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Braintree District Historic Environment Characterisation Project

2010



Essex County Council

Front Cover: Aerial view of Cressing Temple

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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
PPS 5	Planning Policy Statement 5; Planning for the Historic Environment
VDS	Village Design Statement

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Braintree District Historic Environment Characterisation Project

1 Introduction

The report was funded jointly by English Heritage (from the Aggregates Sustainability Fund) and Essex County Council in response to the Essex Minerals Development Document and the Braintree Local Development Framework document.

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 Braintree District 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 District's environmental infrastructure, the historic environment has a major role to play in Braintree'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 Braintree 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 (2005), Chelmsford Borough Council (2006) and Maldon District Council (2008), which looked in greater detail at the Historic Environment and were carried out by Essex County Council. The characterisation work for Braintree has been undertaken using the methodology refined during these other projects. The Characterisation work is intended to inform the Mineral Development Document and 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 character assessments of the urban, landscape and archaeological resource of Uttlesford. 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 within the District.

1.1 Purpose of the project

This project has been developed to primarily serve as a tool for Essex County Council and Braintree District to use in the creation of the Mineral Development Plan and the Local Development Framework for Braintree. The report reveals the sensitivity, diversity and value of the historic environment resource within the District. The report should facilitate the development of positive approaches to the integration of historic environment objectives into spatial planning for the District.

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 Braintree District.**

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 (VDS) and the Community Strategy.

2 The Historic Environment of Braintree District

Topography

Braintree District comprises a rolling landscape of rich agricultural land, predominately under arable cultivation, but with important areas of ancient woodland. The topography slopes gently from north-to south. It is drained by a number of rivers and streams, of which the most significant are the Stour, the Colne, the Blackwater and the Brain. In places these form quite steeply sided-valleys. The Stour forms the northern boundary of the District and the border with Suffolk. The geology is predominately chalky boulder clay, overlying Kesgrave and river terrace sands and gravels and head deposits, these are exposed in the valley sides. Alluvial and colluvial deposits occur in the valley bottoms of the rivers and their tributary streams and may contain important palaeoenvironmental sequences.

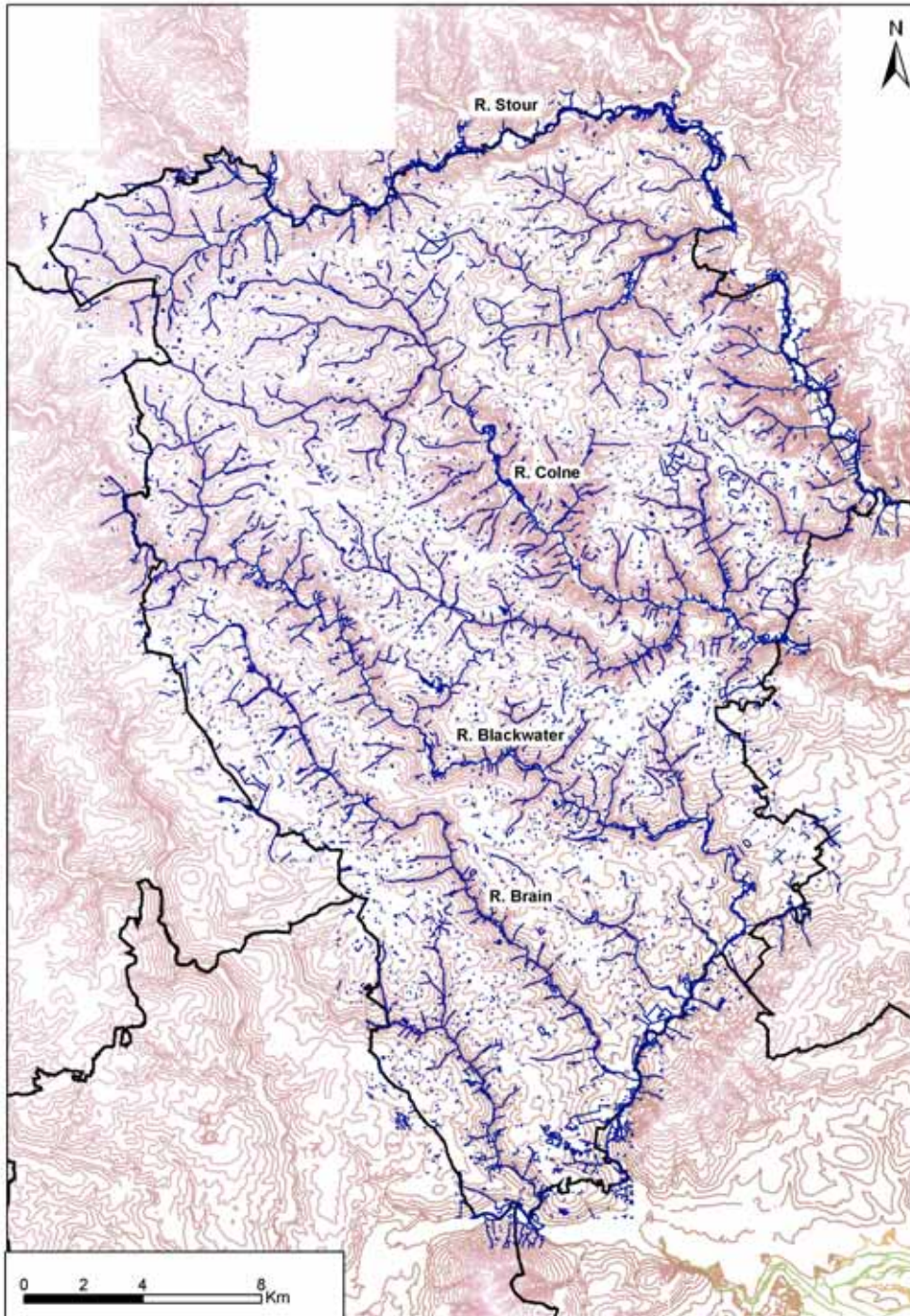


Fig. 1 Topography of Braintree District

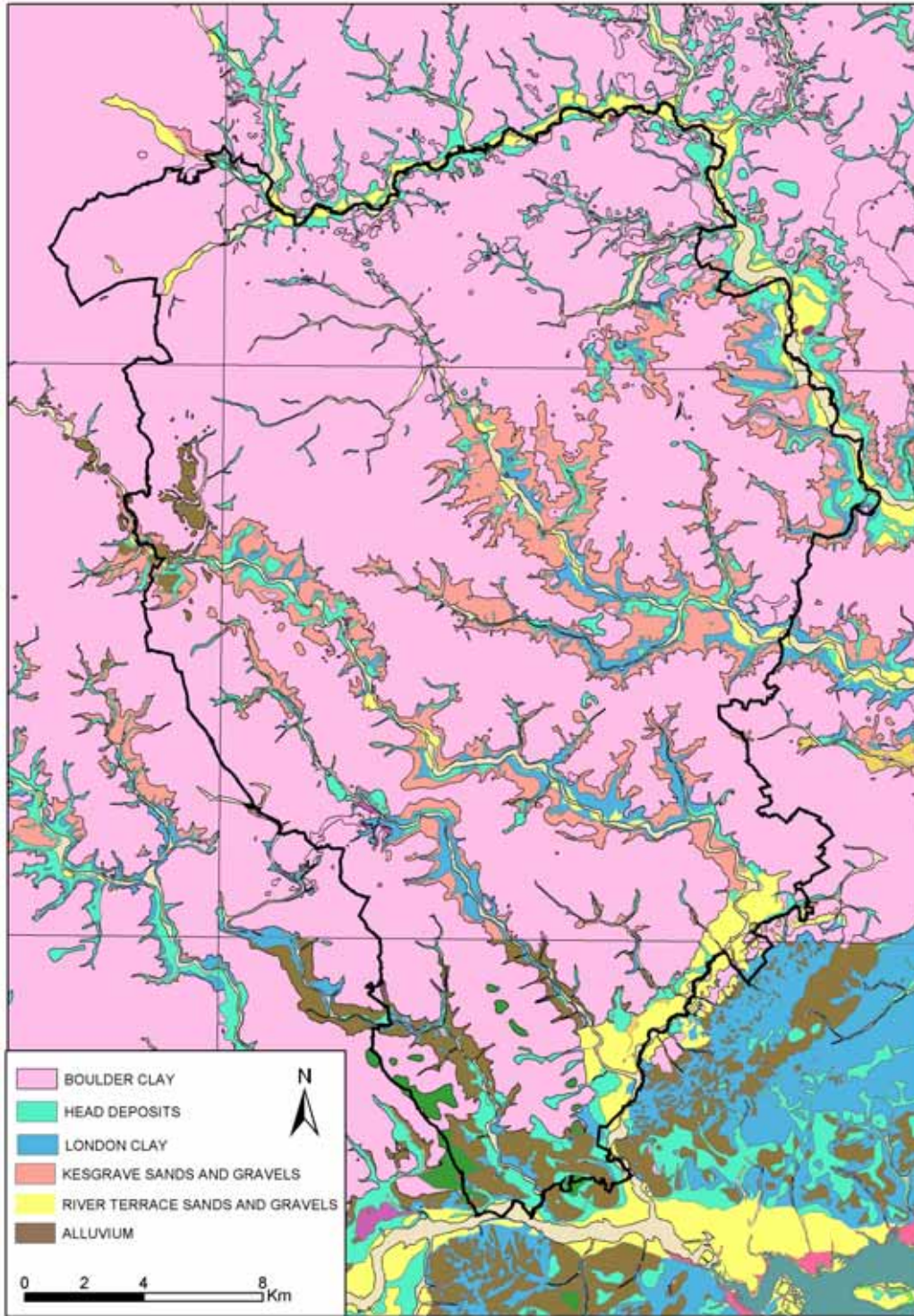


Fig. 2 Surface geology of Braintree District

Braintree has a rich and varied historic environment, with indications of human activity stretching back over half a million years. Evidence of human occupation has been identified by excavation, fieldwalking, stray finds, cartographic and documentary research and aerial photography.

2.1 Palaeolithic period (500,000-10,000 BC)

For most of this period Britain was joined to Continental Europe by a low-lying land bridge and the Thames followed a more northerly course through what is now East Anglia. In about 450,000 BC, during the period of maximum glaciation the Thames was gradually forced southwards by the advancing ice-sheet, eventually reaching its present course. The boulder clay which covers most of the District derives from the residue of the great Anglian glaciation (450,000-400,000 BC) which covered much of Britain. The terraces of gravel which mark the former course of the river became favoured areas for exploitation by early humans. These people were wandering hunters and foragers, living in conditions that varied from the sub-arctic to the pleasantly warm. There is also evidence for at least two major inter-glacial periods when the climate warmed before cooling again, and there is evidence for large mammals dating to these periods from the gravel pits in the district. These include elephant and horse bones as well as Palaeolithic flint tools recovered from Hunnable's gravel-pit in Braintree in 1947. When conditions became too cold, they and their prey, retreated back to continental Europe, returning when the ice sheets receded again. The earliest biologically modern humans, *Homo sapiens*, arrived in Britain around 40,000 BC. The last Ice Age lasted from 26,000-13,000 BC, at which point Britain began to warm up and sea-levels to rise, in a warm period which has lasted down to the present day.



*Fig. 3 Artist's impression of hunting and gathering on the edge of a Palaeolithic lake
(Image courtesy of Southend Museum)*

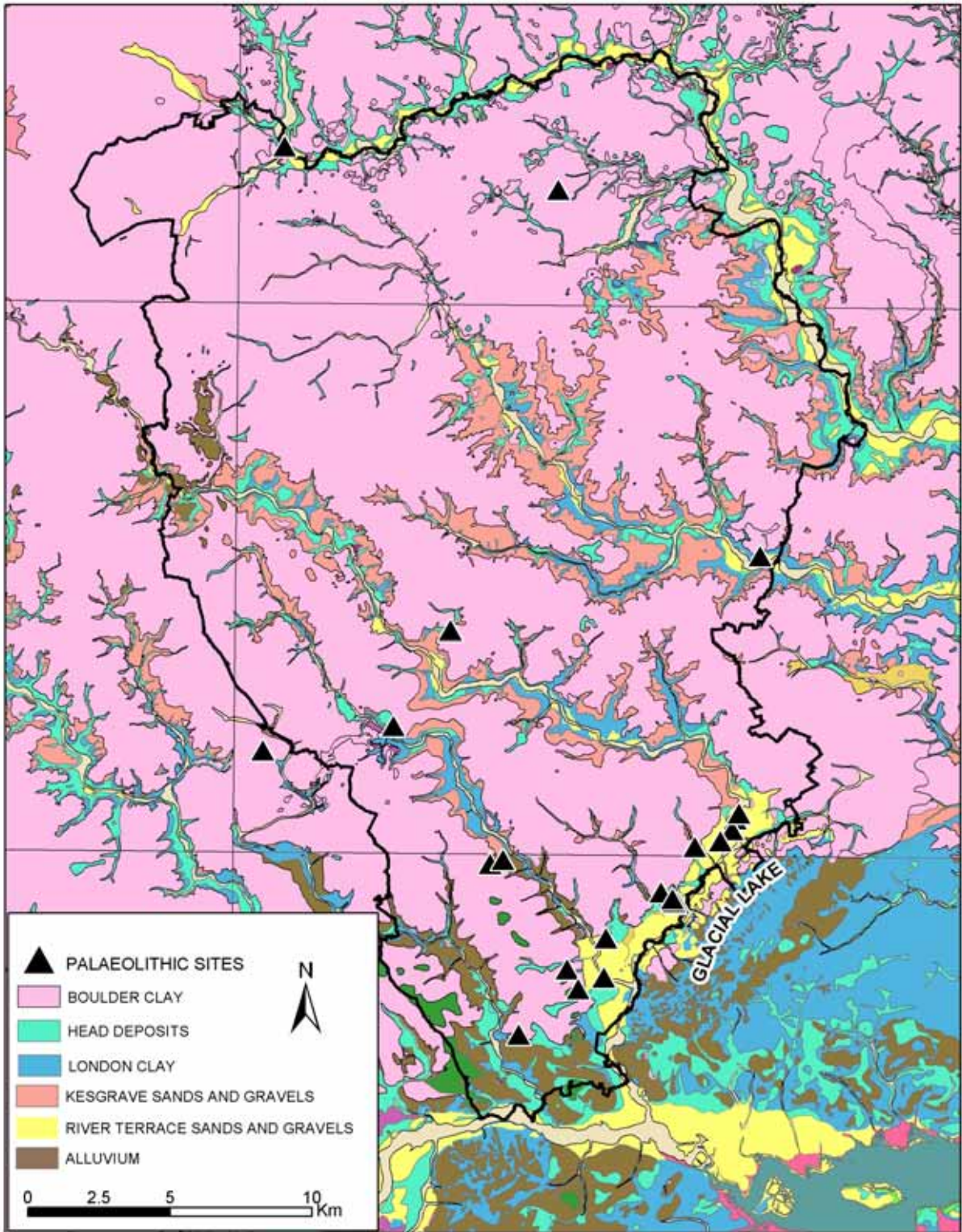


Fig.4 Palaeolithic sites in Braintree District

The evidence for human activity during the inter-glacial periods within the District is demonstrated by the recovery of Palaeolithic artifacts (largely flint hand axes). In most cases these are recorded as chance finds or as residual finds on sites of a later

date. Many of the recorded find-spots lie in the river valleys, which appear to have been favoured location at this period, and there is a notable distributional bias towards the southern half of the District. Part of this distribution may however be due to the fact that it is within the valleys that the sands and gravels containing Palaeolithic finds are more likely to be exposed. In addition, in the area between Witham and Marks Tey there was a large, shallow lake, formed by glacial melt-waters during the Hoxnian phase (approximately 424,000- 374,000 years ago), this lake would have been particularly attractive to hunter gatherers. The excavations at the Roman temple site at Ivy Chimneys, Witham, recovered over thirty Palaeolithic hand-axes that may have been collected as 'Jupiter's thunderbolts' and deposited as votive offerings in the Roman period. These may have had an immediate local origin, possibly from ancient camp sites around the lake shore or they may have been gathered more widely afield and been transported to the Witham area. In addition the distribution pattern may well have been skewed by the presence of two notable collectors of Palaeolithic artefacts working in the southern part of the District recovered by the Rev. William Kenworthy in the late 19th century and Simon Brice in the late 20th century. Arguably the most significant sites in the District are the Hunnable's Pit site in Braintree (see above) and the White Colne fishing-lakes site which contained rare evidence for Upper Palaeolithic activity.

2.2 Mesolithic period (10,000 – 4,000 BC)

The Mesolithic period is marked by rapid climatic change. The earlier steppe/tundra environment was replaced by pine and birch forest and the animals that live in such an environment. Rising sea-levels derived from the melting glaciers burst through the land-bridge that linked Britain to the continent, forming the English Channel. Progressively warmer conditions meant that by around 7,500 BC Braintree District would have been covered by a mixed deciduous forest, largely of oak, lime and elm, with areas of open grassland kept clear by browsing animals and possibly deliberate burning by people, as a mechanism to improve hunting conditions. It was inhabited by roving groups of hunters and foragers, hunting red deer, elk and wild cattle (aurochs) in the woods and fish and birds in the marshes as well as gathering fruit, roots and nuts.

There is scattered evidence for Mesolithic occupation, limited to finds of stone/flint artifacts, across the District. The sites are largely associated with the major water courses, particularly the Brain, Colne and Blackwater rivers. A possible occupation sites have been recorded from gravel pits beside the Colne at White Colne, and the Halstead Flood Alleviation Scheme at Box Mill next to the River Colne. The majority of the finds are however found as residual elements on later sites. The evidence would indicate that Braintree was occupied during the Mesolithic, with the river valleys acting as the foci for hunting-and-gathering as well as routeways into the District.

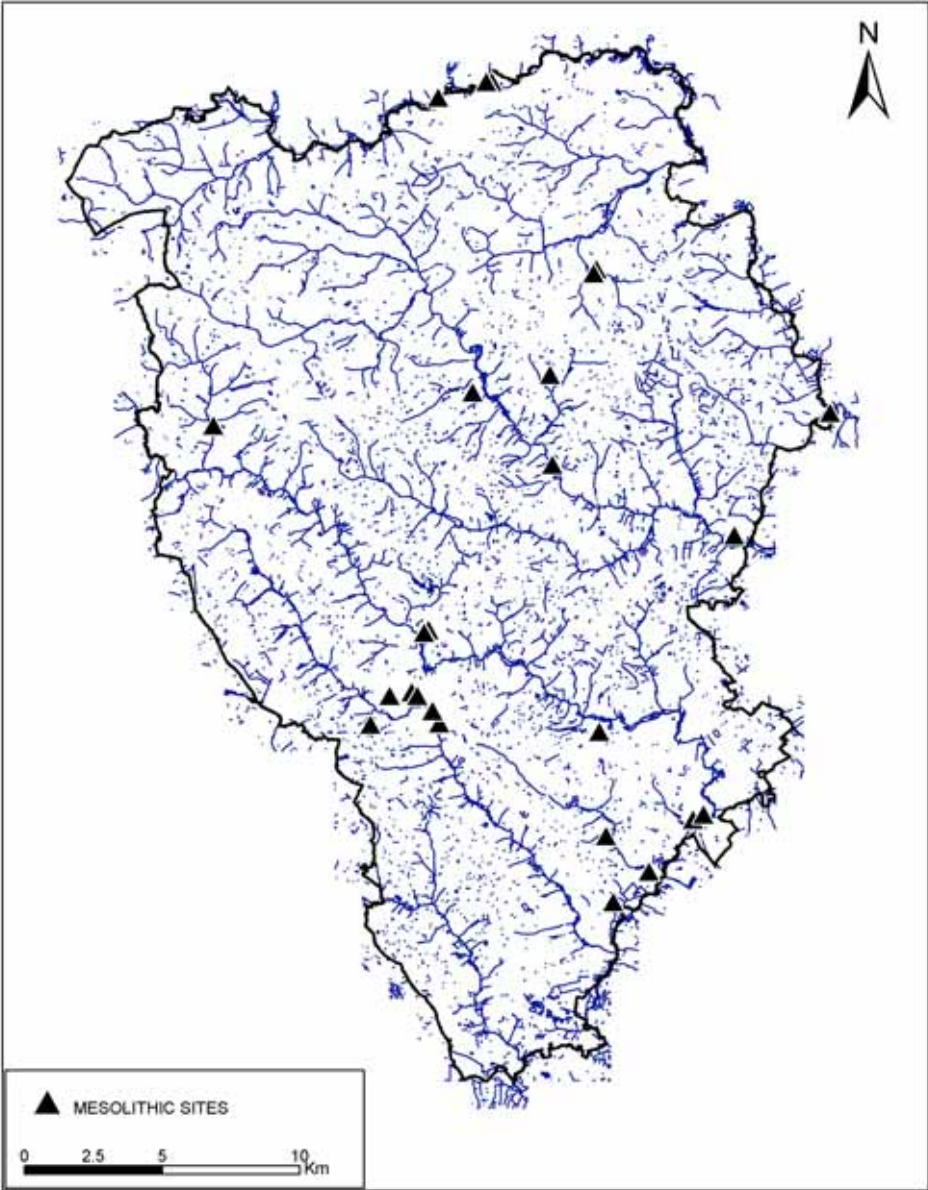


Fig. 5 Mesolithic sites in Braintree District

2.3 Neolithic period (4,000-2,200 BC)

The Neolithic period marks the change from a hunting and foraging life-style to a more settled farming economy. This was accompanied by the introduction of new animal and plant species (domestic cattle and sheep, wheat and barley), pottery and new types of flint tools. However there is little evidence from Essex, or the East of England more generally, for extensive forest clearance at this time, indeed palaeoenvironmental evidence from the Stumble site in the Blackwater Estuary suggests that cereal cultivation took place in small clearings in what was still largely wooded environment. The evidence for Neolithic occupation, in the form of distinctive Neolithic artefacts, is more common than for the Mesolithic period; however, there still remains little evidence for settlement sites in the District and most of the finds are still stray finds of flint objects, particularly the polished stone axe characteristic of the period. The distribution map of Neolithic monuments and finds for Braintree District (Fig. 5) shows that the majority have been found associated with the principal river valleys, with notable concentrations on the sand and gravels in the Blackwater valley and along the River Stour. However again this distribution pattern will be partly a consequence of where researchers have looked, with the emphasis being on the southern half of the District.

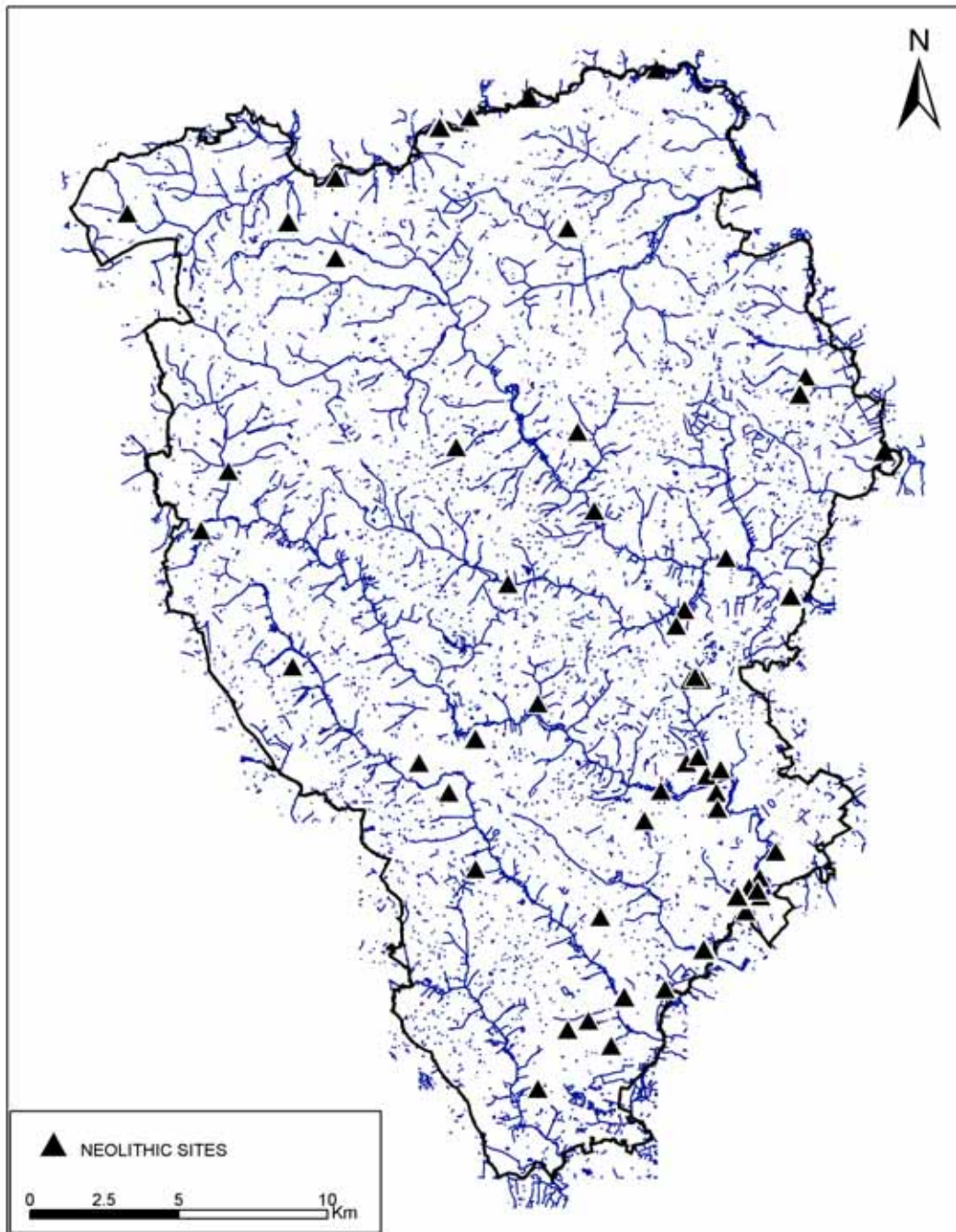


Fig. 6 Neolithic sites in Braintree District

The Neolithic is also characterised by the construction of monumental structures for apparently ritual purposes. It has been suggested that the large sarsen stones in Alphamstone Churchyard may represent part of a stone circle of Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date. However Essex is a county largely devoid of natural stone and the majority of monuments are therefore largely of earthen construction. The long mortuary enclosure at Ashen on the Stour valley is an example of this form of

construction, a ritual monument form comprising an elongated oval enclosure defined by a ditch, sometimes with an internal ditch. Trial-trenching on a concentric ring-barrow at Belchamp St Paul, also in the Stour valley, suggests that it was a long-lived monument, spanning the late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age period, with possibly more than one phase of construction and use. Environmental evidence from the same site suggests a that the Stour was a more braided and meandering river than it currently is and the valley bottom was largely covered by damp woodland, however there were also areas of open grassland. This range of habitat would suit the mixed farming/hunter gathering economy that appears to have characterised local Neolithic groups. Around 2,500 BC there was a period of enhanced woodland clearance and evidence for human interference in the form of charcoal fragments.

2.4 Bronze Age (2,200 – 700 BC)

The Bronze Age is characterised by the use of first copper and then bronze tools and weapons and of gold for jewellery. It was a period of great change, for both people and the environment. By the Late Bronze Age the original forests had been, in places, substantially cleared for farming, with large-scale field-systems marking a major re-organisation of the landscape. There was a gradual worsening of the climate in the Late Bronze Age. International trade increased during this period, as demonstrated by the presence of imported prestige goods. There is widespread evidence of occupation of the Braintree area from the Bronze Age, although the distribution again is skewed towards the southern half of the District, and in particular the Brain valley.

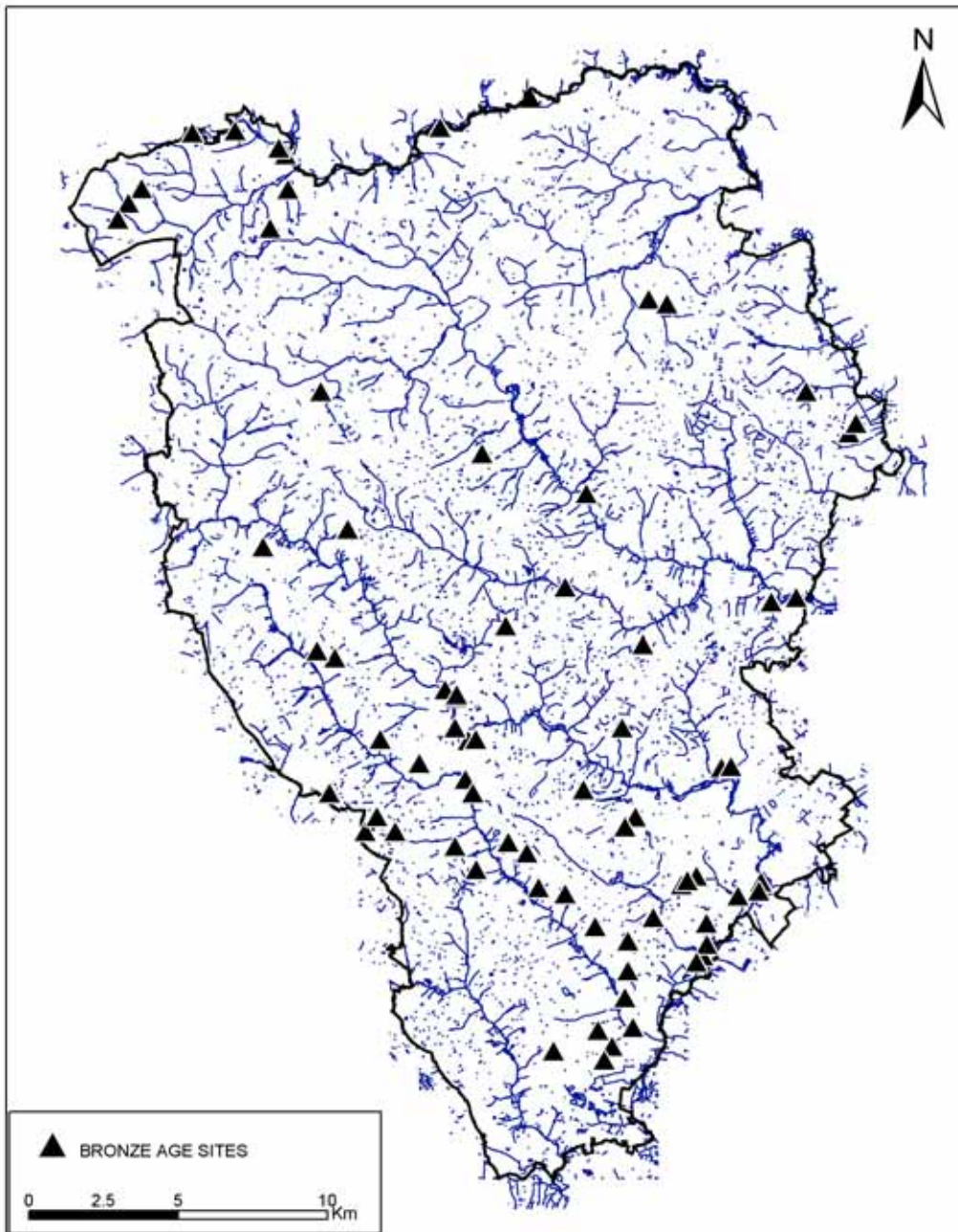


Fig. 7 Bronze Age sites in Braintree District

Pollen analysis suggests that in the Middle Bronze Age (c. 1600 BC) the clearance of woodland and the extent of agricultural exploitation had increased significantly. Recent excavations at Cressing found areas of Bronze Age activity, including a number of pits and the remains of Bronze Age fences indicating a field-system were recovered nearby from the Cressing temple site. Other evidence for widespread Bronze Age activity comes in the form of isolated flint and metalwork finds and of burnt flint scatters. Many Bronze Age burials have been found across the District, both through excavation and more specifically from aerial photography. Many circular

ring ditches (remains of barrows) have been identified from aerial photographs, either in small groups or as isolated features in the landscape, with particularly notable concentrations along the Stour valley. Another feature of this period is the deposition of metalwork, either buried as hoards in the ground or dropped into streams and lakes. An example of this is the hoard of bronze socketed axes recovered from Rivenhall parish in the 1840s. Small-scale work at Ferriers Farm, Bures identified a Late Bronze Age 'Springfield-type' circular enclosure sited on the crest of a small hill overlooking the Stour valley.

2.5 Iron Age (700 BC – 43 AD)

The Iron Age is distinguished by the use of iron for tools and weapons, bronze and gold remained the main metal for jewellery and prestige objects. However, some sites and traditions appear to have continued unchanged, and some of the major social, economic, technological and political developments of the Iron Age had their origins in the Bronze Age. It was a period of rising populations and a worsening climate, with relative sea-levels continuing to rise. Southern Britain in the Late Iron Age was in regular contact and trade with France and the Roman Empire, and in 55/54BC Julius Caesar led an unsuccessful invasion of the country. At the end of the Iron Age Braintree would have been within the territory of the Trinovantes tribe, whose capital was at Colchester.

Evidence for Iron Age occupation is found throughout Braintree District, and a wide range of enclosed and unenclosed settlement sites of this date have been identified. The enclosed settlements range from those that seem to have been occupied by a single family group, comprising a roundhouse and maybe a granary or store-building and hearths, through to those that may have held a number of families with a range of buildings located within the enclosure. A number of these enclosed sites have been excavated and a large number of additional examples have been identified from aerial photographs. At some date between the Late Bronze Age and the Early Iron Age (probably the latter date) the sand and gravel spur of Chipping Hill in Witham was encircled by two almost concentric earthworks. These formed a sub-circular ring, enclosing an area of c. 10.3 ha. Limited excavation within the interior in 1933-5

revealed occupation layers dating to the Iron Age and a number of features. The cutting of the railway through Chipping Hill Camp in 1844 uncovered several inhumation burials and three Late Iron Age pokers. Evidence of Late Iron Age activity has been found on many sites within Braintree town including part of a substantial ditched enclosure close to the London Road/Pierrefitte Way junction. Kelvedon too appears to have been the site of a Late Iron Age settlement, here hut-sites and boundary ditches have been excavated as well as the grave of an Iron Age warrior, buried with a sword, spear and shield, as well as a tankard and bronze bowl. The Kelvedon shield boss and spear are the products of armourers who worked in Gaul and the bowl came from the Roman world

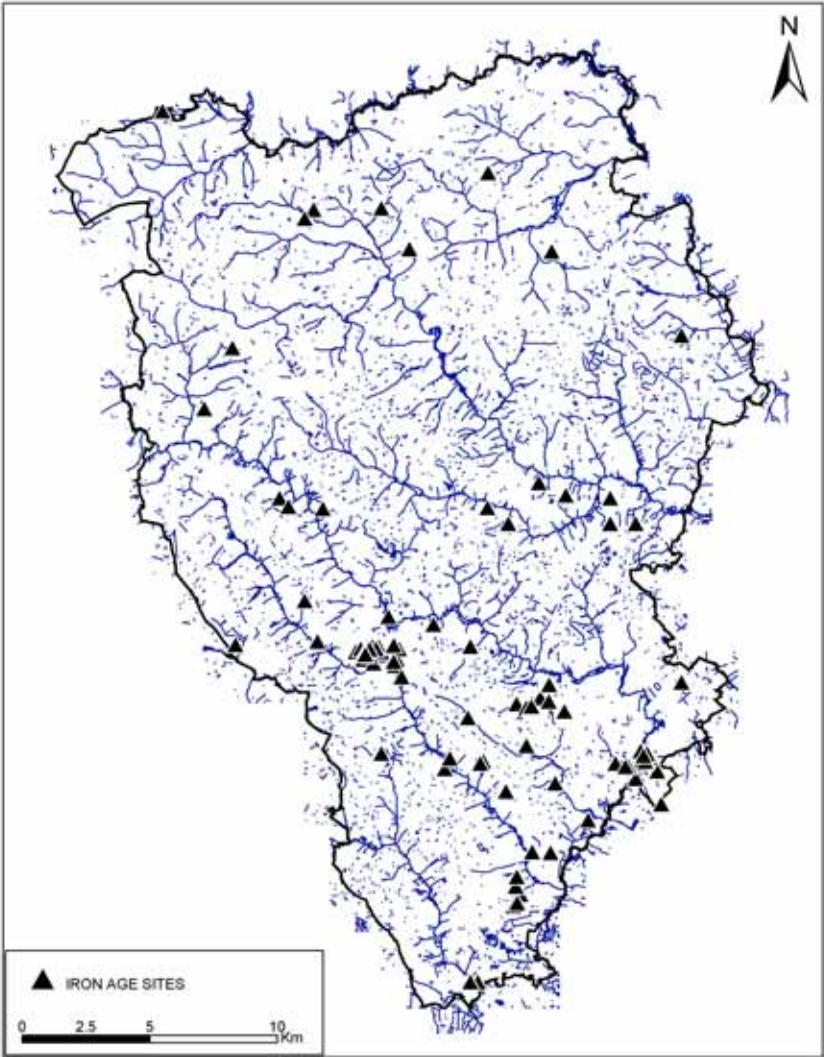


Fig. 8 Iron Age sites in Braintree District

Unenclosed settlements, comprising either single or groups of roundhouses often with associated granaries, have also been excavated. It is evident that Middle and Late Iron Age settlement was widespread across the District, particularly along the river valleys, but also on the interfluvial areas. Associated with the settlements is the evidence for Iron Age burials. Many of these were accompanied by a range of grave goods. Pots are the most frequent object found in the grave, but gifts of meat (often evidenced by cloven pig skulls) are also common.



Fig. 9 Excavation of a horse skeleton that had been placed in a Late Iron Age ditch at Cressing Temple

2.6 Romano-British (43 – 410 AD)

The Roman period begins with the conquest of Britain by the Emperor Claudius in 43 AD, Colchester in north-east Essex was a principle target of the invasion and became the first capital of the Roman province. In the following decades London rose to prominence as the largest and most important town in Britain replacing

Colchester as the provincial capital of the province after the Boudiccan Revolt of 60/61 AD.

Braintree contains two Roman towns, Braintree and Kelvedon, and a number of other important settlements. The principal roads in Braintree District (the A12, A120 and A131) are all Roman in origin, and they served an important role in linking Essex to the rest of the province of Britannia and through the ports of Colchester and London to the wider Roman Empire.

Braintree town appears to have developed as a small market town strategically placed within a triangular area between the main Roman roads of Stane Street (A120) and the Sudbury-Chelmsford route (A131). The first century town was concentrated in the area of the modern Pierrefitte Way, and there is some suggestion of deliberate planning in the initial layout of the town with the minor roads and major boundary ditches running at right-angles to London Road, forming blocks approximately 145 m apart. In the second and third centuries the town expanded into the Rayne Road and George Yard area, and there appear to have been a second phase of road building, which cut across the original layout. A cemetery was located on the western edge of the built-up area.



Fig. 10 Ground-beam foundation slots and post-holes of a Roman townhouse in Braintree

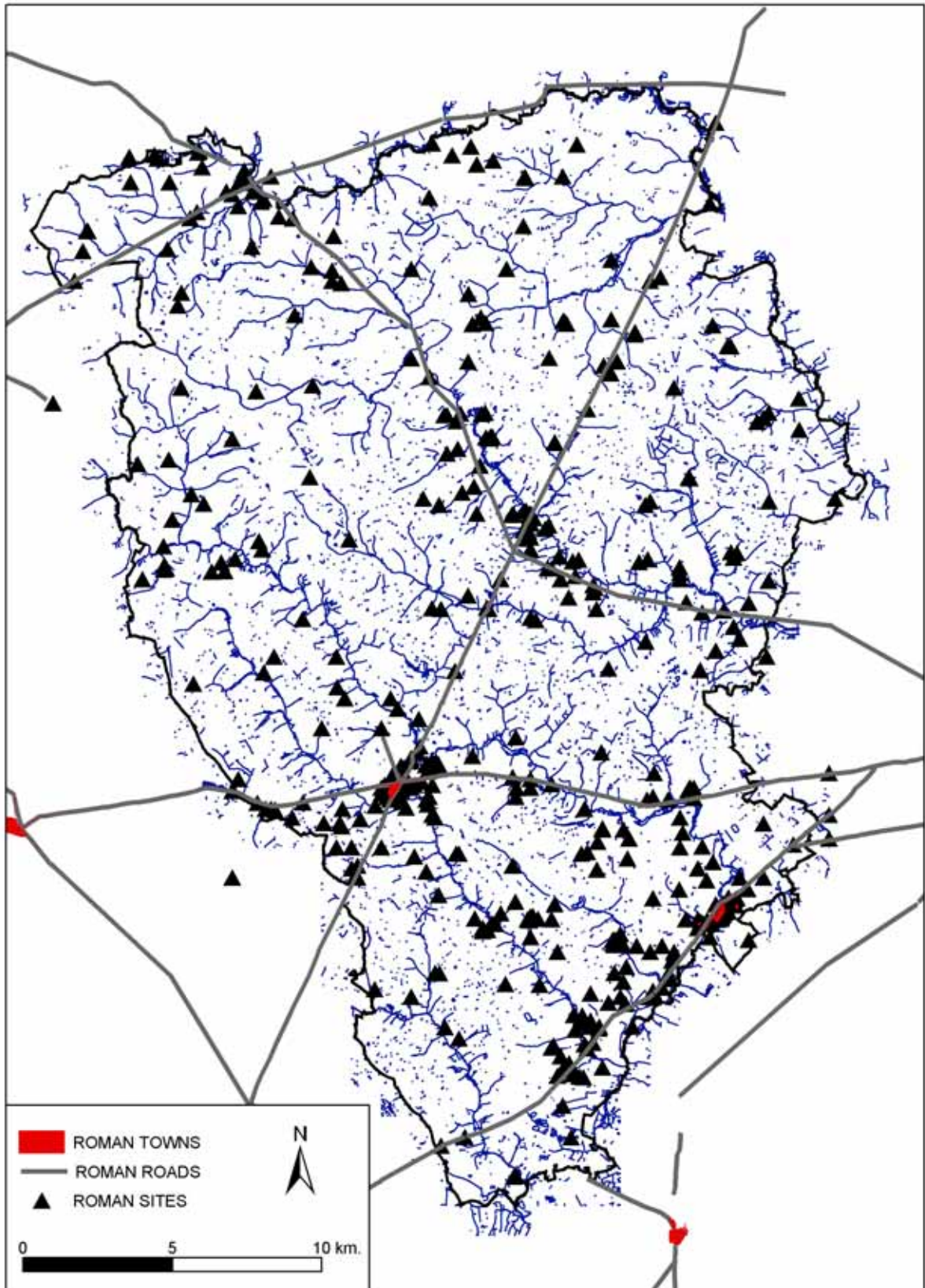


Fig. 11 Roman sites in Braintree District

In the Roman period a town developed on the Kelvedon Iron Age settlement. Originally this consisted of a civilian settlement and possibly a short-lived fort. In the late second century the majority of the built-up area, including a temple and a possible *mansio* (a government-run inn), was enclosed within a defensive ditch, with the cemeteries sited outside. By the end of the Roman period the town was in decline, although there is some evidence for continuation of settlement, not necessarily urban in nature, into the early Saxon period.

At Witham a temple complex was constructed in the 1st century AD at Ivy Chimneys. Within the sacred precinct was a man-made pond, two timber-built structures interpreted as temples and a pottery kiln. Votive objects were recovered, including a chalk figurine and over thirty Palaeolithic hand-axes. In the late fourth and early fifth century a small stone building, a small sunken hexagonal, tile-lined pond and a larger timber-revetted pond were constructed. The former two structures have been interpreted as a Christian chapel and baptismal font. On the other side of the former A12 at Maltings Lane evidence was found for domestic occupation during the Roman period, including rubbish-pits and ditches, as well as considerable quantities of Roman building material.

There are many smaller Roman sites known from the District, these include the villa at Gestingthorpe and numerous farmsteads, often enclosed, as well as extensive field-systems. The archaeological and environmental evidence suggests a settled landscape of fields and hedges and woodlands, practising a mixed economy of cereal-growing and livestock raising, the former predominating on the sands and gravels and the latter on the boulder-clays. Linking the scattered settlements and farms to each other and into the main road system would have been minor tracks and roads, often running along the crest of the river valleys.

2.7 Saxon (410-1066 AD)

When the official Roman administration collapsed in 410 AD, Britain had already been under attack from across the North Sea, with raids and then settlement by the Saxons, Angles, Friesian and Jutish peoples. It was the Saxons who eventually gave

Essex its name, the land of the East Saxons. By the end of the 6th century the kingdom of the East Saxons had emerged as a political force, encompassing what was to become Essex, Middlesex, London and Surrey. In London a new trading settlement and port developed at *Lundenwic* (London), to the west of the old Roman city, during the 7th century. The historian Bede, writing of the 7th century, described London as the capital of the East Saxons and ‘a trading centre for many nations who visit by land and sea’. However the East Saxons were to lose Middlesex, London and Surrey to Mercia (a kingdom centred on the Midlands) in the 8th century and their boundaries retreated to approximately that of the historic county of Essex. During the 9th century the kingdom became a province of the kingdom of Wessex.

There is widespread early settlement for this period across most of south Essex, reflecting its proximity to the Thames estuary and the old trading/raiding routes to northern Europe. In Braintree District the evidence is rather sparser, perhaps reflecting the lack of fieldwork and cropmarks in the area. However, there is evidence for a number of possible sunken-floored buildings of Early Saxon date inserted into earlier Roman structures in Braintree. Excavations on the Maltings Lane development at Witham recovered Saxon features dating to the fifth to seventh centuries, these included buildings, a possible well, ditches, post-holes and rubbish-pits, as well as a possible cemetery area.

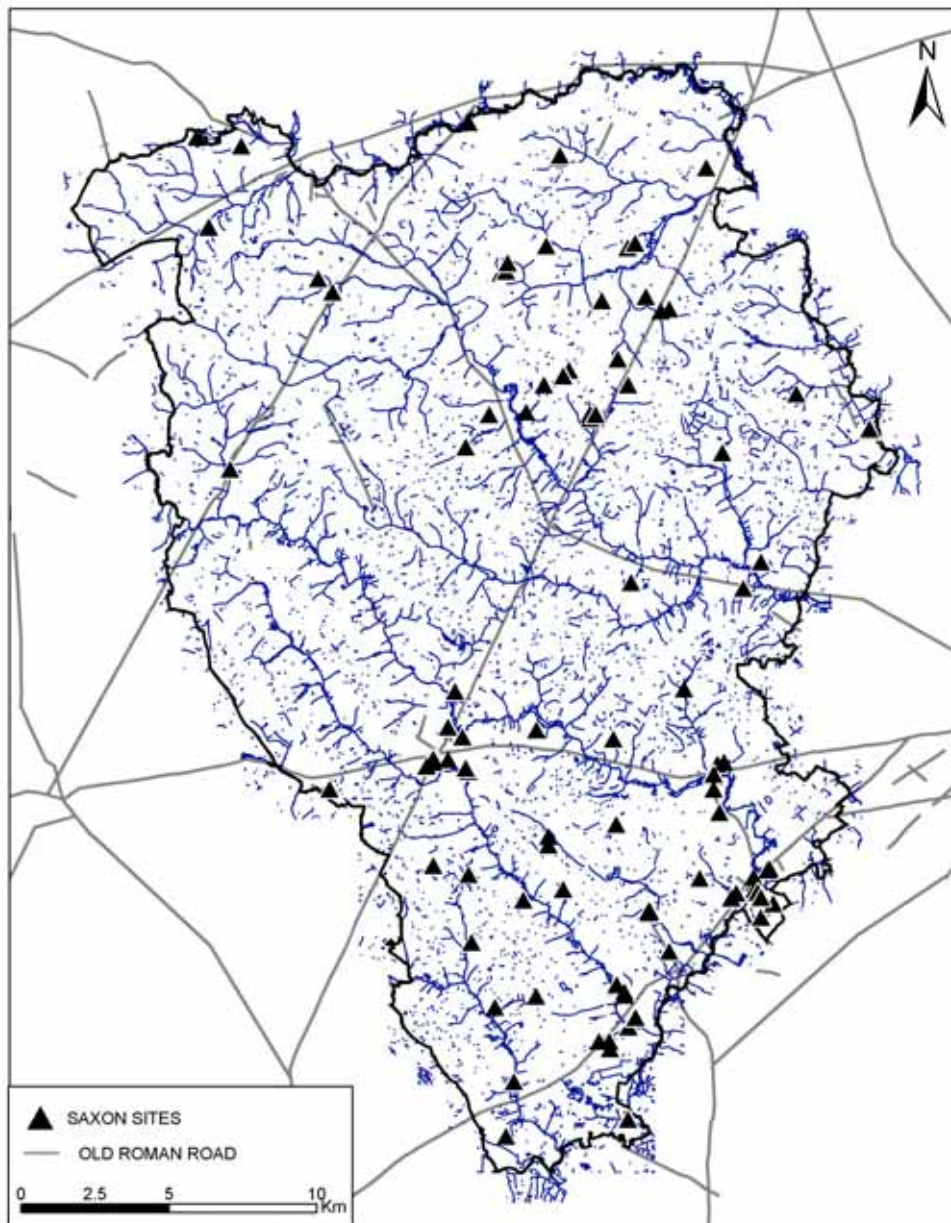


Fig. 12 Saxon sites in Braintree District

The early Saxon settlers were pagan. Part of their belief-system was the need to equip the dead with goods for the afterlife. The recent discovery of a probable Royal burial at Prittlewell is a spectacular example of this but there are also examples of Saxon graves from Braintree District. Of these the most significant is the Saxon cemetery excavated in Kelvedon in the late 19th century. The finds included spearheads, a sword, personal jewellery and bowls dating to the late-fifth to late-sixth centuries. In the seventh century the Saxons were converted to Christianity. The organisation of the Saxon church was based on Minster churches, which served

large areas, these were later split up into smaller parishes. It is likely that many of the medieval churches in Braintree had their origins in the late Saxon period.



