bones of extinct fauna were discovered here during local gravel extraction at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Recent work at the school has identified surviving river terrace gravels which are likely to retain a high archaeological interest. Further gravel deposits of similar significance are likely to survive within the area.

Little formal archaeological work has taken place within the area. However, mostly chance finds of Late Bronze Age metalwork Iron Age and earlier pottery along with

Roman pottery, coins and a possible road indicate settlement from later prehistory and in those areas that have not been significantly disturbed archaeological deposits may survive. Archaeological deposits of medieval and early post-medieval may also survive in places reflecting the pre-urban dispersed settlement pattern.

The sea front and intertidal zone are characterised by navigation structures, including four scheduled lighthouses and the re-located treadwheel crane which is a 17<sup>th</sup> century structure from the Naval yard. The area is also characterised by defensive structures including the 19<sup>th</sup> century Harwich Redoubt, which is a scheduled monument. Significant defences survive from WWII when the area was heavily defended due to its importance as a naval base. These include some of the massive concrete anti tank obstacles belonging to The Stanier line, constructed to the east of The Green. There are also coastal batteries and associated structures at the Beacon Hill scheduled monument.

### 3.1.3 HECA 3 Great Oakley area

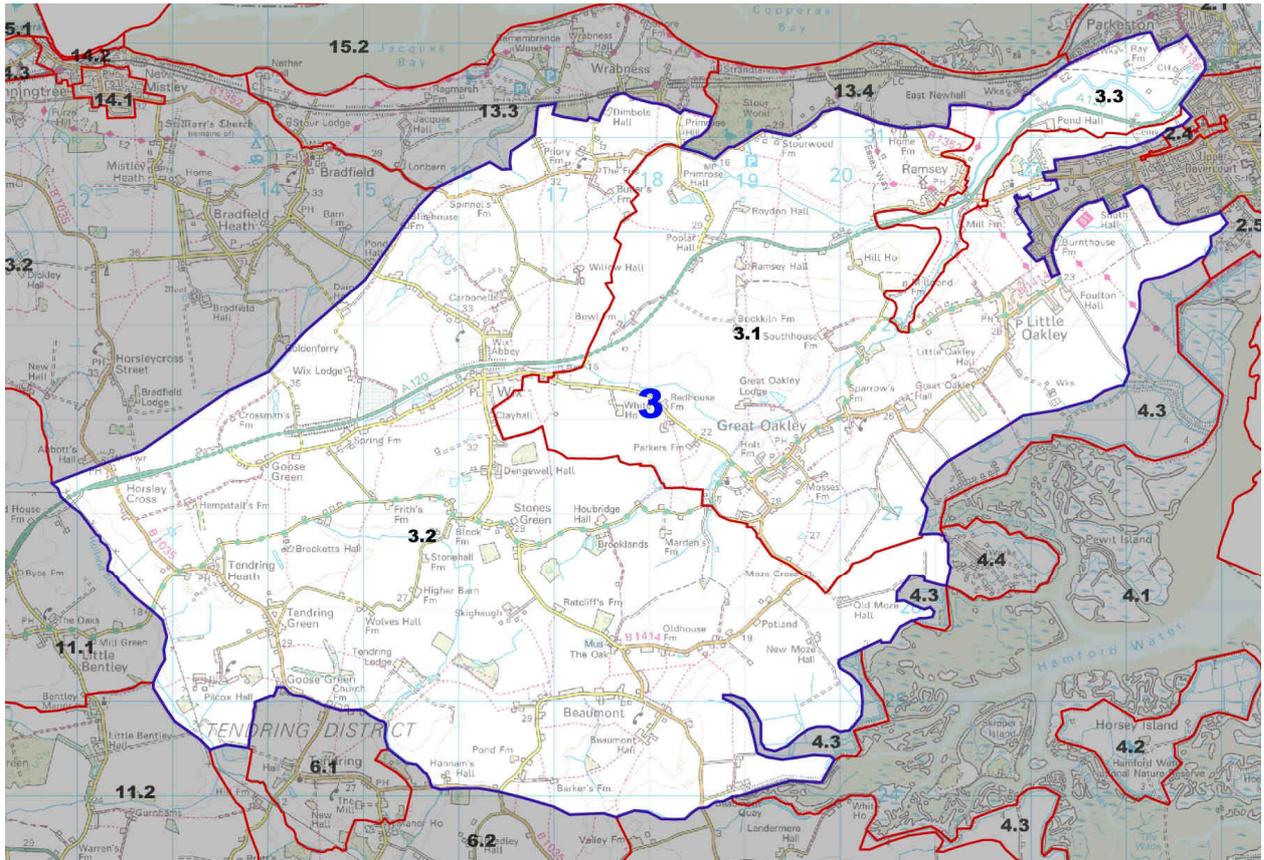


Fig.13 HECA 3 Great Oakley area

**Summary:** This area comprises the gently undulating rural plateau in the north east of Tendring. It is a remote agricultural landscape characterised by a dispersed historic settlement pattern with small greens frequently as foci, a fieldscape of irregular enclosure affected by post war boundary loss and surviving areas of meadow pasture and remnant ancient woodland. The geology is London Clay overlain to the west by Brickearth and to a lesser extent to the east by Kesgrave Sands and Gravels, with patches of head and a band of alluvium along the coastal edge and within the floodplain of Ramsey Creek. Archaeological remains comprise a number of cropmark complexes, which are likely to include multi-period remains as testified by the excavated Roman Villa at Great Oakley. Surviving archaeological deposits of Medieval and possibly Saxon date are likely to be associated with church hall complexes and around the greens and villages. The area includes significant post medieval remains such as the quay and associated features at Beaumont, adjacent to Hamford Water.

*Historic Landscape Character:* This area forms part of the Tendring Plateau overlooking Hamford Water to the east, the valley of the Holland Brook to the south, and Stour Estuary to the north. It includes the valley and floodplain of Ramsey Creek. The historic field pattern comprises a mixture of pre-18<sup>th</sup> century irregular fields, which are probably of medieval origin and fields created by later enclosure by agreement, between owners, probably in the late medieval or early post-medieval periods. Post-1950s boundary loss has affected the fieldscape in places, with significant loss on a number of farms. The historic settlement pattern is largely polyfocal and dispersed in character, comprising church/hall complexes, manors, farms, cottages and small hamlets. The latter are often strung along roadside greens or around small triangular greens at road junctions. The village of Great Oakley, which shows a small early nucleation is something of an exception to this. Ramsey windmill is a significant feature in the landscape. Areas of meadow pasture in the stream valleys and small areas of remnant ancient woodland, particularly towards the centre of the area are also characteristic.



Fig. 14 The Post mill at Ramsey, originally built in Woodbridge, Suffolk, was one of the last two windmills to operate in Essex

*Archaeological Character:* The area contains a number of cropmark complexes with a main concentration to the south west of Great Oakley. The Great Oakley complex indicates a range of features including enclosures, ring-ditches, trackways and field systems. Many more cropmarks are noted in the area representing a wide range of features and multi-period settlement.

Although little fieldwork has so far been done, the area is likely to contain deposits related to widespread prehistoric activity and occupation. Iron Age and particularly Roman activity is well attested with a villa site excavated at Little Oakley displaying several phases of building and improvement. Prior to the Roman period the excavations indicated occupation in the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age, Middle Iron Age and possibly late Iron Age settlement. In the post Roman period the site yielded evidence for early Saxon activity, although the nature of this is not fully understood. There are also indications of agricultural activity and possibly settlement at the site during the later Saxon and early Medieval periods.

The medieval settlement pattern was generally dispersed with farmsteads and church/hall complexes and linear greens forming focal points, archaeological deposits associated with this dispersed settlement pattern are likely to be widespread. The only nucleated settlement is at Great Oakley where a market is known to have existed by the mid 13th century. The location of the market place is suggested by the layout of the village and there is the possibility of surviving archaeological deposits of medieval date.

### 3.1.4 HECA 4 Hamford Water

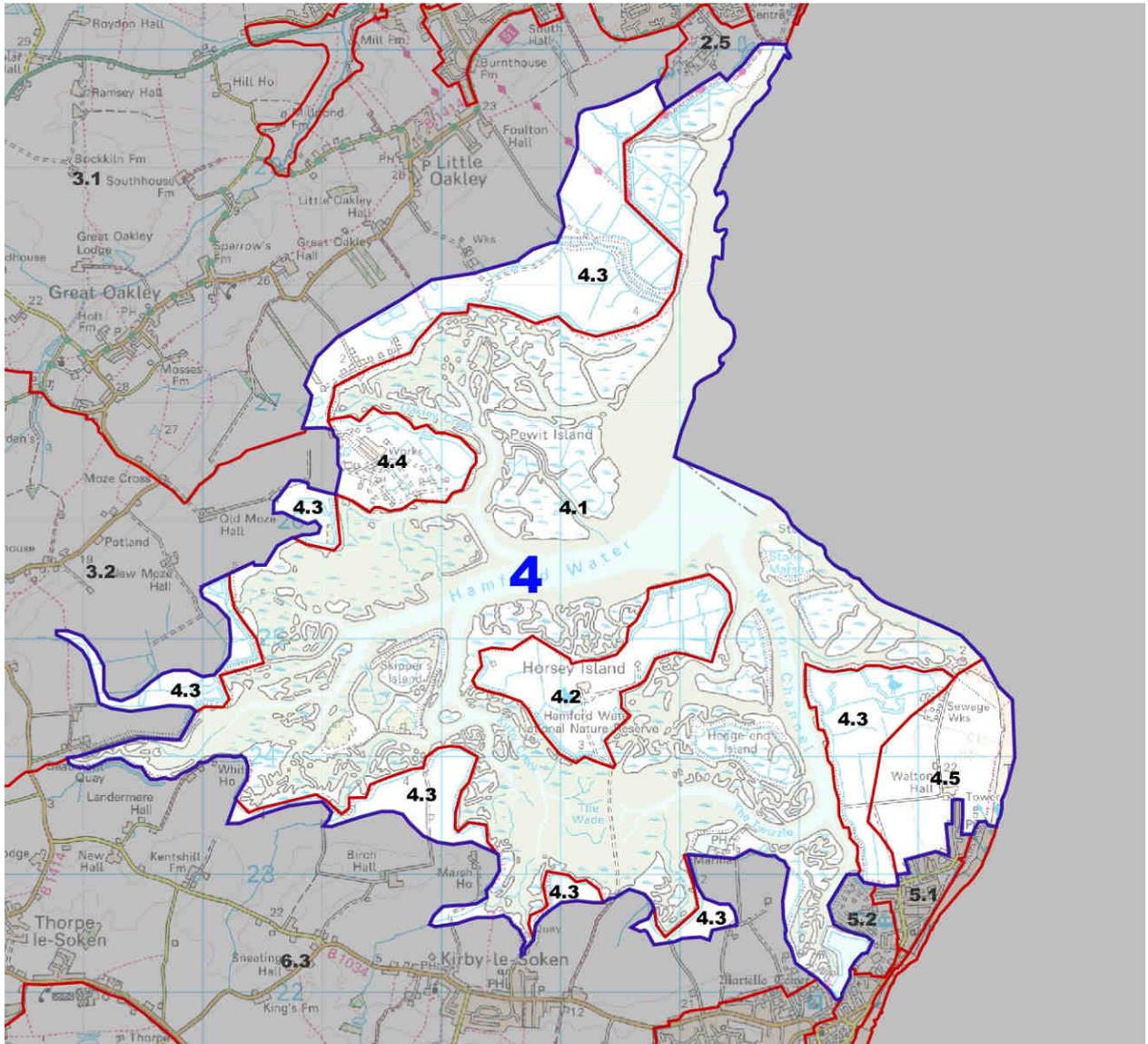


Fig. 15 HECA 4 Hamford Water

**Summary:** This area comprises current and former reclaimed coastal grazing marsh, un-reclaimed salt marsh, marshland islands, the significant intertidal zone of Hamford Water and Walton Channel, and the Naze peninsula. The Historic landscape is dominated by post medieval features; principally the sea walls, but also structures associated with access to and from the sea. A wide range of archaeological finds and remains are represented from all periods and preservation of deposits is likely to be good.

*Historic Landscape Character:* Hamford Water is an extensive area of current and former marshland, saltmarsh, creeks, mudflats and marshland islands, some of which

have been embanked. The geology comprises tidal mud flat deposits, with outcrops of London Clay forming the backbone of Skippers and Horsey Islands. Current and former sea walls are dominant features of the landscape. The field boundaries comprise drainage ditches, mainly without banks or hedges, some following the sinuous course of former creeks. There has been very little boundary loss since the 1950s. Horsey Island has a single farmstead on it and is connected to the mainland by a causeway. The landscape is dominated by post medieval remains and is marked by earthworks, including current and former sea walls, enclosures, decoy ponds and the surviving historic structures of the explosives factory on Bramble Island. Jetties, quays and trackways highlight the importance of access to and from the sea and the relationship between this and adjacent dryland areas (HECA 3 and 6). The area includes the former tidal millpond of Walton mere.

The Naze is of great geological interest with an important exposure of Red Crag overlying London Clay. The Red Crag is capped by sands and gravels giving rise to acid grass coastal heathland and scrub woodland which is now managed for wildlife and public amenity. The Naze peninsula was historically separated from the mainland by an area of marshland and is characterised by an absence of settlement, although Walton Hall is an historic farmstead located on top of the Naze with access to Walton Hall marshes below. The octagonal brick tower of Trinity House is a prominent historic landmark.

Modern development in the area includes the Titchmarsh Marina, a sewage works on the Naze peninsula, isolated houses and modern buildings at the explosive works on Bramble Island.

*Archaeological Character:* The area has an extremely high archaeological potential with recorded finds and features ranging from the Palaeolithic to modern. Ancient buried land surfaces where exposed, particularly on the foreshore between the Naze and Stone Point and to the south of Dovercourt, have produced much evidence for prehistoric occupation with significant assemblages of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age worked flint, and for the latter periods, pottery. Bronze Age cremations have been noted from the eroding cliffs to the north of Walton. Red hills and finds of Roman ceramics indicate Late Iron Age and Roman industry and probable settlement in the

area. The Medieval and post medieval periods are represented by a variety of finds and features including ceramics, earthwork enclosures, decoys, hulks, wharves and, industrial works including the scheduled lime kiln and quay at the end of Beaumont Cut. WWII defences including anti-aircraft sites, bombing decoys and pill boxes are also a characteristic feature of the area due to its proximity to the naval port at Harwich.



Fig. 16 The 19<sup>th</sup> century Lime Kiln at Beaumont Quay

Archaeological deposits are likely to be in many cases very well preserved, with good survival of organic artefacts and environmental deposits.

### 3.1.5 HECA 5 Frinton and Walton

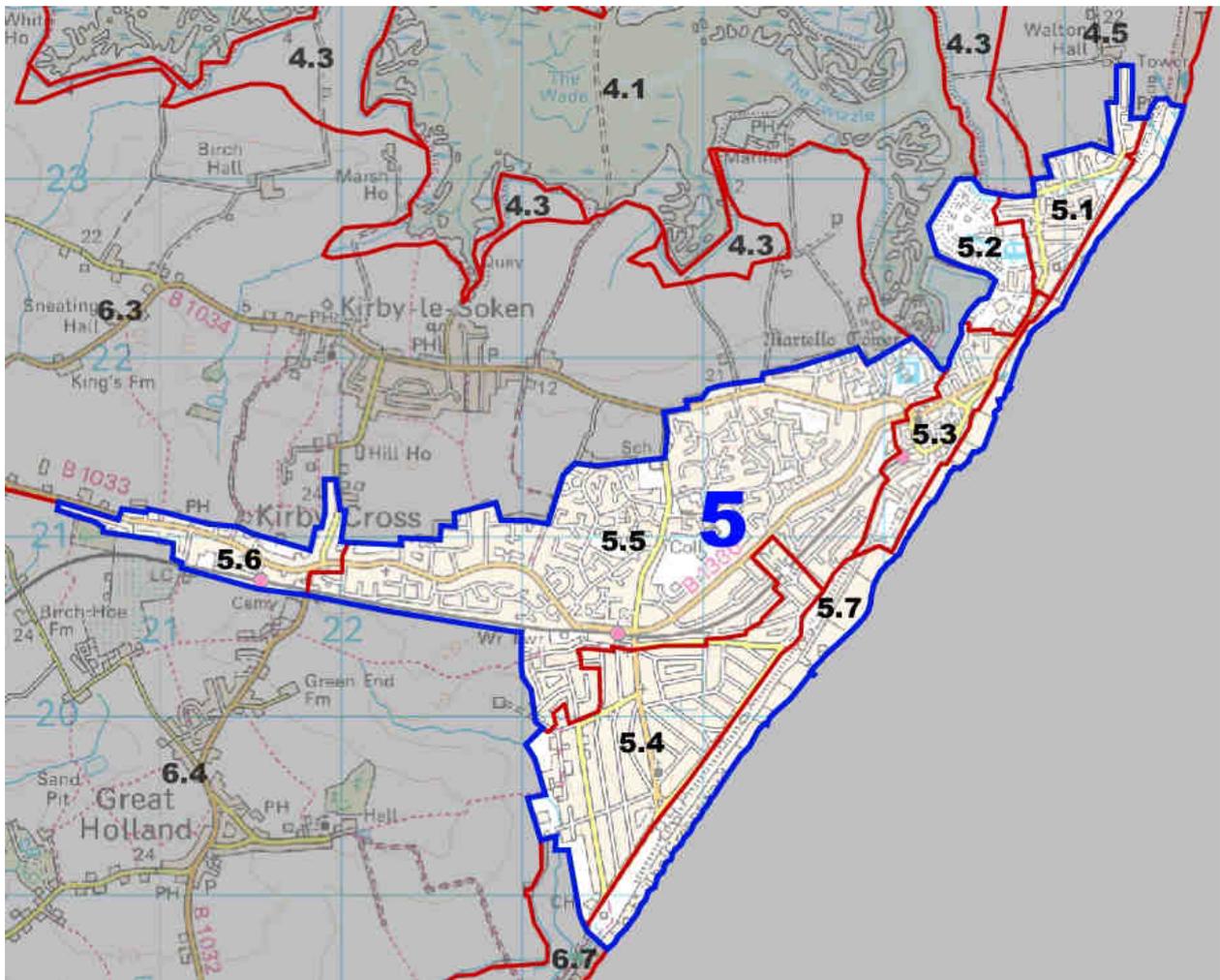


Fig. 17 HECA 5 Frinton and Walton

**Summary:** This area comprises the popular seaside towns of Frinton-on-Sea and Walton-on-the-Naze. The area is largely characterised by 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century residential development and structures associated with these coastal resorts. WWII defences are also a feature due to the coastal location.

*Historic Urban Character:* The core of the seaside resort of Frinton was developed from a small dispersed settlement during the late C19 following the construction of Frinton railway station. The main residential development occurred in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century with the construction of larger detached, arcadian housing sited toward the seafront, and including a number of Arts and Crafts buildings constructed before the First World War. Blocks of late C19 and early C20 terraced housing appear further inland (north) and along the main road arteries. The area incorporates the International Modern

Movement buildings of the failed Frinton Park Estate, to the north-east. Most of the core area is in residential use. The northern part of Frinton includes a large area of predominantly post war residential housing which incorporates some C20 ribbon development along the Kirby and Walton roads but which is primarily development between Kirby Cross and the C19/C20 settlements of Frinton and Walton.

The historic core of the seaside resort of Walton developed in the area of the High Street from the early C19 onwards and still retains remnants of the early C19 street pattern of terraces and crescents. Later C19 domestic terrace housing developed within the core area following the arrival of the railway in 1867 and construction of the new pier in 1869-71. There are no buildings predating the C18 in Walton. Most of the core area is in either business/retail or residential use including an Interwar residential development of non terraced houses to the south of the pier bounded by the railway line and the South Cliffs. This area also incorporates beach huts fronting the promenade and overlooking Walton beach. To the north is a further large area of mainly interwar terraced housing which incorporates later C19 ribbon development of terrace housing following Hall and Naze Park Roads. From the early C20 larger non terrace houses were built toward the northern extent of the town along Naze Park and Old Hall Lane. Despite being largely residential in character, the area includes the site of Warners (now Harmers) iron foundry built c.1874 and associated workers housing built by T.A. Cressy along Hall Lane and First Avenue. Post war residential ribbon development characterises the route along Old Hall Lane towards the Tower and Walton Hall. Along the west side of the town is a large area of partly reclaimed marshland which mainly comprises a holiday park and associated recreational facilities but which includes the Scheduled Napoleonic Martello tower.

*Archaeological Character:* Defensive structures are a feature of the area including a scheduled Martello Tower, the site of a destroyed Martello Tower. There is also a concentration of WWII defences due to the fact that the Walton/Frinton section of the Essex coastline was highlighted as a potential enemy landing zone and as a consequence very heavily defended. The sites of pillboxes, anti-tank defences and gun emplacements are frequent, especially on the coast itself and although many have been lost a number of these features still survive.

The area is now heavily developed and although the earlier archaeological potential has been correspondingly reduced, undeveloped areas may contain undisturbed deposits, and in particular medieval and early post-medieval deposits may survive in parts of Kirby, Walton and in the vicinity of the medieval church at Frinton.

### 3.1.6 HECA 6: South East Tendring Plateau and the Sokens

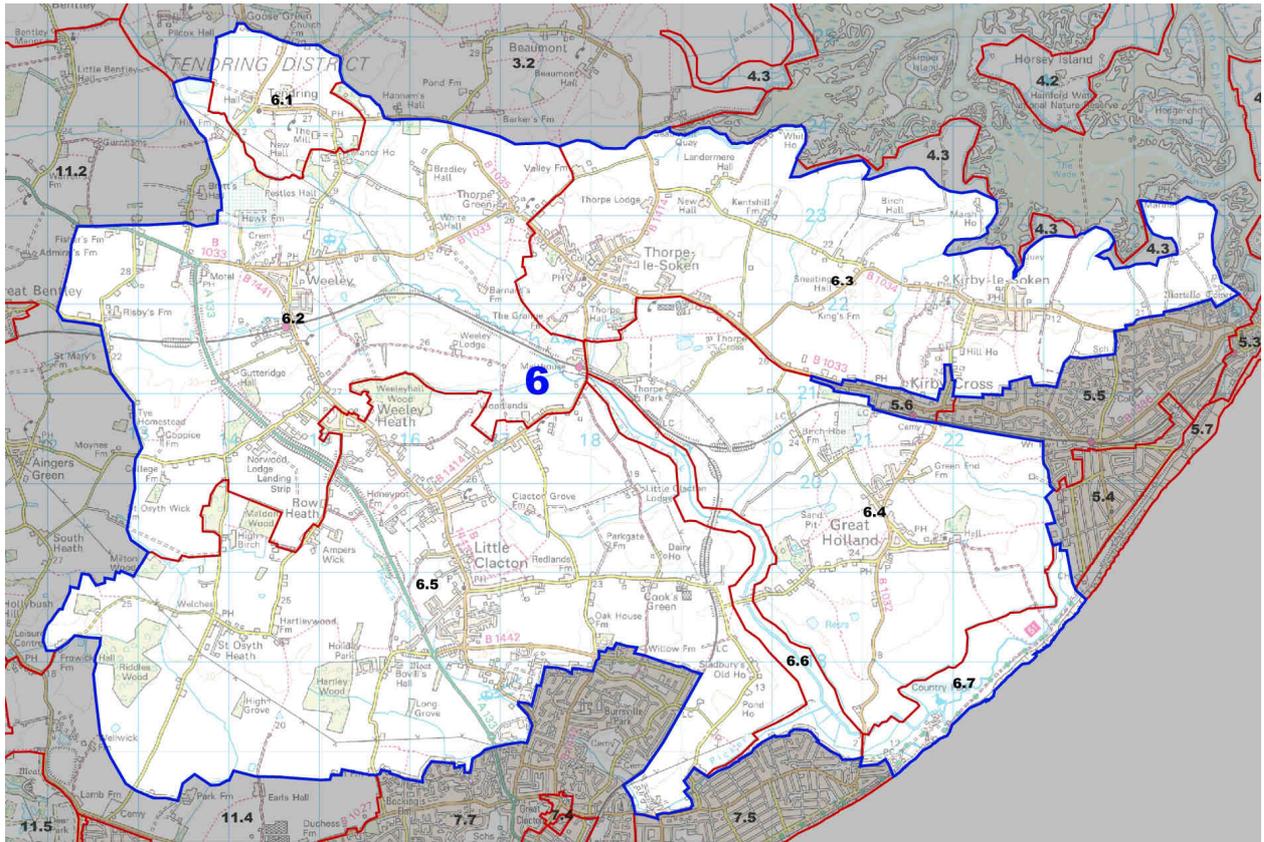


Fig. 18 HECA 6 South East Tendring Plateau and the Sokens

**Summary:** This area comprises the gently undulating rural plateau in the south east of Tendring and includes the section of coastline between Clacton and Frinton. The landscape is characterised by a dispersed historic settlement pattern, although several small villages and greens provide foci, a fieldscape of pre-19<sup>th</sup> century and later enclosure and a cluster of small ancient woodlands in the north of the area. The valley of the Holland Brook with its enclosed meadows and reclaimed tidal marshes is a significant feature running through the middle of and draining the area, which is likely to contain well preserved palaeoenvironmental deposits. The archaeological record is largely dominated by concentrations of multi-period cropmarks although WWII defensive structures are also a feature due to the short length of coastline.

*Historic Landscape Character:* This area comprises the gently undulating agricultural plateau in the south east of Tendring, drained by the shallow valley of the Holland Brook with tidal marshes at its mouth. The geology is London Clay overlain by patches of Brickearth and Kesgrave Sands and Gravels. The valley floor is covered by alluvium

and is characterised by enclosed meadows alongside the brook, with drained linear reclamation of the tidal marshes and fields of ancient origin on the valley sides and in the southern portion of the area. To the north of the valley, the fieldscape comprises a mixture of fields of ancient origin and later enclosure which has suffered from moderate boundary loss. Small oak and sweet chestnut coppice ancient woodlands survive in the northern western portion of the area on high ground to the north of St Osyth and around Weeley. Settlement in the area was historically polyfocal and dispersed, comprising isolated manors and farms but with foci at Little Clacton, Great Holland, Kirby-le-Soken, Thorpe-le-Soken, Weeley and a number of linear and other greens. Modern ribbon development has occurred along the road leading to Clacton and the roads into Great Holland.

*Archaeological Character:* Although there are no specific records of Palaeolithic finds from the short section of coast between Holland and Frinton this area along with much of the remaining Tendring coastline has potential for survival of Pleistocene deposits which may contain Palaeolithic material, although here they are likely to be deeply buried by alluvium.

The area contains a range of cropmark evidence and there are two prominent areas of cropmarks, one surrounding the village of Tendring and another south of Thorpe-le-Soken. Although a number of these represent modern field boundary loss others are clearly indicative of surviving earlier deposits. Close to Tendring a group of ring-ditches of probable Bronze Age origin equate closely to others found across the Tendring peninsula. There are also a variety of linear and rectilinear features and excavation on similar sites in adjacent areas has demonstrated that a number of these cropmarks relate to later Iron Age and Romano-British field systems. Deposits relating to Roman settlement have been identified at Thorpe Hall and further may be expected within the area. A saltern has been recorded adjacent to the coast which dates from the Late Iron Age/Roman period, and others may be present in the coastal zone.

Although the place names Thorpe-le-Soken and Kirby-le-Soken are Scandinavian in origin and notable within Essex, so far no archaeological evidence of Danish settlement has been found. Other medieval settlements are Tendring and Great Holland and all three may retain archaeological deposits relating to their early development. Thorpe-le-

Soken in particular has a wealth of historic buildings. Windmills shown on the Chapman and Andre map of 1777 at Tendring and Thorpe and a watermill on the Holland Brook may have medieval origins.



Fig.19 Cropmarks of Bronze Age ring ditches along the Clacton-Weeley by-pass

Archaeological work on the line of the Clacton-Weeley bypass which examined a significant swathe of landscape probably indicates the kind of archaeological remains likely to be present in many parts of the area. Investigation along the line of the bypass revealed a range of well preserved prehistoric, Roman and later deposits including a medieval moated site at Gutteridge Hall. The alluvium of the marshes and Holland Brook valley is likely to contain well preserved environmental deposits.

As with much of the rest of the Tendring coast, this short section was heavily defended during the early stages of WWII. Some pillboxes survive although a number have now been demolished.



the Old Road and St Osyths Road during the later C19 and early C20. There are no buildings predating the C18 in this part of the HECA but the C19 built area includes three Martello Towers (1809-12) and listed buildings of C19 and C20 date. There are small scale C20 industrial works along Old Road and in the area of the railway station. Most of the core area is in residential use. To the north of the historic core is an area of largely post War and later C20 residential development. This incorporates the historic core of Great Clacton and lesser settlements such as Rush Green and Bocking's Elm. The settlement at Great Clacton is focused around the C12 church and as ribbon development along St Johns and Old Road. It includes a cluster of listed buildings.

The area includes a pre-war residential development to the north of the cemetery and is bounded by the railway line to the east. There is a large modern satellite Industrial and retail estate at Gorse Road and recreational/Holiday camp at Highfields. To the north east of Clacton is Holland on Sea which comprises an area of predominantly interwar terraced housing partly laid out to a distinctive co-axial street plan. To the south is the 20<sup>th</sup> century plotlands estate at Jaywick which also has a distinctive co-axial street pattern and originated as a seaside development comprising bungalows and chalets and a Butlins holiday camp.

*Archaeological Character:* Largely built over and extensively developed through the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, much of the archaeological potential has been lost. However, the area retains significant potential for Palaeolithic remains of national/international importance. Now largely contained by sea defences, eroding deposits of the Clacton Channel of the Thames have in the past produced large numbers of artefacts including the famous Clacton wooden spear and varied faunal remains. Gravel deposits containing further important data on this early period of human activity in Britain are known to survive within the area.

The area of remaining open agricultural land between West Clacton and Jaywick displays a number of cropmarks, many of which appear to be related to probable prehistoric funerary activity along with later agricultural land divisions. The whole area was clearly of long standing importance and alongside the cropmarks are many records of worked flint. A Bronze Age barrow has been excavated at Rush Green. Later prehistoric finds of Iron Age pottery, an Iron Age burial and coin hoards are also known.

Roman settlement has been identified close to the Golf course and there are a number of chance finds of Roman material.

Evidence for early Saxon settlement has been excavated at Rush Green including a large assemblage of 6th/7th century pottery unusual for the district. A church/hall complex at Great Clacton formed the focus of medieval settlement within the area surrounded by a number of dispersed farms. This has been consumed by modern Clacton and the potential for medieval archaeology is correspondingly low, although isolated elements such as the 1520's Cann Hall survive.

A Napoleonic period Martello tower remains on the coastline and, relating to later invasion scares, around 10 of a known total of 125 WWII defensive sites, mainly pillboxes, survive.



Fig. 21 Restored Martello Tower, Clacton

### 3.1.8 HECA 8 Colne Estuary

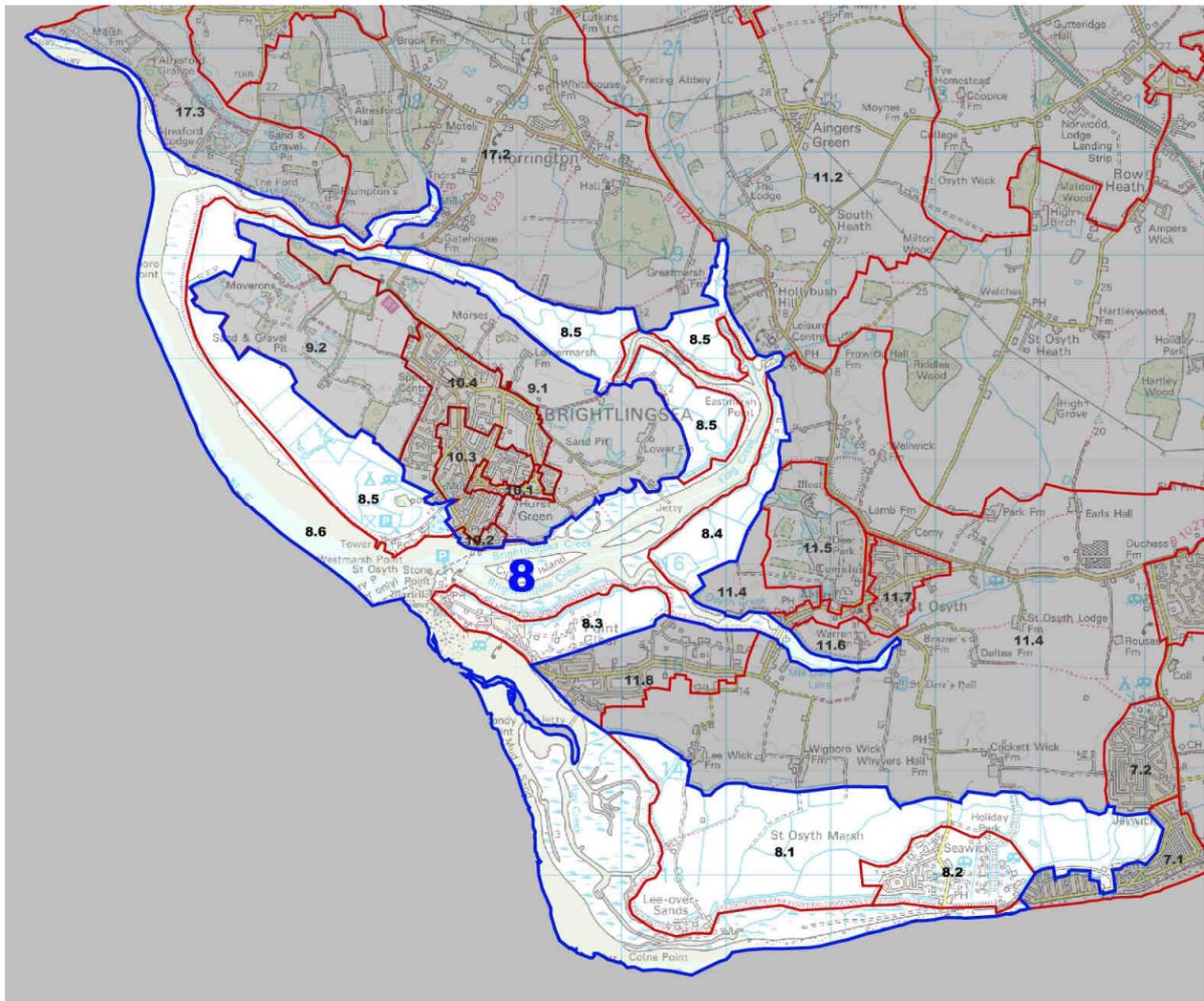


Fig. 22 HECA 8 Colne Estuary

**Summary:** This area comprises historic reclaimed coastal grazing marsh and unreclaimed salt marsh and the intertidal zone along the north shore of the Colne Estuary, around Colne Point, Arlesford Creek and Brightlingsea. Archaeologically the area is characterised by Late Iron Age or Roman red hills, medieval and post medieval structures relating to the exploitation of the marshland and other coastal resources, and post medieval and WWII defences. The area is internationally important for wildlife.

*Historic Landscape Character:* This area comprises the Colne estuary and associated creeks with their intertidal mudflats, fringe of saltmarsh and flat areas of present and former grazing marsh along the north shore. The geology is largely estuarine alluvium deposits. St Osyth Marsh comprises an extensive area of current and former coastal marshland, located at the mouth of the Colne estuary. The area was exploited by farms

located on the marshlands northern edge (HECA 11). Similarly, former marshland areas on Brightlingsea would have been exploited by farms on the adjacent upland (HECA 9) and the estuary north of Brightlingsea, including Arlesford Creek would have been exploited for resources and transportation by settlement and later industrial activity in HECA 12.

Field boundaries are mainly dykes and drainage ditches, many following the sinuous course of former creeks, together with modern post and wire fences. There has been little or no boundary loss in the area, post 1950. The sea walls are a dominant landscape feature protecting former marshland from flooding. Other historic landscape features include: former oyster beds at Colne Point and within Brightlingsea Creek, notably on Cindery Island; industrial and transport structures such as the former swing bridge in Arlesford Creek; timber jetties, a duck decoy and hulks. Modern development includes caravan and mobile home parks and a short ribbon of buildings at Lee-over-Sands and a leisure area to the west of Brightlingsea harbour which includes a boating lake, open-air swimming pool and beach huts.

*Archaeological Character:* The area to the immediate east of this HECA is noted for its geoarchaeological / Palaeolithic deposits relating to river terrace gravels deposited by ancient courses of the Rivers Thames and Medway which continue beneath HECA 8. These deposits are believed to extend into the area to the south of Jaywick, where they are likely to be deeply buried by alluvium.

A Neolithic polished axe retrieved from the foreshore suggests the possibility that areas of well preserved land surface, as found elsewhere along the coast, may be present in places. At least two salterns of probable Iron Age/Roman date exist along with records of Roman ceramics, and there are likely to be more. Finds of timber work and associated pottery in the intertidal zone at Arlesford Creek indicate the location of medieval activity. Areas of un-reclaimed saltmarsh survived into the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Post medieval oyster pits, industrial features, a scheduled duck decoy at Lion Point, hulks and relict sea defences reflect the strong coastal/marine nature of the archaeological remains in this area. Military defences include a Martello tower west of Seawick and concentration of WWII defensive structures such as pillboxes, anti tank obstacles, an anti aircraft site and a bomb decoy site. Cropmarks indicating the position

of extensive WWII anti-airborne landing ditches exist in the former grazing marshes at Brightlingsea.

The potential for palaeoenvironmental remains and deposits in this area is high and there are significant possibilities of archaeological remains directly related to these deposits including timber structures.

This HECA has a close and important relationship with HECA 9 and 10, 11 and 12 which share an economic inter-relationship of exploitation of the estuary.

### 3.1.9 HECA 9 Brightlingsea Peninsula

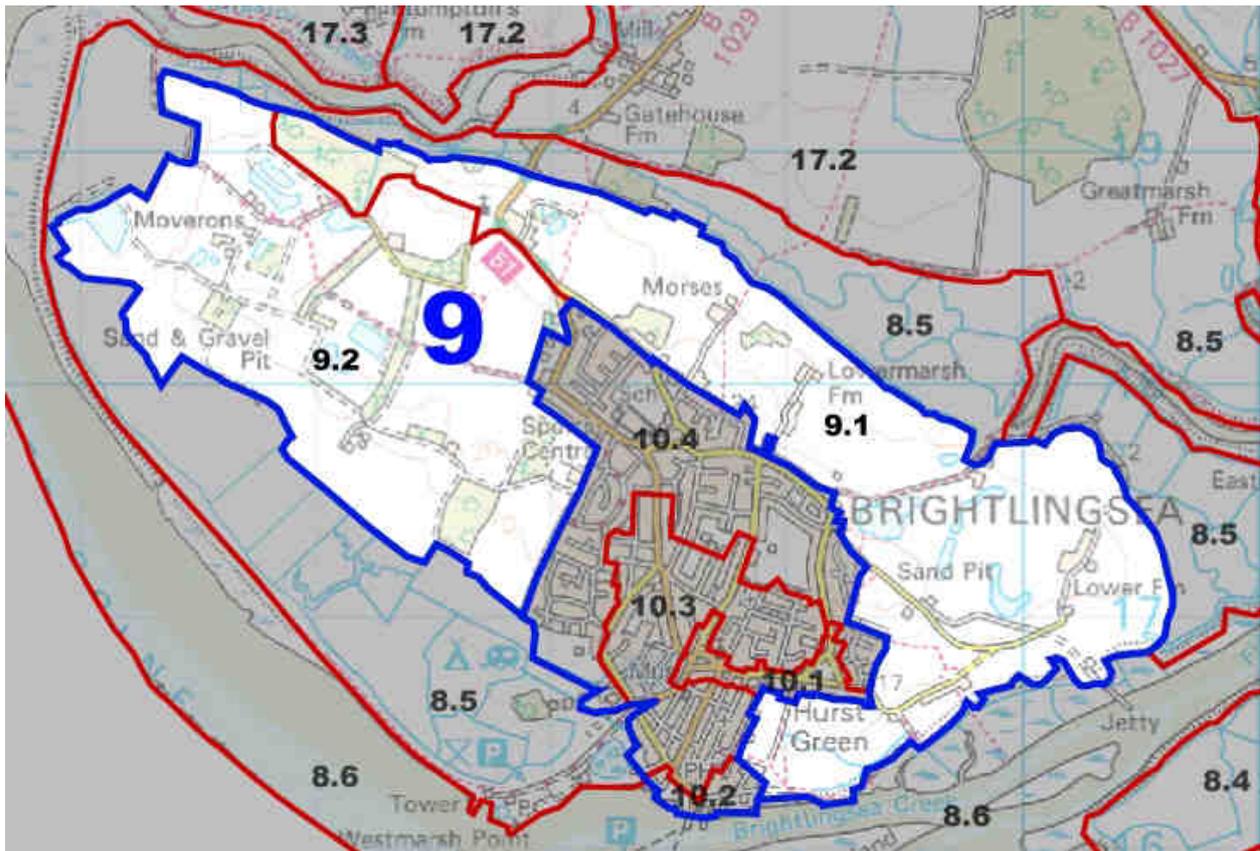


Fig. 23 HECA 9 Brightlingsea Peninsula

**Summary:** This area comprises the dryland peninsula of Brightlingsea, excluding the present extent of the town of Brightlingsea (HECA 10). The fieldscape consists of pre-18<sup>th</sup> century enclosure and the historic settlement comprises a string of farms located on the marshland edge. The archaeological character of the dryland is dominated by cropmarks of prehistoric or later date including Bronze Age ring ditch cemeteries. Within the former marshes, archaeological preservation is likely to be good.

*Historic Landscape Character:* This area comprises the dryland peninsula of Brightlingsea. The geology is mainly Kesgrave sands and gravels, with the underlying London Clay forming a fringe around the edges. The fieldscape is largely irregular and of ancient origin. The levels of post 1950s boundary loss in the area are low. The settlement pattern was highly dispersed with All Saints on a prominent site adjacent to Brightlingsea Hall forming a church hall complex at the northern end of the peninsula and a number of farms along the roads, the north, west and eastern edges of the island, adjacent to the former marshland (HECA 8). The Chapman and Andre map of 1777

shows a number of small nucleations and ribbon development along the roads in the area of the modern town (HECA10).

*Archaeological Character:* The character of the area is dominated by a series of impressive cropmark complexes a number of which have now been lost to mineral extraction. To the west of Brightlingsea at Moverons Pit, a number of cropmarks have been shown to relate to deposits of Late Neolithic, later Bronze Age, Middle and Late Iron Age and early Roman date. Excavation prior to working the site concentrated on a large Early Neolithic ring-ditch and a middle Bronze Age cemetery which contained a tight cluster of 22 ring ditches with a number of cremations placed in the spaces between them. Further cropmarks, a number of which survive may relate to contemporary or later settlement and another smaller cropmark cemetery exists immediately west of Brightlingsea. The site of a Roman Villa is located at the north west end of the area.

