

Land to the West of Colchester: Cultural Heritage Audit

June 2015

A high level survey has been undertaken of the cultural heritage potential of Land to the West of Colchester. This is subdivided into three areas:

- Land between London Road and the A12
- Gateway 120
- Land adjacent to the A12, Marks Tey

This assessment identifies, as far as reasonably practicable from the existing records, the previous landuse, the nature of the historic environment resource and the potential resource within each smaller area, in accordance with the principles of sustainable development that are set out in the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF). These are summarised together and the requirements for further investigation are discussed together.

Scope of this survey

The following sources of data have been investigated for the study areas:

- A search of designated heritage assets, recorded in the [National Heritage List for England](#). Designated heritage assets have been surveyed within, and also in close proximity to the study area, and potentially affected by any development. Designated heritage assets are nationally important listed buildings, scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens, battlefields and protected wreck sites which have statutory protection. For the study area, this includes Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments and Registered Parks and Gardens.
- An assessment of all heritage assets recorded in the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) within the study areas, maintained by Essex County Council. The EHER is the inventory of all known archaeological sites and historic buildings within the County. The HER represents the archaeological discoveries that have been reported. It is not, therefore, a complete reflection of the whole archaeological resource of this area. It should be also noted that the EHER for the Borough has not been updated with new discoveries for a number of years.
- An assessment of the data recorded in the Essex National Mapping Project (NMP), carried out by Essex CC as part of the English Heritage National Mapping Programme.
- An assessment of the Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC), recorded by Essex CC. The historic landscape characterisation project was initiated by English Heritage to increase understanding of the historic landscape, using historic and modern maps to identify and map the historic character of the landscape through the application of defined Historic Landscape Character types. The types of rural landscape are characterised into broad groups based on the way in which they were formed, their current and earlier land uses and their physical appearance. The information from the HLC formed an important element of the Historic Environment Characterisation Project, undertaken by Essex CC in 2009 to provide an evidence base for the creation of the Local Development Framework (Appendices 1-2). This work provides a summary of the historic environment, using a map-based classification system for different historic character areas.
- An assessment of all cartographic sources by Anthony Breen with Cathryn E Wells in May 2015, relevant to the study area, to identify historic landuse, the site of old boundaries and earlier buildings.

- A site visit on 28th May 2015.

Legislative Frameworks

The National Planning Framework

The Historic Environment is a finite and non-renewable resource. Heritage assets are fragile and can be irreparably damaged by inappropriate works.

Careful management is required to ensure that the historic environment is considered in accordance with the principles of sustainable development that are set out in the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF).

Policies concerning the historic environment are outlined in Section 12 of the NPPF. The NPPF states,

'Local planning authorities should set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment. In doing so, they should recognise that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance.'

The NPPF outlines the importance of good design in development proposals (Section 7, paras. 56-7).

Planning policies and decisions should aim to ensure that developments:

- *respond to local character and history, and reflect the identity of local surroundings and materials, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation.*

The Government's [Planning Practice Guidance Conserving and enhancing the historic environment](#) expands upon the core policy principles of the NPPF and this is itself underpinned by [Good Practice Advice on planning and the historic environment](#).

Designated heritage assets are protected under a number of Acts of Parliament, principally the [Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979](#) for Scheduled Monuments and the [Planning Act \(Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas\) 1990](#) for Listed Buildings.

[The Hedgerows Regulations 1997](#) protect important hedgerows from being removed. An important hedgerow must be at least 30 years old and meet one of the following criteria:

- *marks a pre-1850 parish/township boundary, or part of it*
- *incorporates a Scheduled Monument or an archaeological feature recorded 'at the relevant date' in a Sites and Monuments Record:*
 - *situated wholly or partly within an archaeological site as above or is on land adjacent to and associated with such a site and is associated with any monument or feature on that site*
- *marks the boundary of a pre-1600 estate or manor or is visibly related to any building or other feature of such an estate or manor:*
 - *is an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Inclosure Acts*
 - *is part of or visibly related to any building or other feature associated with such a system*

Local Plan Policy

The Local Plan sets out the strategic policies to deliver conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment. It provides the strategy for the growth of the Borough, setting out what development will take place and where. Policies are not designed to prevent change, but seek to ensure that change is managed in the interests of today's residents and those of future generations.

The Local Plan takes into account:

- The desirability of putting heritage assets to viable use, sustaining and enhancing their significance;
- The contribution that the historic environment makes to wider sustainability aims;
- The desirability of new development to contribute to local character;
- The opportunities to draw on the contribution that the historic environment makes on the character of place.

The [Current Local Plan 2001-2021](#) consists of:

- Core Strategy: (adopted 2008).
- Site allocations and proposals: (adopted 2010).
- Development Control Policies: (adopted 2010).

Historic Environment Policy DP14 relates specifically to heritage assets in the planning process at a local strategic level:

Policy DP14: Historic Environment Assets

Development will not be permitted that will adversely affect a listed building, a conservation area, historic park or garden or important archaeological remains. Development affecting the historic environment should seek to preserve or enhance the heritage asset and any features of specific historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest. In all cases there will be an expectation that any new development will enhance the historic environment in the first instance, unless there are no identifiable opportunities available. In instances where existing features have a negative impact on the historic environment, as identified through character appraisals, the Local Planning Authority will request the removal of the features that undermine the historic environment as part of any proposed development. Support will be given to the provision of creative and accessible interpretations of heritage assets.

Conservation of the historic environment will also be ensured by:

Identifying, characterising, protecting and enhancing Conservation Areas;

- (ii) Protection and enhancement of existing buildings and built areas which do not have Listed Building or Conservation Area status but have a particular local importance or character which it is desirable to keep. Such buildings or groups of buildings will be identified through a Local List which will be adopted by the Council;
- (iii) Preserving or enhancing Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Historic Parks and Gardens, including their respective settings, and other features which contribute to the heritage of the Borough; and

- (iv) Known sites of archaeological importance will be clearly identified and protected, and sites that become known, whether through formal evaluation as part of a Planning Application or otherwise, will similarly be protected according to their importance.

Heritage Statements and/or Archaeological Evaluations will be required for proposals related to or impacting on the setting of heritage assets and/or known or possible archaeological sites, so that sufficient information is provided to assess the impacts of development on historic environment assets together with any proposed mitigation measures.

