



# Uttlesford District Historic Environment Characterisation Project

2009



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## Abbreviations

ACA	Archaeological Character Area
CBA	Chris Blandford Associates
ECC	Essex County Council
GHQ	General Headquarters
GIS	Geographical Information system
HECA	Historic Environment Character Area
HECZ	Historic Environment Character Zone
HER	Historic Environment Record
HLC	Historic Landscape Characterisation
HLCA	Historic Landscape Character Area
HUCA	Historic Urban Character Area
NMP	National Mapping Programme
OS	Ordnance Survey
PPG 16	Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 Archaeology and Planning
VDS	Village Design Statement

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# Uttlesford District Historic Environment Characterisation Project

## 1 Introduction

The report was commissioned in response to the significant development pressure within Uttlesford District especially with the proposed expansion of Stansted Airport, new residential developments (comprising housing allocation and eco town within the District) and the M11 development corridor.

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 Uttlesford 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 Uttlesford'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 Uttlesford 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 Uttlesford has been undertaken using the methodology refined during these other projects. The Characterisation work is intended to inform the creation of the Local Development Framework, but should also be useful for a range of other purposes.

The Historic Environment has been assessed using 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 Uttlesford District to use in the creation of the Local Development Framework. The report reveals the sensitivity, diversity and value of the historic environment resource within the 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 Uttlesford 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 Uttlesford District**

### **2.1 Introduction**

Uttlesford District comprises a rolling landscape of rich agricultural land, predominately under arable cultivation, but with important areas of ancient woodland. It is drained by a number of rivers and streams, which largely run north-south, of which the most significant are the Stort, the Cam, the Pincey Brook, the Roding and the Chelmer. The geology is predominately chalky boulder clay, with sands and gravels exposed in the valley sides and alluvium on the valley floors. In the north of the district, on the border with Cambridgeshire the chalk which underlies the northern half of the district outcrops as a series of low hills, an outlier of the Chilterns.

Uttlesford 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. The latter technique was for many years considered not to be very effective on the boulder clays; however, recent developments in assessing web-based photographic resources have revealed many new sites in the area.

### **2.2 Palaeolithic**

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. 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. The evidence for human activity during the inter-glacial periods is demonstrated by the recovery of Palaeolithic artifacts (largely flint hand axes) from across Uttlesford. 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. 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. The presence of two hand axes at Stansted does however demonstrate that Palaeolithic

people were venturing onto the boulder clay plateau into what is thought to have been densely forested areas.

### **2.3 Mesolithic**

There is scattered evidence for Mesolithic occupation, largely limited to finds of stone/flint artifacts, across the District. Artifacts have been found in close proximity to both the Stort and Cam rivers with a possible occupation site identified at Great Chesterford. The majority of the finds are found as residual elements in later features. The evidence would indicate that Uttlesford was occupied during the Mesolithic, with the river valleys acting as the foci for hunting-and-gathering as well as routeways into the District.

### **2.4 Neolithic**

Evidence of Neolithic occupation is more common than for the Mesolithic period; however, there still remains little evidence for settlement sites and most of the finds are residual. Tree-throw holes (either trees blown down with their root balls attached or deliberately removed with the root balls attached) containing Neolithic artifacts have been identified at Stansted Airport, although the exact nature of this occupation is unknown, pottery and flint tools, including arrowheads and axes, have been recovered. Excavations on the A120 at Great Dunmow found evidence of flint-knapping (flint tool making) on two separate sites and trial-trenching immediately adjacent to the M11 identified Neolithic occupation with pottery and flint work present. Aerial photographic evidence has shown a possible cursus monument (ritual monument formed by two parallel ditches with curved terminals) in Chrishall parish.

A large glacial erratic at the northern end of Newport has been interpreted as a standing stone and the excavations at Stansted uncovered a sizeable sarsen stone which had been ceremonially placed in a Mid Bronze Age feature; the erection of standing stones is largely a late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age phenomenon and the placing of such a stone within a Middle Bronze Age context shows the importance that the stone still held. Current evidence indicates that Uttlesford was occupied in the Neolithic period, but so far the absence of the range of large

monumental constructions known from the river valleys and gravel terraces to the south and east, would suggest a rather different pattern of occupation, maybe through groups of people moving onto the boulder clay plateau to exploit its rich resources, perhaps on a seasonal basis.



*Fig. 1 Large stone potentially used as a Neolithic standing stone but found in a Bronze Age pit at Stansted Airport and now located at the crossroads in Takeley*

## **2.5 Bronze Age**

Evidence from pollen analysis to the east of Stansted Mountfitchet has established that during the Early Bronze Age the area was well wooded. However, there is evidence that there was Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age activity in the form of henges, round barrows and ring ditches, whilst the discovery of barbed and tanged arrowheads and associated flintwork at Stansted attests to the presence of hunting parties.

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. 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. Only a few have been excavated, one confirmed and two possible at Stansted and one adjacent to the M11. Of these, the most significant is one at Stansted located close to the Pincey Brook, which was waterlogged, resulting in good palaeoenvironmental data surviving. This ring-ditch was slightly earlier than the accompanying settlement, suggesting that its presence had influenced the siting of the settlement. The finds from this structure included the unusual discovery of the bones of aurochs (a giant wild cattle breed) that is thought to have died out in Britain in the Early Bronze Age.

There is widespread evidence of occupation of the Uttlesford area from the Middle to Late Bronze Age, with the first definite settlements dating to this period. The extensive area excavations at Stansted Airport have revealed a range of Middle to Late Bronze Age settlements. The most important settlement was on the Mid-Term Car Park site, which produced an enclosed settlement with a range of roundhouses, water-holes, pits and other features, the only settlement of this nature on the Boulder Clay plateau found to date. Pottery and radiocarbon dates suggest that the site was occupied for a period of approximately 300 years with a number of rebuilding phases. Other Bronze Age settlement evidence has been excavated at Stansted and on other sites across Uttlesford, including on the A120, M11 and the Cambridge to Matching Green pipeline, though most of these comprise a single building or groups of pits and post holes.



*Fig: 2. Remains of a Bronze Age roundhouse at Stansted (scales are 2 metres)*

## **2.6 Iron Age**

Evidence for Iron Age occupation is found throughout Uttlesford. During this middle/late Iron Age the area formed the border between the Iron Age tribes of the Trinovantes and the Catuvellauni. The largest surviving monuments are the hillforts located at Wallbury in Great Hallingbury and at Ring Hill at Audley End. Both of these monuments still retain their substantial earthworks, which were originally constructed during the Middle Iron Age; however, they were probably occupied through to the end of the Iron Age. A wide range of enclosed and unenclosed settlement sites of this date have been identified across the District.

There is little Early Iron Age evidence for the District, but what there is quite significant, including areas of extensive pits at Stansted Airport. 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 fire pits, 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.

An unusual example of a settlement was excavated at the Airport Catering Site, Stansted Airport in the 1980s. This contained several roundhouses and a central shrine/administration building; it appears to have only been occupied for a period of 50 years from 75BC to 25BC. The interior of the settlement shows signs of careful planning, and the finds include imports of pottery and wine from the continent. The site, despite being destroyed at some date between 40-60 AD, was still venerated in the Roman period with a range of votive deposits left on the site.



*Fig: 3. Computer Reconstruction of the Airport Catering site (Dating to 75BC to 25BC)*

Unenclosed settlements, comprising either single or groups of roundhouses as well as single houses, often with associated granaries, have also been excavated. Fieldwork on the gas pipeline from Cambridge to Matching Green and the A120 has given a good indication of the extent and density of Iron Age occupation in the district, supplemented by recent work analysing enclosure sites visible on aerial photographic web-sites. 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. These range from bodies or cremated remains that had been placed in a bag and buried to burials accompanied by a large number of grave goods. Pottery is

the most frequent grave good, but gifts of meat (often evidenced by cloven pig skulls) are also common.

## **2.7 Romano-British**

Uttlesford contains the second largest walled Roman town in Essex at Great Chesterford. Extensive remains of this important town survive, but nothing is now visible above ground. The settlement at Great Chesterford began in the Late Iron Age and a first-century Roman fort was constructed on the site. The fort was very short lived, and was replaced by a large, apparently planned, town. In the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD, a substantial wall was constructed encircling part of the settlement. Evidence has been identified of a second walled enclosure which surrounded the area later occupied by Gt. Chesterford Church. It is unusual to have the construction of a walled town in the 4<sup>th</sup> century and it has been suggested that this was part of the defensive system on the coast known as the Saxon Shore Forts. A temple originating in the Iron Age and in use throughout the Roman Period was located to the east of the town.



*Fig: 4. Reconstruction painting of Roman Great Chesterford (copyright Peter Froste)*

Other possible towns or villages are located at Great Dunmow and at Leaden Roding, the latter being a recent discovery. At Great Dunmow a shrine and extensive domestic occupation has been found along with a large number of burials. At Leaden Roding, geophysical survey and fieldwalking has identified a large settlement located on the line of the main Roman Road from Great Dunmow to Harlow. Many rural villas/farmsteads have been recorded throughout the District. Detailed excavations have been undertaken on examples at Stansted and at Strood Hall to the west of Great Dunmow, and in both cases accompanying cemeteries were also excavated. A number of Roman farmsteads are spread out along both sides of the A120 between the M11 and Braintree, probably exploiting the location of the main Roman road (Stane Street) running from Colchester to Braughing.



*Fig. 5 Rich burial dating to c. 120AD found beneath the long term car parks at Stansted Airport (Top left: Under excavation, top right: Bronze vessels, bottom left Roman glass vessels, Bottom left: One of a set of Samian pottery)*

A number of very rich Roman burials have been found within the District, including examples at Stansted, Elsenham and Newport. These burials contain both bronze, glass and pottery vessels, frequently with other grave goods including gaming pieces and lamps etc. It is possible that some of these burials would have been beneath barrows, which have now been ploughed flat, but which might originally have been similar to those at Bartlow Hills just outside the northern edge of the District.

## **2.8 Saxon**

Evidence for early Saxon occupation is very rare across the District; however, in the area to the north of Newport in the M11 corridor, a number of important sites have been excavated. Early Saxon burials were recovered to the north of the walled town at Great Chesterford. It is possible that these represent individuals who were employed to defend the settlement following the departure of the Roman Army in 410 AD. A later Saxon settlement and cemetery has also been identified at Wicken Bonhunt, in the vicinity of St Helen's Chapel, where one of the most important Middle Saxon settlements yet discovered in the East of England, was excavated, in advance of construction of the M11 in the early 1970s. More recently a large number of burials associated with this site were identified during initial evaluation work on the proposed M11 widening. A large middle Saxon cemetery has also been excavated in the Gibson Close area at Saffron Walden; this appears to have replaced an early Saxon settlement. Other sites are thought to exist in the villages of Littlebury, where there is a probable enclosure surrounding the church and a considerable part of the present village, and at Little Chesterford, where metal detecting activity has found a Saxon warrior burial with sword and shield.

Although the excavated evidence to date has largely been confined to the identification of Saxon cemetery sites, there is also palaeoenvironmental evidence from the Pincey Brook which demonstrates that the Stansted Airport area was being actively farmed throughout the Saxon. In addition, radio-carbon dating of a post-built timber hall at Takeley established that it dated to the late Saxon period. 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.

## **2.9 Medieval**

Much of the present historic landscape is thought to have originated in either the medieval or late Saxon period. Early medieval occupation is evident across Uttlesford by the construction of a number of Motte and Bailey Castles. Fine examples are located at Saffron Walden and Stansted Mountfitchet, both of which have elements of the masonry castle surviving; however there are other smaller examples across the District such as those at Great Canfield and Great Easton. Some of these were constructed beside existing settlements, but it is clear many were established on virgin sites by the new Norman lords running the country.



*Fig.6 Saffron Walden Castle completed between 1141-1143*

A number of significant medieval towns developed in the District including Saffron Walden, Thaxted, Great Dunmow, Hatfield Broad Oak, Stansted Mountfitchet and Newport. All have important collections of historic buildings, including churches, and all contain buried archaeological deposits. Saffron Walden thrived as a centre of saffron production and the cloth trade and Thaxted had a thriving cutlery industry. Neither Hatfield Broad Oak, Newport nor Thaxted have seen the level of subsequent development that has occurred in the other towns, and as a consequence retain much of their original medieval extent and appearance.



*Fig. 7 Fifteenth century Moot Hall at Thaxted*

The medieval rural settlement was dispersed in nature, with church/hall complexes, isolated farms, moated sites and small hamlets strung out along linear greens. Uttlesford has one of the largest numbers of moats in Essex, with many having their origins in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century. Excavations throughout Uttlesford, especially on the Boulder Clay plateau have shown there was significant expansion of settlement onto the clay soils in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century. It is thought that many of the greens also developed in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, although those associated with church/hall complexes or manors may be earlier. A large number of sites were abandoned in the 14<sup>th</sup> 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. 8 Medieval farmstead at the Roundwood excavations at Stansted Airport (dating to 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century), comprising three separate buildings under excavation.*

A range of religious structures were constructed throughout this period. These include the numerous parish churches as well as an Abbey and a number of Pories, though the latter were dissolved at the Dissolution of the Monasteries. Evidence of the layout of Tilty Abbey has been identified from aerial photography, and excavations at Thremhall Priory and at Audley End have shown the presence of medieval buildings with elements of their carved stone decoration surviving.



*Fig. 9 Digital reconstruction of Tilty Abbey as it may have appeared in its heyday*

A large number of deer parks, hunting forests and park land developed during the Saxon and medieval period, with Hatfield Forest being the best preserved Royal hunting forest in Britain. Its significance lies in that all the elements of a medieval forest survive, including the deer, cattle, rabbit warren, coppice woods, pollards, scrub, timber trees, grassland and fen, plus a 17<sup>th</sup>-century lodge. Excavations at Stansted identified a hunting lodge associated with a large deer park which had gone out of use in the early 17th century. The park was converted to farmlands and a farmhouse erected in place of the lodge. A number of deer parks, which had their origins in the medieval period, are recorded in the District, particularly along the Cam and Stort valleys (M11 corridor), elements of which survive through to the modern day.

### ***2.10 Post Medieval***

The post-medieval period saw an expansion of some of the medieval towns. Notably, Saffron Walden developed as a centre for the malting industry with many malting structures surviving into this century (most are now converted). During the post-medieval period, changes in agricultural production are reflected in changing farm complexes with 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 change. Many are now being converted and it is important these are recorded prior to their conversion. There were also localized agricultural practices, most notably the cultivation of the saffron crocus on the chalk slopes around Saffron Walden in the earlier post-medieval period. In addition, large-scale enclosure of the previously open fields on the northern boundary of the District took place in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



Fig. 10 *Abbey Farm, Audley End a good example of the Victorian 'High Farming' tradition, prior to conversion for Business use.*

Throughout this period, large parks and landscaped gardens were created. Some, such as Audley End, were on the sites of former religious establishments whilst others were associated with halls and manors. Recent work by the Historic Garden Trust has identified and recorded numerous important gardens and parks surviving in Uttlesford, many of which lay within a corridor either side of the River Cam and Stort. Many of the elements of these places, if not the whole parks, have survived as features in the present landscape.

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. 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.

## 2.11 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 Uttlesford landscape have been converted to housing.

Uttlesford contains numerous important defences constructed in the Second World War including both defence lines and airfields. The General Headquarters Line (GHQ) comprised a complex of anti-tank ditches, pill boxes, anti-aircraft guns and other defences which ran either side along the River Chelmer then along Debden Water and finally north along the River Cam. In addition, six airfields were constructed, sometimes on what had been large parks; those at Stansted and Carver barracks still function as airfields or military bases.



*Fig.11 Pillbox and tank traps at bridge entrance at Gamage's Wood, Audley End Estate. This forms part of the General Headquarters (GHQ) Line of defence set up early in World War II*

The most significant developments within the District date to the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, comprising large-scale housing development around Saffron Walden, Newport and Great Dunmow, the construction of the M11 and the expansion of Stansted Airport.

### 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, 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 Uttlesford 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

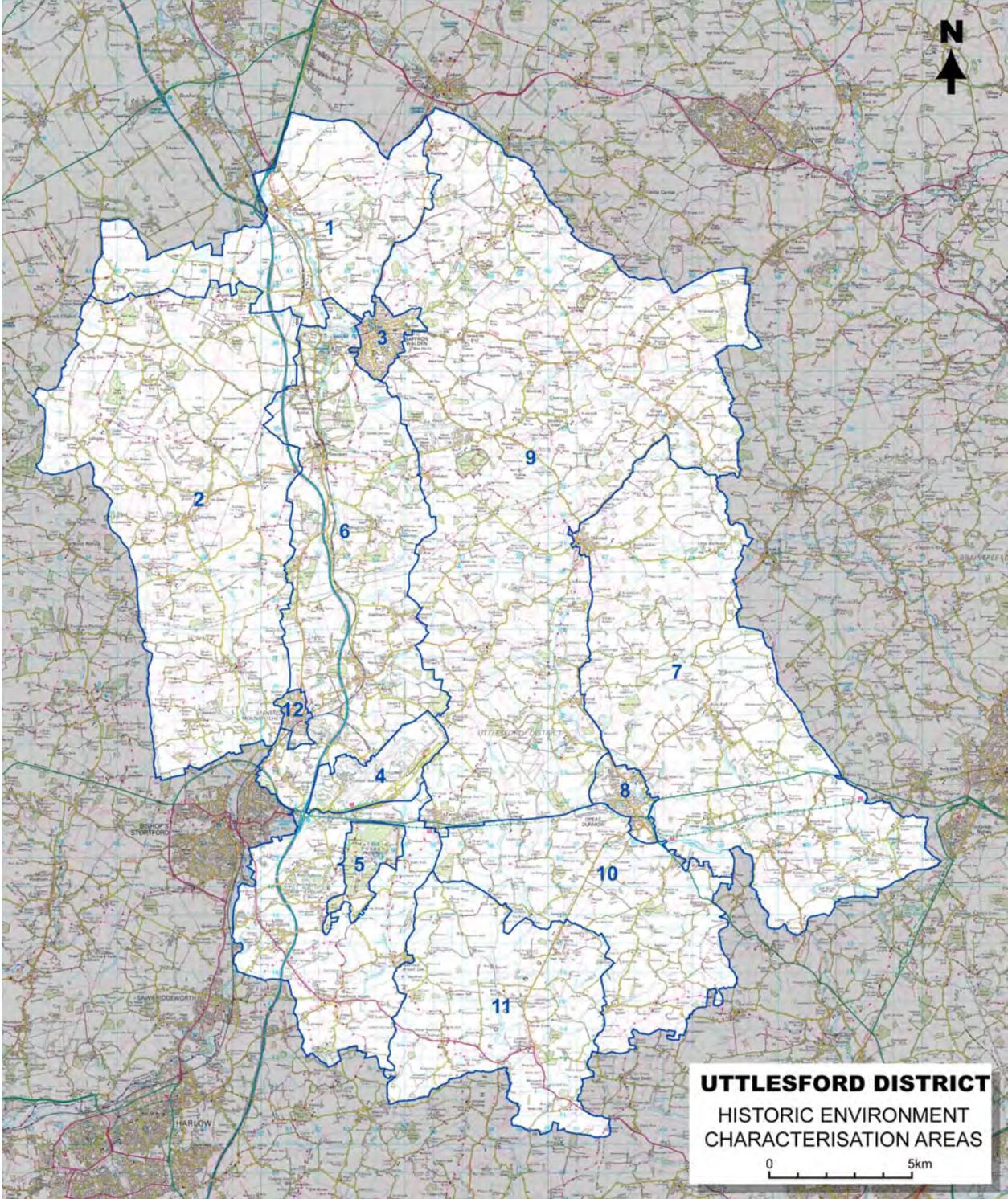


Fig. 12 Historic Environment Character Areas

### **3.1.1 HECA 1: Great Chesterford Area**

**Summary:** The area is situated on the chalk ridge on the boundary with Cambridgeshire. It is bisected by the River Cam which has formed a natural routeway since earliest times, as well as a series of ancient roads and tracks. Historically and geographically the area is more akin to Cambridgeshire and north-east Hertfordshire than the rest of Essex. The historic field pattern is a mixture of large open common fields and a more enclosed pattern of irregular fields. The main settlement is Great Chesterford which has its origins in the Late Iron Age developing into a major Roman town/fortified settlement. Extensive cropmarks are recorded showing occupation from the Bronze Age period onwards.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The geology is dominated by the chalk, which outcrops in the valleys of the Cam and its lateral streams and on the escarpment along the Cambridgeshire boundary. The remainder of the area is covered by a skim of very chalky boulder clay with alluvial and glaciofluvial deposits in the valley floor. Large common-fields developed here, of the Cambridgeshire and Midland type, a field-type that is rare in the rest of Essex. Some of these were enclosed by agreement in the early post-medieval period. The remainder were enclosed in the 18th and 19th centuries, as part of the parliamentary enclosure act. On the higher land, the landscape is more typical of Essex than Cambridgeshire with winding lanes, dispersed hamlets and greens and ancient woodlands, as well as Little Chesterford Park. There are important areas of enclosed meadow pasture adjoining the River Cam. The main settlements within the area are the villages of Great Chesterford and Littlebury.

**Archaeological Character:** The area contains extensive crop-mark evidence with many probable Bronze Age burial mounds (represented by ring ditches), prehistoric and Roman settlement enclosures. In addition, the distribution of individual finds and sites attests to human occupation of the area from the Palaeolithic period onwards, intensifying in density from the Bronze Age onwards. The excavated evidence includes an important Early Bronze Age burial at Bordeaux Farm, Littlebury, which has few parallels in Essex.

The large Roman town at Great Chesterford (now mainly a green-field site) is sited on the Essex side of the county boundary with Cambridgeshire. It is a strategically important site, straddling the entrance to the Fens through the gap in the low chalk hills as well as a number of significant route-ways and the tribal boundary between the Trinovantes and the Catuvellauni. The town had its origins in the Late Iron Age before being considerably expanded in the Roman period, culminating in the erection in the later 4th century of a substantial flint rubble town wall. Outside the town were extensive cemeteries and evidence for extra-mural settlement. A kilometre to the east of the town was a Late Iron Age shrine/Roman temple. Anglo Saxon occupation continued in the area, as evidenced by an extensive Anglo-Saxon cemetery excavated immediately to the north of the Roman town, as well as Saxon settlements and cemeteries are known from Littlebury and Little Chesterford.

The medieval settlement of the area comprised the villages of Great and Little Chesterford and Littlebury, together with more dispersed settlement in the form of small hamlets, isolated farms, manors and moated sites. There was a large medieval park at Chesterford Park. The northern boundary of the county has medieval lynchets preserved as cropmark evidence. During the post-medieval period, changes in agricultural production are reflected in the changing design of farm complexes with the development of the 'Victorian High Farming' tradition and the enclosure in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries of the former common fields.

### **3.1.2 HECA 2 : Land west of the M11**

**Summary:** The area comprises boulder clay plateau bisected by the Stort River. The historic landscape and settlement pattern survives well, although boundary loss has occurred. The area is especially rich in medieval remains with a number of scheduled mottes, ringworks and moats. Although limited fieldwork has taken place, the prehistoric and Roman period are well represented from archaeological work on pipeline routes and from aerial photography. The medieval landscape and settlement pattern largely survives within the present landscape.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The area comprises the northern part of the Stort Valley and a landscape of shallow valleys and ridges. The geology is overwhelmingly boulder clay, with head deposits in the valley floors. It is entirely rural in character, with the historic settlement pattern widely dispersed along numerous linear greens and stream valleys. This pattern largely survives, although there has been a degree of coalescing creating linear villages along roads. The largest settlement is the village of Clavering, with its church and castle/manorial site.

The fieldscape consists of irregular fields of ancient origin, many probably of medieval origin and some possibly even older, interspersed with patches of formerly unenclosed common. These commons were enclosed in the 19th century, forming large fields with irregular outlines and grid-like internal subdivisions. In the valley of the River Stort are areas of enclosed meadow pasture, some of which still survive. Hassobury Park outside Farnham forms a conspicuous landscape block within the area. There are a number of ancient woodlands, particularly in the northern part of the area. Boundary loss since the 1950's has been relatively limited.

**Archaeological Character:** This area lies on the boulder clay plateau and is dissected by the River Stort and its tributaries, the valleys contain potential for surviving palaeo-environmental deposits. Cropmark evidence is found on both valley sides of the Stort.

Only limited archaeological work has been undertaken within the area; however, prehistoric occupation is attested by the number of ring ditches and other enclosures identified from aerial photography. Ring ditches are normally interpreted as the remains of Bronze Age burial mounds which have been ploughed flat. Other irregular or oval enclosures are likely to be of Bronze Age or Iron Age date. There are a number of finds of Later Bronze Age metalwork, particularly from the upper reaches of the Stort valley.

The Roman road leading to Great Chesterford bisects the northern part of the area. Roman buildings and farms are known to exist set back from the road. Settlements

seem to range from relatively high class complexes with stone foundations through to lower class rural farms.

The medieval settlement pattern comprised small nucleated settlements at Clavering and Elmdon with the remainder being widely dispersed comprising church/hall complexes, moats, farms, and manors. The moated earthwork at Clavering was built soon after the Norman Conquest indicating probable Saxon occupation in the immediate vicinity. Extensive work has been undertaken on the castle and its surroundings by the Clavering Landscape History Group. A ringwork and motte are both located near to Berden, the motte being scheduled and the ringwork now ploughed flat. Both are likely to date soon after the Norman invasion in 1066. Religious activity in the area has been identified with the priory, with associated hospital, at Berden. A group of scheduled monuments are located around Elmdon, comprising moats, a mill mound and a ringwork.

### **3.1.3 HECA 3 : Saffron Walden**

**Summary:** This area comprises the modern extent of Saffron Walden. The historic town core had been originally focussed on the crest of a spur of chalk, where the castle and church were located, before expanding down slope. The streams Madgate Slade and the Kings Slade run through the town. The area incorporates the medieval and post-medieval historic town of Saffron Walden. There is evidence of occupation in the Roman and Saxon period with the settlement really expanding significantly from the medieval period. The castle and church became the focus for settlement with a number of excavations in the centre of the town showing extensive deposits surviving.

**Historic Urban Character:** The area is defined by the modern urban area of Saffron Walden which is situated on the chalk ridge which extends to the border with Cambridgeshire. The area incorporates the medieval and post-medieval historic town of Saffron Walden. There is evidence for prehistoric and Roman activity in and around the town, but nothing to suggest that it was urban in nature at that time. In the Middle to Late Saxon period, there was a small Saxon settlement and cemetery

in the south-west quadrant of the present town around Abbey Lane. After the Norman Conquest, Saffron Walden was granted to the de Mandevilles, and became the centre of their Essex and Suffolk estates. The new town was centred on the castle and church, which were located on the top of the hill. In the early to mid 13th century, a large town enclosure was laid out to the south and west of the outer bailey. The town enclosure ditches, known as the Battle or Repell Ditches enclosed a total area of 20 hectares. Within this were laid out new streets, and a new market-place. Only the market area and the High Street were actually built-up by the end of the 14th century, the remainder being under agricultural use. In the late medieval period, Saffron Walden became the major English centre for the production of the saffron crocus which was used to produce dye (hence the town's name). It also played an important role in the East Anglian wool industry, with the keeping of sheep and manufacture of cloth. The prosperity of the late medieval period is reflected in the quality of the built environment, most notably the church which was constructed by two of the foremost master masons in England in the 15<sup>th</sup>-century, Simon Clerk and John Wastell, who also built Eton and Kings College, Cambridge. In addition, the town has the finest surviving collection of timber-framed buildings in Essex. Four 14<sup>th</sup>-century timber-framed buildings survive and 28 15<sup>th</sup>-century ones, as well as numerous examples of a later date. Particularly notable structures include the Wool Hall (now the Youth Hostel) in Myddleton Place, the merchant's house and shop at 17-21 King Street and the former Sun Inn on Church Street, as well as extensive stretches of Bridge Street, Castle Street and Church Street.

In the post-medieval period, the economic emphasis of Saffron Walden changed, as the saffron crocus was replaced by other dye-stuffs and the woollen industry shifted elsewhere. The town became a major centre of the Essex malt industry in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, with evidence of a large number of maltings in the town, although now largely converted. The market-place was re-modelled in the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the construction of a number of civic and commercial buildings, including the ornate drinking fountain, Town Hall, bank and Corn Exchange (now the library). During the late 19th century, the railway station to the south of the medieval town emerged as the centre of an important manufacturing area with the erection of goods sheds, maltings, a cement works, iron foundry and steam-driven corn mill. A work

house of similar date developed on the eastern side of the town. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century the town rapidly expanded with modern estates built on all sides.

**Archaeological Character:** The evidence for prehistoric and Roman activity in the area includes Mesolithic flints, a possible Neolithic causewayed enclosure under Mount Pleasant Road, and a possible Roman fort at Abbey Lane. Abbey Lane was also the site of the mid-late Saxon settlement and cemetery, excavated in 1876; the survival of skeletal material was exceptionally good here. The post-Conquest period saw the development of a new town by the de Mandevilles on the crest of the chalk spur to the north-east of Abbey lane. The new town was centred on the castle and church and enclosed by massive bailey ditches, these still survive, partially below ground and partially fossilised within the modern street plan. In the early to mid 13th century, the large town enclosure was laid out, the Battle or Repell Ditches still survive, as earthworks at the south-west corner of the enclosure, and as below-ground features elsewhere. Within this enclosure were laid out new streets, and a new market-place, this street-plan survives to the present day.

Saffron Walden is noted for the quality and quantity of its Listed Buildings. Excavation has also established the presence of below-ground features and deposits dating to this period including earlier structures, pits and property boundaries. The development of the post-medieval industries of cloth manufacture, malting, etc. is also visible in both the built and below-ground heritage. Due to the calcareous nature of the soil, bone survival is exceptional and water-logged deposits have been found in the valleys of the Slades and in deeper features, such as well and the defensive ditches.

#### **3.1.4 HECA 4: Stansted Airport**

**Summary:** The area comprises the boulder clay plateau bisected by the Pincey Brook at its eastern end, forming part of a distinctive plateau which is a watershed, with river systems flowing, north, south and eastwards. The area is dominated by Stansted Airport. Extensive archaeological excavations have been undertaken across the area since the mid 1980's and have shown evidence of occupation from the Neolithic through to the present day. This area is one of the most intensively

studied areas in Essex, if not in England, and has shown the complexity and extent of human occupation on the boulder clay plateau of north-west Essex.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The area comprises a flat plateau, with the valley of the Pincey Brook on its eastern side. The plateau is a watershed with river systems flowing, north, south and eastwards from it. The fieldscape comprised a complex network of irregular fields, of ancient origin, many are probably of medieval date and some may be even older. Archaeological work has identified a deer park which functioned throughout the medieval and early post-medieval periods. Ancient woodland survives in the southern part of the zone. Historic settlement was largely dispersed, comprising hall complexes, isolated farms, and moated sites. The historic landscape character has been totally transformed by the construction of the Second World War airfield and subsequent development into Stansted airport. Some elements of ancient woodland survive along with some field boundaries; however, little of the original structure remains.

**Archaeological Character:** The earliest evidence from excavations indicate Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic exploitation of woodland for hunting, especially in the southern part of the area. The earliest settlements date to the Bronze Age with occupation concentrated on the top edge of the valleys and on the upper valley slopes. Occupation throughout the Iron Age is represented by a range of settlement types from enclosed planned settlements through to single structures. Evidence of Late Iron Age burials have also been recovered from across the area.

During the Roman period the area was settled with both small farmsteads and larger estate workers centres indicating the majority of the area was farmed. Evidence of burials has been recovered across the area with a number of notable 2<sup>nd</sup>-century rich burials.

Saxon occupation evidence is minimal; however, palaeo-environmental analysis has shown that agricultural production was widespread within the area during the period. During the medieval period, especially during the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century, there is a significant expansion of settlement within the area. A number of dispersed farmsteads and settlements have been recorded comprising, manors, moated sites,

halls and farmsteads. Some of these settlements were abandoned in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, whilst others survived, with subsequent re-building and re-modelling phases, into the modern period. Part of the area comprised a deer park throughout the medieval and early post medieval periods, with evidence of a hunting lodge being recovered from excavation. The hunting lodge remained in use into the 17<sup>th</sup> century, when the park was converted to farmland, the lodge demolished and replaced by a farmhouse. The settlement pattern remained dispersed until the construction of the Second World War airfield when the flat plateau formed an ideal location for an airfield. From the 1980's through to the early part of the 21st century the area was transformed into Stansted Airport. Little now survives of the military airfield apart from the layout of the runways.

### **3.1.5 HECA 5: Hatfield Forest**

**Summary:** This area comprises the nationally important medieval hunting forest of Hatfield Forest. The geology is boulder clay with small pockets of gravel. The forest was originally established in the late 11<sup>th</sup> and early 12<sup>th</sup> century as a Royal hunting forest. It is a supreme example of its type as it still contains all the elements of a medieval Forest, the deer, cattle, rabbit warren, coppice woods, pollards, scrub, timber trees, grassland and fen, as well as associated buildings - a Forest Lodge with possible standing (for watching hunts) and the Warren Cottage for the warrener who managed the pillow mounds where rabbits were raised.

**Historic Landscape Character:** Hatfield Forest is an important survival of a medieval forest, a mixture of wood pasture with pollards, coppice woods, timber trees, a warren, lodge and lake. An extensive area of woodland (enough for 800 pigs) was recorded in the Domesday Book, when it had belonged to King Harold before passing to William the Conqueror in 1066. It is probable that Henry I created Hatfield Forest as a Royal Hunting Forest in around 1100 AD, this included the deliberate introduction of fallow deer (a gift from the King of Sicily) to the already existing forest environment. Its function was the supply of deer for the King's table, as well as to be given away as gifts, and for the occasional ceremonial hunt. Within the framework of a well preserved medieval landscape, the prehistoric earthworks of Portingbury Hills survive. The area was maintained as a forest into the post-medieval

and modern period, with some adjustments to its overall appearance, including the creation of an ornamental lake by damming a marshy valley and the cutting of broad rides through the woodland, as well as the planting of new ornamental tree-species. The area is now owned and managed by the National Trust. Woodrow Green at the southern end of Hatfield Forest was an open area with some settlement along its edges, including a number of farms and a Hall.

**Archaeological Character:** Early prehistoric occupation has been identified within the forest, including Mesolithic flints and the hill-fort of Portingbury Hills. Evidence of Roman occupation has been found in several locations within the forest; however, the nature of this occupation at present is unknown.

Extensive earthworks relating to the medieval woodland are recorded throughout the forest; these include boundary banks and the pillow-mounds of an artificial rabbit warren. Several buildings relating to its role as a medieval forest survive; including the Forest Lodge and Warren Cottage. Some re-modelling took place in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, with the cutting of broad rides across the forest, the creation of an ornamental lake, and the construction of the Shell House. A detailed survey of the forest and its earthworks has been undertaken by the Royal Commission of Historic Monuments of England.

### ***3.1.6 HECA 6: Parkland in the M11 corridor***

**Summary:** The area comprises boulder clay plateau bisected north-south, on its western side by the valleys of the Cam/Granta and Stort Rivers with sand and gravels on the valley slopes. The historic landscape and settlement pattern survives well, although boundary loss has occurred. Excavation has shown that extensive archaeological deposits of Bronze Age through to the modern day survive throughout this area, which is especially rich in medieval and post-medieval parkland. Running from the southern boundary in the area of the Hallingburys, parkland extends along the sides of the Stort and Cam Rivers up to the northern boundary at Audley End. Much of the medieval landscape and settlement pattern survives within the present landscape, despite post-medieval park creation and modern boundary loss.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The area comprises the southern part of the Stort Valley and the southern part of the Cam valley. The geology is overwhelmingly boulder clay, with head deposits on the valley slopes. It is largely rural in nature, with a gently rolling rural landscape. The historic fieldscape comprises a complex network of irregular fields of ancient origin, many probably of medieval origin, and some may be even older, interspersed with linear greens and a number of former common fields. The latter were largely enclosed in the 19th century and are clustered to the north of Stansted Mountfitchet, forming a southern outlier to the main concentration in the Chesterford Ridge area. Against the borders of Hatfield Forest is a fringe of more regular fields, probably the result of encroachment on the forest itself. Enclosed meadow pasture survives in the valley floors. Post-1950's boundary loss is moderate. There is a significant proportion of ancient woodland in the area, and many of the hedgerows are of considerable antiquity. The majority of the roads are intricate, twisting and sunken, indicating their ancient origins.

Parks of medieval and post-medieval date were located throughout this area with examples at Audley End, Hatfield Park, Hallingbury Park, Little Hallingbury Park, and Shortgrove Hall. Many of these parks no longer survive intact; however, elements of them do survive within the landscape and in the built heritage. A number of large mansions and houses are situated within the parkland, including Audley End House and Stansted Hall. Audley End was the largest of the Jacobean 'prodigy' houses (subsequently reduced in size), it was built on the site of Audley Abbey, and the accompanying parkland was laid out by Capability Brown.

The town of Newport is late Saxon in origin and was the principal market town for the area prior to the rise of Saffron Walden in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The only other historic settlement of any size was Stansted Mountfitchet, centred on its castle and medieval market-place. Otherwise the historic settlement pattern was largely dispersed, with small foci at Hatfield Heath, Hatfield Broadoak and the Hallingburys. The remainder comprised church/hall complexes, isolated farms, many moated sites and small hamlets, often along linear greens. The M11 motorway and the railway run north-south through the western half of the area.

**Archaeological Character:** The area is bisected by the River Cam/Granta and Stour and their tributaries all of whose valleys contain a high potential for surviving palaeo-environmental deposits.

Evidence of extensive prehistoric occupation has been found dating from the Neolithic through to the Iron Age. Evidence of settlement has been identified along the valley sides of both Bronze Age and Iron Age dates. Finds of Bronze Age metal-work hoards have been recovered from the area, part of a concentration running along the Lea/Stort river system. Assessment of cropmark evidence indicates the remains of probable prehistoric burial mounds (ring ditches) and settlement enclosures. Iron Age hillforts are present close to the River Stort at Wallbury and to the Cam at Audley End. A large pipeline (Cambridge to Matching Green) has provided an important cross section of this area showing the extent of prehistoric occupation.

A number of Roman villas/farmsteads are known from the area. The buildings within these sites appear to have been mainly of timber-framed construction, although in some cases masonry foundations have been recorded. Evidence of Roman burials and cemeteries is spread throughout the area. A number of very rich burials dating to the late first and second centuries AD have been recorded including examples from Elsenham and south of Newport. All the evidence indicates extensive occupation throughout this area in the Roman period exploiting both the position of the main Roman roads as well as the slopes of the river valleys.

Many of the parish churches throughout this area are thought to have their origins in the Saxon period, and most of the historic settlements are first referenced in the late Saxon period or in the Domesday Book.

Medieval occupation is extensive with settlements developing at Newport, Stansted Mountfitchet, Hatfield Broad Oak and smaller settlements such as Widdington, Henham, Elsenham, Wendens Ambo, Hatfield Heath and the Hallingburys as well as a dispersed pattern of halls, moats and farms. Religious establishments were

founded throughout the zone including sites such as Audley End Abbey, Thremhall Priory and Warish Hall Priory.

During the post-medieval period, changes in agricultural production are reflected in the changing design of farm complexes with the development of the 'Victorian High Farming' tradition. This resulted in new ideas culminated in significant alterations in the design and layouts of farm buildings. Many of these buildings are now being converted for residential or business use.

### **3.1.7 HECA 7: Stebbing/Felsted Area**

**Summary:** The area comprises boulder clay plateau dissected by the Stebbing Brook, 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 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 number of mottes, ringworks and moats scheduled.

**Historic Landscape Character:** This area comprises a rolling rural landscape on the dissected boulder clay plateau. The historic town of Thaxted is located on the northern edge of the area. The late medieval wealth present in the town is reflected in the surviving historic building stock, which includes the Grade I Listed Buildings of the Church and the Guildhall. Other notable settlements include the villages of Felsted and Stebbing as well as numerous smaller villages, 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 and triangular greens. 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, with areas of enclosed meadow

pastures along the river/stream valleys. There are a number of medieval parks and areas of ancient woodland.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Braintree-Bishops Stortford railway was constructed across the southern half of this area (now the Flitch Way Country Park). Modern development is largely limited to estates on the edge of Felsted and Thaxted and smaller developments on the edge of the other villages, with some ribbon development along the road. Post-1950s boundary loss is moderate, rising to high on a few farms.

**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 Bronze Age and Iron Age sites were recorded when the A120 was dualled. Palaeoenvironmental deposits survive within the Stebbing Brook valley. The area is bisected by the major Roman Road of Stane Street, to either side of which are known Roman farmsteads, including a number of villas. Excavations at Stebbing Green revealed a Roman malthouse and fieldwork in advance of construction between Felsted and Little Dunmow recorded a Roman villa and industrial site. There is a widespread distribution of Roman sites across the rest of the area, and recent excavation of a Roman cemetery at Thaxted has confirmed the presence of a settlement there, close to a known Roman route.

Thaxted became a major cutlery centre in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, specialising in the manufacturing of bone handles. Finds and features relating to this industry have been revealed on many sites within the historic town, and the wealth generated is apparent within the surviving built environment. Stebbing had its origins as a motte and bailey castle (Scheduled), and the medieval village developed to the south-west of this. A tile kiln was located to the south of the village and is protected as a scheduled monument. Felsted is also medieval in origin; the village is dominated by buildings and grounds of Felsted School, as well as a notable group of timber-framed structures close to the church. 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. The Braintree to

Bishops Stortford railway bisects the southern part of the area; it is now dismantled and the route a Country Park. The World War II GHQ defence line ran up the Chelmer Valley along the western edge of the area. During the modern period, many field boundaries have been removed, many of which are still visible however as cropmarks.

### **3.1.8 HECA 8: Great Dunmow**

**Summary:** This area comprises the modern urban extent of Great Dunmow, incorporating the Roman, late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval historic towns. Great Dunmow lies largely on the crest of the slope above the River Chelmer, with outlying elements immediately adjoining the river itself. The geology is predominately boulder-clay with alluvial deposits in the valley floor and sand and gravel exposed in the valley sides.

**Historic Urban Character:** This area comprises the modern urban area of Great Dunmow, incorporating the Roman, medieval and post-medieval town. A Roman small town developed on the junction between Stane Street and the Roman roads which ran north-east to south-west from Sudbury to London and north-west to south-east from Cambridge to Chelmsford. The main settlement area spread westwards from the road junction along a spur between the Chelmer and a tributary stream, with cemeteries on the outskirts. There was a second Roman settlement at Church End immediately to the north of present day Great Dunmow. Both Roman settlements were reoccupied during the Saxon period, at Great Dunmow in the seventh century and at Church End in the later Saxon period. The earliest medieval settlement appears to have been a continuation of the late Saxon settlement at Church End, where the parish church is located. The granting of a market charter in 1227 may mark the time of the movement of the main focus of settlement from Church End to the High Street and market-place. The medieval and post-medieval development of Great Dunmow is reflected both in the surviving built heritage, which includes 167 Listed Buildings and the below-ground archaeology. Notable structures include the Parish Church, a possible medieval Priests House at 34 High Street, the 16<sup>th</sup>-century Old Vicarage in Church End, a fine late 14<sup>th</sup>-century hall-house with cross-wings at 20-24 High Street and the late 16<sup>th</sup>-century Clock House in Church End. The

sixteenth and seventeenth centuries saw a time of growth with the establishment of cloth and tanning industries, although little above-ground evidence now survives for these. However the number of houses constructed in the 16th and 17th centuries reflects the economic boom at that period. A windmill is located on the eastern side of the town. The 19<sup>th</sup>-century Braintree-Bishops Stortford railway skirted around the southern edge of the town, and a new industrial focus developed around the station area. The railway was closed in 1969 and the Dunmow stretch of the route became the Dunmow road by-pass. The Union Workhouse, a substantial red-brick building now converted into residential flats, stands on the southern outskirts of the town.

