

# **Chelmsford Borough Historic Environment Characterisation Project**



Front Cover: Aerial View of the historic settlement of Pleshey

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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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# **Chelmsford Borough 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 Chelmsford Borough 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 Borough's environmental infrastructure the historic environment has a major role to play in Chelmsford'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 Chelmsford 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. The Thames Gateway study was followed by work commissioned by Rochford District Council which looked in greater detail at the Historic Environment at Rochford District and carried out by Essex County Council (2005). The characterisation work for Chelmsford has been undertaken using the methodology refined during the Rochford project, but with the addition of more detailed assessments in some areas, especially within the urban areas of Chelmsford and three specific villages, Boreham, Great Leighs and Little Waltham identified by Chelmsford Borough Council as requiring particular attention. 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 specific character assessments of the urban, landscape and archaeological character. 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.

### ***1.1 Purpose of the project***

This project has been developed to primarily serve as a tool for Chelmsford Borough 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 Borough. The report should facilitate the development of positive approaches to the integration of historic environment objectives into spatial planning for the Borough.

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 Chelmsford Borough.**

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 the specialist advisors, to integrate the protection, promotion and management of the historic environment assets both within development master plans and Local Development Documents.

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

The report will provide planners with background 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, with regard to the creation of Village Design Statements and the Community Strategy.



## **2 The Archaeology of Chelmsford District**

### ***2.1 Palaeolithic through to the Mesolithic Period***

A very few flint artefacts, dating from the earliest period of human settlement in Britain known as the Palaeolithic, have been found in the gravels of the Chelmer and Wid valleys. However, from at least the Mesolithic (c. 8000 BC), the diverse landscape within the boundaries of the modern Chelmsford Borough has attracted continuous human occupation. The presence of human groups, whose economy was based entirely on hunting and gathering is attested by flint scatters, which are widespread. These collections of flint tools and waste flakes concentrate on the sands and gravels of the river valleys and wooded hills, with a major site at Great Baddow. However, one of the most important and extensive sites is in the far south-east of the District, around the junction of Fenn Creek and the Crouch at South Woodham Ferrers. This site is now within the estuarine intertidal zone, however, during the Mesolithic it would have occupied a location adjacent to freshwater streams, and probably represents the location of a 'base camp'. This would have operated for quite lengthy periods during particular seasons and was reoccupied year on year over many generations.

### ***2.2 Neolithic***

Farming was first introduced during the Neolithic (c. 4,000 BC), apparently at first only augmenting rather than replacing the existing hunter-gather economy. Investigation over the last twenty years has revealed a sophisticated social and economic system operating throughout the Chelmer Valley and Blackwater Estuary. However, only in the vicinity of modern Chelmsford were major ceremonial monuments built. The Springfield Cursus, a kind of processional way defined by a large ditch and internal bank with a circular setting of upright posts within the eastern terminal, was constructed just above the floodplain of the Chelmer. This ran roughly between the present Barnes Farm Pub and the Asda store in what is now Chelmer Village. A Causewayed Enclosure was constructed at Springfield Lyons commanding wide views of the valley. This site was defined by a deep ditch broken by many gaps, or causeways (hence the name) which

cut off a neck of land between two small streams. Both the Springfield monuments lie close to the edge of the Boulder clay plateau. They thus occur at a transitional point in the landscape for people passing to and from the river valleys up on to the boulder clays, and may have been gathering places, at particular times of year, for normally dispersed communities. The siting of these two Neolithic monuments is the first indication of the strategic value of the general area, around the confluence of the Chelmer and Can, now occupied by the modern town of Chelmsford.

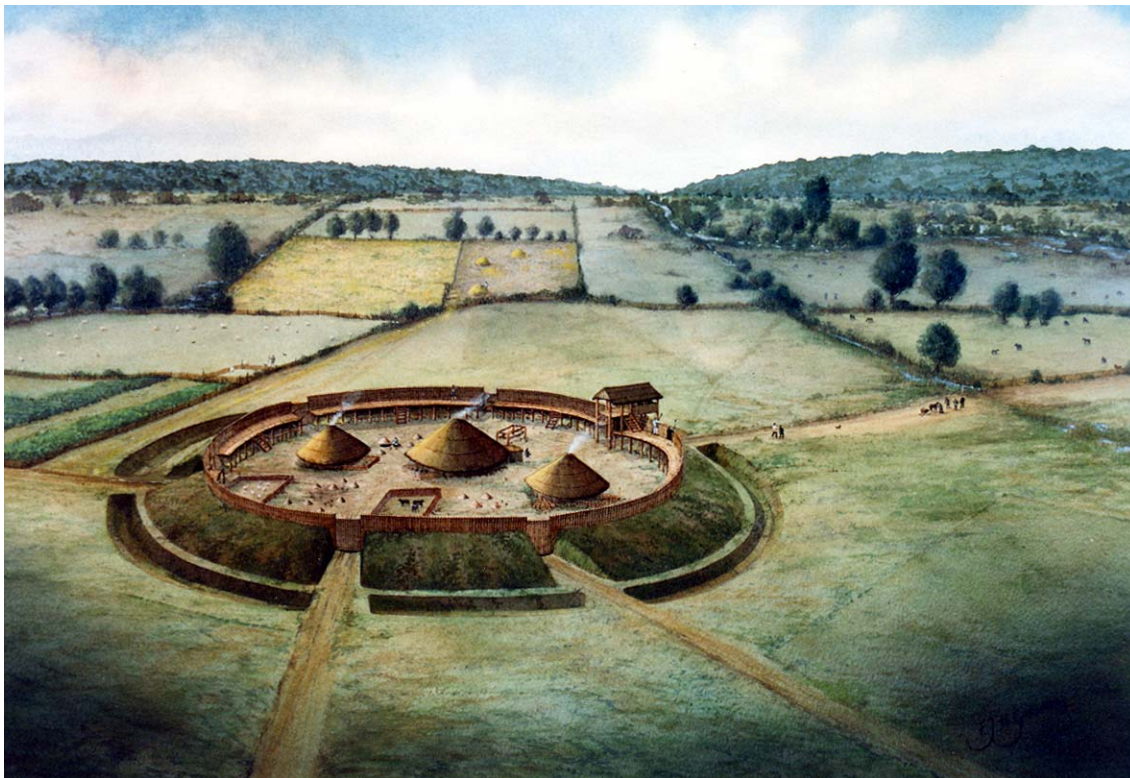


*Fig: 1 Reconstruction painting by Frank Gardiner of the Neolithic Cursus now beneath Chelmer Village.*

### **2.3 Bronze Age**

Numerous cropmark ring-ditches, the remains of early and middle Bronze Age barrows, are known throughout the borough. These occur particularly in the Chelmer valley and

examples have been excavated at Springfield and Great Holts, Boreham. By the Late Bronze Age (c. 1000 BC) the economy was fully agricultural, and the area of the present Chelmsford Borough was densely occupied. At this time a landscape of farms or small groups of buildings was dominated by two circular enclosures at Great Baddow and Springfield Lyons. The latter site besides being strategically placed within the landscape was located at a place already hallowed by traditional/ancestral associations represented by the remains of the Neolithic causewayed enclosure. Extensive excavations of the Springfield site revealed that it had a deep ditch, rampart and impressive gate structure. The largest quantity of clay moulds for casting bronze swords ever found at a Bronze age site in Britain were recovered during excavation of the enclosure ditch. Other settlements have been excavated, either enclosed by small fairly shallow ditches, as at Windmill Field, Broomfield, or unenclosed, like examples on the valley slopes below the Springfield Lyons site, and at Margaret's Farm, Broads Green. Both Broads Green and a site excavated at Boreham Interchange contained small post-built structures, which appear to have been shrines.



*Fig: 2 Reconstruction painting of the Late Bronze Age Springfield Style Enclosure*

In addition to the evidence of bronze casting at Springfield Lyons, finds of Bronze Age metalwork are widespread throughout Chelmsford Borough, with notable examples from Boreham, Little Baddow and Pleshey. The raw materials for this all had to be imported, and the Chelmer valley/Blackwater Estuary and Crouch estuary, were crucial routes. Fenn Creek and the Crouch estuary, which by this stage was fully tidal, provide evidence of the economic importance of estuarine areas; the earliest saltern in Essex, of later Bronze Age date has been recorded here. Salt would have played a vital role as flavouring, preservative and valuable commodity for trade.

## **2.4 Iron Age**

During the Iron Age a hillfort was established at Danbury commanding wide views to the south across the Crouch valley towards the distant Thames, and other earthworks have been recorded nearby at Twitty Fee. Nucleated settlements appear at this time, the best example being at Little Waltham, excavated in the 1970s in advance of road construction. In general there is more Iron Age settlement evidence from the boulder clay areas north and west of Chelmsford, than from elsewhere within the borough. However, an extensive area of rectilinear fields, apparently of Iron Age/Roman date, exists in the Can/Chelmer valley and the upper Chelmer valley, and there is some evidence that the location of the future town of Chelmsford was occupied by a farm or farms. An earthwork enclosure of this period has recently been revealed within Birch Spring Wood, indicating that here at least the present woodland post-dates the early Roman period. Towards the end of the Iron Age coinage was first introduced into Britain and recently a number of Iron Age gold coin hoards have been recovered from the area of Great Waltham and Great Leighs.

## **2.5 Roman**

It is likely that the invading Roman army marched through Chelmsford District in AD 43 on its way to take the major tribal capital at *Camulodunum*, modern Colchester. The

first significant Roman settlement in the Chelmsford area was a fort or forts south of the river Can in what is now the Moulsham Street area. These were probably established after AD 60 in the troubled aftermath of the Boudican rebellion. The military establishment was replaced with a civilian town named *Caesaromagus*. Moulsham Street follows the line of the main street of the Roman town, the core of which was surrounded by a defensive ditch, in places, a triple ditch and earth rampart. Excavation has revealed extensive and substantial remains of a *Mansio*, (a government building which provided accommodation for officials), and its associated bathhouse. Chelmsford was strategically situated about halfway between the major Roman towns of London and Colchester, and a road was built between those two towns, the line of what would eventually become the A12. Buildings and property boundaries have been revealed by excavation fronting the main street, whilst extensive ribbon development has been recorded to the east along Baddow road and either side of what is now Parkway. During the construction of Parkway an octagonal temple was excavated under what is now the Odeon roundabout. South of Moulsham Street there was further ribbon development and burials have been recorded indicating the presence of extra-mural cemeteries. Amongst the wide range of finds recovered from excavations in the town is a fine collection of jet jewellery. There are indications of iron smithing and bronze working within the town. Bone objects were also being manufactured and it appears that a large area east of Moulsham was given over to cattle processing, butchery, tanning and manufacture of horn and bone objects. Pottery kilns have also been excavated within the town and further kilns, the remains of a rural potting industry have been recorded at Sandon and Rettendon.





*Fig: 3 Reconstruction of the Chelmsford Mansio by Frank Gardiner*

As well as the main London to Colchester route, roads led out from Chelmsford toward other small towns or significant settlements east to Heybridge, south to Wickford, and north to Braintree and Great Dunmow. The rural hinterland was densely settled. A village, the successor to the Iron Age settlement noted above, developed at Little Waltham, around the junction of the roads to Braintree and Great Dunmow. A major villa is known from aerial photography at Chignall, and is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument. A large part of the farming complex associated with the villa was excavated in advance of mineral extraction. A complete villa, its bathhouse, and surrounding fields were similarly excavated ahead of extraction at Great Holts, Boreham. Also at Boreham a remarkable aisled building, probably an administrative centre or temple has been excavated at Bulls Lodge. Other villas are located at Broomfield and Plesheybury. Pollen evidence recovered from peats in the valley of the Sandon Brook indicates extensive and continuous cereal cultivation in the Chelmer valley. Environmental evidence recovered from alluvium and peat in the intertidal zone of the Crouch estuary near Fenn Creek has revealed largely freshwater sedimentation perhaps the result of constriction of the tidal flow by bridges at Hullbridge and/or Fambridge.

## **2.6 Saxon**

There are indications of early Saxon settlement at Great Holts Farm, Boreham, Manor Farm Great Baddow, and at Broomfield. However, the best evidence of Saxon occupation comes from Springfield where an extensive early cemetery of both cremation and inhumation burials has been excavated at Springfield Lyons. At Broomfield, what was probably the burial of one of the kings of the East Saxons, was dug up in the 1880s during gravel extraction. The way in which these sites lie around, but at a distance from, the former Roman town of Chelmsford is probably not an accident. It seems to be an acknowledgement of the strategic importance of the Chelmer/Can confluence and the significance of the former Roman town, together with a desire to keep at a distance from it. The location of the Springfield Lyons cemetery partly within the Bronze Age enclosure may be important here, representing an assertion by a new social order of links with an ancestral or mythological past. Pollen evidence from peat deposits recorded in the valley of the Chelmer and Sandon Brook in advance of construction of the A12 bypass, showed continuous cereal production from the Iron Age throughout the Roman period and into the Saxon period. In the later Saxon period the cemetery at Springfield Lyons was succeeded by a settlement with a number of substantial buildings, including a probable tower and possible mill. This settlement lies very close to the late medieval/early post-medieval building of Cuton Hall and might represent the first establishment of the manor of Cuton Hall recorded in Domesday Book.

## **2.7 Medieval**

At the time of Domesday in 1086 the manor of Writtle was the largest settlement in the area with 194 households. Writtle was a royal manor and the collapse of the Roman bridges over the Can and Chelmer meant that the main route from London to Colchester detoured via Writtle, both factors which influenced its growth and prosperity. By contrast at Domesday the Bishop of London's manor of Chelmsford was a very minor place with only 4 households, even the neighbouring manor of Moulsham with 12 households was larger. About 1100, the bishops of London built a new bridge at

Chelmsford which stimulated growth and attracted traffic back to the more direct route between London and Colchester. In 1199 the Bishop of London was granted a royal charter for a market and Chelmsford rapidly began to flourish once again as an urban centre. At this period the layout of the town was defined with the triangular market, church, and main streets. Chelmsford and Moulsham parishes were united for the first time by Thomas Mildmay in 1563. At about the same time another town was founded in Chelmsford Borough at Pleshey, here one of the greatest nobles Geoffrey de Mandeville built a major motte and bailey castle in the mid-12th century, subsequently adding a town enclosure to the north of the castle enclosed by a semi-circular ditch and earth bank. Small parks were created immediately surrounding the castle and town, whilst Pleshey Great Park lay slightly further to the north.

The subsequent history of the towns of Chelmsford and Pleshey is instructive. Pleshey flourished throughout the medieval period under the noble or royal patronage of those holding the castle. When the castle was abandoned at the end of the medieval period, the town went into rapid decline due to its un-strategic location and the removal of royal patronage. By contrast Chelmsford which lacked both a castle and town defences, benefited from its strategic location, not only on the road midway between London and Chelmsford but also at the geographical centre of Essex. It flourished not only economically, but also in the later medieval and post-medieval periods became a centre of political and judicial administration for the whole county. The decline of Pleshey has left Chelmsford Borough not only with one of its most attractive villages but one of the best preserved small medieval town and castle complexes in England, a site of national significance almost all of which is a Scheduled Monument.





*Fig. 4 Aerial view of Pleshey*

A small moated royal palace was built at Writtle in the late 12th century. Major excavations were carried out at the site in the 1950s and the publication of this site has resulted in it becoming one of the cornerstones for our understanding of medieval moated sites. Parts of the moat and a great timber framed barn can still be seen in the grounds of Writtle College. By 1300, the fundamentals of much of the landscape which we recognise in Chelmsford Borough today had come into being. The settlement pattern was essentially dispersed, with numerous farmsteads and moated sites, and church/hall complexes and greens forming focal points. Even villages which today are strongly nucleated such as the Walthams and Boreham were originally polyfocal. The complex landscape of Writtle Forest with its compartmentalised coppice woodland surrounded by banks and ditches, commons, and green lanes is a fine example of a medieval forest of national significance and comparable with the better known Hatfield Forest in north-west Essex. The complex landscape of woods and heaths at Danbury and Little Baddow stretching east into Maldon District preserves many boundary banks of medieval origin defining areas of woodland and common. Much ancient woodland

survives but the area is now significantly more wooded than in the medieval period with much former common and heathland colonised by secondary woodland. Many of the sites of present day farms and villages occupy the sites of their medieval predecessors, and of course timber framed buildings of medieval origin survive in use throughout the Borough. However, settlements though broadly occupying the same location have often shifted slightly over the centuries and the 13th century a time of great prosperity and agricultural expansion, saw medieval rural settlement at its most widespread. The 14th century was beset by economic and social unrest, poor harvests, wars, epidemics and rebellion, with many more marginal settlements being abandoned never to be re-occupied. A range of such earlier medieval farms have been excavated, at for example Chignall, Great Holts and the former Buxted Chicken Factory site both in Boreham. A farm complex, possibly a manorial site, with barn and probable windmill was excavated in advance of mineral extraction at Boreham Airfield. Medieval occupation has been recorded at Boreham Interchange north of the surviving early post-medieval timber framed building at Sheepcotes, with further evidence of medieval settlement recorded in advance of development south of Sheepcotes.

Some of the most striking features of the medieval landscape whether urban or rural were monastic establishments and religious houses of various kinds. These included the college of canons established at Pleshey and the Dominican friary at Chelmsford which lay west of Moulsham street south of the river Can and was partly excavated in advance of the construction of Parkway. All that remains of the priory at Bicknacre is a single arch of the church crossing, whilst Leighs Priory on the borough border has the remains of very extensive fishponds and water management features in the valley of the Ter. Some elements of the medieval priory itself survive although most of the buildings which can be seen today are the remains of the post-medieval brick mansion built by Richard Rich, Earl of Warwick in the second half of the 16th century.



*Fig: 5 Aerial view of Leighs Priory*

## **2.8 Post-medieval**

Rich was one of the most powerful of Henry VIII's courtiers, benefited greatly from the dissolution of the monasteries and was granted many properties in Essex, constructing the highly fashionable brick mansion over the demolished remains of Leighs Priory as his principle seat. He also expanded a series of parks of medieval origin so that Leighs Priory lay at the heart of a huge area of parkland. Many features of these parks, and those of other medieval parks throughout the borough survive in the present landscape. Another vast brick mansion was built at New Hall Boreham, parts of which survive as New Hall School. Yet another mansion, Moulsham Hall was created by the Mildmay family and demolished in 1809. Elements of the original gardens associated with the house, were recently identified during excavations in advance of housing development,

adjacent to Princes Road. The diverse economic base of the rural economy in Chelmsford Borough in the late 16th century time is reflected in a 1582 survey of the Manor of Woodham Ferrars which emphasises the presence of woodland arable and pasture, including grazing marsh, the proximity both to Chelmsford and London, ease of water transport via the Crouch estuary and the value of salt production from the saline water of the estuary. Mounds and earthworks which are the remains of such salt production can still be seen in Marsh Farm country park, and more extensive and better preserved examples lie just across Clements Green Creek at Stow Maries in Maldon District.

## **2.9 Modern**

At the end of the 18th century two of the most prominent historic features of Chelmsford Town, the stone bridge over the Can and the Shire Hall were constructed to designs by the County Surveyor John Johnson. Earlier in the 18th century Boreham House was built, formally surrounded by an extensive park, with landscaping including a fine canal surviving running down toward the old A12. To the south of the town, Hylands House was built at about the same time and subsequently altered and extended in the first half of the 19th century. Hylands is surrounded by an extensive park currently the subject of a programme of major works to restore the appearance of a landscape garden designed by Repton. The end of the 18th century also saw the construction of the Chelmer and Blackwater navigation linking Chelmsford and to the Blackwater estuary at Heybridge Basin.



*Fig: 6 Paper Mill Lock on the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation*

In 1803 an elaborate series of entrenchments and forts were built south of Chelmsford blocking the London road against the possible threat of French invasion. Some elements of these defences survive adjacent to the railway line and on Galleywood Common. Well preserved Napoleonic earthwork gun emplacements are also present at Danbury commanding wide views to the south. The railway arrived in 1843, and included the construction of a major viaduct which is still a prominent part of the towns architecture. The railway facilitated Chelmsford's development as a centre of industry and a commuter town. Engineering works were founded in the town, in the second half of the 19th century electrical engineering became established and a major bearings works was established in 1898. Chelmsford is famous for its association with the early development of radio. The first Marconi radio factory opened in 1899 and a new factory was built in New Street in 1912. These buildings survive as does Globe House, now converted to flats, and once part of the Hoffman bearing works. These industries were the mainstay of Chelmsford's industry well into the second half of the 20th century. In a 20<sup>th</sup> century echo of the Napoleonic defence Chelmsford Borough lay at the heart of the



World War II General Headquarters line, a complex of anti tank ditches, pillboxes and other defences which ran roughly along the line of the A130 and was intended to stop a possible German advance from an east coast invasion. Later in the war US airfields were built at Boreham and Willingale. The most significant development in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century has been the rapid growth of housing both around Chelmsford itself (Fig: 7), and most dramatically at South Woodham Ferrers where a new town was designed and built in the 1970s and 80s. The town is very much an expression of the principles in the Essex Design guide, and is likely to be seen as a classic example of late 20th century new town development reflecting the social and economic ambitions of its time just as Harlow and Basildon exemplify the ethos of post war new towns.

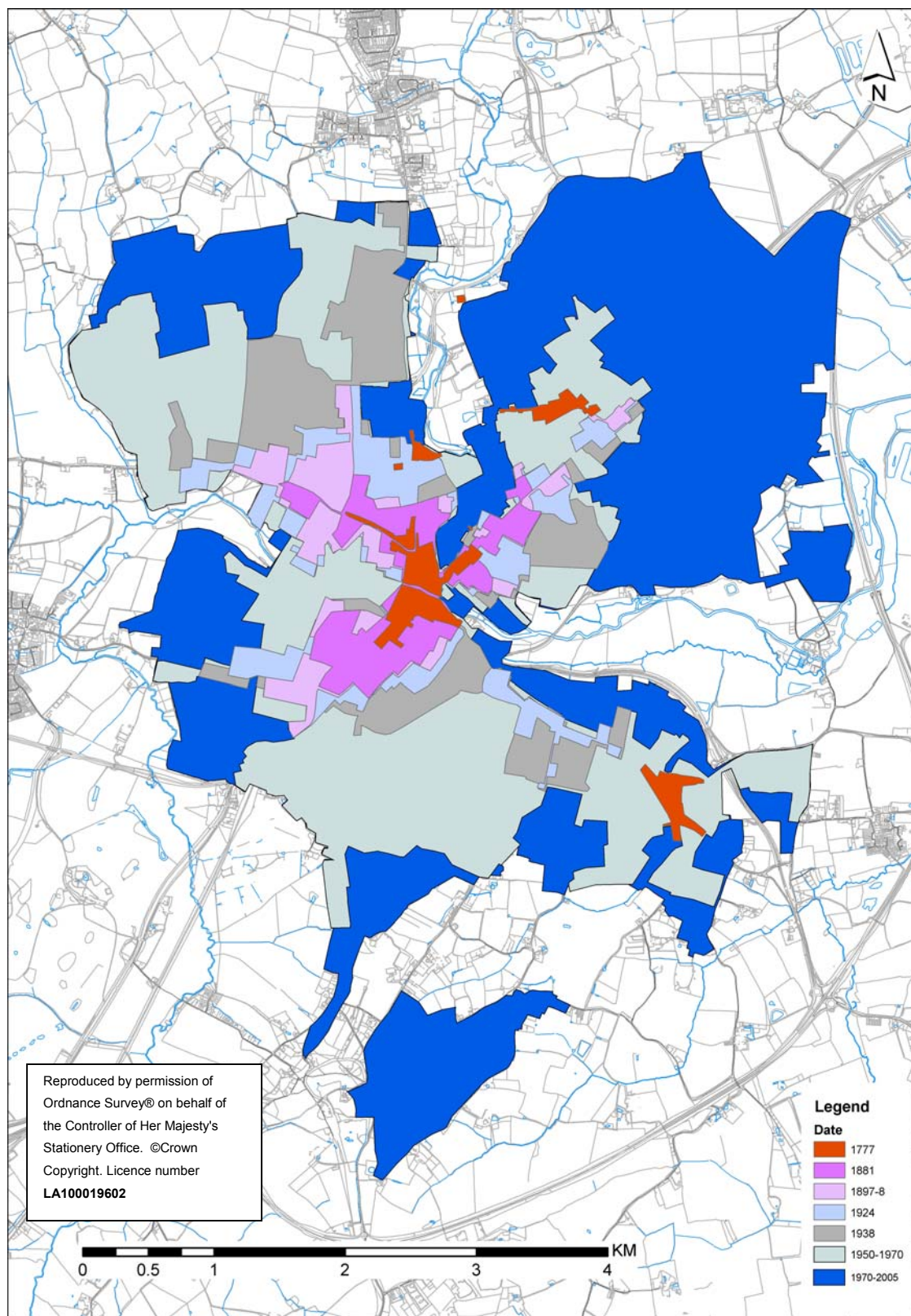


Fig. 7: *Urban expansion of Chelmsford*

### 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 work undertaken on the Rochford Historic Environment Characterisation Project by Essex County Council which involved a number of distinct processes. These focussed on preparing three separate strands of characterisation, one for each of the strands of the historic environment, namely: ***Historic Landscape character, Archaeological character*** and **Historic urban character** and then weaving these together into a single combined ***Historic Environment Character***. 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 4 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.

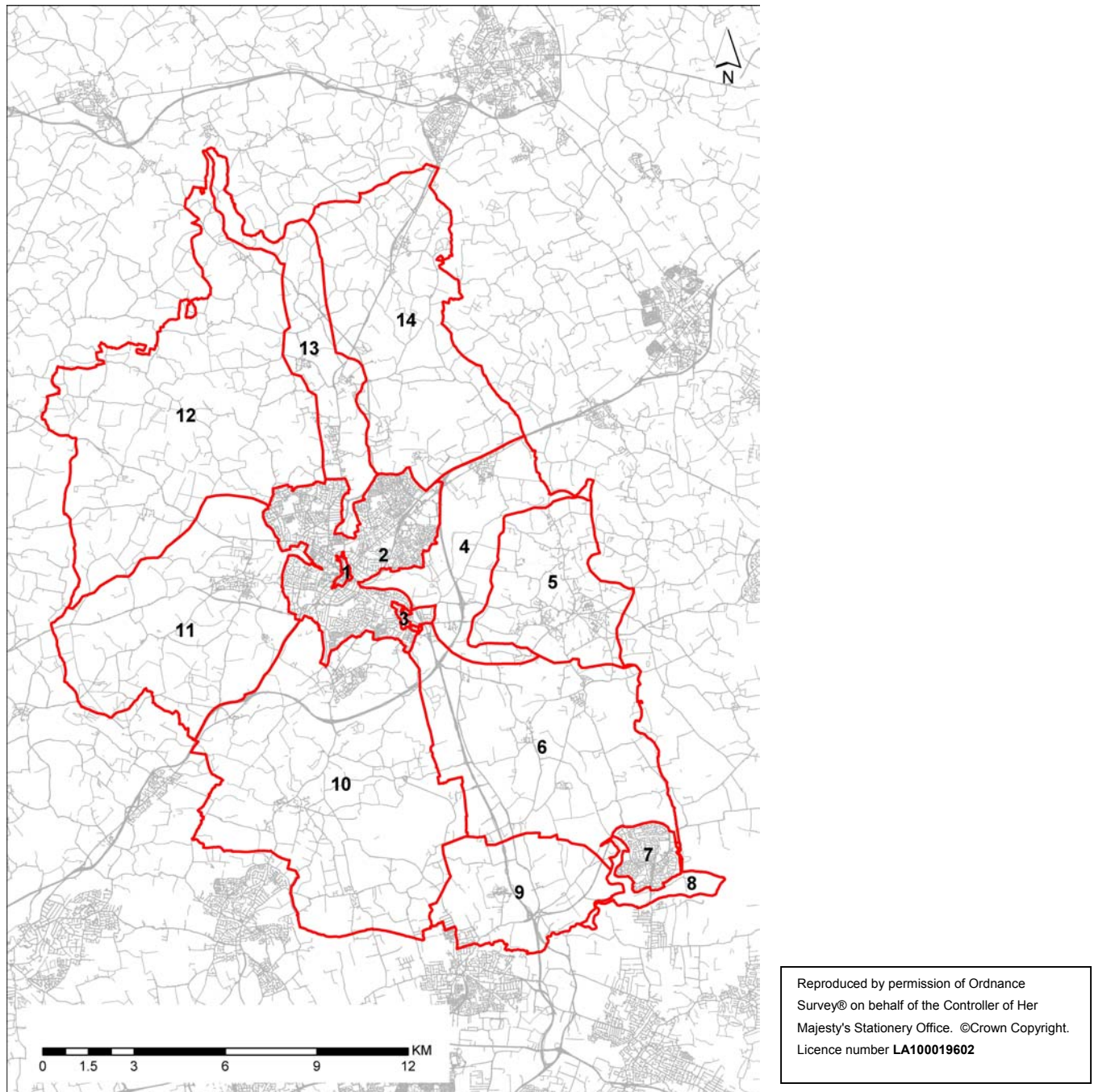
The Chelmsford Characterisation Project, following the methodology used for the Rochford Historic Environment Characterisation Report has divided the Historic Environment Character Areas, which are divisions at a high level, down into Historic Environment Character zones. These form the core of this report and are much smaller zones which can be used at all stages of the planning process, from the production of Local Development Frameworks, 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 (HELA) are detailed in Appendix 2, Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCA) are detailed in Appendix 3 and Archaeological Character Areas (HACA) 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 Areas**



*Fig: 8 Historic Environment Character Areas in Chelmsford Borough*

## HECA 1: The historic core of Chelmsford

**Summary:** This area forms the historic heart of Chelmsford which originates in the Roman period. The Roman town lies beneath the Moulsham Street area comprising initially a Roman fort which later developed into a settlement containing important buildings such as the *Mansio* and temple. The medieval town developed in two areas, High Street and Moulsham Street with the two parishes only being joined in 1593 . Much of the historic town remains buried beneath the present commercial heart of the town.

**Historic Urban character:** This forms the historic core of Chelmsford with evidence dating to the Roman, medieval and post medieval periods. The Roman town lies beneath the Moulsham Street area.

The area of the medieval town retains much of its medieval street pattern and some medieval buildings, however the street frontages are largely dominated by modern shop fronts. A number of important listed buildings have modern frontages hiding their original identity. A major feature is the cathedral and its precinct at the northern end of the market place.

**Archaeological character:** Excavations within the town have found extensive surviving archaeological deposits of Roman, medieval and post medieval date. To the south of the river lies the Roman town of *Caesaromagus*, with a fort, temple and *Mansio*. Extensive excavations have taken place in this area demonstrating good survival of the archaeological deposits.

To the north of the river along High Street lies the medieval core. Excavations have shown the presence of surviving deposits relating to the development of the town although cellars have disturbed a number of areas. The best preserved upstanding medieval area lies around the Cathedral Precinct.

## **HECA 2: Chelmsford Urban Area**

**Summary:** This area represents the expansion of Chelmsford from the post medieval period onwards (Fig. 8). The area has gone through a series of urban expansions especially in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. These expansions have included both commercial and residential expansion. Chelmsford was at the heart of the electronics industry with the development of Marconi's. Over the last 30 years there has been significant residential expansion, and to a lesser extent, commercial development on all sides of Chelmsford. The northern and eastern side have seen the greatest expansion.

**Historic Urban character:** Industrial production developed within the town during the 19<sup>th</sup> century with associated residential expansion. During the later part of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries there was infilling of some areas with terraced housing. Also during this period ribbon development of houses set in their own grounds took place along the southern half of Moulsham Street, London Road and Springfield Road.

Residential areas developed on a large scale in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century on all sides of the town. Associated with this expansion were a series of commercial developments with factories and many car show rooms. The building of the A12 bypass around the eastern side of Chelmsford resulted in the area inside becoming a focus for both commercial and residential development. Extensive industrial complexes formed an important part of Chelmsford's archaeological character. Elements of these industrial buildings still survive and warrant either preservation or recording prior to change of use or demolition.

**Archaeological Character:** The area outside the historic core has been extensively disturbed by the construction of residential and commercial developments. However, below ground archaeological deposits may survive in undeveloped areas or open spaces throughout this area. The important ritual complex of the Neolithic Cursus

following excavation in the late 1970's and early 1980's has been largely destroyed by the construction of Chelmer Village in Springfield. Other sites such as the undeveloped area around Springfield Lyons retain potential for important deposits of multi-period date. The Bronze Age circular enclosure at Springfield Lyons has been fully excavated and is the national type site for this kind of settlement.

### **HECA 3: Historic Core of Great Baddow**

**Summary:** This character area represents the historic core of Great Baddow as shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map. The earliest building is the church of St Mary which dates to the thirteenth century but is thought to overlie an earlier structure. More than 30 listed buildings survive in the historic core of the village. The layout of the village at the time of the first edition Ordnance Survey map survives well.

**Historic Urban character:** The historic core of Great Baddow is centred on Church Street and High Street. The earliest surviving building in the settlement is the church of St Mary which dates to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. This is thought to be on the site of an earlier structure, probably of late Saxon origin. Listed buildings survive on the road frontages of High Street and Church Street. The layout of the settlement visible on the first edition Ordnance Survey map shows that the majority of the layout has survived.

**Archaeological Character:** The historic core of Great Baddow is centred on the High Street and Church Street. The 13<sup>th</sup> century church is thought to lie on the site of an earlier church indicating the potential of a Saxon settlement in the immediate area.

Within the fabric of the church Roman material is visible indicating the presence of a Roman building in its immediate vicinity. Any development within the High Street and Church Street area has the potential of uncovering early occupation deposits associated with the village development.

## **HECA 4: Middle Chelmer Valley**

**Summary:** Encompasses the floodplain and valley sides of the River Chelmer downstream from Chelmsford with drift geology of alluvium, river terrace sand/gravel, glaciofluvial sand/gravel and head clay/silt/sand/gravel. Traditional land use is divided between pasture in the valley bottom and arable on the valley sides. The valley is largely occupied by scattered farmsteads and little development has occurred other than that at Boreham, which in the second half of the 20th century has been developed into a clearly defined nucleated village. There has been mineral extraction at several sites within the valley.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The historic settlement pattern comprises dispersed, polyfocal settlement and scattered farmsteads. Some of the field boundaries are likely to be of great antiquity, overall the field pattern was of medium to large fields with many boundaries of ancient origin but including some later enclosure of the 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and the establishment of a park around Boreham House. A band of meadow pasture is identifiable along the route of the Chelmer and its tributaries, much of which has been converted to arable in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, however, significant areas survive, most notably immediately east of Chelmsford town centre. The boundary between these areas of traditional pasture is defined by clear boundaries often including lynchets, even where converted to arable remains of these boundaries often survive offering the possibility of relatively easy restoration. There are some small areas of ancient woodland on the valley sides.

Modern impacts on the countryside consist of moderate to significant field boundary loss, the growth of Boreham and the construction of the A12 Chelmsford bypass and mineral extraction often in the form of borrow pits and agricultural reservoirs. Despite this, the historic grain of the landscape is largely preserved.

**Archaeological Character:** The valley contains a varied and valuable archaeological resource within a significant cropmark landscape of trackways, field systems, enclosures and ring-ditches. Much of the nationally important Great Baddow Late Bronze Age enclosure survives. The major prehistoric monuments such as the Springfield Neolithic Cursus and the Springfield Lyons Late Bronze Age enclosure (excavated during the development of Chelmer village [see HECA 2]) were originally significant elements in this landscape. There is a concentration of finds of Bronze Age metalwork around Boreham which extends across the valley into HECA5. Recent work within the valley has shown the potential for the survival of multi-period remains (Neolithic-Medieval) is high. This work has also shown that particularly well preserved archaeological/environmental evidence can be expected within and/or beneath alluvial deposits within the floodplain, of the Chelmer and its tributaries.

Although the area is particularly noted for the quality of evidence relating to the prehistoric landscape, the valley also contains extensive World War II survivals and the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation whose construction began in 1793, and which now forms the core of a linear Conservation Area along the floor of the valley.

## **HECA 5: Danbury Ridge**

**Summary:** Danbury Ridge rises sharply from the Middle Chelmer Valley and land to the south east to form one of the highest points in Essex at around 107 metres OD. The surface geology is largely glaciofluvial sand and gravel over exposed London clay. Danbury village is the focus of settlement and developed around the 12<sup>th</sup> century church of St. John the Baptist which is situated on the highest point on the medieval route between Chelmsford and Maldon. The village has expanded significantly in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Woodland and common land is an important feature of the area with three named commons of medieval origin. Much of the woodland is ancient but some is of later date developed on former heath and common land.

**Historic Landscape Character:** Historically, settlement was dispersed around several commons and greens, with a small nucleated settlement around the church of St. John the Baptist in Danbury, and the church/hall complex at Little Baddow. The fields are small and irregular in shape and of ancient origin, and there has been very little boundary loss. There are also areas of ancient woodland, and secondary woodland developed on former commons. The woods and commons form a complex of designated nature reserves and the grounds of Danbury Palace are now a country park. Recent settlement expansion has occurred around Danbury and along the roads of Little Baddow and there has also been some gravel extraction. Despite this the essential historic character of the landscape survives.

**Archaeological Character:** Danbury Camp, a middle/late Iron Age hillfort is situated at the crest of the south facing slope and a major archaeological feature within the area. The woods and commons preserve many earthwork boundaries and other features of medieval origin together with further undated earthworks within woodland on the north facing slope overlooking the Middle Chelmer Valley. The presence of a number of small raised bogs indicates the potential for recovery of environmental data.

Finds of Neolithic, Bronze Age and Roman date within the area, together with medieval finds in the vicinity of the church and main road, point to considerable archaeological potential.

## **HECA 6: South East –East Hanningfield, Bicknacre, Woodham Ferrers**

**Summary:** The landscape is one of open and undulating arable cultivation with scattered copse and small woodlands, rising to around 72 metres OD. The land falls away sharply to the south at the Woodham Scarp. Geology is of exposed London Clay and Claygate Member over much of the area, overlain by Head clay/silt/sand/gravel. The area contains a small number of historic villages and a settlement pattern of further scattered farmsteads and medieval moated sites.

**Historic Landscape Character:** Historically, the settlement pattern was dispersed, some of it being focussed on commons. Irregular fields are mixed in with the predominant rectilinear (co-axial) fields of ancient origin. These are mostly aligned east to west. There are a few ancient woodlands in the north of the area. There is more recent expansion of settlement at Bicknacre, East Hanningfield and Rettendon. Significant boundary loss has resulted in the creation of larger fields but these still respect the general alignment of the co-axial field system. The commons were mostly enclosed by the 19th century, but part of their extent can be seen in the surviving field boundary system.