### 3.1.10 HECA 10 Brightlingsea Town

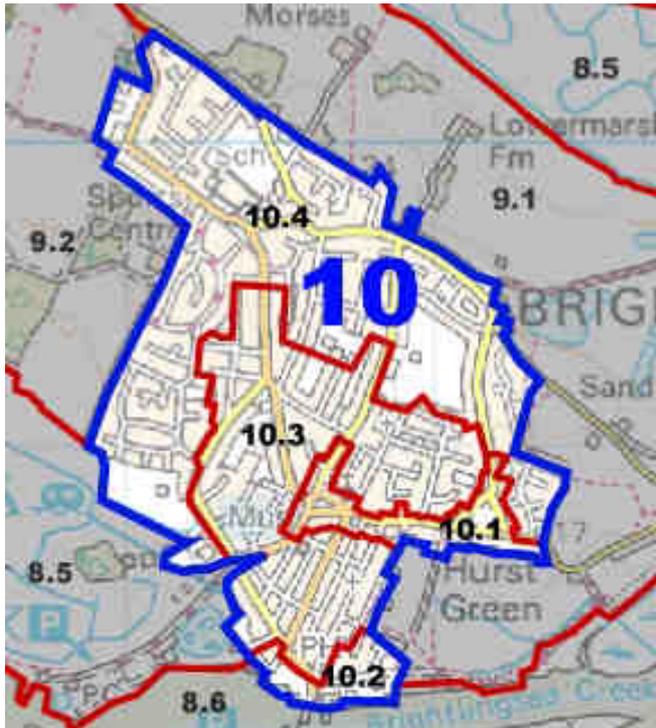


Fig. 24 HECA 10 Brightlingsea Town

**Summary:** This area comprises the historic port of Brightlingsea which includes a medieval and early post medieval core, residential area and maritime industrial focus adjacent to the quayside. Archaeological character is likely to be dominated by remains relating to medieval settlement and later waterfront activity.

*Historic Urban Character:* This comprises the medieval and earlier post medieval core of Brightlingsea, which developed along the length of the High Street, Queen Street and around Lower (Victoria Place) and Hurst Greens. It sits alongside a secondary fishing and boatbuilding industrial focus which developed to the south and along the quayside. The historic port was established as a limb of the Cinque Port of Sandwich, Kent. The quayside includes a core of listed buildings associated with maritime industry and an active modern industrial complex, plus modern development. The historic core still retains a market place fossilised in the street pattern at the western end of the High Street. A feature of the historic core is the number of surviving, medieval, early post medieval and Georgian buildings and the location of the parish church of All Saints outside the town limits and on a prominent site adjacent to Brightlingsea Hall (HECA 9). Listed buildings of note include the C15 Jacobes Hall and the C16 Swan Hotel. Most of the area is in either residential or business/retail use. Between the High Street and the

quayside is a later C19 residential development of terrace housing within a regimented co-axial street plan, which expanded during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, fronting street plans that surround the historic core. Ribbon development extended out along the main road arteries of Church Road, Chapel Road and Regent Road into the early C20. There has been small scale post-war residential infill. Along the northern and western extent of the post medieval town there is post war and later C20 residential expansion including a series of housing estates. C20 residential development is defined by the extent of Red Barn Lane and to the west is built over the Manor House and part of its former parkland. Some ribbon development and two listed buildings are built along Red Barn Road. There is a modern 'edge of town' satellite Industrial estate along Morses Lane and an area of C20 recreational/holiday camps sited adjacent to Promenade Way and overlooking the Brightlingsea Creek.



Fig. 25 Waterfront, Brightlingsea

*Archaeological Character:* The area comprises the urban area of Brightlingsea which has seen a large expansion since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century with particular growth during the later 20<sup>th</sup> century. This is likely to have had significant impact on the archaeological

potential of the area. Romano-British pottery is known from Hurst Green which is indicative of settlement, the nature of which cannot however be accurately assessed. The areas of medieval and post-medieval settlement subsequently engulfed by the town may also preserve archaeological deposits (see above and HECA 9)

Medieval settlement appears likely to have been concentrated around Hurst Green and as a 'corporate limb' of the Cinque ports, Brightlingsea had some significance as a port at the mouth of the Colne during the medieval and post medieval period. Little structured archaeological work has been undertaken within the town but deposits may survive especially in the historic core around Hurst Green and the waterfront.



**Summary:** This area includes part of the open, rural plateau, much of it former heathland in the south west of Tendring and the historic town of St. Osyth with associated Priory and Parkland. Elsewhere settlement is generally dispersed but with several foci around greens and former isolated heaths to the north of the town. The fieldscape is of ancient origin and there are several areas of ancient woodland in the north. Archaeologically, the character of the area is dominated by multi-period cropmark complexes.

### *Historic Urban Character*

The area includes the historic town of St. Osyth which has a medieval core and incorporates the C12 priory built for the order of St Augustine by the Bishops of London. The core comprises four key centres, including the C12 priory, the medieval and early post medieval ribbon development concentrated around the crossroads to the east of the priory, a smaller focus along Mill Street toward the St. Osyth's quay and a later expansion north along the Colchester Road. A major feature of the historic core is the Augustinian Priory precinct and the survival of significant elements of a medieval market town with a market place and fair green still recognisable. Co-axial ribbon development has spread out from the centre during the later post medieval period. Most of the urban area is in residential use but there is small scale industry focused toward the quayside. On the east side of the town is an area of post war urban development built either side of the Clacton Road, which incorporates an earlier C20 development of terraces along St Clair and D'Arcy Roads and includes a large area of housing of mixed terraced, semi and detached housing and modern school facilities.

*Historic Landscape Character:* The geology of this area comprises the London Clay slope around St Osyth with areas of Kesgrave Sands and Gravels and Brickearth to the north. The fieldscape is of ancient origin comprising irregular enclosure, with an area of rectilinear regular fields in the southern portion of the area, and also some later enclosure in the north on the Tendring Plateau. There has been moderate post-1950 boundary loss throughout the area. The historic settlement pattern is polyfocal and generally dispersed in character although the medieval town of St Osyth is a significant foci, and to the north of St Osyth, settlement is clustered around greens and former heaths, most obviously Gt. Bentley but also including Balls Green, Frating Green, Hare

Green, Havens Green, Aingers Green, St Osyth Heath, Row Heath and South Heath. Otherwise settlement comprises isolated halls, farms and cottages. The string of 'wick' farms on the dryland boundary with the former marshland area of Colne Point to the south (HECA 8) is a noticeable feature of the historic settlement pattern. Modern settlement includes infilling of the greens by inter-war small holdings or more recent housing, ribbon development along the roads e.g. at Thorrington Cross and plotland style development and caravans at Point Clear. The Priory grounds at St Osyth are former medieval deer park re-landscaped in the post-medieval period. There are surviving fragments of Ancient Woodland to the south of Little Bentley.

*Archaeological Character:* Dominated by multi-period cropmark complexes from Great Bentley and Frating in the north, to those at St. Osyth in the south, the area retains great archaeological potential despite significant localised mineral extraction. Excavation at Lodge Farm, St. Osyth has demonstrated the long occupation and activity within the area from the Neolithic to the medieval period and beyond. The main discoveries at Lodge Farm included an Early Neolithic causewayed enclosure, an Early Bronze Age pond barrow, a Middle Bronze Age barrow group, a Middle Iron Age settlement, Late Iron Age and Roman ditches, Early Saxon pits and a 13<sup>th</sup> century croft.

The most significant settlement is at St. Osyth which although in its present form dates largely from the establishment of the Priory in the early 12<sup>th</sup> century, is known to have earlier origins and contain well preserved deposits both within the town and at the waterfront. The Priory will contain nationally important archaeological deposits.

The other significant medieval settlement was probably around the church and the green at Great Bentley. Archaeological deposits are likely to survive here, reflecting the arrangement of the settlement around the (reputedly) largest village green in England. Further medieval remains are likely to survive in relation to settlement clustered around greens and former heaths, and dispersed halls, farms and cottages. Two excavated medieval sites are known from Great Bentley and Little Bentley and there is a surviving post medieval tidal mill at Thorrington.

### 3.1.12 HECA 12 Ardleigh

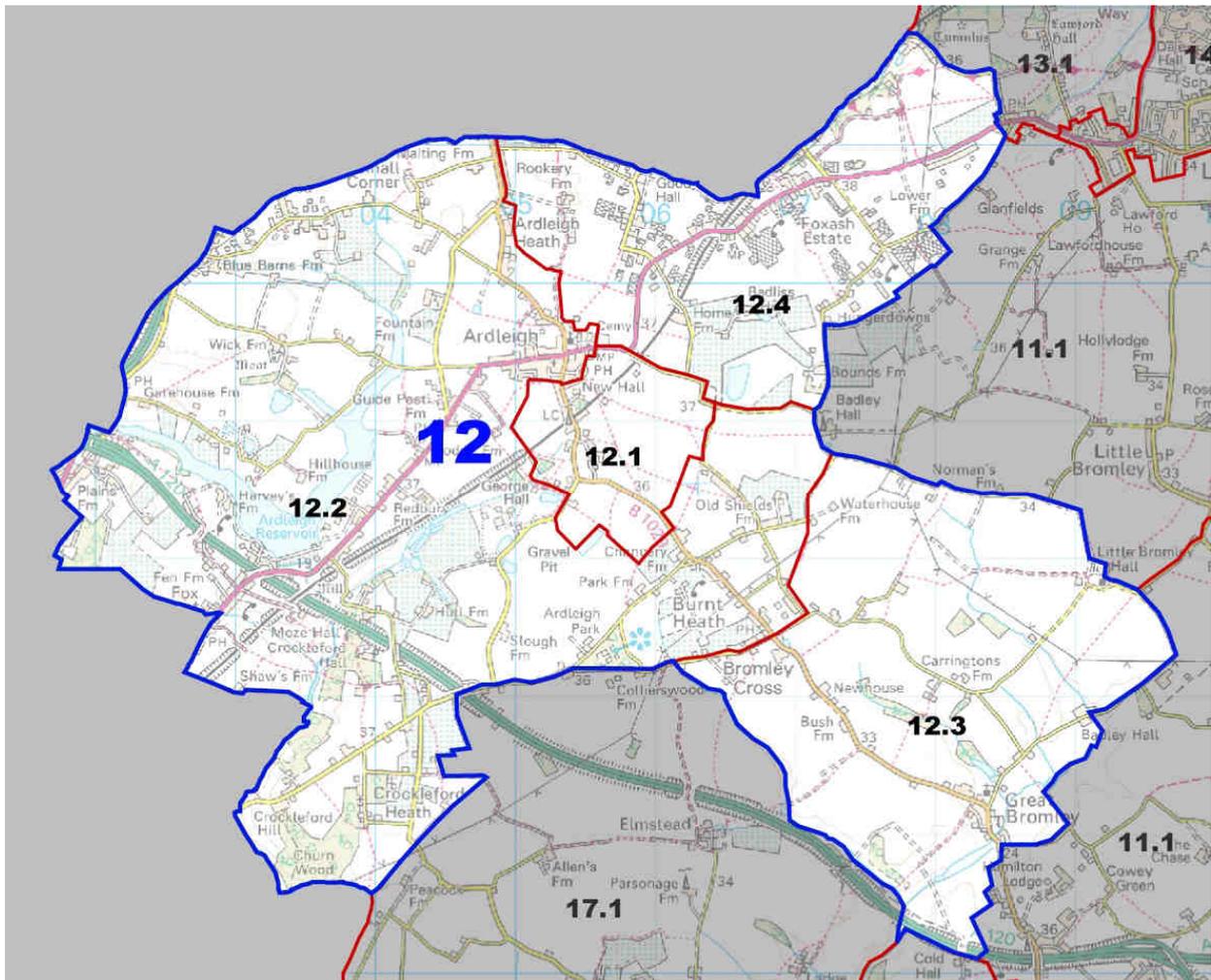


Fig.27 HECA 12 Ardleigh

**Summary:** This area comprises the north western edge of the Tendring Plateau, characterised by former heathland and a fieldscape of irregular enclosure, of ancient origin, with two fragments of ancient woodland surviving at its southern end. Settlement is generally dispersed with heaths acting as focal points. The character of the archaeological resource is dominated by extensive cropmark complexes, including the scheduled complex at Ardleigh comprising Bronze Age cemetery and Iron Age and Roman activity which is also testified elsewhere.

*Historic Landscape Character:* This area is located on the north western edge of the Tendring Plateau, and comprises a high, flat area dissected by the valleys of the Salary, Sixpenny and Tenpenny Brooks and bordered by the Colne estuary to the south. The geology consists of brickearth on the ridges between the valleys, sands and gravels on

the valley sides and London Clay in the valley floor. The area is characterised by large areas of former heathland; these included Ardleigh Heath and Burnt Heath forming part of a rough semi-circle round the eastern flank of Colchester. These were enclosed by agreement in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Elsewhere the fieldscape is largely of ancient origin and irregular but there has been moderate loss of field boundaries since the 1950s. Two small areas of ancient woodland survive at the southern end of the area. There were orchards in the north east of the area established in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and an extensive area of glass houses / nurseries exists today, the greatest concentration being the area around Foxash. Ardleigh Park is medieval in origin. Historic settlement foci include the nucleated village of Ardleigh, but more typically heaths formed the focal points for settlements as at Ardleigh/Burnt Heath. There are also church hall complexes and a scatter of halls, farms and cottages. The Foxash estate was developed for horticultural purposes in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, originating as a Land Settlement Association smallholding scheme. Modern housing is largely restricted to ribbon development along the roads. Ardleigh Reservoir forms a major modern landscape feature in the north west of the area and there has been significant mineral extraction south of Ardleigh. The area is bisected by the Colchester to Ipswich railway lines and modern A120.

*Archaeological Character:* The archaeology of this area is dominated by cropmarks including the Scheduled cropmark complex south of Ardleigh. This nationally important Bronze Age cemetery has also significant remains of Iron Age and Roman material known from excavations carried out between 1950 and 1980. The remains include an extensive complex of Iron Age and Roman trackways and ditched enclosures, an enclosed Middle Iron Age roundhouse, 'Belgic' burials, a ritual pit and various Roman features including pottery kilns. Deposits of Iron Age and Roman date have also been identified within the wider landscape with excavation at Wick Farm west of Ardleigh. Other significant cropmark complexes are found at Great Bromley and further sites occur throughout the area. Both Ardleigh Reservoir and major mineral extraction works south of Ardleigh have resulted in extensive loss and truncation of the archaeological resource, but in most of the area survival has been shown to be good with high potential for deposits of both prehistoric and historic periods.

The main settlement lies at Ardleigh which retains significant potential for archaeological survival. Elsewhere, the historic settlement pattern was generally dispersed and associated archaeological deposits are likely to be widespread.

### 3.1.13 HECA 13 Little Bentley area

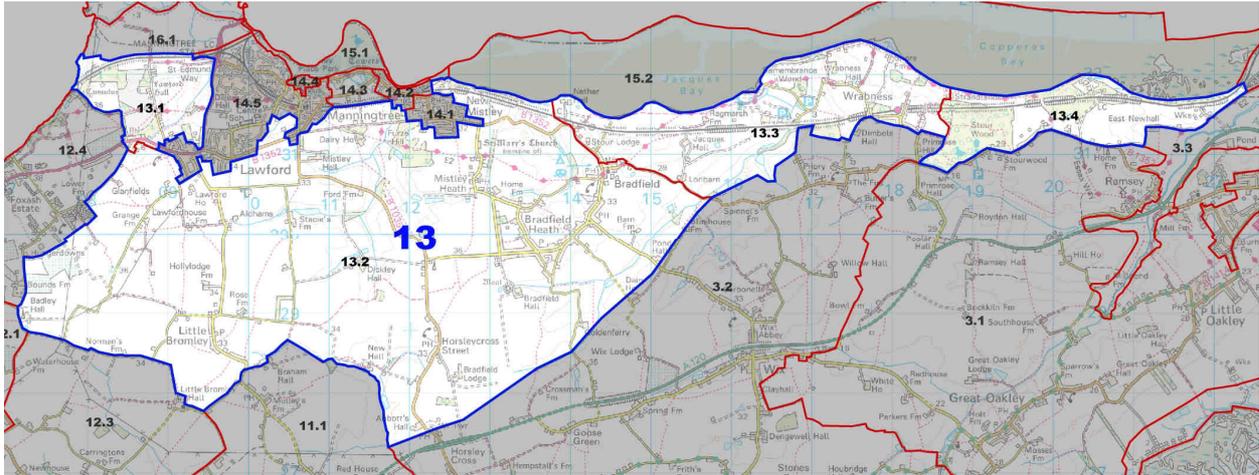


Fig.28 HECA 13 Little Bentley area

**Summary:** This area comprises part of the northern side of the Tendring Plateau and adjacent southern slopes of the Stour Valley. The historic landscape is characterised by a fieldscape irregular in pattern and of ancient origin but with elements of later enclosure. There is some former parkland and significant Ancient Woodland situated overlooking the Stour estuary. Settlement is generally dispersed. Archaeological character is dominated by multi-period cropmark complexes.

*Historic Landscape Character:* This area comprises the northwest corner of the Tendring Plateau and the slopes of the Stour Valley. The geology consists of brickearth with sands and gravels and London Clay on the valley sides and river terrace gravels and alluvium in the valley floor. The area has some long, linear roadside heaths and small triangular heaths at road junctions together with a larger area of former heath at Bradfield Heath. There is an important cluster of ancient woodlands along the edge of the Stour estuary in the north east corner of the area. Areas of former and surviving parkland can be found along the northern edge of the area e.g. Mistley Park, Furze Hill and Lawford Hall Park overlooking the Stour. The fieldscape comprises a mixture of later enclosure by agreement and irregular fields of ancient origin. Post 1950s boundary loss has been moderate. Settlement is polyfocal and includes settlement around former heathland such as Bradfield Heath. Elsewhere it is generally dispersed and comprises scattered halls, farms and cottages and the occasional hamlet. The Manningtree to Harwich railway runs along the northern edge of the area.

*Archaeological Character:* In common with much of the rest of the Tendring peninsula, multi-period cropmark sites are the dominant and most striking archaeological features of the area. An extensive site northwest of Little Bromley is bisected by a Roman road leading towards Colchester. Northwest of Horsleycross Street and at Bradfield Hall are further examples. Although under arable cultivation these sites are likely to survive in relatively good condition.

East of Bradfield Heath the area extends along the valley side of the south bank of the Stour Estuary. Cropmarks, although present are much reduced in this coastal strip. The area contains a large number of medieval halls and dispersed farms with more significant medieval settlement at Wrabness and Bradfield which are likely to retain an archaeological potential. There are many Listed Buildings, such as the 12<sup>th</sup> century church and 17<sup>th</sup> century bell-house at Wrabness.

WWII defensive structures, mostly pillboxes, survive in the area particularly along the line of the Stour.

### 3.1.14 HECA 14 Manningtree and Mistley

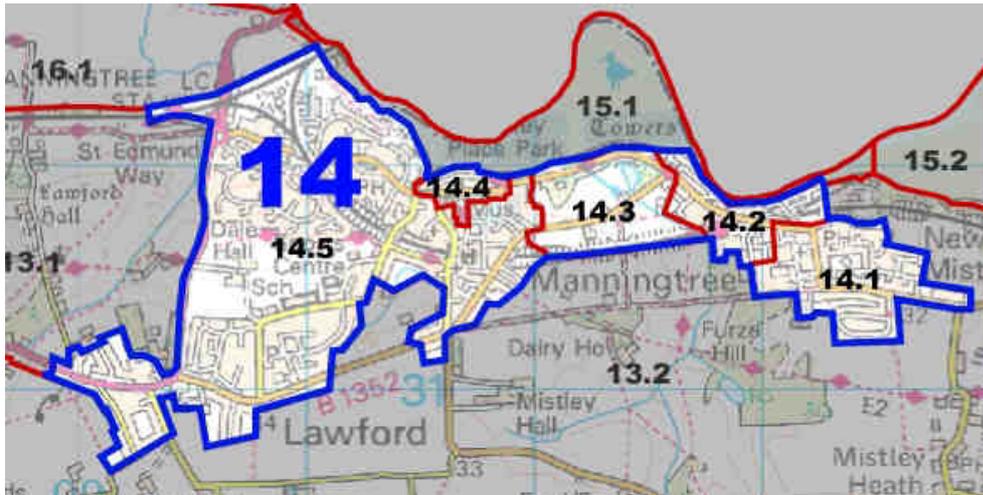


Fig.29 HECA 14 Manningtree and Mistley

**Summary:** This area includes the historic ports of Manningtree and Mistley Thorn, abortive 18<sup>th</sup> century spa and 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century industrial settlement at Mistley. Manningtree retains its medieval and post medieval street plan and a good range of surviving buildings from these periods; survival of associated archaeological deposits is likely to be good. Mistley includes a historic core of predominantly Georgian character and significant industrial buildings.

*Historic Urban Character:* This area includes structures related to the abortive 18<sup>th</sup> spa and 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century industrial settlement at Mistley, medieval and post medieval historic town of Manningtree and adjacent settlement of Lawford. The geology consists of boulder clay with sands and gravels and London Clay on the valley sides and river terrace gravels and alluvium in the valley floor. The historic core of Manningtree is laid to a compact street plan dating from the medieval and early post medieval periods centered on the High Street and the quay. The street plan and quayside lie parallel with the river course. A major feature of the historic core is the number of surviving, medieval early post medieval and Georgian buildings. Most of the historic core is in either business/retail or residential use. On the southern side of the historic core there is initial C18 urban expansion which continued as ribbon development along South Street and infilling of the market place. Urban development during the C19 continued to the south along South and Brook Streets and infilled the area between the core and the railway line established by the Eastern Union Railway by 1854. Stimulated by the arrival of the railway and the presence of a navigable quay, satellite industrial complexes developed around the edge of the C19 settlement. There is Post War urban infill along

the east and western flanks of the C19 settlement and late C20 residential redevelopment of the C19 industrial site of the Walls Maltings to the east of the core. Between Station Road and the Harwich main railway line there is an area of post war urban infill development and interwar development of terraced housing along Lushington Road. To the North of Station Road and west of the historic core and quayside is a series of 20<sup>th</sup> century industrial and retail trading estates built on reclaimed / low lying land, together with a sewerage works.

To the south of the established 19th century urban area and along Trinity and Long Roads, there is 20<sup>th</sup> century ribbon development, mainly comprising single detached dwellings.

East of Manningtree is the historic port of Mistley Thorn and historic core of the model spa town established by Richard Rigby during the 18<sup>th</sup> century together with later C19 and early C20 planned industrial settlement of new Mistley which developed to the south of the railway and to the east and outside of Mistley Thorn. The historic core still retains terraces of C18 houses along the High Street, hotels and industrial workers cottages and C18 and C19/20 industrial buildings along the quayside. Structures of particular note are the Mistley Towers and Swan Fountain designed by Robert Adam and the former spa hotel, Fountain House, all built as part of the abortive attempt to develop a spa. A major feature of the historic core is the number of surviving Georgian buildings. Most of the area is in either business/retail or residential use.

New Mistley predominantly comprises blocks of C19 and early C20 terraced workers cottages situated along the northern and eastern side of the planned town, some earlier housing fronting Harwich Road and some commercial development along School Lane. There is also some post war and later 20 century housing. To the east of New Mistley is a large, later C20 residential estate, including the River View Estate built in 1976. There is also some early C20 and later ribbon development along Harwich Road. The quayside area includes 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century industrial buildings associated with the port and malt industry. This remains an active port facility with docking at Mistley Quay and Baltic Wharf. A major feature of the area is the unity and survival of C19/C20 industrial maltings and associated buildings and the preservation of this significant industrial

landscape. However, some later C20 residential redevelopment of redundant industrial buildings has occurred.



Fig. 30 Mistley Maltings

To the west of Manningtree is the historic settlement of Lawford, comprising small later post medieval roadside development concentrated along Wignall Street and around the crossroads of Hungerdown Lane and Dedham Roads. The two settlements are joined by 20<sup>th</sup> century ribbon development of terrace housing extending along Wignall Street. To the north is a large, late 20<sup>th</sup> century single phase housing development.

*Archaeological Character:* The town of Manningtree, situated at the head of the Stour Estuary was planned and planted as a local port probably during the early 13<sup>th</sup> century. Developed around its quayside facilities the town was first mentioned in 1248 and was clearly fairly successful. Only limited archaeological work has taken place within the core of the medieval town but that which has occurred has identified well preserved deposits of the late 15<sup>th</sup>/early 16<sup>th</sup> century. There is clearly good potential for further surviving medieval deposits including possible waterfront and quayside features.

The area around modern Mistley was largely occupied by Mistley Hall and its associated parkland up until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Roman road noted as passing through HECA 13 can be projected to terminate on the Stour estuary at Mistley and may suggest the presence of a small port and trading centre on the river during the Roman period. Mistley itself is of great industrial archaeological significance with the growth of

the malting industry during the 19<sup>th</sup> century leaving a legacy of important industrial buildings. Separate quays were developed at Mistley in order to service this trade. In addition to its clear medieval, post-medieval and industrial potential, a number of finds of prehistoric and Roman material including cremations have been made indicating further potential in those areas that remain undeveloped.

### 3.1.15 HECA 15 Stour Estuary Intertidal

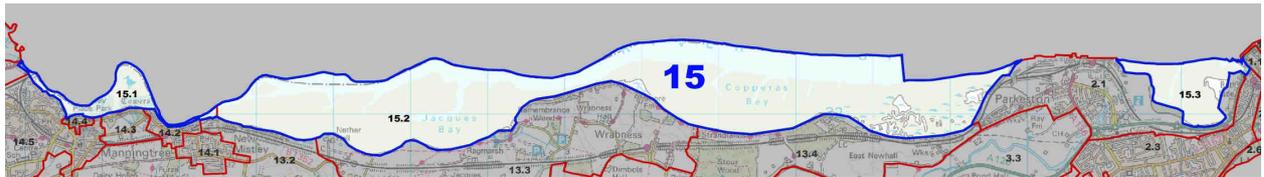


Fig. 31 HECA 15 Stour Estuary Intertidal

**Summary:** This area comprises the Stour Estuary intertidal zone and thin strip of adjacent marshland. There is only seasonal settlement in the area at Wrabness Point. Archaeological character is in some ways typical of the Essex coast, with indications of deeply buried and well preserved buried prehistoric land surfaces, medieval timber structures and hulks. This area has been proposed for an extension of the Suffolk Coasts and Heaths AONB.

*Historic Landscape Character:* This is a flat area which comprises long, narrow strips of tidal salt marsh, intertidal mud flats between the high and low water mark, and the southern side of the channel of the Stour Estuary. The geology comprises alluvial deposits overlaying London Clay. The area includes Copperas Bay, Jaques Bay, and Bathside Bay. The only built development are the distinctive holiday huts at Wrabness Point, raised above the water level on stilts, and the road and railway bridges which cross the Stour at Cattawade.

*Archaeological Character:* Noted within the intertidal area of the Stour Estuary are a range of finds from Mammoth bone and worked flint to hulks. A number of finds of flint including some of Mesolithic date indicate early prehistoric activity. There is a possibility of prehistoric land surfaces, but where they occur they are likely to be deeply buried. Later timber structures are known to be present; a major Saxon fishtrap has been identified on the Suffolk side of the estuary. Structures relating to quays and landing facilities may survive in the Mistley and Manningtree areas with smaller jetties and pontoons along the estuary. Hulks are known at Baltic Wharf Mistley and other wrecks are probable, particularly close to Mistley and Manningtree. Place name evidence as at *Copperas Bay* is indicative of previous industrial activity, physical elements of which may remain.

### 3.1.16 HECA 16 River Stour Valley Floor

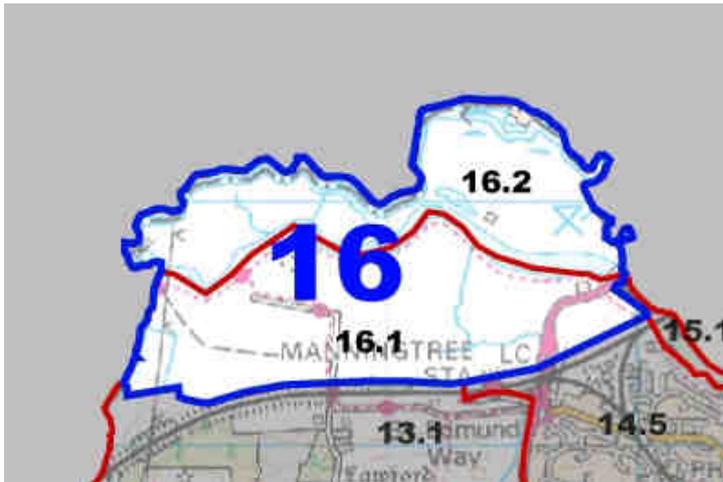


Fig. 32 HECA 16 River Stour Valley Floor

**Summary:** This area encompasses a flat landscape of former and current estuarine grazing marshes and valley floor pasture at the head of the Stour Estuary. There is no significant settlement in the area. Archaeological character is dominated by a nationally important multi-period cropmark complex at Lawford. Most of the area falls within the Dedham Vale AONB.

*Historic Landscape Character:* This area comprises a relatively homogenous flat landscape of current and former estuarine grazing marshes and valley bottom pastures. The geology comprises alluvial deposits overlaying, river gravels and London Clay. The River Stour forms the northern boundary of the area, with the Harwich to Manningtree railway line demarcating the southern edge. Both the River Stour and the relict arm of the tidal estuary flow through the landscape but are of very different character. The reed lined River Stour meanders naturally but also shows signs of engineering, as at the locks of Brantham Mill, whilst the southern channel has muddy shores reflecting its former tidal regime, after being cut off by the construction of the Cattawade Barrage during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. The coastal grazing marshes are collectively known as Cattawade Marshes and are managed as a nature reserve by RSPB. At their western and eastern limits, these are characterised by relict salt marsh preserved in rough pasture. Field boundaries follow the sinuous former creeks, although there are also some straighter field ditches. Within the centre of the marshes, agricultural improvement has had a greater impact with sub rectangular fields of improved pasture bordered by straight field ditches. The former sea walls alongside the remnant arm of the tidal

estuary are a distinctive historic landscape feature. South of the relict tidal arm, the fieldscape is one of drained reclamation with straight ditches and some with hedges. Settlement in the area is limited to a few individual houses; there is a single late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century agricultural building in the centre of Cattawade Marshes reached by a raised trackway constructed of demolition debris. Towards the eastern end of the marsh, the trackway runs over an even more substantial raft of building material dumped during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.



Fig.33 Historic Grazing Marsh in the valley of the River Stour, Lawford

*Archaeological Character:* In keeping with much of the River Stour valley floor, the archaeological character of this area is dominated by a multi-period cropmark complex at Lawford which is designated as a Scheduled Monument. The cropmarks comprise a ring ditch cemetery enclosed within a rectangular field. This enclosure is one of a number linked to a series of trackways leading from the river floodplain to the valley side and the Tendring plateau above, highlighting the former relationship between this area and HECA 13. Finds of prehistoric flints have been made on the south shore of the

former tidal arm. The area includes relict channels of the River Stour visible as cropmarks, and will retain well preserved palaeoenvironmental deposits.

### 3.1.17 HECA 17 Elmstead Market, Arlesford and Thorrington

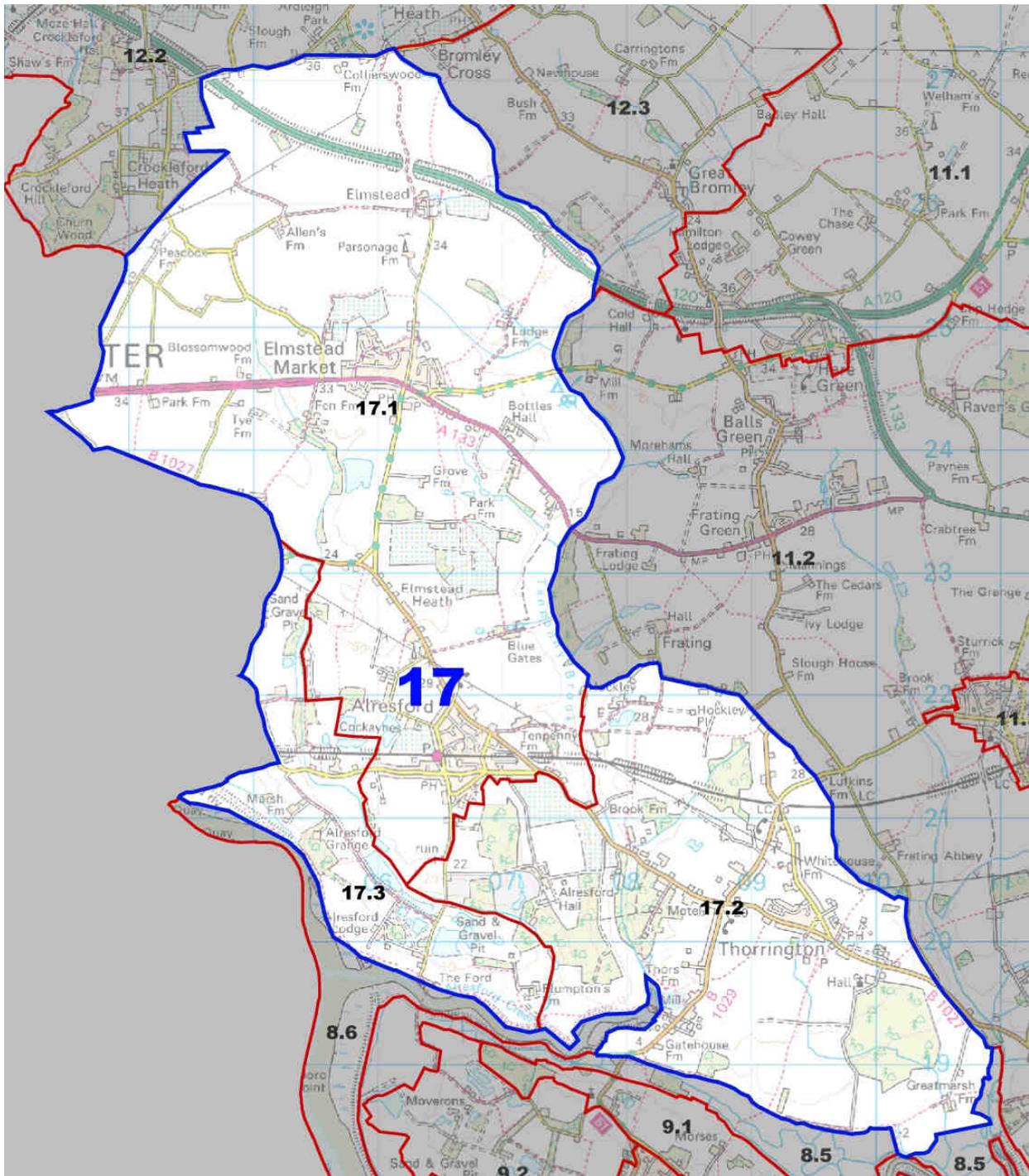


Fig. 34 HECA 17 Elmstead Market, Arlesford and Thorrington

**Summary:** This area comprises the south western edge of the Tendring Plateau, characterised by former heathland and a fieldscape of irregular enclosure, of ancient origin, with small areas of ancient woodland survival along its east side. Settlement is

generally dispersed with heaths acting as focal points. The character of the archaeological resource is dominated by prehistoric and later cropmark sites.

*Historic Landscape Character:*

This area is located on the south western edge of the Tendring Plateau, and comprises a high, flat area dissected by the valleys of the Sixpenny and Tenpenny Brooks and bordered by the Colne estuary to the south. The geology consists of brickearth on the ridges between the valleys, sands and gravels on the valley sides and London Clay in the valley floor. The area is characterised by large areas of former heathland; these included Elmstead Heath, Crockleford Heath, Whitmore Heath, Burnt Heath, Wivenhoe Heath and Thorrington Heath, which together with Arleigh Heath in HECA 12, formed a rough semi-circle round the eastern flank of Colchester. These were enclosed by agreement in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Elsewhere the fieldscape is largely of ancient origin and irregular but there has been moderate loss of field boundaries since the 1950s. Small areas of ancient woodland survive with a concentration in the south around Thorrington. Historic settlement foci include the nucleated village of Elmstead Market to the north, but more typically heaths formed the focal points for settlements at Crockleford, Elmstead Heath, and Alresford Heath. There are also church hall complexes and a scatter of halls, farms and cottages. Modern housing is largely restricted to ribbon development along the roads. The area is bisected by the Colchester to Clacton railway lines and modern A120.

*Archaeological Character:* The archaeology of this area is dominated by cropmarks with particular concentrations to the south of Elmstead Market and further sites throughout the area. Only limited archaeological work has been done within the area but deposits of prehistoric date have been identified at Elmstead Market and a Roman villa is known from the south of Arlesford adjacent to the creek, which is one of a string of villas along the north shore of the Colne and its estuary. Evidence of medieval activity has been excavated around Alresford. Major mineral extraction works south of Arlesford have resulted in extensive loss and truncation of the archaeological resource, but in most of the area survival has been shown to be good with high potential for deposits of both prehistoric and historic periods. Mineral extraction has left a legacy of 20<sup>th</sup> century industrial structures such as the aerial runway leading to Arlesford Creek.

The main settlements lie at Arlesford and Elmstead Market. The latter is centred on the previous small settlement situated at a significant road junction. Elsewhere, the historic settlement pattern was generally dispersed, including a church/hall complex at Elmstead, and associated archaeological deposits are likely to be widespread.

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

### **4.1 General Background**

This section of the report is designed to look at the Historic Environment in more detail than that appropriate for the larger HECAs. This is achieved by dividing the Historic Environment Character Areas into smaller Historic Environment Character Zones of a size more suitable for strategic planning within Tendring District.

### **4.2 Methodology**

Through a combination of analysing the main datasets such as historic mapping, ancient woodland, 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 have been prepared.

The descriptions draw on a range of sources and attempt to reflect, simply, clearly and briefly the reasoning behind the definition of each zone and, where possible, relate that zone to its wider historic context. The descriptions seek to highlight the key characteristics in an area and identify any particularly 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 descriptions 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 the archaeological character, and either a summary of the historic landscape character or historic urban character as appropriate. A number of particular issues are highlighted relating to the conservation management and understanding of the historic environment in the zones.

### **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. This method of scoring is

intended as a simple means of engaging with issues of sensitivity, value and importance. It is not designed to be definitive and is likely to be subject to change as new information becomes available and understanding develops.

Seven criteria have been used:

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

Each of the 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 does 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 zone.

2 = Historic environment does, or could help define a sense of place of the zone. 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. The zone contains assets which, are or could be, promoted for the benefit of local people or visitors.

## 5 Historic Environment Character Zone Descriptions

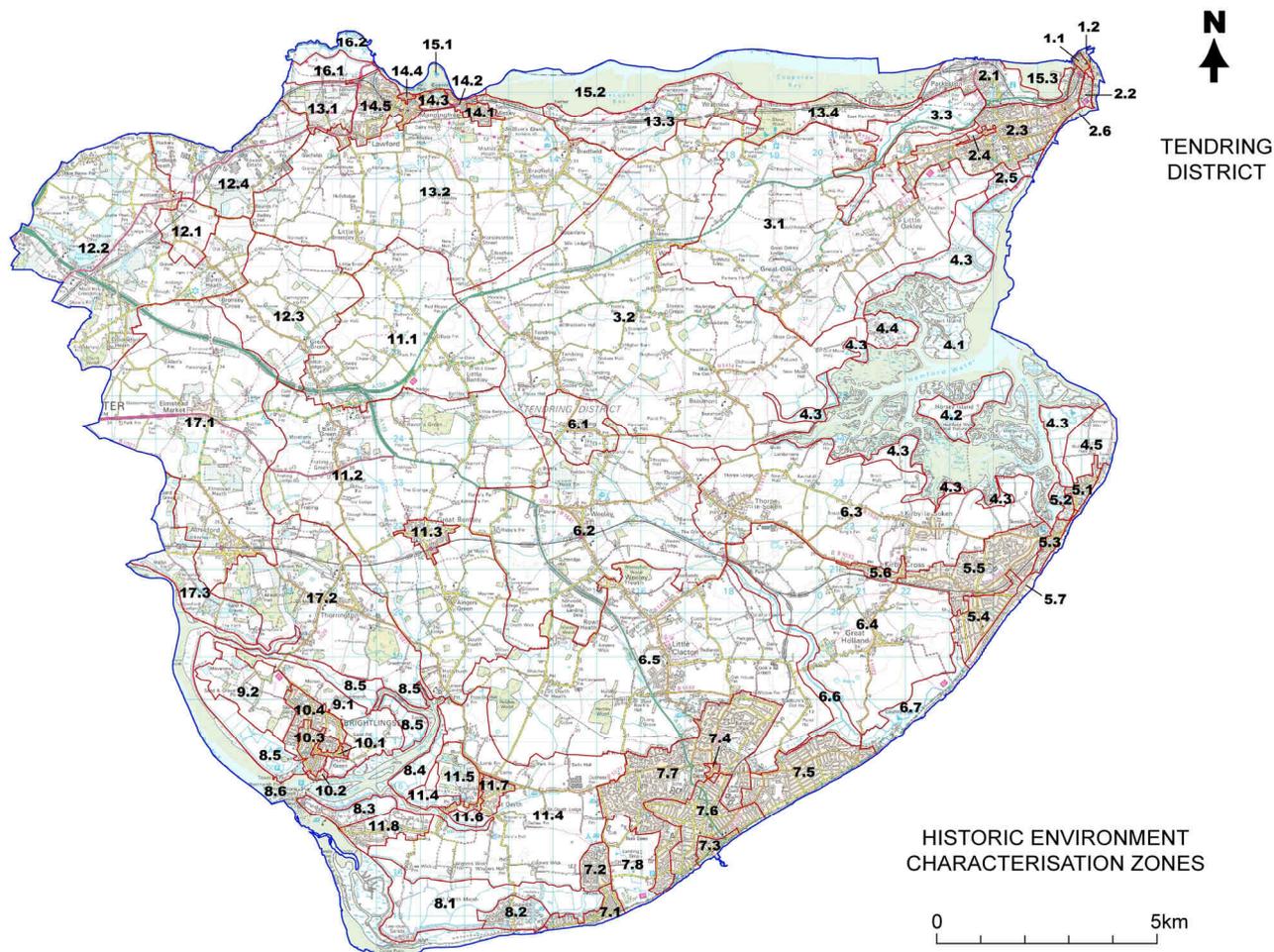


Fig. 35 Historic Environment Character Zones

### HECZ 1.1: Historic core of Harwich

**Summary:** This zone represents the historic core of Harwich. The geology comprises alluvial deposits, overlying London Clay and Thanet Sands. The present urban character comprises closely packed buildings with very little open space, the layout has its origins in the medieval period. Important stratified archaeological deposits exist throughout this zone with particularly significant medieval and post-medieval deposits. This zone lies within the Harwich Conservation Area. Details of the development of this zone are provided by the Historic Town Assessment (Medlycott 1999).

**Urban character:** It is possible that there was a small settlement on the Harwich peninsula by 1177, when there was a chapel on the site. However, the origins of the planned town date to the early thirteenth century, when it was founded as an economic venture by the Earls of Norfolk, in direct competition with Ipswich. The present street plan is still largely that of the medieval town. There were three main north-south streets, King's Head Street (formerly High Street or East Street), Church Street (formerly Middle Street) and West Street. These were sub-divided into rectangular blocks by a series of east-west lanes. The largest properties were sited at the northern end of the town, with the most prominent building being the Earl of Norfolk's townhouse. The area on the western side of West Street was largely open space until the early post-medieval period. The quay forms the northern, seaward limit of this zone and was widened and extended. The entirety of this zone lies within the Harwich Conservation Area. Many of the buildings are Listed, with the oldest examples largely located along King's Head Street, Church Street and Saint Austin's Lane. The built environment of Harwich is densely packed, with very little public or private open space, due to the constrictions imposed on urban expansion by its peninsula site and town defences.

**Archaeological character:** The historic town of Harwich is still very visible in the surviving built fabric of the town. The dense nature of the settlement at Harwich, confined by the sea on three sides, has led to the development of very tight house plans and small yards. Because of the high saline water-table many houses had underground cisterns in their back-yards for the collection of rain-water, some of which survive. There are fragments of rubble stone walls scattered throughout the town, probably medieval in origin.