Fig. 13 Sketch drawn in 1819 of the earthworks of Chipping Hill Camp, Witham, with the Parish Church and Chipping Hill in the background.

In the later Saxon period the Thames and the other creeks and estuaries of the Essex coast gave easy access to Viking invaders, and the impact of these raids was felt far inland from the coast, with the inland parishes and hundreds supplying men to the king's armies. The *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* records that in 912 King Edward the Elder 'went with some of his forces into Essex to Maldon and camped there while the *burh* (fortification) was being made and constructed at Witham, and a good number of people who had been under the rule of Danish men submitted to him'. The location of the Witham *burh* is a matter of some debate, although Chipping Hill Camp, which was still a substantial earthwork at that date, is the most probable site.

The pattern of land-holding in the late Saxon period can be reconstructed from the Domesday book. Braintree District was divided between the Hundreds of Hinckford (the northern half) and Witham (the southern half). It was subdivided into numerous

manors. Each manor would have had its own tenants, thus Faulkbourne in 1066 had in addition to the manorial lord, 8 smallholders and 6 slaves, most of whom would have had families. It is evident from the Domesday Book that much of the present distribution of settlements, including church/hall sites, villages and towns was already in place by the end of the Saxon period.

2.8 Medieval (1066-1536)

The medieval period begins within the Norman Conquest of 1066. In the immediate aftermath England was parcelled out amongst the Norman barons and knights. This is reflected in the Domesday book records for Braintree District, where many of the old manors are recorded as having new landowners. Thus William the Conqueror held the Witham and Shalford and Count Eustace of Boulogne held White Notley, Coggeshall and Rivenhall. The other large land-owner was the church, with Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral holding large estates in Braintree District. The Domesday book also gives a good indication of the condition of the Braintree area in 1066 and 1086. The northern part of the District was the most densely populated with 10-15 households per square mile in the Hundred of Hinckford, whilst the Hundred of Witham had only 5-10 households per square mile. The settlement pattern largely comprised scattered farms or church/hall complexes, with the occasional small hamlets and villages. The land was used for a mix of arable and pastoral agriculture. There were numerous patches of woodland, all of which was intensively managed. Early medieval occupation is evident across Braintree, with numerous parish churches dating to the post-Conquest period. At Castle Hedingham the stone keep, which dates to c.1140 is still largely intact and considered to be the finest Norman keep in Britain.

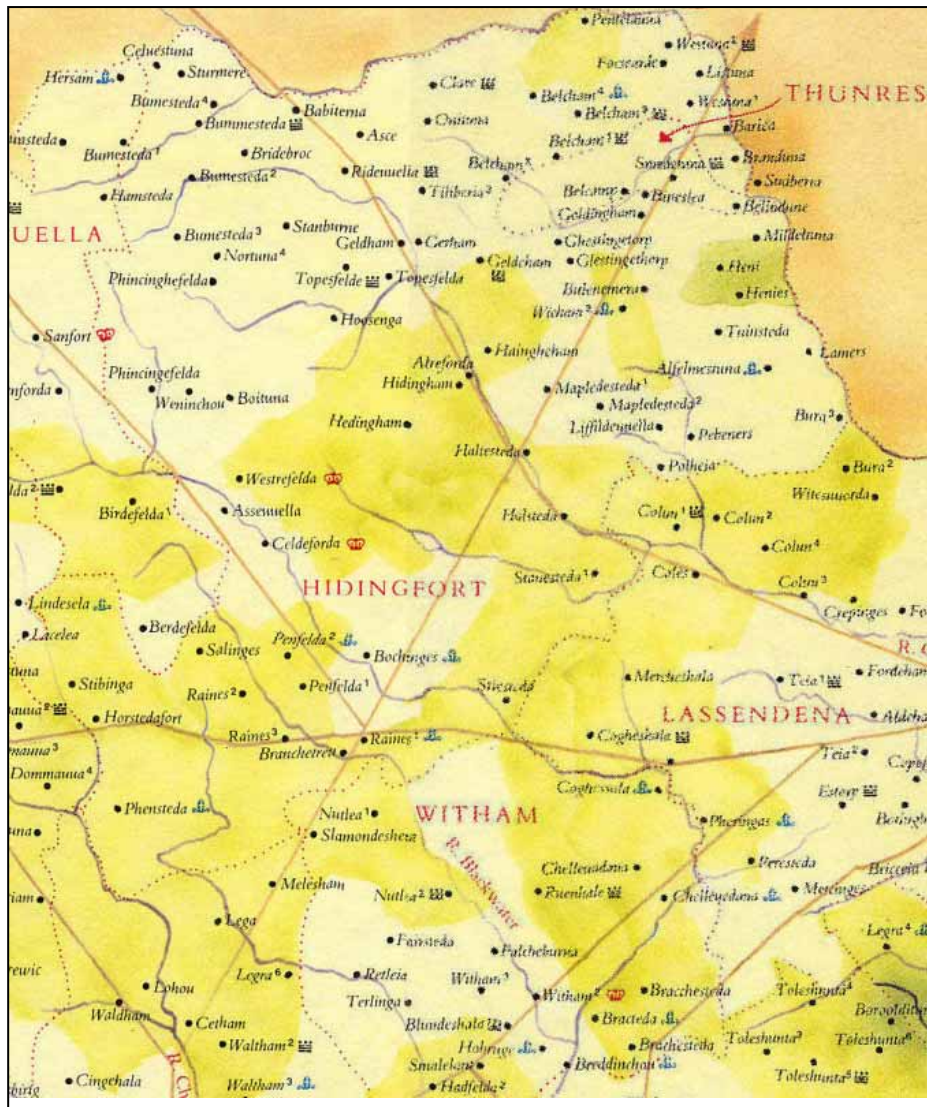


Fig. 14 Braintree District in 1086 (map taken from 'Essex in the Domesday Book', W.R. Powell, ERO 1990)

A number of significant medieval towns developed in the District at Braintree, Bocking Witham, Kelvedon, Coggeshall, Halstead and Castle Hedingham. All have important collections of historic buildings, including churches, and all contain buried archaeological deposits. All of the towns served as local market centres to their surrounding hinterlands. In addition, Braintree, Bocking and Coggeshall were important players in the medieval wool trade. Coggeshall, Castle Hedingham and Bocking have not seen the level of subsequent development that has occurred in the other towns, and as a consequence retain much of their original medieval appearance.

The medieval rural settlement was dispersed in nature, with church/hall complexes, individual farms, moated sites and small hamlets strung out along linear greens. Braintree has one of the largest numbers of moats in Essex, with many having their origins in the 12th and 13th century. Excavations throughout Braintree, have shown there was significant expansion of settlement onto the clay soils in the 12th and 13th centuries, a period of considerable population expansion and economic prosperity. It is thought that many of the greens that characterise the District also developed at that period, although those associated with church/hall complexes or manors may be earlier. A large number of sites were abandoned in the 14th century, perhaps as a consequence of the dual impact of the Black Death and the advent of the Little Ice Age. The historic roads and green lanes throughout the District are twisting and often partially sunken, mostly dating to the medieval period.



Fig. 15 Interior of the Barley Barn, Cressing Temple

A range of religious structures were constructed throughout this period. These include the numerous parish churches as well as Coggeshall Abbey and a number of Priors. There are numerous ancient woods and medieval deer parks in the District.

Chalkney Wood in particular is a fine example of a coppiced lime wood, with an enclosing woodland bank. It was granted by the Earls of Oxford to Earls Colne Priory in the 12th century, along with four other woods. Gosfield Park was the largest of the medieval deer-parks, but there are also other smaller examples as at Faulkbourne and Rivenhall.

The District is particularly rich in Listed Buildings, with approximately 500 structures dating to the medieval period. Of these 54 are Listed Grade I, this category includes such notable buildings as the Barley Barn at Cressing Temple, which has been dated by dendrochronology to 1200-1220. With the exception of the parish churches, the medieval buildings of Braintree are of timber-framed construction. The earliest examples of brick-making in medieval Essex come from Coggeshall Abbey, however its widespread adoption dates to the later medieval period, as demonstrated to spectacular effect in the infilling of the timber-framed panels at Paycockes in Coggeshall. Interesting discoveries still remain to be made regarding the history and development of these building, as demonstrated by the recent historic building recording of the King William Public House, Bocking which revealed that it had its origins as a medieval guildhall, part of which still survived despite later conversion to a pub.

2.9 Post Medieval period (1536-1900 AD)

The post-medieval period began with the dissolution of the monasteries, and the distribution of their considerable estates to new landholders and the conversion of the monastic buildings to private dwelling houses. Examples of this process include Earls Colne Priory and Coggeshall Abbey. These changes in land ownership were followed by changes in agricultural production culminating in the development of the Victorian 'High Farming' tradition when new ideas culminated in significant alterations in the design and layouts of buildings. A large number of farm complexes reflect this period of innovation in farming practices. Many are now being converted and it is important these are recorded prior to their conversion. Throughout the period, large parks and landscaped gardens were created. Some, such as Gosfield Hall Park, were on the sites of former deer-parks, whilst others were created from scratch. Many of the elements of these parks have survived as features in the present

landscape. The Chapman and André map of Essex, dating to 1777, depicts Braintree District as a landscape of small market towns, villages and a widespread dispersed settlement pattern of halls and farms, linked by an intricate network of lanes and greens, with numerous small areas of woodland and parks. Many of these landscape elements were medieval or Saxon in origin, and had adapted or developed over the succeeding centuries.

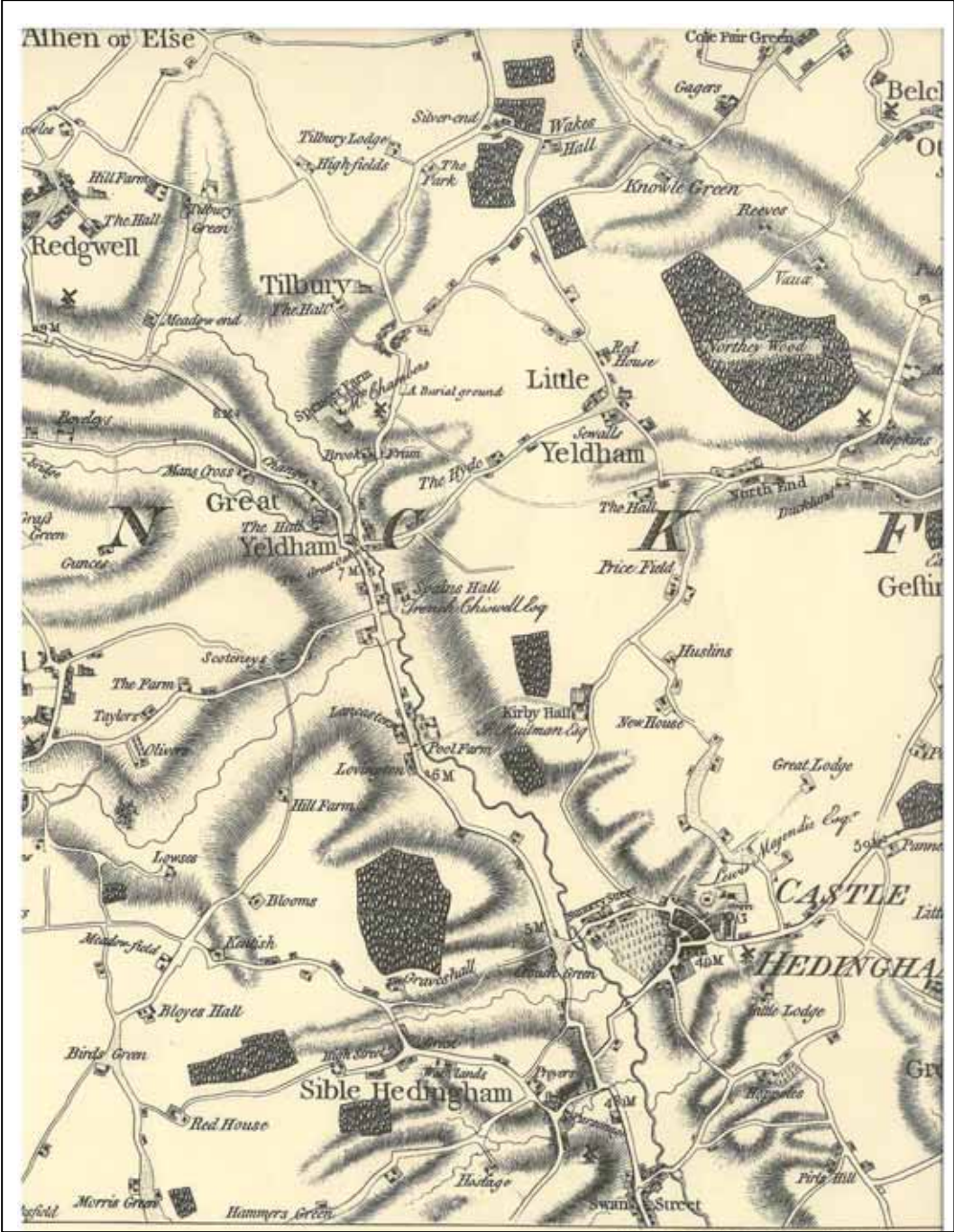


Fig. 16 Chapman and André map of 1777 depicting the landscape around the Hedinghams and the Yeldhams

There was an expansion of some of the medieval towns. Braintree was still an important cloth town at the beginning of the post-medieval period. Although the woollen cloth industry went into terminal decline in the eighteenth century, the nineteenth century saw the rise of the silk industry, the principal firms of which were Courtauld and Walters. The Courtaulds were also to play a major role in the development of Halstead, with the building of Courtauld's silk factory in 1828. Courtaulds was essentially a paternalistic family business, which in addition to being a major employer, played a most significant role in all aspects of urban life. In addition to the houses built for the employees of the factories, the Courtaulds also organised and funded schools, adult education classes, libraries, fountains, parks, retirement homes and the Cottage Hospitals.



Fig. 17 New Mills, Braintree

In the late post-medieval period, railways crisscrossed the District; most of these have now been decommissioned, partially as a consequence of the Beeching cuts, these included the Braintree to Bishops Stortford Line and the Colne Valley line. The post-medieval period also saw increased industrialization, particularly in the towns.

The industries were largely agriculturally based; they included maltings, breweries and tanneries, brickworks and textiles.

2.10 Modern

The processes of agricultural change are perhaps most obvious for the modern period, and include the amalgamating of smaller fields to make larger units and the widespread removal of ancient hedgerows, exacerbated by the loss of standard elms as a consequence of Dutch Elm Disease. In addition, many of the historic Essex barns and other agricultural buildings that are so characteristic of the Braintree landscape have been converted to housing.

The early 20th century saw the invention of artificial silk (rayon) by Courtaulds and further expansion of that industry in Halstead, Braintree and Bocking. Other industries included the Crittalls Manufactory Company which specialised in the production of metal windows. During the First World War Crittall's became involved with the 'Homes fit for Heroes' campaign. They constructed experimental houses in the International Modern Style, first in Braintree and then in the model village of Silver End.



Fig. 18 Contrasting styles of worker's housing – to the right is the Courtauld Tudor at Halstead and to the left is the Modernist Style of Crittalls at Clockhouse Way, Braintree

Braintree contains numerous military remains constructed in the Second World War including both defence lines and airfields. The Eastern Command Line ran from the mouth of the River Colne at Mersea Island, to the Stour using first the River Colne and then the line of the Marks Tey to Sudbury rail-track as an anti-tank obstacle, supplemented by a complex of anti-tank ditches, pill boxes, anti-aircraft guns and other defences. In addition, six airfields were constructed, at Rayne, Gosfield, Wethersfield, Ridgewell, Earls Colne and Rivenhall.



Fig 19 GoogleEarth image showing the impact of the WWII airfields of Wethersfield and Gosfield on the landscape

The most significant modern developments within the District date to the second half of the 20th century, comprising housing development, particularly around Braintree

and Witham (which was a London over-spill town), as well as infrastructure developments including the Great Leighs and Braintree by-passes, and gravel extraction on what was Rivenhall Airfield .

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 for the Rochford, Chelmsford, Essex Thames Gateway, Uttlesford and Maldon Historic Environment Characterisation Projects. This involved a number of distinct processes, focussing on preparing three separate strands of characterisation, one for each strand 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 Braintree Characterisation Project, following the methodology used for the other Historic Environment Characterisation Reports, divides the Historic Environment Character Areas (HECA's), identified at a high strategic level, into Historic Environment Character Zones (HECZ's). These latter form the core of this report and are smaller units 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 (HLCA) is detailed in Appendix 2, Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCA) is detailed in Appendix 3 and Archaeological Character Areas (ACA) is 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 subdivision 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 Area descriptions



Fig. 20 Historic Environment Character Areas

3.1.1 HECA 1 Stour Valley

Summary

This area encompasses the valley of the River Stour including the valley floor, slopes and tributary valleys. The geology comprises alluvial deposits and slope deposits overlaying, river gravels upon Chalk bedrock in the north and London Clay as the river turns southwards.

Settlement comprises the numerous small villages/hamlets to the south of Sudbury at Bures, Pentlow, Bulmer, Middleton, Great Henny, Lamarsh and Alphamstone, as well as a wider more dispersed settlement pattern of isolated moated sites, halls, farms and cottages. Archaeological character includes multi-period cropmarks including prehistoric funerary monuments, Roman villa sites, medieval church/ hall complexes, moated sites and mills.

Historic Landscape Character: The geology comprises alluvial deposits and slope deposits within the valley with boulder clay on the higher slopes overlaying river gravels. The river cuts through Chalk bedrock in the north, goes through patches of Thanet Sand and Lambeth Formation as it heads eastwards and finally turns south over London Clay bedrock. Along much of its route it has a broad flat bottom, characterised by extensive meadows, and gentle slopes rising to the south and west.

The field pattern comprises meadows in the valley floor, with pre-18th century irregular and regular enclosure on the valley sides (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older), together with some 18th century or later enclosure. There has been a moderate amount of post 1950's boundary loss. Field boundaries include straight field ditches along the valley floor and a mixture of straight and sinuous hedged and ditched boundaries elsewhere with ancient willows spaced out along the banks of the river. On the valley slopes there are a number of areas of ancient woodland, and some more recent woodland plantation. The woodland is mostly located in the southern part of the HECA.

Historic settlement in the area is mainly along the lower reaches and tributaries of the Stour. In the south of the zone, from Sudbury onwards are the small villages/hamlets at Pentlow, Bulmer, Middleton, Great Henny, Lamarsh and Alphamstone, many of

which had their origins as manor/church complexes, as well as a dispersed pattern of moated sites, halls, and individual farms and cottages. Historic routeways cross the valley and there is an intricate network of lanes on the valley slopes and crest connecting the villages and farms. Modern industrial development includes the Wixoe waterworks at Baythorpe End and several agricultural reservoirs.

Archaeological Character: Stray Palaeolithic and Mesolithic finds of flint-tools have been recovered from within the valley floor. Cropmark evidence demonstrates that the area had a particular significance in the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods, with a number of important ritual monuments or groups of monuments represented, including a long mortuary enclosure and ring ditches in Ashen which is a Scheduled Monument. In addition to the monuments there are numerous fragments of cropmark field systems. Many of the cropmarks relate to prehistoric activity but later periods are also represented. The area has clear potential for archaeological evidence of later periods with finds of Iron Age and Roman material, visible medieval features in the area include the historic settlement pattern of moated sites, timber framed listed buildings, halls and churches. It is probable that mills dating back to the medieval period would have been located along the Stour and its tributaries. A number of later mill sites survive. There are a large number of surviving historic buildings, many of which are Listed. The railway crosses the area with a station at Bures along the Sudbury to Marks Tey line.

The area has high potential for palaeoenvironmental remains within waterlogged deposits in the valley bottom and tributary streams and colluvial sequences on the valley sides.

3.1.2 HECA 2: Boulder Clay Plateau south of the Stour

Summary

The area comprises boulder clay plateau overlying chalk bedrock to the south of the Stour valley. The historic landscape and settlement pattern survives well, despite boundary loss in the 20th century, and the broad outline of the medieval landscape

and settlement pattern largely survives within the present landscape. The area is especially rich in medieval remains.

Historic Landscape Character: A rural landscape, dissected by the valleys of many tributaries and small streams off the Colne and Stour Rivers. The geology comprises chalky boulder clay overlying a chalk bedrock. The fieldscape is largely made up of irregular fields, of ancient origin probably of medieval date and some maybe even older, interspersed by the occasional former common field which had been enclosed in the later medieval or early post-medieval period often with regular sub-divisions within a larger irregular outline. There are a number of areas of ancient woodland especially south of Steeple Bumpstead. Historic settlement is dispersed, with manor/church complexes, individual farms, moated sites and small hamlets strung out along linear greens and ends. The roads are twisting and often partially sunken. Two large houses with large gardens or parks are located at Moynes Park (most of whose landscape survives) and Bowers Hall (whose landscaped park does not survive) are located to the east of Steeple Bumpstead. As part of the Second World War defences Ridgewell and Wethersfield Airfields were constructed in 1943 mainly used for bombing missions.

Archaeological Character: Evidence for prehistoric occupation has been found across the area largely in the form of cropmark evidence. Throughout the area individual ring ditches, or at Borley six ring-ditches strung out along the crest of the valley-slope, have been recorded, these are probably representative of ploughed out burial mounds.

A Roman villa is recorded to the north of Steeple Bumpstead and it is probable that further examples survive within the area.

During the medieval period, the dispersed settlement pattern comprised small settlements such as the Belchamps, Stambourne, Steeple Bumpstead focussed on church/hall complexes, with the remainder of the settlement pattern very dispersed with many moated sites, halls and farmsteads as well as small hamlets strung out along linear greens and ends. A number of windmills are located in the area, some

of which potentially dating back to the medieval period. It is likely that elements of this dispersed settlement pattern will have shifted, grown or shrunk during the course of the medieval period and buried archaeological remains relating to this process are likely to be present.

The area is bisected by the route of the disused Colne Valley Railway which ran from Wakes Colne to Haverhill. Earthwork embankments and other elements of the route survive. The area contains a registered garden at Moynes Hall, Second World War airfields were constructed at Ridgewell and Wethersfield. Wethersfield survives in much better condition than Ridgewell.

3.1.3 HECA 3: Colne Valley

Summary:

The area includes the the upper reaches of the River Colne which converge in Great Yeldham and flow northeast-southwest past the historic settlements of Castle Hedingham, Sible Hedingham, Halstead (see HECA7) Earls Colne, Colne Engaine, and White Colne towards Colchester. The fieldscape comprise a complex mix of pre-18th century irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older) and later enclosure of common arable. There are extensive areas of enclosed meadow along the valley floor still surviving. There is evidence for human settlement from at least the Mesolithic period and a number of important historic villages/towns in the area which had their origins in the late Saxon and early medieval period. These include the castle and town of Castle Hedingham, and the priory and town at Earls Colne

Historic Landscape Character: This area comprises the upper reaches of the Colne valley. The geology consists of Boulder Clay on the higher ground, the river has revealed the underlying Kesgrave sands and gravels on the valley slopes, with alluvium along the valley floor. The bedrock geology varies from Chalk bedrock in the north to London Clay, the latter outcrops in places along the valley slopes. The fieldscape comprise a complex mix of pre-18th century irregular fields (these are

probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older) and later enclosure in the late medieval and early post-medieval period of common arable fields. There are extensive areas of enclosed meadow along the valley floor still surviving. The size of the fields varies enormously, from large rectangular ones on the side of the valleys, to small irregular paddock-sized examples clustered around the towns and villages. There are a number of parks surviving, many of which are of medieval origin. These particularly congregate in the area immediately to the north of Halstead. There are some areas of ancient woodland, largely on the valley sides, and some areas of 19th-20th century plantation both on the valley sides and floor (the latter are largely willow plantations).

The settlement pattern is strung out along the river, clustering at crossing-places, as at Earls Colne, Halstead, Sible Hedingham and Great Yeldham. Castle Hedingham by contrast is located on a natural spur jutting out into the valley. The area is unusual for Essex in the number of historic nucleated settlements present. The remainder of the settlement pattern comprises isolated farms and moated sites and small hamlets. Post-1950s boundary loss can be described as slight to moderate.

The area contains a relatively high proportion of former extraction sites where sand and gravel has been quarried.

Archaeological Character: There is important Palaeolithic and Mesolithic evidence from the Colne valley, including a possible Late Palaeolithic/Mesolithic occupation site from gravel pits beside the Colne at White Colne, and a second possible Mesolithic settlement recorded during works undertaken as part of the Halstead Flood Alleviation Scheme at Box Mill next to the River Colne.

Cropmark evidence is largely concentrated along the river valley and relates to probable post-medieval water management techniques, including both mill leats and water meadows. The soil type may not be conducive to cropmark features as evidence is relatively scarce with largely agricultural features represented. Near Peeks Corner however a concentration of cropmark features suggests prehistoric and later activity while on the opposite side of the river quarrying has revealed Neolithic and Bronze Age remains have been recovered.

There is extensive evidence for Roman occupation in the area, particularly on the southern side of the Colne, where the Roman roads from Colchester and Braintree to Cambridge lay.

There are a number of important historic villages/towns concentrated along the river valley which had their origins in the late Saxon and early medieval period. These include the castle and town of Castle Hedingham, and the priory and town at Earls Colne, both of which are scheduled, as well as smaller villages at Sible Hedingham and White Colne. Archaeological features and deposits are known to survive within the built-up area. The remaining settlement was dispersed, comprising manor/church complexes, manors and farms, many of which were moated, cottages and small hamlets. Many of the moats survive as water-filled features, whilst others are visible as cropmarks. Two are protected by scheduling at Ridgewell. Again many of these historic sites contain not only their surviving above-ground historic structures but also below-ground archaeological evidence relating to earlier phases of development.

The Colne fed a series of mills along its length. The area includes extensive evidence of the post-medieval management of the river and its floodplain. Important industrial remains include the Colne Valley Railway and the ironworks at Earls Colne. The area has changed little in the post-medieval period, apart from some 19th and 20th century infilling in the villages and roadside development and the loss of many hedgerows. There are numerous remains along the River Colne related to the Second World War Eastern Command line of defence

Within the Colne valley there is a high potential for surviving palaeo-environmental deposits especially with the presence of alluvial deposits in the valley base. The surviving alluvial deposits have a very high potential for early prehistoric remains and palaeoenvironmental remains of regional and national importance. The soil type is conducive to the survival of faunal and ceramic evidence.

3.1.4 HECA 4: North-west Braintree

Summary

The area comprises gently undulating hills between the valleys of the River Stour and River Colne. The geology is boulder clay with sands and gravels are exposed along the steeper valley sides with in places lower down London Clay bedrock. Patches of ancient woodland survive in places along the upper valley slopes.

The historic landscape and settlement pattern, comprising the broad outline of the medieval field and settlement pattern, survives well, although boundary loss has occurred.

The area attracted Roman settlement, remains of high status dwellings have been uncovered near Gestingthorpe and Stanley Hall close to the northeast-southwest running Roman road from Braintree towards Suffolk. A number of medieval manorial sites favoured the upland vantage points as did later prominent country seats. The geology and topography also proved beneficial for Postmedieval industry.

Historic Landscape Character: An area of undulating topography, a dissected plateau drained by many small streams tributaries of the River Stour to the north and the River Colne to the south. The geology comprises Boulder Clay on the higher ground, the river has revealed the underlying Kesgrave sands and gravels and patches of London Clay in the valley sides and base, with alluvium along the valley floor. The London Clay outcrops in places and has been utilised for industrial purposes for centuries.

The fieldscape comprises a mix of pre-18th century irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older) and later enclosure (probably late medieval/early post-medieval) of common arable fields. There is a scatter of ancient woodlands along the crest of the slope overlooking the Stour valley and small areas of enclosed meadow in the valleys. There are also areas of 19th-20th century woodland plantation, these are largely located in the tributary valleys. North of Bulmer Tye are remnants of a mid 18th century landscape park which was redesigned in the early C19 possibly with the involvement of Repton. Historically the

settlement was very dispersed, consisting of manor/church complexes, individual farms, moated sites and small hamlets and there has been little modern development. The area changed relatively little in the post-medieval period; besides the park and plantations mentioned above major changes included the WWII airfield at Ridgewell together with post 1950s field boundary loss can be described as moderate to high.

Archaeological Character: There has been limited archaeological fieldwork in the area due to the largely rural landscape and lack of modern development. The boulder clay is conducive to the survival of faunal and ceramic evidence, and the surviving alluvial deposits have potential for palaeoenvironmental remains.

The area has few Palaeolithic and Mesolithic finds with some evidence for later prehistoric occupation suggested through cropmarks features of enclosures and ring-ditches.

Roman occupation is found widely spread across the area, and the Roman road from Braintree to Sudbury bisects the area. The Roman villa at Gestingthorpe has been partially excavated and there are indications for another high status settlement near Stanley Hall.

Evidence from the Domesday Book suggests that the area was relatively densely settled in the Saxon and medieval periods. The settlement type was however highly dispersed, comprising manor/church complexes, farms, many of which were moated, cottages and small hamlets, linked by a network of twisting lanes and roadside greens. Many of the moats survive as water-filled features, whilst others are visible as cropmarks., Stanley Hall moated site is scheduled. There was a preceptory of the Knights Hospitallers at Little Maplestead which is thought to have been founded by 1186, by 1463 the Knights had ceased to reside at the Hospital. All that remains is the church.

The natural resources of the area have been utilised over centuries, including geology, wind and water. In the Postmedieval period milling and brickmaking were

the main industries. In 1799 a flourmill on the River Peb was converted by George Courtauld to become one of the earliest waterpowered silk throwing mills, the mill no longer survives. At Bulmer the brickworks has probably been manufacturing clay products, albeit intermittently, for several centuries. Objects from various periods including Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and Saxon have been found on or near the site together with a medieval or Tudor kiln containing roof peg tiles ready for firing. It is the only brick works in Essex producing hand-made bricks and has been in continuous use for at least 160 years.

3.1.5 HECA 5: Pant Valley Area

Summary

The area comprises boulder clay plateau dissected by the River Pant, its tributaries and other streams. There is alluvium in the valley floors and glaciofluvial sands and gravels exposed in some of the valley sides. The historic landscape and settlement pattern, comprising the broad outline of the medieval field and settlement pattern, survives well, although boundary loss has occurred. The later prehistoric and Roman periods are also well represented from archaeological work on pipeline and road routes and from aerial photography. The main Roman route of Stane Street crosses the southern part of this area, and other routeways are also recorded, as well as a range of Roman settlement evidence. The area is especially rich in medieval remains with a large number of moats, some of which are scheduled, farmsteads and a number of historic villages.

Historic Landscape Character: This area comprises a rolling rural landscape dissected boulder clay plateau. A number of historic villages, including Great Bardfield, Finchingfield and Wethersfield are located on the upper slopes of the Pant valley. Other settlements include the villages of Panfield and Shalford as well as numerous hamlets and church/hall complexes. Otherwise the historic settlement is largely dispersed in nature, with isolated farms, moated sites and small hamlets strung out around linear greens and ends. The roads are twisting and often partially sunken. The fieldscape is largely comprised of irregular fields (these are probably of

medieval origin and some maybe even older), interspersed by the occasional common field which had been later enclosed piecemeal by agreement (probably in the late medieval/early post-medieval period), with areas of enclosed meadow pastures along the river/stream valleys. There are a number of ancient woodlands surviving.

In the 19th century, the Braintree-Bishops Stortford railway (now the Flitch Way Country Park) was constructed across the south of the area. Modern development is largely limited to estates on the edge of the villages, as at Rayne where a manor/church complex and roadside development has broadened to form a nucleated village. There has also been with some ribbon development along the roads. Post-1950s field- boundary loss is moderate to high.

Archaeological Character: Prehistoric activity is known in the form of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic flints. However, the majority of the prehistoric settlement evidence dates to the later periods. Several probable Bronze Age and Iron Age sites are recorded from aerial photographic evidence. Palaeoenvironmental deposits are likely to survive within the Pant valley. The area is bisected on its southern edge by the major Roman Road of Stane Street, to either side of which are known Roman farmsteads, including a number of villas. Excavations at Finchingfield revealed a Roman farm complex and fieldwork in advance of the A120 at Rayne recorded an extensive Roman site probably associated to a farmstead/villa. There is a widespread distribution of Roman sites across the rest of the area.

The area has a rich heritage in medieval sites and buildings. The villages all have their origins in the medieval period either as villages, such as Finchingfield or Wethersfield or as Church/hall complexes such as Rayne and Great Sailing. Many moats have their origins in the 12th and 13th centuries with a number being scheduled in the northern part of this area. The area as a whole is notable for the quality and quantity of its historic built environment, which includes moated sites, church/hall complexes, agricultural buildings, farmhouses, maltings and mills. During the modern period, many field boundaries have been removed, many of which are still visible however as cropmarks.

3.1.6 HECA 6: Land between Braintree and Halstead

Summary

A ridge of higher ground, sloping down to the Colne valley to the north and the Blackwater valley to the south. The ridge and upper slopes are covered by Boulder Clay, with sands and gravels exposed along the valley slopes and alluvial deposits in the river valleys. The landscape is characterised by a belt of ancient woods running along the top of the ridge, these include Chalkney Wood, Markshall woods, Gosfield Wood and Parkhall wood. In addition there are a number of large landscaped parks, also located along the top of the ridge, these include Gosfield Hall, Gosfield Place and Marks Hall park. Some of these are medieval in origin. The field pattern is predominately pre-18th century irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older), with some enclosed meadow along the rivers. Gosfield airfield and Marks Hall airstrip date to the Second World War. Post 1950s boundary loss can be described as moderate to high..

Historic Landscape Character: The area, a ridge of higher ground, sloping down to the Colne valley to the north and the Blackwater valley to the south, is largely covered by boulder clay deposits, with sand and gravel and London Clay exposed along the valley sides and alluvial deposits in the valley floors. Areas of ancient woodland survive along the ridge. The field pattern is predominately pre-18th century irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older). Post 1950s boundary loss can be described as moderate, rising to high on one or two farms. There are areas of historic enclosed meadow pasture of probable medieval or earlier origin in the valley floor of the Blackwater river. There are a number of large landscaped parks, located along the top of the wooded ridge, these include Gosfield Hall, Gosfield Place and Marks Hall park. The historic settlement pattern is dispersed, comprising isolated manors, manor/church complexes, individual farms, moated sites, hamlets and the villages of Gosfield and Stisted.

The landscape is crossed by the Roman road of Stane Street (A120) and A131 to Gosfield. Stane Street has left an imprint on the modern landscape, influencing field

alignment and settlement distribution. Away from the main roads, beside field boundary loss noted above, modern impacts on the landscape are relatively few with the WWII airfield at Gosfield and Headquarters at Marks Hall to serve Earls Colne airfield and the modern A120 bypass around Coggeshall. There has been limited aggregate extraction along the valleys at Bocking and Gosfield.

Archaeological Character: There has been little archaeological fieldwork in the area, due to the lack of recent development. The relative sparseness of the archaeological record is therefore more a reflection of this, rather than an indication of a genuine absence of archaeological remains.

The earliest evidence for human occupation in the area dates to the Neolithic period, largely in the form of stray finds of flint tools. There is one notable group of such artefacts from Marks Hall. There is also a scatter of Bronze Age and Iron Age finds

Roman occupation is found widely spread across the area, including a possible temple site at Pattiswick. The area is bisected by the Roman road from Braintree to Sudbury (A131/A1017), and Stane Street (A12). A smaller Roman road to Colchester is still visible as an earthwork within Chalkney Wood.

The area is notable for the number of surviving ancient woods, some of which, as at Chalkney Wood, preserve earthwork features relating not only to their own origins as medieval woodland but also to earlier periods. It is evident from the Domesday Book that the area was relatively densely settled in the Late Saxon and medieval periods. The settlement type was highly dispersed, comprising church/hall complexes, manors and farms, many of which were moated, cottages and small hamlets, linked by a network of twisting lanes and roadside greens. It is probable that many of these sites in addition to the surviving above-ground structures also have below-ground archaeology relating to their origin and development over the centuries. Many of the moats survive as water-filled features, whilst others are visible as cropmarks. Two are scheduled, Stanstead Hall and Claverings farm

The soil type is conducive to the survival of faunal evidence, and the surviving alluvial deposits have potential for palaeoenvironmental remains.

3.1.7 HECA 7: Halstead Urban Area

Summary

This area comprises the modern urban extent of Halstead, including the medieval and post-medieval core. The town is located at a crossing-point of the River Colne, with the older portion largely concentrated on the steeply sloping ground on northern side of the river (High Street/Market Hill). The town has always served as a market centre for the local area, however in the post-medieval period it also developed a considerable role in the textile industry with the construction of the Courtauld silk-mills in the early 19th century. The town has a range of surviving buildings, both late medieval and early post-medieval in date as well as a large number of municipal buildings built by the Courtaulds. Although there has been limited archaeological work within the town, there is considerable potential for archaeological features and deposits to survive within the urban area, including waterlogged deposits in the area close to the river.

Historic Urban Character: The urban area of Halstead straddles the steep-sided valley of the River Colne. The geology is revealed in successive layers in the valley sides, from top to bottom these comprise boulder clay, Kesgrave sands and gravels and London Clay with alluvial deposits in the valley floor.

There is evidence for prehistoric and Roman activity in and around the town. By the end of the Saxon period there was a village at Halstead, probably centred around the Parish Church of St Andrew and Market Hill. The area of the historic town lay within the territory of two manors. In 1251 Abel de St Martin, who held one of the Halstead manors, was granted the right to hold a market, presumably on the site of the present town, and the settlement grew to be the dominant market-town in the area. In the 13th century the town expanded down the High Street to Bridge Street, the current bridge dates to the late medieval period. There are a large number of Listed 15th, 16th and 17th century buildings along the High Street. The later post-medieval period saw the introduction of major changes to the town's development because of the introduction of the weaving trade in the late eighteenth century and more significantly, the building

of Courtauld's silk factory in 1828. Courtaulds was essentially a paternalistic family business, that as the major employer in the town, played a most significant role in all aspects of urban life. In addition to the houses built for the employees of the factory, the Courtaulds also organised and funded a school, adult education classes, a library and institute, nursery, mother's club, sick fund, amusement society, lodging house, Jubilee Fountain, Public Park, retirement homes and Cottage Hospital. In addition to Courtauld's there were also a number of other significant employers, including the Tortoise and Portway Iron Foundries and Adams Brewery, and the town continued to retain a market and retail function.

Archaeological Character: There is evidence for prehistoric and Roman activity in the area. The late Saxon and post-Conquest period saw the development of a village on the crest of the valley. In 1251 the grant of a market saw the commercial expansion of the village and a change in status to market-town. The modern town incorporates substantial surviving elements of this historic core, including the original street-plan and many surviving buildings of late medieval and post-medieval date. The post-medieval industrial and social development of the town is also exceptionally well-represented. Limited excavation has established the presence of below-ground features and deposits, including earlier structures, pits and property boundaries. The surviving historic buildings also contain considerable information on the origins and development of the town. The development of the post-medieval industries of silk manufacture, brewing, etc. is also visible in both the built and below-ground heritage. Due to the largely calcareous nature of the soil, bone survival is good and water-logged deposits can be anticipated in the valley floor and in deeper features, such as wells and cess-pits.

3.1.8 HECA 8: Braintree And Bocking Urban Area

Summary

In the medieval period Braintree and its neighbouring town, Bocking, were two separate settlements. However, by the modern period the two built-up areas had merged to form the Urban District of Braintree and Bocking. Braintree is sited on a crossing-point of two Roman roads, and a small Roman market-town underlies much

of the historic medieval core of the town. There was settlement in the area in the Saxon period, but it was not urban in nature. The historic towns had their origins in the late 12th century, and both grew to be important players in the East Anglian cloth-manufacturing trade. The 19th century saw the rise of the silk industry, followed by metal manufacturing firms in the early 20th century. None of these industries survive, but they have left a significant mark on the built heritage of the town.

Historic Urban Character: Braintree lies on a ridge between the Rivers Brain and Blackwater, whilst Bocking lies largely in the valley of the Blackwater. The ridge is composed of boulder-clay and some brick-earths, overlaying sands and gravels, these are exposed in the valley sides, with alluvial deposits in the valley floors.

Braintree is sited at the junction of two major Roman roads, and has its origins in the Late Iron Age and Roman period, when a market-town developed at the junction. The Roman roads, still influence the plan of the modern town. There is evidence that there was a Saxon settlement in Braintree, but there is nothing to suggest that it was ever urban in nature. The early settlement focus for Braintree was probably located in the area of St Michael's Church, with a second focus at Chapel Hill. In 1199 the Bishop of London founded a 'new town' at Braintree, together with market and fair, on Episcopal estate land, on the eastern side of the main road junction. By contrast Bocking is a bi-focal settlement on the River Blackwater; Churchstreet is the most northerly focal point, and probably the oldest as it contains the parish church and the manor-house, Bradford Street is situated approximately 1km to the south of Churchstreet immediately adjoining Braintree town. In 1304 Flemish weavers arrived in Bocking, an event that maybe directly linked with the construction of a new fulling mill by the Abbot of Canterbury in 1303.

In the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries Braintree and Bocking became important cloth-manufacturing centres, and remained so into the beginning of the post-medieval period, specialising in the manufacture of bays and says. This period of prosperity is reflected by the development of the wool-merchants houses and halls along Bocking Bradford Street. However, the woollen cloth industry went into terminal decline in the eighteenth century, and the nineteenth century saw the rise of the silk industry, the principal firms of which were Courtaulds and Walters. The importance

of the market and the retail trade also continued to grow. The construction of the railway dates to the mid -19th century. In addition the first half of the twentieth century was dominated by the growth of metal manufacturing firms, notably Crittalls. Linked to the industrial development of the town is the introduction of worker's housing, in the 'Tudor' style by the Courtaulds, who also contributed towards the building of many of Braintree's public buildings, and in the Modernist style by Crittalls. In 1939 the parishes of Bocking and Braintree were united to form a single Urban District. The modern urban extent is largely due to late 20th century expansion.

Archaeological Character: There is evidence for prehistoric activity in and around Braintree, including a Late Iron Age ditched enclosure containing roundhouses on the site of the later Roman town. The small Roman town appears to have been confined within a triangular area between the main Roman roads of Stane Street (Rayne Road) and the Sudbury-Chelmsford route (London Road). Within the area of the Roman town there appears to have been two phases of development. The first century town was concentrated in the area of the modern Pierrefitte Way, and there is some suggestion of deliberate planning in the initial layout of the town with the minor roads and major boundary ditches running at right-angles to London Road, forming blocks approximately 145 m apart. In the second and third centuries the town expanded into the Rayne Road and George Yard area, and there appear to have been a second phase of road building, which cut across the original layout. The cemetery was located on the western edge of the built-up area. There is also evidence for rural prehistoric and Roman settlement under the modern urban area.

Evidence of Saxon occupation has been recovered from the area to the south-west of St Michael's Church, and the church itself may have had a Saxon predecessor. In the late 10th century Braintree and Bocking formed part of the estates of a Saxon *thegn*, Aetheric, who willed his Braintree lands to the Bishops of London and Bocking to Christchurch, Canterbury. The Bishops of London's estate at Braintree was probably administered from Chapel Hill, where their manor house was certainly sited in the medieval period.

There have been numerous excavations in Braintree and Bocking, largely concentrating on the Roman town. These have demonstrated the survival of archaeological features and deposits, including beam-slots, pits and burials, beneath the modern town. Due to the largely calcareous nature of the soil, bone survival is good and water-logged deposits can be anticipated in the valley floor and in deeper features, such as wells and cess-pits. The surviving built heritage for the late medieval and early post-medieval period is exceptional, with Bocking Bradford Street being particularly noteworthy. Elements of the areas more recent industrial past also survive.

3.1.9 HECA 9: Coggeshall Urban Area

Summary

Coggeshall is sited where the Roman road of Stane Street crosses the River Blackwater. The urban settlement was originally sited to the north of the road around the church, before moving down to the market-place on the road itself. The development of the market and the town was influenced by monks of Coggeshall Abbey (which adjoins the urban area). The town became a cloth-manufacturing centre in the late medieval and early post-medieval period.

Historic Urban Character: Coggeshall is sited in Braintree District, in the valley of the River Blackwater, on the Roman Stane Street. The geology consists of boulder-clay, patches of brick earth, and river gravels and alluvial deposits in the immediate vicinity of the river.

It is thought that the late Saxon and early medieval settlement was centred on the church, on the higher drier ground above the valley floor. In 1142 the abbey was founded, sited to the south of the river and town. Later in the medieval period the focus of settlement shifted to the area around the market-place just to the north of Stane Street, a movement which may be associated with the granting of a market charter in 1256 to the abbey. In the late medieval period and early post-medieval period Coggeshall became an important centre of the cloth industry; in particular it

was noted for a fine bay cloth known as Coggeshall White. The size and quality of the early fifteenth century parish church and the numbers and quality of the surviving fourteenth to seventeenth century buildings reflect the wealth available within the town. This trade declined by the end of the seventeenth century, and Coggeshall reverted to being an agricultural market-town until the establishment of the luxury cloth industries of tambour lace and silk in the mid-nineteenth century. By 1890 the silk industry had closed in Coggeshall and the town was again simply a market-town for the surrounding agricultural area. The other industries represented in the later post-medieval and modern period, that is the production of isinglass and gelatine, brewing and seed-growing, reflect this agricultural basis.

Archaeological Character: There appears to have been settlement in and around the Coggeshall area from the Mesolithic period onwards. In the Roman period Stane Street ran through Coggeshall to Colchester, and there may well have been a minor road on the southern side of the later town linking Stane Street to Kelvedon. Excavations on the eastern edge of the town have revealed part of a Roman farm or villa complex, containing at least one masonry structure and one timber structure set within a grid of paddocks, fields and a droveway. There is some evidence in the form of pottery sherds, for an Early Saxon settlement at Coggeshall opposite the church. An eighth-century finger-ring was also found in 1851. The Domesday Book records that at the end of the Saxon period there was a reasonably large, settled community with a church and one, possibly two, mills at Coggeshall. The town became an important cloth-manufacturing centre in the medieval period.

There have been a number of excavations in Coggeshall, including on the Roman farmstead and in the area between the river and market-place. These have demonstrated the survival of archaeological features and deposits, including beam-slots, pits and burials, beneath the modern town. Due to the largely calcareous nature of the soil, bone survival is good and water-logged deposits can be anticipated in the valley floor and in deeper features, such as wells and cess-pits. The surviving built heritage for the late medieval and early post-medieval period is exceptional, with numerous Listed Buildings.

3.1.10 HECA 10: Terling

Summary

Gently undulating plateau landscape, dissected by the River Ter. The geology is largely comprised of boulder clay, with deposits of glaciofluvial sand and gravel and exposed London Clay in the river valley. The area is mainly under arable cultivation with a landscape of scattered farmsteads and medieval moated sites. At the centre of the area lies the village of Terling which dates back to the medieval period. The large estate of Terling Place has preserved much of the historic parkland.

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. Although some areas are now ploughed much of the historic parkland associated with Terling Place (originally constructed 1722-23) survives. Terling village has its origins as a polyfocal settlement, focused on a series of small triangular greens, subsequently linked by ribbon development. An area of modern housing has been developed at Great Notley in the northern part of the area.

Archaeological Character: Only limited archaeological investigation has been undertaken within this area. Aerial photographic evidence has shown the presence of a number of sites probably dating from the prehistoric through to the medieval period. The Roman road from Braintree to Chelmsford and that from London to Colchester bisect this area. There is potential for below-ground remains relating to the origins and development of many of the historic settlement pattern. The Ter Valley is likely to contain surviving Palaeo-environmental deposits.

3.1.11 HECA 11: Brain Valley

Summary

The area comprises the valley of the river Brain. Despite boundary loss in the 20th century, the broad outline of the historic landscape and settlement pattern largely survives. Multi period archaeological remains survive throughout the zone with evidence from cropmarks and excavations. The nationally important scheduled monument and listed building complex of Cressing Temple is located in the centre of the area, which is especially rich in medieval remains.

Historic Landscape Character: A rural landscape, in the valley of the River Brain. The geology comprises chalky boulder clay with sand and gravel and alluvium in the river valley. The fieldscape is complex, comprising a mix of pre-18th century irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older) and pre-18th century co-axial fields (also of probable medieval origin), the latter in particular respond to the local topography. Meadow pasture is located along the length of the river Brain and survives in a number of areas. There are a number of areas of ancient woodland especially adjacent to the river. Historic settlement is dispersed, with manor/church complexes, individual farms, moated sites and small hamlets. The roads are twisting and often partially sunken. The Scheduled site of Cressing Temple comprises an early medieval farm complex constructed by the Knights Templar, the internationally famous barns date to the 13th century. Faulkbourne Hall, is a large brick house dating from the mid 15th century and its associated gardens, originally of 16th century but remodelled in the late 19th century, surrounded by parkland dating to the 18th century. The area is bisected by the Braintree to Witham Branch Line which opened in 1848.

Archaeological Character: Evidence for prehistoric occupation has been found in the area both in the form of excavation evidence and in the form of cropmark evidence. A number of cropmark ring ditches have been recorded probably representative of ploughed out burial mounds together with cropmark enclosures and a cropmark of a possible prehistoric henge monument is located at Cressing.

Extensive Roman remains are recorded from the area in the form of Roman building evidence from excavation and chance finds. Occupation is located on both sides of the river.