A number of other development control policies are also relevant to the historic environment, heritage assets and sustainable development:

Policy DP1 Design and Amenity; Policy DP5: Appropriate Employment Uses and Protection of Employment Land and Existing Businesses; Policy DP6: Colchester Town Centre Uses; Policy DP8: Agricultural Development and Diversification; Policy DP9: Employment Uses in the Countryside; Policy DP10: Tourism, Leisure and Culture; Policy DP13: Dwelling Alterations, Extensions and Replacement Dwellings; Policy DP21: Nature Conservation and Protected Lanes; Policy DP 22: Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; Policy DP23: Coastal Areas.

Decisions relating to new development will be carefully assessed to ensure that the historic environment is conserved and enhanced, and also to ensure that it is not a barrier to sustainable development. The historic environment, when sensitively adapted, can accommodate a variety of economic issues, facilitates growth, employment and an overall improvement in social cohesion.

Land between London Road and the A12 (Figures 1-5)

Site description

This study area, c.46 ha. in size, is located on the east side of the Roman River at c.30-40m OD, in the parish of Stanway and on the western fringe of Colchester. The southern limit is defined by the London Road, aligned WSW-ENE, while the northern limit of the area is defined by the A12 (and just to the west of junction 26), on a similar alignment. The study area excludes the majority of properties that front London Road.

The western limit is defined by Turkey Cock Lane, within the valley of the Roman River and the land slopes down westwards quite steeply, to c.25m OD into the valley. A tributary of the Roman River flows east to west across the study area, roughly midway between London Road and the modern A12 Colchester bypass (constructed in 1974). Stane Park forms the eastern limit of this study area. The present land use is mainly intensive arable agricultural.

Results

Designated Heritage Assets

There are no Scheduled Monuments within the study area, or close to the boundary of (within 1.0km of) the study area. The closest Scheduled Monument, Gryme's Dyke (2015031), lies 1.5km to the east of the study area. However, it is possible that new sites of national importance will be encountered in the study area, currently unknown.

There are no Conservation Areas within, or adjacent to, the study area.

There are no parks and gardens within the study area.

There is one Listed Buildings within the study area:

Listed Building (EH) (II) – 1224840. EHER 32667 - MEX1008058 Late 17th century barn, now part of garden centre. Barn to W of Cants Garden Centre.

There are a number of other Listed Buildings, however, in close proximity to the study area, fronting London Road – in particular, the Parish Church of St Albright (Grade II*, List entry Number: 1224899), which dates from the early 12th century, Catchbells (Grade II*, List entry Number: 1224841), which dates from the early 15th century as well, and ten Grade II Listed Buildings. Development within the study area that adversely impact upon the setting of these designated heritage assets is likely to be unacceptable.

Any detailed heritage assessment will need to establish the significance of these designated heritage assets and their settings.

Essex HER Search

All known heritage assets within the study area are listed by period; the list includes archaeological sites, buildings (including listed buildings) and archaeological findspots. It does not, however, include heritage assets outside the study area; these will need to be included in any detailed assessment.

Prehistoric (500000 BC to 42 AD)

There are currently no entries within the study area. However, it is probable that at least some of the undated archaeological features (see below) defined as cropmarks by the NMP are prehistoric in date. It is likely that the circular cropmark overlooking the valley of Roman River, to the east of Rosedale Cottages, is the remains of Bronze Age burial mound or barrow.

Roman (43 AD to 410 AD)

The southern edge of the study area is delimited by the line of the main Roman Road from Colchester to Braughing (Stane Street):

1226 - MEX4497 Line of Roman road traced from TL 62142184 to TL 63482202, where it links with existing road built on top of Roman road.

56182 - MEX1047873 A Portable Antiquities Scheme findspot of Roman date. Copper alloy coin. Roman - 293 AD to 296 AD.

It is likely that Roman occupation will be encountered along the road frontage.

Anglo-Saxon (410 to 1066 AD)

There are no entries for the Anglo-Saxon period within the study area.

Medieval (1066 AD to 1539 AD)

The line of Stane Street was clearly in use during the medieval period, given the Listed Buildings of medieval date fronting London Road. It is probable that further medieval occupation will be encountered along the road frontage.

55141 - MEX1046832 A Portable Antiquities Scheme findspot of Medieval to Post Medieval date. Silver dress fastener. Medieval to Post Medieval – 1500 AD to 1600 AD.

Post Medieval (1540 AD to 1900 AD)

32667 - MEX1008058 Late 17th century barn, now part of garden centre. Barn to W of Cants Garden Centre. Listed Building (EH) (II) – 1224840.

54523 - MEX1046214 A Portable Antiquities Scheme findspot of Post Medieval to Unknown date. Silver coin. Post Medieval to Unknown - 1580 AD.

Undated

11923 - MEX34660 Cropmarks: linear features, parts of rectangular/rectilinear enclosures, north of Wyvern Farm.

11939 - MEX34718 Cropmark of a ring ditch, east of Wyvern Farm.

14279 - MEX39109 Cropmarks of former field boundaries; linear features and a ring ditch of low validity, east of Rosedale Cottages.

Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC)

The study area is classified as Post 1950s boundaries loss and, along London Road, built up.

Historic Environment Characterisation

The study area Land between London Road and the A12 lies within HECZ 9.2: Aldham, Eight Ash Green and Fordham Heath (Appendix 1).

Gateway 120 (Figures 6, 8-15)

Site Description

Gateway 120 is 667ha. in size, located on the west side of the A12, to the north and south of the A120 and north, south and west of Marks Tey. It extends to the eastern edge of Coggeshall.

The study area is located on the watershed of the Roman River, to the east, and the River Blackwater, to the west, at c.40 - 45m OD. The northern part of the study area extends across the valley of Roman River, to the Marks Tey to Sudbury railway line. The head of Domsey Brook is within the southern part of this study area.

Gateway 120 lies within the parishes of Aldham, Marks Tey and Great Tey in Colchester Borough and extending into Coggeshall and Feering parishes in Braintree District.

Designated Heritage Assets

There are two Listed Buildings within the study area:

Listed Building (EH) (II) – 1223257. 32369 - MEX1007758 16th century timber framed barn. Three bay barn. Medieval to Post Medieval - 1500 AD to 1599 AD. Elm Farm, Elm Farm, Great Tey.

Listed Building (EH) (II) – 1224585. 32558 - MEX1007949 18th century timber framed house. Samsons Cottage, Marks Tey.