**Archaeological Character Area:** Prehistoric occupation and palaeo-environmental deposits are likely to be identified in the area of the River Chelmer. Excavation has occurred in a number of areas within the modern town with Roman occupation or cemeteries being identified across much of the area to the south-west of the High Street. The archaeological features include structural evidence for timber buildings, pits, cremation burials and trackways. Faunal and ceramic preservation is good. There is crop-mark evidence for the Late Iron Age and Roman settlement at Church End, as well as stray finds. Excavations and building recording have revealed evidence for the medieval and post-medieval period in the historic core. Significant features from the later post-medieval period include the Old Maltings and the former Workhouse; excavations have also revealed evidence for the tannery industry to the south and east of the town.

### **3.1.9 HECA 9: North Eastern Uttlesford**

**Summary:** The area comprises boulder clay plateau with alluvium in the valleys of the Chelmer, Roding and Pant/Blackwater valleys. The historic landscape and settlement pattern survives well, despite boundary loss in the 20<sup>th</sup> 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 rolling rural landscape, dissected by the valleys of many small streams and rivers. Part of the plateau on which Stansted Airport now sits extends into the western part of this area. The geology comprises chalky boulder clay. 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 throughout. The degree of boundary loss is moderate, although, interestingly, those fields most affected are the former common fields which have thus been returned to something like their original dimensions. Historic settlement is dispersed, with church hall complexes, individual farms, moated sites and small hamlets strung out along linear greens and ends. The roads are twisting and often partially sunken. Gardens relating to Little Easton Lodge survive adjacent to the now demolished house. The Gardens, grounds and the whole estate of Easton Lodge date back to Tudor times, with the gardens being redesigned in 1902 by Harold Peto. A largely unsuccessful attempt at plot-land development at Takeley took place between the World Wars; these are now being re-developed as the Priors Green housing development. The 20th-century Carver Barracks, Great Sampford airfield, and Little Easton Airfield all developed as World War II airfields. A range of wartime monuments apart from the airfields survive both on and around these monuments. The newly duelled A120 trunk-road has cut across the southern part of the zone.

**Archaeological Character:** This area lies on the boulder clay plateau and is dissected by the rivers Roding, Pant, Chelmer and their tributaries. The valleys have a high potential for surviving palaeo-environmental deposits. Evidence for prehistoric occupation has been found across the area, most notably on various sites along the Cambridge-Matching Green pipeline where settlement evidence dating from the Bronze and Iron Age was excavated, and along the route of the A120 trunk-road. The evidence has shown that the valley slopes above the main rivers were the preferred location for settlement in the Middle Bronze Age, with exploitation spreading into the valley floors.

A number of Roman villas/farmsteads are known from the area. The buildings within these sites appear to have been mainly of timber-framed construction, although in some cases masonry foundations have been recorded. A number of burials dating from the Late Iron Age through to the Roman period have been recorded. The southern boundary of the zone is formed by Stane Street (the old A120) which formed a significant east west route from Colchester to Braughing. The evidence indicates occupation throughout this area during the Roman period exploiting both the position of the main Roman roads as well as the river valleys.

During the medieval period, the settlement pattern comprised small settlements such as Hadstock, Ashdon, Hempstead and Broxted 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. Extensive survey work has been undertaken around the parish of Sampford by the local society. The area contains a medieval park at its southern end at Easton Park which was turned into an airfield during the Second World War. Areas of ancient woodland survive.

The Second World War is marked by airfields and accompanying structures and the General Headquarters (GHQ) line which bisects the area running along the Chelmer Valley from Great Dunmow to Thaxted. A range of military structures (pill-boxes, spigot mortar bases, etc.) survive in very good condition along this defence line.

### ***3.1.10 HECA 10: Takeley and Barnston Area***

**Summary:** The geology largely comprises chalky boulder clay, with sands and gravels and alluvial deposits in the stream valleys. The boulder clay becomes considerably heavier and more water-logged in the area immediately to the south of Dunmow. The earlier prehistoric periods are represented by finds-scatters and the later prehistoric and Roman periods are also represented from field work and aerial photography. A main Roman route crosses this area from Harlow to Great Dunmow. The area is especially rich in medieval remains with a motte and a number of moats

scheduled. The medieval landscape and settlement pattern largely survives within the present landscape which is very rural.

**Historic Landscape Character:** A gently rolling rural landscape, crossed by numerous small streams, largely flowing north-south. The western end of the area was in the medieval period part of Hatfield Forest in the legal sense; it was not necessarily under woodland. The fieldscape largely comprises a network of twisting lanes, often sunken, with irregular fields of ancient origin. However against the borders of the Forest is a fringe of more regular fields, probably the result of encroachment on the forest itself. In the eastern half of the area, the fieldscape appears to have been largely dictated by the valley topography and the heavy, damp clay soils. The majority of the fields are noticeably smaller than is usual in Essex. There are quite a number of small former commons and linear greens and enclosed meadow pasture surviving in the valley floors. There are also a number of areas of ancient woodland. The settlement is largely dispersed, comprising church/hall complexes, individual farmsteads, a large number of moated sites, and scattered roadside and greenside settlement. The only settlement foci are Takeley, Barnston and High Easter, and settlement was equally small here in the historic periods. This pattern survives to the present day, with the addition of some ribbon development. 20<sup>th</sup> century boundary loss can be described as low to moderate, with some land-owners having rationalised the field pattern more than others.

**Archaeological Character:** Prehistoric deposits are known to exist on the upper valley slopes of the Chelmer and Roding valleys. The stream valleys have the potential to contain important palaeo-environmental deposits. There has only been limited archaeological fieldwork within this area, due to the absence of development. However the route of the new A120 and the expansion of Takeley has established the survival of archaeological remains. Finds scatters attest to Mesolithic activity in the area, suggesting that hunter gatherer communities were using the river valleys as settlement areas and hunting on the boulder clay plateau.

Evidence of later prehistoric occupation has been found on various sites in the area, including a cropmark complex to the south of the A120 of probable Iron Age date. The area is bisected by the Roman road from Great Dunmow running south to

Harlow. Cropmarks to the south of the A120 are thought to be of a Roman settlement.

A scheduled Motte and Bailey castle is located at Great Canfield, where there is also a church/hall complex. Examination of the cartographic evidence in the east of the area has established that there were once more hamlets in the valleys, comprising small clusters of cottages around equally small greens; these appear to have been abandoned or consolidated into larger farms, possibly due to post-medieval agricultural depression. Excavation along the southern edge of Takeley has identified the remains of medieval fields and agricultural practices, as well as the occasional medieval building. The dismantled Braintree to Bishop Stortford railway bisects the northern part of the area. During the modern period, a large number of field boundaries have been lost to agricultural 'improvements. Many of these boundaries have been recorded as cropmark evidence.

### **3.1.11 HECA 11: *The Rodings***

**Summary:** The area comprises boulder clay plateau, with alluvium in the valley floors and glacio-fluvial sands and gravels exposed in some of the valley sides. The later prehistoric and Roman periods are well represented from archaeological work on pipeline and road routes and from aerial photography. There are Roman roads, as well as a range of Roman settlement evidence. The area is especially rich in medieval remains and the broad outline of the medieval landscape and settlement pattern largely survives within the present landscape, despite some 20<sup>th</sup>-century boundary loss.

**Historic Landscape Character:** This area comprises the middle reaches of the Roding valley and its tributaries. The valley sides comprise gentle boulder clay slopes, with head and alluvial deposits in the valley floor. This area encompasses much of an ancient Saxon territory known as the *hrodingas*, which stretched from High Roding in the north down to Beauchamp Roding in the south. The settlement pattern is of a highly dispersed nature, comprising church/hall complexes, isolated farms and cottages, many moated sites and small hamlets. The overall grain of the landscape is very irregular, with numerous small twisting roads and lanes linking the

settlement and the many small tributary valleys. On a macro-scale the field type can be described as irregular fields of ancient origin, probably of medieval or late Saxon date. However a number of individual farms and fields had their larger irregular fields sub-divided into co-axial sinuous fields, a pattern which reflects medieval ploughing regimes. There are enclosed meadows along the Roding and many of its smaller tributaries and a number of small former commons and linear greens. Small scattered areas of ancient woodland are located on the ridges between the tributary valleys. It is probable that much of this fieldscape is very ancient indeed, and may well have its origins in the late Saxon period. Post-1950s boundary loss is slight to moderate; many of these boundaries have been recorded as cropmark evidence.

**Archaeological Character:** Due to the lack of recent development in the area, little in the way of archaeological excavation has taken place here. There is evidence for Mesolithic and Neolithic activity, largely in the form of finds scatters. There is high potential for palaeo-environmental data from deposits associated to the River Roding. Crop-mark evidence from aerial photographs indicates later prehistoric occupation across the area. Evidence of ring ditches and settlement enclosures; have been recorded across the area. The Roman road from Great Dunmow to Harlow bisects this area. Both the road and the river would have formed the focus for settlement in this period. A large Roman settlement, possibly a village, has been recently identified to the west of Leaden Roding.

In the Saxon period, the area is thought to have formed a single Saxon tribal territory or land holding, the *Hrodingas*, and there may be surviving below-ground evidence for this period, particularly in the vicinity of the parish churches. The *Hrodingas* was sub-divided in the medieval period into the eight ecclesiastical parishes known as the Rodings (5 of which lie in Uttlesford District), which in 1086 contained sixteen separate manors and other minor holdings. The medieval settlement pattern comprises church/hall complexes, moated sites and unmoated farmsteads. Many of the moats would have had their origin in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. During the post-medieval period, changes in agricultural production are reflected in changing farm complexes with the development of the 'Victorian High Farming tradition' when new ideas culminated in significant alterations in the design and layouts of buildings. During the

modern period a large number of field boundaries have been lost to agricultural 'improvements.

### **3.1.12 HECA 12: Stansted Mountfitchet**

**Summary:** This area comprises the modern urban extent of Stansted Mountfitchet, incorporating the medieval and post-medieval historic towns. The geology is predominately sand and gravel with alluvial deposits in the valley floor. The town contains a scheduled Motte and Bailey Castle, with three centres of dispersed historic settlement. The three dispersed settlements have been merged in the 20<sup>th</sup> century by residential development.

**Historic Urban Character:** This area comprises the modern urban extent of Stansted Mountfitchet, including the medieval and post-medieval areas within the town. The earliest recorded evidence comprises the scheduled motte and bailey castle on the eastern side of the present town. The Castle was originally constructed in the 11<sup>th</sup> century probably by Robert de Gernon, Duke of Bologne, who had arrived with William the Conqueror. The market would have been located close to the castle in Lower Street and the medieval occupation would have probably centred on the area of the castle. However, at a later date occupation also developed along Silver Street and Chapel Hill. On the First Edition OS map, three distinct historic areas are identified which is mirrored by the present conservation areas. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, all three areas were linked by modern residential development. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, large-scale development is taking place to the south of the town.

**Archaeological Character Area:** The earliest archaeological deposits identified within the urban area of Stansted Mountfitchet comprise a Middle Bronze Age burial found in the south east of the town. Evidence of Roman occupation has been found to the east of the Castle and in the south west of the town. This material suggests Roman occupation near the castle, where Roman coins have been found and at a separate site to the south west. Medieval and post-medieval below-ground deposits relating to the development of the castle and the town can be anticipated, and building recording of the numerous historic buildings within the town could shed light on their history and development.

## **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 Uttlesford 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 Uttlesford Historic Environment Characterisation Zones

## 5.1 HECA 1 Great Chesterford Area

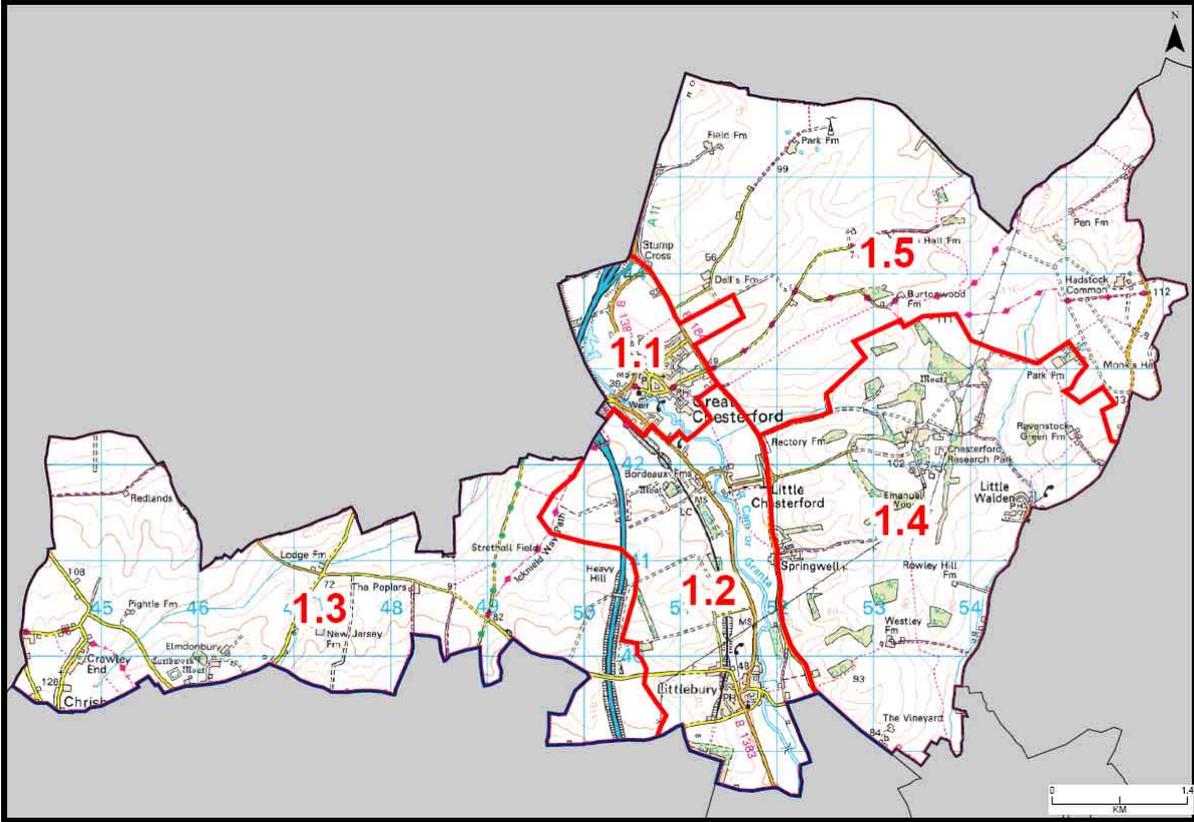


Fig. 13 Historic Environment Character Zones in HECA 1

### HECZ 1.1: Great Chesterford Roman town, settlement and temple

**Summary:** The zone consists of the site of the walled roman town, its extra-mural suburbs and cemeteries and temple, an early Saxon cemetery and the medieval, post-medieval and modern village of Great Chesterford. The River Cam, which has formed a natural routeway since earliest times, forms the western boundary of this zone. The archaeological deposits are of national importance and much of the Roman town, temple and cemetery are Scheduled.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The geology comprises gravels and alluvial deposits in the valley of the River Cam and the chalk exposed in the valley-sides. Large common-fields developed here in the Late Saxon or medieval period; these

were of the Cambridgeshire and Midland type, a field-type that is rare in the rest of Essex. These were enclosed in the 18th and 19th centuries, under the parliamentary enclosure act. This pattern of field development has resulted in a very open landscape dominated by large rectangular fields. The settlement within the zone is the village of Great Chesterford; the north of the zone the landscape is dominated by the modern junction of the M11 with the A11. There has also been some gravel extraction on the western side of the zone, now largely forming fishing lakes. The village has its origins as a small medieval market village, located around a central triangular green (which has been partially built on). There are a large number of surviving historic buildings throughout the village, many of which are Listed.

**Archaeological Character:** The large Roman town at Great Chesterford (now a green-field site) is sited on the county boundary with Cambridgeshire. It is a strategically important site, straddling a major route to the Fens through the gap in the low chalk hills as well as a number of other significant routeways and the tribal boundary between the Trinovantes and the Catuvellauni. The town had its origins in the Late Iron Age before being considerably expanded in the Roman period, culminating in the erection in the later 4th century of a substantial flint rubble town wall. It has been postulated, and there is now evidence, for a second walled enclosure of Roman date surrounding the area of the medieval church. Outside the town were extensive cemeteries and evidence for extra-mural settlement. A kilometre to the east of the town was a Late Iron Age shrine/Roman temple. Anglo Saxon occupation continued in the area, as evidenced by an extensive Anglo-Saxon cemetery excavated immediately to the north of the Roman town. The Roman walled town and temple are protected as Scheduled Monuments.



*Fig.14 Excavation and geophysical evidence used to recreate the layout of the main walled town of Roman Great Chesterford. The green areas all show geophysical anomalies of Roman to post medieval date.*

The medieval settlement of the zone is located beneath the present village of Great Chesterford all of which is protected as a Conservation area. The village expanded little in the post-medieval period, but modern housing estates and a small industrial estate have expanded over the area of the Roman suburbs and cemetery. To the south of the modern village cropmarks demonstrate that the Iron Age and Roman activity extended significantly further than the scheduled area.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diversity of historic environment assets</li> </ul>	<p>High diversity including Iron Age burials, Roman settlement, temple and cemeteries, Saxon cemetery, medieval and post-medieval village, historic landscape of open field/parliamentary enclosure</p>	<p>3</p>
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• Survival	Good survival of features and deposits, Listed Buildings	3
• Documentation	HER data, excavation reports, Cartographic and documentary evidence	3
• Group Value Association	Roman town, associated cemeteries and temple	3
• Potential	Significant potential for surviving below ground deposits.	3
• Sensitivity to change	Highly sensitive to change due to the significance and extent of the archaeology	3
• Amenity Value	Potential for promotion to the local population via displays and education boards etc.	2

### **HECZ 1.2: The upper Cam valley**

**Summary:** The zone consists of the valley of the River Cam, which has formed a natural routeway since earliest times. There is the potential for important palaeoenvironmental deposits in the valley floor, and cropmark evidence indicating multi-period occupation. The medieval settlement pattern comprises villages and dispersed farmsteads. There is a detailed local parish history produced on Littlebury.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The geology comprises gravels and alluvial deposits in the river valley with the chalk forming the valley-sides. Large common-fields developed here in the Late Saxon or medieval period, of the Cambridgeshire and Midland type, a field-type that is rare in the rest of Essex. These were enclosed in the 18th and 19th centuries, under the parliamentary enclosure act. This pattern of field development has resulted in a very open landscape dominated by large rectangular fields. There is extensive surviving meadow pasture along the river banks; this is medieval or earlier in origin. There are a number of rectangular blocks of woodland plantation, largely of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>-century date. The historic settlement

pattern comprises villages at Little Chesterford and Littlebury, both of which contain numerous medieval and post-medieval Listed Buildings. The majority of the village of Littlebury is protected by a conservation area. Outside the village there are one or two isolated farms. The railway line from London to Cambridge and the M11 bisects this zone.



*Fig. 15 Aerial view of Littlebury, with the potential enclosure defined by the roads which enclose the church and surrounding land*

**Archaeological Character:** The area contains crop-mark evidence, including probable Bronze Age burial mounds (represented by ring ditches), prehistoric and Roman enclosures. The cropmarks indicate extensive multi-period occupation on the slopes above the river. A remarkable Early Bronze Age burial, containing an unusual pottery beaker with both cremated bone and burial goods including a pendant and beads, was excavated at Bordeaux Farm, which is unparalleled in Essex. There are also stray finds, including Neolithic polished axes, prehistoric and Roman pottery.

Saxon settlements and cemeteries are known from the environs of both Littlebury and Little Chesterford. The historic core of Littlebury has its origins in a Saxon banked enclosure which included the area of the present church. Bordeaux Farm contains a scheduled medieval moated site and fishponds. There is high potential for palaeoenvironmental data from the alluvial deposits in or close to the river.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	High diversity including, cropmarks Saxon cemeteries and settlements, medieval and post-medieval buildings and settlement	3
• Survival	Good survival of features and deposits, Listed Buildings	2
• Documentation	HER data, excavation reports, Cartographic and documentary evidence, NMP	3
• Group Value Association	Saxon occupation, medieval settlement and historic landscape, cropmarks	2
• Potential	Significant potential for below ground archaeological deposits. Potential for Palaeo-environmental survival close to the river.	3
• Sensitivity to change	Below ground deposits and historic settlement pattern highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	Very high, the Parish History of Littlebury has great value for the village and local population as well as a wider audience in demonstrating how the landscape and village has functioned and developed over time.	3

### **HECZ 1.3: The Strethall ridge**

**Summary:** The zone is situated on the chalk ridge on the boundary with Cambridgeshire. It is bisected by a series of ancient roads and tracks, including the route of the Icknield Way. Historically the zone is more akin to adjacent parts of Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire than Essex. The field pattern is a mixture of irregular fields and large, formerly open, common fields; both types are medieval in origin. Extensive cropmarks are recorded, showing occupation of a multi-period date from the Bronze Age.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The geology comprises chalk, overlain with very chalky boulder-clay along the southern edge of the zone. Large common-fields developed here in the Late Saxon or medieval period, these were of the Cambridgeshire and Midland type, a field-type that is rare in the rest of Essex. These were enclosed in the 18th and 19th centuries by act of parliament. This pattern of field development has resulted in a very open landscape dominated by large rectangular fields. There are also a number of areas of irregular fields, of probably medieval origin. The settlement pattern is highly dispersed, with the exception of the roadside settlement of Crawley End in the south-west corner of the zone. There is very good documentary evidence for the zone, which establishes the Saxon origin of the parish boundaries.

**Archaeological Character:** The zone contains extensive crop-mark evidence, including probable Bronze Age burial mounds (represented by ring ditches), prehistoric and Roman rectangular enclosures, several Roman roads and the ancient route of the Icknield Way, and later field boundaries. The crop-mark evidence shows the zone has been extensively occupied from the Bronze Age period. In addition, a series of earthwork lynchets survive on the slopes of Coploe Hill. The motte and moated site at Elmdonbury are Scheduled Monuments. The medieval settlement pattern was both sparse and highly dispersed, with the exception of a small area of road-side development at Crawley End; this pattern has persisted into the modern period. Many of the farms and the buildings at Crawley End are Listed.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	High diversity including cropmarks, Roman roads and settlement pattern and landscape features	3
• Survival	Field and settlement pattern, potentially good survival of below-ground archaeological deposits ,	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic and documentary evidence, NMP data	2
• Group Value Association	Cropmarks, field system	2
• Potential	High potential for surviving below-ground archaeological deposits of multi-period date.	3
• Sensitivity to change	Sensitive to change due to the surviving historic landscape, and potential significance and extent of the below-ground archaeology.	2
• Amenity Value	The below ground deposits and surviving landscape have a potential to be promoted in association with other zones	2

#### ***HECZ 1.4: Chesterford Park and Little Walden***

**Summary:** The zone is situated on the chalk ridge to the north of Saffron Walden. The valley of the River Cam forms the western side of the zone. The zone includes a number of prehistoric, Roman and medieval cropmarks. The historic landscape includes former large common fields, enclosed in the post-medieval period. The zone is dominated by the late medieval and post-medieval Chesterford Park (formerly Walden Park).

**Historic Landscape Character:** The geology is dominated by the chalk, which outcrops in the valleys of the Cam and its lateral streams and on the escarpment along the Cambridgeshire boundary; the remainder of the zone is covered by a skim

of very chalky boulder clay. Large common-fields developed here, of the Cambridgeshire and Midland type, rare in the rest of Essex. Some of these were enclosed by agreement in the early post-medieval period. The remainder were enclosed in the 18th and 19th centuries, as part of the parliamentary enclosure act. On the higher ground the landscape is more typical of Essex than Cambridgeshire with more irregular fields, a number of greens and ancient woodlands, as well as Little Chesterford Park. The ancient woodland at Paddock Wood contain a scheduled moated site. The medieval settlement pattern was both sparse and highly dispersed, comprising individual farms, manors and cottages with the only focus at Little Walden; this pattern has persisted into the modern period and many of the present buildings are Listed, with a concentration of listed structures at Little Walden. During the post-medieval period, changes in agricultural production are reflected in the changing design of farm complexes with the development of the 'Victorian High Farming tradition as well as the enclosure in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries of the former common fields. The park at Little Chesterford is being developed as a business centre.

### **Archaeological Character:**

The area contains crop-mark evidence, including probable prehistoric or Roman enclosures and later field boundaries. Using a combination of the documentary, cartographic and crop-mark evidence, it is possible to reconstruct much of the pre-1400 landscape elements, including the identification of a number of lost hamlets. The medieval moated site in Paddock Wood is a Scheduled Monument.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Good diversity including cropmarks, and medieval farms	2
• Survival	Good survival of features and deposits, Listed Buildings	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic and documentary evidence, NMP	2
• Group Value Association	Medieval settlement pattern	2
• Potential	Potential for below-ground deposits of multi-period date	2

• Sensitivity to change	Historic landscape and settlement pattern sensitive to change as may be below-ground deposits	2
• Amenity Value	Potential for communicating the history of the park	2

### **HECZ 1.5: Great Chesterford ridge**

**Summary:** The zone is situated on the chalk ridges to the north-east of Great Chesterford, on the border with Cambridgeshire. Historically the zone is more akin to Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire than Essex. The settlement pattern is highly dispersed. Extensive cropmarks survive across the zone indicating occupation from the Bronze Age through to the modern day.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The geology is dominated by the chalk, which outcrops on ridge slopes; the remainder of the zone is covered by a skim of very chalky boulder clay. Large common-fields developed within this zone, of the Cambridgeshire and Midland type, rare in the rest of Essex. Some of these were enclosed by agreement in the early post-medieval period. The remainder were enclosed in the 18th and 19th centuries, as part of the parliamentary enclosure act. The zone includes the former Chesterford and Hadstock Commons, areas of open rough grazing and scrub. These were also enclosed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and much of Hadstock Common is now under Hadstock Airfield. The landscape was historically very open, with large rectangular fields, extensive views and sparse settlement; this pattern persists into the modern day. The medieval settlement pattern was both sparse and highly dispersed, comprising individual farms and cottages, a pattern which has persisted into the modern period.

**Archaeological Character:** The area contains crop-mark evidence, including probable prehistoric ring-ditches, prehistoric or Roman enclosures and later field boundaries. There is good documentary evidence for the area and it is possible to reconstruct much of the medieval landscape elements. During the post-medieval period, changes in agricultural production are reflected in the changing design of

farm complexes with the development of the 'Victorian High Farming tradition and the enclosure in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries of the former common fields. In the south-east corner of the zone is the remains of the World War II Hadstock Airfield on the site of the former Hadstock Common.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Cropmarks of multi-period date, medieval settlement pattern, Second World War airfield	3
• Survival	Good survival historic landscape and probably below-ground deposits	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic and documentary evidence, NMP	2
• Group Value Association	historic landscape	2
• Potential	Potential for below-ground deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	historic landscape and probably below ground archaeological deposits sensitive to change	2
• Amenity Value	Limited amenity value, little archaeological work undertaken.	1

## 5.2 HECA 2: Land West of the M11

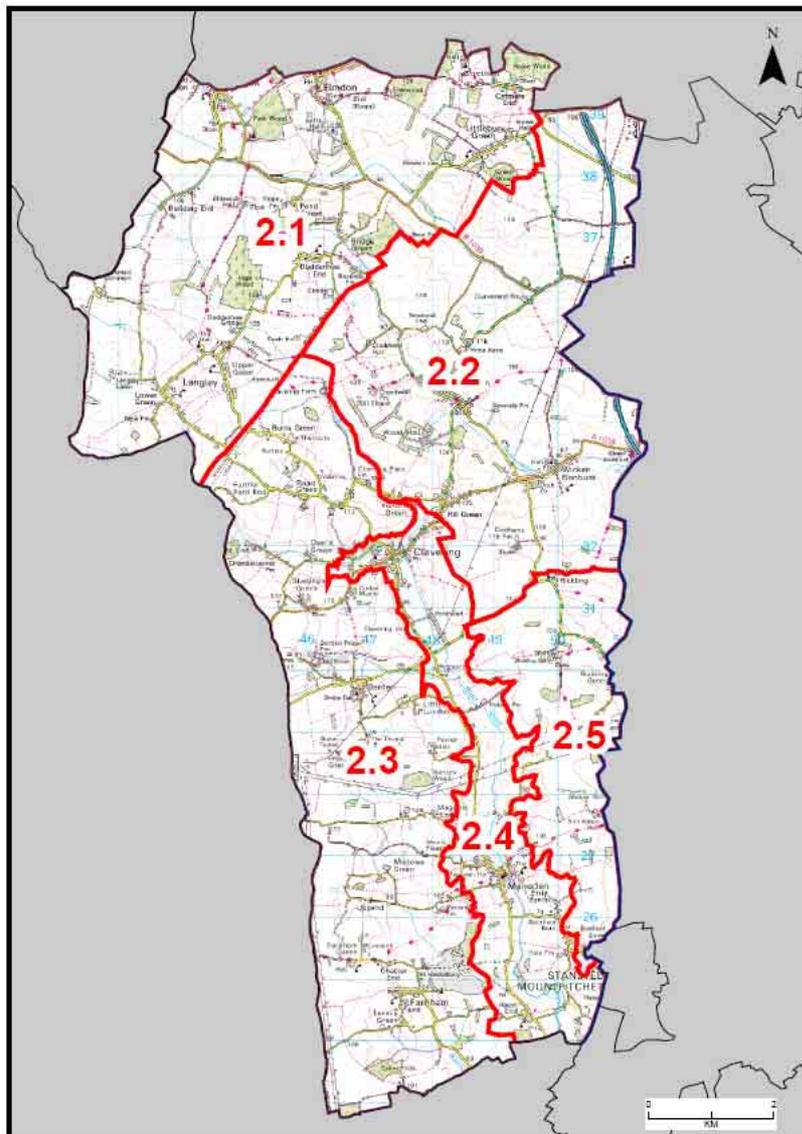


Fig.16 Historic Environment Character Zones in HECA 2

### HECZ 2.1: Elmdon and Langley

**Summary:** The zone is entirely rural in nature. The historic landscape and settlement pattern survives well, although boundary loss has occurred. The zone is especially rich in medieval remains with two villages, greens, ends, church/hall complexes, small hamlets and moated sites. Although limited archaeological work has taken place, aerial photography indicates a range of sites and features. The medieval landscape and settlement pattern largely survives within the present landscape.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The geology of the zone largely comprises boulder clay plateau, bisected by the shallow valley of an unnamed tributary of the Cam. Head deposits and chalk are revealed in the valley sides. Within the zone there are considerable areas of surviving ancient woodland, the largest being at Park and High Wood, mostly comprising blocks of woodland, but there are also a number of shaws around field edges, possibly planted as game-cover. The fieldscape consists of irregular fields of ancient origin, probably of medieval in date and some maybe even older, interspersed with areas of common field. The common fields were enclosed in the 19th century forming large fields with irregular outlines and grid-like internal subdivisions. There has been a degree of boundary loss since the 1950's, particularly of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century sub-divisions of the former common fields. The medieval settlement pattern comprised small nucleated settlements at Elmdon, Langley and Langley Green with the remainder being widely dispersed comprising church/hall complexes, moats, farms, and manors set alongside Greens and Ends. A significant element of the modern settlement pattern is listed with both churches at Chrishall and Strethall being Grade I listed.

**Archaeological Character:** Only limited archaeological work has been undertaken within the zone, however, prehistoric occupation is attested by the number of ring ditches and other enclosures identified from the aerial photography. Two of the cropmarks within the zone are thought to be Neolithic in origin, possibly cursus monuments. Other irregular or oval enclosures are likely to be of Late Bronze Age or Iron Age date. The route of the Roman road leading to Great Chesterford forms the southern boundary to the zone for part of its length, and is visible both as a cropmark and surviving in the present landscape. A number of Roman rural settlements are recorded within the zone and a scheduled Roman burial mound is located to the east of Langley. A number of medieval moats, a mill mound at Elmdon, and a single ringwork, within the ancient woodland of Park Wood, are protected as scheduled monuments.



*Fig.17 Route of Roman road surviving into the modern day, Coopers End, Langley*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diversity of historic environment assets</li> </ul>	Large number of cropmarks indicating prehistoric and Roman remains, Roman road, medieval and post-medieval settlement pattern, ancient woodland and landscape features	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survival</li> </ul>	Good survival of historic landscape features, ancient woodland, historic settlement pattern, and possibly below-ground archaeological deposits	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Documentation</li> </ul>	HER data, cartographic and documentary evidence, NMP, Scheduling	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group Value Association</li> </ul>	Roman road and rural settlements, Moats and medieval settlement,	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential</li> </ul>	Potential for surviving below-ground deposits.	2

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sensitivity to change</li> </ul>	Historic landscape pattern and possibly below-ground deposits sensitive to significant change due to the	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amenity Value</li> </ul>	Limited potential although all elements could be promoted in association with other zones.	2

## HECZ 2.2: Arkesden and Wicken Bonhunt

**Summary:** A gently undulating landscape, drained by the Wicken Water and a number of other smaller tributaries of the River Cam. The historic landscape and settlement pattern survive well, despite some 20<sup>th</sup>-century boundary loss. The zone is especially rich in medieval remains with two villages, church/hall complexes and moated sites.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The geology of the zone largely comprises boulder clay plateau, with head deposits and chalk exposed in the valleys. The fieldscape consists of irregular fields of ancient origin, probably of medieval in date and some maybe even older, interspersed with areas of former common fields. These were enclosed in the 19th century, forming large fields with irregular outlines and grid-like internal subdivisions. There has been a degree of boundary loss since the 1950's, largely comprising the removal of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century sub-divisions. The zone is entirely rural in nature, with the historic settlement pattern, both medieval and post-medieval, comprising the small villages, at Wicken Bonhunt and Arkesden, both of which were centred on small greens. The remainder of the historic settlement was widely dispersed with moated sites, farm complexes and cottages. Much of the historic settlement pattern survives with the villages and dispersed settlement pattern containing many listed buildings.

**Archaeological Character:** This zone contains sporadic cropmark evidence which combines a range of enclosures, many of probable prehistoric date, ring-ditch cemeteries of probable Bronze Age date and field systems, a number of which

appear to be lost elements of the medieval landscape. Further evidence of Bronze Age occupation is attested by the presence of a number of excavated burials on and ring ditches identified from aerial photography. Iron Age occupation is recorded across the zone with both enclosed and unenclosed settlements being identified. Roman occupation of the zone is shown by the presence of rural farmsteads, some of which may have been of substantial construction as large amounts of tile and possible masonry have been found.

During the Early Saxon period, a settlement developed at Wicken Bonhunt comprising probable buildings and a cemetery. By the Middle Saxon period, a large settlement had developed here along with a sizeable cemetery and chapel. The chapel survives and is protected as a Scheduled Monument.

A number of windmills are recorded within the zone and aerial photography has also identified abandoned moated sites.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Cropmarks indicating prehistoric, Roman and medieval remains, medieval and post-medieval settlement pattern. Excavated sites of multi-period date	3
• Survival	Good survival of archaeological deposits, historic settlement pattern	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic and evidence, NMP, excavation reports	3
• Group Value Association	Moats, medieval settlement	2
• Potential	Significant potential for surviving below-ground deposits.	3
• Sensitivity to change	Highly sensitive to significant change due to the below-ground deposits and historic settlement pattern	3
• Amenity Value	Potential for promotion especially associated with the excavated sites such as Wicken Bonhunt.	2

### **HECZ 2.3: Berden and Farnham**

**Summary:** This zone lies on the Hertfordshire border, on the boulder clay plateau; this is dissected by the valleys of a number of small streams. The historic landscape and settlement pattern survive well, despite some field boundary loss. The zone is especially rich in medieval remains with two villages, greens, 'ends', church/hall complexes and moated sites. Although limited archaeological work has taken place within this zone, evidence for prehistoric occupation is present in the form of cropmarks and individual finds-spots.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The geology comprises boulder clay, with alluvial deposits in the valley floors. The zone is entirely rural in nature, with the historic settlement pattern comprising small villages, at Berden and Farnham, with Berden originating as a church/hall complex, with the remainder of the settlement widely dispersed along a number of linear greens and 'ends' with moats and farmsteads. Many of the buildings within the zone are protected as Listed Buildings. The fieldscape consists of irregular fields of ancient origin, probably of medieval in date and some maybe even older, interspersed with patches of former common fields. The common fields were enclosed in the 19th century forming large fields with irregular outlines and grid-like internal subdivisions. Much of the post-1950s boundary loss that has taken place comprises the removal of these sub-divisions. Hassobury Park and House in the south eastern corner of the zone is a 19<sup>th</sup>-century mansion, park and church, built on the site of an earlier manor house. The park is currently undergoing refurbishment. Small areas of ancient woodland survive throughout the zone

**Archaeological Character:** This zone contains cropmark evidence which combines a range of enclosures of multi-period date, Bronze Age round barrows and field systems. Only limited archaeological work has been undertaken within the zone, however, prehistoric occupation is attested by the number of ring ditches and enclosures identified from the aerial photography. There are important finds of Bronze Age metalwork from the upper reaches and tributaries of the Stort. Other irregular or oval enclosures are likely to be of Late Bronze Age or Iron Age date.

The line of Roman road leading to Great Chesterford forms the northern boundary to the zone for part of its length. Rural Roman settlements are recorded within the zone. Remains relating to the medieval and post-medieval dispersed settlement pattern can be anticipated within the zone, including a number of moats that are now recorded as cropmarks, as well as former greens, trackways and fields. A medieval motte is located at the Crump, south of Berden, and is a Scheduled Monument.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of cropmarks indicating prehistoric and Roman remains, medieval and post-medieval settlement pattern and landscape features	3
• Survival	Good survival of historic settlement pattern and probably archaeological deposits.	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic and documentary evidence, NMP, Scheduling	2
• Group Value Association	Moats, medieval settlement	3
• Potential	Significant potential for surviving below-ground deposits. Historic landscape survives well	3
• Sensitivity to change	Historic landscape pattern and possibly below-ground deposits sensitive to significant change	3
• Amenity Value	Limited potential although all elements could be promoted in association with other zones.	2

#### **HECZ 2.4: Clavering, Manuden and the Stort Valley**

**Summary:** This zone is part of the valley of the River Stort and is entirely rural in nature. Cropmark evidence shows some prehistoric occupation on the valley slopes. The medieval and post-medieval settlement and landscape pattern survives well.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The geology consists of gravels and head deposits capped with boulder-clay, with alluvial deposits in the valley floor. The historic settlement pattern comprises the small villages of Clavering and Manuden, with the remainder comprising dispersed farmsteads. The village of Clavering comprises Clavering Castle, a large moated ringwork and associated earthworks possibly constructed by Robert Fitz Wimarc prior to the Norman Conquest, and a settlement arranged around what was a central triangular green next to a ford across the River Stort. Notable buildings include the Grade I church and manor house. Manuden is a small nucleated settlement, comprising a hall and church on opposite sides of a crossing-point of the River Stort, and a grouping of timber-framed houses, many listed, by the church. The fieldscape consists of irregular fields of ancient origin, probably of medieval date, but some may-be even older. There has been some boundary loss since the 1950's.

**Archaeological Character:** There is high potential for palaeo-environmental deposits to survive in the Stort Valley within the alluvial deposits on the valley floor. This zone contains cropmark evidence of a number of ring ditches, presumed to be Bronze Age ring ditches on the valley slopes. Cropmark enclosures, probably of prehistoric date are located on the upper parts of the valley slopes. Features and deposits relating to the origins and development of the medieval and post-medieval settlement and landscape can also be anticipated to survive. Clavering Castle is a scheduled monument.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Cropmarks indicate prehistoric occupation. medieval and post-medieval settlement pattern and landscape features	2
• Survival	Good survival of archaeological deposits, and historic settlement pattern	3
• Documentation	HER data, NMP, Scheduling, Clavering local society	3
• Group Value Association	Historic landscape including villages and Clavering castle	3

• Potential	Significant potential for surviving below-ground deposits. Historic landscape survives well. Potential for palaeo-environmental deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Historic landscape pattern and possibly below-ground deposits sensitive to significant change	3
• Amenity Value	High potential especially in the settlements. Extensive study in Clavering by the local society	3

### HECZ 2.5: Ridge between the Stort and Cam Valleys

**Summary:** This zone lies on the ridge between the River Stort and Cam valleys. The historic landscape and settlement pattern survives well, although there has been field boundary loss across the zone. Archaeological deposits are largely represented by cropmark evidence of occasional enclosures and field boundaries.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The geology comprises a boulder clay ridge between the Stort and Cam valleys. The fieldscape consists of irregular fields of ancient origin probably of medieval date, some maybe even older. There has been a degree of boundary loss since the 1950's but not in significant quantities, many of the boundaries are visible as cropmarks. A number of small blocks of ancient woodland survive; the zone was, however, never densely wooded throughout the medieval or post-medieval period. The zone is entirely rural in nature; with the historic settlement pattern is highly dispersed, comprising halls, moats, farmsteads and individual cottages many of which are listed. The hamlet of Rickling itself comprises the church, vicarage, a farm and a couple of cottages, with Rickling Hall located a kilometre to the south consisting of a range of listed structures.

**Archaeological Character:** This zone contains cropmark evidence which combines a range of enclosures of multi-period date, and field systems. Only limited

archaeological work has been undertaken within the zone, however, the cropmark evidence indicates the potential of the zone.