During the medieval period, the settlement pattern comprised small settlements such as Faulkbourne, White and Black Notley focussed on manor/church complexes, with the remainder of the settlement pattern very dispersed with moated sites, halls and farmsteads. Excavation at Crossing Temple has established the survival of below-ground archaeological remains relating to the origin and development of the site, and this would hold true for many of the other medieval and post-medieval settlement sites.

3.1.12 HECA 12: Silver End

Summary

Relatively flat plateau landscape, dissected by the River Blackwater and its tributaries. Historic landscape survives relatively well outside the area of Rivenhall Airfield. Historic settlement pattern comprising manor/church complexes, farms, and moats, many containing listed buildings survive well. Extensive archaeological deposits are present of multi-period date, with occupation concentrated on the valley slopes of the Blackwater and its tributaries. The creation of Silver End as a designed industrial village is highly significant and it survives well, now a conservation area in the west of the area. The construction of Rivenhall Airfield has had a detrimental effect on the landscape in the centre of the area. A large part of this now forms a gravel quarry.

Historic Landscape Character: The area is largely covered by boulder clay with sand and gravels beneath. The river valleys contain Kesgrave sands and gravels on the valley slopes with alluvium in the base of the valleys. The settlement pattern is very dispersed with manor/hall complexes, moats and scattered farmsteads. Two historic parklands are recorded on the 1st edition OS maps of the late 19th century. The zone is dominated by the Second World War Rivenhall Airfield. This significantly changed the landscape when it was constructed in 1942. There are irregular fields of various sizes, and there are several areas of ancient woodlands, particularly in the Ter valley. The Blackwater valley and smaller streams were fringed with valley bottom pasture which survives well. Part of the Blackwater pasture is now used for the growing of willows. Field boundary loss has been moderate, raising to extensive in the area of the airfield. The village of Silver End was constructed from

1926 for a period of 6 years. The village includes some noteworthy early examples of Modernist architectural design; the distinctive white, flat-roofed houses on Frances Way and Silver Street are the work of influential Scottish architect Thomas S. Tait, a leading designer of Art Deco and Streamline Moderne buildings in the 20th Century. The southern side of the area is bisected by the main railway line from London to Colchester constructed in the first half of the 19th century.

Archaeological Character: Extensive archaeological deposits are known from the area. many cropmarks are recorded across the zone, some relating to previous field boundaries. Cropmarks of ploughed out round barrows are common especially in the southern part of the zone. A number of the cropmarks form enclosures which may be of prehistoric date. Excavation in advance of mineral extraction on Rivenhall airfield identified prehistoric occupation in the form of an enclosure and ring ditch. Roman roads form the northern and southern boundaries of the area, including that of Stane Street on the northern boundary, both lie under existing roads,. Excavations have shown the presence of a number of Late Iron Age and Roman settlements including the Scheduled villa complex at Rivenhall. The evidence indicates extensive occupation of this zone during the Roman period.

Historically the settlement pattern was very dispersed and sparse, comprising manorh/hall complexes, manors, farms, and moats. Many of the buildings on these sites are now listed. Medieval deposits identified during excavation indicate that further settlement sites existed in the medieval period but were abandoned in the 13th or 14th century. Rivenhall airfield in the central part of the area was completed by the US army in 1942. Large parts of the airfield are now being quarried for sand and gravel deposits.

3.1.13 HECA: 13 Witham Urban Area

Summary

The modern urban area of Witham incorporates within it a historically shifting pattern of settlement.. In the Iron Age Chipping Hill was the location for an Iron Age hill-fort. By the Roman period the emphasis had moved to the south-west where a Roman temple and farmstead have been excavated. The focus moved back to Chipping Hill

in the late Saxon period, when the hill-fort was re-fortified as a Saxon *burh*. Chipping Hill remained the focus of occupation until the early 13th century when a new town was built on the main road at Newland Street. Witham developed slowly but steadily as a market town, before undergoing considerable expansion in the mid 1960s as a London overspill town.

Historic Urban Character: Witham is located on the London to Colchester road, at the point where it crosses the River Brain, and within the angle formed by the confluence of the Rivers Brain and Blackwater. The natural subsoil comprises glacial clays and gravel. The highest point is the small spur of Chipping Hill on the 30m contour on the east bank of the Brain. The earliest settlement, from the prehistoric to the early medieval period, was focused on this spur. However in 1147 King Stephen and Queen Matilda gave the manor of Witham to the Knights Templar. The Templars organised the development of the present town centre along the London-Colchester road in, or just before, 1212, when the market charter for a 'new town' was granted. The new town quickly developed as a thriving commercial centre, although occupation also continued at Chipping Hill. The main industrial elements were based on agriculture, including the cloth industry and the production of seeds, the latter is well-represented in the industrial area on the east side of Witham. In the mid 1960's the Town Development Scheme, in conjunction with London overspill housing, led to enormous expansion of the town.

Archaeological Character: The Chipping Hill area of Witham appears to have been occupied throughout much of the prehistoric period. Chipping Hill Camp earthwork is a bivallate (double-ditched) hill-fort probably constructed in the Iron Age. There is also evidence for Roman activity in and around Chipping Hill, including a possible building. However, the focus of settlement appears to have shifted in the Roman period about a mile to the south-west to the Maltings Lane/Ivy Chimneys area. At Ivy Chimneys there was a Roman temple followed by an early Christian chapel and baptismal font and evidence of extensive occupation.

Evidence of Early Saxon occupation has also been found at Maltings Lane. In 912 King Edward the Elder 'went with some of his forces into Essex to Maldon and camped there while the *burh* was being made and constructed at Witham, and a

good number of people who had been under the rule of Danish men submitted to him' (Anglo-Saxon Chronicle). The location of the Witham *burh* is a matter of some debate although Chipping Hill Camp is the most likely contender. In the later Saxon period Chipping Hill was again the focus of occupation at Witham, with a Royal holding, sizeable population and a mill. It probably also had a market function, as the 'Chipping' place-name suggests.

There have been a number of excavations in Witham, including large-scale excavations in on the Roman temple site at Ivy Chimneys and in advance of the Maltings Lane development, as well as smaller excavations in the Chipping Hill and Newland Street area. These have demonstrated the survival of archaeological features and deposits, including beam-slots, pits and burials, beneath the modern town. Water-logged deposits can be anticipated in the valley floor and in deeper features, such as wells and cess-pits. The surviving built heritage for the late medieval and early post-medieval period is good, particularly on Chipping Hill.

3.1.14 HECA: 14 Kelvedon And Feering Urban Area

Summary

This area incorporates both the historic town of Kelvedon and the village of Feering. The locations of the medieval settlements and the preceding Roman town were determined by the location of the Roman road from Colchester to-London. The Roman town comprised a possible fort and an enclosed town sited to the south of the Roman road, whilst the medieval and post-medieval settlement took the form of linear development strung out along the road itself. Feering developed as a polyfocal settlement, with one focus at the river-crossing and the other to the north at the road junction. The modern town has expanded to the north and south of the road, effectively merging the settlements of Kelvedon and Feering and entirely covering the Roman town.

Historic Urban Character: Kelvedon is sited along a gravel and brickearth terrace above the water-meadows of the River Blackwater and had its origins as a linear development along the main London-Colchester route. The eastern limit of the town and the parish was formed by the River Blackwater. The neighbouring village of

Feering is located on the eastern side of the river, and the two settlements are now linked by recent developments.

The medieval town partly overlies a Roman predecessor, the location of both being dictated by the Roman road and the river-crossing. The medieval town was under the control of several different manors, with Church Hall and Felix Hall holding the majority of the High Street properties. The original focus of the settlement is thought to be around the church at the western end of the town, with a second smaller focus at the river crossing-point at Easterford over a kilometre to the east. In the post-medieval period Kelvedon developed its classic linear development form, with the merging of the medieval settlement foci at the Church Street junction and Easterford.

The historic settlement of Feering also developed as a polyfocal settlement, with one focus at the river-crossing and the other to the north at the road junction.

In the modern period Kelvedon and the neighbouring village of Feering have effectively merged, being separated only by the river and the water-meadow. Until the twentieth century Kelvedon was essentially a small market town serving the local agricultural community, although it also had an economic role as a provider of accommodation and a change of horses for travellers.

Archaeological Character: There is evidence for activity in the Kelvedon area from the Palaeolithic period onwards. Evidence of Late Iron Age settlement has been found throughout the area of the Roman town, consisting of individual enclosed house-plots, fields, possibly a temple and some industrial activity. However, this settlement is not thought to be urban in nature. In the Roman period a town developed on the Kelvedon site. Originally this consisted of a civilian settlement and possibly a short-lived fort. In the late second century the majority of the built-up area, including a temple and a possible *mansio*, was enclosed within a defensive ditch, with the cemeteries sited outside. By the end of the Roman period the town was in decline, although there is some evidence for continuation of settlement, not necessarily urban in nature, into the early Saxon period. An early Saxon cemetery is located immediately adjacent to this area, on the northern bank of the Blackwater in HECA 15.

There is a gap in the information in the following centuries until the later Saxon period, when the manor of Church Hall was granted to Westminster Abbey in 998. The Domesday Survey records the landholdings of Kelvedon at the end of the Saxon period. The surviving built heritage includes many examples of late medieval and early post-medieval structures, and further evidence, both below-ground and incorporated into later buildings can be anticipated to survive.

There has been a number of excavations in Kelvedon, including large-scale excavations within the Roman town, as well as smaller excavations along the High Street. These have demonstrated the survival of archaeological features and deposits, including beam-slots, pits and burials, beneath the modern town. Water-logged deposits can be anticipated in the valley floor and in deeper features, such as wells and cess-pits.

3.1.15 HECA 15 *Land south of the A12*

Summary

The area includes the valley of the River Blackwater and the land between the Blackwater and River Chelmer. Geologically this area is complex, with bands of brickearth, glaciofluvial sands and gravels, fluvial sands and gravels, slope deposits and alluvium, underlain by London Clay. The fieldscape is regular in pattern, and possibly medieval in origin. There were extensive areas of enclosed meadow pasture along the valley floor. There is evidence for settlement from Palaeolithic times with significant remains surviving from prehistoric to Saxon date. Historically the settlement was very dispersed and sparse, comprising isolated manors, farms, cottages and small hamlets with a poly-focal settlement at Hatfield Peverel. A Benedictine Priory was founded in the 12th century at Hatfield on an earlier site.

Historic Landscape Character: The sloping valley sides and bottom of the northern side of the River Blackwater. On the higher ground patches of brickearth overlie the glaciofluvial sands and gravels. On the valley slopes fluvial sands and gravels

outcrop with slope deposits and alluvium towards the valley bottom. London Clay outcrops along the steeper valley sides. The fieldscape is regular in pattern, and possibly medieval in origin. There were extensive areas of enclosed meadow pasture along the valley floor, some of which survive, others have been converted to willow plantations. Historically the settlement was very dispersed and sparse, comprising isolated manors, farms, cottages and small hamlets. Hatfield Peverel is historically a poly-focal settlement comprising road-side development along the A12, green-side settlement around a linear green and a small cluster of buildings next to the manor and priory/church, its current nucleated appearance dates to the 20th century. The small settlement of Rivenhall End largely dates to the 20th century. Post 1950's boundary loss can be characterised as moderate. There has been some gravel extraction, particularly in the south-west of the area. The A12 runs along the northern edge of this zone and partly through this HECA .

Archaeological Character: There has been a wide range of archaeological fieldwork in the area, which has established the survival of archaeological remains and in places significant palaeoenvironmental deposits. A programme of fieldwalking, concentrating on the collection of flints, has taken place in the vicinity of Witham and Rivenhall End, and there have been a number of excavations (see below).

The earliest evidence for human occupation in the area dates to the Palaeolithic period, these are concentrated in the Witham-Rivenhall End area, where a large glacial lake had been located during the Pleistocene. It is unclear how much this apparent siting preference is genuine or how much it is a reflection of the areas where fieldwork has taken place (see above).

The cropmark and finds evidence demonstrates widespread later prehistoric activity, both settlement and ritual, throughout the area. Notable sites include the Neolithic long mortuary enclosure at Rivenhall End, this is Scheduled. Important palaeoenvironmental data was also recovered from the alluvial deposits in the valley of a small stream, now little more than a field ditch to the south west of this site. The cropmark, excavation and finds evidence suggests a densely settled rural landscape of farmsteads and fields across the area in the late Iron Age and Roman period.

There is an important Late Iron Age warrior burial from the slope above the river Blackwater south of Kelvedon. Other cropmarks can be seen to form groups with those situated across the Blackwater in Maldon District.

There is an early Saxon cemetery beside the river at Kelvedon, which is Scheduled. The Saxon and medieval settlement pattern was highly dispersed, comprising church/hall complexes, manors and farms, many of which were moated, cottages and small hamlets, linked by a network of twisting lanes. Many of the moats survive as water-filled features, whilst others are visible as cropmarks. There was extensive historic meadow-pasture adjoining the river, some of which survives.

At Hatfield Priory a secular college was founded in the 11th century. It was converted to a Benedictine Priory early in the 12th century. The Priory was dissolved in 1536 and much of it demolished. The site is Scheduled and the surrounding park is a Registered Park and Garden.

The soil-types are conducive to the formation of cropmarks and the alluvial deposits have potential for palaeoenvironmental remains.

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 Braintree District.

4.2 Methodology

Through a combination of analysing the main datasets such as historic mapping, ancient woodland, 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 have been prepared.

The descriptions draw on a range of sources and attempt 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 the 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 [which comprises the plotting of all known aerial photographic evidence onto OS base maps], 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 zone.

2 = Historic environment does, or could help define a sense of place of the zone. 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.

5 Braintree Historic Environment Characterisation Zones

5.1 HECA 1

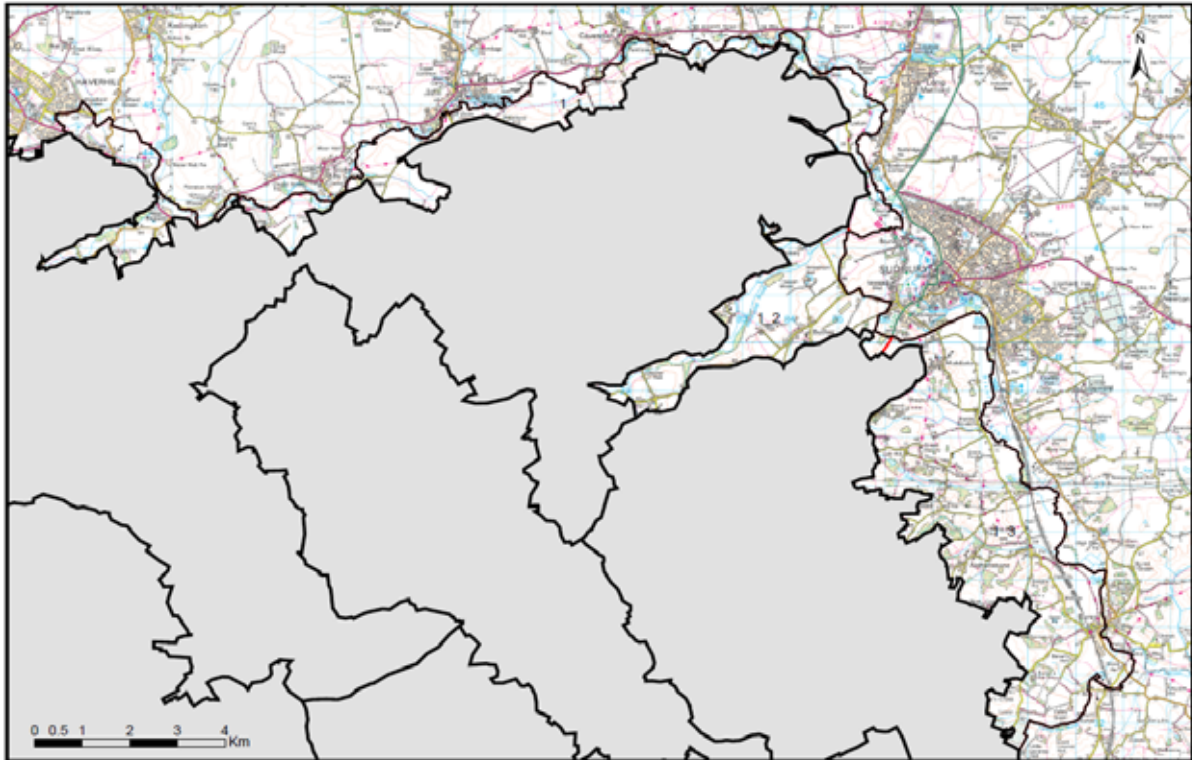


Fig.21 Historic Environment Character Zones in HECA 1

5.1.1 HECZ 1.1: Western half of the Stour Valley

Summary: The zone comprises the western half of the Stour Valley, from Haverhill to Borley. Extensive crop-mark evidence includes ring-ditch cemeteries and a long mortuary enclosure as well as later field-systems, forming one part of a wider ritual landscape strung out along both sides of the Stour valley. There are surviving areas of historic meadow pasture adjoining the river and a number of Listed Buildings. Portions of the 19th century railway lines survive.

Historic Landscape Character: The valley of the Stour and its tributaries has a gently sloping profile and flat floor. The geology of this zone comprises boulder clay on the top of the valley slopes, with head and river terrace deposits revealed in the valley sides, and alluvium in the valley floor. The historic settlement comprises the hamlet of Sturmer and a scattering of dispersed farms and cottages, many of the

farms which exploited the valley in fact lie just outside the southern edge of this HECZ in HECZ 2.2. Sturmer has experienced modern ribbon development along the main road. The fieldscape largely comprises irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older), there has been some late 20th century boundary loss. There are areas of meadow pasture immediately adjacent to the river, some of this is still under pasture, whilst willows have been planted in other areas and other areas have been ploughed. There is one small area of Ancient Woodland at Moyn's Wood, as well as some small areas of later woodland plantation. There are a number of mills strung out along the valley floor. The Great Eastern Railway and the Colne Valley Railway lines cut through this zone, both have been dismantled, although parts of the original route survive within the landscape

Archaeological Character: The valley floor contains a number of cropmark complexes, represent a range of mainly circular monuments together with elements of Roman and medieval field systems. The crop-marks include a number of ring-ditch cemeteries and a long mortuary enclosure, which form part of a wider ritual landscape spanning both sides of the Stour Valley (Suffolk and Essex). The crop-mark complex at Mill Farm, near Clare, which comprises ring-ditches and the long mortuary enclosure is a Scheduled Monument. In addition to the later prehistoric monuments, there are a number of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic stray finds from along the length of the river. This largely rural landscape has seen little threat led fieldwork. However, recent archaeological investigations within the valley have sampled one of the large circular cropmarks and demonstrated the presence of significant palaeoenvironmental sequences within the valley and the possibility of linking the cropmark complexes with the development of the valley landscape. Antiquarian and local society finds (by the Haverhill Archaeological Group) from the vicinity of Sturmer village have established the presence of Late Iron Age and Roman remains, including a probable Roman cemetery. Elements of the historic settlement survive, including a number of Listed Buildings, whilst others while survive as below-ground remains. The present settlement and landscape has been influenced by the construction of the railways in the 19th century and 20th century ribbon development along the main road.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Prehistoric and Roman cemeteries and settlement, medieval rural settlement pattern, 19 th century railway lines	3
• Survival	Good survival of heritage assets, crop-marks, Scheduled Monument	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, crop-mark evidence published reports	3
• Group Value Association	Medieval landscape, crop-mark evidence	3
• Potential	Potential for below-ground archaeological deposits Built heritage likely to contain earlier structures	3
• Sensitivity to change	Historic buildings and settlements pattern, and below ground deposits.	3
• Amenity Value	Crop-mark complexes form part of wider prehistoric landscape, managed riverine landscape	3

5.1.2 HECZ 1.2: The Belchamp Brook

Summary: A small zone comprising one of the tributary valleys of the River Stour. Crop-mark evidence for earlier agricultural settlements and landscape features. Extensive areas of historic meadow pasture adjoining the brook. Historic settlement pattern comprising three manor and church complexes around which developed villages in the early post-medieval period as well as isolated farms, there are a large number of Listed Buildings.

Historic Landscape Character: The valley of the Stour and its tributary has a gently sloping profile and flat floor. The geology of this zone comprises boulder clay on the top of the valley slopes, with head and river terrace deposits revealed in the valley sides, and alluvium in the valley floor. The historic settlement comprised the medieval villages of Belchamp Walter, Bulmer and Gestingthorpe, together with a number of dispersed farms strung out along the valley floor and sides. The villages appear to have had their origins as manor and church complexes, around which a

more nucleated settlement developed in the 17th and 18th centuries. The fieldscape is largely comprised of irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older), with meadow pasture immediately adjacent to the Belchamp Brook, much of this has been ploughed, but some is still under pasture, whilst willows have been planted in other areas. There is one small area of Ancient Woodland at Heaven Wood. There has been some late 20th century boundary loss, but the overall historic grain of the landscape survives.

Archaeological Character: Limited archaeological investigations have occurred in this rural zone due to the lack of modern development. However there are a number of crop-marks recorded for this zone, including a possible Late iron Age/Roman farmstead at Bulmer. The historically dispersed and polyfocal settlement pattern will have shifted over the centuries and archaeological remains of medieval and early post-medieval date reflecting such shifts may be anticipated.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Crop-mark evidence, medieval rural settlement pattern, villages.	3
• Survival	Good survival of historic landscape elements, Listed Buildings	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, crop-mark evidence	2
• Group Value Association	Medieval landscape and settlement	3
• Potential	Potential for below-ground archaeological deposits, built heritage	3
• Sensitivity to change	Historic buildings and settlements, and below ground deposits.	3
• Amenity Value	Historic villages and landscape in association with the Stour valley	3

5.1.3 HECZ 1.3: The Stour Valley – Sudbury to Bures

Summary: A small zone comprising one of the tributary valleys of the River Stour south of Sudbury. Crop-mark evidence for earlier agricultural settlements and

landscape features is present. Extensive areas of historic meadow pasture adjoining the river. The historic settlement pattern comprises three medieval villages, isolated farms, and a large number of Listed Buildings.

Historic Landscape Character: This zone comprises the floor of the Stour valley and the gently sloping valley sides, together with a number of tributary valleys. The geology consists of boulder clay on the top of the valley slopes, with Kesgrave sands and gravels and river terrace deposits revealed in the valley sides, and alluvium in the valley floor. The fieldscape is largely comprised of irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older), with meadow pasture immediately adjacent to the Stour and along the tributary valleys. The latter also contain extensive woodland, including willow plantations. There are also a number of small areas of Ancient Woodland. Historically there were a number of linear greens, but these have largely been built over or incorporated into the modern fieldscape. There has been some late 20th century boundary loss, but the overall historic grain of the landscape survives. The historic settlement comprised a dispersed polyfocal settlement pattern of dispersed halls, farms, cottages and mills strung out along the valley floor and sides. The church and manor complexes at Middleton, Lamarsh, Alphamstone and the Hennys forming the nuclei for the subsequent formation of very small villages (often not until the later post-medieval or modern period). The Suffolk town of Bures expanded across the river into Essex in the 19th century, in response to the construction of the railway station. The railway was constructed in the mid-19th century and runs along the valley floor. The remainder of the settlement comprises

Archaeological Character: Limited archaeological investigations have occurred in this rural zone due to the lack of modern development. However the geology is conducive to the formation of crop-marks. These include ring-ditches, prehistoric and enclosures and field-systems which are likely to date from more than one period, forming one part of the much larger crop-mark landscape of the Stour valley. Alphamstone churchyard contains a number of large stones, which are reputed to have been part of a stone circle. A Roman villa adjacent to the churchyard is Scheduled. The historically dispersed and polyfocal settlement pattern will have shifted over the centuries and archaeological remains of medieval and early post-medieval date reflecting such shifts may be anticipated.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Crop-mark evidence, medieval rural settlement pattern, villages.	3
• Survival	Good survival of historic landscape elements, Listed Buildings	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, crop-mark evidence	2
• Group Value Association	Medieval landscape and settlement	3
• Potential	Potential for below-ground archaeological deposits, built heritage	3
• Sensitivity to change	Historic buildings and settlements, and below ground deposits.	3
• Amenity Value	Historic villages and landscape in association with the Stour valley	3

5.2 HECA 2

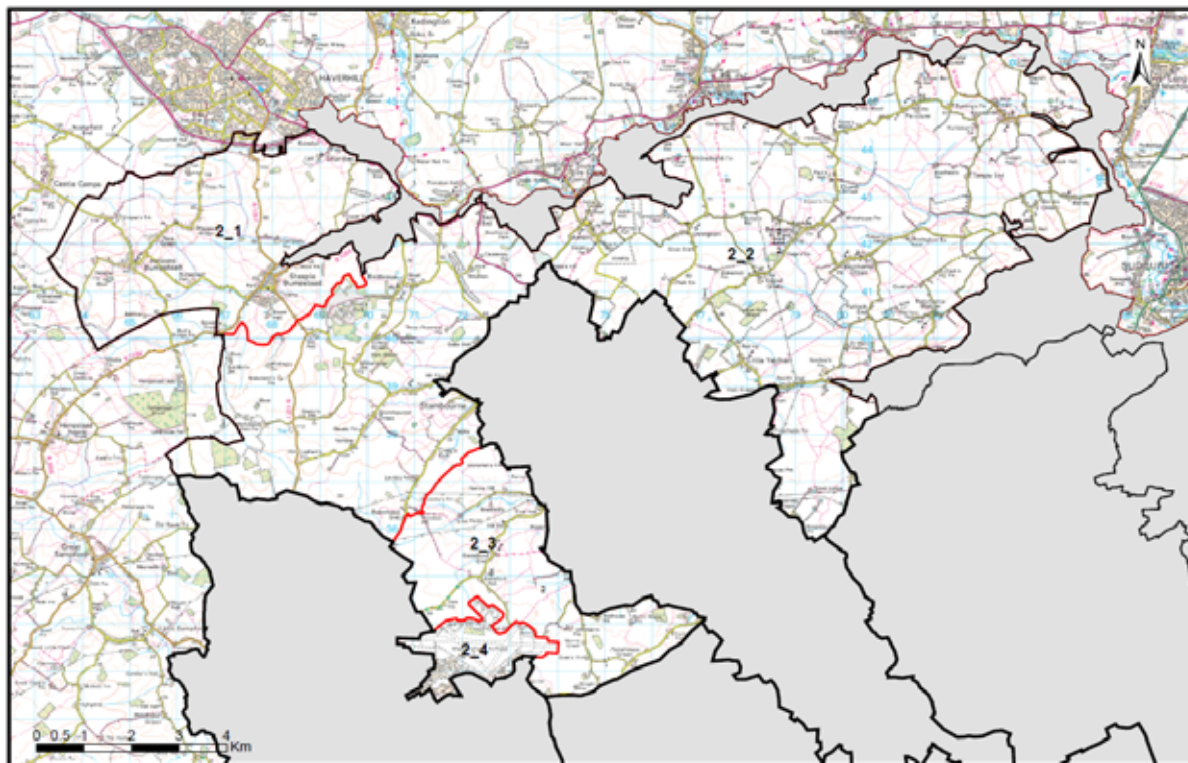


Fig.22 Historic Environment Character Zones in HECA 2

5.2.1 HECZ 2.1: Helions and Steeple Bumpstead

Summary: The zone comprises the area around the villages of Helions and Steeple Bumpstead, both of which contain conservation areas, The zone lies on the boulder clay plateau, dissected by tributaries of the River Stour. Prehistoric occupation is shown by cropmarks of enclosures and ring ditches. Roman occupation comprises both settlement and burial sites. The historic settlement pattern survives well with the nucleated villages of Helions and Steeple Bumpstead, dispersed moats, farms and halls. The medieval settlement pattern survives very well.

Historic Landscape Character: The geology of this zone comprises the boulder clay plateau overlying chalk bedrock, being bisected by the tributaries of the River Stour. The historic settlement comprises the nucleated settlements of Helions and Steeple Bumpstead (both have conservation areas at their centre), greens and dispersed halls, farms and moated sites, with many listed buildings. The roads are twisting and often partially sunken. The fieldscape is largely comprised of irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older), interspersed by the occasional common field which had been later enclosed piecemeal by agreement. There has been considerable boundary loss especially in the 20th century. There are a few very small woods of ancient origin. The present settlement and landscape has probably changed only slightly since the medieval period with a dispersed settlement pattern of nucleated villages and farmsteads.

Archaeological Character: Limited archaeological investigations have occurred in this rural zone. Aerial photographic evidence indicates multi-period occupation with the presence of a number of enclosures and ring ditches. These are characteristic of monuments dating to the Bronze and Iron Ages. Roman occupation is present in the northern part of the zone including settlements and the scheduled Roman barrow at Sturmer. Archaeological remains of medieval and early post-medieval date can be anticipated to survive both beneath the current settlement areas and also within the wider landscape, reflecting the shifting settlement pattern associated with dispersed

settlements. A number of the moated sites are protected as scheduled monuments. Earthworks of the Wakes Colne to Haverhill railway line which was shut in 1965 still survive in the northern part of the zone.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Prehistoric settlement and burial, Roman settlement, and burial, medieval rural settlement pattern, cropmarks, railway line	3
• Survival	Archaeological deposits survive well. Extensive built heritage	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, excavation reports	2
• Group Value Association	Medieval settlement pattern, historic villages, Roman complex	3
• Potential	Potential for below-ground archaeological deposits Built heritage likely to contain earlier structures	3
• Sensitivity to change	Historic buildings and settlements , and below ground deposits.	3
• Amenity Value	The villages have considerable historic interest value and could, in conjunction with their associated landscapes be promoted to residents and visitors.	3

5.2.2 HECZ 2.2: Settlements overlooking the Stour Valley

Summary: The zone comprises an area of the boulder clay plateau, dissected by tributaries of the River Stour. Prehistoric occupation is shown by cropmarks of enclosures and ring ditches. A number of Roman roads cross the zone indicating the potential of Roman occupation. The historic settlement pattern survives well with nucleated villages, church hall complexes and dispersed moats, farms and halls. Many of the nucleated settlements began life as church hall complexes.

Historic Landscape Character: The geology of this zone comprises the boulder clay plateau overlying chalk bedrock, being bisected by the tributaries of the River Stour. The historic settlement consists of dispersed, polyfocal settlements, comprising manor and church complexes, isolated halls, moated sites and farmhouses, and small hamlets fringing linear greens. The manor and church complexes at the Belchamps, Ashen, Birdbrook and Foxearth (all of which have conservation areas at their centre), become gradually the focus for late post-medieval and modern nucleation. Many listed buildings are present in the zone. The roads are twisting and often partially sunken. The fieldscape is largely comprised of irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older), interspersed by the occasional common field which had been later enclosed piecemeal in the late medieval or early post-medieval period. There has been considerable boundary loss especially in the 20th century. There are a number of ancient woodlands at Spains Wood, Park Wood, Howsey Wood, Old Hall Wood and Three Chimney’s Wood. Moyns Park in the west of the zone is a Grade I listed Elizabethan country house with associated park and gardens. The Second World War Airfield at Ridgewell partially survives with the runway and some of the perimeter features visible.

Archaeological Character: Limited archaeological investigations have occurred in this rural zone. Aerial photographic evidence indicates multi-period occupation with the presence of a number of enclosures and ring ditches. A number of Roman roads cross the zone indicating the potential for settlement of this date. The historically dispersed and polyfocal settlement pattern will have shifted over the centuries and archaeological remains of medieval and early post-medieval date reflecting such shifts may be anticipated, as well as those remains beneath the surviving settlement pattern. A number of the moated sites are protected as scheduled monuments. Earthworks of the Wakes Colne to Haverhill railway line which was shut in 1965 cuts across the northern part of the zone.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diversity of historic environment assets 	Cropmark evidence of multi-period occupation, medieval rural settlement	3
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	pattern, mansion and park railway line, airfield	
• Survival	Archaeological deposits probably survive well. Extensive built heritage	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, some excavation reports	2
• Group Value Association	Medieval settlement pattern, historic villages, Roman complex	3
• Potential	Potential for a range below-ground archaeological deposits Built heritage likely to contain earlier structures	3
• Sensitivity to change	Historic buildings and settlements , and below ground deposits.	3
• Amenity Value	The villages have considerable historic interest value and could, in conjunction with their associated landscapes be promoted to residents and visitors	3

5.2.3 HECZ 2.3: Gainsford End and Almshouse Green

Summary: The zone lies on the boulder clay plateau and comprises an area of land to the north and east of Wethersfield Airfield. Roman occupation has been identified in the form of a Roman road bisecting the zone and a rich Roman burial. The historic settlement pattern survives well green and ends, dispersed moats, farms and halls.

Historic Landscape Character: The geology of this zone comprises an area of boulder clay plateau drained by a few small streams. The historic settlement pattern is dispersed, comprising greens, ends, halls, farms and moated sites. Listed buildings are present across the zone. The fieldscape is largely comprised of irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older), interspersed by the occasional common field which had been later enclosed

piecemeal in the late medieval and early post-medieval period. Areas of meadow pasture survive in the valley floor along side the stream. There has been considerable boundary loss especially in the 20th century. There are a number of small areas of ancient woodlands in the southern part of the zone.

Archaeological Character: Limited archaeological investigations have occurred in this rural zone. Aerial photographic evidence is largely confined to evidence of earlier field systems, or field boundaries lost to ‘agricultural improvements’ in the 20th century. A Roman road bisects the zone running roughly north to south. A Roman burial containing a significant assemblage of grave goods found to the west of Toppesfield indicates the presence of a settlement in the immediate vicinity. The historically dispersed and polyfocal settlement pattern will have shifted over the centuries and archaeological remains of medieval and early post-medieval date reflecting such shifts may be anticipated, as well as those remains beneath the surviving settlement pattern.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Roman burial and road, medieval rural settlement cropmarks	2
• Survival	Archaeological deposits survive well. built heritage	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic,	1
• Group Value Association	Medieval settlement pattern,	1
• Potential	Potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Historic buildings and settlements, and below ground deposits.	2
• Amenity Value	Limited amenity value as little is known of the zone	1

5.2.4 HECZ 2.4: Wethersfield Airfield

Summary: This zone comprises Wethersfield Airfield and its associated buildings located to No archaeological work has been undertaken within the zone although a moated site is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey maps. The airfield was opened in 1944 for use by the United States and Royal Air Force. Elements of the Airfield are still in use by the Ministry of Defence police.

Historic Landscape Character: The zone lies on the boulder clay plateau. The field pattern was predominately pre-18th century irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older). The historic settlement pattern was dispersed, comprising individual farmsteads. The zone comprises Wethersfield Airfield and its associated structures, The airfield opened in 1944, it was used by both the Royal Air Force and United States Army Air Force. After the war it was closed in 1946. In 1951, Wethersfield was reopened as a result of the Cold War and used until 1970 as a front line United States Air Force Fighter Base. It was held as a reserve airfield until 1993, after which it came under the control of the Ministry of Defence Police. The airfield was further developed after the end of the war resulting in the lengthening of the main runway and the removal of many of the dispersal sites. However, the original layout is easily discernable and a number of World War II buildings survive. An area of ancient woodland survives within the northern part of the zone, this woodland was much more extensive prior to the construction of the airfield.

Archaeological Character: There has been little archaeological fieldwork in the area, due to the lack of access to the zone as well as lack of development. Cropmark evidence comprising linear features which indicates some of the former field pattern. A single moated enclosure is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey maps within the zone which would have been backfilled and the house cleared in the 1940's. The airfield is well preserved and further below-ground remains relating to its development are anticipated to survive. Experience from excavation on other World War II airfield sites (as at Stansted and Rivenhall) have demonstrated the survival below-ground of earlier phases of occupation of the site despite the surface changes.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Medieval settlement WWII airfield	1
• Survival	Little development, WWII airfield survives well	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, airfield survey	2
• Group Value Association	WWII airfield	2
• Potential	Potential for below-ground archaeological deposits,	2
• Sensitivity to change	Limited sensitivity especially within airfield area	2
• Amenity Value	Airfield promotable with other similar sites.	2

5.3 HECA 3

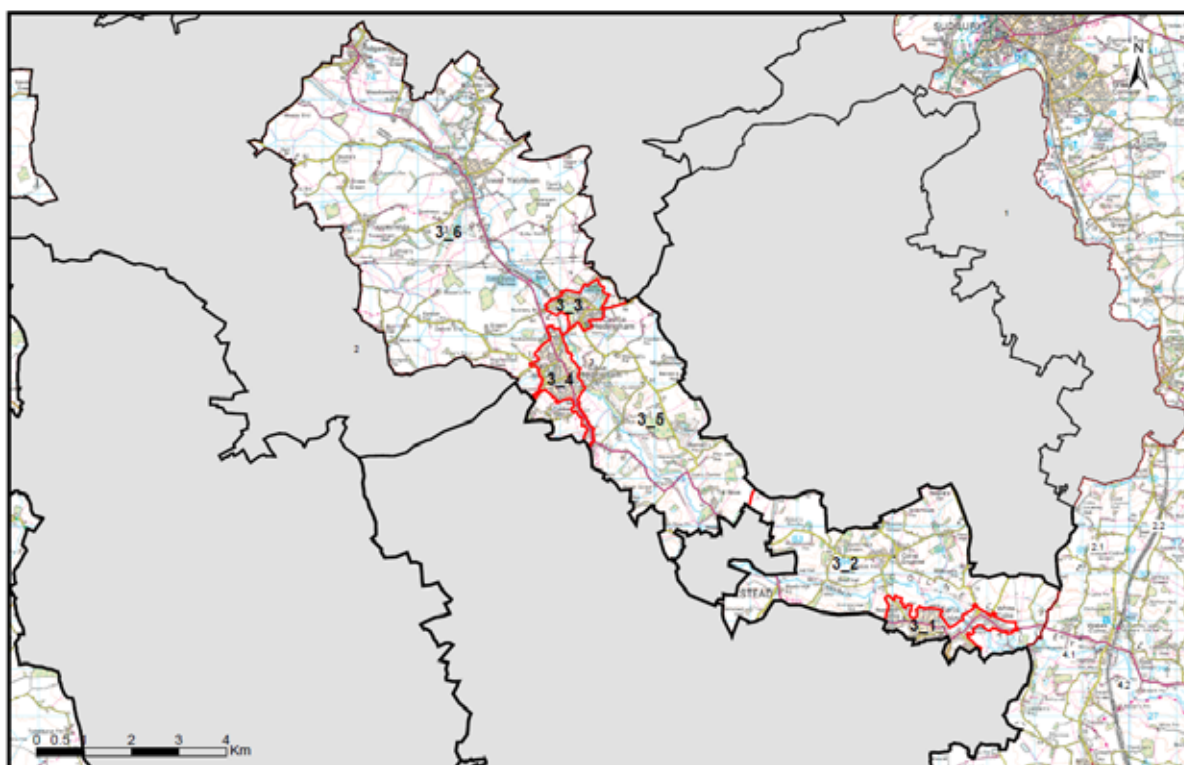


Fig.23 Historic Environment Character Zones in HECA 3

5.3.1 HECZ 3.1: Earls Colne

Summary:

This zone comprises the historic town of Earls Colne and the adjacent settlement in White Colne parish. The historic town was largely linear in form, comprising roadside development on the west side of the River Colne, this was linked to a smaller settlement at White Colne is focussed on the green on Colneford Hill to the east of the river. A small Benedictine Priory was sited next to the river and there are numerous surviving historic buildings. The 19th century saw the rise of the Atlas Iron-Works as a major employer within the town and there are surviving examples of worker's housing and civic buildings associated with it.

Historic Urban Character: The zone comprises the historic town of Earls Colne and the historic village of White Colne, which are located on the west and east bank of the River Colne respectively. Ribbon development has now linked the two settlements. It is largely sited on Kesgrave sands and gravels, with London Clay and river terrace deposits exposed in the valley sides and deep alluvial deposits in the valley floor. Earls Colne is first referenced in a will dating to c.950. In 1045 there is a reference to a minster at Earls Colne, and in 1066 there was a village, a manor-house and two mills. William I granted the manor of Colne to the Earls of Oxford, and it remained in their possession until the 16th century. In 1101-7 Alberic de Vere founded a small Benedictine priory, between Earls Colne and White Colne. At this point Earls Colne became administratively two manors, the 'Earldom' manor and the Priory manor. At some point before 1309 the settlement was granted a market by the de Veres. Medieval Earls Colne was a long, thin straggling town, with two foci. The larger of these was centred on the market area in the High Street in Earls Colne parish and the smaller is in a group of houses in White Colne parish clustered around a triangular green. The two centres are linked by Upper and Lower Holt Street, Earls Colne Parish Church and the Priory. The High Street widens out to accommodate a market at its western end. The White Colne end of the settlement comprised a small cluster of houses set around the triangular green on Colneford Hill. The manor and church complex of White Colne is located a kilometre to the north in HECZ 3.2.

Earls Colne remained a small market town serving the needs of the immediate area, the only major change being the closure of the Priory in 1536 by the Dissolution of the Monasteries. In the mid-19th century when Reuben Hunt founded the Atlas Ironworks on the south-western edge of the town. This became the town's principal employer and benefactor, and a dominant force in its subsequent development. Hunt erected a large number of dwellings to house his managers and workforce and also provided a number of public buildings and the supply of water, gas and sewerage. However the eastern side of the town was largely unaffected by these developments and maintained an essentially vernacular appearance. There were two maltings along Holt Street, a corn mill and railway station. There are a number of areas of open space, including part of the former water-meadows adjoining the river. There has been only small-scale modern expansion to the town to form a clear nucleated built up area occupying the west of the zone, much of the historic core is a Conservation Area, with many Listed Buildings.

Archaeological Character: Excavations in 1937 uncovered Roman foundations of what may have been a villa on the site of the later priory, part of the priory walls were traced at the same time. The majority of the surviving medieval buildings are concentrated in the High Street. Of these, six are thought to be 14th century and five 15th century in date. The Red Lion Public House may incorporate the remnants of a late 14th century public building. Practically opposite it stood the market toll house. There is a second group of 14th century houses on Colneford Hill in White Colne. Part of the Atlas Ironworks survives, as do many of the worker's houses and public buildings built by Reuben Hunt. Although there has been only small-scale archaeological interventions within the zone, these have established the survival of archaeological features and deposits below-ground, and the built heritage (much of which is Listed) forms a significant resource. There is considerable potential for the survival of palaeoenvironmental evidence in the alluvium in the valley floor, as well as in deeper features such as wells and cess-pits.

A detailed assessment has been produced on the historic town of Earls Colne (Medlycott 1999).

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Medieval and post-medieval archaeological deposits, listed buildings, street pattern	3
• Survival	Extensive survival of listed buildings, below-ground deposits survive in undisturbed areas	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, Historic town survey, excavation reports	3
• Group Value Association	Historic town	3
• Potential	Good potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Whole zone highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	The historic development of the town provides a high amenity value	3

5.3.2 HECZ 3.2: Colne Valley, Halstead to Earls Colne

Summary:

This zone consists of the valley of the River Colne between Halstead and Earls Colne. It is a rural landscape, with dispersed polyfocal settlements. There were extensive areas of meadow pasture adjacent to the river settlement, together with crop-mark evidence for water management and a number of water mills. There is archaeological evidence for Pleistocene faunal remains, as well as occupation from the Mesolithic period onwards.

Historic Landscape Character: The zone comprises the valley of the River Colne between Halstead and Earls Colne which is a broad valley with gently sloping sides. The geology consists of Boulder Clay on the higher ground, with Kesgrave sands and gravels, London Clay and river terrace deposits exposed in the valley sides and alluvial deposits in the valley floor. The historic field pattern is a mix of irregular and regular fields, with meadow pasture adjacent to the river. Although there has been boundary loss in the late 20th century, the overall grain of the fieldscape survives and

much of the meadow pasture is still extant. There were only a few small areas of woodland, largely on the northern side of the valley, as well as a number of relatively recent small-scale willow plantations on former meadow pasture. The historic settlement pattern was dispersed and polyfocal, comprising church/manor complexes, farmsteads and cottages, linked by linear greens and ends. The only nucleated settlement was that of Colne Engaine, and it was very small, this settlement pattern has survived into the modern period. There are a number of water-mills on the Colne and its tributaries.

Archaeological Character: There have been only limited archaeological investigations, due to the absence of recent development. However crop-mark evidence, coupled with chance finds have established that there has been activity in the zone from the prehistoric period onwards. These include the cropmarks of a possible Iron Age enclosure at Bluebridge Farm, a Bronze Age ring-ditch and Roman settlement site at Peeks Corner, and a Bronze Age cemetery, a Mesolithic occupation site and Pleistocene faunal remains from White Colne. The built heritage (much of which is Listed) forms a significant resource. There is potential for the survival of below-ground remains relating to the historic settlement pattern. There is considerable potential for the survival of palaeoenvironmental evidence in the alluvium in the valley floor. The industrial heritage of the area includes the former line of the Colne Valley railway, several brick-making sites and numerous mills, the crop-marks also show evidence for water-management in the valley floor in the form of drainage gullies, which show as cropmarks.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Archaeological sites and finds, listed buildings, historic landscape	3
• Survival	Extensive survival of listed buildings, below-ground deposits relatively undisturbed	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, crop-marks	2
• Group Value Association	Historic landscape	2
• Potential	Good potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	2

• Sensitivity to change	Whole zone highly sensitive to change due to lack of modern development	3
• Amenity Value	Historic landscape and associated structures have potential for promotion of area	2

5.3.3 HECZ 3.3: Castle Hedingham

Summary:

This zone comprises the castle and the medieval and post-medieval town which developed immediately to the south of the outer bailey. There is some small-scale modern development on the eastern and western edges of the town.

Historic Urban Character: The zone comprises the historic town of Castle Hedingham. The castle is located on the highest point within the zone on boulder clay, the remainder of the zone slopes gently downwards to the south-west to the River Colne, with Kesgrave sands and gravels, head deposits and river terrace deposits exposed in the valley sides and alluvial deposits in the valley floor. There was a Saxon settlement at Castle Hedingham at the end of the Saxon period. Hedingham was granted to Aubrey de Vere in 1066, and he probably erected a ringwork shortly after being confirmed in his new lands. The ringwork had two baileys, a small inner one on the north-eastern side and a larger outer bailey on the south-western side. The stone keep has been dated stylistically to c.1125-1160. In about 1496 the thirteenth Earl undertook a major rebuilding programme, within the old ringwork stood the keep, a stone gatehouse, the Great Brick Tower, a brick turret, chapel, hall and pantries, kitchens, stone lodgings and a well. There was a curtain wall on two sides of the mound. The inner bailey contained stables, a brewhouse, barns, a granary and a tennis court and archery butts.

The medieval town of Castle Hedingham is sited on the south-western side of the outer bailey. It was roughly hemispherical in plan, with the outer bailey forming the limit of the town on one side and the town defensive ditch on the other sides. In the

centre was the church with a triangular market-place immediately to the east of it. In the later medieval period the town extended into the bailey area, and the northern limits of the town became Bayley Street and the Sudbury Road. Notable medieval buildings within the town include the 12th century church, the 15th century 'Old Moot Hall' and a probable public building to the rear of the Hedingham House. There also used to be a Benedictine Nunnery to the north of the town and a hospital 'at the gates of the castle'.

In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the castle buildings, with the exception of the keep, were systematically demolished. Hedingham Castle House was constructed in the eighteenth century in the inner bailey and the castle and its grounds made into a landscape park. The post-medieval cartographic evidence shows that the morphology of post-medieval town differed little from that of the medieval town. Although the nunnery and hospital were no longer extant, presumably being casualties of the Reformation. There has been only small-scale modern expansion to the town, much of the historic core is a Conservation Area, with many Listed Buildings, the castle is a Scheduled Monument.

Archaeological Character: The archaeological character of Castle Hedingham is outstanding, with much of the ring-work surviving together with the stone keep, which is considered to be the finest surviving Norman keep in the country. The plan of the medieval town remains virtually intact and there are numerous Listed Buildings, reflecting its development through the centuries. Excavations took place in the castle in the mid 19th century, these uncovered the foundations of the Great Brick Tower, two other brick towers, the Chapel, the hall with pantries and cellars below, the rubble foundations of the Gatehouse Tower and part of the curtain wall. The RCHME has carried out a geophysical survey of the interior of the ringwork, and in 1995 they surveyed the castle earthworks. The scale of archaeological work within the town has necessarily been limited by the lack of large-scale modern development, however the excavations and watching-briefs that have taken place have established the widespread survival of archaeological features and deposits relating to earlier phases of the town's development. A geophysical survey of the playing field containing a length of the town defences and the hospital site has been undertaken. There is considerable potential for the survival of palaeoenvironmental

evidence in the alluvium in the valley floor, as well as in deeper features such as the defensive ditches, wells and cess-pits.

A detailed assessment has been produced on the historic town of Castle Hedingham (Medlycott 1999).

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Medieval and post-medieval archaeological deposits, listed buildings, castle, historic town	3
• Survival	Extensive survival of listed buildings, castle keep and earthworks, below-ground deposits	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, Historic town survey, excavation reports, geophysical and landscape surveys	3
• Group Value Association	Historic town and castle	3
• Potential	High potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Whole zone highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	The historic town and castle is of high amenity value	3

5.3.4 HECZ 3.4: Sible Hedingham

Summary:

This zone forms the historic village of Sible Hedingham. The village had two distinct historic foci, centred on the church and main road respectively. These are now linked by modern development forming a large nucleated settlement. The village was the centre of a medieval pottery industry.