**Archaeological Character:** Cropmark evidence is slight largely due to the geological character of the area which is not conducive to cropmark formation. Little archaeological fieldwork has been undertaken. However, recent investigations in advance of the construction of the new A130 has identified extensive deposits of Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British date illustrating the area has been extensively utilised in the past. Roman kilns are known from Rettendon and medieval moated sites survive throughout the landscape. Part of the medieval Priory church can be seen at Bicknacre. Significant elements of the World War II GHQ defensive line remain and follow the line of the old A130.

## **HECA 7: South Woodham Ferrers**

**Summary:** South Woodham Ferrers is a well-planned riverside new town developed in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. The town is enclosed on three sides by the tidal waters of the River Crouch and incorporates a mix of commercial and residential areas. It is noted for its architecture - modern buildings in the Essex vernacular.

**Historic Urban Character:** South Woodham Ferrers comprises a new town built in the 1970's overlying an area of plotlands that had originally developed largely in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



**Archaeological Character:** The settlement originated in 1913, taking its name from the village of Woodham Ferrers, which lies to the north. The place name Woodham comes from the Saxon for "wood" and "farm" while Ferrers was the name of the manor's Norman lord in the 1070s. The site was originally laid out as Plotlands and eventually developed into the new town seen today in the 1970's and 80's. The development would have destroyed the majority of earlier archaeological deposits within the built up areas.

## **HECA 8: The Coastal Zone**

**Summary:** Chelmsford Borough's only coast, situated on the north bank of the Crouch estuary. The area comprises low lying salt marsh, and former saltmarsh, creeks which were traditionally used for grazing and providing access to the sea. The area contains an important and varied archaeological resource.

**Historic Landscape Character:** An area of creek and saltmarsh used for grazing and salt production, much of the traditional pasture survives or has been restored, and most now lies within nature reserves, country park or other public open space.

**Archaeological Character:** The sequence of archaeological deposits within the intertidal zone of the upper Crouch was first recorded in 1910 and is one of the cornerstones of our understanding of the archaeology of the Essex coast. The coastal zone around the Crouch estuary has been the subject of an extensive programme of fieldwork and survey and particularly in the area of Fenn Creek. Ancient land surfaces containing evidence of Mesolithic/Neolithic activity and occupation are overlain and protected by later deposits of peat and clay which together provide a chronological sequence for the development of the estuary and human occupation/exploitation from the Mesolithic to the late Roman period. A salt production site at Fenn Creek dating from the Middle Bronze Age is one of the earliest known in Britain. Documentary evidence attests to exploitation of this landscape in the late medieval early post-medieval with

earthworks relating to salt production survive in the grazing marsh of Marsh Farm Country Park. A wide range of surviving archaeological deposits and features, from evidence of Mesolithic activity to post medieval sea defences, wharfs and salterns may be expected within this zone and can occur on the old land surface, within the estuarine clays and peats or around the estuarine alluvium and grazing marsh.

## **HECA 9: Crouch Valley slopes, Rettendon, Runwell, Downham**

**Summary:** Undulating arable landscape with extensive views dropping sharply from around 60 metres OD at Rettendon to 10 metres OD at Runwell in the Crouch Valley. Geology consists of London Clay and Claygate Member with deposits of Head clay/silt/sand/gravel. Rettendon Church dominates the skyline viewed from the south and west.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The historic settlement pattern is very dispersed consisting mostly of scattered farmsteads along the slope. These are set in a strongly rectilinear field pattern which is orientated north-south and consists of small co-axial fields. The road pattern respects this layout with lots of right angle bends. There has been some boundary loss but the impact is minimal. There are patches of ancient woodland. The original settlement has been augmented by more recent development along some of the roads. Runwell, at the bottom of the slope has grown considerably.

**Archaeological Character:** There are few cropmarks in the area, probably due to the nature of the geology. However, there is considerable archaeological potential with a range of known Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman sites and finds distributed across the area from Rettendon, through Runwell, a significant Roman settlement possibly a villa complex lies just across the Crouch at Beachamps Farm. Wickford. In addition work on the line of the new A130 has revealed Iron Age deposits at Curry Hill and a Romano-British kiln site is known at Rettendon Hall.

## **HECA 10: South of Chelmsford – Hanningfield Reservoir, Stock and Margaretting**

**Summary:** Dominated to the east by Hanningfield Reservoir constructed in the 1950's. The landscape is undulating rising to around 94 metres OD at Stock. The geology comprises of London clay to the east, with Claygate member to the west overlain by Bagshot formation sand/gravels and Head clay silt/sand/gravel in the river valleys. The historic settlement pattern was dispersed (with the exception of a nucleated settlement at Stock) with scattered farms, medieval moated sites, commons and woods.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The historic settlement was dispersed with scattered farmsteads, some of the settlement being focussed on commons, which lay along the highest ground. The field pattern consists of many small fields of ancient origin, both grid-like co-axial and irregular in shape. There are many small areas of ancient woodland through the area, with some secondary woodland developed on former common. Moderate to significant boundary loss in the north of the area has created larger fields. Some of the villages have seen more recent development, creating a more nucleated appearance as at Ramsden Heath. Galleywood in particular has grown considerably but has retained its common. A major impact on the area was the construction of the Hanningfield Reservoir, formed by damning the Sandon Brook. Although significantly altering the landscape here, new plantations have been added along the fringes of the reservoir, creating a valuable, managed, natural environment. The north of the area is cut by the A12 Chelmsford bypass and the main line railway from London to Chelmsford.

**Archaeological Character:** Cropmark evidence is sparse, relating mostly to post-medieval field boundaries. Limited fieldwork has illustrated the potential for surviving prehistoric and Roman deposits with finds of Bronze Age metalwork including some items of gold, which are not common in Essex. Significant assemblages of flintwork have been collected from field surfaces in the Wid valley. Regionally important medieval and post-medieval pottery industries are known at Stock and Mill Green. A significant

part of the Napoleonic defences at Chelmsford survive within woodland on rising ground at Galleywood Common.

## **HECA 11: Hylands Park, Writtle and Highwood**

**Summary:** This area has a well wooded rolling landscape, including the medieval Writtle Forest and Deer Park, together with the later parkland at Highlands park. The geology is predominantly claygate member overlain by Bagshot formation sand/gravel and Stanmore sand/gravel with Head clay/silt/sand/gravel in river valleys. Medieval moated sites include an early 13<sup>th</sup> century Royal Hunting Lodge at Writtle.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The historic settlement consists of dispersed villages focussed on greens and commons, and scattered farmsteads, set in an irregular field and woodland pattern. Valley bottom pasture existed along the Roxwell Brook and River Can. The complex landscape of Writtle Forest with its compartmentalised coppice woodland surrounded by banks and ditches, commons, and green lanes is a fine example of a medieval forest of national significance and comparable with the better known Hatfield Forest in north-west Essex. The Forest extends across the boundary into Brentwood District. The medieval Writtle deer park formed part of the landscape adjacent to Writtle Forest, part of which is now converted to arable however its boundaries are well preserved. In the early 18th century the creation of Hylands House and its landscaped grounds was a significant change to the landscape.

Much of the area has had moderate boundary loss, creating some areas of large, but still irregular, fields. More significant boundary loss has occurred in the north of the area. Within Writtle there has been a spread of development which gradually encompassed two greens and the village has taken on the characteristics of a nucleated settlement in relatively modern times.

**Archaeological character:** The main settlement historically is Writtle, with its origins as a Saxon royal vill, although Roman material has also been found within the town. Further evidence for more widespread Roman activity has recently been identified to the north-west of Writtle town and an earthwork in Birch Spring Wood has been partly excavated and dated to the Roman period and more may be expected throughout the area. Although some flintwork has been recovered from Writtle Forest, there is presently, little evidence of prehistoric occupation. However, it is certain that the area would have been utilised prior to the Roman period, and the lack of evidence is a reflection of lack of archaeological fieldwork. The excavations at the royal palace generally known as King John's Hunting Lodge have made it one of the cornerstones for our understanding of medieval moated sites. Many earthwork boundary features of medieval date exist in Writtle Forest, together with some that are probably earlier.

## **HECA 12: West of Chelmsford and the Can Valley**

**Summary:** Undulating arable plateau landscape reaching a height of c.90 metres OD, cut by the River Can and with frequent but scattered villages, hamlets, farms and medieval moated sites. Drift geology comprise largely of boulder clay with exposed deposits of head clay/silt/sand/gravel in the River Can basin with isolated deposits of Kesgrave and glaciofluvial sand/gravel which have been subject to extraction.

**Historic Landscape Character:** This area has a historic dispersed settlement pattern, often originally focussed on greens, with scattered farmsteads. Small roads and green lanes link the settlements. There are many small irregular fields of ancient origin across the area, with pockets of sinuous co-axial fields. There are also a few, small woods of ancient origin and a few ponds, and valley bottom pasture originally along the River Can and most of the more minor watercourses. Significant boundary loss, particularly on the higher ground, has created large open fields. There are a few areas of gravel extraction.

**Archaeological character:** Cropmarks are frequent in the area with those in the extreme west largely representing post medieval field boundary loss. On the slope overlooking the Can and Chelmer valleys further cropmarks are indicative of prehistoric occupation, probably Iron Age enclosures and settlement. A number of Bronze Age hoards have been identified and a Late Bronze Age cremation cemetery, settlement and shrine, have been excavated at Broads Green, indicating considerable potential for early settlement evidence. Middle Iron Age settlement has been recorded within the area. There is a major Roman villa at Chignall and a number of others potential sites are known to exist in the area. A small medieval settlement has been excavated at Chignall and Pleshey Castle is a nationally important example of a 12<sup>th</sup> century motte and bailey castle with associated town enclosure.

## **HECA 13: The Upper Chelmer Valley**

**Summary:** Narrow valley and floodplain containing both arable and pasture and some parkland elements. Geology of Head clay/silt/sand/gravel, alluvium and deposits of glaciofluvial and river terrace sand and gravel, and London clay. Significant mineral extraction has occurred on suitable deposits. The historic settlement pattern was dispersed but modern development has created nucleated villages at Great Waltham and Little Waltham and extensive ribbon development at Broomfield.

**Historic Landscape character:** Historically, settlement was polyfocal with many dispersed farmsteads. The fields were small, often of regular shape, with long narrow fields running alongside the river. Traditionally valley bottom pasture existed on the banks of the Chelmer throughout the area and survives in places particularly in the southern part of this area. In the early 18th century a park was created around Langleys at Great Waltham, creating a significant change to the landscape.

The area has suffered from a varying amount of boundary loss. Settlement expansion has focussed particularly on Broomfield, though Little Waltham and Great Waltham have also grown. There has been minor growth in the other villages.

**Archaeological Character:** Significant cropmarks occur on the valley terraces indicating a variety of surviving buried archaeology. There have been a number of important finds of Bronze and Iron Age, Roman and Saxon date. Included amongst these are a Late Bronze age enclosed settlement at Broomfield, an extensive Middle Iron Age settlement at Little Waltham and the nationally important early Saxon Broomfield burial. Evidence of Saxon settlement has been excavated at Broomfield and Great Waltham. There are also significant remnants of the World War II GHQ defence line. The potential for further archaeological survival is high.

## **HECA 14: Northeast of Chelmsford – Boreham – Leighs Plateau**

**Summary:** Gently undulating plateau landscape rising to around 65m OD, bounded by the Upper Chelmer Valley to the west and the Middle Chelmer Valley to the south. The plateau is bisected by the Ter valley to the north with deposits of glaciofluvial sand and gravel and exposed London Clay. The area is mainly under arable cultivation with a landscape of scattered farmsteads and medieval moated sites. Significant mineral extraction has taken place and is continuing in the areas of sand and gravel. Extensive archaeological deposits of multi-period date have been recovered during excavation in advance of quarrying.

**Historic Landscape character:** There is a historic pattern of dispersed settlements and scattered farmsteads. Some of the settlements would have been originally focussed on greens. There are irregular fields of various sizes, and there are several areas of ancient woodlands, particularly in the Ter valley. The Ter and smaller streams were fringed with valley bottom pasture which survives in places. Boundary loss has been low to moderate. The construction of Boreham Airfield during the Second World War created a major impact on the landscape. Other modern uses have cut across the landscape, with

a major road running north from Chelmsford, two golf courses, the Essex Show Ground, and areas of gravel extraction. Modern settlement expansion has focussed on Great Leighs.

**Archaeological character:** A number of archaeological sites have been investigated along or close to the crest of the south facing plateau slope. These include Great Holts Roman villa, an apsidal Roman building at Bulls Lodge and a medieval farm complex including a windmill at Boreham Airfield. Surviving prehistoric deposits have been demonstrated on the plateau in the vicinity of Boreham Airfield, a former World War II USAAF base.

Other than mineral extraction and the construction of the airfield, previous development has been slight and there is a high probability of further diverse and significant archaeological sites surviving particularly on the southern and western plateau slopes.



## **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 HECA's. 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 Chelmsford Borough.

### **4.2 Methodology**

Through a combination of analysing the main datasets such as Ancient Woodland, historic mapping, 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 were prepared.

The descriptions drew on a range of sources and attempted 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 these 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 area.

2 = Historic environment does, or could help define a sense of place of the area. There may be specific elements which are or could be promoted such as woodlands, castles etc.

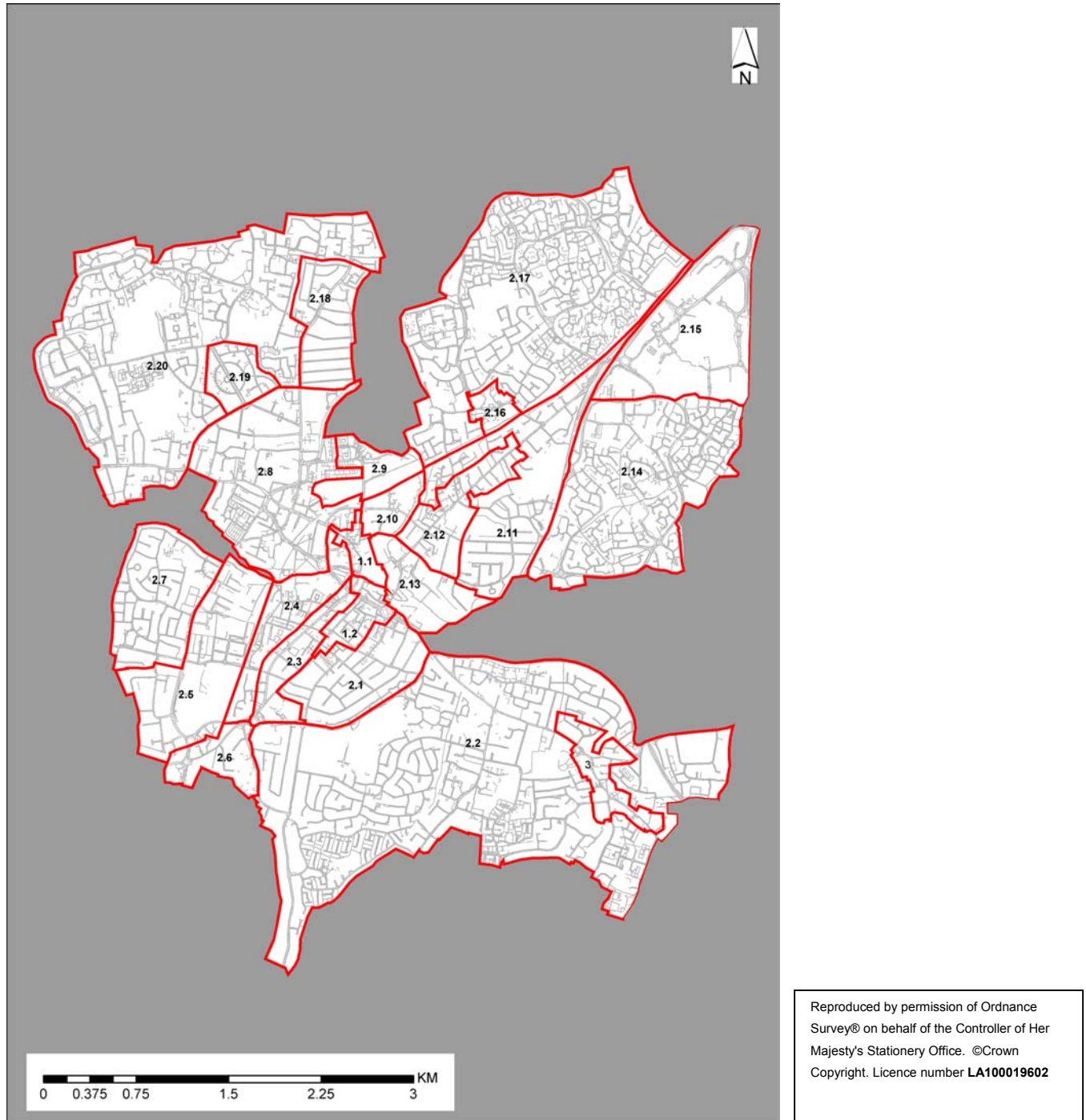
3 = The historic environment plays, or could play a key role in the zones sense of place for the local people and visitors. The zone contains assets which, are or could be, promoted for the benefit of local people or visitors.

#### **4.4 Key Issues**

In a number of cases following the description and scoring of the HECZ's an additional section on key issues has been included. This identifies points of particular relevance to the particular HECZ which will need to be considered and/or incorporated into master planning, development proposals or more general policies. In particular in a number of cases where the complexity and/or sensitivity of the historic environment warrants it, the need for archaeological evaluation/impact assessment has been identified. It should be noted that this does not necessarily mean that for developments in the remainder of the zones such evaluation/impact assessment will not be necessary.

## 5 Chelmsford Historic Environment Characterisation Zones

### 1 HECA 1



*Fig :9 Historic Environment Character Zones within the built up area of Chelmsford*

## ***1.1 The historic core of Chelmsford***

**Summary:** This zone comprises the medieval core of Chelmsford. The medieval street pattern, including the original funnel shaped market in front of the church is the dominant feature. Extensive, archaeological deposits are known to survive. This area has been at the commercial heart of Chelmsford continuously since the medieval period and the present layout of the buildings reflect this.

*Urban Character:* This zone comprises the central shopping area of Chelmsford and the parish church and churchyard (since 1914 the cathedral of the Diocese of Chelmsford) and its precinct. The northern part of the zone lies within the Chelmsford central conservation area. The street frontages comprise modern shop fronts however the medieval street pattern remains dominant. The broad funnel shape of the original medieval market, which now forms the top end of the High Street is very clear. The V shaped block of buildings, between the present Lloyds and HSBC Banks, bisected by Shire Passage and Crown Passage represent market infill and preserve the medieval property boundaries is particularly striking. The lower end of this zone is marked by John Johnson's fine 18th century bridge across the Can, and the upper end is dominated visually by his Shire Hall. Historically the Can marked the boundary between the separate manors of Chelmsford and Moulsham, but the construction of Parkway in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century fundamentally altered this and it is likely that most people now instinctively regard the area between Parkway and the Can as part of the High Street with Moulsham Street beginning south of Parkway. The dominance of Shire Hall, adjacent to the cathedral and its churchyard, at the upper end of the High Street is a visual reminder of the long and continuing function of Chelmsford as a centre of political, judicial and ecclesiastical administration. The fact that this zone still forms the main shopping area as it has continuously since the medieval period means that whilst the frontages and property boundaries preserve their medieval alignments the buildings themselves are of many different periods. Most have shop fronts of 20<sup>th</sup>, or in some cases 21<sup>st</sup> century date. The second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century saw major redevelopments behind the High Street to both the west and east.





*Fig: 10 Chelmsford Cathedral, showing the late 15<sup>th</sup> century tower and flushwork decorated porch with modern buildings in the background*

*Archaeological Character.* This zone forms the historic core of medieval Chelmsford. The medieval town was founded at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century by the Bishop of London in the area of the modern High Street. The wooden Can Bridge was replaced by a stone bridge in 1372 and finally by the present stone bridge in 1787. Royal charters were granted for a market in 1199, and an annual fair in 1201. Both documentary and excavated evidence confirm that the town was occupied from the outset, and its market was immediately successful. The parish church of St Mary, at the head of the market was established in the early thirteenth century, but was completely rebuilt in the late 15<sup>th</sup> and early 16<sup>th</sup> century. During the Georgian period the nave had to be rebuilt following a major collapse. Walker's map of 1591 gives an impression of the original medieval

layout, although the market place was progressively infilled from the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Excavations have shown that 14<sup>th</sup> century urban expansion occurred along the south end of New Street. Excavations within the town have found extensive surviving archaeological deposits of medieval and post medieval date lying both beneath the present street frontage structures and in areas behind them. Victorian cellarge has destroyed some areas of archaeological stratigraphy, especially on the road frontage. Details of the historic town are given in the historic town report (Medlycott 1999)

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Wide range of important standing listed buildings and below ground archaeological deposits	3
• Survival	Medieval street pattern survives well. Listed buildings survive, many with altered frontages, Some good areas of below ground archaeology survive	2
• Documentation	Historic town report, excavation reports, many historic studies, cartographic evidence	3
• Group Value Association	Historic environment assets all relate to the historic town	2
• Potential	High potential for better understanding of the surviving archaeological deposits and the existing built heritage	2
• Sensitivity to change	Street Pattern, road frontages, buildings and below ground deposits are sensitive to change	2
• Amenity Value	Historic identity of the town has a high promotional value and could be well understood by the local community	3

## **Key issues**

- **Important to preserve the present street layout of the historic town and this should be clearly identified in any strategic or masterplan proposal**
- **Below ground deposits need to be taken into consideration at an early stage in any development or master plan proposals. It is probable that the results of archaeological field evaluation will be required to be submitted with the planning applications**
- **Conservation of the listed buildings should be integral to strategic planning for this zone. Impact of development or master plan proposals on standing buildings both listed and unlisted needs to be considered at an early stage.**

### ***1.2 Moulsham Street***

**Summary:** The Moulsham Street Zone contains the modern conservation area of Moulsham Street. The present urban character has buildings close to the road frontage, with the layout having its origins in the medieval period. Beneath the present buildings lies the Roman town of Caesaromagus. The north western corner of the zone contains the 13<sup>th</sup> century Dominican Friary. Important stratified archaeological deposits exist throughout this area with particularly significant Roman, medieval and post-medieval deposits. Details of the development of this zone are provided within the Historic Town Assessment (Medlycott 1999).

*Urban character:* At the northern end of Moulsham Street are buildings which have medieval origins and are positioned on the edge of the footpath. These buildings define a tight street-space, heading south-west, however Victorian buildings predominate, some being set back slightly from the street, behind low walls and railings. The majority of this area lies within the Moulsham Street Conservation Area. During the medieval

period Moulsham Street expanded with ribbon development and was provided with a market place at the northern end of the Street. The buildings are domestic in scale now accommodating a range of shops and eateries. To the east of Moulsham Street a range of residential terraced properties developed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

*Archaeological character.* Beneath the present Moulsham Street zone lies the Roman town of Caesaromagus. This comprises a fort dated to post 60AD with development of the town throughout the next 300 years. Moulsham Street follows the line of the main street of the Roman town, the core of which was surrounded by a defensive ditch (in places at least a triple ditch) and earth rampart. Excavation has revealed extensive and substantial remains of a Mansio, a government building which provided accommodation for officials, and its associated bathhouse. Buildings and property boundaries have been revealed fronting the main street, extensive ribbon development has been recorded along Baddow road and either side of what is now Parkway. During the construction of Parkway an octagonal temple was excavated under what is now the Odeon roundabout. Documentary evidence shows that during the medieval period the Moulsham Street zone developed with the provision of a market place at the northern end of the Street followed by ribbon development along it. Excavations in the Moulsham Street area have demonstrated good survival of medieval and post medieval archaeological deposits (Cunningham and Drury 1985).



*Fig: 11 Excavations in Moulsham Street Zone showing extensive survival of Roman walls and other deposits, in this case of the bathhouse serving the Mansio*

The site of Chelmsford's 13th century Dominican Friary was partly excavated during the construction of Parkway in the north western corner of the zone. Much of the plan of the church and its associated buildings was recovered and investigated by members of the then Chelmsford Excavation Committee.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Wide range of important listed buildings and highly significant below ground archaeological deposits	3
• Survival	Buildings survive well above ground. Below ground archaeological deposits survive well due to depth of deposits	2
• Documentation	Archaeological reports, HER data, Historic town assessment. Cartographic evidence	3
• Group Value Association	Range of surviving assets related to the	2

	Roman town and medieval occupation of the Moulsham manor	
• 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 also 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

### **Key issues**

- **Important to preserve the layout of the historic area and the below ground deposits of Moulsham and this should be clearly identified in any strategic or master plan proposals.**
- **Below ground deposits need to be taken into consideration at an early stage in any development or master plan proposals. It is probable that the results of archaeological field evaluation will be required to be submitted with the planning applications**
- **Conservation of the listed buildings should be integral to strategic and master planning for this zone. Impact of development or master plan proposals on standing buildings both listed and unlisted needs to be considered at an early stage.**

## 2 HECA 2

### 2.1 Residential expansion to east of Mildmay Road

**Summary:** This zone comprises residential development to the east of Mildmay Road. Residential development took place within this zone during the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Archaeological investigations along Parkway have shown the presence of Roman ribbon development in the northern part of this zone.

*Urban Character:* Residential expansion to the east of Mildmay Road between 1924 and 1938. The zone largely comprises terraced properties laid out in a regular manner.

*Archaeological Character:* Roman occupation has been identified in the northern part of this zone along the Parkway area. The cemetery associated with the town is likely to extend down Moulsham Street. During the early post-medieval period Thomas Mildmay and his son built an impressive mansion, Moulsham Hall, on the southern outskirts of the town. The Hall was rebuilt in the Georgian style in 1728-43. It was leased to the army during the Napoleonic wars, fell into disrepair, and was demolished in 1809. The hall has now been built over, however some deposits will survive within the garden areas.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Limited diversity with Roman deposits in northern part of the zone	2
• Survival	Extensive housing has disturbed much of the zone. However archaeological deposits are likely to survive	2
• Documentation	HER data, excavation reports, Cartographic and documentary evidence	2
• Group Value Association	Little group value	1
• Potential	Has potential in the northern area for Roman deposits	2

• Sensitivity to change	Largely residential apart from the northern area along Parkway	1
• Amenity Value	Limited amenity value within itself however, it could be associated to the amenity value within HECZ 1.2	1

## Key issues

- **Redevelopment along Parkway will impact on Roman extra mural deposits. It is essential that development proposals and planning applications include appropriate assessment of the below ground potential.**

## 2.2 Great Baddow

**Summary:** This zone comprises the area of urban expansion around the old village of Great Baddow. It lies on the southern side of the River Chelmer on mixed geology. Ribbon development occurred in the 19<sup>th</sup> century along Baddow Road. Housing expansion on a significant scale has taken place since the 1950's through to the present day in this area. Few archaeological sites or deposits are known from the area, with much of the housing development taking place prior to archaeological monitoring of such expansion.

*Historic Urban Character:* The second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century saw extensive residential development to the south of the river Chelmer linking the historic village of Great Baddow with the town of Chelmsford. Large scale expansion occurred in the 1950-60's with the construction of the Moulsham Lodge and Tile Kiln developments. 19<sup>th</sup> century ribbon development occurred along Baddow Road with a mixture of terraced and semi detached dwellings. Prior to the expansion the settlement pattern comprised dispersed farmsteads.



*Archaeological Character:* Few archaeological sites or deposits are recorded from this urban area. Part of the Napoleonic defences of Chelmsford, constructed in 1803, were located within this zone. Evaluation trenches in the garden area of Moulsham Hall identified the remains of fish ponds, and it is possible further garden features lie within the school grounds.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Mainly mid to late 20 <sup>th</sup> century housing, some 19 <sup>th</sup> century ribbon development, Napoleonic defences important but largely destroyed	2
• Survival	Modern housing disturbed most of the area, 19 <sup>th</sup> century ribbon development survives.	1
• Documentation	HER data, Specific reports on the Napoleonic defences, cartographic evidence.	2
• Group Value Association	Limited range of associated assets	1
• Potential	Possible potential in undeveloped green spaces	1
• Sensitivity to change	Dense post 1950 housing development would indicate limited sensitivity	1
• Amenity Value	Very limited	1

### **2.3 New London Road Zone**

**Summary:** This zone comprises properties on either side of New London Road and the area between New London Road and Moulsham Street. The present layout developed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with both residential and industrial development. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century the Anchor Ironworks and a series of brickfields developed in the zone. A large part of the zone comprises the conservation area of New London Road. It is probable that extra mural settlement associated with the Roman town and a cemetery lie within this zone.

*Historic Urban character:* Residential expansion centring on New London Road developed from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century initially as ribbon development along the road comprising houses set in their own grounds. The majority of this zone is protected as a conservation area. Industrial development in the 19<sup>th</sup> century comprised brickfields between Upper Bridge Street and New London Road and the development of the Anchor Ironworks which was located within Upper Anchor Street.

The Anchor Ironworks is recorded as being run by Thomas Bewley in 1833; by 1878 the renamed Arc Works was owned by Crompton and Co. specialising in the manufacture of dynamos and arc lamps. Crompton was a pioneer in the use of electric lighting schemes and in 1890 a power station was used to illuminate the streets of Chelmsford. The London Road Iron Works established at the corner of London Road and New Writtle Street specialised in the production of agricultural equipment and general metal goods. Subsequently it became the Crown Works, but the site is now occupied by modern industrial units and only a much altered single-storey range survives.



*Fig: 12 The only element of the Anchor Ironworks surviving, fronting onto Upper Anchor Street*

**Archaeological Character:** Archaeological deposits of prehistoric date have been recovered with finds largely comprising flint work. Roman pottery vessels, probably from outlying cremation burials associated with the Roman town have been recovered from the southern end of New London Road and it is possible that further burials exist. These burials would have been associated with the town with it being normal practice to have cemeteries on the roads leading out of the settlement. The location of this zone immediately to the west of the Roman town would suggest the potential of extra mural settlement and ribbon development extending into it.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diversity of historic environment assets</li> </ul>	A diverse range of below ground archaeological assets and above ground listed and unlisted buildings	3
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• Survival	Good survival of buildings, some industrial elements survive. Multi-period Below ground deposits survive	2
• Documentation	Historic town assessment, excavation reports, cartographic data, industrial thematic surveys	2
• Group Value Association	Standing buildings, industrial evidence, elements relating to the Roman settlement	2
• Potential	High potential of surviving archaeological deposits and for better understanding of the existing built heritage	2
• Sensitivity to change	Present layout and buildings sensitive to change, surviving industrial buildings and below ground deposits sensitive	2
• Amenity Value	Historic identity of this zone has a high promotional value. Potential of promotion of the below ground and built heritage via interpretation, booklets etc	2

### Key issues

- **Below ground deposits need to be taken into consideration at an early stage in any development or master plan proposals. It is likely that the results of archaeological field evaluation will be required to be submitted with planning applications**
- **Conservation of the listed buildings and industrial structures should be integral to strategic planning for this zone. Impact of development or master plan proposals on standing buildings both listed and unlisted needs to be considered at an early stage.**

## **2.4 Area to the East of the railway line and west of New London Road**

**Summary:** This zone largely comprises residential occupation originating in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. A series of brickfields of 19<sup>th</sup> century date are recorded all of which lie beneath residential areas.

*Historic Urban Character:* The majority of this zone contains residential properties largely developed in the early to middle 20<sup>th</sup> century. Some areas of 19<sup>th</sup> century terrace housing survive in Lower Anchor Road. The earliest residential development was in the area of New Writtle Street and Lower Anchor Street, centred on the area of the old brickworks. The Essex County cricket ground was constructed in 1966. The southern part of the zone was not developed until the later part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

*Archaeological Character:* The dominant archaeological features within this area are the post medieval brickworks. The HER records three brickworks within this zone, now all redeveloped for housing. These brickworks would have removed most traces of any earlier occupation in the area.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Largely mid 20 <sup>th</sup> century development over earlier brickfields	1
• Survival	Brickfields and modern housing destroyed most below ground deposits.	1
• Documentation	HER data and industrial thematic report on the brick making industry	2
• Group Value Association	Little group value	1
• Potential	Little potential for below ground deposits as area is heavily developed	1
• Sensitivity to change	Mainly built over with 20 <sup>th</sup> century residential development	1
• Amenity Value	Very limited	1

## **2.5 Commercial properties around Waterhouse Lane.**

**Summary:** A zone located on the eastern side of Waterhouse Lane. Modern town comprises mainly large commercial properties and Chelmsford cemetery, with modern residential development. This zone was important for its post-medieval industrial facilities, most of which is now lost to modern commercial and residential development. The archaeological character, apart from the industrial component is limited to finds of Roman material including one cemetery which was probably associated with the Roman town.

*Historic Urban Character:* The area to the north of Writtle Road had the original Crompton's Arc Works, built in 1896, which had its own railway sidings. Much of this has been developed for residential occupation but the main office block fronting Writtle Road survives and has been converted (see below). To the north of this lay the English Electric Valve Company (c. 1940's) and the Marconi electrics factory (1960's). Today this zone comprises largely modern commercial buildings with factories and many car show rooms. On the western side of Waterhouse Lane in the southern half of the zone a series of modern factory units are present. A small block of residential terraced housing lies at the junction of Writtle Road and Waterhouse Lane. On the third edition OS (1924) this area is shown as Allotments so the buildings developed from the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



*Fig: 13 Gec Marconi Writtle Road and Crompton Street Frontage, which was recorded prior to conversion*

*Archaeological Character:* Archaeological character is dominated by the industrial heritage as described above. The earliest evidence of occupation comprises finds of Roman material, potentially originating from a cemetery. An area around Hanbury Road is recorded as a First World War airfield, however nothing survives of this.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	The historic environment of this zone is not characterised by a diverse range of assets however there are historically important industrial complexes	1
• Survival	Some industrial buildings survive	2
• Documentation	Various industrial building recording projects and synthetic reports and HER data	3
• Group Value Association	Range of historically important industrial complexes	2
• Potential	Largely redeveloped, little potential for surviving below ground deposits	1

• Sensitivity to change	Much of the change has already occurred	1
• Amenity Value	Has a potential amenity value because of the interest in industrial Chelmsford	2

## 2.6 Widford

**Summary:** Widford originated as a small church/hall complex to the south of Chelmsford. The church dates back to at least the 12<sup>th</sup> century and was associated with a moated hall, now built over close by. The zone contains one of the Star Forts of the Napoleonic defences. An early post medieval parsonage is also recorded lying in the grounds of the present school. Much of the area is now either residential or road corridors. The hospital of St Johns also lies within this zone which is an important range of buildings constructed to the design of Frederick Chancellor located within a conservation area.

*Historic Urban Character:* Settlement originally comprised the church and hall complex, later expanding to include a parsonage and workhouse. The workhouse was later converted to become the present hospital. Much of the area to the east of the old A12 has become residential in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. St. John's Hospital, (formerly Chelmsford Union Workhouse), was erected in circa 1837 to a cruciform plan, being rebuilt after a fire in 1886 to the design of Frederick Chancellor. The former workhouse is of considerable historical interest and is protected within a conservation area where it is described as 'an important component of the 19<sup>th</sup> century architectural and social history of Chelmsford'.

*Archaeological Character:* The area has a long history with the church at its centre. The church site is originally 12<sup>th</sup> century in date but was considerably rebuilt in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It originally began as a church/hall complex, with Widford Hall, a moated site, now destroyed by residential development. The zone contains one of the Star Forts of the Napoleonic defences built in 1803 as a response to the threat of a French invasion.



The forts were constructed from earth and timber but as soon as the work was completed their importance declined with the defeat of the French at Trafalgar. The majority of the defences have been levelled, however some earthworks survive within the golf course.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Wide range of historic assets of built and below ground assets	2
• Survival	Modern development destroyed some areas. Standing structures still survive in case of Church and hospital, and below ground deposits probably survive	2
• Documentation	Survey report on the Napoleonic defences, hospital survey, HER data	2
• Group Value Association	Elements of the Napoleonic defences and historic settlement of Widford.	2
• Potential	Below ground deposits may survive, building assessments on the hospital may identify important elements	2
• Sensitivity to change	Hospital buildings and area around church is sensitive	2
• Amenity Value	Some promotional value in the various elements, especially the Napoleonic defences, and the hospital buildings	2

### **Key issues**

- **The hospital buildings are a historically important complex and if development is proposed an appropriate impact assessment needs to be undertaken at a very early stage**

## 2.7 Residential Zone West of Waterhouse Lane

**Summary:** Zone of residential development to the west of Waterhouse Lane dating to the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A Roman cemetery was found in the grounds of the Westlands County Junior School.

*Historic Urban Character:* An area of residential development dating to the second half of the twentieth century.

*Archaeological Character:* The only significant archaeological deposits recorded comprise a Roman cemetery in the grounds of the Westlands County Junior School. This may relate to ribbon development from the Roman town or be associated with an outlying farm. Further deposits are likely to survive within the school playing fields.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Small range of assets	1
• Survival	Potential survival in undeveloped school area	2
• Documentation	Only HER data	1
• Group Value Association	Very few assets	1
• Potential	Limited to the area of the school	1
• Sensitivity to change	Limited to the area of the school	1
• Amenity Value	Limited amenity value. Promotion of the historic environment could be pursued in conjunction with other neighbouring zones.	1

### Key Issues

- **Development in the area of the school playing fields will potential affect the Roman cemetery**

## 2.8 Northern Central Chelmsford

**Summary:** This zone lies to the north west of the town centre forming the focus for large houses set in their own grounds in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Some of the plots still survive, but the majority of the zone is heavily built up with post 1950's residential properties. Part of the area lying inside Parkway is protected as the Chelmsford West End conservation area.

*Historic Urban Character:* The first edition OS (1881) shows this area as containing large houses in their own grounds with large areas of allotments along Rainsford Road and Broomfield Road. Between the third edition OS in 1924 and the fourth edition in 1938 two areas of dense residential development occurred along Rainsford Road. In the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the whole area was infilled with residential development. The railway arrived in Chelmsford in 1843 with the railway viaduct being a monument to Victorian engineering requiring over 10 million bricks to build. The area around Railway Street, Broomfield Road and Rainsford Road is protected as a conservation area.

