



Rochford District Council

To the Meeting of: COMMUNITY SERVICES

On: 20 JANUARY 2000

Report of: HEAD OF LEISURE AND CLIENT SERVICES

Title: ROCHFORD DISTRICT TOWN TRAILS (MIN 437/99)

Author: Miss E McIlwaine

Report approved by

Corporate Objectives

To increase Rochford's focus on the community in all stages of the service planning and delivery process.

Purpose of Report

This matter was discussed at the last Meeting of this Committee on 16th November 1999. Members considered there still to be a number of errors and requested that the matter be deferred to this Meeting to enable Members to raise the necessary final amendments. The amended trails are appended for information.

Crime and Disorder Implications

None

Environmental Implications

None

Financial/Resource Implications

The cost of printing the leaflets will be £962 and can be met from departmental budgets

Legal Implications

None

Parish Implications

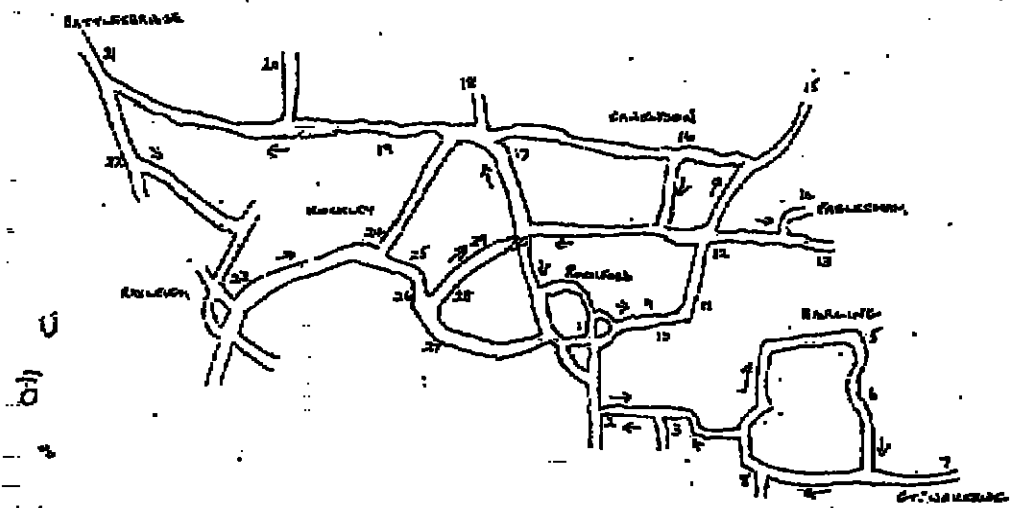
The Town and District Trails will help to promote those Parishes included.

Proposed that this Committee RESOLVES

That approval is given to the production of the Town and District Trails as appended. (HLCS)

Background Papers

Correspondence from Mr Crosby
Responses from Parishes and Town Council



A HISTORICAL GUIDE TO THE ROCHFORD DISTRICT



This leaflet is one in a series published by Rochford District Council.

The research was undertaken and text provided by:
Colin Crosby, 9 Beaumont Leys Lane, Leicester.
LE4 2BB. Tel 0116 2611576.

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This leaflet provides a representative picture of the District and is not intended to be a complete history.

Other leaflets in this series are available for
Cannon, Great Walsingham, Hockley, Rayleigh, and
Rochford.

ROCHFORD DISTRICT

1. The trail begins in Rockford Square. Rockford is the subject of a Town Trail in this series.

2. The Anne Bolyn public house is named after the second wife of Henry VIII. One of her homes was Rockford Hall and before her execution she gave birth to Elizabeth I.

3. All Saints Church at Scitton is partly Norman. The Knights Templar had premises near here.

4. Shopland is a hamlet which in mediæval times had a market. St. Mary's Church was demolished in the 1950s - the font is now in Canewdon church. The timber-framed Beuchamps has elaborate parquetry (a traditional Essex building device involving decorative plasterwork) and is dated 1658.

5. All Saints Church at Barling has a ragtime tower topped by a boarded spire. Barling is an attractive village, rarely visited because of its isolated position amongst the creeks and islands of this remote corner of Essex. The suffix "ing", meaning "the people of" is common in Essex (the Kingdom of the East Saxons) and also in Sussex (the Kingdom of the South Saxons).

6. The Church of St. Mary the Virgin at Little Wakering has a tower and spire very similar to those at Barling. The tower was a gift from Bishop Wakering of Norwich in the 15th century.

7. Great Wakering is the subject of a Town Trail in this series.

8. The Rose Inn is one of a number of attractive buildings in the Stonebridge area. From here we must retrace our route through Shopland and Sutton back to Rockford.

