

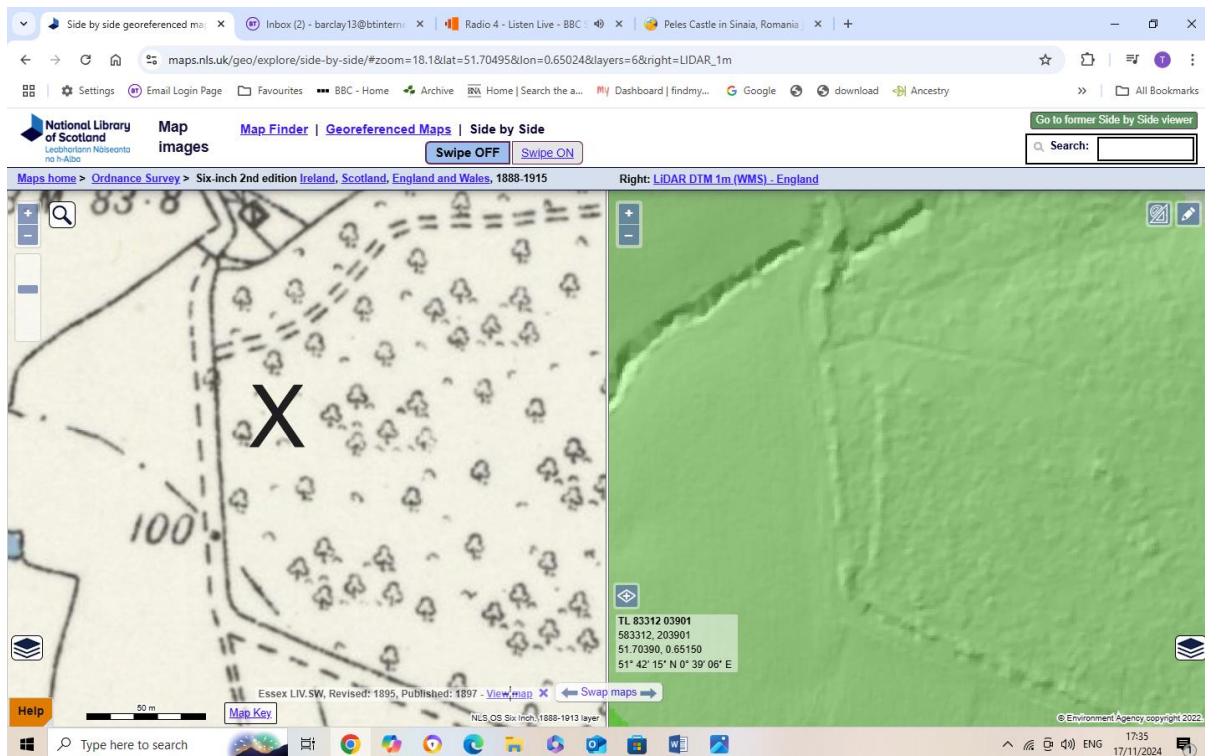


## HAZELEIGH HALL WOOD

HAZELEIGH

ESSEX

[TL831040]



## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

17<sup>th</sup> November & 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024



**HAZELEIGH HALL WOOD**  
**HAZELEIGH**  
**ESSEX**

<p><b>ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION</b></p> <p>Prepared By: Bernie Steel Pat Sheehy</p>	<p>Date: 06.02.2025</p>
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## 1. INTRODUCTION

MAHG was kindly invited by Maureen Bissell (and John) the landowners, to advise upon and investigate a linear bank feature that runs South to North within the western area of Hazeleigh Hall Wood. See Appendix 1.

A site visit was undertaken on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2024 to provide a visual assessment. Based upon that visit it was agreed that a more detailed site investigation would be carried out including any necessary excavations.

It was noted that in view of the tree density it would not be possible to carry out a geophysical survey prior to any intrusive evaluation of the bank.

MAHG members attended site on the 17<sup>th</sup> November and 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024 and inserted an investigative trench across the bank feature to determine its nature and construction, including evaluation of any finds that may arise during the excavation.

A short history of owners of Hazeleigh Hall Wood has been researched by Pat Sheehy of MAHG and is included at Appendix 4.

