

**ACCESS ROAD OFF SOUTHEND ROAD
BOURNES GREEN
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA
ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND
RECORDING SUMMARY:
REVISED EDITION**



Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit

April 2010

SOUTHEND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

SITE NAME/ADDRESS: Access Road off Southend Road, Bournes Green, Southend-on-Sea, Essex	
PARISH: Southend-on-Sea	DISTRICT: Southend-on-Sea
NGR: TQ 9180 8735	SITE CODE:
TYPE OF WORK: Watching Brief	SITE DIRECTOR/GROUP: M. Pocock, Essex CC FAU
DATE OF WORK: 28 April to 25 May 2006	SIZE OF AREA INVESTIGATED:
FINDS/CURATING MUSEUM: Southend	FUNDING SOURCE: Thorpe Bay Estate Ltd
FURTHER WORK ANTICIPATED. No	RELATED HER NO. None
FINAL REPORT: Southend Historic Environment Record Summary	
PERIODS REPRESENTED: Modern	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>The Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording on behalf of the Thorpe Bay Estate Company, as advised by Bidwells, their planning consultant, under an archaeological condition placed on planning consent for a golf course development at Bournes Green, Southend-on-Sea (SOS/00/00235/FUL). The monitoring was carried out on groundworks for the widening of Southend Road and construction of a new access road for the golf course. The monitoring followed an archaeological desk-based assessment (Heppell 2006) and a survey of a World War II pillbox, demolished as part of the widening of Southend Road (Pocock 2006).</p> <p>The following works were monitored: 1. Cleaning out of the old road side ditch; 2. Ground reduction of 0.62m along the widened roadway; 3. Topsoil strip of a 16m length of the new access road; 4. Excavation of the repositioned road-side ditch (Fig 1).</p> <p>No archaeological remains of interest were exposed within the cleaned-out road-side ditch or during ground reduction alongside Southend Road. Excavation revealed topsoil (001) surviving to a depth of 0.42m overlying natural yellow-brown brickearth. Three sherds of late medieval pottery were recovered from the topsoil. In places, a subsoil (002) survived between the topsoil and natural. The subsoil consisted of mid brown silty clay comprising significant quantities of coarse gravels. One sherd of 10th to 13th century pottery was recovered from the subsoil. Ground surface heights range between 12.97 and 13.41m OD across the area under investigation.</p> <p>A modern electricity cable trench ran east-west following the alignment of Southend Road. The service was joined by a ceramic field drain part way along the excavated strip. Two obviously modern ditches truncated the service trench and remained unexcavated. A single sherd of flint-tempered prehistoric pottery was retrieved from the surface of 003 (within 002). Extensive prehistoric remains are known in the general area.</p> <p>Removal of the topsoil in the area of the new access road was of insufficient depth to fully expose archaeologically significant remains. Observations made after excavation to a depth of around 1.6m of the new roadside ditch to the west of the access road, found no archaeological remains. On examination, undulations in the subsoil were thought not to represent archaeological features. Observations on the ditch east of the access road were halted half-way through as again no archaeological remains were visible.</p> <p>An area to the west of the monitored groundworks was stripped without the supervision of an archaeologist. A fortuitous site visit enabled a preliminary assessment and quick walkover of the</p>	

stripped area. One sherd of late medieval/ early post-medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil (4).

In conclusion, sparse evidence of medieval and early post-medieval activity was identified, and the residual prehistoric pot sherd indicates an earlier human presence at the site.

PREVIOUS SUMMARIES/REPORTS:

Pocock, M., Silchester Corner Pillbox, Southend Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex – Archaeological Recording. Essex CC FAU, May 2006

Hepell, E., Land at Bournes Green, Southend-on-Sea, Essex – Archaeological Desk Based Assessment and Site Inspection, Issue 1, Essex CC FAU, March 2006

AUTHOR OF SUMMARY: Matthew Pocock and Phillippa Sparrow (Essex CC FAU)

DATE OF SUMMARY: 12 April 2010

APPENDIX 1 MEDIEVAL AND LATER POTTERY DATA

Helen Walker and Joyce Compton

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
1	Topsoil	2	6	Joining base sherds, sandy orange ware, flat base	14th to 16th C
		1	14	Body sherd, medieval coarse ware, abraded	13th to 14th C
2	Subsoil	1	6	Body sherd, shell-tempered ware	10th to 13th C
4	Topsoil	1	4	Body sherd, sandy orange ware, very abraded	14th to 16th C
		5	30		