9. Leaving Rockford by North Street, Weir Pond Road and Stonebridge Road, we come to Little Stonebridge Hall. The Hall is Tudor, with a Georgian frontage. Little Stonebridge is a lost village, whose mediæval church was demolished in the last century.

10. Down Mill Lane are Stonebridge Mills. An ancient tide mill was situated here, at the navigable limit of the River Roach, before being burnt down in the 1960s. Back on the main road is the attractive Cherry Tree Inn.

11. St. Mary and All Saints Church at Great Stonebridge has a 15th century tower, but parts of the church are Saxon. John Winthrop, the first Governor of Massachusetts, lived in this village, as did John Harriott, the founder of Thames River Police. Great Stonebridge Church has a stained glass window in honour of John Winthrop and a large brick tomb in the churchyard is over the grave of John Harriott. Harriott, like Winthrop, lived in Broomhills. Oliver Cromwell's future wife lived at Little Stonebridge Hall.



12. At the little hamlet of Ballards Gore there is an inn named the Shepherd and Dog. The original Shepherd and Dog, across the road, is now a most attractive private house. It has exposed timber framing and dates from the 15th century.



13. East End at Paglesham is another remote place. The weatherboarded Plough and Sail is Georgian. There is a yacht-building business here and in the 19th century oysters from Paglesham Reach were exported to Belgium.

14. The other, quite distinct, part of Paglesham is Church End. The Norman St. Peter's Church, Georgian Hall and weatherboarded Puntin Bowl make a charming group.

15. Wallasea Marina is the site of Creeksea Ferry, a major river crossing in the past, to Burnham on Crouch. A ferry still runs during the summer months and on request. Wallasea Island was largely under water during the disastrous floods of 1953, the flood level being marked on the walls of the Creeksea Ferry Inn where 3 people died. Wallasea Island is also the site of Baltic Wharf, visited by ships from Scandinavia and Eastern Europe.

16. Canewdon is the subject of a Town Trail in this series.



17. St. Andrew's Church at Ashington is on the hilltop overlooking the plain between here and St Nicholas on Canewdon hilltop. In 1016 English forces under Edmund Ironside were drawn up at Ashington and the Danish forces under Canute at Canewdon. The vital Battle of Assandun was fought on the plain. Canute was victorious, partly through treachery by the notorious Eadric Streona. Later, Canute gave orders for a church to be built to give thanks for his victory and to honour the dead of both armies. The present church dates from the 14th century. Bishop Baldoak carried out an enquiry into a statue that was said to ease childbirth, leading to women crawling on their knees up the hill in the hope of miracles. It is likely the old church was demolished to put a stop to this officially frowned-on practice.

18. Fambridge Road leads to tiny South Fambridge, where there was formerly a ferry to the larger North Fambridge on the Dengie side of the Crouch.

19. On the hills to the south of Lower Road is Plumberow Mount, an earthwork where Roman pottery and coins have been found. In this area, on both sides of the Crouch, are small hills associated with mediaeval salt works.

20. Ferry Road leads to Hallbridge which now has much housing. Until the 1960s it was a similar settlement to South Fambridge and formerly had a ferry to the Dengie side of the Crouch, where the new town of South Woodham Ferrers has since been developed.



21. Battlesbridge, with its great mills and weatherboarded cottages, is at the head of the tidal reaches of the Crouch. It has now been developed as a famous antiques centre.

22. Rawreth is another small settlement whose name has the delightful meaning "beacon's stream". The church of St. Nicholas has a 15th century tower but the main body of the church was rebuilt in 1882 by Rev. Ernest Geldart, Rector of Little Braxted, who was himself a fine architect.

23. Rayleigh is the subject of a Town Trail in this series.



24. Hockley is the subject of a Town Trail in this series.

25. Hawkwell has the finest village green in South East Essex.

26. Down Mount Bowers Lane is Belchamps, scene of international Scout gatherings. Belchamps is on the edge of Hockley Woods, still large but a mere fragment, like the Forests of Epping, Hainault and Hatfield, of the enormous Forest of Essex, which once covered the whole county.

27. Hall Road leads back to Rochford, past the pretty hamlet of Stroud Green and Rochford Hall.

28. Ironwell Lane, now a bridleway, was part of the coaching road between London and Southend.

29. Near the railway bridge is St Mary's, the parish church of Hawkwell, dating back to the 14th century. The church was beautifully extended in 1995 which has increased the congregational area. In the rear of this area a tablet is marked, behind which is a time capsule to commemorate the extension.