There have been a number of excavations and watching-briefs in Harwich. The most significant sites are the Quay Pavilion site, 14 St Austin's Lane, Ebenezer Chapel, Kings Head Garage, Methodist Chapel Site and the George Street excavations. The excavations have established the presence of deep, stratified archaeological deposits relating to the town's development. In particular they have demonstrated that the quay area was expanded northwards, so that earlier lines of revetments, hythes and water-stairs are buried behind it.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Listed buildings and medieval and post medieval below ground deposits	3
• Survival	Buildings survive well above ground. Below ground archaeological deposits survive well and in places there is a considerable depth of deposits	3
• Documentation	Archaeological reports, HER data, Historic town assessment. Cartographic evidence	3
• Group Value Association	Range of surviving assets related to the medieval and post medieval town	3
• Potential	High potential of surviving archaeological deposits and for better understanding of the existing built heritage	3
• Sensitivity to change	Below ground deposits buildings and street layout, and built heritage all very sensitive	3
• Amenity Value	Historic identity of this zone has a high promotional value. Good potential for interpretation and promotion of the below ground and built heritage	3

### **HECZ 1.2: Post-medieval Harwich expansion and the Navy yard**

**Summary:** This zone comprises the post-medieval expansion of historic Harwich, including the area of the naval dockyard (HUCA 3 and 4). The geology comprises alluvial deposits overlying London Clay. Important stratified archaeological deposits exist throughout this zone with particularly significant post-medieval deposits. This zone lies within the Harwich Conservation Area. Details of the development of this zone are provided within the Historic Town Assessment (Medlycott 1999).

**Historic urban character:** This zone includes the historic site of the quays and wharfs associated with the 17<sup>th</sup> century naval dockyard. This zone underwent various phases of re-development throughout the following centuries, much of the zone is currently used for storage and there is a strong possibility that below ground

archaeological remains survive. To the north-west 19<sup>th</sup> century developments, for steam-packets and ferries to the continent, built along the northern shoreline include the half penny pier and train ferry berth. To the south of the dockyard are the Angelgate Cottages, built originally as coastguard cottages, and the site of the Angelgate Battery. The southern part of the zone includes the Scheduled Monuments of the Harwich Treadwheel Crane and High and Low Lighthouses. The area around Harwich Green was used as a barracks (parts of which survive) and a military camp throughout the post-medieval period.



Fig.36 The 17<sup>th</sup> century Harwich Treadwheel Crane, relocated from the Naval dockyard

**Archaeological character:** The historic elements of maritime Harwich are still very visible in the surviving built fabric of this zone, despite modern development. Excavation has established the presence of deep, stratified archaeological deposits relating to the towns development. In particular it is known that the quay and dockyard area was expanded northwards and eastwards, so that earlier lines of revetments, docks, hythes and water-stairs are buried behind it. In addition much of this expansion is built on deposits deriving from rubbish-disposal from within the medieval and post-medieval town, the possibility of significant finds assemblages and palaeoenvironmental evidence being buried within these deposits is high. Below-ground features relating to the use of Harwich Green as a military camp can also be anticipated.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	listed buildings medieval and post medieval archaeological deposits, maritime structures	3
• Survival	Buildings survive well above ground. Below ground archaeological deposits survive well	3
• Documentation	HER data, Historic town assessment. Cartographic and excavation evidence	2
• Group Value Association	Range of surviving assets related to the medieval and post medieval town	3
• Potential	Potential of surviving archaeological deposits and for better understanding of the existing built heritage	2
• Sensitivity to change	Below ground deposits buildings and street layout very sensitive	3
• Amenity Value	Historic identity of this zone has a high promotional value. Good potential for interpretation and promotion of the below ground, maritime and built heritage	3

## HECZ 2.1: Bathside and Parkeston

**Summary:** This zone comprises the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and modern development along Bathside Bay, on what was formerly salt-marsh and grazing marsh. It includes Parkeston, a unique planned industrial settlement built by GER adjacent to Parkeston Quay, and Parkeston Quay itself. The present urban character is largely industrial, with the exception of the residential area of Parkeston.

**Historic urban character:** This zone was reclaimed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, from former marshland. Parkeston Quay freight and passenger terminal was constructed by the Great Eastern Railway (GER), in place of the old facilities in Harwich. Elements of

this original build, including the passenger terminal for ships to the continent and some railway station/port buildings remain. Linked to this commercial development was the construction of Parkeston, a unique later 19<sup>th</sup> century planned industrial settlement built by GER. This retains its original terraced street plan and many of the original workers cottages. Parkeston was expanded in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, but has not been adversely affected by modern housing/infill. Modern disturbance to the remainder of the zone includes the modern road and rail infrastructure, as well as some small scale commercial and retail outlets and the construction of a large oil refinery in the west of the zone.

**Archaeological character:** There is the possibility of the survival of some elements of the original grazing marsh, and associated below-ground deposits. Otherwise the archaeological character comprises the post-medieval industrial development of the site, including two former brickworks, the phases of reclamation and the GER developments.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Known historic environment confined to the post medieval period much of which is related to industrial and residential heritage	2
• Survival	Industrial heritage survives well	2
• Documentation	HER data, Cartographic evidence	2
• Group Value Association	Range of surviving assets related to the industrial development	2
• Potential	Low for surviving below ground deposits	1
• Sensitivity to change	Industrial buildings and residential layout sensitive	1
• Amenity Value	Historic identity of this zone has a promotional value with the remainder of Harwich.	2

## HECZ 2.2: Tower Hill and Beacon Hill

**Summary:** This zone incorporates the Napoleonic and later military defensive sites of the Harwich Redoubt and Beacon Hill Fort, both of which are Scheduled Monuments. The residential development in this zone post dates the Second World War. The geology of this zone comprises a rise of London Clay. There are extensive seaward views.

**Historic urban character:** Military activity at Beacon Hill is first recorded in the 16th century. Further developments and improvements took place throughout the following centuries of warfare with the Continent, before being further updated for the two World Wars. The Harwich Redoubt Fort was constructed between 1808 and 1810, remodelled in 1861 and again during the Second World War. Both the Redoubt and Beacon Hill are Scheduled Monuments and the southern portion of the zone falls within a Conservation Area. The rest of the zone remained open ground, used intermittently by the military for army camps and manoeuvres, until the post war period when residential development in the form of terraced housing took place.



Fig. 37 Aerial view of the Harwich Redoubt

**Archaeological character:** There are antiquarian records of an earthwork and Roman remains in the vicinity of Beacon Hill. Although much of the original promontory here has been lost to the sea, the possibility remains that elements relating to this earlier settlement may survive within the current open areas within this zone. On the Beacon Hill site many of the 20th century buildings survive and retain important military information on the architecture of gun installations, ammunition storage, communications, observation and radar posts. Buried foundations/footings of the 19th century barrack blocks may remain beneath the modern playing fields, and there are extensive underground tunnels and workshops. The RCHME produced a survey report of the site in 1997. The Harwich Redoubt also retains important military information on the architecture of gun installations, ammunition storage, communications, observation and radar posts.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of multi-period military assets, below ground deposits	2
• Survival	Military structures survive well above ground. Below ground archaeological deposits survive well	3
• Documentation	Archaeological reports, HER data, Historic town assessment. Cartographic evidence, RCHME survey	3
• Group Value Association	Military assets through history	3
• Potential	High potential of surviving archaeological deposits and for better understanding of the existing built heritage	3
• Sensitivity to change	Military assets and, where present, below ground deposits highly sensitive	3
• Amenity Value	Historic identity of this zone has a high promotional value. Good potential for interpretation and promotion of the military history	3

### **HECZ 2.3: Dovercourt**

**Summary:** This zone comprises the post-medieval and modern built-up area of Dovercourt. The geology of this zone comprises a natural ridge of London Clay, overlying this are areas of Red Crag sand and Kesgrave Sands and Gravels. The earliest evidence for activity in this zone dates to the Palaeolithic period and there is evidence for settlement from the prehistoric period onwards.

**Historic urban character:** This zone's urban origins were as a seaside resort in the 1850s. The zone includes the station and the 19<sup>th</sup> century terraced housing at Lower Dovercourt, including a number of hotels. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century further streets of terraced housing were laid out parallel or perpendicular to the Main Road. There was sustained post war residential development along and between the roads that linked Upper and Lower Dovercourt. Later 20<sup>th</sup> century housing is densely packed to the south of the historic core of Upper Dovercourt (HECZ 2.4) and the main road. Industry in the form of brick and cement works were established on the north side of the main road and between it and the railway line, an area which remains predominantly non-residential and retains some commercial and municipal buildings. Open areas are restricted to allotment gardens, school grounds and recreational facilities. Notable structures include the Arts and Crafts designed Fryatt Memorial Hospital, the Tower Hotel and Orwell Terrace. There are a number of Listed Buildings, mostly 19<sup>th</sup> century, and part of the Beacon Hill Conservation Area extends into this zone.

**Archaeological character:** The evidence for prehistoric activity in the Harwich area is concentrated around this zone. In 1908 a large collection of Palaeolithic flint tools was found at Gant's Pit, Upper Dovercourt as were the faunal remains of elephant, rhinoceros, deer, ox and mammoth. Mesolithic tools and the remnants of a Neolithic settlement have been recovered from Dovercourt beach, and it is possible that this activity extended into this zone. A hoard of fifteen Late Bronze Age axeheads was found in 1911 in Upper Dovercourt. Dovercourt is one of the few places in Essex where a usable building stone, septaria, can be quarried. The stone was quarried from the cliffs or dredged from the sea-bed and was used extensively throughout the county both as a building-stone and as a constituent of cement. Roman finds have been found throughout the Dovercourt area, suggesting a sizeable community. There is evidence

for an early Saxon cemetery at Dovercourt, as an iron spearhead was found to the south of the church in 1963 and a complete pot and brooch from the Dovercourt area were found in the last century. The Domesday Book records the presence of Dovercourt but not Harwich, suggesting that the area of Harwich was subsumed within the manor of Dovercourt, prior to the founding of the town in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century. The later periods are represented in the form of a number of former brickworks and the site of a World War II military camp.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Wide range of multi-period below ground archaeological deposits. Buildings related to the seaside resort	3
• Survival	Below ground archaeological deposits likely to survive in undeveloped areas, Palaeolithic deposits will survive across the zone. Seaside buildings survive	2
• Documentation	HER data, Cartographic evidence	2
• Group Value Association	Range of surviving assets related to seaside heritage	1
• Potential	some potential of surviving archaeological deposits and for better understanding of the existing built heritage	2
• Sensitivity to change	Below ground deposits and seaside buildings sensitive	2
• Amenity Value	Historic identity of this zone has a promotional value mainly related to the development of the seaside resort and to some extent the multi-period history of the zone	2

**HECZ 2.4: Upper Dovercourt**

**Summary:** This zone comprises the medieval, post-medieval and modern built-up area of Upper Dovercourt. The geology of this zone comprises Kesgrave Sands and Gravels. The earliest evidence for activity in this zone dates to the Palaeolithic period and there is evidence for settlement from the prehistoric period onwards.

**Historic urban character:** This zone is the historic core of Upper Dovercourt centred around the parish church of All Saints. The medieval settlement comprised the church and a scattering of cottages around a linear green, formed by a widening of the road. This settlement gradually expanded and infilled with post-medieval and 19<sup>th</sup> century ribbon development, particularly along the main Harwich Road. The 19<sup>th</sup> century development included schools, non-conformist chapels and a cemetery, constructed in response to the wider expansion of the Dovercourt urban area (see HECZ 2.3). A number of structures are Listed, including some of the tombs in the cemetery.

**Archaeological character:** The evidence for prehistoric activity in the Harwich area is concentrated around this zone. Palaeolithic flint tools were found at Gant’s Pit, just to the east of the zone, as were the faunal remains of elephant, rhinoceros, deer, ox and mammoth, and the gravels underneath this zone are of equally high potential for this period. There is evidence for Iron Age or Roman occupation and for an early Saxon cemetery in the vicinity of the church. The Domesday Book records the presence of Dovercourt, but not Harwich, suggesting that the area of Harwich was subsumed within the manor of Dovercourt, prior to the founding of the town in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century, and below-ground deposits relating to this and subsequent periods can be anticipated.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diversity of historic environment assets</li> </ul>	Range of multi-period below ground archaeological deposits. Historic settlement buildings	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survival</li> </ul>	Buildings survive well above ground. Below ground archaeological deposits will survive in the historic core	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Documentation</li> </ul>	HER data, Cartographic evidence	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group Value Association</li> </ul>	Range of surviving assets related to the	2

	historic settlement of Dovercourt	
• Potential	Potential for below ground deposits especially in the historic core as well as earlier occupation back to the Palaeolithic	2
• Sensitivity to change	Layout of historic settlement sensitive	2
• Amenity Value	Historic identity of the settlement could be promoted	1

## HECZ 2.5: Dovercourt Caravan Park and Sports Ground

**Summary:** A zone of 20<sup>th</sup> century leisure activity, including a sport's ground and caravan park. The geology comprises London Clay, overlain on the seaward side by alluvium. The earliest evidence for activity in this zone dates to the Palaeolithic period and there is evidence for settlement from the prehistoric period onwards.

**Historic urban character:** This zone comprises an open, non-residential area overlooking the promenade to Dovercourt Bay, formerly farmland and grazing marsh. This area is largely used for leisure activities including a caravan park and sports grounds. In addition there are a number of edge-of-town activities such as a public refuse tip and sewage works.

**Archaeological character:** A zone of former farmland and grazing marsh, the latter was enclosed in the early post-medieval period. There is evidence for prehistoric activity along the foreshore (HECZ 4.1), in the form of Mesolithic flints and a Neolithic occupation site, and it is possible that remains of a similar date may survive in or beneath the alluvium. There is also the possibility of important deposits relating to periods of marine transgression, or other environmental evidence within the alluvium. Most of the archaeological evidence however relates to the Second World War and the defence of Britain, with recorded sites including a Heavy Anti-Aircraft and Rocket site, a spigot mortar gun emplacement, a pill-box and bomb craters.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	World War two monuments, potential for prehistoric activity extending from adjacent zones.	1
• Survival	Below ground deposits likely to survive. Only one pillbox remains	2
• Documentation	HER data, Cartographic evidence,	2
• Group Value Association	World War II features	1
• Potential	Potential for surviving below ground archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	<i>Known</i> deposits of limited sensitivity	1
• Amenity Value	Zone has a low amenity value	1

## HECZ 2.6: Harwich and Dovercourt foreshore

**Summary:** A long narrow zone, comprising the eastern shore of Harwich and Dovercourt, this includes the sea-defences, a number of marine-related structures such as the Dovercourt Causeway and Lighthouses, the Guard breakwater and the promenade, as well as extensive areas of inter-tidal sand and mud. The geology comprises London Clay, overlain at the northern and southern ends of the zone by marine alluvium.

**Historic urban character:** This zone comprises the sea-front for urban Harwich and Dovercourt. The structures and buildings associated with this zone are all related to its marine edge location. They include the sea-defences, which had their origins in the post-medieval period and the 19<sup>th</sup> century Promenade, which runs the length of Dovercourt Bay. A double row of wooden beach huts is sited on the promenade, adding considerably to the ‘seaside resort’ nature of the zone. The Dovercourt Upper and Lower Lighthouses, erected in 1863 to replace earlier brick structures, are Scheduled Ancient Monuments. The Lower Lighthouse, which is sited some 200m out to sea, is accessed via a causeway. Other structures include The Guard, a breakwater which juts out from Beacon Cliff, and a series of groynes along the beach.



Fig. 38 The 19<sup>th</sup> century Lower Lighthouse at Dovercourt

**Archaeological character:** There is evidence for prehistoric activity along the foreshore to the south of this zone in HECZ 4.1, in the form of Mesolithic flints and a Neolithic occupation site, and it is possible that remains of a similar date may survive within this zone also. There is also the possibility of remains relating to later periods surviving, including the foundations for the predecessors to the Dovercourt lighthouses. The sea-defences may also contain evidence relating to the date of their construction.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Known historic assets relate to the sea front location and include lighthouses, beach huts and sea defences	2
• Survival	Buildings survive well.	2
• Documentation	HER data, Cartographic evidence	1
• Group Value Association	Range of surviving assets related to the sea front location	2
• Potential	Potential of surviving archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Sea front heritage is sensitive to change	2
• Amenity Value	Potential promotion of the sea front historic assets, particularly in relation to neighbouring zones.	2

### **HECZ 3.1 Great Oakley, Little Oakley and Ramsey**

**Summary:** This zone comprises the countryside around Great Oakley and Little Oakley. The geology of this zone largely comprises London Clay, with ridges of Kesgrave sands and gravels. The zone is dissected by the valley of Ramsey Creek, the floodplain of which forms a separate zone (HECZ 3.3). The zone is a gently undulating rural agricultural plateau with a dispersed and polyfocal settlement pattern. Archaeological remains comprise a number of cropmarks complexes, which are likely to include multi-period sites as testified by the excavated Roman Villa at Great Oakley. Surviving archaeological deposits of Medieval and possibly Saxon date are likely to be associated with historic settlements.

**Historic Landscape Character:** This zone largely comprises a gently undulating agricultural landscape although the ridge that runs north east – south west along the east side of the zone is a dominant topographic feature. Drainage is into the Ramsey Creek. The fieldscape is largely ancient in origin, but significant areas have been affected by post medieval enclosure and post war boundary loss, particularly around the eastern ridge and the fields leading down towards Hamford Water. The valley sides above Ramsey Creek have, to a greater extent, escaped the pressures of agricultural intensification. Inland, field boundaries comprise low gappy hedgerows, with occasional mature hedgerow oaks, but towards Hamford Water hedgerows become intermittent with few trees. Settlement in the zone was historically dispersed and polyfocal with isolated manorial halls such as Great and Little Oakley, farms and cottages. The biggest settlement is the nucleated village at Great Oakley which developed around a medieval market square. Ramsey Village (formerly Ramsay Street) is a small linear settlement located at an historic crossing point of Ramsey Creek. A network of narrow lanes connects the historic settlements and tends to follow the higher ground and ridges. The B1414 runs along the top of the ridge connecting Great and Little Oakley with Dovercourt and Harwich. The windmill above Ramsey Village is an important historic feature in the landscape.



Fig. 39 18<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed weather-boarded 3 bay barn, Great Oakley

**Archaeological Character:** The area is likely to contain deposits related to prehistoric activity and occupation as indicated by cropmarks of ring ditches and finds of Bronze Age metal work. There is a notable cropmark complex around Little Oakley which is likely to represent multi-period remains including a WWII anti-aircraft site. Late Iron Age and particularly Roman activity is well attested with a villa site excavated at Little Oakley displaying several phases of building and improvement. Prior to the Roman period the excavations indicated occupation in the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age, Middle Iron Age and possibly late Iron Age settlement. In the post Roman period the site yielded evidence for early Saxon activity, although the nature of this is not fully understood. There are also indications of agricultural activity and possibly settlement at the site during the later Saxon and early Medieval periods. Elsewhere in the zone, Anglo-Saxon activity is attested by finds of metal work. There is the possibility of surviving archaeological deposits of medieval date associated with the historic dispersed settlement pattern and Great Oakley contains listed vernacular buildings including timber framed and weather-boarded and brick built cottages with clay tiled roofs, and some thatch. Little Oakley also contains several listed buildings and there are a number

of 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century listed buildings elsewhere in the zone. A post medieval duck decoy pond is depicted on the 1777 Chapman and Andre map near Ramsay.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of cropmarks, archaeological finds historic buildings and settlement pattern, villa site, historic field boundaries	3
• Survival	Cropmarks indicate surviving below ground deposits	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic evidence, NMP, excavation evidence	2
• Group Value Association	Settlement pattern and field system	2
• Potential	Good potential for below ground archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Sensitive to change due to the historic settlement pattern and below ground deposits	2
• Amenity Value	Potential for interpretation of historic settlements	1

### HECZ 3.2 Wix area

**Summary:** This zone comprises the countryside to the north, south and west of Wix. The geology of this zone largely comprises London Clay, with a promontory of Brickearth on the west side and a further area to the south. Patches of Kesgrave sands and gravels also overlay the London Clay in places and there is a small area of Head on the slopes above the Hamford Water. The zone is a gently undulating rural agricultural plateau with a dispersed and polyfocal settlement pattern. Archaeological remains comprise a number of cropmark complexes, which are likely to include multi-period remains, and excavated sites. Surviving archaeological deposits of Medieval and possibly Saxon date are likely to be associated with historic settlements. The area

includes significant post medieval remains such as the quay and associated features at Beaumont-cum-Moze, adjacent to Hamford Water.

**Historic Landscape Character:** This zone comprises a gently undulating agricultural landscape. Drainage is into the Holland Brook to the south, Ramsey Creek to the east and a minor stream to the north. The fieldscape is largely ancient in origin, but significant areas have been affected by post medieval enclosure and post war boundary loss. Field boundaries comprise low gappy hedgerows, with occasional mature hedgerow oaks, due to the decline of Elm during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. There are surviving remnants of ancient woodland, particularly in the southern half of the zone. These include Stonehall, Gravel and Killgrove Woods, typically with a structure of neglected coppice of sweet chestnut, hornbeam, hazel and small-leaved lime and oak standards. Settlement in the zone was historically polyfocal and dispersed, comprising settlement around linear and triangular greens like Goose Green, Bockings Green, Stones Green and Tendring Green, church/hall complexes such as Beaumont and isolated halls, farms and cottages. Many of the greens have been subsequently infilled by housing, or removed by road widening or enclosure. Wix is the largest village in the zone, having developed from a crossing of two roads at 'Wick's Cross' close to the monastic settlement of Wix Abbey. A network of narrow lanes connects the historic settlements and tends to follow the higher ground and ridges. The modern A120 cuts across the zone on an embankment.

**Archaeological Character:** The area is likely to contain deposits related to widespread prehistoric activity and occupation. There are a range of cropmarks across the zone with a notable complex to the north of Beaumont representing multi-period settlement. Prehistoric ring ditches and ring ditch cemeteries are particularly characteristic of the zone and are most likely to represent the buried archaeological remains of individual Bronze Age round barrows and barrow cemeteries. Other cropmarks include: prehistoric and later ditched enclosures, field boundaries, and double-ditched trackways, a number of medieval moated sites and a World War II anti-aircraft site adjacent to Hamford Water, illustrating the archaeological potential of the zone. Excavations and geophysics survey at Wix Abbey have revealed the below ground remains of the Benedictine priory founded in 1123 which will retain archaeological deposits pertaining to socio-economic

as well as religious aspects of the foundation. There is the possibility of surviving archaeological deposits of medieval date associated with the historic settlement pattern.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of cropmarks, historic settlement pattern, religious foundation, ancient woodland, historic field boundaries	3
• Survival	Cropmarks indicate surviving below ground deposits. The settlement pattern and field system are quite well preserved	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic evidence, NMP, excavation evidence	2
• Group Value Association	Settlement pattern and field system	2
• Potential	Good potential for below ground archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Sensitive to change due to the historic settlement pattern and below ground deposits	2
• Amenity Value	Potential for interpretation of historic settlements/landscape patterns and cropmarks particularly in relation to neighbouring zones	2

### HECZ 3.3 Ramsey Creek Floodplain

**Summary:** This zone comprises the lower reaches of the meandering Ramsey Creek and its flat alluvial floodplain. The geology comprises London Clay, overlain with alluvium which gives rise to waterlogged soils. Historically the landscape comprised small scale, enclosed meadow pasture in the upper section of the flood plain and wider flat landscape of drained reclamation in the lower section. There is limited settlement in the zone. The main A120 follows the edge of the floodplain whilst the B1352 is the historic crossing point of the river at Ramsey. A dismantled railway line crosses the lower section of the floodplain. Potential for palaeoenvironmental deposits is high.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The zone includes the Ramsey Creek and its floodplain. The fieldscape in the upper section of the floodplain comprises a mix of enclosed meadow pasture, laid out either side of Ramsey Creek with fields bordered by straight drainage ditches and low hedgerows interspersed by floodplain trees. The lower section of the floodplain opens out into a wide flat open landscape of former coastal and freshwater marshes that was drained during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and affected by boundary loss in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, to create a landscape of large arable fields. Field boundaries comprise straight drainage ditches. At its eastern end, the floodplain accommodates a golf course. The golf course incorporates the Delf pond, relict counter walls and the embankment of a dismantled railway line (Manningtree-Dovercourt). This area is important for nature conservation and is designated as a County Wildlife Site. There are few buildings except for the farmstead at Pond Hall Farm.

**Archaeological Character:**

The site of a mill pond is known from the 1777 Chapman and Andre map and it is likely that below ground remains associated with this, and possibly earlier water mill structures survive. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map (c1876) depicts Ray Island Farmstead on what is now the golf course and post medieval or earlier below ground deposits associated with this site may survive, despite later landscaping. Geophysics survey and trenching at Ramsey located the late 18th to mid 19th century phase of Michaelstow Hall, a former manor with probable Late Saxon or medieval origins. The zone contains a number of WWII pillboxes, highlighting its proximity to Harwich and the coast and its function as a transport route.

The waterlogged alluvial silts in this floodplain have the potential to hold important palaeoenvironmental evidence relating to the interaction of human and natural process and the vegetational, climatic and coastal changes in the history of Tendring peninsula, although landscaping associated with the golf course will have had a negative impact.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Potential palaeoenvironmental deposits, meadow pasture, mill pond.	2
• Survival	Historic field pattern survives well	2
• Documentation	Cartographic, HER, Archaeological survey	1
• Group Value Association	Historic landscape features including relict	2

	counter walls, field system, Delf pond,	
• Potential	High potential for palaeo-environmental deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Elements of the field pattern and palaeo-environmental deposits highly sensitive	3
• Amenity Value	Potential for promotion, in conjunction with other zones, of the history of flood plain and coastal marsh exploitation in Tendring District.	2

#### HECZ 4.1 Hamford Water

**Summary:** This zone comprises the large shallow estuarine basin of Hamford Water including an extensive area of tidal creeks, intertidal mud, sand flats, open salt marshes, reed beds, islands, beaches and marsh grasses, outside the current sea walls. The geology is estuarine alluvium deposits with an outcrop of London Clay forming the backbone of Skippers Island. The zone has a range of archaeological remains and historic landscape features throughout, including prehistoric land surfaces, red hills, hulks, and relict sea walls. There is no settlement within the zone although with the exception of holiday accommodation on Skippers Island. The zone is highly important in terms of the natural environment. With the exception of the Walton Mere, the entire zone is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Area of Conservation (SPC), and falls within the Essex Coast Special Protection Area (SPA) and Hamford Water Ramsar site. Skippers Island is managed as a nature reserve. Hamford Water is important for both commercial and leisure activities. Historically the zone had a close relationship with adjacent dryland zones via numerous small jetties, wharfs and docks.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The broad expanse of Hamford Water and its associated creeks has been a major artery for trade and transport, together with a source of fish, shell fish and wildfowl, for millennia. Now mainly used by leisure craft the estuary still has limited commercial traffic and oyster beds. The zone is characterised by its open, flat aspect and remoteness. The zone includes areas of former saltings that were enclosed within seawalls during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Where field boundaries exist on

these areas of short lived reclamation, such as Pewitt Island, they comprise drainage ditches, some following the lines of creeks. Former sea walls, visible both as earthworks and as lines of exposed timbers are dominant features of the landscape. At the north east tip of Horsey Island, a series of lighters have been sunk to form a sea defence. Hulks, such as the spritsail barge in Landermere Creek, and timber jetties also highlight the importance of access to and from the sea and the relationship between this zone and adjacent dryland areas (HECZ 4.3 and HECZ 4.4). The zone includes the former tidal millpond of Walton mere which is a significant feature adjacent to the historic town of Walton (HECZ 5.3). Modern development in the zone includes the Titchmarsh Marina.



Fig. 40 Hulk of a spritsail barge, Landermere Creek

**Archaeological Character:** To the south of Dovercourt, extensive areas of prehistoric land surface have been exposed and produced quantities of flint artefacts and pottery, and a number of in situ archaeological deposits including those relating to important Neolithic occupation sites. Red Hills indicate the importance of Late Iron Age and Roman salt manufacturing in the zone. The post medieval period is represented by a variety of archaeological remains including current and relict seawalls, which will retain evidence for date and construction, earthwork enclosures, hulks, jetties, docking areas cut into the salt marsh, causeways to the islands and pits, most probably from oyster cultivation. WWII bomb craters have been identified from aerial photographs, and there are destroyed pill boxes along the beach to the south of Dovercourt, highlighting the proximity of the zone to the naval base at Harwich. Archaeological deposits are likely to be in many cases very well preserved, with good survival of organic artefacts and

environmental deposits although some features, such as buried land surface and hulks exposed at low tide, may be vulnerable to accelerated decay.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of historic landscape and archaeological features; finds, prehistoric land surfaces, earthworks and timbers	3
• Survival	Good survival	3
• Documentation	HER data, Hullbridge Survey, NMP data	2
• Group Value Association	Features relating to coastal exploitation sea walls, timbers, oyster pits, hulks	3
• Potential	Excellent potential for surviving deposits.	3
• Sensitivity to change	Landscape and archaeological deposits highly sensitive to change.	3
• Amenity Value	Potential for promoting the importance of the historic environment within the Hamford Water, particularly post medieval coastal transport but this is restricted by access.	2

## HECZ 4.2 Horsey Island

**Summary:** This zone comprises Horsey Island located within Hamford Water. The geology is an outcrop of London Clay fringed by estuarine alluvial deposits. The zone has a range of archaeological remains and historic landscape features including red hills, decoy ponds, stretch cultivation earthworks and sea walls. The zone is highly important in terms of the natural environment. The entire zone is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Area of Conservation (SPC), and falls within the Essex Coast Special Protection Area (SPA) and Hamford Water Ramsar site. There is a single farmhouse. The zone is grazed, and managed for wildlife. Historically the zone has a close relationship with Hamford Water (HECZ 4.1) and the adjacent dryland zone to the south to which it is connected by a causeway (HECZ 6.3).

**Historic Landscape Character:** Horsey Island is characterised by its open and flat aspect. The natural saltings that formerly existed in the zone may have begun to be

enclosed within seawalls during the late medieval period. Enclosure had certainly begun by the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century and was undertaken in more than one stage. The fleets and other natural depressions that survive in some areas of grassland, particularly on the east side of the island, are evidence of former creeks and saltmarsh before the seawall was built. Historically the marsh would have provided grazing for cattle and sheep, although parts of the marsh have also been used in the past for crop production as evidenced in places by surviving ridges and furrows of 'stetch' cultivation earthworks. The sea walls are the dominant historic landscape feature on the island, but the well preserved earthworks of a decoy on the east side of the island are also a significant feature. A second decoy pond on the island retains water but has been subjected to re-excavation in recent decades. Field boundaries in the zone are mainly straight drainage ditches and dykes, but some follow the sinuous course of former creeks. There are some hedgerows bordering the fields closest to the farmstead. There has been little boundary loss, although wetland scrapes and reservoirs have been created for nature conservation.

**Archaeological Character:** Evidence for at least one red hill has been noted in the southern end of the zone indicating its significance for the production of sea salt during the late Iron Age and Roman periods. The sea walls are likely to be late medieval in origin and will retain evidence for date and construction. The well preserved earthworks of a duck decoy on the east side of the island will also contain archaeological remains relating to date and use. A second duck decoy to the south east of the farmhouse has been affected by 20<sup>th</sup> century modifications and is unlikely to include archaeological deposits of note. The single farmstead on the island dates from at least the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and may retain archaeological remains from earlier phases of occupation. In limited locations modern excavations for wetland improvements are likely to have had a negative impact on archaeological deposits, although elsewhere, archaeological deposits will probably be well preserved, with good survival of organic artefacts and environmental deposits

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of historic landscape and archaeological features	2
• Survival	Good survival of earthworks and potential below ground deposits	3
• Documentation	HER data, NMP data, RCHME survey	2
• Group Value Association	Coastal zone/marshland exploitation Sea walls, Duck decoys, Red hills and other earthwork features	3
• Potential	Good potential for surviving below ground deposits.	2
• Sensitivity to change	Landscape and archaeological deposits sensitive to change.	3
• Amenity Value	Privately owned island limited potential for promoting the importance of the historic environment as part of a wider understanding of human activity around Hamford Water	2

### HECZ 4.3 Hamford Water Former Marshes

**Summary:** This zone comprises former marsh around the fringes of Hamford Water including Walton Hall Marsh on the eastern side. The geology is estuarine alluvial deposits. The zone has a wide range of archaeological remains and historic landscape features including: flint artefacts, red hills, cropmark enclosures, decoy ponds, sea walls, and WWII defences. The zone lies adjacent to the tidal waters of Hamford Water (HECZ 4.1) which is highly important in terms of the natural environment. Small areas of the zone are designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Area of Conservation (SPC), and fall within the Essex Coast Special Protection Area (SPA) and Hamford Water Ramsar site. Historically the zone had a close relationship with Hamford Water (HECZ 4.1) and the adjacent surrounding dryland zones (HECZ 4.5, HECZ 6.3, HECZ 3.2, HECZ 3.1).



Fig. 41 View from The Naze tower of former marshland (middle distance) of Walton Hall, with Hamford Water beyond.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The former marsh land surrounding Hamford Water is characterised by its open and flat aspect. The natural saltings that formerly existed in the zone began to be enclosed within seawalls during the post medieval period as grazing marsh. Significant reclamation took place in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century and the process was certainly complete by the time the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map of Essex was published c.1876. The sea walls are the dominant historic landscape feature around the fringes of Hamford Water. Field boundaries in the zone are mainly straight drainage ditches and dykes, some following the sinuous course of former creeks. There has been little boundary loss, although wetland scrapes and reservoirs have been created for nature conservation. The majority of fields within the zone are under arable cultivation.

**Archaeological Character:** Early prehistoric activity in the zone is indicated by finds of flint artefacts. Evidence for around a dozen red hills has been noted in the zone indicating its significance for the production of sea salt during the late Iron Age and Roman periods. Several cropmark enclosure sites, a single ring ditch, drainage channels and a 19<sup>th</sup> century duck decoy are known from aerial photographs. Medieval features and deposits have been recorded on the west side of the zone which probably relate to marsh edge farming activity. The sea walls are likely to be post medieval in origin and will retain evidence for date and construction. The zone was the location for

extensive defences during WWII including heavy anti-aircraft gun batteries, bombing decoy, and anti-landing ditches, due to its proximity to the naval port at Harwich. Modern excavations for wetland improvements are likely to have had a negative impact on archaeological deposits, although in places, such as buried former creeks, archaeological deposits will probably be well preserved, with good survival of organic artefacts and environmental deposits

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Wide range of archaeological features	3
• Survival	Original field boundaries and buried archaeological remains	2
• Documentation	HER data, NMP data,	1
• Group Value Association	Marsh land exploitation, Red Hills, Sea walls, Duck decoys	2
• Potential	Good potential for surviving deposits.	2
• Sensitivity to change	Archaeological deposits and wider landscape sensitive to change.	2
• Amenity Value	Limited except in relation to promoting the wider story of human activity around Hamford Water	1

#### **HECZ 4.4 Bramble Island**

**Summary:** This zone comprises a spit of former salt marsh on the north west side of Hamford Water. The geology is mainly estuarine alluvial deposits with an area of London Clay on the west side of the zone. The zone has a limited range of historic landscape features and archaeological remains. The zone lies adjacent to the tidal waters of Hamford Water (HECZ 4.1) which is highly important in terms of the natural environment and the zone is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and falls within the Essex Coast Special Protection Area (SPA) and Hamford Water Ramsar site. Historically the zone had a close relationship with Hamford Water (HECZ 4.1) and the adjacent surrounding dryland zone (HECZ 3.2).

**Historic Landscape Character:** The zone is characterised by its open and flat aspect although there is considerable scrub/tree cover around the modern buildings of the explosive factory on the north west side of the island. The natural saltings that formerly existed in the zone were enclosed within seawalls during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The sea walls are a dominant historic landscape feature but the blast mounds and other earthworks of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century explosive factory are also a significant visual feature. These are linked by a network of former and current paths and trackways. Field boundaries in the zone are mainly drainage ditches which follow the sinuous course of former creeks.



Fig. 42 Aerial view of the 20<sup>th</sup> century explosives Factory on Bramble Island

**Archaeological Character:** The earliest activity recorded in the zone dates from the Roman period and a find of abraded Roman pottery. During the post medieval period, a duck decoy was operated within the zone but this now only survives as a cropmark and there are not likely to be significant archaeological remains associated within it. The 20<sup>th</sup> century explosive factory includes a complex of earthworks, structures and buildings

which are an important resource of industrial archaeology, although the site is still in use.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Limited range of archaeological and landscape features	1
• Survival	Good survival of 20 <sup>th</sup> century industrial archaeology	1
• Documentation	HER data, NMP data	1
• Group Value Association	Association of early 20 <sup>th</sup> century industrial remains which will retain layout, form and function	2
• Potential	Low potential for surviving deposits.	1
• Sensitivity to change	Medium scale development could be accommodated in and around the modern industrial buildings	2
• Amenity Value	Limited except in relation to promoting the wider story of human activity around Hamford Water	1

#### **HECZ 4.5 The Naze**

**Summary:** This zone comprises a peninsula of land on the north east side of Hamford Water. The geology is sands and gravels on top of an important exposure of Red Crag overlying the London Clay. There is significant erosion of the cliffs above the beach on the east side of the Naze. With the exception of Walton Hall, the zone has an absence of settlement, but a range of archaeological remains from prehistoric pottery to WWII defences. The Naze Tower is the dominant feature in the landscape. The zone lies adjacent to the tidal waters of Hamford Water (HECZ 4.1) which is highly important in terms of the natural environment and significant areas of the zone are designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and fall within the Essex Coast Special Protection Area (SPA) and Hamford Water Ramsar site. A large part of the zone is public open space, including an area managed as the John Weston nature reserve. Modern development includes a sewage treatment works. Historically the zone had a

close relationship with Hamford Water (HECZ 4.1) and Walton Hall Marshes (HECZ 4.3).

**Historic Landscape Character:** The Naze peninsula was historically separated from the mainland to the south (HECZ5.1) by an area of marshland and is characterised, by a general absence of settlement. One of the few buildings, Walton Hall, is located on top of the Naze with access to Walton Hall marshes below. The Hall is a listed building which originated as a late medieval or post medieval sea-mark that later operated in conjunction with the Naze Tower. The Walton Hall farmstead comprises a collection of agricultural buildings including two listed timber framed barns. To the north of the farmstead is a group of cottages that originated as an early 20<sup>th</sup> coastguard station. The listed 18<sup>th</sup> century octagonal brick tower of Trinity House was built as a navigation aid and is the dominant historic landmark within the zone. The western side of the zone overlooking Hamford Water and sloping down to the former Walton Hall Marshes is arable farmland. Field boundaries are all hedged and straight and represent late enclosure. There has been a moderate degree of boundary loss. Historically the east side of the zone was also arable farmland but it is now occupied by acid grass and scrub woodland that is managed for wildlife and public amenity.

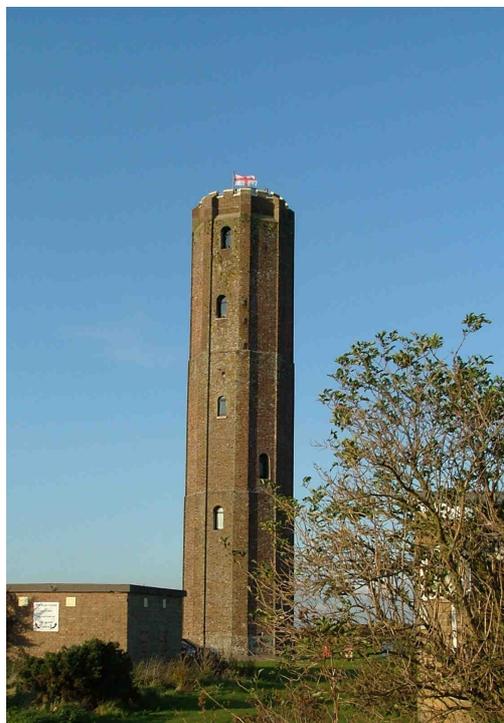


Fig.43 The Naze Tower was built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century as an aid to navigation

**Archaeological Character:** The earliest activity recorded in the zone is represented by stray finds of prehistoric flint artefacts and Neolithic pottery and a Middle Bronze Age burial has been recorded eroding from the cliffs. Evidence for several red hills has been noted in the zone, indicating its significance for the production of sea salt during the late Iron Age and Roman periods. Walton Hall may have late medieval and post medieval deposits associated with the standing buildings. The zone was heavily defended during the Second World War due to its coastal location and proximity to Harwich. It was the site of a military camp and contains remains of defensive structures including anti-aircraft batteries, a bombing decoy and pill boxes, some of which have been identified from aerial photographs. Low intensity land use over much of the zone means that the potential for buried archaeological remains is likely to be good. Ongoing erosion of the cliffs on the east side of the zone results in regular exposure of archaeological finds and deposits.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Archaeological finds, cropmarks, defensive structures and buildings	2
• Survival	Survival of robust WWII defensive structures and potential for below ground deposits	2
• Documentation	HER data, NMP data, cartographic evidence	1
• Group Value Association	WWII defensive structures	1
• Potential	Low intensity land use means there is good potential	2
• Sensitivity to change	The zone is highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	Good public access and a range of visible assets means considerable potential for the promotion of the historic environment particularly in relation to neighbouring zones	2

## HECZ 5.1: Walton North

**Summary:** Zone of modern development to the north of Walton with a potential for archaeological deposits of probable prehistoric date in undeveloped areas.

**Historic Urban Character:** A zone of mainly interwar terraced housing which incorporates a small group of later 19th century terrace housing on Hall and Naze Park Roads. From the early 20th century larger non terrace houses were built toward the northern extent of the town with a convalescent home constructed in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The zone includes the site of Warners (now Harmers) iron foundry built c.1874 and associated workers housing built by T.A. Cressy along Hall Lane and First Avenue. Also located within the zone is the Port Walton Brick and Tile works. Post war residential development covers most of the zone with both the convalescent home and industrial sites now redeveloped. A small area of industry remains on part of the Foundry site.

**Archaeological Character:** Archaeological records relate to Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman pottery found during development of the zone. Although almost entirely built up, any areas such as the public open space adjacent to the cliffs are likely to contain prehistoric deposits if previously undisturbed. The area was used for the industrial production of iron, brick and tiles in the late post medieval and early modern period. There are numerous records of structures relating to coastal defence during World War II including pill boxes and anti-tank pimples but none survive except a single pillbox to the rear of a house at Old Hall Lane.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Extensive prehistoric flint artefacts, post medieval industrial sites, industrial housing, Second World War military structures	2
• Survival	Post medieval industrial housing survives, industrial and 2 <sup>nd</sup> World War largely destroyed. Prehistoric deposits likely to survive in undeveloped areas	2
• Documentation	Industrial and Second World War surveys	2
• Group Value Association	Industrial sites and housing	2

• Potential	Possibility for below ground prehistoric deposits to survive	2
• Sensitivity to change	Limited sensitivity due to modern development	1
• Amenity Value	Prehistoric flint work worth promoting in association with other zones. Industrial heritage of the zone could be promoted.	1

## HECZ 5.2: Naze Marine Holiday Park

**Summary:** Reclaimed marshland, now a holiday park which has moderate archaeological potential with remnants of the port associated with the Warners Foundry.

**Historic Urban Character:** Large area of partly reclaimed marshland lying between the historic core of Walton and the later Walton North residential development. The zone mainly comprises a holiday park and associated recreational facilities.