*Archaeological Character:* Ribbon development starting in the medieval period would have continued throughout the post medieval period along Rainsford Road and Broomfield Road. The cartographic evidence shows large houses in their own grounds. Little archaeological research has been undertaken in this zone with a paucity of recorded deposits. A World War II Anti-Aircraft Rocket Site was established within central park. All evidence of this has been removed.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Diversity of historic environment assets</li></ul>	Upstanding buildings within the conservation area, railway, viaduct etc.	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Survival</li></ul>	It is possible that some green areas retain below ground deposits. Many interesting upstanding buildings	2

• Documentation	Historic Town report and HER data	2
• Group Value Association	Limited to post medieval house styles, railway history	1
• Potential	Largely developed, integrity of below ground deposits largely lost. Upstanding buildings may contain earlier elements	2
• Sensitivity to change	Layout of road frontages, post medieval property divisions would be sensitive. Railway features such as the viaduct are sensitive	2
• Amenity Value	The history of the railway and its viaduct is important and of considerable interest	2

### Key Issues

- **Protection of the boundaries and layout within the conservation area**
- **Design and visual impact of development in the vicinity of the viaduct**
- **Below ground deposits associated with initial expansion of the town may survive on road frontage developments.**

## 2.9 Chelmsford University Zone

**Summary:** This zone situated close to the river Chelmer has a long history. During the medieval period the zone was occupied by the Bishops Manor and it's associated mill. During the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the zone had been redeveloped for commercial production with a ball bearing factory and corn mill. This in recent times has been transformed into the Chelmsford University complex.

*Historic Urban Character:* During the medieval period the zone contained the site of the Bishops Hall and its mill. This was still extant on the first edition OS of 1881 but by the

third edition of 1924 the whole area had been transformed with the construction of a ball bearing factory, corn mill and Marconi Works.

The Marconi buildings on New Street were occupied from 1912, initially produced naval wireless sets, direction finders, aircraft sets and trench sets; subsequent developments involved TV production, transmitters and aerials. The first official British speech and music broadcasts came from this building in 1920 and this was followed in 1927 by the first BBC short-wave broadcast to the Empire. A grand two-storey office range fronts New Street with more utilitarian steel framed buildings to the rear. The surviving building of Globe House is believed to represent one of the earliest uses of steel framing in England, and it was formerly part of a factory complex, which was the birth place of the British precision ball-bearing industry. In the later part of the 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> century this zone is being transformed into the University quarter. Several elements of the industrial heritage of this zone survive, although as in the case of Globe House, these are in a converted form.

*Archaeological Character:* The earliest recorded occupation is that of the medieval Bishops Manor with its associated mill. This was linked to the main part of the medieval town by New Street. The industrial development in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century is an important element of the archaeological character. The 18<sup>th</sup> century mill house survives as offices and the mill building stood on the other side of the water race. The wrought iron axle for the wheel survives *in situ* together with part of the wooden sluice arrangement.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Wide range of known below ground and some built assets	3
• Survival	Limited below ground survival of bishops manor, some industrial elements survive	2
• Documentation	Historic town report, industrial surveys, excavation reports, HER data, Cartographic and documentary evidence	3

• Group Value Association	Industrial complexes have a good group value, although many have now been lost	2
• Potential	Potential for below ground deposits and protection of above ground structures	2
• Sensitivity to change	Surviving industrial buildings and remaining below ground deposits sensitive to change or conversion	2
• Amenity Value	Historic identity of the zone has a high promotional value, both for below ground and above ground assets	3

### **Key Issues**

- **Important industrial remains, including below ground deposits, survive in some areas. It is probable that the results of archaeological evaluation will be required to be submitted with the planning applications**

### ***2.10 Area to the North of Victoria Road***

**Summary:** This zone lies between the railway and Victoria Road and now comprises commercial and industrial units. Prior to the commercial development this area had contained some residential properties on the road frontages. No archaeological deposits are recorded.

*Historic Urban Character:* Some 19<sup>th</sup> century terrace residential development occurred along the northern side of Victoria Road and by the 1920's Regina Road had terraced properties both sides. The majority of these properties have now given way to commercial development. The Marconi Social Club survives at the junction of Victoria Road and New Street occupying a former Victorian school building. Outwardly there has been little change to the appearance of the building associated with its new role.

*Archaeological Character:* Little archaeological work has been undertaken in this zone and the work that has occurred has found extensive modern disturbance.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	19 <sup>th</sup> century terraces, Victorian school, no known archaeological deposits	1
• Survival	Extensively disturbed, unlikely that below ground deposits survive	1
• Documentation	No documentation	1
• Group Value Association	Mainly modern development	1
• Potential	Due to disturbance very limited potential	1
• Sensitivity to change	Little sensitivity as largely modern development	1
• Amenity Value	Little amenity value	1

## ***2.11 Residential expansion along Springfield Road***

**Summary:** Zone surrounding the earlier ribbon development along Springfield Road. It comprises a large area of housing, predominantly dating to the second half of the 20th century.

*Historic Urban Character:* Large zone of residential housing with open areas associated with the prison and Coronation Park. The southern residential development dates to the 1960's with rows of parallel housing, similar to that seen on Broomfield Road, and Mildmay Road (Zone 21 and 3). To the northern end of the Zone residential development took place later in the 1970's associated with the Springfield development.

*Archaeological Character:* A single chance find of a barbed and tanged arrow head is the only find of any antiquity in the zone. Cropmarks of a dismantled building complex

thought to date from World War II are recorded at Coronation Park. However, little archaeological work has been undertaken and archaeological deposits may well survive particularly in the undeveloped areas.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Few assets known. Range of 20 <sup>th</sup> century housing styles,	1
• Survival	If below ground deposits existed they are largely built over, however there is potential of survival within green areas	2
• Documentation	Cartographic data	1
• Group Value Association	20 <sup>th</sup> century housing styles	1
• Potential	Potential of below grounds deposits within green undeveloped areas.	1
• Sensitivity to change	Unsure of surviving deposits	1
• Amenity Value	Limited potential	1

### **Key Issues**

- **Within undeveloped areas such as school playing fields there is potential for below ground archaeological deposits to survive**

### **2.12 Springfield Road**

**Summary:** This zone comprises the post medieval ribbon development along the line of the Roman Road from Chelmsford to Colchester, now Springfield Road. One of the many mills situated on the banks of the Chelmer lies within this zone.

*Historic Urban Character:* This zone developed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century as ribbon development along Springfield Road remaining through to the middle part of the



twentieth century. After this date infill occurred out to the edge of this zone linking in with Zone 14. Chelmsford Prison was constructed at Springfield Hill in 1828 and has remained on the same site through to the present day.

*Archaeological Character:* Springfield Road forms part of the original Roman Road from Colchester to London. As such it has the potential for Roman road side settlement. Springfield Mill comprised an 18<sup>th</sup> century five storey weather-boarded under-shot watermill situated on the edge of the Chelmer. The conversion of the building into a pub and restaurant has seen the retention of the great spur wheel on a wooden vertical shaft; little else remains. There is a lack of further archaeological information largely due to the limited work undertaken.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Aspects of post medieval ribbon development and medieval industry.	2
• Survival	Some green areas will preserve deposits, some 19 <sup>th</sup> century structures survive	2
• Documentation	Only HER records	1
• Group Value Association	No associated historic environment assets	1
• Potential	Potential for roadside development of Roman and medieval date. Green areas have potential for surviving deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Area close to Springfield road sensitive to change in layout	1
• Amenity Value	Has potential amenity value due to the history of the mill and prison	1

### ***2.13 Commercial development by the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation***

**Summary:** This area lies to the south of the residential area of Springfield Road and to the north of the River Chelmer. It has been a commercial or industrial zone from the post medieval period and is at present going through a transformation with re-generation of the area. Part of the area lies within the Chelmer Blackwater Navigation Conservation Area.

*Historic Urban Character.* This zone was not developed until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century when a gas works was constructed on the site. This area forms the terminus of the Chelmer Navigation, part of the trans shipment point between Chelmsford and Heybridge now protected as a conservation area. Elements of the terminus survive within this zone. The gas works was expanded in the early to middle 20<sup>th</sup> century and during the later part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century various commercial buildings were built in the zone. Some residential properties of 19<sup>th</sup> century date were located on Springfield Road. This area is now being regenerated with residential and commercial uses.

*Archaeological Character.* During the post medieval period this zone was a trans shipment point between Chelmsford and Heybridge containing a limekiln, iron foundry, gas works, coke oven and timber and storage yard now mostly destroyed. A lock survives designed by the eminent engineer John Rennie. The area is important for its industrial heritage and especially the Chelmer Blackwater Navigation. Elements of the earlier gas works may survive.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Mainly industrial assets associated with the terminus of the Chelmer Blackwater Navigation	2
• Survival	Most destroyed, but the canal and lock survives, possible palaeo-environmental deposits surviving below ground	2
• Documentation	Detailed assessment of the Chelmer	2

	Blackwater navigation and historic town report	
• Group Value Association	Industrial structures and their association with the Chelmer Blackwater Navigation important	2
• Potential	Limited as buildings largely destroyed, possibility of palaeo-environmental deposits	1
• Sensitivity to change	Canal and associated assets sensitive to change	1
• Amenity Value	Potential for promotion of the industrial history of the navigation and other industrial structures that stood on the site.	2

### Key Issues

- **Establish the Protection and promotion of the Chelmer Blackwater Navigation and its associated monuments in any master plan or development plans for the zone.**

### ***2.14 East Springfield***

**Summary:** A zone of residential development dating to the 1970-80's. Extensive archaeological cropmarks are known from this area with the most notable monument being a Neolithic cursus. Rescue excavation took place at the cursus prior to and during development but much of this important cropmark landscape was lost.

*Historic Urban Character:* This zone comprises a large housing development dating to the 1970-80's. Further expansion has taken place in the 1990's and into the 21<sup>st</sup> century between the existing residential development and the new Chelmsford bypass.

*Archaeological Character:* The zone contained extensive crop mark complexes comprising multi period occupation on the gravel terraces of the Chelmer Valley. The

most significant monument was a Neolithic cursus with other multi-period deposits recovered during the excavation. The presence of the cursus identifies this zone as an area of particular importance during the Neolithic period which continued into the later prehistoric period. It is possible that deposits survive in open or lightly developed areas.



*Fig: 14 Excavations at the eastern end of the cursus, now beneath Chelmer Village (Asda car park to the left)*

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Important cropmark complexes, likely to have been multi-period	2
• Survival	Limited survival due to the impact of the housing development	1
• Documentation	Excavation report of cursus, National mapping programme and HER	3
• Group Value Association	Cropmarks in this and associated zones are of important group value	2
• Potential	Limited potential due to the housing	1

	development, although green areas may have surviving deposits	
• Sensitivity to change	Limited sensitivity due to the extensive modern housing	1
• Amenity Value	The character of the historic environment of this and associated zone (2.15) linked to the Chelmer Valley has considerable potential for promotion and the creation of a sense of place for the local population.	2

### **Key Issues**

- **Developments in lightly developed or open areas needs to assess the potential of surviving archaeological deposits at an early stage**

### ***2.15 Springfield Commercial development area***

**Summary:** This zone, situated on the terraces of the Chelmer Valley comprises the modern commercial area of Springfield. The area contains mainly offices, commercial properties and car dealerships. Some listed buildings survive along Colchester Road. Extensive archaeological deposits are known from cropmark evidence. These include the nationally important monument of Springfield Lyons, a Bronze Age circular enclosure which is adjacent to a Neolithic Causewayed enclosure. Once established these monuments influenced the location and form of settlement in the area for thousands of years (Brown 2001).

*Historic Urban Character:* This area has developed in the last quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, along with the development of the housing development in zone 2.14. The urban character of this area comprises large scale modern warehouses, major retail outlets, car dealerships and high quality offices.

*Archaeological Character:* The zone contained extensive crop mark complexes comprising multi period occupation on the gravel terraces of the Chelmer Valley. The most significant monument comprised a Bronze Age Springfield Style Enclosure (this site has given the name to all monuments of this type in the country) with other multi-period deposits recovered during its excavation and other work on the new and expanding commercial development adjacent to the A12. The archaeological deposits within this zone include Neolithic occupation including a Causewayed enclosure, the Bronze Age Springfield Style enclosure which was a focal point in an area of widespread Bronze Age occupation, a major early Saxon cemetery and later Saxon settlement, and medieval farmsteads. The Second World War General Headquarters Line of defence bisects this zone with pill boxes and a tank trap present. Areas of undeveloped land within this zone have a high potential of surviving archaeological deposits.



*Fig: 15 Excavations of the Bronze Age enclosure, Early Saxon cemetery and Late Saxon settlement at Springfield Lyons*

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Cropmark and excavation evidence, multi-period occupation	3
• Survival	Limited to area around Springfield Lyons and green areas	2
• Documentation	Site report, published report, HER data	3
• Group Value Association	Bronze age occupation, medieval farmsteads existing and excavated.	2
• Potential	In areas where no development has taken place there is high potential for surviving deposits, however these areas are limited	2
• Sensitivity to change	The remaining undeveloped areas are highly sensitive	2
• Amenity Value	The character of the historic environment of this and associated zones (2.14) linked to the Chelmer Valley has considerable potential for promotion and the creation of a sense of place for the local population.	2

### Key Issues

- **Archaeological evaluation should be undertaken as part of the initial planning for development, with reports submitted as part of the planning applications**
- **Potential of promoting the Springfield style enclosure within the development design at Springfield Lyons**
- **The circular form of the Springfield Lyons Bronze Age enclosure should be incorporated into the design of development in this area in an imaginative manner**

## 2.16 Springfield Green

**Summary:** This zone matches approximately the conservation area of Springfield Green. It comprises the village of Springfield Green as shown on the first edition OS comprising the church with occupation around the associated Green. The whole zone forms the conservation area of Springfield Green. Apart from the north western area there has been minimal modern infill within this zone. The most important monument is All Saints Church.

*Historic Urban Character:* The zone comprises the conservation area of Springfield Green. This comprises the church and associated buildings, many being visible on the first edition OS. Six of the buildings within the zone are listed and the whole zone forms the conservation area of Springfield Green. The area contains the large green in front of the church which is an important historic feature and is vital for the open character of this zone.

*Archaeological Character:* This zone comprises a complete 19<sup>th</sup> century village area. The most important monument is the church of All Saints which originally dates to the early 12<sup>th</sup> century. The church contains Roman brick and tile within its fabric which is indicative of a building of this date in the immediate vicinity. The church would have formed a focal point in the dispersed settlement pattern of Springfield during the medieval period and it is probable that remains of medieval buildings survive in close association with the church.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Medieval settlement, possible Roman occupation	2
• Survival	Good survival of the historic village of Springfield Green. Probable that the below ground deposits survive well.	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic evidence	2
• Group Value Association	Medieval and post medieval buildings	2



• Potential	Possible surviving medieval settlement around the church	2
• Sensitivity to change	Layout of Church and green highly sensitive	3
• Amenity Value	The existing nature and potential of the historic environment of this zone offers considerable potential for promotional development.	2

### Key Issues

- **Essential to protect the open character of the Green and its relationship to the church**
- **Below ground deposits need to be taken into consideration at an early stage in any development or master plan proposals. It is probable that the results of archaeological field evaluation will be required to be submitted with the planning applications**

### 2.17 North Springfield

**Summary:** This zone comprises the residential area of North Springfield and Beaulieu Park. Large scale residential expansion took place in the 1970's-through to the present day. The zone is bisected by the Second World War General Headquarters Defence Line but all the Second World War monuments within this zone have been destroyed.

*Historic Urban Character:* Within this zone two distinct areas are visible. The first comprises the 1970-80's estate of North Springfield with a largely similar building style. The second is the multiple styles seen on the more recent Beaulieu Park development.

*Archaeological Character:* Little archaeological work has been undertaken in this area which lies to the west of the gravel terraces of the Chelmer Valley. Archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the Beaulieu Park development but found no surviving

archaeological deposits. The only monuments recorded are those relating to the Second World War General Headquarters Defence Line but all these have been destroyed.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Limited range of historic environment assets	1
• Survival	Within area urban development has destroyed the surviving deposits and structures	1
• Documentation	HER data	1
• Group Value Association	World War II GHQ line	1
• Potential	Known archaeology destroyed. It is possible that green areas protect previously unknown deposits.	1
• Sensitivity to change	Historic environment assets largely destroyed by residential development	1
• Amenity Value	Very limited but might be possible to develop an understanding of the 20 <sup>th</sup> century housing development in association with other zones.	1

## ***2.18 East of Broomfield Road***

**Summary:** Zone of urban expansion dating to the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. No known archaeological deposits in the area.

*Historic Urban Character:* Zone of housing built between the third and fourth OS maps (between 1924 and 1938). The residential development comprises parallel straight roads, some leading to the edge of the Chelmer flood plain, occupied on both sides by terraced or semi detached properties.

*Archaeological Character:* No archaeological deposits are known from the zone. The fairly dense housing is likely to have destroyed most deposits if they had occurred in this zone.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	No known deposits	1
• Survival	If deposits were present they would have been largely destroyed by house construction	1
• Documentation	HER data	1
• Group Value Association	No known historic environment assets apart from the present housing layout	1
• Potential	Little potential as area fully developed	1
• Sensitivity to change	Little sensitivity	1
• Amenity Value	Very low	1

## **2.19 Melbourne Estate**

**Summary:** Carefully planned and laid out estate built after 1924 but before 1938. The design seems to be influenced by that seen in the garden cities. No known archaeological deposits recorded.

*Historic Urban Character:* The housing estate is clearly a specifically planned development laid out to a clear design influenced by that seen in the garden cities of the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

*Archaeological Character:* No archaeological deposits are known from this area. If any do survive they are likely to have been disturbed by the construction of the Melbourne Estate.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Low diversity. Only have the planned settlement	1
• Survival	No known deposits, clearly a designed estate which survives	2
• Documentation	None	1
• Group Value Association	No group value	1
• Potential	Limited potential	1
• Sensitivity to change	Layout would be sensitive to change	2
• Amenity Value	Promotion potential for the design and layout of the area	2

### **Key Issues**

- **Consideration and protection of the original design and layout should be taken into account in any future developments within this zone.**

## ***2.20 North Chelmsford***

**Summary:** Large area of residential housing, containing substantial areas of green open space which contains woodland and boundaries which are visible on the first edition OS mapping. Residential expansion has continued from the 1950's through to the 1990's. Industrial archaeological sites are recorded to the west of Broomfield Road but these have all been demolished.

*Historic Urban Character:* Comprises a large area of 20<sup>th</sup> century residential development. Unlike elsewhere in the urban area of Chelmsford there are also large areas of green open space within the estates. The green space has protected a large area of woodland as well as several of the boundaries visible on the first edition OS maps of 1881. The zone has developed gradually with areas being added from the 1950's through to the 1980's. This zone contains the only high rise block of flats in Chelmsford built by the Council in 1962.

*Archaeological Character:* Little is known within this zone. It is possible that the large open areas and woodland retain unrecorded archaeological deposits. Industrial sites are recorded to the west of Broomfield Road, comprising an Iron Works, and pottery/brick manufacturing site. However these have all been destroyed.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Some industrial remains	2
• Survival	Archaeological deposits may be preserved in the woodland and green areas. Woodland earthworks may survive. All industrial remains destroyed	2
• Documentation	HER data	1
• Group Value Association	Little group value	1
• Potential	Possible surviving deposits in green areas and woodland	2
• Sensitivity to change	Woodland and its boundaries sensitive to change	2
• Amenity Value	Very limited but might be possible to develop an understanding of the 20 <sup>th</sup> century housing development in association with other zones.	1

### Key Issues

- The woodland should be carefully managed as apart from its own earthworks it is likely to protect earlier archaeological sites.
- Green open spaces have the potential to protect earlier deposits and should be appropriately evaluated as part of any development proposal

### 3 HECA 3

#### 3.1 *Historic Core of Great Baddow*

**Summary:** This character area represents the historic core of Great Baddow as shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map. The earliest building is the church of St Mary which dates to the 13<sup>th</sup> century but is thought to overly an earlier structure. More than 30 listed buildings survive in the historic core of the village which is protected as a conservation area.

*Urban character:* This zone comprises the historic core of Great Baddow which is centred on Church Street, Maldon Road and High Street. The earliest surviving building in the town is the church of St Mary which dates to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. This is thought to be on the site of an earlier structure, probably of late Saxon origin. Listed buildings survive on the road frontages of High Street and Church Street with the area protected as a conservation area. The layout of the village at the time of the Chapman and Andre maps of 1777 survives well.

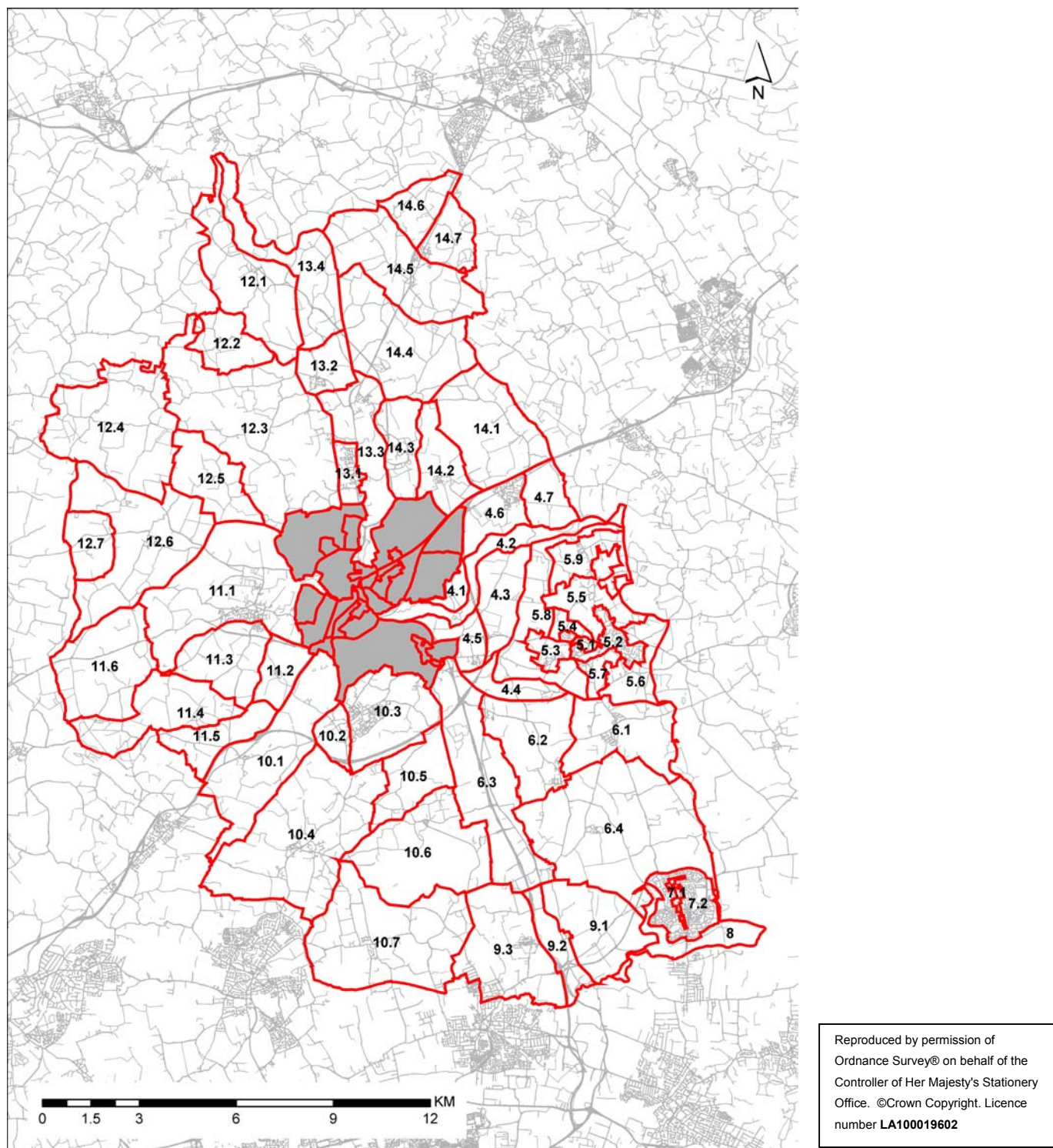
*Archaeological Character:* The historic core of Great Baddow is centred on the High Street, Maldon Road and Church Street. Within the fabric of the church Roman brick and tile is visible which is normally interpreted as being indicative of a Roman building in the immediate vicinity. The 13<sup>th</sup> century church would have formed the focus for medieval occupation. It is probable that the layout of the village shown on the Chapman and Andre map of 1777 originated in the medieval period. Any development within the High Street, Church Street area has the potential of uncovering early occupation deposits associated with the village development.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of historic buildings, likely to retain below ground deposits associated with the medieval village	2
• Survival	Limited change to the village means high	3

	potential for surviving archaeological deposits and built character	
• Documentation	Limited information mainly HER.	1
• Group Value Association	Good range of buildings	2
• Potential	High potential for below ground deposits and hidden features in the buildings	3
• Sensitivity to change	Village core would be highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	The historic identity of the settlement complex has a high promotional value. The historic association with the church, buildings and conservation area are well appreciated locally.	2

### Key Issues

- **Protection of the street pattern, property boundaries and buildings of the village conservation area**
- **Below ground deposits need to be taken into consideration at an early stage in any development or master plan proposals. It is probable that the results of archaeological field evaluation will be required to be submitted with the planning applications**
- **Important to include the historic environment of the village within any VDS**



*Fig: 16 Historic Environment Character Zones outside the built up area of Chelmsford*



## 4 HECA 4

### 4.1 Area inside the Chelmsford Bypass

**Summary:** This zone comprises an area of land located inside the Chelmsford bypass situated on the sand and gravel terraces on the northern side of the River Chelmer. The archaeological deposits form an extension of the important cropmark complexes recorded in adjacent zones. This zone will retain elements of multi-period occupation on the terraces of the River Chelmer.

*Historic Landscape Character:* The field pattern within this zone is largely formed from pre 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure. The historic settlement pattern comprises dispersed farmsteads. Within the centre of the zone lies a large sewage treatment plant which has destroyed part of the original field pattern.

*Archaeological character:* The archaeological character can be defined by the known cropmarks within the zone and those in the immediate adjacent zones. The cropmark features within the zone form an extension to the nationally important complexes that now lie beneath the Springfield estates including the Neolithic, Bronze Age and Saxon excavated monuments. The Cropmarks are likely to be of multi-period date and potentially only represent a small amount of the archaeological deposits present. The historic landscape has suffered considerable boundary loss and the construction of the sewage works has destroyed part of the centre of the zone.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Cropmarks and some field boundaries survive. Cropmarks likely to be multi-period	2
• Survival	Fair, disturbed by sewage station	2
• Documentation	Aerial photographic plots, HER data	1
• Group Value Association	Has good associations to now destroyed deposits beneath urban expansion	2
• Potential	Archaeological deposits will survive in	2

	undisturbed areas	
• Sensitivity to change	The below ground deposits are sensitive to change	2
• Amenity Value	Limited for the zone, however should be seen in association with zones 2.14 and 2.15	1

## Key Issues

- If development is proposed within this zone detailed field evaluation should be undertaken at an early stage and the results submitted with any development proposals

## 4.2 Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation

**Summary:** This zone follows the line of the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation and includes the flood plain on either side of the river. This zone largely follows the line of the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation conservation area. A considerable amount of the original meadow pasture has now been ploughed. A detailed archaeological assessment report has been prepared on the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation (Kemble and Gould 2001).

*Historic Landscape Character:* This zone is characterised by the flood plain of the river Chelmer and is contained within the conservation area of the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation. Elements of the enclosed meadow pasture survive along the sides of the river Chelmer although a considerable amount has been turned into arable production. The boundary between these areas of traditional pasture is defined by clear boundaries often including lynchets, even where converted to arable remains of these boundaries often survive offering the possibility of relatively easy restoration. It is likely that alluvial deposits will survive well within this area. The built character of the zone is dominated

by the structures associated with the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation (Kemble and Gould 2001).

*Archaeological Character:* The Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation has an unbroken history from June 1793 when an Act of Parliament was passed authorising the making and maintaining of a navigable waterway. This follows the river Chelmer part as canal and part as river. Many of the separate elements such as locks, bridges, mills and lock houses survive along the length of the navigation. These are all described in Kemble and Gould (2001). Also surviving are the water works industry complex and associated buildings at Sandford Mill. The flood plains themselves have the potential for preserving archaeological peat deposits and other highly sensitive environmental deposits which contain information regarding past environments and land use. The General Headquarters Line of defence crosses this zone to the east of Sandford Mill.



*Fig: 17 Cuton Lock with a pillbox from the GHQ line in the background*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diversity of historic environment assets</li> </ul>	<p>Many elements of the Navigation survive. Meadow pasture survives in places undamaged. This area is known to contain peat and other Palaeo-environmental deposits.</p>	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survival</li> </ul>	<p>Navigation still in use, many elements survive. Palaeo-environmental deposits will be present. Wood and other botanical material may be preserved by waterlogged conditions.</p>	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Documentation</li> </ul>	<p>Detailed archaeological report on the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation and other reports on the conservation area, HER data</p>	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group Value Association</li> </ul>	<p>Historic Environment assets related to the Chelmer Blackwater Navigation and historic land-use of the river and its meadows.</p>	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential</li> </ul>	<p>High potential of surviving palaeo-environmental deposits and other buried archaeological remains.</p>	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sensitivity to change</li> </ul>	<p>Highly sensitive to change, especially development on the flood plain areas</p>	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amenity Value</li> </ul>	<p>The history of the Chelmer Blackwater Navigation is already quite well understood but there is a lot of potential for further and fuller promotion of this zone</p>	3

### Key Issues

- Any development within the conservation area should be carefully considered on its impact on the historic environment assets of the Chelmer Blackwater Navigation and other surviving below ground deposits.

- Re instatement of the meadow pasture would both improve the setting of the Navigation and protect the archaeological and palaeo-environmental deposits.
- Lynchetts should be maintained, enhanced or restored.

### **4.3 Zone East of the A12**

**Summary:** Zone formed on the higher ground above the curve of the river Chelmer comprising sand and gravel terraces. A large number of cropmarks are recorded within this zone. Although there has been some field boundary loss in the zone the surviving pattern largely comprises pre 18<sup>th</sup> century enclosure boundaries.

*Historic Landscape Character:* The dominant historic field characteristic is of pre 18<sup>th</sup> century co axial and irregular enclosure with one large modern agricultural reservoir on the edge of the zone. The co axial enclosure is located on the eastern side of the zone between Hammond Road and the edge of the zone at Sandon Brook. This zone has suffered considerable boundary loss however, the boundaries that do survive are of considerable antiquity.

*Archaeological Character:* Extensive zone of cropmarks overlooking the River Chelmer. These features are likely to be of multi-period date, probably from the Neolithic through to the medieval period. Although some of the cropmarks have been lost to quarry activities, those remaining are extremely significant and should be preserved wherever possible.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Type of cropmarks would suggest multi-period occupation	2
• Survival	Good survival outside the area of the agricultural reservoir	2
• Documentation	Limited, only comprising the cropmark plot	1
• Group Value Association	Can be associated with the important complexes to the north and south and to those on the opposite side of the Chelmer.	2
• Potential	Has a high potential for the surviving deposits.	3
• Sensitivity to change	Below ground deposits are highly sensitive to change. Will be situated just beneath the top-soil and are likely to be multi-period. Historic landscape which survives are sensitive.	3
• Amenity Value	Could be promoted as part of the landscape around the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation.	2

### Key issues

- **The grain of the historic landscape in terms of field boundaries and settlement pattern is well preserved in much of the zone and should be conserved.**

### 4.4 Sandon Brook

**Summary:** This zone is situated on the southern side of one of the feeder streams of the Sandon Brook. There are areas of meadow pasture which have the potential for preserving important environmental deposits. The historic landscape is largely unchanged since the medieval period.

*Historic Landscape Character:* This zone comprises an area of agricultural land on the southern side of the stream. The western end of the zone has been damaged by borrow pit activity associated with the construction of the A12. The northern half of the zone is characterised by meadow pasture on the southern side of the brook. The southern half of the zone comprises pre 18<sup>th</sup> century irregular enclosure. The settlement pattern comprises dispersed farmsteads many of which have their origins in the medieval period.

*Archaeological Character:* The presence of the brook within the zone indicates the potential of environmental and palaeo-environmental waterlogged deposits. An important sequence of such deposits was recorded during the construction of the A12 Chelmsford Bypass.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Historic landscape features, palaeo-environmental deposits	2
• Survival	Potential survival high, with both the historic landscape and below ground deposits largely intact.	3
• Documentation	HER data	1
• Group Value Association	Historic landscape features	2
• Potential	Minimum development in area means potential is high for below ground deposits.	2
• Sensitivity to change	Historic Landscape and below ground deposits very sensitive	3
• Amenity Value	At present limited due to lack of knowledge	1

## Key Issues

- **Protection and re instatement of the meadow pasture**

#### **4.5 Sandon and the Area East of Great Baddow**

**Summary:** The area encompasses meadow pasture and large scale agricultural fields south of the River Chelmer and sand/gravel terraces rising to around 30 metres OD. Archaeologically, the zone is notable for a Late Bronze Age enclosure mirroring the similarly dated enclosure at Springfield Lyons to the north of the river.

*Historic Landscape Character:* This zone comprises an area of modern agricultural land to the south of the river Chelmer. Sandon village is contained within the southern part of the zone. The area surrounding the church and post medieval core of Sandon is protected as a conservation area containing 7 listed buildings. The field pattern largely comprises pre 18<sup>th</sup> century fields with extensive boundary loss in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This has resulted in very large fields often with ancient field boundaries surviving at their edges; however internal divisions have been lost. The area to the south of Sandon is characterised by meadow pasture on the northern side of the Sandon Brook.

*Archaeological Character:* The Late Bronze Age enclosure at Manor Farm is similar in many respects to that excavated at Springfield Lyons. Both occupy positions at the crest of the slope overlooking the Chelmer Valley and appear to be of similar size and date. Only limited fieldwork has been undertaken at Manor Farm, however, further significant deposits may be expected to survive. Evidence of Bronze Age settlement has recently been identified during an evaluation on the new park and ride scheme at Sandon. A number of cropmarks are visible within this zone and include those of trackways, linear features including field boundaries, pits, a possible prehistoric ring-ditch and a rectangular building within an enclosure. Disturbance is likely to have been minimal. There are a number of surviving elements of the World War II GHQ defence line comprising mainly pill boxes. There is a likelihood of good environmental sequences in the valley of the Sandon Brook and elsewhere.



• Diversity of historic environment assets	Important range of archaeological deposits, including multi-period cropmarks. World War II monuments.	3
• Survival	Good survival of below ground deposits Historic landscape has suffered boundary loss	3
• Documentation	HER data, Excavation records, NMP data	2
• Group Value Association	Cropmark data, 2 <sup>nd</sup> World War monuments	2
• Potential	High potential for surviving below ground deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Below ground deposits highly sensitive to change, as well as the surviving boundaries	3
• Amenity Value	GHQ line, cropmarks and Sandon village all have the potential for the promotion of the historic environment of the immediate area/	2

### **Key Issues**

- **If development is proposed within this zone detailed field evaluation should be undertaken at an early stage and the results submitted with any development proposals**
- **The Historic Environment including below ground deposits needs to be appropriately represented within any VDS for Sandon**

### ***4.6 Boreham: present nucleated village and land to the west***

**Summary:** This zone lies above the River Chelmer valley, and contains the village of Boreham and the estate of Boreham Hall as well as the present Boreham House and its landscaped gardens. The zone is characterised by large fields and the remnants of

Boreham House Park. The zone is crossed by the London to Colchester Roman Road. The southern part of the zone contains extensive cropmark complexes on the gravel terraces above the river Chelmer.

*Historic Landscape Character:* The historic landscape at the eastern end of the zone is dominated by the landscape park associated with Boreham House. Elements of the boundaries of this park still survive in the present field system. The historic settlement pattern was dispersed and poly focal with three areas of historic settlement around the manor and church complex with two focal points of occupation along the Roman Road now incorporated into the closely defined nucleated village of Boreham created in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Of the three historic settlement foci two are now protected as conservation areas. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century various phases of infill have created a single settlement. The dispersed farmsteads include Boreham Hall. On the western side of the zone lies Boreham house, built in 1727-8 with part of the original grounds now registered as a Park and garden.

*Archaeological Character:* A Bronze Age hoard and other finds of this date have been identified in the zone. A cropmark landscape in the southern half of the zone comprises a variety of linear features, enclosures, pits, and trackways. The majority of these cropmarks remain undated but are likely to represent in many cases, prehistoric and Roman activity. The Roman road formed a focus point for development throughout the medieval period with the potential for dispersed settlement being identified along it. Boreham contains a historic core centred on the church and manor of Boreham. The church originated in the 11<sup>th</sup> century and contains Roman brick and tile indicating occupation of this date in the vicinity of the church.



*Fig: 18 View of part of one of the the conservation areas from the Churchyard in Boreham*

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Wide range of medieval assets, Roman road, listed gardens, cropmarks	3
• Survival	Some elements survive very well, park has been damaged, garden and house protected. Surviving field boundaries likely to be of significant antiquity.	3
• Documentation	Garden records, NMP, HER, village records	2
• Group Value Association	Crop mark complexes, historic buildings	2
• Potential	High potential for below ground deposits as shown by the cropmark evidence.	3
• Sensitivity to change	Surviving landscape features and below ground deposits are sensitive.	2

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amenity Value</li> </ul>	<p>The history of the village is well known locally but there is the potential for further and fuller promotion.</p>	3
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### Key Issues

- **The Historic Environment including below ground deposits needs to be appropriately represented within any VDS for Boreham**
- **The grain of the historic landscape in terms of field boundaries and settlement pattern is well preserved in much of the zone and should be conserved.**
- **Below ground deposits need to be taken into consideration at an early stage in any development or master plan proposals. It is likely that the results of archaeological field evaluation will be required to be submitted with planning applications**

## 4.7 Land to the east of Boreham

**Summary:** This zone lies on the upper slopes of the Chelmer valley to the north of the river comprising sand and gravel terraces. The historic landscape comprises a dispersed settlement pattern, with some ribbon development along the Roman road. There has been considerable boundary loss, but those that survive are of ancient origin. Archaeological deposits are identified from cropmarks overlooking the Chelmer.

*Historic Landscape Character:* This zone forms the valley slope above the meadow pasture of the Chelmer Valley out to the main Roman road (Main Road) from Colchester to London. The first edition OS shows the field pattern to have been characterised by rectangular fields set at right angles to the Roman road, which implies a very early origin for the boundaries that survive. Unfortunately the historic field pattern has suffered

significantly in this area with the majority of the rectilinear field system lost. A small piece of woodland identified on the first edition survives in the south east corner of the zone. The historic settlement pattern comprises ribbon development along the Roman Road, and dispersed farmsteads, some of the buildings having their origins in the medieval period. The Domesday Manor of Culverts lies in the centre of this zone.