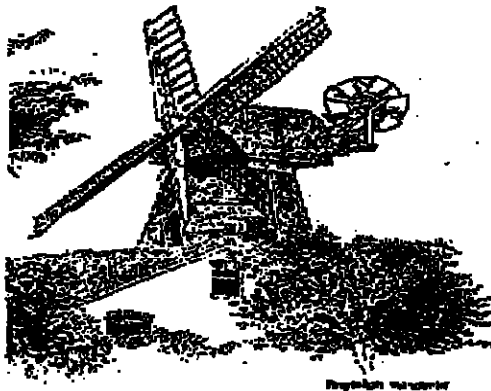
30. The junction of Rectory Road and Ashington road is known as Golden Cross. This is the point where a cross was lighted to show the way for the Pilgrims on their way to Ashington Church.



15. At the bottom of Crown Hill is Rayleigh Station, where trains can take you to Rochford, Hockley which are also subject to historical walks.

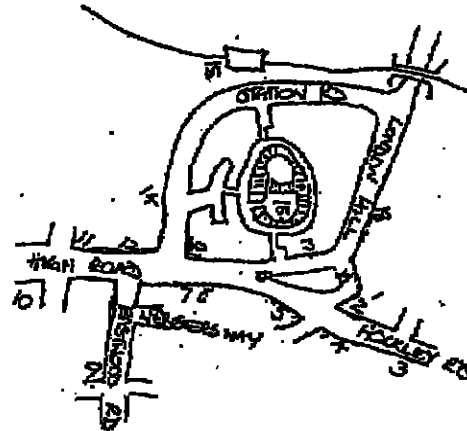
16. Rayleigh Mount, strange to think that on what is today a quiet patch of grass and trees, once stood Rayleigh Castle - administrative centre for the Sheriff of Essex! The wooden motte and bailey castle survived for virtually the whole of the medieval period. Towards the end of its days it became a Royal horse stud for the consort of Edward I, Queen Eleanor, who is credited with introducing to England that well loved garden flower, the hollyhock. This National Trust property is an important historical site and is now also managed for nature conservation. Interpretative panels on the site provide more detailed information about its history and its wildlife.

17. Rayleigh Mill is one of the area's best-known landmarks. A tower mill, it was built in 1809 and now houses a small museum. The adjacent Mill Hill contains a coffee shop, and outside is a millstone of the type used to grind corn when the windmill was in operation.



18. The steep London Hill was the main route from this direction until the coming of the railway led to the development of Crown Hill.

19. The attractive Wearn Cottages were built in the 17th century and are now used as offices.



This leaflet is one in a series published by Rochford District Council.

The research was undertaken and text provided by: Colin Crosby with the assistance of Mr R.H. Lane, Rayleigh's Local Historian.

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A HISTORICAL WALK AROUND

RAYLEIGH



This leaflet provides a representative picture of the town and is not intended to be a complete history.

Other leaflets in this series are available for Canewdon, Great Wakering, Hockley, Rochford and the Rochford District.

RAYLEIGH

1. The trail starts at the fine parish church of Holy Trinity, which occupies a dominant position at the top of Rayleigh High Street. The main body of the church dates back to the 13th century, but Richard II is known to have given permission for repairs in the 14th century. The church has a splendid tower and Tabor porch.

2. The Parish Room was originally a church school, and is now used as a restaurant.

3. Ruffles, in Hockley Road, is a 17th century house. The garden has the mound of a windmill, one of whose owners was named Ruffles. Opposite Rectory Garth is a milestone, showing 34 miles to London and 9 to Southend. Hockley Road formed part of the coaching road between these places.

4. Barringtons, with its 19th century facade, was developed from the 14th century Manor House, the home of Sir John Barenton, from whom the name derives, 15th century Keeper of the King's Forest. Sir John Barenton's effigy and that of his wife are on their tomb within the church. Barringtons Cottages are 17th century. The Car Park doubles today as a Market Place.



5. The imposing 18th century Kingsleigh House stands on the site of the Bull Inn, in the garden of which bear-baiting took place. Nearby, Squires coffee shop is housed in one of the oldest properties in Rayleigh dating from the 16th century, and the Old White Horse dates back to the 17th century.

6. Here once stood Mama's grocer shop, a prominent position on the corner of High Street and Bellingham Lane. The building has 16th century origins, and was to be demolished in the 1970s, until pressure by local groups reversed the decision. The new town clock is positioned here. Bellingham Lane was the site of Rayleigh's cinema, the Regal, which closed in the 1970s.

7. No. 91 High Street, occupied by Sansons, is the oldest building in the street, part of which dates from about 1400. An indication of structural changes is the front elevation.

8. The Town Sign is located by the Martyrs Memorial. The Martyrs Memorial was erected in 1903 to commemorate local men who were burnt at the stake for their religious beliefs in the reign of Mary I. This site was suffered by both Protestants and Catholics within a few years. Nearby are a 20th century horse trough and drinking fountain.

