

**LAND TO REAR OF 644-646 SUTTON ROAD
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA
ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
TRIAL TRENCHING**



Essex County Council

FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

February 2006

LAND TO REAR OF 644-646 SUTTON ROAD
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA
ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
TRIAL TRENCHING

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	1 Southend Borough Council
	1 ECC Historic Environment Record
	2 Southend Museum

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.
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**LAND TO REAR OF 644-646 SUTTON ROAD,
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA, ESSEX
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
TRIAL TRENCHING**

Client: Mr P. Handley

NGR: TQ 8850 8772

Site Code and museum accession number: SOUMS: A2006.11

ECC FAU Project Number: 1557

Date of fieldwork: 17/2/06

SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching in advance of the proposed construction of industrial units to the rear of 644 to 646 Sutton Road, Southend-on-Sea has found a c. 0.8m thick deposit of modern building debris and disturbed ground. It has found no topsoil, archaeological deposits, features or finds. The presence of the made ground supports local opinion that the site was stripped and truncated in the 1970s. It is therefore extremely unlikely that any archaeological remains survive in the proposed development area.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report contains the results of archaeological trenching in advance of the proposed construction of industrial units on land to the rear of 644-646 Sutton Road, Southend-on-Sea (Fig. 1). The trenching was carried out by Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) on behalf of Mr P. Handley. It followed an archaeological brief and a written scheme of investigation and was monitored by Southend Borough Council (ECC FAU 2006; SBC 2005).

Copies of this report will be supplied to the client, Southend Borough Council, and the Essex County Council Historic Environment Record (ECC HER). The report will be added to the OASIS online record (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>). The site archive will be held at Southend Museum.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The site comprises c. 0.27ha of hard-standing and is currently used as a storage area for caravans (Fig. 1). It is bordered by houses and gardens to the west, Rosshill Industrial Park to the north, and a recreation ground to the east and south. The underlying geology comprises clay and occasional pockets of sand and gravel.

Essex County Council Historic Environment Record (<http://unlockingessex.essexcc.gov.uk>) indicates that archaeological discoveries have been made in the vicinity of the site in the recent past. The principal archaeological monuments and finds in the immediate area are:

- An Iron Age fort at Prittlewell Camp (ECC HER 9547 to 9549)
- Late Bronze age and Saxon settlement immediately east of Prittlewell Camp (ECC HER 23043)
- Late Iron Age, Roman and Saxon settlement at Temple Farm Industrial Estate (ECC HER 9734, 9735, 13754, 13755, 23000)
- Prittlewell Roman and Saxon cemeteries to the south-west (ECC HER 9632 to 9635, 13773)

Anecdotal evidence has it that the site was cleared of its topsoil and truncated by between 0.6m and 0.9m in the 1970s.

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The general aim of the trenching was to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the area of the proposed development.

4.0 METHOD

The ECC FAU recording system is used to record all uncovered deposits and features, with plans being drawn at 1:20 and sections at 1:10 (ECC FAU 2003). The minimum sample sizes for excavation are 50% for self-contained features (e.g. pits and post-holes), and 10% for linear features (e.g. gullies and ditches). Two cameras are used to take a photographic record – black and white prints and colour transparencies – of work in progress. The work is carried out in accordance with the by-laws and guidelines of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

The investigation comprised five trenches, each measuring 1.4m wide and 20m long (Fig. 1). The trenches were dug under archaeological supervision by a small tracked excavator with a broad toothless bucket. The north and west parts of the site were avoided because they contained underground services and concrete respectively. The trenches were excavated down to the surface of the underlying clay natural.

5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS

All five trenches contained c. 0.4m of sand and modern building debris on top of c. 0.2m of disturbed clay. There was no topsoil or archaeological deposits or features.

6.0 FINDS

The trenching found no archaeological finds.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

The layers of modern building debris and disturbed clay and the absence of topsoil confirm the anecdotal evidence and indicate that the site has been truncated and disturbed in the recent past. If archaeological remains were formerly present then these have probably been removed or have not survived.

8.0 ASSESSMENT

No archaeological features or finds were present in any of the evaluation trenches, and it is very unlikely that any archaeological remains survive in the proposed development area.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit would like to thank Mr P. Handley for his help and co-operation. The fieldwork was carried out by Mark Germany. Figure 1 was drawn by Andrew Lewsey. The project was monitored by Ken Crowe and Martin Scott of Southend-on-Sea Borough Council.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ECC FAU 2003 *Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit: Site Recording Manual.*
Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit, Fairfield Court, Fairfield
Road, Braintree
- ECC FAU 2006 *Written Scheme of Investigation: Archaeological Evaluation: Land to rear
of 644-646 Sutton Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex.* Essex County
Council Field Archaeology Unit, Fairfield Court, Fairfield Road, Braintree,
Essex
- SBC 2005 *Brief for an archaeological evaluation: 644-646 Sutton Road, Southend-
on-Sea* Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