In addition to these designated assets within the study area, there are also a large number of Listed Buildings outside the study area that are likely to be affected by development in the study area.

These include two Grade I Listed Building (Church of St Andrew, Marks Tey, LB 1266781; Church of St James, Marks Tey, LB 1224521) and one Grade II* building (Barn to SW of Little Tey House, Marks Tey, LB 1266779), all of which date from the medieval period. The Church of St Andrew contains reused Roman building material, which could derive from a high status building or buildings in the near vicinity, possibly the Roman villa (Scheduled Monument) site less than 500m to the north of the study area.

There is one Scheduled Monument adjacent to the north-east part of the study area:

Scheduled Monument – 1020999. 14277 - MEX1031270 Brickworks North of Primrose House / Colliers Brick Works, Aldham/Marks Tey/. Brickworks, comprising of one central, and several smaller building complexes; areas of quarrying; and a tramway running parallel to the stretch of railway along which the site is situated. The site appears as 'Clay Mills' and 'Brick Field' on the OS 1st Ed. 6" series, and subsequent OS maps of 1925, 1963 and 1968 and depicts a small building complex and areas of quarrying. RAF and other vertical photographs depict a good history of the site in this century, showing previously wooded areas being quarried successively. A brickworks has been in production here since 1863. At different times a variety of products have been manufactured. In the Victorian period red and white bricks, tiles, drainage pipes and pottery were made including all kinds of splayed and beaded red and white bricks, ridge tiles, plain tiles, garden tiles and pottery ware. In the 1890's they produced stock bricks, moulded bricks and machine made steam pressed bricks for internal work. In the Edwardian era flower pots were a speciality and red hoggin was supplied for garden paths. Land drainage pipes were made in large quantities until after the second World War. One of the latest bricks made in the 1990s is called 'Colchester Red Handmade'. The site of the present brickworks extends to about 70 acres of which 40 acres are used for brickmaking purposes including about 15 acres of clay pits. Up until 1975 it is estimated that Colliers have produced over 500 million

bricks including 3 million a year in the mid 1970s. The kilns have included two red brick up-draught, one bottle, one beehive (down-draught), one Habla kiln, a Hoffman and the present gas-fired tunnel kiln used since the 1950s. The bottle kiln (still standing but disused in 1989) was brick built with iron stripwork to the base - the last surviving example in Essex.

Coggeshall Abbey, a Savignac, later Cistercian abbey founded around 1140, lies c.700m to the west of the study area. There is a further Scheduled Monument c.1km to the northwest of the study area (Roman villa 450m south of Warren's Farm). There is a further SM less than 2km to the south-west, a Neolithic mortuary enclosure and adjacent round barrow 160m south west of Frame Farm.

The Great Tey Conservation Area is located c.750m to the northwest of the study area. Ford Street Conservation area is located less than 2km to the northeast, and Chappel less than 3km to the north. Coggeshall Conservation Area lies 400m to the west of the study area.

Essex HER Search

All known heritage assets within the study area by period; the list includes archaeological sites, buildings (including listed buildings) and archaeological findspots. It does not, however, include an assessment of heritage assets outside the study area.

Prehistoric (50000 BC to 42 AD)

Late Iron Age to Roman - 20 AD to 260 AD

50830 - MEX1042521 A Portable Antiquities Scheme findspot of Late Iron Age to Roman date. Copper alloy coin, Late Iron Age to Roman - 20 AD to 260 AD.

Roman (43 AD to 410 AD)

1226 - MEX4497 Stane Street. Line of Roman road traced from TL 62142184 to TL 63482202, where it links with existing road built on top of Roman road.

11705 - MEX34054 Stane Street. Line of the Roman road from Colchester to Coggeshall. It follows the present road alignment but runs south of the present road from Lexden to TL 986248 where it meets the main Roman road to the Balkerne Gate.

56000 - MEX1047691 A Portable Antiquities Scheme findspot of Roman date. Copper alloy coin. Great Tey. Roman - 300 AD to 400 AD.

56503 - MEX1048194 A Portable Antiquities Scheme findspot of Roman to Post Medieval date. Lead alloy unidentified object. Great Tey. Roman to Post Medieval - 43 AD to 1800 AD.

57215 - MEX1048906 A Portable Antiquities Scheme findspot of Roman date. Copper alloy coin. Great Tey. Roman - 43 AD to 269 AD.

Medieval (1066 AD to 1539 AD)

32369 - MEX1007758 16th century timber framed barn. Three bay barn. Elm Farm, Elm Farm, Great Tey. Medieval to Post Medieval - 1500 AD to 1599 AD. Listed Building (EH) (II) – 1223257.

47534 - MEX1040473 Field boundaries. Honeylands Farm, Great Tey/Marks Tey.

50831 - MEX1042522 A Portable Antiquities Scheme findspot of Medieval date. Copper Alloy strap end. Great Tey. Medieval - 1300 AD to 1450 AD.

52647 - MEX1044338 A Portable Antiquities Scheme findspot of Medieval date. Lead seal matrix. Medieval - 1200 AD to 1400 AD.

52648 - MEX1044339 A Portable Antiquities Scheme findspot of Medieval date. Silver coin. Great Tey. Medieval - 1301 AD to 1310 AD.

52649 - MEX1044340 A Portable Antiquities Scheme findspot of Medieval date. Silver coin. Great Tey. Medieval - 1280 AD to 1281 AD.

52651 - MEX1044342 A Portable Antiquities Scheme findspot of Medieval date. Lead alloy seal matrix. Medieval - 1200 AD to 1450 AD.

53225 - MEX1044916 A Portable Antiquities Scheme findspot of Medieval date. Silver coin. Great Tey. Medieval - 1272 AD to 1327 AD.

53226 - MEX1044917 A Portable Antiquities Scheme findspot of Medieval date. Silver Coin. Great Tey. Medieval - 1317 AD to 1320 AD.

53227 - MEX1044918 A Portable Antiquities Scheme findspot of Medieval date. Silver coin, Great Tey/ Medieval - 1272 AD to 1327 AD.

53487 - MEX1045178 A Portable Antiquities Scheme findspot of Medieval to Post Medieval date. Copper alloy unidentified object. Medieval to Post Medieval - 1300 AD to 1600 AD.

53488 - MEX1045179 A Portable Antiquities Scheme findspot of Medieval to Post Medieval date. Lead Token. Great Tey. Medieval to Post Medieval - 1250 AD to 1800 AD.