9. In Eastwood Road, opposite Stile Lane, is the Evangelical Church. This was originally built for the Peckham People, founded by Joseph Banyard of Rochford and at one time strong in South East Essex.

10. The Baptist Church was built in 1798. The adjacent building was the British School. There was much establishment of schools by churches in the 19th century - the National Schools were Church of England and the British Schools were Non-Conformist. The nearby Salvation Army Citadel was previously Wesleyan Methodist Church.

11. The Public Library used to be the site of a Billiard Hall - there is a plaque on the wall denoting it.

12. A plaque on the wall records that Arthur T. Upsen lived here. He was a missionary and Arabic scholar, who published 700 religious tracts.

13. The Crown Hotel is a timber-framed 17th century hostelry, used as a coaching inn and also for meets of the Essex Hunt. It became more important with the coming of the railway in 1859, when Crown Hill, previously a narrow lane, became the main road to Rayleigh from the North West. Earlier, traffic used the much steeper London Hill. Francis House was owned by Mr E.B. Francis. He was also the owner of Rayleigh Motor, which he gave to the National Trust.

14. Halfway down Crown Hill is the Dutch Cottage. It is a timber-framed octagonal building and one of three in South East Essex. The other two are on Convey Island, which was reclaimed by Dutch engineers in the 17th century, the approximate date of the cottages. (Visits to the Dutch Cottage can be arranged by telephoning the Council's Civic Suite on 01702 318150).



19. Hail Road, said to be haunted by Anne Boleyn's headless ghost was the stagecoach route between Southend and London. But, it was not the original route - that honour went to Ironwell Lane, a little to the north, now used as a bridleway between Rochford and Haykwell.

20. A couple of miles to the North is Ashington, scene of an important battle in 1016 at which Canute defeated Edmund Ironside.



21. The Almshouses, known as "Lord Ryches Cottages" date back to the 16th century. Rich was the young lawyer beheaded by St. Thomas More, who paid More back by giving much of the evidence that sent him to the scaffold. Having performed similar acts of friendship for others, Rich became a wealthy landowner. He seems to have hoped that building almshouses would atone for his earlier acts.

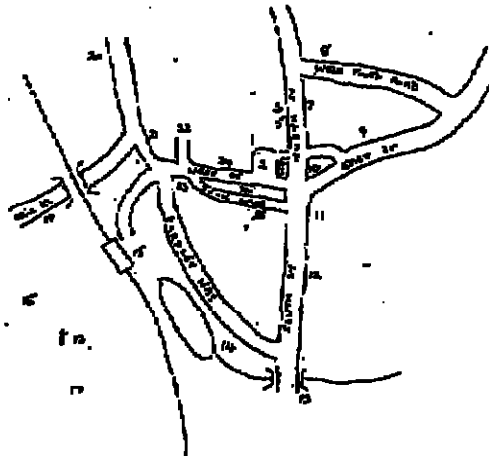
22. Rochford Hospital was closed a few years ago. Earlier, the Union Workhouse occupied part of the site. A milestone can be seen by the entrance.

23. The Marlborough Head is Rochford's oldest inn. It will be noted that Rochford has a large number of public houses for its size. This is often the case in old market towns - the transactions between traders were generally carried out on beer premises. Back Lane allowed through traffic - carts etc. to avoid the market.

24. West Street has a wide range of houses and cottages, some of which are now shops. Note the attractive house known as The Hollies.

25. Returning back to Back Lane, the outbuildings are of the Kings Head, a former coaching inn. It was important in those days for these buildings to have good stabling, and the advertisement above the entrance tells us that it was indeed good.

26. The building with the prominent clock is now used as a Workers Institute Hall. It was built, however, as a Corn Exchange, where corn could be sampled in dry conditions, instead of on the ground.



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A HISTORICAL WALK AROUND

ROCHFORD



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ROCHFORD

1. The main street of Rochford's excellent modern Public Library. If your appetite has been whetted, this is the place to find out more.
2. The Market Square is now used again for weekly markets, after a long post-war gap. A market charter was granted to Gay of Rochford by Henry III in 1257. For centuries, before the rise of Southend in the 19th century, Rochford was the major town in this part of the county and the market would have been the focal point for the area's trade. In the centre of the Market Square there was formerly a covered Market Hall, which also now serves as a lock-up. A pump and horse trough were located in the square.
3. The row of shops including the supermarket represent what is known as market front. The market area formerly extended into North Street, but over the centuries, market stalls gradually became more permanent, eventually covering this site.
4. On the wall of this alley is a plaque, commemorating John Simpson of Great Wigborough, who was burnt at the stake in Rochford for his religious beliefs in the 16th century. At different times within a few years, both Catholics and Protestants suffered this fate.
5. In a cottage off North Street lived Joseph Buryard, founder of the Peculiar People, the religious sect which was strong in South Essex. These people believed themselves to be "peculiar to", and therefore chosen by, God. They spent all day on Sundays together in worship and eating communal meals, and one of their strongest beliefs was that one should never consult a doctor - this, they felt, would be blasphemous, as God had decreed the illness.
6. Many of the houses along North Street and elsewhere in Rochford are weatherboarded - this is an Essex tradition, consisting of overlapping horizontal slats, giving an extra protection against rain. Some are treated with pitch, to protect against the salt air from the sea.