A Motte and Bailey Castle is located at Rickling Hall, this was probably constructed in the 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century. The present hall, which is 15th century in date, is located within the former bailey.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Cropmarks of enclosures and field systems, settlement pattern	2
• Survival	Good survival of historic settlement pattern and possibly below-ground deposits.	2
• Documentation	HER data , NMP	1
• Group Value Association	Historic settlement pattern and field systems, Rickling hall and motte and bailey	2
• Potential	Good potential for surviving below-ground deposits.	2
• Sensitivity to change	Sensitive to significant change due to the historic settlement pattern and landscape and possibly below-ground deposits.	2
• Amenity Value	Limited potential although settlement pattern could be promoted in association with other zones.	2

### 5.3 HECA 3 Saffron Walden

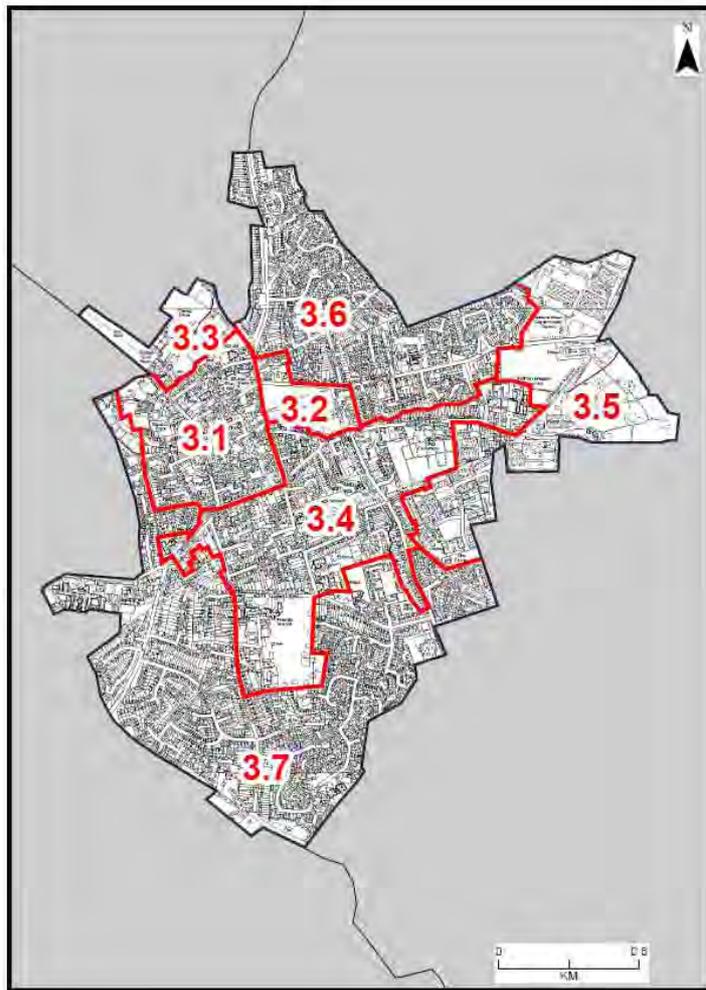


Fig.18 Historic Environment Character Zones in HECA 3

#### **HECZ 3.1: Historic Core of Saffron Walden**

**Summary:** The historic town core was originally focussed on the crest of a spur of chalk, where the castle and church were located, before expanding down slope. The zone comprises the medieval historic town of Saffron Walden. There is evidence of occupation in the Roman and Saxon period with the settlement really expanding significantly from the medieval period. A number of excavations in the centre of the town show extensive deposits surviving. The castle and repell ditches are protected as Scheduled Monuments.

**Historic Urban Character:** This zone comprising the historic core of Saffron Walden, contained within the earthworks of the late 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>-century castle at Bury Hill, and the subsequent enclosed planned town laid out in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century, which

covered an area of c. 20 hectares. The settlement grew up around the castle, which is protected as a Scheduled Monument with two parallel streets, Church Street and Castle Street. As the town grew, the market moved away from the castle, to the south, where the streets still follow the line of the medieval market rows. Saffron Walden is noted for the quality and quantity of its Listed Buildings, foremost of which is St Mary's Church, which was largely rebuilt in the late 14<sup>th</sup> century by the master masons Simon Clerk and John Wastell (who also built Eton and Kings College, Cambridge). A major feature of the historic core is the number and quality of surviving medieval and early post-medieval timber framed buildings built during a marked period of prosperity (c.1400-1700) founded on the wool trade and the cultivation of saffron. The main concentrations of historic buildings lie on the eastern side of the High Street toward the initial town enclosure around Bury Hill (castle) and in the area of the present market place.



*Fig 19: The Former Sun Inn in the centre of Saffron Walden which is 14<sup>th</sup> century and Grade I listed*

The survival of historic buildings along Castle Street, Church Street and the High Street is particularly remarkable. Another feature of the core is the number of listed later post-medieval commercial, industrial, public and domestic buildings, and the quality of those built by the Quaker Gibson family.

### **Archaeological Character:**

The evidence for prehistoric and Roman activity in the area includes Mesolithic flints, and a possible Roman fort at Abbey Lane. Abbey Lane was also the site of the mid-late Saxon settlement and cemetery, excavated in 1876; the survival of skeletal material was exceptionally good here. The post-conquest period saw the development of a new town by the de Mandevilles on the crest of the chalk spur to the north-east of Abbey Lane. The new town was centred on the castle and church and enclosed by massive bailey ditches, which still survive, partially below ground and partially fossilised within the modern street plan. In the early to mid 13th century, the large town enclosure was laid out, the Battle or Repell Ditches still survive, as earthworks at the south-west corner of the enclosure, and as below-ground features elsewhere. The visible earthworks are protected as a scheduled monument.

More than 60 excavations have established the presence of below-ground features and deposits dating to the medieval period including town defences, residential and industrial structures, pits and property boundaries. The development of the post-medieval industries of cloth manufacture, malting, etc. is also visible in both the built and below-ground heritage.



*Fig. 20 Excavation of a late medieval building foundation to the rear of the High Street*

Due to the calcareous nature of the soil, bone survival is exceptional and water-logged deposits have been found in the valleys of the Slades and in deeper features, such as well and the defensive ditches.

A detailed Historic Town assessment has been completed for Saffron Walden (Medlycott 1999).

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Listed buildings, castle, Repell ditches, Saxon occupation, Saxon cemetery, Medieval town, medieval deposits	3
• Survival	Historic buildings, castle and church survive well, below-ground deposits survive	3
• Documentation	HER data, Cartographic and documentary, excavation data, survey data	3
• Group Value Association	Listed buildings, scheduled monuments,	3
• Potential	High potential for below-ground deposits, existing buildings may hide earlier origins	3
• Sensitivity to change	Historic buildings, town layout scheduled monuments and archaeological deposits all highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	Historic settlement is promoted via the museum and could be further promoted by appropriate signage and display boards around the zone	3

### HECZ 3.2: Saffron Walden Common

**Summary:** The main historic components within the zone are the common and scheduled maze.

**Historic Urban Character:** This zone comprises the common, maze, Castle Hill House and the Grove. This zone remains largely open with the area of Castle Hill House and The Grove now developed with residential properties. The whole zone lies within the Saffron Walden conservation area.

**Archaeological Character:** The majority of the zone lies on a chalk bed rock with mixed head deposits on the southern edge. This zone is located to the east of the Castle; it comprises the Common and the scheduled Turf Maze, as well as two discrete areas of post-medieval housing (The Grove and Castle Hill House). The turf maze on the eastern side of the common is the largest surviving example of its kind in England. Although a medieval origin has been suggested, the earliest reference to it dates to 1699 when the Guild of the Holy Trinity paid for the cutting of the maze. The Common has historically served as open space for the urban area, and was/is used for the grazing of the townsfolk livestock, recreational activities and the holding of fairs.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Maze, common, Listed buildings	3
• Survival	Historic buildings, maze potential below ground deposits	3
• Documentation	HER data, Cartographic	2
• Group Value Association	Little Group value	1
• Potential	Potential for below-ground deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Common and maze highly sensitive	3
• Amenity Value	Can be promoted in association with zone 3.1. Potential for display boards.	3

**HECZ 3.3: Bridge End Gardens, Saffron Walden**

**Summary:** The zone, situated on head deposits in the Slade valley, is located on the northern side of Saffron Walden containing the registered gardens at Bridge End.

The gardens were laid out in 1838 and have been recently renovated. The zone has a much longer history with evidence of Bronze Age, Roman, medieval and post-medieval occupation.

**Historic Urban Character:** Bridge End Gardens form a zone of public open space and compartmentalised themed gardens laid out by Francis Gibson in 1838 to the north and outside the medieval planned town. The gardens contain a number of listed buildings including a summerhouse, pavilion, gates and garden walls. The gardens are protected within the conservation area and are a registered garden. Over a period of three years from 2002 – 2005 an extensive restoration project was undertaken to return this gardens to their former glory. The gardens are a series of seven interlinked gardens laid out by the Gibson family in the 19th century. The zone also includes the Saffron Walden Football Club, founded on the present site by 1890 and the oldest senior football clubs in Essex.



*Fig.21 Bridge End Gardens laid out in the 19<sup>th</sup> century*

Early and later post-medieval listed buildings including those of Bridge End Farm built along Windmill Hill. The northern part of the zone includes allotment gardens depicted as Poor Lands or strip fields given by the Edmund Turner Charity in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Archaeological Character:** The earliest evidence recorded in this zone dates to the Bronze Age, comprising the remains of an axe. Evidence of Roman occupation comprises coins and brooches, with medieval occupation indicated by coins from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. A large number of medieval cloth seals, tokens and weights have been recovered indicating that the area was used as a cloth fair site during the 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Listed buildings, registered garden, multi-period metal detecting finds	2
• Survival	Historic buildings and registered garden survive well	2
• Documentation	HER data, Cartographic and documentary evidence, reports	3
• Group Value Association	Bridge End gardens, finds related to cloth fair	2
• Potential	Some potential for below-ground deposits survives in area of the gardens	2
• Sensitivity to change	Registered park highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	Registered garden well promoted	3

#### **HECZ 3.4: Land to the south of the historic core**

**Summary:** The zone contains 19<sup>th</sup>-century and later residential and commercial development with important historical industrial complexes. There is evidence of multi-period prehistoric occupation in the southern part of the zone.

**Historic Urban Character:** This zone contains 19<sup>th</sup>-century and later residential and commercial development to the south of the historic core and toward the former railway station. The 19<sup>th</sup>-century development is located along both Thaxted and Radwinter Roads and includes an area of substantial 19<sup>th</sup>-century villas/houses built overlooking the town along Mount Pleasant and West Roads. Together they form the Mount Pleasant Conservation Area. It also includes some earlier interwar, post-war and modern housing and infill. The zone has later 20<sup>th</sup>-century residential redevelopment on the site of the former 19<sup>th</sup>-century industrial zone around the station and along the route of the railway line. Saffron Walden Cemetery is located within the zone and originally was on the edge of the built up area.

Public buildings include two 19<sup>th</sup>-century schools, Friends School (1877) and Bell Language College (1882), the Hospital (1864), now Uttlesford District Council offices, the former Saffron Walden Union Workhouse (1835) now residential apartments, and the present Saffron Walden Community Hospital. The town cemetery lies on the eastern edge of the zone



*Fig, 22 Uttlesford District Council's offices mixing new build with the conversion of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century hospital*

**Archaeological Character:** The geology largely comprises chalk bedrock, although bands of head deposits are present within the zone. Excavations have identified prehistoric occupation, especially in the southern area of the zone. Prehistoric pits found to the north of Friends School were interpreted as a possible Neolithic causewayed enclosure. Further prehistoric deposits of Bronze and Iron Age date were found in evaluation trenches in the grounds of Friends School. A single Roman coin has been recovered from the zone.

Later known occupation in the area is confined to industrial sites of the post-medieval and modern period. Several malthouses within the zone underline the importance of the malting industry. The disused Saffron Walden Branch line runs through the zone. (A detailed industrial survey has been completed on the branch line as well as the Maltings).

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Prehistoric deposits, industrial monuments	2
• Survival	Below-ground deposits survive well in undeveloped areas, Some industrial buildings survive. Part of disused railway line now lost to development	2
• Documentation	Industrial reports, excavation reports	3
• Group Value Association	Industrial complexes and buildings	2
• Potential	Potential for below-ground deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Below-ground deposits are sensitive as well as surviving industrial buildings	2
• Amenity Value	Potential to promote the industrial heritage of Saffron Walden	2

### HECZ 3.5: Eastern Saffron Walden

**Summary:** This zone is located on the eastern edge of Saffron Walden. It is a zone dominated by industrial development, in the form of modern factories and depots.

**Historic Urban Character:** Until the 1930s, this zone remained open countryside, bisected by the 1865 Saffron Walden Branch railway line. The only settlement was the farmstead of Copt Hall. Industrial development began in the 1930s with the construction of a very short railway spur to a fuel storage mound on the site of the modern fuel storage depot. To the east of Saffron Walden cemetery (see zone 3.4), another group of buildings, probably glasshouses, are visible on the 4<sup>th</sup> ed. OS map. The developed area of the zone is now covered by industrial structures dating to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Archaeological Character:** The zone is situated on chalk, with head deposits in the valley of the Madgate Slade, The earliest evidence recorded in this zone dates to the Roman period comprising the chance find of a coin in the fields adjacent to Copt Hall. The majority of the HER sites are industrial in nature, largely relating to railway structures. These also include the site of the World War II underground aviation fuel storage tanks on the fuel depot site.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Industrial sites	1
• Survival	Extensively disturbed by industry and other development	1
• Documentation	HER data, industrial report	1
• Group Value Association	Railway features	2
• Potential	Some potential for below-ground deposits especially in the undeveloped area	2
• Sensitivity to change	Little sensitivity	1
• Amenity Value	Industrial sites can be promoted in association with other zones	2

### HECZ 3.6: Northern Saffron Walden

**Summary:** This zone is located on the northern edge of Saffron Walden. It is an area dominated by post-war and late 20<sup>th</sup>-century housing estates.

**Historic Urban Character:** This zone was largely under farmland until the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. There was some small-scale late 19<sup>th</sup>-century development along Ashdon Road, but this was very limited in extent. The remainder of the area comprises post-war residential development in the southern half of the zone, and a late 20<sup>th</sup>-century housing estate in the northern half.

**Archaeological Character:** The zone is situated on chalk, with some overlying boulder-clay. The HER records a cornmill and lime kilns within this zone. There is an absence of earlier sites, probably a reflection of the fact that no archaeological fieldwork took place here prior to its development. The adjoining zone (HECZ 9.2) contains cropmarks of unknown date which look as if they might originally have extended into this area. It is probable however, given the density of the modern settlement, that the archaeology would have been severely dispersed, the exception being within the few discrete open areas.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Industrial monuments	1
• Survival	Areas of undeveloped land may contain below-ground deposits.	1
• Documentation	HER data, excavation report	2
• Group Value Association	no group value	1
• Potential	Some potential for below-ground deposits survives in open areas	2
• Sensitivity to change	Little sensitivity as zone already largely modern development	1
• Amenity Value	Little amenity value	1

### **HECZ 3.7: Southern Saffron Walden**

**Summary:** This zone is located on the southern and western edge of Saffron Walden. It is an area dominated by late 20<sup>th</sup> century housing estates and the town's public car-park.

**Historic Urban Character:** This zone was largely under farmland until the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. There were a few isolated buildings, including the Pest House and a windmill, with the remainder of the area subdivided into strip-fields. The area was developed in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, largely under housing estate, but also including the High School and the Sun Meadow car-park.

**Archaeological Character:** The zone is situated on chalk, with some overlying boulder-clay and head deposits. The earliest evidence from this zone is an arrowhead dating to the Neolithic period, found on the Abbey Field excavations. These also revealed features dating to the prehistoric, Saxon and medieval periods. The Sun Meadow car-park was built on former marshland and there is the possibility of palaeoenvironmental deposits surviving in this area. In the south of the zone, various archaeological features have been recorded, including a group of undated burials. It is evident that the zone had considerable potential for the presence of archaeological remains. However, given the degree of recent development, it is probable that this now only survives within the few surviving pockets of open space.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Multi-period finds from excavations and chance finds	2
• Survival	Largely modern residential which has disturbed most of the zone	1
• Documentation	HER data, Cartographic evidence	1
• Group Value Association	Little group value	1
• Potential	Potential limited to palaeoenvironmental deposits and open areas protecting below-ground deposits	1
• Sensitivity to change	Very limited due to the extensive modern housing	1
• Amenity Value	Limited amenity value apart from being associated with the other zones within Saffron Walden	1

## 5.4 HECA 4: Stansted Airport

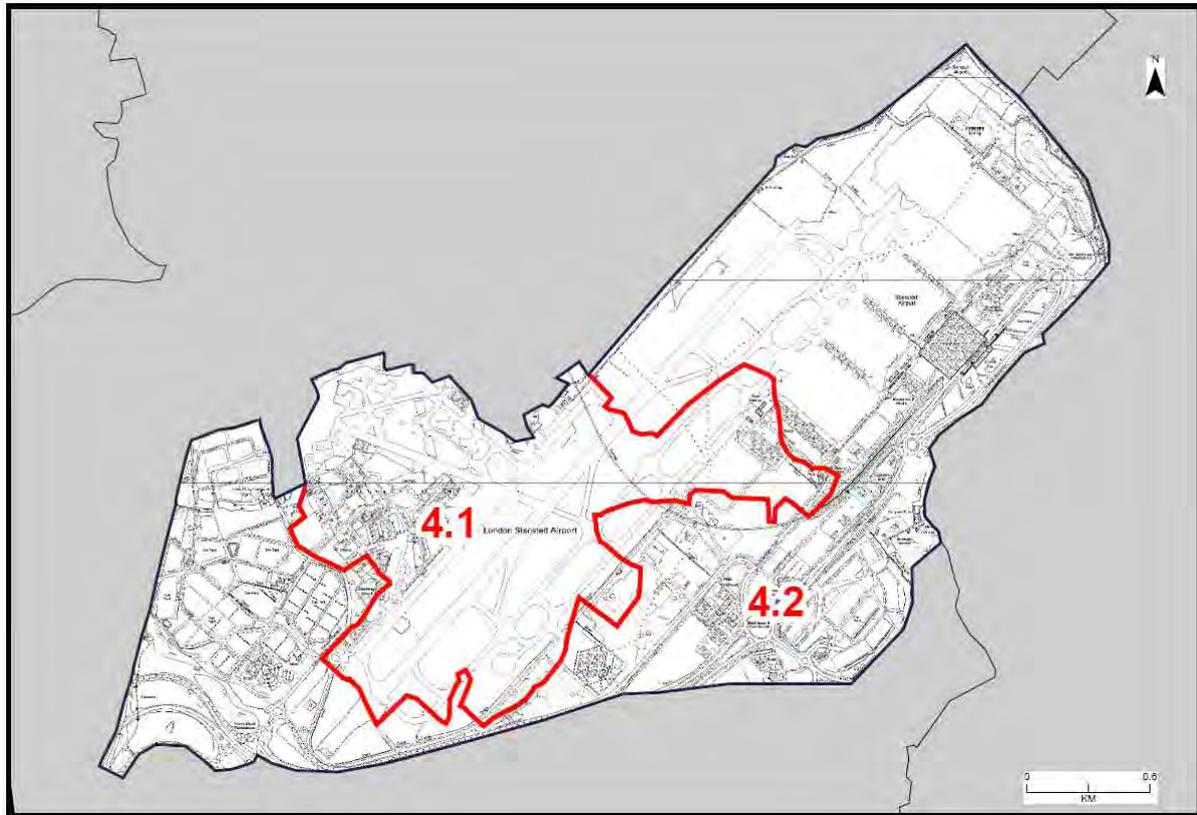


Fig. 23 Historic Environment Character Zones within HECA 4

### HECZ 4.1: Second World War Area of Stansted Airport

**Summary:** This zone comprises the area of the original Second World War Airfield constructed in 1942. The zone is now part of the modern airport of Stansted Airport. Little of the original World War II airfield now survives as it has been superseded by the expansion into London's third international airport. Little below-ground archaeology is likely to survive beneath the present runway; however, areas on the north west and south east have the potential to contain multi-period deposits.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The zone is situated on a flat boulder clay plateau forming a watershed for river systems running to the north, south and east. The geology comprises boulder clay. The fieldscape comprised a complex network of irregular fields of ancient origin probably of medieval origin, some maybe even older, with patches of ancient woodland. The construction of the Second World War earlier Airfield in 1942 removed the landscape features, creating a flat featureless

landscape for the airfield. No structures required demolition to allow the construction of the airfield. Most of the remains of the Second World War airfield within this zone have been removed by the construction of modern Stansted Airport.

**Archaeological Character:** No archaeological recording took place during the World War II airport’s construction. Archaeological trial trenching adjacent the main runway undertaken as part of the modern airport’s development found no archaeological deposits, however work undertaken away from this area has shown the presence of widespread multi-period deposits.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of multi period features and World War II airfield	2
• Survival	Little survival	1
• Documentation	HER data, excavation reports, Cartographic and documentary evidence	2
• Group Value Association	Limited to the Second World War airfield	1
• Potential	Has potential for multi-period archaeological deposits outside area of main runway	2
• Sensitivity to change	Little sensitivity to change due to the extent of change that has already occurred	1
• Amenity Value	High potential for amenity value in association with the archaeological work undertaken in zone 4.2	3

**HECA 4.2: Stansted Airport**

**Summary:** This zone is located on a flat boulder clay plateau forming a watershed for river systems running off to the east and is bisected by the Pincey Brook at its

eastern end. The zone is dominated by the modern expansion of Stansted Airport. The historic landscape was a complex pattern of fields with dispersed settlement of halls and moats, now largely destroyed. Extensive archaeological excavations have been undertaken across the zone since the mid 1980's, and have shown evidence of occupation from the Neolithic through to the 20th century. Archaeologically this area is one of the most intensively studied in the U.K., and has demonstrated the complexity and extent of occupation on the boulder clay plateau of north-west Essex.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The zone historically comprised gently rolling rural countryside, crossed by the valley of the Pincey Brook. The geology comprised boulder clay with very small localised patches of glacial sand and gravel and alluvial deposits in the valley of the Pincey Brook. The fieldscape consisted of a complex network irregular fields of ancient origin probably of medieval origin, some maybe even older. Archaeological work has identified a deer park which dated to the medieval and early post medieval periods. Ancient woodland survives in the southern part of the zone. The historic settlement was largely dispersed, comprising manorial complexes, isolated farms, and moated sites. The historic landscape character has been totally transformed by the construction of Stansted Airport, although some elements of ancient woodland and a few field boundaries survive, practically none of the original landscape pattern remains.

**Archaeological Character:** The earliest evidence from excavations indicates Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic exploitation of the woodland for hunting especially in the southern part of the zone. The earliest settlements date to the Bronze Age with occupation concentrated on the top edge of the valleys and on the upper valley slopes. Excavations within the mid-term car park identified a complete Middle Bronze Age settlement comprising a fenced enclosure containing a series of roundhouses and waterholes. Bronze Age burial evidence has been identified in the form of a ring ditch close to the Middle Bronze Age settlement. Iron Age occupation is extensive within the zone. The most significant Iron Age settlement comprised an enclosed settlement dated to 75-25BC containing a number of roundhouses situated around a central square structure, thought to be a shrine. Other settlements were enclosed with bank and ditches, and some were unenclosed. Evidence of Late Iron Age burials have also been recovered from across the zone.



significant expansion of settlement within the zone. A number of dispersed farmsteads and settlements are recorded, comprising manors, moated sites, cottages and farmsteads. Most of these settlements were initially occupied in the late 12<sup>th</sup> or early 13<sup>th</sup> century, before being abandoned in the 14<sup>th</sup> century possibly as a result of the Black Death and deterioration in the climate. Part of the zone comprised a deer park dating from the medieval and early post-medieval periods, with evidence of a hunting lodge being recovered by excavation. The hunting lodge continued to function into the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The settlement pattern remained dispersed until the construction of the modern airport.



*Fig. 25 Excavations in the base of the early post-medieval well of the hunting lodge at Stansted*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diversity of historic environment assets</li> </ul>	Wide range of archaeological deposits of multi-period date, some landscape elements, Second World War structures	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survival</li> </ul>	Survival limited to undeveloped areas.	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Documentation</li> </ul>	HER data, excavation reports, Cartographic and documentary evidence	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group Value Association</li> </ul>	Bronze Age settlement and burial, Iron Age settlement, burial and fields, Roman settlement, burials and fields, Medieval settlement and fields	3

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential</li> </ul>	Has high potential in all undeveloped areas	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sensitivity to change</li> </ul>	Little sensitivity to change due to the extent of change already occurred	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amenity Value</li> </ul>	Very high. Extensive knowledge of the historic environment of the zone. Significant education and promotion resource	3

### 5.5 HECA 5: Hatfield Forest

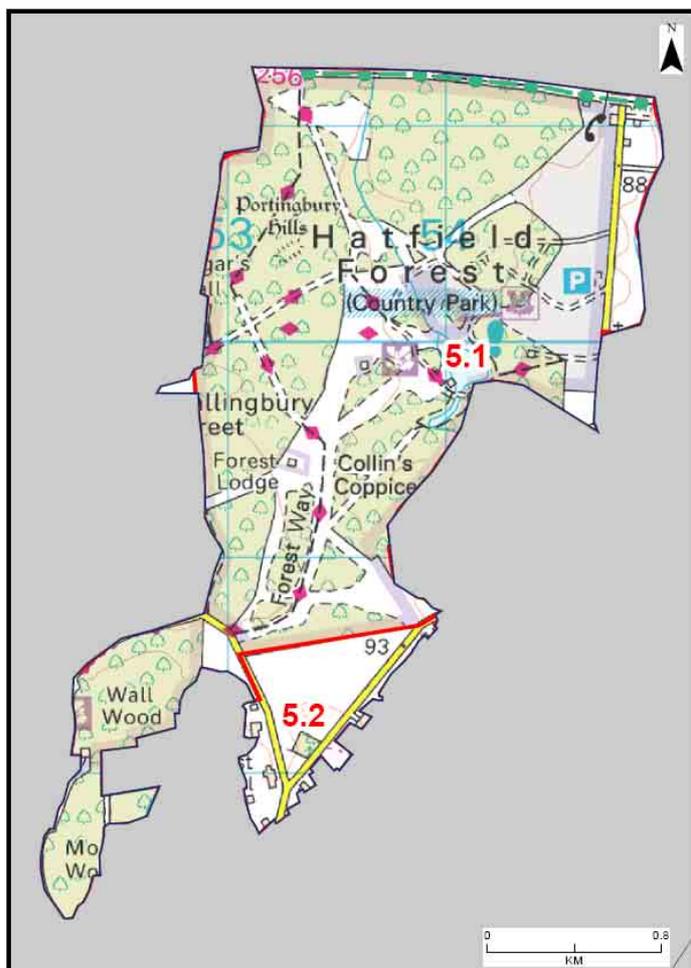


Fig. 26 Historic Environment Zones within HECA 5

## **HECZ 5.1: Hatfield Forest**

**Summary:** This zone comprises the internationally important medieval hunting forest of Hatfield Forest. The forest was originally established in the late 11<sup>th</sup> and early 12<sup>th</sup> century as a Royal hunting forest. It is a supreme example of its type as it still contains all the elements of a medieval Forest, including associated buildings - a Forest Lodge with possible standing (for watching hunts) and the Warren Cottage for the warrener who managed the pillow mounds where rabbits were raised.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The geology largely comprises boulder clay; small pockets of gravel are also present. Hatfield Forest is an important survival of a medieval forest, comprising a mixture of wood pasture with pollards, coppice woods, timber trees, a warren, lodge and lake. Hatfield Forest was mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. It belonged to King Harold, passing to William the Conqueror after his defeat at the battle of Hastings. It is probable that Henry I confirmed Hatfield Forest as a Royal hunting forest (in the legal sense) around 1100AD. Within this medieval landscape has been preserved the prehistoric hill-fort of Portingbury Hills. The zone was maintained as a forest into the post-medieval and modern period, with some adjustments to its overall appearance, including the creation of an ornamental lake by damming a marshy valley and the cutting of broad rides through the woodland in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, as well as the planting of new ornamental tree-species in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The area is now owned and managed by the National Trust.



*Fig. 27 Modern coppicing continuing a woodland tradition*

**Archaeological Character:** Evidence of later prehistoric occupation comprises earthworks, most notably the hill-fort of Portingbury Hills. Evidence of Roman occupation has been found in several locations within the forest; however, the nature of this occupation at present is unknown.

Extensive earthworks relating to the medieval woodland are recoded throughout the forest; these include the pillow-mounds of a medieval rabbit warren. Several buildings relating to its role as a medieval forest survive; these include the Forest Lodge and Warren Cottage as well as the 18<sup>th</sup>-century ornamental Shell House. Some re-modelling took place in the 18<sup>th</sup> century with the cutting of broad rides across the forest, the creation of an ornamental lake, and the construction of the Shell House.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diversity of historic environment assets</li> </ul>	Wide range of archaeological deposits of multi-period date, historic forest, earthworks	3
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• Survival	Extensive survival of all periods but especially from the late Saxon period	3
• Documentation	HER data, Cartographic and documentary evidence, RCHME survey	3
• Group Value Association	Historic Forest, earthworks	3
• Potential	High potential for early deposits preserved within the forest.	3
• Sensitivity to change	Highly sensitive to any change	3
• Amenity Value	Very high. Extensive knowledge of the historic environment of the zone. Significant education and promotion resource	3

### **HECZ 5.2: Wood Row**

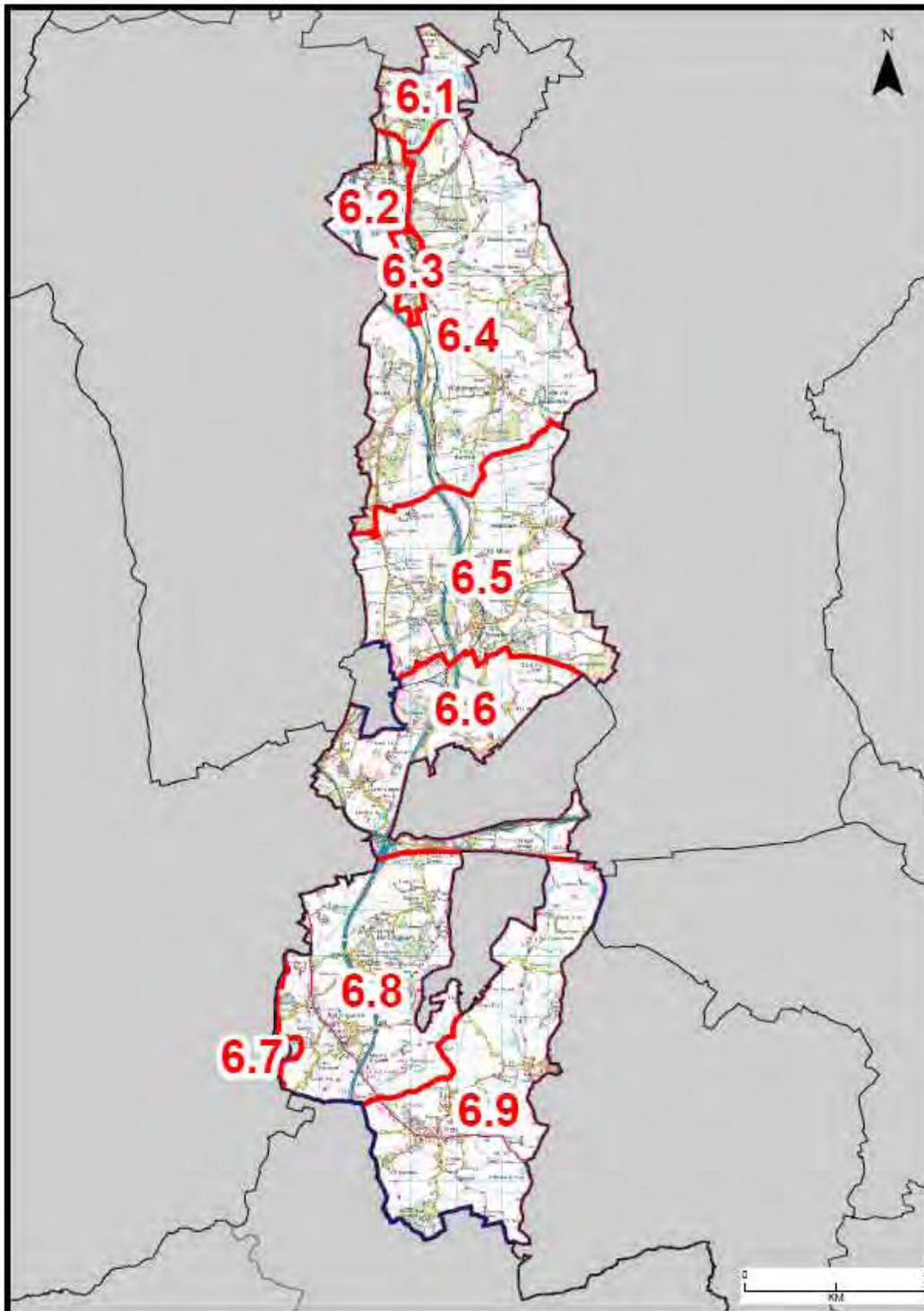
**Summary:** This zone comprises what was originally open grassland plain at the southern end of Hatfield Forest, a medieval hunting forest, and the buildings surrounding it.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The geology of the zone largely comprises chalky boulder clay. Hatfield Forest is an important survival of a medieval forest, comprising a mixture of wood pasture with pollards, coppice woods, timber trees, a warren, lodge and lake. Woodrow Green was located at the southern end of Hatfield Forest with a considerable number of houses clustered around it. This included a number of farms and Hall. Woodrow Hatch was the southern gate to the forest located at the southern end of this zone. This zone is described by Rackham as a plain; it was subsequently subdivided into strip fields and is still under agricultural production. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey maps show groups of trees spread over the zone similar to the eastern side of the present forest. The present field boundary and hedge, running north south across the zone, form the original route to the southern exit of the forest.

**Archaeological Character:** No archaeological investigations have taken place within this zone. Evidence of post-medieval field boundaries has been recorded from cropmark evidence. In common with the remainder of the forest, there is a high potential for pre medieval occupation surviving as below-ground archaeological deposits.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of assets associated to the forest	2
• Survival	Survival of landscape features and possible below ground deposits	2
• Documentation	Cartographic and documentary evidence,	2
• Group Value Association	Medieval dispersed settlement and its association with the forest	2
• Potential	High potential for early deposits. Significant potential for re-establishing the former forest landscape	3
• Sensitivity to change	Sensitive to change	2
• Amenity Value	Amenity value very high when seen in combination with HECZ 5.1	3

**5.6 HECA 6: Parkland in the M11 Corridor**



*Fig. 28 Historic Environment Zones within HECA 6*

## **HECZ 6.1: Audley End Estate and Village**

**Summary:** Prehistoric occupation is well attested from aerial photographic evidence as well as the Iron Age hillfort at Ring Hill. Roman occupation is also present across the zone. Audley End House and its associated parkland dominate the zone. Outside the parkland extensive ancient woodland survives. The village of Audley End has changed little since the nineteenth century. The present house lies on the site of Walden Abbey. Many landscape and parkland features survive. A range of defensive structures were constructed along the River Cam in the Second World War.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The geology comprises the boulder clay plateau bisected on its western side by the north-south valley of the Cam/Granta with head deposits on the valley slopes and alluvium in the valley floor. The zone comprises Audley End House, parkland and associated village. Audley End House was formerly the site of a Benedictine Priory founded in 1139-43 becoming an abbey in 1190. Building continued into the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. The site was granted to the Lord Chancellor Sir Thomas Audley in 1538 by Henry VIII, and converted to a domestic house. This dwelling was later demolished by his grandson, Thomas Howard, and a much grander mansion was built. In the eighteenth century considerable demolition took place, reducing the house to its present size. The stables, close to the present house were constructed in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.



*Fig.29 17<sup>th</sup> century Stables at Audley End*

The parkland extends to an area of approximately 240 hectares. The owner Thomas Howard, first Earl of Suffolk created a great formal garden to provide a suitable setting for his new house consisting of straight alleys and rectangular ponds with long avenues of trees stretching out into the countryside. Audley End's most notable owner, Sir John Griffin had very different ideas, and during the 18<sup>th</sup> century the magnificent park was transformed from formal gardens into one of 'Capability' Brown's most successful pastoral landscapes and remains substantially as it was when first created. Later features include a restored Parterre garden, a rose garden and fountains, and the restored 19<sup>th</sup>-century walled kitchen garden, originally constructed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, now in use as a working organic kitchen garden. Buildings were placed strategically throughout the parkland including the Bridge over the Cam, Temple of Victory and Concord and Lady Portsmouth's Column. The grounds are divided by the River Cam, which is crossed by several ornate bridges, and a main road which follows the route of a Roman road.

The historic village of Audley End lies to the south of the park; it contains a school and the Home farm. A range of Almshouses were built in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, and are grade I listed; these have been shown to stand on the site of a medieval building,

potentially the hospital of Walden Abbey dating to 1258. There is a large ancient woodland at Springwood in the northern part of the zone, and many of the hedgerows are of considerable antiquity. The house and much of the park is in the care of English Heritage.

During the post-medieval period changes in agricultural production are reflected in the changing design of farm complexes with the development of the 'Victorian High Farming' tradition. This resulted in new ideas culminated in significant alterations in the design and layouts of farm buildings as identified in the farm to the south of the park.

**Archaeological Character:** The zone is bisected by the River Cam/Granta whose valley contains a high potential for surviving palaeo-environmental deposits. A number of ancient woods survive throughout the zone, many of which are likely to contain associated earthworks.

Evidence of prehistoric occupation has been identified throughout the zone ranging in date from the Neolithic through to the Iron Age, the remains of probable prehistoric burial mounds (ring ditches) and settlement enclosures. An Iron Age hillfort survives as earthworks on Ring Hill to the west of Audley End House. The Roman road running south from Great Chesterford bisects the zone. Roman settlement has been identified to the north of the park on the valley slopes above the river.

Walden Priory was founded between 1139-1143, and it became an Abbey in 1190. In the 12th century, the monastic settlement was replanned twice. Excavations have found evidence of the Priory in and around the present house. A number of construction phases associated with the re-modelling of the post-medieval house and gardens have also been established through archaeological fieldwork.

Post-medieval brick kilns associated to the Audley End estate survive in undergrowth to the south west of the village. A range of Second World War defences are located on either side of the River Cam, included pill boxes, and road barriers. Several of the bridges still contain mining chambers.



*Fig. 30 19<sup>th</sup> century brick kilns on the Audley End estate*

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of listed structures, landscape and park features, archaeological deposits. WW II defences	3
• Survival	Extensive survival of buildings, landscape features and archaeological deposits	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic and documentary evidence, English Heritage survey, excavation reports	3
• Group Value Association	Landscape and parkland features, cropmarks	3
• Potential	Extensive archaeological deposits located across the settlement	3
• Sensitivity to change	Highly sensitive to change both inside and outside the protected parkland	3
• Amenity Value	High potential for promotion, very attractive landscape, parkland and buildings, well promoted at present but could be expanded beyond the park	3

## **HECZ 6.2: Wendens Ambo**

**Summary:** The geology of the zone comprises boulder clay plateau bisected north-south by the main railway line, and east west by a tributary of the river Cam. The zone has extensive archaeological deposits, including a large Roman estate containing a villa, associated buildings and field pattern. The village of Wendens Ambo developed from a church/hall complex and has a number of Listed Buildings within it.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The geology is overwhelmingly boulder clay, with head deposits on the valley slopes of a stream which bisects the zone. The zone is largely rural in nature, with a gently rolling rural landscape. The fieldscape comprises a complex network of irregular fields of ancient origin, probably of medieval date, some maybe even older. The area to the south of Wendens Ambo village has suffered considerable boundary loss. A tributary of the Cam runs through the village of Wendens Ambo and had meadow pasture along its full length, a high percentage of this survives. The settlement pattern comprises the church, which is grade I listed, and several Halls, which developed into the settlement of Wendens Ambo and two small hamlets and a single farmstead. Many of the buildings within the core of Wendens Ambo are Listed and protected by a conservation area. The zone is bisected north south by both the M11 and the main Cambridge to London railway line.

**Archaeological Character:** Evidence of prehistoric occupation has been identified within the zone ranging in date from the Bronze Age through to the Iron Age. Excavations have found evidence of Iron Age occupation pre-dating the Roman villa complex at Chinnel Barn. Aerial photographic evidence indicates enclosures of prehistoric date and excavation evidence has confirmed occupation of that date in the zone.

A Roman villa at Chinnel Barn is protected as a Scheduled Monument; its associated estate potentially extends across the M11 to the outer edges of the settlement at Wendens Ambo. Excavations have occurred on both sides of the motorway and

during the motorway’s construction and recent evaluation at Norton End has found considerable Roman occupation. The settlement of Wendens Ambo village began during the medieval period as a church/hall complex located within the valley. It is possible that the church began during the Late Saxon period and was certainly in existence by the Norman period. Excavations at Norton End have also shown the presence of 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>-century occupation fronting the road. The Saffron Walden disused branch line starts at Wendens Ambo running east towards Saffron Walden being constructed in 1865 and shut in 1964. The original branch line waiting room/station office and a length of platform still survive to the south-east of the main station building.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Roman villa and estate, church hall complex, listed buildings	2
• Survival	Extensive survival of archaeological deposits outside developed areas	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic and documentary evidence, excavation reports	2
• Group Value Association	Roman villa and its associated estate	2
• Potential	High potential for archaeological deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Below-ground deposits, historic buildings and surviving meadow pasture highly sensitive.	3
• Amenity Value	Potential of promotion of the development of the villa and settlement history	2

**HECZ 6.3: Newport**

**Summary:** The zone comprises the historic and modern area of the town of Newport. Newport lies in the valley of the River Cam on the Lea/Stort/Cam routeway from London to Cambridge. Newport has its origins in the Saxon period, with the town initially developing in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> century and expanding significantly from the 13th century onwards, developing along the High Street and around the church. The

present town has only expanded slightly since the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. Archaeological deposits survive throughout the area of the medieval town.

**Historic Urban Character:** The place-name and documentary evidence records that Newport is in origin a Saxon royal manor, with a market. There are documentary references to a castle, although its location is unclear. The market was moved in 1141 from Newport to Saffron Walden, with a consequent decline in the Newport's fortunes. The market was however restored by the late 13th century, when the town was also mentioned as having borough status. The medieval economy of the town appears to have been based on the market, the wool-trade and the growing of saffron. St Leonard's Hospital was sited on the northern outskirts of the town on the eastern side of the Cambridge Road. Newport suffered in the later medieval and early post-medieval period due to the growth of Saffron Walden. However, the upgrading of the main road to turnpike status in the 18th century revived Newport's economy, as did the introduction of the railway in the mid-nineteenth century. The most important buildings within the town are located along the High Street and around the Church and are largely also located within the Newport conservation area.

**Archaeological Character:** The geology of the zone comprises a complex mix of boulder clay, Head deposits and glacial sand and gravels. The large boulder known as the Leper Stone, on the edge of the town, possibly originated as a prehistoric standing stone, later used to mark the site of the leper hospital. There have been a number of small excavations and watching-briefs in Newport, of which the most significant was excavation in the area of St Leonard's Hospital at the northern end of the settlement. Assessment of cellars throughout the settlement has shown a considerable part of the frontage has been affected. The potential for late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval remains is high in the uncellared areas. A historic town assessment has been undertaken (Medlycott 1999) as well as a village survey (Nurse, Pugh and Mollet 1995).

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Listed buildings, below grounds deposits,	2
• Survival	Potential for surviving medieval deposits in historic town in uncellared areas.	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic and documentary evidence, Town assessment, village survey	2
• Group Value Association	Historic buildings	2
• Potential	Some potential for surviving archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Built heritage and below-ground deposits are sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	Potential for the promotion of the historic settlement beyond that already achieved	3

#### **HECZ 6.4: Shortgrove, Debden and Quendon**

**Summary:** The zone is largely rural in nature, with a gently rolling landscape. It contains three large parks at Shortgrove, Debden and Quendon. Outside the parkland, ancient woodland survives and the settlement pattern has changed little since the first edition Ordnance Survey. Prehistoric occupation is well attested from aerial photographic evidence as well as excavation. Many landscape and parkland features survive. The medieval settlement pattern survives well with the settlement of Widdington and moats and dispersed farmsteads. A range of defensive structures were constructed along the river Cam and Debden Water in the Second World War.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The zone comprises boulder clay plateau bisected north-south, on its western side by the valley of the Cam/Granta with head deposits on the valley slopes and alluvium in the valley floor. It contains three large parks at Shortgrove, Debden and Quendon. The park at Quendon originated as a medieval deer park, possibly dating back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century. The existing grade I listed hall is 17<sup>th</sup> century and the deerpark was re-modelled at that date. At both Shortgrove and Debden, large parks of the 17<sup>th</sup> century survive, although in both cases the mansions

have been demolished and in some open areas the grassland has been ploughed. All of the historic woodland survives. The historic settlement pattern comprises small nucleated settlements at Widdington and Quendon. Widdington contains a large number of listed buildings, a church and two scheduled moated sites, located within a conservation area. Quendon forms a ribbon development along the main north south road with many listed buildings. The dispersed settlement pattern has changed little since the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map.