53489 - MEX1045180 A Portable Antiquities Scheme findspot of Medieval to Post Medieval date. Lead Token. Great Tey. Medieval to Post Medieval - 1400 AD to 1800 AD.

53490 - MEX1045181 A Portable Antiquities Scheme findspot of Medieval to Post Medieval date. Copper alloy buckle. Great Tey. Medieval to Post Medieval - 1450 AD to 1550 AD.

53491 - MEX1045182 A Portable Antiquities Scheme findspot of Medieval to Post Medieval date. Lead seal. Great Tey. Medieval to Post Medieval - 1400 AD to 1600 AD.

53492 - MEX1045183 A Portable Antiquities Scheme findspot of Medieval to Post Medieval date. Lead token. Marks Tey. Medieval to Post Medieval - 1250 AD to 1800 AD.

54373 - MEX1046064 A Portable Antiquities Scheme findspot of Medieval to Post Medieval date. Lead weight. Coggeshall. Medieval to Post Medieval - 1500 AD to 1800 AD.

54396 - MEX1046087 A Portable Antiquities Scheme findspot of Medieval to Post Medieval date. Copper alloy strap fitting. Great Tey. Medieval to Post Medieval - 1500 AD to 1700 AD.

Post Medieval (1540 AD to 1900 AD)

32558 - MEX1007949 18th century timber framed house. Samsons Cottage, Marks Tey. Listed Building (EH) (II) – 1224585.

14277 - MEX1031270 Brickworks North of Primrose House / Colliers Brick Works, Aldham/Marks Tey. Brickworks, comprising of one central, and several smaller building complexes; areas of quarrying; and a tramway running parallel to the stretch of railway along which the site is situated. The site appears as 'Clay Mills' and 'Brick Field' on the OS 1st Ed. 6" series, and subsequent OS maps of 1925, 1963 and 1968 and depicts a small building complex and areas of quarrying. RAF and other vertical photographs depict a good history of the site in this century, showing previously wooded areas being quarried successively. A brickworks has been in production here since 1863. At different times a variety of products have been manufactured. In the Victorian period red and white bricks, tiles, drainage pipes and pottery were made including all kinds of splayed and beaded red and white bricks, ridge tiles, plain tiles, garden tiles and pottery ware. In the 1890's they produced stock bricks, moulded bricks and machine made steam pressed bricks for internal work. In the Edwardian era flower pots were a speciality and red hoggin was supplied for garden paths. Land drainage pipes were made in large quantities until after the second World War. One of the latest bricks made in the 1990s is called 'Colchester Red Handmade'. The site of the present brickworks extends to about 70 acres of which 40 acres are used for brickmaking purposes including about 15 acres of clay pits. Up until 1975 it is estimated that Colliers have produced over 500 million bricks including 3 million a year in the mid 1970s. The kilns have included two red brick up-draught, one bottle, one beehive (down-draught), one Habla kiln, a Hoffman and the present gas-fired tunnel kiln used since the 1950s. The bottle kiln (still standing but disused in 1989) was brick built with iron stripwork to the base - the last surviving example in Essex. Scheduled Monument – 1020999

15192 - MEX1036020 Site of 19th century boundary post. A12, Feering.

54373 - MEX1046064 A Portable Antiquities Scheme findspot of Medieval to Post Medieval date. Silver coin. Coggeshall. Post Medieval - 1650 AD to 1800 AD.

54397 - MEX1046088 A Portable Antiquities Scheme findspot of Post Medieval to Unknown date. Copper alloy toy. Little Tey. Post Medieval to Unknown - 1550 AD.

55126 - MEX1046817 A Portable Antiquities Scheme findspot of Post Medieval date. Copper alloy coin. Great Tey. Post Medieval - 1625 AD to 1649 AD.

55127 - MEX1046818 A Portable Antiquities Scheme findspot of Post Medieval date. Copper alloy token. Great Tey. Post Medieval - 1667 AD to 1669 AD.

Undated

8810 - MEX28292 Cropmarks: large ring ditch cut by a broad ditch. close to Tey Brook Piggeries, Great Tey. The area to the east of Tey Brook Piggeries was investigated during the laying of a water pipeline. Two modern pits were uncovered, subsequent trenching operations cut two substantial features, one of which is almost certainly a continuation of the linear cropmark previously noted to the west. This consisted of a 3.9m wide ditch with a rounded bottom extending to 1.2m deep. No dating evidence was found.

11955 - MEX34768 Cropmarks: linear features. West of Church House Farm, Aldham

14244 - MEX39028 Cropmarks of field boundaries which appear on the OS 1st edition. Cropmarks N of Domsey Brook, Marks Tey.

14249 - MEX39040 Cropmarks of field and woodland boundaries (named as "Domsey Grove") which appear as existing on vertical photography in 1946. Cropmarks W of Domsey Brook, Marks Tey/Copford.

47405 - MEX1040484 Cropmarks of former field boundaries. London Road, Marks Tey.

47406 - MEX1040485 Cropmarks of former field boundaries. Church Farm, Marks Tey.

53843 - MEX1045534. A Portable Antiquities Scheme findspot of unknown date. Flint handaxe. Feering.

Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC)

1068ha. was included in the HLC search. Of this area, 633ha. is recorded as Post 1950 boundary loss. 210ha. is recorded as Pre 18th century irregular enclosure. The HLC glossary records these are probably the result of piecemeal enclosure and may originate from the medieval period or earlier. Irregular enclosures vary considerably in size and shape, forming both arable and pasture, and are widespread across the County, though more common to the north and west. None of the Historic Landscape Characters of the study area are rare.

Historic Environment Characterisation

Gateway 120 lies within Colchester Historic Environment Character Zones (HECZ) HECZ 9.1 and 10.1 (Appendix 2). Gateway 120 also falls within Braintree Historic Environment Character Zones (HECZ) 6.3 and 12.5.

Land adjacent to the A12, Marks Tey (Figures 7, 15-21)

Site Description

The study area called Land adjacent to the A12, Marks Tey (Gateway 122) is 323ha. in size, located on the east side of the A12, falling within the parishes of Copford and Marks Tey, and extending into Feering Parish, Braintree District. The A12 limits the west side of the study area, and Easthorpe Road marks the southern extent. The eastern limit is more irregular, from Marks Tey Junction 25 of the A12, to the west of Copford Green, down to Easthorpe.