**Archaeological Character:** In the north of the zone was a 19<sup>th</sup> century iron foundry and a man made channel cut from Walton Channel providing small scale dock facilities for the foundry. This cut has since been filled in. Although the zone is now occupied by the holiday park, previous ground disturbance may have been minimal and deposits relating to the former saltmarsh may survive.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Industrial remains, potential for palaeo-environmental deposits	1
• Survival	Landscape extensively disturbed by modern leisure and sewage development. Possible survival of marshland and creek assets	2
• Documentation	Very limited documentation	1
• Group Value Association	Earthworks associated with the reclaimed marshland	1
• Potential	Potential for palaeo-environmental deposits	2

• Sensitivity to change	Little sensitivity to change	1
• Amenity Value	Little amenity value	1

### HECZ 5.3: Historic Walton

**Summary:** Mainly 19/20th century development related to the development of the sea side resort of Walton. The historic core still retains remnants of the early 19th century street pattern of terraces and crescents.

**Historic Urban Character:** The zone comprises the historic core of the seaside resort of Walton which developed in the area of the High Street from the early 19th century onwards. The historic core still retains remnants of the early 19th century street pattern of terraces and crescents which can be recognised to the east of Station Road and along the sea front/parade. Later 19<sup>th</sup> century domestic terrace housing developed within the core area following the arrival of the railway in 1867 and construction of the new pier. There are no buildings predating the 18th century in Walton. Listed buildings of local note include the resort buildings of the Marine Hotel by John Penrice and East Terrace by John Warner, the latter built as part of the Eastcliff development. Most of the core area is in either business/retail or residential use.

There is an Interwar residential development of non terraced houses to the south of the pier bounded by the railway line and the South Cliffs. This also incorporates beach huts fronting the promenade and overlooking Walton beach.

**Archaeological Character:** There are no archaeological finds or deposits noted from this zone. A Napoleonic Martello Tower was situated on The Parade close to the Pier, however, this no longer survives, but below ground remains may remain. The zone was well defended during World War II and there are numerous records of pillboxes, road obstacles and anti tank structures, none of which survive.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Historic core of seaside resort, WW II military sites, Martello tower	2
• Survival	Historic core survives, military remains including Martello tower may remain below ground	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic data	2
• Group Value Association	Built heritage in core of resort	2
• Potential	Some potential for below ground deposits	1
• Sensitivity to change	Historic core sensitive to change	2
• Amenity Value	Potential to promote the historic core along with its military history	2

#### **HECZ 5.4: Frinton Core**

**Summary:** The geology comprises of remnants of Kesgrave gravel survives on top of London Clay. The zone comprises mainly 20<sup>th</sup> century residential development. with the potential for surviving archaeological deposits in open, undisturbed areas.

**Historic Urban Character:** The core of the seaside town of Frinton developed from a small scattered settlement during the late 19th century following the construction of Frinton railway station. The main residential development occurred in the early 20th century with the construction of larger non-terraced housing sited toward the seafront. Blocks of late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20th century terraced housing appear further inland (north) and along the main road arteries. Frinton core incorporates the International Modern Movement buildings of the failed Frinton Park Estate, to the north-east. Listed buildings of note include the Arts and Crafts Homstead by Voysey and three modern movement houses, The Roundhouse and 55 Quendon Way by Oliver Hill and Seaspan, 4 Audley Way. Most of the core area is in residential use.



Fig. 44 Modern movement house on the Frinton Park Estate, Frinton

**Archaeological Character:** A large number of prehistoric flint artefacts are recorded from this zone; however none of these have a definite location. There are however, a number of open spaces which if undisturbed have the potential for archaeological deposits, particularly of prehistoric date. A possible brick working site is located in the northern area of the zone. There were a number of World War II defences especially located around the railway station within the zone including anti-tank obstacles and pillboxes, some of which survive.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Flint artefacts, World War II defences, Brickworks	2
• Survival	Some of the WW II defences survive	1
• Documentation	HER,	1
• Group Value Association	WW II defences	2

• Potential	Open areas have potential for below ground deposits	1
• Sensitivity to change	Little sensitivity due to extent of modern housing	1
• Amenity Value	Military deposits could be associated with other zones.	1

### **HECZ 5.5: Frinton North**

**Summary:** The geology comprises Kesgrave Sands and Gravels surviving on top of London Clay. The zone largely comprises post war residential development. Chance finds from the Palaeolithic through to the medieval period have been recovered. A single medieval church/hall complex was present until the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The sea front was heavily defended in World War II.

**Historic Urban Character:** This is a large area of predominantly post war residential housing incorporating some earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century ribbon development along Kirby and Walton Roads but is primarily infill development between Kirby Cross and the 19/20<sup>th</sup> century settlements of Frinton and Walton. Early occupation comprises a single Church Hall complex at Frinton Hall.

**Archaeological Character:** A number of finds of Palaeolithic flint tools and flint working waste have been made within the zone indicating the potential for further important finds of this date. A single church/hall complex is located in the zone the church of which survives. A scheduled Martello tower survives as a standing structure within the northern end of the zone; it was originally placed to overlook the town hard of Walton on the Naze. The tower was also used to mount a 24 pound gun in the Second World War. The zone was heavily defended during World War II with a variety of pillboxes, a number of which survive, a range of anti-tank obstacles and a six inch coastal battery.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Palaeolithic artifacts, Roman finds, Church Hall complex, WWII sites	2
• Survival	Majority of WWII sites have been destroyed, majority of zone covered by housing thus destroying much of the below ground deposits, Martello tower survives.	1
• Documentation	HER	1
• Group Value Association	Defensive structures; Martello Tower and World War II defences	2
• Potential	Potential for archaeological deposits surviving in undeveloped areas.	1
• Sensitivity to change	Little sensitivity to change due to extent of housing	1
• Amenity Value	Military remains could be promoted along with other zones	2

### HECZ 5.6: Kirby Cross

**Summary:** The geology comprises a central area of brickearth in the area of the post medieval settlement of Kirby with the remainder comprising London Clay. Settlement originated as dispersed medieval occupation with later infilling until today. The zone largely comprises residential properties.

**Historic Urban Character:** The zone comprises the medieval and post medieval dispersed settlement of Kirby Cross, ribbon development is concentrated along the main Thorpe Road and the crossroads of Halstead and Holland Roads. Included are a number of 16th to 18<sup>th</sup> century listed buildings. A single windmill is recorded within the settlement.

**Archaeological Character:** The Chapman and Andre map of 1777 shows a small settlement located at the road junction within Kirby Cross which is likely to have medieval origins. A number of Roman coins have been found immediately outside the

zone. There is the potential of buried remains of medieval and post medieval date. The windmill only remains as below ground evidence.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Listed buildings, medieval occupation	2
• Survival	Historic buildings, possible below ground deposits	2
• Documentation	HER, Cartographic data	1
• Group Value Association	Historic buildings	1
• Potential	Potential for medieval deposits surviving in core	2
• Sensitivity to change	Limited sensitivity	1
• Amenity Value	Historic village could be promoted especially via VDS	2

#### **HECZ 5.7: Frinton and Walton shoreline**

**Summary:** A long narrow zone, comprising the eastern shore of Walton on the Naze and Frinton, which includes the sea-defences and a number of marine-related structures. The geology comprises London Clay, overlain by small areas of head deposits and Kesgrave sands. Multi-period deposits are recorded as eroding out of the cliffs. Extensive defences associated with World War II are recorded within the zone.

**Historic Landscape Character:** This zone comprises the intertidal area of Frinton and Walton and the promenade of Frinton. The intertidal area contains large numbers of sea defences but erosion is still occurring especially in the area of the cliffs at Walton.



Fig. 45 Sea front, Walton-on-the-Naze

**Archaeological Character:** The intertidal zone between the Naze at Walton and the southern end at Frinton is known to contain a rich archaeological resource. Significant finds of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic flint have been made at various points along the coast. Red hills or salterns of Late Iron Age/Roman date have been identified along with surviving associated wooden structures and small finds such as coins. Further Roman finds including tiles and other finds found in the intertidal area including prehistoric pottery from cremation burials, derive from the eroding cliffs. Large numbers of military sites were originally located on the promenade and Greensward of which a single scheduled Napoleonic Martello tower survives; this was used to mount a 24 pound gun in the Second World War.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Multi period prehistoric deposits, Roman finds, Military structures	3
• Survival	Extensive survival in the cliffs especially of prehistoric deposits, military deposits in intertidal area	3
• Documentation	HER, Survey reports, excavation reports, chance finds records	3
• Group Value Association	Flint artifacts, WW II defences	3
• Potential	High potential for multi-period archaeological deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	High amenity value promoting the value of	2

	the eroding deposits and the military defences.	
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### HECZ 6.1: Tendring

**Summary:** This zone comprises the village of Tendring and the multi-period cropmark complexes that surround it. The geology of this zone consists of brickearths/head deposits in the northern half and Kesgrave sands and gravels in the southern half, overlying London Clay. The latter is exposed in the valley sides of the Holland and Tendring Brooks, which form the boundary of this zone.

**Historic Landscape Character:** This zone comprises a gently undulating agricultural landscape, forming a slightly higher peninsula of land, bounded by the shallow valleys of the Holland and Tendring Brooks. The fieldscape comprises a mixture of rectilinear fields of ancient origin and later enclosure, which has suffered from moderate boundary loss. There was some enclosed meadow pasture bordering the Holland Brook, but little of this survives. Settlement in the area was historically polyfocal and dispersed, comprising the medieval church/hall complex at the junction of The Street and School Road, a straggle of buildings (mostly late post-medieval) bordering The Street and a number of isolated farms and cottages.

**Archaeological Character:** There are extensive complexes of multi-period cropmarks within this zone. A number of these represent medieval or post-medieval field boundaries, others are clearly indicative of surviving earlier archaeological features. They include a group of ring-ditches of probable Bronze Age origin, as well as a variety of linear and rectilinear features. Some of these may be later prehistoric or Roman in date, whilst others appear to relate to the medieval and post-medieval Tendring village, perhaps representing differing stages in its development. Medieval remains relating to the dispersed settlement pattern may also survive. More recent elements include the line of the abandoned railway. The alluvium of the Holland and Tendring Brook valley may contain palaeoenvironmental deposits.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of multi-period cropmarks, historic settlement pattern, palaeo-environmental deposits	3
• Survival	Good survival of settlement pattern and below ground deposits.	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic evidence, NMP	2
• Group Value Association	Cropmarks, dispersed settlement pattern and major element of the historic landscape	3
• Potential	Good potential for below ground archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Sensitive to change due to the historic settlement pattern and below ground deposits	2
• Amenity Value	Potential for promotion of the historic development of Tendring District particularly in relation to neighbouring zones.	2

## HECZ 6.2: Weeley area

**Summary:** This zone comprises the village of Weeley and the flattish open landscape around it. The geology of this zone largely comprises London Clay, with patches of Kesgrave sands and gravels overlying it and an area of brickearth in the southern half. There is some alluvium in the valley floors of the Weeley and Holland Brooks. The cropmark and excavation evidence from the zone attests to a long history of occupation, including Bronze Age sites and medieval dispersed settlement.

**Historic Landscape Character:** This zone comprises an agricultural landscape, open in aspect, drained by the shallow valleys of the Holland and Weeley Brooks. The fieldscape comprises a mixture of rectilinear fields of ancient origin and later enclosure, this has suffered from moderate boundary loss. In the eastern part of the zone there were extensive greens at Thorpe Green and Far Thorpe Green, portions of which survive. There is enclosed meadow pasture of medieval origin bordering the Holland Brook and some surviving ancient woodland. Settlement in the zone was historically

polyfocal and dispersed, comprising the church/hall complex at Hall Farm (to the south of the modern village), a small cluster of buildings at the cross-roads which forms the core of modern Weeley and a number of isolated halls, moated sites, farms and cottages.

**Archaeological Character:** There are areas of cropmarks within this zone, largely corresponding to the extent of the Kesgrave sands and gravels. A number of these represent medieval or post-medieval field boundaries, others are clearly indicative of surviving earlier archaeological features. Excavations in advance of the construction of the A133 revealed a series of sites, dating from the Bronze Age onwards. These include the medieval moated site of Gutteridge Hall, illustrating the archaeological potential of this zone. It is probable that further medieval sites relating to the historically dispersed and polyfocal nature of the settlement pattern are also present. The alluvium of the Holland and Weeley Brook valleys may contain palaeoenvironmental deposits. Surviving remains from the medieval and post-medieval periods comprise listed buildings, including the industrial complex at Thorpe Maltings, and the historic landscape of fields and trackways.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of cropmarks, historic settlement pattern	3
• Survival	Cropmarks and other evidence indicate surviving below ground deposits, historic settlement pattern and major landscape features	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic evidence, NMP, excavation evidence	2
• Group Value Association	Cropmarks, settlement pattern	3
• Potential	Good potential for below ground archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Sensitive to change due to the historic settlement pattern and below ground deposits	3
• Amenity Value	Potential for promotion of the historic settlement pattern and cropmarks in relation	2

	to other zones to elucidate the history of Tendring District.	
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### HECZ 6.3: The Sokens

**Summary:** This zone comprises the parishes of Thorpe-le-Soken and Kirby-le-Soken. The geology of this zone largely comprises London Clay which slopes gently down to the marsh edge at Hamford Water. The place-name Soken is an indication that it was once the holding of a Viking or Danish Sokeman. The isolated halls, farms and cottages on the northern side of the zone have tracks down to Hamford Water giving them access to the intertidal zone. The cropmarks demonstrate the presence of features relating to the medieval and earlier periods. The settlement pattern includes the medieval settlements of Kirby and Thorpe-le-Soken, dispersed farms and cottages and several phases of interwar development.

**Historic Landscape Character:** This zone comprises an agricultural landscape, open in aspect, which slopes down to the marsh-edge of Hamford Water. The fieldscape comprises a mixture of rectilinear fields of ancient origin and some later enclosure, this has suffered from moderate boundary loss. There were a number of linear greens in the southern part of the zone, which do not survive. The historic settlement in the area comprised the village of Thorpe-le-Soken, the rather smaller settlement around the church/hall complex at Kirby-le-Soken and a number of isolated halls, farms and cottages. Those on the northern side of the zone have access to Hamford Water down long farm tracks. The modern landscape retains much of this historic pattern, although both Thorpe and Kirby-le-Soken have expanded considerably in size. Their expansion had its origin in the inter-war period, with the initial construction of streets for a planned 'New Town' at Thorpe (subsequently abandoned), as well as more piecemeal introduction of 'plotland style' development. These roads are still present within the modern street-plan, but have been infilled with modern housing. The historic cores of Thorpe and Kirby-le-Soken are protected as Conservation Areas and the early 20<sup>th</sup> century garden at Thorpe Hall is a Registered Park and Garden.



Fig. 46 The High Street, Thorpe-le-Soken

**Archaeological Character:** There has been little archaeological fieldwork within this zone. However a number of groups of cropmarks have been identified, some of these represent medieval or post-medieval field boundaries, others are clearly indicative of surviving earlier archaeological features, including a possible settlement site. The place-name Soken is an indication that it was once the holding of a Viking or Danish Sokeman, and it is possible that archaeology relating to this enigmatic period may survive, as well as to the later medieval period, in relation to the historically dispersed settlement pattern perhaps particularly in the vicinity of the church/hall complexes. There are notable groups of Listed Buildings in the historic core of both villages, and many of the isolated farms are also Listed. The zone includes the site of a Second World War anti-aircraft battery.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of cropmarks, historic villages, and dispersed settlement, plotlands	3
• Survival	Good survival of below ground deposits, plotland layout survives, historic settlement pattern	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic evidence, NMP	2
• Group Value Association	Dispersed settlement associated to the coastal parts of the zone, cropmarks	3
• Potential	Good potential for below ground archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Sensitive to change because of the historic settlement pattern and below ground deposits	2
• Amenity Value	Potential for promotion of the, cropmarks and settlement pattern and its relationship with the inter-tidal area, particularly in relation to neighbouring zones.	2

#### **HECZ 6.4: Great Holland area**

**Summary:** This zone comprises the village of Great Holland and its immediate environs. It occupies a promontory of higher ground falling gently south east to the undeveloped coastline north of Holland-on-Sea and to the Holland Brook to the south west. The geology largely consists of London Clay, overlain with discrete patches of Kesgrave sands and gravels and brickearth. There are several cropmark complexes indicating multi-period activity within the zone.

**Historic Landscape Character:** This zone comprises an agricultural landscape, open in aspect, with extensive views eastwards to the sea. The fieldscape comprises a mixture of rectilinear fields of ancient origin and some later enclosure, most notably the 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure of Kirby Heath. There has been boundary loss, some post-1950s and some much earlier, possibly associated with the creation of Thorpe Park. The settlement pattern of the zone is historically highly dispersed, comprising a

church/hall complex at Great Holland, a scattering of cottages around the greens and at road junctions and a number of isolated halls and farms. Gradual infilling of the settlement in the older village and around the heath had occurred by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, this area now forms the Conservation Area and further infill and expansion has taken place throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Archaeological Character:**

There has been little archaeological fieldwork within this zone. However a number of groups of cropmarks have been identified, some of these represent historic field boundaries of medieval or post-medieval date, whilst other relate to earlier phases of settlement, possibly later prehistoric or Roman, and ring-ditch cemeteries of possible Bronze Age date, the latter are particularly characteristic of the archaeology of the Tendring peninsula. Numerous stray finds, ranging in date from the Palaeolithic to the post-medieval period, are also recorded. There are a number of Listed Buildings in the historic core of Great Holland, and some of the isolated farms are also Listed. Medieval remains relating to the dispersed historic settlement of the zone may also be present. The zone was heavily defended during the Second World War, due to its coastal location, and remains of this are still visible in the form of the cropmarks of a Heavy Anti Aircraft gun battery.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of multi-period cropmarks, settlement pattern, WWII defences	3
• Survival	Cropmarks indicate good survival of multi-period below ground deposits, settlement pattern survives well	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic evidence, NMP	2
• Group Value Association	Cropmarks settlement pattern, WWII defences	3
• Potential	Good potential for below ground archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Sensitive to change due to historic settlement pattern and below ground deposits	2
• Amenity Value	Cropmarks and settlement pattern could be	2

	used in relation to neighbouring zones to elucidate the history of Tendring District.	
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### **HECZ 6.5: Little Clacton area**

**Summary:** This zone comprises the village of Little Clacton and its immediate environs. The geology largely consists of London Clay, overlain with discrete patches of Kesgrave sands and gravels and brickearth. There are also some river terrace deposits in the south-eastern corner of the zone. The zone is drained by Picker's Ditch and the Holland Brook, the latter forms the eastern boundary of the zone. This zone has the potential for Palaeolithic deposits and there are also significant groups of cropmarks dating from the Bronze Age onwards. The historic settlement pattern is highly dispersed.

**Historic Landscape Character:** This zone comprises a gently undulating agricultural landscape, open in aspect. The fieldscape comprises a mixture of rectilinear fields of ancient origin and former heathlands, most notably Weeley Heath and Chisbon Heath, these were enclosed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. There has been some post-1950s boundary loss. The settlement pattern of the zone was historically highly dispersed, comprising a church/hall complex at Little Clacton, a scattering of cottages around the greens and at road junctions and a number of isolated halls and farms. Weeley Hall Wood is one of the finest woods in the district, a sweet chestnut coppice with oak standards, it is an SSSI. There are also a few other smaller areas of ancient woodland. Modern roadside development has taken place all along the road between Little Clacton and Great Clacton and the heaths have also been largely infilled with housing. There are also a number of caravan and holiday parks. The new A133 cuts this area in half from north-south.

#### **Archaeological Character:**

The river terrace gravels in the south-eastern corner of this zone derive from a former line of the River Medway, and have the potential to contain Palaeolithic deposits. There are significant groups of cropmarks in this zone, many of these seem to relate to earlier phases of settlement, possibly later prehistoric or Roman, others include ring-ditch cemeteries of possible Bronze Age date, a monument form characteristic of the

Tendring peninsula in general. Historic field boundaries of medieval or post-medieval date and a number of moated sites are also visible as cropmarks. There is a likelihood of medieval deposits related to the historically dispersed settlement pattern surviving in this zone. Excavations in advance of the construction of the A133 have confirmed the presence of below-ground archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period onwards. There are a number of Listed Buildings in the historic core of Little Clacton and many of the farms are also listed.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of multi-period cropmarks, historic settlement pattern, ancient woodland	2
• Survival	Good survival of below ground remains, historic settlement pattern	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, NMP, excavation reports	2
• Group Value Association	Cropmarks, settlement patterns and historic landscape features	2
• Potential	Good potential for below ground archaeological deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Sensitive to change due to the significance and nature of the historic settlement pattern	3
• Amenity Value	Cropmarks and settlement pattern could be used in relation to neighbouring zones to elucidate the history of Tendring District.	2

**HECZ 6.6: Holland Brook Floodplain**

**Summary:** This zone comprises the lower reaches of the Holland Brook and its floodplain. The geology comprises London Clay, overlain with alluvium. Historically the landscape comprised grazing marsh at the seaward end and enclosed meadow pasture further upstream. It is possible that archaeological deposits relating to the exploitation of the river and the floodplain survive belowground.

**Historic Landscape Character:** This zone comprises the lower reaches of the Holland Brook and its floodplain. The fieldscape comprises a mix of grazing marsh and enclosed meadow pasture, laid out in rectilinear fields bordered by straight drainage ditches. The river is bordered by willows and other streamside vegetation. The grasslands are still grazed. They are protected as an SSSI. The historic crossing points across the river are marked by stone bridges, at Fan Bridge, Rice Bridge and Holland Bridge. There are no buildings in this zone.



Fig. 47 Grazing pasture in the floodplain of the Holland Brook

**Archaeological Character:**

The alluvial silts in this river valley have the potential to hold important palaeoenvironmental evidence relating to vegetation, climatic and coastal changes in the history of Tendring peninsula. Although there are at present no historic structures, with the exception of the bridges, within this zone, it is possible that the river was exploited as a source of water and water-power in the past and structural remains may survive below-ground.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diversity of historic environment assets</li> </ul>	Possible Palaeo-environmental deposits, meadow pasture.	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survival</li> </ul>	Historic field pattern survives well, below ground deposits including Palaeoenvironmental remains are likely to be well preserved.	3

• Documentation	cartographic	1
• Group Value Association	Meadow pasture features	2
• Potential	High potential for palaeo-environmental deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Field pattern and palaeo-environmental deposits highly sensitive	3
• Amenity Value	Historic nature of meadow pasture could be used in relation to neighbouring zones to elucidate the history of Tendring District.	2

### HECZ 6.7: Holland Haven

**Summary:** A small zone comprising coastal grazing marsh that was enclosed and drained in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The known archaeological remains consist of a Red Hill and defensive structures, reflecting the zones coastal location,

**Historic Landscape Character:** This zone comprises an area of drained coastal marshland located between Clacton and Frinton. Originating as salt-marsh it was enclosed and drained in the 17<sup>th</sup> century to form coastal grazing marsh. Elements of the original creeks still survive within the landscape, coupled with straight drainage ditches. Part of the zone is still being grazed, whilst the remainder has been converted to a golf course. The marshes are protected as a SSSI. There are no buildings in this zone with the exception of the golf course buildings.

#### **Archaeological Character:**

The alluvial silts in this zone have the potential to hold important palaeoenvironmental evidence for vegetation, climatic and coastal changes relating to the history of the Tendring peninsula. The known archaeology relates to its coastal position. One Red Hill (Late Iron Age or Roman salt-making site) is recorded and more may be present. Later periods are represented by defensive structures, including an early 20<sup>th</sup> century gun emplacement at Chevaux de Frise Point and a World War II Heavy Anti Aircraft site at Little Holland. Two lines of sea-wall are visible, with the innermost probably representing the 17<sup>th</sup> century reclamation line.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Red hills, original grazing marsh, military sites	2
• Survival	Good survival of both landscape and archaeological deposits	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic	2
• Group Value Association	Features relating to coastal/wetland exploitation, Second World War defences	3
• Potential	Good potential for below ground archaeological and palaeo-environmental deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Below ground deposits, surviving historic landscape features and remaining military sites highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	Potential for promotion of historic coastal/wetland exploitation and military defences in association with other coastal zones	2

### HECZ 7.1 Jaywick South

**Summary:** This zone comprises a group of housing estates which were developed during the interwar period, comprising bungalows and chalets of lightweight construction planned as a holiday village for residents of London. The underlying geology is alluvium overlying London Clay which is exposed on the west side of the zone. The zones archaeological resource is characterised by a buried land surface with important prehistoric features and deposits. Most of the zone is in residential use with some commercial properties.

**Historic Urban Character:** This zone comprises the interwar residential development of the Brooklands and Grasslands estates and Jaywick Village. The buildings in the zone largely comprise bungalows and chalets of lightweight construction. The zone also includes a small development of 'Beach Cottages' built in the late 1990s. The pattern of

development is characterised by a co-axial street pattern with the street plan of the Brooklands estate built to resemble the design of a Bentley radiator grill. The zone incorporates an extensive promenade along the modern concrete sea wall which is a dominant element of the built environment. Although there are a few commercial properties the zone is now mainly in residential use.



Fig. 48 Buick Avenue, Grasslands Estate, Jaywick

**Archaeological Character:** The Brooklands and Grasslands estates and Jaywick village were built on reclaimed land which was formerly part of St Osyth Marshes (HECZ 8.1). Along the sea front at Jaywick sands, extensive areas of prehistoric land surface have been exposed and produced quantities of flint artefacts and pottery, and a number of in situ archaeological features and deposits including those relating to important Neolithic occupation sites. Significant quantities of worked flint have also been recovered from the inland side of the sea wall. A recorded Red Hill confirms the importance of the former salt marshes for salt manufacturing during the late Iron Age and Roman period as demonstrated in the adjacent HECZ 8.1. The post medieval period is represented by exposed timbers visible on the foreshore from structures such as former landing stages. During WWII, the sea wall was provided with a series of defensive structures, including pill boxes that have since been destroyed. The zone has potential for a wide range of below ground archaeological deposits and where alluvium

and marsh deposits are present these will be conducive to good palaeoenvironmental survival.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Built environment, street pattern, red hill, prehistoric features, finds and deposits, post medieval timbers	2
• Survival	Good survival of early 20 <sup>th</sup> century built environment and prehistoric features/deposits	2
• Documentation	HER data	1
• Group Value Association	Buildings and related co-axial street pattern	2
• Potential	Potential for deeply buried archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Sensitive historic built environment	2
• Amenity Value	Historic built environment provide opportunities to explain the early 20 <sup>th</sup> century development of the sea side resort in relation/contrast to others nearby	2

## HECZ 7.2: Jaywick North

**Summary:** This zone comprises a 20<sup>th</sup> century housing estate and static caravan park. The underlying geology is alluvium and river terrace gravels overlying London Clay. The zones archaeological resource includes prehistoric features visible as cropmarks and may contain surviving below ground remains associated with its former marsh edge location, such as Jay Wick farm. Most of the zone is in residential and leisure use.

**Historic Urban Character:** This zone includes the Tudor estate which comprises interwar period and later residential, non-terraced housing. It incorporates the site of Jay Wick, a modern school and church and the Sackett Grove Caravan Park, located on the northern edge of the estate, and some modern ribbon development along Jaywick Lane. The Tudor estate is largely residential with the caravan park providing some leisure use.

**Archaeological Character:** The northern half of the zone is underlain by deeply buried geoarchaeological deposits associated with ancient courses of the Rivers Thames and Medway which are likely to contain important evidence for the Clactonian Palaeolithic industry. These deposits continue into HECZ 7.8 to the east and HECZ 11.4 to the west. Buried archaeological remains in the north of the zone at Sacketts Grove Caravan Park have been identified as cropmarks on aerial photographs. They include a large ring ditch and double ditched trackway which are likely to be prehistoric in origin and to form part of a complex of ring ditches, field boundaries and enclosures visible in the adjacent areas to the north, east and west (HECZ 11.4 and 7.8). In the south of the zone, the Tudor estate overlies the site of Jay Wick farm, which is likely to have been medieval in origin and which formed the easternmost of a string of ‘wick’ farms located along the boundary between dry land and St Osyth marsh (HECZ 11.4). In the north east corner of the zone, is the extant Cross House which is shown on the 1777 Chapman and Andre map and the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map. A heavy anti-aircraft battery built to the north of Jaywick as part of the WWII defences of the area has been entirely built over. The zones former marsh edge location and known archaeological remains suggests that it would have been a focus for activity linked to the exploitation of the marshes. Whilst the development of the Tudor estate will have destroyed much of the archaeology in the zone, fragmentary remains may survive. Preservation is likely to be much greater in the area of the Sackett Grove Caravan Park. The river terrace gravels that lie within the zone have high potential for important, minimally disturbed, but deeply buried Palaeolithic deposits.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Cropmarks, ‘wick’ farm, post medieval building. WWII defences	2
• Survival	Extensive disturbance by 20 <sup>th</sup> century housing development, deeply buried Palaeolithic deposits may survive well	2
• Documentation	HER, NMP data, historic mapping	2
• Group Value Association	Cropmarks	1
• Potential	Some potential, particularly, within Sackett Grove Caravan Park and within deeply buried river terrace deposits	1

• Sensitivity to change	Cropmark sites would suffer from medium to large scale development	1
• Amenity Value	Some limited potential to promote the historic environment due to the zones current leisure use	1

### HECZ 7.3 Clacton on Sea

**Summary:** This zone comprises the historic core of the 19<sup>th</sup> century seaside resort of Clacton on Sea. The archaeological resource includes important Palaeolithic deposits associated with channel deposits within the river terrace gravels which underlie the zone. The underlying geology is river terrace gravels and alluvium overlying London Clay. Most of the zone is in residential use with some commercial/leisure activity, a significant portion falls within the Clacton Seafront Conservation Area and it contains a number of listed buildings and structures.

**Historic Urban Character:** This zone comprises the historic core of the seaside resort of Clacton on Sea which initially developed as a planned resort in the area of Church Road, Rosemary Road and Marine Parade from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (1870) onwards. The zone still retains remnants of the initial street layout of terraces and crescents but is dominated by the growth of a geometrical street plan of later 19<sup>th</sup> century terraces. The zone incorporates the promenades of Marine Parade East and West, both centred on Clacton Pier which was built in 1871. There are no buildings predating the 18<sup>th</sup> century but the initial development includes listed street furniture along West Parade. The zone is largely in residential use with commercial and leisure activity relating to shops and the pier.



Fig. 49 Clacton Pier

**Archaeological Character:** The western side of the zone is noted for internationally important geoarchaeological deposits associated with ancient courses of the Rivers Thames and Medway which contain artefact evidence for the Clactonian Palaeolithic industry. Neolithic material has also been found on the foreshore indicating a continuation of the buried land surface identified to the west in HECZ 7.1. Elements of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century pattern of roads are preserved within the streets of the later resort and the zone contains an early 19<sup>th</sup> century Martello Tower which is designated as a scheduled monument. Archaeological remains of properties depicted on the 1777 Chapman and Andre map may survive although these are likely to have suffered significant disturbance. During WW1, West Beach was the site of a sea plane landing station, of which nothing survives, and the area was heavily defended during WWII with pill boxes, anti tank obstacles, anti-invasion scaffolding but no remains are known.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Palaeolithic deposits, historic defences, historic built environment including resort structures e.g. piers	2
• Survival	Good survival of deeply buried Palaeolithic deposits, and the built heritage of the seaside resort.	2
• Documentation	HER data, research projects, historic mapping	2
• Group Value Association	Palaeolithic artefacts and associated deposits, built heritage reflecting the development of the seaside resort.	3

• Potential	Potential for deeply buried Palaeolithic deposits, and deposits within the intertidal zone.	2
• Sensitivity to change	Built environment of historic seaside resort (architecture and formal planned street pattern) sensitive to medium to large scale change	2
• Amenity Value	Good potential to interpret the historic environment of the zone particularly its seaside heritage in relation to other seaside resorts. Also Palaeolithic remains.	2

#### **HECZ 7.4 Great Clacton**

**Summary:** This zone comprises the medieval and post medieval historic core of Great Clacton, the archaeological resource includes medieval and post medieval features and deposits related to the origins and development of the village. The geology is mainly London Clay with some river terrace gravels. The majority of the zone falls within the Great Clacton Conservation Area and it contains a number of listed buildings. Most of the zone is in residential use with some commercial activity.

**Historic Urban Character:** This zone comprises the medieval and post medieval historic core of the village of Great Clacton focused around a church / hall complex, Great Clacton Hall and the 12<sup>th</sup> century church of St John, and as ribbon development along St Johns and Old Road. The zone is now surrounded by housing due to the expansion of Clacton but retains its character from the impressive parish church and its surrounding churchyard, and a range of 16<sup>th</sup> century and later buildings. Great Clacton Hall is 18<sup>th</sup> century in date, having replaced an earlier hall located immediately north of the church within HECZ 7.7. The zone is largely in residential use but is also an important commercial centre including three historic inns.

**Archaeological Character:** The church contains Roman brick within its quoins which suggests Roman activity in the vicinity, although not necessarily within the zone. There is also some indication of Anglo-Saxon activity within or near to the zone, but again, the

precise location is unknown. Important archaeological remains related to the 12<sup>th</sup> century church and its churchyard will survive and medieval and post medieval below ground deposits from associated settlement, including properties depicted on the 1777 Chapman and Andre map, are likely to characterise the archaeology of the zone, although these have probably suffered disturbance. The zone still retains the historic road pattern depicted on the 1777 Chapman and Andre map and the surviving built heritage forms an important part of the archaeological character of the zone. During WWII the roads leading in and out of the village centre were defended by various obstacles, none of which survive.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Historic built environment, below ground remains	2
• Survival	Good survival of built heritage, potential for below ground deposits	2
• Documentation	HER data, historic mapping, Listed building descriptions, Conservation Area appraisal	2
• Group Value Association	Historic buildings reflecting medieval and post medieval settlement	2
• Potential	Potential for medieval and post medieval below ground deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Built environment of historic village (architecture and historic street pattern) sensitive to medium to large scale change	2
• Amenity Value	Potential to interpret the historic environment of the zone including the medieval origins of Clacton , prior to its development as a seaside resort	2

**HECZ 7.5 Holland on Sea**

**Summary:** This zone comprises the medieval church/hall complex of Little Holland and interwar expansion to the east of Clacton. The geology of the zone is River Terrace gravels over London Clay. The zones archaeological resource includes the scheduled

remains of the medieval parish church and cemetery. Listed buildings include Little Holland Hall . Most of the zone is in residential use.

**Historic Urban Character:** This zone comprises mainly interwar, and some post war, expansion to the east of Clacton on Sea. The interwar expansion includes a significant area of semi-detached housing partly laid out in a distinctive co-axial street plan. Post war residential development is located to the north of the B1032. The zone contains two listed buildings consisting of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, or earlier, Oakwood Inn and Little Holland Hall which is a 16<sup>th</sup> century or earlier timber framed house (now a residential home). Other buildings of note include the Ogilvie School of Recovery comprising two late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century convalescent homes (now Shorefields Special School). The zone is largely residential. The sea front is characterised by blocks of beach huts and modern sea defences.

**Archaeological Character:** Finds of prehistoric flints on the foreshore indicate a continuation of the buried land surface identified elsewhere along this part of the coast. A single find of Roman pottery suggests Roman activity within the zone. The medieval parish church is designated as a scheduled monument and survives as a raised earthwork and upstanding east wall preserved within an area of open space. Excavations have indicated that the origins of the associated cemetery may predate the medieval church. Located to the north of the church are two ponds and a large basin, former mill ponds that are significant historic landscape features and which have potential for waterlogged deposits. Important archaeological remains related to the church and cemetery will survive and medieval and post medieval below ground deposits from associated settlement, including properties depicted on the 1777 Chapman and Andre map, are likely to characterise the archaeology of the zone, although these have probably suffered disturbance. The zone still retains the historic road pattern depicted on the 1777 Chapman and Andre map. During WWII the roads leading in and out of the zone and the sea front were heavily defended by dummy minefields, gun emplacements and pill boxes, none of which survive.



Fig. 50 Earthworks of the medieval church, Holland-on-Sea

• Diversity of historic environment assets	built environment, medieval church, dispersed medieval and post medieval settlement, WW II sites, prehistoric land surface	2
• Survival	Good survival both of built and buried deposits around Holland Hall, remaining area badly affected by post war development	1
• Documentation	HER data, historic mapping, designation documentation	2
• Group Value Association	Medieval complex at Little Holland, WW II monuments	2
• Potential	Potential for medieval and post medieval below ground deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Built environment of medieval church / hall complex, and inter war street pattern sensitive to medium to large scale change	2
• Amenity Value	Some potential to interpret the historic environment of the zone including medieval origins of Little Holland	1

## **HECZ 7.6 Clacton**

**Summary:** This zone comprises the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century expansion of the seaside resort of Clacton on Sea. The zones archaeological resource includes important Palaeolithic deposits associated with channel deposits within the river terrace gravels which underlie the zone. The geology of the zone is River Terrace gravels, alluvium and Head overlying London Clay. Most of the zone is in residential use. There are a number of listed buildings of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century date and a scheduled Martello Tower.

**Historic Urban Character:** This zone comprises later 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century expansion of Clacton on Sea including residential housing built outside the initial geometric plan of the seaside resort (HECZ 7.3) and incorporates ribbon development of terraces along Old Road and St Osyths Road. Geometric street planning continues to the south of the railway station, opened in 1882, and to the east of the historic core of the seaside resort. There is some small scale 20<sup>th</sup> century industrial development along Old Road and in the area of the railway station but otherwise the zone is in residential use. The zone contains no buildings which predate the 18<sup>th</sup> century but the 19<sup>th</sup> century built area includes listed buildings of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century date. The zone is largely residential with some commercial/retail use.

**Archaeological Character:** The zone is noted for internationally important geoarchaeological deposits associated with ancient courses of the Rivers Thames and Medway that have been identified through various excavations and which contain artefact evidence for the Clactonian Palaeolithic industry. These Clacton Channel deposits were once exposed along cliffs when numerous artefacts, famously including a wooden spear, were found on the foreshore. The cliffs are now concealed by sea defences and deposits are deeply buried. They continue into HECZ 7.7 to the west. Neolithic material has also been found on the foreshore indicating a continuation of the buried land identified to the west (HECZ 7.1). The Chapman and Andre map of 1777 depicts a linear green (Magdalen Green) within the zone, which would have been a focus for settlement during the medieval period, as it was when the map was published. Archaeological remains of green side settlement and other properties depicted on the 1777 Chapman and Andre map may survive although these are likely to have suffered significant disturbance. The zone includes a Napoleonic Martello tower, which was

originally fronted by a gun battery that has since been lost to the sea. The tower is designated as a Scheduled Monument. Industrial sites including a late 19<sup>th</sup> century gas works and three brick works are known in the zone. During WW1, West Beach was the site of a sea plane landing station, of which nothing survives, and the area was heavily defended during WWII with pill boxes, anti tank obstacles and ammunition dump, but no remains are known.



Fig.51 Martello Tower, Clacton

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Palaeolithic deposits, historic defences	2
• Survival	Good survival of deeply buried Palaeolithic deposits	1
• Documentation	HER data, research projects, historic mapping	2

• Group Value Association	Palaeolithic artefacts and associated deposits, built environment relating to the development of the seaside resort	2
• Potential	Potential for deeply buried Palaeolithic deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Formal planned street pattern sensitive to medium to large scale change	2
• Amenity Value	Some potential to interpret the historic environment of the zone including its seaside heritage in relation to other zones	1

### HECZ 7.7 Clacton North

**Summary:** This zone largely comprises post War and later 20<sup>th</sup> century residential and industrial development built to the north and west of the planned settlement at Clacton on Sea. The underlying geology is river terrace gravels and Head over London Clay. The zones archaeological resource includes important Palaeolithic deposits, a submerged Neolithic land surface, prehistoric and later cropmark sites and possible medieval and post medieval settlement remains. Most of the zone is in residential use. There are a number of listed buildings of 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

**Historic Urban Character:** This zone comprises post War and later 20<sup>th</sup> century residential developments built to the north and west of the initial planned 19<sup>th</sup> century settlement at Clacton on Sea. It incorporates lesser settlements such as Rush Green and Bocking's Elm and includes a pre-war residential development bounded by the railway line to the east and a number of schools and playing fields. There is a large modern satellite industrial and retail estate along the northern fringe of the built up area at Gorse Lane. Otherwise, the zone is largely residential use.

**Archaeological Character:** The zone is noted for internationally important geoarchaeological deposits associated with ancient courses of the Rivers Thames and Medway that have been identified through various excavations and which contain artefact evidence for the Clactonian Palaeolithic industry. These Clacton Channel deposits were once exposed along cliffs when numerous artefacts, famously including a

wooden spear, were found on the foreshore. The cliffs are now concealed by sea defences and deposits are deeply buried. The deposits continue into HECZ 7.6 to the east. Neolithic material has also been found on the foreshore indicating a continuation of the submerged land surface identified to the west at Lion Point (HECZ 7.1). Aerial photographs have revealed cropmarks of ring ditches, pits, linear features and ditched enclosures scattered across the zone. Many of these are within school playing fields but some have been built over. On the western side of the zone, the cropmarks continue into HECZ 7.8. Small scale excavations have indicated a prehistoric origin for at least one of these features. The Chapman and Andre map of 1777 depicts a dispersed settlement pattern within the zone including greens (Rush Green and Coppens Green), isolated farms and halls, and the site of Great Clacton Hall which was part of a medieval church/hall complex that may have had its origins in the Anglo-Saxon period (see also HECZ 7.4) Archaeological remains of green side settlement and other properties depicted on the 1777 Chapman and Andre map, including Great Clacton Hall, may survive although these are likely to have suffered significant disturbance. On the east side of the zone is the extant and listed Cann Hall, which is shown on the 1777 Chapman and Andre map and the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map. At least one post medieval industrial site was located in the zone comprising a brick-works, which continued into HECZ 7.5. During WWII the zone was heavily defended with pill boxes and anti tank obstacles, and there was an ammunition dump next to the station but no remains are known. Martello Bay is the site of a former Butlins Holiday Camp which was closed in 1983 and redeveloped as a housing estate.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Palaeolithic deposits, Neolithic land surface, cropmark sites, industrial remains, historic buildings	2
• Survival	Good survival of deeply buried Palaeolithic deposits	1
• Documentation	HER data, research projects, historic maps, NMP data	2
• Group Value Association	Palaeolithic artefacts and associated deposits	1
• Potential	Potential for deeply buried Palaeolithic deposits	1

• Sensitivity to change	The historic environment of the zone is able to accommodate medium to large scale change	1
• Amenity Value	Limited potential except in relation to other zones	1

## HECZ 7.8 Clacton Airfield

**Summary:** This zone comprises a flat and open landscape situated between Clacton and Jaywick. The geology consists of estuarine alluvium deposits in the south, and river gravel terraces overlying London Clay. Current land use includes two golf courses separated by Clacton airfield and arable fields. The southern golf course overlies the eastern end of what was formerly St Osyth Marsh. Historic settlement in the zone was sparse. The fieldscape is of ancient origin. Archaeologically, the character of the zone is dominated by multi-period cropmark complexes and the internationally important Palaeolithic remains of the Clacton Channel deposits. The zone also includes a scheduled Martello Tower.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The southern half of the zone was once part of St Osyth Marsh (HECZ 8.1). The natural saltings that formerly existed in this part of the zone began to be enclosed within seawalls during the medieval period. The process of reclamation was largely complete by the time the Chapman and Andre map of Essex was published in 1777. Historically the marsh would have provided grazing for cattle and sheep, although parts of it may also have been used at times for crop production. Fragments of former grazing marsh may survive within the golf course but appears to have been largely removed through landscaping. A modern road (West Road) runs between this golf course and the airfield and golf course to the north. Straight, hedged field boundaries survive in this area, surrounding rectangular arable fields. A large, water-filled gravel quarry, depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map (c 1876) is located on the airfield site. The northern half of the zone includes a civic amenity site, and playing fields, including those of a modern college.

