

Rochford Historic Town Project Assessment Report

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ROCHFORD

HISTORIC TOWN ASSESSMENT REPORT

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ROCHFORD

HISTORIC TOWN ASSESSMENT REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

This report is an archaeological and historical assessment of Rochford. It forms part of the Essex Historic Towns Survey. This is an extensive urban survey as defined by English Heritage (1992) of 32 historic settlements in Essex. This project, funded by English Heritage, forms part of a nationwide reassessment of the management of the urban archaeological resource. The project is being carried out by Essex County Council's Planning Department and takes as its basis a survey carried out by the County Council in the early 1980s. This was published as Historic Towns in Essex (Eddy and Petchey 1983) and adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance by the County and District Councils.

This report has been compiled using a number of sources, including the Essex Sites and Monuments Record (ESMR), the List of Buildings of Architectural and Historical Interest, records held by the County Planning Department's Historic Buildings Section, and various cartographic and documentary records (following an assessment of such records by Dr Chris Thornton of the Victoria County History, Essex). The preparation of this report has involved the addition of information to the ESMR database and the digitising of spatial data onto a Geographic Information System (GIS).

2. LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

Rochford (TQ 8765 9050) is sited on the lowest crossing-point of the River Roach, about 1 mile to the west of the head of the Roach estuary. It is in an area of complex glacial and post-glacial sub-soils, overlying London Clay and Claygate Beds. The town itself is sited on a ridge of sand and fine gravel. A feature of the local geology is the number of silted-up watercourses that run through it. Some are peri-glacial in origin, some possibly Roman and a few appear to have begun to fill up in the medieval period. These are thought to reflect continuing changes in the course of the River Roach and its tributaries. Rochford is the market town for the area, which is dominated by agriculture and marshland. The Roach is navigable (with local knowledge) to within a mile of the town, however Rochford never functioned as a port. The Market stands at 11m OD.

3. BRIEF HISTORY OF THE TOWN

There is some evidence that there was a Roman settlement in the vicinity of the town, probably centred under the hospital. There is nothing however to suggest an urban element to the settlement. There is no archaeological evidence for Saxon settlement at Rochford, apart from an unverified report of Saxon graves (Pollitt, 1953). The Domesday book however records a small village and manor at Rochford at the end of the Saxon and beginning of the medieval period.

The Parish Church of St Andrew lies about three-quarters of a mile to the west of the town, beside Rochford Hall, which was the manorial centre. It is possible that the Domesday Rochford was centred on the church and the manor. Rochford received a market charter and fair in 1257, and its development as a town probably began at this point. It is possible that it moved from the church/hall complex to its present location at this date also.

The original medieval market-place is thought to have consisted of the area of Horner's Corner and the current rectangular market-place on the north-eastern end of West Street. Horner's Corner was infilled in the fifteenth century and the eastern end of the rectangular market place had been infilled by the post-medieval period. The southern side of Market Square is formed by a series of short plots backed by Back Lane. These plots continue as the southern side of West Street and may be contemporary with the rectangular market place. There was medieval 'ribbon development' along South Street to the bridge over the Roach. Excavation on East Street revealed a substantial water-course which would have cut the road, and it is possible that stream limited the development of the town eastwards. The association of the fifteenth century Lawless Court (held by the lord of the manor) with King's Hill on East Street suggests that this site formed an early meeting-place.

The historic town plan appears to have expanded little in the post-medieval period, although internal rebuilding and infilling took place and there is a possibility that parts of East Street may be a later addition. Rochford Hospital is an outstanding example of the International Modern Movement architectural style.

4. EVIDENCE

4.1 DOCUMENTARY

4.1.1 *Summary assessment of the documentary and cartographic evidence*

by Chris Thornton (Victoria County History)

The source material for this town appears to be quite limited and purely manorial in origin. The main medieval sources are fragmentary series of account rolls, for the late thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. A large collection of later manorial documents survives for Rochford Hall from 1615 to 1932. The ERO has what appears to be an average-sized collection of deeds. Surviving map sources are very late in date, though the first of 1796 does include the town. Among secondary sources see: L.R. Cryer, *A history of Rochford* (1978) and P. Benton, *The History of Rochford Hundred* (1867).

4.1.2 *Place-name and documentary evidence*

The early form of the place-name (1086), *Rochefort*, shows French influence, possibly meaning 'ford of the hunting-dog' (Reaney, 1935). The River Roach derives its name from Rochford, originally it was known as Wallfleet.

The Domesday Book records Rochford in 1066 and 1086, showing it to be a very small manorial village.

Land of Swein of Essex

Hundred of Rochford

Alfred holds Rochford from Swein, which 1 free man held before 1066 as a manor, for 2½hides.