*Archaeological Character:* The zone contains a series of cropmarks in its southern half. The cropmark landscape comprises a variety of linear features, enclosures, pits, and trackways. In places, the cropmarks form densely packed complexes. The majority of these cropmarks remain undated but are likely to represent in many cases, prehistoric and Roman activity. The northern part of the zone contains the main Roman road from Colchester to London. Although no deposits are recorded close to the road it has potential for occupation in the Roman and medieval period.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Cropmarks and potential deposits associated with Roman and medieval road side development	2
• Survival	Although historic field pattern damaged the boundaries that survive are of considerable antiquity. Below ground deposits likely to survive well as little development in area.	2
• Documentation	HER data, NMP data	2
• Group Value Association	Associated cropmarks	3
• Potential	High potential for below ground deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Below ground deposits sensitive to change	2
• Amenity Value	Limited knowledge at present reduces the potential for enhanced presentation and understanding, but could be developed through research in conjunction with other zones.	1

## Key Issues

- **Enhancement of the historic landscape should be considered especially in the southern part of the zone.**

## 5 HECA 5

### ***5.1 Historic Village of Danbury***

**Summary:** Originally a linear settlement laying on the medieval route from Chelmsford to Maldon with the Church of St. John the Baptist at the eastern end of the village. The medieval core is now surrounded by modern development. The zone also contains a scheduled Iron Age hill fort with the church at its centre.

*Historic Landscape Character:* This zone contains the medieval and post medieval village of Danbury and the Iron Age hillfort (see below). The village dates back to the late Saxon period centred on the church. The present layout has not changed since the Chapman and Andre map and a large part of the core is now protected by the conservation area. The core of the village was originally around the church with dispersed farmsteads along the present A414, most of which are now listed buildings. The strategic position of the village is highlighted by the presence of the Iron Age hillfort beneath the village area.

*Archaeological Character:* There has been no significant archaeological fieldwork within the historic core of the village. However, a number of chance finds of medieval and possible Saxon date indicate the potential for surviving deposits in the vicinity of the church and roadside frontage. The zone contains eroded earthworks defining the scheduled monument of an Iron Age hillfort. Limited excavations in the 1970's identified a number of features of probable Iron Age date along with pottery suggesting occupation

into the Romano-British period. Much of the interior of the hillfort lies within the churchyard.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Historic assets include the village, church Iron Age hillfort	3
• Survival	Historic buildings, village layout, Iron Age hillfort all survive well	3
• Documentation	Excavation report, HER data	2
• Group Value Association	Buildings within village,	2
• Potential	High potential for surviving deposits both beneath town and scheduled hillfort	3
• Sensitivity to change	Layout of village and the hillfort highly sensitive	3
• Amenity Value	The history of the village and its hillfort is known locally, however, there is the potential for further and fuller promotion.	3

### **Key Issues**

- **Any VDS or conservation area plan for Danbury needs to assess the potential of all the historic environment assets including the below ground deposits within the village**
- **Below ground deposits need to be taken into consideration at an early stage in any development or master plan proposals. It is likely that the results of archaeological field evaluation will be required to be submitted with planning applications**
- **It would be desirable to develop a plan for the conservation, management and presentation of the Scheduled Monument of Danbury hillfort.**

## 5.2 Modern expansion of Danbury

**Summary:** Two distinct areas of relatively recent development to the east and west of the medieval core. These developments have removed much of the historic landscape features, although the original road layout has survived. A small area of woodland has partially survived in the northern part of the zone. The archaeological evidence indicates occupation during the Roman and medieval periods.

*Historic Urban Character:* This zone comprises the modern expansion of Danbury. A range of 20<sup>th</sup> century estates have built up as ribbon development on the west, south and east of the historic core. The estates have removed the irregular enclose pattern of the fields and have probably disturbed any archaeological deposits that had been in these areas. The boundaries and some of the trees of a small area of woodland in the northern area of the zone have survived in the area of Runsell Close even though detached houses have been constructed inside it. The road pattern shown on the Chapman and Andre maps has survived. A group of listed buildings are protected along Maldon Road.

*Archaeological Character:* The area of modern development to the west has produced significant finds of pottery indicating Romano-British occupation. To the east, the area of modern development includes the site of a medieval tile kiln and a possible medieval windmill.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Limited range of historic landscape and archaeological deposits.	1
• Survival	Limited survival, only likely to be within open areas or in woodland area	2
• Documentation	HER data	1



• Group Value Association	Little Group Value association	1
• Potential	Little potential apart from in open areas where archaeological deposits may survive	1
• Sensitivity to change	Most change has already occurred	1
• Amenity Value	Little amenity value	1

## Key Issues

- **The boundaries associated with the surviving piece of woodland should be protected within any future extensions or additional buildings.**

### 5.3 Danbury Country Park

**Summary:** This zone comprises parkland depicted on Chapman and Andre map of 1777 as Danbury Place is now the Danbury Country Park and conference centre. The remains of a Napoleonic redoubt survives within the woodland.

*Historic Landscape Character:* This zone comprises the historic parkland of Danbury Park. Danbury Country Park has been created from the lakeside ornamental gardens of Danbury Palace together with adjoining woodland and grassland. The park was initially created in 1088. The formal garden is divided from the park by two ha ha's. The estate has been referred to as Danbury Palace since the Ecclesiastical Commission bought it in 1845. In the following years nearly 1000 trees were felled and the high brick wall along the northern side of the palace garden was built. Some areas in the north west of the zone have changed to agricultural production but the historic boundaries remain. Overall the historic landscape has survived well. The historic settlement pattern comprises dispersed farmsteads.

*Archaeological Character:* Prehistoric activity is indicated within the zone by finds of Mesolithic flint artifacts and cropmarks to the north including linear features and a

probable ring-ditch. Danbury Park contains a brick built kiln and a scheduled 18<sup>th</sup> century icehouse. To the east of the zone is located the site of a Napoleonic military camp with earthworks relating to this defence partially surviving within woodland.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of historic landscape features, some archaeological deposits	2
• Survival	Boundaries and much of the original park survive. Napoleonic camp survives as earthworks in woodland	3
• Documentation	HER data, Country parks survey	2
• Group Value Association	Landscape features associated to the park	3
• Potential	High potential for surviving landscape features and below ground deposits of multi-period date.	3
• Sensitivity to change	Landscape and archaeological deposits highly sensitive	3
• Amenity Value	Promotion potential, present use of country park, and Napoleonic redoubt.	3

### **Key Issues**

- It would be desirable to develop a plan for the conservation, management and presentation of the Napoleonic earthworks.

### **5.4 Land to the north of Danbury**

**Summary:** This zone comprises an open area of land to the north of the historic core of Danbury. The northern part of the zone contains a landscaped park of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Multi-period finds have been made indicating occupation from the prehistoric through to the Roman period.

*Historic Landscape Character:* The historic landscape within this small zone is characterised by pre 18<sup>th</sup> century irregular enclosure. Several of the boundaries have been lost through post 1950's hedge removal. The settlement pattern comprises 20<sup>th</sup> century ribbon development along one lane running north from Danbury. Boundaries relating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century parkland survive in the modern field system.

*Archaeological Character:* Cropmarks include linear features probably relating to post-medieval boundary loss and on the southern boundary of the zone those of a possible enclosure, double ditched trackway and pits of possible prehistoric origin. A Bronze Age axe hoard is noted within the zone and occasional finds of Romano-British pottery. Around Riffhams is an early 19<sup>th</sup> century landscaped park.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of landscape features, limited range of below ground deposits	2
• Survival	Below ground deposits likely to survive well. Historic landscape partially altered	2
• Documentation	HER data, NMP data	2
• Group Value Association	little related deposits	1
• Potential	Has potential for below ground deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Landscape features relating to park very sensitive,. Below ground deposits sensitive.	2
• Amenity Value	Promotion could be developed in relation to the understanding of the historic development of the historic landscape.	2

## Key Issues

- **Potential to improve the quality of the landscape with the reinstatement of removed hedgerows**

## 5.5 Woodland to the north of Danbury

Summary: Large areas of woodland, a mixture of ancient and 19th century origin on the north facing slope of Danbury Ridge, with settlement along Little Baddow Road. Archaeological features are known within the woodland. Earthworks survive within the woodland including a possible prehistoric earthwork and rabbit warren.

*Historic Landscape Character:* Large area of surviving ancient woodland, 19<sup>th</sup> century woodland and common. The majority of the woodland shown on the first edition survives through to today. The ancient woodland has preserved earthworks throughout the area. These earthworks mainly relate to human exploitation of the woodland, however, the woodland also potentially preserves earthworks which relate to earlier occupation. Historic settlement pattern largely comprises dispersed farmsteads across the zone with later ribbon development between Danbury and Little Baddow.

*Archaeological Character:* An undated but possible prehistoric earthwork is noted within woodland to the east of Little Baddow Road along with further earthworks interpreted as a medieval rabbit warren. Additional finds of both prehistoric flint artifacts and medieval pottery suggest the area has wider archaeological potential.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Mainly related to woodland exploitation, rabbit warren	2
• Survival	High level of survival of woodland features. Likely to have protected other remains	3
• Documentation	HER data,	1
• Group Value Association	Woodland earthworks	3
• Potential	High potential of surviving deposits both between and within woodland	3
• Sensitivity to change	Woodland and historic landscape highly sensitive	3

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amenity Value</li> </ul>	<p>Considerable potential for the promotion of the historic environment both within this zone and in relation to the neighbouring zones.</p>	2
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## Key Issues

- **Appropriate protection, enhancement and promotion of the historic environment assets within the zone especially earthworks and woodland**

### 5.6 Area to the east of Modern Danbury

**Summary:** An open area of land to the east of modern Danbury. Although suffering some boundary loss the field pattern has survived well.

*Historic Landscape Character:* A zone originally formed from pre 18<sup>th</sup> century and later enclosure. The historic landscape has suffered minimal boundary loss. An area of meadow pasture survives on the southern boundary of the zone. A small area of ancient woodland survives within the zone. The settlement pattern comprises dispersed farmsteads with a small focal point at Runsell Green with several listed structures.

*Archaeological Character:* Neolithic pottery and a stone wristguard indicate occupation of this date. A possible ring ditch of Bronze Age date has been identified from cropmark evidence in the north east of the zone. Significant finds of pottery from the early to Late Iron Age have been made in association with possible earthwork features. There is some indication of Romano-British occupation indicated by a possible cemetery site. Fishponds and a dam are located in the extreme east of the zone indicating medieval exploitation of the zone. The area around Runsell Green is notable for a probable medieval pottery kiln and a later brick and tile kiln.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Historic landscape features well represented, range of multi-period sites spread across zone	3
• Survival	Historic landscape survives well, archaeological sites probably survive well also	3
• Documentation	HER data, NMP data	2
• Group Value Association	Historic landscape features	2
• Potential	High potential for surviving deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Landscape and any unknown deposits highly sensitive	2
• Amenity Value	Further investigation may facilitate better understanding and promotion of the historic environment.	2

## 5.7 Danbury Common

**Summary:** The area comprises both common and woodland much of which is in the care of the National Trust. The woodland and common are likely to preserve earthworks and below ground deposits of pre medieval date.

*Historic Landscape Character:* Danbury Common retains its medieval boundaries and the enclosed pockets within are later encroachments, mainly pre dating 1560. A small area of enclosed meadow pasture is situated on the southern boundary of the zone. A small area of 20<sup>th</sup> century residential development is situated on the western side of the zone. This, however, has not encroached onto the common land as shown on the Chapman and Andre map of 1777.

*Archaeological Character:* Little of note has been identified within this zone, possibly as a result of its historic landuse. An undated enclosure has been noted within the National Trust land indicating the potential for further archaeological deposits/features. Historic land use would indicate that any archaeological deposits are likely to be well preserved.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Historic landscape features associated with the common	2
• Survival	Landscape features and below ground deposits will survive very well	3
• Documentation	HER data,	1
• Group Value Association	Historic landscape features associated to the common	3
• Potential	High potential for surviving archaeological deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Landscape and below ground deposits highly sensitive to change.	3
• Amenity Value	Promotion of use of common and its history and use	3

### **Key issues**

- **It is important to have appropriate programmes of conservation, protection and enhancement of earthworks**
- **It is essential to create an appropriate balance between heath land restoration and secondary woodland**

## ***5.8 Land on the southern side of the Chelmer and eastern side of the Sandon Brook Including Little Baddow Church and Hall***

**Summary:** Bordering the Sandon Brook to the west and the River Chelmer to the north, this zone contains a variety of archaeological cropmarks. The land is largely under arable cultivation. The important Little Baddow church/hall complex is located in the zone separated from the modern village of Little Baddow.

*Historic Landscape Character:* This zone is situated on the valley slopes above the river Chelmer and the Sandon Brook. The majority of the fields are recorded as irregular pre 18<sup>th</sup> century enclosure which have suffered considerable boundary loss since the 1950's. Small patches of ancient woodland survive which have the potential for surviving earthworks. One area in the centre of the zone has been quarried. The historic settlement pattern comprises dispersed farmsteads and the Little Baddow church and hall complex, which have their origins in the medieval period.

*Archaeological Character:* A range of cropmarks including enclosures, linear features, ring ditches and pits are visible within the predominantly arable cultivation. The cropmarks are largely undated but are likely to represent a range of periods and activity from the prehistoric to post-medieval. Little Baddow church/hall complex lies in the north-west corner of this zone with the church containing Roman brick and tile in its fabric, which is indicative of Roman settlement nearby. The church itself dates from the late 11<sup>th</sup> century. This would have formed one of the focal points in a dispersed settlement pattern during the medieval period. To the south of the church/hall complex finds of Iron Age and Roman pottery have been recovered and the church is noted for a possible Roman hypocaust within the graveyard. There is a likelihood of good environmental sequences in the valley of the Sandon Brook and River Chelmer.



• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of historic landscape and archaeological features especially cropmarks, church/hall complex,	3
• Survival	Potential for good survival. Large numbers of field boundaries removed	3
• Documentation	HER data, NMP data, site reports	2
• Group Value Association	Landscape features, crop marks	2
• Potential	High potential for surviving deposits,	3
• Sensitivity to change	Landscape and archaeological deposits highly sensitive to change.	3
• Amenity Value	Considerable potential for the promotion of the historic environment both within this zone and in relation to the neighbouring zones.	2

### Key Issues

- **The grain of the historic landscape in terms of ancient woodland, field boundaries and settlement pattern is well preserved in much of the zone and should be conserved and enhanced.**

## 5.9 Little Baddow North

**Summary:** This zone comprises the post medieval and modern settlement of Little Baddow and the surrounding landscape. A number of ancient woodlands survive across the zone. Archaeological deposits are confirmed in the northern part of the zone by the presence of cropmark complexes.

*Historic Landscape Character:* This zone is situated on the valley slopes above the river Chelmer. The majority of the fields are irregular pre 18<sup>th</sup> century enclosure which have suffered some boundary loss since the 1950's. Areas of ancient woodland survive

throughout the zone and have the potential for surviving earthworks. The historic settlement pattern comprises the post medieval and modern settlement of Little Baddow which is situated on the Danbury to Hatfield Peveral Road and dispersed farmsteads. A group of listed buildings are protected at the crossroads within Little Baddow.

*Archaeological Character:* On the northern edge of the zone a range of cropmarks consisting of linear features and ring ditches of probable prehistoric origin have been recorded. Finds of Romano-British pottery suggesting a cemetery indicate that occupation of this date may be expected close by.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of historic landscape and archaeological features, woodland earthworks	3
• Survival	Potential for good survival.	2
• Documentation	HER data, NMP data	2
• Group Value Association	Landscape features.	2
• Potential	High potential for surviving deposits, earthworks in woodland	3
• Sensitivity to change	Landscape and archaeological deposits highly sensitive to change.	3
• Amenity Value	Open landscape with historic farmsteads and woodland	2

### Key issues

- **The grain of the historic landscape in terms of ancient woodland, field boundaries and settlement pattern is well preserved in much of the zone and should be conserved.**

## 6 HECA 6

### 6.1 *Bicknacre*

**Summary:** Zone to the south of Danbury Hills containing the important religious site of Bicknacre Priory. Cartographic evidence shows the extent of the priory lands, with some of the boundaries surviving within the present field system. Multi-period archaeological deposits are known from the zone.

*Historic Landscape Character:* This zone is located to the south of the Danbury Hills situated on a plateau above the Crouch valley. Fragments of ancient woodland survive throughout the zone. The field pattern largely comprises pre 18<sup>th</sup> century irregular enclosure. At the heart of the zone lies the modern village of Bicknacre and the historically important Bicknacre Priory. The field pattern on the first edition OS provides an indication of the extent of the immediate estate around the Priory. The historic settlement pattern comprises dispersed farmsteads with the relatively modern village of Bicknacre.

*Archaeological Character:* To the north of the village, finds of Mesolithic and Neolithic flint have been made along with numerous finds of Romano-British and medieval pottery. The main site within the zone is the scheduled Augustinian Priory at Bicknacre. Only one arch from the crossing of the priory church survives above ground with potential for extensive significant surviving deposits below ground. There are two medieval moated sites noted within the zone.



*Fig:19 Upstanding remains of Bicknacre Priory, the recently erected fence was practical but does not enhance the setting of this evocative monument*

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Multi-period deposits including priory and landscape features	3
• Survival	Good survival of below ground remains, ancient woodland and boundaries	2
• Documentation	Excavation reports, HER data	2
• Group Value Association	Limited group value	1
• Potential	Below ground deposits. Particular potential in immediate area of the priory.	3
• Sensitivity to change	Landscape and below ground deposits sensitive	2
• Amenity Value	Considerable potential for the promotion of the historic environment	2

## Key Issues

- **Potential to improve the quality of the landscape with the reinstatement of removed hedgerows**

- **Careful management of the historic and ancient woodland (possibly by English Woodland grant schemes)**
- **Management and promotion of Bicknacre Priory via English Heritage Agreements**

## **6.2 East Hanningfield**

**Summary:** Zone lying to the south west of the Danbury Hills. The historic settlement pattern was polyfocal with a village, green and dispersed farmsteads across the zone. Multi-period archaeological deposits are recorded from the zone.

*Historic Landscape Character:* This zone is located to the south west of the Danbury Hills situated on a plateau above the Crouch valley. The historic field pattern comprises a mix of pre 18<sup>th</sup> century irregular and co-axial enclosure. Although suffering some boundary loss the field pattern in this zone survives well. The historic settlement pattern is formed from polyfocal settlement with greens and dispersed farms. Two villages are located within the zone, one at East Hanningfield, the second at Howe Green. Howe Green has grown considerably in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and was a historic green, little of which survives. The main road through the village of East Hanningfield is largely unchanged from that shown on the Walker map of the area in the 17<sup>th</sup> century with ribbon development along it (The church/hall complex associated with the village lie in zone 6.4). The main area of historic core of the village is protected as a conservation area.

*Archaeological Character:* Evidence of prehistoric flintwork from the zone indicates early prehistoric occupation. At Butts Green finds of Late Iron Age pottery and a number of Romano-British cremations indicate settlement in the immediate vicinity. This is supported by the suggested location of a Roman road within the zone. The site of a

World War I, Royal Flying Corp landing strip, lies immediately west of East Hanningfield village. Cropmarks just outside the northern boundary of the zone at Howe Green may represent the probable remnants of a prehistoric field system which may extend into the zone.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of archaeological deposits, landscape features	2
• Survival	Landscape and below ground deposits likely to survive well	2
• Documentation	HER data, Airfields survey	2
• Group Value Association	Landscape features	1
• Potential	High potential for below ground deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Landscape and below ground deposits sensitive	2
• Amenity Value	Potential for the promotion of the historic environment in the form of village assessment	2

### Key issues

- **The grain of the historic landscape in terms of ancient woodland, field boundaries and settlement pattern is well preserved in much of the zone and should be conserved.**

### 6.3 A130 corridor

**Summary:** This zone contains both the new and old A130. A large part of the co-axial enclosure field pattern survives through to the present day, with many of the boundaries having an ancient origin. The historic landscape is dominated by the monuments of Second World War date as the General Headquarters Line runs due south through this

zone. Below ground archaeological deposits are well documented within this zone due to the archaeological work undertaken on the new A130. This has shown the presence of wide spread multi-period deposits surviving throughout the zone.

*Historic Landscape Character:* This zone situated between the two Hanningfield villages is dominated by both the modern and old A130. The field pattern comprises a mix of pre 18<sup>th</sup> century co axial and irregular enclosure. The settlement pattern comprises dispersed occupation fronting the old A130 and dispersed farmsteads and halls spread across the zone. The church and small settlement around Rettendon Place command a dominant position overlooking the valley of the Crouch in the southern area of the zone. Large number of Second World War pillboxes can be seen throughout the area running north south along and around the old A130.

*Archaeological Character:* The zone contains a high density of pillboxes of the World War II GHQ defence line following the line of a major anti-tank ditch. Many survive in good condition on agricultural land. The line of the new A130 was subject to extensive evaluation and where appropriate, excavation, prior to construction. Roman settlement was identified at Downhouse Farm which was followed by Saxon occupation of the 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> centuries. Quantities of prehistoric and medieval pottery were also discovered indicating wider potential. Roman ceramics are also noted from a site west of Rettendon. Indications of prehistoric activity in the form of burnt and heat fractured flint were identified at several sites along the line of the A130.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of archaeological deposits especially from the A130 excavations	3
• Survival	Good survival of archaeological deposits, WW II sites and landscape	2
• Documentation	Excavation reports, HER data, World War II survey	2
• Group Value Association	World War II monuments	3

• Potential	A130 shows the high potential for below ground deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Landscape and below ground deposits sensitive	2
• Amenity Value	World War II monuments are integral part of the GHQ line and could be usefully promoted to a wider public	2

### Key Issues

- **The archaeological excavations on the A 130 provide a good indicator of the range of archaeological deposits which survive within the general area south of Chelmsford**
- **The many monuments associated with the Second World War should be preserved.**

### 6.4 Woodham Ferrers

**Summary:** Large area overlooking the Crouch Valley. The zone contains a large area of Dengie form field pattern in the south of the zone. Settlement pattern comprises the village at Woodham Ferrers, the church/hall complex at East Hanningfield, and other dispersed farmsteads across the zone. Nothing survives of the original East Hanningfield church above ground apart from its associated graveyard.

*Historic Landscape Character:* The zone lies to the north of modern South Woodham Ferrers. The historic field pattern largely comprises pre 18<sup>th</sup> century co axial enclosure and Dengie form enclosure with some pre 18<sup>th</sup> century irregular enclosure. The Dengie form enclosure is confined to the southern area of the zone. The various forms of enclosure have all suffered from some post 1950's boundary loss apart from a small



area to the north of Rettenden Place where the original field pattern survives. A different field pattern of irregular fields can still be discerned around East Hannigfield Hall. Immediately adjacent to the hall lies the site of the medieval Church, outside the present village, which was destroyed by fire in 1883 and the new church moved to its present position in the centre of the village of East Hanningfield. The historic settlement pattern is confined to ribbon development along the road for the original settlement of Woodham Ferrers and dispersed farmsteads and halls throughout the zone. An impressive medieval moated site is located at Edwins Hall.

*Archaeological Character:* Chance finds of Roman pottery in the zone suggest activity of this date. Medieval settlement was focussed on the village of Woodham Ferrers to the east of which lies the important moated site of Edwins Hall. A mill mound with associated finds of medieval pottery is located due south of the village. Further medieval settlement was centred on the church/hall complex south of the present village of East Hanningfield. The medieval church does not survive above ground but the graveyard is still extant and heavily overgrown. The church/hall complex would have been a focal point for settlement during the medieval period.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Archaeological deposits, landscape, settlement	3
• Survival	Below ground deposits likely to survive well, church will survive below ground landscape has suffered field boundary loss	2
• Documentation	HER data, documentary sources	1
• Group Value Association	Field systems, medieval farmsteads	2
• Potential	Good potential for below ground deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Below ground deposits sensitive to change	2
• Amenity Value	Further investigation may facilitate better understanding and promotion of the historic environment	2

## 7 HECA 7

### 7.1 South Woodham Ferrers

**Summary:** The central area of South Woodham Ferrers developed as an area of Plotlands in the early to middle 20<sup>th</sup> century following the construction of the railway station in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Elements of this layout survives today along Hullbridge Road through the centre of the modern town.

*Urban character:* The early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century plotland development is centred on Hullbridge Road with the railway station located at its northern end. Elements of the plotland boundaries survive in this zone although extensive infill has occurred. The railway and associated structures are of interest as the earliest structures in the zone and those which facilitated the development of the town. Other structures of interest include the chapel at the southern end of Hullbridge Road with working class places of worship such as this being important as many of them are being lost to conversion or demolition.

*Archaeological Character:* No archaeological deposits earlier than the 20<sup>th</sup> century are known from this zone. However within this zone modern infill of the street frontage has preserved the layout of some of the plotlands down Hullbridge Road.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Limited diversity in range of historical environment assets	1
• Survival	Plotland layout survive well	1
• Documentation	Her data	1
• Group Value Association	The various plots and layout of the village is important	1

• Potential	Possible earlier deposits present	1
• Sensitivity to change	Layout of plotlands is sensitive	2
• Amenity Value	History of settlement is quite well understood locally and has potential of promotion with zones 7.2 and 8	2

## Key Issues

- **The original layout of the village should be preserved with the preservation of original plotland boundaries which will maintain the historic character of this part of the settlement.**
- **Buildings such as those around and associated with the railway and the chapel at the southern end of the zone should be preserved where possible.**

## 7.2 South Woodham Ferrers New Town

**Summary:** South Woodham Ferrers largely comprises a planned new town of the 1970's. Apart from the plotland area (see above) the majority of the urban development dates to the 1970's. Prehistoric deposits have been shown to survive on the edge of the present town area. It is probable that prehistoric and later occupation was present across the new town area, most of which has now been destroyed by the construction of the new town.

*Urban Character:* This zone comprises the new town of South Woodham Ferrers which developed from the 1970's and continues to expand today. It was widely acclaimed as being an excellent example of new town planning.

*Archaeological Character:* Known archaeological deposits within the new town area comprise two brick works, now both located beneath parts of the new town. Recent excavations in advance of new housing have identified prehistoric occupation near to the estuary edge. Further deposits may survive in undeveloped areas.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Late 20 <sup>th</sup> housing estate, industrial brickworks and prehistoric occupation	2
• Survival	Below ground deposits largely destroyed	1
• Documentation	Her data, excavation reports	2
• Group Value Association	Limited group value	1
• Potential	Mostly developed	1
• Sensitivity to change	Area largely modern development,	1
• Amenity Value	Potential to promote the new town development and its surrounding history, especially exploitation of the estuary (see zone 8.1)	2

## Key Issues

- Although of recent origin the town is likely to be recognised as a good example of late 20<sup>th</sup> century planned development.

## 8 HECA 8

### 8.1 The Coastal Zone

**Summary:** Chelmsford Borough's only coast, situated on the north bank of the Crouch Estuary. The zone historically comprised low lying salt marsh and grazing marsh, the Crouch and associated creeks facilitated exploitation of marine resources and access to coastal trade and transport. The archaeological resource comprises a varied range of

deposits associated with the exploitation of the coastal region. Neolithic and Mesolithic land surfaces are preserved and overlain by later deposits.

*Historic Landscape:* An area of tidal creek and saltmarsh located on three sides of the modern settlement of South Woodham Ferrers. The southern part is the inter-tidal zone comprising sand/mud flats and salt marsh, and the northern rough grassland, the two generally separated by a sea wall. The sea walls are dominant features of the landscape. There are important earthworks relating to the medieval and early post medieval salt industry situated on the grazing marsh.



*Fig: 20 Maritime Chelmsford; the marshland and estuarine resources of this zone have been economically important for millennia*

*Archaeological Character:* The coastal zone around the Crouch estuary has been the subject of an extensive programme of fieldwork and survey and particularly in the area of Fenn Creek. Ancient land surfaces containing evidence of Mesolithic/Neolithic activity and occupation are overlain and protected by later deposits of peat and clay which themselves contain important evidence of past environmental conditions and land use. A

salt production site at Fenn Creek dating from the Middle Bronze Age is one of the earliest known in Britain. At Marsh Farm Country Park a series of earthworks survive, protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, which relate to salt manufacture during the early post medieval period. These can be related to other salt producing sites across the Clements Creek in Maldon District. A wide range of surviving archaeological deposits and features, from evidence of Mesolithic activity to post medieval sea defences may be expected within this zone and can occur on the old land surface, within the estuarine clays and peats or around the estuarine alluvium.



*Fig: 21 Survey of the Crouch Estuary and South Woodham Ferrers; the archaeologist is standing on a peaty deposit associated with a prehistoric land surface.*

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Salt production sites, palaeo-environmental remains, land surfaces, wooden structures, sea walls and counter walls	3
• Survival	Below ground deposits, earthworks survive well. Palaeo-environmental remains, prehistoric	3

	artefact scatters, wooden structures of various dates are well preserved in the inter-tidal zone.	
• Documentation	Surveys, HER data, historical record	3
• Group Value Association	Sites and deposits associated with the development and exploitation of the coastal zone.	2
• Potential	High potential for surviving archaeological deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Landscape, below ground deposits, deposits in the inter-tidal zone and earthworks highly sensitive	3
• Amenity Value	The historic environment character of this zone has considerable potential for promotion	2

## Key Issues

- **Protection of earthworks both scheduled and unscheduled**
- **This zone requires an integrated approach to the conservation and management of the historic and natural environment**
- **Planning for flood risk management is an important issue in this important, complex, historic environment. It is likely that Environmental Impact Assessments will be required.**

## 9 HECA 9

### 9.1 West of South Woodham Ferrers

**Summary:** This zone situated to the west of South Woodham Ferrers historically was largely open countryside. The historic field pattern comprises pre 18<sup>th</sup> century co axial and Dengie Form enclosure, much of which has been lost due to field boundary loss. Little archaeological work has been undertaken in the area, however multi-period deposits have been identified including prehistoric cropmarks and evidence for Roman occupation as well as exploitation of the Crouch Estuary during the post medieval period.

*Historic Landscape Character:* The zone lies on the northern side of the Crouch Estuary bisected by the main A132. The historic field pattern largely comprises pre 18<sup>th</sup> century co axial enclosure and Dengie form enclosure. Both of these field types have suffered from post 1950's boundary loss. The historic settlement pattern largely comprises dispersed occupation along the main road and dispersed farmsteads.

*Archaeological Character:* A ring-ditch of probable prehistoric origin has been identified close to Fenn Creek. This and other known remains of Bronze Age date from the east of the creek suggest other deposits of prehistoric date are likely to survive, especially to the south of the zone in proximity to the estuary. Chance finds of Roman pottery, a Roman kiln site to the north east of Rettendon Place and a single Roman burial are recorded which indicate occupation throughout this zone. Post medieval exploitation of the Crouch Estuary is shown by the presence of a malthouse and lime kiln at Gosse's Farm.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of multi-period deposits	2
• Survival	Below ground deposits likely to survive well,	2



	landscape has suffered considerable field boundary loss	
• Documentation	Very little documentation available, HER data	1
• Group Value Association	Field systems, industrial sites	2
• Potential	Good potential for below ground deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Below ground deposits sensitive to change	2
• Amenity Value	Further investigation may facilitate better understanding and promotion of the historic environment.	1

### Key Issues

- **Southern part of the zone overlooking the Crouch estuary is well understood and well preserved and should be conserved where possible.**

## 9.2 Battlesbridge and A130

Summary: This zone follows the line of the old and new A130. The surviving field system was formed in the pre 18<sup>th</sup> century, much of which has suffered boundary loss. The settlement pattern is characterised by dispersed church/hall and farmsteads with a settlement at Battlesbridge. The church at Rettendon Place is situated in a dominant position overlooking the Crouch valley. Excavations along the new A130 have identified multi-period occupation. The dominant archaeological feature within this zone is the line of military defences associated with the Second World War General Headquarters Line.

*Historic Landscape Character:* The zone lies on the northern side of the river Crouch bisected by the old and new A130. The historic field system is dominated by pre 18<sup>th</sup> century co axial enclosure some of which survives in the modern landscape. The historic settlement pattern comprises two settlements at Rettendon Place and Battlesbridge. Rettendon Place developed from a church and hall complex, with the

church located in a dominant position overlooking the Crouch Valley. Battlesbridge developed as a small port around the large mill to the south of the river. The core of Historic Battlesbridge is protected as a conservation area which straddles Chelmsford's Borough boundary. Rettendon Place has also become the focus for small scale post 1950 development. The remaining historic settlement pattern comprised dispersed farmsteads. The landscape contains a large number of Second World War defences associated with the General Headquarters line of defence.

*Archaeological Character:* Deposits of prehistoric, Iron Age and Roman date are known from previous archaeological work along the line of the new A130. Rettendon Place historically was formed from a church/hall complex which formed one of the focal points in a dispersed medieval settlement pattern. The Church at Rettendon place dates to the 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century. Battlesbridge is shown on the first edition OS as having a mill, limekilns, a wharf and a malt house (this is located in zone 9.1). The zone is characterised by a high concentration of pillboxes relating to the World War II General Headquarters defence line and associated anti-tank ditch.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Wide range of archaeological deposits present.	3
• Survival	Below ground deposits survive well, landscape has suffered boundary loss	2
• Documentation	Excavation reports, World War II survey	3
• Group Value Association	Military features have high value, industrial survival at Battlesbridge	3
• Potential	Below ground deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Landscape and archaeological features sensitive	2
• Amenity Value	Military assets have high amenity value especially if promoted with zone 6.3, Industrial element at Battlesbridge could be promoted.	3

## **Key Issues**

- **The archaeological excavations on the A 130 provide a good indicator of the quantity of archaeological deposits which survive within the general area south of Chelmsford**
- **The many monuments associated with the Second World War should be preserved.**
- **The industrial buildings surviving in Battlesbridge should be protected from demolition**

## **9.3 Runwell**

**Summary:** This zone lies to the north of Wickford comprising parts of the settlement of Runwell. The field pattern comprises pre 18<sup>th</sup> century enclosure with areas in the north and west of the zone surviving well. Multi-period deposits have been identified across the zone, however, limited development has provided little opportunity for archaeological investigation. The hospital at Runwell is an interesting example of an early 20<sup>th</sup> century psychiatric hospital.

*Historic Landscape Character:* The zone lies on the northern side of the Crouch Estuary bisected by the main A132. The historic field pattern largely comprises pre 18<sup>th</sup> century co axial enclosure and Dengie form enclosure with some pre 18<sup>th</sup> century irregular enclosure. All of these field types have suffered from post 1950's boundary loss, however areas in the north and west of the zone have suffered less. The historic settlement pattern largely comprises dispersed occupation along the main road and dispersed farmsteads. A single settlement at Runwell is located within the zone which has grown substantially in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It began as a small community surrounding the Church of St Mary. In 1924 Runwell had 350 inhabitants and by 1990 it had risen to 5000 with the majority of the people living in estates associated with the expansion of

Wickford, which lies to the south west of the zone in Basildon District. The zone contains a large hospital complex at Runwell developed in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century as a psychiatric hospital. It was commissioned in 1928 and completed in 1934. Small patches of ancient woodland survive within the zone.

*Archaeological Character:* Significant finds of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery at several sites within the zone indicate extensive occupation. The southern boundary of the zone is formed by the original line of the river Crouch. The straightening of the River Crouch to its present line is likely to have protected important archaeological palaeo-environmental deposits in the filled in river course. The dispersed pattern of farmsteads probably dates to the medieval period. St Mary's church, which originates in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century would have formed the focus for medieval settlement. A model farm of the post medieval period survives at Thomas Kemble.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Archaeological, industrial and landscape remains	2
• Survival	Below ground deposits likely to survive well, landscape has suffered field boundary loss	2
• Documentation	Very little documentation available, HER data	1
• Group Value Association	Field systems	1
• Potential	Good potential for below ground deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Below ground deposits sensitive to change	2
• Amenity Value	Promotion and understanding could be developed in relation to the historic environment with the development of Runwell, its associated hospital	2

## 10 HECA 10

### 10.1 Wid Valley

**Summary:** This zone comprises the valley of the River Wid and the line of the main Roman road from Chelmsford to London. Important areas of meadow pasture survive on either side of the Wid. The zone contains the historic polyfocal settlement of Margaretting whose medieval focal point of the Church/Hall complex is now separated from the modern village. Limited fieldwork has been undertaken in the area, however multi-period deposits have been recorded. Medieval occupation is well represented with the Church Hall complex and dispersed farmsteads.

*Historic Landscape Character:* This zone lies on either side of the River Wid. The field pattern comprises largely pre 18<sup>th</sup> century irregular enclosure with areas of meadow pasture close to the river. Some of the meadow pasture survives through to the present day. Small areas of historic woodland survive within the zone. The settlement of Margaretting is located on its western side comprising a polyfocal settlement with a church and manor complex now separated from the main part of the present village which developed on the main Roman Road from Chelmsford to London. At Domesday the administrative focus was almost certainly centred on the church/hall complex and not at the present crossroads to which the modern focus of settlement has developed. The Margaretting conservation area extends over part of the settlement which developed on the Roman Road and the estate centred on Peacocks. The remainder of the historic settlement pattern comprises dispersed farmsteads, some comprising moated enclosures such as Killegrews which is protected as a scheduled monument. This zone also contains several green lanes linking farmsteads or rural communities.

*Archaeological Character:* Prehistoric flint artifacts have been reported throughout the Wid Valley. A Roman road passes through the Wid valley and limited fieldwork has identified material of Late Iron Age, Roman and Saxon date including a coin hoard from the late 3<sup>rd</sup> century, suggesting settlement along the valley sides. There is potential for

road side settlement during the Roman period. Killegrews, a scheduled medieval moated site is located on the western bank of the River Wid close to Moulsham Thrift Wood, a surviving block of ancient woodland. The dispersed medieval settlement of Margaretting lies between the A12 and the River Wid to the east. The bottom of the valley is likely to contain significant environmental deposits.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of Historic environment assets including Roman road, medieval moated sites, settlement pattern field systems	3
• Survival	Good preservation in valley area, potential of alluvial deposits, little development. Meadow pasture	3
• Documentation	HER data,	1
• Group Value Association	Medieval occupation with farmsteads and church/hall complex.	2
• Potential	Potential with surviving landscape and little development, Below ground deposits likely to be extensive. Possible Roman road side development.	3
• Sensitivity to change	Landscape and below ground deposits highly sensitive to change	2
• Amenity Value	The history of the village and its surrounding historic landscape is known locally, however, there is the potential for further and fuller promotion.	2

### Key Issues

- **The grain of the historic landscape in terms of field boundaries and settlement pattern is well preserved in much of the zone and should be conserved.**

- **The historic polyfocal nature of the settlement of Margaretting and its relationship with the church/hall complex should be clearly recognised in the VDS.**

## **10.2 Galleywood Common**

**Summary:** This zone comprises the historic area of Galleywood Common including the historic race track part of which survives today. A range of earthworks survive on the common which form part of the Napoleonic defences. The majority of the horse racing circuit survives.