7. The fine Congregational Church dates back to the 18th century. Another local building tradition is the use of yellow bricks. There are some good examples here and in other streets in Rochford.

8. Opposite the picturesque cottages in Weir Pond Road is the site of the Custom House. The River Roach is navigable as far as nearby Great Srambridge and goods would have been imported to here.

9. Kings Fall is the site of the Whispering Court, a strange custom dating back to medieval times. The Lord of the Manor, after hearing his tenant farmers plotting against him, ordered them as a penance to assemble at night on the Wednesday after Michaelmas and at midnight to whisper their homage at the Whispering Post. Any tenant absent without good reason would have his lands confiscated. By the 15th century, this had evolved into a banquet for prominent people but was eventually stopped because of the resulting rowdiness.

10. Rochford is far from unique in having North, South, East and West Streets. What is most unusual is the medieval street plan, which ensured that none of these four streets meet head on. Hickens Court, the ancient building between North and East Streets, was due to be demolished in the 1970s. Not only was this an ancient building, the plan would have destroyed the street pattern and it was successfully resisted by local people. It is now the subject of an excellent restoration.

11. The Georgian buildings on the East side of South Street were demolished and carefully rebuilt, using the same bricks, in the 1970s. They are now used as Council Offices. South Street is probably Rochford's most elegant street.

12. The Old House was believed to be a 15th century construction. On its acquisition by the Council, however, it was discovered that it actually dates back to the 13th century. A separate booklet on the Old House is available and the house is open on Wednesday afternoons for pre-arranged tours. For further information, tel 01702 318344.

13. The road to Southend crosses the last part of the River Roach, which opens out into a navigable river about a mile downstream. The town does not take its name from the river - it is was formerly known as the Wallfleet, and the name was changed when Rochford had gained some importance. Rochford was the ford used by "taches" or herring dogs.

14. This delightful open space - appreciated by waterfowl - contains a reservoir, which owes its existence to the Live-pool Street to Southend railway. Water was needed for the steam engines and a pump was installed on the island in the centre to pump the water up to the railway platforms. There is a model steam railway here.

15. Freight House is a former British Rail freight shed. It has been sympathetically restored and is now used as a function suite.

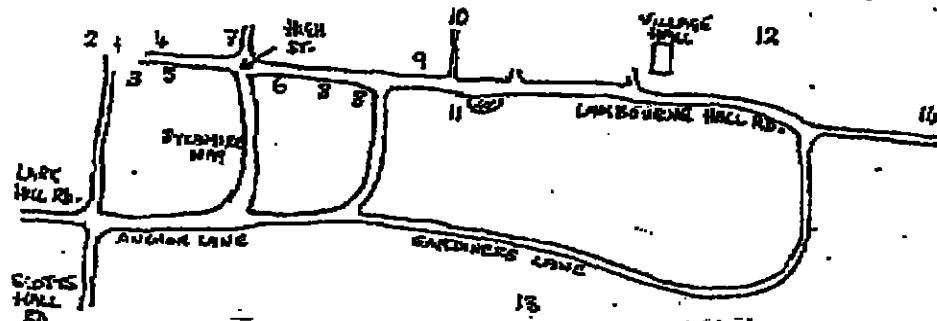
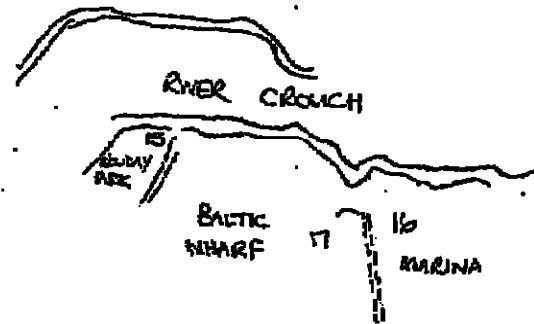
16. St. Andrew's Church has a fine Tudor brick tower and a variety of interesting architectural details. Its uniqueness, however, stems from being entirely surrounded by a golf course. The church was the scene of a 14th century Royal Wedding, when the future King Henry IV (Bolingbroke) married Mary de Bohun. She never became queen as she died before Henry seized the throne, and is buried at Leicester.