Always 5 villagers. Then 4 smallholders, now 12; then 2 slaves, now 3. Then 2 ploughs in lordship, now 3. Then 3 men's ploughs, now 4.

1 free man holds 30 acres and they also lie in (the lands of) this manor.

Meadow, 2 acres; woodland, 20 pigs; 1 mill. Then 1 cob, 8 pigs and 11 sheep; now 3 cobs, 2 foals, 10 cattle, 21 pigs, 160 sheep and 23 sheep.
Value then 100s; now £7.

The town received its market charter and a fair in 1257, but its inhabitants were never granted free tenure.

4.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL

4.2.1 Above ground remains

The above ground archaeological remains at Rochford consist of the Hall, the Church and the built environment, which includes 70 Listed Buildings and the medieval street-pattern.

4.2.2 Fieldwork

There have been a number of small excavations and trial-trenches in Rochford, as well as some watching-briefs. Unfortunately the excavations, with the exception of those at Market Square and East Street, remain unpublished. There has also been a photographic and architectural survey of Rochford Hospital.

Table 1: Archive and publication records (ESMR = Essex Sites and Monuments Record)

ESMR	SITE	ARCHIVE LOCATION	PUBLICATION
13591, 16321-2	Rochford Hall, Barns (RF8)	Not known	Andrews, D.D. "Excavs. in Essex" <i>Essex Archaeol. Hist.</i> 18, 1987
13591, 16321-2	Rochford Hall, Golf Club (RF7)	Finds: Montrose Rd	Andrews, D.D. "Excavs. in Essex 1985" <i>Essex Archaeol. Hist.</i> 1986, 17, p.162; Andrews, D.D. "Excavs. in Essex, 1986" <i>Essex Archaeol. Hist.</i> 18, 1987, p.108
14688	Millview Meadows (RF11)	Archive: Bocking Place; Finds: Montrose Rd.	Kenny, D. "Millview Meadows, Rochford", ECC Int. Rep., ESMR
16354	Weir Pond Rd, Doe's site (RF1)	Archive: ESMR; Finds: None	Andrews, D.D. 1984 "W/B at Doe's site, Weir Pond Rd." ECC Int. Rep., ESMR
16361	17 South St (RF2/RSS83)	Finds: Montrose Rd & Civic Suite, Rayleigh; Archive: Bocking Place	Priddy, D. "Excavs. in Essex" <i>Essex Archaeol. Hist.</i> 16, 1983-4, p.132; Isserlin, R., <i>Essex Archaeol. Hist.</i> , forthcoming.
16370	26-28 Market Square (RF3/ROC 78)	Archive: County Hall; Finds: Montrose Rd.	Eddy, M.R. "Excavs. in the med. town of Rochford 1978 & 1979" <i>Essex Archaeol. Hist.</i> 16 1984-5, 7-22
16371-3	East St (RF4/ROC79)	Archive: County Hall; Finds: Montrose Rd.	Eddy, M.R. "Excavs. in the med. town of Rochford 1978 & 1979" <i>Essex Archaeol. Hist.</i> 16 1984-5, 7-22
16375	Back Lane (RF5/ROC79BL)	Finds: Montrose Rd. ; Archive: ESMR	Eddy, M.R. "Excavs. in the med. town of Rochford 1978 & 1979" <i>Essex Archaeol. Hist.</i> 16 1984-5, 7-22
16376	West St (ROC79WS/RF6)	Finds: Montrose Rd	Eddy, M.R. "Excavs. in the med. town of Rochford 1978 & 1979" <i>Essex Archaeol. Hist.</i> 16 1984-5, 7-22
16377	Back Lane	Archive: ESMR; Finds: None	Clarke, C.P., ECC Int. Rep., ESMR
16378	Hotel site, Back Lane	Archive: ESMR; Finds: None	Andrews, D.D., ECC Int. Rep., ESMR
16379	Horners Corner, North St/East St (RF9)	Finds: Montrose Rd	Med. Arch. 31, 1987, p.124, ed. Youngs, Clark & Barry, "Horner's Corner" (note)
16380	22 East St (RF10)	Archive: ESMR; Finds: None	Andrews, D.D. "22, East St, Rochford", ECC Int. Rep., ESMR
16381	77. West Street	Finds: Discarded; Archive: ESMR	"Note on W/B to 77 West Street, Rochford", ECC Int. Rep., ESMR
16382	19, South Street	Finds: Discarded;	Jecock, M. "19, South St, Rochford" ECC Int. Rep.,

		Archive: ESMR	ESMR
16383	19, East Street	Finds: None; Archive: ESMR	Gould, S. "19, East Street, Rochford" ECC Int. Rep., ESMR
15012	Rochford Hospital	Archive: ESMR	Cooper-Reade, H. 1996 "Report on the recording of Daly's House and adj. buildings, Rochford Hospital, Southend"
15012	Rochford Hospital	Archive: ESMR	Cooper-Reade, H. 1996, "Report on Rochford Hospital, Southend"

4.2.3 Finds

Saxon finds by Sue Tyler (Essex County Council Archaeological Advisory Group)

Burials of a Saxon type are said to have been observed by workmen within the town, but no grave-goods were remembered (Pollitt, 1953).