*Historic Landscape Character:* The most dominant historic landscape feature within this zone comprises the common at Galleywood. Part of the common contained a horse racing track, which is still visible today, part of which has been lost. It is known that horse-racing at Galleywood pre-dated 1770, when the first formal mention is recorded. The historic field pattern to the south west of the common comprised pre 18<sup>th</sup> century irregular enclosure, but, many of the boundaries have been lost since the 1950's. Earthworks relating to the Napoleonic defences survive on the common. The settlement pattern comprises dispersed farmsteads and the church. The church of St Michaels was located in an isolated position just to the north of the racecourse.

*Archaeological Character:* The major archaeological component of this zone are the Napoleonic defences situated astride Margaretting Road on Galleywood Common. The star fort is placed at the southern end of a line of defences constructed in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century commanding one of the main routes west to London that may have been used by a French invasion force. The earthwork defences and artillery positions survive within woodland on Galleywood Common although they are presently largely overgrown. A windmill shown on the Chapman and Andre map (1777) may have been in existence for some time and both Roman and medieval pottery found within the present built up area of Galleywood (10.3) hint at multi-period settlement and activity within the zone. The

church of St Michael and All Angels was consecrated on 29<sup>th</sup> September 1873 with the foundation stone being laid in June 1872.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Historic boundaries, common, racecourse, church and below ground deposits	3
• Survival	Common area preserves earthworks, below ground deposits will have good survival, some field boundary loss and development	2
• Documentation	Survey report, HER data	2
• Group Value Association	Limited group value	1
• Potential	High potential of surviving below ground deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Historic landscape and below ground deposits highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	Already amenity area but promotion of historic assets could be significantly increased	3

### Key Issues

- **The grain of the historic landscape in terms of field boundaries, heathland, recreational use of the land and settlement pattern is well preserved in much of the zone and should be conserved.**
- **Encourage discussion relating to the restoration of Heathland which is an increasingly rare historic landscape**

### ***10.3 Galleywood and area inside the A12***

**Summary:** This zone contains the 20<sup>th</sup> century settlement of Galleywood. Some of the fields adjacent to the settlement retain their original layout with little or no field boundary



loss. The original village layout prior to modern expansion largely survives within the present settlement along with field boundaries now incorporated as property boundaries.

*Historic Landscape Character:* This zone is largely located inside the modern Chelmsford Bypass and contains the Valley of a tributary of the Sandon Brook. The majority of the historic landscape within this zone comprises pre 18<sup>th</sup> century irregular fields, however there has been significant boundary loss since the 1950's. Areas of fields between Galleywood and Chelmsford preserve their small irregular nature and have not suffered much boundary loss. The modern settlement of Galleywood lies within this zone much of which was built in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The remainder of the landscape is occupied by dispersed historic farmsteads.

*Archaeological Character:* The built up area covers elements of the Napoleonic defences which are now largely destroyed. Chance finds of Roman-British and medieval pottery south of Watchouse Road suggest some level of activity/occupation of these periods within the zone. Decorated and dated roof tiles from the 1770's indicated a tilery in the area of Galleywood. Much of the surviving agricultural land displays cropmarks mainly relating to post-medieval field boundaries. A medieval moated site survives at Great Mascalls. The bottom of the valley is likely to contain significant environmental deposits.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Assets comprise moats, field boundaries	2
• Survival	Outside housing development likely to be good survival	2
• Documentation	HER data	1
• Group Value Association	Most assets are unrelated to each other	1
• Potential	Potential for below ground deposits on the valley slopes very high	2
• Sensitivity to change	Valley slopes and area between Galleywood	2

	and Chelmsford sensitive	
• Amenity Value	The historic environment assets within this zone and its associated zone of 10.2 could be developed to allow better understanding and promotion to and for the local community	2

## Key Issues

- **The grain of the historic landscape in terms of field boundaries and settlement pattern is well preserved in much of the zone and should be conserved.**
- **Any VDS should take into account the street pattern and historic boundary layout as well as the historic environment assets in the associated Galleywood Common.**

## 10.4 Stock

**Summary:** The zone's field pattern is formed mainly from pre 18<sup>th</sup> century enclosure with the village of Stock at its centre. Areas of ancient woodland survive throughout the zone. Throughout the zone multi-period archaeological deposits are recorded. The historic village of Stock contains a number of listed buildings within the conservation area with earlier occupation represented by a possible Iron Age enclosure.

*Historic Landscape Character:* This zone is formed from largely pre 18<sup>th</sup> century regular and irregular enclosure. Apart from considerable boundary loss in the northern area of the zone the remaining historic landscape has suffered very limited change. A clearly defined series of rectilinear fields are located in the southern half of the zone. Areas of ancient woodland survive across the zone. At the centre of the zone lies the historic village of Stock whose medieval and post medieval core survives in good condition and

is protected as a conservation area. The historic windmill, now situated within the village, survives and is maintained by Essex County Council. The church of All Saints is slightly detached from the village centre and probably originated as a Church/hall complex in the medieval period. The historic character of the village survives well with the village green, windmill and many historic buildings in its streets.



Fig: 22 *Stock windmill*

*Archaeological Character:* Prehistoric activity is suggested by a possible barrow to the south of the village and spreads of burnt flint identified during fieldwalking at Crondon Park to the north and a range of Bronze Age gold objects found in the village. The village of Stock is thought to be situated on a possible Iron Age enclosure. Roman finds on the western boundary of the zone indicate probable settlement along the Wid valley. A Roman cremation cemetery suggests continued occupation. Both medieval pottery

and post-medieval brick and tile kilns are a major feature of the archaeology of the village.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of landscape and below ground deposits	3
• Survival	Good survival in both landscape and archaeological deposits	2
• Documentation	Site reports, HER data	2
• Group Value Association	Listed buildings, village layout in Stock	3
• Potential	High potential for surviving below ground deposits. Possible earthworks in ancient woodland	3
• Sensitivity to change	Stock and its surrounding landscape highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	The village and its associated historic environment assets form a highly promotable asset for the borough	3

### Key Issues

- **Protection of the street pattern, property boundaries and buildings of the village conservation area**
- **Below ground deposits need to be taken into consideration at an early stage in any development or master plan proposals within the village core. It is likely that the results of archaeological field evaluation will be required to be submitted with planning applications**
- **The Historic Environment including below ground deposits needs to be appropriately represented within any VDS for Stock**

### 10.5 Land south of the A12 and West of the A130

**Summary:** A zone to the south of the A12 of large fields originating from pre 18<sup>th</sup> century regular enclosure. The historic settlement pattern comprises dispersed moated and unmoated farmsteads probably of medieval date. Archaeological character largely unknown but the potential is fairly high.

*Historic Landscape Character:* A zone of large fields originating from pre 18<sup>th</sup> century regular enclosure. A significant amount of field boundary loss has occurred since the 1950s resulting in little of the original field pattern surviving. The settlement pattern comprises dispersed farmstead some with moats which probably having their origins in the medieval period.

*Archaeological Character:* Two gold bracelets of Late Bronze Age date found during ploughing demonstrate otherwise unknown prehistoric activity within the zone. No archaeological work has been done but it is likely that further deposits survive.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Cropmarks, moats, Bronze Age bracelets	2
• Survival	Little of the original field pattern survives. Moats and below ground deposits survive well	2
• Documentation	HER data	1
• Group Value Association	Moated sites	1
• Potential	Potential for below ground deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Below ground deposits and standing assets sensitive, however, landscape is less sensitive	1
• Amenity Value	Limited knowledge at present reduces the potential for enhanced presentation and understanding, but could be developed through research in conjunction with other areas.	1

## **10.6 Hanningfield Reservoir**

**Summary:** Hanningfield reservoir takes up a large part of the southern half of the zone. It is important in itself for the history of the 20<sup>th</sup> century water industry. In the northern area much of the pre 18<sup>th</sup> century enclosure landscape survives with a dispersed settlement pattern. The zone contains two settlements at South and West Hanningfield. Archaeological deposits comprise multi-period deposits spread across the zone with the important industrial complex of South Hanningfield Reservoir within the zone.

*Historic Landscape Character:* A large part of the zone contains Hanningfield Reservoir. The surviving historic landscape in the northern part of the zone retains much of its original boundaries originating from pre 18<sup>th</sup> century irregular enclosure. The historic settlement pattern comprises dispersed farmsteads with a poly focal settlement at West and South Hanningfield. The original polyfocal settlement has now formed into the single settlement at West Hanningfield. The settlement at South Hanningfield began as a church/hall complex originating in the medieval period. Industrial elements include the water processing plant associated with the reservoir. The reservoir itself, constructed in the 1950's, now has become a much appreciated and integral part of the historic landscape.

*Archaeological Character:* A number of finds of Mesolithic worked flint have been found along with Bronze Age metalwork and Iron Age and Roman pottery are indicative of occupation throughout the surviving areas of this zone. Medieval settlement at both West and South Hanningfield is attested by medieval churches, several moats and chance finds of medieval pottery across the zone. A possible post-medieval kiln site is noted to the west of the zone. The reservoir and its associated buildings are an important element of the 20<sup>th</sup> century water industry.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	landscape and multi-period archaeological features. Industrial waterworks	2
• Survival	Below ground deposits and field boundaries	2
• Documentation	HER data, public water supply industry report	2
• Group Value Association	Water works features, medieval settlement	2
• Potential	Potential of below ground deposits in undisturbed areas	2
• Sensitivity to change	Northern part of the zone is sensitive to change	2
• Amenity Value	The ancient woodland have potential for promotion and the waterworks could be promoted as an industrial asset.	2

### **Key Issues**

- **Careful management of the historic and ancient woodland (possibly by English Woodland grant schemes)**
- **Where possible protect and enhance the good survival of the historic field pattern in the north of the zone.**

### **10.7 Ramsden Heath**

Summary: Large zone situated to the south of Hanningfield reservoir. A large amount of ancient woodland survives throughout the zone which has the potential of protecting earthworks from the medieval or earlier periods. The settlement pattern comprises largely dispersed farmsteads, some being Church/hall complexes or moated sites. A range of archaeological sites are known especially of the Roman and medieval period.

*Historic Landscape Character.* The field pattern comprises pre 18<sup>th</sup> century irregular enclosure much of which survives today. This zone contains a large number of

surviving ancient woodlands which will retain many of their original earthworks, some of which will date back to the medieval period or earlier. Within the zone further large scale planting is occurring especially in the area around Hanningfield Reservoir. The historic settlement pattern comprises dispersed farmsteads and a Hall/church complex at Downham Hall. Ramsden Hall originally had substantial parkland associated with it. However, there is now little surviving of the original boundary, with the land under agricultural production. There is a strong relationship with the landscape of the upper Crouch Valley to the south in Basildon District.

*Archaeological Character:* The archaeology of the zone is known largely from a small number of historic and chance finds. Iron Age and Romano-British coins and pottery and a possible Romano-British cemetery to the west of the zone and north of Ramsden Heath imply settlement of this date which may extend throughout the zone. South of Downham, excavation has demonstrated the existence of Iron Age and Roman settlement. A scheduled moat of medieval date exists at Chithams Farm to the west of Ramsden Heath with other moated sites within the zone all probably of a similar date. The Church Hall complex at Downham originates in the medieval period.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Wide range of historic environment assets, moats, church/hall complexes, woodlands etc	3
• Survival	Landscape and below ground deposits survive well, little development in area	3
• Documentation	HER data	1
• Group Value Association	Medieval landscape and built heritage	2
• Potential	Historic landscape and woodland survives with possible earthworks, Below ground deposits likely to be extensive	3
• Sensitivity to change	Historic landscape and below ground deposits highly sensitive	3
• Amenity Value	Diverse range of historic environment assets which have the potential for promotion.	2



## Key Issues

- **Careful management of the historic and ancient woodland (possibly by English Woodland grant schemes) and protect and enhance the good survival of the historic field pattern**

## 11 HECA 11

### 11.1 Writtle

**Summary:** This zone lies to the west of Chelmsford containing the historic village of Writtle. The field pattern largely comprises pre 18<sup>th</sup> century enclosure much of which survives. The settlement pattern comprises polyfocal settlement with a number of greens in the zone. Within the zone the Domesday book shows that by the late Saxon period Writtle had become a high status royal estate. Archaeological evidence shows occupation throughout the prehistoric period with later Roman settlement in several locations within the zone.

*Historic Landscape Character:* The field pattern within this zone comprises a large area of pre 18<sup>th</sup> century irregular and irregular sinuous enclosure, with some post 1950's boundary loss particularly extensive in the area north of the A1060. Some of this boundary loss relates to hedges being removed that were only added in the post medieval period to existing large fields. The result is that many of the surviving boundaries are medieval or earlier in origin. The area of fields to the north of Roxwell Road was bisected by enclosed meadow pasture, much of which has now been removed, however this can still be seen in aerial photos and small sections of surviving boundaries. Further strips of meadow pasture are recorded along each of the Brooks throughout this zone. Medieval Writtle is an example of a dispersed, settlement pattern with poly-focal centres. The large greens of Greenbury, Oxney and Newney in the northern half of the parish served as an area of rough woodland pasture, largely used

for cattle grazing. It has been postulated (1970) that the current parish was divided into three zones with the lands north of the manor including 'Greenbury' Green being part of the fertile lands of the royal demesne. The central zone belonged to sub manors assarted and farmed by peasants, the slightly less fertile lands of south were managed woodland for the royal hunt. A range of listed buildings are concentrated in the area around the green at Writtle which is protected as the conservation area. There are dispersed farmsteads throughout the zone several which are moated including the important site at King Johns Hunting Lodge.

*Archaeological Character:* The earliest evidence for settlement activity within the zone dates to the prehistoric period. A number of archaeological artefacts have been found ranging in date from the Palaeolithic to the Iron Age. Although there is a paucity of prehistoric settlement evidence, archaeological excavation has suggested a small Iron Age settlement to the north of the village Green at Writtle. Occasional finds of Late Iron Age and Romano-British material from this zone suggest the possibility of settlement of this date which has been confirmed by the recent discovery of a significant Roman site at Sturgeons Farm north of Writtle. There is a hiatus in settlement evidence until the compilation of the Domesday Book, which shows that by the late Saxon period Writtle had become a high status royal estate, its manor being one of the largest in Essex in wealth, population and territory.

The main nave and chancel of All Saints Church were all constructed in around 1230. There is some evidence to show that the 13<sup>th</sup> century building was in fact an enlargement and reconstruction of a Norman church. The important moated site of King John's Hunting Lodge situated is situated to the north of the main medieval settlement within the grounds of Writtle College. Further details on the history and archaeological potential of Writtle can be found in the historic settlement assessment report produced for Chelmsford Borough in 2001.



*Fig: 23 Reconstruction by Frank Gardiner of King John's hunting Lodge*

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Wide range of archaeological deposits and landscape features	3
• Survival	Archaeological deposits survive well. Landscape features suffered damage through boundary loss	2
• Documentation	Excavation reports, HER data, Writtle village assessment	3
• Group Value Association	Moats, landscape features, medieval settlement provide an integrated entity	3
• Potential	Surviving below ground deposits, environmental deposits especially within the meadow pasture,	3

• Sensitivity to change	Meadow pasture, open landscape and archaeological deposits sensitive	2
• Amenity Value	Historic Environment in the form of the landscape, built heritage and below ground deposits offer considerable opportunities for interpretation and promotion.	3

### Key issues

- **The grain of the historic landscape in terms of ancient woodland, field boundaries and settlement pattern is well preserved in much of the zone and should be conserved.**
- **Any development proposals should have regard to the above in terms of location layout and design**

## 11.2 Hylands

**Summary:** This zone comprises the historic 18<sup>th</sup> century parkland of Hylands House with the eastern edge defined by the line of the Roman Road from Chelmsford to London. Earlier occupation, probably of medieval date has been found within the zone. The parkland also potentially preserves archaeological deposits of an earlier date.

*Historic Landscape Character.* This zone comprises the historic parkland of Hylands House with the eastern edge defined by the line of the Roman Road from Chelmsford to London. The park and woodland at Hylands House was developed throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries with the park remodelled in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century by Humphrey Repton. During the early and middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Hylands was noted for the extent and variety of the glasshouses both beside the house and in the walled garden. The present park became a public park in 1966. Historic settlement pattern comprises

the imposing mansion of Hylands House. The whole of Hylands House and the parkland is undergoing a significant restoration programme.

*Archaeological Character.* The zone is delineated by the boundary of the 18th and 19th century parkland and archaeological finds from the park are few. However, the line of a Roman road passes through the eastern part of the park and a number of finds of Roman building material and ceramics to the north of the zone alongside the road suggest occupation of this date. Further finds of medieval pottery and at least one probable mill mound are indicative of medieval settlement and activity which may be wider spread within the area.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Cropmarks, historic house, parkland	2
• Survival	House and landscape park, protects earlier archaeological deposits. The parkland also survives	3
• Documentation	Reports on house, landscape, excavation, HER, NMP	2
• Group Value Association	Elements relating to the historic park	2
• Potential	High potential for protected archaeological deposits and features related to the park.	3
• Sensitivity to change	Parkland highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	Major visitor attraction	3

### **11.3 Zone south of Writtle**

**Summary:** Zone lying to the south of Writtle forming part of the larger royal Manor of Writtle. Cartographic evidence suggests there is the potential for an earlier park or ancient woodland within the zone. The archaeological deposits are confined to cropmarks and medieval moated sites.

*Historic Landscape Character:* Zone located to the south of Writtle comprising an area of pre 18<sup>th</sup> century irregular enclosure which has suffered some 1950's boundary loss. The layout of the fields shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey in the centre of the zone, indicate the potential boundary of an earlier possible park or woodland. The field pattern within this area is distinctly different to the remainder of the irregular enclosure in the zone. Today some of the field boundaries have been removed, however much of the original external boundary survives. The historic settlement pattern comprises dispersed farmsteads, some of which will date back to the medieval period.

*Archaeological Character:* The zone contains two medieval moated sites within the greater medieval landscape of the Royal Estate of Writtle. Cropmarks of undated linear features occur to the west of the zone and further cropmarks indicating post-medieval field boundary loss are found in the eastern portion.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Small range of archaeological sites, some landscape features	2
• Survival	Some landscape features, archaeological deposits likely to survive well	2
• Documentation	HER data.	1
• Group Value Association	Medieval settlement	1
• Potential	High potential of below ground deposits of multi-period date. Potential of an earlier park or woodland	3
• Sensitivity to change	Landscape and archaeological deposits are sensitive	2
• Amenity Value	Limited knowledge at present reduces the potential for enhanced understanding, although this could be developed through research in conjunction with other zones.	1

## **11.4 Writtle Forest and Deer Park**

**Summary:** This zone forms an important element of the greater medieval Royal Manor of Writtle comprising the Royal forest and deer park. The forest contains a large number of surviving earthworks both associated with the forest as well as of an earlier date. All of the zone is highly sensitive and has the potential of preserving significant archaeological deposits within the forest and park.

*Historic Landscape Character:* Within this zone lie the royal forest of Writtle and the Writtle deer park. A survey of the forest and Park was undertaken in 1993 as part of English Heritage's survey grants for presentation purposes scheme. The Royal Forest of Writtle is one of the four Royal Forests of Essex and, after Hatfield, the most complete and is of national significance. The woodland landscape of enclosed springs or coppices with areas of common and wood pasture, with scattered hamlets, was likely to have been established by the early 1100s. The coppice woods of Writtle are enclosed by large banks and ditches, in places marked by oak and hornbeam shrubs. The banks are asymmetrical in profile with a long back slope on the woodland side. They tend to be sinuous and link with the natural drainage of the area. Older entrances show that the ditch was culvetted beneath the track with the ends of the bank rounded off. Later woodland boundaries are smaller in size and follow a straighter line. Medieval wood banks are visible in various parts of the forest. Writtle Park is shown on the Chapman and Andre map of 1777. The Park Pale can be traced on the ground for almost its entire length; the earthwork varies in size from a bank 3m wide and 1m high with a similar sized ditch to a degraded bank and a silted up ditch and in some instances no earthwork structure at all. The enclosure of the Park has taken place in a number of phases. The earliest may have been in the early 1600s, the last phase was in the 19th century with the enclosure of the remaining park in the southeast corner. The historic settlement pattern comprises dispersed farmsteads some with moats.

*Archaeological Character:* Writtle Forest and Deer Park contain a variety of multi period remains. Prehistoric flint work has been recovered from Writtle Forest. An earthwork

enclosure within the forest has been evaluated by excavation and has been shown to be of Late Iron Age/Roman date. The remains of a medieval chapel survive within the forest along with at least four medieval and post-medieval brick and tile kilns. Further recorded sites include a medieval moated site, a section of holloway, post-medieval sawpits, an 18<sup>th</sup> century dovecote and a series of depressions resulting from sand extraction for sand bag filling during World War II. Earthworks related to forest boundaries are a significant element of the surviving historic environment assets within this zone.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Wide range of earthworks and parkland features, archaeological deposits	3
• Survival	Good survival of both woodland and parkland earthworks and archaeological deposits.	2
• Documentation	Site reports, Surveys, HER data	3
• Group Value Association	Woodland earthworks, park features	3
• Potential	High potential for further deposits being identified, especially below ground deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Woodland and park area highly sensitive	3
• Amenity Value	High amenity value for education and public access to the park and woodland	3

## Key Issues

- **Enhanced understanding and appreciation of the historic landscape**
- **Appropriate management for the woodland**
- **Appropriate management for the earthworks within the woodland**



### ***11.5 Land to the north of Margaretting***

**Summary:** This zone lies to the south of Writtle Park comprising a mixed landscape largely originating as pre 18<sup>th</sup> century irregular enclosure containing a single medieval green. Known archaeological deposits are fairly limited but there is a Roman road and possible medieval mill mound.

*Historic Landscape Character:* Zone to the south of Writtle park comprising a mixed landscape much originating as pre 18<sup>th</sup> century irregular enclosure. Small areas of ancient woodland survive in the zone's northern area. The north eastern area of the zone now comprises a golf course which has removed all the historic boundaries within the course area. There has been field boundary loss throughout the zone since the 1950s. The historic settlement pattern comprises a single Green at Handley Green and dispersed farmsteads some of which will date back to the medieval period. The green survives in good condition with little additional development from that shown on the first edition.

*Archaeological Character:* A Roman road passes through the extreme east of the zone with potential for roadside Roman settlement. A mill mound is noted to the north which may be medieval in origin. The medieval Green at Handley Green is likely to be a focal point for medieval occupation. Cropmarks probably relating to post-medieval field boundary loss are visible.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Green, medieval farms, landscape features, archaeological deposits	2
• Survival	Green survives well, below ground deposits likely to survive well	2
• Documentation	HER data	1
• Group Value Association	Little group value	1

• Potential	Potential for below ground archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Open landscape and below ground deposits sensitive	2
• Amenity Value	Little obvious amenity value	1

### **Key Issues**

- **The green should be preserved and enhanced where possible**

## ***11.6 Radley and Cooksmill Greens***

**Summary:** This zone on the western edge of Chelmsford comprises two historic greens both of which survive in good condition. The landscape comprises mainly of pre 18<sup>th</sup> century enclosure, much of which has suffered from boundary loss. The historic settlement pattern comprises the two greens as well as a series of moated sites located on the route between Blackmore and Writtle. Archaeological evidence, although limited indicates the potential for multi-period deposits across the zone.

*Historic Landscape Character:* This zone comprises the valley of the Ewson's Brook. The field pattern within this zone comprises a large area of pre 18<sup>th</sup> century irregular enclosure, with a considerable amount of post 1950's boundary loss. The historic settlement pattern comprises two greens at Radley and Cooksmill both preserving the large parts of their original layout on either side of the valley, both with a number of listed buildings. Other settlement comprises dispersed farmsteads several of which are within moated enclosures.

*Archaeological Character:* At the extreme west of the borough the zone contains a limited range of cropmarks including that of a ring-ditch, associated linear features and an undated enclosure and field boundaries indicative of multi-period settlement originating in the prehistoric period. Finds of Roman date are few but include building

material which is indicative of a settlement or farmstead. Throughout the zone medieval occupation is represented by a series of moated sites set back from the road between Blackmore and Writtle. An interesting relic of World War II, a Q-type decoy airfield is located to the south of Horsfrith Park Farm.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Moated sites, historic greens and landscape features. archaeological deposits	2
• Survival	Archaeological deposits likely to have good survival. Greens survive well. Large number of boundaries lost.	2
• Documentation	HER data, NMP data	2
• Group Value Association	Moated sites, Greens	2
• Potential	High potential of below ground deposits.	2
• Sensitivity to change	Archaeological deposits, Greens moats sensitive to change	2
• Amenity Value	Limited knowledge at present reduces the potential for enhanced presentation and understanding, however the presence of greens and moated site within the zone form a promotable asset	1

### Key issues

- **The grain of the historic landscape in terms of ancient woodland, some field boundaries and settlement pattern is well preserved in much of the zone and should be conserved.**
- **The layout and boundaries of the Greens should be preserved**

## 12 HECA 12

### ***12.1 Ford End and Land to the West of the Chelmer***

**Summary:** This zone lies on the western valley slopes of the river Chelmer. The historic field pattern comprises pre 18<sup>th</sup> century enclosure with a polyfocal settlement pattern with dispersed farmsteads. The archaeological data indicates the potential for wide spread multi-period deposits surviving across the zone.

*Historic Landscape Character:* The zone lies on the valley slopes to the west of the river Chelmer. The historic field pattern is formed from pre 18<sup>th</sup> century irregular enclosure which has suffered from some post 1950's boundary loss. The zone is bisected by the Chelmsford to Great Dunmow Road which has the settlement of Ford End straddling it. A series of fields comprising Meadow pasture ran west from Ford End some of which survive. There are two settlements, one at Ford End and the other at North End with dispersed farmsteads throughout the zone. Two greens survive at Rolphy and Ringtail Green with many of their immediate associated fields surviving as well.

*Archaeological Character:* A number of finds including Neolithic flintwork, Bronze Age pottery, a Romano-British brooch and a Saxon spearhead around the village of North End indicate the archaeological potential of the zone. To the south of the village of Ford End are cropmarks indicating prehistoric activity in the form of ring-ditches, linear features and a possible trackway. Late Iron Age occupation is represented by a hoard of gold coins from Ford End. Further finds of medieval and post-medieval pottery have been made in the zone. A notable example of a timber framed medieval chapel and priests house survives at Blackchapel to the south of North End. There are a number of pillboxes forming part of the General Headquarters line of World War II date.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Field systems, Greens, medieval farmsteads	2
• Survival	Lack of development means good survival in both landscape, built heritage and below ground deposits	3
• Documentation	Limited data available	1
• Group Value Association	Greens, farmsteads, landscape features	2
• Potential	High potential for below ground deposits, greens survive well	2
• Sensitivity to change	Below ground deposits likely to be sensitive	2
• Amenity Value	surviving landscape features, and village assessments	2

### **Key issues**

- **The grain of the historic landscape in terms of ancient woodland, field boundaries and settlement pattern is well preserved in much of the zone and should be conserved and enhanced.**

### **12.2 Pleshey**

Summary: The zone contains the historic settlement of Pleshey and its associated deer parks. Pleshey is of national archaeological and historical importance originating as a motte and bailey castle, built in the mid-twelfth century and expanding into a town in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century. Excavations within Pleshey have shown that archaeological deposits are well preserved throughout the settlement. The associated landscape does not survive as well but elements of the deer parks can still be traced. Evidence of prehistoric and Roman deposits have also been identified within the zone.

*Historic Landscape Character:* This zone is dominated by the historic settlement of Pleshey and its associated deer parks. Pleshey is of national archaeological and historical importance. It originated as a motte and bailey castle, built in the mid-twelfth century by Geoffrey de Mandeville on the edges of High Easter parish. In the late-twelfth century there was a second phase of building, probably as a result of the granting of permission to refortify the castle in 1167 following its partial demolition in 1157. This building phase consisted of the construction of the present southern bailey and probably the town enclosure. A large part of the settlement is scheduled and is located within the conservation area and as such survives very well. Much of the land surrounding the town was deer-park, with the inhabitants' field-strips located on the western side of the town. Parts of the original park boundary survive within the present field system.

*Archaeological Character:* The zone is dominated by the great medieval earthworks of Pleshey Castle and associated town enclosure. Much of the village is scheduled and has been demonstrated by previous excavation to contain stratified and well preserved archaeological deposits. The area around Pleshey was taken up by deer park in the medieval period but sporadic finds of prehistoric and Romano-British material and the presence of the Roman villa in Zone 12.3 suggests the zone has wider archaeological potential for this period.

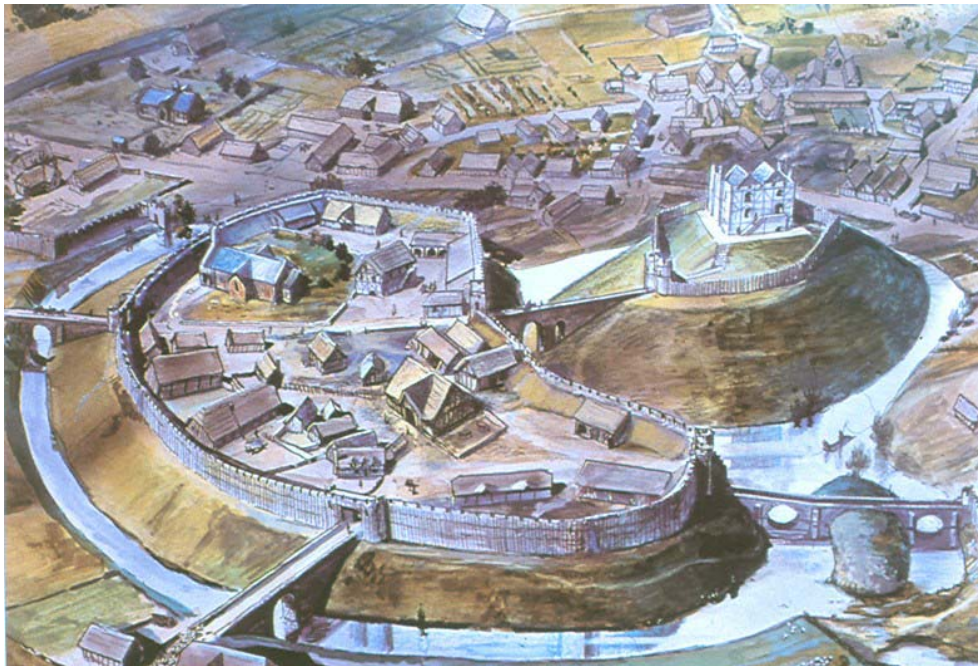


Fig: 24 *Reconstruction of Pleshey by Peter Frost (Copyright Peter Frost and Chelmsford Borough Council)*

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Wide range of medieval assets, also Roman and prehistoric in vicinity.	3
• Survival	All historic environment assets survive well	3
• Documentation	historic town report, excavation reports, HER data,	3
• Group Value Association	Buildings within settlement, medieval deposits	3
• Potential	High potential for further medieval information	3
• Sensitivity to change	All historic environment assets highly sensitive	3
• Amenity Value	Potential for promotion of the castle, the town in its enclosure and the surrounding landscape	3

## **Key Issues**

- The majority of open land within the settlement of Pleshey is protected as a scheduled ancient monument and therefore any development in or affecting the setting will require scheduled monument consent.
- Any VDS should be informed by an understanding of the below and above ground historic environment.
- Below ground deposits need to be taken into consideration at an early stage in any development or master plan proposals. It is likely that the results of archaeological field evaluation will be required to be submitted with planning applications.
- The grain of the historic landscape in terms of field boundaries, surviving deer park boundaries and settlement pattern is well preserved in much of the zone and should be conserved.
- Potential to improve the quality of the landscape with the reinstatement of removed hedgerows

### ***12.3 Chignall Smealey/Broads Green***

**Summary:** This is a large zone comprising pre 18<sup>th</sup> century enclosure. The settlement pattern contains a Church/Hall complex, greens and dispersed farmsteads and moated farmsteads. Multi-period archaeological deposits are present within the area with a Bronze Age settlement being identified at Broads Green. A Roman villa is protected as a Scheduled monument in the northern part of the zone. Medieval occupation comprises a range of known existing settlements and moats.



*Historic Landscape Character:* This zones historic landscape largely comprises pre 18<sup>th</sup> century enclosure with some field boundary loss after 1950. A strip of meadow pasture runs through the southern part of the zone running up to Chignall Smealy with a second running along the northern edge of the zone. The historic settlement within the zone comprises the Church/hall complex at Chignall Smealy and the Green at Broads Green. At one time the parish was known as Brick Chignall as brick making occurred in the area. The remaining historic settlement pattern is dispersed comprising halls, farmsteads and moats.

*Archaeological Character:* A wide range of archaeological finds and features are known from this zone. These include chance finds of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic flintwork indicating activity in the area at least from the later period. A Bronze Age shrine, cremations and settlement have been excavated at Broads Green. Late Iron Age and Roman pottery and building material has been identified at several sites indicating occupation of this date. A Roman villa is protected as a Scheduled Monument to the west of Bury Farm in the north western corner of the zone. There are a number of medieval moated sites throughout the zone and cropmarks are visible, a number of which may relate to activity from as early as the Bronze Age. Overall the zone has significant archaeological potential for complex multi-period settlement.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Limited known information, range of landscape features	2
• Survival	Archaeological deposits survive well due to lack of development,	2
• Documentation	Excavation report, HER data	2
• Group Value Association	Landscape features	1
• Potential	High potential for below ground deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Historic landscape and below ground deposits sensitive	2

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amenity Value</li> </ul>	Diverse range of historic environment assets within the countryside give potential for promotion.	1
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### Key Issues

- **The grain of the historic landscape in terms of ancient woodland, field boundaries, meadow pasture and settlement pattern is well preserved in much of the zone and should be conserved and enhanced.**

## 12.4 Good Easter and Environs

**Summary:** This zone lies on the Boulder Clay Plateau bisected in the southern area by the Can Valley. A large number of field boundaries have been lost, however, these are frequently straight boundaries which have divided irregular pre 18<sup>th</sup> century enclosure suggesting the surviving boundaries are of considerable antiquity. The historic settlement pattern is formed from a focal point at Good Easter and dispersed farmsteads, many moated of medieval origin. Cropmark evidence indicates occupation on the valley slopes of the Can as well as multi-period occupation throughout the zone.

*Historic Landscape Character:* The modern landscape of this zone comprises large open fields with Good Easter at its centre. The River Can valley runs through the southern half of the zone. This landscape has been formed from a pre 18<sup>th</sup> century enclosure sequence. Many of the field boundaries removed can be identified from aerial photographs. In many cases the fields that survive have boundaries of significant antiquity, certainly from the medieval period and potentially earlier. The River Can has enclosed water meadow on both sides of it, much of which survives to the present day. The historic settlement pattern comprises the village of Good Easter and dispersed moated and unmoated farmsteads, and halls. The historic core of the village of Good Easter is protected by a conservation area which contains the church, four other listed buildings and the remains of at least two moated sites.

*Archaeological Character:* A sequence of cropmarks lie on the gravel terraces of the Can Valley including a series of undated enclosures. In comparison to elsewhere in the area the enclosures are likely to be of prehistoric and/or Roman date. Bronze Age occupation is indicated by the proximity of hoards of metalwork, from Pleshey and High Easter. Finds of Roman material, including a coin hoard of 16 late Roman gold *solidi* from Good Easter indicate occupation of this date throughout the zone. A high concentration of moated sites is present throughout the zone many of which will have their origins in the medieval period. The remainder of the zone displays a widespread series of cropmarks many relating to post-medieval field boundary loss.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Wide range of archaeological sites and landscape features	3
• Survival	Apart from the field boundary loss the landscape and archaeological deposits survive very well	3
• Documentation	Site reports, HER data, NMP	2
• Group Value Association	Moats, landscape features, cropmarks	2
• Potential	High potential for surviving archaeological deposits and landscape features	3
• Sensitivity to change	Landscape and archaeological deposits highly sensitive to change.	3
• Amenity Value	Landscape, moated sites, historic lanes and the village of Good Easter all form a potentially promotable asset	2

## **Key issues**

- **The grain of the historic landscape in terms of ancient woodland, field boundaries and settlement pattern is well preserved in much of the zone and should be conserved.**
- **Any development proposals should have regard to the above in terms of location layout and design**
- **Any VDS for Good Easter should take into account the above and below ground historic environment assets.**

### ***12.5 Chignall St James***

**Summary:** This zone is centred on the area around Chignall St James and is bisected by the River Can. Although quarrying has taken place on large areas within the zone a significant part of the historic landscape survives, including field boundaries and meadow pasture. The archaeological deposits indicate the zone contains evidence of continuous occupation from the Mesolithic through to the modern day. This occupation includes the Scheduled site of Chignall St James Villa which has occupation from the Middle Iron Age through to the Late Roman period. Extensive medieval occupation is attested by the Church, Hall, moated sites and excavation evidence.

*Historic Landscape Character:* Zone of larger open fields on land sloping gradually to the south. The historic field pattern comprised pre 18<sup>th</sup> century irregular fields some of whose boundaries still survive. These are of considerable antiquity and should be preserved wherever possible. Meadow pasture existed on either side of the River Can, much of which survives in the southern part of the zone. Within the zone a considerable amount of quarrying has occurred, which has impacted on the overall landscape value.

The historic settlement pattern comprises the village of Chignall St James and dispersed farmsteads and Chignall Hall.

*Archaeological Character.* The zone contains varied and important archaeological deposits. Prehistoric activity is attested with finds of Mesolithic and Neolithic flintwork. A scheduled Roman courtyard villa is located at Chignall St. James. Aerial photographic evidence has provided a detailed plan of the villa indicating that the foundations are of masonry construction (Fig.23). This would make it extremely rare in Essex as the normal building material is wood. Excavations adjacent to the villa have revealed evidence of a Middle Iron Age settlement with continuous occupation into the Late Roman period when the site had become a prosperous estate. Further finds of Roman material indicate more widespread Roman activity within the zone. There are several medieval moated sites and a number of undated cropmarks throughout the zone. Medieval occupation has been identified during quarrying adjacent to Chignall Hall which may represent earlier structures associated with the Hall site. The Church of St James contains large quantities of Roman material in its fabric and the present building was originally constructed in the late 13<sup>th</sup> century.