17. Immediately to the south is the busy Southend Airport. The footpath now runs around the perimeter.

18. Rochford Hall is much smaller now than when Anne Boleyn lived (and many have been born) here. Certainly Henry VIII would Anne here. This romance was an important factor in the establishment of the Church of England, but by no means the only one. Anne Boleyn gave birth to one of England's greatest monarchs, Elizabeth I, before being beheaded. Among the charges levelled against her was witchcraft - an easy charge to make as Rochford has always been regarded as capital of the Essex witch country. The East wing is now the clubhouse of the golf club and the remainder of the original structure has been converted into 4 separate large residences; one which includes an original octagonal tower, is owned by Dr Michael Clark M.P., the 11th M.P. to live in Rochford Hall.

16. Wallasea Marina is located on the south bank of the River Crouch. This was the site of a major river crossing in the past, Crooksea Ferry. A ferry still runs across to the major sailing centre of Bumbam on Crouch during the summer months and on request.

17. To the west of the marina is Baltic Wharf currently visited by timber ships from Scandinavia and Russia.



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AN HISTORICAL WALK AROUND CANEUDON



This leaflet is one in a series published by Rochford District Council.

Text for this leaflet was provided by Joyce & Ken Smith, 2 Chestnut Path, Caneudon, SS4 3QQ
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Drawings have been provided courtesy of Victoria Routledge (nee Siret).
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Other leaflets in this series are available for Great Wakering, Hockley, Rayleigh, Rochford and the Rochford District.

CANOWDON

Although Canowdon has connections with King Canute there have been people living on this ridge above the River Crouch since the New Stone Age. The name is derived from the Saxon "Cuningdon", the hill of Cana's people. Canowdon is a typical example of a Saxon single street settlement.

1. The trail starts at St. Nicholas Church whose imposing 15th Century tower, reputedly built to commemorate Henry V's victory at the Battle of Agincourt, commands outstanding views of the surrounding area. There is a local legend that while there are witches in the Parish the tower will remain standing.

The oldest part of the Church built in the 1300s, on the North side, contains Roman bricks and is believed to have been built on an earlier religious site. The church contains a 13th century font which came from St. Mary's Shepley when it was demolished in the 1950s and a pulpit by the school of Gristling Gibbons.

2. From the tower end of the churchyard looking west it is possible to see St. Andrews Minster at Ashingdon. The valley in between is the site of the battle of Assandun in 1016 between Canute of Denmark and King Edmund. The church at Ashingdon was built on Canute's orders to give thanks for his victory.

3. The Vicarage is dated 1758 and has a Dutch influence in its design.

4. Outside the church gate on the left of the High Street is the village lock-up or cage. This was used to house wrongdoers until they could be taken to Chelmsford for trial. The village stocks are currently housed inside the lock-up for safe-keeping. These are dated 1775 and can take up to three people at the same time. The stocks & cage were originally located adjacent to the village pond.

5. Vicarage Cottage in the High Street was built as the original school and house in 1799.

6. The estate on the south side of the High Street was built in the 1960s on the site of the Mill and Mill House.

7. The estate on the north side has road names, Butts Paddock and Ducketts Mead, derived from Butts Hill, a site further to the North where, from the reign of Edward IV to Elizabeth I, the local men were expected to practice at archery butts on Sunday mornings on pain of a fine for non-attendance, and Ducketts Pond which is now part of a nature reserve to the north of the estate.

8. Continuing along the High Street, which was formerly called The Street, part of Tochar's Causeway, ("Karsey"), you will pass the Chequers pub and houses of varying design and age. On the corner of the High Street and Anchor Lane stands the Anchor pub. Although of different styles both pubs were established in the early 1700s.

9. To your left can be seen Canute House, a pleasant 17th Century red brick dwelling, formerly known as "Babers" and at one time a shop, and "The Algeirs" a distinctive weatherboarded house with a mansard roof adjacent to the Village Stores.

10. Opposite the entrance to the Primary School is Gays Lane which would originally have given access to Gays Farm on the marshes. This is a popular public footpath which now reaches right down to the sea wall.

11. Continuing to the east past the school entrance can be found the Village Pond which would have been far more accessible in the past both for watering horses and for soaking the wooden wagon wheels to ensure that all joints fitted tightly. Just beyond the pond are two modern houses built on the site of part of the village Workhouse. Rest Cottages further to the east were the other part.

12. Canowdon was important in World War II as it was part of the chain of early warning radar stations, the site being on the left past the Village Hall. Three towers were erected in the field just beyond the Village Hall for receiving and two for transmission in Gardiners Lane.

13. (Refer to map for location). The original RAF guardhouse can still be seen at the entrance to this latter site.

14. Lambourne Hall can be found about a mile from the village centre down Lambourne Hall Rd. This was the home of the Totham family and is a timber framed and plastered building dating from the 15th century.