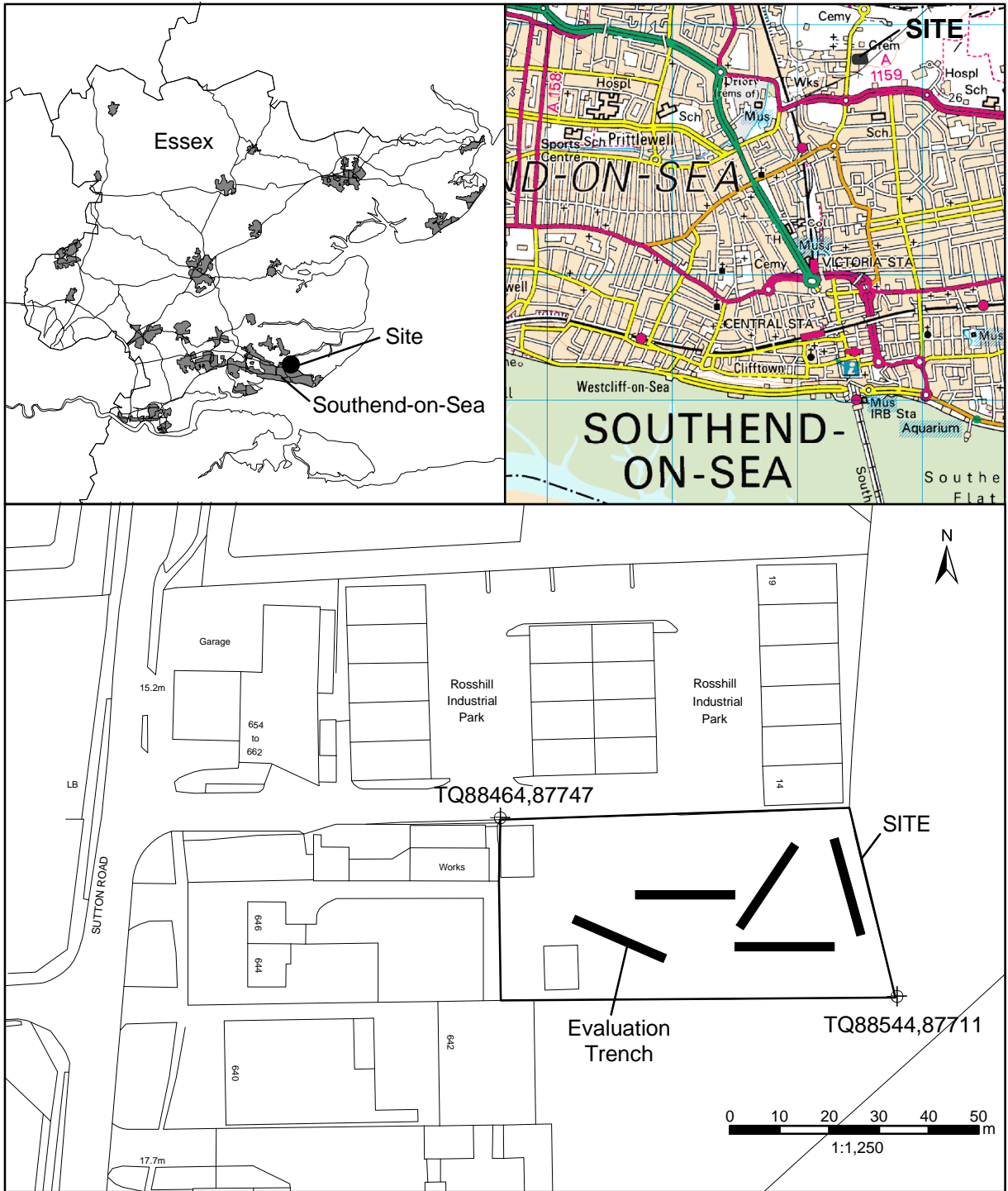
Appendix 1: Contents of archive

In one A4 folder:

- 2 Copies of the client report
- 1 Copy of the archaeological brief
- 1 Copy of the written scheme of investigation
- 10 Monochrome prints and negatives
- 11 Colour transparencies

Appendix 4: Essex Historic Environment Record Sheet

Site Name & Address: Land to rear of 644-646 Sutton Road, Southend-on-Sea	
Parish: Prittlewell	District: Southend-on-Sea
NGR: TQ 8850 8772	Site Code: SOUMS: A2006.11
Type of Work: Trial-trenching	Site Director/Group: Mark Germany, Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit
Date of Work: 20/2/06	Size of Area Investigated: Development area: c. 0.27ha Trench area: 140m ²
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Southend Museum	Funding Source: Developer
Further Work Anticipated? No	Related HCR Nos:
Final Report: Essex Archaeology and History (Summary)	
Periods Represented: Modern	
<p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</p> <p>Archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching was carried out in advance of the proposed construction of industrial units.</p> <p>All five trenches exposed c. 0.2m of disturbed clay below c. 0.6m of modern building debris. The discovery of the modern disturbance confirmed anecdotal evidence that the site had been truncated and stripped of its topsoil in the 1970s. There were no archaeological deposits, features or finds.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports: None	
Author of Summary: M. Germany	Date of Summary: February 2006



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Fig.1. Evaluation trench locations