*Fig. 31 First edition Ordnance Survey map of Shortgrove Hall*

The fieldscape comprises a complex network of fields of ancient origin, probably of medieval date some maybe even older, interspersed with linear greens and a number of former common fields of which the last pieces were enclosed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. There is a significant proportion of ancient woodland in the zone, both in the parkland and outside with a significant block surviving in the southern part of the

zone at High Wood and Priors Wood. Many of the roads as well as the green lanes and bridleways are intricate, twisting and sunken, indicating their ancient origins. During the post-medieval period, changes in agricultural production are reflected in the changing design of farm complexes with the development of the 'Victorian High Farming tradition. The zone is bisected by the modern transport corridors of the M11 and London to Cambridge railway line.

**Archaeological Character:** The zone is bisected by the River Cam/Granta whose valley contains a high potential for surviving palaeo-environmental deposits. A number of ancient woods survive throughout the zone many of which are likely to contain earthworks. Evidence of prehistoric occupation has been identified throughout the zone ranging in date from the Neolithic through to the Iron Age. Assessment of cropmark evidence indicates the remains of probable prehistoric burial mounds (ring ditches) and settlement enclosures as well as a multi-ditched enclosure of probable Iron Age date. Excavations have found sporadic Neolithic occupation largely confined to the gravel sub soil areas, with much wider Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement sites.

Excavation indicates significant occupation of the zone in the Roman period exploiting both the position of the main Roman roads as well as the slopes of the river valley. Excavations close to Newport identified a rich cemetery which would have had an adjacent settlement. The settlement of this period would have comprised dispersed farmsteads.

The medieval and post-medieval periods saw the creation of the deer parks and landscaped parkland which form such a large part of the historic environment of this zone. Although two of the three mansions have been lost much of the landscape survives especially the ancient woodland. These parks have also preserved earlier features, such as a moat in Shortgrove Park. The two moats within the historic village of Widdington the two moated sites are protected as scheduled monuments, with the hall at Widdington Hall containing a Saxon church. The remainder of the dispersed settlement pattern survives well with moats and farmsteads present across the zone many of which are listed structures. A range of Second World War defences are located on either side of the River Cam, and mainly on the southern side of

Debden Water included pill boxes, and road barriers. These all form part of the General Headquarters defence line.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of listed structures, landscape and park features, archaeological deposits. WW II defences	3
• Survival	Extensive survival of buildings, historic landscape features and archaeological deposits	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic and documentary evidence, Military surveys, excavation reports, NMP data	3
• Group Value Association	Landscape and parkland features, cropmarks, military structures	3
• Potential	Extensive archaeological deposits located across the zone.	3
• Sensitivity to change	Highly sensitive to change both inside and outside the parkland	3
• Amenity Value	High potential for promotion, very attractive landscape, parkland and buildings, below-ground deposits as well as military remains	2

### **HECZ 6.5: Elsenham and Henham**

**Summary:** The historic settlement and field pattern survives well within the zone, although there has been some boundary loss. The historic settlement pattern comprises the nucleated village of Henham with the remainder consisting of dispersed church/hall complexes, moats and farms. Although archaeological fieldwork in this zone has been limited in scale, it has produced multi-period archaeological deposits. Roman occupation has been identified in a number of locations across the zone.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The geology comprises the boulder clay plateau around Henham and Elsenham and is bisected from north to south by the M11 and the London to Cambridge railway line. The zone is largely rural in nature, with a gently rolling rural landscape. The fieldscape comprises a complex network of irregular fields of ancient origin probably of medieval date, and some may be even older, interspersed with linear greens. A number of ancient woodlands are located in the southern part of the zone. Many of the roads as well as the green lanes and bridleways are intricate, twisting and sunken, indicating their ancient origins. The historic settlement comprises a nucleated settlement at Henham which originated as a church/hall complex with the church grade I listed. with the remainder consisting of a dispersed settlement pattern which survives well with church/hall complexes, moats and farmsteads present across the zone, many of which comprise Listed Buildings. Henham is particularly rich in listed buildings formed around linear greens. Evidence from Chapman and Andre maps (1777) shows a nucleated village present at Henham situated around a linear green, with a church/hall complex at its western end most of which is located within the conservation area. During the post-medieval period, changes in agricultural production are reflected in the changing design of farm complexes with the development of the 'Victorian High Farming tradition. This resulted in new ideas culminated in significant alterations in the design and layouts of farm buildings. In the post-medieval period, a landscaped park was developed around Elsenham Hall. Although Elsenham is the largest modern settlement within the zone development, it only developed in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Archaeological Character:** Only limited archaeological work has been undertaken within this zone as there has been little modern development outside Elsenham. Evidence of prehistoric occupation has been found and is also inferred from aerial photography and finds scatters. Records of chance finds and excavations have found evidence of Iron Age occupation largely related to settlements. Roman occupation has been identified throughout the zone comprising villas/farmsteads exploiting the high quality agricultural land. Roman occupation is identified both to the west and north of Henham, on the line of the M11 and to the east of Elsenham.

Medieval occupation comprises a dispersed settlement pattern which survives well with church/hall complexes, moats and farmsteads present across the zone, many of

which contain Listed Buildings. The nucleated village at Henham, situated around a linear green, with a church/hall complex at its western end, survives well. Much of this layout remains, although there has been some encroachment towards the Street frontage. A possible deserted medieval village is located around the church at Elsenham Hall. A number of ancient woods survive in the southern part of the zone, many of which are likely to contain associated earthworks.

The Elsenham to Thaxted light railway bisects the zone, originally sanctioned in 1904 the first trains ran in 1913 and it was closed in 1953.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of listed structures, moats, landscape and park features, Roman settlements, prehistoric sites.	3
• Survival	Extensive survival of buildings, landscape features and archaeological deposits	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic and documentary evidence, NMP data	2
• Group Value Association	Settlement at Henham, Roman rural sites	2
• Potential	High potential for extensive below-ground archaeological deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Historic settlement pattern, surviving landscape features and below-ground deposits sensitive to change.	3
• Amenity Value	Potential for promotion of Henham, its history and buildings.	2

### **HECZ 6.6: Stansted and Birchanger**

**Summary:** The zone comprises boulder clay plateau bisected north-south by the M11 and east-west by the A120 and the Stansted airport railway connection. The historic field patterns and the medieval and post-medieval dispersed settlement pattern survive well outside the transport corridors. Archaeological excavation has shown extensive prehistoric and Roman deposits surviving. Medieval occupation is

attested with both the surviving settlement pattern and the monastic site at Thremhall Priory.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The geology is boulder clay, with head deposits on the valley slopes and alluvium in the valley floors of the Stansted Brook, Pincey Brook and River Stort. The fieldscape comprises a complex network of irregular fields of ancient origin probably of medieval origin, some maybe even older. There is only limited boundary loss, largely due to the transport corridors cutting through the zone. The landscaped Stansted Park which originally dates back to the medieval period is located within the northern part of the zone. Much of the parkland survives; however, open areas have been ploughed and some of the woodland has been removed for the construction of the Stansted Airport railway link. Further parkland extended beyond the surviving Stansted Park to the south into Zone 4.2 (see below in archaeological character). An area of ancient woodland survives adjacent to Thremhall Priory, although part of it has been lost to the new A120. The settlement pattern comprises a nucleated settlement at Tye Green, containing a range of 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>-century listed buildings, with the remainder comprising a church/hall complex, moats and farmsteads, some of which are associated to Greens. Historic ribbon development has occurred along Stane Street, the original Roman road from Colchester to Braughing. The southern boundary of the zone is formed by the redundant railway line, now a long distance path and country park, the Flich Way. The zone's historic landscape character has been significantly impacted upon by the construction of modern development including the airport, M11, A120 and railway access to the airport.

**Archaeological Character:** Evidence of prehistoric occupation has been identified throughout the zone both from excavations and aerial photographs. A number of cropmark enclosures are likely to date to the Bronze or Iron Ages. Roman occupation is attested along Stane Street (Roman road from Colchester to Braughing), which forms the southern boundary of the zone; in addition a large Roman villa/farmstead with associated cemetery is known from the northern part of the zone. Metal detecting to the south of the airport has found items dating from the Bronze Age through to the post-medieval period. Areas of ancient woodland survive

throughout the zone many of which are likely to contain earthworks both associated to the woodland and potentially of an earlier date.



*Fig. 32 Roman pyxis 5cm high found by metal detectorists with other burial goods at Elsenham*

Archaeological recording within Stansted airport has shown a large medieval deer park associated with Stansted Hall covered a large part of the zone between the Hall and Zone 4.2. The site of Thremhall Priory, known to date back to the early medieval period lies to the north of Stane Street (the old A120). During the post-medieval period, changes in agricultural production are reflected in the changing design of farm complexes with the development of the Victorian 'High Farming' tradition.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of listed structures, moats, landscape and park features, Roman settlements, prehistoric sites.	3
• Survival	Extensive survival of buildings, landscape features and archaeological deposits, however impinged on by transport links	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic and documentary evidence, NMP data, Excavation reports	3
• Group Value Association	Medieval and post-medieval settlement pattern and historic landscape	2
• Potential	High potential for extensive below-ground archaeological deposits in areas not affected by development	3
• Sensitivity to change	Historic settlement pattern and below-ground deposits sensitive to change.	2
• Amenity Value	Potential for promotion of landscape history and archaeological deposits especially in association with survey work within Zone 4.2	2

### **HECZ 6.7: The Stort and its Navigation**

**Summary:** This zone is located within the floodplain of the River Stort and includes the alluvial deposits within the River Stort Valley running south from Bishop's Stortford. There is extensive meadow pasture in the zone. There is a high potential for palaeoenvironmental deposits surviving within the zone.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The geology is alluvium, with head deposits on the valley slope. The zone contains meadow pasture on the eastern side of the River Stort. The River Stort has been exploited as a navigable route throughout prehistory and history. The Stort Navigation is a canalised river first opened for traffic in 1796. The Navigation runs for just over 13 miles (22km) through a drop of 90ft with 15 locks

from Bishops Stortford, to Feilde's Weir where it meets the River Lee Navigation, with two locks located within this zone.

**Archaeological Character:** The surviving alluvial deposits have a very high potential for early prehistoric remains and palaeo-environmental remains of regional and national importance. Roman occupation has been identified within the zone including occupation associated with the villa at Little Hallingbury. The settlement pattern of the medieval and post medieval period comprises mills associated with the river. Industrial monuments survive within and on the edge of the river associated with the Stort Navigation comprising two locks.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Palaeo-environmental, mills, meadow pasture, Stort Navigation	2
• Survival	Landscape survives well; palaeo-environmental deposits will be well preserved. Stort Navigation	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic and documentary evidence,	1
• Group Value Association	Stort Navigation industrial elements	2
• Potential	High Potential of palaeo-environmental deposits.	3
• Sensitivity to change	Palaeo-environmental and below-ground deposits are highly sensitive	3
• Amenity Value	High potential for promotion, especially for the Stort Navigation	2

### **HECZ 6.8: The Hallingburys**

**Summary:** A rural landscape, bisected north-south by the M11. Prehistoric occupation is attested by the nationally important Iron Age hillfort of Wallbury overlooking the Stort Valley along with a number of other potential settlements. Evidence of Roman occupation is widespread within the zone and includes a villa overlooking the Stort. Evidence of the medieval period is visible in the dispersed

settlement pattern and the landscape divisions. Woodside Green forms an important surviving medieval landscape comprising an extensive open area of common pasture adjoining Hatfield Forest, and fringed with historic buildings on its western side. The zone contains the 18<sup>th</sup>-century Hallingbury Park, of which most of the woodland survives as well as some areas of parkland.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The zone comprises boulder clay plateau with head and sand and gravel deposits on the valley slopes of the Cam/Granta on the western side of the zone. The zone contains the 18<sup>th</sup>-century park at Great Hallingbury. The main hall has been demolished, however much of the park and its associated landscape features survive. The zone is largely rural in nature, with a gently rolling rural landscape. The fieldscape comprises a complex network of irregular fields of ancient origin, probably medieval in date, and some may be even older, interspersed with linear greens and a number of former common fields. Woodside Green is an extensive open area of common pasture adjoining Hatfield Forest, and fringed with historic buildings on its western side. It is now owned by the National Trust. Aerial photographic evidence shows considerable field boundary loss. Many of the roads as well as the green lanes and bridleways are intricate, twisting and sunken, indicating their ancient origins. The settlement pattern of the medieval period comprises a largely dispersed settlement pattern with church/hall complexes, moats and farmsteads present across the zone many of which are listed structures. A single nucleated settlement at Great Hallingbury is protected as a conservation area. Hallingbury Park was designed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century with many landscape features surviving. During the post-medieval period, changes in agricultural production are reflected in the changing design of farm complexes with the development of the 'Victorian High Farming tradition which resulted in new ideas culminated in significant alterations in the design and layouts of farm buildings.

The northern boundary of the zone is formed by the Flich Way; a disused railway line decommissioned in the 1960's, and now a linear country park.

**Archaeological Character:** The zone contains evidence of prehistoric occupation ranging in date from the Bronze Age through to the Iron Age. Evidence of settlement has been identified on the valley slope above the River Stort with the hillfort at

Wallbury, originally constructed in the Early Iron Age, protected as a Scheduled Monument. Further Late Iron Age occupation is attested by a cemetery to the south of Little Hallingbury. Aerial photographic evidence of enclosures are also probably indicative of Iron Age occupation.



*Fig.33 Aerial view of Wallbury hillfort with the earthworks defined by the circle of woodland.*

Roman occupation has been identified in the zone exploiting both the position of the main Roman roads as well as the slopes of the river valley. The Roman villa site at Little Hallingbury overlooks the River Stort with further Roman material found throughout the area of Little Hallingbury village. Early medieval occupation is represented by the churches across the zone and many of the moats within this zone are thought to originate in the 12 to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The post-medieval period saw the introduction of new farming techniques and these are represented in the changing styles of farm buildings. Evidence of the Capability Brown landscaped park at Hallingbury Place survives in part.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Hillfort, range of listed structures, landscape and park features, archaeological deposits.	3
• Survival	Earthworks of hillfort, survival of buildings, landscape features and archaeological deposits	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic and documentary evidence, excavation reports, NMP data	2
• Group Value Association	Landscape and parkland features	2
• Potential	High potential of archaeological deposits located across the zone.	3
• Sensitivity to change	Sensitive to change especially in relation to settlement pattern	2
• Amenity Value	Potential for promotion, attractive landscape, parkland and buildings, earthworks, below-ground deposits	2

### **HECZ 6.9: The Pincey Brook**

**Summary:** A rural landscape, comprising the valley of the Pincey Brook, into which drain numerous small streams. It is especially rich in medieval remains with the medieval town of Hatfield Broad Oak, the heath at Hatfield Heath and a number of scheduled and unscheduled moated sites. The historic landscape and settlement pattern survives well, although some boundary loss has occurred. There is a high potential for surviving palaeo-environmental deposits in the valley floor. Although only limited archaeological work has been undertaken within the zone, pipeline work has shown multi-period deposits surviving throughout.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The zone comprises very gently undulating head deposits within the valley of the Pincey Brook. The zone historically had a network of twisting lanes (often sunken), bridleways and footpaths, set within a fieldscape of irregular fields of ancient origin with a number of greens and common fields, many of which still survive. The Pincey Brook had extensive meadow pasture visible on the

1st Edition Ordnance Survey maps, most of which has now been lost to arable cultivation. Elements of this fieldscape are very ancient indeed, and may well have origins in the late Saxon period. There has been boundary loss across the zone. The settlement is highly dispersed, with the exception of the medieval settlement of Hatfield Broad Oak and the settlement around Hatfield Heath. The remainder comprises church/hall complexes, isolated farmsteads, a large number of moated sites, and scattered roadside and greenside settlement. Hatfield Broad Oak was the largest of the Essex manors belonging to King Harold and in 1066 it was already an important settlement with a church with its core now protected as a conservation area. During the medieval period it became an important market town with a Benedictine priory. A significant number of listed buildings are located within the historic settlement concentrated on two main streets. The settlement went through a slow decline from the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Hatfield Heath developed as ribbon development around the heath and along the greens leading in all directions from the heath. A park, Down Hall, originally designed in 1720 is located on the southern boundary of the zone. Most of the ancient woodland associated with the Park survives.



*Fig. 34 Hatfield Broad Oak Church, all that remains of the original 12<sup>th</sup> century Priory*

**Archaeological Character:** There is high potential for palaeoenvironmental deposits to be preserved in the base of the Pincey Brook Valley. Fieldwork along the Cambridge-Matching Green pipeline which crosses this zone has established the potential for widespread below-ground archaeology dating from the later prehistoric period onwards. There is evidence for Mesolithic and Neolithic activity, largely in the form of individual finds. Late Bronze Age metalwork has been recovered from a number of locations within the valley of the Pincey, including a particularly large hoard from Hatfield Broad Oak. Late Bronze Age and Iron Age occupation extends along the valley of the Pincey Brook in the form of settlements and burial sites.

The northern boundary of the zone is formed by the Roman Road of Stane Street, which has a high potential of associated settlement. Pipeline monitoring has indicated the potential for other sites of Roman date within the zone.

The medieval settlement pattern comprises the historic town at Hatfield Broad Oak, church/hall complexes, moated sites and unmoated farmsteads and cottages many of which are listed. The site of the Benedictine Priory at Hatfield Broad Oak is protected as a scheduled monument along with some of the dispersed moats which had their origin in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, Many of the moats, although currently occupied by 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>-century buildings are likely to have earlier structures buried on the platform.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Prehistoric settlements and burials, moats Range of medieval and post-medieval buildings, earthworks,	3
• Survival	Good survival due to limited development in zone.	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic and documentary evidence, NMP, Scheduling, excavation reports	2
• Group Value Association	Moated sites, historic village of Hatfield Broad Oak	3

• Potential	High potential for below-ground archaeological deposits, Palaeo-environmental deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Highly sensitive to change due to the significance and nature of the historic settlement pattern and below-ground deposits	3
• Amenity Value	Potential for promotion of the buildings and settlement as well as the below-ground deposits.	2

## 5.7 HECA 7: STEBBING/FELSTED AREA

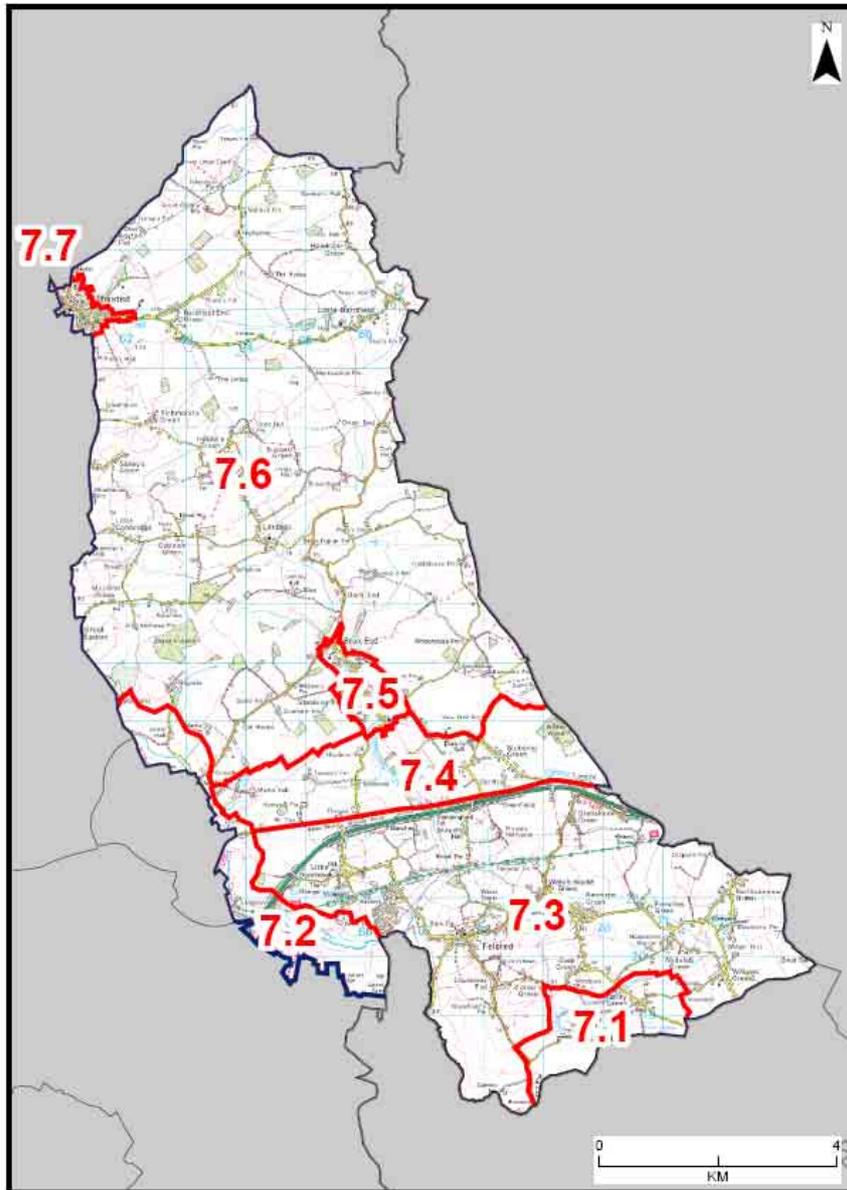


Fig 35. Historic Environment Character Zones within HECA 7

### HECZ 7.1: Leez Priory

**Summary:** The zone is dominated by earthwork remains of fish ponds associated with the 13<sup>th</sup>-century Augustinian Leez priory and the later Tudor mansion. The surviving priory buildings are listed and most of the fish-ponds are scheduled. Palaeoenvironmental evidence can be anticipated to survive in the area of the fishponds.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The zone is situated on boulder clay with alluvium and gravel in the valley of the River Ter. The landscape comprises the former Leez Park that was created by Richard Lord Rich in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century, which in turn incorporated a string of earlier fish-ponds created by the damming of the River Ter. The present fieldscape comprises a mix of irregular fields and enclosed meadow pasture along the river. There has been field boundary loss throughout the zone. The historic settlement pattern is very dispersed with an important group of listed farm buildings at Leighs Lodge.

**Archaeological Character:** The area contains extensive earthworks relating to the monastic fish-ponds formed by the damming of the River Ter, as well as cropmarks of field boundaries, which relate to the 13<sup>th</sup> century Leez Priory and the later mansion house and landscape park. Leez Priory was founded by the Augustinian canons, probably at the start of the 13th century. After the Dissolution in 1536, the priory was demolished and a double quadrangular house built for Lord Rich, of which the gatehouse is a notable Tudor survival (located within Chelmsford Borough). There is exceptionally good documentary evidence for the priory and the later mansion and it is possible to reconstruct much of the medieval and Tudor landscape, elements of which can be anticipated to survive within this zone, either as upstanding earthworks or below-ground archaeological features and deposits. The surviving priory buildings are listed and most of the fish-ponds are scheduled. Palaeoenvironmental evidence can be anticipated to survive in the area of the fishponds.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of medieval fish ponds, Cropmarks, parkland, listed buildings	3
• Survival	Good survival of features and deposits, Listed Buildings	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic and documentary evidence	2
• Group Value Association	High, monastic buildings and landscape,	2
• Potential	High potential for surviving archaeological deposits relating to the priory and later occupation. Potential for	3

	enhancement of the historic landscape	
• Sensitivity to change	Very sensitive to change due to the significance and extent of the archaeology	3
• Amenity Value	High potential for promotion of the priory and its associated fish ponds and parkland which is not promoted at present	2

### **HECZ 7.2: The River Chelmer valley**

**Summary:** This zone comprises the eastern slopes of the upper reaches of the River Chelmer. The historic landscape character is dominated by the extensive stretches of enclosed meadow pasture that flank the river. The river formed the focus of the World War II GHQ defence-line and a large number of pill boxes survive within this zone.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The landscape comprises the upper reaches of the valley of the River Chelmer. The geology consists of gravels and head deposits capped with boulder-clay, the former are exposed in the valley sides, and alluvial deposits in the valley floor. The valley floor had extensive areas of enclosed meadow pasture bordering the river some of which survives. The remainder of the fieldscape comprises a mix of regular and irregular fields, of probable medieval origin, largely aligned to the valley slope. There is little medieval and later settlement in this zone, due to the proximity of the river (it is prone to seasonal flooding).

**Archaeological Character:** The valley floor has the potential for good palaeoenvironmental evidence. There are a number of cropmarks visible, some relating to management of water in the valley. The cropmark of a windmill on the eastern slope of the valley was excavated in advance of the construction of the new A120, and this proved to be a 12 to 13<sup>th</sup>-century post-mill. There were no further buildings associated with this structure and it is assumed that it formed an outlying element of Little Dunmow Priory grange (in HECZ 7.3). The zone's significance,

however, comes from the construction in World War II of the General Headquarters (GHQ) defence line along both banks of the River Chelmer. This comprised a series of defensive structures, pill-boxes, spigot mortars, road-blocks etc., designed to stop or impede any attack by an invading German army.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Cropmarks, WWII features, palaeoenvironmental deposits	3
• Survival	WW II GHQ defence line survives extremely well, as may below-ground deposits	2
• Documentation	HER data, GHQ survey, NMP	2
• Group Value Association	GHQ defence line	3
• Potential	Potential for surviving below-ground deposits and palaeo-environmental deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Sensitive to change due to the potential below-ground deposits and the GHQ line	3
• Amenity Value	Potential for promotion of the GHQ line and the landscape of the river valley	2

### HECZ 7.3: Felsted area

**Summary:** This zone comprises rolling rural landscape, predominately on chalky boulder clay. The historic landscape and settlement pattern survives well, although some boundary loss has occurred. The later prehistoric and Roman periods are well represented from archaeological work on pipeline and road routes and from aerial photography. The zone is especially rich in medieval remains.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The geology of the zone comprises boulder clay plateau bisected north-south by the Stebbing Brook and drained by numerous smaller streams. There is alluvium in the valley floors and glacio-fluvial sands and gravels exposed in some of the valley sides. Apart from the village of Felsted, the historic settlement is largely dispersed in nature, with isolated farms, moated sites

and small hamlets strung out around linear and triangular greens. Felsted itself is medieval in origin, the village is dominated by buildings and grounds of Felsted School (founded 1564), as well as a notable group of timber-framed structures, many associated with the school, one of which is grade I listed, close to the church. There was a priory at Little Dunmow, part of which survives as the Grade I Parish Church. 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. An important Grade I farmhouse is located at Gransmore Green. It is the greens that form the predominant characteristic of the zone, and their former prevalence in the area is reflected in the place-names (e.g. Watch House Green, Bannister Green, Frenches Green). A few of these greens survive, primarily at road junctions, whilst others can be identified within the modern field and settlement pattern. The roads are twisting and often partially sunken. The fieldscape is largely comprised of pre-18th century 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, with areas of enclosed meadow pastures along the river valleys. Modern development is largely limited to the new housing estate of Oakwood Park on the edge of Felsted and widespread, but piecemeal, infill around the former greens. Post-1950s boundary loss as moderate, rising to high on a few farms; many of these are recorded as crop-marks.



*Fig. 36 Mill at Felsted dated to the 1830's*

**Archaeological Character:** Prehistoric activity is known to be present, with Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic flints all recorded from this zone. However the majority of the prehistoric settlement evidence dates to later periods. Several Bronze Age and Iron Age sites were recorded when the new A120 was constructed. There are known to be surviving palaeoenvironmental deposits within the Stebbing Brook valley. The northern edge of the zone is formed by the major Roman Road of Stane Street, and Roman settlement associated with this can be anticipated. Fieldwork in advance of construction at Oakwood Park recorded a Roman villa and industrial site. Excavations in advance of the new A120 recorded medieval farmsteads at Blatches and Stebbingford and a windmill at Little Dunmow. Further features and deposits relating to the medieval and post-medieval dispersed settlement and landscape can be anticipated throughout the zone. The Braintree to Bishops Stortford railway bisects the zone; it is now dismantled (although some elements relating to its original use survive) and the route is now the Flitch Way Country Park.



*Fig. 37 Excavated site of a medieval postmill on the line of the new A120. This is the earliest form of windmill in England with this example dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century. Each arm of the cross is between 4 to 5 metres in length.*

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Extensive below ground deposits of multi-period date, landscape features, built heritage	3
• Survival	Below-ground deposits survive well, extensive built heritage within the village and dispersed settlement pattern	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic and documentary evidence, excavation reports, NMP	3
• Group Value Association	Medieval settlement pattern	2
• Potential	Potential for further archaeological deposits of multi-period date	2
• Sensitivity to change	Sensitive to significant change due to the surviving settlement pattern and below-ground deposits.	2
• Amenity Value	Potential for promotion of excavated evidence and existing historic environment assets	2

#### **HECZ 7.4: Zone to the north of Stane Street**

**Summary:** This zone comprises rolling rural landscape, predominantly on the chalky boulder clay, bounded to the south by the line of the Roman road of Stane Street. The historic landscape and settlement pattern survives well, although boundary loss has occurred. The later prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods are very well represented in this zone.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The geology of the zone comprises boulder clay plateau bisected north-south by the Stebbing Brook and drained by numerous smaller streams. There is alluvium in the valley floors and glacio-fluvial sands and gravels exposed in some of the valley sides. The historic settlement pattern is largely dispersed in nature, with isolated farms, moated sites and small hamlets strung out around linear and triangular greens. Many of the buildings are Listed. The roads are twisting and often partially sunken. The fieldscape is largely comprised of irregular fields of ancient origin probably of medieval date, and some may be even older, with areas of enclosed meadow pastures along the river valleys. Modern development is piecemeal infill around the former greens. There are some areas of ancient woodland, of which the most significant is Boxted Wood. Post-1950s boundary loss is moderate, rising to high on a few farms.

**Archaeological Character:** Prehistoric activity is known to be present in the zone, with Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic flints all recorded. However the majority of the prehistoric settlement evidence dates to later periods. Several sites dating to the Iron Age are recorded. The southern edge of the zone is formed by Stane Street, a major Roman road; it is evident that this attracted a series of substantial Roman buildings strung out along its length; these were slightly set back from the road apparently centrally located within their individual farms or estates. Villas are recorded, either from antiquarian excavations and/or cropmarks, at Merks Hall, Stebbing and Boxted Wood. Excavations near Boxted Wood recorded a Roman maltings, interpreted as one element of the larger villa complex and agricultural estate. Smaller Roman sites may also be anticipated between these principal sites. For the medieval period the zone is notable for the quality and quantity of its historic built environment, which includes moated sites, agricultural buildings, farmhouses,

maltings and mills. A tile kiln to the south of Stebbing is scheduled. The 16<sup>th</sup>-century moated house at Porters Hall is a Scheduled Monument. During the modern period a number of field boundaries have been removed, many of which are still visible however as cropmarks. There are known to be surviving palaeoenvironmental deposits within the Stebbing Brook valley.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Extensive below-ground deposits of multi-period date, landscape features, built heritage	3
• Survival	Below-ground deposits survive well, built heritage and dispersed settlement pattern survive well	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic and documentary evidence, excavation reports, NMP, Scheduling	3
• Group Value Association	Roman occupation, medieval settlement pattern	3
• Potential	Potential for further archaeological deposits of multi-period date	3
• Sensitivity to change	Sensitive to significant change due to the surviving settlement pattern and below-ground deposits	2
• Amenity Value	Potential for promotion of excavated evidence and existing historic environment assets	2

**HECZ 7.5: Stebbing**

**Summary:** This zone comprises the historic and modern settlement of Stebbing. The village and church are recorded in the Domesday Book, and in the years following the Norman Conquest a motte was constructed on the site of the later Stebbing Park. The village has grown slowly throughout the medieval, post-medieval and modern period, and retains much of its historic character. There is a high potential of below-ground deposits within the historic core.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The geology comprises Kesgrave sands and gravels exposed in the slope of the Stebbing Brook valley, with alluvial deposits in the valley floor. The zone comprises the historic village, the main components of which are High Street, Church End and Bran End. The village is bordered to the west by the Stebbing Brook, which flows through Stebbing Park. To the east are back gardens, paddocks and a few fields. The historic settlement originally comprised two principal foci; a small group of cottages and the 14<sup>th</sup> century Grade I church at Church End, and the High Street. To the north of the village was the hamlet of Bran End. Modern roadside development now links all three parts. Stebbing Hall originally comprised a moated motte was constructed some 750m north of the church, adjacent to the Stebbing Brook, in the years following the Norman Conquest. The motte was eventually replaced by a manor house located immediately to the north, and the original mound was subsequently re-modelled as a landscape feature in the park and surmounted by a gazebo and an ice-house; the current manor house is 16<sup>th</sup> century in origin. One focus of the historic settlement was around the church, where notable Listed Buildings include the late 14<sup>th</sup>-century Chantry or priest's house and the 15<sup>th</sup>-century farms of Church Farm and Priors Hall. Further settlement developed along the High Street and Mill Lane, and many of these buildings are also Listed. To the north of Stebbing, and once distinct from it, was the hamlet of Bran End, which comprised a few cottages, public house, mill and Methodist Chapel. To the south-east of the village was the parish workhouse, windmill and a number of farms and cottages. These disparate sections have all been linked by modern infilling and roadside development; however, Stebbing still retains much of its historic character.

**Archaeological Character:** There are known to be surviving palaeoenvironmental deposits within the Stebbing Brook valley. A Scheduled Roman villa is located to the south of this zone and related remains may extend into this zone. Stebbing village and church are known to have existed in the late Saxon period, as they are first mentioned in the Domesday Book for 1066 and 1086. The Norman motte within Stebbing Park is a Scheduled Monument. Features and deposits relating to the origins and development of the village can be anticipated within the historic cores, particularly in the vicinity of the church and the motte and on the road frontage.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Medieval motte, historic buildings, Roman deposits	3
• Survival	Good survival of historic buildings, scheduled motte, and probably below-ground deposits	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic and documentary evidence	2
• Group Value Association	Settlement assets	3
• Potential	Potential for below-ground deposits in the historic areas of the village	2
• Sensitivity to change	Sensitive to change in the historic parts of the village	2
• Amenity Value	High potential for promotion of the historic assets of the village together with the Local History Society.	3

### HECZ 7.6: East Uttlesford

**Summary:** This zone is very rural in character. It is drained by the Stebbing Brook and the River Pant, as well as numerous smaller streams, making for a gently undulating countryside. Cropmark evidence indicates extensive multi-period occupation within the zone. The medieval landscape and settlement pattern largely survive within the present landscape, many of the buildings are Listed and there are a number of Scheduled moated sites.

**Historic Landscape Character:** A rolling rural landscape, predominately on chalky boulder clay, with glacio-fluvial deposits exposed in the valley sides and alluvium in the valley floors. The fieldscape is largely comprised of irregular fields of ancient origin, which are probably medieval in date, but some may be even older, interspersed by the occasional former common field which have been later enclosed piecemeal by agreement. There are also areas of enclosed meadow pasture along the river valleys. There are a number of medieval parks and areas of ancient

woodland, the largest of which are at Bigods and Dow Woods. The roads are twisting and often partially sunken, with numerous small linear and triangular greens. The historic settlement pattern was largely dispersed, comprising small hamlets often strung out around greens, church/hall complexes, and isolated moats and farms. The late medieval wealth of this productive rural area is reflected in the surviving historic building stock, which includes a number of Scheduled moats, and many Listed Buildings, including the Grade I parish church at Little Bardfield with its associated hall and crinkle-crankle wall. The zone 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. Modern development is largely limited to ribbon development along the roads and some infilling in the hamlets. Post 1950s boundary loss is moderate, rising to high on some farms; many of these field boundaries are still visible as cropmarks.

**Archaeological Character:** There are known to be surviving palaeoenvironmental deposits within the Stebbing Brook valley and they can also be presumed in many of the other smaller valleys.

Prehistoric activity is in the zone, with Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic flints all recorded. Crop-mark evidence records many sites of presumed later prehistoric or Roman date, including ring-ditches, enclosures and field-systems. There is also a widespread distribution of chance finds, further confirming the extent and ubiquitousness of Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman settlement and activity in the area. Features and deposits relating to the medieval and post-medieval dispersed settlement pattern and landscape can be anticipated to survive throughout the zone.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Multi-period prehistoric and Roman deposits, medieval settlement pattern and landscape	3
• Survival	Good survival of built heritage and below-ground deposits	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic and documentary evidence	2

• Group Value Association	Historic landscape and historic buildings relating to the medieval dispersed settlement	3
• Potential	Potential for surviving below-ground deposits across the zone	2
• Sensitivity to change	Sensitive to change due historic landscape and settlement pattern and the below-ground archaeological deposits,	2
• Amenity Value	Potential for promotion of the historic settlement pattern and landscape in association with other zones	2

### **HECZ 7.7: Thaxted**

**Summary:** This zone comprises the historic and modern settlement of Thaxted. Thaxted rose to prominence in the late medieval period as a centre of cutlery manufacturing, and the historic environment of the town reflects this period of prosperity, particularly in the quality of its medieval buildings. The below-ground archaeology has been demonstrated to survive well with extensive medieval archaeological deposits surviving within the historic core.

**Historic Urban Character:** This zone comprises the late Saxon, medieval, post-medieval and modern town of Thaxted. It is sited on a ridge with the church on the highest point. A stream originally cut across the southern end of Town Street (now in a culvert), and is the lowest point of the urban topography. Visually the church dominates Thaxted, and sited below the church, on the southern side, at the head of Town Street is the Town Street Guild Hall.

There is known to have been a church at Thaxted in 981, and there is some archaeological evidence that it lies underneath the 14th-15th century parish church. At the end of the Saxon period the Domesday Book records Thaxted as a well-established and prosperous community. It certainly was a very large village in Essex terms, and may well have been a proto-urban settlement.

Town Street is Thaxted's main street, and the building evidence suggests that it was originally wider and that it may have extended as far north as the south porch of the church and Mill Row. It is probable that all or part of the street was utilised as a market place. However, by the late 14<sup>th</sup>-century, the houses and shops on the western side had begun to encroach on the street frontage and infilling had also commenced within the street itself. The guild-hall at the head of Town Street was built in 1450, and the area between it and the church infilled by the building of Stoney Lane in the 14th to 15th century. The earlier church was replaced by an ambitious rebuilding programme in the 14th and 15th centuries. Other notable structures include the Guildhall, which stands at the head of the market-place and the Guildhall of St John the Baptist on Newbiggen Street and Clarence House on Town Street all of which are Grade I listed.. The Manor House of Thaxted Manor stood on the west side of Town Street, and by 1393 some of the manor buildings were ruinous. The list of 'new rents' describes the building of dwellings along the western side of Town Street. The main dwelling house itself appears to have survived until the mid-18th century. Middle Row, between Mill End and Orange Street, at the lower end of Town Street also appears to be market-place infill, and was almost totally developed by 1393. Settlement spread out from the core along Bolford Street, Newbiggin Street, Park Street and Weaverhead Lane.



*Fig. 38 Thaxted church*

It is as a medieval town that Thaxted is renowned. It was granted a market in 1205, but it probably had already had a market function before that date. In the 14th century, documents record rapid expansion in the town, when it became the centre of a thriving cutlery industry, with over a third of the adult male population employed in the cutlery and associated trades. The 14th century and later expansion, contrary to national economic trends, was due to the cutlers alone. The industry appears to have died out by the 16th century. The prosperity of the late medieval town is

reflected in its historic built environment and in the high number of Listed Buildings within the zone, 7 of which are Grade I standard and a further 7 are Grade II\*.

After the completion of the building of Newbiggin Street, the size and plan of Thaxted remained relatively unchanged until recent times. The market at Mill Row had been abandoned as a trading-place by the 16th century and was instead used as the 'town bombey' or midden. In the mid-19th century, the present row of cottages was built there. Thaxted became a stronghold of Nonconformism in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, as reflected in the number of chapels built in the town. Modern development has taken the form of small-scale housing estates and individual buildings appended to the rear of the historic core.

**Archaeological character:** The geology of the zone is largely chalky boulder clay. The cutlery industry needed sites close to water, and the cutlers therefore congregated by the stream that ran through the centre of the town (now culverted). Evidence, in the form of bone-working debris and leather knife sheaths, has been recovered from a number of excavated sites on Town Street and Weaverhead Lane. Waterlogged deposits have been recovered from a number of deeper features (wells, pits) and more can be anticipated from the stream channel (the stream itself is culverted). Fieldwork on the site of the school has established the presence of a Roman road, and recent fieldwork to the east of the town has confirmed the presence of a Roman settlement in the vicinity. Fieldwalking and metal-detecting in the Park Farm fields around the Church Mill have produced a number of medieval coins and tokens, including three from France, suggesting active cross-channel trade with the town. The historic built environment forms an extraordinarily rich resource for the understanding of the development of the town. The boulder clay geology is exceptionally conducive to the survival of bone and ceramic material. The documentary records for the town are very good and considerable amounts of academic research have been undertaken on the development of both the town and the cutlery industry.

A Historic Town Assessment has been prepared for Thaxted (Medlycott 1999).