Medieval and post-medieval pottery by Helen Walker (Essex County Council Field Archaeology Group)

Pottery has been recovered from a number of sites within Rochford, however the ceramics from the excavations at Rochford Hall and Horners Corners still need to be assessed with a view to publication. Rochford's proximity to the coast and the River Thames (and hence London) is reflected in the pottery forms recovered, which include the Kingston ware bowl and post-medieval imports found at 17 South Street.

Medieval pottery

Most of the pottery from *17 South Street (Walker forthcoming)* dates from the mid-thirteenth to late-fourteenth century. Mill Green-type fabric is common throughout and may have a Mill Green or Rayleigh provenance. There are also very small amounts of London-type ware and Surrey white wares. The Surrey white ware comprises a sherd of Cheam ware and the rim of a Kingston-type ware bowl, which is uncommon, as finds of this ware in Essex are usually restricted to glazed jugs.

Medieval pottery was excavated from sites at the *Market Square, East Street and West Street (Eddy 1984/5, 16-18)*, comprising shell-tempered wares, possible Saxo-Norman wares, and several glazed fabrics, some with slipped decoration. Late medieval pottery comprises sandy orange ware, early post-medieval red earthenware, a manganese-glazed buff ware, Surrey white ware types and Raeren stoneware.

A site at *Horners Corner*, at the junction of North Street and East Street (*RF9* unpublished) produced thirteenth to fourteenth century pottery probably associated with the market place. *Rochford Hall (RF7)* another unpublished site, produced twelfth to fifteenth century pottery including a group of twelfth to thirteenth century cooking pots.

Post-medieval pottery

Two small post-medieval groups were excavated at *17 South Street (Walker forthcoming)*. The first belongs to the sixteenth century and comprises part of a post-medieval red earthenware drinking vessel with a very dark green glaze, a post-medieval red earthenware glazed bowl or jar rim with a thumbled, applied cordon, and part of a Raeren stoneware squat bulbous drinking jug. The second group dates from the later sixteenth to seventeenth centuries and includes a number of imports, comprising part of a Frechen stoneware jug or bellarmine, showing a single portrait medallion, an Anglo/Netherlands tin-glazed earthenware bowl rim and a sherd of North Italian marbled slipware. Local post-medieval red earthenware, however, still makes up the largest component of the group. Classified as unstratified, but probably from this second pit is a partially complete

Anglo/Netherlands tin-glazed earthenware polychrome painted jug. A site to the rear of 19 South Street (*Jecock ECC internal report*) produced a single seventeenth century sherd.

Post-medieval pottery dating from c.1575 to c.1800 was found at Eddy's Market Square, East Street and West Street excavations and includes post-medieval red earthenware, some of which may be from potteries at Stock, along with sherds of ?Frechen stoneware, ?Staffordshire-type slipware and English tin-glazed earthenware. The site at *Horners Corner* also produced a complete sixteenth century post-medieval red earthenware cistern.

4.3 LISTED BUILDINGS

in consultation with Anne Holden and Dave Stenning (Listed Buildings)

The schedule of listed buildings provided in this report is derived from the List of Buildings of Special Architectural and Historical Interest. This List has been compiled over many years through the work of many inspectors and, as a result, the reliability of the List varies from District to District. Time was extremely limited and very few interiors were looked at, or even the rear wings of buildings. Where further research has been carried out on individual buildings, this has often shown the limitations of the List descriptions. The List for Rochford was originally compiled in 1988 and it has been possible to supplement the information provided in the List through the knowledge and records of the County Historic Buildings and Design Section.

There are 70 buildings or objects listed as being of special architectural or historical importance. One is Listed as Grade I, 2 as Grade II* and the remainder are Grade II.

CENTURY	NUMBER
13	1
14	1
15	1
16	1
17	2
18	42
19	16
20	4

Table 2: Listed Buildings by century of origin

The twentieth century group includes three buildings belonging to Rochford Hospital. The Hall is twelfth century in origin, although most of the standing remains are sixteenth century, and the Church is fourteenth century in date. However these dates are based on those on the Listings and it is now known that the nineteenth century butcher's shop at Horner's Corner incorporates two fifteenth/sixteenth century structures in its framework; it is therefore probable that other buildings attributed a post-medieval date may incorporate earlier structures.