The study area is located in the same landscape as Gateway 120, on the watershed of the Roman River, to the east, and the River Blackwater, to the west, at c.35 - 40m OD. The Domsey Brook, a tributary of the Blackwater, flows NW to SE across the western part of the study area.

Designated Heritage Assets

There are five Listed Buildings within the study area:

Listed Building (EH) (II) – 1224576. 11721 - MEX34124 (see also 32553 - MEX1007944) The house is mainly 16th century with earlier and later parts, timber framed on an H plan. The barn to the south of the hall is of c.1400; timber framed and brick nogged on the south of three bays. Some full height windows were intruded on the south in the 20th century. The original purpose of this building is uncertain but at some early date the first storey was fitted out as a granary. Marks Tey Hall.

Listed Building (EH) (II) – 1239071. 31978 - MEX1007367 16th century timber framed house. Bell House, Copford.

Listed Building (EH) (II) – 1266767. 32552 - MEX1007943 16th century timber framed cross wing house. Doggets Hammer Farm, Marks Tey.

Listed Building (EH) (II) – 1266768. 32554 - MEX1007945 17th century red brick barn. Barn NW of Marks Tey Hall.

Listed Building (EH) (II*) – 1224577. 32555 - MEX1007946 Late 14th/early 15th century timber framed barn. Barn WNW of Marks Tey Hall. (Medieval - 1367 AD to 1432 AD) (recorded as Barn south of Marks Tey Hall).

In addition to the designated assets within the study area, there are also a large number of Listed Buildings outside the study area that are also likely to be affected by any development within it. These include one Grade I (Church of St Mary, Copford, LB 1238968) and three Grade II* buildings (St Mary's Grange, Copford, LB 1239072; Badcocks Farmhouse, Copford, LB 1239073; Easthorpe Hall, Copford, LB 1273949), all of which date from the medieval period. The church contains reused Roman building material, which could derive from a high status building or buildings in the near vicinity, possibly the Roman villa (Scheduled Monument) site less than 500m to the north of the study area.

The Copford Conservation Area is located 500m to the east of the study area. Messing is 2km to the south.

Essex HER Search

All known heritage assets within the study area by period; the list includes archaeological sites, buildings (including listed buildings) and archaeological findspots. It does not, however, include an assessment of heritage assets outside the study area.

Prehistoric (50000 BC to 42 AD)

14027 - MEX38581 Burnt flint patch at Marks Tey Hall.

Bronze Age (2000 BC to 701 BC)

11723 - MEX34128 Bronze Age spearhead found in the garden of ?Marks Tey Hall in 1925.

13389 - MEX37178 A palstave was discovered in November 1988 80m NW of Little Birchholt Farm. Middle Bronze Age - 1400 BC to 1001 BC.

Roman (43 AD to 410 AD)

8672 - MEX27843 Course of Roman road. Easthorpe Road. Connects with TL82-032, 8669, main Chelmsford - Colchester road. Is this a minor road to Colchester? Connects with TL92-025, 0000.

11819 - MEX34382 Roman road traced on aerial photos (RAF). The stretches between TL 926232 and 928233 and between TL 923229 and 921238 are conjectural; that from TL 916225 to 915225 is present as a field boundary. Southwest direction from Copford.

11889 - MEX34549 Probable Roman road traced on aerial photographs. The stretch from TL 920225 to 922223 is conjectural. It crosses Roman road TL92-93, site 11819. North of Copford Green.

Anglo-Saxon (410 to 1066 AD)

51297 - MEX1042988 A Portable Antiquities Scheme findspot of Early Medieval to Medieval date (950 AD to 1066 AD). Copper alloy brooch. Marks Tey.

Medieval (1066 AD to 1539 AD)

11721 - MEX34124 "Moat". Incomplete, rectangular enclosure. The house is mainly 16th century with earlier and later parts. The barn to the south of the hall is of c.1400; timber framed and brick nogged on the south of three bays. Some full height windows were intruded on the south in the 20th century. The original purpose of this building is uncertain but at some early date the first storey was fitted out as a granary. There is a 17th century barn to the north-west of the hall of red brick with blue glazed headers on the east elevation. Marks Tey. Listed Building (EH) (II) – 1224576.

32555 - MEX1007946 Late 14th/early 15th century timber framed barn. Barn WNW of Marks Tey Hall. (Medieval - 1367 AD to 1432 AD) Listed Building (EH) (II*) – 1224577 (recorded as Barn south of Marks Tey Hall).

52733 - MEX1044424 A Portable Antiquities Scheme findspot of Medieval date. Silver coin. (Medieval - 1180 AD to 1247 AD). Copford.

Post Medieval (1540 AD to 1900 AD)

11722 - MEX34127 The house is mainly 16th century with earlier and later parts. The barn to the south of the hall is of c.1400; timber framed and brick nogged on the south of three bays. Some full height windows were intruded on the south in the 20th century. The original purpose of this building is uncertain but at some early date the first storey was fitted out as a granary. There is a 17th century barn to the north-west of the hall of red brick with blue glazed headers on the east elevation. Marks Tey Hall. Listed Building (EH) (II) – 1224576.

11740 - MEX34170 Road marked on Chapman and Andre map of 1777. Vicinity of Easthorpe.

31978 - MEX1007367 16th century timber framed house. Bell House, Copford. Listed Building (EH) (II) – 1239071.

32552 - MEX1007943 16th century timber framed cross wing house. Doggets Hammer Farm, Marks Tey. Listed Building (EH) (II) – 1266767.

32553 - MEX1007944 16th century timber framed house. Marks Tey Hall. Listed Building (EH) (II) – 1224576.

32554 - MEX1007945 17th century red brick barn. Barn NW of Marks Tey Hall. Listed Building (EH) (II) – 1266768.

54484 - MEX1046175 A Portable Antiquities Scheme findspot of Post Medieval date. Silver bodkin. Copford area. (Post Medieval - 1600 AD to 1700 AD).

Modern (20th century)

19350 - MEX1032821 Night landing ground in use from 1916 to 1919. WWI landing ground at Easthorpe, Copford.

Undated

11804 - MEX34346 Cropmarks of linear features and pits. In addition to the linear features and pits is a rectangular enclosure which appears to have multiple ring-ditches visible within its interior - many overlapping each other. Unfortunately, the enclosure, which is presumed to be an Iron Age settlement, has been truncated by a modern road and the northern half of the enclosure has been lost. While some evidence of this enclosure was mapped by the NMP the 2006 photography has added considerable material. Copford.