Historic Urban Character: The settlement of Sible Hedingham lies on the main road from Braintree to Haverhill, on the western slopes of the Colne Valley. The historic

settlement had two distinct foci, the oldest apparently being around the church on the western side of the present village and the second on the main road, centred on Swan Street and Alderford Street. The underlying geology largely comprises Kesgrave sands and gravels, with alluvial deposits adjoining the River Colne and one of its tributary streams. The Church Street historic core, which is a Conservation area, is dominated by the 14th century church on the highest ground, and then a mix of houses, cottages and farms, as well as the rectory, strung out along Church Street, many of these are Listed. There is also a Scheduled moat to the south of Sugar Loaves Lane. The second historic core at the southern end of the town is also a Conservation Area. It developed along the main road, and comprises Queen Street, Potter Street, Swan Street and Alderford Street. Many of the buildings are Listed, they include Alderford Mill. Expansion to the north along Swan Street began in the early 19th century, but the majority of the development that now forms a large nucleated settlement including the historic cores, dates to the second half of the 20th century.

Archaeological Character: There has been only very limited archaeological work within this zone. However on the basis of comparison with similar sites, the survival of below-ground archaeological features can be anticipated, particularly in the historic cores. The place-name Potter Street is probably linked to the important mid-twelfth to fourteenth century Hedingham pottery industry. The remains of several production sites have been found, mostly from a roughly triangular area around the villages of Sible Hedingham, Gosfield and Halstead. The Listed buildings represent an important resource in understanding the development of the village. There is considerable potential for the survival of palaeoenvironmental evidence in the alluvium in the valley floor, as well as in deeper features such as wells and cess-pits.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Historic village, Scheduled moat, Listed buildings,	3
• Survival	Extensive survival of listed buildings, Scheduled moat	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic	2
• Group Value Association	Historic village	2

• Potential	Potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Historic cores highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	The historic village has an amenity value	2

5.3.5 HECZ 3.5: The Colne Valley from the Hedinghams to Halstead

Summary:

This zone comprises the Colne Valley between the Hedinghams and Halstead. This is a historic landscape of regular fields, extensive water meadows and meadow-pasture along the river and dispersed settlement. There are crop-marks and sites relating to earlier settlement, including the remains of the medieval Hedingham pottery industry.

Historic Landscape Character: This zone represents the Colne Valley between the Hedinghams and Halstead. The geology comprises Boulder Clay on the higher ground, with Kesgrave sands and gravels, head deposits and river terrace deposits exposed in the valley sides, together with alluvial deposits in the valley floor. The historic field pattern is largely regular in form, with smaller areas of irregular fields. There were extensive areas of meadow pasture along the river valley and that of its tributary, some of which survive, and cropmark evidence also suggests the presence of former water meadows in the valley floor immediately adjacent to Sible Hedingham. The zone is bisected by the former Colne Valley railway line which ran roughly parallel to the river. Other landscape features include the park at Dynes Hall and the woodland, a number of woods have been partially planted with coniferous woodland, either from new as at Wallace's Plantation or as replanting as in FitzJohns Grove, whilst there are relatively recent willow plantations beside the river. Historically the settlement was very dispersed and rather sparse, comprising individual manors, farms and cottages. The river supported two mills, Hulls Mill and Box Mill. The historic settlement pattern largely survives and many of the buildings are Listed.

Archaeological Character: There has been some archaeological work within this zone. Crop-marks have identified prehistoric ring-ditches and enclosures on the gravels close to the river. Part of a Roman industrial site, possibly associated with an adjacent villa/farm was excavated to the south of Castle Hedingham. There is a scatter of Roman finds at Brook Street, probably from a farmstead associated with a crossing of the river. The area also includes the remains of several production sites relating to the important medieval Hedingham pottery industry. There are extensive crop-mark complexes relating to medieval or post-medieval water management in the valley floor. The Listed buildings represent an important resource in understanding the development of the landscape. There is considerable potential for the survival of palaeoenvironmental evidence in the alluvium in the valley floor. The woodland and park may preserve earthworks of a multi-period date.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Historic landscape and settlement pattern, crop-marks	3
• Survival	Extensive survival of listed buildings, crop-marks, landscape features	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, small-scale excavations	2
• Group Value Association	Historic landscape, water meadows	2
• Potential	Potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Historic landscape highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	The historic landscape and river has an amenity value	2

5.3.6 HECZ 3.6: The Colne Valley from the Hedingham's to Ridgewell

Summary:

This zone comprises the northern part of the Colne Valley between the Hedinghams and Ridgewell. The zone includes the historic villages of Toppesfield, Great Yeldham and Ridgewell.

Historic Landscape Character: This zone comprises the northern part of the Colne Valley and its tributary streams between the Hedinghams and Ridgewell. The geology largely comprises Boulder Clay, with head deposits and alluvium in the valley floors, and a small area of Kesgrave sands and gravels at the southern end of the zone. The historic field pattern is a mix of irregular and regular fields, with the latter being more common on the northern side of the river. There has been late 20th century boundary loss, but the overall grain of the landscape survives. There were extensive areas of meadow pasture along the river valley and that of its tributaries, much of which survives. There are five surviving areas of Ancient Woodland. The road pattern is twisting and intricate, often sunken and sometimes widening into small triangular or linear greens. The zone is bisected by the former line of the Colne Valley Railway, a small portion of which is still in use. The three historic villages of Toppesfield, Great Yeldham and Ridgewell are all sited in the northern half of the zone. The historic cores of these are designated as Conservation Areas. Ridgewell developed as a church/manor complex next to a pair of conjoined triangular green, the settlement was strung out around the edge of the green. Great Yeldham by contrast developed at the point developed on a crossing-point of the river, with the church/manorial complex sited close to it on the main road along with some ribbon development. Toppesfield was, and is, the smallest of the three villages, and was based around the church/manor complex. The remainder of the historic settlement comprises dispersed manors, moated sites, farmsteads and cottages, a pattern that survives into the present day. Many of the buildings are Listed.

Archaeological Character: There has been limited archaeological work within this zone. However crop-mark analysis has identified ring-ditches and enclosures of probable prehistoric and Roman date. There is widespread evidence for Iron Age and Roman activity within the zone in the form of stray finds. The Listed Buildings represent an important resource in understanding the development of the landscape and significant elements of the medieval and post-medieval landscape survive. There is considerable potential for the survival of palaeoenvironmental evidence in the

alluvium in the valley floor. The woodland may well preserve earthworks of a multi-period date.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Historic landscape and settlement pattern, crop-marks	3
• Survival	Extensive survival of listed buildings, crop-marks, landscape features	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, small-scale excavations	2
• Group Value Association	Historic landscape	2
• Potential	Potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Historic landscape highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	The historic landscape, villages and river have an amenity value	2

5.4 HECA 4



Fig.24 Historic Environment Character Zones in HECA 4

5.4.1 HECZ 4.1: Gestingthorpe and Wickham St Paul

Summary:

This zone comprises a rural landscape to the north of Halstead. The present landscape largely reflects that of the medieval period with a very dispersed settlement pattern of halls, moats and farmsteads. Earlier remains include the Scheduled Roman villa at Gestingthorpe.

Historic Landscape Character: The geology comprises a mix of Boulder Clay, Kesgrave sands and gravels and head deposits. The topography is rolling, dipping down to the north into the valley of a tributary of the River Stour and the south into the Colne valley. The zone represents a rural landscape, historically the field pattern comprised a mix of irregular and rectilinear fields with dispersed greens, manors, farms and moated sites, a landscape pattern which has its origins in the medieval period. The only historic nucleated settlement is that of Wickham St Paul which was

centred on a triangular green. The field pattern has suffered boundary loss, through the amalgamation of smaller fields to make larger units. The road system has a high proportion of single-track lanes, many of which are sunken. There are a number of blocks of Ancient Woodland within the zone, including Wiggery Wood, Links Hill and Butlers and Waldegrave Woods.

Archaeological Character: With the notable exception of the work of the Cooper family at Gestingthorpe, there has been little archaeological work undertaken within the zone, however, it is known to contain multi-period archaeological deposits. Prehistoric and Roman occupation is recorded throughout the zone, which the Roman road from Braintree to Sudbury bisects. There is a possible barrow within Wickham St Paul churchyard. The Cooper family have excavated part of the Roman villa-complex at Gestingthorpe, together with evidence for earlier periods. The villa is a Scheduled Monument. There is considerable evidence for the dispersed medieval and post medieval settlement pattern in the form of moated sites and listed buildings within the zone. The woodland may well preserve earthworks of a multi-period date.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Roman villa, moats, listed buildings, field system, sunken lanes.	3
• Survival	Good survival due to limited development in zone. Field boundary loss.	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, excavation of villa	2
• Group Value Association	Medieval and post medieval settlement	2
• Potential	High potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Although field boundary loss has caused damage, the surviving landscape is of medieval origin	2
• Amenity Value	Limited value due to the limited knowledge we have of the zone.	1

5.4.2 HECZ 4.2: Area around Pebmarsh

Summary:

This zone comprises a rural landscape to the north of Halstead. The present landscape largely reflects that of the medieval period with a very dispersed settlement pattern of halls, moats and farmsteads.

Historic Landscape Character: The geology is overwhelmingly Boulder Clay, with small areas of Kesgrave sands and gravels and head deposits exposed in the valley sides. The zone comprises a rural landscape with a highly dispersed settlement pattern of manors, moated sites and farms, with its origins in the medieval period. The only settlement of any size is the small polyfocal settlement of Pebmarsh. Historically the field pattern largely comprised small irregular fields linked by an intricate network of lanes, many of which are sunken, and linear greens, again a pattern which has its origins in the medieval period. The field pattern has suffered boundary loss through the amalgamation of smaller fields to make larger units. There are numerous areas of Ancient Woodland within the zone.

Archaeological Character: There has been very little archaeological work undertaken within the zone due to the lack of recent development, however it is known to contain multi-period archaeological deposits. Roman occupation is recorded throughout the zone, including a possible villa/farmstead site at Countess Cross in White Colne parish. There is considerable evidence for the dispersed medieval and post medieval settlement pattern in the form of moated sites and listed buildings within the zone. The woodland may preserve earthworks of a multi-period date.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Roman settlement, moats, listed buildings, field system, sunken lanes.	3
• Survival	Good survival due to limited development in zone. Field boundary loss.	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, excavation of villa	2

• Group Value Association	Medieval and post medieval settlement	2
• Potential	High potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	High due to the rural nature of the area. Although field boundary loss has caused damage, the surviving landscape is of medieval origin	2
• Amenity Value	Limited value due to the limited knowledge we have of the zone.	1

5.5 HECA 5

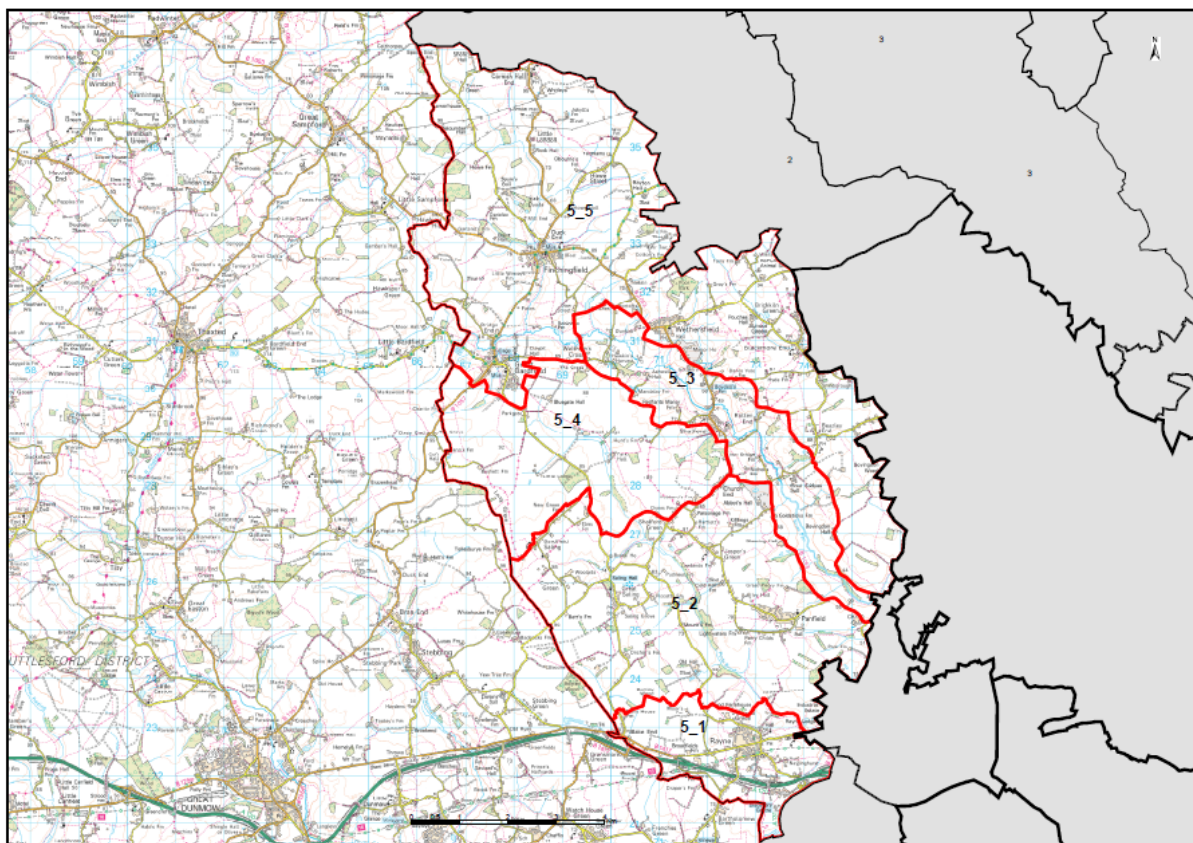


Fig. 25 Historic Environment Character Zones in HECA 5

5.5.1 HECZ 5.1: Rayne and immediate vicinity

Summary:

The zone comprises the village of Rayne and its immediate surroundings. Early occupation includes two Roman settlements located to the south of a major Roman road of Stane Street. The settlement developed as a manor/church complex with ribbon development along the main road. The historic village of Rayne has expanded significantly in the modern period however, a significant number of listed buildings survive with the Church and Hall complex at Rayne Hall Farm being a particularly fine example.

Historic Landscape Character: The geology of this zone comprises the boulder clay plateau. The centre part of the zone is occupied by the largely modern settlement of Rayne. The historic settlement comprised the manor/church complex set at the northern end of a small triangular green which in turn linked in with the much larger area of Felsted Common and a network of linear greens, there was further ribbon development along the main road and a scattering of cottages and farms around the fringes of the greens. Felsted Common was enclosed by the end of the 19th century. Development in the 20th century has created a large nucleated village. Outside of the village the settlement pattern comprises dispersed farmsteads, many of which are listed. Historic buildings line the main road, the area around Rayne Hall Farm and mark the former edges of the greens. A major modern road, the new A120, runs through the zone which is also bisected by both the historic Roman Road and the Flitch Way which was formerly the Railway line between Braintree and Bishop Stortford.

Archaeological Character: Roman occupation is attested by the presence of the Roman road of Stane Street, and two settlements identified during excavation on the new A120 route. Medieval settlement is well attested with the manor/church complex, settlement along the road frontage in Rayne and a number of farms located within the zone, many of which are listed. An iron foundry was located in the main street within Rayne which continued in production until the end of the 20th century. The Braintree to Bishops Stortford railway bisects the southern part of the area; it is now dismantled and the route a Country Park.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Roman settlement, medieval settlement pattern, iron foundry, railway	2
• Survival	Good survival of below ground deposits within undeveloped area.	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, excavation report	2
• Group Value Association	Medieval settlement pattern, historic railway	2
• Potential	Potential for below-ground archaeological deposits in undeveloped areas.	2
• Sensitivity to change	Historic buildings, especially church hall complex, and below ground deposits outside settlement area.	2
• Amenity Value	History of the development of Rayne would provide important amenity value to the local residents.	2

5.5.2 HECZ 5.2: Panfield and Saling

Summary:

The zone comprises the area around the modern villages of Panfield and Great Saling on the boulder clay plateau bisected by the Pods Brook. The historic settlement pattern survives well with dispersed moats, farms and manors. Within the landscape there has been considerable field boundary loss, although the meadow pasture around the Pods Brook survives well. Historic parkland at Abbots Hall and registered gardens at Great Saling survive well. Little archaeological work has been undertaken within the zone although cropmark evidence indicate multi-period archaeological are likely to be present .

Historic Landscape Character: The geology of this zone comprises the boulder clay plateau bisected by the valley of the Pods Brook. The historic settlement pattern was polyfocal and dispersed with green side settlement manor/church

complexes at both Great Saling and Panfield. Great Saling developed into a small nucleated village between the Hall and the Grove. Panfield had its origins as a loosely strung-out settlement around the fringes of a series of greens, with the manor and church sited at the eastern end of the largest green. There are two Registered Gardens, at Saling Hall and Saling Grove, and historic parkland at Abbots Hall, Shalford. The historic settlement pattern comprises greens and dispersed halls and farms many of which are listed. The roads are twisting and occasionally partially sunken. The fieldscape is largely comprised of irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older), interspersed by the occasional common field which had been enclosed by the late medieval or early post-medieval period. There are areas of surviving enclosed meadow pasture along the valley of the Pods Brook. There has been considerable boundary loss especially in the 20th century. There are a number of ancient woodlands. Andrewsfield on the western edge of the zone was constructed as a Second World War Airfield by the Americans being the first to open on April 24th 1943.

Archaeological Character: Only limited archaeological investigations have occurred in this rural zone. Aerial photographic evidence indicates multi-period occupation with the presence of a number of enclosures and ring ditches. The historically dispersed and polyfocal settlement pattern will have shifted over the centuries and archaeological remains of medieval and early post-medieval date reflecting such shifts may be anticipated. The Pods Brook has been exploited with a water mill located at Shalford Green probably having its origins in the medieval period.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	medieval settlement pattern, cropmarks, gardens, parkland	2
• Survival	Good survival of below ground deposits.	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, registered gardens	2
• Group Value Association	Medieval settlement pattern,	2
• Potential	Potential for below-ground archaeological	3

	deposits	
• Sensitivity to change	Historic buildings, church hall complex's, and below ground deposits.	3
• Amenity Value	Historic Landscape features and gardens have amenity value	2

5.5.3 HECZ 5.3: Pant Valley

Summary:

The zone comprises the valley of the River Pant and its tributaries . There is alluvium in the valley floors and glaciofluvial sands and gravels exposed in some of the valley sides. The broad outline of the medieval field and settlement pattern, survives well, although boundary loss has occurred.

Historic Landscape Character: This zone comprises the valley of the River Pant with alluvial deposits in the valley floor and sand and gravels on the valley sides. The historic settlement pattern is very dispersed comprising a single nucleated settlement at Shalford with its church hall complex and further halls and farms overlooking the Pant. The fieldscape is largely consists of irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older), with areas of enclosed meadow pastures along the river/stream valley bottoms. There are small blocks of ancient woodlands surviving.

Archaeological Character: Palaeoenvironmental deposits are likely to survive within the Pant valley. Multi period occupation is indicated by cropmark evidence in the form ring ditches and enclosures on the slopes of the valley.. Roman settlement in the valley has been identified with a Roman complex, including buildings at Hawkins Harvest. Medieval settlement is well attested within the valley with a number of manors and farms located within the zone, many of which are listed. A large number of cropmarks are recorded both on the valley slopes and on the valley floor associated with water management.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Cropmarks (multi-period), Roman	3
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	settlement, medieval settlement pattern, meadow pasture	
• Survival	Good survival with preserved palaeo-environmental deposits in the base of the valley and cropmarks on the slopes. Very little development	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, excavation reports	2
• Group Value Association	Medieval settlement pattern, cropmarks	2
• Potential	High potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Highly sensitive to change both in the form of present built and historic landscape and buried archaeology.	3
• Amenity Value	Limited potential at present due to little detailed study in the valley.	1

5.5.4 HECZ 5.4: Land west of Shalford

Summary:

The zone comprises the area to the west of Shalford on the boulder clay plateau bisected by the Pods Brook. The historic settlement pattern survives well with dispersed farms and manors. The historic landscape survives very well with large irregular fields surviving as they appear on the first edition of the OS (1876). The zone contains linear greens, most of which survive.

Historic Landscape Character: The geology of this zone comprises the boulder clay plateau bisected by the northern end of the Pods Brook.. The historic settlement comprises manors and farms. Only a single road bisects the zone. The fieldscape is largely composed of large irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older), interspersed by the occasional common field which had been enclosed in the late medieval or early post-medieval

period, with areas of enclosed meadow pastures along the valley of the Pods Brook. A number of green lane bisects the zone. There are small blocks of ancient woodlands throughout the zone.

Archaeological Character: Only limited archaeological investigations have occurred in this rural zone. Aerial photographic evidence indicates multi-period occupation with the presence of a number of enclosures and ring ditches. The historically dispersed and polyfocal settlement pattern will have shifted over the centuries and archaeological remains of medieval and early post-medieval date reflecting such shifts may be anticipated.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	medieval settlement pattern, cropmarks	2
• Survival	Presumed good survival of below ground deposits. Historic landscape, green lanes etc	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic,	2
• Group Value Association	Medieval settlement and landscape pattern,	2
• Potential	Potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Historic buildings, landscape features, and below ground deposits.	3
• Amenity Value	The Green Lanes have the potential for promotion as historic walks?	2

5.5.5 HECZ 5.5: Villages of North West Braintree

Summary:

The zone comprises the area around the villages of Great Bardfield, Finchingfield and Wethersfield, all of which contain conservation areas, on the boulder clay plateau dissected by tributaries of the River Pant. Prehistoric occupation is shown by cropmarks of enclosures and ring ditches. Roman occupation is attested by several farmsteads/villas in the vicinity of Finchingfield. The historic settlement pattern survives well with nucleated villages dispersed moats, farms and manors. Within the landscape there has been considerable field boundary loss.

Historic Landscape Character: The geology of this zone comprises the boulder clay plateau dissected by the tributaries of the River Pant. The historic settlement includes the nucleated settlements of Great Bardfield, Finchingfield and Wethersfield (All three have conservation areas at their centre), ends and greens and dispersed manors, farms and moated sites, many of which are listed. The roads are twisting and often partially sunken. Spains Hall in the north of the zone has an important registered garden dating to the 17th century. The fieldscape is largely comprised of irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older), interspersed by the occasional common field which had been enclosed in the late medieval or early post-medieval period. There has been considerable boundary loss especially in the 20th century. There are a number of ancient woodlands, largely in the centre of the zone in the vicinity of Finchingfield. A number of dispersed military sites situated in rural areas, associated to the Second World War airfield at Wethersfield are located in the eastern part of this zone.

Archaeological Character: Limited archaeological investigations have occurred in this rural zone. Aerial photographic evidence indicates multi-period occupation with the presence of a number of enclosures and ring ditches. There are a number of Roman farm/villa complexes of relatively high status, these have been identified through chance finds and antiquarian investigations. The historically dispersed and polyfocal settlement pattern will have shifted over the centuries and archaeological remains of medieval and early post-medieval date reflecting such shifts may be anticipated. A number of the moated sites in the north are protected as scheduled monuments.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Multi-period settlement including, Roman settlement, medieval rural settlement pattern, cropmarks, garden	3
• Survival	Good survival of heritage assets.	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, registered garden, excavation reports	2
• Group Value Association	Medieval settlement pattern, historic villages	3
• Potential	Potential for below-ground archaeological deposits Built heritage likely to contain earlier structures	3
• Sensitivity to change	Historic buildings and settlements, and below ground deposits.	3
• Amenity Value	Historic villages have high amenity value and could have their associated landscapes promoted.	3

5.6 HECA 6



Fig.26 Historic Environment Character Zones in HECA 6

5.6.1 HECZ 6.1: Blackwater Valley

Summary:

This zone comprises the valley of the Blackwater running from the northern edge of Braintree to Coggeshall. The valley has been exploited from the prehistoric period. Prehistoric burial evidence may be indicated by cropmarks of a number of ring ditches. There is Roman occupation is evident along the length of the zone. During the medieval period there was a dispersed settlement pattern manor/church complexes, farms and moated sites. The base of the valley contains meadow pasture, probably of ancient perhaps medieval, origin.

Historic Landscape Character: The geology comprises alluvial deposits in the base of the valley with Kesgrave sand and gravels on the valley slopes. The zone is bisected by the Roman road, Stane Street, which ran from Braughing to Colchester.

During the medieval period there was a dispersed settlement pattern with manor/church complexes, farms and moated sites. The fieldscape is complex, comprising a mix of pre-18th century irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older) and pre-18th century co-axial fields (also of probable medieval origin), the latter in particular respond to the local topography running at right-angles to the valley slopes. Meadow pasture survives in the base of the Blackwater valley, with cropmark evidence indicating water management along its length. At the eastern end extensive willow plantations now occupy the meadow pasture.

Archaeological Character: The alluvial deposits in the base of the valley have the potential to contain important palaeoenvironmental deposits. Cropmark evidence indicates multi period occupation. The valley was exploited throughout the Roman period, the main Roman road run through the centre of it, and a number of Roman sites have been recorded on the upper slopes of the valley. The slopes of the valley and the river were exploited throughout the medieval period with manor/church complexes, farms and moats.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Cropmarks, Roman road and settlement, medieval settlement pattern listed buildings, meadow pasture, possible palaeoenvironmental deposits	3
• Survival	Little development, archaeological deposits well preserved, historic built environment in good condition	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic,	2
• Group Value Association	Medieval settlement, Roman road and associated settlement	3
• Potential	High potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Whole zone highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	Historic Environment could be promoted	2

	along side natural environment within the valley	
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5.6.2 HECZ 6.2: Land north east of Braintree

Summary

An area of boulder clay plateau dissected by numerous tributaries of the rivers Colne and Blackwater. Although little archaeological work has been undertaken in the zone there are indications of multi period occupation. A striking characteristic of this zone is a belt of ancient woods running along the top of the ridge. In addition there are a number of landscaped parks, also located along the top of the ridge, including Gosfield Hall, and Gosfield Place. The Historic settlement pattern is dispersed and the field pattern is predominately composed pre-18th century irregular fields of ancient, probably medieval origin, with some enclosed meadow along the stream valleys.

Historic Landscape Character: The zone is largely covered by boulder clay deposits, with sand and gravel and London Clay exposed along the valley sides with alluvial in valley bottoms. Areas of ancient woodland run along the ridge including Gosfield, Parkhall and Rayne Hatch woods. The field pattern is predominately pre-18th century irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older), with moderate to high post-1950s boundary loss. There are areas of historic enclosed meadow pasture of ancient, possibly medieval origin, on the valley floor of the Bourne Brook. There are a number of large landscaped parks, located along the top of the wooded ridge, these include Gosfield Hall, Gosfield Place and Marks Hall park. The historic settlement pattern is dispersed, comprising isolated manors, manor/church complexes, farms, moated sites, hamlets and the village of Gosfield. Gosfield had its origins as a manor/church complex, with a small scatter of adjacent settlement fringing the edge of a linear green. The settlement pattern is linked by a number of twisting and frequently sunken lanes.

The landscape is crossed by the Roman road that is now the A131. This has left an imprint on the modern landscape, influencing field alignment and settlement

distribution, including the modern ribbon development along the A131. There has been limited aggregate extraction along the valleys at Bocking and Gosfield.

Archaeological Character: There has been little archaeological fieldwork in the area, due to the lack of recent development. The relative sparseness of the archaeological record is therefore more a reflection of this, rather than an indication of a genuine absence of archaeology. The earliest evidence for human occupation in the area dates to the Neolithic period, largely in the form of stray finds of flint tools. There are scatters of Bronze Age and Iron Age finds recorded, the former including a small hoard from Pattiswick. Roman occupation is found widely spread across the zone, including a possible temple site at Pattiswick. The zone is bisected by the Roman road from Braintree to Sudbury (A131/A1017). The zone is notable for the number of surviving ancient woods, some of which, preserve earthwork features relating not only to their own origins as medieval woodland but also to earlier periods. It is evident from the Domesday Book that the area was relatively densely settled in the Saxon and medieval periods. The historically dispersed and polyfocal settlement pattern will have shifted over the centuries and archaeological remains of medieval and early post-medieval date reflecting such shifts may be anticipated. Many of the moats survive as water-filled features, whilst others are visible as cropmarks. Two are scheduled, Stanstead Hall and Claverings farm

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Multiperiod settlement including Roman road and settlement, medieval settlement pattern listed buildings, meadow pasture, alluvial deposits	3
• Survival	Little development, archaeological deposits well preserved, standing assets in good condition. Woodland earthworks	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic,	2
• Group Value Association	Historic pattern of landscape and dispersed settlement	3
• Potential	High potential for below-ground	3

	archaeological deposits, earthworks within woods	
• Sensitivity to change	Whole zone highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	Historic Environment could be promoted along side natural environment within the woodland	2

5.6.3 HECZ 6.3: Earls Colne Airfield and Land to east of Marks Hall

Summary

The Historic settlement pattern is dispersed and the field pattern is predominately pre-18th century irregular fields of ancient, probably medieval origin. Northern part is dominated by the Second World War airfield at Earls Colne. Cropmarks may indicate multi-period occupation

Historic Landscape Character: The zone is largely covered by boulder clay deposits. The field pattern is predominately pre-18th century irregular fields of ancient, probably medieval origin, with moderate post 1950s boundary loss. The historic settlement pattern is dispersed, comprising individual farmsteads, there is some 20th century ribbon development along the road between White Colne and Coggeshall. The northern part of the zone is dominated by the Earls Colne Airfield which was opened in 1942, it was used by both the Royal Air Force and United States Army Air Force. During the war it was used primarily as a combat bomber airfield. After the war it was closed in 1955 after having been in a reserve status. Much of the airfield today is being used as a golf course and a flying club.

Archaeological Character: There has been little archaeological fieldwork in the area, due to the lack of recent development. The relative sparseness of the archaeological record is therefore more a reflection of this, rather than an indication

of a genuine absence of archaeology. Cropmark evidence comprising linear features and enclosures hints at occupation of multi-period date. The historically dispersed and polyfocal settlement pattern will have shifted over the centuries and archaeological remains of medieval and early post-medieval date reflecting such shifts may be anticipated.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Medieval settlement WWII airfield	1
• Survival	Little development, standing assets in good condition.	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, airfield survey	2
• Group Value Association	WWII airfield	2
• Potential	Potential for below-ground archaeological deposits,	2
• Sensitivity to change	Limited sensitivity especially within airfield area	2
• Amenity Value	Airfield promotable	2

5.6.4 HECZ 6.4: Marks Hall and Robins Brook

Summary

The zone is part of the boulder clay plateau and is bisected by the Robins Brook. The northern part of the zone comprises the Marks Hall Estate which originates as a Domesday Manor with later medieval house and deer park. Extensive ancient woodland survives within the zone, with the deer park planted by the forestry commission in the 20th century. There are a number of find spots of Neolithic flint artifacts being recorded from the zone.

Historic Landscape Character: The zone is largely covered by boulder clay deposits with sand and gravel on the valley slopes and alluvial deposits in the valley of the Robins Brook. The zone is dominated by the Marks Hall estate and its ancient woodland. The deer park, which dates back to at least the 16th century, was passed

to the forestry commission for planting in the 20th century. It is now a garden and arboretum. The settlement pattern is very dispersed outside of the estate with moated sites and farms. Outside of the estate the field pattern comprised irregular fields of probable medieval origin. Many of the field boundaries have now been lost to 20th century field enlargement. During the Second World War a number of dispersed military storage areas were developed within the historic woodland.

Archaeological Character: There has been little archaeological fieldwork in the area, due to the lack of recent development. The base of the valley of the Robins Brook contains alluvial deposits which have the potential to preserve palaeo-environmental information. Early prehistoric occupation is identified from a number of find spots of Neolithic flint work. Large quantities of Roman pottery have been recovered from north of Coggeshall indicating the location of a Roman settlement probably set back from the Roman road. The historically dispersed and polyfocal settlement pattern will have shifted over the centuries and archaeological remains of medieval and early post-medieval date reflecting such shifts may be anticipated. The woodland contains earthworks associated to woodland management, but there is also the potential of earlier earthworks surviving within them. During the Second World War the woodland was used to camouflage dispersal sites associated with Earls Colne Airfield.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Neolithic finds, Roman settlement, medieval settlement, historic park, 2 nd WW dispersal sites	3
• Survival	Below ground deposits and earthworks, standing assets in good condition, woodlands	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, airfield survey	2
• Group Value Association	Parkland features	2
• Potential	potential for below-ground archaeological deposits, alluvial deposits and earthworks	3

	within the woodland	
• Sensitivity to change	Highly sensitive, important woodland	3
• Amenity Value	Marks Hall important in promoting the history of the zone. Further work could be achieved on promoting the history of the estate.	2

5.6.5 HECZ 6.5: Gosfield airfield and adjacent landscape

Summary

An area of boulder clay plateau, the landscape is largely flat dominated by the remains of the 2nd World War airfield at Gosfield. The historic settlement pattern was dispersed green side settlement and individual and farms. The field pattern is predominately pre-18th century irregular fields of ancient probably medieval origin, although the zone there has been considerable field boundary loss.

Historic Landscape Character: The zone is situated on the boulder clay plateau, dissected by the head waters of the Bourne Brook, the northern edge of the zone slopes down into the Colne valley. The field pattern is predominately pre-18th century irregular fields of ancient probably medieval origin, with considerable post-1950s boundary loss can be described as significant. The historic settlement pattern is dispersed, comprising greens and farms some of which are moated sites,. The settlement pattern is linked by a number of twisting and frequently sunken lanes. There are five areas of ancient woodland, none particularly large, and no woodland loss since 1881. The south eastern part of the zone is dominated by the 2nd World War Airfield at Gosfield. This American built wartime airfield opened in the Autumn of 1943, housing both fighters and bombers of the USAAF 9th AF. The RAF moved in and used the airfield in March 1945 for operation Varsity before it closed in later 1945. Gosfield was equipped with 3 runways, perimeter track, 50 loop dispersals and bomb stores. The airfield site has reverted to agriculture but the E-W runway remains to its original extent; elements of the perimeter track remain as does part of

the bomb stores track with two fusing sheds associated with the bomb stores and the control tower along with 3 Nissen huts.

Archaeological Character: There has been little archaeological fieldwork in the area, due to the lack of recent development. The relative sparseness of the archaeological record is therefore probably more a reflection of this, rather than an indication of a genuine absence of archaeology. Evidence from aerial photographs show a large number of linear cropmarks, many of which relate to the considerable field boundary loss within the zone. They also show a number of ring ditches which are likely to be ploughed out burial mounds, possibly of Bronze Age date. There is the potential for surviving below-ground remains relating to the shifting historic dispersed settlement pattern, both on currently occupied sites and elsewhere. The World War II airfield was constructed on the site of a World War I airfield, of which nothing now survives.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Prehistoric monuments, medieval settlement pattern, listed buildings, World War II airfield	2
• Survival	Little development, standing assets in good condition. Airfield partially survives	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, airfield report	2
• Group Value Association	World War II airfield	2
• Potential	Potential for below-ground archaeological deposits of multi-period date,	2
• Sensitivity to change	Limited sensitivity due to the construction of airfield and loss of landscape features	2
• Amenity Value	History of airfield could be promoted	1

5.6.6 HECZ 6.6: Chalkney Wood

Summary

The zone sits on the Boulder Clay Plateau overlooking the Colne Valley. The zone comprises the ancient Woodlands of Chalkney Wood. The woods were owned by the De Veres who used them for the keeping of wild boar until the time of Henry VIII. Significant earthworks survive include a bank and ditch surrounding the woods, a Roman road and series of hollow ways.

Historic Landscape Character: The zone is largely covered by boulder clay although it is interspersed with sand and gravel. The zone comprises the medieval lime woodland of Chalkney Wood, belonging to the De Vere family who were the Earls of Oxford and owned Earls Colne. The De Veres had enclosed the woods and was used by them for the keeping of wild boar until the time of Henry VIII. Several ponds have been created in the woodland.

Archaeological Character: The archaeological character is dominated by the woodland with most of the known archaeological features being of medieval or later date. There are massive woodland banks with an external ditch forming the boundary of the woodland. A number of shallow hollow ways are found within the wood and are thought to be associated with medieval activity. The earliest known feature comprise a hollow way, interpreted as the route of a Roman road. The ponds within the woodland may contain silt deposits which could preserve important pollen and other environmental indicators.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Roman road, woodland bank, woodland management features	2
• Survival	Below ground deposits and earthworks,	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, woodland survey	2
• Group Value Association	Woodland features	3
• Potential	potential for below-ground archaeological deposits, earthworks within the woodland, environmental deposits within ponds.	3
• Sensitivity to change	Highly sensitive, important woodland	3

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amenity Value 	Promotion of the history woodland alongside that of the natural environment.	2
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5.7 HECA 7



Fig.27 Historic Environment Character Zones in HECA 7

5.7.1 HECZ 7.1: Historic Halstead

Summary:

This zone forms the medieval and post-medieval historic core of Halstead. It is located mainly on the northern valley slope of the River Blackwater. The original focus was around the church at the top of the slope, before gradually expanding down-slope along the High Street. The 19th century saw the rise of the silk-industry in Halstead and the zone includes the site of the Courtauld Silk-mills as well as

numerous examples of workers housing and civic buildings associated with the Courtaulds.

Historic Urban Character: The zone is located mainly on the steep northern slope of the Blackwater valley. The geology comprises boulder clay on the highest ground, with Kesgrave sands and gravels and London Clay exposed in the valley sides and deep alluvial deposits in the valley floor. The zone comprises the historic core of Halstead, centred on the High Street. The oldest portion of the town was at the top of the hill around the Church of St Andrew and Market Hill. In the 13th century the town expanded down the High Street to Bridge Street. The bridge dates to the late medieval period, but there must have been either an earlier predecessor or ford at this point. It is not known at what date the town expanded across the river, but the southern bank was certainly developed by the 18th century. There are a large number of Listed 15th, 16th and 17th century buildings along the High Street. To the north of the church, in Head Street was the site of the Bois Hall Manor-house, one of the two manors which held Halstead in the medieval period. A small area of post-medieval ribbon development links Bois Hall to the medieval core.

Halstead remained a small market-town throughout the early post-medieval period. The later post-medieval period saw the introduction of the silk weaving trade in the eighteenth century and in particular, the building of Courtauld's silk factory in 1828. A medieval water-mill stood on the site of Townsford Mill, it was rebuilt in 1788 in white weatherboard and converted to steam-power in 1827. It became the location of Samuel Courtauld's first silk-factory in 1828. It is Listed and currently used as an antiques centre. The silk-weaving factory for power-looms was constructed in 1832, by 1891 there were 1,000 looms at work in Halstead and the factory employed 1,400 people (mostly women). In the early 20th century production switched to rayon. The factory closed in 1982, most of it was demolished in 1986 and the site redeveloped as a supermarket. Courtauld's was essentially a paternalistic employer and responsible for the building of many of the public buildings, both within this zone and in the other zones, as well as considerable amounts of workers housing. 3-12 The Causeway is a late 19th century row of workers cottages by George Sherrin for Samuel Courtauld and 1-16 factory Lane East are late 19th century terrace of 16 three-storey textile workers houses, built by Samuel Courtauld. In addition the late

19th century saw the infilling of many of the yards of older properties with tenement housing, as well as ribbon development, including more weaver's cottages, along Parsonage Street. On the north-western side of this zone is the site of the Union Workhouse, built 1838 and demolished 1922. Halstead Cottage Hospital built in 1884 by George Courtauld and enlarged in 1920, it has been subsequently updated and renovated. The Homes of Rest built in 1923 in 5 separate blocks in a neo-Tudor style. The late 19th century water-works is also sited on the higher ground at this end of the town, the water-tower dates to 1889.

Archaeological Character: There is evidence for prehistoric and Roman activity in and around the town. In the Saxon period there was a settlement, possibly a village, on the site of the medieval town, probably focussed around the church. Although there has been only small-scale archaeological interventions, these have established the survival of archaeological features and deposits below-ground, and the built heritage (much of which is Listed) forms a significant resource. There is considerable potential for the survival of palaeoenvironmental evidence in the alluvium in the valley floor, as well as in deeper features such as wells and cess-pits.

A detailed assessment has been produced on the historic town of Halstead (Medlycott 1999).

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Medieval and post-medieval archaeological deposits, listed buildings, street pattern	3
• Survival	Extensive survival of listed buildings, below-ground deposits survive in undisturbed areas	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, Historic town survey, excavation reports	3
• Group Value Association	Historic town	3
• Potential	Good potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Whole zone highly sensitive to change	3

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amenity Value 	The historic development of the town provides a high amenity value	3
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5.7.2 HECZ 7.2: Western Halstead

Summary:

This zone is located on the western edge of Halstead and represents largely 19th century and 20th century expansion of the town. It comprises a mix of housing, former industrial sites and the Victorian Public Gardens.

Historic Urban Character: The zone is located on the west side of Halstead, and spans both sides of the Blackwater valley. The geology comprises London Clay on the highest ground to the south, with river terrace gavels in the valley sides, and alluvial deposits in the valley floor, on the northern slope there is more London Clay and Kesgrave sands and gravels. The zone contains a mix of post-medieval (largely 19th century), early 20th century and late 20th century residential development. The Holy Trinity Church (1843/4) by Sir George Gilbert Scott which forms a prominent local landmark, is now redundant. This zone incorporates a number of former industrial sites, including the Tortoise Foundry and the Tannery, both of which have been re-developed. The Public Gardens was opened in 1902 and is a good example of a late Victorian public park, complete with band-stand, railings and flower-beds.

Archaeological Character: There is evidence for prehistoric and Roman activity in and around the town. There has been only one archaeological intervention within the zone, this has established the survival of archaeological features and deposits below-ground, as well as over two metres of post-medieval alluvial deposits and made-ground in the valley floor. There is considerable potential for the survival of palaeoenvironmental evidence in the alluvium in the valley floor.

A detailed assessment has been produced on the historic town of Halstead (Medlycott 1999).

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Public Gardens, industrial archaeology	2
• Survival	Below-ground deposits survive in undisturbed areas, Public Gardens, the remainder has largely been developed in the modern period	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, Historic town survey, excavation report	2
• Group Value Association	Industrial heritage	1
• Potential	Limited potential due to modern development	1
• Sensitivity to change	Public Gardens sensitive to change	1
• Amenity Value	Public Gardens, Trinity Church, can be linked to HECZ 7.1	2

5.7.3 HECZ 7.3: Southern Halstead

Summary:

This zone is located on the south side of Halstead. It largely comprises modern housing on what had been open fields until the 20th century. There has been no archaeological fieldwork within the zone.

Historic Urban Character: The zone is located on the southern side of Halstead, with a small part extending across the Blackwater valley and up the northern slope. The geology comprises boulder clay on the highest ground to the south, with Kesgrave sands and gravels and London Clay exposed in the valley sides and alluvium in the valley floor. A large area of largely modern housing forming the southern half of the town, replacing what had been open space and fields. The area incorporates some post-medieval and early 20th century ribbon development along Mount Hill and Tidings Hill. The area was bisected by the railway line and associated sidings (now built over). There are some surviving areas of open space, these are

mainly playing fields, but there is also an area of allotment gardens at Holmes Road and a wooded area adjacent to The Centre.

Archaeological Character: There has been no archaeological fieldwork within this zone although there have been a number of stray finds of Roman and medieval date recorded. The evidence from elsewhere in Halstead would suggest that below-ground archaeological features and deposits may survive, particularly in open areas. There is considerable potential for the survival of palaeoenvironmental evidence in the alluvium in the valley floor.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Occasional find-spots	1
• Survival	Limited survival due to modern development	1
• Documentation	HER data	1
• Group Value Association	No group value	1
• Potential	Limited potential due to modern development	1
• Sensitivity to change	Little sensitivity	1
• Amenity Value	Low amenity value	1

5.7.4 HECZ 7.4: North-eastern Halstead

Summary:

This zone is located on the north-eastern side of Halstead. It largely comprises modern housing and industrial estates on what had been open fields until the 20th century. There a number of large areas of open land, including the cemetery, allotments and playing-fields. There has been no archaeological fieldwork within the zone.

Historic Urban Character: The zone is located on the north-western side of Halstead, on the northern slope of the Blackwater valley. The geology comprises boulder clay on the highest ground to the south, with Kesgrave sands and gravels

and London Clay exposed in the valley sides and alluvium in the valley floor. The zone represents a large area of late 20th century housing forming the northern half of the town, replacing what had been open space and fields. The area incorporates some post-medieval and early 20th century ribbon development along Sudbury and Colchester Road, and the area around Pretoria Road was developed in the inter-war period. The area contained a number of clay pits and gravel pits, as well as allotment gardens. There are a number of large areas of open space, these are mainly playing fields associated with the three schools that are sited within the area, but there is also the cemetery which opened in 1856. The Bluebridge Industrial estate on the eastern edge of the zone is late 20th and early 21st century date, it is located on the former site of Moon Farm.

Archaeological Character: There has been no archaeological fieldwork within this zone although there have been a number of stray finds of medieval date recorded. The evidence from elsewhere in Halstead would suggest that below-ground archaeological features and deposits may survive, particularly in open areas. There is considerable potential for the survival of palaeoenvironmental evidence in the alluvium in the valley floor.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Occasional find-spots	1
• Survival	Limited survival due to modern development	1
• Documentation	HER data	1
• Group Value Association	No group value	1
• Potential	Limited potential due to modern development	1
• Sensitivity to change	Little sensitivity	1
• Amenity Value	Low amenity value	1

5.8 HECA 8

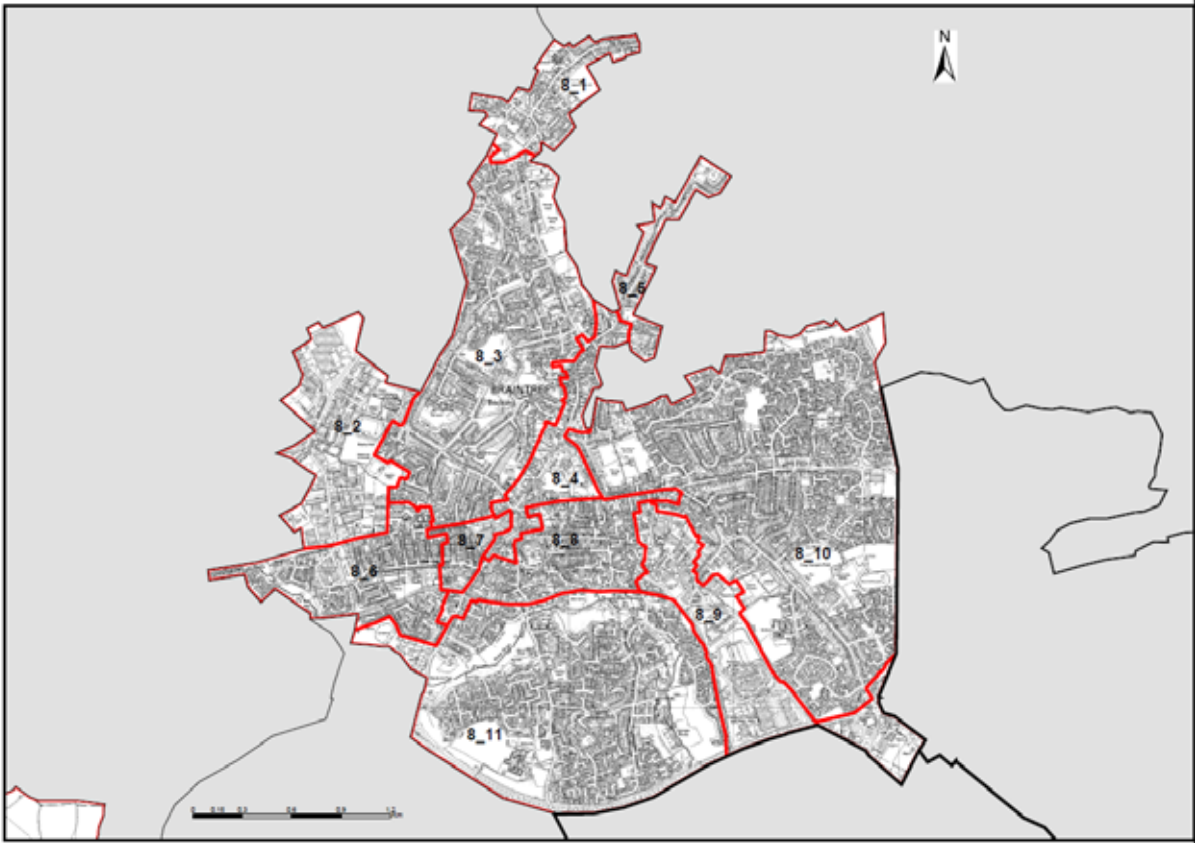


Fig.28 Historic Environment Character Zones in HECA 8

5.8.1 HECZ 8.1: Historic Bocking

Summary:

This zone forms the medieval and post-medieval historic core of Bocking. Medieval Bocking was centred on the church and manor-house at the lower end of Church Street. The area played an important role first in the late medieval woollen-cloth industry and then in silk manufacturing in the later post-medieval period. Limited archaeological work has been undertaken within the zone; however, that which has occurred has shown that archaeological deposits of multi-period date survive. The built heritage is largely of post-medieval date, which in some cases incorporates elements of earlier structures.

Historic Urban Character: The zone lies on either side of the River Blackwater. The geology comprises Kesgrave sands and gravels on the valley sides, with alluvial deposits in the valley floor. In the late tenth century Bocking belonged to the Saxon *thegn* Aetheric who bequeathed it to Christchurch at some date immediately prior to 999, Canterbury held Bocking until the Reformation. The Old Deanery occupies land granted to the monks of Canterbury in the late 10th century. Medieval Bocking was, based on Church Street (this zone) and Bradford Street (HECZ 8.4), with the original focus of settlement around the church and manor-house in Bocking Churchstreet. In the 14th century a fulling-mill was built, this is thought to have been located close to the church on the River Blackwater.