## 2. DATA REVIEW AND SITE SURVEY

### 2.1 Documentary Review

- 1874, 1895 and 1920 OS Maps.
- 2024 Google Earth Satellite Imagery.
- LIDAR DTM 50cm – 1 m WMS Data.
- History of land ownership.

## 3. FIELDWORK

A 7.5 metre long by 1m wide trench was inserted across the bank at GPS location N: 51.704973, E: 000.650051 ( $\pm$  3m). A sondage was inserted within the main trench measuring approx. 5.5m long by 0.5m wide. The general findings of which are set out in the sketch plans included at Appendix 2.

Of the two trees on the top of the bank close to the trench, the oak tree immediately to the north of the trench was measured to indicate its probable age.

The first 75mm consisted of largely of a covering of leaf mould with clay underlying.

The next 200mm consisted of broken mid to dark brown clay. This broken appearance may be due to either natural weathering, tree/undergrowth root action, or the material being thrown up by hand tools to form the bank.

The underlying clay was of a light brown colour and of a more homogenous nature and was the undisturbed natural ground level.

There was no evidence of a ditch having been present on either side of the bank.

The trench was backfilled prior to leaving site on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

Photographic records are shown in Appendix 3.



Site background information is provided at Appendix 4.

The HER Summary Sheet is included at Appendix 5.

## 4. FINDS

### 4.1 Summary

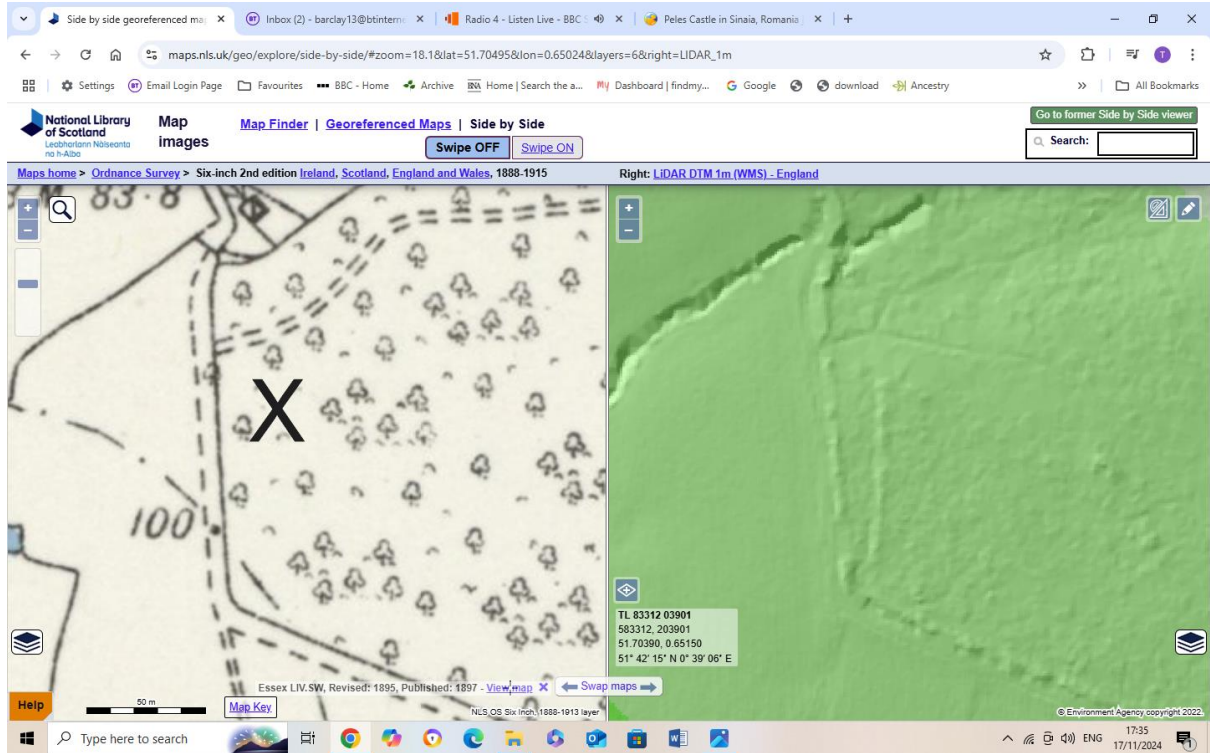
One indeterminate metal small find was found 40cm from the North East corner of the top of the bank at a depth of 15cm.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