14247 - MEX39036 Cropmarks of Parish and field boundaries which appear on the OS 1st edition. Little Domsey, Feering.

14280 - MEX39111 Cropmarks of linear features depicting the woodland and field boundaries which appear on the OS 1:10,560 sheet. SW of Mascott's Farm, Copford.

14286 - MEX39128 Cropmarks of former field boundaries which are depicted on the OS 1:10560 sheet. NW of Mulberry Cottages, Copford.

18828 - MEX1035740 Probable bronze handle. Copford.

Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC)

558ha. was included in the HLC search. Of this area, 273ha. is recorded as Post 1950 boundary loss. 34ha. is recorded as Pre 18th century irregular enclosure and therefore there are likely to be important hedgerows, in accordance with the Hedgerow Regulations 1997, in the study area.

The HLC glossary records these are probably the result of piecemeal enclosure and may originate from the medieval period or earlier. Irregular enclosures vary considerably in size and shape, forming both arable and pasture, and are widespread across the County, though more common to the north and west.

Historic Environment Characterisation

The study area lies within Colchester Historic Environment Character Zone HECZ 10.1 and within Braintree Historic Environment Character Zone HECZ 12.5 (Appendix 2).

Historic Map Assessment of Land West of Colchester (Land between London Road and the A12; Gate 120 and Land adjacent to the A12, Marks Tey) (Figures 22 – 24)

Anthony M Breen & Cathryn E Wells

Introduction

The research for this report has been carried out at the Essex Record Office in Chelmsford. The study areas consist of three blocks of land. In the east the study area includes a relatively small area of Stanway centred on Wyvern Farm. It is bounded by the A12 to the north and B1408 to the south. In the west of the two study areas, one is situated in Marks Tey to the west of the railway to Sudbury and to the north of the A120. A much larger area to the south of the A120 and B1408 extends southwards to another 'Roman Road', the Easthorpe Road. This area is crossed by the line of the railway from London to Norwich opened in 1846. Other boundaries of these study areas are not defined by physical features beyond the fact that at present the areas are open countryside.

The history of part of this area has been described in volume of the Victoria County History (VCH) for Essex (Cooper 2001). This volume includes general histories of Stanway, Copford, Aldham and the former parish of Easthorpe all within the Hundred of Lexden. The remaining parish areas have yet to be described in this series.

In advance of this research copies of the Ordnance Survey surveyors' drawings c.1799 of the western area have been supplied with the boundaries of the study area superimposed. The drawings are in the main lacking in significant landscape features within the study area. Although these drawings depict field boundaries as with other drawings of this part of Essex the field boundaries have been shown when compared with the later tithe maps to be fanciful and do not represent an earlier landscape pattern.

Unlike the lands to the east of Colchester, the ownership of the land in these study areas was not dominated by large estates such as the Rebow family's estate in Wivenhoe, Greenstead, Ardleigh

and Elmstead. There are no areas of parklands or major woods. The areas of common are various small greens all situated outside the immediate study areas.

The main historic feature of this study area is that it was divided into numerous ecclesiastic parishes. Beginning at the eastern area the lands are divided between the parishes of Stanway and Copford. In the area north of the A120 the lands are divided between the parishes of Little Tey, Marks Tey and Aldham. The area south of the A120 is divided between the parishes of Little Tey, Marks Tey, Easthorpe, Feering and Copford. These parishes are not bounded by the road ways and most include small island areas of the neighbouring parishes within their bounds.

Method

As these areas are subdivided between seven ecclesiastical parishes and the area is not dominated by any large estates, copies of the tithe maps of each parish have been obtained and the boundaries of the study areas determined through comparison with the modern Ordnance Survey maps. The further descriptions of those fields within the study areas have been traced in the tithe apportionments for each parish and these details have been transcribed to a series of databases written in MS Excel. As the details from the Copford apportionment relate to parts of both the smaller eastern area and the larger area to the south of the A120, two separate spreadsheets have been prepared of each area. The references to the tithe maps and apportionments are given at the end of this report.

There are earlier maps of individual properties including small estates for each of these parishes. In comparison with the study areas all show relatively small areas of land and most include areas outside of the study area. The references to these maps can be found on the record office's online computerised index SEAX.

To test the utility of these earlier maps two maps dated 1784 (ref. D/DEL P 17 and 1787 (ref. T/M 283) showing proprieties in Stanway have been copied. The lands shown on these plans relate to only small portions of the study area. There is a general map of Stanway published in the VCH.

Conclusion

As these study areas are sub-divided between several parishes and small estate it will be necessary to continue with a more detailed map study for each area as required.

References

- D/CT 2B & A Tithe Map and Apportionment Aldham 1839
- D/CT 105B & A Tithe Map and Apportionment Copford 1839
- D/CT 124B & A Tithe Map and Apportionment Easthorpe 1840
- D/CT 137B & A Tithe Map and Apportionment Feering 1841
- D/CT 346B & A Tithe Map and Apportionment Little Tey 1840
- D/CT 347B & A Tithe Map and Apportionment Marks Tey 1840
- D/CT 329B & A Tithe Map and Apportionment Stanway 1839

D/DEL P17 Stanway 1784

T/M 283 Stanway 1787

Printed Sources

Cooper J. 2001 'A History of the County of Essex: Volume 10 Lexden Hundred (Part)' Victoria History of the Counties of England, University of London Institute of Historical Research, Oxford University Press

Summary

In terms of below-ground heritage assets, i.e. archaeological remains, previous investigation has been limited in the study area because of the lack of new and, in particular, major development.

Archaeological aerial photography, recorded by Essex CC, has made some spectacular discoveries and has advanced the number and types of archaeological sites across the County, and transformed the understanding of early settlement.

Almost always, when sites defined by aerial photography are investigated by excavation, elsewhere in the County, they have proved to be far more complex – aerial photography only shows the minimal potential of a site. Moreover, cropmarks are influenced by local soil conditions, type of vegetation and weather conditions.

It cannot be assumed that there are no archaeological remains in the blank areas, and this will need to be tested using other evaluation techniques.

Cropmarks are, in general, difficult to date without intrusive archaeological investigation or trial-trenched evaluation. The morphology of some distinctive cropmarks within the study areas are suggestive of particular types of archaeological remains. Cropmarks of ring ditches, for example EHER 11939 in the study area Land between London Road and the A12, are probably the below-ground archaeological remains of Bronze Age barrows (funerary monuments), and thus occupation. Linear cropmarks defining trackways and enclosures, could be late prehistoric, Roman, medieval or later in date.