By the later medieval and early post-medieval period Bocking was an important cloth town, with houses and shops strung out along Church Street. The site of the medieval water-mill was purchased by Samuel Courtauld in the early 19th century and a steam factory specialising in the production of black mourning crêpe constructed on the site. This closed in 1981, the factory has been demolished and the site is now under Peter Taylor Avenue. The zone is mainly residential, and largely comprises a mix of post-medieval properties with modern infilling.

Archaeological Character: Only a few investigations have been undertaken in Bocking and these have only been small-scale. However the trial-pit at 190-210 Church Lane (published as 178-196 Church Street) did establish the presence of archaeological deposits to a depth of about 1m, largely as a consequence of the need to raise the ground-level because of persistent river flooding, and there is early medieval evidence from the Old Deanery site. There is therefore potential for the survival of below-ground archaeological features and deposits within the built-up area. In addition there is potential for palaeoenvironmental evidence from the alluvial deposits and deeper features such as wells and cess-pits. Building recording may shed further light on the development of the area, as demonstrated by the recording during the conversion of the King William Public House which revealed that the post-medieval building had incorporated part of a medieval guild-hall within its structure.

A detailed assessment has been produced on the historic town of Bocking (Medlycott 1999).

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Saxon, medieval and post-medieval archaeological deposits, listed buildings, market place, street pattern	3
• Survival	Extensive survival of listed buildings, below-ground deposits survive in undisturbed areas	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, Historic town survey, excavation reports,	3
• Group Value Association	Listed buildings	3
• Potential	Good potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Whole zone highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	The development of Bocking and especially its listed buildings provides a very high amenity value	3

5.8.2 HECZ 8.2: Springwood Industrial Estate, Braintree

Summary:

This zone comprises the modern Springwood Industrial Estate and the Tabor Science College and Sports Centre. Until the late 20th century the area was farmland, with a single farmstead at Rayne Lodge.

Historic Urban Character: The zone lies on the western edge of Braintree comprises the modern Springwood Industrial Estate and the Tabor Science College and Sports Centre and . The geology largely comprises chalky Boulder Clay, with Head deposits at the southern end of the zone. Until the late 20th century the area has comprised farmland, with a mix of irregular fields (of probable medieval origin) and a few small areas of woodland. The only buildings recorded was the substantial farmstead at Rayne Lodge and a windmill depicted on the 1777 Chapman and André map.

Archaeological Character: There has been only one episode of archaeological fieldwork within the zone and this revealed nothing. There is however still the potential for the survival of below-ground archaeological features and deposits relating to earlier occupation of the area in other undeveloped areas within the zone. Rayne Lodge is Listed Grade II.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Historic farmstead, wind-mill	1
• Survival	Potential for below-ground deposits to survive in undisturbed areas	1
• Documentation	HER data	1
• Group Value Association	No group value	1
• Potential	Some potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	1
• Sensitivity to change	Limited sensitivity due to modern development	1
• Amenity Value	Low amenity value	1

5.8.3 HECZ 8.3: North Braintree and Bocking

Summary:

This zone comprises the 20th century housing estates to the north of the historic core of Braintree and Bocking Bradford Street. Until the mid 20th century the area was largely farmland, with a scatter of buildings along Church Lane, linking Bocking Bradford Street with Bocking Church Street.

Historic Urban Character: The zone lies on the northern edge of Braintree. Boulder Clay forms the higher ground to the west, with Kesgrave sands and gravels, river terrace deposits and London Clay on the slopes toward the River Blackwater. Until the 20th century the area has largely comprised farmland, with small irregular fields of probable medieval origin and numerous springs and small streams. The historic settlement was strung out along Church Lane, and to a lesser extent Panfield Lane, this appears to be largely post-medieval in origin. The first of the housing

estates was laid out in the 1930s at the southern end of this zone, but the majority of the development dates to the 1960s or later.

Archaeological Character: There are antiquarian records for Roman and medieval finds from the Rosemary Avenue area, indicative of a settlement site. Many of the older buildings along Church Lane are listed. Although little is known about the archaeology of this area due to subsequent development, there is however still the potential for the survival of below-ground archaeological features and deposits related to the historic settlement along Church Lane or earlier activity in undeveloped areas within the zone.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Roman occupation, Listed buildings	2
• Survival	Potential for below-ground deposits to survive in undisturbed areas	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, Historic town report	2
• Group Value Association	Listed buildings	2
• Potential	Potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Some sensitivity in undeveloped and along Church Lane	1
• Amenity Value	Some amenity value in association with HECZ 8.1 and 8.4	2

5.8.4 HECZ 8.4: Historic Braintree and Bocking Bradford Street

Summary:

This zone comprises the dual historic cores of Braintree and Bocking Bradford Street, together with the area of late 19th/early 20th century development which links them. The zone is characterised by the medieval street pattern and property plots and the

outstanding collection of surviving late medieval and early post-medieval buildings, particularly along Bradford Street

Historic Urban Character: The zone lies in the centre of Braintree, with the parish church at the southern end of the zone located at the highest point and Bradford Street sloping gently down to the river crossing of the River Blackwater. The geology follows the contours of the Blackwater valley, with the Boulder Clay forming the higher ground, Kesgrave sands and gravels, London clay, head deposits and glacial river terrace deposits occurring in succession in the valley sides and alluvium in the valley floor.

There is evidence that there was a Saxon settlement in Braintree and the existing medieval church itself may have had a Saxon predecessor, but there is nothing to suggest that the settlement was ever urban in nature,. In the later Saxon period the Braintree area formed part of the estates of a Saxon *thegn*, Aetheric, who willed his Braintree lands to the Bishops of London in 991. The town was founded in 1199 by the Bishop of London, and appears to have been deliberately planned with blocks of tenements fronting a market-place located between Swan Side and Great Square. The medieval core of Braintree comprised the High Street, Bank Street and Great Square. The Parish Church of St Michael is located at the southern end of the High Street and is 12th century in origin, although it was almost totally rebuilt in 1240. A second phase of development took place along the west side of Bank Street in the late 14th or early 15th century. Many of the buildings are Listed, and are mainly of 15th-17th century date, reflecting its time of greatest prosperity. Bocking Bradford Street follows the route of the Roman road from Braintree to Sudbury. It has an outstanding collection of Listed Buildings, primarily comprising the houses, wool-halls and public buildings associated with the late medieval and early post-medieval wool trade. In the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries Braintree and Bocking had both become important cloth-manufacturing centre. The rise of the silk industry in the 19th century saw the infilling of many of the yards of existing properties with workers housing. Bocking End and The Causeway which linked the two historic cores was largely infilled in the 18th and 19th centuries. A WWII bombing-raid destroyed the Bank Street/Coggeshall Road junction and the opportunity was taken to widen the road there. A number of historic buildings were lost in the 1960s and the George

Yard development of the 1980s destroyed all of the west side of Bank Street whilst Sainsbury's supermarket impinged on the east side of Great Square.

Archaeological Character: Although archaeological work in this zone has been limited, partially due to the presence of so many Listed Buildings, there has been sufficient to establish the survival of below-ground archaeological features and deposits. Pits, post-holes and boundary features have been recorded. In addition the built heritage represents an important resource. There is the potential for palaeoenvironmental remains in the deeper features such as wells and cess-pits and close to the river.

A detailed assessment has been produced on the historic town of Braintree (Medlycott 1999).

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Medieval and post-medieval archaeological deposits, listed buildings, market place, street pattern	3
• Survival	Extensive survival of listed buildings, below-ground deposits survive in undisturbed areas	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, Historic town survey, excavation reports,	3
• Group Value Association	Street pattern of historic town standing structures and below ground deposits	3
• Potential	High potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Whole zone highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	The development of Braintree and especially its listed buildings provides a very high amenity value	3

5.8.5 HECZ 8.5: *Bocking Broad Road*

Summary:

This zone comprises roadside development along Broad Road on the northern edge of the town. Broad Road itself is part of the Roman road from Braintree to Sudbury. This zone was open farmland until the first half of the 20th century.

Historic Urban Character: The zone lies in on the northern edge of Braintree, and comprises roadside development along Broad Road, located on the northern slope of the Blackwater river valley, and the geology follows the contours of the valley, with the Boulder Clay forming the higher ground and Kesgrave sands and gravels in the valley sides. The area was open farmland until the 1930s when ribbon development along Convent Hill and Broad Road took place. There has been some late 20th century settlement infill along the road.

Archaeological Character: Broad Road is located on the line of the Braintree to Sudbury Roman road. There has been little archaeological work within this zone, and archaeological records from the zone are slight. However, on the basis of comparison with other similar locations, below-ground archaeological features and deposits can be anticipated to survive in open areas.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Roman road	1
• Survival	Potential for below-ground deposits to survive in undisturbed areas	1
• Documentation	HER data	1
• Group Value Association	No group value	1
• Potential	Some potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	1
• Sensitivity to change	Limited sensitivity due to modern development	1
• Amenity Value	Low amenity value	1

5.8.6 HECZ 8.6: West Braintree

Summary:

This zone comprises an area of largely mid-late 20th century housing on the western edge of Braintree. St Michael's Hospital, formerly the Union Workhouse, is also located within this zone. The zone contains a number of archaeological sites, including an important Palaeolithic/Pleistocene site at Hunnable's gravel-pit.

Historic Urban Character: The zone lies in on the western edge of Braintree, between Rayne Road and London Road. The geology comprises Boulder Clay in the eastern half of the zone, with head deposits, pockets of Kesgrave sands and gravels and Pleistocene glaciolacustrine deposits in the western half, with alluvium in the valley of the Brain. The area was open farmland, with a two farmsteads (Broomhills and Clapbridge) and a wind-mill until the 1930s. This zone includes the mid 19th century Union Workhouse, which subsequently formed the central part of St Michael's Hospital, prior to its conversion to housing. The eastern end of the zone was the first developed, with parallel terraces of semi-detached houses (College Road to Francis Road), with further linear development along Rayne Road. The remainder of the zone was largely infilled in the post -1960s period. The zone includes a small industrial estate (on the site of Broomhills Farm).

Archaeological Character: An important group of Palaeolithic and Pleistocene finds, including the bones of elephants and horses, has been recovered from Hunnables' Gravel-pit in this zone. A number of Bronze Age artefacts, possibly the remnants of a hoard, were recovered in the early 20th century from the George Road area. Roman finds, possibly derived from a cemetery on the outskirts of the Roman town of Braintree are recorded from the College Road area. It is probable that further archaeological finds and features can be anticipated to survive below-ground, and there is the potential for palaeoenvironmental evidence both from the Pleistocene gravels and from the alluvial deposits in the valley of the Brain.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Palaeolithic remains, St Michael's Hospital	2
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• Survival	Modern development has disturbed large areas, possible survival of Palaeolithic gravels	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic	2
• Group Value Association	Hospital buildings, Palaeolithic remains	2
• Potential	Some potential for below-ground archaeological deposits in undisturbed areas	2
• Sensitivity to change	Overall low, but some potential in undisturbed areas	1
• Amenity Value	Low amenity value, but could be tied in to overall history of Braintree	1

5.8.7 HECZ 8.7: Roman Braintree

Summary:

This zone comprises the Roman town of Braintree, which lay within the triangle of land formed by the junction of the Roman road to Colchester (Stane Street) and the Chelmsford-Sudbury Road. The town appears to have had its origins in the Late Iron Age period, and have remained occupied until the end of the Roman period, and possibly into the early Saxon period.

Historic Urban Character: This roughly triangular zone lies between Rayne Road and London Road/High Street. The geology comprises Boulder Clay in the northern half of the zone, and Kesgrave sands and gravels in the southern half. The ground slopes gently down from north to south. The modern urban character consists of the 1980's George Yard Shopping Centre, Pierrefitte Way dual-carriageway and the 1930's terraces of College Road and Grenville Road. Georges Yard is largely located on what had been the gardens and yards of properties facing onto either the High Street or Rayne Road.

Archaeological Character: Much of this zone has been archaeologically excavated as a consequence of the 1980s development of central Braintree. The

excavations, coupled with earlier antiquarian observations, have established the presence of a Late Iron Age ditched enclosure containing roundhouses on the site of the later Roman town. The Roman Small Town was confined within a triangular area between the main Roman roads of Stane Street (Rayne Road) and the Sudbury-Chelmsford route (London Road). Within the area of the Roman town there appears to have been two phases of development. The first century town was concentrated in the area of the modern Pierrefitte Way, and there is some suggestion of deliberate planning in the initial layout of the town with the minor roads and major boundary ditches running at right-angles to London Road, forming blocks approximately 145 m apart. In the second and third centuries the town expanded into the Rayne Road and George Yard area, and there appears to have been a second phase of road building, which cut across the original layout. The cemetery was located on the western edge of the built-up area (Grenville Road and College Road). At the end of the Roman period two Saxon sunken-featured buildings appear to have been constructed within the ruins of earlier Roman buildings. It is highly probable that further archaeological finds and features can be anticipated to survive below-ground, and there is the potential for palaeoenvironmental evidence from deeper features such as wells and cess-pits.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Late iron Age and Roman archaeological deposits,	3
• Survival	Extensive survival of below-ground deposits in unexcavated areas	3
• Documentation	HER data, Historic town survey, excavation reports	3
• Group Value Association	Historic Roman town	3
• Potential	High potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Area to the west of Pierrefitte Way is of sensitive to change	2
• Amenity Value	The development of Roman town is of high amenity value	3

5.8.8 HECZ 8.8: Post-medieval Braintree

Summary:

This zone comprises the post-medieval expansion of Braintree. It includes the 17th century new Street, the 18th century market-place, the New Mills\Warner Mills complex on South Street, and numerous examples of 19th century workers housing, as well as the site of the Crittalls Works and the railway station.

Historic Urban Character: This zone, represents the later post-medieval expansion of Braintree, lies between Coggeshall Road and the railway line, to the south-east of the historic core of Braintree. The geology comprises Boulder Clay in the northern half of the zone, and Kesgrave sands and gravels in the southern half, with a thin band of head deposits along the southern edge of the zone. The ground slopes downwards from north to south into the Brain valley. The earliest urban settlement in this area dates to early 17th century when New Street (originally New Market Street) was built and by the end of the 18th century Fairfield Road had been built-up. However it was the growth of the silk-industry in the 19th century that led to the development of much of this zone. New Street was encroached on by 19th century buildings and the market-place was shifted again to its current location. Much of the rest of the zone was developed as worker's housing with rows of brick terraces. 118-120 and 141-145 South Street are weaver's cottages, with a purpose-built loom room integral to their plan. The zone includes the 19th century New Mills/ Warner's mills complex on South Street. The railway opened in 1848, it forms the southern limit to this zone. In 1893 the Crittall's Manufactory Company's Manor Works on Manor Street/ Coggeshall Road opened, the site has been recently re-developed as housing, as has the area of the former railway Goods Yard (now Trinovantian Way).

Archaeological Character: There has been little archaeological fieldwork within this zone, largely due to the 19th development of the area. However, the fieldwork that has taken place has established the survival of below-ground archaeological remains within the built-up area, both relating to the urban expansion of Braintree and to earlier periods when this zone was open countryside. There is also a considerable industrial archaeological resource in the form of surviving buildings. It

is highly probable that further archaeological finds and features can be anticipated to survive below-ground, particularly in undeveloped areas.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Post-medieval archaeological deposits, listed buildings	3
• Survival	Below-ground deposits survive in undisturbed areas, Listed Buildings	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, Historic town survey	3
• Group Value Association	Historic town components and industrial archaeology	3
• Potential	Potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Zone is sensitive to change	2
• Amenity Value	High amenity value in conjunction with HECZ 8.4	3

5.8.9 HECZ 8.9: Lakes Road industrial estate, Freeport and Chapel Hill

Summary:

This zone comprises the 20th century Lakes Road Industrial Estate, Freeport Retail Village, the Chapel Hill Business and Retail Park and the retail area on the other side of the Braintree By-pass. Lakes Road overlies the late Saxon and medieval manorial centre of Chapel Hill, and incorporates elements of the early 20th century industrial development of Braintree.

Historic Urban Character: This zone largely comprises large-scale industrial units and retail outlets. The geology comprises a mix of Boulder Clay, Kesgrave sands and gravels and head deposits. Although the area has historic antecedents (see below), there is little evidence for this above ground. The oldest surviving structures are those associated with the Lake and Elliot Foundry. The remainder of the area

was under farmland, or later golf course, until the second half of the 20th century. The modern urban character comprises Industrial units, retail warehouses, fast food and leisure outlets and the Freeport Shopping Village.

Archaeological Character: In the later Saxon period the Braintree and Bocking area formed the estates of a Saxon *thegn*, Aetheric, who distinguished himself and died at the Battle of Maldon in 991. He left his Braintree lands to the Bishops of London. The Bishops of London have thus held an estate at Braintree since the late tenth century, probably administered from Chapel Hill where their manor house was certainly sited in the medieval period. Tenth century grass-tempered ware and Thetford ware have been recovered from the Chapel Hill area confirming some form of occupation of the site at that period. The earthworks for the moats or fishponds relating to the manor house were still visible in the late 19th century but have been subsequently built over (they are now under the Post Office Sorting Office). The chapel of St John the Baptist was located to the south of the Bishop’s manor house, the lake and Elliot buildings now occupy the site. There has been little archaeological fieldwork within this zone, partly due to the 19th century development on the site of the manor/chapel complex. However trial-trenching on the site of the Bishops manor house did recover post-medieval archaeological features relating to the subsequent development of the site. It is considered that the damage caused by the modern buildings and the large-scale landscaping for car-parks etc. over much of this zone has probably destroyed most below-ground archaeological remains.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Manorial centre	1
• Survival	Potential for below-ground deposits to survive in undisturbed areas	1
• Documentation	HER data	1
• Group Value Association	No group value	1
• Potential	Some potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	1
• Sensitivity to change	Limited sensitivity due to modern development	1
• Amenity Value	Low amenity value	1

5.8.10 HECZ 8.10: East Braintree

Summary:

The zone is bisected by the line of the Roman road to Colchester and there is evidence for associated Roman farms. It remained as largely open farmland with scattered farmsteads until the 20th century. The earliest urban development dates to the post World War I period and was concentrated on the western edge of the zone, there was gradual expansion outwards, particularly along the main roads, before the remainder was developed from the 1960s onwards.

Historic Urban Character: The geology in this zone largely comprises Boulder Clay, with Kesgrave sands and gravels and head deposits revealed in the valley sides where the ground dips down into the Blackwater Valley on the northern edge of the zone. The urban development of this zone is strongly influenced by the two ancient routeways which traverse it, the Roman Road of Stane Street which links Braintree to Colchester and the probably equally ancient route of Cressing Road which headed south down to Witham. The area was largely open farmland with the occasional farm or cottage until the 20th century, and a number of these buildings survive. The urban development of the area begins with the construction of Clockhouse Way and the western end of Cressing road, here a number of structures were built in the years immediately after 1918 by C.H.B. Quennell and W.F. Crittall to demonstrate the use of the metric modular system of concrete block construction, in response to the need for cheap housing after World War I. Although building-styles reverted to a more traditional look over the following years. In the 1930s Cressing Road was built up, as was the area around Cunnington Road and Hay lane. However, the majority of the development dates to the post-1960s with the infilling of the remainder of the area.

Archaeological Character: There is some evidence for prehistoric activity in the area. In the Roman period Stane Street became a focus for settlement with farms spaced out along its length and linked to it by trackways, as at the Marlborough Road. This pattern of individual farmsteads set within a landscape of fields persisted into the medieval and early post-medieval period. There has been limited archaeological work, largely in the form of rescue excavation on the Marlborough

Road Roman farmstead. This has demonstrated the survival of pockets of below-ground archaeological remains, particularly in the less-developed areas.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Roman and medieval farmsteads	2
• Survival	Potential for below-ground deposits to survive in undisturbed areas	1
• Documentation	HER data	1
• Group Value Association	No group value beyond the history of 20 th century development.	1
• Potential	Some potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	1
• Sensitivity to change	Limited sensitivity due to modern development	1
• Amenity Value	Low amenity value	1

5.8.11 HECZ 8.11: Southern Braintree

Summary:

A large zone sited on the southern side of Braintree, between the historic core and the modern A120, it includes part of the valley of the River Brain. The area was formerly open farmland until the 19th- 20th centuries. There is evidence for occupation from the prehistoric period onwards.

Historic Urban Character: The zone slopes down from a highpoint roughly where the modern A120 lies downwards to the River Brain, which lies toward the northern and eastern boundary to the zone. The geology mirrors the contours, with the Boulder Clay occupying the higher ground and Kesgrave sands and gravels and head deposits revealed in the valley sides, and alluvium in the valley floor. The Roman Road from Chelmsford to Sudbury crosses this zone at the western end. The area was open farmland, comprising irregular fields with scattered farmsteads and cottages, linked by a network of lanes until the 19th century. The zone had numerous small-scale quarry pits, for sand and clay, and several brickworks. The valley of the

River Brain saw the earliest development of the area, with the construction of the Courtauld silk mills in 1843, and a number of sewage and water-works. The residential development of the zone has its origins in the 1930s, with the majority dating to the post-1960s. There are a number of small industrial areas within the zone. There is a large area of open-land comprising a Cemetery, Marshalls Park and Notley High School on the western edge of the zone, bisected north-south by London Road and east-west by the River Brain.

Archaeological Character: There is some evidence for prehistoric and Saxon activity in the area, including the survival of organic remains from the valley of the Brain. The Roman road from Chelmsford-Sudbury crosses the western end of this zone. In the medieval and post-medieval period the area was open farmland with scattered farms and cottages. Antiquarian fieldwork has recorded prehistoric and Saxon remains. Although there has only been limited recent archaeological fieldwork within the zone this has demonstrated the survival of below-ground archaeological remains, and there is the possibility that further archaeology survives, particularly in the open areas. The known survival of prehistoric organic remains within the valley of the Brain is of particular importance, given the rarity of this form of find.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Prehistoric site	1
• Survival	Potential for below-ground deposits to survive in undisturbed areas	2
• Documentation	HER data	1
• Group Value Association	No group value	1
• Potential	Some potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	1
• Sensitivity to change	Limited sensitivity due to modern development	1
• Amenity Value	Low amenity value	1

5.9 HECA 9

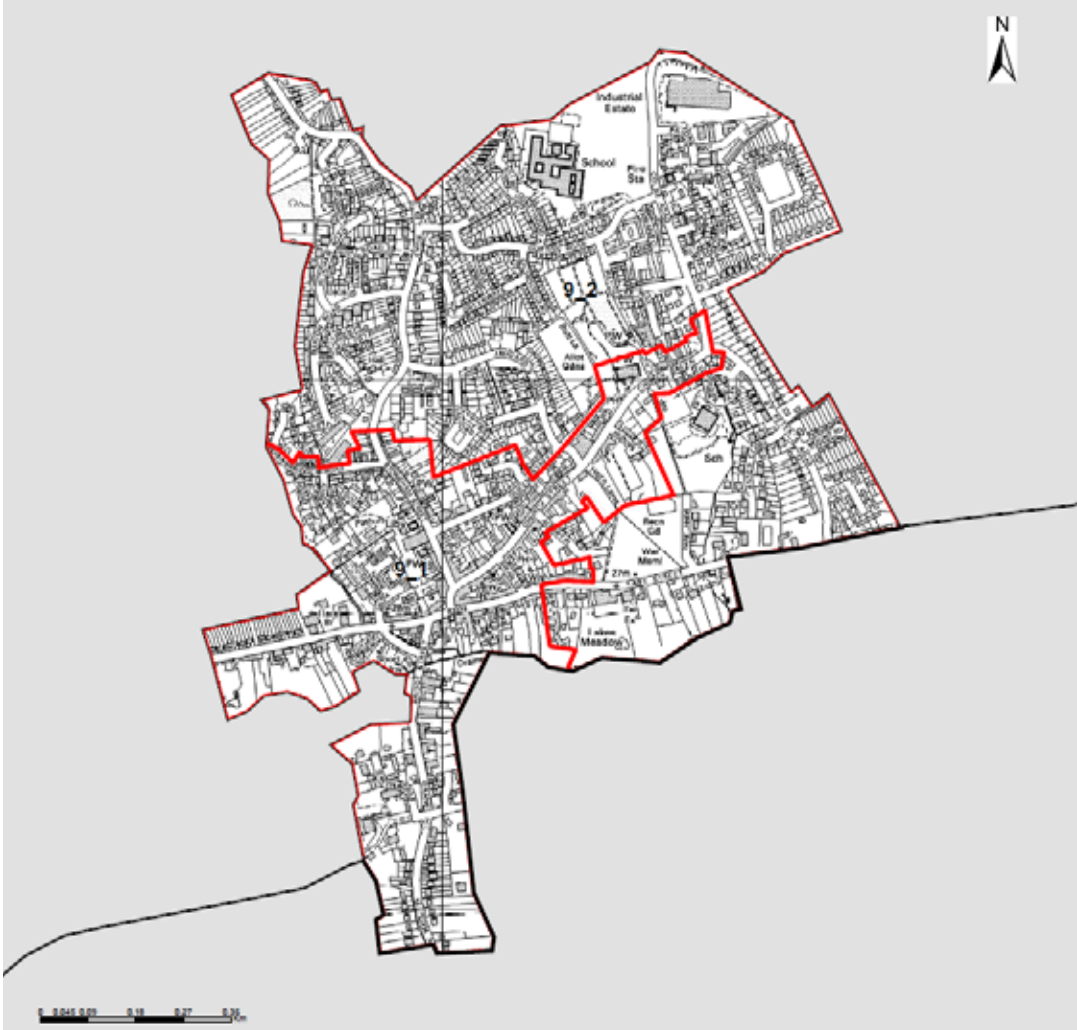


Fig.29 Historic Environment Character Zones in HECA 9

5.9.1 HECZ 9.1: Historic Coggeshall

Summary:

This zone comprises the medieval historic core of Coggeshall; Church Street, Stoneham Street, East Street, West Street and Bridge Street. The oldest part of the town was around the church, but the focus of the town subsequently shifted to the south-west to around the road junction. The town has an exceptionally fine collection of listed buildings and below-ground archaeology relating to its origins and development is also known to survive.

Historic Urban Character: The zone comprises the historic core of Coggeshall. The geology is very mixed, with London Clay, Boulder Clay, Kesgrave sands and gravels, head deposits all represented, in addition to alluvium in the valley floor. The early medieval settlement is thought to have been centred on the church, which is located on the north-eastern edge of the later medieval town. Later in the medieval period the focus shifted to the junction of Church Street with West and East Street, possibly following the granting of a market in 1256. The parish church is a 15th century replacement of an earlier predecessor. The zone includes an area of post-medieval expansion between West Street and Stoneham Street and 19th century ribbon development along Kelvedon Road. A 19th century maltings and brewery was located on Bridge Street. Orchard Mill stood to the rear of Stoneham Street, it was largely involved in the production of velvet for top hats. The site is now under the residential development of Kings Acre.

There is a very fine collection of Listed timber-framed buildings, largely dating to the 14th to 17th centuries. Coggeshall Abbey Grange falls within this zone, the Grange Barn has been dated by dendrochronology to 1240, the farmhouse originated as a medieval cross-wing house. Paycockes, West Street, is an exceptional example of a wealthy clothiers house of the 16th century. It is owned by the National Trust.

Archaeological Character: West/East Street follows the line of the Roman Road known as Stane Street. Watching-briefs in the Market End area suggest that it was originally marsh and had to be raised and consolidated prior to settlement. Excavations in Church Street, East Street and Stoneham Street have established the survival of both cut archaeological features (such as pits and post-holes) as well as more ephemeral layers such as clay floors. Organic remains, including wooden stakes survive within the alluvial deposits close to the river, and can be anticipated to survive in deeper features such as wells and cess-pits elsewhere in the town. The built heritage forms an important resource for the understanding of the origins and development of the town.

A detailed assessment has been produced on the historic town of Coggeshall (Medlycott 1999).

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Saxon medieval and post-medieval archaeological deposits, listed buildings, market place, street pattern	3
• Survival	Extensive survival of listed buildings, below-ground deposits survive in undisturbed areas	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, Historic town survey, excavation reports,	3
• Group Value Association	Historic town	3
• Potential	Good potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Whole zone highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	The development of Bocking and especially its listed buildings provides a very high amenity value	3

5.9.2 HECZ 9.2: Modern Coggeshall

Summary:

This zone comprises the modern elements of Coggeshall, it also includes the site of a Roman farmstead.

Historic Urban Character: The zone represents the modern expansion of Coggeshall. The geology comprises Boulder Clay in the northern half of the zone and London Clay in the southern half. The area was largely open fields, allotment gardens and the occasional building until the second half of the 20th century. In addition to the housing estates there are two schools and their playing-fields, small industrial areas, and the recreation ground and cemetery. The allotment gardens are located on the site of the medieval archery butts next to the church.

Archaeological Character: Excavation prior to the construction of St Peter's School revealed two phases of Roman occupation on the site. Further fieldwork has established that the evidence for Roman activity extends as far south as East Street.

Medieval and post-medieval settlement evidence was also recovered from the East Street site. Further below-ground archaeological remains can be anticipated to survive, particularly in the open areas around St Peter's school.

A detailed assessment has been produced on the historic town of Coggeshall (Medlycott 1999).

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Roman archaeological deposits	1
• Survival	Below-ground archaeology survives in undisturbed areas	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, Historic town survey, excavation reports	2
• Group Value Association	Historic town	1
• Potential	Some potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Low sensitivity to change due to modern development except in undisturbed areas	1
• Amenity Value	Low amenity value	1

5.10 HECA 10

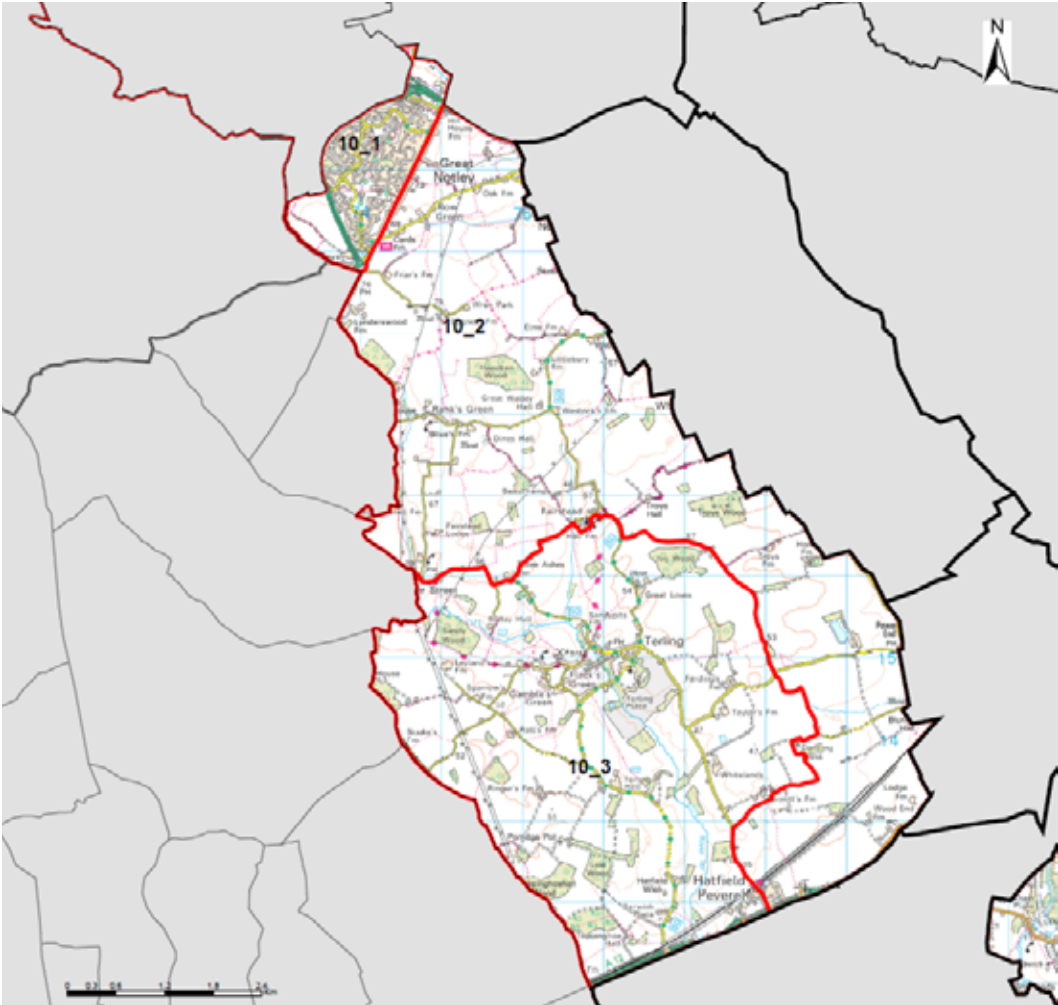


Fig. 30 Historic Environment Character Zones in HECA 10

5.10.1 HECZ 10.1: Great Notley Garden Village

Summary:

This zone comprises the 20th century development of Great Notley. The settlement was constructed on largely agricultural fields in the latter part of the 20th century.

Historic Urban Character: The geology comprises the Boulder Clay plateau. This zone represents the 20th century development known as Great Notley. This was constructed on land to the south of Braintree, on the north western side of the Roman Road from Braintree to Chelmsford. Great Notley was designed a self-sustainable

garden village composed of three distinct hamlets linked via a spine road. Prior to this the zone had been irregular fields probably of medieval origin with ribbon development dating to the early part of the 20th century along the Roman Road. Historically the zone had a dispersed settlement pattern with occasional farms. Informal parkland had developed by the first edition OS (1870's) around a large house (Oaklands) which fronted onto the Roman Road.

Archaeological Character: Archaeological work undertaken in advance of the housing development showed a sparsely occupied zone of heavy clay soils. Indications of prehistoric occupation in the form of flint scatters were identified but no other archaeological sites. The main heritage asset would be the Roman road which forms the eastern boundary of the zone.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Prehistoric flint scatters, Roman Road	2
• Survival	Limited survival due to housing development	1
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, excavation reports,	2
• Group Value Association	No group value	1
• Potential	Low potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	1
• Sensitivity to change	Limited sensitive to change	1
• Amenity Value	Value as a new garden village settlement	2

5.10.2 HECZ 10.2: Fairstead and Ranks Green

Summary:

This zone comprises a rural landscape to the south of Braintree. The present landscape largely reflects that of the medieval period with a very dispersed settlement pattern of manors, moats and farmsteads.

Historic Landscape Character: The geology comprises Boulder Clay plateau dissected by small valleys of the River Ter. The zone comprises a rural landscape with a dispersed settlement pattern. Historically the field pattern comprised a mix of irregular and rectilinear field patterns with dispersed greens, manors, farms and moated sites. The field pattern has suffered considerable boundary loss. Much of the landscape and the settlement pattern has its origins in the medieval period. The road system largely comprises of minor lanes often twisting and sometimes sunken. Several blocks of Ancient Woodland lie within this zone.

Archaeological Character: Little archaeological work has been undertaken within the zone, however, it is known to contain multi-period archaeological deposits. Roman occupation is attested on the valley slopes of the River Brain and it is likely that similar evidence will be found above the tributaries of the River Ter. Below-ground remains associated with the dispersed medieval and post medieval settlement pattern can be anticipated, both on currently occupied sites and elsewhere. The woodland may well preserve earthworks of a multi-period date.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Roman settlement, moats, listed buildings field system, sunken lanes.	2
• Survival	High survival due to limited development. Considerable field boundary loss.	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic,	2
• Group Value Association	Medieval and post medieval settlement	2
• Potential	High potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	High due to the absence of modern development. Although field boundary loss has caused damage the surviving landscape is of medieval origin	2
• Amenity Value	Limited value due to the limited knowledge we have of the zone.	1

5.10.3 HECZ 10.3: Terling

Summary:

This zone comprises a rural landscape with the village and historic park at Terling at its core.

Historic Landscape Character: This zone comprises Boulder Clay plateau dissected by the River Ter, sands and gravels occur in the valley sides and there are alluvial deposits in the bottom of the valley. The zone has a rural landscape with a historic settlement pattern comprising the village at Terling and dispersed moats and farmsteads. Terling had its origins as a manor/church complex with poly-focal green-side settlement strung out along a series of small interconnecting greens. Historically the field pattern comprised a mix of irregular and rectilinear field patterns with meadow pasture in the base of the valley. The field pattern has suffered boundary loss in the 20th century. The registered parkland of the 18th and 19th century, and grade II* listed mansion dating to 1722 lie in the centre of the zone. The road system largely comprises winding lanes sometimes sunken. Ancient Woodlands are present throughout the zone and are a particular characteristic of the upper slopes of the Ter valley.

Archaeological Character: Only limited archaeological work has been carried out within the zone, however, large scale work has been undertaken to the west. This has shown multi-period occupation from the Late Bronze Age through to the medieval period. Prehistoric occupation from the Bronze Age should be expected on the valley sides. Roman settlements are recorded on the upper slopes of the river valleys and it should be assumed that a similar pattern will be present on the River Ter. The historic environment components that make up the village of Terling, including the registered parkland, historic settlement pattern, greens and listed buildings form an important group. Below-ground remains relating both to Terling and the wider dispersed settlement pattern can be anticipated to survive. The extensive woodland may well preserve earthworks of a multi-period date, both the form of woodland banks but also upstanding earthworks of earlier date.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	moats, listed buildings field system, sunken lanes, village, church. 18th century mansion.	3
• Survival	High survival due to limited development. Considerable field boundary loss.	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic,	2
• Group Value Association	Medieval and post medieval settlement, parkland	3
• Potential	High potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	high due to the historic parkland, ancient woodland and historic settlement pattern	3
• Amenity Value	Significant potential for promotion of the historic village and associated mansion and parkland.	3

5.11 HECA 11

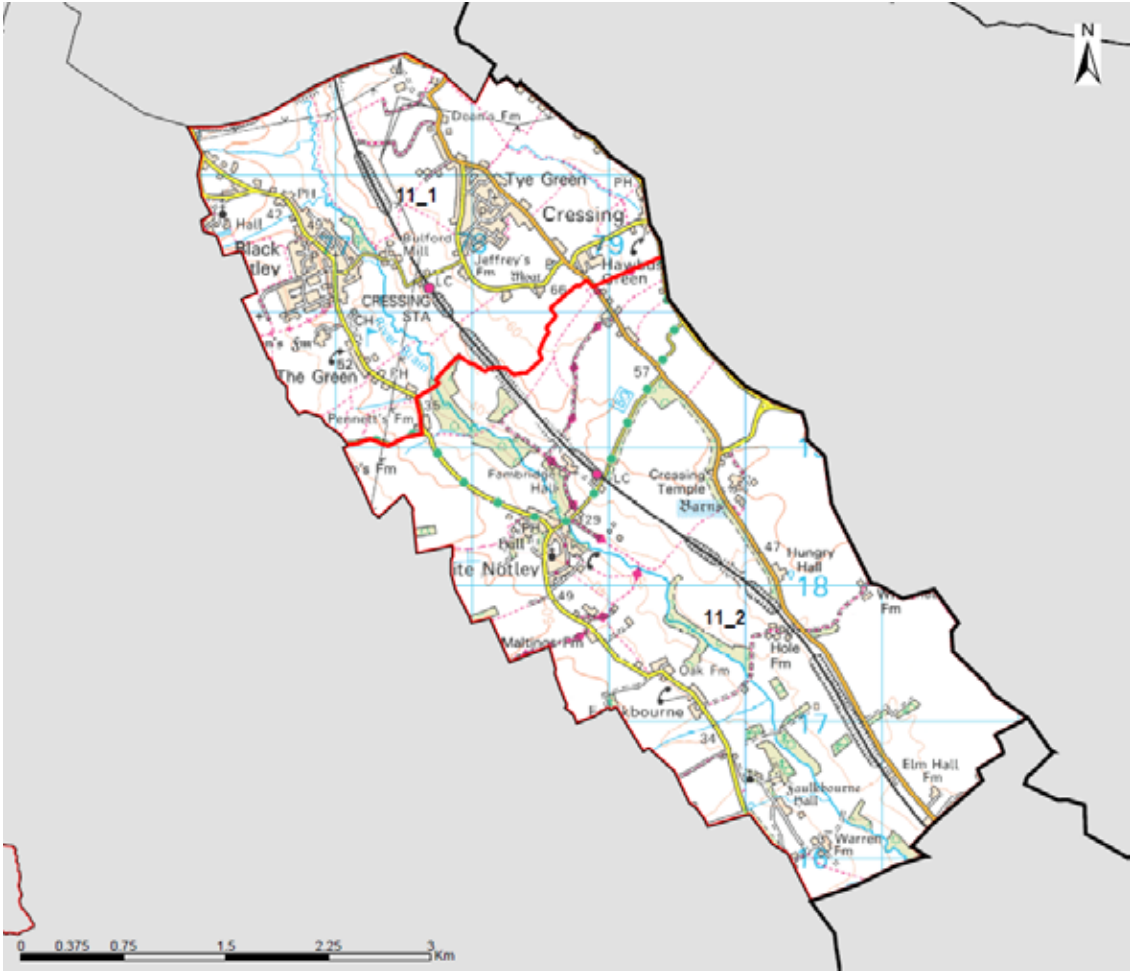


Fig.31 Historic Environment Character Zones in HECA 11

5.11.1 HECZ 11.1: Tye Green and Black Notley

Summary:

This zone forms the northern end of the Brain Valley. It includes the largely 20th century settlements of Black Notley and Tye Green. Historically it is a rural landscape of dispersed small manors and farms and the manor/church complex at Black Notley. The zone is bisected by the Braintree railway and the river. Roman settlement is known overlooking the Brain Valley with medieval occupation spread throughout the zone. The surviving field pattern has its origins in the medieval period and survives well.

Historic Landscape Character: This zone forms the northern end of the Brain valley. The geology comprises boulder clay on the top of the valley crest, with Kesgrave sands and gravels and London Clay exposed in the valley sides and alluvium in the valley floor. The fieldscape is complex, comprising a mix of pre-18th century irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older) and pre-18th century co-axial fields (also of probable medieval origin). There has been substantial field boundary loss in the 20th century. The historic settlement pattern was dispersed, comprising isolated manors, farms, and moated sites. The important medieval manor/church complex at Notley Hall includes Scheduled medieval fish-ponds. In the mid-late 20th century Black Notley and Tye Green developed as nucleated villages. The zone is bisected by the Braintree-Witham railway line and a line of electricity pylons leading to a large electricity sub-station. Modern land use includes the Black Notley golf course.

Archaeological Character: There is evidence for prehistoric and Roman occupation from stray finds and cropmarks. Medieval settlement can be seen in the surviving dispersed farms and the manor/church complex at Notley Hall, below-ground evidence, in addition to the surviving listed buildings can be anticipated to survive, both on those sites that are still in occupation and elsewhere within the landscape. Bulford mill on the River Brain is still extant and the location of other mills (both water and wind) are known.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Prehistoric and Roman settlement, medieval farmsteads, listed buildings, Scheduled fish-ponds	3
• Survival	Some modern development, but below-ground survival anticipated	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, Scheduled monument	2
• Group Value Association	Medieval settlement	2
• Potential	Potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	2

• Sensitivity to change	Zone sensitive to change	2
• Amenity Value	The presence of Cressing Temple in adjacent HECZ 11.2 provides the opportunity to promote the whole area.	2

5.11.2 HECZ 11.2: Brain valley

Summary:

This zone forms the southern half of the Brain Valley. There are extensive surviving archaeological deposits known from aerial photographs and excavation. Multi-period settlement evidence has been identified with both the field pattern and historic buildings surviving well. The zone contains the internationally important site of Cressing Temple and the important historic park, gardens, church and house at Faulkbourne Hall.

Historic Landscape Character: This zone forms the southern part of the Brain valley. The geology comprises boulder clay on the top of the valley crest, with Kesgrave sands and gravels and London Clay exposed in the valley sides and alluvium in the valley floor. The fieldscape is complex, comprising a mix of large demesne fields associated with the medieval manor at Cressing Temple, pre-18th century irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older) and pre-18th century co-axial fields (also of probable medieval origin). There was extensive areas of meadow pasture along the valley floor, some of which survives, whilst other bits have been planted with willow plantations. There has been some field boundary loss in the 20th century. The historic settlement pattern is largely dispersed, comprising the manor/church complexes at White Notley and Faulkbourne, isolated manors, farms, and moated sites. The village at White Notley had its origins as a small hamlet on the road junction adjacent to the manor and church, its modern form is largely late 20th century in origin. A large number of listed buildings are located throughout the zone. These include the internationally important medieval farmstead complex at Cressing Temple which comprises an unrivalled collection of agricultural buildings, including the Barley Barn which has been dated to 1200-1220. The site was built by the Knights Templar, before passing

into the hands of the Knights Hospitaller. Faulkbourne Hall, which was built in brick in the 15th century, is arguably the finest such building in Essex. Faulkbourne Hall has late-19th-century gardens of about 4 hectares on the site of older gardens, set within a larger parkland of about 55 hectares originating in the medieval period.. The zone is bisected by the mid 19th century railway line. There has been gravel extraction on the farmland to the east of Cressing Road.

Archaeological Character: Extensive evidence of prehistoric occupation has been identified on the valley slope comprising burials (ring ditches), settlements and field patterns from cropmarks, this includes the Scheduled cropmark of a possible Neolithic henge. Evidence for a number of Roman farmsteads are known on the upper slopes of the Brain Valley. A Roman mausoleum is recorded at Black Notley indicating the high status of the occupants of the adjacent farmstead. Excavation at Cressing Temple has revealed an Iron Age enclosed settlement and structures and buildings relating to the Knights Templars manor, including the chapel and burial ground. Further below-ground remains, both on this site and in the remainder of the zone relating to the medieval and post-medieval settlement history can be anticipated to survive. The alluvial deposits have the potential to preserve important palaeoenvironmental remains.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Cropmarks, prehistoric, Roman medieval/post medieval settlement, mausoleum, historic buildings	3
• Survival	Survival of known assets very good	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, excavation reports, listed building information	3
• Group Value Association	Cropmarks, manor/hall complexes, listed buildings, Cressing Temple, Faulkbourne Hall complex	3
• Potential	High potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Whole zone highly sensitive to change	3

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amenity Value 	Crossing Temple, Settlement Pattern, relationship to valley and Faulkbourne Hall all promotable	3
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5.12 HECA 12

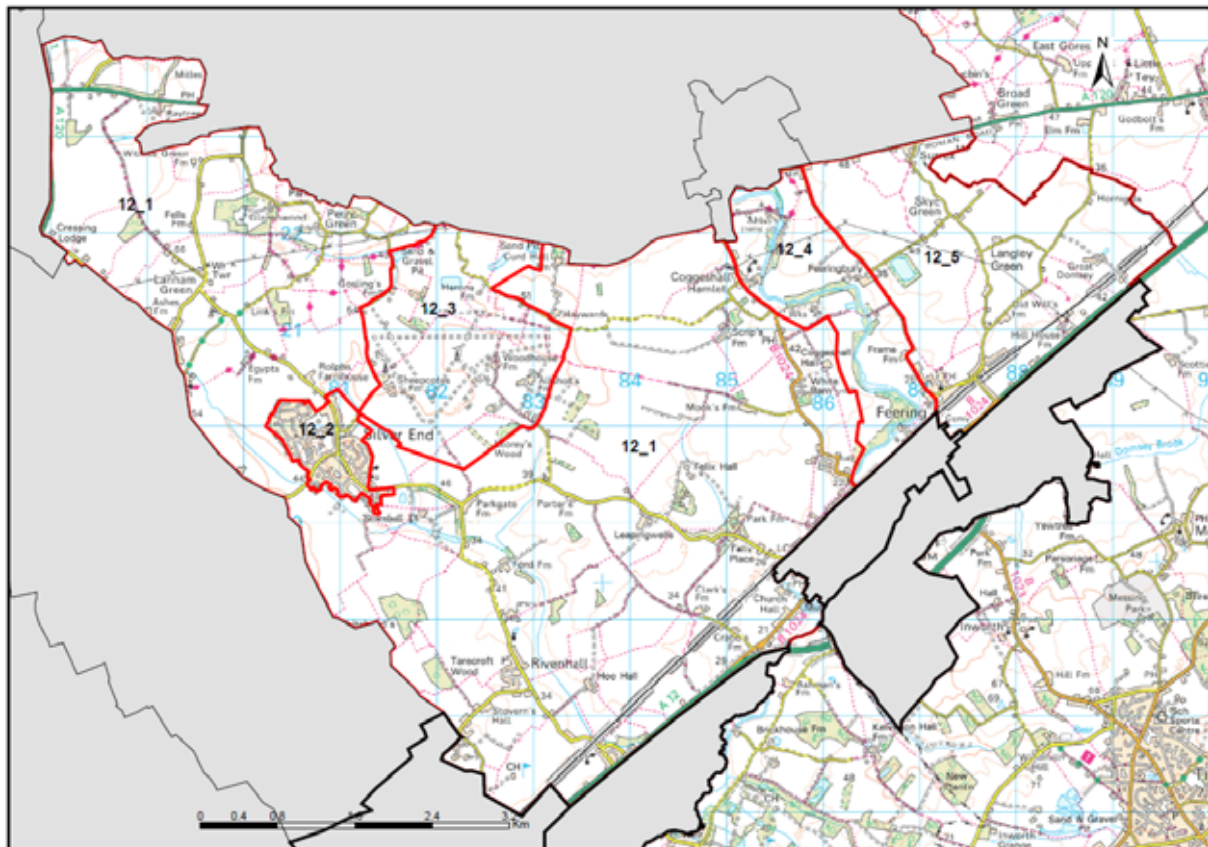


Fig.32 Historic Environment Character Zones in HECA 12

5.12.1 HECZ 12.1: Rivenhall Area

Summary:

This zone comprises of largely open countryside with a very dispersed settlement pattern of ancient origin. It lies between the two major Roman roads which are now broadly followed by the line of the modern A12 and A120. Although there has been some field boundary loss the overall structure of the landscape survives and probably

has its origins in the medieval period.. The zone contains significant archaeological remains of Iron Age Roman Saxon and medieval date.