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of listed structures, archaeological deposits relating to the town development	3
• Survival	Good survival of features and deposits in undeveloped areas	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic and documentary evidence, Historic town report, excavation reports	3
• Group Value Association	High, exceptional building stock, good survival of historic street plan and below-ground deposits.	3
• Potential	Extensive archaeological deposits located across the settlement	3
• Sensitivity to change	Highly sensitive to change within the historic core of the town	3
• Amenity Value	High potential for promotion, very attractive historic town, well promoted at present	3

## 5.8 HECA 8: GREAT DUNMOW

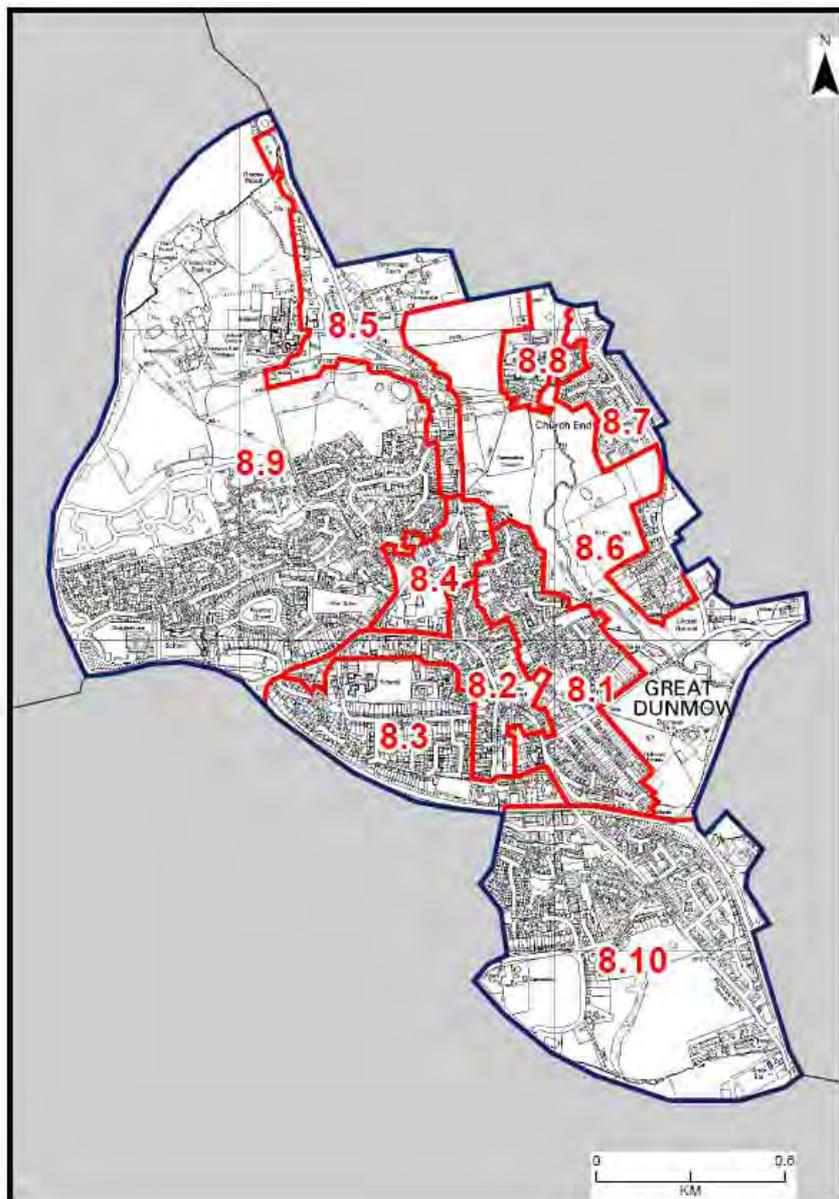


Fig.39 Historic Environment Character Zones in Great Dunmow

### HECZ 8.1: Residential Development West of Chelmer Valley

**Summary:** This zone comprises residential development to the west of the Chelmer Valley, and includes three phases of residential development from the later 19th century through to modern housing. Part of the zone contains elements of Dunmow Park which is thought to date back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century.

**Historic Urban Character:** The zone is largely residential, with the earliest surviving development being a small earlier 19<sup>th</sup>-century and later housing development built close to the railway station on land that once formed part of Dunmow Park. The houses either front onto Station Road or lie within plots set perpendicular to a co-axial road layout.

Along Braintree Road there is post-war residential ribbon development, with residential care homes and recently built apartment blocks. This part of the zone was formerly partly occupied by a large house, The Croft, gardens and associated outbuildings built on the periphery of the built up area. To the rear of the High Street and its medieval and post-medieval properties, modern residential housing developments have been built. Various industrial sites including a brick works and gas works are recorded within the zone.

**Archaeological Character:** Little archaeological work has been undertaken; however, the zone does incorporate the former sites of the Dunmow Brewery, Dunmow Brickworks and Dunmow Gas Works. The western side of the zone backing onto the medieval and post medieval town has the potential to contain both domestic and industrial features associated with this occupation.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Industrial sites, deer park	1
• Survival	Limited survival, below-ground deposits associated with historic town may survive	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic	1
• Group Value Association	Group value limited to industrial production sites	1
• Potential	Limited potential on western side of zone	2
• Sensitivity to change	Little sensitivity to change	1
• Amenity Value	Little amenity value apart from adding to the history of Great Dunmow with associated zones	1

## **HECZ 8.2: Historic Core of Great Dunmow**

**Summary:** This zone forms the medieval historic core of Great Dunmow. The town developed around the market which received its charter in 1227. Large numbers of listed buildings front onto the road throughout the zone. Limited archaeological work has been undertaken within the zone; however, that which has occurred has shown that archaeological deposits of multi-period date survive.

**Historic Urban Character:** The medieval town largely skirts the area of the Roman town and the route of the Stortford to Colchester Road abandons the original line of Stane Street to a new line curving around the Roman town suggesting the presence of a landscape feature, possibly a Roman enclosure ditch, dictating the medieval town morphology. It is probable that the medieval town centre originated as ribbon development around the road layout, and that the shift of emphasis from Church End to the High Street is marked by the granting of the market in 1227. The market-place was a triangular area on the eastern side of the High Street, immediately to the south of the junction between the main roads. The market, established in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century, remains fossilised within the present townscape between High Street and White Street (formerly Back Lane). New Street, which runs south from the High Street, is first named as such in 1527; however the oldest building on it is fourteenth century in date, suggesting that its origins date at least to that century. Large numbers of listed buildings are situated on the road frontages and the zone lies within the Dunmow conservation area. The zone is mainly commercial; however, new residential developments are encroaching on the medieval core.

**Archaeological Character:** The local geology is boulder clay. Only limited excavation has occurred within the historic core of Great Dunmow. Medieval and post-medieval deposits have been identified to the north of the High Street. Trial trenching in advance of new residential development has shown the presence of both medieval as well as earlier Roman occupation to the north of the High Street. Excavations and chance finds down New Street have found evidence of both Saxon and medieval deposits.

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

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Roman, 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 Great Dunmow and especially its listed buildings provides a very high amenity value	3

### **HECZ 8.3: Highstyle and Highfields, Great Dunmow**

**Summary:** This zone largely comprises the Roman settlement at Great Dunmow. The modern settlement is largely post Second World War residential development with further much more recent apartment blocks. Despite this 20<sup>th</sup>-century urban development, extensive Roman deposits relating to the settlement survive.

**Historic Urban Character:** The zone contains extensive post-war residential development to the south of the medieval historic core. The western and central parts of the zone are predominantly post 1950's residential development. The eastern side was previously an industrial area developed in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century redeveloped as residential in the late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> century. The northern part of the zone is dominated by the High Style School and playing field.

**Archaeological Character:** The geology is predominately boulder-clay with sand and gravel exposed on the valley side. Prehistoric evidence in the form of residual

artifacts or separate features dating from the Neolithic to Iron Age have been recovered during the course of excavations. A Roman settlement, possibly a small town or large farmstead, developed within the zone with the main occupation spreading westwards from the road junction of Stane Street and the Chelmsford to Great Dunmow Roman road along a spur between the Chelmer and a tributary stream, with cemeteries dating to the first to early third centuries on the outskirts. Archaeological excavations have occurred in several locations throughout the zone with settlement evidence being identified in the area of Redbond Lodge and the St Mary's school, with cemeteries located at Haslers Lane and High Style. A Roman shrine was excavated beneath Redbond Lodge. Roman deposits spread over the entire zone. Evidence of Saxon occupation has been identified in the form of pottery across this zone.



*Fig.40 Roman cremation burial with grave goods excavated at Haslers Lane, Great Dunmow*

A detailed assessment has been produced on the historic town of Great Dunmow which includes this zone (Medlycott 1999).

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Prehistoric deposits, Roman settlement, Roman cemeteries, Saxon occupation	2
Survival	High quality of below-ground deposits survive in the area of the school and rear gardens.	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, excavation reports, historic town survey	3
• Group Value Association	Roman settlement evidence	3
• Potential	High potential in undeveloped areas for below-ground deposits.	2
• Sensitivity to change	Area of playing fields, and other undeveloped areas, highly sensitive to change	2
• Amenity Value	Potential to promote the development of the Roman settlement, especially linked to the rest of Great Dunmow	2

#### **HECZ 8.4: Doctors Pond and the Downs, Great Dunmow**

**Summary:** This zone comprises the Doctors Pond and Downs area of Great Dunmow. The settlement pattern is predominantly ribbon development which began in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and is all contained within the Great Dunmow Conservation Area. Large areas of public open space remain between the urban ribbon development. The Roman road from Great Dunmow to Thaxted runs through the zone.

**Historic Urban Character:** The zone contains predominantly post-medieval and later ribbon development extending along thoroughfares to the north and west of the historic core. The zone contains many listed and unlisted 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>-century houses, a small number of later medieval buildings along North Street and a few modern houses. The entire zone lies within the Great Dunmow Conservation Area. Most of the built-up area is residential, although there are some commercial properties at the southern end of the zone. The 'Downs' is a large area of public open space at the heart of the built up area. The Doctors Pond forms an important landscape feature within this zone and has been present since the post-medieval

period. The pond was used in the 18th century by Lionel Lukin for the testing of his invention of the non-sinkable lifeboat.

**Archaeological Character:** Little archaeological work has been undertaken within the zone. The geology is boulder clay. The Roman road from Great Dunmow to Thaxted runs across the eastern part of the zone. A brewery founded in 1803 is recorded on North Street, although only a couple of buildings related to it now survive. A windmill is recorded to the north of the Downs, possibly of late medieval or post-medieval origin. Development along the Downs uncovered the foundations of a series of artisan cottages on the road frontage.

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

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Listed buildings, Roman road	2
• Survival	Historic buildings, possible below-ground deposits.	2
• Documentation	HER data, Cartographic, historic town survey	2
• Group Value Association	Listed buildings settlement	2
• Potential	Potential for study of early post medieval buildings. Potential in undeveloped areas for below-ground deposits.	2
• Sensitivity to change	Settlement and listed buildings sensitive to change. Potential below-ground deposits sensitive.	2
• Amenity Value	Potential to promote the history of the settlement linked to the development of Great Dunmow	2

**HECZ 8.5: Parsonage Downs, Great Dunmow**

**Summary:** This zone, the settlement at Parsonage Downs, comprising a large Green with medieval and post medieval buildings around it and ribbon development on the road to the north of the historic core. The majority of the zone lies within the Conservation Area. A moated site at Parsonage Farm is protected as a Scheduled Monument.

**Historic Urban Character:** The zone comprises later medieval and post-medieval ribbon development along The Causeway and Beaumont Hill to Parsonage Downs. It incorporates Parsonage Downs, a broad strip of open common land to the west of the Dunmow Road and the moated site of the Parsonage. The zone contains a number of houses from the 16<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> century, which reflect a period of growth associated with the cloth and tanning industries. The majority of the built heritage is concentrated on the road frontage and around the Green all of which is within the Great Dunmow conservation area. During the post-medieval period, changes in agricultural production are reflected in the changing design of farm complexes with the development of the 'Victorian High Farming tradition.

**Archaeological Character:** The geology comprises boulder clay. Little archaeological work has been undertaken within the zone. The moated site at Parsonage farm, which potentially dates back to at least the 13<sup>th</sup> century, is protected as a Scheduled Monument. A number of World War II defences associated with the General Headquarters line were within the zone but have been demolished, although below-ground elements of these will remain.

A detailed assessment has been produced on the historic town of Great Dunmow which includes this zone (Medlycott 1999).

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diversity of historic environment assets</li> </ul>	Listed buildings, settlement pattern and WW II features	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survival</li> </ul>	Listed buildings surrounding the Green. potential below-ground deposits	2

• Documentation	HER data, Cartographic, historic town survey	2
• Group Value Association	Listed buildings and settlement pattern	3
• Potential	High potential in undeveloped areas for below-ground deposits.	2
• Sensitivity to change	Settlement highly sensitive to change. Below-ground deposits sensitive.	3
• Amenity Value	Potential to promote the history of the settlement linked to the development of Great Dunmow	2

### **HECZ 8.6: Chelmer valley through Great Dunmow**

**Summary:** This zone comprises the valley of the River Chelmer where it travels through the town of Great Dunmow. The historic landscape character is dominated by extensive stretches of enclosed meadow pasture that flank the river. Cropmarks show the location of enclosed burials of Roman date. The river formed the focus of the World War II GHQ line and a number of pill boxes survive within this zone.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The landscape comprises the upper reaches of the valley of the River Chelmer. The geology consists of gravels and head deposits capped with boulder-clay, the former are exposed in the valley sides, and there are alluvial deposits in the valley floor. The valley floor had extensive areas of enclosed meadow pasture bordering the river much of which survives. There are a number of cropmarks visible in the valley many of which are associated with water management. The remainder of the fieldscape comprises a mix of regular and irregular fields, of probable medieval origin, largely aligned to the valley slope. Some of the fields are now recreation grounds. There is little settlement in this zone, due to the proximity of the river, prone to seasonal flooding. The southern end of the zone contains the surviving area of Dunmow Park which was originally a Domesday Manor, although the actual date of the park is unknown. It is possible that it was originally a medieval deer park. Elements of the park survive in the form of the Dunmow Park buildings and an area of open parkland to the front, however, the

remainder has been heavily disturbed by new roads and housing development outside the zone (zone 8.1).

**Archaeological Character:** The alluvial deposits within the valley have the potential for good palaeoenvironmental evidence. There are a number of cropmarks visible many of which are associated with water management in the valley; however, those at the northern end of the zone are indicative of late Iron Age or Roman settlement, and a number of Roman artefacts are recorded from this part of the zone. The zone contains monuments relating to the construction in World War II of the General Headquarters defence line along both banks of the River Chelmer; this comprised a series of defensive structures, pill-boxes, spigot mortars, road-blocks etc, some of which still survive, as will below-ground elements.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Cropmarks, Iron Age/Roman burials, palaeoenvironmental deposits WW II features, landscape features.	3
• Survival	WW II GHQ line survives well, below-ground deposits palaeoenvironmental remains may also survive well	3
• Documentation	HER data, NMP, GHQ survey,	2
• Group Value Association	GHQ line, Roman burials	3
• Potential	Potential for surviving below-ground deposits and palaeoenvironmental deposits,	3
• Sensitivity to change	Highly sensitive to change due to the below-ground deposits and the GHQ line	3
• Amenity Value	Potential for promotion of the GHQ line, landscape of the river valley, and its association with Great Dunmow	2

**HECZ 8.7: St Edmunds Lane, Great Dunmow**

**Summary:** Residential zone above the Chelmer Valley. Housing developed from the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century with the whole zone now residential. No archaeological work has taken place in the zone.

**Historic Urban Character:** Historically this zone was rural with a rectilinear field pattern bisected by St Edmunds Lane. This zone contains two distinct groups of post-war residential developments of council housing built along St Edmunds Lane. The northern development is focused around the medieval and earlier core at Church End and comprises both terraced housing fronting the St Edmunds Road and cul-de-sac style housing.

A later 20<sup>th</sup>-century housing development lies to the south overlooking Dunmow Park and recreation ground. This part of the zone incorporates a listed 19<sup>th</sup>-century windmill and mill house and the site of Brick Kiln Farm.

**Archaeological Character:** The geology is largely boulder clay, with some head deposits. No archaeological work has been undertaken within the zone. Elements of the original field pattern are preserved within road alignments and property boundaries of parts of the residential development. Field name evidence indicates a probable brick-making site on the western edge of the zone. At the northern end of the zone, one of the World War II structures associated with the General Headquarters Line has been destroyed.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Windmill, brickfields	1
• Survival	Limited survival due to residential development. Windmill survives	1
• Documentation	Cartographic	1
• Group Value Association	20 <sup>th</sup> -century housing	1
• Potential	Limited potential, possible below-ground deposits survive	1
• Sensitivity to change	Little sensitivity to change	1
• Amenity Value	Windmill could be promoted along with	1

	the remainder of the history of Great Dunmow	
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**HECZ 8.8: Church End, Great Dunmow**

**Summary:** This zone comprises the historic core of Church End, Great Dunmow. Existing buildings date the settlement to at least the 13<sup>th</sup> century; however, it is probable it originated in the Saxon period. Excavation has shown the presence of surviving medieval deposits in undeveloped areas of the zone. The settlement is protected as a Conservation Area.

**Historic Urban Character:** This zone lies on the boulder clay plateau and comprises the historic core of Church End, probably established in the late Saxon period. The small settlement is the earliest medieval occupation in Great Dunmow and was focused along Church Street and around the 13<sup>th</sup>-century church of St Mary the Virgin, which is thought to occupy the site of a late Saxon predecessor. The potential Saxon predecessor would suggest settlement starting at this period and being moved later in the medieval period to Great Dunmow. The zone contains a notable concentration of medieval and post-medieval buildings including the church, which is grade I listed,, the purpose-built 16<sup>th</sup>-century timber framed Priests House or Old Vicarage, the 14<sup>th</sup>-century nos. 2,4,6 Church Street and the 15<sup>th</sup>-century Nos. 28,30,32 Church Street. Church End retains its historic character despite some modern residential incursions. The zone is almost entirely in residential use and is protected as a Conservation Area.

**Archaeological Character:** Archaeological investigation within the historic core has uncovered prehistoric (Mesolithic, Neolithic and early Bronze Age), Roman, medieval and post-medieval occupation. The earliest building in the settlement is the church of St Mary the Virgin, which is 13th century, and is thought to occupy the site of a late Saxon predecessor as there is a reference in Domesday to a priest at Great Dunmow. Excavations in advance of new residential development have shown the presence of surviving archaeological deposits.

A detailed assessment has been produced on the historic town of Great Dunmow which includes the zone of Church End (Medlycott 1999).

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Prehistoric deposits, Saxon church, medieval church and Listed buildings	3
• Survival	High quality of surviving listed buildings. Below-ground deposits survive well	2
• Documentation	HER data, Cartographic, excavation reports, historic town survey	2
• Group Value Association	Listed buildings and settlement pattern	3
• Potential	High potential in undeveloped areas for below-ground deposits.	2
• Sensitivity to change	Settlement highly sensitive to change. Below-ground deposits sensitive.	3
• Amenity Value	Potential to promote the history of Church end both separately and with the other historic core of Great Dunmow	2

### **HECZ 8.9: Woodlands Park and North West, Great Dunmow**

**Summary:** This zone comprises an area of modern development on the north western side of Great Dunmow. The northern part contains a 19<sup>th</sup>-century landscaped park, some of which survives with the remainder of the zone either under 20<sup>th</sup>-century residential or proposed 21<sup>st</sup>-century residential development. Excavations have shown occupation in the Late Iron Age and Roman periods across the zone.

**Historic Urban Character:** Newton Hall was a mid 19<sup>th</sup>-century house with earlier open park land covering a large area in the north of the zone. Newton Hall and part of the parkland survive within the zone. The remainder of the zone comprised an irregular field system with a single 19<sup>th</sup>-century farm. A range of interwar and post-war residential development lies to the north of Stortford Road. This incorporates ribbon development along Stortford Road and a planned non-terraced council house development set around a central open green space (Newton Green). The northern

part of the zone includes the Helena Romanes Comprehensive Secondary School, founded in 1958 and the Leisure Centre built within school grounds within the last 10 years. The modern development of Woodlands Park comprises dense 20th and 21<sup>st</sup>-century residential estates built to the north and along the western outskirts of Great Dunmow, which includes a food store and new primary school. Residential development has permission to extend over most of this zone.

**Archaeological Character:** This zone is located on the boulder clay, with some areas of head deposits and alluvium adjacent to the small streams. Considerable archaeological work has been undertaken. Evidence of Neolithic occupation has been found in the form of flint work in several parts of the zone. Bronze Age occupation is shown by cropmark evidence of a ring ditch. Excavations have identified Iron Age and Roman occupation on several sites. The Roman road of Stane Street runs along the southern boundary of the zone and the Roman road from Great Dunmow to Thaxted runs along the north-eastern boundary. The known Roman settlements are set back from the Roman roads and probably consisted of rural farmsteads. Medieval occupation is limited to a number of pottery scatters identified during evaluation work. Although no evidence of structures were identified, it is possible that the medieval occupation lies beneath the surviving farm complexes.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Neolithic flintwork, ring ditch, Iron Age and Roman settlement, listed buildings, parkland	2
• Survival	Historic buildings, possible below ground deposits in open areas of school playing fields.	2
• Documentation	HER data, Cartographic, excavation reports	2
• Group Value Association	Roman occupation	1
• Potential	Potential in undeveloped areas for below-ground deposits.	2
• Sensitivity to change	Parkland around Newton Hall sensitive to change	2

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amenity Value</li> </ul>	Potential to promote Roman and earlier occupation of Gt. Dunmow in relation to other zones	2
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### **HECZ 8.10: Southern area of Great Dunmow**

**Summary:** This zone is situated above the Chelmer Valley. Historically, it was open countryside with the railway station, tannery and workhouse developing in the post-medieval period. Residential development now covers part of the zone with further industrial/residential development proposed. Very limited archaeological investigation has been undertaken in the zone although some prehistoric finds have been identified.

**Historic Urban Character:** There is an area of commercial activity mainly concentrated to the north of the Roman Road. A Union Workhouse constructed in the 1840's lies to the north of the Roman Road, and was converted to flats in 1932. The railway line and associated station lay within this zone; the station is now disused and demolished, with the railway and sidings now built over by industrial development. Also in this area lay a tannery, built on the site of the later bacon factory near the station, again now all demolished. At the southern end of the zone a new hotel and police station have been created. Post 1950-residential development has taken place in the northern area of the zone with the remaining open area in the south identified for future industrial/residential development.

**Archaeological Character:** The geology largely comprises boulder clay. Little archaeological work has been undertaken within the zone. Cropmarks are recorded on the eastern side of the zone which are related to water management of the Chelmer Valley. Excavation on the A120 immediately to the west of the zone found evidence of Mesolithic and Neolithic occupation. Evidence of Roman occupation is confined to the Roman Road from Dunmow to Chelmsford which bisects the zone. There is the potential for further remains to be identified in undeveloped areas or along the Roman Road.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Workhouse, cropmarks	1
• Survival	Limited survival, workhouse already converted, industrial sites all demolished, possible below-ground deposits adjacent Roman Road and in undeveloped areas.	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic	1
• Group Value Association	Post medieval Industrial sites	1
• Potential	Some potential along road edge and in undeveloped areas	2
• Sensitivity to change	External appearance of work house sensitive to change	1
• Amenity Value	Little amenity value apart from contributing to the history of Great Dunmow in association with neighbouring zones	1

## 5.9 HECA 9: North Eastern Uttlesford

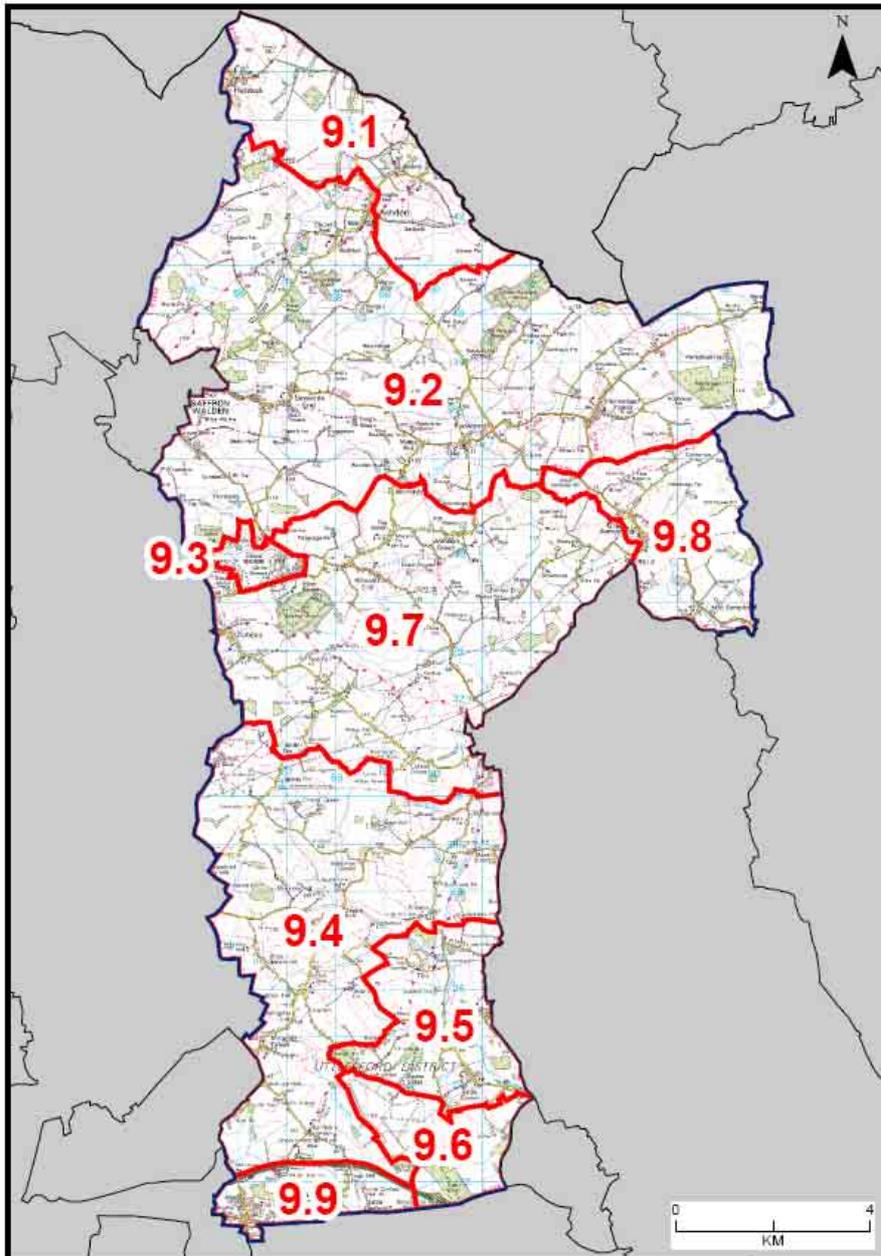


Fig. 41 Historic Environment Character Zones within HECA 9

### HECZ 9.1: Hadstock

**Summary:** A rolling rural landscape at the boundary with Cambridgeshire. The historic landscape survives well, although some boundary loss has occurred. The historic settlement pattern comprises the small nucleated village Hadstock and dispersed farmsteads. Archaeological deposits are found throughout the zone,

comprising cropmarks dating to the prehistoric and Roman period, the medieval settlement pattern and industrial heritage with the dismantled railway line.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The zone is located on the boulder clay plateau, bisected by the line of the redundant Saffron Walden to Bartlow railway line and the River Bourn. The fieldscape comprises irregular fields of ancient origin, which are probably medieval in date although, some may be even older. These are interspersed by the occasional common field; these were all subsequently enclosed (largely in a piecemeal fashion) in the 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Hadstock Common was located to the west of the village (in HECZ 1.5). The degree of boundary loss is moderate. The historic settlement comprises a nucleated settlement at Hadstock with the remainder dispersed in nature, largely consisting of isolated farms and halls. Hadstock developed around the church; the current building is 11<sup>th</sup> century in origin and is grade I listed, but excavation has established that it had a 10<sup>th</sup>-century predecessor on the site. The 11<sup>th</sup>-century church is one candidate for the Minster church founded by Canute following the battle of *Assendune*. Hadstock Hall is sited to the east of the church and the historic core of the village is clustered around these two buildings and the road junction in front of them. The historic centre of Hadstock is a Conservation Area, and many of the buildings are Listed. In the south of the zone is the mansion and park of Waltons; again many of the buildings are Listed although the house itself was burnt down in 1954. In addition to the park at Waltons, there are also a few small areas of ancient woodland as well as some rectilinear areas of early 20<sup>th</sup>-century plantation woodland to the immediate east of Hadstock village. The zone is bisected by the disused railway line from Saffron Walden to Bartlow.



*Fig. 42 Hadstock church door dating back to the Saxon period*

**Archaeological Character:** Little excavation has been undertaken within this zone. Evidence of prehistoric occupation is indicated from the cropmarks identified which comprise irregular enclosures and probable ring ditches. Roman material within the church at Hadstock and in an adjacent field is indicative a Roman settlement in the immediate vicinity. Immediately to the north of the zone lie the nationally important Roman burial mounds of the Bartlow Hills, and it is probable that the Roman villa and estate would have extended into this zone. The settlement at Hadstock is known to have existed in the late Saxon period; excavation has revealed a 10<sup>th</sup>-century predecessor to the current church and earthwork and geophysical surveys to the rear and east of the church have recorded features that may relate to Late Saxon or medieval settlement. Other features and deposits relating to the dispersed historic settlement pattern and landscape can be anticipated to survive.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Medieval village, historic buildings, cropmarks, mill, landscaped park	2
• Survival	Potentially, good survival of historic buildings, and below-ground deposits	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic, NMP, excavation reports	2
• Group Value Association	Historic landscape and settlement pattern	2
• Potential	High potential for below-ground deposits throughout the zone	3
• Sensitivity to change	Landscape and settlement pattern sensitive to change along with the below-ground deposits.	2
• Amenity Value	Potential for promotion of the historic village.	2

### **HECZ 9.2: Ashdon, Radwinter and Hempstead**

**Summary:** The zone comprises boulder clay plateau bisected by the Pant valley. The historic landscape and settlement pattern survive well, although boundary loss has occurred. The zone is especially rich in medieval remains with a number of medieval settlements, church/hall complexes, and dispersed moats and farmsteads. Although there has been limited excavation within the zone the cropmark evidence and finds indicate that extensive multi-period deposits survive.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The geology comprises chalky boulder clay, with alluvium in the valley of the Pant and its tributary streams. The fieldscape largely comprised irregular fields of ancient origin, which are probably medieval in date, but some may be even older. Interspersed amongst these is the occasional common field; these were largely enclosed in a piecemeal fashion between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. A large number of ancient woodlands are recorded in the zone, many situated in the northern half, although the largest is situated at Hempstead Wood on

the eastern edge of the zone. There are three nucleated villages at Ashdon, Radwinter and Hempstead, all of which have Conservation Areas protecting their historic core and which contain many listed structures. Ashdon consists of a church/hall complex at Church End listed Grade I and II\* respectively, with the majority of the settlement to the west at Ashdon Street on the road junction. Radwinter also had its origins as a church-hall complex, with settlement developing around the church and the road junction. An impressive series of fish ponds survive adjacent to the hall. Hempstead originally comprised the church and a scattering of cottages and farms around the edge of a linear green; the spaces between these were infilled with ribbon development by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The remaining historic settlement is dispersed in nature, with church/hall complexes, isolated farms, moated sites, some of which are Scheduled Monuments. The roads are twisting and often partially sunken. There are a number of areas of ancient woodland, particularly in the north-western part of the zone. The degree of boundary loss is moderate.

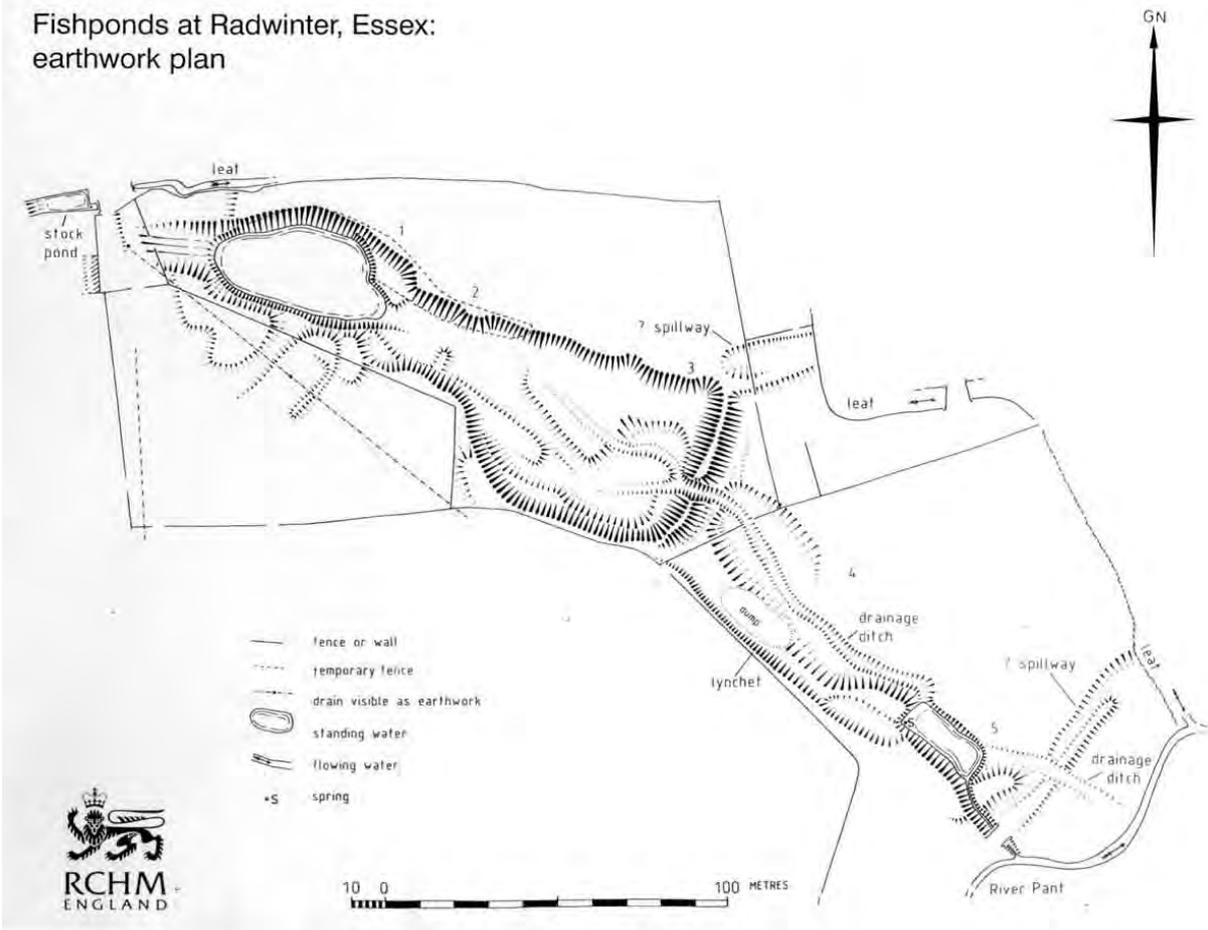


Fig. 43 Medieval Fishponds at Radwinter

**Archaeological Character:** Finds spots across the zone represent occupation in the area from the earliest prehistoric period onwards. The cropmark evidence within the zone includes a number of probably prehistoric enclosures, possibly Bronze Age or Iron Age in date. Several Roman roads cross this zone, and a possible settlement site has been identified at the junction of two of them at Radwinter. In addition, a number of Roman rural settlements have been identified. The mill mound and accompanying earthworks at Hempstead have been identified as a possible motte. The cropmark evidence includes at least one medieval moated site and numerous field boundaries of possible medieval origin. Further features and deposits relating to the historic settlement pattern and landscape can be anticipated to survive. Areas of ancient woodland are found throughout the zone, many of which may contain both earthworks associated with the woodland as well as preserving earlier earthworks.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Medieval settlements, historic buildings, cropmarks, Roman deposits, woodland earthworks	2
• Survival	Good survival of historic settlements, historic buildings, scheduled and below-ground deposits	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic evidence, NMP	2
• Group Value Association	Medieval settlement pattern	3
• Potential	High potential for below-ground deposits both in the present villages and in the rural areas for all periods	3
• Sensitivity to change	Historic settlement pattern and below-ground deposits	2
• Amenity Value	High potential for promotion of the historic assets of the historic villages.	2

### HECZ 9.3: Carver Barracks

**Summary:** This zone comprises Debden Airfield and Carver Barracks. The airfield is one of the earliest created, with construction beginning in the mid 1930's. Many important military structures survive within the zone.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The geology of the zone comprises chalky boulder clay. The fieldscape largely comprised irregular fields of ancient origin, which were probably medieval in date, though some may be even older. There was also an area of ancient woodland, but this no longer survives. Construction of the airfield, then known as RAF Debden, was part of the RAF expansion scheme, which commenced in 1935. The site is only example of this period built in Essex. Initially Debden had a grass-landing area, with technical and domestic sites located in the south-east corner in typically expansion-period style. In World War II, two runways and a perimeter track were added and ground defences strengthened. Post-war, the site was given to the army, becoming the home of the 33 Engineer Regiment. Carver Barracks remains in military hands, but the airfield was closed in 1975.

**Archaeological Character:** The use of the site as a barracks has protected much of the original airfield. Various features of the Second World War survive including pillboxes, a Pickett-Hamilton fort and other buildings and structures stand in the long grass and scrub around the perimeter. The operations block is now protected as a Grade II listed building. It is possible that earlier archaeological deposits survive beneath the present runway area.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Limited to the airfield and its associated buildings.	1
• Survival	Elements of the Second World War survive well.	2
• Documentation	HER data	1
• Group Value Association	Military structures	2
• Potential	Potential for below-ground deposits surviving beneath runway area	1
• Sensitivity to change	Military remains are sensitive to change	2

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amenity Value</li> </ul>	<p>Military history of the airfield and associated buildings could be explored as part of a wider appreciation of 20<sup>th</sup>-century military remains in the District.</p>	<p>2</p>
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#### **HECZ 9.4: Bambers Green, Molehill Green and Broxted area**

**Summary:** Archaeological evaluation has shown extensive survival of prehistoric, Roman and medieval deposits. The zone is rich in medieval remains with a number of medieval settlements, church/hall complexes, and dispersed moats and farmsteads, and numerous listed buildings, as well as below-ground features and deposits.

**Historic Landscape Character:** Largely a gently rolling landscape, drained by numerous small streams, including the upper reaches of the Rivers Chelmer and Roding. Elements of the flat plateau now occupied by Stansted Airport extend into the western side of this zone. The geology comprises dissected boulder clay plateau with head deposits and some alluvium in the valleys. The fieldscape largely comprises irregular fields of ancient origin, which are probably medieval in origin and some may be even older. Interspersed with these is the occasional former common field, most of these were enclosed in the late medieval or early post-medieval period. Post-1950s boundary loss is considerable, resulting in the amalgamation of small fields to make larger ones; however, the overall grain of the irregular field-pattern survives. Small areas of meadow pasture survive in the River Roding and Chelmer valley. A feature of the zone was the complex network of interlinking linear greens, such as at Bambers Green, Cherry Green and Molehill Green etc, most of which survive and can be discerned in the landscape. Many of these greens have their origins in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries and all contain a range of listed buildings along them. The roads, bridleways and footpaths are twisting and sometimes partially sunken. The historic settlement was highly dispersed in nature, with church/hall complexes, halls, isolated farms, moated sites and cottages strung out along the greens. The moated site at Takeley Grange is scheduled and contains a grade II listed structure on the platform. A further moated site and complex of listed buildings

is recorded at Sheering Hall on Bambers Green. Many of the farms and farm complexes are of ancient origin, e.g. Muscombes Farm.



*Fig. 44 Three Horseshoes Public House on the edge of Molehill green which is a 17<sup>th</sup> century house containing the remains of a 15<sup>th</sup>-century building*

**Archaeological Character:** Aerial photography has identified cropmarks, many of which are medieval and post-medieval field boundaries, but a number of crop-marks relate to prehistoric burial sites, and probable prehistoric settlement enclosures. Evaluation for the second runway at Stansted, and pipeline monitoring and excavation have shown extensive prehistoric occupation from the Bronze Age in the form of settlements and field systems. Iron Age features are particularly extensive with a number of settlements across the zone.

Roman occupation has been identified with burials and settlement within the proposed second runway area at Stansted, a probable Roman villa at Little Canfield Hall and a smaller settlement near Pledgdon Green. The church at Broxted also contains Roman material. The evidence indicates the landscape was being

extensively exploited throughout the Roman period. At least one Roman road is known to have crossed this zone

The evidence for occupation during the medieval period is widespread, and in many cases still upstanding; this includes the field pattern, moated sites, greens and ends and many Listed Buildings. The cropmark evidence attests to the survival of below-ground features, including tofts and crofts, moated sites and field boundaries. The scheduled medieval manor site of Waltham Hall is situated in the centre of the zone and represents the site of a manor which was relocated along the green, probably in the 16-17<sup>th</sup> century to the existing site of Waltham Hall farm with its complex of listed structures. Both Waltham Halls would have had an integrated relationship to the green and the settlement of Molehill Green. The moated site at Takeley Grange is protected as a scheduled monument. Excavation has shown that Lower Bampers Green was also being occupied in the medieval period with small house enclosures occupied and pottery making taking place. Evidence for large-scale field systems, comprising many parallel linear trenches dating to the 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> centuries, has been during evaluation work on the proposed second runway and in associated zones.



*Fig 45 Takeley Grange comprising a 17<sup>th</sup> century building on a Scheduled medieval moat to the north of Bampers Green*

During the Second World War, the River Chelmer formed part of the General Headquarters Defence line and many of the monuments associated with this survive within the zone. The cropmarks also show that outlying elements of the World War II airfield at Little Easton extended into this zone. The valleys of the Chelmer and Roding have the potential to hold palaeoenvironmental deposits.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Prehistoric occupation, Roman deposits, Medieval settlements, historic buildings, cropmarks,	3
• Survival	Good survival of historic settlement pattern, historic buildings, and excavation has shown extensive below-ground deposits	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic evidence, NMP, excavation reports	2
• Group Value Association	Medieval settlement pattern,	3
• Potential	High potential for below-ground deposits	3
• Sensitivity to change	Historic settlement pattern and below-ground deposits	3
• Amenity Value	Potential for promotion of settlement pattern and below-ground deposits in association with other zones	2

**HECZ 9.5: The Eastons and Tilty**

**Summary:** A rolling rural landscape, bisected by the River Chelmer. The zone contains the important medieval and post-medieval complex of Tilty Abbey, Tilty mill and St Mary’s Church. The historic settlement pattern and landscape survives well, despite some recent boundary loss. The Second World War General Headquarters Line also runs north-south through the zone.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The zone comprises boulder clay plateau dissected by the river Chelmer and its tributaries. The fieldscape largely comprises irregular

fields of ancient origin, which are probably medieval in date, but some may be even older. These are interspersed by the occasional common field; these were largely enclosed by the late medieval or early post-medieval period. The historic settlement comprises the village of Great Easton, smaller hamlets, such as Duton End, dispersed church/hall complexes, manors, moats and dispersed farmsteads. Great Easton is centred on its Norman motte, which is scheduled, and the adjacent listed church; the motte is located on the southern side of a small green, whilst the church appears to have been sited on the green itself. A complex of highly sensitive listed buildings and a scheduled monument are situated at Tilty. Tilty Abbey is a Scheduled Monument, comprising the remains of the 12<sup>th</sup>-century Cistercian monastery; the parish church of St Mary incorporates the gatehouse chapel for the Abbey and is grade I listed. To the immediate north of the abbey lies a grade II\* listed 18<sup>th</sup>-century watermill and to the west beyond ancient woodland lies the important listed farm complex at The Grange. There are many other historic buildings within the zone which are listed. Many of the farms and farm complexes are of ancient origin. The farm complex at Flemings Hall Farm is important and unusual as it contains a range of listed structures including a medieval kitchen. There are a number of areas of ancient woodland in the zone, particularly at Philipland Wood and surrounding the western side of Tilty Abbey. In the southern part of the zone, gardens relating to Little Easton Lodge survive adjacent to the now demolished house. Easton Lodge dates back to Tudor times. The gardens were redesigned in 1902 by the noted garden designer Harold Peto. Only the gardens and the original buildings lie within this zone, with the remainder of the park located with HECZ 9.6.

**Archaeological Character:** Little excavation has been undertaken within this zone. Evidence of prehistoric occupation is indicated from some of the cropmarks and field names. Evidence of Roman occupation is very limited; however, a Roman cup is recorded at Tilty.

A Motte and Bailey Castle is located at Little Easton, now protected as a Scheduled Monument. During the medieval period the settlement pattern comprised church/hall complexes, moats, manors and dispersed farmsteads. Tilty Abbey, protected as a Scheduled Monument, was founded in 1153 for the Cistercians. The above-ground components for this site comprise some fragments of walls, the fishponds and the

gatehouse chapel (incorporated within the parish church of St Mary). Aerial photographs have demonstrated the presence of extensive parchmarks, attesting the survival of below-ground features and deposits. The ancient woodland is likely to contain earthworks, both related to the woodland and to earlier occupation of the zone. Initial survey of Philipland Wood has shown potential multi-period earthworks as well as later World War II features. Further evidence relating to the medieval and post-medieval settlement and landscape pattern can be anticipated to survive below-ground. Two post-medieval corn mills are located within the zone at Tilty and Elmbridge.