Approximately half of the buildings are of brick construction. The remainder are timber-framed and either plastered or weather-boarded. Some also have brick facades. There are a number of buildings of particular architectural interest. These include Rochford Hall, the hall house at 17 South Street, King's Hill House and Rochford Hospital.

5. SYNTHESIS

5.1 PRE-URBAN SYNTHESIS

5.1.1 *Prehistoric*

There is little evidence of prehistoric settlement in the immediate vicinity of the town.

5.1.2 *Roman*

There is a course of re-used Roman tile in the NW wall of the Hall, and a Roman coin has been found between the Hall and the town. Excavation at East Street revealed a gravel spread of second-third century date, and the presence of substantial tile fragments suggests a large Roman building in the vicinity. Local sources recall a major Roman building being destroyed during the construction of the Hospital. There is no suggestion that the Roman activity at Rochford was urban in nature.

5.1.3 *Saxon*

The Domesday book demonstrates the presence of a small village and manor at the end of the Saxon period, however there is no archaeological evidence has yet been found for the Saxon settlement.

5.2 URBAN SYNTHESIS

5.2.1 *Medieval synthesis and components*

The Domesday book records a small village and manor at Rochford at the beginning of the medieval period. The Parish Church and Rochford Hall (which was the manorial centre) lie about three-quarters of a mile to the west of the town. It is possible that the Domesday Rochford was centred on the church and the manor.

Rochford received a market charter and fair in 1257, and its development as a town probably began at this point. It is possible that it moved from the church/hall complex to its present location at this date also. The town plan is roughly that of a cross-roads formed by North, South, East and West Street, with the market-place to the immediate north of the road junction.

The medieval urban components are:-

Built-up area (TQ 8764 9048)

The street-pattern is based on a cross-roads formed by North, South, East and West Street. North Street and East Street are linked by Weir Pond Road and Old Ship Lane. The southern side, West Street is formed by a series of short plots backed by Back Lane. The market place lay immediately to the north of the cross-road junction. In the fifteenth century the area of the market place now known as Horner's Corner was infilled by a succession of temporary structures. There was also medieval 'ribbon development' along South Street to the bridge over the Roach. Excavation at No. 17 (ESMR 16361), during the restoration of the hall house, showed that the house was built over a boundary ditch, which ran parallel to the street frontage. This ditch was dated to the thirteenth century, and had been filled in and the hall-house built over it. The excavation suggested that the house was built c.1280 (on the basis of a coin found in the central hearth), however the building evidence, particularly the herring-bone bracing, suggests a date of c.1350. Of course it is possible that the coin had been in circulation for some time before its loss.

An excavation at East Street (ESMR 16371-3) revealed a substantial water-course (2m wide by 2m deep) that ran east-west across the site. The portion close to the road was deliberately re-cut during the medieval period. The excavator (Eddy, 1984-5) suggests that if the water-course continued on its alignment it would have cut East Street, and that the road must be a relatively late addition to the town plan, probably eighteenth century, but pre-dating 1777. However it is possible that it was simply crossed by a bridge.

Excavation at 26/28 Market Square (Eddy, 1984-5) found a possible tenement plot, 3 rods wide set at right-angles to the market place, and there is some suggestion that the tenement plot was in turn subdivided by a wooden fence into two 1½ rod plots. A brick-silled building dating to c.1450-1550, which contained at least three ovens was also excavated on this site.

Market-place (TQ 8764 9052)

The original medieval market-place is thought to have consisted of the area of Horner's Corner (bounded by East Street, North Street, South Street and Old Ship Lane) and the current rectangular market-place on the north-eastern end of West Street. Horner's Corner and the eastern end of the rectangular market place have been infilled.

Limited excavation within the buildings on Horner's Corner (ESMR 16379) revealed gravel surfaces dated to the thirteenth to fourteenth century, which probably represents the original market-place surface. In the fifteenth century buildings were erected on the site, and in some cases there were as many as six superimposed floor levels within a time-span of about a hundred years. The current building on this site, a nineteenth century butcher's shop, incorporates two fifteenth/sixteenth century timber-framed buildings into its structure. The results, albeit on a limited scale, represent a classic market-place infill pattern, with a series of relatively impermanent buildings replaced by more substantial structures.

The eastern end of the rectangular market-place, facing on to North Street, has also been infilled. In the post-medieval period a Market Hall formed part of this infill, and it is possible that it stood on the site of a medieval predecessor.

The Lawless Court (TQ 8774 9061)

The Lawless Court, a court leet for the Honour of Rayleigh, whose late survival and peculiar customs attracted antiquarian interest, was transferred from Rayleigh to Rochford in the fifteenth century. It was held at King's Hill, East Street, in the open air, from midnight to cock-crow on the 1st Wednesday after Michelmas, proceedings were conducted in a conspiratorial whisper. King's Hill house is dated to c.1300 or earlier, with later additions and alterations. The Whispering or Lawless Court Post which stands in the garden was originally erected at King's Hill, Rayleigh (1216-72), and moved to Rochford with the court proceedings in the fifteenth century. Until the nineteenth century access to King's Hill was via Old Ship Lane. It is not at all clear what this early building is doing at this site, it is isolated from the remainder of the town and set back from the road frontage, and one possibility is that it was an early manorial administrative building.