*Fig: 25 Aerial photograph of the scheduled villa at Chignall St James (Cambridge University Collection ref. K17 AL10)*

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of known archaeological sites of multi-period date, landscape features	3
• Survival	Landscape has suffered from boundary loss and quarrying Good survival of below ground deposits outside quarried areas.	2
• Documentation	Excavation reports, HER data, NMP	3
• Group Value Association	Farmsteads, Roman landscape, medieval sites	3
• Potential	High potential in areas that have not been quarried	2
• Sensitivity to change	Areas outside quarried areas are sensitive	2
• Amenity Value	Promotion of villa complex, history of village	2

## **Key Issues**

- **The grain of the historic landscape in terms of ancient woodland, field boundaries and settlement pattern is well preserved in parts of the zone and should be conserved.**
- **Below ground deposits need to be taken into consideration at an early stage in any development or master plan proposals outside of the quarried areas. It is likely that the results of archaeological field evaluation will be required to be submitted with planning applications.**

## **12.6 Roxwell**

**Summary:** The zone comprises the valleys of the Roxwell and Newland Brooks and contains the settlement of Roxwell. The historic field pattern preserves many boundaries which are potentially of medieval or earlier date with good surviving meadow pasture. The historic settlement pattern comprises the focal settlement at Roxwell with dispersed farmsteads throughout the zone. Archaeological evidence of multi-period occupation is found throughout the zone with cropmarks being visible within the river valleys.

*Historic Landscape Character:* Zone comprising the valleys of the Roxwell and Newland Brooks. Both of the brooks retain important meadow pasture along their length. The historic landscape was originally formed from pre 18<sup>th</sup> century irregular enclosure many of whose boundaries survive today. Some post 1950 boundary loss has occurred but many of the field boundaries will date back to the medieval period. Aerial photographic evidence identifies some of the lost boundaries on the valley slopes of Newlands Brook. Small blocks of ancient woodland survive on the western side of Roxwell. The historic settlement pattern comprises the village of Roxwell with dispersed moated and unmoated farmsteads and halls. The historic settlement of Roxwell is concentrated on the road frontage with the conservation area containing several listed buildings. The mill

associated with the village was located to the south west of the conservation area, and unfortunately has recently been demolished.

Archaeological Character: A series of cropmarks located close to the main watercourses include trackways, linear features, pits and ring-ditches. The ring ditches indicate Bronze Age burial sites and it is probable that other cropmarks are of a similar date. Little evidence of Roman occupation has so far been identified but given the proximity of other deposits of this date, can be reasonably expected. Moated sites and listed buildings comprise the main class of monuments from the medieval and post medieval period.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of multi-period sites and landscape features	2
• Survival	Good survival, landscape survives well	2
• Documentation	HER data, NMP	2
• Group Value Association	Moats, cropmarks	2
• Potential	High potential for below ground deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Landscape and below ground deposits highly sensitive	3
• Amenity Value	Landscape features such as meadow pasture could be enhanced or replaced.	2

## Key Issues

- **The grain of the historic landscape in terms of meadow pasture, historic woodland, field boundaries and settlement pattern is well preserved in much of the zone and should be conserved.**
- **Any VDS for Roxwell should take into account the above and below ground historic environment.**



## 12.7 Skreens Park

**Summary:** This zone on the Chalky Boulder Clay comprises Skreen Park and a block of ancient woodland shown on the first edition OS. Elements of the park boundary, its internal divisions and the ancient woodland survive today. Archaeological deposits include cropmarks some of which can be interpreted as being of prehistoric date. The lack of development in the area would have protected archaeological deposits of medieval and earlier date.

*Historic Landscape Character:* Zone on the western edge of the borough comprises the deer park and ancient woodland associated with the Skreens estate. The majority of the deer park boundary survives as field boundaries. Much of the interior has been brought into agricultural production, however several of the internal divisions still survive as trackways and hedges. The historic settlement pattern comprises the hall and farm complexes.

*Archaeological Character:* Within Skreens Park are cropmarks including linear features, pits and a ring-ditch of probable prehistoric origin. To the north of these cropmarks and located centrally within the park, finds of Romano-British pottery suggest occupation of this date. A medieval moated site is situated at Old Skreens on the western edge of the zone. The probability of surviving *in-situ* deposits is high.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Limited range of historic assets	2
• Survival	Elements of the park survive. Earlier deposits likely to survive	2
• Documentation	HER data, Cartographic data.	2
• Group Value Association	Park, boundary, farm, hall	3
• Potential	Potential for earlier deposits to survive beneath park, and in ancient woodland	2

• Sensitivity to change	Boundary and woodland sensitive, as well as below ground deposits	2
• Amenity Value	The parkland could be promoted boundary and function, ancient woodland etc	2

## 13 HECA 13

### 13.1 Broomfield

**Summary:** Encompassing the medieval core and modern built up area of Broomfield. The conservation area protects the historic core of Broomfield comprising the Church/Hall complex and other listed buildings set around the Green. Archaeological deposits have been identified from the Neolithic through to the post medieval period. The zone has produced Saxon burial deposits of national significance. Elements of the original 1930's Broomfield Sanatoria survive designed in the International Style.

*Historic Landscape Character:* A large part of this zone is now the modern settlement of Broomfield. The urban area has developed as ribbon development along the old Roman road from Chelmsford to Braintree which has dominated the layout of settlement from the Roman period. During the medieval and post medieval period the landscape largely comprised of a dispersed settlement pattern with a church and hall complex which is now situated in the centre of Broomfield. The core comprising the church and Hall are protected within the Broomfield conservation area. The field pattern to the west of Broomfield has its origins in pre 18<sup>th</sup> century irregular fields. Elements of the original 1930's Broomfield Sanatoria survive including the circular sun wards in the International Style.



Fig: 26 Broomfield Church originally dates to the 11<sup>th</sup> century and contains Roman brick and tile in the fabric

*Archaeological Character:* Excavations in advance of housing development identified a Late Bronze Age enclosure containing a single round house near Broomfield Hospital. Main Road through the centre of the zone follows the line of the Roman road from Braintree to Chelmsford. The presence of Roman building material in the fabric of the church suggests the presence of a Roman building near by. Broomfield's medieval core is centred on the church/hall complex at Church Green with the church dating to the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Broomfield is notable for the 19<sup>th</sup> century discovery of a rich, possibly royal, early 7<sup>th</sup> century burial contemporary with that at Sutton Hoo and the recently excavated Pritlewell Burial at Southend. The burial was located approximately 100 metres south west of Roselawn Farm and the exceptional finds are now in the British Museum. Further early Saxon finds of a domestic nature have been excavated from the area. Remnants of a World War II anti-aircraft battery are to found in the western part of the zone.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Contains a range of deposits both upstanding and buried. Have important church and hall complex, Saxon burial as well as the more modern hospital complex	3
• Survival	Hall and church complex survives well, Important hospital complex. Deposits in area of modern housing likely to have been destroyed.	2
• Documentation	HER data, Excavation reports, building surveys, NMP	2
• Group Value Association	Hospital buildings	2
• Potential	Remaining open areas and core around church and hall have potential. Potential for further Saxon burials	2
• Sensitivity to change	Open areas sensitive	2
• Amenity Value	Village identity and history, archaeological evidence and modern architecture	3

### Key issues

- **Below ground deposits need to be taken into consideration at an early stage in any development or master plan proposals outside of the built up areas. The results of the archaeological field evaluation will be required to be submitted as part of planning applications.**
- **Any VDS for Broomfield should take into account the above and below ground historic environment.**

### **13.2 Great Waltham and Deer Park**

Summary: Zone is situated on the western slope of the river Chelmer Valley. It contains the large house of Langleys and its associated parkland as well as the village of Great Waltham. The present estate has medieval origins along with much of the ancient woodland. Multi-period archaeological deposits are known from the zone from the Neolithic through to the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. The village of Great Waltham has evidence of occupation from the Roman period onwards.

*Historic Landscape Character:* This zone is dominated by the parkland associated with Langleys the 17<sup>th</sup> century grade I listed house which lies to the north west of the village of Great Waltham. The estate visible today dates at least to the thirteenth century with the parkland and house coming under the ownership of the Langleys in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Elements of woodland shown on the first edition OS survive within the present landscape along with much of the original parkland. It is possible that earthworks would survive within these woodlands. The settlement pattern comprises the village of Great Waltham centred on the church. The village contains two large Tudor houses as well as a number of old cottages close to the church. The area of the historic core of Great Waltham and the Parkland is contained within the conservation area at Great Waltham.

*Archaeological Character:* The evidence for the earliest human activity is in the form of a number of Neolithic flints from Great Waltham. Extensive Late Iron Age remains are recorded to the south of the zone with a hoard of gold coins from Great Waltham showing it extending northwards. Roman material is known from close to the village and the medieval church contains Roman building material. Further Late Roman pottery has been excavated close to the village with early Saxon ceramics from the same site. The World War II General Headquarters defence Line follows the line of the River Chelmer through this zone.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Contains a range of deposits both upstanding and buried. Have important church and hall complex and the park land	3
• Survival	Hall and church complex survives well, Important deer park and woodland.	2
• Documentation	HER data, site reports, NMP	2
• Group Value Association	House and estate, woodland and park boundaries etc	2
• Potential	Parkland and woodland has potential to protect previous unknown deposits and earthworks. areas and core around church and hall have potential	2
• Sensitivity to change	Zone very sensitive, especially area of parkland and in immediate vicinity of church and hall	2
• Amenity Value	Historic Environment in the form of the landscape, built heritage and below ground deposits all form a highly promotable asset.	3

### Key Issues

- **The grain of the historic landscape in terms of meadow pasture, historic woodland, field boundaries and settlement pattern is well preserved in much of the zone and should be conserved.**
- **Any VDS for Great Waltham should take into account the above and below ground historic environment.**

### ***13.3 Chelmer Valley, north of Chelmsford***

**Summary:** The zone comprises the meadow pasture in the valley bottom adjacent to the River Chelmer and rising ground to the east and west and includes the village of Little Waltham. Cropmarks are evident and numerous finds of multi period date have been made. Major excavations have taken place beneath the Great Leighs bypass revealing a Middle to Late Iron Age village. The village of Little Waltham contains a range of listed buildings including the church/hall complex.

*Historic Landscape Character:* Comprises the Chelmer river Valley between Great Waltham and the northern part of Chelmsford. The zone is centred on the river Chelmer with meadow pasture surviving along its length and the Roman road from Chelmsford to Braintree running north south through it. The historic settlement pattern is characterised by dispersed farmsteads either on or set back from the Roman road frontage, or on the valley slope above the river Chelmer with a settlement focus at Little Waltham. Little Waltham developed from a polyfocal village and now comprises a settlement extending on both sides of the river Chelmer. A series of listed buildings are situated on either side of The Street and a second focus of listed buildings is concentrated around the church/Hall complex. Both of these areas are contained within the conservation area at Little Waltham. It has been suggested that much of the field pattern in this area pre-dates the Roman period. The river Chelmer has been exploited throughout history with Croxton Mill and Broomfield Mill surviving within this zone.

*Archaeological Character:* Cropmarks are evident on the valley floor and on rising ground on both banks of the Chelmer along the length of the zone. Comprising the usual array of features they are likely to represent buried features of a multi period nature. Finds of Bronze age pottery hint at prehistoric activity and a major Middle Iron Age settlement has been excavated to the north of Little Waltham. The area of excavation lay beneath the present Little Waltham bypass with the remaining area of the field which survives now protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Roman settlement and an associated cemetery close to the Roman road is known south of the village. Occasional

chance finds such as that of a Saxon spearhead close to the river suggest further archaeological potential for this period. The river valley has potential for the preservation of environmental and palaeo-environmental deposits surviving in waterlogged deposits.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Wide range of below ground and standing historic environment assets	3
• Survival	Below ground archaeological deposits survive well, important group of listed buildings survive. Palaeo-environmental deposits exist within valley	3
• Documentation	Excavation reports, NMP, HER data mill reports	2
• Group Value Association	Several Mills exploiting the river Chelmer and crop marks on the valley slopes both form coherent but separate historic entities.	2
• Potential	High potential for surviving below ground deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Below ground deposits, listed buildings and landscape features are all sensitive	3
• Amenity Value	Surviving historic landscape, important archaeological deposits, little Waltham village all offer opportunities for interpretation and promotion.	3

### Key Issues

- **The grain of the historic landscape in terms of field boundaries, meadow pasture, valley bottom woodland and settlement pattern is well preserved in much of the zone and should be conserved.**



- **Any development proposals should have regard to the above in terms of location layout and design**
- **Any VDS for Little Waltham should take into account the above and below ground historic environment.**

### ***13.4 Upper reaches of the Chelmer***

**Summary:** This zone forms part of the valley sides of the Chelmer Valley and part of the chalky boulder clay plateau. The surviving boundaries of the historic field pattern are likely to be of medieval date or earlier. Archaeological deposits identified through cropmarks have been identified on the valley slopes. Military monuments associated with the General Headquarters Line of defence are found throughout this zone.

*Historic Landscape Character:* Zone comprises the River Chelmer and its associated meadow pasture. The historic field pattern is dictated by the river with the majority of the fields running down the slope. There has been some boundary loss although the surviving boundaries represent the surviving pre 18<sup>th</sup> century enclosures. The historic settlement pattern is largely confined to dispersed farmsteads many of which have their origins in the medieval period. There are two existing mills within this stretch and potentially others that have been lost. A single post medieval village is located at Howe Street.

*Archaeological Character:* Within this zone a series of cropmarks are recorded comprising linear features, ring ditches, enclosures and pits of multi-period origin. The World War II General Headquarters Defence Line follows the line of the River Chelmer through this zone with frequent pillboxes. The river Valley has potential for the protection and preservation of environmental and palaeo-environmental deposits surviving in waterlogged deposits.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	River valley contains cropmarks, medieval farmsteads, military defences	3
• Survival	Alluvial deposits in valley bottom, minimal disturbance from modern development	3
• Documentation	NMP data, HER data	2
• Group Value Association	Extensive cropmarks, GHQ line	2
• Potential	High potential for surviving below grounds deposits.	3
• Sensitivity to change	All heritage assets within area highly sensitive	3
• Amenity Value	River exploitation, cropmark evidence, GHQ line all have possible amenity/display value	2

### Key Issues

- The grain of the historic landscape in terms of ancient woodland, field boundaries and settlement pattern is well preserved in much of the zone and should be conserved.
- Any development proposals should have regard to the above in terms of location layout and design

## 14 HECA 14

### *14.1 Boreham Airfield*

**Summary:** This zone is dominated by the World War II USAAF airfield at Boreham, now subject to extensive mineral extraction. The historic landscape survives well in the area to the east of the airfield. Cropmark complexes are visible alongside two watercourses

leading to the River Chelmer. There have been numerous archaeological finds and discoveries during the quarrying activity within the zone.

*Historic Landscape Character:* The historic landscape is dominated by the construction of the Second World War airfield. The construction of the airfield has removed the earlier pre 18<sup>th</sup> century irregular field boundaries, and some which related to the New Hall estate and deer park (see zone 14.2). The airfield in itself is an important part of the historic landscape which is gradually being removed by the mineral extraction. To the east of Boreham Airfield the historic landscape has survived in good condition. In the area of Chantry Farm the field boundaries contain several mature elms.

*Archaeological Character:* Significant cropmark complexes are visible alongside both small watercourses bisecting the zone. Small scale archaeological work prior to mineral extraction on the airfield has identified deposits from both the Bronze and Iron Ages. Excavations have revealed two important Romano-British sites, a 2<sup>nd</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup> century substantial farm or villa site at Great Holts and a mid-Roman apsed building with probable public function at Bulls Lodge. A medieval settlement and associated windmill have been excavated within Boreham airfield. The presence of so many archaeological sites within the quarried areas so far has shown the importance of this landscape through history and has demonstrated that large areas of the historic landscape survive buried beneath the World War II airfield. Undisturbed areas within this zone must be considered to have a high potential for archaeological survival.



Fig: 27 *Reconstruction of medieval settlement and windmill excavated on Boreham Airfield (Copyright Alec Wade)*

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Multi-period deposits, Airfield, associated military defences	3
• Survival	In unquarried areas good survival for, world war II remains, historic landscape features and archaeological deposits	2
• Documentation	Archaeological reports, HER data, NMP data, airfield surveys	2
• Group Value Association	Military remains, Roman and medieval archaeological evidence all form coherent entities.	2
• Potential	High potential for further deposits being identified.	3

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sensitivity to change</li> </ul>	Archaeological deposits sensitive, landscape features predating 2 <sup>nd</sup> World War have been lost	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amenity Value</li> </ul>	Historic Environment in the form of the excavation results and the World War II remains provide an opportunity for popular interpretation and enhanced public understanding.	2

### **Key issues**

- **Area on the eastern and southern side of zone 14.1 should be protected where possible in their present form as much of the historic landscape survives and there is considerable potential for below ground deposits.**
- **For a large part of zone 14.1, around and within the airfield, there has been significant damage to the historic environment, however, it is known that below ground archaeological deposits survive very well. Accordingly archaeological conditions should be imposed to provide for mitigation strategies including popular interpretation.**

### ***14.2 Land around New Hall***

**Summary:** This zone has the New Hall School at its centre and many of the historic environment assets within the zone relate to the history of the Hall. New Hall developed from a medieval Manor. A major Tudor palace was subsequently built with an associated Deer Park.

*Historic Landscape Character:* The historic landscape within this zone relates to the history and development of New Hall. New Hall was a medieval manor possibly one of

those noted in Domesday. The first formal record of the manor seems to be in the early 14<sup>th</sup> century, it came into the possession of Queen Margaret of Anjou in the middle of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. In 1517 New Hall was acquired by Henry VIII, who greatly enlarged and beautified the building, calling it the Palace of Beaulieu. Eventually, New Hall was acquired by Lord Waltham who demolished much of the Tudor palace and adapted the buildings, which finally became the property of the English nuns of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre in 1798. These buildings now form the core of the present school. At some time prior to the 18<sup>th</sup> century a deer park was created to the north of the Hall. A rectilinear field system runs north from the Hall on the site of the deer park shown on the Chapman and Andre maps. Unlike other field systems in the area these are formed from straight boundaries dating to after the 18<sup>th</sup> century. An element of the original park boundary survives in some of the irregular edges to the rectilinear system. Parts of the eastern side of the estate boundary have been lost by the construction of Boreham airfield during the Second World War. Apart from New Hall the settlement pattern is dispersed rural dwellings situated on the sides of the roads.

*Archaeological Character:* The archaeological record apart from the site of New Hall comprises cropmark evidence indicating a range of prehistoric deposits including Bronze Age burial mounds and Iron Age enclosures. The detailed excavations within Boreham airfield (Zone 14.1) would indicate the potential for multi-period deposits surviving in this zone. The stream running along the eastern side of the zone has the potential for the protection and preservation of environmental and palaeo-environmental deposits surviving in waterlogged deposits.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diversity of historic environment assets</li> </ul>	Wide range of historic environment assets associated with the development of New Hall. Cropmarks indicate multi-period occupation	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survival</li> </ul>	Below grounds remains of Tudor and later buildings associated with the New Hall complex, cropmarks and elements of the original park and later field system all survive	3

• Documentation	History of New Hall, Her data, NMP data	2
• Group Value Association	House and its associated park and field system	2
• Potential	Potential of surviving park boundary, earlier occupation from cropmarks	3
• Sensitivity to change	Already gone through a lot of change, below ground deposits are sensitive	2
• Amenity Value	The development and history of New Hall provide a clear focus for interpretation which could be developed in conjunction with adjacent zones.	2

### Key issues

- **New Hall and its setting require careful conservation.**
- **The grain of the historic landscape in terms of field boundaries and settlement pattern is reasonably preserved in much of the zone and should be conserved and enhanced where possible.**

### ***14.3 Land to the east of Essex Regiment Way***

**Summary:** The zone lies to the east of Essex Regiment Way on a sand and gravel sub-soil. A large part of the central area has been subject to mineral extraction. The historic environment assets largely survive in the northern and southern areas of the zone.

*Historic Landscape Character:* The historic landscape within this zone has been extensively transformed by quarrying activity. Large areas of the zone have been quarried and are now used for leisure activity. The historic landscape of the remainder is formed from pre 18<sup>th</sup> century irregular enclosure, although this has also suffered from some post 1950 boundary loss. The northern part of the zone has been less affected by

these changes. The historic settlement pattern comprises dispersed farmsteads, most probably having their origins in the medieval period. Belstead Hall Farm is thought to date back to the Saxon period.

*Archaeological Character:* Mineral extraction and modification of the landscape in the centre of this zone will have destroyed any archaeological deposits. Various finds have been recovered from the zone, although there are as yet no defined settlement sites. Small quantities of Late Neolithic, Middle Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, medieval and post medieval artefacts have been recovered. These finds indicate that in those areas where no quarrying has taken place there is high potential for surviving archaeological deposits of multi-period date. Medieval occupation is also shown by the moated site at Belsteads Hall.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Multi-period deposits, historic farmsteads, cropmarks	2
• Survival	Extensive quarrying, Areas not quarried have potential for survival	2
• Documentation	Excavation report, HER data, NMP data	2
• Group Value Association	Little group association	1
• Potential	Potential for below ground deposits in unquarried areas	2
• Sensitivity to change	Area considerably altered and therefore of relatively limited sensitivity	1
• Amenity Value	Limited knowledge at present reduces the potential for enhanced presentation and understanding	1



#### **14.4 Land either side of the A131**

**Summary:** Large zone on the Boulder Clay Plateau bisected by the Braintree to Chelmsford Roman Road. The field pattern of pre 18<sup>th</sup> century enclosure largely survives and is of considerable antiquity. The important Green at Chatham Green survives well. Little archaeological information is available but there is the probability that significant deposits are present within the zone.

*Historic Landscape Character:* A large zone comprising mainly a pre 18<sup>th</sup> century irregular field pattern with some boundary loss. The zone is bisected by the Roman road from Chelmsford to Braintree. However this seems to have had little impact on the field pattern, suggesting this may pre date the road. Several areas of ancient woodland survive, especially to the south east of the Roman road. These include Sheepcotes Wood and Lyonshall Wood with all of these woodlands having the potential of surviving woodland earthworks. The historic settlement pattern comprises dispersed farmsteads many with their origins in the medieval period. A single Green is located at Chatham Green with most of the originals boundaries and properties surviving. The present recreation ground boundary surrounds the original strip fields for the properties on the green. A windmill was also present adjacent to these fields. Several of the farms such as Hyde Hall and Long Farm are moated, which is a characteristic of farms originating in the 12 or 13<sup>th</sup> century.

*Archaeological Character:* Passing through the zone is the Roman road from Braintree to Chelmsford. Although there are no known settlements along the road, evidence from recent fieldwork along Stane Street indicates the potential for such sites to exist. There are a number of medieval moated sites occupying the boulder clay plateau. Little archaeological work undertaken in this zone has resulted in limited information, however, in comparison to its associated zones the potential for surviving deposits to be present is fairly high.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Roman road, surviving field pattern, dispersed medieval settlement	2
• Survival	Minimal development indicates potential for good survival	2
• Documentation	HER data	1
• Group Value Association	Medieval settlement pattern	1
• Potential	Good potential however very little work carried out in zone	2
• Sensitivity to change	Open landscape highly sensitive. Below ground deposits also highly sensitive	3
• Amenity Value	At present limited but further investigation may facilitate better understanding and promotion of the historic environment.	1

### Key Issues

- **Very little known historic environment information within this zone, however, when compared to adjacent zones there is high potential for surviving below ground deposits.**

### 14.5 Ter Valley

**Summary:** This zone is formed from the valley sides of the River Ter. The historic landscape survives well with good preservation of meadow pasture in the valley bottom. Multi-period archaeological deposits survive throughout the area with good cropmark evidence on the valley slopes. At the north western corner of the zone lies Leez Priory, most of whose fish ponds lie within Uttlesford District.

*Historic Landscape Character:* This zone comprises the valley of the River Ter. Both slopes of the valley are of pre and post 18<sup>th</sup> century irregular enclosure which has

suffered little boundary loss in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In the valley base lies meadow pasture along the length of this zone which survives in very good condition. The settlement pattern comprises Church/Hall complexes and dispersed farmsteads, many of which have their origins in the medieval period.

*Archaeological Character:* Both the northern and southern slopes of the Ter valley demonstrate a variety of archaeological cropmarks of probable multi-period origin. Where fieldwork has taken place, significant deposits of Bronze Age date have been identified. The Roman road from Braintree to Chelmsford crosses the River Ter within this zone and Romano-British settlement may be expected in this area. The medieval church/hall complex of Great Leighs lies at Lyons Hall south of the River Ter and the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Leez Priory lies partially within Chelmsford District at the north of this zone. The river Valley has potential for the protection and preservation of environmental and palaeo-environmental deposits surviving in waterlogged deposits.



*Fig: 28 Aerial View of Great Leighs Priory*

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Wide range including Roman road, cropmarks, field pattern, alluvial deposits, medieval dispersed settlement, church/hall complexes.	3
• Survival	Extensive surviving archaeological deposits on the valley slopes with Palaeo-environmental deposits in the base of the valley. Important traditional grazing meadow surviving	3
• Documentation	Excavation report, HER data, NMP data	2
• Group Value Association	Cropmarks, dispersed farmsteads, field pattern	2
• Potential	Surviving palaeo-environmental deposits, below ground deposits, lynchets and other landscape features.	3
• Sensitivity to change	Landscape and below ground deposits highly sensitive.	3
• Amenity Value	At present limited but further investigation would facilitate better understanding and promotion of the historic environment.	2

### Key issues

- **The grain of the historic landscape in terms of field boundaries, meadow pasture and settlement pattern is well preserved in much of the zone and should be conserved and enhanced.**
- **Consideration should be given to the protection of cropmark complexes by arable reversion and restoration of meadow pasture.**

### ***14.6 Land North West of the A131***

**Summary:** This zone lies to the north west of the A131 on an area of mixed sand and gravel and boulder clay sub-soil. The northern area of the zone has been extensively

disturbed by modern development and quarrying. The southern area survives well with boundaries and woodland surviving. Some areas of woodland and several listed farms survive in the zone.

*Historic Landscape Character:* This zone's historic landscape is characterised by pre 18<sup>th</sup> century irregular enclosure, however development in the mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> century has significantly altered the landscape in the northern half of the zone. The construction of the Essex Showground and later gravel extraction has altered the landscape along with significant post 1950's hedgerow loss. The southern part of the zone to the south of Moulsham Hall Lane retains its historic field pattern and several small woods of ancient origin survive in this part of the zone. The historic settlement pattern comprises dispersed farmsteads and halls, some of which have their origins in the medieval period.

*Archaeological Character:* Archaeological work has been undertaken on the new A131 with few archaeological sites being identified. An 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century brick kiln has been located within a wooded area at Dumney Lane Wood. The extensive disturbance with the show ground, new road and gravel quarrying has disturbed large areas of this zone.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Landscape and medieval dispersed settlement pattern	2
• Survival	Some below ground deposits and medieval farmsteads especially in the south western part of the zone	2
• Documentation	Excavation reports, HER data	1
• Group Value Association	Medieval farmsteads	1
• Potential	Undisturbed areas have potential for below ground deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Northern area has little sensitivity, southern area sensitive to change	2

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amenity Value</li> </ul>	At present limited but further investigation may facilitate better understanding and promotion of the historic environment.	1
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## Key Issues

- **The grain of the historic landscape in terms of field boundaries and settlement pattern in the southern part of the zone is well preserved and should be conserved and enhanced.**

### ***14.7 Land south east of the A131***

**Summary:** This zone lies to the south east of the A131 containing the village of Great Leighs, and Gubbions Green. Much of the historic landscape has survived with large areas of ancient woodland and most of the original field boundaries surviving. The important settlement at Gubbions Green with the moated site, windmill and range of listed buildings is highly sensitive to development. There are rare remains of surviving stretch in the fields immediately to the south east of Great Leighs. The Roman road also crosses this zone.

*Historic Landscape Character:* Historic landscape comprises pre 18<sup>th</sup> century irregular enclosure some of which have suffered from post 1950's boundary loss. This zone is especially important because it has one of the few areas of surviving stretch (a form of ridge and furrow that promoted drainage) in Essex situated directly to the south east of the present village. The zone contains several areas of ancient woodland which may contain ancient earthworks associated with woodland exploitation. It is also possible that other deposits and earthworks will be preserved within these woodlands. The historic settlement pattern is largely dispersed farmsteads some of which will date back to the medieval period. The Green at Gubbions Green survives very well with a range of listed buildings present. Elements of the original Green shown on the Chapman and Andre

maps survive within the present field boundary system. The important moated site of Gubbions Hall is located just to the north of Gubbions Green. The settlement of Great Leighs was formed from ribbon development along the A131 (Roman road) represented today by a series of listed buildings fronting onto the road. Much of this settlement is post 1950 in construction.



*Fig: 29 Aerial view showing surviving Stetch (ridge and furrow) visible in the snow particularly clear in the fields on the left*

*Archaeological Character.* The northern edge of the zone contains the line of the Roman road from Braintree to Chelmsford. Chance finds of Roman material have been found in the zone set back from the road frontage indicating Roman settlements may be located in the zone. During the medieval period the moated site of Gubbions Hall was constructed. This is now protected as a Scheduled Monument. Adjacent to the present farm complex lies the site of a windmill, which is associated with Gubbions Hall and Gubbions Green, recorded on the Chapman and Andre Map of 1777. Although no

prehistoric deposits are known both these and deposits associated with later occupation are likely to be identified throughout the zone.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Wide range of archaeological and historic landscape assets, including ridge and furrow	3
• Survival	Both landscape and archaeological deposits will survive well. One of the few areas of surviving ridge and furrow	3
• Documentation	Excavation report, HER data, NMP	2
• Group Value Association	Landscape, medieval farmsteads	2
• Potential	High potential for below ground deposits. Earthworks in woodland	3
• Sensitivity to change	Landscape and archaeological deposits highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	Historic Environment in the form of the landscape, built heritage and below ground deposits offer scope for promotion and enhanced popular understanding.	2

## Key issues

- **The grain of the historic landscape in terms of ancient woodland, field boundaries and settlement pattern is well preserved in much of the zone and should be conserved.**
- **The complexity and sensitivity of the historic environment within this zone is sufficient that an Environmental Impact Assessment should be considered for any medium to large scale developments.**



- **Below ground deposits need to be taken into consideration at an early stage in any development or master plan proposals. It is likely that the results of archaeological field evaluation will be required to be submitted with planning applications.**

## **6 Village Assessments**

### **6.1 Boreham Village Assessment**

#### **6.1.1 Introduction**

The large parish of Boreham lies to the east of Chelmsford either side of the old Roman Road from Chelmsford to Colchester. The parish stretches from the Boulder Clay Plateau down to the River Chelmer. The settlement pattern was historically dispersed with a small nucleation around the church, which lies on the valley slopes overlooking the Chelmer. During the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century a clearly defined nucleated village has been created south of the A12 which incorporates the historic settlement around the church. The parish of Boreham contains three conservation areas and 2 registered Historic Parks and Gardens. Extensive archaeological investigation has occurred on Boreham airfield and the surrounding area showing multi-period occupation. An overview of the history of Boreham has been produced by the Boreham History Society (Burgess and Rance 1988) which provides a good overview of the history of the village.

#### **6.1.2 Historic Background**

Prehistoric occupation has been found throughout the Parish. Archaeological investigations in advance of mineral extraction at Boreham Airfield have revealed evidence of occupation during the Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age. A significant range of Bronze Age metalwork has been recovered from the Parish and a major Late Bronze Age site excavated in advance of development at Boreham Interchange (Lavender 1999) on the Parish boundary with Springfield. This prehistoric settlement must be understood as part of a wider pattern of occupation in and around the Chelmer Valley (Brown 2001). Cropmarks on the valley slopes of the Chelmer indicate the presence of occupation to the south of Boreham.

The parish is bisected by the Roman Road from Chelmsford to Colchester. Excavations in areas of mineral extraction in and around Boreham Airfield have shown extensive occupation during the Roman period. A building interpreted as a *principia* (Administrative building controlling an estate) was excavated in 1990 at Bulls Lodge (Lavender 1993) and a Roman villa was excavated in 1992-4 within Boreham Airfield at Great Holts (Germany 2003). These sites are indicative of the presence of a thriving rural economy in the hinterlands of the Roman town of Chelmsford benefiting from the transport corridor of the main Roman Road.

Direct evidence of Saxon settlement is sparse although place name evidence indicates occupation. Slight archaeological evidence has been recovered from the excavations at Great Holts and there is potential elsewhere in the Parish. The earliest parts of the present church dates to the Late Saxon Period.

The medieval settlement pattern was dispersed and polyfocal including the church which was a major focal point together with a number of manorial centres. The manorial history of Boreham is complex, Domesday records six manors although the location of some of these is unclear. Later in the medieval period the parish contained 6 manors recorded by Morant (1768, 11-17) which were in existence in the 13<sup>th</sup> century at Old Hall, Culverts, Walkefares, Boreham Hall, Brenthall and Porters. A number of the other farm buildings within the parish are of medieval date. Excavations at Boreham Airfield has identified a medieval windmill and associated settlement of 13<sup>th</sup> century date (Clarke 2003) which may well represent one of the manorial centres. A medieval farmstead has been excavated at Great Holts (Germany 2003), medieval occupation has also been revealed on the former Buxted Chicken Factory (Foreman 1997) fronting the old Roman road, at Boreham Interchange just across the Parish Boundary at Springfield (Lavender 1999).

During the post medieval period the landscape continued to be exploited for agricultural production with the continuing dispersed settlement pattern as clearly indicated by the Chapman and Andre map of 1777. A Tudor Palace was constructed at New Hall in

1517 by Henry VIII of which only one wing now survives. A large deer park was created to the north of New Hall still being visible at the time of the Chapman and Andre maps of 1777. The Deer Park had been divided up for agricultural production by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Boreham House to the south of the old A12 is a listed grade 1 small mansion built between 1727 and 1728. The gardens around the mansion are a registered park and garden.

The railway came to the parish in 1843, with one of the conditions for the construction of the railway being to provide Sir John Tyrell, the owner of Boreham House, with his own private railway station. His platforms are shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25" OS map of 1874. At Boreham House during the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Sir John Tyrell laid some of the surrounding farmland to pasture and embellished it with clumps of trees and an ice house.

During the Second World War the landscape within the middle of the parish was changed dramatically with the construction of the airfield. This was built in 1943 by the US Airforce. Although this has removed many of the landscape features in this area the excavations undertaken prior to quarrying have shown that archaeological deposits do survive well. In the post war period major housing development has created a strongly defined nucleated village south of the A12 and north of the historic nucleation around the church.

### ***6.1.3 Settlement development within the present nucleated settlement***

The Church of St Andrew (already in existence in the 11<sup>th</sup> century) and manor of Old Hall to the east form one of the major focal points of historic settlement in Boreham and lie on the southern side of the present village. Of the 10 listed buildings surrounding the church four have their origins in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. This zone is now within a designated conservation area. Two further groups of historic buildings lie within the village, one

where Church Road and Plantation Road join the old Roman Road (Main Road). The group around the junction of Plantation Road and Main Road is protected as a conservation area. The other group around the junction of Church Road and Main Road contains a number of timber framed buildings of which one is listed. Some buildings were lost during the 1930's as a result of road widening.

Evidence of early medieval occupation along the present Main Road frontage has been found in excavations at the former Buxted Chicken Factory (Foreman 1997).

During the post medieval period ribbon development occurred along the original Roman road which remained an important highway. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century the area defined by the A12 and the loop of Church Road/Plantation Road has been infilled with residential development creating a strongly defined nucleated village.

#### 6.1.4 Historic environment sub zones

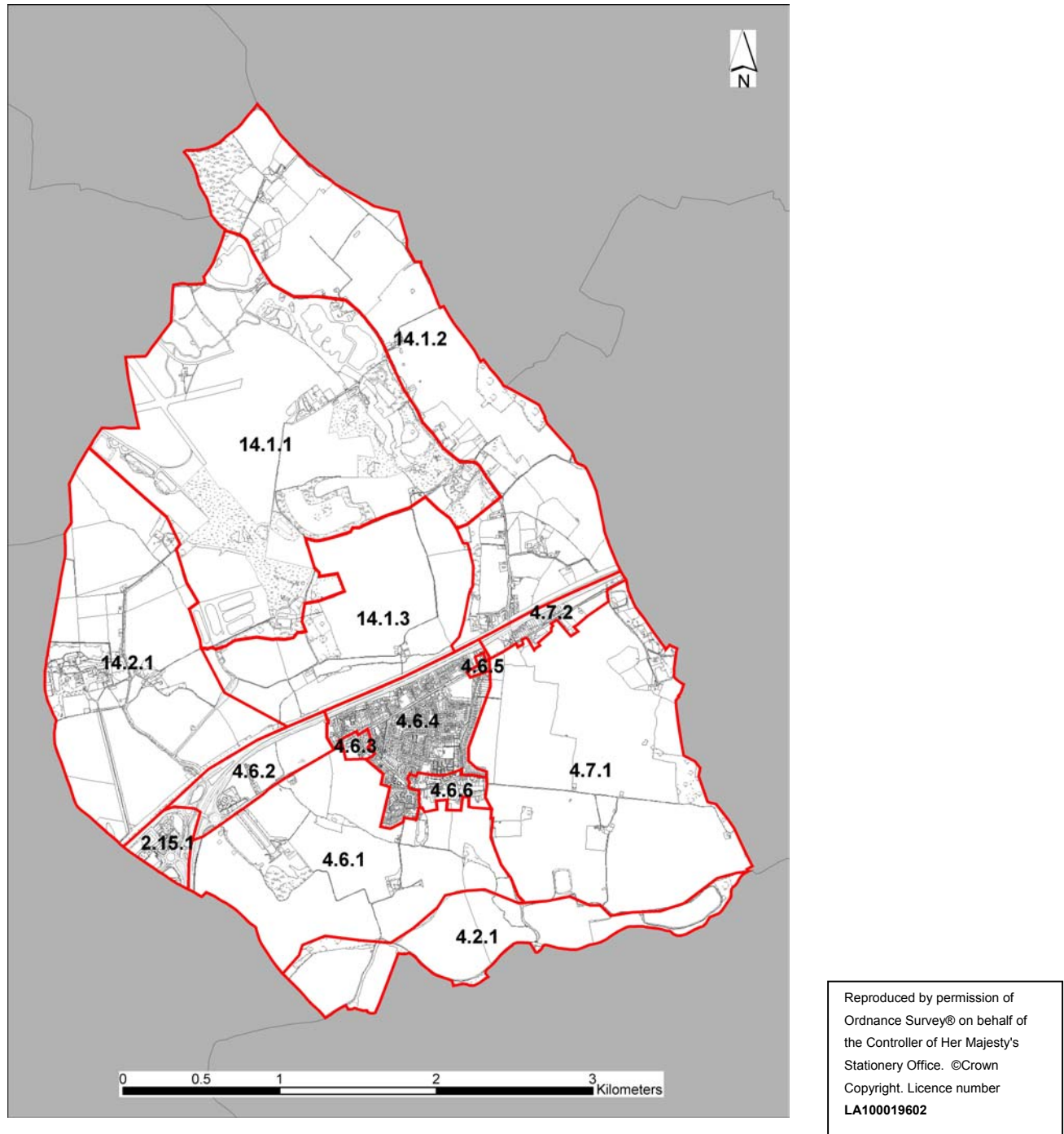


Fig: 30 Sub division of Boreham Parish

### **2.15.1 Boreham Interchange**

Heavily built up area of commercial activity. Mostly developed in the last quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century extensive Bronze Age and medieval archaeological deposits were excavated in advance of development in the 1990's. Such is the scale of development in this area it is likely that most archaeological deposits will have been destroyed although any undeveloped or lightly developed areas have potential for such remains.