15. Wallasea Island lies at the north eastern corner of the Parish. A large part of this area was under water in the 1953 floods. If you visit the Creekees Ferry Inn you will see a marker on the wall showing the water level. Three people were drowned here.



13. The view from the hilltop outside the church is spectacular, extending for miles across the valley of the tidal River Crouch. It is possible that the landscape of fields was laid out in Roman times.

14. This is the beginning of Centenary Walk, commemorating 100 years since the creation of Hockley Parish Council. The footpath was organised in 1994 in conjunction with Hallbridge Parish Council.

15. The path follows a delightful course through woods and across a footbridge over the railway, reaching the main road by Folly Lane.

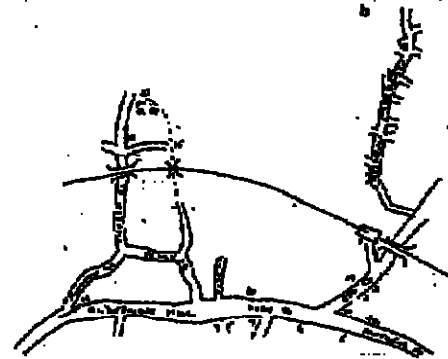
16. Beside the roadway is a milestone, 36 miles distant from London and 7 from Southend. This was part of the coach road between these places.

17. The Parish Pavement is a useful amenity, complete with seats, to commemorate 900 years since Hockley's inclusion in the Domesday Book.



18. Plumbeow Mount is an ancient tumulus on a hill with outstanding views on a clear day of Duxbury Church to the north west, Rochford and Southend to the south and the WW2 forts in the Thames in the east. It can be reached by the centenary footpath. When the site was excavated, no human remains were found. It is believed to date from Romano/British times.

Hockley



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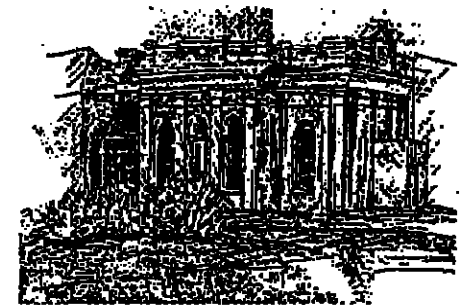
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Drawings have been provided courtesy of Victoria Routledge (nee Sireff).
Tel 01702-542519.

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HOCKLEY



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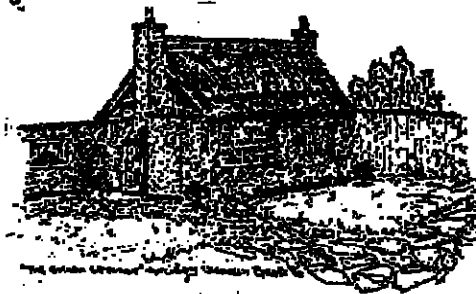
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HOCKLEY

1. The trail starts at Hockley Station, on the railway line from Liverpool Street. Trains will take you from here to Rayleigh, Rochford or Southend. It was the coming of the railway in 1889 that changed Hockley from a small agricultural village into the small attractive commuter town of today.

2. In 1838 a medicinal spring was found and attempts were made to make Hockley into a fashionable spa. The Pump Room was erected in a classical style during the 1840s, but the expected prosperity failed to materialise and the building has been put over the years to a variety of uses, including at one time - somewhat aptly - a Baptist chapel.

3. China Cottage, with a date on the wall of 1635, gets its name from the broken china on the walls. It was once the home of Hockley's lamp lighter.



4. The Spa Hotel was built in the 1840s in anticipation of trade from the thousands taking the waters. Its position at the heart of what became almost a town centre saved it from the fate of the other buildings.

4a. The Old Fire Station opposite the library was taken over by the Parish Council as a community amenity and offices.

5. The Public Library is the place to visit for more information on local history, if this trail has whetted your appetite. Opposite is the Catholic Church of St. Pius X. A short way along Scutcher's Road is Hawkwell Village Green.

6. Hockley village sign was erected in 1992 and represents the possible origins of the name Hockley. A ley is Old English for a field or clearing and Hocca is possibly a personal name for an individual or family. Therefore the sign shows Hocca clearing the local woodland to make the settlement which would one day become 'Hockley'.

7. SEETEC was originally the Board School which was opened in 1904 when the population of Hockley had increased to the extent that the original church school, next to the church, could no longer accommodate all the children in the village.

8. The entrance to Great Dull Wood, part of Hockley Woods. The most extensive public open space for miles around, Hockley Woods are - Eco Epping Forest, Hainault Forest and Hatfield Forest - are part of the huge Forest of Essex which covered the whole county, apart from the towns, until comparatively modern times, and which was used by Kings and Queens for hunting. Wood-punks which were dug in the woods by the several manors in the area to define the boundaries of the woodland they owned can still be seen.

