

**KEYMED DISTRIBUTION CENTRE
JOURNEYMAN'S WAY
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



Essex County Council

FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

September 2005

**KEYMED DISTRIBUTION CENTRE
 JOURNEYMAN'S WAY
 SOUTHEND-ON-SEA
 ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Prepared By: Mark Germany	Signature:
Position: Project Officer	Date:
Approved By: M. Atkinson	Signature:
Position: Unit Manager	Date:

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As part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or the presentation of this report.

Please contact the Archaeological Fieldwork Manager at the

Field Archaeology Unit,
 Fairfield Court, Fairfield Road, Braintree, Essex CM7 3YQ
 fieldarch@essexcc.gov.uk
 Tel: 01376 331470
 Fax: 01376 331428

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 Essex CM1 1LF

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**KEYMED DISTRIBUTION CENTRE, JOURNEYMAN'S WAY,
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA, ESSEX
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

Client: PRC Group

NGR: TQ 8835 8825

Site Code: No site code

ECC FAU Project Number: 1400

Date of fieldwork: 31/5/05, 6/6/05, 16/6/05 and 22/6/05

SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief undertaken on the construction of the KeyMed Distribution Centre, Temple Farm Industrial Estate, Southend-on-Sea has found no archaeological features or finds and few signs of modern disturbance. The absence of evidence suggests that the area of the KeyMed development has never been settled, or that all archaeological remains within that area have previously been removed and destroyed.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report contains the results of an archaeological watching brief on the construction of the KeyMed Distribution Centre, Journeyman's Way, Southend-on-Sea, Essex (Fig. 1). The watching brief followed a written scheme of investigation (ECC FAU 2004) and was carried out by Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit on behalf of PRC Group. The work was monitored by Southend Borough Council.
- 1.2 Copies of this report will be supplied to the client, Southend Borough Council, and the Essex County Council Historic Environment Record. The report will become part of the OASIS online record (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>). The site archive will be held at Southend Museum.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The development covers approximately 0.5ha of derelict land and is part of the Temple Farm Industrial Estate, south-east of Southend Airport (Fig. 1). The ground is flat and low lying, and lies close to the estuary of the River Roach.
- 2.2 The geology of the site comprises brownish orange silt clay with no natural inclusions (brickearth) below c. 0.2m of brickearth-derived topsoil.
- 2.3 The site lies within an area of known archaeological potential. Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon remains have been uncovered within the west half of the industrial estate during the last 30 years or so, including an Iron Age coin hoard, a Roman cremation burial, and a Saxon sunken-floored building. A more detailed account of the archaeological background can be found in the desk based assessment, which was produced for the site prior to the watching brief (Heppell 2004).

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The general aim of the watching brief was to assess and record archaeological deposits and features.

3.2 The specific aim of the watching brief was to look for further evidence for Iron Age, Roman and Saxon settlement, to obtain more information about the general context of these previous discoveries.

4.0 METHOD

4.0 The watching brief monitored the excavation of approximately sixty foundation pits, ranging in size from 1.8m x 1.8m, to 3.2m x 3.2m (Fig. 1).

4.1 The foundation pits were dug by the developer using a mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket. The total area covered by the foundation pits was c. 400 square metres, or c. 8% of the total development.

4.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the by-laws and guidelines of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit uses its own well-established set of procedures to record archaeological deposits and features (ECC FAU 2002). The total number of site visits was four.

5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS

5.1 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified. There was little evidence for modern disturbance, except for a narrow strip along the east side of the development area.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The absence of archaeological features and finds possibly indicate that the archaeological remains found in previous years do not extend into the east half of the industrial estate. However, it is also possible that no archaeological remains are present because the original groundworks/site preparation undertaken for the Temple Farm industrial estate has destroyed and removed them. Either way, the current development has had a negligible impact on the archaeological resource of the area.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit would like to thank the following people and organisations for their help and co-operation: Kevin Smyth of PRC Group, Azzam Sawalhi and Vince Wheelen of Wates Construction, and Ken Crowe and Martin Scott of Southend Borough Council.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ECC FAU 2002 *Guidelines, procedures and pro-formas for excavating and recording.* ECC FAU unpublished
- ECC FAU 2004 *Written scheme of investigation for archaeological watching brief, Journeyman's Way, Southend-on-Sea, Essex.* Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit unpublished
- Heppell, E. 2004 *Journeyman's Way, Southend-on-Sea, Essex: Archaeological desk-based assessment.* ECC FAU Report no. **1370**. Unpublished