Hall (TQ 8703 9034)

Rochford Hall was the manorial centre, although the current hall was built by Lord Rich in the sixteenth century. Study of the west tower in 1974 suggests that it could possibly have been built in the twelfth-thirteenth century, lowered later and rebuilt using the old materials. Excavations in 1984-5 confirmed the belief that the sixteenth century hall was on the site of an earlier medieval building. Medieval pottery of late thirteenth to early fifteenth century date was recovered and features of this date revealed. The medieval building, in its later phase at least, stood within a moated enclosure, located just inside the outline of the present buildings.

Church (TQ 8718 9029)

The Parish Church of St Andrew lies about three-quarters of a mile to the west of the town, beside Rochford Hall. Its walls are of ragstone rubble with some flint and septaria in the chancel, and the dressings are of Reigate stone and limestone. The east wall of the nave and the north wall to the west of the arcade are thicker than the others and may represent the earliest phase. The north aisle was added in the first half of the fourteenth century (there was possibly also a south aisle). The chancel, arcades, and south aisle were rebuilt in the late fifteenth century, the south porch added and building of the tower stairs begun.

5.2.2 Post-medieval and modern synthesis and components

The basic plan of the historic town appears to have been established by the beginning of the post-medieval period. However building, in the form of ribbon development continued along East Street, West Street and North Street and along Weir Pond Road.

The post-medieval urban components are:-

The built-up area (TQ 8764 9048)

The street-pattern of the post-medieval town appears to have been the same as that of the medieval town, and building, in the form of ribbon development, continued along East Street, West Street and North Street and along Weir Pond Road. The King's Head Hotel on West Street has a eighteenth or nineteenth century facade on a probable seventeenth century rear. A row of cottages (Nos. 2-8) on Weir Pond Road are also seventeenth or eighteenth century or earlier. The buildings which currently line West Street, North Street and South Street are largely eighteenth or nineteenth century in date.

The market place (TQ 8760 9052)

By the post-medieval period the market place had reduced in size to roughly that of the current rectangular market. In this market place stood the Market Hall from 1707 to 1861.

The Almshouses (TQ 8730 9057)

At the western end of Church Street Robert Rich, Lord of Warwick, founded a group of almshouses early in the seventeenth century.

The Church (TQ 8718 9029)

The church contains post-medieval fixtures and fittings, and has been much restored in that period. In the graveyard is the grave of James Banyard, founder of the 'The Peculiar People' of Essex sect, a grass-roots revivalist movement in the 1850s.

The Hall (TQ 8703 9034)

Rochford Hall as it stands is sixteenth century in date (c.1540-50). It was built by Lord Rich and at the time was one of the largest houses in Essex. The house is of mixed rubble and brick construction, and is plaster covered. Originally it would have had four courtyards with octagonal turrets at all but the south-east corners. The whole of the southern half has been destroyed, and the surviving buildings of the western courtyard have been reduced in height and turned into barns etc. The only part remaining to full height consists of the two wings meeting at the north-east angle. Small-scale excavations in 1984-5 showed that the present hall was originally moated.

Approximately 120m to the south of the road an area of burning and Tudor bricks were noted when some trees were blown over. It is thought that these remains may represent a Tudor brickworks, although it is not known whether this is linked to the building works at the Hall in the 1430's or 1540's, or the church.

The Corn Exchange and Bank (TQ 8758 9049)

This building was designed by Fred Chancellor in c.1866. It is now the Women's Institute Hall.

Rochford Hospital (TQ 8739 9080)

Rochford Hospital is an outstanding example of the International Modern Movement architectural style. It was designed by F.W. Smith in the 1930's and built in the 1940's. The most important buildings are the main hospital block, the isolation block, the nurses' house and the boiler house. The nurse's house has been demolished.

The Court House (TQ 8764 9040)

The Court house was built c.1859 or 1869 by Fred Chancellor. It is now the Masonic Hall.

The Workhouse (TQ 8740 9065)

Rochford Union Workhouse stood on what is now the site of the hospital. It was designed by William Thorold in the style of Sampson Kempthorne's 'square' plans for workhouses and erected in 1837. A chapel and infirmary were added in the mid-nineteenth century. The chapel still exists but the workhouse and infirmary have been demolished.