**Archaeological Character:** The southern half of the zone is noted for internationally important geoarchaeological deposits associated with ancient courses of the Rivers

Thames and Medway that have been identified through various excavations and which contain artefact evidence for the Clactonian Palaeolithic industry. These Clacton Channel deposits were once exposed along cliffs when numerous artefacts, famously including a wooden spear, were found on the foreshore. The cliffs are now concealed by sea defences and deposits are deeply buried. They continue into HECZ 7.7 and HECZ 7.6 to the east. Along the sea front, extensive areas of prehistoric land surface have been exposed and produced quantities of flint artefacts and pottery, and a number of in situ archaeological features and deposits including those relating to important Neolithic occupation sites. In the northern half of the zone, extensive, cropmark complexes have been identified including ditched field boundaries and enclosures and ring ditch cemeteries. Excavations at Bishops Park College, revealed the multi-period origin of these features with finds ranging from a Late Bronze Age trackway and elements of a Roman field system and probable building to Saxon material and a medieval ditched trackway. The Martello Tower is designated as a Scheduled Monument and Listed Building. There were numerous WWII defensive structures including pill boxes and a diver site, across the zone due to its open, coastal position.

The zone still retains significant potential for below ground archaeological deposits despite extensive disturbance from landscaping associated with the golf courses which will have had a negative impact. Within the southern half of the zone, the soil-type, comprising extensive alluvium and marsh deposits are conducive to good palaeoenvironmental survival. The river terrace gravels that lie beneath the southern end of the zone have high potential for internationally important, but deeply buried Palaeolithic deposits.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Good range of archaeological features from different periods	3
• Survival	Significant remains surviving but some adverse affects from golf course construction	2
• Documentation	HER data, NMP data, historic mapping, research project, designation documentation	2
• Group Value Association	Cropmark sites	2

• Potential	Potential for surviving remains including deeply buried Palaeolithic deposits within river gravels, and cropmark sites in farmland	3
• Sensitivity to change	Cropmark complexes and specific assets sensitive to change.	2
• Amenity Value	Potential for promotion of the zone in relation to others particularly with regard to Palaeolithic deposits and of specific assets such as the Martello Tower.	2

### HECZ 8.1 St Osyth Marshes

**Summary:** This zone comprises the surviving and former coastal grazing marsh of St Osyth Marsh. The geology is estuarine alluvium deposits. The sea walls and borrow dykes on the western side of the zone fall within areas of importance for nature conservation and are designated as an Essex Coast Special Protection Area (SPA), Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and the Colne Estuary Ramsar. Modern developments include holiday chalets at Lee-over-sands and a sewage treatment works. The zone is characterised by Red Hills and late medieval and post medieval historic landscape features.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The natural saltings that formerly existed in the zone began to be enclosed within seawalls during the medieval period. The process of reclamation was largely complete by the time the Chapman and Andre map of Essex was published in 1777, although there may have been some additional reclamation in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century on the western side of the zone. Fragments of grazing marsh survive on the eastern side of the zone, containing fossilised fleets and other natural depressions which are evidence of former creeks and saltmarsh before the seawall was built. The zone is characterised by its open and flat aspect and arable cultivation. Field boundaries are mainly dykes and drainage ditches, some following the sinuous course of former creeks. There has been significant boundary loss since the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map (c1876), most probably as a result of post 1950 rationalisation. The sea walls and an occasional counter wall survive as earthworks and are the dominant historic landscape

feature in the zone although a scheduled post medieval duck decoy with surrounding vegetation is prominent on the zones eastern side. The zone has a close relationship with HECZ 11.4 to the north via the line of 'Wick' farms which were located along the former marsh edge.

**Archaeological Character:** The river terrace gravels that lie beneath the eastern half of the zone have high potential for internationally important, but deeply buried Palaeolithic deposits. Evidence for at least four red hills has been noted within the zone, indicating its significance for the production of sea salt during the late Iron Age and Roman periods. Aerial photographs have recorded the location of a series of former sea walls on the west side of the zone, some of which are depicted as earthworks on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map (c.1876), and which represent different stages of marshland reclamation. The surviving sea walls and counter walls are likely to be medieval or post medieval in origin and will retain evidence for date and construction. The Lion Point duck decoy pond survives as a significant earthwork and may retain evidence for its construction and operation within waterlogged deposits. The zone has potential for a further wide range of below ground archaeological deposits, and possibly earthworks within the relict grazing marsh, although agricultural intensification will have denuded below ground archaeological remains in areas which have been converted to arable production. The soil-type, comprising extensive alluvium and marsh deposits are conducive to good palaeoenvironmental survival.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Red Hills, Sea and Counter walls	1
• Survival	Moderate to good survival particularly below ground deposits	2
• Documentation	HER data, NMP data	1
• Group Value Association	Features relating to marshland and coastal zone exploitation including Red Hills, counter and sea walls	2
• Potential	Good potential for surviving deposits including important palaeoenvironmental remains	2
• Sensitivity to change	Relict grazing marsh and archaeological	2

	deposits sensitive to change.	
• Amenity Value	Potential for promotion, in conjunction with other zones, of the history of marshland and coastal zone exploitation in Tendring District.	2

## HECZ 8.2 Seawick Holiday Village

**Summary:** This zone comprises the holiday complex at Seawick, including chalets, caravan parks and leisure facilities located on an area formerly part of St Osyth Marsh. The geology is estuarine alluvium deposits. The zone is characterised by sea walls and coastal fortifications, including a nationally important Napoleonic Martello tower.



Fig. 52 Chalets in Seawick Holiday Village

**Historic Landscape Character:** The natural saltings that formerly existed in the zone began to be enclosed within seawalls during the medieval period. The process of reclamation was largely complete by the time the Chapman and Andre map of Essex was published in 1777. A former sea wall, surviving as a significant earthwork, runs through the eastern side of the zone, dividing two caravan parks. This and the current sea wall which demarcates the southern edge of the zone are the dominant historic landscape features.

**Archaeological Character:** The river terrace gravels that lie beneath the eastern half of the zone have high potential for internationally important, but deeply buried Palaeolithic deposits. The surviving sea walls within the zone will retain evidence for date and construction. The most significant known archaeological remains in the zone

comprise a Napoleonic Martello tower, which is designated as a Scheduled Monument. The tower stands to its original height but originally accompanied a 'V'-shaped gun battery, of which little survives, although it is reflected in the angle of the modern sea wall. Later defensive structures include WWII pill boxes, many of which have been destroyed. There is potential for palaeo-environmental remains buried within or beneath the alluvium.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Known range of historic environment assets is limited.	1
• Survival	Limited survival, except with regard to the Martello tower and possibly deeply buried deposits.	2
• Documentation	EHER data, NMP data and designation documentation	1
• Group Value Association	Sea defences and fortifications	1
• Potential	Low potential for surviving assets, with the exception of deeply buried deposits.	2
• Sensitivity to change	Specific assets sensitive to change	1
• Amenity Value	Potential for promoting defence and coastal heritage of Tendring in conjunction with other zones.	2

**HECZ 8.3 Former marshes at Point Clear Bay**

**Summary:** This zone is comprised of an area of former reclaimed saltmarsh, along the south bank of Brightlingsea Creek. The geology is estuarine alluvium deposits with an outcrop of river gravel terraces on the eastern side of the zone. Two thirds of the zone is now occupied by houses, caravan parks and a leisure complex at Point Clear Bay. The remaining eastern part of the zone is utilised as a golf course. The zone contains a nationally important Napoleonic Martello Tower and gun battery. Areas adjacent to the zone are highly important for nature conservation and the northern and western fringes of the zone falls within a Special Area of Conservation (SPC) and the Essex Coast Special Protection Area (SPA). Historically the zone will have had a close relationship

with HECZ 8.6 (the inter tidal zone of the Colne Estuary) and the adjacent inland zone, HECZ 11.4, to the south of St Osyth.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The natural saltings that formerly existed in the zone probably began to be enclosed within seawalls during the medieval period. The process of reclamation was certainly complete by the time the Chapman and Andre map of Essex was published in 1777. The fleets and creeks which show up as cropmarks on the golf course are evidence of former saltmarsh before the seawall was built. Historically the marsh would have provided grazing for cattle and sheep, although parts of it may also have been used at times for crop production. There are very few surviving field boundaries in the zone, mainly dykes and drainage ditches. The sea wall and visible sections of adjacent borrow dyke are the dominant historic landscape feature. 20<sup>th</sup> century development on the marsh took place after c.1950.

**Archaeological Character:** The depiction of sea walls on the 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> edition OS maps and as cropmarks on aerial photographs from the 1950's suggest at least three stages of reclamation of the saltmarsh, and the surviving sea walls will retain evidence for date and construction. A compound of buildings, presumably livestock sheds situated on the zones southern boundary, is also depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> edition OS maps and there are likely to be archaeological, possibly earthwork remains relating to these structures, although the site is now partially covered by buildings associated with a caravan park. A sheepfold, formed from the ends of four creeks, is also shown but is now covered by a modern road and building. The most significant known archaeological remains in the zone comprise a Napoleonic Martello tower and associated gun battery situated at the northwest tip of the zone, overlooking Brightlingsea Reach and the mouth of the River Colne. The tower stands to its original height, but has later additions dating to the Second World War. The upstanding remains of the Stone Point battery comprised sections of the 'V'-shaped brick wall and its massive foundations. The Martello Tower and gun battery are designated as a Scheduled Monument; the tower is also a Listed Building. Later defensive structures comprised a destroyed WWII pill box.

The zone retains some potential for below ground archaeological deposits, although modern development across its western end will have severely reduced the level of

survival and at its eastern end, landscaping associated with the golf course will also have had a negative impact. The soil-type, comprising extensive alluvium and marsh deposits are conducive to good palaeoenvironmental survival. The river terrace gravels that lie within the eastern side of the zone have high potential for important, minimally disturbed, but deeply buried Palaeolithic deposits.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Defensive structures, sea walls/borrow dyke and buried archaeological features	2
• Survival	Limited survival, except with regard to buried deposits	1
• Documentation	HER data, NMP data, historic mapping, designation documentation	2
• Group Value Association	Napoleonic and defensive structures	1
• Potential	Restricted potential for surviving remains apart from buried remains including deeply buried Palaeolithic deposits within river gravels	2
• Sensitivity to change	Landscape fragments, specific assets sensitive to change, and buried deposits.	1
• Amenity Value	Potential for promoting defence and coastal heritage of Tendring in conjunction with other zones.	2

**HECZ 8.4 Howlands Marsh**

**Summary:** This zone comprises an area of reclaimed saltmarsh along the south bank of Flag Creek and north bank of St Osyth Creek to the west of St Osyth Priory and park. Howlands Marsh includes around 73 hectares of improved and unimproved grazing marsh, spilt up by former dykes and creeks. The northern end of the zone is occupied by the ballast quay at Wellwick Wharf and associated slurry pools, industrial buildings and machinery. There is no settlement within the zone which is highly important in terms of the natural environment. Significant parts of the zone are designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Area of Conservation (SPC), and fall within the Essex Coast Special Protection Area (SPA) and Colne Estuary Ramsar site. The

majority of the zone is owned and managed as a nature reserve by Essex Wildlife Trust. Historically the zone had a close relationship with HECZ 8.6 (the tidal waters of the Colne Estuary) and adjacent inland HECZ 11.4 and 11.5. This relationship continues to be expressed in the ongoing activities at Wellwick Wharf.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The natural saltings that formerly existed in the zone probably began to be enclosed within seawalls during the medieval period. The process of reclamation was certainly complete by the time the Chapman and Andre map of Essex was published in 1777. The fleets and other natural depressions in the grassland are evidence of former creeks and saltmarsh before the seawall was built. Historically the marsh would have provided grazing for cattle and sheep, although parts of the marsh have also been used in the past for crop production as evidenced in places by surviving ridges and furrows of 'stetch' cultivation earthworks. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map (c1876) also depicts a series of straight hedged field boundaries at the north end of the zone which are likely to have bordered fields used for arable farming. Elsewhere, field boundaries in the zone are mainly dykes and drainage ditches, many following the sinuous course of former creeks, together with modern post and wire fences. The geology of the zone is estuarine alluvium deposits. The zone is characterised by its open and flat aspect. The dominant historic landscape feature within the zone is the sea wall but other significant features include low linear earthworks which are likely to be either counter walls or raised sheep walks/trackways. There has been little boundary loss other than in the area of the ballast quay at Wellwick Wharf. The wharf developed during the mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> century and has had a significant impact on the visual character of the northern part of the zone, with modern industrial machinery, including high level conveyors, buildings, mounds of aggregate and slurry pools/lagoons dominating the area.



Fig. 53 Raised causeway, Howlands Marsh

**Archaeological Character:** Evidence for at least two red hills has been noted in the southern end of the zone indicating its significance for the production of sea salt during the late Iron Age and Roman periods. The sea walls and counter walls/raised causeways are likely to be medieval in origin and will retain evidence for date and construction. A rectangular enclosure bordered by marsh drains has been recorded in the zone on aerial photographs but this has largely been destroyed by the construction of a lagoon at Wellwick Wharf. A compound of buildings, presumably livestock sheds, is depicted in the centre of the zone from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> edition OS maps and there are likely to be archaeological, possibly earthwork remains relating to these structures. The zone has potential for a further wide range of below ground archaeological deposits, although modern industrial activity towards its northern end will have severely reduced the level of survival in a limited area. The soil-type, comprising extensive alluvium and marsh deposits is conducive to good palaeoenvironmental survival.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of historic landscape and archaeological features	2
• Survival	Good survival.	2
• Documentation	Limited HER data, NMP data, and historic mapping	1
• Group Value Association	Features relating to coastal and marshland exploitation including sea walls, raised walkways, stretch, red hills,	3
• Potential	High potential for surviving deposits.	3

• Sensitivity to change	Landscape and archaeological deposits highly sensitive to change.	3
• Amenity Value	Potential for promoting the importance of the historic environment within the Colne Estuary, especially the medieval economy. Proximity to tourist attraction of medieval St Osyth Priory.	2

## HECZ 8.5 Brightlingsea Marshes

**Summary:** This zone comprises reclaimed coastal grazing marsh and former grazing marsh around the Brightlingsea peninsula, adjacent to Brightlingsea Creek, Arlesford Creek and the River Colne. The geology is estuarine alluvium deposits. Parts of the zone are important for nature conservation and are designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The zone includes significant Roman remains and fragments of historic grazing marsh landscape.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The natural saltings that formerly existed in the zone may have begun to be enclosed within seawalls during the medieval period but there is no evidence for reclamation prior to 1700. The creek to the north of the peninsula appears to have been reclaimed relatively early and several lengths of counter wall survive. Together with the sea wall, these are the dominant historic landscape features within the zone. The process of reclamation was largely complete by the time the Chapman and Andre map of Essex was published in 1777. Quite substantial fragments of grazing marsh survive on the north and south sides of the peninsula and contain fleets and other natural depressions which are evidence of former creeks and saltmarsh before the seawall was built. The zone is characterised by its open and flat aspect. Field boundaries are mainly dykes and drainage ditches, some following the sinuous course of former creeks. There has been little boundary loss other than in the area to the west of Brightlingsea Harbour which has been developed from the pre-war years as a seaside resort with boating lake, caravan parks and 1930's open-air swimming-pool. This area of the zone also includes Batemans Tower, built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century as a folly.

**Archaeological Character:** Evidence for at least three red hills has been noted on the eastern side of the zone, at the junction between the marsh edge and high ground, indicating its significance for the production of sea salt during the late Iron Age and Roman periods. The site of a possible Roman Villa is located at the north east end of the peninsula on the edge of the zone and may be associated with the industry. A rectangular enclosure located to the south of the villa has been recorded on aerial photographs. The sea walls and counter walls are likely to be late medieval or post medieval in origin and will retain evidence for date and construction. Oyster pits are recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map in the area to the west of Brightlingsea Port. The archaeology of the zone is also characterised by WWII defensive structures including anti-glider ditches recorded on aerial photographs, and anti tank obstacles, now destroyed. The zone has potential for a further wide range of below ground archaeological deposits, and possibly earthworks within the relict grazing marsh, although modern leisure development west of Brightlingsea Harbour will have severely reduced the level of survival in a limited area. The soil-type, comprising extensive alluvium and marsh deposits are conducive to good palaeoenvironmental survival.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Red Hills, Roman Villa, Sea and Counter walls, WW II defences	2
• Survival	Moderate to good survival	2
• Documentation	HER data, NMP data	1
• Group Value Association	Features reflecting coastal and marshland exploitation at a number of periods including Red Hills, Roman Villa, counter and sea walls	3
• Potential	Good potential for surviving deposits.	2
• Sensitivity to change	Relict grazing marsh and archaeological deposits sensitive to change.	3
• Amenity Value	Potential for promoting coastal heritage of Tendring in conjunction with other zones.	2

#### **HECZ 8.6 Colne Estuary inter tidal zone**

**Summary:** This zone comprises the Colne Estuary outside the sea walls and includes the main river channel, tidal creeks at Brightlingsea, St Osyth and Arlesford, natural

saltings and large expanses of mudflat covered over at high water. The geology is estuarine alluvium deposits. An extensive shingle spit encloses a considerable area of salt marsh at Colne Point. The zone has a range of archaeological remains throughout but with a particular focus on the saltings and between the low and high water mark. There is no settlement within the zone. The zone is highly important in terms of the natural environment; with the exception of the mill pond at St Osyth, the entire zone is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Area of Conservation (SPC), and falls within the Essex Coast Special Protection Area (SPA) and Colne Estuary Ramsar site. Colne Point is managed as a nature reserve. The river is important for both commercial and leisure activities. Historically the zone had a close relationship with adjacent dryland zones, in particular through the port at Brightlingsea (HECZ 10.2) and quay at St Osyth (HECZ 11.6), but also via numerous small jetties, wharfs and docks.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The broad expanse of the Colne estuary and its associated creeks has been a major artery for trade and transport, together with a source of fish, shell fish and wildfowl, for millennia. In the recent past particularly during the 19th century the estuary was a focus of the oyster industry as shown by the number of oyster pits in Brightlingsea Creek, notably on Cindery Island and at Colne Point. Now mainly used by leisure craft the estuary still has limited commercial and fishing traffic together with some oyster beds. The tidal mill pond at the end of St Osyth Creek and mill pond at Thorington Mill on Arlesford Creek and their associated dams are significant features in the landscape.

**Archaeological Character:** The tidal waters of the Colne Estuary have been shown to contain some well preserved archaeological deposits and remains associated with the use of the estuary for transport and the exploitation of its resources. The area to the immediate east of this zone is noted for its nationally important geoarchaeological / Palaeolithic deposits relating to river terrace gravels deposited by ancient courses of the Rivers Thames and Medway which are believed to extend into the foreshore to the south of Seaview Holiday Park. A Neolithic polished axe has been reported from the foreshore at Arlesford and a stone macehead was recovered from Cindery Island but no prehistoric in situ features or land surfaces have been identified. Roman pottery has been recovered from the saltings at Colne Point. The Colne estuary has had a

chartered fishery since the 12<sup>th</sup> century and archaeological remains from this industry can be seen off Colne Point, where two parallel lines of timber posts indicate the location of a fish-trap. Further finds of timberwork, together with associated pottery in Arlesford Creek are thought to represent the location of a wharf and associated trackway. Principal archaeological remains from the post medieval period mainly relating to industry and transport are; numerous wrecks of hulks, such as 'The Folly' in Brightlingsea Creek, timber jetties, relict sea walls, oyster pits and a disused swing bridge at Arlesford Creek. The zone is also characterised by WWII defensive structures including rows of anti tank obstacles and WWII pill boxes, many of which are destroyed, with particular concentrations along the beach between Jaywick and Lee-over-Sands.



Fig. 54 Parallel lines of timber posts from a former jetty at Colne Point

The potential for palaeoenvironmental remains and deposits in this area is high and there are significant possibilities of archaeological remains directly related to these deposits including further timber structures.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of historic landscape and archaeological features	2
• Survival	Moderate to good survival	2
• Documentation	HER data, Hullbridge Survey (research project), NMP data	2
• Group Value Association	Features related to coastal/marine exploitation including sea walls, timbers, oyster pits, hulks	3
• Potential	Good potential for surviving deposits.	2
• Sensitivity to change	Landscape and archaeological deposits sensitive to change.	2
• Amenity Value	Potential for promoting and coastal heritage of Tendring in conjunction with other zones, particularly in relation to access to ports within and beyond the district. .	2

### HECZ 9.1: Eastern Brightlingsea

**Summary:** This zone comprises the eastern half of the former island of Brightlingsea. The geology comprises Kesgrave sands and gravels which overlie London Clay, the latter is exposed around the edges of the peninsula at the interface with the marshes. The fieldscape consists of pre-18<sup>th</sup> century enclosure and settlement comprises a string of farms located on the interface between the gravel and the London Clay. The archaeological character is dominated by cropmarks of prehistoric or later date. There has been a considerable degree of quarrying in this zone.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The fieldscape is largely irregular and of ancient origin, there is a band of more rectangular fields on the London Clay in the north-east of the zone. The settlement pattern was highly dispersed, comprising the church/hall at Brightlingsea Hall and a number of farms strung out along the interface between the London Clay and the sands and gravel, close to the former marshland of the Colne Estuary (HECA 8). There are a number of small areas of historic woodland and one

small triangular green at Eastend Green. There has been post 1950s boundary loss in the zone, largely due to earlier mineral extraction operations.

**Archaeological Character:** The character of the zone is dominated by a series of cropmark complexes a number of which have now been lost to mineral extraction. The cropmarks include ring-ditches of possible Neolithic or Bronze Age date. A number of cropmarks of enclosures, some of which survive, may represent prehistoric or Roman settlement. A series of cropmarks of large pits at Moses Wood may represent Saxon sunken-featured buildings. Brightlingsea was a Royal *Vill* in the later Saxon period. Brightlingsea Hall comprised a church/hall complex; the church is Listed Grade I. The farms are all medieval in origin; a number of their buildings are also Listed. There has been extensive quarrying in this zone, largely without archaeological record.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Multi-period cropmarks, medieval settlement pattern	2
• Survival	Good survival of below ground archaeological deposits in unquarried areas	2
• Documentation	HER data, NMP	1
• Group Value Association	Cropmarks	2
• Potential	High potential for below ground archaeological deposits in unquarried areas	2
• Sensitivity to change	Surviving landscape sensitive to visible change with below ground deposits sensitive to both quarrying and housing development.	2
• Amenity Value	Limited potential, however cropmark information could be used in conjunction with other zones to explore the history of the Tendring peninsula.	1

## HECZ 9.2: Land west of Brightlingsea and Moverons Pit

**Summary:** This zone consists of the north-western part of the former island of Brightlingsea, containing the quarry of Moverons Pit. The geology comprises Kesgrave sands and gravels which overlie London Clay; the latter is exposed around the edges of the peninsula at the interface with the marshes. The fieldscape consists of pre-18<sup>th</sup> century enclosure and a few scattered farms. The archaeological character is dominated by cropmarks of prehistoric or later date. There has been a considerable degree of quarrying in this zone.



Fig. 55 Bronze Age Ring Ditch Cemetery, Brightlingsea

**Historic Landscape Character:** The fieldscape on the sands and gravels is largely irregular and of ancient origin, with a band of more rectangular fields on the London Clay. The settlement pattern was highly dispersed, comprising a few scattered farms.

There are a number of small areas of historic woodland, some of which acted as windbreaks. There has been post 1950s boundary loss in the area, largely due to quarrying.

**Archaeological Character:** The character of the area is dominated by a series of impressive cropmark complexes; however large areas have been lost to mineral extraction. At Moverons Pit, excavation prior to quarrying concentrated on a large Early Neolithic ring-ditch and a middle Bronze Age cemetery which contained a tight cluster of 22 ring ditches with a number of cremations placed in the spaces between them. It is evident from the cropmarks that these formed one small element of a much larger multi-period landscape. Extensive fieldwalking has taken place over much of the rest of the zone, confirming widespread prehistoric, mainly Neolithic and Bronze Age, settlement and exploitation. To the south and east of Moverons Pit more cropmarks survive; these include a ring-ditch cemetery, enclosures, trackways and fields. The site of a Roman villa is located at Noah’s Ark, at the north west end of the zone. The farms are first recorded in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and a number of them are Listed Buildings. Later periods are represented by a series of WWI and WWII slit-trenches in the northern part of the zone, some of which still survive as crop-marks.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Extensive range of archaeological deposits of multi-period date, landscape features, built heritage, World War features	3
• Survival	Extensive survival outside quarried areas	2
• Documentation	HER data, NMP, excavation reports	3
• Group Value Association	Important group value associated with prehistoric settlement and burial	3
• Potential	High potential for below ground deposits in unquarried areas	3
• Sensitivity to change	Surviving below ground deposits highly sensitive to further quarrying	3
• Amenity Value	Potential for promotion of below ground deposits relating to the history of the	2

	Brightlingsea peninsula and Tendring more generally.	
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### HECZ 10.1 Brightlingsea High Street

**Summary:** This zone comprises the medieval and early post medieval core of the historic town of Brightlingsea focused on the High Street and Queen Street with historic open spaces at each end. The zone has the potential for well preserved archaeological deposits relating to the origin and development of the medieval and early post-medieval town. The geology includes exposures of Kesgrave Sands and Gravels, River Terrace gravels and London Clay. The entire zone falls within the Brightlingsea Conservation Area and contains a number of listed buildings. Most of the zone is either in residential or business/retail use. Historically the zone had a close relationship with the waterfront fishing and boat building area (HECZ 10.2) located to the south, and the River Colne (HECZ 8.6).



Fig. 56 15<sup>th</sup> century Jacobes Hall, Brightlingsea High Street

**Historic Urban Character:** This zone comprises the medieval and earlier post medieval core of Brightlingsea, which developed along the length of the High Street, Queen Street and around Victoria Place and Hurst Greens. A feature of the historic core is the number of surviving medieval, early post medieval and Georgian buildings. The High Street is framed by triangular open spaces at each end. To the east is Hurst

Green, informally surrounded by domestic properties including at least two 17<sup>th</sup> century or earlier timber-framed buildings. To the west is Victoria Place, which originated as a market place. It now comprises a range of domestic properties, including 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century timber framed houses, commercial buildings, and formal space including a war memorial and parking areas. The High Street itself is quite narrow and contains a number of listed and fine period buildings including the 15<sup>th</sup> century Jacobes Hall and 16<sup>th</sup> century Swan Hotel. Queen Street was chiefly built up during the 19<sup>th</sup> century but includes a small group of 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed cottages.

**Archaeological Character:** To date there has been no archaeological investigations undertaken within the zone. A record of Roman pottery from Hurst Green indicates the possibility of evidence for activity from that, and earlier, periods surviving within the zone, particularly within undeveloped areas of open space. There has been limited modern development, and it is likely to retain well preserved deposits associated with the origin and later development of the High Street, its associated greens and market place and the towns maritime connections. Place name evidence indicates the former presence of one or more mills at Hurst Green.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of timber-framed period buildings, historic urban form including green and fossilised market place	2
• Survival	Good survival of late medieval and early post medieval built environment	2
• Documentation	Listed building descriptions, Conservation Area Appraisal	1
• Group Value Association	Late medieval and post medieval vernacular buildings and probable below ground archaeological remains.	3
• Potential	Potential for medieval, post medieval and earlier archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Highly sensitive historic environment	3
• Amenity Value	Historic built environment and urban form provide opportunities to explain the medieval and early post medieval origin of the town	2

## **HECZ 10.2 Brightlingsea Waterfront**

**Summary:** This zone comprises the post medieval quay and waterfront area of the historic port of Brightlingsea. The zone has the potential for well preserved archaeological deposits relating to the origin and development of the port and associated maritime industries. The geology comprises estuarine alluvium. The western half of the zone falls within the Brightlingsea Conservation Area and contains a number of listed buildings. Most of the zone is in industrial/commercial use, but there has been significant modern residential development. Historically the zone had a close relationship with the town's historic urban core (HECZ 10.1) to the north, and the adjacent River Colne (HECZ 8.6).

**Historic Urban Character:** This zone comprises the post medieval quay and waterfront of the historic port of Brightlingsea which was a Limb of the Cinque Port of Sandwich. The zone is focused on the street of Waterside and the modern, industrial Shipyard Estate. A feature of the waterfront area is the core of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century listed maritime civil and industrial buildings, associated with the oyster, sail-making and ship building industries including sail lofts, the timber framed Customs House and the Cinque Port Wreckhouse within the former James and Stone Shipyard. Another significant element on the waterfront is the early 20<sup>th</sup> century Anchor Hotel on the site of a 17<sup>th</sup> inn of the same name. There has been significant modern development in the zone.

**Archaeological Character:** To date there has been no archaeological investigations undertaken within the zone and no known archaeological evidence has been recovered from it. Despite modern development, much open ground remains and the zone is likely to retain well preserved, including waterlogged, deposits associated with the origin and development of the waterfront and port, and the town's maritime connections. There are records of anti-tank obstacles relating to coastal defence during WWII but none of these features survive.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of timber-framed period buildings and later structures related to the port	1
• Survival	Survival of post medieval buildings and probable below ground deposits	2
• Documentation	Listed building descriptions, Conservation Area Appraisal	1
• Group Value Association	Post medieval vernacular buildings associated with maritime activity	2
• Potential	Potential for medieval, post medieval and earlier archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Period buildings and buried deposits sensitive to change	2
• Amenity Value	Historic built environment provide opportunities to interpret the ports maritime connections in conjunction with neighbouring zones.	2

### HECZ 10.3 South and North of Brightlingsea High Street

**Summary:** This zone comprises late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> development around the historic medieval and post medieval core of Brightlingsea. Archaeological finds indicate prehistoric and Roman activity within the zone. The geology includes exposures of Kesgrave Sands and Gravels, River Terrace gravels, London Clay and estuarine alluvium. The zone is mostly in residential use, and parts of it fall within the Brightlingsea Conservation Area.

**Historic Urban Character:** This zone comprises an initial late 19<sup>th</sup> century development of terrace housing within a regimented co-axial street plan between the High Street (HECZ 10.1) and waterfront/quayside area (HECZ 10.2) to the south. Expansion continued into the late 19<sup>th</sup> century as part of a so called 'Revival' of the town, including an area to the north of the High Street which is characterised by late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century terraced housing fronting street plans that surround the historic core of the town. The zone is also characterised by ribbon development which extended out

along the main road arteries of Church Road, Chapel Road and Regent Road in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. There are also small areas of post war residential infill. Historically the zone was mainly residential use although it includes the derelict site of a mid 19<sup>th</sup> century gas works in Sydney Street.

**Archaeological Character:** The recorded find of a prehistoric loom weight suggests prehistoric occupation within the zone and archaeological investigations have revealed the site of a Roman Villa complex, indicated by considerable quantities of building material located around the junction of Church Road, Walnut Street, Park Chase and Spring Road. Elsewhere within the zone, a post medieval field boundary has been uncovered. Whilst much of the zone will have been disturbed by 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century development, preservation of archaeological deposits is likely to be good within the rear gardens of properties and any remaining open space such as the school playing field.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Terraced housing, prehistoric and Roman archaeology	1
• Survival	Good survival of Victorian and early 20 <sup>th</sup> century residential housing and street pattern, plus survival of buried remains.	2
• Documentation	Conservation Area Appraisal, historic mapping, HER data, antiquarian reports and modern evaluation reports	2
• Group Value Association	19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> century terrace housing marking planned 'revival' of the town	2
• Potential	Potential for Roman and earlier archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Moderately sensitive historic environment	2
• Amenity Value	Historic built environment and urban form provide opportunities to explain the 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> century development of Brightlingsea	1

## HECZ 10.4 North Brightlingsea

**Summary:** This zone comprises post war and later 20<sup>th</sup> century expansion of Brightlingsea characterised in the main by modern housing estates. The zone has the potential for buried archaeological deposits. The geology includes exposures of Kesgrave Sands and Gravels, River Terrace gravels, London Clay and estuarine alluvium. The zone is mostly in residential use, although it includes industrial units and some recreational and educational provision.

**Historic Urban Character:** This zone is characterised by late 20<sup>th</sup> century residential development with a series of housing estates built along the northern and western extent of the post medieval town. Expansion from this period is defined to the north by the extent of Red Barn Road which has some post medieval ribbon development including two listed buildings. The zone includes an intact late 19<sup>th</sup> century pumping station and mid 20<sup>th</sup> century water tower and there is a modern 'edge of town' satellite industrial estate along Morses Lane. The zone also contains recreational areas and a secondary school.

**Archaeological Character:** To date there have been no archaeological investigations within the zone. However, cropmarks which extend into the northern part of the zone, beneath Camperne Close, indicate the presence of buried archaeological deposits of prehistoric and later date. There are also several poorly located records for Roman and earlier deposits within the zone which hint at different periods of activity. Post medieval brickworks are recorded to the north of the railway station and WWII defensive structures are known to have been in place along roads into the town, although these no longer survive. There is potential for well preserved archaeological deposits within any remaining open space such as the school and other playing fields and there is the potential for survival within the rear gardens of properties.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Listed buildings, 19 <sup>th</sup> century pump house, cropmarks	2
• Survival	Dense housing development means that there will be limited survival of below ground archaeology	1

• Documentation	Listed building descriptions, historic mapping, HER data	1
• Group Value Association	Historic roads and associated period buildings	1
• Potential	Potential for Roman and earlier archaeological deposits in remaining open spaces including gardens	1
• Sensitivity to change	Historic environment of low sensitivity	1
• Amenity Value	The zone has limited amenity value	1

### **HECZ 11.1: Area to the north of Little Bentley**

**Summary:** This zone comprises an open, rural landscape, incorporating areas of former heathland and greens. The geology is largely brickearth deposits, overlying London Clay, the latter is exposed in the valley of the Holland Brook. The settlement is largely dispersed, with small scale foci at little Bentley and Hare Green. The fieldscape is of ancient origin and there are several areas of ancient woodland in the north. Archaeologically, the character of the zone is dominated by multi-period cropmark complexes. The zone is bisected across its southern half by the A120.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The fieldscape is of ancient origin comprising irregular enclosure, with some later enclosure of the former heathlands and greens. There has been moderate post-1950 boundary loss throughout the zone. The settlement was historically dispersed, comprising cottages and farms spread out along the greens and former heaths. Settlement foci comprise Hare Green, where the green has been infilled by housing, and Little Bentley which developed at the crossroads to the north of the historic church/hall complex located in zone 11.2.

**Archaeological Character:** A number of cropmark complexes attest to the archaeological potential of the zone. These include ring-ditches of probable Bronze Age date, settlement enclosures and trackways of later prehistoric or Roman date and probable medieval field boundaries. Medieval remains are likely to survive in relation to settlement clustered around greens and former heaths, and associated with the

dispersed halls, farms and cottages. There is the cropmark of a possible post-mill to the north of Little Bentley. There are a number of Listed Buildings, scattered across the zone.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Multi-period cropmark complexes, range of medieval and post medieval buildings, historic landscape features	2
• Survival	Good survival due to limited development in the zone.	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic evidence, NMP	2
• Group Value Association	Cropmark complexes, historic landscape features and settlement pattern.	3
• Potential	Good potential for below ground archaeological deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Below ground deposits and dispersed settlement pattern sensitive to change.	3
• Amenity Value	Potential for promotion of development of little Bentley and in conjunction with other zones the historic development of Tendring District	2

## HECZ 11.2: Great Bentley area

**Summary:** This zone comprises an open, rural landscape, incorporating areas of former heathland and greens. The geology is largely Brickearth deposits, with patches of Kesgrave sands and gravels, overlying London Clay. The latter is exposed in the valley-sides of the Holland Brook, the Tenpenny Brook and the Bentley Brook. Historically the settlement was dispersed (the exception, Great Bentley is described in HECZ 11.3). The fieldscape is of ancient origin and there are several areas of ancient woodland. Archaeologically, the character of the zone is dominated by multi-period cropmark complexes.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The fieldscape is of ancient origin comprising irregular enclosure, with some later enclosure of the former heathlands and greens. There has been post-1950 boundary loss throughout the zone, rising to high in some areas. The settlement was historically very dispersed, comprising church/hall complex, cottages and farms spread out along the greens and former heaths. Modern settlement foci at Frating Green and Aingers Green were formed in the early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century by the piecemeal infilling of the greens with housing. There are several surviving areas of ancient woodland, typically composed of sweet chestnut, hazel or hornbeam coppice with oak or ash standards. There are some stretches of surviving enclosed meadow along the Bentley Brook



Fig. 57 Field boundary of pollarded oaks

**Archaeological Character:** Archaeologically the zone is dominated by extensive multi-period cropmark complexes. These include ring-ditch cemeteries of probable Bronze Age date and numerous enclosures of probable late prehistoric or Roman date. There are a number of Roman farmsteads, comprising tracks, enclosures, paddocks and fields

identified from the cropmarks. Later periods are represented by trackways, field boundaries, house plots and mill mounds. Historically the settlement was highly dispersed, with settlement strung out around greens and former heaths, comprising church/halls, halls, farms and cottages. There is the potential for palaeoenvironmental deposits in the valley floors of the Tenpenny and Bentley Brooks.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Extensive multi-period cropmark complexes, dispersed settlement pattern	3
• Survival	Cropmarks show extensive survival of below ground deposits. Historic field pattern has suffered considerable boundary loss.	3
• Documentation	HER data, NMP	2
• Group Value Association	Cropmarks have an important group value	3
• Potential	High potential for below ground archaeological deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Cropmark complexes highly sensitive. Historic settlement pattern sensitive	3
• Amenity Value	Potential in conjunction with other zones the historic development of Tendring District	2

**HECZ 11.3: Great Bentley village**

**Summary:** This zone comprises the village of Great Bentley. The village had its origins in the Late Saxon period. It consists of the largest village green in Britain, the church and Bentley Hall, and housing, originally concentrated along the western side of the green. The geology is largely Brickearth deposits, with an area of Kesgrave sands and gravels in the south-west corner.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The historic fieldscape largely comprised the triangular green, at 43 acres reputedly the largest village green in Britain and now protected as a conservation area. On the western and southern side there was a scatter of cottages, the hall and the church, and a few other buildings, including public houses and mills. A few structures were sited on the green itself. The remainder of the zone comprised large irregular fields of pre-18<sup>th</sup> century origin, these are now under modern housing estates.

**Archaeological Character:** The known archaeology in this zone all relates to the medieval settlement of Great Bentley. The settlement is first referenced in an Anglo-Saxon will of 1045 and is recorded in the Domesday Book. The early settlement comprised St Mary’s Church and Great Bentley Hall, located at the south-western corner of the large triangular green, and there is the potential for further evidence for medieval settlement around the edges of the green. The post-medieval period is marked by an expansion in the settlement area at Great Bentley, as demonstrated by the number of Listed Buildings fringing the southern, western and northern sides of the green. A number of structures, including a mill, were constructed on the green itself. Modern development is limited to small-scale housing estates to the south and north-west of the green and some road-side development along the Plough Road. There has only been limited archaeological fieldwork in Great Bentley, comprising an excavation next to the church, revealing below-ground burial vaults. There is the potential for further surviving below-ground remains relating to the origin and development of Great Bentley.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of medieval and post medieval buildings, important green	2
• Survival	Important Green and associated buildings	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic and documentary evidence	2
• Group Value Association	Green and associated buildings	3
• Potential	Good potential for below ground archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Sensitive to change due to the historic settlement and Green	3

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amenity Value</li> </ul>	Potential for promotion of the development of the village and the green as part of the dispersed polyfocal settlement pattern typical of Tendring.	2
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#### **HECZ 11.4: Landscape surrounding St Osyth**

**Summary:** This zone comprises the flat and open rural landscape encircling St Osyth. The geology comprises Kesgrave sands and gravels in the northern half and river terrace gravels in the southern half, over London Clay which comes to the surface in the southern part of the zone. The historic settlement was both sparse and widely dispersed, largely comprising farms set along the interface with the coastal marshes. The fieldscape is of ancient origin. Archaeologically, the character of the zone is dominated by extensive multi-period cropmark complexes.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The fieldscape is of ancient origin, largely consisting of rectilinear regular fields. There has been moderate post-1950 boundary loss throughout the area. The historic settlement comprises isolated halls, farms and cottages; in particular the string of ‘wick’ farms on the dryland boundary with the former marshland area of Colne Point to the south (HECA 8) is a major feature of the historic settlement pattern. Many of the farms are Listed, of particular note is the 14<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed aisled hall of St. Cleres Hall. Modern settlement is largely confined to ribbon development along the roads e.g. St Johns Road. There has been some small-scale mineral extraction in the north of this zone.



Fig. 58 14<sup>th</sup> century St Cleres Hall, St Osyth

**Archaeological Character:** The archaeology of this zone is characterised by extensive areas of multi-period cropmark complexes, demonstrating the huge archaeological potential of this zone. The excavations at Lodge Farm have established that the cropmarks represent many phases of occupation and activity. The excavations found an Early Neolithic causewayed enclosure, an Early Bronze Age pond barrow, a Middle Bronze Age barrow group, a Middle Iron Age settlement, Late Iron Age and Roman ditches, Early Saxon pits and a 13<sup>th</sup> century croft.

Other cropmarks complexes appear to represent a possible Neolithic cursus, a number of ring-barrow cemeteries of probable Bronze Age date and extensive Iron Age and Roman fieldscapes aligned along a Roman road. The Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods are represented by cropmarks of field and property boundaries. The excavations at Lodge Farm have established that the cropmark evidence mainly represents the larger linear features, and it can be presumed that many other archaeological features, such as pits and postholes are also present. The river terrace gravels in the south of the zone, which were laid down in the Hoxnian/Saalian period and the pre-Anglian period, have the potential for important artefactual and faunal Palaeolithic remains. There are also known to be palaeo-channels within the zone, these have the potential for important palaeoenvironmental deposits. The modern

fieldscape and built environment has the potential to contain much useful information on the medieval and post-medieval development of the zone, and further below-ground remains relating to those periods can be anticipated.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of multi-period cropmarks, listed buildings, wick farms, early prehistoric artefactual evidence	3
• Survival	Significant survival of below ground deposits as well as historic settlement pattern	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic evidence, NMP, excavation reports	3
• Group Value Association	Important group value associated with medieval and post medieval settlement	3
• Potential	Significant potential for below ground archaeological deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Sensitive to change due to the significance and nature of the historic settlement pattern	3
• Amenity Value	Potential for promotion of the settlement pattern and long history of cropmark complexes in association with the village of St Osyth (HECZ 11.5) and in conjunction with other zones the wider history of Tendring district.	3

## HECZ 11.5: St Osyth Priory and Park

**Summary:** This zone comprises the site of Saxon nunnery, the medieval priory of St Osyth and its associated grounds and the post-medieval mansion and 18<sup>th</sup> century landscaped park that succeeded it. This zone is of national importance, the Priory site is Scheduled and all the historic buildings are Listed, many of which are Grade I, whilst the park is a Registered Park and Garden and the whole zone lies within a conservation area. The geology of this zone consists of Kesgrave sands and gravels, overlying London Clay, the latter outcrops in the north-western corner of the zone.



Fig. 59 East wall of the Dorter Range, St Osyth Priory, remodelled in the 16<sup>th</sup> century by Lord D'Arcy

**Historic Landscape Character:** The historic landscape character comprises the medieval and post-medieval priory and mansion site and its associated pleasure gardens, former farmyard and the 18<sup>th</sup> century landscaped park, which incorporates

earlier features dating to its origins as medieval parkland. Post-medieval and modern mineral extraction within the park, accounts for about half the total area, and has had a considerable impact on the historic landscape, with the creation of a series of water-filled extraction pits.