9. The Bull is a pleasant water boarded country inn. Weatherboarding is an Essex building tradition, involving overlapping slats of wood to give protection against damp.

10. On the corner of Fountain Lane is a horse trough which was donated to the people of Hockley at the turn of the century. It served both man and beast

at the top was a water fountain, there was the trough for the horse and at the bottom the water collected in a bowl for the dog. Hockley's Common used to be in this area.



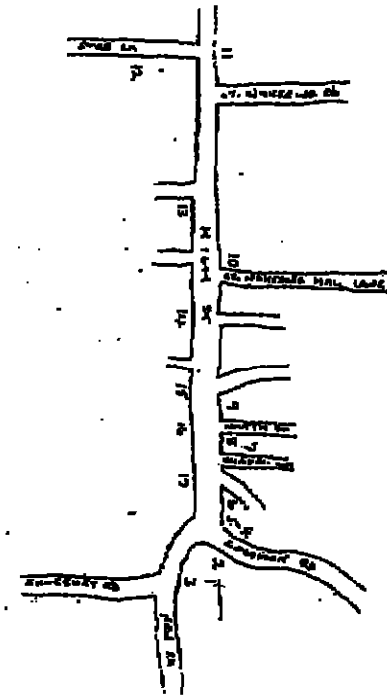
11. When the railway came through it was not possible to build the station in the vicinity of the original village. As Hockley grew the original settlement (most noted in the Domesday Book), was left behind. A windmill is mentioned in old records as having been in Church Road area - hence the name Mill House. Hockley Hall was the old manor house of Hockley. The Old School House was built in the 1840s and also served children from Hulfriidge who had to walk the 2 miles to and from school. The Stacks was once the vicarage. The bellcote and bell are not original.

12. St. Peter's Church, although on a hilltop site, tends to be difficult to see from the South because of heavily wooded surroundings. Most of the building was constructed in the 13th century. It has a particularly fine, if unusual, octagonal tower and attractive tudor porch. Inside it has a fine arcade of carved columns.

15. The White Hart Inn is probably the oldest in Great Wakering, dating back to the 16th century.

16. Near the Red Lion are weatherboarded cottages. This is another Essex building tradition, involving overlapping timber slats, as a protection against rain.

17. The Memorial Hall was built in 1992.



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A HISTORICAL WALK AROUND GREAT WAKERING



This leaflet provides a representative picture of the town and is not intended to be a complete history.

Other leaflets in this series are available for Canewdon, Hockley, Rayleigh, Roostford and the Rochford District.

GREAT WAKERING

1. The trail starts at St. Nicholas Church. Parts of the building date back to the 11th century, but there would have been a church on the site before that. Two murdered princes of the Essex royal house, Edithbert and Ethelred, are said to have been buried here in the 7th century, before being reinterred at Ramsey Abbey. Indeed, miracles were said to have occurred while the bodies were here.

2. A very unusual external feature of the church is the two storey west porch built onto the tower. This was constructed in the 15th century, and has an upper floor used by monks from Beeleigh Abbey when sent to preach here.

3. The Eastern end of Great Wakering is known as New Town. New Road leads to Landwick and the restricted area of Foulness Island, while Shoebury Road leads to North Shoebury and Shoeburyness.



4. In Common Road there is an attractive duck pond. The road leads to Potton Island, another of the many islands in this Essex archipelago.

5. A local building tradition involves the use of locally made yellow bricks.

6. At the Public Library you can find out more about local history if this trail has whetted your appetite. You might like to investigate the mediaeval de Wakering family, whose members included a Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, a Master of the Rolls and a Bishop of Norwich.

7. In Chapel Lane, the United Reformed Church was built as a Congregational Church. Nearby, there is a fine timber-framed building with red tiles, now shared between a hairdresser and pharmacy.

8. Near the Village Shop, Prospect Cottages are dated 1878.

9. The Great Wakering Youth Centre was built as a Board School in 1876.

10. Just past the Evangelical Church is Little Wakering Hall Lane. This of course leads to Little Wakering Hall, in the neighbouring village, which dates back to the 15th century.

11. The name Townfield Walk, near the site of Town Field Farm, coupled with the name New Town for the area around the parish church, suggests that an earlier settlement might have been here.



12. To the South of the High Street are the extensive brick works, which have produced bricks for many of the towns and villages in the area.

13. The Exhibition Inn is famous locally for its collection of memorabilia, and is named after the Great Exhibition of 1851, the brainchild of Prince Albert.

14. Opposite Twyford Avenue are some single storey cottages dated 1591, with an ancient workshop nearby.