

**TREETOPS
HILLVIEW ROAD
RAYLEIGH
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL-TRENCHING



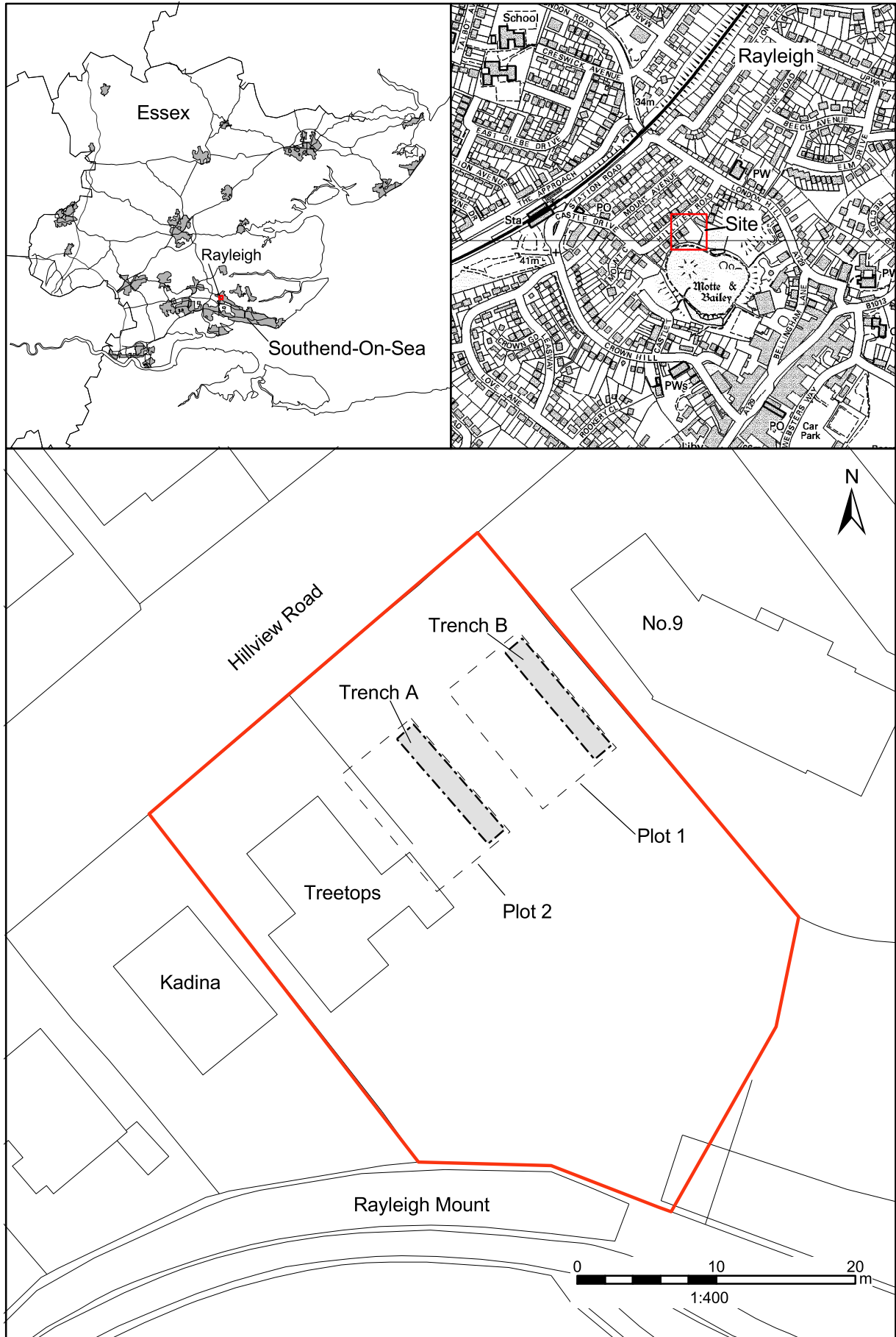
Essex County Council

FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

October 2007

ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD / ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY SUMMARY

Site name/Address: Treetops, Hillview Road, Rayleigh	
Parish: Rayleigh	District: Rochford
NGR: TQ 80495 91025	Site Code: RL11
Type of Work: Evaluation (trial-trenching)	Site Director/Group: Mark Germany, ECC Field Archaeology Unit
Date of Work: 15/10/07	Size of Area Investigated: 32sq m of trenching; 0.125 ha total site area
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Southend Museum	Client: Bermac Properties PLC
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related EHR Nos.: 13586, 13587
Final Report: Essex Archaeology and History (Round-up summary).	
Periods represented: Modern	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>Two trial-trenches were excavated (Fig. 1, A and B) in advance of the construction of three new houses within a former garden at Treetops, Hillview Road, Rayleigh. Each trench measured 1.6m wide and 10m long and was stripped of its topsoil by a mechanical excavator with a broad toothless bucket. The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with an archaeological brief, and was monitored by the County Council's Historic Environment Management team (EEC HEM). The scheduled ancient monument of Rayleigh Mount lies immediately east of the site (EHER 13586-7). The trenches were located on the steep, north-west facing, slope of the natural ridge on which the motte and bailey castle sits.</p> <p>Both trenches found topsoil directly above brickearth. They revealed no archaeological features or artefacts, and no evidence for land slippage or buried archaeological deposits. The topsoil comprised dark yellowish brown friable clay-silt and varied in thickness, from 0.15m to 0.45m. The underlying brickearth was in excess of 0.4m thick and consisted of pale brownish yellow friable clay-silt with no inclusions.</p> <p>It is concluded that this steep slope to the north (rear) of the castle was not the location of significant occupation activity until the modern period.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports:- None	
Author of Summary: Mark Germany	Date of Summary: 16/10/2007



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Fig.1. Location plan