Appendix 1: Contents of Archive

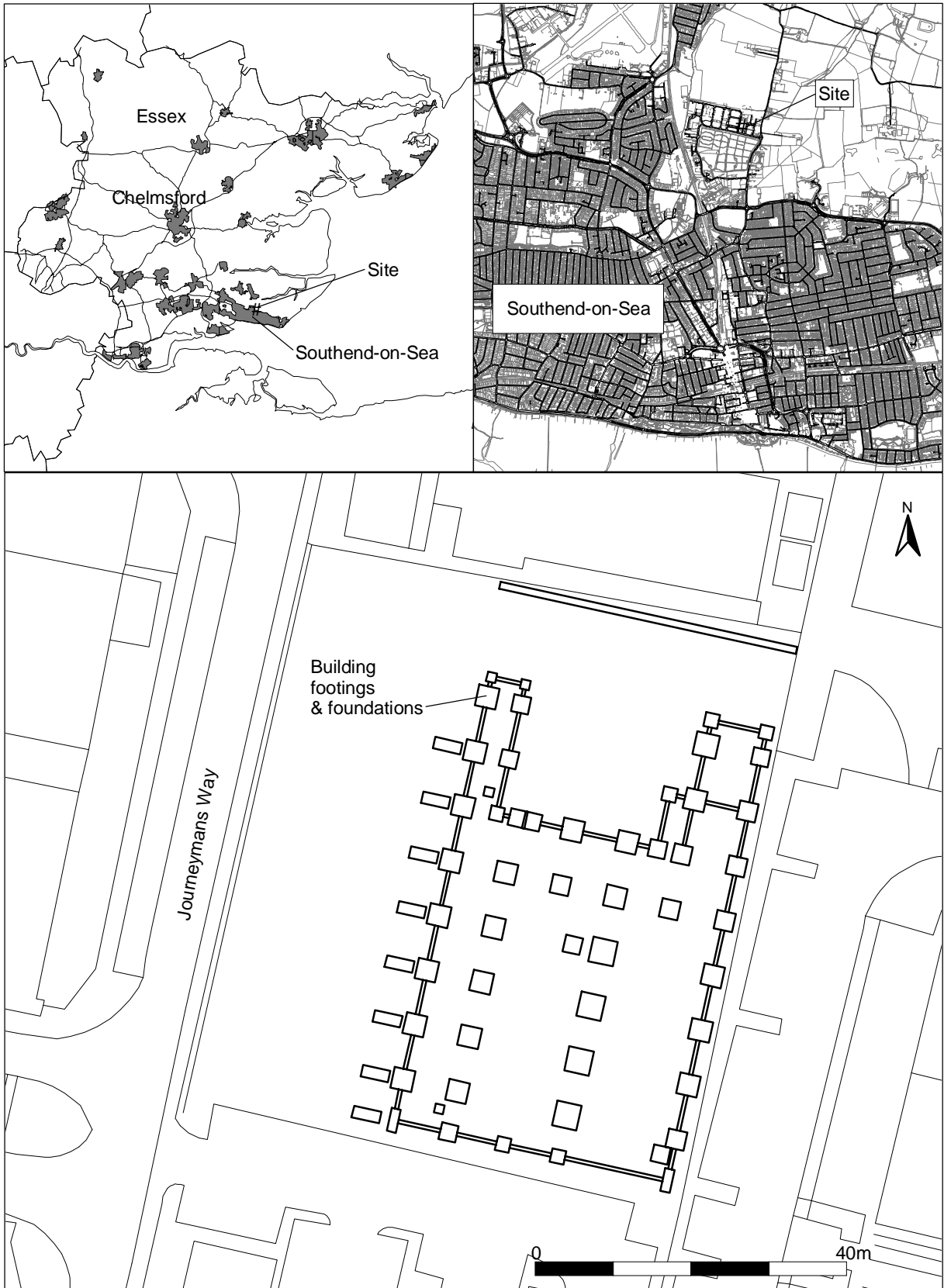
In one A4 file:

- 2 Copies of this client report
- 1 Copy of the written scheme of investigation
- 2 Black and white prints
- 2 Colour transparencies

There are no site drawings or finds.

Appendix 1: Essex Historic Environment Record Sheet

Site Name & Address: KeyMed Distribution Centre, Journeyman's Way, Southend-on-Sea, Essex	
Parish: Shopland	District: Southend-on-Sea
NGR: TQ 8835 8825	Site Code: No site code
Type of Work: Watching brief	Site Director/Group: Mark Germany, Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit
Date of Work: 31/5/05, 6/6/05, 16/6/5 and 22/6/05	Size of Area Investigated: Development area: 0.48ha
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: No archive	Funding Source: Developer
Further Work Anticipated? No	Related HCR Nos:
Final Report: Essex Archaeology and History (Summary)	
Periods Represented: Modern	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS: The watching brief monitored the excavation of approximately sixty foundation pits, ranging in size from 1.8m x 1.8m to 3.2m x 3.2m, during the construction of the KeyMed Distribution Centre on the Temple Farm Industrial Estate, south-east of Southend Airport. There were no archaeological features or finds and few signs of modern disturbance. The geology of the site comprised topsoil (0.2m thick) above brickearth.	
Previous Summaries/Reports: None	
Author of Summary: M. Germany	Date of Summary: September 2005



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Fig.1. Site Location