### **4.2.1 Chelmer and Blackwater**

This area includes the important landscape within the conservation area of the Chelmer Navigation. This sub zone represents the flood plain of the river Chelmer and is contained within the conservation area of the Chelmer Blackwater navigation. Land use was formerly pasture though this was mostly converted to arable in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century some of which is now being restored back to grassland. There are significant lynchets reflecting the historic division between pasture and arable. Alluvial deposits in this zone are likely to contain significant palaeo environmental deposits and other archaeological remains. The Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation has an unbroken history from June 1793 when an Act of Parliament was passed authorising the making and maintaining of a navigable waterway. The main surviving built heritage comprises Mill House and a lock. Details of all surviving elements of the Chelmer Navigation can be found in The Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation and Conservation Area Study : Comparative survey of modern/industrial sites and monuments no 11 (Kemble and Gould 2001).

### **4.6.1 Area to the west of Boreham and south of the Old A12:**

Cropmarks survive on the slope down to the Chelmer and probably represent multi-period occupation from the prehistoric period onwards. The northern

boundary is demarcated by the Roman Road (Main Road) with potential for Roman or later occupation. The medieval manorial site of Boreham Hall is located in the south of this sub-zone. Although there has been some 20<sup>th</sup> century boundary loss many of the field boundaries are of ancient origin some probably of medieval origin. The zone is bisected by the Boreham Brook, a significant tributary of the Chelmer. Alluvial deposits associated with this stream may well contain significant palaeo-environmental deposits and the stream itself is likely to have been utilised as a boundary feature from at least the medieval period. The important listed building of Boreham House and its associated park and gardens lie within this sub zone which also includes some remains of the 19<sup>th</sup> century park associated with the House.

#### **4.6.2 Area of land between the Roman Road (Main Road) and the modern A12**

The sub zone is bisected by the valley of the Boreham Brook, a significant tributary of the Chelmer. Alluvial deposits associated with this may well contain significant palaeo-environmental deposits and the stream itself is likely to have been utilised as a boundary feature from at least the medieval period. There is potential for Roman and later occupation relating to the road line. A mill is shown on the Chapman and Andre maps of 1777. A listed building, formally the General's Head lies in the western part of the sub zone. There is potential for remains of archaeological deposits reflecting any associated farm complex. Across the road is a complex of post medieval farm buildings associated with Cheese Farm which was removed in the 1930's. Again there is potential for archaeological remains associated with this farm complex.

#### **4.6.3 Junction of Main Road and Church Road**

A number of surviving timber framed buildings, one of which is listed, represents a historic focal point of settlement at the junction of Main Road and Church Road.



Some buildings were destroyed during road widening in the 1930's. There is considerable potential for below ground deposits.

#### **4.6.4 20<sup>th</sup> century infill:**

Some ribbon development along Main Road from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards. Some dispersed housing along Church road in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Relatively small immediate post war development to the west of sub zone 4.6.6 on Church Road and around The Chase. A variety of development from the 1960's, down to the present day, have created the present strongly defined nucleated village. Below ground archaeological deposits will have been damaged by this modern development, however, sites such as Buxted Chicken factory have shown significant potential for survival of archaeological deposits in lightly developed or open areas.

#### **4.6.5 Junction of Plantation Road and Main Road**

A small conservation area in the north eastern area of the village containing a range of timber framed buildings, four of which are listed, represent a development of settlement around the focal point provided by the junction of Plantation Road and Main Road. The sub zone has considerable potential for below ground deposits.

#### **4.6.6 Focus of medieval settlement around the church:**

Equivalent to the conservation area. Highly sensitive historic environment sub zone. Important range of listed buildings including the church of St Andrews. Important views to the south over the protected landscape of the Chelmer valley. Significant links with important features with the historic landscape particularly

field boundaries to the south. There is considerable potential for below ground archaeological deposits.

#### **4.7.1 Area to the east of Boreham:**

Forms the valley slope above the meadow pasture of the Chelmer. The sub-zone contained a range of cropmark evidence comprising enclosures, pits and track ways of multi-period date from the prehistoric period onwards. The field boundaries are of ancient origin but the historic field pattern has suffered significantly in this area with considerable boundary loss. The first edition OS shows the field pattern to have been characterised by rectangular fields set at right angles to the Roman road (see 4.7.2). The sub zone contains the medieval manor of Culverts with Brakey Wood, an area of ancient woodland to the north west of Culverts. The north east of this sub-zone contains an area of ribbon development along Damases Lane.

#### **4.7.2 Main Road to the east of Boreham:**

This sub zone comprises ribbon development along the line of the Roman Road (Main Road). Most of the ribbon development is 20<sup>th</sup> century date although there is some older buildings including one listed building, the Cock Inn adjacent to the junction of the Waltham Road. There is potential for archaeological deposits relating to Roman or later settlement related to the road.

#### **14.1.1 Boreham Airfield:**

The historic landscape has been largely lost due to the development of the Second World War Airfield and extensive post war quarrying. However, archaeological investigation in advance of quarrying over the last 15 years have shown the below ground archaeological deposits survive well in unquarried areas. These investigations have revealed prehistoric, extensive Roman and

medieval occupation. There are a number of listed buildings within the sub zone reflecting the dispersed settlement pattern of the medieval period. Elements of the World War II Airfield and its defences also survive.

#### **14.1.2 Land East of Boreham Airfield:**

Strip of land on the eastern side of the parish with some house plots either side of Waltham Road. The historic field boundaries survive relatively well in this area, and whilst no formal archaeological investigation has been undertaken, in view of the evidence from the adjacent zone 14.1.1 there is considerable potential for below ground archaeological deposits. Some field boundaries in the southern part of this sub zone include mature elms. The strip of historic woodland and very damp meadow pasture adjacent to the stream at the south east boundary of the zone have the potential to preserve a range of palaeo-environmental and other archaeological remains.

#### **14.1.3 Land to the South of Boreham Airfield:**

The centre of the sub zone has seen significant boundary loss, however, a number of historic field boundaries and landscape features survive, Grove Wood contains a number of earthworks of uncertain date but likely to be of considerable antiquity. The stream valley has the potential to preserve a range of palaeo-environmental and other archaeological remains. Whilst no formal archaeological investigation has been undertaken in this area evidence from the adjacent sub zone 14.1.1 indicates the probability of extensive below ground archaeological deposits.

#### **14.2.1 New Hall:**

Sub zone lying on the western edge of the parish. The sub zone contains, New Hall, the remains of a Tudor brick built palace now used as a convent school.

There is an extensive registered park and garden associated with New Hall. Rectilinear fields north of New Hall were created when the deer park, associated with the Tudor mansion, was returned to agriculture; elements of the former park boundary may survive. There are a number of listed buildings within the sub zone reflecting the dispersed settlement pattern of the medieval period. Although this sub zone has not been subject to archaeological investigation, work in sub zone 14.1.1 and 2.15.1 would indicate considerable potential for extensive remains.

## **6.2 Great Leighs Village Assessment**

### **6.2.1 Introduction**

The large parish of Great Leighs lies to the north west of Chelmsford straddling the Roman road from Chelmsford to Braintree (A131). The present parish was formed by the merger of Little and Great Leighs Parishes. The Parish is bisected by the River Ter and has a mixed geological base with both sand and gravel and boulder clay areas. The settlement pattern was historically dispersed with nucleation around the churches at Little and Great Leighs. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century ribbon development occurred along the Roman road (A131) and in the second half a small nucleated village developed. Little archaeological investigation has occurred in the Parish.

### **6.2.2 Historic Background**

The earliest evidence for human activity within the parish comprises finds of Palaeolithic flint work. Archaeological excavation on the line of the new A131 found evidence of Bronze Age settlement. Aerial photographic evidence has identified a series of cropmarks which have been interpreted as a probable Iron Age enclosed settlement. A find of 40 gold Iron Age coins from a similar area indicate an established and wealthy community possibly living on the southern bank of the River Ter.

Evidence of Roman occupation consists of the Roman road which bisects the parish running from Chelmsford to Braintree, both important towns throughout the Roman period. The route of this road is largely still in use, except for a small section where the road had been moved to an easier crossing point of the Ter during the medieval period. This section was partially destroyed by the construction of the new Great Leighs Bypass although it was recorded prior to development. Cropmarks show the position of at least one probable Romano-British farmstead close to Great Leighs church on the northern side of the Ter. The construction of the bypass, however, revealed no further

archaeological deposits of Roman date to the west of the Roman Road and it is postulated that the showground area may have been forest or scrub for much of this period.

There is little information on what was happening in the Great Leighs area during the Saxon period. However, the place name itself derives from the Saxon word Leah, meaning a clearing. An alternative name for Gubbions Hall was Chatley meaning Ceatta's clearing. This suggests that the woodland may have been quite extensive during this period with inroads being made into it during the middle to late Saxon period. The Domesday Book records Leighs in 1066 and 1086. At that date it comprised two manors, one held by Richard from Eudo the Steward and the second held by W. from Geoffrey de Mandeville. The manor held by Richard was heavily wooded, whilst that held by W. had the larger population. There were two mills, both probably located by the river Ter. It is not explicit in the Domesday Book, but it is considered that these two manors correspond roughly to the parish areas of Little and Great Leighs. Later in the medieval period further sub-manors were created.

The parish church of St Mary the Virgin in Great Leighs and St John the Evangelist in Little Leighs are the oldest surviving buildings in the parish. The earliest work in both of these structures is of 12<sup>th</sup> century date, and it is probable that both had Saxon predecessors. St Mary's church is unusual in that it has a round tower, one of only 7 known to exist in Essex. Great Leighs church forms part of a church/hall complex with Lyons Hall on the opposite side of the road. Church/hall complexes are a common characteristic of the medieval period in Essex. At Little Leighs the church was also located close to the primary manor of Leighs Hall.

The Priory at Leez Priory was for Austin Canons founded probably at the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. After its dissolution in 1536 the Priory buildings appear to have been raised to the ground with a new house of 2 quadrangles built on the site by the first Lord Rich. Excavation has recovered much of the plan of the Priory buildings and the succeeding house.

The historic settlement of the parish is typical of much of Essex in that it is highly dispersed in character. There were 2 church/hall complexes, the priory, a scatter of cottages along the line of the Roman Road with farms, moated sites and small hamlets scattered across the remainder of the parish, much of this ancient pattern survives. Particularly notable survivals are Gubbions Green hamlet, a collection of buildings gathered along 2 sides of the former Green. Place names and documentary evidence has established that most of the current farms have their origins in the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> centuries if not before. Of particular interest is the scheduled moated site at Gubbions Hall which is 14<sup>th</sup> century or earlier. Associated to the moated site and the Green is a windmill shown on the Chapman and Andre map of 1777.

It is still possible in the fields between Gubbions Hall and the modern village of Great Leighs to see the traces of Stetch (the Essex version of ridge and furrow) and the remains of the ancient woodland boundary for Gubbions Wood. The line of the River Ter is marked by extensive meadow pasture along its length. Important tracts of this still remain, however, some has been planted, especially with willow. The field pattern is of smallish irregular fields of probable medieval origin, if not earlier, some of which have been clearly created by clearance or assarting in ancient woodland. The line of the Roman road still forms a dominant feature within the landscape with elsewhere a network of narrow, twisting, sometimes sunken, lanes linking the scattered manors and farms.

The public house of St Annes Castle on the main Roman Road was initially built in the medieval period as a hermitage for pilgrims travelling to Canterbury. It subsequently became a maison dieu, still catering for the pilgrims and hence a public house.

The modern village is concentrated along the line of the Roman Road, formed largely from modern housing of the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A single estate has been created on the southern side of the Roman ride to the north East of St Annes Castle road junction. Other than this housing estate ribbon development has occurred alone

the line of the Roman road comprising infill between the scattered historic buildings. The northern end of the parish has been occupied by the Essex Showground, now being converted into a race course venue.

### 6.2.3 Historic Environment sub zones

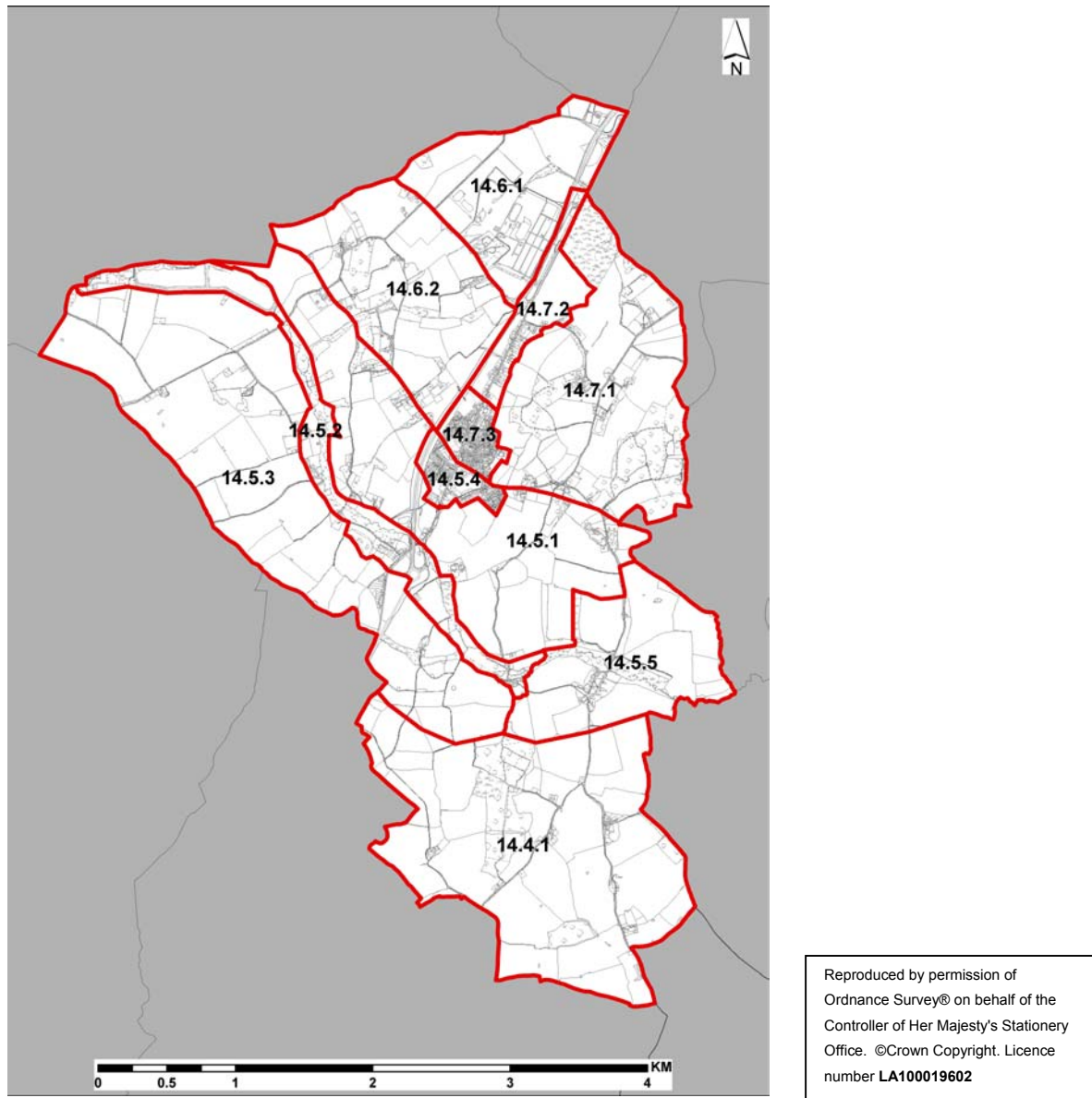


Fig: 31 Sub division of Great Leighs Parish



#### **14.4.1 Southern area of Parish:**

Large zone on the Boulder Clay Plateau. The field pattern of pre 18<sup>th</sup> century enclosure largely survives and is of considerable antiquity. A large area of ancient woodland (Lyonshall Wood) survives in the centre of the sub zone. This woodland has the potential to not only have earthworks surviving associated with the woodland itself but also preserve earthworks and other deposits associated with earlier activity. Little archaeological information is available but there is the probability that significant deposits are present within the sub zone.

#### **14.5.1 Valley slope on the northern side of the River Ter.**

This sub zone contains a series of cropmarks, some of early field boundaries on the south facing slope of the valley. Little archaeological work has been undertaken in the area, however the historic landscape has survived well. Rectory Lane contains several listed buildings associated with the dispersed settlement at Little Leighs.

#### **14.5.2 The meadow pasture of the River Ter:**

Archaeological deposits are visible as cropmarks on both sides of the Ter Valley. This sub zone forms the meadow pasture on each side of the River itself. Alluvial deposits associated with this stream are likely to contain significant palaeo-environmental deposits with the river itself is likely to have been used as a boundary feature from at least the medieval period. This sub zone contains the important church/hall complex at Little Leighs.

#### **14.5.3 Southern slopes of the Ter Valley:**

This zone forms the southern side of the Ter Valley. The dominant archaeological feature comprises cropmark evidence on the gravel terraces

sloping down to the river. The cropmark evidence is likely to be of multi-period date. Historic settlement pattern comprises dispersed farms probably of medieval origin.

#### **14.5.4 Modern Great Leighs**

The mid 20<sup>th</sup> century estate of Great Leighs along with sub zone 14.7.3, and the 21<sup>st</sup> century development between the Roman Road and the new A131 Great Leighs Bypass. A housing estate developed at the junction of the Roman Road and Boreham Road in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. All archaeological deposits within this area are likely to have been significantly disturbed by the house construction. Since the construction of the new A131 a housing estate has developed between the two roads.

#### **14.5.5 Great Leighs Church and environs:**

This sub zone contains the church/hall complex of Lyons Hall and the Church. It is bisected by the river Ter and in the base of the valley meadow pasture survives. Significant lynchets survive at the boundary between the meadow pasture and arable. On both slopes of the Ter Valley important cropmark complexes survive. Alluvial deposits associated with this river are likely to contain significant palaeo-environmental deposits. This area is highly sensitive to any kind of development.

#### **14.6.1 Essex Showground:**

Area comprising the Essex Showground and gravel extraction to the west of the Roman Road. Evaluation work on the new A131 and monitoring of the quarry activity has shown that it is likely that most of the archaeological deposits have been destroyed or extensively damaged. The lack of archaeological deposits on

the line of the A131 is likely to be indicative of the area remaining wooded or scrub for much of its history.

#### **14.6.2 Land south of Moulsham Hall Lane**

To the south of Moulsham Hall Lane the sub area retains much of its historic field pattern and several small woods of ancient origin. The historic settlement pattern comprises dispersed farmsteads and halls, some of which have their origins in the medieval period. An area in the southern part of the sub zone was originally woodland, still visible in 1777 and today as a distinctive defined area running north from Bream Farm containing a distinctive pattern of small fields at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century.

#### **14.7.1 Gubbions Green**

Much of the historic landscape has survived with large areas of ancient woodland and many of the original field boundaries. The important settlement at Gubbions Green comprises the former green, the scheduled moated site, and a range of listed buildings. Although the Green has been converted to arable and lost some of its boundaries the original layout can still be traced. There are rare remains of surviving stretch in the fields immediately to the south east of the modern estate at Great Leighs. The ancient woodland within this sub-zone has the potential to not only have earthworks surviving associated with the woodland itself but also preserve earthworks and other deposits associated with earlier activity. This sub zone is highly sensitive to any kind of any development.



*Fig: 32 Land to the east of Great Leighs showing the pattern of small enclosed fields, a curving old woodland boundary running through the centre of the photograph and remains of Stetch in the foreground(see also Fig. 28)*

#### **14.7.2 Roman Road to the north of Great Leighs**

This sub zone is formed from the Roman road with its ribbon development at its southern end dating from the late medieval period through to the modern day.

#### **14.7.3 The mid 20<sup>th</sup> century estate of Great Leighs**

The mid 20<sup>th</sup> century estate of Great Leighs along with sub zone 14.5.4. , and the 21<sup>st</sup> century development between the Roman Road and the new A131 Great Leighs Bypass. A housing estate developed at the junction of the Roman Road and Boreham Road in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. All archaeological

deposits within this area are likely to have been significantly disturbed by the house construction. Since the construction of the new A131 a housing estate has developed between the two roads.

## **6.3 *Little Waltham Village Assessment***

### **6.3.1 *Introduction***

Little Waltham parish contains a landscape character and archaeological resource of considerable variety and importance. Comprising a section of the upper Chelmer Valley, the village of Little Waltham itself and the boulder clay plateau to the east, the zone has seen little development pressure. With the exception of the areas of mineral extraction at Channels and Boreham airfield to the east, archaeological survival is likely to be high.

### **6.3.2 *Historic Background***

The area around present day Little Waltham has been extensively utilised and settled over a long period. Mesolithic flintwork discovered in the parish indicates the presence of mobile groups of hunter-gatherers and finds of Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery suggest occupation and settlement during these periods.

More widespread evidence of settlement during the Iron Age has been discovered at a number of sites in the parish. Early to Middle Iron Age pottery is known from Pratts Farm and Late Iron Age material has been identified at Belstead Farm. The main Iron Age settlement sites within the parish, however, have been found at Little Waltham Hall and to the west of the village prior to construction of the by-pass (Drury 1978). Both these sites are contemporary, dating from the Middle – Late Iron Age. The by-pass site contained a large number of round houses indicating a significant settlement surviving for several hundred years and into the early 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. Further deposits are likely to exist closeby.

Evidence for the Roman period is widespread within the parish. A Roman road linking the towns at Braintree and Chelmsford passes through the parish and would have acted

to encourage settlement within the road corridor. Building material and pottery scatters have been identified from High Hedges and to the south of Little Waltham Lodge and a possible fort or marching camp has been identified from cropmark evidence. Burials and cremations have been identified at a number of sites including Little Waltham Lodge and Sparrowhawks Farm. Oak bridge piles were found near the present river crossing in the village and were dated to the late 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD.

A number of other chance finds of Roman material indicate extensive settlement and activity throughout the Roman period. Both Iron Age and Roman occupation appear to be concentrated on the Chelmer valley sides and the later Roman road.

Evidence for Saxon occupation and activity is slight and limited to a number of pottery sherds from close to the river at Little Waltham and a chance find of a middle-Late Saxon spearhead a little further downstream. There is however, no reason to believe the area would not have been attractive to early Saxon settlers and that further evidence awaits discovery. Later Saxon settlement is attested by the Domesday Book with at least two manors held at Little Waltham.

Medieval settlement was centred on the church/hall complex at Little Waltham with excavations at the Hall producing significant amounts of 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century pottery. The earliest fabric of the church of St. Martin dates from the early 12<sup>th</sup> century which ties in with the pottery dates from the above excavations at Little Waltham Hall. Limited later medieval settlement is apparent around Winckford Bridge with 15<sup>th</sup> century buildings extant. The wider medieval settlement pattern consists of a number of dispersed moated sites and farmsteads including sites such as Long's, Scott's, Belstead and Thurley's Farms. In the extreme north of the parish, Liberty Hall moat lies close to the second focus of medieval settlement, Chatham Green.

The Chapman and Andre map of 1777 shows the main Church/Hall complex at Little Waltham with two watermills lying downstream both of which may be medieval in origin. A windmill is illustrated as existing between the church and Powers Farm to the east and

a substantial dwelling, Chatham Hall is represented lying to the east of Langleys (in Great Waltham parish). By this date further buildings are shown at the river crossing and on the first edition OS more buildings are illustrated on the line of the Roman road northwards. The result of this post-medieval growth is to create two focal points for the village, one around the river crossing at Winckford Bridge and another around the church/hall complex to the east. More recent infill has resulted in these two centres being amalgamated into one.

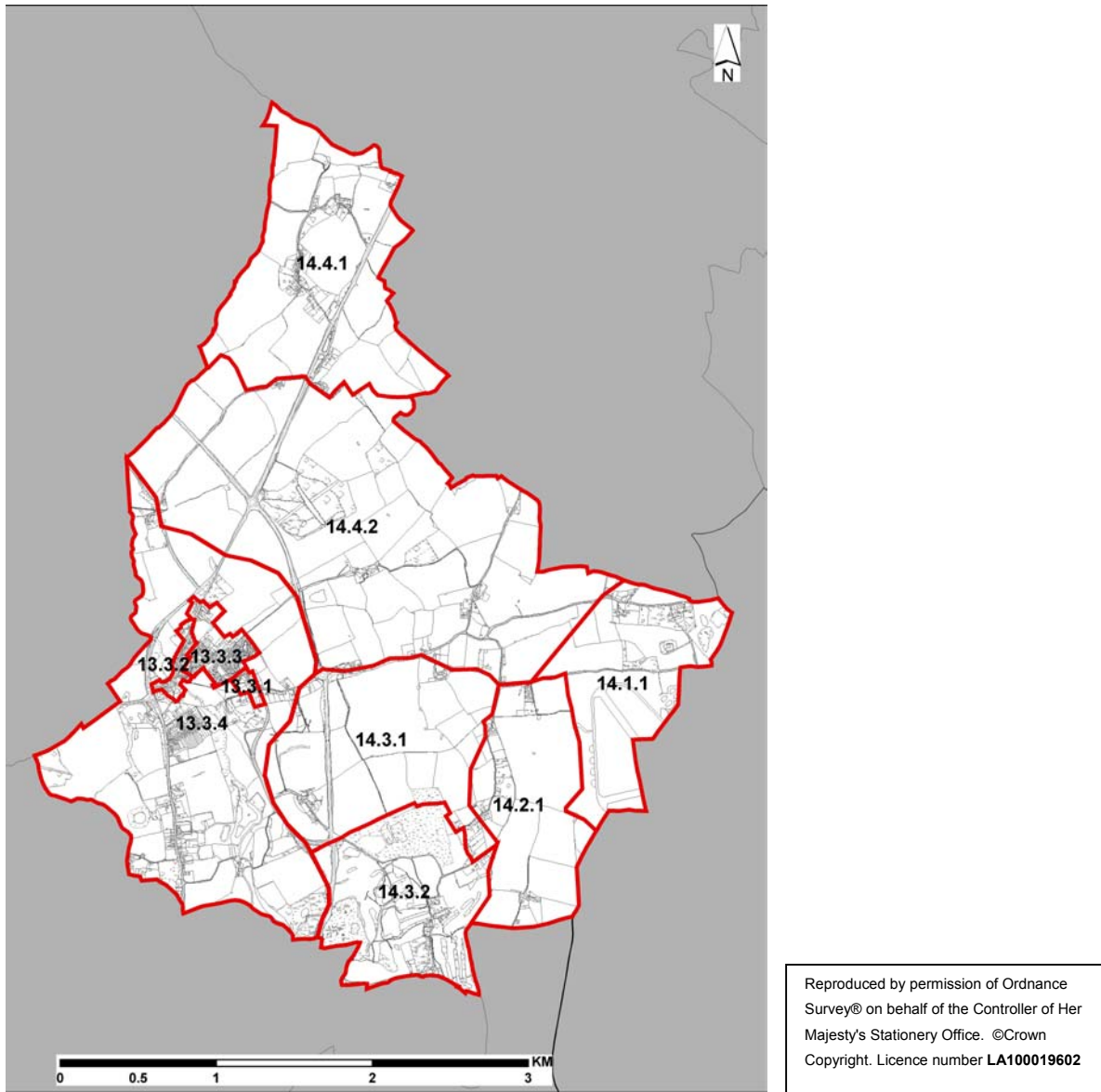
A number of relics of World War II survive within the parish, mainly infantry pillboxes of the General Headquarters line strengthened by at least three spigot mortars and lying on the west bank of the Chelmer. A roadblock was positioned at Winckford Bridge and there were a number of dispersal sites associated with the USAAF base at Boreham, now no longer extant.

Post war development has occurred further infilling Little Waltham village and to the south of the village around Chelmer Avenue.



### 6.3.3 Historic Environment Sub Zones

The parish of Little Waltham has been subdivided into 10 sub-zones reflecting both the historical development and archaeological potential of each subdivision.



*Fig: 33 Sub division of Little Waltham Parish*

### **13.3.1 Little Waltham Village-Church Hall Complex**

This zone comprises one of the main focus points for medieval and later settlement comprising the church/hall complex dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> century and a group of later listed buildings all within the conservation area. Below ground deposits will be present dating from the earliest medieval through to the post medieval period. Earlier, Iron Age and Roman, deposits are known to be present in the immediate vicinity of the church and hall.

### **13.3.2 Little Waltham Village – Ribbon Development**

There are 28 listed buildings, two of which are of fifteenth century date in this sub zone which is entirely within the conservation area. Chapman and Andre's map of 1777 shows a number of dwellings (possibly up to a dozen) clustered along the road immediately west of the river crossing at Winckford Bridge. Further settlement, possibly 5-6 dwellings, are shown alongside the Roman road north of the river crossing. In 1777 the church/hall complex stands to the south of the developing village which grew along the road from the river crossing. Within this zone buried archaeological deposits are likely to be present relating to the developing medieval and post medieval settlement pattern.

### **13.3.3 Little Waltham Village – Modern**

By the time of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS (1881) further growth is apparent along The Street as far as the White Hart public house and the National School (boys and girls) is established at the extreme north of the village. The pattern remains much the same through until the 4<sup>th</sup> edition (1938) with few noticeable changes to the morphology of the village.

Significant infill between the two village foci has occurred post WWII resulting in the settlement pattern seen today. This infill seems to have occurred piecemeal and accurately reflects field boundaries seen on the 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> editions OS.

### **13.3.4 Little Waltham Chelmer Valley**

This sub zone is bisected by both the River Chelmer and the Roman road from Braintree to Chelmsford with rising valley sides to east and west and includes parts of the conservation area. Plainly attractive to both prehistoric and later settlers the zone is of significant archaeological potential containing numerous sites and finds of Iron Age and Roman date. The zone contains a major Iron Age settlement, part of which was excavated in advance of the bypass construction and part of which is a Scheduled Monument. Medieval settlement is apparent alongside the line of the Roman road at Blasford Hill with Thurley's Farm and another building of 15<sup>th</sup> century date. There is a broadly rectilinear pattern of fields of ancient origin but with some modern boundary loss which relate to the Chelmer Valley and the Roman road, with meadow pasture in the base of the valley. There are a number of pillboxes surviving running in a line along the Chelmer part of the General Headquarters defence line of World War II.

### **14.1.1 Boreham Airfield North**

The southern half of this sub zone contains the northern part of the World War II Boreham airfield which is the predominant feature of the historic landscape. Archaeological monitoring prior to mineral extraction on the airfield to the south continues to reveal a range of archaeological deposits of largely prehistoric date. Similar deposits are likely to survive within this sub zone. The northern half of the sub-zone contains a dispersed settlement pattern of medieval origin with associated irregular fields with some modern boundary loss especially to the east which has

created some large fields. A number of dispersed Second World War sites related to the airfield are recorded in the northern area of this sub-zone.

#### **14.2.1 Peverel's Farm**

The sub zone contains cropmarks indicative of surviving archaeological deposits and the presence of a stream across the zone indicates the potential for waterlogged palaeo-environmental deposits. The fields associated with Peverel's Farm and Domsey Lane are of ancient origin and to the east of Domsey Lane have become partly infilled with ribbon development in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The very straight field boundaries are of post medieval date relating to the disparking of New Hall deer park. The site of another ancient farmstead, Cranham's Farm is associated with a small wood in the north of this sub-zone.

#### **14.3.1 Pratt's Farm**

Given the zone's location on rising ground east of the Chelmer, archaeological deposits relating to prehistoric and Roman settlement may be reasonably predicted. A chance find of a mid-late Anglo-Saxon spearhead from the river to the extreme west of the sub zone hints at further potential for sites of this date. The zone is characterised by regular fields of ancient origin, although 20<sup>th</sup> century boundary loss has created large prairie fields, smaller blocks of field survive in the north east and south of the zone. Essex Regiment Way passes through this sub zone.

#### **14.3.2 Channels**

This sub zone has been subjected to extensive mineral extraction and landscape modification. Range of finds of prehistoric and later date was recovered during the extraction. The extreme east of the zone retains some archaeological potential. Belstead Hall to the south of the sub zone is thought to date to the Saxon period.

#### **14.4.1 Chatham Green**

The Roman road from Braintree to Chelmsford passes through the sub zone. There is potential for Roman and medieval settlement related to the road. The village of Chatham Green is medieval in origin established around a green and a medieval moated site occurs at Liberty Hall. A series of small enclosures are located along the road to the south of the village, shown on the first edition and still partly extant, may represent abandoned house plots. There is a pattern of irregular ancient fields which partly surviving although there has been considerable 20<sup>th</sup> century boundary loss.

#### **14.4.2 Sheepcotes Farm**

Situated on the boulder clay plateau the Braintree to Chelmsford Roman Road passes through this sub zone with associated potential for deposits of this date and medieval occupation. Little archaeological work has been done but the potential for surviving archaeological deposits is good. The settlement pattern consists of dispersed farmsteads of probable medieval origin. Significant ancient woodland survives at Sheepcotes wood and there are also a number of smaller woods of ancient origin in this sub-zone. The dispersed farms and woodland are set within a pattern of irregular ancient fields with recent boundary loss relatively restricted. A small stream runs through the centre of this sub-zone and was associated with a strip of meadow pasture which survives reasonably well.

## 7 Policy development

### 7.1 Introduction

Set out below are comments and suggestions both with regard to specific policies and more general ways in which understanding conservation and management of the historic environment can be developed. 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. It is important to develop an integrated approach to conservation, enhancement and management of the natural and historical environment. The wording of the Environmental Protection and enhancement theme within Chelmsford Borough's *Preferred options for the core strategy and development control policies* provides an appropriate context for such an approach. The wording of this theme states:

**'Environmental Protection and Enhancement –** provides the environmental basis for all development – valuing natural and historic assets and ensuring change is sustainable and enhancing. The group of objectives is linked to a range of development policies ensuring individual development acknowledges global impact. '

The government statement *The Historic Environment: Force for our Future* (DCMS and DTLR 2001) acknowledges that effective policy development for the historic environment depended upon awareness and integrated action through all relevant departments. An issue which is also addressed by the main environmental agencies (Countryside Agency, English Heritage, English Nature, Environment Agency 2005). Similarly it will be necessary for Chelmsford Borough to promote integrated policy

development and working across the authority. With regard to the historic environment an integrated approach between Planning and Building Control, Leisure Parks and Tourism and Environment.

## **7.2 Policies from Earlier Strategic Plans**

Set out below are key policies based on those in the structure plan. In addition policies in the Chelmsford Local Plan ( ENV 12 – 15, RE 21, RE 19) are also very relevant. It will be necessary to incorporate the principals embodied in these policies into the new planning arrangements for Chelmsford Borough.

### **Protection of archaeological sites**

*Development which would damage or destroy a Scheduled Monument or other nationally important archaeological site, its character or its setting, will not be permitted. Other archaeological areas and sites, together with their settings, will be protected, conserved and enhanced wherever possible.*

### **Archaeological Assessment**

*Where there are grounds for believing that a proposed development would affect important archaeological sites or deposits, developers will be required to arrange for an archaeological field evaluation to be carried out before the planning application can be determined, to assess the character, extent and importance of the archaeological remains, and to allow an informed planning decision be made.*

### **Excavation strategies**

*In circumstances where preservation is not possible or merited then development will not be permitted until the developer has ensured that provision has been made for a*

*programme of archaeological investigation and recording prior to the commencement of the development.*

### **7.3 Towards integrated policies for the Historic Environment**

Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) should contain an integrated approach to the historic environment assessing the historic landscape, archaeological deposits and historic built character together. With regard to the historic environment EIA should be expected to follow the guiding principles established by Planarch ([www.planarch.org](http://www.planarch.org)) .

The Planarch EIA guiding principles were developed as part of an EU funded Intereg project, what in England is generally referred to as Historic Environment in a European context is generally referred to as cultural heritage.

#### **Guiding Principles for Cultural Heritage in EIA**

1. Cover all aspects of cultural heritage.
2. Integrate cultural heritage expertise into all stages of EIA, from screening through to implementation.
3. Describe the project requiring assessment clearly and in sufficient detail to allow identification of all impacts that could affect the cultural heritage.
4. Define a suitably large study area to allow a clear understanding of the cultural heritage and the extent of potential impacts upon it.
5. Undertake all cultural heritage surveys and investigations to a high standard sufficient to ensure a full understanding of the nature and significance of the resource and to allow informed decisions to be taken.
6. Assess all beneficial and adverse impacts on cultural heritage, including direct, indirect, temporary, permanent and cumulative effects.



7. Evaluate the significance of any impacts on the cultural heritage resource to take account of both the intrinsic value of the resource and how much it will be changed. Use relevant international, national and local legislation and policy to explain the significance, and make explicit the basis for any statements concerning value or importance.
8. Consider the likely effects on cultural heritage assets of alternative scenarios, including doing nothing.
9. Consider a variety of approaches to mitigation, including design modification, appropriate investigation and recording measures. Make provision for unforeseen effects. Propose realistically achievable mitigation measures and fully monitor and document any agreed actions, including responsibility for their implementation.
10. Ensure all communication relating to cultural heritage in EIAs is clear, focused and accessible to the non-specialist. Archive and index all documentation in a clearly traceable manner.

The two following examples give an indication of the issues which need to be considered when producing planning policies. The examples concern river valleys and historic landscapes and can clearly seen to be derived from the historic characterisation work.