*Fig.46 Digital reconstruction of Tilty Abbey in its hey day*

During the Second World War the River Chelmer formed part of the General Headquarters Defence line and many of the monuments associated with this survive within the zone. The area around Easton Lodge was also used as off site storage and buildings associated with the Second World War Airfield of Little Easton to the south of the zone (HECZ 9.6)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diversity of historic environment assets</li> </ul>	Medieval settlement pattern, historic buildings, abbey, mills, mottes. WW II structures	3
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• Survival	Good survival of landscape, historic buildings, WW II structures and below-ground deposits.	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic and documentary, NMP, survey data, garden history	2
• Group Value Association	Historic settlement, WW II monuments, garden features	3
• Potential	High potential for below ground deposits and earthworks in the woodlands throughout the zone	3
• Sensitivity to change	Landscape and settlement pattern highly sensitive to change along with the below-ground deposits.	3
• Amenity Value	Little Easton gardens well publicised, lots of potential to promote other sites such as Tilty and the GHQ defensive line.	2

### **HECZ 9.6: Little Easton Park**

**Summary:** The historic landscape has been extensively changed largely due to the construction of Little Easton Airfield in World War II on the western half of the zone. The zone is known to contain prehistoric deposits within the airfield, along with Roman deposits on the edge of Great Dunmow.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The zone now comprises a fairly flat, open landscape on the boulder clay plateau. The historic landscape comprised irregular fields of ancient origin, probably medieval, with a settlement pattern of dispersed farmsteads and the large deer park associated with Easton Lodge. The gate house to the park survives fronting onto the old A120. Some areas of ancient woodland survive, most notably at High Wood; however, much was lost during the construction of the airfield in World War II. Elements of the World War II airfield runways survive.

**Archaeological Character:** Evidence of prehistoric occupation has been identified during evaluation work on the airfield. A Roman farmstead and cemetery site was excavated in advance of the A120 at Strood Hall, and further sites of this period can be anticipated to survive within the zone. During the medieval period, a large deer park was constructed to the south of Easton Lodge. Little survives today apart from a small piece of woodland and below-ground evidence of the park pale. Elements of the medieval dispersed settlement pattern and landscape can be anticipated to survive below-ground, as evidenced by the crop-marks of field boundaries and possible tofts and crofts.



*Fig.47 Roman burial with grave goods from the settlement and cemetery at Strood Hall excavated in advance of the new A120 (50cm scale)*

The Second World War Airfield of Little Easton was constructed within the deer park, many of whose trees were removed with dynamite. Some of the buildings and portions of the runway survive on the airfield. Archaeological evaluation within the airfield has shown prehistoric deposits surviving in several locations.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Prehistoric and Roman deposits, park features, World War II structures and airfield	2
• Survival	Landscape extensively disturbed by the construction of the airfield, little survives of the park, below-ground deposits do survive.	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic and documentary, excavation data,	2
• Group Value Association	Low group association.	1
• Potential	Potential for below-ground deposits and earthworks in the woodlands	2
• Sensitivity to change	Limited sensitivity to change due to the construction of the airfield	1
• Amenity Value	Little Easton gardens well publicised and could associate the history of the deer park and airfield to this.	2

### HECZ 9.7: North of Thaxted

**Summary:** A gently rolling landscape, drained by numerous small streams, including the upper reaches of the Rivers Chelmer and Pant. Although there has been limited excavation within the zone, the cropmark evidence and finds indicate that extensive multi-period archaeological sites and deposits are present. The zone is especially rich in medieval remains with settlements, church/hall complexes, and dispersed moats and farmsteads surviving, as well as below-ground deposits.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The zone comprises dissected boulder clay plateau with head deposits and some alluvium in the valleys of small streams. The fieldscape largely comprised irregular fields of ancient origin, which are probably medieval in date, and some may be even older. These are interspersed by the occasional common field, which were largely enclosed in a piecemeal fashion by the

early post-medieval period. Post-1950s boundary loss has been extensive, resulting in the amalgamation of fields, but the overall grain of the irregular field-pattern remains in place. A feature of the zone was the complex network of interlinking linear greens, most of these have been encroached on, but traces can still be discerned within the modern landscape. The historic settlement was highly dispersed in nature, with halls, isolated farms, moated sites (some of which are scheduled), and cottages strung out along the former greens. A nucleated settlement developed at Debden with a range of listed buildings, although the church is located at Debden Park to the west in zone 6.4. An important farm complex lies at Newhouse Farm in the north-east corner of the zone, with a total of 6 listed structures. The roads, bridleways and footpaths are twisting and sometimes partially sunken. There are a number of areas of ancient woodland, irregular in plan, of which the largest is Rowney Wood. The site of the World War II Great Sampford Airfield is still visible despite the loss of its runways; it is demarcated by its perimeter track and the removal of all field boundaries within this.

**Archaeological Character:** There has been limited archaeological fieldwork in this zone; the notable exception to this is in the north-west where the parishes of Great and Little Sampford have been extensively studied as part of the Heritage Sampford project. The earliest finds from the area date to the Palaeolithic period, but Mesolithic and later material has also been recovered. Fieldwalking at Goddard's Farm, Thaxted and as part of the Sampford Project has established the presence of prehistoric and Roman finds deriving from occupation sites, scattered across the study area; it is likely that this pattern would apply to the rest of the zone. Aerial photography has identified extensive areas of cropmarks, including a number of cropmark enclosures of possible prehistoric or Roman date.

The evidence for the medieval period is widespread, and in many cases still upstanding. It includes the field pattern, moated sites, many Listed Buildings, fish ponds and mill mounds. The cropmark and field-walking evidence attests to the survival of below-ground features as well. Areas of ancient woodland are found throughout the zone many of which may contain both earthworks associated with the woodland as well as preserving earlier earthworks.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Prehistoric and Roman deposits, medieval settlement pattern, historic buildings, cropmarks, woodland earthworks	2
• Survival	Good survival of historic settlements, historic buildings, below-ground deposits	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic evidence, NMP, Sampford project	3
• Group Value Association	Medieval settlement pattern	3
• Potential	Potential for below-ground deposits both in the present villages and in the rural areas for all periods	2
• Sensitivity to change	Historic settlement pattern and below-ground deposits highly sensitive	3
• Amenity Value	The Sampford project has high amenity value in engaging the public in establishing an understanding of the historic environment	2

### **HECZ 9.8: The Great Sampford area**

**Summary:** A gently rolling landscape, drained by numerous small streams; the upper reaches of the River Pant form the western boundary to this zone. The zone has been extensively studied as part of the Heritage Sampford project undertaken by the Sampford Society. Cropmark evidence and finds indicate that extensive multi-period archaeological remains are present.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The geology of this zone comprises boulder clay with head deposits and alluvium in the valley of the River Pant. The fieldscape largely comprised irregular fields of ancient origin, which are probably medieval in date, and some may be even older. Interspersed with the irregular fields are the occasional common field, which were largely enclosed in a piecemeal fashion by the

early post-medieval period. Post -1950s boundary loss has been extensive; resulting in the amalgamation of fields, but the overall grain of the irregular field-pattern is still present. A feature of the zone was the complex network of interlinking linear greens, most of which have been encroached on, but traces can be still be discerned within the modern landscape. The historic settlement comprised the village of Great Sampford and a dispersed scatter of halls, isolated farms, moated sites (some of which are scheduled), and cottages strung out along the former greens. Great Sampford is the only settlement of any size within the zone, comprising houses and cottages focussed on the T-junction in front of the church. The roads, bridleways and footpaths are twisting and sometimes partially sunken. The Chapman and André map of 1777 shows a single large wood, Hall Wood, occupying much of the southern part of the zone; remnants of this ancient woodland still survive. There are also areas of surviving enclosed meadow pasture along the river.

**Archaeological Character:** The zone has been extensively studied as part of the Heritage Sampford project. A combination of fieldwalking, metal-detecting, aerial photography and documentary evidence, coupled with some limited trial-trenching, have established human occupation of the zone since the Palaeolithic period. There is the potential for palaeoenvironmental deposits in the valley floor. Part of a Palaeolithic hand-axe has been recovered from the zone, there is evidence of Mesolithic activity in the vicinity of the Gt. Sampford village, and of a Neolithic settlement site at Shillingstone field. There is also evidence for widespread later prehistoric activity, including cropmark ring-ditches and finds scatters. Roman activity was equally widespread, with a possible villa or farmstead at Shillingstone field and numerous smaller finds concentrations. The evidence for the Saxon period includes a few finds, as well as documentary and place-names.

The evidence for the medieval period is widespread, and in many cases still upstanding; it includes the church and village, many moated sites, Listed Buildings, fish ponds and mill mounds, as well as the wider historic landscape of fields' woods and tracks. The cropmark evidence of field-boundaries attests to the survival of below-ground features relating to the historic settlement pattern and landscape. Areas of ancient woodland are found throughout the zone, many of which may

contain both earthworks associated with the woodland as well as preserving earlier earthworks.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Prehistoric and Roman deposits, Medieval settlement pattern, historic buildings, cropmarks, woodland earthworks	2
• Survival	Good survival of historic settlements, historic buildings, below-ground deposits	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic evidence, NMP, Sampford project	2
• Group Value Association	Medieval settlement pattern	3
• Potential	Potential for below-ground deposits both in the present villages and in the rural areas for all periods	2
• Sensitivity to change	Historic settlement pattern and below-ground deposits highly sensitive	3
• Amenity Value	The Sampford project has high amenity value in engaging the public in their local heritage	2

### **HECZ 9.9: Takeley area**

**Summary:** A gently rolling landscape, drained by the River Roding. Archaeological evaluation has shown extensive survival of prehistoric, Roman and medieval deposits. The zone is rich in medieval remains with a number of hall complexes, dispersed moats, farmsteads, and listed buildings. Excavations have identified multi-period deposits surviving across the zone. Occupation begins in the Neolithic with settlement evidence from the Bronze Age through to the medieval period. Evidence of medieval occupation has been identified both from the surviving landscape including the church at Takeley and the moated site at Warish Hall, as well as from excavations.

**Historic Landscape Character:** The zone comprises dissected boulder clay plateau with head deposits and some alluvium in the Roding valley. The fieldscape largely comprises irregular fields of ancient origin, which are probably medieval in origin and some may be even older. Interspersed with these is the occasional former common field, which was enclosed in the late medieval or early post-medieval period. Excavation has demonstrated that some of the irregular fields were further subdivided into linear strips in the past. Within the zone is a network of interlinking linear greens, with evidence of these clearly discerned within the modern landscape as at Jacks Green leading up to Warish Hall. The River Roding was once bordered by meadow pasture, small areas of which still survive. The historic settlement was highly dispersed in nature, with halls, isolated farms, moated sites and cottages strung out along the greens. The moat at Warish Hall is scheduled and the hall is grade I listed. The roads, bridleways and footpaths are twisting and sometimes partially sunken. The present settlement of Takeley only developed in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, prior to which Takeley comprised ribbon development along Stane Street. The southern boundary of the zone is formed by the line of the Roman Road of Stane Street .

**Archaeological Character:** Excavation in the zone has shown extensive prehistoric occupation from the Neolithic period onwards, including evidence of settlements, burials and field systems. Neolithic occupation is largely confined to pit sequences, with structures appearing in the Bronze Age. An important sequence of water holes/wells has been excavated at Priors Green spanning the Bronze and Iron Ages. Burial evidence of Bronze Age and Iron Age date has been recovered.



*Fig.48 Excavation at Priors Green of timbers inside Bronze Age water hole*

Roman occupation has been identified on the line of the new A120, indicating rural settlement set back from the main Roman Road from Colchester to Braughing. A rich early Roman burial, probably originally beneath a mound, was found adjacent to Takeley Church which has parallels to those found during excavations at Stansted. The evidence indicates the landscape was being extensively exploited throughout the Roman period.

The evidence for occupation during the medieval period is widespread, and is represented by upstanding features including the field pattern, church, moated sites, and many Listed Buildings. A number of moated sites are located within the zone, both still extant, such as the scheduled site at Warish Hall, the large moat and farm complex at Little Canfield Hall and buried moats such as those found in excavations at Frogs Hall. The evidence indicates the zone was highly populated in the 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, especially in the area of the Greens and Green Lanes. Industrial production comprising pottery kilns has been excavated in the Frogs Hall farm area. Evidence of a large-scale field system comprising a parallel ditched system have been found in excavations around Takeley.



*Fig.49 Medieval pottery kiln under excavation on the line of the A120*

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Prehistoric occupation, Roman deposits, medieval settlements, historic buildings, cropmarks,	3
• Survival	Good survival of historic settlement pattern, historic buildings, and excavation has shown extensive below-ground deposits	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic evidence, excavation reports	3
• Group Value Association	Medieval settlement pattern, moats, pottery kilns	3
• Potential	High potential for below-ground deposits.	3
• Sensitivity to change	Historic settlement pattern and below-ground deposits	3
• Amenity Value	High potential for promotion and management of the historic environment assets to the settlement of Takeley.	3

## 5.10 HECA 10: Takeley To Barnston Area

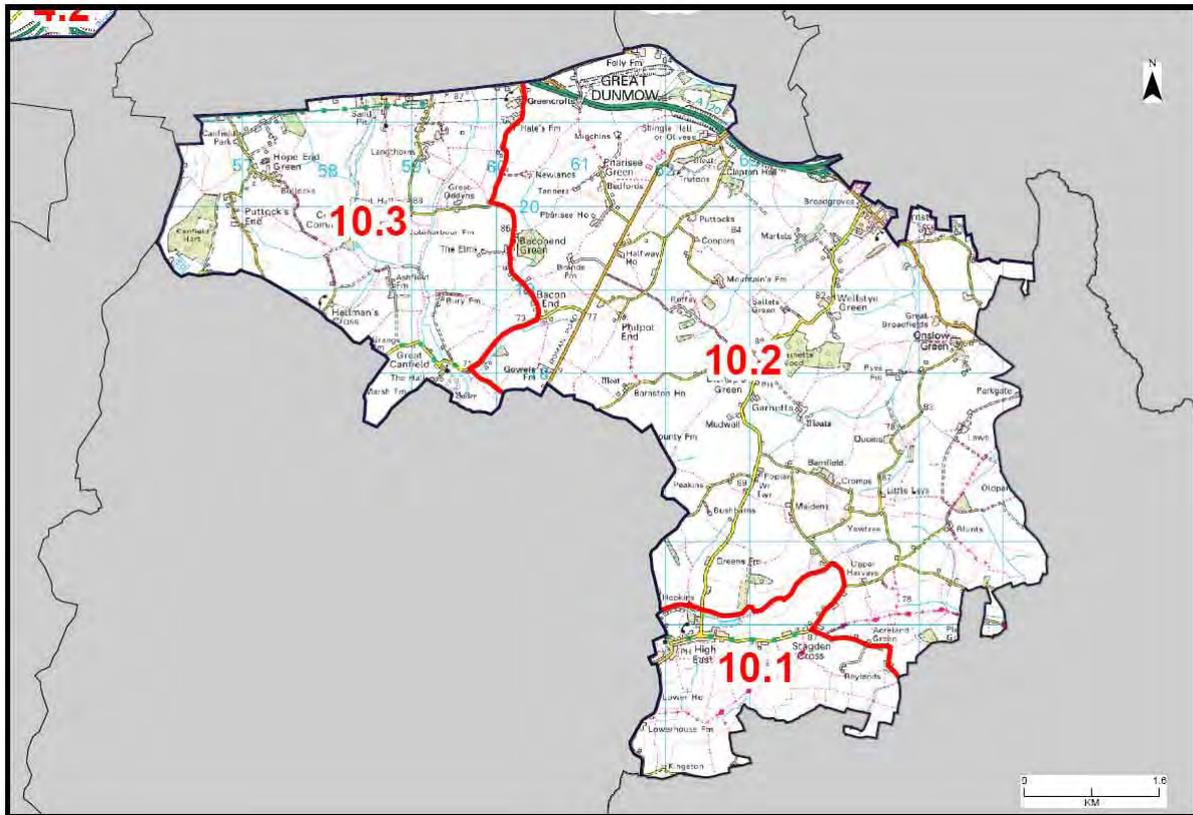


Fig. 50 Historic Environment Character Zones in HECA 10

### **HECZ 10.1: High Easter area**

**Summary:** This zone comprises the historic settlement of High Easter and the area around it. Located on the boulder clay plateau, the ground gently slopes to the south-west and the upper reaches of the valley of the River Can. The historic settlement pattern is dispersed with a small focus of settlement at High Easter.

**Historic Landscape Character:** A gently sloping rural landscape, bordered by the River Can to the south-west and Parsonage Brook to the north. The geology is entirely comprised of boulder clay. The fieldscape largely comprises regular fields, often rectangular or strip in plan, and possibly medieval in origin. The fields become more irregular in the south-east of the zone. There is a band of enclosed meadow pasture along the stream that flows into the River Can and Hayrons Lane. The roads and lanes are twisting with narrow roadside greens and small triangular greens at the road junctions. Historically the settlement was largely dispersed, comprising isolated

farmsteads, moated sites, and greenside settlement, with a small nucleated settlement around the grade I church at High Easter. Close to the church lies the 13<sup>th</sup>-century grade II\* house of High Easterbury. This pattern survives to the present day, with the addition of some ribbon development. Boundary loss in the 20<sup>th</sup> century has been high, with the many small fields consolidated to form a single large one.

**Archaeological Character:** There has only been limited archaeological fieldwork within this zone; however, prehistoric sites are known to exist to the north of this zone and can be anticipated here also. Evidence of Iron Age and Roman occupation has been found in advance of development in High Easter. The stream valleys have the potential to contain important palaeo-environmental deposits.

Excavations within High Easter have shown the presence of surviving medieval features and finds. During the modern period a large number of field boundaries have been lost to agricultural ‘improvements’; many of these boundaries have been recorded as cropmark evidence.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of deposits largely restricted to the medieval period	2
• Survival	Due to the lack of development there is likely to be good survival of features and deposits	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic and documentary evidence, NMP data	2
• Group Value Association	Medieval and post medieval settlement pattern	1
• Potential	Good potential for below-ground deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	The dispersed settlement pattern is sensitive to change	2
• Amenity Value	Potential to promote the settlement pattern and history of Uttlesford in conjunction with other zones.	2

## **HECZ 10.2: Barnston area**

**Summary:** This zone comprises a very distinctive area of small fields and isolated moated sites and farms hidden in equally small valleys. The later prehistoric and Roman periods are recorded in this area, both from excavation and aerial photography. The main Roman route from Harlow to Great Dunmow crosses the western part of the zone. The area is especially rich in medieval remains with a number of moats scheduled.

**Historic Landscape Character:** A surprisingly complex rural landscape, dissected by numerous small streams. The geology largely comprises heavy boulder clay, with alluvial and Head deposits in the stream valleys and small outcrops of London Clay in the valley sides. The zone is sub-divided by a network of twisting lanes (often sunken), bridleways and footpaths, the only exception being the B184, which follows the straight line of the Roman road. The fieldscape largely comprises irregular fields of ancient origin, but these are interspersed with blocks of small rectangular or strip fields. Historically, the majority of the fields were noticeably smaller than was usual in Essex, and there has been degree of modern amalgamation to make larger fields. The fieldscape appears to have been largely dictated by the valley topography and the heavy, damp clay soils, which would have encouraged the keeping of livestock as opposed to arable agriculture. There are numerous small former commons and linear greens, enclosed meadow pasture survives in the valley floors. There has been post-1950s boundary loss, with some land-owners having rationalised the field pattern more than others. There are also a number of areas of ancient woodland, including the nationally important Garnetts Wood, which is one of the best examples of lime woodland in Essex. The settlement is highly dispersed, comprising isolated farmsteads, a large number of moated sites, and scattered roadside and greenside settlement. The only modern settlement of any size is Barnston, and historically this was a church/hall complex with a scatter of farms and cottages along the main road, the current village being largely the result of post-World War II housing development. Examination of the cartographic evidence in the east of the zone has established that there were once more hamlets in the valleys, comprising small clusters of cottages around equally small greens, these appear to have been abandoned or consolidated

into larger farms, possibly due to post-medieval agricultural depression. There are numerous Listed Buildings, largely comprising farmhouses and agricultural buildings.

**Archaeological Character:** There has only been limited archaeological fieldwork within this zone, due to the absence of development. However the route of the new A120 has established the survival of archaeological remains in the area. Prehistoric deposits are known to exist to the north of this zone and can be anticipated within this zone. Evidence of later prehistoric occupation has been found on various sites in the zone including a cropmark complex to the south of the A120 of Iron Age and Roman date. The area is bisected by the Roman road from Great Dunmow running south to Harlow, and there is the possibility of settlement associated with this. The stream valleys have the potential to contain palaeo-environmental deposits.

During the medieval period the settlement pattern was highly dispersed, comprising the church/hall complex at Barnston, small hamlets, dispersed moats and farmsteads. Elements of this pattern are known to have been removed in the last few centuries, but there is a high probability that they survive as below-ground remains. A number of the moats are Scheduled Monuments, including the unusual circular moated site of Great Garnetts. The dismantled Braintree to Bishop Stortford railway crosses the northern part of the zone. During the modern period, a large number of field boundaries, especially in the southern part of the zone, have been lost to agricultural ‘improvements’. Many of these boundaries have been recorded as cropmark evidence. There are surviving earthworks within the woodland at Garnetts Wood.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of medieval and post-medieval buildings, Roman and prehistoric deposits, moats, earthworks	2
• Survival	Good survival due to limited development in zone.	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic and documentary evidence, NMP, Scheduling	2
• Group Value Association	Important group value associated with	3

	medieval and post-medieval settlement	
• Potential	Good potential for below-ground deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Sensitive to change due to the significance and nature of the historic settlement pattern	2
• Amenity Value	Potential for promotion of the settlement pattern associated with the surviving important woodland at Garnetts Wood, and in conjunction with other zones.	2

### HECZ 10.3: The Canfields

**Summary:** This zone comprises the rural parishes of Great and Little Canfield. The zone is bisected by the River Roding. Later prehistoric and Roman occupation is recorded in this area, both from excavation and aerial photography. The main Roman route of Stane Street forms the northern limit of this zone. The zone has a wide range of medieval remains, including a Scheduled motte and bailey castle at Great Canfield.

**Historic Landscape Character:** A rural landscape, dissected by the River Roding and numerous small streams. The geology largely consists of chalky boulder clay, with sands and gravels, head and alluvial deposits in the river valleys. The zone is sub-divided into a network of twisting lanes (often sunken), bridleways and footpaths, the only exception being the old A120, which follows the line of the Roman road. The fieldscape largely comprises irregular fields of ancient origin, possibly medieval. There were a number of small commons and linear roadside greens; the former have all been enclosed but the latter still largely survive as wide roadside verges. There were extensive tracts of enclosed meadow pasture in the valley floor of the River Roding, and most of this still survives. There are also a number of areas of ancient woodland the most substantial being at Canfield Hart. The settlement is highly dispersed, comprising isolated farmsteads, a large number of moated sites, and scattered roadside and greenside settlement. Great and Little Canfield both had their origins as church/hall complexes. The medieval settlement pattern survives to the present day, with the addition of small-scale plotland development at Hope Green

and some ribbon development. Examination of the cartographic evidence in the east of the area has established that there were once more farms in the Hope End area, but these appear to have been abandoned or consolidated into larger farms, possibly due to the early 20<sup>th</sup>-century agricultural depression. There are numerous Listed Buildings, largely comprising farmhouses and agricultural buildings, but also including the Grade I parish church of St Mary's, Great Canfield. The dismantled Braintree to Bishop Stortford railway crosses the northern part of the area. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, some of the area around Hope End was turned into plotlands, an outlier of the wider plotlands to the north at Takeley. There has been post-1950s field boundary loss, in some places quite slight, in others considerable, some land-owners having rationalised the field pattern more than others.



*Fig. 51 Scheduled Medieval Motte at Great Canfield*

**Archaeological Character:** There has only been limited archaeological fieldwork within this zone, due to the absence of development. Prehistoric remains are known to exist to the north of this zone and can be anticipated here also. The stream valleys have the potential to contain important palaeo-environmental deposits. There

are a number of stray finds of Iron Age date from the zone. The Roman period is represented by a number of sites, including a Roman settlement and cemetery at Cow Common. Moreover, the Roman road of Stane Street forms the northern boundary to this zone and settlement associated with the road can be anticipated.

During the medieval period the settlement pattern was highly dispersed, comprising the church/hall complex at Great Canfield, small hamlets, dispersed moats and farmsteads. Many of the moats survive, whilst others are identifiable from the aerial photographic record. The 12<sup>th</sup>-century motte and bailey at Great Canfield survives as a Scheduled earthwork. Other, slighter, remains relating to the historic settlement pattern can also be anticipated to be present in the zone. During the modern period a number of field boundaries have been lost to agricultural 'improvements'; many of these boundaries have been recorded as cropmarks.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of medieval and post medieval buildings, earthworks, Roman sites, moats	2
• Survival	Good survival due to limited development in zone.	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic and documentary evidence, NMP, Scheduling	2
• Group Value Association	Medieval and post-medieval settlement pattern and landscape features	3
• Potential	Good potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Sensitive to change due to the significance and nature of the historic settlement pattern	2
• Amenity Value	Potential for promotion of the settlement pattern as part of a wider appreciation of the history of Uttlesford.	2

## 5.11 HECA 11: The Rodings

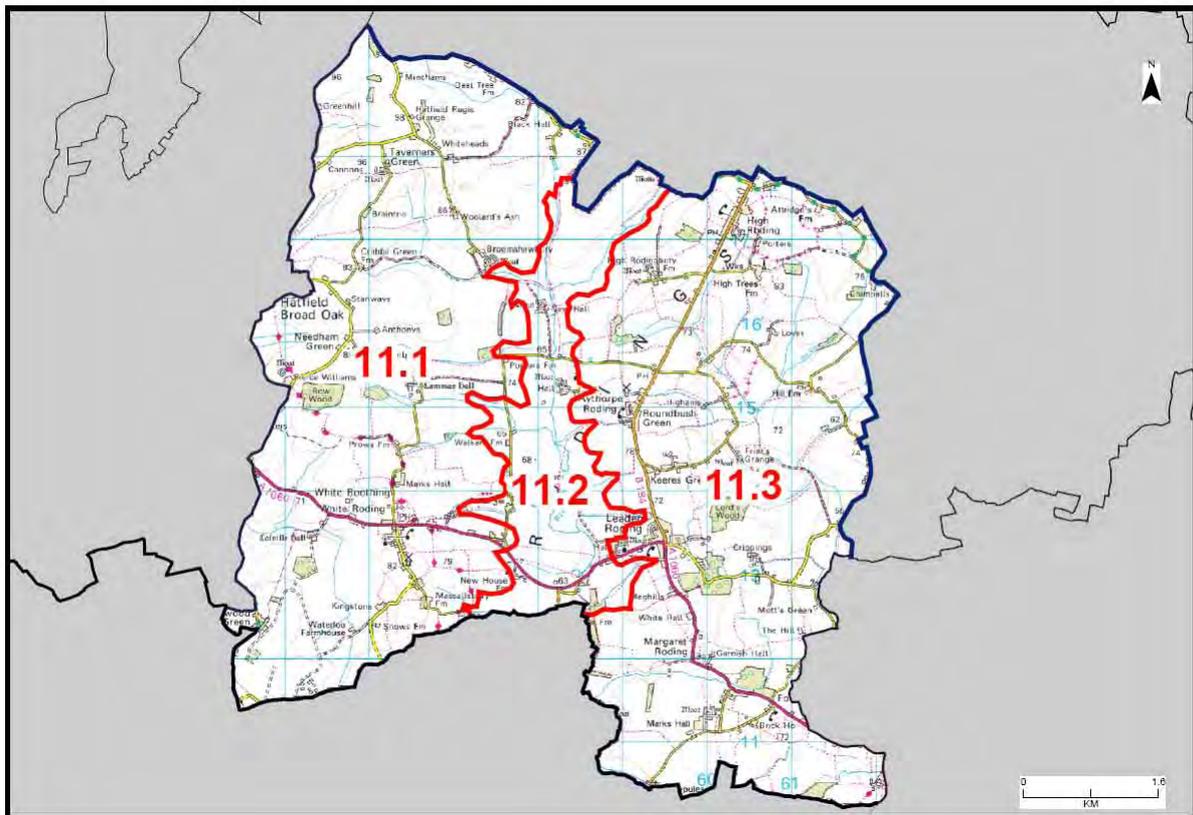


Fig. 52 Historic Environment Character Zones in HECA 11

### HECZ 11.1: The Western Rodings

**Summary:** The zone comprises very gently undulating landscape to the west of the valley of the River Roding. The later prehistoric and Roman periods are well represented from archaeological work and aerial photography. This zone forms one part of the Anglo-Saxon territory known as the *Hrodingas* (see also HECZ 11.2 and 11.3). There is a range of medieval remains, including a number of Scheduled moated sites. These form part of historic landscape and settlement pattern which survives well, despite 20<sup>th</sup>-century boundary loss.

#### Historic Landscape Character:

A rural landscape, comprising much of the boulder-clay ridge between the valleys of the River Roding and the Pincey Brook, it is drained by numerous small streams. The zone is sub-divided into a network of twisting lanes (often sunken), bridleways and footpaths. The fieldscape largely comprises irregular fields of pre-18th century

origin; these become smaller and more irregular in the north-west corner of the zone. There are a number of small former commons and linear roadside greens; the former have all been enclosed, but a number of the latter still survive as wide roadside verges. Some areas of enclosed meadow pasture survive in the stream-valley floors. It is probable that much of this fieldscape is very ancient, and portions of it may well have its origins in the late Saxon period. There are also a number of areas of ancient woodland; those in the south-west corner of the zone are remnants of the former Man Wood and Marks Wood. This was largely destroyed during the construction of the Second World War airfield at Matching. The historic settlement pattern is highly dispersed, comprising the church/hall complex at White Roding, isolated farmsteads, a large number of moated sites, and scattered roadside and greenside settlement. During the post-medieval period, changes in agricultural production are reflected in changing farm complexes with the development of the Victorian 'High Farming' tradition when new ideas culminated in significant alterations in the design and layouts of buildings. Modern development is limited to the White Roding area and some other limited roadside development. There has been post-1950s boundary loss, in some areas this is quite extensive with some land-owners having rationalised the field pattern more than others.

### **Archaeological Character:**

Due to the lack of recent development in the zone, little in the way of archaeological excavation has taken place here. However, there is evidence for Mesolithic and Neolithic activity, largely in the form of flint flakes and tools. Excavation along the Cambridge-Matching Green pipeline which crosses this zone has established the potential for widespread below-ground archaeology dating from the later prehistoric period onwards. In addition, Roman settlement, possibly a villa, has been identified at FitzJohns, Great Canfield, in the north-eastern part of the zone.

In the Saxon period, the zone is thought to have formed part of a single Saxon tribal territory or land holding, the *Hrodingas*, and the probability is that remains dated to this period survive within or below the modern landscape. The *Hrodingas* was subdivided in the medieval period into the eight ecclesiastical parishes known as the Rodings (one of which, White Roding lies within this zone). The medieval settlement pattern survives well, and further elements relating to the historic settlement and

landscape probably survive below-ground, as demonstrated by the numerous cropmarks of field boundaries.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of medieval and post-medieval buildings, earthworks, Roman and prehistoric deposits, moats	2
• Survival	Good survival due to limited development in zone.	2
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic and documentary evidence, NMP, Scheduling	2
• Group Value Association	Important group value associated with medieval and post-medieval settlement pattern	3
• Potential	Good potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Sensitive to change due to the significance and nature of the historic settlement pattern	2
• Amenity Value	Potential for promotion of the history of the <i>Hrodingas</i> in association with the HECZ 11.2 and 11.3	2

### **HECZ 11.2: The Roding valley**

**Summary:** The zone comprises the shallow valley of the River Roding. Evidence for the later prehistoric and Roman periods are present in the zone, including a Roman village. The area has potential for palaeo-environmental deposits. This zone formed part of the Anglo-Saxon territory known as the *Hrodingas* (see also HECZ 11.1 and 11.3). The main structure of the historic landscape and settlement pattern survives well, despite 20<sup>th</sup>-century boundary loss.

**Historic Landscape Character:** A rural landscape comprising the valley of the River Roding. There are Head and alluvial deposits in the valley floor, whilst the slopes are boulder clay. The fieldscape largely comprises irregular fields. There were large areas of enclosed meadow pasture adjoining the river, much of which still survives. It is probable that much of this fieldscape is very ancient indeed, and may well have its origins in the late Saxon period. The settlement is highly dispersed, comprising the church/hall complex at Aythorpe Roding, a number of moated sites and a few isolated cottages. During the post-medieval period, changes in agricultural production are reflected in changing farm complexes with the development of the Victorian 'High Farming' tradition when new ideas culminated in significant alterations in the design and layouts of buildings. Modern development is limited to a few isolated buildings spaced out along the road. There have been quite substantial amounts of post-1950s boundary loss, although this varies according to individual land-owners.

**Archaeological Character:** Recent fieldwork in the form of geophysical survey, fieldwalking and metal-detection has identified the presence of a substantial Roman village, located at the point where the Roman road from Great Dunmow crosses the River Roding. Evidence for later prehistoric settlement in the area has also been recovered from this site. There is potential for palaeoenvironmental deposits within and beneath the alluvial/colluvial associated with the River Roding.

In the Saxon period, the area is thought to have formed part of a single Saxon tribal territory or land holding, the *Hrodingas*, and below-ground remains dating to this period may survive. The *Hrodingas* was sub-divided in the medieval period into the eight ecclesiastical parishes known as the Rodings (two of which, Leaden Roding and Aythorpe Roding, lie partly within this zone). The settlement focus for this area seems to have moved from the Roman settlement site to the church/hall complex at Leaden Roding (HECZ 11.3) in the medieval period. The settlement pattern otherwise is both sparse and highly dispersed, comprising a couple of moated farmsteads, further features relating to this period may survive within the zone. During the modern period a large number of field boundaries have been lost to agricultural 'improvements', but are still visible as cropmarks.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of medieval and post-medieval buildings, Roman and prehistoric deposits, moats, palaeo-environmental deposits	3
• Survival	Extensive survival across the zone. Some field boundary loss.	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic and documentary evidence, NMP, geophysical survey	2
• Group Value Association	Roman village; the medieval and post-medieval settlement pattern	3
• Potential	Good potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	High sensitivity due to the significance and nature of the historic settlement pattern, potential of below-ground deposits	2
• Amenity Value	Potential for promotion of the <i>Hrodingas</i> territory in association with zones 11.1 and 11.3	2

### **HECZ 11.3: The Eastern Rodings**

**Summary:** The zone comprises the eastern ridge of the valley of the River Roding. The later prehistoric and Roman periods are well represented from fieldwork and aerial photography. This zone forms one part of the Anglo-Saxon territory known as the *Hrodingas* (HECZ 11.1 and 11.2). The basically medieval structure of the historic landscape and settlement pattern survives well, despite recent boundary loss. Cropmarks in the southern part of the zone indicate extensive archaeological deposits surviving in the zone.

**Historic Landscape Character:** A rural landscape, on very gently undulating boulder clay to the east of the River Roding, drained by numerous small streams.

The zone is sub-divided by the Roman road from Great Dunmow, as well as an intricate network of twisting lanes (often sunken), bridleways and footpaths. The fieldscape largely comprises irregular fields of ancient, possibly late Saxon, origin; these are notably smaller in the north-eastern part of the zone. There are a number of small former commons and linear roadside greens; the former have all been enclosed, and the greens have largely been encroached on by gardens or in some cases housing. Enclosed meadow pasture survives in the valley floors. There are also a number of areas of ancient woodland, particularly in the central and southern part of the zone. The medieval settlement pattern is highly dispersed, it comprises church/hall complexes, moated sites and unmoated farmsteads and cottages and scattered roadside and greenside settlement. The moated site at Friars Grange is a Scheduled Monument. There are also a large number of Listed Buildings, dating from the medieval period onwards. During the post-medieval period, changes in agricultural production are reflected in changing farm complexes with the development of the Victorian 'High Farming' tradition when new ideas culminated in significant alterations in the design and layouts of buildings. There has been post-1950s boundary loss, with some land-owners having rationalised the field pattern more than others. There is very little modern development.

**Archaeological Character:** Little archaeological fieldwork has taken place in this zone; however, cropmark evidence shows a series of enclosures, probably representing settlements of later prehistoric or Roman date, and these are concentrated in the southern half of the zone. There is some evidence for Mesolithic and Neolithic activity, largely in the form of individual finds of flintwork. The Roman road to Great Dunmow bisects this zone and there is the potential for Roman settlement associated with this routeway.

In the Saxon period the zone is thought to have formed part of a single Saxon tribal territory or land holding, the *Hrodingas*. This was sub-divided in the medieval period into the eight ecclesiastical parishes known as the Rodings (parts of High Roding, Aythorpe Roding, Leaden Roding and Margaret Roding all lie within this zone). Below-ground remains relating to the Saxon and medieval settlement and landscape can be anticipated to survive. During the modern period a large number of field

boundaries have been lost to agricultural ‘improvements’, but many of these are still visible as cropmarks.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Roman and prehistoric deposits, Range of medieval and post-medieval buildings, including church/hall complexes and moats	3
• Survival	Good survival due to limited development in zone.	3
• Documentation	HER data, cartographic and documentary evidence, NMP, Scheduling	2
• Group Value Association	Medieval and post-medieval settlement pattern	3
• Potential	Good potential for below-ground archaeological deposits	2
• Sensitivity to change	Sensitive to change due to the significance and nature of the historic settlement pattern	2
• Amenity Value	Potential for promotion of the <i>Hrodingas</i> territory in association with zones 11.1 and 2	2

## 5.12 HECA 12: Stansted Mountfitchet

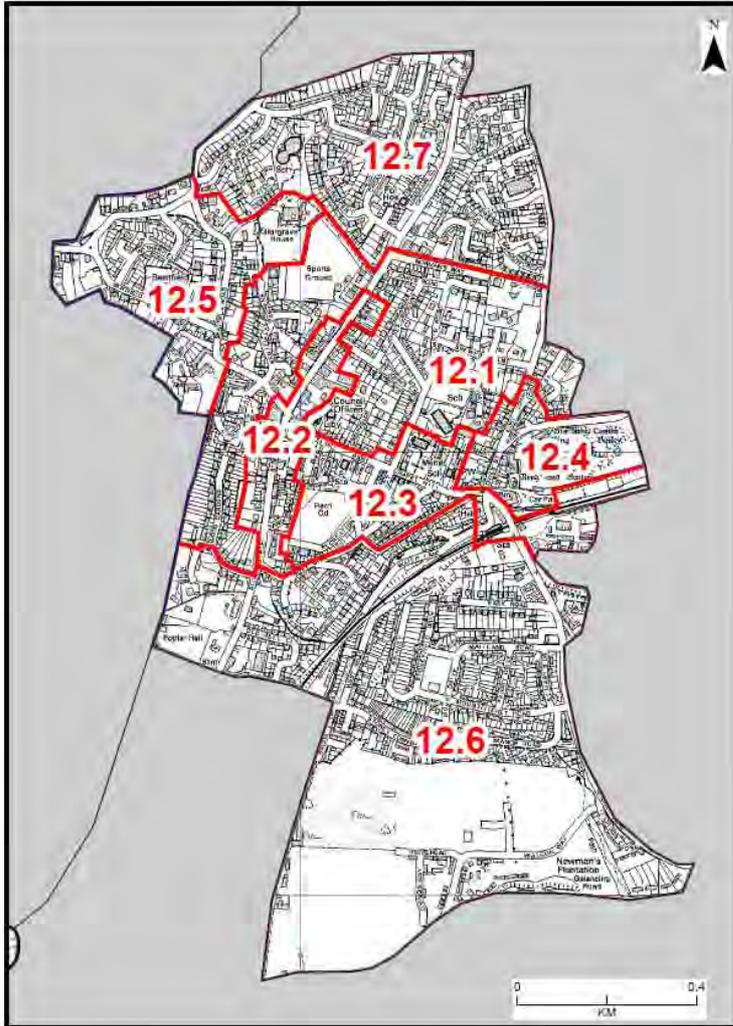


Fig. 53 Historic Environment Character Zones in Stansted Mountfitchet

### HECZ 12.1: Brewery Lane and West of Cambridge Road

**Summary:** This zone comprises a residential area in Stansted Mountfitchet linking the historic cores of Cambridge Road and Lower Street and surrounding the northern side of Cambridge Street.

**Historic Urban Character:** The Brewery Lane part of this zone comprises mainly 20<sup>th</sup> century pre and post-war residential development infilling between the two historic cores. It includes a number of large early 20<sup>th</sup>-century houses in spacious plots built along St Johns Road and pre war houses along St Johns Crescent and

Chapel Hill. Many of the buildings occupy the former Stansted Brewery site and former allotment gardens. To the west of Cambridge Road there is a band of modern post-war residential development to the rear of the historic core along the main thoroughfare and between it and Bentfield End. It mainly comprises a number of planned cul-de-sac developments which are partially built on former park land of Hargrave House (Bentfield Gardens) and Blythwood House (Blythwood Gardens)

**Archaeological Character:** Little archaeological work has been undertaken within the zone. The geology comprises glaciofluvial sands and gravels with a band of Thanet sands along the western edge. Archaeological evaluation in the grounds of Mont House found evidence of residual pottery dating to the 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century and a range of post-medieval garden features. It is possible that archaeological deposits will survive within open areas within the zone.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Little diversity	1
• Survival	Potential survival of deposits in undeveloped areas	1
• Documentation	HER data, Cartographic,	1
• Group Value Association	Historic development of Stansted in association with other zones	2
• Potential	Potential for below-ground deposits survives in open areas	1
• Sensitivity to change	Little sensitivity	1
• Amenity Value	Zone can be promoted in association with other zones within the town.	1

**HECZ 12.2: Silver Street, Stansted Mountfitchet**

**Summary:** This zone comprises post-medieval ribbon development along Silver Street and Cambridge Road, and contains a scheduled tower mill. There is potential of earlier occupation beneath the street frontage area.

**Historic Urban Character:** This zone forms a settlement on higher ground along Cambridge Road and Silver Street, the secondary historic core at Stansted, ribbon development along the line of the former Roman Road from Harlow to Cambridge. The dwellings were built facing onto the main thoroughfare and there are remnants of burgage plots still in evidence within the present streetscape. The post-medieval and Victorian character of this zone remains mainly unaltered, with the exception of new build around and to the south of the Chapel Hill junction. At the southern end of the zone lies the scheduled building of Stansted Windmill and an important surviving smithy lies towards the northern end. The southern half of the zone is protected as a conservation area.