6. SUMMARY OF GENERAL IMPORTANCE OF THE TOWN

6.1 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUMMARY

Rochford is important as an example of a small medieval/post-medieval market town which still retains much of its historic character. The Hall, church and the hospital are of particular architectural interest.

Rochford is sited on the lowest crossing-point of the River Roach, about 1 mile to the west of the head of the Roach estuary. There is some evidence that there was a Roman settlement in the vicinity of the town, probably centred under the hospital. There is nothing however to suggest an urban element to the settlement. There is no archaeological evidence for Saxon settlement at Rochford, apart from an unverified report of Saxon graves (Pollitt, 1953). The Domesday book however records a small village and manor at Rochford at the end of the Saxon and beginning of the medieval period, and Rochford gave its name to the Hundred.

The Parish Church of St Andrew lies about three-quarters of a mile to the west of the town, beside Rochford Hall, which was the manorial centre. It is possible that the Domesday Rochford was centred on the church and the manor. Rochford received a market charter and fair in 1257, and its development as a town probably began at this point. It is possible that it moved from the church/hall complex to its present location at this date also. The historic town plan appears to have expanded little in the post-medieval period, although internal rebuilding and infilling took place and there is a possibility that parts of East Street maybe a later addition. Rochford Hospital is an outstanding example of the International Modern Movement architectural style and is a building of considerable significance for understanding the development of health care in the twentieth century.

The town retains the appearance of a 'historic town'. The majority of the buildings are eighteenth or nineteenth century in date, notable exceptions being 17 South Street and King's Hill which are medieval. The Hospital, Church and Hall are also visually and historically of interest, although access to the former is limited.

6.2 SURVIVAL

There have been 16 excavations, evaluations or watching-briefs in Rochford. The most important of these are the excavations at Market Square and East Street (Eddy, 1984-5), the Horner's Corner site, the Rochford Hall site and 17, South Street; the latter three sites remain unpublished (a draft text has been prepared for 17, South Street). The archaeological deposits average between one and two metres in depth, and are relatively undamaged by recent disturbance. A cellar survey of the historic core by the Rochford Hundred Group established that approximately a fifth of the street frontage has been cellared. Successive phases of building have been found at 17 South Street and Horner's Corner. The moats around the Hall and the area to the south of the town in the Roach valley have high potential for waterlogged deposits. Within the town itself there is the possibility for localised waterlogged deposits in some of the defunct water channels and deeper features such as wells. Soil-conditions are conducive to the preservation of faunal remains and artefacts such as ceramics, building materials and metal.

The documentary source material for Rochford is quite limited and purely manorial in origin, although the Essex Record Office has what appears to be an average-sized collection of deeds.

6.3 CURRENT PLANNING CONSTRAINTS

The uninhabited portion of Rochford Hall is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 41). The majority of the medieval and post-medieval town lies within the current Conservation Area, with the significant exception of part of Rochford hospital. There are seventy buildings or objects listed as being of special architectural or historical importance, of which one is Listed as Grade I, two as Grade II* and the remainder are Grade II. Rochford is located within the Metropolitan Green Belt.

6.4 RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The understanding of the development and function of the small medieval and post-medieval town and the testing of theories on social action, economy, politics etc. have been highlighted as an important area of study at the national level (English Heritage, 1997; Ayres in Brown and Glazebrook, forthcoming).

The research priorities for the medieval and post-medieval period are:-

- The records of the unpublished sites should be examined to assess their potential to further our understanding of Rochford.
- The processes of change from the late Saxon settlement and church/hall complex to medieval market town needs to be examined, as do the processes of change associated with the transition from the medieval to post-medieval periods.
- The ceramics recovered during the excavations at Rochford Hall and Horners Corner should be assessed with a view to publication. Because of Rochford's proximity to the coast and the River Thames evidence of imports should be looked for, post-medieval imports have already been found at 17 south Street. Evidence of trade from London should also be looked for as the Kingston ware bowl may have reached Rochford via London and the Thames.
- Rochford offers the opportunity to examine issues of patronage and the nature of the relationship between the owners of Rochford Hall and the town, and in the later periods the relationship between Rochford and Southend.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: Documentary sources