**Archaeological Character:** The archaeology of this zone is characterised by the Priory. The site had its origins in the 7<sup>th</sup> century with the foundation of a nunnery at *Cicc* by the Saxon princess, St Osyth. The nunnery was reputedly sited within Nuns Wood within the later park. The Priory of St Osyth was founded before 1127 (possibly in 1121) by the Austin Canons. The earliest remaining buildings date to the early twelfth century. The priory became an Augustinian Abbey in about 1200 AD. The buildings are characterised by magnificent chequer-board patterning of ashlar, septaria and flint, the Gatehouse being a particularly fine example of flint flushwork. There are parchmarks to the immediate north of the surviving priory buildings, demonstrating the presence of associated below-ground archaeology. The priory was suppressed in 1539, and in 1553 it came into the possession of Lord Darcy who converted some of the buildings into a house and levelled others, including the abbey church (now under the rose garden). Further building work and modifications took place in a piecemeal fashion throughout the post-medieval period.

The park, formerly part of the priory grounds, was landscaped in the eighteenth century. Features include avenues of mature trees, pools and the remnants of an eighteenth century shell grotto, as well as earlier elements, including the Nuns Wood and a moated site.

It is probable, given the extent and density of the multi-period cropmark complexes encircling this zone that earlier occupation evidence will be preserved as buried remains.

This zone is included in the historic town assessment for St Osyth (Medlycott 1999)

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Historic parkland, Abbey buildings, post medieval listed buildings, below ground deposits	3
• Survival	Good survival although some areas of park have been quarried	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic and documentary evidence, Scheduling	3
• Group Value Association	Important group value associated the priory and associated park	3
• Potential	High potential for below ground archaeological deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	High potential for promotion of the Priory and parkland especially in association with 11.6	3

### **HECZ 11.6: Historic core of St Osyth**

**Summary:** This zone comprises the historic core of the town of St Osyth. This can be sub-divided into three distinct areas, consisting of the medieval and early post medieval development concentrated around the crossroads to the east of the priory, a ribbon development along Mill Street toward the Quay and a later expansion northwards along the Colchester Road. The entire zone lies within a conservation area. The geology of this zone consists of Kesgrave sands and gravels, overlying London Clay, this outcrops in the south-western corner of the zone. There are alluvial deposits immediately adjoining the quay area.

**Historic Urban Character:** The historic core sub-divides into three distinct areas, each with their own individual character. Firstly there is the medieval and early post medieval settlement concentrated around the crossroads, the church and the gates to the Priory. Secondly there is the medieval settlement at the Quay and the ribbon development along Mill Street which links the Priory and the Quay. The third area comprises the later expansion northwards along the Colchester Road. Much of the former open-spaces (gardens, orchards and paddocks), with the exception of the Bury in front of the Priory,

have been infilled with small-scale, piece-meal modern development. A major influence on the character of the historic core is the external façade of the Augustinian Priory and the survival of elements of the medieval market town with a market place and fair green still recognisable, as well as the maritime aspects of the Quay area. The historic core is largely residential in nature, what small-scale industry there is, is concentrated in the Quay area.

**Archaeological Character:** The archaeological character of this zone is heavily influenced by the 12<sup>th</sup> century Priory (HECZ 11.5). Archaeological investigation within the historic core has uncovered Saxon material suggestive of a thriving community dating to the first half of the 11th century, as well as evidence for the survival of medieval and post-medieval below-ground deposits, both in the vicinity of the church and the former market-place and in the area around the Quay.

It is probable, given the extent and density of the multi-period cropmark complexes encircling this zone that earlier occupation evidence, dating to the prehistoric, Roman or Saxon periods, can also be anticipated. The surviving built heritage forms an important part of the archaeological character of the area and is a tangible reminder of the archaeological and historical significance of this zone.

A historic town assessment has been produced for St Osyth (Medlycott 1999)

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of historic buildings, medieval settlement, medieval and post med port	3
• Survival	Good survival of listed building and original historic layout. Below ground deposits survive well	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic and documentary evidence,	3
• Group Value Association	Important group value associated with medieval and post medieval settlement	3
• Potential	Good potential for below ground archaeological deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Highly sensitive to change due to the	3

	significance and nature of the historic settlement pattern	
• Amenity Value	Potential for promotion of the settlement in association with the priory (Zone 11.5)	3

### HECZ 11.7: Modern St Osyth

**Summary:** This zone comprises the 20<sup>th</sup> century elements of St Osyth. This includes an early 20<sup>th</sup> century development along St Clair and D’Arcy Road, and post-war development along the Clacton Road, as well as more recent development. The geology of this zone consists of Kesgrave sands and gravels, overlying London Clay, this outcrops in the southern part of the zone.

**Historic Urban Character:** The urban character comprises a post war urban development built either side of the Clacton Road. This incorporates an earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century development of terraces along St Clair and D’Arcy Roads. There are areas of mixed terraced, semi and detached housing between By-pass Road and Clacton Road and Clacton Road and Spring Road. This zone is entirely residential, with the exception of the schools and their associated sports fields.

**Archaeological Character:** There has only been very limited archaeological fieldwork in this zone. However excavations on the site of the school revealed a deposit of oyster-shell. Given the extent and density of the multi-period cropmark complexes encircling this zone it is likely that earlier occupation evidence extended into this zone. However, given the density of the modern development, surviving evidence may be limited.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Limited to 20 <sup>th</sup> century development	1
• Survival	Poor survival due to modern development	1
• Documentation	HER data	1
• Group Value Association	No group value	1
• Potential	Limited due to the density of housing	1

• Sensitivity to change	Little sensitivity due to modern housing	1
• Amenity Value	Could add to the history of the settlement of St Osyth	1

### HECZ 11.8: Point Clear

**Summary:** This zone comprises the settlement of Point Clear, which had its origins as sea-side plotland development in the 1930s constructed on the gravel and London Clay ridge which forms the southern bank of St Osyth Creek. There are extensive views across the Colne estuary to Mersea Island and the Dengie peninsula.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The fieldscape of this area consisted of large rectangular fields of pre-18<sup>th</sup> century origin. There was one farm, Blockhouse Wick, and the site of a Napoleonic Martello tower at Beacon Hill on the coast. The area was subdivided into plotlands in the inter-war period. The building types largely comprise bungalows and chalets of lightweight construction.

**Archaeological Character:** There has been no archaeological fieldwork in this zone. There is the possibility that below-ground elements of the Martello tower survive. It is probable, given the extent and density of the multi-period cropmark complexes to the south and east of this zone, that earlier occupation evidence could be present on the undeveloped areas. The modern settlement incorporates elements of the original plotlands.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Martello tower, plotlands possible below ground deposits	2
• Survival	Martello tower and open areas may contain below ground deposits	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic data	1
• Group Value Association	Little group value	1
• Potential	Some potential for below ground archaeological deposits in open areas	2

• Sensitivity to change	Sensitivity limited to layout of plotlands	1
• Amenity Value	Potential for promotion of the Martello tower and plotland layout, to explore, in conjunction with other zones the more recent history of Tendring.	2

### **HECZ 12.1: Ardleigh Cropmark Complex**

**Summary:** The geology comprises a mix of Kesgrave gravels in the western part of the zone with the remainder being of brickearth. A zone of high archaeological importance in terms of both, its known archaeology, and its future potential. The zone comprises the nationally important scheduled cropmark complex covering approximately 50% of the zone. Excavation has shown multi period deposits from the Bronze Age through to the Saxon period.

**Historic Landscape Character:** Lying at around 37 metres OD, the landscape is level and displays a historic rectilinear field pattern of possible ancient origin. Bovill's Hall and Martell's Hall are shown on the Chapman and Andre map lying at the head of a shallow valley, both with small areas of associated woodland and may have medieval origins. The field pattern has suffered considerable field boundary loss across the zone. The zone is crossed in the north by the railway line running from Colchester to Manningtree and contains the Ardleigh Railway Station.



Fig. 60 Reconstruction painting of the Bronze Age landscape at Ardleigh

**Archaeological Character:** The zone comprises the nationally important scheduled cropmark complex, and the area immediately around it, south east of Ardleigh village. A series of investigations and excavations since the 1950s have revealed a remarkable multi-period archaeological site. The Ardleigh complex is famous for its Bronze Age cemetery, one of the largest in the East of England which was in use throughout the Bronze Age and contained a large number of cremation burials set amongst a concentration of ring-ditches. Many of the cremations were contained within the distinctive and highly decorated Deverel-Rimbury urns of the local 'Ardleigh' tradition. In addition to the Bronze Age deposits, further discoveries have included an enclosed roundhouse of Middle Iron Age date, Late Iron Age burials and evidence for Romano-British settlement including a short-lived defended phase. Kilns and wasters illustrate contemporary pottery production and a cemetery of Roman date has also been identified along with later Saxon burials. The zone has considerable potential for further surviving archaeological deposits of regional/national significance.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Bronze Age cemetery, Middle Iron Age settlement, Roman and Saxon occupation, medieval halls and medieval or post medieval mill, ancient woodland, field system	3
• Survival	Below ground archaeological deposits survive well, field pattern largely removed	2
• Documentation	HER data, Cartographic, published reports, scheduling	3
• Group Value Association	Multi-period archaeological deposits, burials through Bronze Age to Roman period, medieval halls	3
• Potential	High potential for below ground deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Below ground deposits and settlement pattern highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	Archaeological deposits have a potentially high amenity value in explaining the history of the immediate area and Tendring District both to the local population and wide archaeological audience.	3

## HECZ 12.2: Ardleigh

**Summary:** The geology is largely Brickearth, with sands and gravels and London Clay revealed in the valley sides, with some alluvium bordering the Colne estuary. The zone has a dispersed medieval settlement pattern of individual farmsteads and halls. The field pattern has suffered considerable boundary loss with gravel extraction and the construction of a reservoir changing the landscape. Extensive archaeological deposits are represented by cropmarks cross the zone.

**Historic Landscape Character:** Areas of woodland of probable ancient origin survive within a landscape of largely rectilinear fields and dispersed halls and farmsteads with a nucleated settlement at Ardleigh. Contained within the valleys tributaries of the River Colne there are a number of mills along their length identified on the Chapman and

Andre map although these may have earlier medieval origins. The zone is bisected by the main line of the original Great Eastern Railway. Ardleigh reservoir formed by the damming of two of the former stream valleys, is a significant modern feature in this zone. Gravel quarrying has occurred in the south east of the zone.

**Archaeological Character:** Largely surrounding the Scheduled Ardleigh Cropmark complex, this zone contains a further range of cropmarks especially in the area around Ardleigh reservoir with several large enclosures being apparent. Limited excavation during evaluation at Wick Farm has suggested a late Iron Age date for these features although Roman activity is also apparent. Further but less concentrated cropmarks are spread throughout the rest of the zone and are likely to represent a range of periods. The Roman road from Colchester to a possible port at Mistley passes through the south of the zone and is clearly visible as a cropmark at certain points. The main settlement in the zone is Ardleigh village which by the late 18<sup>th</sup> century was a small settlement situated around a crossroads and the late 15<sup>th</sup> century church. However, records of a parish priest stretch back to the early 12<sup>th</sup> century and the village is likely to have earlier origins and retain below ground archaeological deposits. Three shallow valleys containing a tributary of the River Colne lie within the zone, two of which are now flooded forming Ardleigh reservoir. Three fulling mills situated on this tributary are illustrated on the Chapman and Andre map of 1777.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Iron Age and Roman deposits, medieval halls and farms, cropmarks, historic landscape features	3
• Survival	Below ground archaeological deposits survive well, considerable boundary loss	2
• Documentation	HER data, Cartographic, site reports	2
• Group Value Association	Cropmarks, medieval settlement pattern	2
• Potential	High potential for below ground deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Below ground deposits and settlement pattern highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	Excavated evidence, and Ardleigh's settlement history could be promoted especially linked to associated zones.	2

### **HECZ 12.3: Great Bromley**

**Summary:** The geology largely comprises brickearth with Kesgrave Sands and Gravels and London clays on the east of the zone. The dominant historic environment element within this zone is the extent of surviving cropmarks, with a date range from the Bronze Age through to the medieval period. The medieval settlement pattern is largely intact with surviving farms and church/hall complexes.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The fieldscape is of rectilinear fields incorporating a number of isolated farms and limited ancient woodland. The zone contains an area of former heathland, Ardleigh Heath, historically used for rough pasture but enclosed in the early 19th century. The present landscape comprises a mixture of pre-18th century irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older) and later enclosure by agreement, the latter largely but not entirely corresponding to the former heathlands. Although the historic field pattern has suffered considerable boundary loss this has concentrated on the removal of the later post medieval sub divisions inadvertently restoring the landscape to its earlier form. The largely modern settlement of Great Bromley has developed around a medieval Church/hall complex. The 14/15<sup>th</sup> century Church of St George is Grade I listed and is a particularly fine example of the East Anglian style. Historically the settlement pattern comprises dispersed farmsteads and church/hall complexes. A number of streams drain the zone into the Tenpenny Brook.



Fig. 61 14/15<sup>th</sup> century Church of St George, Great Bromley

**Archaeological Character:** Multi-period archaeological deposits are present throughout the zone. Cropmark evidence is dominant with only a small area in the north west where few are apparent. These cropmarks comprise clear concentrations of ring-ditches, linear features, enclosures, trackways and pits demonstrating the survival of a significant multi-period archaeological resource. Interpretation of the cropmarks show the presence of ring ditch cemeteries, probably of Bronze Age date, in several locations, other prehistoric monuments including a possible henge, settlement enclosures of both prehistoric and Roman date. This evidence also shows that virtually the whole zone has been extensively exploited throughout history. Some of the trackways identified on the cropmarks may indicate medieval occupation beyond that identified in the dispersed settlement pattern identified on cartographic records. Archaeological work has shown extensive survival of archaeological deposits with the zone having a clear and significant archaeological potential.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Multi-period cropmarks, prehistoric enclosures, and burials	3
• Survival	Cropmarks indicate extensive below grounds survival, field pattern suffered considerable boundary loss	3
• Documentation	HER, cartographic, NMP	2
• Group Value Association	Cropmark complexes	3
• Potential	High potential for below ground deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Below ground deposits highly sensitive in certain areas	3
• Amenity Value	Cropmarks and settlement pattern could be promoted in conjunction with neighbouring zones to explore the history of Tendring.	2

#### **HECZ 12.4: Foxash Estate**

**Summary:** Much of the zone was developed for horticultural purposes in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, originating as a Land Settlement Association smallholding scheme. Historically the medieval and post-medieval settlement was highly dispersed and there is crop-mark evidence for earlier periods. The geology comprises brickearths and head deposits, with smaller areas of Kesgrave sands and gravels.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The historic fieldscape comprised a mixture of regular and irregular fields. Historically the settlement pattern was of halls and dispersed farms. Elements of this survive but there has been significant modification of this pattern with the introduction of intensive horticulture and fruit production in the area around the Foxash Estate. Foxash Estate is a 20<sup>th</sup> century development originating as a Land Settlement Association smallholding scheme. A small area of ancient woodland survives in the north east of the zone along the Shir Burn.

**Archaeological Character:** Cropmarks are noted sporadically throughout the zone and consist mainly of linear features, enclosures and ring-ditches. The main concentration lies in the east of the zone and archaeology is likely to survive within areas of arable and pasture. There is the potential for the survival of deposits associated with the medieval and post-medieval dispersed settlement pattern.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Multi-period cropmarks, medieval field pattern	2
• Survival	Cropmarks indicate good belowground survival. Field pattern survives well although fields have changed function considerably	2
• Documentation	HER, cartographic, NMP,	1
• Group Value Association	Cropmark complexes	1
• Potential	Potential for below ground deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Below ground deposits sensitive	2
• Amenity Value	Limited promotional aspects to this zone, although the role of horticulture in the development of the Tendring landscape has some potential and the Foxash Estate is of interest from both a social and historical perspective.	2

**HECZ 13.1: Lawford Hall**

**Summary:** Largely parkland, pasture and woodland associated with Lawford Hall. The geology comprises Kesgrave sands and gravels, overlying London Clay, the latter surfaces in the northern part of the zone.

**Historic Landscape Character:** Sitting on a low spur of land, this zone is dominated by Lawford Hall and the associated medieval church of St. Mary (both Grade I listed), gardens, parkland and pasture. Pockets of mature woodland, some ancient along with more recent plantation are present. Much of the zone would previously have been under arable but is now mainly pasture. A small settlement exists around the church and is

probably medieval in origin. There is also a small later post medieval roadside development concentrated along Wignall Street and around the crossroads of Hungerdown Lane and Dedham Roads to the south. The zone is entirely within the Dedham Vale AONB.



Fig. 62 Bronze Age Round Barrow, Lawford

**Archaeological Character:** Cropmarks of trackways and a group of ring-ditches in the west of the zone are visible indicating below ground archaeological deposits. The historic landscape of parkland and pasture over much of the zone is however not conducive to cropmark formation and further deposits are likely to be widespread. An extant round barrow, designated as a scheduled monument survives to the west of the zone in close association with further cropmarks of ring-ditches. Archaeological deposits are likely to be well preserved within the zone. The site of Lawford Hall has medieval origins and related archaeological deposits may survive. The road side settlement to the south may be medieval in origin and associated archaeological evidence is likely to survive particularly in undeveloped plots and garden areas.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	cropmarks, prehistoric burial mound, medieval church/hall complex, parkland, post medieval model farm	3
• Survival	Cropmarks indicate good below grounds survival, field pattern and park land survive well. Scheduled tumulus	3
• Documentation	HER, cartographic, NMP, scheduling	2
• Group Value Association	Parkland and church hall complex, prehistoric burials	3
• Potential	High potential for below ground deposits. Parkland could be enhanced	3
• Sensitivity to change	Below ground deposits, settlement pattern and landscape features highly sensitive,	3
• Amenity Value	Parkland, Hall and church and associated below ground deposits could be promoted as part of the wider history of Tendring.	2

### HECZ 13.2: Bradfield Heath

**Summary:** A zone of considerable archaeological potential with numerous multi-period cropmarks. The area was heathland in the medieval and early post-medieval period. It is now largely under arable and some pastoral agriculture, the settlement retains its historically dispersed character. The geology comprises brickearths and head deposits and Kesgrave sands and gravels overlying London Clay.

**Historic Landscape Character:** Significant areas of heathland at Bradfield Heath, Hull-Bush and Shuckmore Heath are evident on the Chapman and André map of 1777, these are probably medieval in origin. The heaths were however largely enclosed by the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century as part of wider agriculture developments, the current fieldscape comprises a mixture of later enclosure by agreement and irregular fields of ancient origin. Post 1950s boundary loss has been moderate. The historic settlement in the zone was dispersed and polyfocal, with settlement around former heathland such as

Bradfield Heath scattered halls, farms and cottages and a small nucleation around the church at Bradfield. This settlement pattern survives well in the modern landscape.

**Archaeological Character:** The high density of cropmarks throughout the zone point to an area that has long been the subject of human occupation and activity. In addition to the usual wide array of cropmarks evident throughout the Tendring peninsula, two parallel cropmarks representing roadside ditches clearly illustrate the line of a Roman road from Colchester to a purported Roman settlement at Mistley. Largely under arable the zone clearly has significant below ground potential for multi-period archaeological deposits. As a historic settlement Bradfield is likely to retain some archaeological potential, and there is also potential for the survival of deposits relating to the dispersed settlement pattern.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Extensive multi-period cropmarks, including prehistoric cemeteries and settlements, Roman settlements and roads, settlement pattern, redundant church	3
• Survival	Significant survival of Cropmarks across whole zone, medieval settlement pattern. Some field boundary loss	3
• Documentation	HER, Cartographic, NMP, scheduling	2
• Group Value Association	Cropmarks	3
• Potential	Extensive below ground deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Below ground deposits highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	Importance of cropmarks settlement pattern and historic landscape features could be promoted, in conjunction with other zones as part of the wider history of Tendring.	2

### HECZ 13.3: Wrabness

**Summary:** There is cropmark evidence for settlement in this area from the prehistoric period onwards. The historic settlement pattern was highly dispersed comprising halls and farms. The lack of modern development may promote good archaeological survival. The drift geology is of Kesgrave gravels, undifferentiated river gravels and head and alluvium over London Clay.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The zone comprises the north facing slope of the Tendring plateau above the Stour Estuary, falling from around 20metres OD to sea level. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map depicts large open fields in the west of the zone around Jacques Hall giving way to smaller, rectangular fields orientated towards the estuary. Post 1950s boundary loss has obscured most of this pattern however. Small pockets of woodland survive particularly in the east. The historic settlement pattern was very sparse, comprising a few halls, including the church/hall complex at Wrabness, together with a small number of dispersed farms. The majority of the zone remains under arable, although smaller areas of pasture and scrub exist. Included within the zone are restricted strips of saltmarsh along the Stour estuary. The Great Eastern railway line to Harwich was built in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century and remains an important landscape feature and a small area of modern settlement has grown up south of Wrabness Station.



Fig. 63 Wrabness Church Bell-Cage

**Archaeological Character:** Cropmarks are largely restricted to the area east of Wrabness church/hall complex and comprise linear features, trackways and a ring-ditch. Little or no archaeological work has been done within the zone but there is significant potential for surviving archaeological deposits including the medieval church /hall site at Wrabness.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Multi-period cropmarks, medieval settlement pattern of church/hall complex and halls	2
• Survival	Cropmarks indicate good below grounds survival. Field pattern survives well. Medieval settlement pattern survives	2
• Documentation	HER, cartographic, NMP,	1
• Group Value Association	Medieval settlement pattern	2
• Potential	potential for below ground deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Below ground deposits and settlement pattern sensitive	2
• Amenity Value	Settlement pattern and landscape features could be promoted in conjunction with other zones and the Stour estuary, to promote the wider history of Tendring.	2

#### **HECZ 13.4: Stour Wood and Copperas Wood**

**Summary:** Characterised by two substantial areas of ancient woodland and arable production, the zone retains a below ground archaeological potential. The geology comprises London Clay, overlain with small patches of Kesgrave sands and gravels.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The zone is dominated by two major stands of ancient woodland (sweet chestnut coppice) at Stour Wood and Copperas Wood separated by a small area of pasture, both are SSSI. Copperas Wood extends along the shoreline of the Stour for around 1km to the eastern end of the zone. There is the potential for

earthworks such as woodland banks surviving within the woods. Settlement is sparse with Stour Hall of probable 19<sup>th</sup> century origin close to Stour Wood, the modern farm at Copperas Wood and a roadside strip of modern housing in the south of the zone. Arable dominates to the east of the zone in large rectangular fields and a modern sewage works is present.

**Archaeological Character:** Two linear cropmarks have been noted within the zone but these have now been compromised by the construction of the sewage works. No archaeological work has taken place within this zone and there are no further records of specific archaeological finds or features. It is likely however given the visibility of cropmarks in contiguous zones that archaeological deposits survive.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Ancient woodland, flint artifacts, cropmarks	1
• Survival	Woodland survives well	3
• Documentation	Cartographic, NMP	1
• Group Value Association	Woods, historic landscape	2
• Potential	Potential for below ground deposits and for earthworks within woodland	2
• Sensitivity to change	Woods and below ground deposits	3
• Amenity Value	Historic environment could be promoted in conjunction with other zones and the Stour estuary, to promote the wider history of Tendring. In particular woodland management may be promoted within the nature reserve	2

**HECZ 14.1: New Mistley**

**Summary:** The geology largely comprises Kesgrave sand and gravels overlying London Clay. The western part of the zone comprises the late 19<sup>th</sup> century planned industrial settlement associated with the railway, whilst the eastern part of the zone comprises post 1970 housing development. Rescue excavation has recovered multi-period finds indicating occupation from the prehistoric period.

**Historic Urban Character:** The western part of the zone comprises later 19th and early 20th century planned industrial settlement which developed to the south of the railway and is within a conservation area. Blocks of 19th and early 20th century terraced workers cottages are situated along the northern and eastern side of the planned town, but also includes some earlier housing fronting Harwich Road. Incorporated into the zone is some commercial development along School Lane. A large 20th century residential estate to the east of the above, was built in the 1970’s. Most of the area is in residential use.

**Archaeological Character:** Finds made during development for housing in the 1970s and during small scale gravel extraction indicate multi period settlement in the area. No organised fieldwork took place but finds included a small amount of struck flint, Iron Age pottery and a large amount of Roman-British ceramics including wasters suggestive of a kiln or kilns locally. A Romano-British cremation burial is also noted which is probably linked to settlement within the zone. The Roman deposits are likely to relate to occupation at the terminus of the Roman road from Colchester, visible as a cropmark. Medieval pottery has also been identified. The zone is now largely built over but may retain archaeological potential in any currently undeveloped areas.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Multi-period artifacts, Roman features, industrial settlement	2
• Survival	Some below ground deposits survive in undisturbed areas, industrial housing survives.	1
• Documentation	HER, Conservation Area description	1

• Group Value Association	Industrial development associated with 14.2	2
• Potential	Potential for below ground deposits in undeveloped areas	1
• Sensitivity to change	Limited sensitivity due to modern development	1
• Amenity Value	Industrial heritage can be linked to zone 14.2	2

## HECZ 14.2: Mistley

**Summary:** The geology of this zone is very mixed with Kesgrave sands and gravels in the east, river terrace deposits in the west and London Clay in the centre. The zone is important for its industrial archaeology and 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century architecture.



Fig. 64 The Mistley towers are all that remain of the church designed by the architect Robert Adam.

**Historic Urban Character:** This zone comprises the historic core of the model spa town and historic port of Mistley Thorn established by Richard Rigby during the 18th century. The historic core still retains terraces of 18th century houses along the High Street, hotels and industrial workers cottages and incorporates 18th and 19/20<sup>th</sup> century industrial buildings along the quayside. Buildings of particular note are the Mistley Towers and Swan Fountain designed by Robert Adam and the former spa hotel, Fountain House. A major feature of the historic core is the number of surviving Georgian buildings. Also within the zone are 19th and earlier 20th century industrial buildings associated with the port and the Mistley malt industry. A major feature of the area is the unity and survival of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century industrial maltings and associated buildings and the preservation of this significant industrial landscape.

An active port facility exists with docking at Mistley Quay and Baltic Wharf and current industrial sites include EDME and a large modern (Carlsberg/Tetley) malting to the south of the railway. There is also later 20th century residential redevelopment of redundant industrial buildings.

**Archaeological Character:** There are no noted archaeological finds from this zone but given the projection of the Roman road and the findspots of Roman material in contiguous zones the zone retains a potential for archaeology of this date. At the northern end of the zone lies the scheduled monument of the New Church of St Mary’s dating to 1735 of which only the two towers remain, both listed, and the graveyard. The industrial history of the town and its historic core indicates the high potential for the survival of post medieval and early modern archaeological deposits.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Demolished Church, model spa town, industrial monuments, historic port	2
• Survival	Post medieval and early modern settlement survives well. Below ground deposits may survive relating to the development of the port	2
• Documentation	HER, Industrial surveys, conservation area description	
• Group Value Association	Industrial monuments relating to the port,	3

	and spa town	
• Potential	Potential for the protection of historic buildings and industrial sites. Potential for below ground deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Buildings and layout highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	Has a high potential for promotion of the town and its industrial history	2

**HECZ 14.3: Mistley Park**

**Summary:** The geology of this zone largely comprises river terrace gravels with the southern part comprising London Clay. The zone largely contains the historic 18<sup>th</sup> century parkland associated with Mistley Place retaining a moderate archaeological potential

**Historic Landscape Character:** Separating Manningtree from Mistley this zone now comprises woodland, parkland, lakes and playing fields. The church of St. Mary was constructed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century replacing the 18<sup>th</sup> century church in zone 14.2. The grounds of Mistley Place, owned by Richard Rigby, were fashionably landscaped in the 18<sup>th</sup> century including woodland and lakes and resulting in much of what can be seen today. The main railway line runs across the southern part of the zone. The whole zone lies within a conservation area.

**Archaeological Character:** There are no noted archaeological finds from this zone but multi-period buried remains may survive and there is parkland features surviving within the present park. The original road running through this zone was moved when the parkland was created.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Park land features, Mistley Place	1
• Survival	Parkland features, possibility of below ground deposits	2
• Documentation	HER, conservation area assessment	2
• Group Value Association	Park features	2
• Potential	Potential for below ground deposits surviving	2
• Sensitivity to change	Parkland sensitive to change	2
• Amenity Value	Historic parkland could be promoted	2

#### **HECZ 14.4: Historic Manningtree**

**Summary:** The geology of the zone comprises London Clay. The zone contains the historic settlement of Manningtree. Manningtree is of considerable archaeological and historical importance, as an example of a small market town which contains elements of both a sea-port and an industrial town. Its importance archaeologically is as an example of a deliberately planted medieval town that retains its medieval street-pattern and parts of the medieval and early post-medieval built environment. There is also the distinct possibility that the medieval wharfage survives behind the current quay frontage, protected and buried by 18th-19th century build-up.

**Historic Urban Character:** Medieval Manningtree appears to have been deliberately planted in the first half of the 13th century, presumably by the lord of the manor; there is a reference of the grant of a market to the manor of *Sciddinghou* in 1238 and the town itself is first recorded in 1248. The town was intended as a new port, and achieved some success in local trade, transshipping provisions to the fleet in Harwich and as a fishing port supplying Colchester. The town layout suggests some form of deliberate planning based on the market in the High Street and the Quay. The dog-leg plan of South Street immediately to the south of the town raises the possibility that there had been a town enclosure.



Fig. 65 Manningtree High Street

The quality of the 16th century built environment suggests that the town underwent a financial boom in that century. In the early nineteenth century Manningtree was a major centre of the Essex malt industry with five separate sites in operation. The Lawford Works was also a major employer with three complexes producing leather and iron goods on the west side of the town. This industrial activity necessitated the construction of small terraces of workers' housing and more substantial managers' dwellings. In the late nineteenth century the erection of the huge Mistley Maltings in the neighbouring parish effectively eclipsed the production of malt in Manningtree and parts of the Lawford Works appear to have gone into decline about the same time. The group of 19th century maltings known as The Walls are of significant importance.

**Archaeological Character:** Archaeological investigations within the historic core have been very limited, however, those that have occurred have uncovered archaeology of medieval and post-medieval date. Recent work has identified significant surviving deposits of late medieval and early post medieval date to the rear of Stour Street and the potential for further archaeological deposits is high. There is the possibility that the

medieval wharfage survives behind the current quay frontage, protected and buried by 18th-19th century build-up.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Listed buildings, historic core and street layout, below ground medieval and post medieval deposits.	3
• Survival	Historic core, buildings and below ground deposits	3
• Documentation	HER, Historic Town survey, excavation reports, Conservation area appraisal	3
• Group Value Association	historic town and port assets	3
• Potential	High potential for below ground deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Historic town layout, buildings and below ground deposits highly sensitive	3
• Amenity Value	High potential for promotion of the history of the town	3

#### **HECZ 14.5: Manningtree, Lawford and Mistley**

**Summary:** The geology comprises a mix of river terrace gravels in the north, London clay to the south of this, a large area of Kesgrave Sands and Gravels and in the south, Brickearth. The zone comprises largely modern residential expansion but does contain listed buildings and industrial sites to the south of the historic core of Manningtree.

**Historic Urban Character:** Urban expansion within the zone began in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and was further fuelled by the arrival of the Eastern Union Railway in 1854. Manningtree Station falls within the zone. This expansion is protected by the Manningtree and Mistley conservation area. This expansion has continued throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The zone is predominantly residential but also contains a number of industrial sites including maltings, timber yards, the Lawford Iron Works and later 20<sup>th</sup> century industrial and retail trading estates

**Archaeological Character:** A round barrow of probable Bronze Age date is recorded from the west of the zone along with finds of worked flint of Neolithic and Bronze Age date. Modern development will have had a severe impact on the potential archaeological resource. However, school playing fields and a small remaining area of arable, containing linear cropmarks to the west of the zone are likely to preserve archaeological deposits.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Prehistoric burials, possible settlement sites, industrial sites	2
• Survival	Surviving below ground deposits in undeveloped areas, industrial sites	2
• Documentation	HER, Historic town survey	2
• Group Value Association	Industrial sites	2
• Potential	Potential in undisturbed areas for surviving below ground deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Limited sensitivity to change	1
• Amenity Value	Industrial buildings could be promoted with adjacent zones	2

**HECZ 15.1: Manningtree and Mistley Stour Estuary**

**Summary:** This zone comprises the estuary of the Stour including intertidal mud, deep water channels, sand flats, narrow strips of open salt marshes, beaches outside the current sea walls and adjacent to the historic ports of Mistley and Manningtree. The intertidal zone has the potential for well preserved archaeological, palaeoenvironmental and organic deposits. The geology comprises alluvial deposits overlying London Clay. The zone is highly important in terms of the natural environment. The entire zone is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and falls within the Stour and Orwell SPA/Ramsar site.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The broad expanse of the Stour Estuary and its associated creeks has been a major artery for trade and transport, together with a

source of fish, shell fish and wildfowl, for millennia. Although mainly used by leisure craft the estuary still has commercial traffic with activity concentrated at Mistley. The zone is characterised by its open, flat aspect and remoteness comprising the intertidal zone, mudflats and channels at Manningtree and Mistley. The mud flats extend over much of the estuary at low water in the Manningtree area. At Mistley and Manningtree, the deep water river channel approaches close to the shore. Hulks highlight the importance of access to and from the sea and the relationship between this zone and the adjacent ports.

**Archaeological Character:** The zone includes the historic site of the quays and wharfs associated with the medieval port of Manningtree and post medieval port of Mistley Thorn. There are no known archaeological sites or finds from the intertidal zone. However, it is probable that a range of features including timber/wooden structures such as former quays survive within the estuary deposits and that these may be in a good state of preservation. There are numerous hulks at Baltic Wharf and earlier wrecks may be present elsewhere in the zone. It is also possible that prehistoric land surfaces survive beneath the silts which elsewhere in the county, have been shown to contain a great range of archaeological and palaeoenvironmental data.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	No known deposits	1
• Survival	Intertidal area likely to contain high quality surviving deposits	2
• Documentation	None available	1
• Group Value Association	No group value	1
• Potential	Potential for intertidal preserved land surfaces and features associated with exploitation of the estuary	3
• Sensitivity to change	Below ground deposits highly sensitive	2
• Amenity Value	Can only be promoted in association with other zones.	1

## HECZ 15.2: Mistley to Parkeston Intertidal

**Summary:** This zone comprises the estuary of the Stour including intertidal mud, deep water channels, sand flats, narrow strips of salt marshes, beaches outside the current sea walls. The intertidal zone includes Jacques Bay and Copperas Bay has the potential for well preserved archaeological, palaeoenvironmental and organic deposits. The geology comprises alluvial deposits overlying London Clay. The zone is highly important in terms of the natural environment. The entire zone is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and falls within the Stour and Orwell SPA/Ramsar site.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The broad expanse of the Stour Estuary and its associated creeks, between Mistley and Parkeston, has been a major artery for trade and transport, together with a source of fish, shell fish and wildfowl, for millennia. Although mainly used by leisure craft the estuary still has commercial traffic. The zone is characterised by its open, flat aspect and remoteness comprising the intertidal zone, mudflats and deep water channel which runs close to the shore at Wrabness point. The only built development is the distinctive holiday huts at Wrabness Point, raised above the water level on stilts.



Fig. 66 Beach houses within the inter-tidal zone at Wrabness Point

**Archaeological Character:** There are few known archaeological sites or finds from the intertidal zone but struck flints and mammoth bones have been identified close to the high water mark to the west of Wrabness Point and flint cores have been retrieved from the cliff at Copperas Bay. It is possible that prehistoric land surfaces survive beneath

the silts which may contain a great range of archaeological and palaeoenvironmental data. It is also probable that a range of finds including hulks and wrecks and timber/wooden structures survive within the estuary deposits and that these may be in a good state of preservation. Finds of medieval midden material eroding out of the river cliff in Jacques Bay may relate to erosion repair work indicated by a timber revetment. Similar medieval material has come from the cliff at Copperas Bay. Ballast Hill near Manningtree is a site where ships dumped ballast as they entered into shallower water of the upper reaches or across the marshes to dock or unload goods along the Stour. The name Copperas Bay suggests remains of the once important Copperas industry may survive within the zone.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Prehistoric flints, mammoth bones, medieval timbers, medieval midden deposits, ships ballast	2
• Survival	Intertidal area likely to contain high quality surviving deposits	2
• Documentation	HER	1
• Group Value Association	Likely to be remains associated with coastal/marine exploitation.	1
• Potential	Potential for preserved land surfaces and features associated with exploitation of the estuary. Ballast Hill has great potential for items dumped with ships ballast.	3
• Sensitivity to change	Below ground deposits highly sensitive	2
• Amenity Value	Potential for promotion in association with other zones.	1

**HECZ 15.3: Bathside Bay**

**Summary:** Intertidal zone which has limited very deeply buried (c -12m OD) peat deposits and a number of other features with potential for well preserved prehistoric, palaeoenvironmental and organic deposits in addition to finds and features of more recent origin.

**Historic Landscape Character:** Intertidal zone which at low water consists of mudflats and some areas of sand to the east. In the south west of the zone a small area has been reclaimed. The zone extends from Parkeston Quay in the west to Harwich town in the east.

**Archaeological Character:** Aerial photographic and walkover survey together with borehole analysis undertaken in connection of the Bathside Bay port development proposal, have revealed very few archaeological sites or deposits. This is in part the reflection of the geomorphology of the area with deep alluvial deposits with some indication of very deeply buried peat (c-12m OD) of limited extent. This is in marked contrast with other intertidal locations in Tendring such as to the south east of Dovercourt (HECZ 2.6) where extensive peat deposits and prehistoric land surfaces survive close to the surface. A few wrecks and hulks of relatively recent date have also been identified by recent survey work. Sub-tidal survey has also indicated a number of similar sites in the estuary to the north outside this zone.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Few known sites or deposits	1
• Survival	Limited survival of deeply buried deposits	1
• Documentation	Range of recent survey and other investigations	3
• Group Value Association	Limited group value of wrecks and hulks	1
• Potential	Survey work has revealed limited potential	2
• Sensitivity to change	Limited sensitivity of deeply buried deposits.	1
• Amenity Value	Some potential to promote this zone with other adjacent zones as part of the wider history of the Parkeston Dovercourt area. Supported by the results of recent survey.	2

## **HECZ 16.1 Stour Valley pasture**

**Summary:** This zone encompasses a flat landscape of valley floor pasture at the head of the Stour Estuary. The geology is dominated by river terrace sand and gravel deposits with a small area overlain by estuarine alluvium at the western end of the zone. The zone falls within the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and its eastern end is designated as a Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI). There is no significant settlement in the area. Archaeological character is dominated by a nationally important multi-period cropmark complex at Lawford. Historically the zone had a close relationship with the adjacent coastal marshes (HECZ 16.2) and adjacent upland zone (HECZ 13.1).

**Historic Landscape Character:** This area comprises an open, flat landscape of valley bottom pasture within the floodplain of the River Stour. At its eastern end, the zone is crossed by the road to Brantham and the southern end of the Cattawade Bridge. The Harwich to Manningtree railway line embankment demarcates the southern edge of the zone and a former tidal arm of the River Stour forms the northern boundary. This channel has muddy shores reflecting its former tidal regime, after being cut off by the construction of the Cattawade Barrage during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. The former sea wall alongside the relict arm of the tidal estuary is a distinctive historic landscape feature. The fieldscape is largely one of drained and improved grassland with straight ditched field boundaries, some with low hedges, indicative of late enclosure. A trackway, leading from Lawford Hall Farm to the south, crosses the zone to a former bridging point of the river channel. Towards the eastern end several boundaries follow the sinuous lines of former creeks denoting reclamation of salt marsh. Settlement in the area is limited to a single farmstead close to Cattawade Bridge.

**Archaeological Character:** The archaeological character of this zone is dominated by a multi-period cropmark complex at Lawford which is designated as a Scheduled Monument. The cropmarks comprise a ring ditch cemetery enclosed within a rectangular field. This enclosure is one of a number linked to a series of trackways leading from the river floodplain to the valley side and the Tendring plateau above, highlighting the former relationship between this area and HECZ 13.1. The sea wall will retain evidence for date and construction. The zone includes remnant channels of the

River Stour visible as cropmarks, and will retain well preserved palaeoenvironmental deposits. There is a large wetland scrape within the eastern end of the zone which has been created for wildlife and which may have had a negative impact on buried archaeological deposits.



Fig. 67 Scheduled multi-period cropmark complex at Lawford

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Historic landscape features and diverse range of cropmarks	2
• Survival	Good survival.	2
• Documentation	Limited HER data, NMP data, AONB plan	1
• Group Value Association	Cropmarks, palaeo-channels and evidence of wetland exploitation	2
• Potential	Good potential for surviving deposits.	2
• Sensitivity to change	Landscape and archaeological deposits highly sensitive to change.	3
• Amenity Value	Potential for understanding and promoting the prehistoric origin and development of the landscape within the Dedham Vale AONB	2

## **HECZ 16.2 Cattawade Marshes**

**Summary:** This zone encompasses a flat landscape of former and current estuarine grazing marshes at the head of the Stour Estuary. The geology is dominated by estuarine alluvium. The zone falls within the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is designated as a Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI). The marshes are managed as a nature reserve by the RSPB. There is no settlement in the area. Historically the zone had a close relationship with the adjacent estuary (HECZ 15.1) and adjacent valley bottom pasture to the south (HECZ 16.1).

**Historic Landscape Character:** This area comprises an open, flat landscape of former and current estuarine grazing marsh within the floodplain of the River Stour. At its eastern end, the zone is demarcated by the Cattawade Bridge. The River Stour forms the northern boundary of the area and a former tidal arm of the River Stour forms the southern boundary. Both the River Stour and the relict arm of the tidal estuary flow through the landscape but are of very different character. The reed lined River Stour meanders naturally but also shows signs of engineering, as at the locks of Brantham Mill, whilst the southern channel has muddy shores reflecting its former tidal regime, after being cut off by the construction of the Cattawade Barrage during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. The coastal grazing marshes are collectively known as Cattawade Marshes and are managed as a nature reserve by RSPB. At their western and eastern limits, these are characterised by relict salt marsh preserved in rough pasture. Field boundaries follow the sinuous former creeks, although there are also some straighter field ditches including a double ditched trackway, leading from a historic bridging point of the southern channel, which appears to have been used in conjunction with field ditches for corralling livestock. Within the centre of the marshes, agricultural improvement has had a greater impact with sub rectangular fields of improved pasture bordered by straight field ditches. The sea walls and river banks alongside the remnant arm of the tidal estuary and northern bank of the River Stour are a distinctive historic landscape feature. There is a single late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century agricultural building in the centre of Cattawade Marshes reached by a raised trackway constructed of demolition debris. Towards the eastern end of the marsh, the trackway runs over an even more substantial raft of building material dumped during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century and at the western end a modern weir has been constructed at Judas Gap.