**Archaeological Character:** The geology consists entirely of glaciofluvial sands and gravels. The geology consists entirely of glaciofluvial sands and gravels. There is little known archaeology in this zone. It does however include the Stansted tower mill, a Scheduled Monument, and the site of a late 19<sup>th</sup> smithy. The street frontage is likely to have been occupied since the medieval period and there is potential of surviving deposits beneath and between the present properties.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Range of historic buildings, tower mill	2
• Survival	Survival of buildings and burgage plots	2
• Documentation	HER, Cartographic, scheduling	2
• Group Value Association	Historic buildings	2
• Potential	Potential for evidence of earlier occupation	2
• Sensitivity to change	Layout sensitive to change as well as buildings	2
• Amenity Value	Settlement history could be promoted with the remainder of the settlement.	2

**HECZ 12.3: Chapel Hill and the Station, Stansted Mountfitchet**

**Summary:** This zone comprises 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century development around the railway station and along Chapel Hill. This zone links two of the historic cores at Lower Street and Cambridge Road with a large part protected as a conservation area. No below-ground archaeology is known.

**Historic Urban Character:** This zone comprises 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century development to the south and west of the historic core centred on Chapel Hill, the main thoroughfare linking the two historic cores of (lower) Lower Street and (upper) Cambridge Road. It includes many structural elements of that date, including the Primary School, Congregational Chapel, Friend’s Meeting House, War Memorial, Recreation Ground and the station. The zone comprises a mixture of housing styles with terrace housing to the east and rear of Chapel Hill at Woodfields. Larger 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century villa-type houses overlooking the Recreation Ground and a mixture of larger houses, terraces and public buildings front Chapel Hill. Most of the zone falls within the Stansted Mountfitchet Conservation Area.

**Archaeological Character:** Little archaeological work has occurred within the zone. The geology entirely consists of glaciofluvial sands and gravels. Industrial archaeology is represented by a late 19<sup>th</sup>-century steam driven corn mill which was later replaced by a water works. Due to the density of settlement in this zone it is considered that the levels of disturbance to any below-ground deposits would be high, with the exception of the areas of open space, most notably the recreation ground. The area of the waterworks remains undeveloped.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> century buildings, industrial sites	1
• Survival	Buildings and layout survives well	2
• Documentation	HER data, Cartographic,	1
• Group Value Association	Historic development of Stansted	2
• Potential	Limited, potential for below-ground deposits survives in open areas	1
• Sensitivity to change	Buildings and layout sensitive especially	3

	within the conservation area	
• Amenity Value	The zone can be promoted via the Conservation Area, notice boards and possible VDS.	2

#### **HECZ 12.4: Lower Street and Stansted Castle**

**Summary:** This zone comprises the historic core of Lower Street and the Scheduled Motte and Bailey Castle which was originally constructed in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Although largely dismantled in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the castle mound survives as a dominant feature at Stansted. The castle formed the focus for settlement in the medieval period, developing to the north of the castle along Lower Street. A range of listed buildings of 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>-century date survive in Lower Street.

**Historic Urban Character:** This zone comprises the historic core of medieval Stansted Mountfitchet focused around the scheduled Monument of the Ring and Bailey castle built in the 11<sup>th</sup> century and dismantled in 1215. A settlement developed outside the castle bailey and along Lower Street in the medieval and post-medieval periods taking the form of ribbon development along Lower Street. Stansted developed as a bi-focal settlement with a centre next to the castle in Lower Street and a parallel settlement along the former Roman road of Cambridge Road and Silver Street. Lower Street still retains many vernacular post-medieval timber framed buildings, protected as listed structures, with few modern intrusions. The market would have been located close to the castle in Lower Street. A large part of this zone is protected as a conservation area.

**Archaeological Character:** The geology comprises glaciofluvial sands and gravels, bounded by head deposits to the west and by alluvial deposits in the valley of the Stansted Brook to the south. There is the potential for the survival of palaeoenvironmental evidence from the Stansted brook area. Evidence of Roman occupation has been found to the East of the Castle in the form of Roman coins and pottery as well as in the Lower Street area. Mountfitchet Castle is a Norman stone ringwork and bailey fortress, founded by Robert Gernon, duke of Boulogne. The large ringwork was encased by a water-filled ditch, with the bailey having strong ramparts

and ditches to the north and east. On the southern slope are fragments of 12th century masonry, which is all that remains from the castle King John attacked and dismantled in 1215. The Castle is protected as a Scheduled Monument and the zone lies within a conservation area. Evidence of medieval occupation will survive within the settlement associated to the castle.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Listed buildings, castle, below-ground medieval and post-medieval deposits	3
• Survival	Settlement and castle survive well	2
• Documentation	HER data, Cartographic,	2
• Group Value Association	Settlement history	2
• Potential	High potential for below-ground deposits survives in area of settlement and on castle site	3
• Sensitivity to change	Settlement and Castle highly sensitive to change	3
• Amenity Value	Castle is well promoted, could promote in association with the remainder of the town	3

**HECZ 12.5: Bentfield End and Bentfield Green**

**Summary:** This zone, situated on the western side of Stansted Mountfitchet, comprises the historic small settlements of Bentfield End and Bentfield Green. Both settlements contain a range of listed buildings including farm complexes, with Bentfield End protected as a conservation area. The zone also contains the large post-medieval country house of Hargrave House.

**Historic Urban Character:** This zone includes historic dispersed settlement comprising two nucleated sites at Bentfield End and Bentfield Green. Both settlements contain farm complexes and a range of cottages. Many of the buildings in the conservation area at Bentfield End front the main streets whilst the range of 19<sup>th</sup>-century terraces is located on the northern side of the Causeway. The area

around the 17<sup>th</sup>-century Bentfield Place and the Causeway are protected by a conservation area. The large house of Hargraves, in the north east of the zone, dates to the later 19<sup>th</sup> century, and has extensive grounds. The zone also incorporates a modern post-war housing development infilling between Bentfield End Causeway and Bentfield End Green.

**Archaeological Character:** The geology comprises boulder clay, with a band of Kesgrave sands and gravels to the west and Thanet sand to the east. No archaeological work has been undertaken within this zone. There are likely to be below ground deposits associated with the post-medieval farmsteads, potentially comprising remains of earlier occupation of the sites.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Listed buildings	2
• Survival	Historic buildings survive	2
• Documentation	HER data, Cartographic	1
• Group Value Association	Listed buildings	2
• Potential	Some potential for below-ground deposits survives in area of listed buildings	2
• Sensitivity to change	Historic buildings sensitive to change	2
• Amenity Value	Historic settlements in association with Conservation area could be promoted locally	2

**HECZ 12.6: South Stansted and Rochford Nurseries**

**Summary:** This zone is largely residential forming the southern part of Stansted and the 21<sup>st</sup>-century development of Rochford Nurseries. Some prehistoric deposits have been identified including burial evidence.

**Historic Urban Character:** The Pine Hills area is characterised by large 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>-century houses each set within large gardens. Settlement in the Water Lane area is mainly post war, with a scattering of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century terraced

cottages. The Stoneyfield Common area is mainly late 20<sup>th</sup>-century housing estate built on former common land to the south of the railway, however it does include late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century ribbon development built along Stoney Common, West and Park Roads. There is a large ongoing 21<sup>st</sup>-century housing development, Forest Hall Park, on the former Rochford Nursery site. A number of almshouses located on the eastern edge of the zone on Church Road are of historic and architectural interest.

**Archaeological Character:** The geology largely comprises glaciofluvial sands and gravels with alluvium in the valley of the Stansted brook; the latter may contain palaeoenvironmental evidence. The zone contains evidence of prehistoric occupation comprising burials of Bronze Age date. A Roman road running north-south bisects the zone. Archaeological evaluation and excavation on the Rochford Nurseries site found evidence of limited prehistoric and medieval occupation. The workers’ housing associated with the nursery was also recorded, as this was unusual with water reservoirs on their roofs.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Listed buildings, Bronze Age burials, Roman road	2
• Survival	Little survival due to residential development	1
• Documentation	HER data, excavation reports, Cartographic	2
• Group Value Association	No group association within the zone	1
• Potential	Has very limited potential due to the level of development	1
• Sensitivity to change	Little sensitivity to change due to the extent of change that has already occurred	1
• Amenity Value	Area can be promoted in association with other zones and the overall development of Stansted.	1

## HECZ 12.7: Northern edge of Stansted

**Summary:** This zone comprises largely modern residential development on the northern edge of Stansted. Part of the site originally formed the landscaped park of Hargrave House. Cartographic evidence shows a large camp in the grounds around the time of World War II.

**Historic Urban Character:** This zone contains post-war residential developments built at different periods either side of the Cambridge Road. It incorporates some post-medieval ribbon development along the Cambridge Road with the residential estate to the west of Cambridge Road built on the former grounds of Hargrave House. There are few buildings of architectural note, although these include the 18<sup>th</sup>-century Three Colts public house and the modern (2002) church of St Theresa of Lisieux.

**Archaeological Character:** The geology consists of glaciofluvial sands and gravels with boulder clay in the western half of the zone. The zone originally formed part of the Hargrave Park, a landscaped area with woodlands on the boundary. A windmill is shown on the Chapman and Andre maps on the very northern edge of the zone. Cartographic evidence from the fourth edition Ordnance Survey shows a large camp constructed in the grounds of Hargrave Park, although whether its function was military or civil is uncertain. No visible evidence of either the park boundary or the camp survives.

• Diversity of historic environment assets	Listed building, windmill, camp, park features	1
• Survival	Little survival due to residential development	1
• Documentation	HER data, Cartographic	2
• Group Value Association	No group association within the zone	1
• Potential	Has very limited potential due to the level of development	1
• Sensitivity to change	Little sensitivity to change due to the	1

	extent of change that has already occurred	
• Amenity Value	Can be promoted in association with other zones especially 12.6	1

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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.

Uttlesford 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.

Uttlesford 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 Uttlesford and route ways;
- The development of a distinctive pattern of dispersed settlement across Uttlesford District;
- The use of the marshes and estuary throughout history as a key resource for agriculture, fishing and industry;
- 20th century urban expansion.

### **1.1.2 Methodology**

Through a combination of analysing and simplifying the regional Historic Landscape Characterisation data, drawing in other key datasets such as Ancient Woodland, historic mapping, historic parks and gardens and secondary sources, it was possible to develop a series of character areas that reflected distinct combinations of Historic Landscape Character types and landscape character attributes.

Once the initial area had been digitised the descriptions for each area were prepared. The descriptions drew on a range of sources and attempted to reflect the reasoning behind the definition of an area and, where possible, relate that area to its wider historic context. The descriptions sought to highlight the key characteristics and HLC types in an area and identify any particular significant features or assets. The process of preparing the descriptions was also a part of the process of defining the areas.

### **1.1.3 Outline of Results**

Figure 54 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. Chesterford ridge**

The landscape rises to a ridge along the northern border with Cambridgeshire, with the underlying chalk visible in the valleys of the Cam and its lateral streams and on the escarpment along the Cambridgeshire boundary. The remainder is covered by a skim of very chalky boulder clay. The area is bisected by the valley of the River Cam, which forms a natural routeway through the ridge.

Large common-fields developed here, of the Cambridgeshire and Midland type, a field-type that is rare in the rest of Essex. Some of these were enclosed by agreement in the early post-medieval period. The remainder were enclosed in the 18th and 19th centuries, partially as part of the parliamentary enclosure act. On the higher land the landscape is more typical of Essex than Cambridgeshire with winding lanes, dispersed hamlets and greens and ancient woodlands. A series of parks, Quendon, Shortgrove, Audley End and Chesterford, are strung out along the river valley.

The nature of the study has led to the development of descriptions and mapping that is broad and general in nature. The characterisation has highlighted the time depth of the structure of the landscape and the role that this structure has played in shaping the development of communities in the region; perhaps indicating that there is a future role for these structures in the implementation of the sustainable communities plan.

## **1.2 Creation of Urban Character areas for Uttlesford**

### **1.2.1 General Background**

Uttlesford contains three main areas of urban landscapes at Great Dunmow, Stansted Mountfitchet and Saffron Walden. All three settlements have long histories. Great Dunmow has its origins as a Roman settlement possibly continuing in occupation through to the modern day. Stansted Monuffitchet has its origins around the Norman Conquest developing around the Castle. Saffron Walden has its origins in the Saxon period, expanding with the development of the castle and planned town in the medieval period.

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 Uttlesford 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 Uttlesford 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 55-57 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: The Historic Core- Lower Street and Castle**

**Predominant Periods:** Post-medieval and Modern

**Secondary Periods:** Medieval

**Predominant Type:** Commercial

**Secondary Type:** Residential

- This comprises the historic core of Stansted Mountfitchet focused around the scheduled Ring and Bailey castle built by the C11, destroyed in 1215.
- A settlement developed outside the castle bailey and along Lower Street in the medieval and post-medieval periods
- This takes the form of ribbon development along Lower Street
- Stansted developed as a bi-focal settlement with a centre next to the castle in Lower Street and a parallel settlement along the former Roman road of Cambridge Road and Silver Street (HUCA 2)
- Listed buildings of note include Savages a C15 hall house and the C17 Queens Head public house. The C12 parish church of St Mary the Virgin lies at some distance outside the historic core and toward Stansted Hall.
- Lower Street still retains many vernacular post-medieval timber framed buildings with few modern intrusions
- The core is now a mixture of retail outlets and residential buildings

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

#### ***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 58 shows the location and extent of the identified Archaeological Context Areas. Each of these areas is accompanied by a short description of the archaeological context (see Appendix 4). This layer is also available in the accompanying GIS. An example of one area is provided below:

#### **ACA 1: River Stort Navigation**

- This area comprises the River Stort floodplain and contains extensive alluvial deposits.
- The surviving alluvial deposits have a very high potential for early prehistoric remains and palaeoenvironmental remains of regional and national importance.
- There is extensive prehistoric occupation on the valley slopes above the valley bottom with evidence suggesting exploitation of the area from the Mesolithic period onwards.
- Roman occupation is known to extend into the flood plain at Hallingbury and is likely to occur in other locations.
- Two mills of post medieval date are recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map at Twyford and Hallingbury. It is probable that mills dating back to the medieval period would have also been located at these sites.
- The area includes extensive evidence of the post-medieval management of the river and its floodplain including part of the Stort Navigation.

The descriptions aim to give a broad indication of the nature of the known archaeology of the area as well as identifying factors that may have influenced the survival and preservation of that archaeological resource. The data is presented in a standard bullet-point format and is designed to give a summary of the character area.

## **1.4 Creation of Historic Environment Character Areas**

The three independent sets of boundaries were overlain on a single drawing. This produced a series of boundaries, some of which corresponded, some of which remained isolated. Areas where Historic Landscape Character Areas and Archaeological Context Areas, and Urban Character Areas and Archaeology Context Areas, coincided were quickly highlighted and these formed the basic structure for the combined areas.

Where area boundaries did not correspond, decisions were made as to the relative primacy of different themes. For the most part the historic landscape boundaries dominated in the rural areas and urban boundaries dominated in urban areas as these reflect visible and recognisable boundaries; their edges also often tend to be more absolute than the archaeological boundaries. However there were some instances where the difference in the archaeological context between parts of the emerging HECA 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 12 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 Uttlesford: Historic Landscape Character Area Descriptions

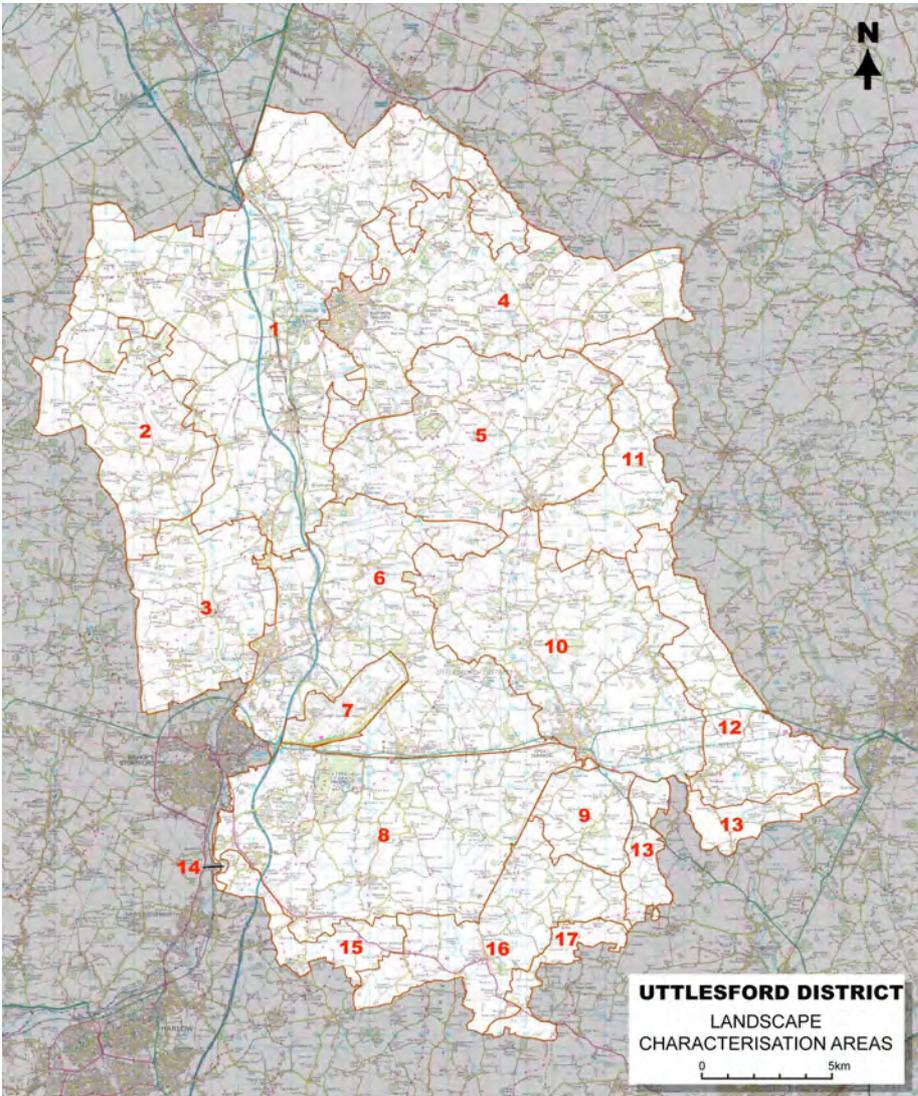


Fig. 54 Historic Landscape Character Areas

### HLCA 1. Chesterford ridge

The landscape rises to a ridge along the northern border with Cambridgeshire, with the underlying chalk visible in the valleys of the Cam and its lateral streams and on the escarpment along the Cambridgeshire boundary. The remainder is covered by a skim of very chalky boulder clay. The area is bisected by the valley of the River Cam, which forms a natural routeway through the ridge.

Large common-fields developed here, of the Cambridgeshire and Midland type, a field-type that is rare in the rest of Essex. Some of these were enclosed by agreement in the early post-medieval period. The remainder were enclosed in the 18th and 19th centuries, partially as part of the parliamentary enclosure act. On the higher land the landscape is more typical of Essex than Cambridgeshire with winding lanes, dispersed hamlets and greens and ancient woodlands. A series of parks, Quendon, Shortgrove, Audley End and Chesterford, are strung out along the river valley.

### **HLCA 2. Clavering area**

The Clavering area comprises a landscape of shallow valleys and ridges. The geology is overwhelmingly boulder clay, with head deposits in the valley floors. It is entirely rural in nature, with the historic settlement pattern widely dispersed along numerous linear greens and stream valleys. This pattern largely survives, although there has been a degree of coalescing creating linear villages along roads. The largest settlement is the village of Clavering, with its church and castle/manorial site.

The fieldscape consists of irregular fields of pre-18th century origin, (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older), interspersed with patches of pre-18th century unenclosed common. The commons were enclosed in the 19th century forming large fields with irregular outlines and grid-like internal subdivisions. There has been a degree of boundary loss since the 1950's but not in significant quantities.

### **HLCA 3. Manuden area**

The area comprises the Stort valley and the gentle ridges to either side. The geology is largely comprised of boulder-clay, with the river valleys cutting into the underlying sand and gravels and head deposits having developed in the valley bottoms. The settlement pattern is very widely dispersed, comprising isolated farms and a few hamlets. The fieldscape is composed of pre-18th century irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older), with a number of small areas of pre-18th century unenclosed common. In the valley of the River Stort are areas of enclosed meadow pasture, some of which still survive. Hassobury Park outside Farnham forms a conspicuous landscape block within the area. There has

been a greater degree of boundary loss in this area than in the Clavering area to the north, although the overall grain of the landscape is still quite finely textured.

#### **HLCA 4. North-east Uttlesford**

An undulating rural landscape, dissected by many small streams. The land is higher in the southeast, falling away to the west and north. The geology comprises chalky boulder clay, overlying chalk, the latter being visible in the valley sides, particularly to the north and west. The fieldscape comprises a mixture of pre-18th century irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older) and former common fields, usually enclosed in the 18th century by piecemeal agreement. The former common fields are concentrated on the higher ground in the south and east of the area. There are a number of ancient woodlands, particularly in the northern half of the area. The historic settlement pattern is dominated by the planned medieval market and castle town of Saffron Walden on the western edge of the area. Otherwise, historically the settlement was very dispersed, comprising church/hall complexes, isolated farms or small hamlets strung out along the roads or roadside greens. The degree of boundary loss is moderate, in some areas rising to high. Interestingly, those fields most affected are the former common fields which have thus been restored to their original dimensions.

#### **HLCA 5. North of Thaxted**

A rolling rural landscape, bisected by the line of the Thaxted-Hadstock Roman road. The geology comprises chalky boulder clay, with alluvium in the valley of the River Pant on the north-east edge of the zone. The historic town of Thaxted is located on the southern edge of the area. The fieldscape is largely comprised of pre-18th century 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. Apart from Thaxted itself, the historic settlement is dispersed in nature, with isolated farms, moated sites and small hamlets strung out along linear greens. The roads are twisting and often partially sunken. The 20th century Carver Barracks is located on the western side of the area. Wimbish Airfield is a relic of World War II. Debden Park on the western boundary is medieval in

origin, and there were further parks associated with Thaxted. There are also a number of areas of ancient woodland. The degree of boundary loss is moderate.

#### **HLCA 6. Central Uttlesford**

Gently rolling rural countryside, crossed by the valleys of the Pincey Brook and the River Roding. The geology comprises boulder clay in the central and eastern area, in the western half the River Stort cuts into glacial sands and gravels, and there are alluvial deposits on the valley floor. Historic settlement is largely dispersed, comprising church/hall complexes, isolated farms, many moated sites and small hamlets, often along linear greens. The only historic settlement of any size is Stansted Mountfitchet, which is centred on its castle and medieval market-place. The fieldscape comprises a complex network of pre-18th century irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older), interspersed with linear greens and a number of former common fields. The latter were largely enclosed in the 19th century and are clustered to the north of Stansted Mountfitchet, forming a southern outlier to the main concentration in the Chesterford Ridge area. There are a number of parks or former parks at Stansted, Shortgrove and Little Easton, the latter subsequently became a World War II airfield. There is a significant proportion of ancient woodland in the area, and many of the hedgerows are also of considerable antiquity. The majority of the roads are intricate, twisting and sunken, indicating their ancient origins, There is good, early cartographic evidence for the Broxted area. The M11 motorway bisects the western half of the area. Boundary loss is low to moderate.

#### **HLCA 7. Stansted Airport**

The area comprises a flat plateau, with the valley of the Pincey Brook on its eastern side. The plateau is a watershed with river systems flowing, north, south and eastwards from it. The flatness of the plateau encouraged the construction of the World War II airfield here. This was enlarged in the 1950s as a local airport. From 1985 massive expansion over a 6 square kilometre area took place and is now proposed for further expansion. The landscape has been extensively re-modelled and little of the earlier fabric remains, apart from a few pockets of ancient woodland.

### **HLCA 8. Hatfield Forest and the Hallingburys**

A gently rolling rural landscape, crossed by the valleys of the Pincey Brook and the River Roding and bordered by the Stort valley on the west. The geology largely comprises chalky boulder clay, with sands and gravels and alluvial deposits in the valley of the River Stort and a small area of head deposits in the Hatfield Heath area. Hatfield Forest is an important survival of a medieval forest, comprising a mixture of wood pasture with pollards, coppice woods, timber trees, a warren, lodge and lake. Within this medieval landscape has been preserved the hillfort of Portingbury Hills. The hillfort of Wallbury Camp is still a major feature of the landscape on the western edge of this area. To the south and west of the Forest are the large medieval parks of Hallingbury Hall and New Barrington Hall, as well as the smaller park of Fitzjohns to the south-east. The fieldscape largely comprises a network of twisting lanes, often sunken, with irregular fields of pre-18th century origin. Against the borders of the Forest is a fringe of more regular fields, probably the result of encroachment on the forest itself. There are quite a number of small former commons and linear greens. Enclosed meadow pasture survives in the valley floors. There are also a number of areas of ancient woodland, in addition to Hatfield Forest. The settlement is largely dispersed, comprising church/hall complexes, isolated farmsteads, a large number of moated sites, and scattered roadside and greenside settlement, with clusters of settlement at Hatfield Heath, Hatfield Broadoak, the Hallingburys and the Canfields. Post-1950's boundary loss is moderate.

### **HLCA 9. Barnston area**

An area of largely small irregular fields of medieval or earlier origin set in the valleys of the Martels and Barnston Brooks. The fieldscape appears to have been largely dictated by the valley topography and the heavy, damp clay soils. The majority of the fields are noticeably smaller than is usual in Essex. There is however a sinuous band of slightly more regular fields along the eastern slope of the Martel Brook valley. Historically the settlement is very dispersed, comprising moated sites, isolated farms and very small hamlets around equally small roadside greens. The only modern settlement of any size is Barnston and settlement was equally small in the historic

periods. Boundary loss is low to moderate, with some land-owners having rationalised the field pattern more than others.

#### **HLCA 10. Upper Chelmer valley**

This area comprises the upper reaches of the Chelmer and the valley of the Stebbing Brook, and the ridge between the two river systems. The geology comprises chalky boulder clay on the interfluvial ridge, glacial sands and gravels are exposed in the sides of the river valleys and there are alluvial deposits on the valley floors. There are extensive enclosed meadow pastures along both river valleys. Otherwise the fieldscape comprises pre-18th century irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older), interspersed by what is categorised as 'mixed origin' fields, these however appear to be also pre-18th century in origin. There is also the occasional common field which had been later enclosed piecemeal by agreement. There are a number of small parks and some ancient woodland. The historic settlement is dominated by the market-town of Great Dunmow on the southern boundary. Otherwise the settlement pattern is one of dispersed settlement with isolated farms, moated sites and small hamlets strung out along linear greens. The roads are twisting and often partially sunken. The post-1950s boundary loss is moderate, rising to high on a few farms.

#### **HLCA 11. Little Bardfield area**

This area largely comprises the upper Pant/Blackwater valley. 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 river 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. Post-1950s boundary loss is moderate, rising to high on a few farms.

#### **HLCA 12. The ridge between Stebbing Brook and Pods Brook**

This area comprises part of the ridge between the Stebbing Brook and 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. It is 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 rivers and streams 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 and some ribbon development along the road. Post 1950s boundary loss is moderate, rising to high on a few farms.

#### **HLCA 13. The Chelmer and Ter valleys**

Undulating countryside forming the Chelmer and Ter valleys and the ridge between them. 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. 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. The area includes the medieval fishponds, enclosed meadow pasture and earthworks at Leez Priory. There are several areas of ancient woodlands, particularly in the Ter valley. Despite moderate to significant boundary loss, the boundary pattern survives.

#### **HLCA 14. Lea-Stort Valley**

The Lea-Stort Valley forms the western boundary to the southern half of Essex. The rivers were canalised in the 19th century. The valley is broad and flat-bottomed with steep-sides. The northern end cuts through head deposits, then progressively

through glaciofluvial deposits, alluvium and London Clay as it heads southwards. The gravel deposits around the Sawbridgeworth area have been extensively extracted, resulting in a landscape of lakes and reclaimed land, parts of which have become nature reserve or adapted for leisure uses. The area has attracted industry linked with the use of water. The fieldscape in the valley bottom consisted largely of meadow pasture, often originating as common and subsequently enclosed, or managed wetland; these are medieval or earlier in origin.

#### **HLCA 15. The Lavers ridge**

A ridge of higher ground, cut by numerous small streams above the Lea-Stort valley. The upper levels comprise boulder clay, with London Clay and Head deposits exposed in the valley sides. The fieldscape comprises large irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even older), interspersed with occasional former common arable enclosed by later agreement, which are more common in the western part of the area. There are small areas of enclosed meadow pasture along some of the larger streams. There are several small areas of ancient woodland, but no larger areas. Historically the settlement pattern is dispersed, comprising church/hall complexes, moated sites, manors, farms and small hamlets, the latter often strung out along linear and roadside greens. This pattern is still evident, although there is a greater degree of linear settlement along the roads and greens due to infilling. The degree of post 1950s boundary loss is limited to moderate.

#### **HLCA 16. The Rodings**

This area comprises the middle reaches of the Roding valley and its tributaries. The valley sides comprise gentle boulder clay slopes, with head and glaciolacustrine deposits in the valley floor. This area encompasses much of an ancient Saxon territory known as the *hrodingas*, which stretched from High Roding in the north down to Beauchamp Roding in the south. The settlement pattern is of a highly dispersed nature, comprising church/hall complexes, isolated farms and cottages, many moated sites and small hamlets. The overall grain of the landscape is very irregular, with numerous small twisting roads and lanes linking the settlement and the many small tributary valleys. On a macro-scale the field type can be described as pre-18th century irregular fields (these are probably of medieval origin and some maybe even

older), although on a micro-scale there is evidence of pre-18th century co-axial sinuous fields within the individual farms. There are enclosed meadows along the Roding and many of its smaller tributaries. Small scattered areas of ancient woodland are located on the ridges between the tributary valleys. It is probable that much of this fieldscape is very ancient indeed, and may well have its origins in the late Saxon period. Post 1950s boundary loss is slight to moderate.

#### **HLCA 17. The Easters**

Gently undulating countryside forming the catchment of the River Can. The geology is Boulder Clay with head and alluvial deposits in the river valleys. The area has a historic dispersed settlement pattern, often originally focussed on greens, with scattered farmsteads surviving. There are many small irregular fields of ancient origin across the area, with pockets of sinuous co-axial fields. Significant boundary loss, particularly in the north on the higher ground, has given an open feel to the countryside. There are a few, small woods of ancient origin surviving. There are also a few ponds. Small roads and green lanes link the settlements, and have survived. Post 1950s boundary loss is moderate to high.

### 3 Uttlesford Historic Urban Characterisation

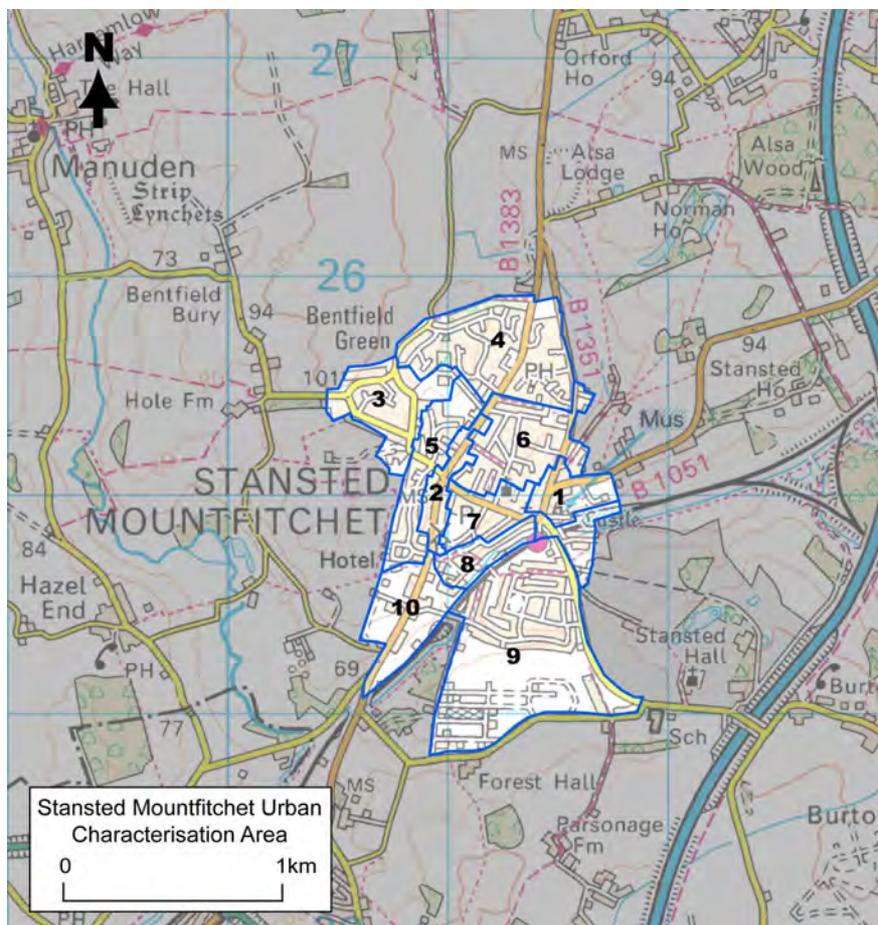


Fig: 55 Historic Urban character areas in Stansted Mountfitchet

#### HUCA 1: The Historic Core- Lower Street and Castle

**Predominant Periods:** Post-medieval and Modern

**Secondary Periods:** Medieval

**Predominant Type:** Commercial

**Secondary Type:** Residential

- This comprises the historic core of Stansted Mountfitchet focused around the scheduled Ring and Bailey castle built by the C11, destroyed in 1215.
- A settlement developed outside the castle bailey and along Lower Street in the medieval and post-medieval periods
- This takes the form of ribbon development along Lower Street

- Stansted developed as a bi-focal settlement with a centre next to the castle in Lower Street and a parallel settlement along the former Roman road of Cambridge Road and Silver Street (HUCA 2)
- Listed buildings of note include Savages a C15 hall house and the C17 Queens Head public house. The C12 parish church of St Mary the Virgin lies at some distance outside the historic core and toward Stansted Hall.
- Lower Street still retains many vernacular post-medieval timber framed buildings with few modern intrusions
- The core is now a mixture of retail outlets and residential buildings

## **HUCA 2: The Historic Core- Cambridge Road and Silver Street**

**Predominant Periods:** Post-medieval and Modern

**Secondary Periods:** Modern

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

- Stansted Mountfitchet developed as a bi-focal settlement with a centre next to the castle (HUCA 1) and a parallel settlement on higher ground to the west along Cambridge Road and Silver Street (HUCA 2).
- This comprises the secondary historic core at Stansted concentrated along the line of the former Roman Road; Cambridge Road and Silver Street.
- This settlement takes the form of ribbon development, with dwellings built facing onto the main thoroughfare
- Remnants of burgage plots are still in evidence within the present streetscape
- The post-medieval-Victorian character of the northern core remains mainly unaltered, although this has been eroded by new build around and to the south of the Chapel Hill junction.
- Incorporates a pocket of later post-medieval industry at the southern extent of the core along Millside
- Interesting buildings include 4-8 Cambridge Road a shopping parade of 1878, an intact C19 blacksmiths workshop to the rear of 35 Cambridge Road and the C18 Stansted Tower windmill.

## **HUCA 3: Bentfield End & Bentfield Green**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern and Post-medieval

**Secondary Periods:** Medieval

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

- Small hamlet to the west of the main thoroughfare along Cambridge Road, comprising Bentfield End and Bentfield Green
- Comprises clusters of later post-medieval buildings (C17-19) along Bentfield Road, the Bentfield End Causeway with some earlier buildings at Bentfield End Green.
- Also incorporates a modern post-war housing development infilling between Bentfield End Causeway and Bentfield End Green.
- Some open green space
- Historic farms at Bentfiels Green Farm and Bentfield Place Farm
- Some modern commercial use along Bentfield Road,
- Buildings of architectural note include Nos. 16-18 Brentfield Green, a C15 Wealden House, the C17 Bentfield Place and the C19 Hargraves House (1875)
- Has remained predominantly residential

#### **HUCA 4: North Stansted**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:** Post-medieval

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

- Modern post-war residential developments built at different periods either side of the Cambridge Road
- Incorporates some post-medieval ribbon development along the Cambridge Road.
- The housing estate to the west of Cambridge Road was built on the former grounds of Hargrave House.
- Mainly modern non-terraced housing built in cul-de-sac street plans
- Includes some commercial use along Cambridge Road and High Lane
- There are few buildings of architectural note, although includes the C18 Three Colts public house and the modern (2002) church of St Theresa of Lisieux based on the medieval Barley Barn at Cressing Temple .

#### **HUCA 5: West of Cambridge Road**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:**

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

- Band of modern post-war multi-period residential development to the rear of the historic core along the main thoroughfare and between it and Bentfield End
- Incorporates some post-medieval ribbon development along the southern end of Silver Street but mainly comprises a number of planned cul-de-sac developments
- Partially built on former park land of Hargrave House (Bentfield Gardens) and Blythwood House (Blythwood Gardens)
- Includes part of the former Hargrave House parklands as public open space and sports fields
- There are few historic buildings of note although includes the C18 Crown House.
- Almost entirely residential

### **HUCA 6: Brewery Lane**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:** Post-medieval

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:**

- Area of mainly C20 pre and post war residential development infilling between the two historic cores (HUCA 1 and HUCA 2).
- Includes a number of large early C20 houses in spacious plots built along St Johns Road and pre war houses along St Johns Crescent and Chapel Hill
- Residential area comprising many private (non council) roads
- Occupies the former Stansted Brewery site and areas of former allotment gardens
- Public buildings include St Mary primary school and the Stansted Parish Council offices and library
- Includes the listed C18 Mont Cottage, a the C19 infants school along Gall End Lane and Croft House

### **HUCA 7: Chapel Hill**

**Predominant Periods:** Post-medieval

**Secondary Periods:** Modern

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

- Mainly C19 and early C20 house building centred on Chapel Hill, the main thoroughfare linking the two historic cores of (lower) Lower Street and (upper) Cambridge Road
- Comprises a mixture of housing styles with terrace housing to the east and rear of Chapel Hill at Woodfields
- Larger C19 and Early C20 villa-type houses overlooking the Recreation Ground
- A mixture of larger houses, terraces and public buildings front Chapel Hill
- Small modern residential estate (Spencer Close) built on the site of the former water works along Chapel Hill
- Includes public open green space providing a 'green lung' to the built area
- Chapel Hill includes a cluster of C19 ecclesiastical buildings including St John the Evangelist, the United Reform Church and the Friends Meeting House.
- Retail (shops) and light industry situated at the eastern end of Chapel Hill and along Station Road
- The site of the Chapel which gave its name to Chapel Hill is thought to lay to the rear of Western House
- Chapel Hill is noted for its C19 listed public buildings including the Old Courthouse of 1854, The United Reform Church of 1864 and St Johns the Evangelist, 1887 by W.D Caroe.

#### **HUCA 8: Water Lane**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:** Post-medieval

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

- Mainly post-war residential infill between Millside, Sunnyside and the railway
- Includes a scattering of late C19 and early C20 terraced cottages
- Some business use along Water Lane
- Predominantly on residential use

#### **HUCA 9: Stoneyfield Common**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:** Post-medieval

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:**

- Mainly modern C20 housing estate built on former common land to the south of the railway and north of the former Rochford Nursery site.
- Includes late C19 and early C20 ribbon development built along the peripheral Stoney Common, West and Park Roads
- Includes a central green open space serving the estate bounded by Stoneyfield and Mount Drives
- Incorporates a large ongoing C21 housing development, Forest Hall Park, built on the former Rochford Nursery site.
- The almshouses along Church Road are one of a few buildings that have any historic or architectural interest.
- The entire area is in residential use

### **HUCA 10: Pines Hill**

**Predominant Periods:** Post-medieval

**Secondary Periods:** Modern

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

- A lightly built area to the south of the town and either side of Pines Hill, an extension of Silver Street and the line of the Roman Road
- Characterised by large C18 and C19 houses, including Poplars Hall, Brooklands and Fairfields, each set within open grounds
- Comprises areas of pasture land that provide a 'green lung' of significant ecological quality adjacent to the hard edge of development
- Includes a modern late C20 residential development along Old Bell Close and at the edge of the built area
- Some commercial and office use
- Notable buildings include the C18 Fairfield, The Crown House and the Old Bell public house

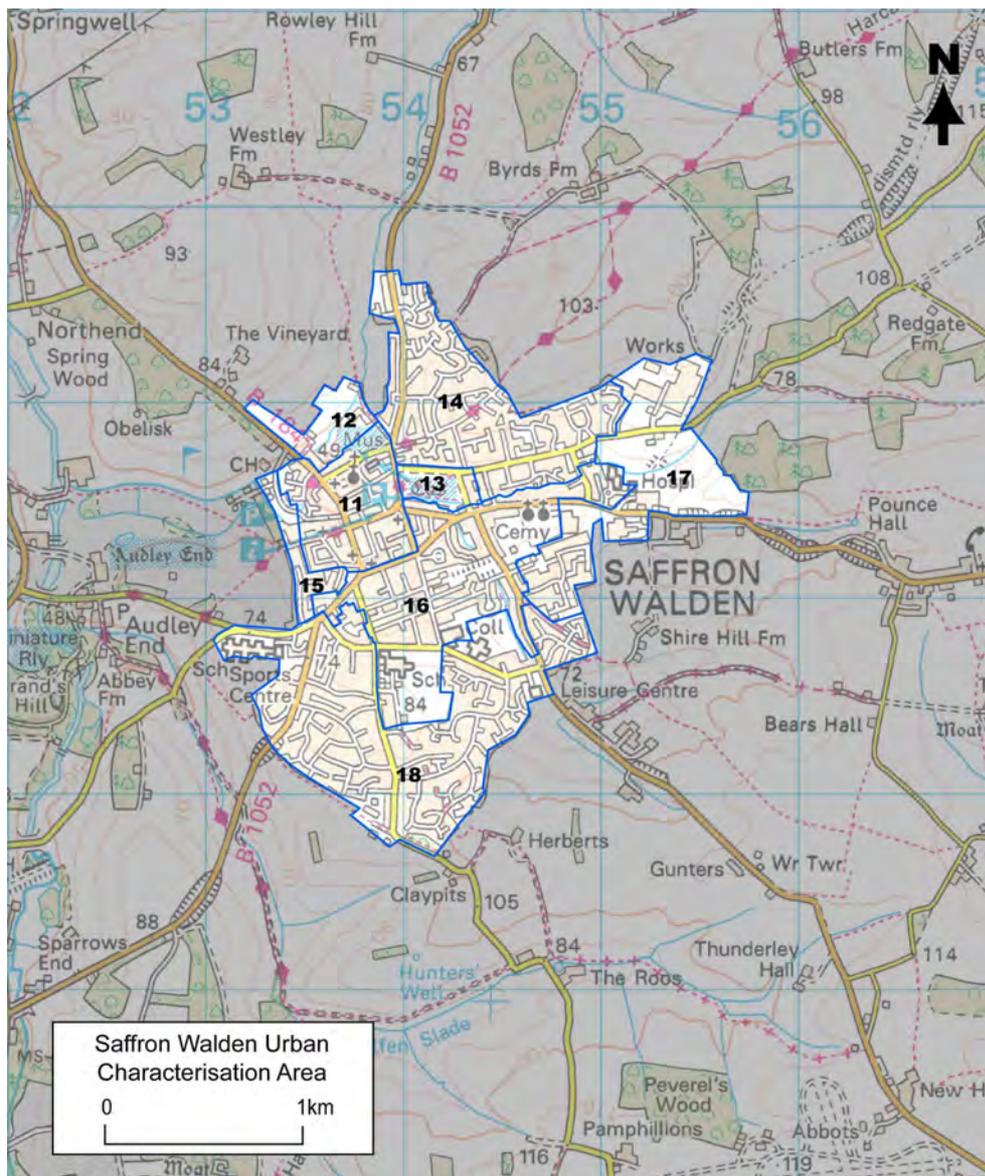


Fig. 56 The Historic Urban Character Areas of Saffron Walden

### HUCA 11: The Historic Core of Saffron Walden

**Predominant Periods:** Post-medieval and Modern

**Secondary Periods:** Medieval

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

- This comprises the historic core of Saffron (or Chipping) Walden, contained within the earthworks of the late C11-C12 castle at Bury Hill (along Castle and Church Streets) and the subsequent enclosed planned town laid out in the early C13.