The majority of other sites and findspots, within the study area, are probably the result of chance discoveries. Intensive archaeological investigation have been undertaken to the west of Colchester, at the Stanway quarries. It can be anticipated that a similar density of archaeological remains will be encountered in the study area, particularly within valley locations.

In general, the historic settlement pattern of all the study areas is dispersed, comprising small settlements and farms and cottages.

In total, there are eight Listed Buildings within the study area, one at Grade II* and seven at Grade II. However, there are many more, including Grade I Listed Buildings, in close proximity to all the study areas.

It is anticipated that at least some of the hedgerows will be categorised as important under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.

There are no Scheduled Monuments within the study area, although there is one (a 19th century brick kilns, NHLE no. 1020999) on the edge of Gateway 120, and there are two others that may be affected by development in Gateway 120. Based on the existing evidence, and given the lack of previous systematic investigation, however, there is high potential for the discovery of important hitherto unknown heritage assets of archaeological importance within all the study areas.

Within the valleys of the Roman River and Domsey Brook, there is high potential for palaeo-environmental deposits - encountering waterlogged organic deposits, peat deposits and alluvial deposits. The significance of these deposits will need to be assessed.

The Heritage Assessment Process

There is no overriding reason, in terms of the Historic Environment, based on this study of the known heritage assets, to prevent this study area being allocated in the Local Plan. However, a number of designated heritage assets have been identified, and there is high potential for further, currently unknown heritage assets, within the study area.

If the study area is allocated, or parts of the study area allocated, development sites within the study area should be subject to stage 1 archaeological evaluation to inform the layout and design of any masterplan, to allow for preservation *in situ* of any heritage assets of national importance that might be defined (and which are currently unknown), and to minimise the impact on heritage assets. The following evaluation will be required:

- Desk-based Assessment. The report should include an assessment of the significance of each heritage asset and an assessment of the impact of development on each key heritage asset, its setting and wider environment. Detailed analysis will be required to establish the significance of hedgerows within the study areas.
- Geophysical survey.
- Trial-trenched excavation (1.5% sample).

Professional standards and guidance should be followed, for example that produced by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and Historic England.

In order to establish the heritage implications of the study areas, developers' should be required to provide for an archaeological field evaluation, prior to the agreement of any masterplan, and prior to determination of outline planning consent. The results of this work will enable the below-ground archaeological resource to be accurately quantified (both in quality and extent). This is in accordance with paragraphs 128 and 129 of the National Planning Policy Framework and Colchester Borough Council's Core Strategy (2008).

The results of the archaeological evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. Decisions on the suitability of development sites within the area, and also the need for, and scope of, any further work should there be any below-ground archaeological finds of significance, will be based upon the results of the evaluation. The results should inform each masterplan to ensure preservation *in situ* of any previously unknown nationally important archaeological remains within the development area.

In terms of designated heritage assets, and in particular Listed Buildings, the assessment will need to take into account the setting of each heritage asset, and the wider environment in which each asset is experienced; Historic England should be engaged for discussion at an early stage.

Opportunities should be identified in any masterplan for sustaining and enhancing the significance of designated heritage assets, non-designated assets that are of national importance (but which are not currently designated), as well as any non-designated assets of local importance.

In accordance with the NPPF, opportunities should be taken at the masterplanning stage to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of new development, for example in the incorporation of historic landscape features, such as important hedgerows and long-lived boundaries that characterise parts of these study areas, into new developments.

If outline planning consent is forthcoming, it should be followed by a second stage of more detailed archaeological evaluation, which must be undertaken before approval of reserved matters and in advance of the approval of any detailed development scheme:

- Systematic fieldwalking and metal-detecting surveys;
- Trial-trenched excavation (3.5% sample).
- Palaeoenvironmental assessment in the floodzones.

The results of the stage 2 archaeological evaluation must be presented in any detailed application, along with an archaeological mitigation strategy - preservation *in situ* or preservation by record, i.e. archaeological excavation, followed by assessment, analysis, reporting and publication, display and archive storage.

Provision should be included in every project for public benefit, because archaeological excavations can reveal a wealth of new information that will usually attract great deal of local, and sometimes national, attention. This might take a variety of forms of communication and engagement, appropriate to the project. For excavations, and where health and safety conditions permit, it is expected that arrangements will be made for a site 'open day' to promote the archaeological discoveries. If there is a local school, it might be appropriate to arrange a learning opportunity for young people. Alternatively, it might incorporate a viewing platform for the public to watch investigations. Once the on-site excavation has been undertaken, and assessment completed, it might be appropriate to hold a community presentation (or presentations).

Where appropriate, opportunities should be sought by Colchester BC through agreements for the provision of displays and interpretation of new and important archaeological discoveries. In some cases, this might be through the conservation, display and interpretation of archaeological remains *in situ*, where public access is possible without detriment to the site. It might be through the provision of display cases for the archaeological objects or for interpretation panels within, for example, publically accessible buildings on or close to the site of the discoveries, or within other appropriate venues, for example, Colchester Museum. Funding will be sought to enhance the Colchester UAD with new archaeological discoveries and for the long term curation and storage of the discoveries (the archive).

Appendix 1 Historic Environment Characterisation for Land between London Road and the A12

HECZ 9.2: Aldham, Eight Ash Green and Fordham Heath

Summary:

This zone consists of a rural landscape including the historic heath at Fordham Heath. The historic settlement pattern was highly dispersed with church/hall complexes, moats, halls, farms and cottages. Complex archaeological deposits known from cropmarks are present south of the present A12 with further cropmarks in the east of the zone.

Historic Landscape Character:

The geology of the zone consists largely of Lowestoft formation overlying London Clay bedrock with small areas of head deposits. The fieldscape largely comprises irregular fields, ancient, probably medieval, origin, though some maybe even older, interspersed with areas of later medieval or early post medieval enclosure of common fields. The basic structure of the historic landscape survives well although there had been considerable field boundary loss across the zone. The heath survives at Fordham, now developed on its eastern side by the modern nucleated settlement of Eight Ash Green. It originally had a range of farms and cottages around its perimeter. This is a rare surviving example of the former extensive Colchester Heathland. Fordham Heath was known in 1391 as 'le Hathe' and had rights of common grazing. The many greens in the area (Eight Ash Green, Seven Star Green and Daisy Green) were probably early woodland clearings and were used as common land linked by broad lanes and roads.