Fig. 68 Historic grazing marsh, Cattawade Marshes

**Archaeological Character:** The archaeological character of this zone is largely undefined due to a lack of field work. However, the proximity of prehistoric cropmarks identified in the adjacent zone to the south (HECZ 16.1), lack of intensive land use and preservative qualities of the underlying geology means that the zone has high archaeological and palaeoenvironmental potential, including the potential for well preserved organic material. The sea walls and river banks will retain evidence for date and construction and the former tidal channel contains structural timbers from a bridge, shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map (c1876), at the western end of the zone.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Limited range of historic landscape and archaeological features	1
• Survival	Little disturbance and likelihood of waterlogged conditions means that buried remains may be well preserved.	2
• Documentation	Limited HER data, NMP data	1
• Group Value Association	Sea walls, historic field boundaries and other features relating to wetland exploitation.	2
• Potential	Little disturbance and good potential for surviving deposits.	2
• Sensitivity to change	Landscape and archaeological deposits highly sensitive to change.	3
• Amenity Value	Potential for understanding and promoting the prehistoric origin and development of the landscape within the Dedham Vale AONB	2

### HECZ 17.1: Elmstead Market and Alresford

**Summary:** The drift geology consists of brickearth and Kesgrave Sands and Gravels. The zone comprises a dispersed medieval settlement pattern with relatively good survival of fieldscape. There are extensive cropmark complexes covering a large part of the zone, of a multi-period date, including Bronze Age cemeteries.

**Historic Landscape Character:** Historically the landscape consisted partly of large areas of heathland including Elmstead Heath. These were enclosed by agreement in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Elsewhere the fieldscape is largely of ancient origin irregular and regular fields but there has been moderate loss of field boundaries since the 1950s especially in the north of the zone. Small areas of ancient woodland survive along the western side of the zone. The eastern boundary of the zone is formed by the Tenpenny Brook. The historic settlement pattern consisted of dispersed church/hall complex, halls and farms with a small nucleated settlement at Elmstead Market. With the coming of

the railway in the 19<sup>th</sup> century a further nucleated settlement developed at Arlesford. Considerable quarrying activity has occurred in the southern part of the zone.

**Archaeological Character:** Cropmarks are the dominant archaeological feature with particular concentrations of multi-period features lying between Elmstead Market and Alresford. There are two complexes which can be accurately assessed as Bronze Age cemeteries with a number of ring ditches (ploughed out burial mounds) in groups, which can be paralleled on a number of sites across Tendring. The other cropmarks comprise settlement enclosures, trackways, roads and field systems. Excavations have shown occupation within the zone from the Bronze Age through to the medieval period. Further evidence of medieval occupation can be seen in the surviving landscape and settlement pattern.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Multi-period cropmarks, prehistoric enclosures, and burials, medieval settlement pattern	3
• Survival	Cropmarks indicate good below grounds survival, field pattern suffered considerable boundary loss in northern part. Quarrying activity especially in the south	2
• Documentation	HER, cartographic, NMP, excavation reports	3
• Group Value Association	Cropmark complexes	2
• Potential	High potential for below ground deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Below ground deposits highly sensitive, especially in the northern half of the zone.	3
• Amenity Value	Below ground deposits, Cropmarks and settlement pattern could be promoted especially within the settlements of Elmstead and Arlesford as part of the wider history of Tendring	2

## HECZ 17.2: Thorrington

**Summary:** The zone retains a high archaeological potential as demonstrated by the cropmark and cartographic evidence. The historic landscape contains a number of significant areas of ancient woodland and enclosed meadow pasture. The historic settlement pattern was highly dispersed. The drift geology for the zone is composed of brickearth and Kesgrave sands and gravels.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The historic landscape comprises a pre-eighteenth century irregular field system interspersed with significant areas of ancient woodland, much of the latter still survive. Thorrington Heath formed an extensive open area in the centre of the zone, this was enclosed in the nineteenth century. There are areas of enclosed meadow pasture along the streams, particularly in the area of the Tenpenny Brook. The historic settlement was both highly dispersed and rather sparse. The modern village of Thorrington developed around and on the former heath. The medieval church/hall complex of Thorrington Hall is located immediately to the south-east of modern Thorrington. An important post-medieval tide mill survives at the head of Alresford Creek.



Fig. 69 The 19<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed tide mill at Thorrington

**Archaeological Character:** Sparse in the north of the zone, cropmarks become more prolific in the area to the south and east of Thorrington. Trackways, enclosures, ring-ditches and ancient field systems are represented and point to good survival of below ground archaeological features. The paucity of cropmark evidence in the north of the zone is likely to result from differing crop regimes or geological factors rather than a lack of previous human use of the land. It is probable that there are surviving deposits and features relating to the medieval and early post-medieval settlement pattern. A 19<sup>th</sup> century brick works existed at Thorrington Plantation.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Multi-period cropmarks, bronze Age cemetery, medieval settlement pattern, ancient woodland, field pattern	2
• Survival	Cropmarks indicate good below grounds survival, field pattern suffered limited loss. Ancient woodland likely to contain important earthworks	3
• Documentation	HER, cartographic, NMP	2
• Group Value Association	Cropmark complexes	2
• Potential	High potential for below ground deposits and earthworks within woodland	3
• Sensitivity to change	Woodland and surviving historic landscape features, below ground deposits sensitive, all sensitive to change.	2
• Amenity Value	Potential to promote cropmark complexes and ancient woodland/settlement pattern, in relation to adjacent zones.	2

### HECZ 17.3: Alresford Grange

**Summary:** This zone comprises the tongue of land sited between the Colne Estuary and the Sixpenny Brook. The surface geology is largely mixed Kesgrave Sands and Gravels and Brickearth with alluvial deposits associated with the Colne estuary. There is considerable crop-mark, cartographic and excavation evidence for extensive historic settlement in the area from at least the later prehistoric periods onwards. Despite the extensive mineral extraction that has taken place, discrete areas of archaeology still may survive.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The topography slopes down to the River Colne to the west and south of the zone, with the valley of the Sixpenny Brook forming the eastern edge of this zone. The historic landscape pattern was of pre-18<sup>th</sup> century irregular fields and discrete areas of enclosed meadow pasture along the Sixpenny Brook, woodland, plantation and in the south, part of Alresford Hall Park. The historic settlement pattern comprised isolated farms. There are considerable areas of mineral extraction.

**Archaeological Character:** Cropmarks are apparent where the land rises away from the Colne Estuary in the north of the zone with trackways, linear features and enclosures visible. A further concentration occurred north and west of Plumptons Farm in the south of the zone. Many of these have been destroyed by mineral extraction, but a few discrete areas still survive. A Roman villa was close to the junction of the River Colne and Alresford Creek, and the cropmarks at Plumptons Farm suggest that a second possible villa was located there. There is the potential for surviving medieval and post-medieval deposits relating to the historic settlement pattern. The valley bottoms and sides have potential for palaeoenvironmental deposits.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Multi-period cropmarks, prehistoric enclosures, and burials, Roman villa	3
• Survival	Unquarried areas likely to contain buried archaeological deposits,	2
• Documentation	HER, cartographic, NMP, excavation reports	2

• Group Value Association	Cropmark complexes, surviving historic landscape features related to six penny brook valley and Colne estuary	2
• Potential	Potential for below ground deposits in unquarried areas and palaeoenvironmental deposits in valley bottom/slope locations.	2
• Sensitivity to change	Unquarried areas sensitive to change	2
• Amenity Value	Cropmarks, historic landscape, and in terms of industrial development the quarries themselves could be promoted in conjunction with neighbouring zones to elucidate the history of Tendring	2

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## **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 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 and its structure, character and form have long been studied as a pathway into the past.

Trending encompasses large areas of rural and some urban landscapes from a range of periods. This assessment has confined itself to examining the historic rural landscape of the region, the urban areas are addressed in the built heritage section. However, these two elements are closely related and where necessary themes and findings are transferred between the two sections. This section and the results of the characterisation presented should be read in conjunction with the broad overview of the area's historical development.

Tendring 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 emergence, seemingly in the late prehistoric period, of an agricultural economy;
- The development in the late 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 prehistoric / Roman development of the major road corridors, and route ways and settlement;
- The development of a distinctive pattern of dispersed settlement across Tendring District;
- The use of the marshes and estuary throughout history as a key resource for agriculture, fishing and industry;
- 20th century 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, it was possible to develop a series of character areas that reflected distinct combinations of Historic Landscape Character types and landscape character attributes.

Once the initial area had been digitised the descriptions for each area were prepared. The descriptions drew on a range of sources and attempted to reflect the reasoning behind the definition of an area and, where possible, relate that area to its wider historic context. The descriptions sought to highlight the key characteristics and Historic Landscape Character types in an area and identify any particular significant features or assets. The process of preparing the descriptions was also a part of the process of defining the areas.

### 1.1.3 Outline of Results

Figure 34 shows the location and extent of the Historic Landscape Character Areas. Each of these areas is accompanied by a short description (see Appendix 2). This data is also available in the accompanying GIS and an example of the descriptions is provided below:

#### **HLCA 3. Eastern Colne marshes**

- An area of current and former marshland, sited on the eastern shore of the Colne estuary, and including the Brightlingsea Creek and St Osyth Creek marshes.
- The geology comprises estuarine alluvium deposits.
- The field boundaries comprise drainage channels, many following the sinuous course of the former creeks. The marshes nearly enclose the Brightlingsea peninsula. The levels of post 1950s boundary loss in the area are low.
- A number of areas of former oyster beds are located within this area, most notably those of Cindery Island to the south of Brightlingsea. Other historic landscape features include the sea walls, jetties and hulks. The tidal mill pond at the head of St Osyth Creek is also included in the area, this is of medieval, or possibly late Saxon origin.
- Settlement was historically confined to the dryer ground to the east. But Brightlingsea Town Hard occupies an area of reclaimed marsh where a cluster of buildings including the Harbour Commissioner's building, workshops, Customs building and warehouses are located.
- There is a leisure area to the west of the harbour which includes modern sea defences, a boating lake, lido and beach huts and the 19<sup>th</sup> century folly, Bateman's Tower.

The nature of the study has led to the development of descriptions and mapping that is broad and general in nature. The characterisation has highlighted the time depth of the structure of the landscape and the role that this structure has played in shaping the development of communities in the region; perhaps indicating that there is a future role for these structures in the implementation of the sustainable communities plan.

## **1.2 Creation of Urban Character areas for Tendring**

### **1.2.1 General Background**

There is a wide range of urban types in Tendring District. St Osyth is arguably the oldest of the towns, with its origins in the Late Saxon period. The medieval period is represented by the planned port town of Harwich and the smaller port towns of Manningtree and Brightlingsea. Mistley had its origins as a spa town, and Clacton and Walton were both seaside resorts, and Frinton a seaside town. The impact of the railways and of industry in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries are evident in the development of Parkeston and at Mistley.

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

- Development during the Saxon period
- The growth of the medieval town;
- Industrial development;
- The influence of the coastal location on urban development
- Late 19th and 20th century suburban development;

### **1.2.2 Method and Approach**

The Tendring historic environment characterisation project has expanded on the identification of the structure, evolution and form of the urban areas. 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 intensive examination of historic mapping sources, HER data, Extensive Urban Survey, 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.

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 Survey

### **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 Tendring District. From these cores the analysis worked its way out through the settlements developing an understanding of how the later urban form was developed, 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. In some instances, the character areas mark the theoretical extent of a historic core, but only when the surrounding urban form has become so confused as to make more accurate definition less achievable.

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

### **1.2.4 Outline of results**

Figures 35 show the location and extent of the identified Urban Character Areas. Each of these areas is accompanied by a short description (see Appendix 3). This data is also available in the accompanying GIS. An example of the descriptions is provided below:

## **HUCA 11: Core of Parkeston**

**Predominant Periods:** Post medieval

**Secondary Periods:** Modern

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Retail/commercial

- Parkeston is a unique later C19 planned industrial settlement built by GER adjacent to Parkeston Quay
- It retains its original terraced street plan and many of the original workers cottages
- The residential provision was increased in the early C20 to the west but the settlement at Parkeston has not been adversely affected by modern housing/infill
- Some small scale commercial facilities

### **1.3 Creation of Archaeological Character Areas in Tendring**

#### **1.3.1 General Background**

As described in the overview of the historic environment the archaeological resource of Tendring is complex and varied. It represents evidence of human / hominid activity from the Palaeolithic period 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 Historic Town 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 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 find spots; 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**

Figure 37 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 (see Appendix 4). This data is also available in the accompanying GIS. An example of one area is provided below:

## **ACA 4 River Stour Intertidal**

- Lying between the high and low water marks, the surface geology of this area is composed of estuarine silts and alluvium crossed by numerous named fleets and creeks with narrow strips of saltings, which were traditionally used for sheep grazing.
- Copperas Bay indicates the importance of the copperas industry here in the post medieval period. Copperas was an important and valuable product used in a number of manufacturing processes..
- The area has some potential for prehistoric archaeology and buried ancient land surfaces but the potential for more recent evidence is probably greater including evidence for maritime activities, notably hulks and other timber structures such as wharves. Baltic Wharf has a number of sunken vessels associated with it and Ballast Hill within the estuary was used as a dumping ground for ships ballast.

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.

### **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 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**

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.
- *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 12 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 section 3 of the main report and in the accompanying GIS.

## 2 Historic Landscape Character Area Descriptions

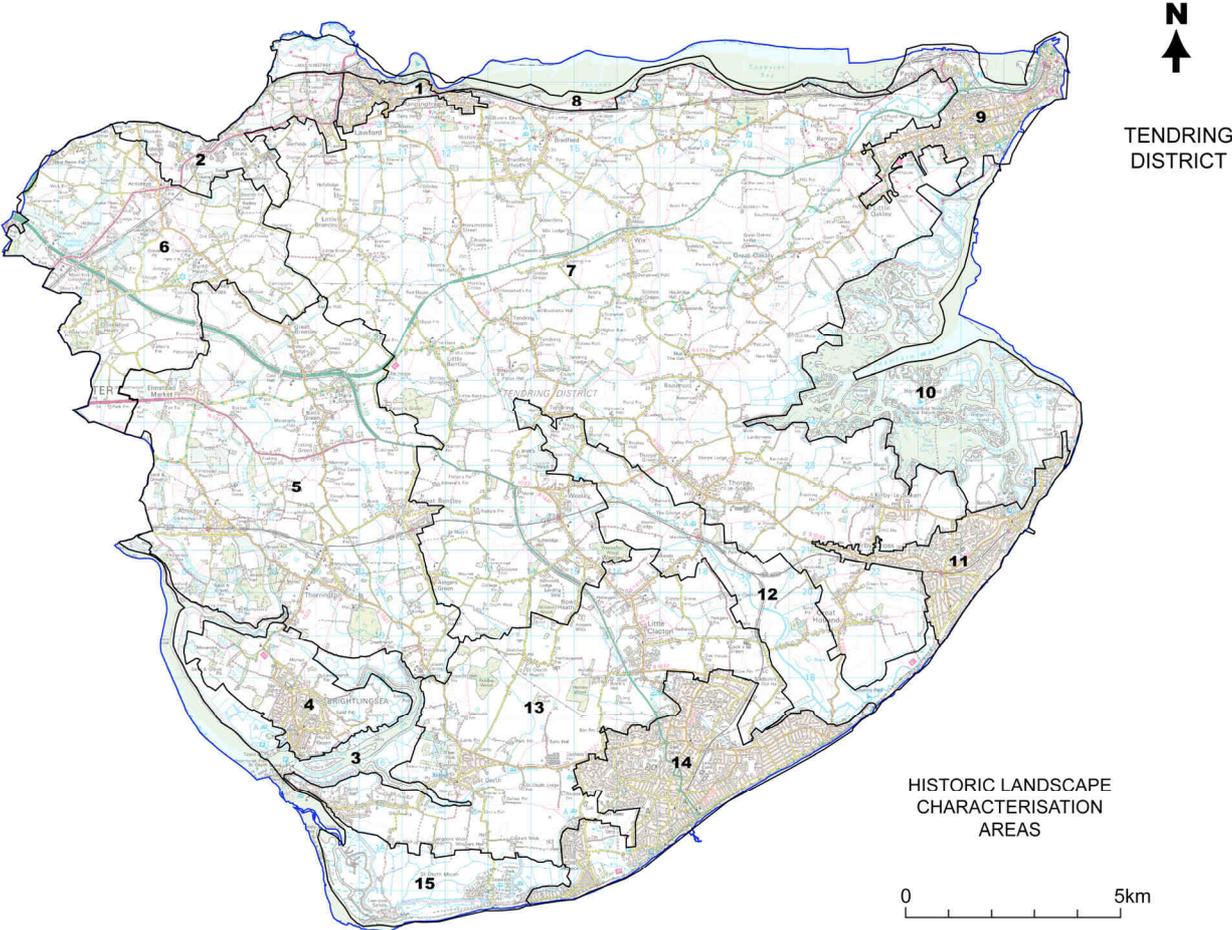


Fig. 70 Historic Landscape Character Areas

### HLCA 1. Manningtree, Mistley and Lawford Urban Area

- The modern urban area of Manningtree, Mistley and Lawford villages, this incorporates the medieval and post-medieval historic core of the port of Manningtree, and the 18<sup>th</sup> century development of Mistley.

### HLCA 2. Dedham Heath area

- This area comprises a ridge of higher ground to the south of the Stour valley which lies within both Colchester Borough and Tendingring District.

- The soil-type consists of Head on the higher ground with sands and gravels and London Clay revealed in the valley sides.
- The present landscape comprises a mixture of 18th century and later enclosure, pre-18th century irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older) and later enclosure by agreement. The first category largely but not entirely corresponds to the former heathlands around Dedham e.g. Ardleigh Heath, and is concentrated in the southern half of the area. Whilst the more piecemeal later enclosure and the irregular fields are concentrated in the north, on the slopes overlooking the Stour valley. Post 1950's boundary loss can be described as moderate.
- There are tracts of enclosed meadow pasture in the valleys of the tributary streams feeding into the Stour.
- There were extensive orchards, and an extensive area of glass houses / nurseries exist today, the greatest concentration of these are at the eastern end of the area around Foxash.
- Along the eastern edge of the area is Lawford Park.
- The settlement is also largely concentrated along the northern ridge, and historically comprised dispersed settlement of church/hall complexes, manors, farms, cottages and hamlet.
- Modern ribbon development has now linked many of these sites.

### **HLCA 3. Eastern Colne marshes**

- An area of current and former marshland, sited on the eastern shore of the Colne estuary, and including the Brightlingsea Creek and St Osyth Creek marshes.
- The geology comprises estuarine alluvium deposits.
- The field boundaries comprise drainage channels, many following the sinuous course of the former creeks. The marshes nearly enclose the Brightlingsea peninsula. The levels of post 1950s boundary loss in the area are low.
- A number of areas of former oyster beds are located within this area, most notably those of Cindery Island to the south of Brightlingsea. Other historic landscape features include the sea walls, jetties and hulks. The tidal mill pond at the head of St Osyth Creek is also included in the area, this is of medieval, or possibly late Saxon origin.

- Settlement was historically confined to the dryer ground to the east But Brightlingsea Town Hard occupies an area of reclaimed marsh where a cluster of buildings including the Harbour Commissioner's building, workshops, Customs building and warehouses are located.
- There is a leisure area to the west of the harbour which includes modern sea defences, a boating lake, lido and beach huts and the 19<sup>th</sup> century folly, Bateman's Tower.

#### **HLCA 4. Brightlingsea peninsula**

- A small area comprising the dryland peninsula of Brightlingsea, which is virtually an island set in the coastal marshes of the eastern Colne.
- The geology is mainly Kesgrave sands and gravels, with the underling London Clay forming a fringe around the edges, it in turn is bordered by a band of alluvium that extends beyond the area into the coastal marshes.
- The fieldscape has largely been identified as being pre-18th century irregular enclosure, these appear to have been sub-divided internally into rectangular strip fields, possibly in the medieval period. Brightlingsea was the centre of a Royal *vill* in the Saxon period and it is possible that some of the irregular field boundaries may date to that period.
- Settlement is largely concentrated in the village of Brightlingsea, a historic cinque-port, as well as a number of isolated farms, mostly strung out along the marsh edge.
- There are a number of small areas of ancient woodland on the higher ground.
- There is an extensive mineral extraction pit to the southeast of the village, otherwise the post 1950s boundary loss can be described as low to moderate

#### **HLCA 5. Alresford area**

- This area comprises the valleys of three brooks, of which the largest is the Frating Brook which bisects the area. All three drain into the marshes to the rear of Brightlingsea.
- The geology consists of head on the ridges between the valleys, sands and gravels on the valley sides and London Clay in the valley floor.
- This area is distinguished by the enclosed meadows which line the valley floors and areas of orchards, many of which still survive around Elmstead and Frating.

The remainder of the fieldscape comprises a mixture of pre-18th century irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older) and later enclosure of common fields. Field boundaries largely comprise low gappy hedgerows with hedgerow oaks. Post 1950s boundary loss can be described as moderate, rising to high on a number of farms. Shelter belts of poplar and fast growing *Leylandii* have been created in the 20<sup>th</sup> century to protect the orchards

- There are some areas of ancient woodland, particularly in the southern half of the area and including Thorrington Hall woods, one of the largest in the district. They are typically composed of sweet chestnut, hazel, or hornbeam coppice with oak or ash standards.
- Historically the settlement was sparse and very dispersed, comprising isolated church/hall complexes, manors, farms and small hamlets, the latter often located at road junctions or around greens such as Frating Green, Balls Green and Hare Green. Many of these have been infilled by inter-war smallholdings or more recent housing; the large village green at Great Bentley is a notable exception. Scattered settlement around former heaths such as Elmstead Heath is also a feature. Historically these were used for rough pasture but were enclosed in the early 19th century.
- A network of narrow lanes connects the scattered farms and hamlets and cross the brooks at historic crossing points.
- Modern development has largely confined itself to ribbon development along the roads, e.g. at Thorrington Cross, with the only sizable settlement being Elmstead Market.
- There are extensive areas of mineral extraction in the southern half of the area.

#### **HLCA 6. Ardleigh Heaths area**

- This area is located on the western edge of the Tendring Plateau, and comprises a higher flat area, bisected by the valley of the Salary Brook and bordered by the Colne estuary to the south.
- The geology is largely Head, with sands and gravels and London Clay revealed in the valley sides, and with some alluvium bordering the Colne estuary.
- The area is characterised by large areas of former heathland, these included Ardleigh Heath, Crockleford Heath, Whitmore Heath and Wivenhoe Heath. These were all sited on the Boulder Clay, forming a rough semi-circle around the

eastern flank of Colchester. Historically they were used for rough pasture but were enclosed in the early 19th century. The present landscape comprises a mixture of pre-18th century irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older) and later enclosure by agreement, the latter largely but not entirely corresponding to the former heathlands. Field boundaries largely comprise low gappy hedges with hedgerow oaks, although 20<sup>th</sup> century shelter belts of poplar or *Leylandii* are also a feature. Post 1950s boundary loss can be described as moderate, rising to high in a number of areas.

- There are areas of ancient woodland, chiefly in the western half of the area. There were also extensive orchards, some of which still survive for example around Ardleigh.
- Ardleigh Park is medieval in origin.
- Ardleigh Reservoir forms a major modern landscape feature in the north-west of the area.
- Historically settlement comprised the nucleated village of Ardleigh in the north and a dispersed scatter of manors, farms, cottages and small hamlets. This settlement pattern is still evident today.
- The area is dissected by the Colchester to Ipswich railway line and modern A120.

#### **HLCA 7. Tendring plateau**

- A large plateau-like area, drained by the Holland Brook to the south and by smaller streams to the north and west.
- The geology is largely London Clay in the central and eastern parts, overlain by Head in the western part. There are bands of Kesgrave sands and gravels, marking the former line of the River Thames running diagonally across the area, and small patches of alluvium close to the coast and in the valley of Ramsey Creek.
- The fieldscape comprises a mixture of later enclosure by agreement and pre-18th century irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older), with the later enclosure in the majority. It appears that at least some of the enclosure comprised the sub-division into strip fields of early irregular shaped fields. Post-1950s boundary loss can be assessed as moderate, rising to high on a number of farms and severe on one or two farms.

- The area is characterised by long, thin, roadside greens and small triangular greens at road junctions, with one larger area of former heathland at Bradfield Heath. There are areas of enclosed meadow pasture in the stream valleys. The areas of ancient woodland are largely in the southern half of the area, although there is an important grouping overlooking the Stour estuary at Wrabness. There are also areas of orchards, mainly in the northern half of the area.
- The settlement is dispersed in character, comprising church/hall complexes, manors, farms, cottages and small hamlets, the latter often strung out along the roadside greens. Modern development has largely taken the form of infilling of this pattern, resulting in ribbon development along the roads.
- A network of narrow lanes connects the scattered farmsteads and villages. The Manningtree to Harwich railway line runs along the northern edge of the area and the area is dissected by the modern A120 and A123.
- Small areas of ancient woodland survive with a largely neglected coppice with standards structure.
- Areas of former and surviving parkland can be found along the northern edge of the area e.g. Mistley Park and Furze Hill.

#### **HLCA 8. Marshes along the Stour estuary**

- This area comprises a long narrow strip of tidal marshland along the southern bank of the Stour estuary. It also includes an area of reclaimed marsh at the head of the estuary. At Mistley Walls the saltings are common grazing land. There has been little boundary loss in this area, the boundaries are all of the drainage ditch type. Sea walls are a dominant landscape feature.
- There are few settlements in this area and the only other built development in the marshes are the distinctive holiday huts at Wrabness Point, raised above the water level on stilts and the road and railway bridges which cross the Stour at Cattawade.
- Cattawade Marshes is now an RSPB nature reserve.

#### **HLCA 9. Harwich urban area**

- The modern urban area of Harwich, this incorporates the medieval and post-medieval historic core of the town, the military redoubt to the south of the town and the modern Parkeston Quay to the west.

## **HLCA 10. Hamford Water**

- Hamford Water is an extensive area of current and former marshland, creeks and marshland islands, some of which have been embanked. Much of the embankment took place in the 19th century, the field boundaries comprise drainage channels, mainly without banks or hedges, some following the sinuous course of the former creeks. Post 1950s boundary loss in the area is very low. The sea walls are a dominant landscape feature.
- Topographically this is a very complex landscape of interlocking dryland, marshland, mud and tidal waters. The area incorporates the reclaimed marshes to the south of Harwich and the mud cliffs that form the Naze at Walton-on-the-Naze.
- The geology comprises tidal mud flat deposits, with outcrops of London Clay forming the backbone of Skippers and Horsey Islands.
- The area is very important for nature conservation, Skipper Island is a nature reserve and the improved grass fields of Horsey Island provide feeding and roosting sites. Horsey Island has a single farmstead on it and is connected to the mainland by a causeway.
- Bramble Island was used as an explosive factory and remains dating to that phase survive; it is now used as a chemical factory. The landscape is marked by old jetties, quays and track-ways, many of which terminate at a quay, dock or landing stage including Beaumont Quay with its associated brick built lime kiln, Old Moze Dock, Great Oakley Dock and Kirby Quay. The Naze is dominated by the octagonal, early 18<sup>th</sup> century tower built by Trinity House as a navigational mark. The area includes the former tidal millpond of Walton mere on the North West edge of Walton which was developed as a boating lake in 1921.
- 20<sup>th</sup> century built development includes a static caravan park and marina on the edge of the Walton backwaters and sewage works to the north of the Naze.

## **HLCA 11. Frinton and Walton urban areas**

- The modern urban areas of Frinton and Walton. The towns developed as two distinct 19th century seaside resorts. Much of the current urban area however dates to the post 1960s.

## **HLCA 12. Holland Brook valley**

- This area includes the small shallow valley of the Holland Brook and the marshes at its mouth.
- The geology comprises London Clay, overlain with patches of Kesgrave sands and gravels on the valley sides and alluvium in the valley floor.
- The area is characterised by enclosed meadows along the brook, with drained linear reclamation of the tidal marshes where the sea wall is a dominant landscape feature. These were enclosed in the early 19th century. The field boundaries on the reclaimed marshes comprise drainage channels with no banks or hedges. The fields along the valley sides largely consist of pre-18th century enclosure, much of this echoes the contours of the valley with the rectangular fields running down the slope. Post 1950s boundary loss can be described as high.
- Ancient woodlands, typically dominated by oak, ash and sweet chestnut, are located in the wetter areas and on the steeper slopes.
- The area includes Far Thorpe Green and Great Holland Common,
- There is little settlement in this area, and the few examples are highly dispersed in nature, comprising isolated farms and cottages, former mills and Thorpe Maltings. These are situated along minor lanes which drop down the valley sides and cross the streams at historic crossing points, on stone or brick bridges.
- The 19<sup>th</sup> century railway line to Frinton on Sea and Clacton on Sea runs down into the valley from the north and crosses the Holland Brook close to Thorpe station.
- 20<sup>th</sup> century agricultural development has resulted in the construction of numerous reservoirs. A former quarry at Great Holland has been converted into the Great Holland Pit Nature Reserve.

## **HLCA 13. St Osyth area**

- This geology of this area comprises the London Clay slope around St Osyth with areas of Kesgrave sand and gravel.
- The fieldscape is largely one of pre-18th century irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older), with an area of pre-18th century regular fields in the southern portion of the area. The size of the

fields in this area is noticeably smaller than those to the north of the area. Field boundaries largely comprise low gappy hedgerows with occasional hedgerow oaks. Post 1950's boundary loss can be described as moderate, rising to high in a number of areas, particularly on the edges of Clacton.

- The priory grounds at St Osyth are former medieval deer park, re-landscaped in the post-medieval period.
- There are a number of areas of ancient woodland such as Riddles Wood, which congregate on the higher ground in the northern half of the area, and which typically comprise oak standards and sweet chestnut coppice.
- Historically settlement was very dispersed, with only two small foci, at St Osyth and Little Clacton. Otherwise the settlement comprised isolated manors, farms and cottages, although the string of 'wick' farms on the dryland boundary with the former marshland area of Colne Point to the south is a noticeable feature of the historic settlement pattern.
- The present settlement pattern reflects the 20th century trend for seaside holidays, with a mixture of plotland style development and caravan parks at Point Clear, and ribbon development along the road to Clacton

#### **HLCA 14. Clacton urban area**

- The modern urban area of Clacton-on-Sea. The town developed as an early 19th century seaside resort. Much of the current urban area however dates to the post 1960s.

#### **HLCA 15. Colne Point**

- The geology comprises alluvial deposits overlaying London Clay.
- An extensive area of current and former marshland, sited at the mouth of the Colne estuary. There is no post 1950s boundary loss.
- The field boundaries comprise drainage channels, mainly without banks or hedges, many following the sinuous course of the former creeks together with modern post and wire fences.
- Surviving historic landscape features include the sea wall bordering the southern and western edges of the area and a decoy pond situated at the eastern end.
- The south eastern corner contains a number of caravan and mobile-home parks, facing on to the beach including the holiday village of Seawick.. Settlement also

includes a cluster and short ribbon of buildings at Lee-over-Sands and associated development including a sewage treatment works.

- The western end of the tidal marsh is a nature reserve.



- Most of the area is in either business/retail or residential use

## **HUCA 2: Harwich: West of Beacon Hill**

**Predominant Periods:** Post medieval

**Secondary Periods:** Modern

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

- Initial C19 residential development of terrace housing along to the west of the Main Road and the railway line
- Construction of the railway infra-structure along Bathside serving the New Pier and quayside to the south and west of the historic core. Includes the scheduled Dovercourt lighthouse and Causeway.
- Terrace housing fronting street plans laid out parallel or perpendicular to the main road continues to extend south toward Dovercourt during the early C20
- Some post War infill

## **HUCA 3: Harwich Quayside**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:** Later post medieval

**Predominant Type:** Commercial

**Secondary Type:** Residential

- Historic site of quays and wharfs developed as part of the towns shipbuilding industry are situated to the north and north east of the planned town. Includes scheduled monuments, the Harwich Tread wheel Crane and High and Low Lighthouses.
- Archaeological investigations within the quay area have uncovered masonry and timber quay structures dating to the C14 and C15
- Later post medieval and modern industrial development has impacted upon the quays post medieval character

- C19 development for steam packets and ferry's to the continent built along the northern shoreline include the half penny pier and train ferry berth
- Most of the area is in commercial use

#### **HUCA 4: Eastern Harwich (Tower Hill)**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:** Post medieval

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

- Predominantly post War residential development to the east of Main road comprising terraced properties
- Prior to the war the entire area including Tower Hill, Barrack Field and Beacon Hill remained unbuilt
- Incorporates historic Napoleonic and later military defence sites including the Scheduled Harwich Redoubt and Beacon Hill Fort
- Some small scale industrial development
- Schools and recreational open space to the south of Barrack Road

#### **HUCA 5: Bathside**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:**

**Predominant Type:** Commercial

**Secondary Type:**

- Later C19 reclaimed low lying land along the western side of the Harwich peninsula and overlooking Bathside Bay
- Outside residential zone
- Modern commercial development associated with transport/port facilities

## **HUCA 6: Historic Core of Upper Dovercourt**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:** Post medieval

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:**

- This forms the historic core of Upper Dovercourt centred around the parish church of All Saints
- Post medieval and C19 ribbon development along the main Harwich Road
- Some listed buildings survive
- Archaeological excavations record traces of occupation from the Roman periods
- Extensive C19 development including schools, non-conformist chapels and a cemetery
- The village green survives alongside the main road

## **HUCA 7: Lower Dovercourt**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:** Post medieval

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

- Residential development of terrace housing along the two main arterial roads between Harwich and Dovercourt
- Sustained post war residential development along and between the roads merges Dovercourt with the established C19 expansion on the south side of Harwich
- Industry in the form of brick and cement works were established on the north side of the main road and between it and the railway line. This area remains predominantly non residential and retains some commercial and municipal buildings
- Areas set aside for allotment gardens, recreational facilities

- Arts and Crafts designed Fryatt Memorial Hospital

#### **HUCA 8: South and West Upper Dovercourt**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:**

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:**

- A predominantly later C20 densely housed development south of the historic core of upper Dovercourt and the main road.
- Retains some later post med housing fronting the main roadside
- Includes modern schools and recreation grounds and holiday facilities
- Industrial provision to the north of Main Road

#### **HUCA 9: North Upper Dovercourt**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:**

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:**

- A predominantly later C20 densely housed development infilling between the main road (old A120) and the modern by-pass to the north.
- Lies directly north of the historic core of upper Dovercourt
- Includes modern school and recreational provision

#### **HUCA 10: Dovercourt Caravan Park**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:**

**Predominant Type:** Recreational

**Secondary Type:**

- Non residential area overlooking the promenade to Dovercourt Bay and saltings
- Mainly comprises leisure facilities including a caravan park and sports grounds
- Also includes utility sites, a public refuse tip and sewage works

#### **HUCA 11: Core of Parkeston**

**Predominant Periods:** Post medieval

**Secondary Periods:** Modern

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Retail/commercial

- Parkeston is a unique later C19 planned industrial settlement built by GER adjacent to Parkeston Quay
- It retains its original terraced street plan and many of the original workers cottages
- The residential provision was increased in the early C20 to the west but the settlement at Parkeston has not been adversely affected by modern housing/infill
- Some small scale commercial facilities

#### **HUCA 12: Parkeston Hinterland**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:** Post medieval

**Predominant Type:** Industrial

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

- Parkeston Quay, freight and Passenger Terminal built during the later C19 by the GER in preference to Harwich. Passenger terminal for ships to the continent and some railway station/port buildings remain.

- Extensive modern road and rail infrastructure serving the terminal lie to the north and east of the planned town.
- Small scale modern commercial and retail outlets to the south of Parkeston.
- Large Oil Refinery to the west

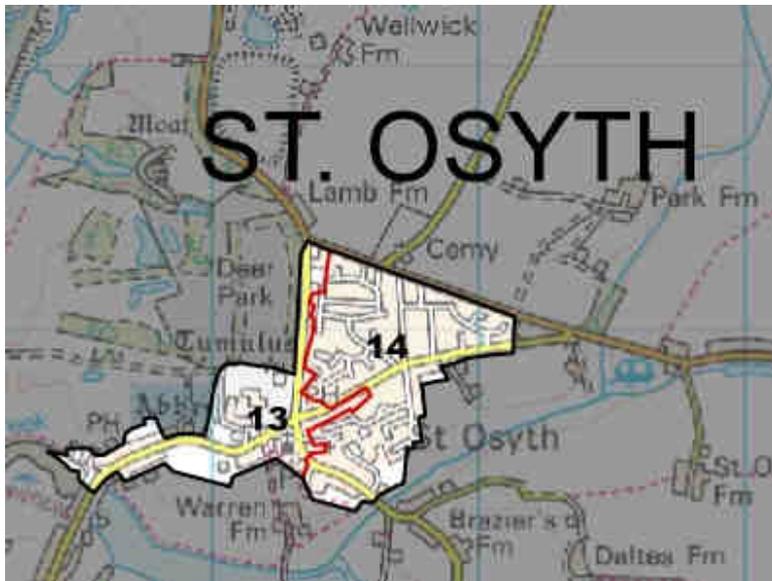


Fig. 72 St Osyth Historic Urban Character Areas

### HUCA 13: Historic Core of St. Osyth

**Predominant Periods:** Post medieval

**Secondary Periods:** Saxon/medieval/modern

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:**

- This forms the historic core of St. Osyth incorporating the C12 priory built for the order of St Augustine by the Bishops of London.
- The core comprises four key centres, including the C12 priory, the medieval and early post medieval ribbon development concentrated around the crossroads to the east of the priory, a smaller focus along Mill Street toward the St. Osyth quay and a later expansion north along the Colchester Road.
- Archaeological investigation within the historic core has uncovered Saxon material suggestive of a thriving community dating to the first half of the C11.

- A major feature of the historic core is the Augustinian Priory precinct and the survival of elements of a medieval market town with a market place and fair green still recognisable.
- Co-axial ribbon development has spread out from the centre during the later post medieval period.
- Most of the urban area is in residential use
- Small scale industry focused toward the quayside

#### **HUCA 14: St Osyth East**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:** Post modern

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:**

- A post war urban development built either side of the Clacton Road. Incorporates an earlier C20 development of terraces along St Clair and D'Arcy Roads.
- Large area of housing of mixed terraced, semi and detached housing
- Includes modern school facilities but no industrial or retail estates

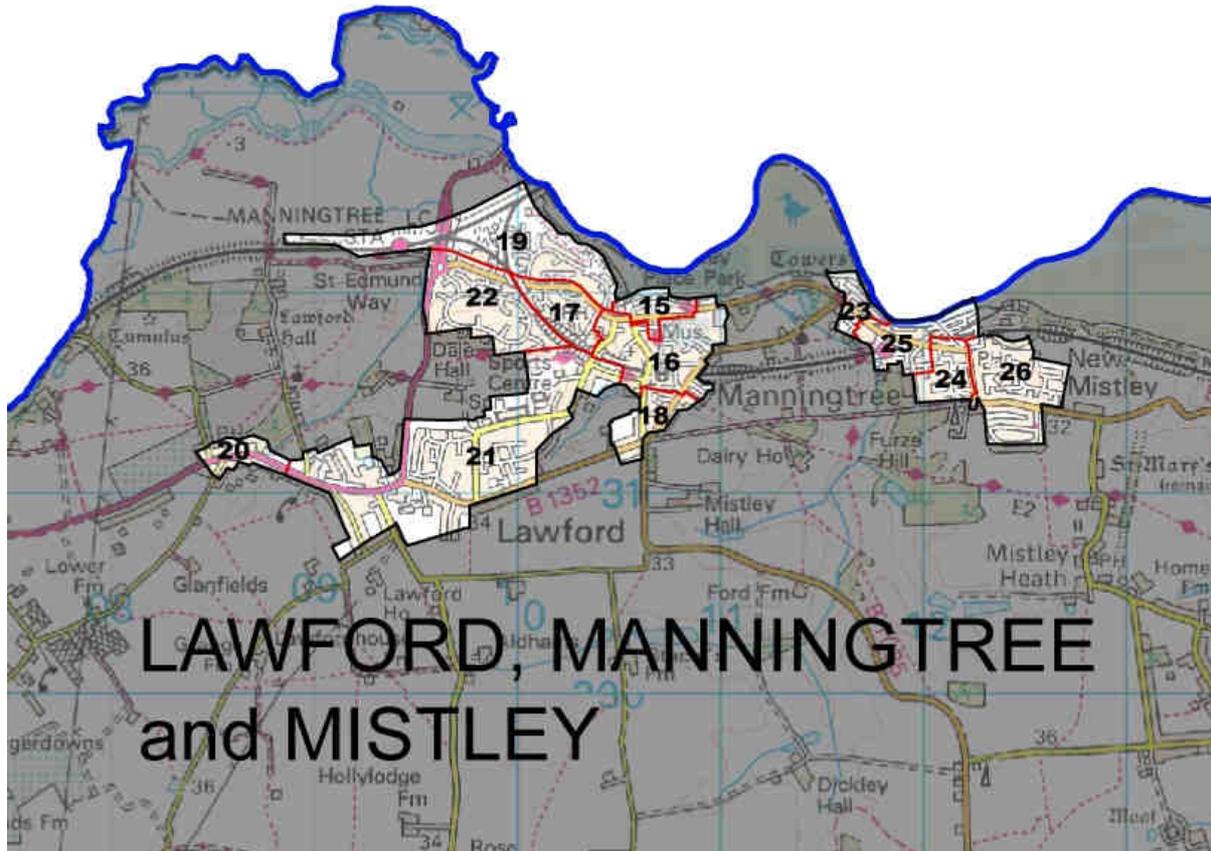


Fig. 73 Lawford, Manningtree and Mistley Historic Urban Character Areas

**HUCA 15: Historic Core of Manningtree**

**Predominant Periods:** Post medieval

**Secondary Periods:** Medieval/modern

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial-retail

- This comprises the historic core of Manningtree laid to a compact street plan dating from the medieval and post medieval periods
- Archaeological investigations within the historic core have uncovered archaeology of medieval and post-medieval date, but failed to uncover settlement predating the medieval town.
- The historic core still retains a compact medieval street pattern centred around the High street and the quay which was probably initially confined by a town enclosure.

- The street plan and quayside lie parallel with the river course. Archaeological investigations in the area of the quayside suggest the potential for a medieval wharfage surviving below C18 and C19 build up.
- A major feature of the historic core is the number of surviving, medieval early post medieval and Georgian buildings.
- The list descriptions for Manningtree are thought to be of a poor reliability. However listed buildings of note include the C15 Old Coffee Shop (3-5 High Street, the White Hart Inn and 38-40 High Street.
- Most of the area is in either business/retail or residential use

### **HUCA 16: Manningtree South**

**Predominant Periods:** Post medieval

**Secondary Periods:** modern

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

- Initial C18 urban expansion on the southern side of historic core continues as ribbon development along South Street and infilling the market place
- Urban development during in the C19 continues to the south along South and Brook Streets and infills the area between the core and the railway line established by the Eastern Union Railway by 1854
- Satellite Industrial complexes, stimulated by the arrival of the railway and the presence of a navigable quay develop around the edge of the C19 settlement, with the Walls Maltings, the quayside maltings and timber yards and the Lawford Iron works.
- Post War urban infill along the east and western flanks of the C19 settlement
- Late C20 residential redevelopment of the C19 industrial site of the Walls Maltings to the east of the core.

## **HUCA 17: South of Station Road**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:**

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:**

- A post war urban infill development built between Station Road and the wide east-west arc of the Harwich main railway line.
- Incorporates an interwar development of terraced house along Flushington Road.

## **HUCA 18: Trinity Road**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:**

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:**

- C20 ribbon development along Trinity and Long Roads and to the south of the established C19 urban area.
- Mainly comprised of single detached dwellings

## **HUCA 19: North of Station Road**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:**

**Predominant Type:** Commercial

**Secondary Type:** Utility

- A series of C20 industrial and retail trading estates built on reclaimed/low lying land to the north of Station Road and west of the historic core and quayside
- Includes Manningtree railway station

- Incorporates sewage works at the junction of the Colchester to Ipswich mainline and Harwich branch line
- This area previously comprised low levels of industry and housing in the C19 and early C20

#### **HUCA 20: Historic Core of Lawford**

**Predominant Periods:** Post medieval

**Secondary Periods:** modern

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Retail

- Small later Post medieval roadside development concentrated along Wignall Street and around the crossroads of Hungerdown Lane and Dedham Roads
- This core of buildings lie at a distance to the south of the manor house, Lawford Hall, built for Sir Edward Waldegrave in the late C16 and the C14 church of St Mary
- Buildings of note include the C17 Kings Arms public house, mid C19 school (1848) and almshouses (1867) and post war cottages by Raymond Erith
- Archaeological investigations in Tey Field immediately SE of the historic core, have revealed extensive evidence of prehistoric occupation.