Archive	Classmark	Number	Date	Description
P.R.O.	SC6	1292/4	Edw. I to Hen. VI	Sub-accounts and subsidiary documents incl. manor of Rochford.
P.R.O.	SC6	1089/7	3-4 Edw. I	Accounts incl. Rochford Hundred, prob. of lands late John de Burgo.
P.R.O.	SC6	840/1-19,21	3-5 Edw. I, 17-18 Edw. I, 17 Edw. II	Bailiff's accounts of lands of John de Burgo.
P.R.O.	SC6	1089/16-17	6-8 Edw. I	Accounts incl. Rochford Hundred, prob. lands late John de Burgo.
P.R.O.	SC6	1090/11	7-8 Edw. II	Receiver's accounts incl. Rochford.
P.R.O.	SC6	1091/1,5	7-10, 15-16 Edw. III	Receiver's accounts incl. Rochford.
P.R.O.	SC6	1090/10	13 Edw. III	Accounts incl. Rochford.
P.R.O.	SC6	1091/12-15	25-27 Edw. III	Receiver's accounts 25-27 Edw. III
P.R.O.	SC^	846/5-6	46-48 Edw. III	Bailiff's accounts incl. Rochford.
P.R.O.	SC2	173/62	48-50 Edw. III	Hundred courts including Doggetts in Rochford.
B.L.	Add. Ch.	15865	1426	Arrears of bailiffs of the manor.
B.L.	Eg.	Roll 8347	1430-1433	Account roll for repairs to the manor-house.
B.L.	Eg.	Rolls 8339-8342, 8348	1430-39	Account rolls relating to Doggetts in Rochford.
P.R.O.	SC6	1113/12	31 Hen. VI	Accounts of arrears, Rochford Hundred
P.R.O.	SC 12	1/12	23 Hen. VII	Valor of possessions of Thomas Ormund in Rochford (Hundred?).
E.R.O.	D/DU	183/1-10	1615-1932	Court rolls and books of manor of Rochford Hall.
P.R.O.	E317	Essex 7	Commonwealth	Survey of Rochford (Hundred?).
E.R.O.	D/DCf	M25-6	c. 1750, c. 1875	Rentals of King's Hill manor.
B.L.	(Crown symbol)	xiii.16.b	1787	View of Rochford almshouses
E.R.O.	D/DCw	P13	1796	Estate map of Rochford Hall including town and enlarged drawings of some buildings. Brief descriptive accounts of properties. Scale: various.
E.R.O.	D/DQs	113/8	1802-11	Steward's papers. Repairs to Market Cross and Clock Ho.
E.R.O.	D/DS	124	c. 1815	Estate map. Scale: 18 in. to 1 m.
E.R.O.	D/CT	29	1840	Tithe map. Scale: 26.6 in. to 1 m.
E.R.O.	D/DU	190/15	1871	Terrier of Rochford Hall.

APPENDIX 2: Listed buildings

Serial No.	Date	Street	No.	Name	Building Type	Group Value	Grade	Material
14/209	12	Hall Road		Rochford Hall And Ruins	House	No	I	Brick, ragstone, ragstone rubble, plastered
16/248	13	South Street	17		Hall house	Yes	II*	Timber framed, plastered
15/204	14	East Street	17	Kings Hill	House	Yes	II	Timber framed, rough rendered
14/207	14	Off Hall Road		Church Of St. Andrew	Parish church	No	II*	Ragstone rubble, flint, septaria
16/250	15	South Street	21-31 [odd]		House	Yes	II	Timber framed, plastered
14/210	16	Hall Road		Rochford Hall. Wall, Barns	Wall	Yes	II	Brick
14/263	16	West Street	92-100 [even]	Lord Riches' Cottages	Almshouse	No	II	Brick
15/255	17	Weir Pond Road	2-8 [even]		House	Yes	II	Timber framed, plastered, weatherboarded
15/266	17	West Street		The Kings Head Hotel	Public house	Yes	II	Brick
15/205	18	East Street	1, 2	Kings Hill Cottages	House	Yes	II	Timber framed, brick, weatherboarded
15/201	18	East Street	26, 28		House	Yes	II	Brick, weatherboarded
15/200	18	East Street	24, 24a		House	Yes	II	Timber framed, plastered, weatherboarded
15/202	18	East Street	5	Horner's Corner	Shop	Yes	II	Timber-framed
14/211	18	Hall Road		Milestone	Milestone	No	II	
15/226	18	North Street	29-35	Cottages [29-35] and The Golden Lion Public House	Public house	Yes	II	Timber framed, brick, weatherboarded
15/224	18	North Street	61-67 [odd]		House	Yes	II	Timber framed, weatherboarded
15/219	18	North Street	2, 4		Shop	Yes	II	Brick, plastered
15/222	18	North Street	36		House	Yes	II	Timber framed, weatherboarded
15/225	18	North Street	37		House	Yes	II	Timber framed, brick, weatherboarded
15/229	18	North Street		Cannon	Cannon	Yes	II	Cast iron
15/223	18	North Street	38, 40	Rose Cottage	House	Yes	II	Timber framed, ashlar plastered
15/227	18	North Street	25, 27		House	Yes	II	Timber framed, weatherboarded
15/220	18	North Street		The Old Ship Public House	Public house	Yes	II	Brick
15/228	18	North Street	19, 21, 23		House	Yes	II	Timber framed, weatherboarded
16/233	18	South Street	2		Shop	Yes	II	Timber framed, plastered
16/242	18	South Street	46		House	Yes	II	Brick, plastered
16/238	18	South Street	22		House	Yes	II	Brick
16/237	18	South Street	14-20 [even]		House	Yes	II	Timber framed, brick