Small areas of Ancient Woodland survive in the zone at Choats and Aldham hall Woods. Post 1950 residential development has occurred at Eight Ash green, Fordham Heath and Aldham, creating three nucleated settlements. In each case these began as ribbon developments, to which small housing estates were added during the later 20th century.

Archaeological Character:

Little archaeological work has been undertaken within the zone. Neolithic flints, including a polished have been recovered from a field near Fordham Heath. Cropmarks complexes are recorded across the zone although there is a concentration in the area to the south of the A12 including a range of enclosures and ring ditches, as well as linear features representing many periods of field systems. Other cropmarks in the eastern part of the zone comprise possible enclosures and field boundaries. Roman occupation is attested by possible buildings at Eight Ash green and the southern boundary of the zone being formed by the main Roman Road from Colchester to Braughing (Stane Street).

Appendix 2 Historic Environment Characterisation for Gateway 120 and Land adjacent to the A12, Marks Tey.

Colchester Historic Environment Character Zones

HECZ 9.1: Great Tey area

Summary:

This zone consists of a rural landscape including the historic settlements of Great Tey and Little Tey, and the church Hall complex at Marks Tey. The historic settlement pattern is highly dispersed with church/hall complexes, moats, halls, farms and cottages. The field pattern has survived well with meadow pasture still present in the Roman River valley. Multi-period archaeological deposits are present from the prehistoric period onwards. A Roman villa lies to the south of Great Tey. The zone is bisected by the Marks Tey to Sudbury Branch Line.

Historic Landscape Character:

The geology consists of largely Lowestoft formation with gravels exposed in the valley sides, and alluvial deposits on the valley floor. The fieldscape largely comprises irregular fields of ancient, probably medieval origin, though some maybe even older, interspersed with areas of later medieval or early post medieval enclosure of common fields. Areas of historic meadow pasture survive along the edges of the Roman River, although much of this has been ploughed up during the second half of the 20th century. The basic structure of the historic landscape survives well although there has been field boundary loss during the 20th century. The historic settlement pattern of the area was dispersed, with church/hall complexes at Little Tey and Marks Tey, moats, halls cottages, and farms. The Chapman and Andre map of 1777 shows a small nucleated settlement immediately north of the church at Great Tey. This is marked by a concentration of listed buildings within the conservation area in the southern part of the settlement of Great Tey, including the striking medieval church. There has been some small scale ribbon development along the road north of Gt. Tey and a 20th century housing estate has been built around the earlier small nucleation. The zone is bisected north south by the Marks Tey to Sudbury Branch Line.

Archaeological Character:

The zone is bisected by the valley of the Roman River from which there is a high potential for surviving palaeo-environmental deposits. Cropmarks complexes are recorded along the northern side of the Roman River including a range of, sub rectangular, sub square and irregular ditched enclosures, as well as linear features representing many periods of field-systems. The southern boundary of the area is formed by the main Roman Road from Colchester to Braughing (Stane Street). The site of a Roman villa is recorded to the south of Great Tey, this is a Scheduled Monument. Multi-period archaeological deposits have been identified in the area between Great and little Tey with extensive research by the Colchester Archaeological Group. The magnificent 12th century Norman tower in Great Tey church contains a quantity of Roman tile and brick, which may well derive from this site. The settlement of the area was historically dispersed, comprising the small village at Great Tey which is clustered around the church, with the remaining settlement pattern comprising church/hall complexes, some moats, farms and cottages.

Industrial heritage is represented by brick works with one of the brick kilns located to the north of Marks Tey being scheduled. The area is bisected by the Marks Tey to Sudbury branch line which

joins the main line at Marks Tey in the south west corner of the zone, both of which retain important industrial elements such as bridges, culverts and crossings.

HECZ 10.1: Marks Tey, Easthorpe and Copford Green

Summary:

This zone consists of a rural landscape around the modern settlements of Messing and Marks Tey. The historic settlement pattern is highly dispersed and survives well in the modern landscape. Excavations indicate multi-period occupation including settlement sites, burial sites and transport links. The zones location to the west of Colchester means that a significant number of Roman roads cut through the zone. The medieval settlement pattern survives well with excavation indicating that in the 12th and 13th century further occupation was present.

Historic Landscape Character:

The drift geology consists of largely Lowestoft formation with alluvial deposits in the valley of the Domsey Brook. The lacustrine deposits occupying a deep trough cut in the subglacial surface during the Anglian glaciation identified in zone 9.3 potentially extend into the northern part of this zone. The fieldscape in the majority of the zone comprises pre-18th century irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older), interspersed with areas of later enclosure of common fields. Post 1950's boundary loss can be characterised as moderate to high. The valley of the Domsey Brook has enclosed meadow pasture along its length. Historically the settlement pattern was very dispersed and sparse, comprising isolated church/hall complexes, manors, farms, moats, and cottages. The many greens in the zone were probably early woodland clearings and were used as common land linked by green lanes. The settlement at Copford Green is a Conservation Area. Only limited modern development has occurred most of which is located in the northern part of the zone along the line of the old London Road.

Archaeological Character:

The Hoxnian lacustrine deposits found in HECZ 9.3 may extend into this zone, the sediments represent the accumulation over a period of 30,000-50,000 years. Extensive cropmarks are recorded across the zone, many relating to previous field boundaries. Cropmarks of ploughed out round barrows are common especially in the southern part of the zone. Excavation in advance of mineral extraction on and adjacent Birch airfield identified prehistoric occupation in the form of an enclosure and ring ditch (remains of a burial mound). A number of the cropmarks form enclosures which may be of prehistoric date. A total of six possible Roman roads lie within the zone, including that of Stane Street on the northern boundary. Some lie under existing roads, others are visible as cropmarks. Excavations have shown the presence of Late Iron Age and Roman settlement at Birch airfield. The evidence indicates extensive occupation of this zone during the Roman period.

Historically the settlement pattern was very dispersed and sparse, comprising church/hall complexes, manors, farms, moats, and cottages frequently located at Greens across the zone. 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. Birch airfield in the southern part of the zone was one of the last airfields completed by the US army being operational in May 1944. A number of dispersed airfield related sites are recorded to the west of the airfield. Elements of the airfield are now being quarried for sand and gravel deposits.

Braintree Historic Environment Character Zones

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.

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.