#### **HUCA 21: Lawford East**

**Predominant Periods:** modern

**Secondary Periods:** post medieval

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

- C20 Ribbon development of terrace housing extending along Wignall Street between old Lawford and Manningtree
- Includes Later C20 housing developments to the north of Wignall Street and C20 educational and commercial enterprises.

- The area contains no listed buildings but does incorporate the early C20 Ogilvie Hall by R. Wrinch and skirts around the late C18 Lawford Place.

#### **HUCA 22: Lawford North**

**Predominant Periods:** modern

**Secondary Periods:**

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:**

- Large late C20 single phase housing development skirted by railway branch line to the east and road arteries to the north and west.
- Modern street plan arranged around a central orbital road circuit.

#### **HUCA 23: Historic Core of Mistley**

**Predominant Periods:** Post medieval

**Secondary Periods:** modern

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

- This comprises the historic core of the model spa town and historic port of Mistley Thorn established by Richard Rigby during the C18.
- The historic core still retains terraces of C18 houses along the High Street, hotels and industrial workers cottages.
- Incorporates C18 and C19/20 industrial buildings along the quayside
- Buildings of particular note are the Mistley Towers and Swan Fountain designed by Robert Adam and the former spa hotel, Fountain House.
- A major feature of the historic core is the number of surviving Georgian buildings.
- Most of the area is in either business/retail or residential use

## **HUCA 24: New Mistley**

**Predominant Periods:** Post medieval

**Secondary Periods:** modern

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:**

- Later C19 and early C20 planned industrial settlement which developed to the south of the railway and to the east and outside of Mistley Thorn
- Predominantly comprises blocks of C19 and early C20 terraced workers cottages situated along the northern and eastern side of the planned town, but also includes some earlier housing fronting Harwich Road
- Incorporates some commercial development along School Lane
- Some post war and later C20 housing.
- Most of the area is now in residential use

## **HUCA 25: Mistley Industrial**

**Predominant Periods:** Post medieval

**Secondary Periods:** modern

**Predominant Type:** Commercial

**Secondary Type:** residential

- Mainly comprises C19 and earlier C20 industrial buildings associated with the port and the Mistley malt industry
- Remains an active port facility with docking at Mistley Quay and Baltic Wharf
- Industry remains with active sites at EDME and a large modern (Carlsberg/Tetley) malting to the south of the railway.
- A major feature of the area is the unity and survival of C19/C20 industrial maltings and associated buildings and the preservation of this significant industrial landscape.
- Later C20 residential redevelopment of redundant industrial buildings
- At present most of the area remains in commercial use

**HUCA 26: Mistley East**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:** Post medieval

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:**

- Large later C20 residential estate to the east of New Mistley, including the River View Estate built in 1976
- Incorporates some early C20 and later ribbon development along Harwich Road
- Most of the area is in residential use

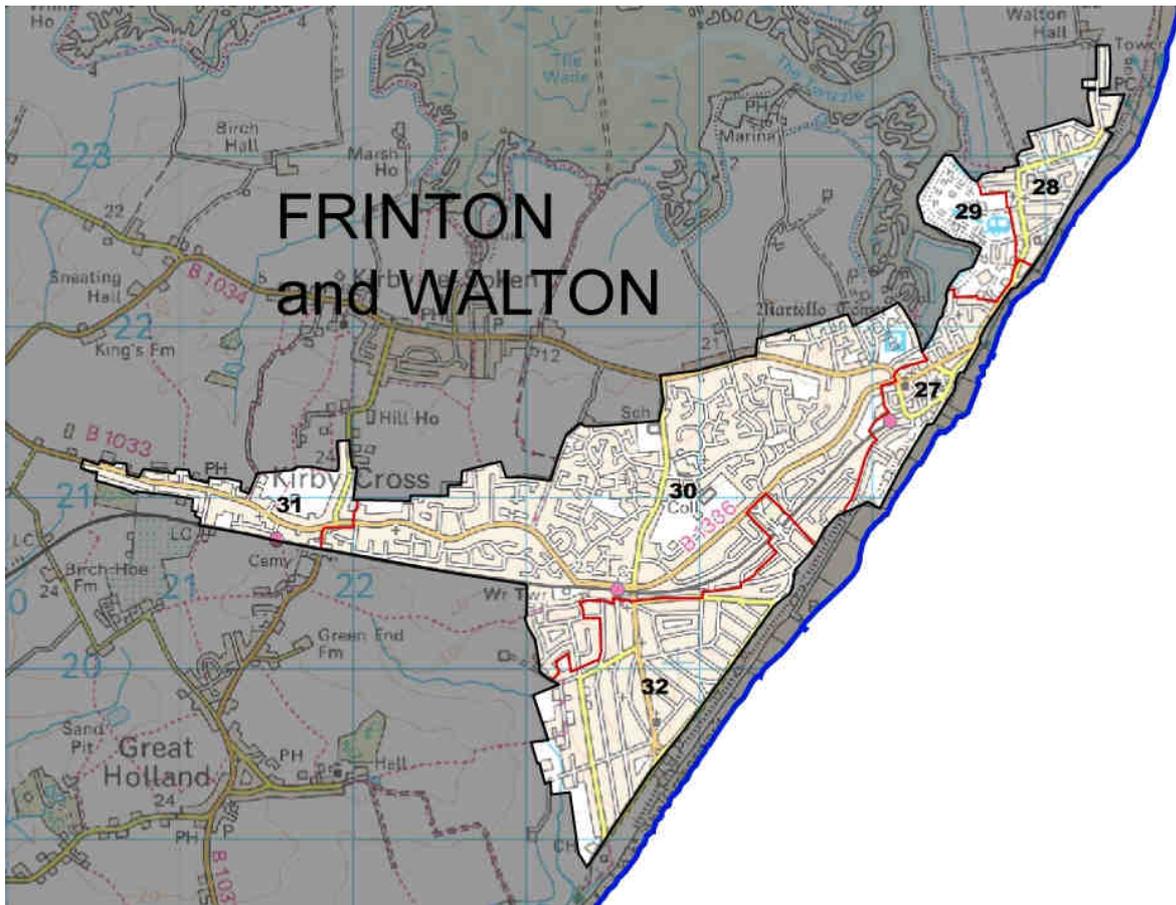


Fig.74 Frinton and Walton Historic Urban Character Areas

**HUCA 27: Historic Core of Walton**

**Predominant Periods:** Post medieval

**Secondary Periods:** modern

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial/retail

- This comprises the historic core of the seaside resort of Walton which developed in the area of the High Street from the early C19 onwards.
- The historic core still retains remnants of the early C19 street pattern of terraces and crescents which can still be recognised to the east of Station Road and along the sea front/parade.
- Later C19 domestic terrace housing develops within the core area following the arrival of the railway in 1867 and construction of the new pier.

- There are no buildings predating the C18 in Walton although listed buildings of local note include the resort buildings of the Marine Hotel by John Penrice and East Terrace by John Warner, the latter built as part of the Eastcliff development
- Most of the core area is in either business/retail or residential use
- Includes an Interwar residential development of non terraced houses to the south of the pier bounded by the railway line and the South Cliffs. This area also incorporates beach huts fronting the promenade and overlooking Walton beach

### **HUCA 28: Walton North**

**Predominant Periods:** Post medieval

**Secondary Periods:** modern

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

- A large area of mainly interwar terraced housing which incorporates later C19 ribbon development of terrace housing following Hall and Naze Park Roads
- From the early C20 larger non terrace houses were built toward the northern extent of the town along Naze Park and Old Hall Lane
- Includes the site of Warners (now Harmers) iron foundry built c.1874 and associated workers housing built by T.A. Cressy along Hall Lane and First Avenue.
- Post war residential ribbon development along Old Hall Lane towards the Tower and Walton Hall

### **HUCA 29: Walton West**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:**

**Predominant Type:** Commercial/recreational

**Secondary Type:**

- Large area of partly reclaimed marshland lying between the historic core (HUCA1) and the later Walton North residential development
- Mainly comprises a holiday park and associated recreational facilities.

### **HUCA 30: Core of Frinton**

**Predominant Periods:** Post medieval

**Secondary Periods:** modern

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial/retail

- The core of the seaside resort of Frinton developed from a small scattered settlement during the late C19 following the construction of Frinton railway station.
- The main residential development occurred in the early C20 with the construction of larger non-terraced housing sited toward the seafront
- Blocks of late C19 and early C20 terraced housing appear further inland (north) and along the main road arteries.
- Incorporates the International Modern Movement buildings of the failed Frinton Park Estate, to the north-east
- Listed buildings of note include the Arts and Crafts Homstead by Voysey and three modern movement houses, The Roundhouse, 55 Quendon Way by Oliver Hill and Seaspan at 4 Audley Way.
- Most of the core area is in residential use

### **HUCA 31: Historic Core of Kirby Cross**

**Predominant Periods:** Post-medieval

**Secondary Periods:** Modern

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

- Comprises the post medieval core of Kirby Cross,

- Ribbon development concentrated along the main Thorpe Road and the crossroads of Halstead and Holland Roads.
- Includes C16 to C18 listed buildings
- The majority of the area remains in residential use

## **HUCA 32: Frinton North**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:** Post-medieval

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:**

- Large area of predominantly post war residential housing
- Incorporates some earlier C20 ribbon development along Kirby and Walton Roads but is primarily infill development between Kirby Cross and the C19/20 settlements of Frinton and Walton
- Residential and schools facilities

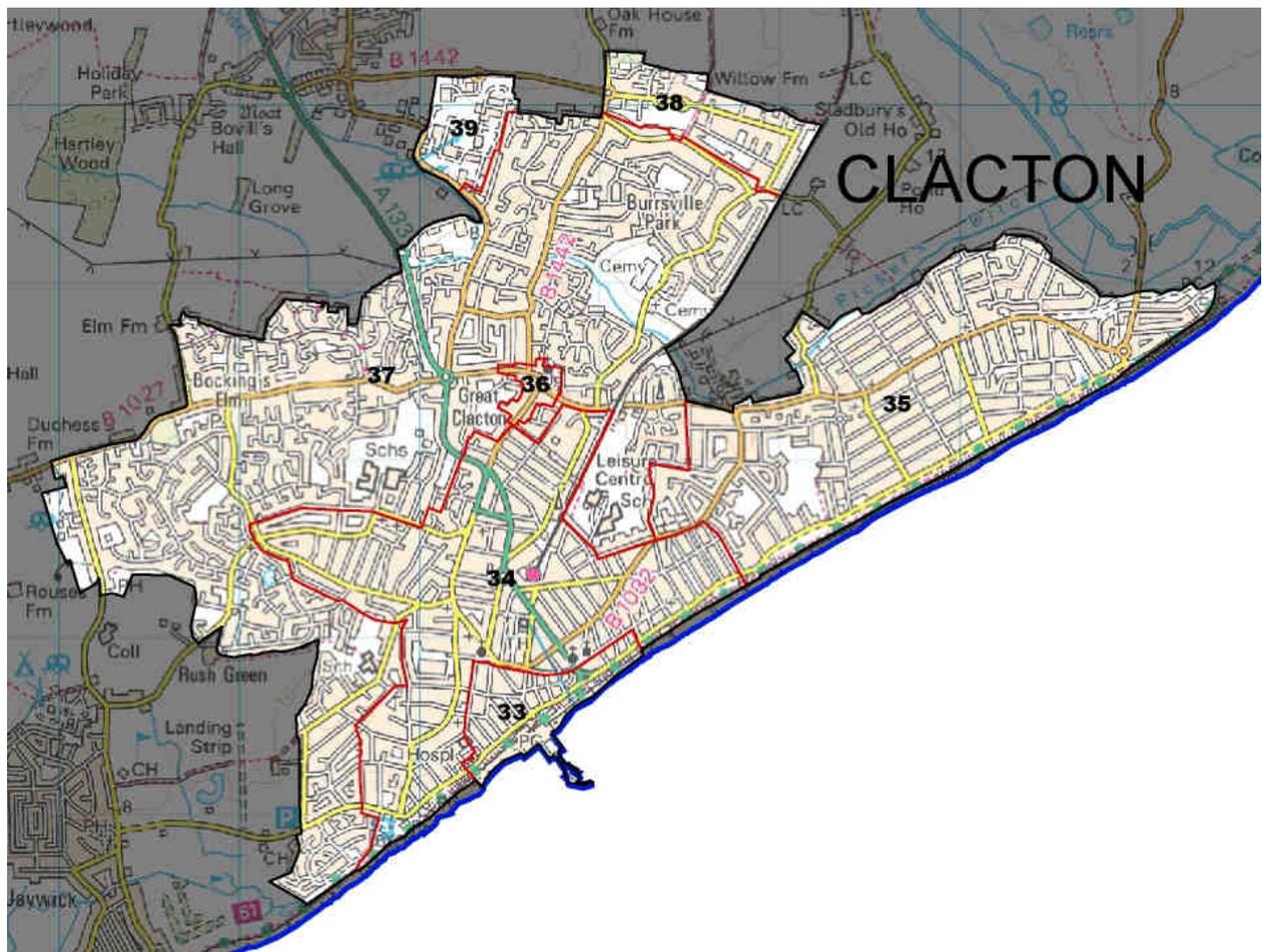


Fig.75 Clacton Historic Urban Character Areas

**HUCA 33: Historic Core of Clacton on Sea**

**Predominant Periods:** Post medieval

**Secondary Periods:** modern

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial/retail

- This comprises the historic core of the seaside resort of Clacton on Sea which initially developed as a planned resort in the area of Church Road, Rosemary Road and Marine Parade from the late C19 (1870) onwards.
- This area still retains remnants of the initial street layout of terraces and crescents but is dominated by the growth of a geometrical street plan of later C19 terraces.

- Incorporates the promenades of Marine Parade East and West, both centred on Clacton Pier, built 1871.
- There are no buildings predating the C18 but the initial development includes a Martello Tower (1809-12) and listed street furniture along west parade.

### **HUCA 34: Clacton**

**Predominant Periods:** Post medieval

**Secondary Periods:** modern

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial/retail

- Later C19 and earlier C20 residential terrace housing built outside the initial geometric plan and incorporating ribbon development of terraces along Old Road and St Osyths Road.
- Geometric street planning continues to the south the railway station opened 1882 and east of the core
- There are no buildings predating the C18 but the C19 built area includes a Martello Tower (1809-12) and listed buildings of C19 and C20 date.
- Small C20 industrial development along Old Road and in the area of the railway station.
- Most of the area otherwise is in residential use

### **HUCA 35: Holland on Sea**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:** Medieval/post medieval

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:**

- Large area of predominantly interwar terraced housing partly laid out to a distinctive co-axial street plan.

- Incorporates the scheduled remains of the medieval parish church and cemetery, which lies within the grounds of Little Holland Hall.
- Archaeological excavations on the church site suggest the location of a pre-conquest church, cemetery and manor.
- Some post-war C20 residential development to the north of the B1032
- Most of the area is in residential use

### **HUCA 36: Great Clacton**

**Predominant Periods:** Medieval/Post medieval

**Secondary Periods:** Modern

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

- Medieval and post-medieval historic core of Great Clacton
- The settlement at Great Clacton is focused around the C12 church and as ribbon development along St Johns and Old Road
- Great Clacton includes listed buildings from the C16 onwards and a number of locally important unlisted buildings

### **HUCA 37: Clacton North**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:** Medieval/Post medieval

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

- Largely comprises post War and later C20 residential developments built to the north and west of the initial planned C19 settlement
- Incorporates lesser settlements such as Rush Green, Bocking's Elm and the medieval/post-medieval hamlet of Great Clacton.
- Includes a pre-war residential development bounded by the railway line to the east and a number of schools and playing fields

**HUCA 38: Gorse Lane Estate**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:**

**Predominant Type:** Commercial

**Secondary Type:**

- Large modern satellite Industrial and retail estate along the northern fringe of the built up area at Gorse Lane
- Non residential

**HUCA 39: Highfields**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:**

**Predominant Type:** recreational/leisure

**Secondary Type:** commercial

- Modern holiday camp and retail facilities at Highfields situated along the north-western extent of modern Clacton
- Mainly non-residential



Fig.76 Brightlingsea Historic Urban Character Areas

**HUCA 40: Historic Core of Brightlingsea**

**Predominant Periods:** Post-medieval

**Secondary Periods:** medieval/modern

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial/retail

- This comprises the medieval and earlier post medieval core of Brightlingsea, which developed along the length of the High Street, Queen Street and around Lower (Victoria Place) and Hurst Greens.
- It sits alongside a secondary fishing and boatbuilding industrial focus which developed to the south and along the quayside (see 42)
- The historic core still retains a market place fossilised at the western end of the High Street.
- A feature of the historic core is the number of surviving, medieval, early post medieval and Georgian buildings and the location of the parish church of All Saints outside the town limits and on a prominent site adjacent to Brightlingsea Hall.

- Listed buildings of note include the C15 Jacobes Hall and the C16 Swan Hotel
- Most of the area is in either residential or business/retail use

#### **HUCA 41: Area to the south of the High Street**

**Predominant Periods:** Post-medieval

**Secondary Periods:** Modern

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

- Initial late C19 residential development of terrace housing within a regimented co-axial street plan develops between the High Street and quayside.
- Continued expansion in the late C19 established as part of a so called 'Revival' of the town.
- Majority of the area remains in residential use

#### **HUCA 42: Quayside**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:** Post-medieval

**Predominant Type:** Commercial

**Secondary Type:**

- Comprises an historic port and quay established as a Limb of the Cinque Port of Sandwich
- Quayside includes a core of C19 and C20 listed maritime civil and industrial buildings, associated with the oyster, sail-making and ship building industries
- The quayside incorporates an active modern industrial estate (Shipyard Estate)
- Non residential industrial area

#### **HUCA 43: Area to the north of the High Street**

**Predominant Periods:** Post-medieval

**Secondary Periods:** Roman/Modern

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

- Continued expansion of late C19 and early C20 terrace housing fronting street plans that surround the historic core. Established as part of a so called 'Revival' of the town
- Ribbon development extends out along the main road arteries of Church Road, Chapel Road and Regent Road into the early C20
- Archaeological investigations uncovered the remains of a Roman house or houses in Well Street during the C19
- Small scale post-war residential infill
- Most of the area remains in residential use

#### **HUCA 44: Brightlingsea North and West**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:** Post-medieval/Modern

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

- Post war and later C20 residential expansion with a series of housing estates built along the northern and western extent of the post-medieval town
- Some ribbon development and two listed buildings are built along Red Barn Road
- C20 residential development is defined by the extent of Red Barn Lane and to the west is built over the Manor House and part of its former parkland.
- Modern 'edge of town' satellite Industrial estate along Morses Lane
- The area is mainly in residential use but with some industrial and recreational provision

**HUCA 45: Western Promenade**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:**

**Predominant Type:** Recreational

**Secondary Type:**

- Area of partly reclaimed saltings and former oyster beds to the south west of the main settlement
- Partly comprises a caravan park plus a promenade and various recreational facilities overlooking Brightlingsea Creek.

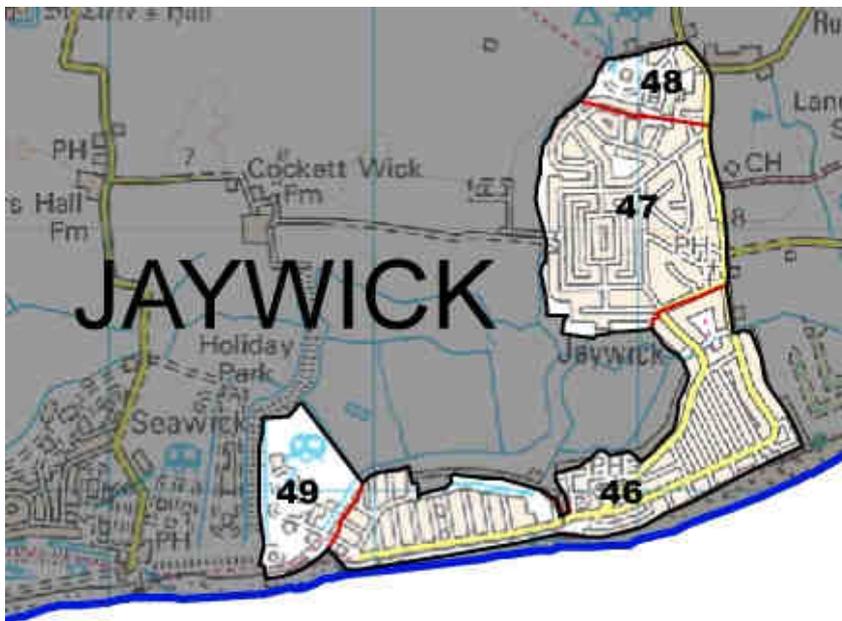


Fig.77 Jaywick Historic Urban Character Areas

**HUCA 46: Jaywick South (Brooklands, Grasslands and Jaywick Village)**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:**

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

- Interwar seaside development initiated in 1929 by developer Jack Stedman and comprising bungalows and chalets of lightweight construction. The Brooklands Estate was once part of a Butlins holiday camp.
- The development mainly adopts a co-axial street pattern with the street plan of the Brooklands estate built to resemble the design of a Bentley radiator grill.
- Includes a small development of 'Beach Cottages' built in the late 1990s by the Guinness Trust
- Incorporates an extensive promenade along the shoreline and sea wall
- It is built on reclaimed marshland and on the seaward side of the old sea wall.
- Now mainly in residential use

#### **HUCA 47: Jaywick North (Tudor Estate)**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:**

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:**

- Interwar and later residential estate of non-terraced housing
- Incorporates the site of Jay Wick, a modern school and church
- Most of the area is in residential use

#### **HUCA 48: Sackett Grove Caravan Park**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:**

**Predominant Type:** Recreational/leisure

**Secondary Type:** Residential

- Caravan park sited on the northern edge of the Tudor Estate
- Incorporates some ribbon development along Jaywick Lane

## **HUCA 49: Tower Caravan Park**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:** Post-medieval

**Predominant Type:** Recreational/leisure

**Secondary Type:**

- Caravan park sited toward the western extreme of Jaywick
- Forms part of a group of caravan parks situated between Jaywick, Seawick and the Bel Air Estate.
- Incorporates a scheduled early C19 Martello Tower (C).

## 4 Archaeological Character Areas

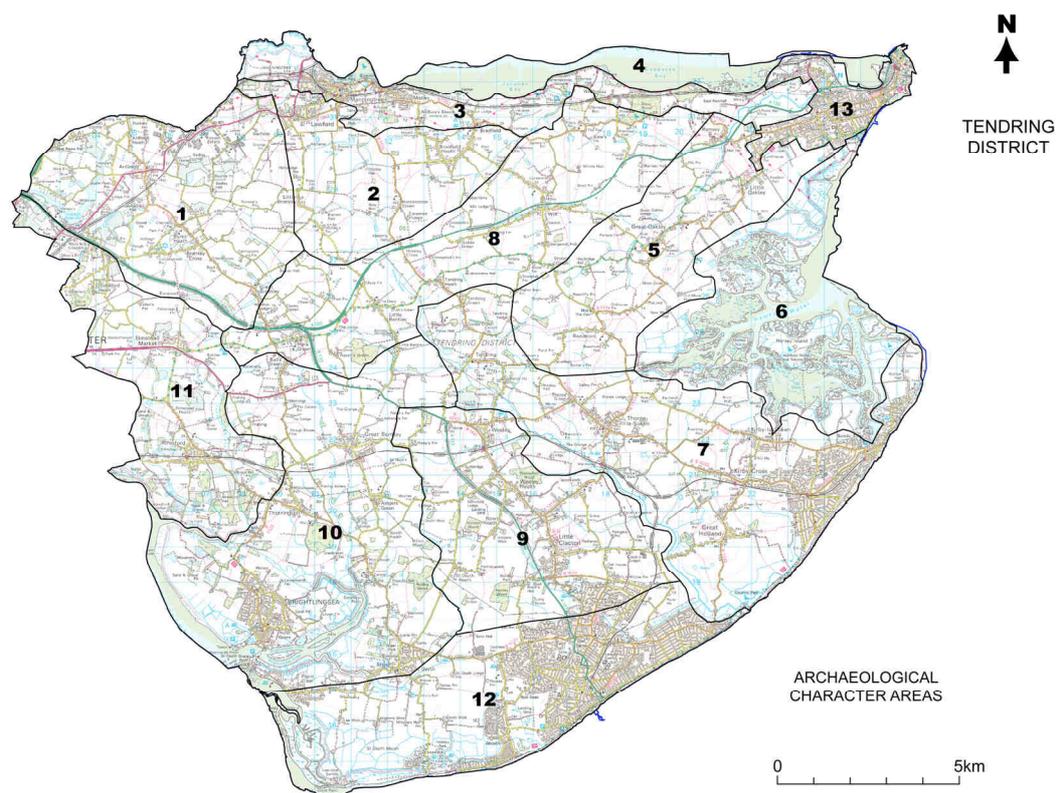


Fig. 78 Archaeological character Areas

### ACA 1 – Ardleigh

- The area comprises an undulating plateau at around 35m OD with a maximum elevation of around 43m OD north of Ardleigh reservoir. The drift geology consists of Lowestoft formation clay and silts overlying mixed deposits of Kesgrave sands/gravels and Lowestoft clays/silts. A number of small streams drain the plateau southwards.
- The Ardleigh ACA contains a dense, varied and valuable archaeological resource within a significant cropmark landscape. Particular concentrations are evident to the south east of Ardleigh, and in a wide band along the eastern side of the ACA. The cropmark sites include: numerous ring ditches; concentrations of pits; a diverse range of circular, sub rectangular, sub square and irregular ditched enclosures, including a possible Neolithic henge or medieval windmill site to the

south of Little Bromley; and frequent linear ditched features representing either field boundaries or track ways. Many of the cropmarks relate to prehistoric activity but other later periods are also represented and the ACA has clear potential for other periods with finds of Iron Age and Roman material known from recent excavations and medieval/post medieval archaeology likely to survive both within the settlements and wider landscape.

- The most significant feature of the area is the nationally important, Bronze age cemetery south of Ardleigh which has been shown to comprise hundreds of cremation burials, many with associated ring ditches.
- The main settlements lie at the nucleated village of Ardleigh and Great Bromley, both of medieval origin but with significant recent expansion. Historically, settlement was also sited around former heathland to the south of Ardleigh, but was largely dispersed across the area with scattered farmsteads and cottages and the occasional isolated moated site.
- Ardleigh reservoir is a major modern landscape feature in the west of the area and together with major mineral extraction works south of Ardleigh has resulted in extensive loss and truncation of the archaeological resource. Outside these areas survival has been shown to be good, despite intensification of agricultural cultivation since the 1950s.

## **ACA 2 South of Lawford**

- The area comprises an undulating plateau at around 30-35m OD. The plateau is drained by three streams, two running north into the River Stour and the Holland Brook flowing south-east from the plateau. The drift geology consists of Lowestoft formation clay and silts overlying mixed deposits of Kesgrave sands/gravels and Lowestoft clays/silts.
- The area is notable for a widespread multi period cropmark landscape with a particular band running south east from Lawford and a further concentration apparent south of Bradfield. The cropmark sites include: numerous ring ditches; concentrations of pits; a range of ditched enclosures, and frequent linear ditched

features representing either field boundaries or track ways. Many of the cropmarks relate to prehistoric activity and excavation of a Late Neolithic midden surrounded by a ring ditch at Lawford has revealed a significant assemblage of Neolithic pottery. In Lawford Park, a linear barrow cemetery is evidenced by a series of ring ditch cropmarks and a Bronze Age round barrow which survives as an upstanding earthwork. These features are related to cropmark sites on the floor of the Stour Valley to the north (ACA 3). Later periods are also represented by the cropmark sites and the ACA has potential for remains from other periods within the settlements and wider landscape.

- The area contains the settlements at Lawford which is relatively modern (20<sup>th</sup> century) and Bradfield, which originated in the medieval period. Historically the area contained isolated heathland and a significant stand of woodland west of Bradfield Lodge in a landscape of scattered farms and halls of medieval origin. These include the medieval moated site at Bradfield Hall and Lawford Hall with its associated parkland and possible settlement earthworks.
- Numerous agricultural reservoirs dot the landscape which will have had a negative impact on the archaeological resource, but otherwise archaeological deposits may be expected to survive in good condition.

### **ACA 3 Manningtree and Mistley**

- Occupying the south bank of the Stour Estuary the area drops sharply from around 30 metres OD to sea level. The drift geology is a mixture of river terrace gravels, Kesgrave formation gravels/Lowestoft clay/silts and occasional alluvium.
- Cropmarks are largely absent from the area but a few notable concentrations are known. The most significant of these lies on the floor of the Stour Valley in Lawford and includes a ring ditch cemetery, associated trackways and linear field system and relict river channels. Elsewhere, concentrations of multi-period cropmarks occur in the vicinity of Wrabness and to the south and east of Mistley.
- Manningtree and Mistley form the main settlements within the area. Manningtree was established as a port during the medieval period with Mistley, especially with regard to the malting industry, coming to later prominence. The wider landscape

contains a scatter of farms and halls, including the site of Mistley Hall and its former parkland, and a medieval church/hall complex at Wrabness. The site of the original St Mary's parish church is located near Mistley Heath.

- Manningtree is known to have good potential for surviving medieval archaeology including potential waterlogged deposits and Mistley is notable for its extant industrial remains and structures. Cropmark sites within the Stour Valley have high archaeological and palaeoenvironmental potential. Further archaeological features relating to use of the estuary are likely to survive well in the inter tidal zone between Baltic Wharf and Cattawade Bridge.
- An area of reclaimed salt marsh lies at the head of the estuary and two significant examples of Ancient Woodland, Stour Wood and Copperas Wood, survive in the east of the area probably containing earthworks. Post medieval features include the cropmark of a duck decoy to the west of Nether Hall, the Manningtree to Harwich railway line and short lived and aborted Mistley-Thorpe-Walton branch line. At Furze Hill, Mistley there is a post war nuclear underground bunker.
- Outside the built up settlements, the area is dominated by arable farming.. The A120 passes through the east end of the area which also contains a golf course and sewage treatment works. Agricultural reservoirs are scattered throughout, all of which will have had a negative impact on the archaeological resource.

#### **ACA 4 River Stour Intertidal**

- Lying between the high and low water marks, the surface geology of this area is composed of estuarine silts and alluvium crossed by numerous named fleets and creeks with narrow strips of saltings, which were traditionally used for sheep grazing.
- Copperas Bay indicates the importance of the copperas industry here in the post medieval period. Copperas was an important and valuable product used in a number of manufacturing processes..
- The area has some potential for prehistoric archaeology and buried ancient land surfaces but the potential for more recent evidence is probably greater including evidence for maritime activities, notably hulks and other timber structures such as

wharves. Baltic Wharf has a number of sunken vessels associated with it and Ballast Hill within the estuary was used as a dumping ground for ships ballast.

## **ACA 5 Great Oakley**

- Overlying London Clay the drift geology is comprised of Lowestoft formation clay/silts, and mixed Kesgrave sands and gravels/Lowestoft formation clay/silts. There are also patches of head and alluvium on the line of a former creek. The area contains a valley dropping from c.20metres OD down to c.5metres OD running down from Great Oakley to the formerly much more prominent Ramsey Creek.
- The area demonstrates a variety of cropmarks but the main concentration lies in the area around Beaumont, up to Great Oakley to the north. Cropmark sites include a range of different ditched enclosures, ring ditches and linear features likely to represent trackways or field boundaries. A number of the latter are of clearly recent origin but others are likely to represent earlier, probably prehistoric or Roman sites. A medieval moated site is known to the north of Beaumont. A smaller group of cropmarks around Little Oakley include those of a WWII heavy anti-aircraft battery.
- An Iron Age site and Roman Villa with associated field system is known from excavations at Little Oakley. Interestingly, the villa shows evidence of continued occupation into the Saxon period
- The main settlements are Great Oakley and Ramsey, both of which originate at least as early as the medieval period, and Little Oakley which is essentially modern. Great Oakley and Ramsey are likely to contain archaeological deposits relating to their medieval or earlier origins.
- The wider historic settlement pattern comprised a number of halls and scattered farmsteads closely associated with the early road network. Medieval church/hall complexes occur throughout the area with examples at Ramsey, Little Oakley and Beaumont. The site of the former parish church of Moze is located adjacent to Moze Hall.
- There has been no significant industrial activity and modern land use is largely arable farming, although areas of ancient woodland survive particularly in the south west of the area. The majority of the archaeological resource is likely to be

well preserved but agricultural reservoirs, such as those concentrated to the north of Great Oakley, will have destroyed any archaeological remains.

## **ACA 6 Hamford Water**

- Overlying a bedrock of London Clay the surface geology is largely alluvium with some patches of head. The area consists of the tidal Hamford Water and creeks, numerous islands and a narrow coastal strip. Maximum height is 5metres OD on Horsey Island.
- Traditional farming would have been largely limited to sheep/cattle grazing but former grazing marshes on the mainland have been converted for arable production.. The area contains a single farmstead on Horsey Island.
- A wide range of cropmarks sites survive including Iron Age and Roman red hills, former sea walls, duck decoys and World War II defences. The latter include a number of anti-aircraft gun batteries, anti-land ditches, a bombing decoy and bomb craters.
- The area has an extremely high archaeological potential with finds and features ranging from the Palaeolithic to modern. Ancient buried land surfaces, where exposed, have produced much evidence for all prehistoric periods. Numerous red hills and finds of Roman ceramics indicate Iron Age and Roman salt manufacturing..
- The post medieval period is particularly well represented by extant wharves such as Beaumont Quay, sea walls, duck decoys including the well preserved earthworks on Horsey Island, hulks and industrial works such as the Lime Kiln at Beaumont Quay and former pond of the tidal mill at Walton Mere. Bramble Island is the site of a 20<sup>th</sup> century explosive factory.
- Archaeological deposits are likely to be very well preserved with good survival of organic artefacts and environmental deposits within the salt marsh and intertidal mud flats.
- In addition to arable farming, modern land use includes nature conservation such as the reserve on Skippers Island, and land owned by the Tendring Wildfowlers Club, Walton Marina, sewage works south of Dovercourt and holiday parks at Walton on the Naze and Dovercourt.

## ACA 7 Thorpe-le-Soken

- Overlying exposed London Clay are superficial deposits of Lowestoft formation clay and silt and undifferentiated Kesgrave sand/gravels and Lowestoft formation. Alluvial deposits follow the line of the Holland Brook.
- As with most of Tendring, arable is the dominant form of agriculture. Medieval settlement was largely dispersed farmsteads and halls with areas of isolated woodland.
- The historic villages of Tendring and Thorpe-le-Soken occupy a ridge of higher ground at around 25metres OD running south east. The land drops away to the south west into the valley of the Holland Brook and to the north towards Hamford Water.
- The coastal zone of this area from the Naze in the north to Clacton in the south has produced significant numbers of finds of prehistoric date including nationally important Palaeolithic material and the potential for all prehistoric periods is high.
- There are two prominent areas of cropmarks, one in the vicinity of Tendring and another south of Thorpe-le-Soken. Although a number of these represent modern field boundary loss others are clearly indicative of surviving earlier deposits. Other, more discrete cropmarks are apparent.
- Tendring, Thorpe-le-Soken and Great Holland are medieval settlements and are likely to retain related archaeological deposits. The village names Kirby-le-Soken and Thorpe-le-Soken indicate Danish settlement of the 10-11<sup>th</sup> century in the area.
- Some modern mineral working has taken place with prior investigation revealing Bronze Age funerary monuments and prehistoric/Roman landscape elements.
- The area contains the major settlements of Frinton-on-Sea and Walton-on-the-Naze both of which are essentially modern in character. The earlier village of Walton was lost to the sea in the medieval period.
- The coastal zone was well defended during WWII and there are numerous pillboxes and strongpoints
- The alluvium of the Holland Brook is likely to contain well preserved environmental deposits

## **ACA 8 Wix**

- The drift geology consists of Brickearth over London Clay bedrock with infrequent Kesgrave sand/gravels.
- The undulating landscape is one of arable farming with a high point of around 40metres OD dropping away to around 15 metres OD in the north of the area near the Stour Estuary.
- A medieval landscape of scattered farms, woodland, greens and heath with no settlements of any size. A significant local medieval pottery industry is known at Mill Green and a small community of Benedictine nuns was founded at Wix Priory in the early 12<sup>th</sup> century which survived until the Dissolution.
- Cropmarks occur regularly throughout the area with a significant site near Priory Farm, Wrabness but there are no great concentrations as noted in other parts of the district.
- Industrial activity in the area is light and archaeological deposits where occurring may be expected to survive in good condition.

## **ACA 9 Little Clacton**

- The drift geology consists of Brickearth over London Clay bedrock with infrequent Kesgrave sand/gravels.
- Undulating Tendring arable landscape with a high point of around 26 metres OD dropping away north and east to the Holland Brook and south to the coast. The area contains the villages of Little Clacton, Weeley and Weeley Heath and the northernmost modern expansion of Clacton.
- As with much of Tendring, cropmark evidence is indicative of a range of surviving multi-period deposits but in lesser concentrations in this area.
- Settlement in the medieval period was located mainly to the south of the Holland Brook valley and represented by scattered farms and halls amidst heath and woodland.
- Excavations prior to the construction of the Clacton-Weeley bypass enabled the examination of a significant section through this area. In addition to a fine example

of a medieval moated site at Gutteridge Hall, the investigation identified a range of well preserved prehistoric, Roman and later deposits indicating the potential of the remaining area.

- Environmental deposits may be expected in the vicinity of Pickers Ditch and the Holland Brook.

## **ACA 10 Brightlingsea and Great Bentley**

- Overlying London Clay bedrock are found extensive drift deposits of Brickearth over Kesgrave sands and gravels/Lowestoft formation. Alluvial deposits are widespread over the areas adjacent to the River Colne and Brightlingsea Creek. From a maximum height of around 28metres OD the landscape drops away to the south and the Colne Estuary and Brightlingsea Creek. The area is drained southwards by the Bentley Brook.
- The area is notable for its widespread and important cropmark landscape encompassing the entire area. Although no doubt representing a wide variety of periods, of particular significance are those that have been shown by excavation to relate prehistoric activity, especially during the Bronze Age. Further evidence of prehistoric activity may be expected in the coastal and intertidal zones.
- Neolithic features and a possible enclosure have been identified near Great Bentley.
- Finds of Roman material at Brightlingsea and the identification of a Roman villa suggest the importance of the area in contemporary agricultural production and its position at the mouth of the Colne Estuary may have been of importance.
- Medieval settlement existed at Great Bentley and Brightlingsea with the latter serving as a port. A medieval monastic establishment existed at Frating. St Osyth was home to an important monastic establishment and a significant local port and town in the medieval period.
- The coast has long been home to industry including salt production, fishing, and oyster production and evidence of these activities is widespread.
- Where undisturbed (by mineral extraction for instance) archaeological survival is likely to be good and the coast and intertidal zone have the further potential for a wide range of well preserved archaeological and environmental evidence.

## **ACA 11 Alresford**

- Overlying London Clay bedrock are found extensive drift deposits of Brickearth over Kesgrave sands and gravels/Lowestoft formation. Drained southwards by the Sixpenny and Tenpenny Brooks the land falls away to the south and the Colne Estuary from a maximum elevation of around 35 metres OD.
- The area contains an extensive and valuable multi-period cropmark landscape. Mineral extraction is a significant local industry and will have had an adverse impact on the archaeological resource.
- The medieval landscape was likely to have been one scattered farms and halls amidst open agricultural land with areas of both heath and woodland.
- The area has a section of coastline and associated alluvial deposits which are likely to contain a range of well preserved multi-period archaeological deposit

## **ACA 12 Clacton-on-Sea**

- Lying over London Clay the key drift deposits are composed of river terrace sands and gravels partially overlain by head. Alluvial deposits are prevalent in the western part of the area. The area is low lying falling away southwards from around 10 metres OD to sea level.
- Much of the land in the western part of the area was saltmarsh until the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Areas of saltmarsh survive at the mouth of the Colne Estuary.
- The area is noted for its geoarchaeological/Palaeolithic deposits relating to river terrace gravels deposited by ancient courses of the Rivers Thames and Medway. Finds of international importance have been made from these deposits in the vicinity of Clacton and Jaywick and the potential for further research/discoveries is high.
- The area is known to contain further later archaeological deposits of both prehistoric and later date. A large assemblage of early Saxon pottery has recently been excavated to the west of Clacton.

- A church/hall complex and medieval settlement existed at Great Clacton. Further medieval and post medieval settlement was composed of scattered farms and occasional halls.
- Clacton-on-Sea and Jaywick are relatively modern settlements with Clacton (and Holland-on-Sea) expanding rapidly in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century as a seaside resort after the introduction of the railway.
- The area has been at the forefront of anti-invasion plans since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A series of Martello towers were designed to counter the French threat during the Napoleonic wars and the coast was heavily defended during the early part of WWII. Elements of both these defensive systems survive.

### **ACA 13 Harwich and Dovercourt**

- The earliest evidence for activity in this zone dates to the Palaeolithic period from the Gants Pit excavations
- There is the possibility of the survival of some elements of the original grazing marsh, and associated below-ground deposits although much of the area is urban in nature.
- Contains the historic town of Harwich with extensive medieval and post medieval deposits, frequently deeply stratified surviving.
- There are significant deposits both below ground and upstanding relating to the maritime history of the area. This includes medieval, post medieval and modern remains including the international port at Parkeston
- The area includes the Napoleonic and later military defensive sites at Harwich Redoubt and Beacon Hill Fort.
- The area contains Parkeston, a unique planned industrial settlement built by GER adjacent to Parkeston Quay, and Parkeston Quay itself.

## **Glossary of Terms Used**

**Bronze Age:** The period from about 2,000 BC, when bronze-working first began in Britain, until about 700BC when the use of iron begins.

**Cropmarks:** Variations in the sub-soil caused by buried archaeological features results in different crop growth visible from the air.

**Iron Age:** The period from about 700 BC when iron-working arrived in Britain until the Roman invasion of 43 AD.

**Medieval:** This is the period between the Norman Conquest of England in 1066 and the dissolution of the monasteries in 1538.

**Mesolithic:** The period following the end of the last ice age and prior to the introduction of farming in the Neolithic.

**Neolithic:** The period from about 4000BC when farming and pottery manufacture began in Britain, until about 2000BC when metalworking began.

**Palaeolithic:** The Palaeolithic period covers the time span from the initial colonisation of Britain, c. 700,000 years ago to the end of the last ice age c 10,000 years ago.

**Post-medieval:** The period from 1538-1900

**Red Hill:** A Late Iron Age or Roman salt making site.

**Roman:** The period of Roman occupation from 43AD through to 410AD.

**Saxon:** The period of Saxon occupation from 410 to 1066.

**Scheduled Monument:** (Formerly Scheduled Ancient Monument): A site of nationally archaeological importance protected under the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act.

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Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch  
You can contact us in the following ways:

**By Post:**

Essex County Council  
Historic Environment Branch  
County Hall  
Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1QH

**By telephone:**

0845 7430 430

**By email:**

[heritage.conservation@essex.gov.uk](mailto:heritage.conservation@essex.gov.uk)

**Visit our website:**

[www.essex.gov.uk](http://www.essex.gov.uk)

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