16/244	18	South Street	3		House	Yes	II	Brick
16/234	18	South Street	4		Shop	Yes	II	Brick, plastered
15/231	18	South Street		Horner's Corner	Shop	Yes	II	
16/236	18	South Street	10, 12		Shop	Yes	II	Timber framed, brick
16/246	18	South Street	11		House	Yes	II	Brick
16/247	18	South Street	15	The Red House	House	Yes	II	Brick
16/240	18	South Street	28	Sydenham House	House	Yes	II	Brick, plastered
16/252	18	South Street	39 & 41		House	Yes	II	Timber framed, weatherboarded
16/251	18	South Street	33, 35		House	Yes	II	Timber framed, plastered
16/245	18	South Street	7	Roche House	House	Yes	II	Brick
16/254	18	Southend Road		Milestone	Milestone	No	II	
16/253	18	Southend Road	17, 19		House	No	II	Gault brick, weatherboarded
15/259	18	West Street	46, 48	The Hollies[46] and Surgery attached to left [48]	House	Yes	II	Timber framed, plastered, brick
14/274	18	West Street	67, 69		House	Yes	II	Timber framed, weatherboarded
14/273	18	West Street	55-65 [odd]		House	Yes	II	Brick
15/271	18	West Street	45, 47, 49 [odd]		Shop	Yes	II	Brick
15/270	18	West Street	41, 43		Shop	Yes	II	Brick
15/269	18	West Street	35, 37, 39 [odd]	Commerce House, and Danehurst and Chameleon	House	Yes	II	Brick, plastered
15/256	18	West Street	9	R.H. Facey And Lang, Solicitors	House	Yes	II	Brick, plastered
14/260	18	West Street	58, 60, 62 [even]		House	Yes	II	Timber framed, brick, plastered
15/258	18	West Street	44		House	Yes	II	Timber framed, plastered
15/257	18	West Street	34		House	Yes	II	Brick
14/261	18	West Street	64, 66	The Crusty Pie	Cafe	Yes	II	Timber framed, weatherboarded
15/199	19	East Street	20		House	No	II	Gault brick, stuccoed
15/221	19	North Street	22-32 [even]		House	Yes	II	Gault brick
14/208	19	Off Hall Road		Headstone & Surround	Tombstone	Yes	II	
14/230	19	Off North Street		Outbuilding	Outbuilding	No	II	Gault brick
16/235	19	South Street	8		Shop	Yes	II	Brick
16/241	19	South Street	30		House	Yes	II	Brick
15/243	19	South Street	1	Renoufs Restaurant	Shop	Yes	II	Brick
16/249	19	South Street	19	+ Attached Railings To	House	Yes	II	Brick

				Front				
15/232	19	South Street		Return of Nos 1, 3 & 5 West Street		Yes	II	
16/239	19	South Street	24	Masonic Hall	Court house	Yes	II	Brick
15/256	19	Weir Pond Road	10-16 [even]		House	Yes	II	Timber framed, weatherboarded
14/262	19	West Street	82		House	No	II	Timber framed, plastered, weatherboarded
15/272	19	West Street	51, 53		Shop	Yes	II	Plastered
15/268	19	West Street		Womens Institute Hall	Meeting hall	No	II	Brick
15/264	19	West Street	1, 3, 5 [odd]		Shop	Yes	II	Brick
15/267	19	West Street	15, 17		Bank (financial)	Yes	II	Brick
14/100 01	20	Dalys Road		Rochford Hospital, Johnson Isolation Block	Hospital	No	II	English bond brick
14/100 03	20	Dalys Road		Rochford Hospital, Boiler House	Hospital	No	II	English bond brick
14/100 02	20	Dalys Road		Rochford Hospital, Main Block, comprising The Broom & Dowsett Wards	Hospital	No	II	English bond brick
15/273	20	West Street		K6 Telephone Kiosk	Telephone box	Yes	II	Cast iron

APPENDIX 3: Urban components list

ID	DESCRIPTION
MEDIEVAL	
118	BUILT-UP AREA
119	MARKET-PLACE
120	THE LAWLESS COURT
121	HALL
122	CHURCH
133	POSSIBLE SITE OF MARKET HALL
134	INFILLED MARKET-PLACE
POST-MEDIEVAL AND MODERN	
124	BUILT-UP AREA
125	MARKET-PLACE
126	ALMSHOUSES
127	CHURCH
128	HALL
129	CORN EXCHANGE
130	ROCHFORD HOSPITAL
131	COURT HOUSE
132	WORKHOUSE
135	MARKET HALL