- The medieval planned town, a c.20 hectare area enclosed within a defensive ditch, *the magnum fossatum*, was laid out to a rectilinear 12 perch street pattern aligned on an approx. N-S to E-W axis and either side of the High Street.
- The main concentrations of historic buildings lie on the eastern side of the High Street toward the initial town enclosure around Bury Hill (castle) and in the area of the present market place.
- Middle to late Saxon occupation and burial evidence predating the early medieval settlement has been uncovered in the south-western quarter of the enclosure and south of Abbey Lane.
- A major feature of the historic core is the number and quality of surviving medieval and early post medieval timber framed buildings built during a marked period of prosperity (c.1400-1700) founded on the wool trade and the cultivation of Saffron.
- The survival of historic buildings along Castle Street, Church Street and the High Street is particularly remarkable
- A feature of the core is the number of listed later post medieval commercial, industrial, public and domestic buildings, and the quality of those built by the Quaker Gibson family
- Historic buildings of note include the C13 Church of St Mary the Virgin, one of the largest Parish Churches in the county, the C14-C15 former Sun Inn (Lancasters) noted for its C17 pargetting, a late medieval hall house at 17-21 Cross Street and the C16 Myddylton House and Place.
- The area comprises a mixture of business/retail and residential use with the bias slightly in favour of the latter.
- Also incorporates a small pre and post war residential housing development in the area of Gibson Way/Close, modern infill redevelopments and a centrally located supermarket built on the site of the former pig market.

## **HUCA 12: Bridge End Gardens**

**Predominant Periods:** Post-medieval

**Secondary Periods:** Modern

**Predominant Type:** Recreational

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

- Bridge End Gardens are an area of public open space and compartmentalised themed gardens laid out by Francis Gibson in 1838 to the north and outside the medieval planned town.
- The gardens contain a number of listed buildings including a summerhouse, pavilion, gates and garden walls.
- Early and later post-medieval listed buildings including those of Bridge End Farm built along Windmill Hill
- Incorporates allotment gardens depicted as Poor Lands or strip fields given by the Edmund Turner Charity in the late C19.

- Predominantly in use as public open space
- Includes the home of the Saffron Walden Football Club, founded on the present site by 1890 and remaining the oldest senior football clubs in Essex

### **HUCA 13: The Common**

**Predominant Periods:** Post-medieval

**Secondary Periods:** Modern

**Predominant Type:** Recreational

**Secondary Type:** Residential

- The Common is an area of public open green space to the east and outside the medieval enclosed planned town.
- Incorporates the Turf Maze, a scheduled monument and the largest surviving example of a turf maze in the country.
- The Turf Maze and therefore the Common dates from at latest the late C17.
- Large C19 houses/villas (many now apartments) overlook the Common from its eastern boundary along Chaters Hill.
- Otherwise non-residential.

### **HUCA 14: Little Walden-Ashdon Roads**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:** Post-medieval

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

- Large modern post war residential development comprising housing dating from the 1960s to 1970s onwards and located to the north of Ashdon Rd and east of Little Walden Road
- The initial developments around Sheds Lane adopt a more 'new town' feel by not using terrace housing
- However incorporates some later C19 terraces along Mill Lane (Mill Field) and around the Dame Bradbury School (built in 1881).
- Some C19 and early C20 ribbon building along Ashdon Road
- Pre war council housing built along Little Walden Road and to the east of Chaters Hill.
- Historic buildings include the listed Castle Hill House, No. 2 Walden Road and the unlisted Dame Bradbury School
- Includes a commercial/retail unit situated on the edge of the residential zone and toward the modern commercial sector (HUCA 17)

### **HUCA 15: West of the Core**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:** Post-medieval

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

- Area of a late C20 (1988 onwards) residential development and extra mural car parking built to the west of and between the historic core and Audley End Park.
- The residential area was built onto former allotment gardens to the rear of Saffron Walden Hospital, while the car park overlies former meadowland
- Includes the western end Abbey Lane, established as part of the planned medieval town and route to the former abbey site at Audley End.
- Includes buildings associated with the sewage works and a C19 listed lodge house to Audley Park

### **HUCA 16: South and South-East of the Historic Core**

**Predominant Periods:** Post-medieval

**Secondary Periods:** Modern

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

- Area of C19 and later residential and commercial development to the south of the historic core and toward the former railway station
- Includes some earlier Interwar, post war and modern housing and infill
- C19 ribbon development along Thaxted and Radwinter Roads
- Incorporates an island of modern housing within the predominant C19 landscape. This was built within the former grounds of Farmadine House
- Includes later C20 residential redevelopment of the former C19 industrial zone around the station and along the route of the railway line
- Saffron Walden Cemetery formerly built on the eastern extent of the built area
- Public buildings include two C19 schools, Friends School (1877) and Bell Language College (1882), the Hospital (1864) now UDC offices, the former Saffron Walden Union Workhouse (1835) now residential apartments and the present Saffron Walden Community Hospital.
- Includes an area of substantial C19 villas/houses built overlooking the town along Mount Pleasant and West Roads. Together they form the Mount Pleasant Conservation Area.

- Historic buildings of architectural note include the eclectic 9-10 Mount Pleasant Road (1890), the 'Cottage Ornee' style of Reed Lodge and the High Gothic Peace Lodge.

### **HUCA 17: Industrial Zone**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:**

**Predominant Type:** Commercial

**Secondary Type:** Retail

- Area of modern industrial/commercial development built along the present eastern boundary of the built area and following the line of the former Saffron Walden branch railway line.
- Comprises three main industrial/retail estates, The Shire Hill, Radwinter Road and the Ashdon Road Commercial Centre.
- Also includes a large 'out of town' supermarket

### **HUCA 18: South Saffron Walden**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:** Post-medieval

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

- Large area of residential development to the south of the former branch line and C19 urban expansion
- Comprises housing within estates dating from the 1960s, 1970s and later
- Includes an initial ribbon development of terraces and detached housing along Pleasant Valley in the early C20 and slightly later, pre war developments along Peaslands Road and in the area of Summerhill Road and Borough Lane.
- Includes some business use along Pleasant Valley and retail along Rowntree Way
- Public accessible buildings include the Lord Butler leisure centre and the Saffron Walden County High and Katharine Semar junior schools.
- Mainly in residential use.

### **HUCA 19: The Historic Core of Great Dunmow (Church End)**

**Predominant Periods:** Post-medieval and Modern

**Secondary Periods:** Medieval

**Predominant Type:** Residential

## Secondary Type:

- This comprises the historic core of Church End, established in the late Saxon period and predating the later second medieval development along the High Street (HUCA 20).
- The small settlement at Church End is focused along Church Street and around the C13 Church of St Mary the Virgin thought to occupy the site of a late Saxon predecessor
- Great Dunmow developed in the medieval period as a bi-focal settlement with centres at Church End (HUCA 19) and along the High Street
- Church End comprises a notable concentration of medieval and post-medieval timber framed buildings
- Listed buildings of note include the C13 and later Church of St Mary the Virgin, the purpose built C16 Priests House or Old Vicarage, the C14 nos. 2, 4, 6 Church Street and the C15 Nos. 28, 30, 32 Church Street.
- Church End retains its historic character despite some modern residential incursions.
- The area is almost entirely in residential use
- 

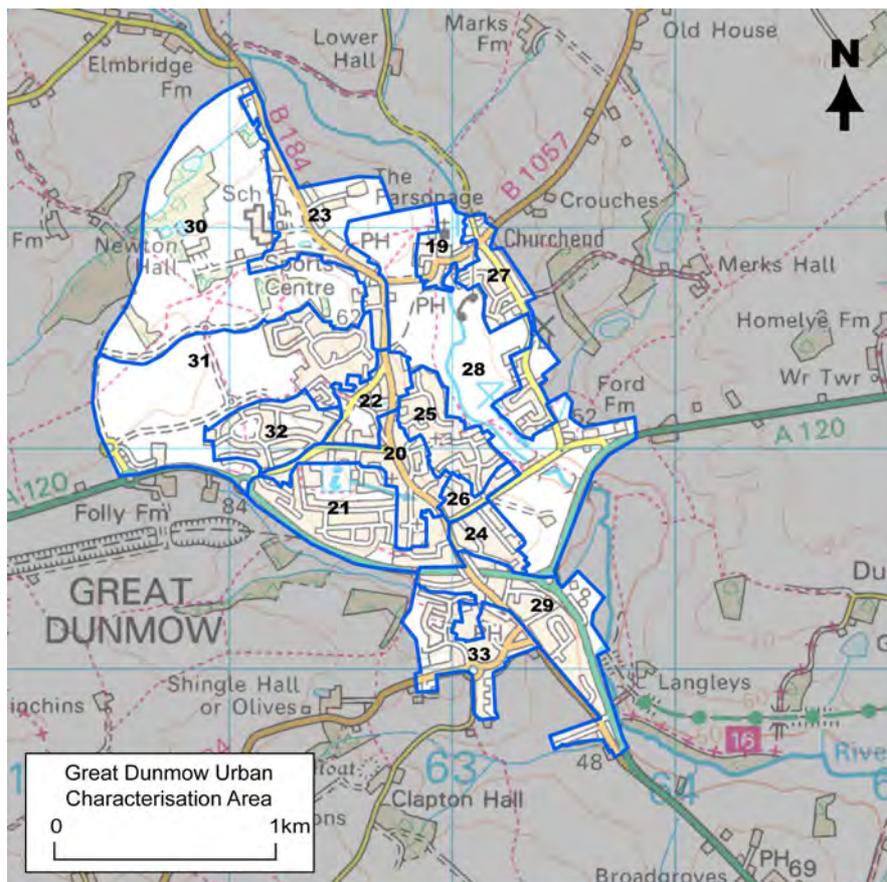


Fig. 57 Historic Urban Character areas of Great Dunmow

## **HUCA 20: The Historic Core of Great Dunmow (High Street)**

**Predominant Periods:** Post-medieval and Modern

**Secondary Periods:** Medieval

**Predominant Type:** Commercial

**Secondary Type:** Residential

- This comprises the historic core of Great Dunmow (now the present town centre) that developed along the High Street and toward the line of Roman Stane Street.
- Great Dunmow developed in the medieval period as a bi-focal settlement with centres at Church End (HUCA 19) and as an organic ribbon development along the historic High Street.
- The medieval settlement focused along the High Street developed outside its Roman and Saxon predecessors, along the line of the Roman Road between Cambridge and Chelmsford and lacks the elements of street planning typical of most medieval Essex towns
- The market, established in the early C13 remains fossilised within the present townscape between High Street and White Street (formerly Back Lane).
- A major feature of the historic core is the number of surviving medieval, early and later post medieval timber framed buildings.
- Listed buildings of note include the C15 Old Town Hall in Market Place, the late C14 20-24 High Street and the Saracens Head Hotel noted for its C17 painted decoration
- The area is mainly in business/retail use but also incorporates residential accommodation

## **HUCA 21: South of the High Street (Roman Town)**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:**

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:**

- Post war residential development to the south of the medieval historic core along the High Street.
- Incorporates modern residential infill to the rear of the High Street back plots and out to the A120 by-pass
- Occupies the site of the Roman Town, built to the west of the Roman road junction (Stane Street and the Cambridge to Chelmsford roads) and on a prominent ridge above the River Chelmer crossing.
- The area is predominantly residential comprising housing and recently built apartment blocks. It also includes a primary school and residential care home

## **HUCA 22: The Downs**

**Predominant Periods:** Post-medieval and later post medieval

**Secondary Periods:** Modern

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

- Predominantly post-medieval and later post-medieval ribbon development extending along thoroughfares to the north and west of the historic core
- Comprises many listed and unlisted C17-C19 houses, a small number of later medieval buildings along North Street and a few modern houses.
- Mainly in residential use although commercial properties front the old Stane Street now Stortford Road
- The 'Downs' is a large area of unbuilt public open space at the heart of the present built up area and Doctors Pond.
- Particularly remarkable historic buildings include the C15 Kings Head Public House, the C14 Maltings in North Street and the C16 Brook House
- Archaeological investigations within the area include the excavation of a group of C19 Saltbox Cottages.
- The area lies outside the known Medieval and Roman settlements

## **HUCA 23: Parsonage Downs**

**Predominant Periods:** Post Medieval

**Secondary Periods:** Modern

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

- Early and later post-medieval ribbon development to the north of the core and out along The Causeway and Beaumont Hill to Parsonage Downs
- Incorporates Parsonage Downs, a broad strip of open common land to the west of the Dunmow Road and the moated site of the Parsonage
- Comprises many listed timber framed houses dating from the later medieval/early post-medieval period through to the later post medieval period and a small number of C20 infill housing.
- The number of houses from the C16-18 reflect a period of growth during that period associated with the cloth and tanning industries.
- Particularly notable historic buildings include the Tudor Clock House, and the C15 Portways and Heathfield Cottages.
- In residential use apart from some business use at Parsonage Farm

### **HUCA 24: South of Braintree Road**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:**

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:**

- A small earlier C19 and later housing development built close to the railway station on land that once formed part of Dunmow Park
- Houses either front onto Station Road or lie within plots set perpendicular to a co-axial road layout.
- The development lies to the south and outside the Roman and Medieval urban centres and on what was until recently the southern extreme of the built area
- Purely residential in use

### **HUCA 25: East of High Street**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:**

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

- Modern residential housing developments situated to the rear (east) of the medieval and post medieval settlement along the High Street (HUCA 20).
- Built on previously undeveloped land along the western slope of the Chelmer river valley
- Essentially Residential in use although does incorporate some utility sites
- To date there has been little archaeological investigation within the area, although does incorporate the former sites of the Dunmow Brewery, Dunmow Brickworks and Dunmow Gas Works

### **HUCA 26: South High Street**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:** Post-medieval

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

- This area is predominantly in residential use
- It comprises post war ribbon development extending along the Braintree Road, residential care homes and recently built apartment blocks.

- The area was formerly partly occupied by a large house, The Croft, gardens and associated outbuildings built on the periphery of the built up area.
- Archaeological excavations within the area uncovered evidence of Roman and medieval occupation and industry.

### **HUCA 27: St Edmunds Lane**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:** Post-medieval

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:**

- Two distinct post war residential developments of council housing built along St Edmunds Lane
- The northern development is focused around the medieval and earlier core at Church End and comprises both terraced housing fronting the St Edmunds Road and Cul-de-sac style housing.
- A later C20 housing development lies to the south overlooking Dunmow Park and recreation ground
- Incorporates a listed C19 windmill and mill house and the site of Brick Kiln Farm
- Purely residential use

### **HUCA 28: Chelmer Valley Recreational Space**

**Predominant Periods:** Post-medieval

**Secondary Periods:** Modern

**Predominant Type:** Recreational Space

**Secondary Type:** Residential

- Public open space to the east of and outside the present built area of Great Dunmow. Together with the Downs provides accessible public open space, described as a 'Green Lung' close to the town centre
- Follows the Chelmer River Valley and includes Dunmow Cricket Ground and Dunmow Park
- Includes a small amount of business and residential properties along Braintree Road
- Predominantly non-residential, non business, open space

### **HUCA 29: Industrial Zone (Station Road, Oak Park, Chelmsford Road and Hoblongs)**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:** Post-medieval

**Predominant Type:** Commercial

**Secondary Type:** Residential

- Large commercial area mainly concentrated to the south of the A120 Great Dunmow by-pass.
- Infills the land created south of the by-pass and between existing built area (HUCA 24) and the old Roman Road (B184).
- Includes a small modern residential development adjacent to the old station site, some ribbon development along Chelmsford Road and a former Union Workhouse latterly converted into residential apartments
- Incorporates part of the earthworks associated with the redundant Braintree to Bishops Stortford (Flitch Way) railway and the Dunmow Flitch Bacon Factory.
- Outside the known extent of the Roman Settlement (HUCA 22)

### **HUCA 30: Newton Hall**

**Predominant Periods:** Post-medieval

**Secondary Periods:** Modern

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** School

- Mid C19 house and earlier open park land covering a large area to the NW of Great Dunmow
- Newton Hall, rebuilt for Sir Brydges Henniker in 1858 by E.B. Lamb, is now in use as residential apartments
- Includes the Helena Romanes Comprehensive Secondary School (plus associated playing fields) founded in 1958
- Also includes the Great Dunmow Leisure Centre built within school grounds within the last 10 years
- Cropmark complex suggestive of occupation lies adjacent to the site and south of Elmbridge Farm

### **HUCA 31: Buildings Farm and Godfrey Way Estates**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:** Post-medieval

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

- Large densely housed later C20 and C21 residential developments built to the north and along the western outskirts of Great Dunmow
- Includes a Superstore, Dunmow Primary School and an early C19 farmhouse of Buildings Farm

### **HUCA 32: Newton Green**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:**

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:**

- Interwar (1918-1939) and post war residential developments to the north of Stortford Road
- Incorporates ribbon development along Stortford Road and a planned non-terraced council house development set around a central open green space (Newton Green)
- Later housing built on former allotment gardens, part of which still remain
- Residential in use

### **HUCA 33: Ongar Road**

**Predominant Periods:** Modern

**Secondary Periods:** Post-medieval

**Predominant Type:** Residential

**Secondary Type:** Commercial

- Interwar (1918-1939) and post war/modern residential developments south of the main built up area of Great Dunmow and the A120 by-pass
- Initial (pre war) ribbon development along Clapton Hall Lane, Ongar and Chelmsford Roads.
- Residential infill to the north of Ongar Road during the second half of the C20
- Includes the early C19 Kicking Dickey Public House (formerly the Railway Tavern) and the built remains of a mid C18 farmstead, Crofters (formerly Smiths Farm).
- Mainly in residential use

# 4 Uttlesford – Archaeological Character Areas

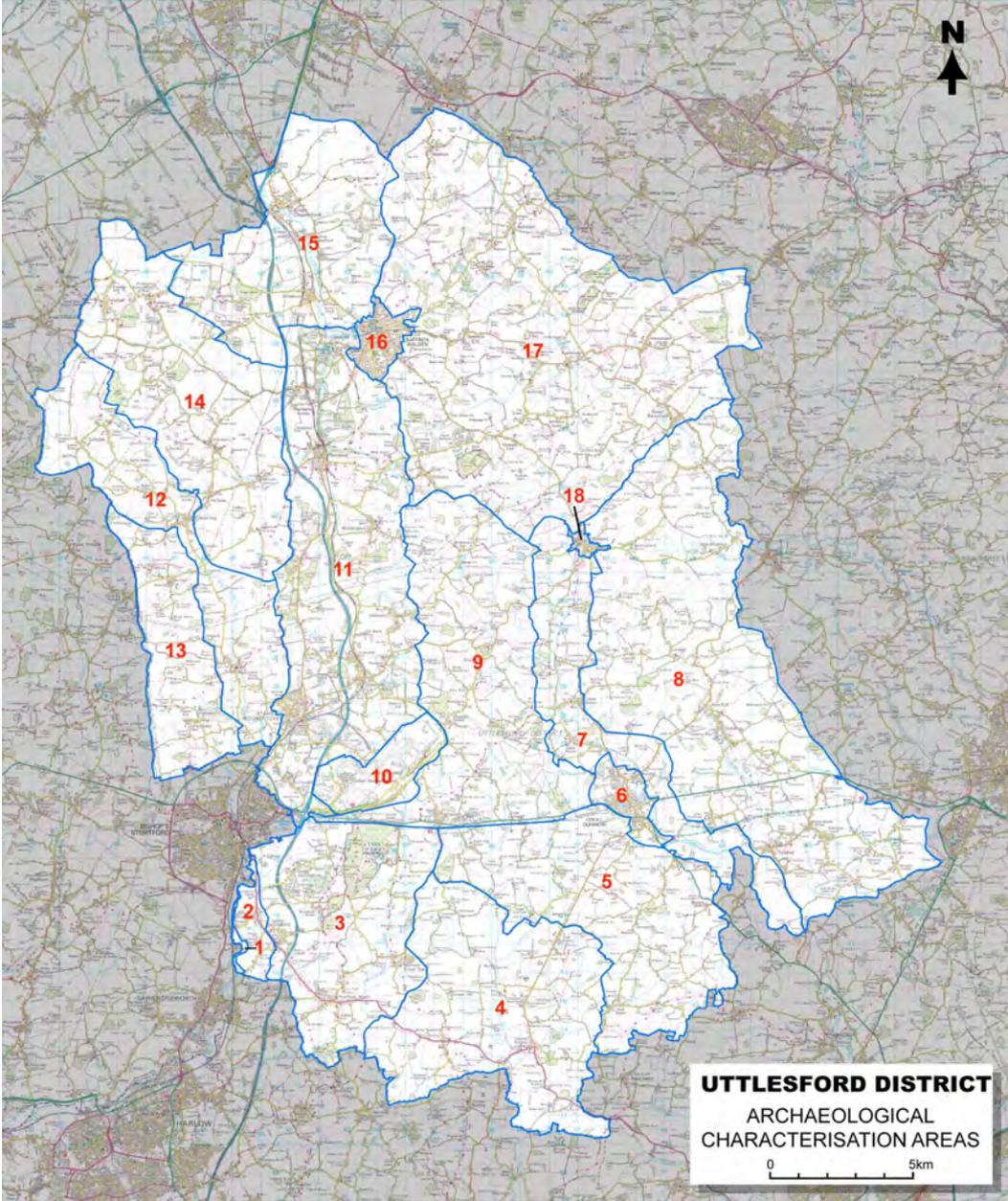


Fig. 58 Archaeological Character Areas

## ACA 1: River Stort Navigation

- This area comprises the River Stort floodplain and contains extensive alluvial deposits.

- The surviving alluvial deposits have a very high potential for early prehistoric remains and palaeoenvironmental remains of regional and national importance.
- There is extensive prehistoric occupation on the valley slopes above the valley bottom with evidence suggesting exploitation of the area from the Mesolithic period onwards.
- Roman occupation is known to extend into the flood plain at Hallingbury and is likely to occur in other locations.
- Two mills of post medieval date are recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map at Twyford and Hallingbury. It is probable that mills dating back to the medieval period would have also been located at these sites.
- The area includes extensive evidence of the post-medieval management of the river and its floodplain including part of the Stort Navigation.

## **ACA 2: Eastern Valley slope of the River Stort**

- The area comprises the eastern side of the River Stort Valley from south of Bishop's Stortford to the west of Little Hallingbury. The area is composed largely of sand and gravel deposits.
- There is extensive prehistoric occupation on the valley slopes above the valley bottom with evidence suggesting exploitation of the area from the Mesolithic period onwards.
- Bronze Age occupation is indicated from burial urns identified west of Little Hallingbury.
- Later prehistoric occupation of Iron Age date is extensive; it includes the Scheduled hill fort of Wallbury, other settlement evidence and cemetery evidence. The valley slopes are a preferred site for occupation during this period.
- The area continued to be occupied throughout the Roman period with the construction of a villa complex at Little Hallingbury on the valley slopes. This

area lay between the Roman settlements of Bishop Stortford and Harlow. The river was also probably navigable throughout this period.

- The medieval period is characterised by a dispersed settlement pattern which has survived through to the present day.

### **ACA 3: The Hatfield's and Hallingburys**

- The area comprises boulder clay plateau between the River Stort and Pincey Brook. It is bordered on its northern boundary by the main Roman road from Braughing to Colchester (Stane Street). The Pincey Brook runs north-south through the area.
- Evidence of prehistoric occupation has been found dating from the Bronze Age through to the Iron Age. Evidence of settlement has been identified along the gradual valley sides of the Pincey Brook of both Bronze Age and Iron Age dates. Finds of Bronze Age metal-work hoards have been recovered from the area and cropmark evidence indicates the remains of possible burial mounds. Two enclosures of possible prehistoric date are protected as scheduled monuments within Hatfield Forest.
- Evidence of Roman occupation is not extensive to date, however, occasional finds of Roman material indicate occupation throughout this period.
- Medieval occupation is extensive with settlements developing at Hatfield Broad Oak, Hatfield Heath and the Hallingburys as well as a dispersed settlement pattern with many buildings protected by moated enclosures.
- Other un-moated rural sites are being identified across the area.
- Religious establishments were also present including the Priory at Hatfield Broad Oak.
- The area contains the medieval hunting-forest at Hatfield Forest, which has an especially well-preserved medieval historic landscape and is of international importance. In addition to its outstanding medieval landscape it preserves within its limits monuments of an earlier date, including prehistoric scheduled earthworks.

- Further parks of medieval date were located at Hatfield Park, Hallingbury Park and Little Hallingbury Park although these do not survive as well as Hatfield Forest.
- The parks continue into the post medieval period with development in agricultural production reflected in changing farm complexes with the development of the 'Victorian High Farming tradition 'when new ideas culminated in significant alterations in the design and layouts of buildings.
- Part of the Braintree to Bishop Stortford dismantled railway bisects the northern part of the area.

#### **ACA 4: The Rodings**

- The area comprises the boulder clay plateau beneath the various settlements of the Rodings. The area is bisected by the River Roding.
- There is a high potential for palaeo-environmental deposits from deposits associated to the River Roding.
- Crop mark evidence from aerial photographs indicates prehistoric occupation across the area. Evidence of ring ditches, interpreted as burial mounds, and enclosure, interpreted as settlements, have been recorded.
- The Roman road from Great Dunmow to Harlow bisects this area. Both the road and the river would have formed the focus for settlement in this period. A large Roman settlement is recorded to the west of Leaden Roding.
- The Rodings, comprising 8 parishes, is thought to have its origins as a single Saxon tribal territory or land holding, the *Hrodingas*.
- In 1086 the eight ecclesiastical parishes known as the Rodings (5 of which lie in Uttlesford District) contained sixteen separate manors and other minor holdings. It is probable that most of the churches within this area will have had their origin in the late Saxon period.
- The medieval settlement pattern comprises church/hall complexes, moated sites and unmoated farmsteads. Many of the moats would have had their origin in the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

- During the post medieval period changes in agricultural production are reflected in changing farm complexes with the development of the 'Victorian High Farming tradition' when new ideas culminated in significant alterations in the design and layouts of buildings.
- Meadow pasture survives along the river Roding and its tributaries
- During the modern period a large number of field boundaries have been lost to agricultural 'improvements'. Many of these boundaries have been recorded as cropmark evidence.

### **ACA 5: Land south of Great Dunmow**

- This area lies on the boulder clay plateau to the south of Great Dunmow and south of Stane Street to the west of Great Dunmow. It is bisected in its eastern part by the River Roding.
- Prehistoric deposits are known to exist on the upper valley slopes of the Chelmer and Roding valleys. Within this area the Roding valley will contain important palaeo-environmental deposits.
- Early prehistoric deposits of Mesolithic date were recovered as find scatters on the new A120 in the north of the area. It is likely that Mesolithic hunters were using the river valleys as settlement areas and hunting on the boulder clay plateau.
- Evidence of later prehistoric occupation has been found on various sites in the area including a cropmark complex to the south of the A120 of probable Iron Age date.
- The area is bisected by the Roman road from Great Dunmow running south to Harlow. Cropmarks to the south of the A120 are thought to be of a Roman settlement.
- During the medieval period the settlement pattern comprises dispersed moats and farmsteads. A scheduled Motte and Bailey castle is located at Great Canfield where there is also a church/hall complex.
- Meadow pasture survives along the river Roding and its tributaries.
- Part of the dismantled Braintree to Bishop Stortford railway bisects the southern part of the area.

- During the modern period a large number of field boundaries have been lost to agricultural 'improvements'. Many of these boundaries have been recorded as cropmark evidence.

### **ACA 6: Great Dunmow**

- The area lies on the boulder clay plateau. The River Chelmer runs through the eastern part of the area.
- This area comprises the modern urban area of Great Dunmow, incorporating the Roman, medieval and post-medieval town.
- Prehistoric occupation and palaeo-environmental deposits are likely to be identified in the area of the river Chelmer.
- A Roman small town developed on the junction between Stane Street and the Roman roads which ran north-east to south-west from Sudbury to London and north-west to south-east from Cambridge to Chelmsford. The main settlement area spread westwards from the road junction along a spur between the Chelmer and a tributary stream. Excavation has occurred in a number of areas with Roman occupation being identified across much of the modern town. A number of Roman cemeteries have been also excavated.
- There was a second Roman settlement at Church End immediately to the north of present day Great Dunmow.
- Both Roman settlements were reoccupied during the Saxon period, at Great Dunmow in the seventh century and at Church End in the later Saxon period.
- The earliest medieval settlement appears to have been a continuation of the late Saxon settlement at Church End, where the parish church is located.
- The granting of a market charter in 1227 may mark the time of the movement of the main focus of settlement from Church End to the High Street and market-place.
- The sixteenth and seventeenth centuries saw a time of growth with the establishment of cloth and tanning industries. A windmill is located on the eastern side of the town.
- By contrast the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries were times of economic decline. Dunmow is now a small market town and a commuter town.

## **ACA 7: Chelmer Valley**

- The geology comprises Head deposits, clay/silt/sand/gravel, alluvium and deposits of glaciofluvial sand/gravel at the top of valley sides. Further deposits of River terrace sand/gravel, Lowestoft diamicton and exposed London Clay are present.
- The area comprises a narrow and attractive river valley and floodplain containing both arable and pasture and some parkland. There is a high potential for palaeo-environmental deposits surviving in the valley bottom.
- The valley would have formed the focus for settlement from the early prehistoric period. Both sides of the valley contain cropmark evidence which is indicative of prehistoric occupation.
- The Roman road from Great Dunmow through to Thaxted cuts through the area. Roman occupation can be expected along this road as well as concentrating on the valley slopes. A Roman Samian cup has been recovered from the Tilty area.
- Medieval settlement comprise the town at Thaxted, villages of Great and Little Easton and a dispersed settlement pattern of moats and farms. A scheduled Motte and Bailey castle is located at Great Easton.
- The town of Thaxted was flourishing in the medieval period as a result of the cutlery industry. A number of excavations have found evidence of the cutlery industry throughout the town.
- Tilty Abbey lies within this area and was founded in 1153 for the Cistercians by Maurice Fitzjeffrey and Robert de Ferrers (Earl of Derby). The existing remains, probably date to the late 12<sup>th</sup> century.
- At the southern end of the area lies the Hartford End Brewery dating from 1842 forming an important part of the industrial heritage of the area.

- Throughout the area significant remnants of the World War II General Headquarters line survive. This ran on both sides of the river and the monuments collectively form a nationally important monument.

### **ACA 8: Stebbing Area**

- This area lies on the boulder clay plateau to the east of the Chelmer Valley. It is bisected by the Stebbing Brook running approximately north-south through the area.
- Prehistoric deposits are known to exist on the upper valley slopes of the Chelmer valley. There is known to be surviving palaeo-environmental deposits within the Stebbing Brook.
- Evidence of later prehistoric occupation has been found on various sites during the construction of the A120 dating from the Bronze and Iron Age.
- The area is bisected by the Roman road Stane Street from Braughing to Colchester.
- A number of Roman villas/farmsteads are known from the area, one of which is protected as a scheduled monument. Excavations have also identified the site of a Roman malting
- During the medieval period the settlement pattern comprises settlements such as Stebbing and Felsted together with dispersed church/hall complexes, moats and farmsteads.
- A motte and Bailey castle was located at Stebbing.
- Part of the dismantled Braintree to Bishop Stortford railway bisects the southern part of the area.
- During the modern period a large number of field boundaries have been lost to agricultural 'improvements'. Many of these boundaries have been recorded as cropmark evidence.

## **ACA 9: Broxted Area**

- This area lies on the boulder clay plateau to the west of the Chelmer Valley. It is bisected by the River Roding and tributaries of the River Chelmer. Areas of ancient woodland survive within the area.
- Prehistoric deposits are known to exist on the valley slopes of the Chelmer and Roding valleys. There is high potential for surviving palaeo-environmental deposits within both the Chelmer tributaries and River Roding.
- Evidence of prehistoric occupation has been found on various sites during the construction of a gas pipeline with settlement evidence dating from the Bronze and Iron Age.
- A number of Roman villas/farmsteads are known from the area.
- During the medieval period the settlement pattern comprised small settlements such as Broxted focussed on church/hall complexes, with the remainder of the settlement pattern very dispersed with moated sites, halls and farmsteads.
- A number of windmills are located in the area possibly dating back to the medieval period.
- The area contains a Medieval park at its southern end at Easton Park which was turned into an airfield during the Second World War.
- Gardens relating to Little Easton Lodge survive adjacent to the now demolished house. The Gardens, grounds and the whole estate of Easton Lodge date back to Tudor times, with the gardens being redesigned in 1902 by Harold Peto.
- During the post-medieval period, changes in agricultural production are reflected in changing farm complexes with the development of the 'Victorian High Farming tradition' when new ideas culminated in significant alterations in the design and layouts of buildings.

## **ACA 10: Stansted Airport**

- The area comprises boulder clay plateau bisected by the Pincey Brook at its eastern end. The area is dominated by the modern airport.
- Extensive archaeological excavations have been undertaken across the area since the mid 1980's.

- Earliest evidence indicates Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic exploitation of the woodland for hunting. Artifacts of these dates have been identified especially in the southern part of the area.
- The earliest settlements date to the Bronze Age with occupation concentrated on the top edge and valley sides.
- Iron Age occupation is represented by a range of settlement types from enclosed planned settlements through to single structures. Occupation has been identified showing settlement throughout the Iron Age.
- During the Roman period settlement evidence comprises both small farmsteads and larger estate workers centres. Extensive evidence of burials have been recovered with a number of rich burials dating to the second century.
- Saxon occupation evidence is minimal, however, palaeo-environmental analysis has shown that agricultural production was widespread within the area during the period.
- During the medieval period, especially during the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century, there is a significant expansion of settlement within the area. A number of farmsteads and settlements have been recorded. Most of these settlements are expanded in the late 13<sup>th</sup> or early 14<sup>th</sup> century. The settlement pattern was very dispersed with both moated sites, halls and farmsteads. Part of the area comprised park land, with evidence of a hunting lodge being recovered.
- During the post medieval period occupation continued with the hunting lodge continuing into the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The settlement pattern remained dispersed, however, the change in agricultural production are reflected in changing farm complexes with the development of the 'Victorian High Farming tradition' when new ideas culminated in significant alterations in the design and layouts of buildings.
- The modern period is dominated by the development of the Second World War airfield into Stansted Airport.

### **ACA 11: M11 Corridor from Stansted to Saffron Walden**

- This area lies on the boulder clay plateau to the north of Stansted Airport. It is bisected by the River Cam and Granta both of whose valleys contain a high

potential for surviving palaeo-environmental deposits. A number of ancient woods survive throughout the area.

- Evidence of prehistoric occupation has been found throughout the area with various sites identified during the construction of a gas pipeline with settlement evidence dating from the Bronze and Iron Age. The hillfort located at Audley End is a scheduled monument.
- A number of Roman villas/farmsteads are known from the area. These comprise villas/estate centres down to small farmsteads.
- Saxon occupation is known from Wicken Bonhunt which contains a settlement with associated burial ground as well as the important Norman Chapel dedicated to St Helen.
- During the medieval period the settlement pattern comprised nucleated settlements such as Newport, and Stansted Mountfitchet and smaller settlements such as Widdington, Henham, Elsenham and Wendens Ambo, with the remainder being dispersed halls, moats and farms.
- The area contains a range of medieval parks and mansions including Audley End, Shortgrove Park, Quendon Park, and Stansted Hall.
- During the post medieval period changes in agricultural production are reflected in changing farm complexes with the development of the 'Victorian High Farming tradition' when new ideas culminated in significant alterations in the design and layouts of farm buildings.

### **ACA 12: Upper Reaches of Stort Valley**

- This area lies on the boulder clay plateau to the north of Stansted Mountfitchet. It is bisected by the River Stort of whose valley bottom contain a potential for surviving palaeo-environmental deposits. Cropmark evidence is found on both valley sides of the Stort.
- Only limited archaeological work has been undertaken within the area, however, prehistoric occupation is attested by the number of ring ditches and other enclosures identified from aerial photography. Ring ditches are normally interpreted as the remains of Bronze Age burial mounds which have been ploughed flat. Other irregular or oval enclosures are likely to be of Iron Age or Late Bronze Age date.

- The Roman road leading to Great Chesterford bisects the northern part of the area. Roman buildings and farms are known to exist set back from the road.
- The castle at Clavering was built soon after the Norman conquest indicating probable Saxon occupation in the immediate vicinity. Extensive work has been undertaken on the castle and its surroundings by the Clavering Landscape History Group.
- During the medieval period the settlement pattern comprised a nucleated settlement at Clavering with the remainder being widely dispersed comprising church/hall complexes, moats, farms, and manors. A number of mills are known from the area with two located at Clavering.

### **ACA 13: Berden and Farnham Area**

- This area lies on the boulder clay plateau on the western edge of Uttlesford
- Only limited archaeological work has been undertaken within the area, however, prehistoric occupation is attested by the number of ring ditches and other enclosures identified from aerial photography. Ring ditches are normally interpreted as the remains of Bronze Age burial mounds which have been ploughed flat. Other irregular or oval enclosures are likely to be of Iron Age or Late Bronze Age date.
- A ringwork and Motte are both located near to Berden, the Motte being scheduled and the ringwork now ploughed flat. Both are likely to date soon after the Norman invasion in 1066. A priory with associated hospital was established at Berden.
- During the medieval period the settlement pattern comprised church/hall complexes, moats, farms, and manors. Greens are present throughout the area.

### **ACA 14: Arkesden, Elmdon and Chrishall Area**

- This area lies on the boulder clay plateau to the west of the M11. The plateau is bisected by several tributaries of the Rivers Stort and Cam. At the northern end of the area of ancient woodland survive.

- Prehistoric occupation is attested by cropmark complexes identified from aerial photography at the northern end of the area. These include groups of enclosures similar to those excavated at Stansted which are predominantly of iron Age date. Monitoring of pipelines have identified both Bronze Age and Iron Age deposits within the area.
- The Roman road leading to Great Chesterford bisects the area. Roman farms are known to exist set back from the road. Roman farmsteads/villas are recorded from the area indicating the area was extensively exploited at this time. Settlements seem to range from relatively high class complexes with stone foundations through to lower class rural farms.
- During the medieval period the settlement pattern comprised a nucleated settlement at Elmdon with the remainder being widely dispersed comprising church/hall complexes, moats, farms, and manors.
- A group of medieval scheduled monuments are located around Elmdon, comprising moats, a mill and a ringwork.

### **ACA 15: Great Chesterford Area**

- This area comprises the chalk ridge on the border with Cambridgeshire and part of the Cam valley.
- The large Roman town at Great Chesterford (now a green-field site) is sited on this boundary, it is a strategically important site, straddling the entrance to the Fens through the gap in the low chalk hills as well as a number of significant routeways and the tribal boundary between the Trinovantes and the Catuvellauni.
- The town of Great Chesterford has its origins in the Late Iron Age before being considerably expanded in the Roman period, culminating in the erection in the later 4th century of a substantial flint rubble town wall.
- Outside the town were extensive cemeteries and evidence for extra-mural settlement.
- A Late Iron Age shrine/Roman temple was sited a kilometre to the east of the town.
- Anglo Saxon occupation comprises an extensive Anglo-Saxon cemetery excavated immediately to the north of the town.

- Other Saxon settlements and cemeteries are known from Littlebury and Little Chesterford.
- The medieval settlement of the area comprised the villages of Great and Little Chesterford, Littlebury and Strethall, together with more dispersed settlement in the form of small hamlets, isolated farms, manors and moated sites. There was a large medieval park at Chesterford Park.
- During the post-medieval period, changes in agricultural production are reflected in changing farm complexes with the development of the 'Victorian High Farming tradition' when new ideas culminated in significant alterations in the design and layouts of buildings.

### **ACA 16 Saffron Walden**

- The modern urban area of Saffron Walden is situated on the chalk ridge which extends to the border with Cambridgeshire.
- The area incorporates the medieval and post-medieval historic town of Saffron Walden.
- There is evidence for prehistoric and Roman activity in and around the town, but nothing to suggest that it was urban in nature.
- In Middle to Late Saxon period there was a small Saxon settlement and cemetery in the south-west quadrant of the present town around Abbey Lane.
- After the Norman Conquest Saffron Walden was granted to the de Mandevilles, becoming the centre of their Essex and Suffolk estates. The new town was centred on the castle and church, which were located on the top of the hill.
- In the early to mid 13th century a large town enclosure was laid out to the south and west of the outer bailey, the town enclosure ditches, known as the Battle or Repell Ditches enclosed a total area of 20 hectares. Within this were laid out new streets, and a new market-place. Only the market area and the High Street were actually built-up by the end of the 14th century, the remainder being under agricultural use.
- In the late medieval period Saffron Walden became the major English centre for the production of the saffron crocus which was used to produce dye (hence the town's name). It also played an important role in the East Anglian wool industry, with the keeping of sheep and manufacture of cloth. In the post-

medieval period the economic emphasis of Saffron Walden changed, as the saffron crocus was replaced by other dye-stuffs and the woollen industry shifted elsewhere.

- The town became a major centre of the Essex malt industry in the late 18th and early 19th centuries with evidence of a large number of maltings surviving in the town although mainly now converted.
- During the late 19th century the railway station to the south of the medieval town emerged as the centre of an important manufacturing area with the erection of goods sheds, maltings, a cement works, iron foundry and steam-driven corn mill. A work house of similar date developed on the eastern side of the town.
- In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the town rapidly expanded with modern estates built on all sides.

### **ACA 17: Hadstock and Sampford Area**

- This area lies on the boulder clay plateau to the west of the Saffron Walden. It is bisected by the River Pant and the River Chelmer. Areas of ancient woodland survive within the area.
- Evidence of prehistoric occupation
- A number of Roman villas/farmsteads are known from the area.
- During the medieval period the settlement pattern comprised small settlements such as Hadstock, Ashdon and Hempstead focussed on church/hall complexes, with the remainder of the settlement pattern very dispersed with moated sites, halls and farmsteads. Extensive survey work has been undertaken around the parish of Sampford by the local society.
- During the post medieval period changes in agricultural production are reflected in changing farm complexes with the development of the 'Victorian High Farming tradition' when new ideas culminated in significant alterations in the design and layouts of buildings.
- The area contains three Second World War airfields. In the northern part of the area the airfields of Little Walden and Great Sampford retains several of its original buildings and in the southern area the Debden Airfield (Carver Barracks)

is still functioning as a military base with the operations block protected as a listed building.

## **Glossary of Terms Used**

**Bronze Age:** The period from about 2,000 BC, when bronze-working first began in Britain, until about 700BC when the use of iron begins.

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

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

**Mansio:** Roman posting station or inns situated within towns or along side major roads. These buildings contained a range of rooms for accommodation, bathing and stabling.

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

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

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

**Palaeolithic:** 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

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

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

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

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

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