

Guidance for users and schedule of
charges for commercial enquiries

Essex Historic Environment Record

April 2025 – March 2026



Introduction

The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) is a GIS database, and associated material, containing information on a wide range of buildings, monuments, find spots, places, and landscapes. These are of archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic interest. HER searches provide information selected from the record, normally for a defined area, although bespoke searches can also be completed e.g. filtered for particular periods or types of records.

The EHER includes both digital and hard copy information and references to other sources held outside the EHER. It is constantly updated and enhanced, but the absence of a record should not be relied upon as indicating an absence of heritage significance at any given location. Absence of evidence may indicate a dearth of previous investigations in an area. Other national specialist sources may contain information not currently held or indexed.

For personal research core EHER information may be found online at www.heritagegateway.org.uk. This data will only include a summary of the full EHER, and should not be relied upon to be complete or up-to-date. EHER searches undertaken in support of planning applications, and for other commercial purposes, must be directed to the Historic Environment Advisors at Place Services. To use the EHER for personal research please contact Place Services to discuss your requirements.

Commercial EHER searches

For Commercial searches that involve the supply of digital data by Place Services, please see the schedule in Table 1. This can also include a range of extra data beyond that of the basic records (see schedule).

Non-commercial EHER searches

For non-commercial EHER searches, a discretionary charging policy applies. Non-commercial enquirers should contact Place Services to discuss their requirements.

All EHER search requests must be made by e-mail to: historicenvironment@essex.gov.uk

After a request has been made, a quote for EHER searches will be provided.

Place Services aims to respond to EHER search requests within 10 working days of payment remittance. Where a rapid turnaround is required a **priority search** is normally available with a response within three working days, although this will be charged at an additional cost.

Charges

Charges are levied for a licence to re-use EHER information for commercial purposes and planning applications. The level of charge depends on the number of records within the search area. The schedule of charges is set out in Table 1, on the next page.

Data format

Data can be supplied in the following formats:

- Monument and Event Records (PDF report)
- Map data as ArcGIS shapefiles (Monument polygons, polylines and points; Event polygons and points)
- Historic Environment Characterisation (PDF report and ArcGIS shape files)
- PDF copy of Essex HER map data
- Aerial photographic NMP plots (PDF maps or ArcGIS shape files)
- PDF copies of specific reports within the study area.

Heritage Assets

Information that can be accessed (where held in the EHER) includes:

- Designation documents
- Oblique aerial photos
- Photographs of Heritage Assets
- Published sources
- Contractors' and other fieldwork reports (these are largely available as PDF files)
- Conservation/Management plans.

Contractors and consultants wishing to obtain bulk copies of spatial data for Designated Heritage assets are encouraged to obtain the definitive datasets from Historic England. These can be downloaded from: <http://services.historicengland.org.uk/NMRDataDownload/>

Conservation Area documents can be obtained from the relevant District or Borough councils' websites.

Table 1 Schedule of charges for commercial enquiries		
HER Search	Minimum Charge (First Hour)	Additional hours
Standard HER Search (5-10 working days) An additional charge may be incurred for large-scale / linear schemes or search areas that significantly exceed a 1km radius (or a site that has a boundary polygon larger than 1km).	£150	£75
Priority Search (2-3 working days) An additional charge may be incurred for large-scale / linear schemes or search areas that significantly exceed a 1km radius (or a site that has a boundary polygon larger than 1km).	£300	£150
Additional material (supplementary to a HER search)	Standard Charge	Additional
Provision of each requested PDF plan showing EHER data at a suitable scale (N.B. maps supplied for information only and should not be reproduced)	£80 (Standard one-time charge)	
Provision of additional shape files – Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) An additional charge may be incurred for large-scale / linear schemes or search areas that significantly exceed a 1km radius (or a site that has a boundary polygon larger than 1km).	£80	Hourly rate
Provision of additional shape files – Historic Environment Characterisation (HEC) An additional charge may be incurred for large-scale / linear schemes or search areas that significantly exceed a 1km radius (or a site that has a boundary polygon larger than 1km).	£80	Hourly rate
Provision of additional shape files – Palaeolithic layer An additional charge may be incurred for large-scale / linear schemes or search areas that significantly exceed a 1km radius (or a site that has a boundary polygon larger than 1km).	£80	Hourly rate
Provision of PDF (Image file) of NMP cropmark data within search area An additional charge may be incurred for large-scale / linear schemes or search areas that significantly exceed a 1km radius.	£80	Hourly rate
Provision of NMP cropmark data as GIS files An additional charge may be incurred for large-scale / linear schemes or search areas that significantly exceed a 1km radius (or a site that has a boundary polygon larger than 1km). N.B.: This service is only available for certain locations in Essex	£80	Hourly rate
Additional material	Standard Charge	Additional
Scans of ECC Historic Building Survey Photographs	£10 search fee £10 per photograph scan	£5 reproduction permission per photograph
Digital Photography. Up to 5 images. Additional digital photography will be charged per image. Please contact for information about permission to reproduce.	£80	£10 per photograph (over 5)
PDF copies of specific reports within (up to 5 reports)	£80	£10 per report (over 5)

Place Services

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Essex County Council