Historic Landscape Character: The principal geology is Boulder Clay cut by a tributary of the River Blackwater which flows through Rivenhall. The fieldscape is complex, comprising a mix of pre-18th century irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older) and pre-18th century co-axial fields (also of probable medieval origin). Post 1950s boundary loss can be described as moderate. Meadow pasture survives in the base of the Cressing Brook, with cropmark evidence showing important meadow pasture features surviving to the north of Rivenhall. The historic settlement pattern is largely dispersed, comprising isolated manors, manor/church complexes, farms, moated sites and hamlets. A number of Georgian Mansions developed in the zone on sites dating back to the medieval period. The Roman roads of Stane Street (the old A120) and the former A12 have left their imprint on the modern landscape, influencing field alignment and settlement distribution. The south eastern part of the zone is bisected by the main London to Colchester railway line constructed in 1843.

Archaeological Character: Evidence of prehistoric occupation is probably indicated by cropmark evidence of a range of enclosures and occasional ring ditches (indicative of burial mounds) being identified across the zone. The zone was exploited throughout the Roman period and includes the scheduled Roman villa complex at Rivenhall as well as several other farmsteads. The settlement at Rivenhall shows continuous occupation from the early to middle Iron Age through to the modern period. Anglo Saxon occupation has also been identified at Rivenhall with both settlement and cemetery being identified. Medieval settlement can be seen in the surviving dispersed halls, moats and farms, and below-ground remains relating to this can be anticipated to survive. There are extensive cropmarks relating to water management in the valley of the Cressing Brook at Rivenhall.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diversity of historic environment assets 	Prehistoric monuments, Roman farmsteads, medieval settlement, listed	3
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	buildings, Georgian mansions, meadow pasture	
• Survival	Little development, archaeological deposits well preserved, standing assets in good condition	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic,	2
• Group Value Association	Medieval settlement	3
• Potential	High potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Whole zone highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	The presence of Rivenhall villa and the medieval settlement pattern provides the opportunity to promote the whole zone.	2

5.12.2 HECZ 12.2: Silver End

Summary:

This zone comprises the historic model industrial village of Silver End, which was conceived as a model village in the early part of the 20th century established around the Crittall Window Factory. Although many of the industrial buildings have been lost the remainder of the village survives well and is protected by a conservation area. No archaeological investigation has occurred within the village.

Historic Urban Character: Silver End was conceived as a model village by the industrialist Francis Henry Crittall who established a factory there to manufacture components for metal windows. Over a period of six years from 1926 Silver End village was built. In 1928, a large department store was opened with 26 various departments under one roof, unfortunately it burnt down in 1951, and was re-built as the existing Co-op and adjacent shops. The village hall was opened boasting a 1st class dance floor, cinema, library, snooker room and health clinic. It is the largest village hall in the UK. The village includes some noteworthy early examples of Modernist architectural design; distinctive white, flat-roofed houses on Frances Way

and Silver Street are the work of influential Scottish architect Thomas S. Tait, a leading designer of Art Deco and Streamline Moderne buildings in the 20th Century. This zone contains the whole of the conservation area of Silver End which relates to the historic model village, as well as modern estates on the edge of the Conservation Area. The majority of the buildings on the original factory site have been demolished although the original 1926 factory and the Power House building have been retained. A single farm complex survives within the zone which is indicative of the post medieval and medieval dispersed settlement pattern typical for this area.

Archaeological Character: No archaeological work has been undertaken within the modern settlement of Silver End. Excavations in the vicinity have shown the presence of multi-period archaeological deposits from the Bronze Age to the medieval period (HECZ 12.1). Large open areas such as playing fields have the potential to preserve below ground archaeological features.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Model Village	2
• Survival	Good survival of the residential part of the village	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic,	2
• Group Value Association	Model village	2
• Potential	limited potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	1
• Sensitivity to change	Whole zone is highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	The history of the model village is a significant asset for promotion for the industrial heritage of the District.	3

5.12.3 HECZ 12.3: Rivenhall Airfield

Summary:

This zone comprises open countryside formerly used as a Second World War Airfield and subsequently for gravel extraction. It lies to the south of the Blackwater Valley.

The dispersed settlement pattern has its origins in the medieval period and survives quite well. The fieldscape however has been totally changed due to the construction of the airfield and now the gravel extraction. The excavations undertaken in advance of quarrying have revealed multi-period occupation and both settlement and cemeteries have been identified.

Historic Landscape Character: The principal geology is Boulder Clay above Kesgrave sand deposits. The historic settlement pattern was largely dispersed, comprising isolated farms, and moated sites. Surprisingly, given the subsequent history of the zone, much of this settlement pattern survives, most of the buildings are listed. The historic fieldscape was complex, comprising a mix of pre-18th century irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older) and pre-18th century co-axial fields (also of probable medieval origin), however, this has been drastically altered due to the construction of a World War II airfield in 1943, followed by large scale gravel quarrying in the later part of the 20th and early part of the 21st century. The airfield, had first been allocated to the Eighth Air Force for heavy bomber use and eventually re-assigned to the 3rd Bombardment Wing which became the nucleus of IX Bomber Command.

Archaeological Character: Extensive archaeological investigation has occurred in the last 20 years in advance of gravel extraction. Archaeological fieldwalking, evaluation and excavation has identified multi-period archaeology including prehistoric, Roman and medieval settlement. This includes an enclosed Roman farmstead in the south-east of the zone and medieval landscape features associated with the surviving medieval farm complex at Sheepcotes. There is also evidence for medieval quarrying. The foundations for the World War II control tower have also been identified.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diversity of historic environment assets 	Prehistoric, Roman, medieval settlements, listed buildings, 2nd World War airfield and associated features	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survival 	Large areas already quarried, remaining areas archaeological deposits well	2

	preserved, standing assets in good condition	
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, excavation reports	3
• Group Value Association	2nd WW airfield and associated assets, Medieval settlement	3
• Potential	High potential for below-ground archaeological deposits in unquarried areas	2
• Sensitivity to change	Below ground deposits have limited sensitive to change due to the airfield and present quarry. Upstanding listed buildings are sensitive to change.	2
• Amenity Value	Detailed understanding of zone from the prehistoric period onwards and the WWII airfield provides the opportunity to publicise the history of the zone in association with other associated zones	2

5.12.4 HECZ 12.4: Blackwater Valley

Summary:

This zone comprises the valley of the Blackwater running from Coggeshall south to Kelvedon. Archaeological remains indicate multi-period occupation.. Prehistoric burial evidence is shown by cropmarks of a Neolithic long mortuary enclosure and a number of probably Bronze Age ring-ditches. Roman occupation is exploiting the upper slopes of the valley overlooking the river. Historically the zone had a dispersed and rather sparse settlement pattern comprising Coggeshall Abbey (founded in 1140), Ferringburybury and a number of other farms. The base of the valley contains important areas of meadow pasture, of medieval origin. The river was also exploited by the construction of a number of mills along its length.

Historic Landscape Character: The geology comprises alluvial deposits in the base of the valley with Kesgrave sand and gravels on the valley slopes. The fieldscape is complex, comprising a mix of pre-18th century irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older) and pre-18th century co-axial fields (also of probable medieval origin). Meadow pasture survives in the base of the Blackwater valley, with cropmark evidence indicating water management along the length of the Blackwater. The medieval settlement was both rather sparse and highly dispersed, probably because much of the zone fell within the demesne lands of Coggeshall Abbey. The Scheduled monument of Coggeshall Abbey which was founded in 1140 is located on the western side of the Blackwater. The river has been exploited at least since the medieval period with at least four mills constructed along its length, and there is extensive cropmark and earthwork evidence for water management.

Archaeological Character: The alluvial deposits in the base of the valley have the potential to contain important palaeoenvironmental deposits. Prehistoric occupation is indicated from cropmark evidence with a range of enclosures and occasional ring ditches (indicative of burial mounds) being identified across the zone. A Neolithic long mortuary enclosure and a Bronze Age barrow are scheduled in the southern part of the zone. The valley was exploited throughout the Roman period with a number of sites being recorded on the upper slopes of the valley. The northern boundary of the zone is defined by Stane Street, the Roman Road running from Colchester to Braughing. Coggeshall Abbey was founded in 1140 by King Stephen of England and Queen Matilda, as a Savigniac house but became Cistercian in 1147 upon the absorption of the order. There are extensive below-ground remains as well as the surviving above ground structures (all listed) which relate to the development of the site.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Prehistoric monuments, Roman road and settlement, Abbey, listed buildings, meadow pasture, alluvial deposits	3
• Survival	Little development, archaeological	3

	deposits well preserved, standing assets in good condition	
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic and documentary, cropmarks	3
• Group Value Association	Medieval settlement, Coggeshall Abbey	3
• Potential	High potential for below-ground archaeological and alluvial deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Whole zone highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	The presence of Coggeshall Abbey, medieval settlement pattern and exploitation of the river provides the opportunity to promote the whole zone.	2

5.12.5 HECZ 12.5: Feering and Langley Green

Summary:

This zone comprises largely open countryside with a very dispersed settlement pattern. Although there has been some field boundary loss the overall structure of the landscape survives and is of ancient, probably medieval origin. The zone lies between the Roman roads the line of which is followed by the A12 and the A120. Prehistoric occupation is indicated by cropmarks on the slopes above the Blackwater Valley.

Historic Landscape Character: The principal geology is Boulder Clay with a small area of sand and gravel in the south western corner. The fieldscape is complex, comprising a mix of pre-18th century irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older) and pre-18th century co-axial fields (also of probable medieval origin). Post 1950s boundary loss can be described as moderate. The historic settlement pattern is dispersed, comprising greens, farms, and moated sites. The Roman roads of Stane Street (the old A120) and the former A12 have left their imprint on the modern landscape, influencing field alignment and settlement distribution.

Archaeological Character: Evidence of prehistoric occupation is indicated by cropmark evidence especially in the south west comprising a number of ring ditches which are indicative of ploughed out burial mounds. Late Iron Age or Roman occupation is attested by the Roman roads and also cropmark evidence of double ditched rectilinear enclosures typical of Roman farmsteads. Medieval settlement can be seen in the surviving dispersed halls (manors), moats and farms indicative of a rural character based on an agricultural economy. These were connected by a series of twisting and frequently sunken lanes. The south eastern part of the zone is bisected by the main London to Colchester railway line constructed in 1843.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Prehistoric ring ditches, Roman roads, possible settlement, medieval landscape and settlement pattern	2
• Survival	Archaeological deposits well preserved, standing assets in good condition	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic,	1
• Group Value Association	Dispersed Medieval settlement pattern of listed buildings and moated enclosures.	1
• Potential	Potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Whole zone sensitive to change	2
• Amenity Value	Limited work undertaken within the zone results in little amenity value at present	1

5.13 HECA 13

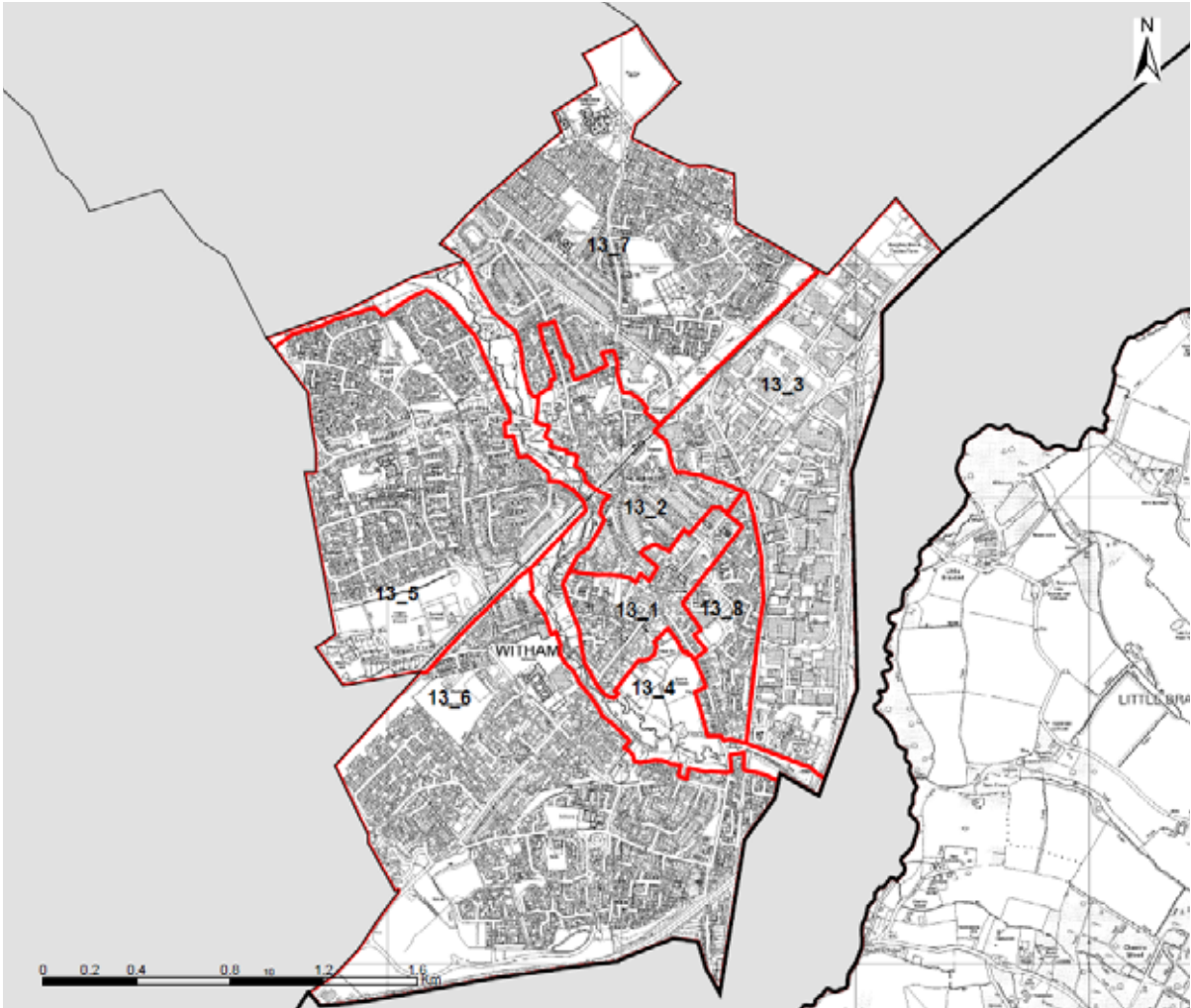


Fig. 33 Historic Environment Character Zones in HECA 13

5.13.1 HECZ 13.1: Newland Street Historic Town Area, Witham

Summary:

This zone comprises the medieval and post medieval core of Witham. The Newland Street zone, when first established called Wulvesford, although quickly changed to Newland Street, developed from 1212 being established by the Knights Templars. A large number of historic buildings survive within this zone, a number being updated with Georgian frontages. Archaeological excavation has been largely limited to the back lands of the frontage properties, but has shown the presence of medieval and post medieval archaeological deposits. A large part of the zone is protected as a Conservation Area.

Historic Urban Character: The geology comprises a mix of Boulder Clay, Kesgrave sands and gravels and head deposits. The Newland Street area of Witham was found in about 1212 by the Knights Templar. The main road was widened to form a market-place and tenement plots were laid out along both sides of the main road, with those on the south-east side backed by back-lane. Plots, mostly of half an acre, were laid out along both sides of the road, and a total of 44½ acres was divided into 61 building plots. . Post-medieval development saw expansion along Mill Road, Guithavon Street and Lockram Lane as well as infilling of yards and gardens. There are numerous Listed Buildings along Newland Street. The 17th century was the peak period for the cloth-making industry in Witham with at least three warehouses. A feature of the town is how many of the early post-medieval timber-framed buildings were ‘updated’ by the addition of Georgian brick-fronts. There have been modern intrusions on to the historic streetscape – most notably the Newlands and Grove Shopping Centres. The majority of the zone is protected as a Conservation Area.

Archaeological Character: The existence of a Saxon D-shaped enclosure (Wulvesford enclosure) at the southern end of Newland Street has been postulated, controlling the ford across the Brain and the main London-Colchester route. The evidence for an enclosure is topographical and cartographic. In or around 1212 the Templars founded a new market town on Newland Street where it crosses the River Brain. Excavations have shown the presence of medieval occupation in the form of rubbish pits and surfaced areas, however, most of this work has been undertaken to the rear of the house plots.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Listed buildings, unlisted structures, below ground archaeological deposits, enclosure.	2
• Survival	Good survival in backlands, frontage disturbed by development	2
• Documentation	HER data, Historic Town report, excavation reports	3
• Group Value Association	Listed and unlisted structures	3

• Potential	High potential for surviving earlier buildings within existing structures and for below-ground archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Conservation Area sensitive to built change, below ground deposits sensitive to new development	3
• Amenity Value	High due to the history of the town especially in association with other zones such as 13.2	3

5.13.2 HECZ 13.2: Chipping Hill, Witham

Summary:

This zone comprises the Prehistoric and early medieval centres of Witham, along with the later medieval and post-medieval expansion of the town. The most significant archaeological asset comprises the probable Iron Age hillfort, later reused as a Saxon Burh. Nothing survives above ground of this monument. This zone forms the centre of the early urban development of Witham, being the main area of occupation through to 1212, and contains the medieval church. It was occupied throughout the medieval and post-medieval period as attested by the number of listed structures within the conservation area. The arrival of the railway in the mid 19th century resulted in urban expansion and the linking of Newland Street with Chipping Hill.

Historic Urban Character: The geology comprises sand and gravel forming a spur of high ground. The first indication of a town within this zone comes from the Domesday Book records that in 1066 Witham was a Royal holding with a sizeable population and a mill. It probably also had a market function, as the 'Chipping' place-name suggests. The parish church of St Nicholas is located 150m to the north-west of the outer defences of Chipping Hill Camp. The current structure is medieval in date but it is probable that it had a late Saxon predecessor on the site. The royal manorial hall is thought to have been located within Chipping Hill Camp, on the site of the later Temple Farm. The granting of the market to Newland Street and the

development of the town there resulted in Chipping Hill remaining largely residential. . The arrival of the railway in the 1840's resulted in an increase of residential development in the area. In the 1870's the building of Collingwood Road provided a direct link between Newland Street, the railway station and Chipping Hill. The older part of Chipping Hill is protected as a conservation area containing a range of listed structures, including the church. The zone also contains part of the Newland Street Conservation area extending into The Avenue.

Archaeological Character: The earliest occupation at Chipping Hill comprises flintwork of Mesolithic and Neolithic date indicating a presence within the zone during these periods. Between the Late Bronze Age and the Middle Iron Age the sand and gravel spur of Chipping Hill was encircled by two almost concentric earthworks of sub-circular plan. The inner enclosure ditch enclosed an area of c. 3.5 ha. The outer circuit enclosed an area of c. 10.3 ha. The ditches of both circuits were between 8 and 10 meters in width. A number of excavations have taken place showing the ditch survives in good condition in undeveloped areas. This enclosure is thought to have been reoccupied in the Saxon period with the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* recording that in 912 King Edward the Elder 'went with some of his forces into Essex to Maldon and camped there while the *burh* was being made and constructed at Witham, and a good number of people who had been under the rule of Danish men submitted to him'. Medieval occupation would have been concentrated around the church where a number of important buildings survive. The majority of the zone is protected as a Conservation Area.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Listed buildings, unlisted structures, multi period below ground archaeological deposits, enclosure. hillfort	2
• Survival	Good survival in backlands, frontage disturbed by development. Hillfort ditch known to survive well	2
• Documentation	HER data, Historic Town report, excavation reports	3
• Group Value Association	Listed and unlisted structures, hillfort and	3

	its associated occupation	
• Potential	High potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Conservation Area sensitive to built change, below ground deposits sensitive to new development	3
• Amenity Value	High due to the history of the town especially in association with other zones such as 13.1	3

5.13.3 HECZ 13.3: Freebourne Industrial Estate, Witham

Summary:

This zone comprises the 20th century Freebourne Road Industrial Estate, on the south eastern side of Witham. Prior to its development this zone had been open fields with a single farm. Aerial photographic evidence indicates there had been prehistoric occupation within this zone.

Historic Urban Character: The geology comprises a mix of Boulder Clay, Kesgrave sands and gravels and head deposits. This zone comprises large-scale modern industrial units and retail outlets. A large sewage farm is located at the southern end of the zone. Many of the units have been developed on more than one occasion. Prior to the industrial development the zone had been open fields of a rectilinear nature possibly dating back to the medieval period. A single historic farm was located on the road frontage at the northern ends of the zone.

Archaeological Character: No archaeological work has been undertaken within the zone. Aerial photographic evidence dating prior to the development of the area shows a number of ring ditches (indicative of ploughed out Bronze Age burial mounds), some of which are likely to have been prehistoric burial mounds. Little now survives due to the industrial development.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Historic farmstead, cropmarks	1
• Survival	Extensively disturbed by development	1
• Documentation	HER data	1
• Group Value Association	Cropmark evidence	1
• Potential	Very limited potential below-ground archaeological deposits	1
• Sensitivity to change	Development has resulted in limited sensitivity	1
• Amenity Value	Limited to modern history of town	1

5.13.4 HECZ 13.4: River Brain, Witham

Summary:

This zone comprises the valley bottom of the river Brain running through the centre of the urban area of Witham. Historically this land comprised mainly grazing marsh, whereas today it is largely laid to grass, being maintained as a riverside walk and community open space.

Historic Landscape Character: The geology comprises alluvial deposits in the base of the valley. The historic land use was as valley bottom pasture which was located on either side of the River Brain. Today this is largely laid to grass as community and public access areas of the town, frequently flooding in the winter. Little settlement exists within the zone although mills were located to exploit the water source one of which survives at Chipping Hill, although it has been converted.

Archaeological Character: The alluvial deposits in the Brain Valley are likely to contain important palaeo-environmental deposits. The river and its associated flood plain would have been exploited since the prehistoric period and there is potential for palaeo-environmental remains. The earliest actual evidence of exploitation has recently been recorded during excavations at Maltings Academy with Saxon features

being identified. There is documentary and archaeological evidence for the construction of mills in the medieval period. The later rebuild of one of the mills survives and has been converted into a house.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Mill buildings, below ground archaeological deposits, Palaeo-environmental deposits .	2
• Survival	Good survival in as zone undeveloped	2
• Documentation	HER data, Historic Town report, excavation report	3
• Group Value Association	Mill structures	1
• Potential	Potential for below-ground archaeological and palaeo-environmental deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Below ground deposits sensitive to change in land use or water level	3
• Amenity Value	High due to the history of the town especially in association with other zones such as 13.1, 13.2 and its open access	3

5.13.5 HECZ 13.5: Powers Hall End, Witham

Summary:

This zone comprises the 20th century urban expansion in the north west of Witham. Prior to its urban expansion this zone had been rural farmland with a dispersed settlement pattern. Earlier occupation comprises a probable Roman farmstead on the valley slopes above the Brain and a scheduled medieval ring work at Blunts Hall.

Historic Urban Character: The geology comprises a mix of Boulder Clay, with Kesgrave sands and gravels and head deposits on the slopes of the Brain Valley. This zone was formerly open farmland, with the occasional farmstead or cottage, urbanisation of the area began in the inter-war period along Powers Hall End Road, the remainder was developed from the late 1960s onwards as a consequence of

London Overspill. There are a number of open areas, comprising school playing-fields, the recreation ground, and the Football and Rugby Clubs

Archaeological Character: Archaeological excavation has shown the presence of occupation within this zone from the Roman period. Records show the finding of Roman foundations in the Powers Hall area, which is likely to have been a farmstead on the upper slopes of the River Brain. A medieval ring work dating to 1050-1200 is protected as a Scheduled Monument in the south of the zone. The remainder of the zone would probably have had a dispersed medieval settlement pattern.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Historic farmstead, Roman deposits	2
• Survival	Largely disturbed by development	2
• Documentation	HER data, Scheduled Monument description	2
• Group Value Association	Little group Value	1
• Potential	Limited potential for below-ground archaeological deposits apart from in open areas and that around Blunts Hall	2
• Sensitivity to change	Development has resulted in limited sensitivity apart from in the Blunts Hall area	2
• Amenity Value	Blunts Hall ringwork is in private hands and provides limited opportunity for promotion	1

5.13.6 HECZ 13.6: Maltings Lane, Witham

Summary:

This zone comprises the 20th and 21st century urban expansion in the south west of Witham. Prior to its urban expansion this zone had been rural farmland with a dispersed settlement pattern. Archaeological evidence indicates multi-period

occupation from the prehistoric through to the medieval period. Extensive Roman occupation has been found including a religious centre with temple and Christian chapel and a farmstead. The farmstead also contained occupation continuing into the Saxon period. .

Historic Urban Character: The geology comprises largely Boulder Clay, with Kesgrave sands and gravels and head deposits on the slopes of the Brain Valley. This zone was formerly open farmland with a rectilinear field pattern of probable medieval origin, with the occasional farmstead or cottage, urbanisation of the area began in the late 1960s, as a consequence of London Overspill, and into the 21st century . There are a number of open areas, comprising school playing-fields, and a recreation ground.

Archaeological Character: The earliest evidence of occupation comprises a number of Palaeolithic hand axes recovered from excavations in the zone. Excavation has shown prehistoric occupation comprising an Iron Age settlement at Ivy Chimneys which was clearly exploiting its immediate area. The presence of this site also indicates that the Roman Road (along the historic A12) from Colchester to London may be laid on an older historic route.

Roman occupation was more extensive with both a temple at Ivy Chimnweys and a farmstead beneath the new Maltings Lane development. At Ivy Chimneys to the north of the Roman road there was a Roman temple followed by an early Christian chapel and baptismal font and evidence of extensive occupation. The evidence points to the zone to the west of the river being intensively occupied from the Late Iron Age onwards. Evidence of Early Saxon occupation has also been found at Maltings Lane indicating the reuse of the Roman farmstead site. During the medieval period the zone was occupied by a dispersed agricultural community with farmsteads set amongst a rectilinear field system. This can be seen in both the surviving farmstead and excavation evidence from the 21st century Maltings Lane development.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diversity of historic environment assets 	Historic farmstead, Roman deposits,	3
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	Palaeolithic artifacts, temple, chapel	
• Survival	Largely disturbed by development	2
• Documentation	HER data, historic town report, excavation report	3
• Group Value Association	Roman occupation, medieval settlement	2
• Potential	Limited potential for surviving below-ground archaeological deposits apart from in open areas and that around Blunts Hall	2
• Sensitivity to change	Development has resulted in limited sensitivity apart from in the open areas	2
• Amenity Value	The archaeological evidence provides an important amenity resource in the promotion of Witham.	3

5.13.7 HECZ 13.7: Rickstones, Witham

Summary:

This zone comprises the 20th century urban expansion in the north east of Witham. Prior to its urban expansion this zone had been rural farmland with a dispersed settlement pattern. No archaeological investigations have occurred within this zone.

Historic Urban Character: The geology comprises a mix of Boulder Clay, with Kesgrave sands and gravels and head deposits on the slopes of the Brain Valley.

This zone was formerly open farmland, with the occasional farmstead or cottage. The urbanisation of the zone began in the inter-war period with ribbon development along Cressing Road, the remainder was developed in the 1960s onwards as a consequence of London Overspill. There are a number of open areas, comprising school playing-fields, the recreation ground, the cemetery and allotments. A supermarket and other commercial premises are located at the southern end of the zone, adjoining Braintree Road.

Archaeological Character: No archaeological excavation has been undertaken in the zone. Much of the zone will have been disturbed by the intensive urbanisation of the later 20th century.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Historic farmstead	1
• Survival	Largely disturbed by development	1
• Documentation	HER data,	1
• Group Value Association	Little group Value	1
• Potential	Limited potential for below-ground archaeological deposits apart from in open areas	1
• Sensitivity to change	Development has resulted in limited sensitivity	1

5.13.8 HECZ 13.8: Maldon Road, Witham

Summary:

This zone comprises 20th century development on the eastern side of Maldon Road, Witham. Prior to its development this zone had been open fields and gardens associated with properties fronting onto Newland Street. No recorded archaeological deposits are known from the zone.

Historic Urban Character: The geology comprises a mix of river terrace deposits comprising sands and gravels and head deposits. This zone comprises a mixture of residential and retail outlets. Both the residential and retail outlets were constructed in the later part of the 20th century. Prior to this the zone had been open land forming the rear garden and fields associated to properties that fronted Newland Street.

Archaeological Character: No archaeological work has been undertaken within the zone. Aerial photographic evidence dating prior to the development of the area

shows a number of ring ditches, some of which are likely to have originally been prehistoric burial mounds. Little now survives due to the industrial development.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Historic farmstead	1
• Survival	Extensively disturbed by development	1
• Documentation	HER data	1
• Group Value Association	Cropmark evidence	1
• Potential	Very limited potential below-ground archaeological deposits	1
• Sensitivity to change	Development has resulted in limited sensitivity	1
• Amenity Value	Limited to modern history of town	1

5.14 HECA 14



Fig.34 Historic Environment Character Zones in HECA 14

5.14.1 HECZ 14.1: Historic Kelvedon

Summary:

This zone forms the medieval and post-medieval historic core of Kelvedon. This comprised Church Street and High Street. The town originally had two distinct foci, at either end of the High Street, with the intervening area not being developed until the 19th century. There is archaeological evidence from the area dating from the Palaeolithic period onwards, as well as an important collection of listed buildings.

Historic Urban Character: The zone comprises the historic core of Kelvedon. The geology is mainly river terrace deposits of sand and gravel, with a small area of alluvium behind the church and old Rectory. The town consisted of two distinct nuclei of settlement, based on the cross-roads at either end of the High Street. The earliest focus of the medieval town was located at the south-western end of the High Street where the church was sited and the Maldon Road met the High Street and Church Street. The second smaller focus of settlement was a kilometre away at the north-eastern end of the High Street at the river crossing (which in the medieval period was some 70m further downstream) and the junction with the Coggeshall Road. It was not until the mid-19th century that ribbon development along the High Street started linking the two foci, by the end of the 19th century the majority of the High Street was built-up. The parish church is 12th century in origin, but probably had an earlier predecessor. The market-place is thought to have been located at the junction of Church Street and High Street, where the Common Well was sited. St Mary's House on St Mary's Square is a fifteenth century public building, probably a market hall built by the Abbey of Westminster as this was one of their manors. It originally had an open ground floor facing on to the probable market square. The early 16th century building forming 1-5 High Street and No. 1 Church Street appear to have been originally the provincial Mansion of the Abbot of Westminster.

Archaeological Character: The river terrace gravels on which this zone sits contain Palaeolithic evidence, including a number of flint tools. There are Neolithic and

Bronze Age features and finds from near the church. However it is for the Saxon and medieval periods that this zone has the greatest potential as evidenced by the quality of the surviving built heritage and the numerous finds recovered from the zone. Below-ground features and layers can be anticipated to survive, particularly in the open areas, and the built heritage contains much useful information reflecting to the origin and development of the town.

A detailed assessment has been produced on the historic town of Kelvedon (Medlycott 1999).

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Saxon, medieval and post-medieval archaeological deposits, listed buildings, market place, street pattern	3
• Survival	Survival of listed buildings, below-ground deposits survive in undisturbed areas	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, Historic town survey, excavation reports	3
• Group Value Association	Historic town	3
• Potential	Potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Whole zone highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	The development of Kelvedon provides a high amenity value	3

5.14.2 HECZ 14.2: Iron Age and Roman Kelvedon

Summary:

This zone comprises the modern housing estates which overlie the Late Iron Age settlement and Roman town of *Canonium*. The modern estates overlie a Late Iron Age settlement, Roman town/settlement, with temple, mansion, and cemeteries and early Saxon occupation. There have been extensive excavations within this zone, and further below-ground features and deposits can be anticipated to survive, particularly in open areas.

Historic Urban Character: The geology consists of river terrace deposits of sand and gravel. The zone comprises modern housing estates, including a school and playing-fields, these modern developments date largely to the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Archaeological Character: The river terrace gravels on which this zone sits contain Palaeolithic evidence, including a number of flint tools. There are earlier prehistoric finds from the zone, however the bulk of the evidence dates to the Late Iron Age and Roman periods. The earliest Roman settlement appears to have consisted of a fort and a civilian settlement, which probably developed from a preceding Late Iron Age Settlement. The fort was only in use for about a decade, with the civilian settlement surviving until the fourth century at least. In the late second century the majority of the built-up area was enclosed within a defensive ditch. A temple and a possible *mansio* were also located within the town enclosure, whilst the cemeteries were sited outside. Evidence of Late Iron Age settlement has been found throughout the area of the Roman settlement. A principal feature of this settlement is the presence of a ditch running along the edge of the gravel terrace, acting as a divide between it and the Blackwater flood-plain.. By the end of the Roman period the town was in decline, although there is some evidence for continuation of settlement, not necessarily urban in nature, into the early Saxon period. There have been extensive excavations within the Roman settlement, however large areas still remain unexamined. Archaeological features and deposits can be anticipated to survive below-ground, particularly in open areas such as the playing-fields. Palaeoenvironmental remains may be present in deeper features and in the areas closest to the Blackwater.

A detailed assessment has been produced on the historic town of Kelvedon (Medlycott 1999).

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Late Iron Age and Roman settlement evidence	3
• Survival	Below-ground deposits survive in undisturbed areas	2

• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, Historic town survey, excavation reports	3
• Group Value Association	Historic town	3
• Potential	Potential for below-ground archaeological deposits in undisturbed areas	2
• Sensitivity to change	Archaeology is sensitive to change	2
• Amenity Value	The development of Kelvedon has an amenity value linked to HECZ 14.1	3

5.14.3 HECZ 14.3: Northern Kelvedon

Summary:

This zone comprises the modern housing estates sandwiched between the railway line and the rear of the High Street. There is known to have been Iron Age settlement in this zone and there is the potential for further archaeological features and deposits.

Historic Urban Character: The geology within this zone comprises river terrace deposits of sand and gravel. The zone was formerly open fields sandwiched between the railway and the rear of the properties which front the High Street. It is now covered by post-1960s housing-estates. There is a small industrial area at the eastern end of the zone. The northern boundary of the zone is formed by the main east coast line from London Liverpool Street.

Archaeological Character: There has been only limited archaeological work within this zone. However the river terrace gravels on which this zone sits contain Palaeolithic evidence, including a number of flint tools. There are earlier prehistoric finds from the zone, and excavation has established the presence of Iron Age occupation under Trews Gardens. Whether the zone was occupied during the Roman period or used as fields is not known at present. Back-yard activities, such as rubbish-disposal, paddocks and gardens associated with the medieval town can be anticipated to have taken place within the south western part of this zone.

Archaeological features and deposits may survive below-ground, particularly in open areas such as the playing-fields. Palaeoenvironmental remains may be present in deeper features and in the areas closest to the Blackwater.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Iron Age archaeological deposits, Palaeolithic finds	2
• Survival	Below-ground archaeology survives in undisturbed areas	1
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, Historic town survey, excavation reports	2
• Group Value Association	Low group value due to limited knowledge	1
• Potential	Some potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Low sensitivity to change due to modern development except in undisturbed areas	1
• Amenity Value	Low amenity value	1

5.14.4 HECZ 14.4: Kelvedon Bridge and the River Blackwater

Summary:

This zone comprises an area of former water-meadows next to the River Blackwater and a small group of historic buildings. Excavation has identified a Saxon cemetery within an earlier gravel quarry. There is the potential for the survival of further archaeological evidence within this zone, particularly that related to the river and its crossing-points.

Historic Urban Character: The geology within this zone comprises river terrace deposits of sand and gravel, with alluvial deposits next to the river. The zone was formerly an area of historic water-meadows adjoining the River Blackwater, and much of it is still open in character. There is a small cluster of historic buildings located on the slightly higher ground, some of these are post-medieval in date. They

include the Sun Inn which dates to 1525. In the later part of the 20th century residential development has occurred on part of the historic water meadows. A historic mill (Easterford) is located in the south west corner of the zone and would have exploited the river for its power.

Archaeological Character: There has been only limited archaeological work within this zone. However, evidence from nearby indicates that the river terrace gravels may contain Palaeolithic remains. Roman, Saxon and medieval finds have been recovered from the zone,. Evidence of a Saxon cemetery was found within gravel quarrying in the zone which probably relates to the adjacent scheduled burial mounds in zone 15.1. The evidence for earlier structures relating to the crossing-points of the Blackwater in this zone. Archaeological features and deposits can be anticipated to survive below-ground, particularly in open areas. Palaeoenvironmental remains may be present in deeper features and in the areas closest to the Blackwater.

A detailed assessment has been produced on the historic town of Kelvedon (Medlycott 1999).

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Palaeoenvironmental deposits, prehistoric finds, river-crossing, Saxon cemetery, medieval finds	2
• Survival	Below-ground archaeology and palaeoenvironmental deposits will survive	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, Historic town survey	2
• Group Value Association	Group value in association with HECZ 15.1	2
• Potential	Some potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Limited development and high potential means sensitive to any change	2
• Amenity Value	Amenity value in conjunction with HECZ	2

	15.1	
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5.14.5 HECZ 14.5: Feering Hill/London Road

Summary:

This zone comprises the modern development of Feering Hill. Historically the zone developed in the medieval period along the Roman Road (A12) as ribbon development expanding out of Kelvedon. Archaeological work has been limited although industrial remains of the Tollesbury railway line

Historic Urban Character: The geology within this zone comprises river terrace deposits of sand and gravel. The zone is located to the north east of the historic town of Kelvedon. There is a small cluster of historic buildings forming the hamlet of Feering Hill at the junction of Feering Hill and Inworth Road and the 18/19th century Feeringhill House. In the early part of the 20th century a large part of the zone had been developed as orchards. The settlement pattern through to the second half of the 20th century was along London Road growing as ribbon development. In the second half of the 20th century urban expansion around London Road and out to the railway occurred. There is some open space in the form of a cemetery at Little London and the school playing-fields

Archaeological Character: There has been no archaeological work within this zone. However the river terrace gravels on which this zone sits contain Palaeolithic evidence, including a number of flint tools. Roman and medieval finds have been recovered from the zone. The disused railway line running to Tollesbury linked into the main within this zone. Nothing now remains of this within this zone. There is the potential for the survival of archaeological features and deposits within the zone, particularly in the open areas.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Historic buildings, disused railway line, chance finds	2
• Survival	Potential for archaeological remains associated with dispersed settlement	1

	pattern	
• Documentation	HER data	1
• Group Value Association	Listed buildings	1
• Potential	Limited potential due to modern development	1
• Sensitivity to change	Historic buildings are sensitive to change	2
• Amenity Value	Amenity value in conjunction with 14.1	2

5.15 HECA 15

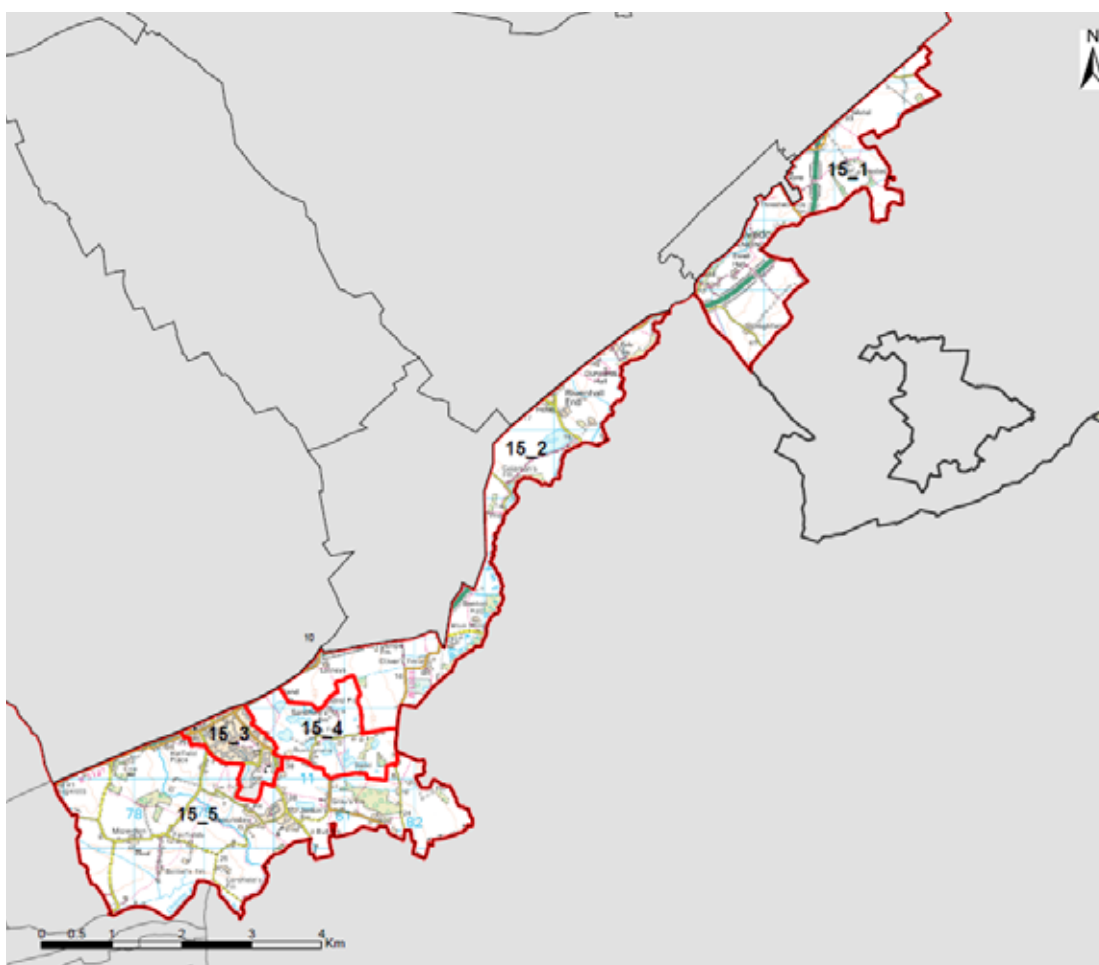


Fig. 35 Historic Environment Character Zones in HECA 15

5.15.1 HECZ 15.1: The Blackwater Valley south of Kelvedon

Summary:

This zone comprises the northern part of the Blackwater valley. There are known sites of considerable archaeological significance within this zone, including a Scheduled Saxon cemetery and the site of a late Iron Age warrior burial. The gravels have the potential for Palaeolithic remains. The landscape is of historic origin, although there has been field boundary loss and the A12 By-pass now bisects the zone.

Historic Landscape Character: This zone comprises the southern side of the Blackwater Valley and its tributary streams to the south of Kelvedon. The valley at this point has a flat floor and very gentle profile to the valley sides. The geology comprises Boulder Clay, together with a complex mix of head deposits, river terrace deposits and glacio-fluvial deposits and alluvium. The historic field pattern is largely made up of regular fields, with areas of meadow pasture bordering the river. There has been late 20th century boundary loss, but the overall grain of the landscape survives. The A12 Kelvedon by-pass bisects this zone, with the old A12, which followed the Roman road route forms part of its northern boundary. Historically the settlement was both dispersed and rather sparse, comprising Prested and Ewells Hall and a few smaller structures. Many of the buildings are Listed.

Archaeological Character: There is important archaeology within this zone. The river terrace sands and gravels derive from an earlier route of the River Thames and have the potential for Palaeolithic and palaeoenvironmental remains. The glacio-fluvial deposits derive from a shallow Pleistocene lake which extended from Witham to Marks Tey, the recovery of stray finds suggests the presence of late Palaeolithic activity around the lake shores and the deposits themselves contain important palaeoenvironmental remains. Fieldwork to the east of Highfields Farm revealed the nationally important burial of an Iron Age warrior, accompanied by his weaponry, drinking-vessels and two Aylesford-Swarling pedestal urns. The spear and shield boss from the warrior burial are of continental type and show he was in touch with developments in weaponry on the European mainland. Disturbance by gravel-digging on the area of land between Kelvedon and Feering revealed a Late Roman and Saxon cemetery, adjacent to which are surviving crop-marks of ring-ditches, which are scheduled and also identified as Saxon in date. There are also other

cropmarks suggestive of trackways and field-systems of medieval date scattered throughout the zone. The Listed Buildings represent an important resource, these include Greys Mill, and a number of the manorial sites. There is considerable potential for the survival of palaeoenvironmental evidence in the alluvium in the valley floor.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Historic landscape and settlement pattern, crop-marks, Scheduled Monument, Pleistocene gravels	3
• Survival	Listed buildings, crop-marks, landscape features, Scheduled Monument	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, excavations	3
• Group Value Association	Saxon Scheduled site, Pleistocene gravels and lake	2
• Potential	Potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Historic landscape highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	The historic landscape and river taken in conjunction with Kelvedon town (HECA 14) have an amenity value	2

5.15.2 HECZ 15.2: *The Blackwater Valley east of Witham*

Summary:

This zone comprises part of the Blackwater valley, with the old Roman road route (now the A12) forming the western boundary to the zone. A Pleistocene lake which extended from Witham to Marks Tey is contained within this zone. There are known sites of considerable archaeological significance, including a Scheduled long mortuary enclosure and numerous crop-mark complexes indicative of a ritual landscape. The landscape is of historic origin, although there has been field boundary loss.

Historic Landscape Character: This zone comprises the western side of the Blackwater Valley to the north and east of Witham, it is bounded by the A12 on the west and by the river to the east. The valley at this point has a flat floor and very gentle profile to the valley sides. The geology comprises head deposits, river terrace deposits and glacio-fluvial deposits and alluvium, with a small amount of boulder Clay at the southern end of the zone. The historic field pattern is largely made up of regular fields, with areas of meadow pasture bordering the river and a small area of more irregular fields at the northern end of the zone. There has been late 20th century boundary loss, but the overall grain of the landscape survives. Historically the settlement was both dispersed and rather sparse, comprising Durwards and Benton Hall (both Listed), a handful of farms and a few smaller structures and this pattern survives into the present day. The majority of the settlement is set back from the main road, the exception to this is the small hamlet of Rivenhall End. .

Archaeological Character: The river terrace sands and gravels derive from an earlier route of the River Thames and have the potential for Palaeolithic and palaeoenvironmental remains. The glacio-fluvial deposits derive from a shallow Pleistocene lake which extended from Witham to Marks Tey. The recovery of stray finds suggests the presence of late Palaeolithic activity around the lake shores and the lake deposits themselves contain important palaeoenvironmental remains. The gravels are also good for the formation of cropmarks, of which there are numerous examples within this zone. These include two possible long mortuary enclosures of Neolithic date, of which the Rivenhall example is Scheduled. There are several examples of ring-ditches (ploughed out burial mounds) of probable Bronze Age date, as well as Iron Age, Roman and medieval farmsteads, field-systems and trackways. Extensive field-walking in the area has recovered flints and other finds dating from the Palaeolithic period onwards. Excavation and geophysical survey within the zone has confirmed the survival of archaeological remains, both within the crop-mark areas and also in those areas where the soil-type is not conducive for crop-mark formation. A complex and interesting of palaeoenvironmental deposits has been investigated in the valley of a small tributary (now no more than a field-ditch) of the Blackwater, this highlights the potential for further palaeoenvironmental data in the zone. There has been some destruction and disturbance of the archaeology in the

form of gravel extraction and the construction of agricultural reservoirs, and the remainder remains vulnerable to this form of activity.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Historic landscape and settlement pattern, crop-marks, Scheduled Monument, Pleistocene gravels	3
• Survival	Listed buildings, crop-marks, landscape features, Scheduled Monument	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, excavations	3
• Group Value Association	Scheduled site, crop-mark complexes, Pleistocene gravels and lake	3
• Potential	Potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Historic landscape highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	The crop-mark complexes taken in conjunction with the rest of the Blackwater valley have an amenity value	2

5.15.3 HECZ 15.3: Hatfield Peverel

Summary:

This zone comprises the modern settlement extent of Hatfield Peverel. This largely developed from a medieval and post medieval dispersed settlement pattern with urban expansion in the second half of the 20th century. There is an important medieval complex at Hatfield Priory with the church and associated grounds.

Historic Urban Character: The geology of the zone comprises glacio fluvial deposits comprising sand and gravels. Historically the zone comprised a rural landscape with a dispersed settlement pattern comprising church hall complex, greens, farms and ribbon development along the main road to the north (A12). Historically the field pattern comprised a mix of irregular and rectilinear fields with landscaped gardens associated to the Priory and the Hall. A mid 18th century landscape park and

woodland, developed around the Priory. A 19th century brewery was located in the south of the zone of which two structures still survive. The whole of this zone was developed to form the current nucleated settlement of Hatfield Peverel in the second half of the 20th century.