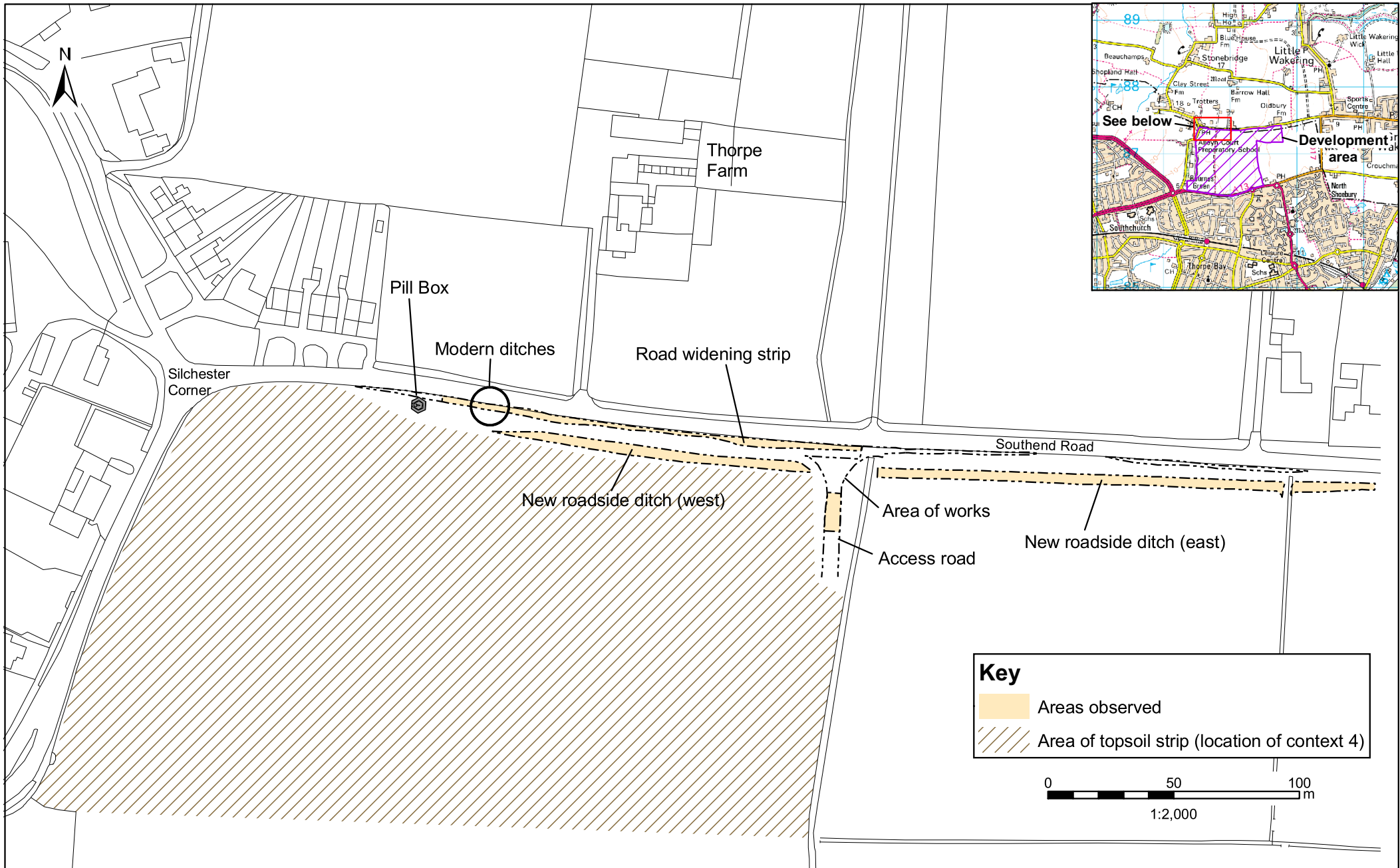


Fig.1. Location plan