### *River Valleys*

The Chelmsford Local Plan had a clear policy (RE 19) on developments affecting river valleys which set out to protect and enhance these important areas. It is now important for those responsible for developing and implementing similar policies to understand the full complexity of the historic environment in river valleys. These include ancient patterns of land use, lynchets and other earthworks, palaeo-environmental deposits, industrial monuments associated with the rivers, and in some cases military defences. Many of the features which are of value for nature conservation are also important for their historic interest. Whilst it is relatively easy to understand this in regard to major rivers in regard to the Chelmer and the Cam it is important to understand that even quite

small streams have complex and important historic environments. These issues are clearly identified within the historic environment characterisation.

### *Historic Landscapes*

Similarly the Local Plan contained a policy (RE 21) on ancient landscapes. However, the historic characterisation clearly demonstrates every area has a wide variety of landscape features which can and should be understood before development is planned. In this way it will be possible to protect sensitive landscapes and in other cases preserve and enhance significant elements during the course of development whilst using the structure and nature of the historic landscape to inform design and layout.

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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.

Chelmsford encompasses large areas of rural and 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.

Chelmsford 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, major settlement at Chelmsford and route ways;
- The development of a distinctive pattern of dispersed settlement across Chelmsford Borough;
- 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 HLC 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 35 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:

#### **Hylands Park, Writtle and Highwood**

- This area is located on the south facing side of the rolling plateau which lies between the River Wid to the south and the River Can to the north.
- Anciently, this area was part of Writtle Forest, a medieval hunting forest.
- Substantial pockets of woodland survive, as does the historic settlement pattern of dispersed villages focussed on greens and commons, and scattered farmsteads in an irregular field and woodland pattern. Only within Writtle itself has development gradually spread to encompass two greens and take on the characteristics of a nucleated settlement in relatively modern times
- There has been moderate boundary loss, creating some areas of large, but still irregular, fields.
- Hylands Park has been the focus of greatest boundary loss, but the park itself adds considerable character to the area.

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 Chelmsford***

### ***1.2.1 General Background***

Chelmsford contains two areas of suburban and urban landscapes at Chelmsford and South Woodham Ferrers. Chelmsford has an extensive history beginning in the Roman period as an urban centre whilst South Woodham Ferrers largely developed as a new settlement in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The built-up areas have developed both organically as the result of long-term historic trends, and as the result of concentrated episodes of town planning. Much of the area is dominated by 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century suburban development.

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

- The development of the Roman town
- The growth of the medieval town;
- The growth of the railway network which supported commuting;
- Industrial development;
- Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century suburban development;

### ***1.2.2 Method and Approach***

The Chelmsford 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 Chelmsford Borough. 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 36 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:

#### **Springfield**

**Predominant period:** Modern

**Secondary Period:** Post medieval

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

**Secondary Type:**

- Originally developed as post medieval ribbon development along Springfield Road
- Residential development dating to the 1960's – 2000's
- Modern Commercial area of Springfield. Mainly offices and car dealerships
- Some listed buildings survive

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

### **1.3.1 General Background**

As described in the overview of the historic environment the archaeological resource of Chelmsford 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:

Fig 11: Chelmsford's Archaeological Character Areas

#### **West Area**

- Drift geology of Lowestoft diamicton and exposed deposits of Head clay/silt /sand/gravel in the River Can basin with isolated Kesgrave and glaciofluvial sand/gravel.
- Undulating arable plateau landscape of medieval origin reaching a height of approximately 90m OD.
- Earth works of a notable motte and bailey castle and associated town enclosure survive at Pleshey with further substantial medieval settlement at Writtle.
- Numerous medieval moated sites are scattered throughout the area.
- Cropmarks are prevalent on the higher ground in the western part of the area.
- The identification of a number of Bronze Age hoards provides an indication of the potential for further discoveries of prehistoric date.

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 34 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. An example of HECA descriptions are provided below:

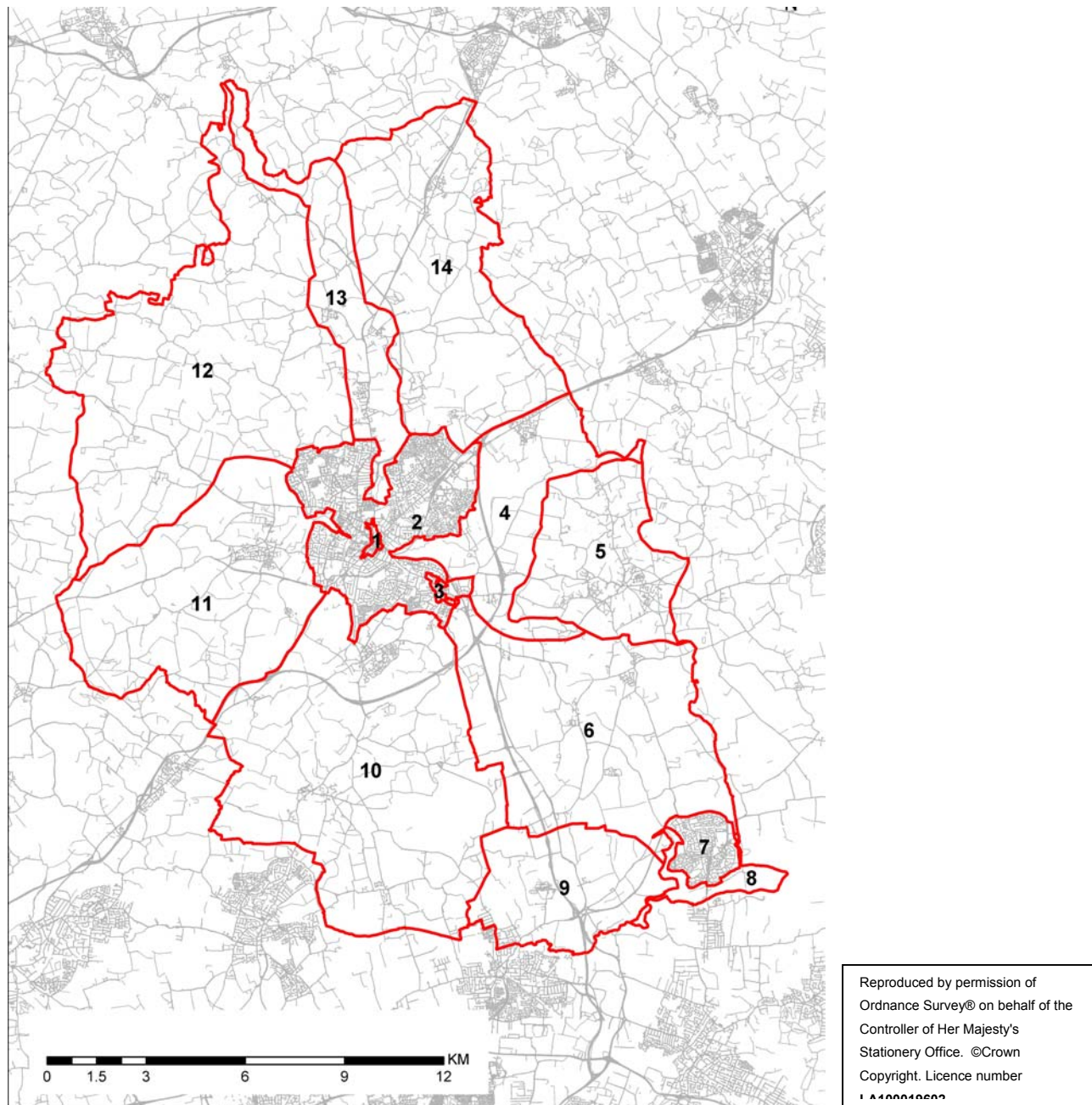


Fig : 34 Chelmsford's Historic Environment Character Areas

## Danbury Ridge

**Summary:** Danbury Ridge rises sharply from the Middle Chelmer Valley and land to the south east to form one of the highest points in Essex at around 107metres OD. The



surface geology is largely glaciofluvial sand and gravel over exposed London clay. Danbury village is the focus of settlement and developed around the 12<sup>th</sup> century church of St. John the Baptist which is situated on the highest point on the medieval route between Chelmsford and Maldon. The village has expanded significantly in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Woodland and common land is an important feature of the area with three named commons of medieval origin. Much of the woodland is ancient but some is of later date developed on former heath and common land.

**Historic Landscape:** Historically, the settlement was dispersed around several commons and greens, with a small nucleated settlement around the church of St. John the Baptist in Danbury, and the church/hall complex at Little Baddow. The fields are small and irregular in shape and of ancient origin, and there has been very little boundary loss. There are also areas of ancient woodland, and secondary woodland developed on former commons. The woods and commons form a complex of designated nature reserves and the grounds of Danbury Palace are now a country park. Recent settlement expansion has been around Danbury and along the roads of Little Baddow and there has also been some gravel extraction. Despite this the essential historic character of the landscape survives.

**Archaeological Features/Deposits:** Danbury Camp, a middle/late Iron Age hillfort is situated at the crest of the south facing slope and is the predominant archaeological feature within the area. The woods and commons preserve many earthwork boundaries and other features of medieval origin together with, further undated earthworks within woodland on the north facing slope overlooking the Middle Chelmer Valley. The presence of a number of small raised bogs indicates the potential for recovery of environmental data.

Finds of Neolithic, Bronze Age and Roman date within the area together with medieval finds in the vicinity of the church and main road point to further archaeological potential.

## **2 Chelmsford: Historic Landscape Character Area Descriptions**

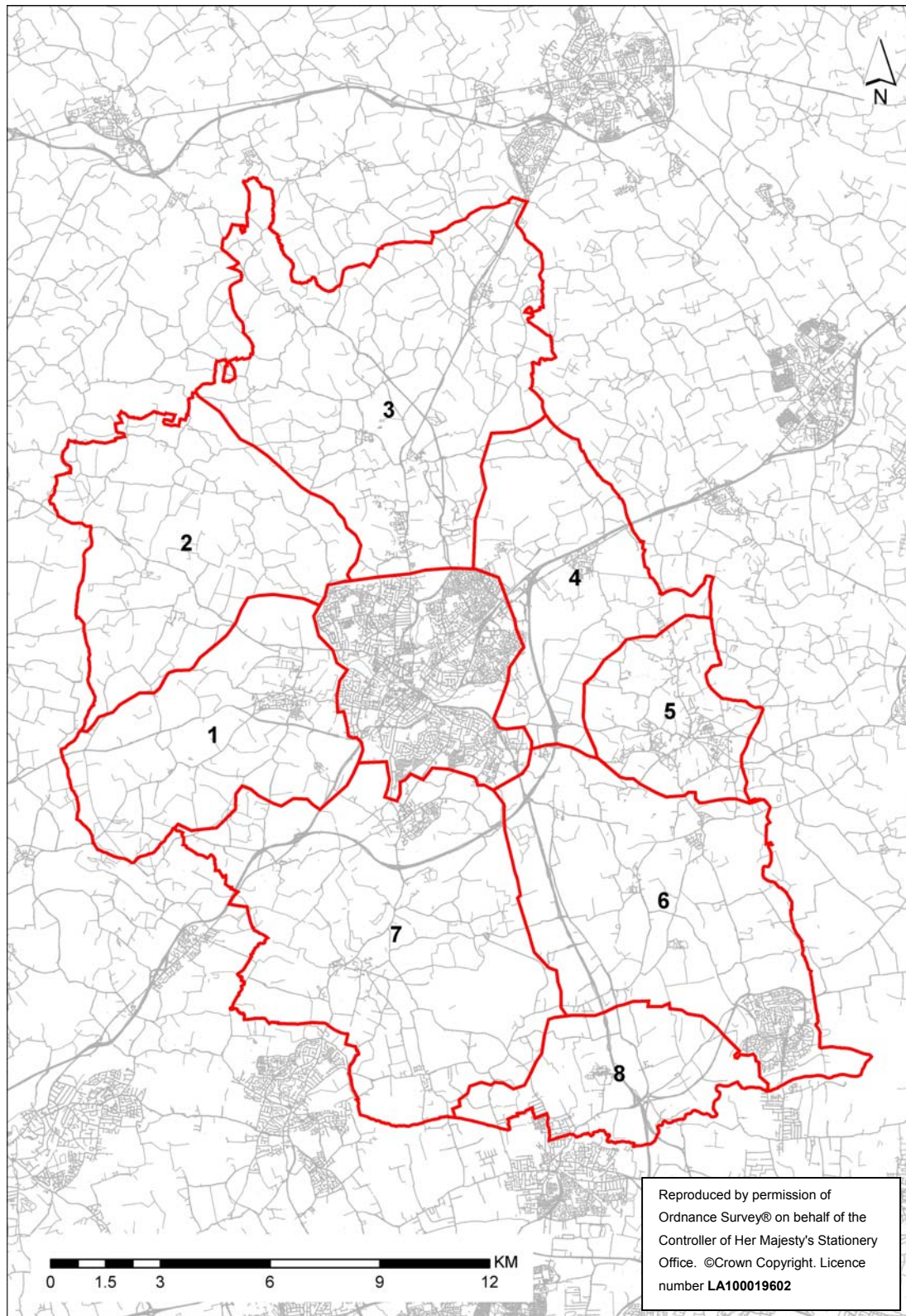
### ***Introduction***

Chelmsford Borough's landscape consists of gently undulating countryside on Chalky Boulder Clays to the north and west, overlying London Clays which outcrop to the south and east. These clays are cut principally by the River Wid, Roxwell Brook, Newland Brook, River Can and River Ter which drain into the River Chelmer, and flows eastwards from Chelmsford towards the Blackwater estuary. Danbury Hill is prominent to the east. The London Clays form a ridge immediately south of Hanningfield Reservoir. These drop steeply down to the River Crouch which forms part of the southern boundary of the Borough.

The field patterns can be generally seen to reflect the underlying geology, with, historically, small irregular fields to the north and west on the Boulder Clay, and a regular grid pattern of fields on the less well drained London Clays to the south and east. Seven broad zones have been identified and are described below:

### ***2.1 HLCA 1: Hylands Park, Writtle and Highwood***

- This area is located on the south facing side of the rolling plateau which lies between the River Wid to the south and the River Can to the north.
- Anciently, this area was part of Writtle Forest, a medieval hunting forest.
- Substantial pockets of woodland survive, as does the historic settlement pattern of dispersed villages focussed on greens and commons, and scattered farmsteads in an irregular field and woodland pattern. Only within Writtle itself has development gradually spread to encompass two greens and take on the characteristics of a nucleated settlement in relatively modern times
- There has been moderate boundary loss, creating some areas of large, but still irregular, fields.
- Hylands Park has been the focus of greatest boundary loss, but the park itself adds considerable character to the area.



*Fig :35 Chelmsford's Historic Landscape character areas*

## ***2.2 HLCA 2: West of Chelmsford encompassing the Can valley***

- Gently undulating countryside forming the catchment of the River Can.
- Historic dispersed settlement pattern, often originally focussed on greens, with scattered farmsteads survive.
- There are many small irregular fields of ancient origin across the area, with pockets of sinuous co-axial fields.
- There are a few, small woods of ancient origin surviving. There are also a few ponds.
- Small roads and green lanes link the settlements, and have survived.
- Significant boundary loss, particularly in the north on the higher ground, has given an open feel to the countryside.

## ***2.3 HLCA 3: North of Chelmsford encompassing the Upper Chelmer and Ter valleys***

- Undulating countryside forming the Chelmer and Ter valleys.
- The historic pattern of dispersed settlements and scattered farmsteads survive. Some settlements would have been focussed on greens.
- There are several areas of ancient woodlands, particularly in the Ter valley.
- A historic pattern of irregular fields of various sizes exists across the area.
- There is low to moderate boundary loss, allowing the essence of the boundary pattern to survive.
- Modern uses appear to have cut across the landscape, with a major road running north from Chelmsford, two golf courses, the Essex show ground, areas of gravel extraction and an airfield.
- Much 20th century development has occurred in the south of the area, particularly in and around Broomfield, Little Waltham, and Boreham.

## ***2.4 HLCA 4 East of Chelmsford, encompassing the Middle Chelmer Valley***

- Rolling countryside dropping down to the middle Chelmer valley, bounded on the south-east by Danbury Hill.
- Historic dispersed settlement pattern of scattered farmsteads, with nucleated settlement at Boreham.
- The historic field pattern shows a predominance of medium to large fields with straight boundaries, including 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>- century enclosure in the south of the area, and with a pocket of small irregular fields to the north-east. There were also water meadows along the river valley.
- Historic park and gardens survive around New Hall School and Boreham House.
- There is moderate to significant boundary loss which has created larger fields, but which still respect the historic pattern.
- The area contains an airfield, the modern arterial route of the A12, and areas of gravel extraction.
- Modern development is focussed around Boreham

## ***2.5 HLCA 5: Danbury Hill***

- Prominent hill in the east of the Borough,
- Historically, the settlement was dispersed around several commons and greens, with a small nucleation around the church in Danbury.
- The pattern of fields in the remaining small areas is small and irregular, of ancient origin.
- There are also areas of ancient woodland on the hill.
- This settlement pattern has been added to, mostly along the roads, with the commons preserved as nature reserves.
- The hill top is occupied by the villages of Danbury and Little Baddow, together with several Nature Reserves and a Country Park in the grounds of Danbury Palace.

## ***2.6 HLCA 6: Southeast of Chelmsford, between Great Baddow and the Crouch***

- This area lies on the watershed between the Chelmer and the Crouch, being gently rolling in the north, but dropping steeply down into the Crouch valley to the south.
- Historically, the settlement pattern was dispersed, some of it being focussed on commons. There were also scattered farmsteads. This pattern has survived with more recent nucleations of settlement at Bicknacre, East Hanningfield and Rettendon.
- There are irregular fields mixed in with the predominant co-axial fields of ancient origin. The co-axial fields are mostly aligned east to west. The commons were mostly enclosed by the 19th century, but part of their extent can be seen in the surviving field boundary pattern.
- There are a few ancient woodlands on the north of the area.
- There are a few ancient woodlands in the north of the area.
- There was grazing marsh along the river Crouch.
- Significant boundary loss has resulted in the creation of larger fields, but these still respect the general alignment of the co-axial field system in most cases.
- There is more recent nucleation of settlement at Bicknacre, East Hanningfield and Rettendon.
- The new town of South Woodham Ferrers has been built just north of the river Crouch.
- Marsh Farm Country Park preserves areas of salt marsh and grazing marsh adjacent to the River Crouch, thus retaining much of its original character.

## ***2.7 HLCA 7: South of Chelmsford, around Hanningfield Reservoir, Stock and Margaretting***

- This is a hilly area forming a ridge between the River Wid and the Sandon Brook, both of which drain northwards to the Chelmer valley.
- The valley of the Sandon Brook was dammed to form Hanningfield Reservoir.

- The historic settlement was dispersed with scattered farmsteads, some of the settlement being focussed on commons, which lay along the highest ground. Some of the villages have seen more recent development, creating a more nucleated appearance. Galleywood in particular has grown considerably, but it has also retained its common.
- There are many small patches of ancient woodland through the area.
- The field pattern consists of many small fields of ancient origin, both grid-like co-axial and irregular in shape.
- Moderate to significant boundary loss in the north of the area has created larger fields.
- Some of the villages have seen more recent development, creating a more nucleated appearance. Galleywood in particular has grown considerably, but it has also retained its common.
- The area is also cut through by the A12 Chelmsford bypass and the main line railway from London up through Chelmsford

## ***2.8 HLCA 8: The Crouch valley, east of South Woodham Ferrers***

- This area is on the south facing slope of the Crouch valley.
- The settlement pattern is very dispersed, consisting mostly of scattered farmsteads along the slope.
- The field pattern is strongly co-axial, of ancient origin, aligned approximately north-south, also evident in the road pattern. Boundary loss has occurred, but has had minor impact over most of the area, preserving the character of the landscape.
- The settlement pattern has been augmented by more recent development along some of the roads. Runwell, at the bottom of the slope has grown considerably.
- There are a few patches of ancient woodland.
- The south of the area is crossed by a major road and the London to Southend railway line.



### 3 Chelmsford Historic Urban Characterisation

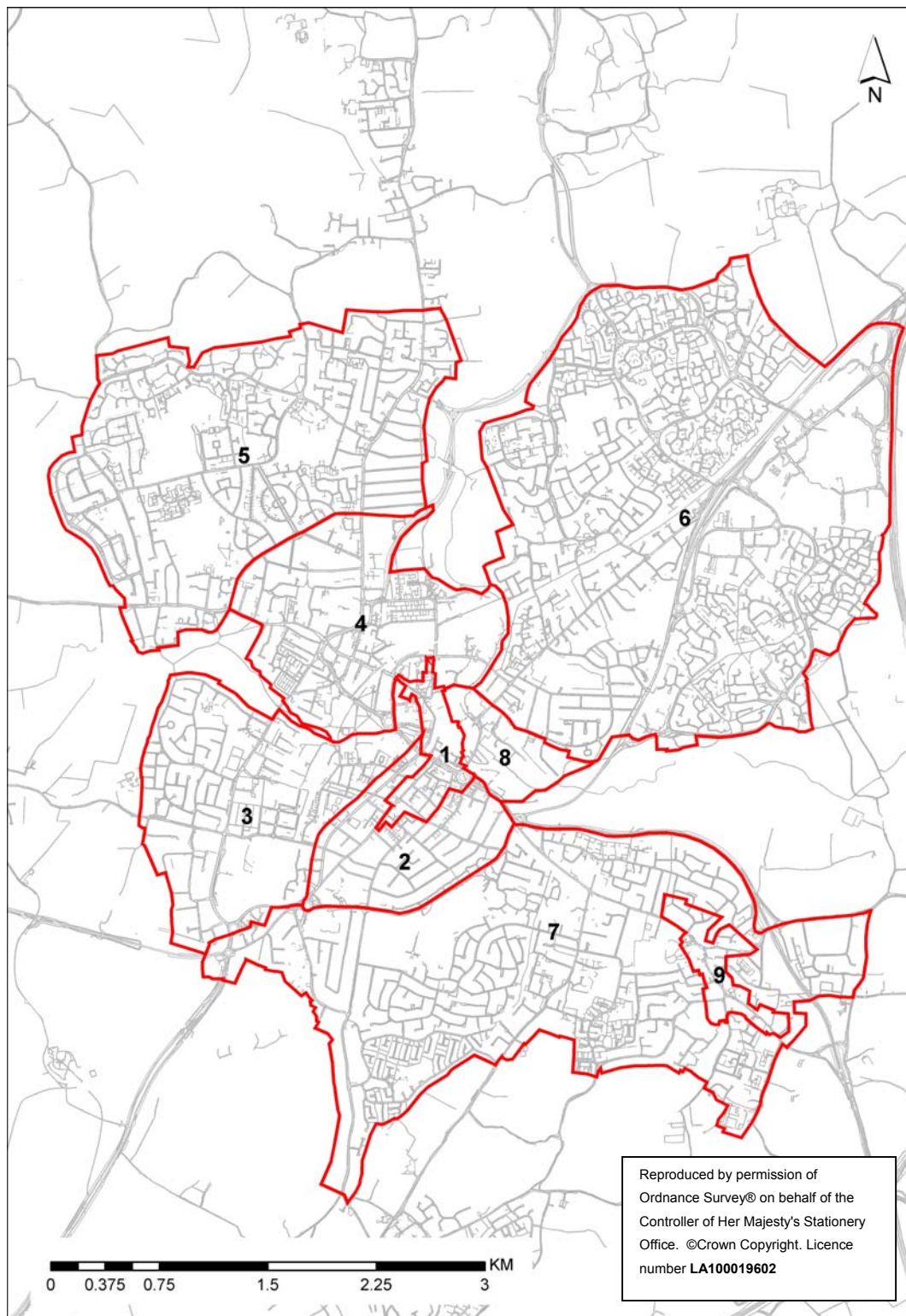


Fig: 36 Historic Urban characterisation Areas



### **3.1 HUCA 1: The historic core of Chelmsford**

**Predominant periods:** Modern

**Secondary period:** Roman/medieval/Post medieval

**Predominant type:** Commercial

**Secondary type:** residential

- This forms the historic core of Chelmsford dating to the Roman, medieval and post medieval period.
- Excavations within the town have found extensive surviving archaeological deposits of Roman, medieval and post medieval date.
- Although the medieval town area retains much of its medieval street pattern and some medieval buildings, it does not have the appearance of a medieval town.
- A major feature is the cathedral and its precinct at the northern end of the market.
- From the Post medieval period the centre of industrial production with the Marconnis Works and Globe House developed on the site of the earlier medieval Bishops Hall Manor
- Most of this area now forms the commercial shopping centre and university area of Chelmsford.

### **3.2 HUCA 2: Area surrounding Moulsham**

**Predominant period:** Post medieval

**Secondary Period:**

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Industrial

- Roman ribbon development and cemeteries are located within this area
- From the 19<sup>th</sup> century through to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century large houses were constructed in their own grounds down London Road
- Large area of terraced properties
- Contained industrial development in the 19<sup>th</sup> century
- Residential expansion during the middle part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **3.3 HUCA 3: South Eastern Chelmsford**

**Predominant period:** Modern

**Secondary Period:** Post medieval

**Predominant Type:** commercial

**Secondary Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Industrial

- Area to the north of Writtle Road has the original Crompton's Arc Works, built in 1896, which had its own railway sidings. Much of this has been developed but the main office block fronting Writtle road has been converted.
- Largely modern commercial buildings with factories and many car show rooms
- Residential area developed in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **3.4 HUCA 4: Northern Central Chelmsford**

**Predominant period:** Modern

**Secondary Period:** Post Medieval

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

**Secondary Type:**

- At the time of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition this area contained large houses in their own grounds with large areas of allotments
- Residential development post Second World War
- Developed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century with terraced properties fronting many of the roads
- In the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century area becomes more densely populated.

### **3.5 HUCA 5: North Chelmsford Residential**

**Predominant period:** Modern

**Secondary Period:**

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:**

**Secondary Type:**

- Large area of predominantly late 20<sup>th</sup> century housing development.

### **3.6 HUCA 6: Springfield**

**Predominant period:** Modern

**Secondary Period:** Post medieval

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

**Secondary Type:**

- Contains the medieval core of Springfield Green
- Originally developed as post medieval ribbon development along Springfield Road
- Residential development dating to the 1960's – 2000's
- Modern Commercial area of Springfield. Mainly offices and car dealerships
- Some listed buildings survive

### **3.7 HUCA 7: Southern Chelmsford**

**Predominant period:** Modern

**Secondary Period:**

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

**Secondary Type:**

- Contains the historic core of Widford
- Contains St Johns hospital
- Second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century residential development to the south of Chelmsford
- Some small scale industrial and commercial properties present.

### **3.8 HUCA 8: Commercial area to the south of the Railway and the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation**

**Predominant period:** Modern

**Secondary Period:** Post medieval

**Predominant Type:** commercial

**Secondary Type:** residential

**Secondary Type:**

- During the post medieval period was a trans shipment point between Chelmsford and Heybridge containing a limekiln, iron foundry, gas works, coke oven and timber and storage yard. (Mostly destroyed)
- Some early 20<sup>th</sup> century terrace residential development
- Extensive area of re-development for both commercial and residential
- Modern warehouse development

### **3.9 HUCA 9: Historic Core of Great Baddow**

**Predominant period:** Post Medieval

**Secondary Period:** Modern

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:**

**Secondary Type:**

- Historic core centred on Church Street and High Street
- Listed buildings surviving on the road frontage
- Large part of layout shown on the first edition still survives.

### **3.10 HUCA 10: South Woodham Ferrers**

**Predominant period:** Modern

**Secondary Period:**

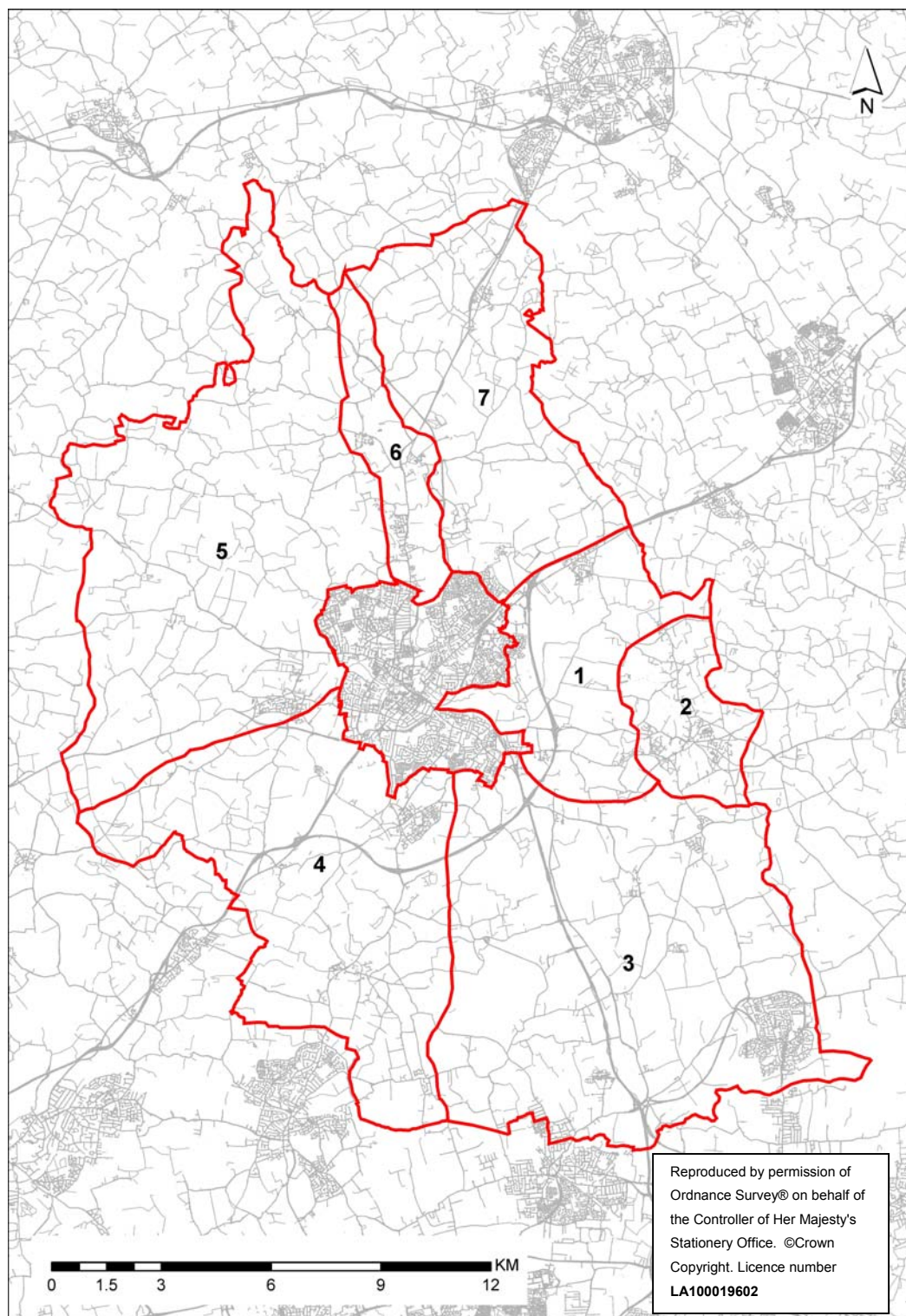
**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:**

**Secondary Type:**

- Planned town of the 1970's
- Laid out over early – mid 20<sup>th</sup> century plotlands.

## 4 Chelmsford – Archaeological Character Areas



*Fig: 37 Archaeological Character Areas*

#### **4.1 ACA 1: Middle Chelmer Valley**

- Comprises the floodplain and valley sides of the River Chelmer running roughly east from Chelmsford town. River valley bottom lies at around 20m OD in the west dropping to 15m OD in the east. Drift geology of alluvium, river terrace sand/gravel, glacio-fluvial sand/gravel and head clay, silt, sand and gravel.
- Traditional land use is divided between grazing/pasture on the valley bottom and arable on the valley sides.
- Outside the Springfield/Chelmer village area little development has taken place and the valley is largely occupied by scattered farmsteads.
- The MCV contains a varied and valuable archaeological resource within a significant cropmark landscape.
- This resource ranges from prehistoric sites of national importance such as the Springfield Cursus and Springfield Lyons Bronze Age enclosure through to extensive archaeological remains of WW II.
- Extensive loss and truncation of archaeological deposits will have occurred during development in the Springfield and Chelmer Village areas during the 1970/80s. Outside these areas on the valley sides survival has been shown to be generally good.
- Archaeological/environmental deposits covered and protected by alluvium in the floodplain should be expected.

#### **4.2 ACA 2: Danbury Ridge**

- Danbury Ridge rises from the Middle Chelmer Valley and land to the south east to form one of the highest points in Essex at around 107m OD. The drift geology consists of glaciofluvial sand/gravel over exposed London Clay.
- Danbury village forms the focus for the area and developed around the 12<sup>th</sup> century church of St. John the Baptist situated at the highest point on the medieval route between Chelmsford and Maldon. Danbury expanded significantly in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and ribbon development down the valley side has led to the expansion of Little Baddow from its medieval core and church/hall complex.

- The area is heavily wooded, especially on the north facing slope, and encompasses three named commons of probable medieval origin. Much of the woodland visible today appears to date from the 19<sup>th</sup> century onward.
- Danbury Camp, a middle/late Iron Age hillfort situated at the crest of the south facing slope is the predominant archaeological feature. Further undated earthworks exist on the north facing slope over the middle Chelmer Valley at around 85m OD.
- Roman finds have been noted to the immediate west of Danbury Camp and a number of finds of medieval date in the vicinity of the church and main road.
- Due to the prevailing land use, cropmarks are absent but outside those areas of recent development and forestation, isolated archaeological deposits of prehistoric, Roman and medieval date may be expected to survive.

#### **4.3 ACA 3: Boreham/Leighs Plateau**

- Gently undulating plateau landscape rising to around 65m OD, bounded by the Upper Chelmer Valley to the west and the Middle Chelmer Valley to the south. Drift geology of Lowestoft diamicton and occasional deposits of glaciofluvial gravel/sand. The plateau is bisected by the Ter valley to the north with deposits of glaciofluvial sand and gravel and exposed London Clay.
- Mainly arable cultivation with a landscape of scattered farmsteads and medieval moated sites. Cropmarks not abundant. Significant mineral extraction where deposits occur.
- Two main population centres exist. A medieval village, now much expanded, at Boreham. The village is situated on rising ground on the northern slope of the Middle Chelmer Valley and close to the Roman Road to Colchester. The linear village of Great Leighs lies to the north of the area alongside the Roman road to Braintree but some distance north of its original church/hall complex at Lyons Hall. The medieval Leez Priory lies at the north of the area.
- A number of archaeological sites have been investigated along or close to the crest of the south facing plateau slope. These include Great Holts Roman villa, an

apsidal Roman building at Bulls Lodge and a medieval windmill at Boreham Airfield.

- Surviving prehistoric deposits have been demonstrated on the plateau in the vicinity of Boreham Airfield, a former WWII USAAF base.
- Other than mineral extraction and the construction of the airfield, previous development has been slight and there is a high probability of further diverse and significant archaeological sites surviving particularly on the southern and western plateau slopes.

#### **4.4 ACA 4: South-Eastern Area**

- Geology comprises exposed London Clay and Claygate member over much of the area overlain by Head clay/silt/sand/gravel and occasional deposits of Lowestoft diamicton.
- The landscape consists of open and undulating arable land with scattered copse and small woodlands, rising to 72 metres OD at East Hanningfield and falling away fairly sharply to the south from the line of the Woodham Scarp. A major feature is Hanningfield reservoir constructed in the 1950's.
- The area contains a small number of historic villages and a settlement pattern of further dispersed farmsteads and medieval moated sites.
- South Woodham Ferrers, developed from the 1970's onwards is the only area of significant modern development.
- Cropmark evidence is slight but work on the route of the A130 has illustrated the potential for survival of deposits of Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British date. Significant elements of the WWII GHQ line.
- The north bank of the River Crouch forming the southern boundary at South Woodham Ferrers has significant archaeological potential particularly for deposits of prehistoric date.



#### **4.5 ACA 5: Highwood/Stock**

- Geology of claygate member overlain by Bagshot Formation sand/gravels and Stanmore sand/gravel with Head clay/silt/sand/gravel in the river valleys.
- Attractive rolling landscape with high points on the Stanmore sand/gravel deposits at Stock (94m OD), Galleywood (86m OD) and Writtle Park Farm (93m OD). Bisected by the River Wid.
- The area is well wooded with numerous and sizeable woodlands/copses interspersed with arable.
- Significant parkland elements including Highlands Park and the medieval in origin Writtle Deer Park.
- Main settlements exist on the higher gravels at Stock and Galleywood otherwise the pattern is largely of dispersed farms and medieval moated sites.
- Cropmark evidence is sparse and relates mostly to post-medieval field patterns but limited work has illustrated the potential for surviving prehistoric and Roman archaeological deposits.

#### **4.6 ACA 6: Upper Chelmer Valley**

- Geology of Head clay/silt/sand/gravel, alluvium and deposits of glaciofluvial sand/gravel at top of valley sides. Further deposits of River terrace sand/gravel, Lowestoft diamicton and exposed London Clay.
- Narrow and attractive, well wooded river valley and floodplain containing both arable and pasture and some parkland. Major mineral extraction has occurred on suitable sand/gravel deposits.
- Main settlements at Broomfield and Great Waltham at the crest of the east facing slope and Little Waltham on the valley bottom.
- Significant cropmarks occur on the valley terraces indicating surviving buried archaeology.
- The valley has been utilised over a long period with numerous and important finds of Bronze Age, Iron Age Roman and Saxon date. Also significant remnants of the WWII GHQ line

- The potential for further well preserved archaeological deposits must be considered high.

#### **4.7 ACA 7: West Area**

- Drift geology of Lowestoft diamicton and exposed deposits of Head clay/silt /sand/gravel in the River Can basin with isolated Kesgrave and glaciofluvial sand/gravel.
- Undulating arable plateau landscape of medieval origin reaching a height of approximately 90m OD.
- Earth works of a notable motte and bailey castle and associated town enclosure survive at Pleshey with further substantial medieval settlement at Writtle.
- Numerous medieval moated sites are scattered throughout the area.
- Cropmarks are prevalent on the higher ground in the western part of the area.
- The identification of a number of Bronze Age hoards provides an indication of the potential for further discoveries of prehistoric date.

## **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.

**Mansio:** Roman posting station or inns situated within towns or along side major roads. These buildings contained a range of rooms for accommodation, bathing and stabling.

**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.

**Paleolithic:** 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

**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.