Archaeological Character: Only limited archaeological excavation has been undertaken within the zone. A secular college was founded in the south of the zone in the 11th century, being converted to a Benedictine Priory (a cell of St Alban's Abbey) early in the 12th century. The Priory was dissolved in 1536, after which the presbytery with its chapels, the transept and the central tower were pulled down. Today the Priory is a scheduled monument with the parkland partially surviving around it. A moated site, probably of medieval date also survives, a relic of the dispersed settlement pattern. The modern development of the town has destroyed much of the below ground deposits.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Priory, church, historic settlement pattern, brewery	2
• Survival	Modern development has destroyed much of the zone, however, area around Priory survives well along with listed buildings	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, scheduling	2
• Group Value Association	Priory complex and landscaped park	2
• Potential	Limited potential apart from in the area of the moat and Priory	1
• Sensitivity to change	Area around Priory highly sensitive, remainder has little sensitivity	2
• Amenity Value	Priory and landscaped parks have potential for promotion	2

5.15.4 HECZ 15.4: Quarried landscape to the north of Hatfield Peverel

Summary:

This zone comprises a rural landscape to the north of Hatfield Peverel which has seen extensive quarrying activity. Only limited archaeological work has been undertaken in the zone which has shown Roman and late prehistoric occupation. The historic settlement pattern and landscape has largely been removed by the action of quarrying.

Historic Landscape Character: The geology of the zone comprises glacio fluvial deposits on the valley sides with some head deposits mixed in. The zone comprised a rural landscape with an historic dispersed settlement pattern. Historically the field pattern comprised a mix of irregular and rectilinear field patterns. The road system comprises a mix of straight and twisting lanes some of which are sunken. The whole landscape is now dominated by the quarry activity with the historic landscape only surviving in patches. A small area of ancient woodland survives in the south east corner of the zone.

Archaeological Character: Only limited archaeological excavation has been undertaken within the zone as a result of the quarrying activity commencing before the integration of archaeology into the planning process . Roman activity has been identified comprising an apsidal building, now preserved within the quarry. As most of the zone has been quarried little archaeological deposits are likely to remain. There is some potential for early prehistoric material to survive within the faces of the quarry.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Roman settlement	1
• Survival	Very limited apart from early prehistoric material in the faces of the quarry.	1
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, excavation report	1
• Group Value Association	Little group value	1
• Potential	Limited potential apart from quarry sides	1
• Sensitivity to change	Little sensitivity to change due to the quarrying	1

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amenity Value 	Little understanding of the zone so difficult to fine amenity value	1
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5.15.5 HECZ 15.5: Nounsley

Summary:

This zone comprises a rural landscape to the south of Hatfield Peveral and the A12. The geology is extremely mixed with the zone located on the northern side of the Chelmer Valley. Extensive cropmark complexes survive across the zone indicating multi-period occupation from the prehistoric period. The slopes of the Chelmer Valley are particularly rich in cropmark evidence. The present landscape largely reflects that of the medieval period with a very dispersed settlement pattern of halls, moats and farmsteads.

Historic Landscape Character: The zone comprises the northern side of the Chelmer Valley with alluvial deposits in the base of the Valley and glacio fluvial deposits on the valley sides with some head deposits mixed in. The landscape is rural with an historically dispersed settlement pattern, although a small nucleated settlement at Nounsley developed, largely in the second half of the 20th century. Large houses with associated grounds developed in the 18th century at Crix and Hatfield Place. Historically the field pattern comprised a mix of irregular and rectilinear field patterns with halls, farms and moated sites. Meadow pasture associated with the Chelmer survives in the southern part of the zone. The field pattern has suffered some boundary loss caused through both modern farming practices and quarrying activity. Much of the landscape and the settlement pattern has its origins in the medieval period. The road system largely comprises of sunken lanes. Several blocks of Ancient Woodland survive within the zone.

Archaeological Character: Alluvial deposits survive in the base of the valley and have the potential to preserve Palaeo-environmental deposits. Multi period archaeological deposits are represented by the cropmark complexes on the slopes of the Chelmer. Significant numbers of ring ditches, and other cropmarks including enclosures are indicative of multi-period settlement from the later prehistoric

period onward. The dispersed Medieval and post-medieval settlement pattern survives well and is attested by the moated sites and listed buildings within the rural landscape. The surviving ancient woodland may well preserve earthworks of a multi-period date.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Cropmark complexes, moats, listed buildings field system	3
• Survival	Survival likely to be good due to limited development..	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, NMP data	2
• Group Value Association	Medieval and post medieval settlement, cropmarks are extensive	3
• Potential	High potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Extensive cropmarks indicate surviving below ground deposits. Historic settlement pattern is well preserved	3
• Amenity Value	Cropmarks and landscape on the valley of the Chelmer provide potential for promotion. .	2

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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.

Braintree encompasses large areas of rural and some 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.

Braintree 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 Braintree and route ways;
- The development of a distinctive pattern of dispersed settlement across Braintree District;
- 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 36 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:

HLCA 1. Upper Stour valley

This area encompasses the upper reaches of the Stour valley in Essex. The valley has a broad flat bottom, characterised by extensive meadows, and gentle slopes rising to the south and west. The soil-type comprises a mix of alluvium and sand and gravel, with boulder clay on the higher slopes. The field pattern comprises meadows in the valley floor, with 18th century or later enclosure on the valley sides, interspersed with the occasional area of pre-18th century irregular enclosure (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older). The field boundaries echo the lie of the contours, with the long fields formed by the later enclosure running down the slope. There is little settlement in this area, as historically the villages were located on the crest of the valley slope. There are however a number of isolated farms and structures associated with the river itself, most notably mills, in the valley bottom. Post 1950s boundary loss can be described as moderate, rising to high in a number of farms. Interestingly the result of this boundary loss has been to return the field-pattern to its pre-enclosure dimensions.

1.2 Creation of Urban Character areas for Braintree

1.2.1 General Background

Braintree contains six main areas of urban landscapes at Braintree, Coggeshall, Earls Colne, Halstead, Kelvedon and Witham. All three settlements have long histories. Braintree and Kelvedon have their origins as Roman settlements possibly continuing in occupation through to the modern day.

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

- The development of the Roman town
- Development during the Saxon period
- The growth of the medieval town;
- Industrial development;
- Late 19th and 20th century suburban development;

1.2.2 Method and Approach

The Braintree 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 Braintree District. 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 37-41 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:

HUCA 1: HALSTEAD - Beridge Road area

Predominant Periods: Modern

Secondary Periods: N/A

Predominant Type: Residential

Secondary Type: N/A

- A small area of 20th century residential development, begun in the inter-war period and subsequently infilled in the late 20th century.
- At the end of the 19th century the area comprised Slough Farm

1.3 Creation of Archaeological Character Areas in Braintree

1.3.1 General Background

As described in the overview of the historic environment the archaeological resource of Uttlesford 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 42 shows the location and extent of the identified Archaeological Character Areas. Each of these areas is accompanied by a short description of the archaeological Character (see Appendix 4). This layer is also available in the accompanying GIS. An example of one area is provided below:

ACA 1: Stour Valley

- This area comprises the River Stort floodplain and valley sides.
- The surviving alluvial deposits have a very high potential for early prehistoric remains and palaeoenvironmental remains of regional and national importance.
- The earliest evidence for human occupation is in the form of stray Palaeolithic and Mesolithic finds of flint-tools, largely from the valley floor.
- There is extensive prehistoric occupation on the valley slopes above the valley bottom. The crop-mark evidence suggests that the area had a particular

significance in the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods, with a number of important ritual monuments or groups of monuments represented.

- Roman and Saxon occupation is known from the area.
- It is probable that mills dating back to the medieval period would have been located along the Stour. There is extensive evidence for the use of the valley floor as meadow pasture, with the settlement being strung out along the valley sides

The area includes extensive evidence of the post-medieval management of

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 Character Areas, and Urban Character 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 20 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.

2 Braintree: Historic Landscape Character Area Descriptions

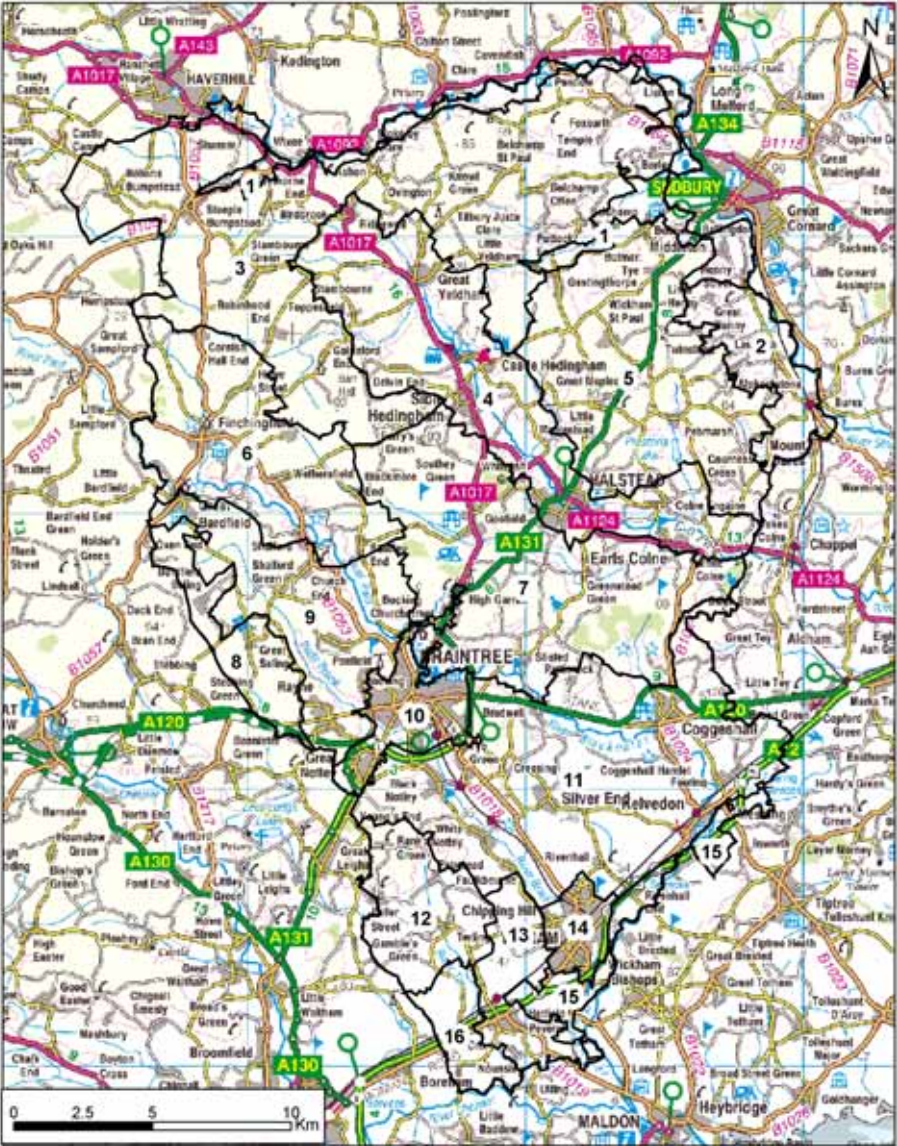


Fig.36 Braintree Historic Landscape Character Areas

HLCA 1. Upper Stour valley

This area encompasses the upper reaches of the Stour valley in Essex. The valley has a broad flat bottom, characterised by extensive meadows, and gentle slopes rising to the south and west. The soil-type comprises a mix of alluvium and sand and gravel, with boulder clay on the higher slopes. The field pattern comprises meadows in the valley floor, with 18th century or later enclosure on the valley sides, interspersed with the occasional area of pre-18th century irregular enclosure (these

are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older). The field boundaries echo the lie of the contours, with the long fields formed by the later enclosure running down the slope. There is little settlement in this area, as historically the villages were located on the crest of the valley slope. There are however a number of isolated farms and structures associated with the river itself, most notably mills, in the valley bottom. Post 1950s boundary loss can be described as moderate, rising to high in a number of farms. Interestingly the result of this boundary loss has been to return the field-pattern to its pre-enclosure dimensions.

HLCA 2. Lower Stour valley

Part of a larger character area which comprises the valley floor and southern slopes of the River Stour, and includes the Dedham Vale area. The geology comprises a complex intertwining network of river alluviums, sand and gravel river terraces and London Clay, with areas of Boulder Clay near the crest of the valley. The valley landscape is characterised by extensive tracts of meadow pasture along the valley floor. The field boundaries on the meadows largely take the form of drainage channels with ancient willows spaced out along the banks of the river. The valley sides have a mix of 18th century or later enclosure, interspersed with the occasional area of pre-18th century irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older). The field boundaries, echo the lie of the contours, with the long fields formed by the later enclosure running down the slope. There are a number of areas of ancient woodland, and some more recent woodland plantation, these are all located on the valley slope. There is limited settlement in this area, as historically the villages were located on the crest of the valley slope. There are also a number of isolated farms and structures associated with the river itself, most notably mills, in the valley bottom. Post 1950s boundary loss can be described as moderate, rising to high in a number of farms. Interestingly the result of this boundary loss has been to return those fields that were formed as a result of 18th century or later enclosure to their pre-enclosure dimensions.

HLCA 3. Belchamps ridge

A ridge of higher ground to the south of the Stour valley. The geology is predominately Boulder Clay with sand and gravel and alluvium in the tributaries valleys of the Stour. The area comprises a complex mix of pre-18th century irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older) and common arable field enclosed by agreement. The latter type of field had largely been enclosed by the mid-19th century, and is more concentrated in the eastern half of the area. Historically the settlement was very dispersed, consisting of church/hall complexes, isolated manors and farms, moated sites and small hamlets. The only significant modern intrusions of this ancient landscape are the Second World War airfields at Wethersfield and at Ashen. There are a number of small parks of medieval origin at Liston Hall and Moyns Park. Small areas of ancient woodland are scattered along the ridge, and there are ancient enclosed meadows, some still surviving, in the tributaries of the River Stour. Post 1950s boundary loss can be described as moderate, rising to high on a number of farms.

HLCA 4. Upper Colne valley

This area comprises the upper reaches of the Colne valley. The geology consists of Boulder Clay on the upper levels, the river has revealed the underlying Kesgrave sands and gravels and patches of London Clay in the valley sides and base, with

alluvium along the valley floor. The fieldscape comprise a complex mix of pre-18th century irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older) and later enclosure of common arable. There are extensive areas of enclosed meadow along the valley floor still surviving. The size of the fields varies enormously, from large rectangular ones on the side of the valleys, to small irregular paddock-sized examples clustered around the towns and villages. There are a number of parks, many of which are of medieval origin. These particularly congregate in the area immediately to the north of Halstead. There are some areas of ancient woodland, largely on the valley sides, and some areas of 19th-20th century plantation. The settlement pattern is strung out along the river, clustering at crossing-places, as at Earls Colne, Halstead, Sible Hedingham and Great Yeldham. Castle Hedingham by contrast is located on a natural spur jutting out into the valley. The remainder of the settlement comprises isolated farms and moated sites and small hamlets. Post-1950s boundary loss can be described as slight to moderate.

HLCA 5. Pebmarsh area

An area of undulating topography, comprising a central area of higher ground, drained by many small rivers, each in their own valley, which are tributaries of the River Stour to the north and the River Colne to the south. The geology comprises Boulder Clay on the upper levels, the river has revealed the underlying Kesgrave sands and gravels and patches of London Clay in the valley sides and base, with alluvium along the valley floor. The fieldscape comprises a mix of pre-18th century irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older) and later enclosure of common arable. There is a scatter of ancient woodlands along the crest of the ridge overlooking the Stour valley and small areas of enclosed meadow in the valleys. There are also areas of 19th-20th century woodland plantation, these are largely located in the tributary valleys. Historically the settlement was very dispersed, consisting of church/hall complexes, isolated manors and farms, moated sites and small hamlets and there has been little modern development. Post 1950s boundary loss can be described as moderate, rising to high in a number of fields.

HLCA 6. Upper Pant/Blackwater valley

The upper reaches of the River Pant/Blackwater. The geology comprises Boulder Clay on the upper levels with Kesgrave sands and gravels from the valley sides, and a build-up of alluvium in the valley floor. The fieldscape is characterised by pre-18th century irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older), which are generally smaller than usual. In the valley bottom there are extensive tracts of enclosed meadow. There are numerous small areas of ancient woodland on the higher ground, and in the valley floor are areas of 19th to 20th century woodland or scrub. Historically the settlement comprised very dispersed settlement of church/hall complexes, manors, farms, moated sites and small hamlets strung out along extensive network of linear and triangular greens. The exception to this is the nucleated village of Finchingfield, which occupies a nodal position in the communications. This nodal position is in turn reflected in the 'spider-web' field pattern which radiates around the village. Post 1950's field loss can be described as slight to moderate and largely takes the form of amalgamation of smaller fields in order to provide larger units. The overall grain to the landscape remains largely unchanged.

HLCA 7. Gosfield area

A ridge of higher ground, sloping down to the Colne valley to the north and the Blackwater valley to the south. The soil-type is largely Boulder Clay, with sands and gravels and alluvium in the river valleys and the valley of the Bourne Brook. The landscape is characterised by a belt of ancient woods running along the top the ridge, these include Markshall woods, Gosfield Wood and Parkhall wood. In addition there are a number of large landscaped parks, also located along the top of the ridge, these include Gosfield Hall, Gosfield Place and Marks Hall park. Some of these are medieval in origin. The field pattern is predominately pre-18th century irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older), with some enclosed meadow along the rivers. Gosfield airfield in the centre of the area dates to the Second World War. Post 1950s boundary loss can be described as moderate, rising to high on one or two farms.

HLCA 8. The Saling ridge

This area comprises the ridge between the Stebbing Brook and the Pods Brook valleys, the ridge itself gently slopes from south to north. The geology comprises Boulder Clay, with alluviums and gravels in the valley of Ter. A predominately rural landscape of fields, hedgerows and small copses. The fields are predominately pre-18th century irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older), relatively small in size in the southern half of the area and getting larger to the north. There are areas of enclosed meadow pasture along the Ter still surviving and numerous small areas of woodland. Historically the settlement comprised dispersed or polyfocal settlement strung out along an extensive network of linear and triangular greens, the latter located at road junctions. In addition there were isolated farms set within their own lands. Modern development is largely limited to small suburbs on the edge of Felsted, some ribbon development along the road and the small grass-strip airfield at Saling. Post 1950s boundary loss can be described as moderate, rising to high on a few farms.

HLCA 9. Pods Brook area

Part of a larger area comprising the ridge between the Pods Brook and the River Pant/Blackwater, and the valley slopes. The area is predominately Boulder Clay, with Kesgrave sands and gravels and alluvium in the valley floors and sides. The fields are predominately pre-18th century irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older). There are areas of enclosed meadow along the Pods Brook and numerous small areas of woodland. Historically the settlement comprised very dispersed settlement of church/hall complexes, manors, farms, moated sites and small hamlets strung out along extensive network of linear and triangular greens, the latter located at road junctions. The greens do not show clearly on the HLC, largely because they were enclosed in a piecemeal fashion prior to the 1st OS map, however their location is still discernible within the current fieldscape. Rayne is the only settlement of any size. Post 1950s boundary loss can be described as moderate, rising to high on a few farms.

HLCA 10. Braintree urban area

The modern urban area of Braintree, this incorporates the historic Roman, medieval and post-medieval cores, the historic village of Bocking and the new development of Great Notley.

HLCA 11. Coggeshall area

An undulating landscape, cut by the steep-sided valleys of the rivers Brain and Blackwater. The principal geology is Boulder Clay, with London Clay and gravels exposed in the valley bottoms and sides respectively. The fieldscape is complex, comprising a mix of pre-18th century irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older) and pre-18th century co-axial fields (also of probable medieval origin), the latter in particular respond to the local topography. The valley bottoms contain present and former enclosed meadow. The valley to the south of Coggeshall now contains extensive willow plantations which add their own character to the landscape. The historic settlement pattern is largely dispersed, comprising isolated manors, church/hall complexes, farms, moated sites and hamlets. The historic towns of Kelvedon and Coggeshall also fall within the area, as does the early 20th century village of Silver End. The Roman roads of Stane Street (the old A120) and the former A12 have also left their imprint on the modern landscape, influencing field alignment and settlement distribution. The former airfield of Rivenhall, now a gravel-extraction site, forms a dominant landscape feature in the centre of the area. Post 1950s boundary loss can be described as moderate.

HLCA 12. The Ter valley

An area of undulating countryside forming Ter valley. The geology comprises boulder clay on the interfluvial ridge and head and glacial sand and gravel deposits in the river valley. The historic pattern of dispersed settlements and scattered farmsteads survive in this area, with the village of Terling forming a focal point. Some settlements would have been focussed on greens. A historic pattern of irregular fields of various sizes exists across the area, these are medieval or earlier in origin. Despite moderate to significant boundary loss, the boundary pattern survives. There are several areas of ancient woodlands.

HLCA 13. Hatfield Peverel area

An area to the north of Maldon comprising the floodplain and valley-sides where the lower reaches of the Chelmer and Blackwater rivers converge. The geology largely comprises Boulder Clays. The fieldscape is of pre-18th century fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older), mostly regular in plan. On a micro-scale there is a considerable degree of co-axiality in their layout, usually relating directly to the immediate topography. The river valleys are marked by enclosed meadow. There are some areas of ancient woodland. There is also a medieval park on the former site of Hatfield Peverel Priory. Historically the settlement is dispersed, comprising church/hall complexes, isolated manors, farms, moated sites and small hamlets. The only nucleated settlement of any size is Hatfield Peverel. Post 1950s boundary loss can be described as moderate, however the overall grain of the historic landscape is still clearly visible. There has also been extensive modern mineral extraction to the south-west of Witham.

HLCA 14. Witham urban area

The modern urban area of Witham. This incorporates the site of the Roman temple complex at Ivy Chimneys, the Saxon burh at Chipping Hill, and the medieval and post-medieval town centred on Newlands Street. The town remained a small market

town until the 1960s and 70s when large new estates of 'London overspill' were added.

HLCA 15. North bank of the River Blackwater

The sloping valley sides and bottom of the northern side of the River Blackwater. The geology comprises sands and gravels and alluvial deposits. The fieldscape is regular in pattern, and possibly medieval in origin. There were extensive areas of enclosed meadow pasture along the valley floor, some of which survive, others have been converted to willow plantations. Historically the settlement was very dispersed and sparse, comprising isolated manors, farms, cottages and small hamlets. The small settlement of Rivenhall End largely dates to the 20th century. Post 1950's boundary loss can be characterised as moderate. There has been some gravel extraction, particularly in the south-west of the area.

HLCA 16. The lower Ter Valley

Rolling countryside dropping down to the lower reaches of the River Ter, at the point where it joins the River Chelmer. Geologically this area is very complex, with bands of brickearths, glaciofluvial sands and gravels, head deposits and alluvium. There is a historic dispersed settlement pattern of scattered farmsteads. The area is bisected by the A12. The historic field pattern largely comprises irregular fields of pre-18th century, possibly medieval, origin. There were also enclosed meadow pasture along the river valley. Moderate to significant boundary loss has created larger fields, but these still respect the historic pattern. There are still significant areas of ancient woodland.

3 Braintree Historic Urban Characterisation

HALSTEAD

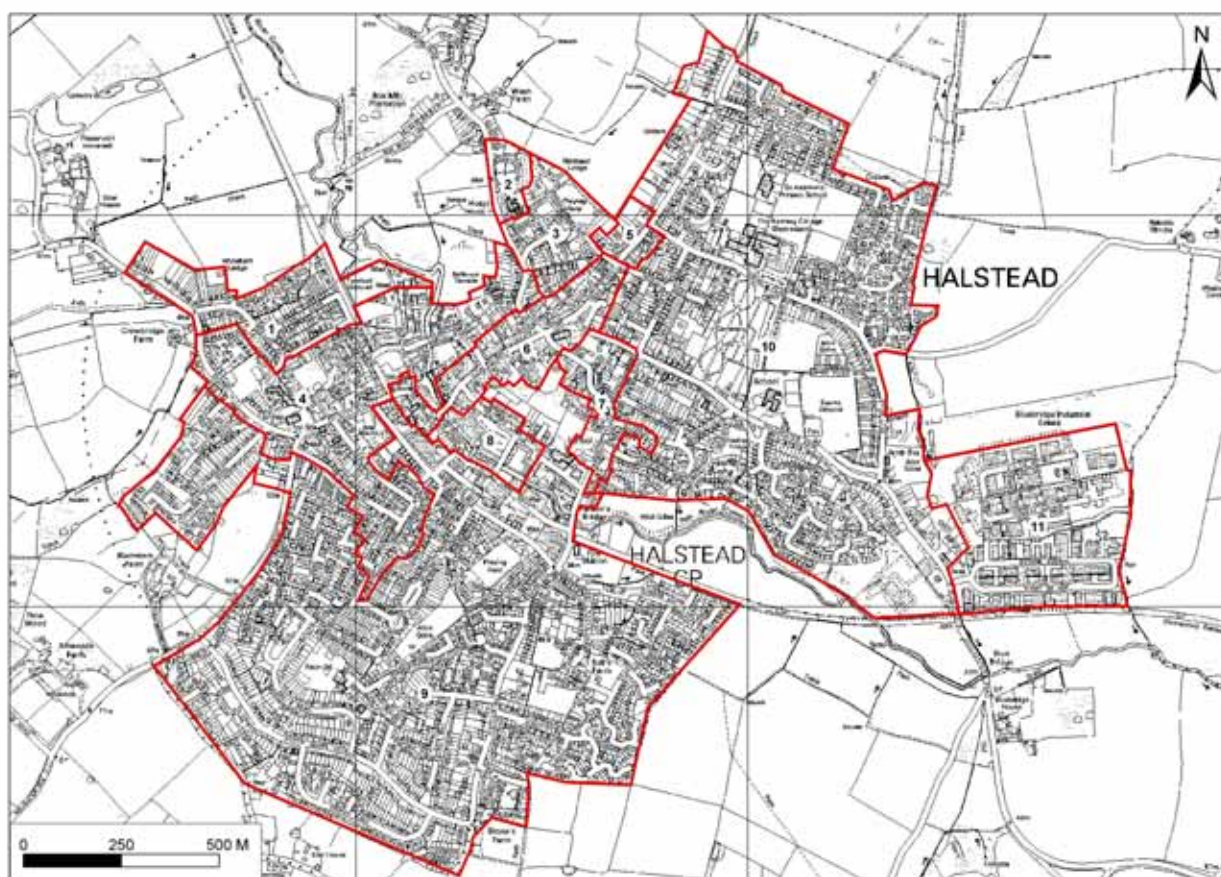


Fig. 37 Halstead HUCAs

HUCA 1: HALSTEAD - Beridge Road area

Predominant Periods: Modern

Secondary Periods: N/A

Predominant Type: Residential

Secondary Type: N/A

- A small area of 20th century residential development, begun in the inter-war period and subsequently infilled in the late 20th century.
- At the end of the 19th century the area comprised Slough Farm

HUCA 2: HALSTEAD – Cottage Hospital area

Predominant Periods: Modern

Secondary Periods: Post-medieval

Predominant Type: Hospital/Old People's Housing

Secondary Type: Workhouse

- Site of the Union Workhouse, built 1838 and demolished 1922
- Halstead Cottage Hospital built in 1884 by George Courtauld and enlarged in 1920, it has been subsequently updated and renovated.
- The Homes of Rest built in 1923 in 5 separate blocks in a neo-Tudor style.

HUCA 3: HALSTEAD – Mill Chase area

Predominant Periods: Modern

Secondary Periods: Post-medieval

Predominant Type: Residential

Secondary Type: Industrial/school

- Site of the late post-medieval Halstead Corn Mills and Industrial School
- Now late 20th century residential housing

HUCA 4: HALSTEAD – Trinity Street area

Predominant Periods: Post-medieval/modern

Secondary Periods: N/A

Predominant Type: Residential

Secondary Type: Industrial

- A mix of post-medieval (largely 19th century), early 20th century and late 20th century residential development.
- Holy Trinity Church (1843/4) by Sir George Gilbert Scott forms a prominent local landmark. It is now redundant.
- This zone incorporates a number of former industrial sites, including the Tortoise Foundry and the Tannery, both of which have been re-developed.
- The Public Gardens was opened in 1902 and is a good example of a late Victorian public park, complete with band-stand, railings and flower-beds.
-

HUCA 5: HALSTEAD – Head Street

Predominant Periods: Post-medieval

Secondary Periods: N/A

Predominant Type: Residential

Secondary Type: Industrial

- A small area of post-medieval ribbon development linking the medieval urban core to the site of Bois Hall Mmanor-house.
- The area incorporates the late 19th century water-works, the water-tower dates to 1889

HUCA 6: HALSTEAD – Historic core

Predominant Periods: Post-medieval

Secondary Periods: Medieval

Predominant Type: Commercial

Secondary Type: Residential

- Historic core of Halstead, comprising Bridge Street, High Street and the lower half of Head Street.
- The oldest portion of the town was at the top of the hill around the Church of St Andrew and Market Hill.
- In the 13th century the town expanded down the High Street to Bridge Street
- The bridge dates to the late medieval period.
- There are a large number of Listed 15th, 16th and 17th century buildings along the High Street.
- The late 19th century saw the infilling of many of the yards of older properties with tenement housing.
- Most of the buildings are in commercial use, sometimes with residential accommodation on the upper levels or to the rear.

HUCA 7: HALSTEAD – Parsonage Street and Weavers Row

Predominant Periods: Post-medieval

Secondary Periods: Modern

Predominant Type: Residential

Secondary Type: Industrial

- Post-medieval ribbon development along Parsonage Street.
- The area incorporates the mid-19th century terrace of weaver's cottages at Weavers Row.
- The Congregational Chapel is 19th century in origin
- There has been some modern infill.

HUCA 8: HALSTEAD – Former Courtauld's factory site

Predominant Periods: Post-medieval/modern

Secondary Periods: Post-medieval

Predominant Type: Commercial

Secondary Type: Industrial

- The area includes the 18th century Townsford mill, the site of the 19th century silk-weaving factory and associated worker's housing.
- 3-12 The Causeway is a late 19th century row of workers cottages by George Sherrin for Samuel Courtauld and 1-16 factory Lane East are late 19th century terrace of 16 three-storey textile workers houses, built by Samuel Courtauld.
- The silk-weaving factory for power-loom was constructed in 1832, by 1891 there were 1,000 looms at work in Halstead and the factory employed 1,400 people (mostly women). In the early 20th century production switched to rayon. The factory closed in 1982, most of it was demolished in 1986 and the site redeveloped as a supermarket.
- A medieval water-mill stood on the site of Townsford Mill, it was rebuilt in 1788 in white weatherboard and converted to steam-power in 1827. It was the location of Samuel Courtauld's first silk-factory in 1828. It is Listed and currently used as an antiques centre.
- The river has been managed for water-power since medieval times in this area

HUCA 9: HALSTEAD – Southern Halstead

Predominant Periods: Modern

Secondary Periods: Post-medieval

Predominant Type: Residential

Secondary Type: Commercial

- A large area of largely modern housing forming the southern half of the town, replacing what had been open space and fields.
- The area incorporates some post-medieval and early 20th century ribbon development along Mount Hill and Tidings Hill.
- The area was bisected by the railway line and associated sidings (now built over).
- There are some surviving areas of open space, these are mainly playing fields, but there is also an area of allotment gardens at Holmes Road and a wooded area adjacent to The Centre.

HUCA 10: HALSTEAD – Northern Halstead

Predominant Periods: Modern

Secondary Periods: Post-medieval

Predominant Type: Residential

Secondary Type: Commercial

- A large area of largely modern housing forming the northern half of the town, replacing what had been open space and fields.
- The area incorporates some post-medieval and early 20th century ribbon development along Sudbury and Colchester Road. The area around Pretoria Road was developed in the inter-war period.
- The area contained a number of clay pits and gravel pits, as well as allotment gardens.
- There are a number of large areas of open space, these are mainly playing fields associated with the three schools that are sited within the area, but there is also the cemetery which opened in 1856.

HUCA 11: HALSTEAD – Bluebridge Industrial Estate

Predominant Periods: Modern

Secondary Periods: N/A

Predominant Type: Industrial

Secondary Type: N/A

- Modern (late 20th and early 21st century) industrial estate
- The area was previously the site of Moon Farm

BRAINTREE AND BOCKING

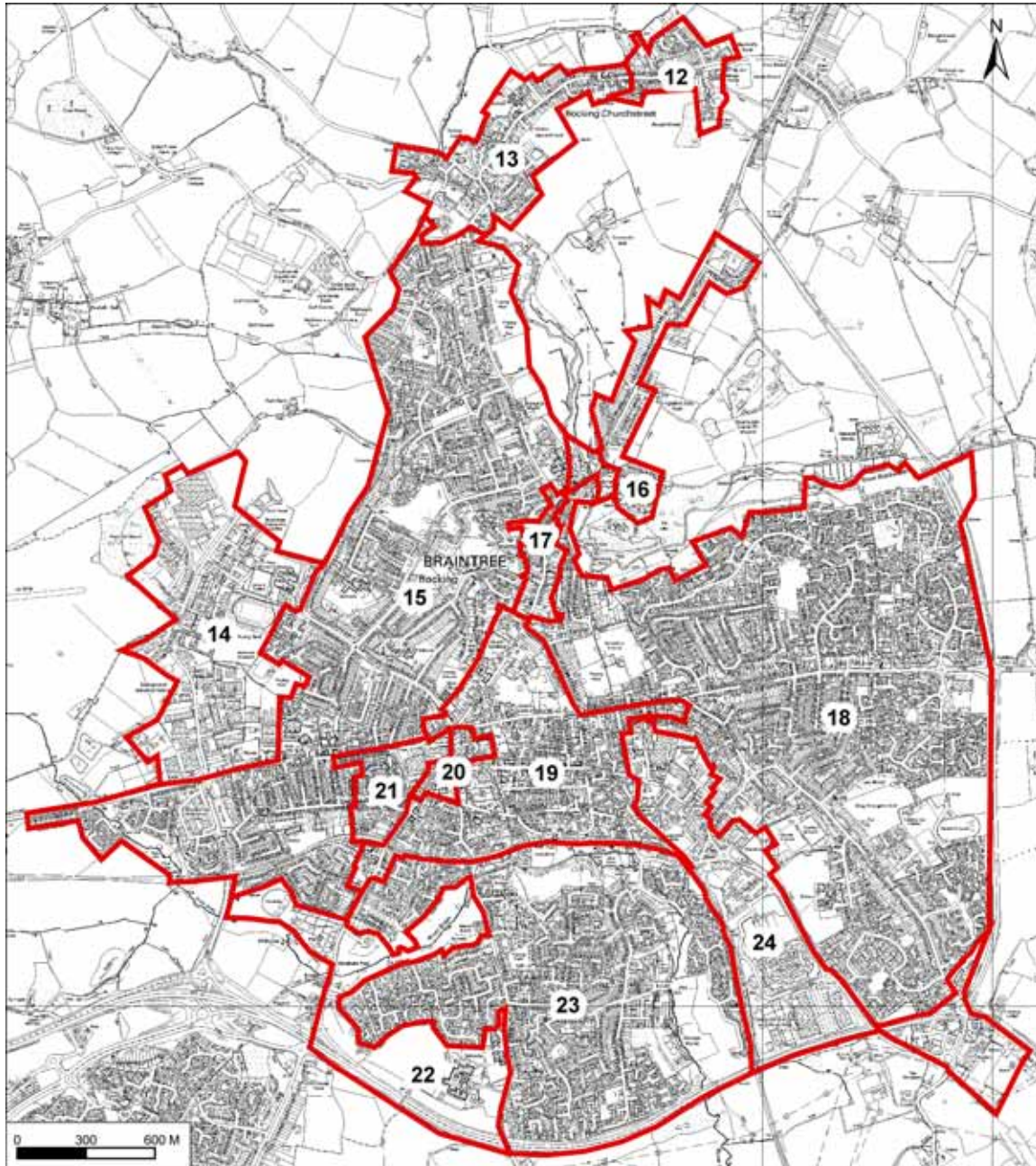


Fig 38 Braintree and Bocking HUCAs

HUCA 12: BRAINTREE AND BOCKING – Northern end of Bocking Churchstreet

Predominant Periods: Modern

Secondary Periods: N/A

Predominant Type: Residential

Secondary Type: N/A

- Small area of late 20th and early 21st century housing
- The area was previously the site of Harriets Farm, the farmhouse survives and is Listed

HUCA 13: BRAINTREE AND BOCKING – Bocking Churchstreet

Predominant Periods: Post-medieval

Secondary Periods: Medieval

Predominant Type: Residential

Secondary Type: Commercial

- Original location of historic settlement of Bocking, centred on the church and manorhouse at the lower end of Church Street.
- Presumed site of the late 10th century Saxon settlement of Bocking
- The original church was destroyed by fire in early 11th century and rebuilt c.1066 and again in the 14th century with remodellings in subsequent centuries.
- The Old Deanery occupies land granted to the monks of Canterbury in the late 10th century.
- Bocking Hall manor-house is recorded in 1309 as belonging to the monks of Canterbury, it was rebuilt in the 16th century.
- The buildings which front Church Street are largely post-medieval in date, however a number incorporate earlier structures within their fabric.
- Bocking Windmill is a Listed weather-boarded post-mill, 17th century in origin. It was moved to its present site in 1830.
- A medieval water-mill is recorded as having stood on the Blackwater. The site was purchased by Samuel Courtauld in the early 19th century and a steam factory specialising in the production of black mourning crêpe constructed on the site. This closed in 1981. The site is now under Peter Taylor Avenue.
- There has been some modern infill along Church Street, and new buildings and roads have been inserted to the rear of the buildings which front it.

HUCA 14: BRAINTREE AND BOCKING – Springwood Industrial Estate

Predominant Periods: Modern

Secondary Periods: N/A

Predominant Type: Industrial

Secondary Type: School

- Modern industrial estate dating to the end of the 20th century
- Includes the late 20th century Tabor Science College and sports centre
- Previously open farmland.

HUCA 15: BRAINTREE AND BOCKING – Western side of Braintree and Bocking

Predominant Periods: Modern

Secondary Periods: Post-medieval

Predominant Type: Residential

Secondary Type: Hospital

- Large area of late 20th and early 21st century housing
- Includes the site of the 19th century Union Workhouse, which was subsequently converted to form the central part of St Michael's Hospital. The original workhouse buildings have been converted to flats and a new hospital constructed next to them.
- The area was open farmland, with the occasional farmhouse and cottage, until the interwar period when the Clare Road estate was constructed. However the majority of buildings are 1960s or later in date.
- There are a number of areas of open space, comprising a mix of playing-fields and the public park on Coldnailhurst Avenue

HUCA 16: BRAINTREE AND BOCKING – Bocking Broad Road

Predominant Periods: Modern

Secondary Periods: N/A

Predominant Type: Residential

Secondary Type: N/A

- 1930s ribbon development along Convent Hill and Broad Road, with late 20th century infill
- Broad Road follows the route of the Roman road from Braintree to Sudbury

HUCA 17: BRAINTREE AND BOCKING – Bocking Bradford Street

Predominant Periods: Post-medieval

Secondary Periods: Medieval

Predominant Type: Residential

Secondary Type: Commercial

- Medieval and post-medieval development along Bradford Street.
- Outstanding collection of Listed Buildings, primarily comprising the houses, wool-halls and public buildings associated with the late medieval and early post-medieval wool trade.
- Bradford Mill is 18th century in date, it replaced a medieval predecessor
- Bradford Street follows the route of the Roman road from Braintree to Sudbury

HUCA 18: BRAINTREE AND BOCKING – Eastern Braintree

Predominant Periods: Modern

Secondary Periods: N/A

Predominant Type: Residential

Secondary Type: N/A

- Modern residential development on the eastern side of Braintree on what had been open farmland with the occasional historic farmstead or cottage.
- 21-22 Clockhouse Way and 156-8 Crossing Road were constructed in the years immediately after 1918 by C.H.B Quennell and W.F. Crittall to demonstrate the use of the metric modular system of concrete block construction.
- The estate centred on Wheatley Avenue dates to the 1930s.
- Coggeshall Road follows the route of the Roman road Stane Street. A possible Roman villa site is known from Marlborough Road and a second may have been located at Marks Farm.

- There is some open space in the form of sports grounds and school playing-fields

HUCA 19: BRAINTREE AND BOCKING – Post-medieval Braintree

Predominant Periods: Post-medieval

Secondary Periods: medieval

Predominant Type: Residential

Secondary Type: Industrial

- Post-medieval expansion of Braintree to the north and east of the historic core. It began with the construction of New Street in 1619 and the subsequent shifting of the market-place was shifted to its present position.
- The silk industry of the 19th century led to considerable expansion in workers housing. 118-20 and 141-5 South Street are weaver's cottages with an integral purpose-built loom room
- Warners Mills on South Street dates to 1869/70
- The railway and station form the southern boundary of the HUCA. The railway opened in 1848, part of it is still in use, the remainder forms part of the Flich Way. The station was built in 1865.
- Manor Street and Railway Street date to the mid-late 19th century and the remainder of the area gradually infilled in the late 19th and early 20th century with a mix of residential and industrial buildings.
- There is some open space in the HUCA, these include the Public Gardens on The Causeway, which were given by the Courtaulds to the town in 1888, as well as the grounds associated with the Courtaulds former home at Bocking place.

HUCA 20: BRAINTREE AND BOCKING – Historic medieval core

Predominant Periods: Post-medieval

Secondary Periods: Medieval

Predominant Type: Commercial

Secondary Type: Residential

- Historic core of Braintree, comprising the High Street, Bank Street and Great Square
- The town was founded in 1199 by the Bishop of London, and appears to have been deliberately planned with blocks of tenements fronting a market-place

located between Swan Side and Great Square. A second phase of development took place along the west side of Bank Street in the late 14th or early 15th century.

- The Parish Church of St Michael is located at the southern end of the High Street and is 12th century in origin, although it was almost totally rebuilt in 1240.
- Many of the buildings are Listed, and are mainly of 15th-17th century date.
- The rise of the silk industry in the 19th century saw the infilling of many of the yards of existing properties with workers housing.
- A WWII bombing-raid destroyed the Bank Street/Coggeshall Road junction and the opportunity was taken to widen the road there.
- A number of historic buildings were lost in the 1960s and the George Yard development of the 1980s destroyed all of the west side of Bank Street whilst Sainsbury's supermarket impinged on the east side of Great Square.

HUCA 21: BRAINTREE AND BOCKING – Pierrefitte Way and Roman Braintree

Predominant Periods: Modern

Secondary Periods: Roman

Predominant Type: Residential

Secondary Type: N/A

- This HUCA comprises the Roman town of Braintree which underlies the interwar development around Grenville and College Road, and the modern Pierrefitte Way.
- The Roman town was sited in the triangle of land between the modern High Street and Rayne Road, both of which were major Roman highways. A market-place was sited at the apex of the triangle (now under George Yard). A cemetery was located on the western side of the built-up area (under College Road and Grenville Road). The construction of Pierrefitte Way in the 1980s enabled the excavation of a transect across the Roman town
- The estate centred on College Road was constructed in the inter-war period.
- Excavation has established the survival of Roman features and deposits beneath the modern town

HUCA 22: BRAINTREE AND BOCKING – Brain valley

Predominant Periods: Modern

Secondary Periods: N/A

Predominant Type: Cemetery

Secondary Type: Park/school

- Area of open land, comprising a Cemetery, Marshalls Park and Notley High School on the southern edge of Braintree, bisected north-south by London Road and east-west by the River Brain.
- The cemetery opened in 1856.
- The area between Meadow park and the A120 has recently been developed.

HUCA 23: BRAINTREE AND BOCKING – Southern Braintree

Predominant Periods: Modern

Secondary Periods: Post-medieval

Predominant Type: Residential

Secondary Type: Industrial

- Large area to the south of Braintree between the railway line and the A120
- Formerly open farmland, with the occasional farmstead and cottage. Known to contain prehistoric and Saxon remains.
- In the 19th century industrial activity relating to the town started to develop in this area. This included the construction of the Courtauld Silk-mills (now demolished) and a number of sewage and water-works.
- Ribbon development grew up along Skitts Hill in the inter-war period, but the bulk of the housing dates to the 1960s onwards.
- There are a number of small industrial areas.

HUCA 24: BRAINTREE AND BOCKING – Lakes Road industrial area and Freeport Village

Predominant Periods: Modern

Secondary Periods: Post-medieval

Predominant Type: Industrial

Secondary Type: Commercial

- This area comprises the Lakes Road industrial area, Freeport shopping village and the Chapel Hill business and retail park

- The late Saxon and medieval manor and chapel of the Bishop of London was located at the junction of Lakes Road and Chapel Hill and it is possible that the late Saxon/early medieval settlement was also located here.
- The area has been used for industry since the beginning of the 19th century when the Albion Works steel foundry and electric arc furnace was constructed at Chapel Hill.
- Freeport shopping village was constructed in 2000.

COGGESHALL

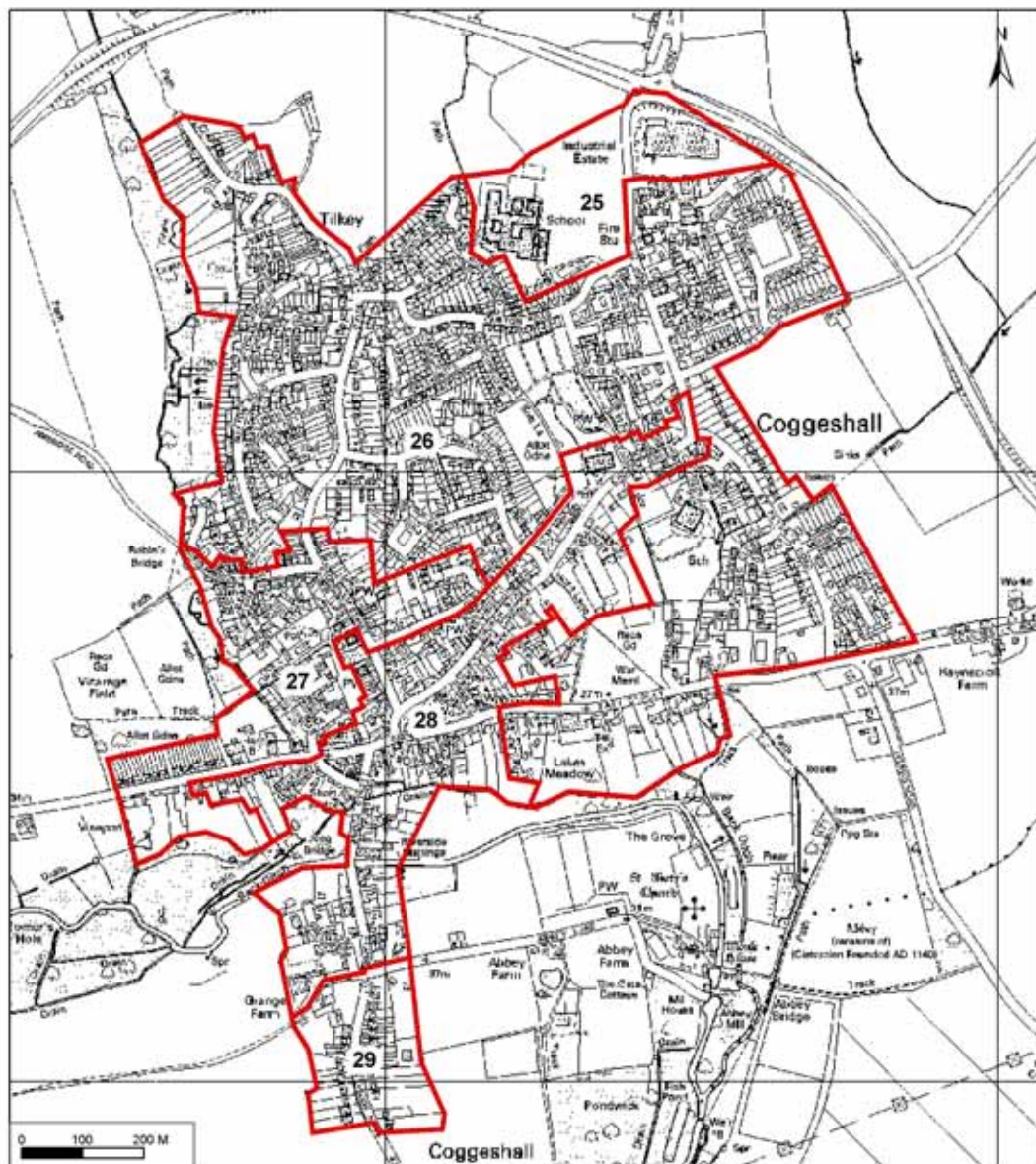


Fig 39 Coggeshall HUCAs

HUCA 25: COGGESHALL – Honeywood School and industrial estate

Predominant Periods: Modern

Secondary Periods: N/A

Predominant Type: School

Secondary Type: Industrial

- Small area on the northern edge of Coggeshall containing Honeywood School and playing-fields and a small industrial estate
- The area was open fields until the second half of the 20th century

HUCA 26: COGGESHALL – Tilkey and St Peter's Road area

Predominant Periods: Modern

Secondary Periods: N/A

Predominant Type: Residential

Secondary Type: N/A

- Large area to the north of the historic core.
- The area was largely open fields, allotment gardens and the occasional building until the second half of the 20th century
- There are a number of areas of open space, these include the early 20th century recreation ground, the post-medieval cemetery is located to the rear of the church. There are also playing-fields associated with the primary and allotment gardens on the former archery butts next to the church
- There is a small industrial area at Lakes Meadow

HUCA 27: COGGESHALL – Post-medieval expansion

Predominant Periods: Post-medieval

Secondary Periods: N/A

Predominant Type: Residential

Secondary Type: Industrial

- Area of post-medieval expansion to the north and west of the historic core
- The 1731-2 estate map shows that ribbon development was spreading out along West Street, Stoneham Street and individual buildings were appearing along Queen Street.
- The 1st edn. OS map of 1873 shows that by that date the northern side of Queen Street had been built-up and ribbon development had occurred along Robinsbridge Road
- Orchard Mill stood to the rear of Stoneham Street, it was largely involved in the production of velvet for top hats. The site is now under the residential development of Kings Acre
- The area includes the Friends Burial Ground (closed 1856)

HUCA 28: COGGESHALL – Historic core

Predominant Periods: Post-medieval

Secondary Periods: Medieval

Predominant Type: Commercial

Secondary Type: Residential

- The historic core of Coggeshall comprising Church Street, Bridge Street, West Street and Stoneham Street
- The original focus of settlement is thought to have been around the Parish Church. The focus of the medieval town is thought to have shifted down to Market Hill, possibly following the grant of a market in 1256
- The parish church is a 15th century replacement of an earlier predecessor
- There is a very fine collection of Listed timber-framed buildings, largely dating to the 14th to 17th centuries
- Coggeshall Abbey Grange falls within this HUCA. Grange Barn has been dated by dendrochronology to 1240, the farmhouse originated as a medieval cross-wing house
- Paycockes, West Street, is an exceptional example of a wealthy clothiers house of the 16th century. It is owned by the National Trust.
- There were a 19th century maltings and brewery located on Bridge Street

HUCA 29: COGGESHALL – Kelvedon Road

Predominant Periods: Modern

Secondary Periods: Post-medieval

Predominant Type: Residential

Secondary Type: N/A

- Small area of largely late 19th and early 20th century ribbon development along Kelvedon Road on what had been open fields

KELVEDON

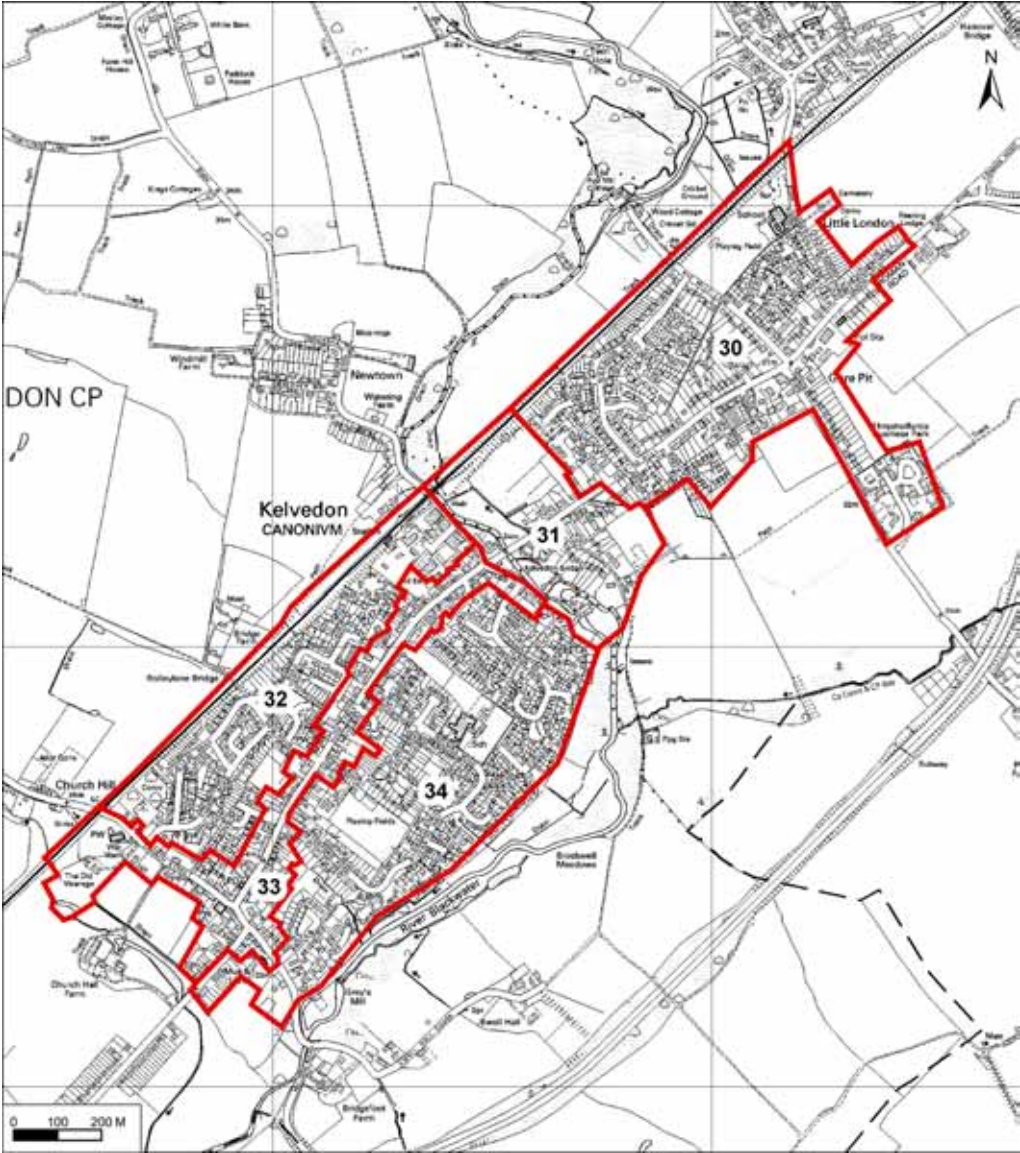


Fig. 40 Kelvedon HUCAs

HUCA 30: KELVEDON – Feering Hill/London Road

Predominant Periods: Modern

Secondary Periods: Post-medieval

Predominant Type: Residential

Secondary Type: N/A

- Large area to the north of the historic core, encompassing the former hamlet of Feering.
- There is a small cluster of historic buildings forming the hamlet of Feering at the junction of Feering Hill and Inworth Road and the 18/19th century Feeringhill House
- The remainder of the area was open fields until the second half of the 20th century
- There is some open space in the form of a cemetery at Little London and the school playing-fields

HUCA 31: KELVEDON – Kelvedon Bridge and the River Blackwater

Predominant Periods: Post-medieval

Secondary Periods: Medieval

Predominant Type: Open land

Secondary Type: Residential/commercial

- Area of historic water-meadows adjoining the River Blackwater
- There is a small cluster of historic buildings located on the slightly higher ground, some of these are post-medieval in date. They include the Sun Inn (1525)

HUCA 32: KELVEDON – Northern Kelvedon

Predominant Periods: Modern

Secondary Periods: N/A

Predominant Type: Residential

Secondary Type: Industrial

- Area of former open fields sandwiched between the railway and the rear of the properties which front the High Street. Now under post-1960s housing-estate.
- There is a small industrial area at the eastern end of the HUCA
- Excavation has established the presence of Iron Age occupation under Trews Gardens

HUCA 33: KELVEDON – Historic core

Predominant Periods: Post-medieval

Secondary Periods: Medieval

Predominant Type: Commercial

Secondary Type: Residential

- The medieval town had two distinct nuclei of settlement based on the cross-roads at either end of the High Street. The earliest of these was around the Church and the Maldon Road/High Street junction. The second focus was at the junction with Coggeshall Road.
- By 1840 ribbon development had taken place along the High Street, and by 1880 it had largely assumed its present form.
- The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin dates to the 12th century, although the majority of the surviving fabric is 13th-14th century in date and the site itself may have had its origins in the 10th century.
- The market –place is thought to have been located at the junction of Church Road and the High Street
- There are numerous Listed Buildings; these include Red House, Church Street which was probably the manor-house and incorporates a probable 13th century aisled hall and St Mary's House which was probably a market hall
- Some Roman activity has been identified at the eastern end of this HUCA
- The High Street is thought to follow the line of the Roman road from Colchester to London

HUCA 34: KELVEDON – Southern Kelvedon and Roman *Canonium*

Predominant Periods: Modern

Secondary Periods: Roman

Predominant Type: Residential

Secondary Type: Playing-fields

- Modern housing-estates located between the River Blackwater and the rear of the buildings which front the southern side of the High Street.
- The area encompasses the Roman town of *Canonium*. This may have originated as a Roman fort on the southern side of the main road and is sited on an preceding late Iron Age settlement. The Roman settlement was enclosed in the late 2nd century by an earthen bank and ditch.
- The Roman settlement included a possible *mansio* (official government staging-post), as well as numerous timber-framed buildings and a cemetery on the southern side of the town
- Although the area has been built on archaeological features and finds are known to survive in open areas, such as gardens and playing-fields.

WITHAM

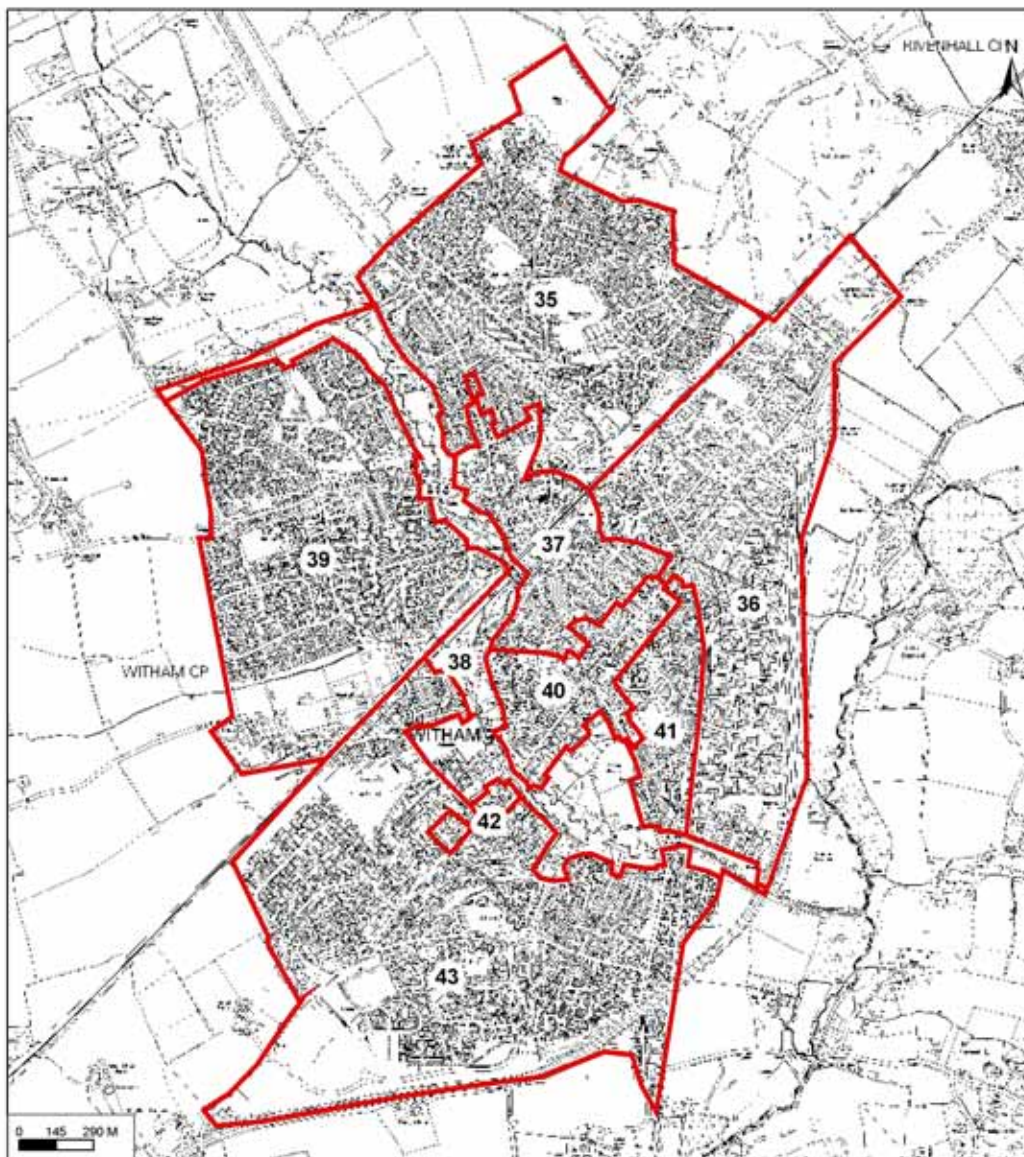


Fig. 41 Witham HUCAs

HUCA 35: WITHAM – Rickstones area

Predominant Periods: Modern

Secondary Periods: N/A

Predominant Type: Residential

Secondary Type: Commercial

- Formerly open farmland, with the occasional farmstead or cottage, urbanisation of the area began in the inter-war period along Cressing Road, the remainder was developed in the 1960s onwards as a consequence of London Overspill
- There are a number of open areas, comprising school playing-fields, the recreation ground, the cemetery and allotments.
- A supermarket and other commercial premises are located at the southern end of this HUCA, adjoining Braintree Road

HUCA 36: WITHAM – Industrial area

Predominant Periods: Modern

Secondary Periods: N/A

Predominant Type: Industrial

Secondary Type: Commercial

- Formerly open farmland, with the occasional farmstead or cottage, now a post 1960s industrial estate. A large sewage farm is located at the southern end of the HUCA
- Cropmark evidence in the form of ring-ditches suggests the presence of below-ground archaeology, although how well this has survived the subsequent development is not known

HUCA 37: WITHAM – Chipping Hill

Predominant Periods: Medieval

Secondary Periods: Saxon/Roman/prehistoric

Predominant Type: Residential

Secondary Type: Commercial

- A Late Bronze Age/Middle Iron Age hill-fort on the crown of Chipping Hill formed the original focus of settlement in Witham. This was delimited by two concentric rings of bank and ditch. There is Iron Age settlement and burial evidence from within the interior. The site may have been re-used in the Roman period
- In 912 AD King Edward the Elder constructed a burh at Witham, it is thought that this comprised a re-fortification of the surviving earthworks at Chipping Hill. The late Saxon settlement developed here outside the north-west gate of Chipping hill Camp.
- The earliest medieval settlement, comprising the parish church, market-place and what may have been a planned settlement at Witham was sited at Chipping Hill, on the site of its Saxon predecessor
- The railway was built in 1843, its route cut straight through Chipping Hill Camp and bisects this HUCA . The railway station provided a focus for the continuing expansion of Witham, with new housing along the Braintree Road, Albert Road and Easton Road infilling the site of Chipping Hill Camp.
- Late inter-war and early post-war housing, centred on The Avenue, links Chipping Hill to Newland Street
- There is a small but important group of Listed Buildings, mostly of 15/16th century date

HUCA 38: WITHAM – River Brain

Predominant Periods: Modern

Secondary Periods: Medieval

Predominant Type: Recreational

Secondary Type: School

- Area of open land along the River Brain, comprising the historic water-meadows, now used as an informal park with cycleways and footpaths.
- There were two mills on the river in the medieval and post-medieval period – the mill-houses survive and parts of the mill structure
- This HUCA also incorporates Maltings Academy and its playing-field, Bramstons Leisure centre and the Sports grounds beside Maldon Road

HUCA 39: WITHAM – Powers Hall End

Predominant Periods: Modern

Secondary Periods: N/A

Predominant Type: Residential

Secondary Type: Recreational

- Formerly open farmland, with the occasional farmstead or cottage, urbanisation of the area began in the inter-war period along Powers Hall End Road, the remainder was developed in the 1960s onwards as a consequence of London Overspill
- There are a number of open areas, comprising school playing-fields, the recreation ground, and the Football and Rugby Clubs

HUCA 40: WITHAM – Newland Street

Predominant Periods: Post-medieval

Secondary Periods: Medieval

Predominant Type: Commercial

Secondary Type: Residential

- Newland Street was found in about 1212 by the Knights Templar. Tenement plots were laid out along the both sides of the main road, with those on the south-east side backed by back-lane. The main road was widened to form a market-place
- Post-medieval development saw expansion along Mill Road, Guithavon Street and Lockram Lane as well as infilling of yards and gardens.
- There are numerous Listed Buildings along Newland Street. A feature of the town is how many of the early post-medieval timber-framed buildings were 'updated' by the addition of Georgian brick-fronts.
- There has been modern intrusions on to the historic streetscape – most notably the Newlands and Grove Shopping Centres

HUCA 41: WITHAM – The Grove area

Predominant Periods: Modern

Secondary Periods: N/A

Predominant Type: Residential

Secondary Type: Commercial

- A small area of modern development located between the historic core and the industrial estate. It was formerly open fields.
- It comprises a mix of residential development, offices and a superstore

HUCA 42: WITHAM – Bridge Street

Predominant Periods: Post-medieval

Secondary Periods: Medieval

Predominant Type: Residential

Secondary Type: Hospital

- A small area of post-medieval development comprising two residential terraces and the former Union Workhouse site.
- The Union Workhouse was built in 1839, it was subsequently converted to form the Bridge Hospital and has now been converted to flats
- It has been suggested that the post-medieval terraces occupy medieval tenement plots

HUCA 43: WITHAM – Ivy Chimneys and Maltings Lane

Predominant Periods: Modern

Secondary Periods: Roman

Predominant Type: Residential

Secondary Type: Commercial

- Formerly open farmland, with the occasional farmstead or cottage, urbanisation of the area began in the inter-war period along Hatfield Road, the Allectus Way (Ivy Chimneys) was developed in the 1960s onwards as a consequence of London Overspill, whilst the Maltings Lane development is late 20th/early 21st century in date
- Excavations on the Ivy Chimneys site revealed a Late Iron Age settlement and Roman temple, as well as a possible Early Christian Baptistry. On the other side of the road on the Maltings lane site were extensive remains of a Late iron Age, Roman and Saxon rural landscape and farmsteads.

4 Braintree – Archaeological Character Areas

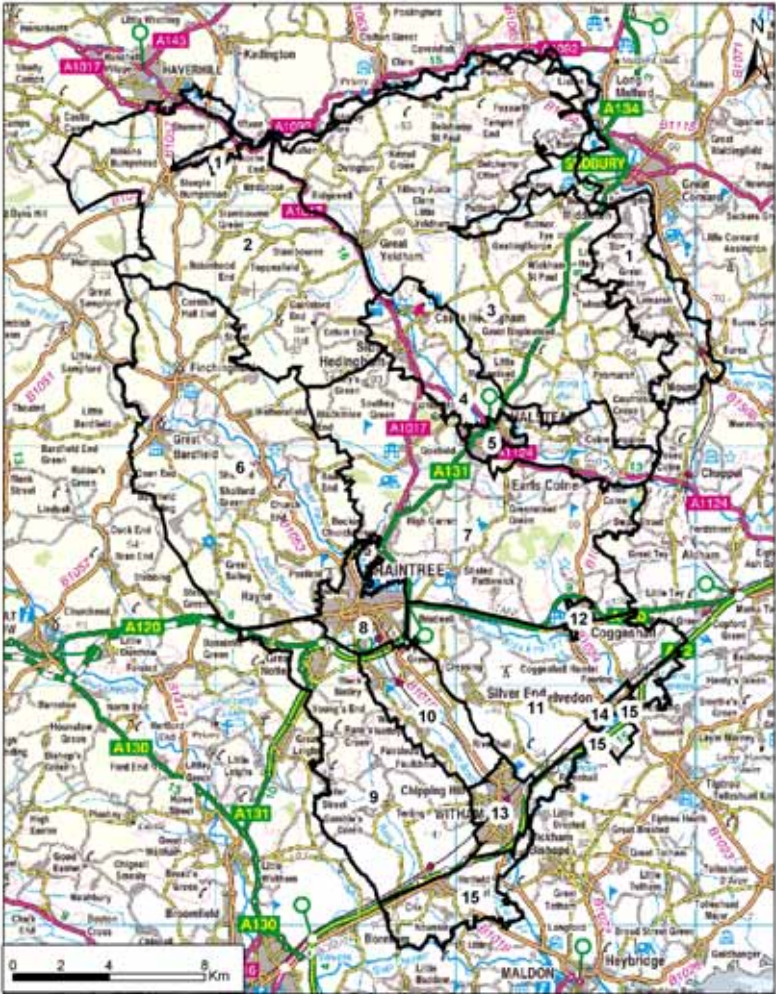


Fig. 42 Braintree Archaeological Character Areas

ACA 1: Stour Valley

- This area comprises the River Stort floodplain and valley sides.
- The surviving alluvial deposits have a very high potential for early prehistoric remains and palaeoenvironmental remains of regional and national importance.
- The earliest evidence for human occupation is in the form of stray Palaeolithic and Mesolithic finds of flint-tools, largely from the valley floor.
- There is extensive prehistoric occupation on the valley slopes above the valley bottom. The crop-mark evidence suggests that the area had a particular significance in the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods, with a number of important ritual monuments or groups of monuments represented.
- Roman and Saxon occupation is known from the area.
- It is probable that mills dating back to the medieval period would have been located along the Stour. There is extensive evidence for the use of the valley floor as meadow pasture, with the settlement being strung out along the valley sides
- The area includes extensive evidence of the post-medieval management of the river and its floodplain.

ACA 2: North-west Braintree

- This area comprises the north-west corner of Braintree District, including Helions and Steeple Bumpstead, Lambourne and Toppesfield. It is an undulating, rural landscape.
- The geology is overwhelmingly chalky boulder clay, with some exposed sand and gravel and alluvial deposits in the valleys of the tributaries of the River Stour. The soil type is conducive to the survival of faunal and ceramic evidence, and the surviving alluvial deposits have potential for palaeoenvironmental remains.
- There has been little archaeological fieldwork in the area, due to the lack of recent development. The relative sparseness of the archaeological record is therefore more a reflection of this, rather than an indication of a genuine absence of archaeology.
- The earliest evidence for human occupation is in the form of stray Palaeolithic finds of flint-tools, largely from the northern part of the area.
- There is evidence for later prehistoric occupation, particularly in the area of the Bumpsteads.
- Roman occupation is found widely spread across the area, and the Roman road from Braintree to Cambridge ran close to its eastern boundary.
- It is evident from the Domesday Book that the area was relatively densely settled in the Saxon and medieval periods. The settlement type was however highly dispersed, comprising church/hall complexes, manors and farms, many of which were moated, cottages and small hamlets, linked by a network of twisting lanes and roadside greens. Many of the moats survive as water-filled features, whilst others are visible as cropmarks.
- The area changed little in the post-medieval period, with the only major additions to the landscape being a number of post-medieval houses, the expansion of the principal hamlets to form villages, the WWII airfield at Wethersfield and the loss of many hedgerows.

ACA 3: North-east Braintree

- A large area comprising the north-east corner of Braintree District, including the Belchamps, the Maplesteads and Pebmarsh. It is an undulating, rural landscape.
- The geology is overwhelmingly chalky boulder clay, with some exposed sand and gravels in the Gestingthorpe/Wickham St Paul area and alluvial deposits in the valleys of the tributaries of the River Stour. The boulder clay is conducive to the survival of faunal and ceramic evidence, and the surviving alluvial deposits have potential for palaeoenvironmental remains.
- There has been only limited archaeological fieldwork in the area, due to the lack of recent development. The relative sparseness of the archaeological record is therefore more a reflection of this, rather than an indication of a genuine absence of archaeology.
- There are only a few Palaeolithic and Mesolithic finds known from the area, although this is probably not a genuine reflection of absence of occupation.
- There is evidence for later prehistoric occupation, including some cropmarks of enclosures and ring-ditches.
- Roman occupation is found widely spread across the area, and the Roman road from Braintree to Sudbury bisects the area. The Roman villa at Gestingthorpe has been partially excavated.
- It is evident from the Domesday Book that the area was relatively densely settled in the Saxon and medieval periods. The settlement type was however highly dispersed, comprising church/hall complexes, manors and farms, many of which were moated, cottages and small hamlets, linked by a network of twisting lanes and roadside greens. Many of the moats survive as water-filled features, whilst others are visible as cropmarks.
- The area changed little in the post-medieval period, with the only major additions to the landscape being the WWII airfield at Ridgewell, 19th and 20th century infilling in the villages and as roadside development and the loss of many hedgerows.

ACA 4: Colne Valley

- This area comprises the River Colne floodplain and valley sides.
- The surviving alluvial deposits have a very high potential for early prehistoric remains and palaeoenvironmental remains of regional and national importance.
- There is important Palaeolithic and Mesolithic evidence from the Colne valley, including a possible Late Palaeolithic/Mesolithic occupation site from gravel pits beside the Colne at White Colne, and a second possible Mesolithic settlement on the Halstead Flood Alleviation Scheme at Box Mill next to the River Colne.
- There is evidence for later prehistoric occupation on the valley slopes and the valley bottom.

- There is extensive evidence for Roman occupation in the area, particularly on the southern side of the Colne, where the Roman roads from Colchester and Braintree to Cambridge lay.
- There are a number of important historic villages/towns in the area which had their origins in the late Saxon and early medieval period. These include the castle and town of Castle Hedingham, and the priory and town at Earls Colne, as well as smaller villages at Sible Hedingham and White Colne. The remaining settlement was dispersed, comprising church/hall complexes, manors and farms, many of which were moated, cottages and small hamlets.
- The Colne fed a series of mills along its length. The area includes extensive evidence of the post-medieval management of the river and its floodplain.
- Important industrial remains include the railway lines and the ironworks at Earls Colne.
- There are numerous Listed Buildings and three Scheduled Monuments (Hedingham Castle, Earls Colne priory and a moat at Sible Hedingham).

ACA 5: Halstead urban area

- This area comprises the urban area of Halstead, including both its historic core and modern extent.
- There is evidence for prehistoric and Roman activity in and around the town.
- In the Saxon period there was a settlement, possibly a village, on the site of the later town.
- In 1251 Abel de St Martin, who held one of the Halstead manors, was granted the right to hold a market, presumably on the site of the present town, and the settlement grew to be the dominant market-town in the area.
- The later post-medieval period saw the introduction of major changes to the town's development because of the introduction of the weaving trade in the late eighteenth century, culminating in the building of Courtauld's silk factory in 1828.
- Courtaulds was essentially a paternalistic family business which played a significant role in all aspects of urban life, including funding social clubs, the Public Park and Cottage Hospital.
- In addition to Courtauld's there were also a number of other significant employers, including the Tortoise and Portway Iron Foundries and Adams Brewery, and the town continued to retain a market and retail function.
- The population of the town doubled in the first half of the 19th century, with a series of densely packed weaver's dwellings inserted into previously open-space largely within the limits of the historic town extent. The modern period has seen a gradual but steady expansion outwards.
- Excavation has established the survival of archaeological deposits within the urban area, and the built heritage (much of which is Listed) forms a significant resource.

ACA 6: Upper Blackwater and Brain valleys

- This area comprises the upper reaches of the rivers Blackwater (Pant) and Brain (Pods Brook), as well as the higher ground on either side and between the two valleys.
- The geology largely comprises boulder clay, with sands and gravels exposed in the valley sides and alluvium on the valley floors. The boulder clay is conducive to the survival of faunal and ceramic remains. The surviving alluvial deposits have potential for palaeoenvironmental remains.
- There has been only limited archaeological fieldwork in the area, due to the lack of recent development. The relative sparseness of the archaeological record is therefore more a reflection of this, rather than an indication of a genuine absence of archaeology.
- There is some Palaeolithic and Mesolithic evidence from the area, this includes a large group of Mesolithic flints from Finchingfield.
- There is evidence for later prehistoric occupation both in the valleys and on the watersheds, largely in the form of stray finds, but there is also the occasional cropmark of ring-ditches and enclosures. Notable finds groups include two Late Bronze Age hoards from the south of the area.
- There is extensive evidence for Roman occupation in the area, particularly along the Pant valley.
- The medieval settlement of the area was dispersed, comprising church/hall complexes, manors and farms, many of which were moated, as well as cottages and small hamlets. The only settlements of any size were the villages of Finchingfield and Great Bardfield. The settlement was linked by a complex network of twisting lanes and roadside greens.
- There is cropmark evidence for the post-medieval management of the rivers and their floodplains.
- There are numerous Listed Buildings and three Scheduled Monuments (all moated sites).

ACA 7: Gosfield and Chalkney Wood

- This area comprises the area of land sited between Braintree and Halstead. It is an undulating, rural landscape, drained by the Bourne Brook, Robin's Brook and the River Blackwater.
- The geology is overwhelmingly chalky boulder clay, with exposed sand and gravel in the valley sides and alluvial deposits in the valley floors. The soil type is conducive to the survival of faunal and ceramic evidence, and the surviving alluvial deposits have potential for palaeoenvironmental remains.
- There has been little archaeological fieldwork in the area, due to the lack of recent development. The relative sparseness of the archaeological record is therefore more a reflection of this, rather than an indication of a genuine absence of archaeology.
- The earliest evidence for human occupation in the area dates to the Neolithic period, largely in the form of stray finds of flint tools. There is one notable group of such artefacts from Marks Hall. There is also a scatter of Bronze Age and Iron Age finds.
- Roman occupation is found widely spread across the area, including a possible temple site at Pattiswick. The area is bisected by the Roman road

from Braintree to Sudbury (A131/A1017), and Stane Street forms the southern boundary of the area. A smaller Roman road to Colchester is still visible as an earthwork within Chalkney Wood.

- It is evident from the Domesday Book that the area was relatively densely settled in the Saxon and medieval periods. The settlement type was however highly dispersed, comprising church/hall complexes, manors and farms, many of which were moated, cottages and small hamlets, linked by a network of twisting lanes and roadside greens. The only settlement of any size is Gosfield. Many of the moats survive as water-filled features, whilst others are visible as cropmarks.
- The area is notable for the number of surviving ancient woods, some of which, as at Chalkney Wood, preserve earthwork features relating not only to their own origins as medieval woodland but also to earlier periods.
- The area changed little in the post-medieval period, with the only major additions to the landscape being a number of post-medieval houses, the expansion of the principal hamlets to form villages, the WWII airfield at Marks Hall and the loss of many hedgerows.
- There are numerous listed buildings and two Scheduled Monuments, both moats. Gosfield Hall Park is a Registered park and Garden.

ACA 8: Braintree and Bocking

- This area comprises the urban area of Braintree and Bocking, including both of the historic cores and the modern extent of the town.
- There is evidence for prehistoric activity in and around Braintree, including a Late Iron Age ditched enclosure containing roundhouses on the site of the later Roman town.
- The Roman Small Town appears to have been confined within a triangular area between the main Roman roads of Rayne Road and London Road. A market place was sited at the apex of the triangle beside the road junction and the cemetery was located on the western edge of the town. The built-up area was divided up by a series of internal lanes, fronted by timber-framed dwellings, shops and workshops.
- There is evidence that there was a Saxon settlement in Braintree in the vicinity of the church, but there is nothing to suggest that it was ever urban in nature. In the late 10th century the Braintree and Bocking area formed part of the estates of a Saxon *thegn*, Aetheric, who willed his Braintree lands to the Bishops of London and Bocking to Christchurch, Canterbury.
- The Bishops of London's estate at Braintree was probably administered from Chapel Hill, Braintree, where their manor house was certainly sited in the medieval period.
- In 1199 a grant was made to the Bishop of London of a weekly market and annual fair. As a consequence of this grant he founded a 'new town' at Braintree on Episcopal estate land, on the eastern side of the main road junction. Medieval Bocking was a bi-focal settlement, based on Church Street and Bradford Street, linked by Church Lane and the River Pant/Blackwater.
- In the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries Braintree and Bocking became important cloth centres. In 1304 Flemish weavers arrived in Bocking, an event

that maybe directly linked with the construction of the new fulling mill by the Abbot of Canterbury in 1303.

- Braintree was still an important cloth town at the beginning of the post-medieval period, specialising in the manufacture of bays and says. However, the woollen cloth industry went into terminal decline in the eighteenth century, and the nineteenth century saw the rise of the silk industry, the principal firms of which were Courtauld and Walters. The importance of the market and the retail trade also continued to grow. In addition the first half of the twentieth century was dominated by the growth of metal manufacturing firms, notably Crittalls.
- There are numerous Listed Buildings in Braintree and Bocking. These include the late medieval merchants houses and wool halls along Bradford Street, the mills, public buildings and worker's cottages erected by the Courtauld family, and the buildings in the International Modernist style erected by Crittalls.
- There has been extensive excavations in the area of the Roman town, which have demonstrated the survival of archaeological features and finds beneath both the medieval and modern towns. Building recording has shed much light on the development of the towns, including the identification of a medieval guildhall within the post-medieval King William Inn at Bocking.

ACA 9: Terling to Great Notley ridge

- This area largely comprises the ridge of land sited between the rivers Brain and Ter, together with the valley of the Ter. Great Notley is a modern garden village, with industrial area and country park, the remainder of the area is rural in nature, with the only other settlements of any size being the villages of Rayne and Terling.
- The geology is chalky boulder clay, becoming very heavy and dense around Great Notley, with exposed sand and gravel in the Ter valley sides, alluvial deposits in the valley floors and patches of brickearth in the southern half of the area. The soil types are largely conducive to the survival of faunal and ceramic evidence, and the surviving alluvial deposits have potential for palaeoenvironmental remains.
- There has been little archaeological fieldwork in the area, due to the lack of recent development. The relative sparseness of the archaeological record is therefore more a reflection of this, rather than an indication of a genuine absence of archaeology. The exception is around Great Notley where a programme of fieldwork has established that the area was only sparsely settled until modern times.
- The earliest evidence for human occupation in the area dates to the Palaeolithic period, largely in the form of stray finds of flint tools. These cluster around the southern edge of the area. Evidence for later prehistoric activity is relatively sparse and largely concentrated around Great Notley, a distribution which probably reflects where archaeological fieldwork has taken place. There is some cropmark evidence of possible enclosures of this date.
- There is evidence for Roman occupation across the area, particularly along the valley of the River Ter. There is some cropmark evidence of possible enclosures of this date. At Great Notley the evidence would suggest that it

was under wood or open ground in the Roman period, with a number of small farmsteads or cottages around its fringe.

- The Saxon and medieval settlement pattern was highly dispersed, comprising church/hall complexes, manors and farms, many of which were moated, cottages and small hamlets, linked by a network of twisting lanes and roadside greens. The only settlements of any size were Rayne and Terling. Many of the moats survive as water-filled features, whilst others are visible as cropmarks. The area includes a number of surviving ancient woods, some of which preserve earthwork features.
- There are numerous listed buildings, particularly in Terling, and one Scheduled Monument, a moat. Terling Place park is a Registered Park and Garden.

ACA 10: Brain valley

- This area comprises the Brain valley, up to the crest of higher ground on either side.
- The geology comprises boulder clay on the crest of the valley, with sands and gravels exposed in the valley sides and alluvium on the valley floors. The boulder clay is conducive to the survival of faunal and ceramic remains. The surviving alluvial deposits have potential for palaeoenvironmental remains.
- There has been archaeological fieldwork in this area, including antiquarian and modern excavation as well as finds collecting.
- There is some Palaeolithic evidence in the form of flint tools from the White Notley area. Neolithic flint tools have also been recovered.
- There is evidence for later prehistoric occupation. Excavation on the Cressing to Notley pipeline and at Cressing Temple has revealed Bronze Age features. The Iron Age is well represented, with enclosures excavated at Cressing Temple and at Cressing Churchyard, and a burial from Fambridge Hall.
- There is extensive evidence for Roman occupation in the area, particularly along the crest of the valley. Routeways are thought to have run up either side of the valley and there is evidence for settlement at regular intervals along these routes. Some of these were simple farmsteads as at Cressing Churchyard, but others appear to have been much more substantial establishments, as evidenced by the elaborate mausoleum excavated at White Notley. Many of these sites have been at least partially excavated.
- The medieval settlement of the area was dispersed, comprising church/hall complexes, manors and farms, many of which were moated, as well as cottages and small hamlets. The principal routeways followed the line of the old Roman routes along the valley crests. The parish church of White Notley may be pre-Conquest in date.
- The medieval farmstead complex at Cressing Temple is of national importance, comprising an unrivalled collection of agricultural buildings, including the Barley Barn which has been dated to 1200-1220. The site was built by the Knights Templar, before passing into the hands of the Knights Hospitaller.

- Important post-medieval buildings include the brick-built 15th century Faulkbourne Hall, arguably the finest such building in Essex. There was a number of mills in the area, one of which survives at Bulford Mill.
- There are numerous Listed Buildings and three Scheduled Monuments (Crossing Temple, the fishponds at Black Notley Hall and a ring-ditch), and the gardens and park at Faulkbourne Hall is a Registered Park and Garden.

ACA 11: Silver End and Rivenhall area

- This area largely comprises the higher area of land within the triangle formed by the A120 and the A12. The River Blackwater cuts through the area.
- The geology is chalky boulder clay, overlying Kesgrave sands and gravels which are exposed in the valley sides and there are alluvial deposits in the valley floors. The soil types are largely conducive to the survival of faunal and ceramic evidence, and the surviving alluvial deposits have potential for palaeoenvironmental remains.
- There has been some archaeological fieldwork in the area, largely at Rivenhall Airfield as well as the research excavation of Rivenhall villa. The fieldwork has demonstrated the survival of archaeological features and finds beneath the plough-soil.
- The earliest evidence for human occupation in the area dates to the Mesolithic period, comprising the stray finds of a flint blade. There are cropmarks of a Neolithic mortuary enclosure and adjacent round barrow on the northern slope of the Blackwater River Valley near Feering. The later prehistoric periods are relatively well represented, with excavated evidence for cremation burials, settlement sites and field boundaries. There is also some cropmark evidence of possible enclosures of this date.
- There is evidence for Roman occupation across the area, particularly along the valley of the River Blackwater. There is some cropmark evidence of possible enclosures of this date. The villa at Rivenhall has been excavated. The A12 and the A120 which form the boundaries of this area were major Roman highways.
- The Saxon and medieval settlement pattern was highly dispersed, comprising church/hall complexes, manors and farms, many of which were moated, cottages and small hamlets, linked by a network of twisting lanes and roadside greens. Many of the moats survive as water-filled features, whilst others are visible as cropmarks. The area includes a number of surviving ancient woods and medieval deer-parks, some of which preserve earthwork features.
- The 12th century Coggeshall Abbey, part of which was converted to a private house following the Reformation, is located to the south of Coggeshall. The site of the Abbey and the surviving fish-ponds are Scheduled. Grange Barn is Listed Grade I.
- In the 1920s/30s the model village of Silver End was constructed by Crittalls as workers housing. It was largely built in the International Modern Style, for which the village is famous.
- The airfield at Rivenhall dates to the Second World War. It has been partially quarried.

- There are numerous listed buildings, with clusters at Silver End, Feering and Coggeshall Abbey, and three Scheduled Monuments (Rivenhall villa, Coggeshall Abbey and Feering long mortuary enclosure and round barrow). Terling Place park is a Registered Park and Garden.

ACA 12: Coggeshall

- This area comprises the modern and historic urban area of Coggeshall.
- There appears to have been settlement in and around the Coggeshall area from the Mesolithic period onwards. In the Roman period Stane Street ran through Coggeshall to Colchester, and there may well have been a minor road on the southern side of the later town linking Stane Street to Kelvedon. Excavations on the eastern edge of the town have revealed part of a Roman farm or villa complex, containing at least one masonry structure and one timber structure set within a grid of paddocks, fields and a droveway.
- There is some evidence in the form of pottery sherds, for an Early Saxon settlement at Coggeshall opposite the church. An eighth-century finger-ring was also found in 1851. The Domesday Book records that at the end of the Saxon period there was a reasonably large, settled community with a church and one, possibly two, mills.
- It is thought that the late Saxon and early medieval settlement was centred on the church, on the higher drier ground above the valley floor. In 1142 the abbey was founded, sited to the south of the river and town (ACA 11). Later in the medieval period the focus of settlement shifted downslope to the area around the market-place just to the north of Stane Street.
- In the late medieval period and early post-medieval period Coggeshall became an important centre of the cloth industry; in particular it was noted for a fine bay cloth known as Coggeshall White.
- This trade declined by the end of the seventeenth century, and Coggeshall reverted to being an agricultural market-town until the establishment of the luxury cloth industries of tambour lace and silk in the mid-nineteenth century. By 1890 the silk industry had closed in Coggeshall and the town was again simply a market-town for the surrounding agricultural area. The other industries represented in the later post-medieval and modern period (the production of isinglass and gelatine, brewing and seed-growing), reflect this agricultural basis.
- The size and quality of the early fifteenth century parish church and the numbers and quality of the surviving fourteenth to seventeenth century buildings reflect the wealth present in the town. There are numerous listed Buildings, including three Grade I (the parish church, Grange Barn and Paycockes).

ACA 13: Witham

- This area comprises the modern and historic urban area of Witham. Witham has a complex history, with the focus of settlement having shifted at least three times over two millennia. It is located on the London to Colchester road,

at the point where it crosses the River Brain, and within the angle formed by the confluence of the Rivers Brain and Blackwater. The natural subsoil comprises glacial clays and gravel. The highest point is the small spur of Chipping Hill on the 30m contour on the east bank of the Brain.

- The Chipping Hill area of Witham appears to have been occupied throughout much of the prehistoric period. Chipping Hill Camp earthwork is a bivallate (double-ditched) hill-fort probably constructed in the Iron Age.
- The focus of settlement appears to have shifted in the Roman period about a mile to the south-west to the Maltings Lane/Ivy Chimneys area. Here there was a Roman temple followed by an early Christian chapel and baptismal font and evidence of extensive occupation. There is however also evidence for Roman activity in and around Chipping Hill, including a possible building. Evidence of Early Saxon occupation has also been found at Maltings Lane.
- In 912 King Edward the Elder 'went with some of his forces into Essex to Maldon and camped there while the *burh* was being made and constructed at Witham, and a good number of people who had been under the rule of Danish men submitted to him' (Anglo-Saxon Chronicle). The location of the Witham *burh* is a matter of some debate. Possible sites include Chipping Hill Camp and the *Wulvesford* Enclosure identified by Rodwell in the area of Newland Street. In the later Saxon period Chipping Hill was again the focus of occupation at Witham, with a Royal holding, sizeable population and a mill. It probably also had a market function, as the 'Chipping' place-name suggests.
- In 1147 the manor was granted to the Knights Templar. The Templars organised the development of the present town centre along the London-Colchester road in, or just before, 1212, when the market charter for a 'new town' at Wulvesford (Newlands Street) was granted. The new town quickly developed as a thriving commercial centre, although occupation also continued at Chipping Hill.
- There is considerable documentary evidence for the cloth-making industry in Witham during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. However, Witham remained a small market town, with a steady but unspectacular growth in population, housing and industry throughout the post-medieval and early modern period.
- In the mid 1960's the Town Development Scheme, in conjunction with London overspill housing, led to enormous expansion of the town. It has continued to grow, particularly on the southern side of the town where the area within the A12 By-pass has been largely infilled.

ACA 14: Kelvedon

- The area comprises the modern urban area of Kelvedon, incorporating the historic town of Kelvedon and part of the historic village of Feering. The town is sited along a gravel and brickearth terrace above the water-meadows of the River Blackwater.
- There is evidence for activity in the Kelvedon area from the Palaeolithic period onwards.

- Evidence of Late Iron Age settlement has been found throughout the area of the Roman town, consisting of individual enclosed house-plots, fields, possibly a temple and some industrial activity. The settlement is not thought to be urban in nature.
- In the Roman period a town developed on the Kelvedon site. Originally this consisted of a civilian settlement and possibly a short-lived fort. In the late second century the majority of the built-up area, including a temple and a possible mansio, was enclosed within a defensive ditch, with the cemeteries sited outside. By the end of the Roman period the town was in decline, although there is some evidence for continuation of settlement, not necessarily urban in nature, into the early Saxon period.
- The manor of Church Hall was granted to Westminster Abbey in 998. The Domesday Survey records the landholdings of Kelvedon at the end of the Saxon period.
- The medieval town was under the control of several different manors, with Church Hall and Felix Hall holding the majority of the High Street properties. The original focus of the settlement is thought to be around the church, with a second smaller focus at the river crossing-point at Easterford over a kilometre to the east.
- In the post-medieval period Kelvedon developed its classic linear development form, with the merging of the medieval settlement foci at the Church Street junction and Easterford.
- In the modern period Kelvedon and the neighbouring village of Feering have effectively merged, being separated only by the river and the water-meadow. Until the twentieth century Kelvedon was essentially an agricultural community although it also had an economic role as a staging-post town and a provider of accommodation for travellers.

ACA 15: Blackwater valley

- This area comprises the valley of the River Blackwater on the southern boundary of the District.
- The geology comprises a complex mix of River Terrace deposits, glacio-fluvial sands and gravels, head deposits and alluvium. The soil-types are conducive to the formation of cropmarks and the alluvial deposits have potential for palaeoenvironmental remains.
- There has been some archaeological fieldwork in the area, largely antiquarian or research based which has established the survival of archaeological features and finds in and beneath the topsoil. A programme of fieldwalking, concentrating on the collection of flints, has taken place in the vicinity of Witham and Rivenhall End.
- The earliest evidence for human occupation in the area dates to the Palaeolithic period, these are concentrated in the Witham-Rivenhall End area, where a large glacial lake had been located during the Pleistocene. It is unclear how much this apparent siting preference is genuine or how much it is a reflection of the areas where fieldwork has taken place (see above).

- The cropmark and finds evidence demonstrates widespread later prehistoric activity, both settlement and ritual, throughout the area. Notable sites include the Neolithic long mortuary enclosure at Rivenhall End, this is Scheduled. Important palaeoenvironmental data was also recovered from the alluvial deposits here.
- The cropmark, excavation and finds evidence suggests a densely settled rural landscape of farmsteads and fields across the area in the late Iron Age and Roman period. There is an important Late Iron Age warrior burial from the slope above the river at Kelvedon.
- There is an early Saxon cemetery beside the river at Kelvedon, which is Scheduled. The Saxon and medieval settlement pattern was highly dispersed, comprising church/hall complexes, manors and farms, many of which were moated, cottages and small hamlets, linked by a network of twisting lanes. Many of the moats survive as water-filled features, whilst others are visible as cropmarks. The area includes one ancient woods and a number of parks. There was extensive historic meadow-pasture adjoining the river, some of which survives.
- At Hatfield Priory a secular college was founded in the 11th century. It was converted to a Benedictine Priory early in the 12th century. The Priory was dissolved in 1536 and much of it demolished. The site is Scheduled.
- In addition to the three Scheduled monuments described above, there are numerous listed buildings. The park at Hatfield Priory is a Registered Park and Garden.

Glossary of Terms Used

Alluvium: soil or sediments deposited by a river or other running water. It is typically made up of a variety of materials, including fine particles of silt and clay and larger particles of sand and gravel.

Assarting: Is the act of clearing forested lands for use in agriculture or other purposes.

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.

Church Hall complex: A group of buildings comprising the church cemetery and manorial hall.

Co-axial Fields: A coaxial field system is a group of fields (usually square or rectangular in plan) arranged on a single prevailing axis of orientation. Most of the field boundaries either follow this axis or run at right angles to it. These boundaries tend to be some of the oldest in Essex, dating to before the medieval period.

Colluvial: A loose deposit of rock debris accumulated through the action of gravity at the base of a cliff or slope

Cropmarks: Variations in the sub-soil caused by buried archaeological features results in different crop growth visible from the air.

Cursus: parallel lengths of banks with external ditches which are Neolithic structures and represent some of the oldest prehistoric monumental structures of Britain and are likely to have been of ceremonial function.

Deer Bank: Bank surrounding a park or woodland to retain deer within

Head Deposits: An unsorted deposits that forms during cold climate environments.

Holocene: Is a geological epoch which began approximately 12,000 years ago

Hypocaust: Is a Roman system of under floor heating

Faunal: Pertaining to animals

Iron Age: The period from about 700 BC when iron-working arrived in Britain until the Roman invasion of 43 AD.

Lacustrine deposits: Sediments and deposits formed within an ancient lake.

Lowestoft Formation: The Lowestoft Formation forms an extensive sheet of chalky till, together with outwash sands and gravels, silts and clays.

Marching Camp: A temporary Roman fort set up by the army while on the move for overnight stops and short stop-overs.

Medieval: This is the period between the Norman Conquest of England in 1066 and the dissolution of the monasteries in 1538 AD.

Mesolithic: The period following the end of the last ice age and prior to the introduction of farming in the Neolithic.

Moot: an Old English language (Anglo-Saxon) term for meeting

Neolithic: The period from about 4000BC when farming and pottery manufacture began in Britain, until about 2000BC when metalworking began.

Oyster Pits: Water filled pits for storing or raising oysters on the edge of the marsh/estuary.

Palaeoenvironmental: Material which provides evidence of an environment at a period in the past.

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 AD

Red Hill: A Late Iron Age or Roman salt making site.

Rides: Routeway

Roman: The period of Roman occupation from 43AD through to 410AD.

Saxon: The period of Saxon occupation from 410 AD to 1066 AD.

Scheduled Monument: (Formerly Scheduled Ancient Monument): A site of nationally archaeological importance protected under the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act.

Tessellated pavement: Mosaic pavement made from small pieces of tile

Toft: A homestead

Trackway: A trackway is an ancient route of travel for people and/or animals.

Turnpike: A toll road

Vill: Is a term used in English history to describe a land unit which might otherwise be described as a parish, manor

Walstonian glacial stage: The name for a middle Pleistocene stage that precedes the Ipswichian Stage and follows the Hoxnian Stage in the British Isles. It started 352,000 years ago and ended 130,000 years ago.

Waterlogging: In archaeology, the long-term exclusion of air by groundwater preserves perishable artifacts. Thus, in a site which has been waterlogged since the archaeological layer was deposited, exceptional insight may be obtained by study of artifacts of leather, wood, textile or similar materials.