- From walking the site, where possible, and reviewing both maps and LIDAR data the bank appears to run south to north from the South West corner area of the wood to the North West corner area of the wood, terminating close to the stream, for approximately 142.54 metres. It is cut across by an east/west running footpath. The data suggests that at a point some 12 metres north of that footpath the bank may also turn Eastwards for approximately 44 metres.
- The girth of the tree immediately to the north of the trench measured 150.3cm at 1.5 metres above ground level. Using an assumed growth rate of 1.88cm/year for slightly crowded growth conditions we estimate the trees age to be approximately 90 years.
- From the in-situ archaeology we consider that this linear feature consists of a man-made bank, most likely created using hand tools with no associated ditch(es). The date first constructed has not been possible to ascertain.
- The purpose of the creation of the bank is uncertain and may be either a boundary enclosure associated with the manor house, a Parish Boundary, or similar.



## APPENDIX 1: SITE LOCATION AND MAPS



### 1874 OS:





18 OS:

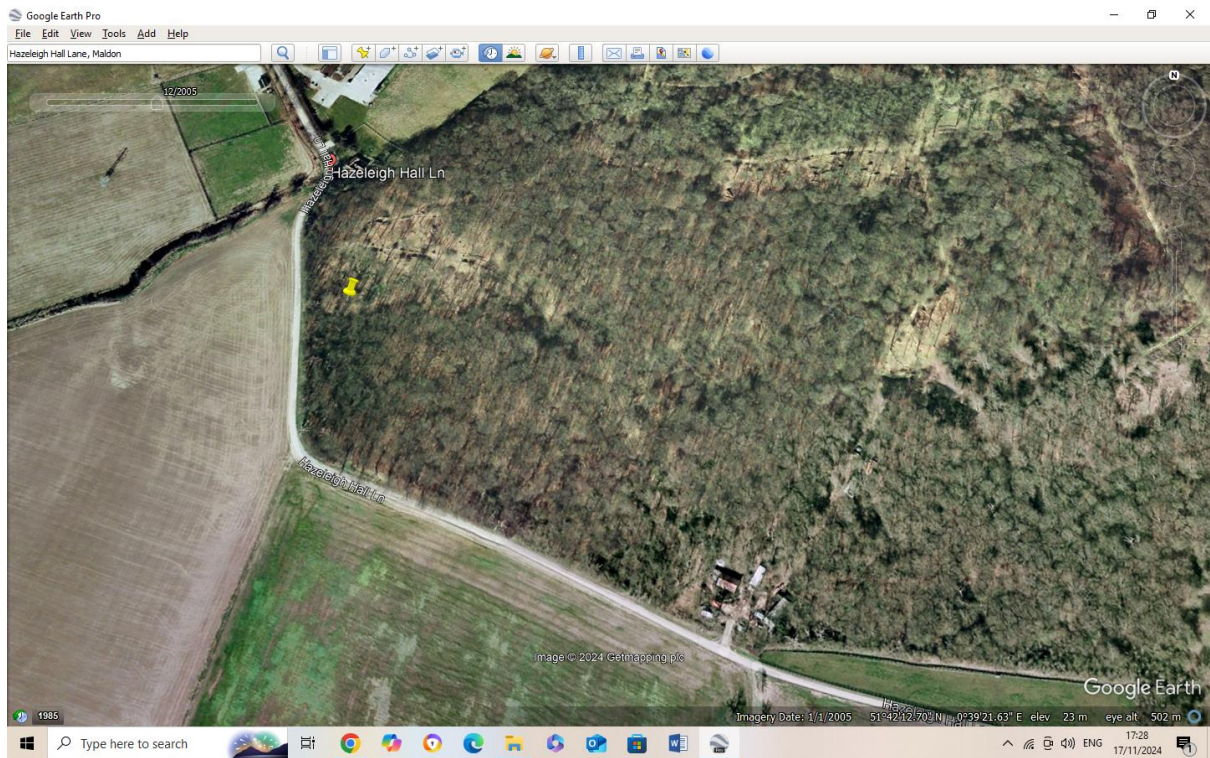


1920 OS:





**2024 GOOGLE EARTH SATELLITE IMAGERY:**

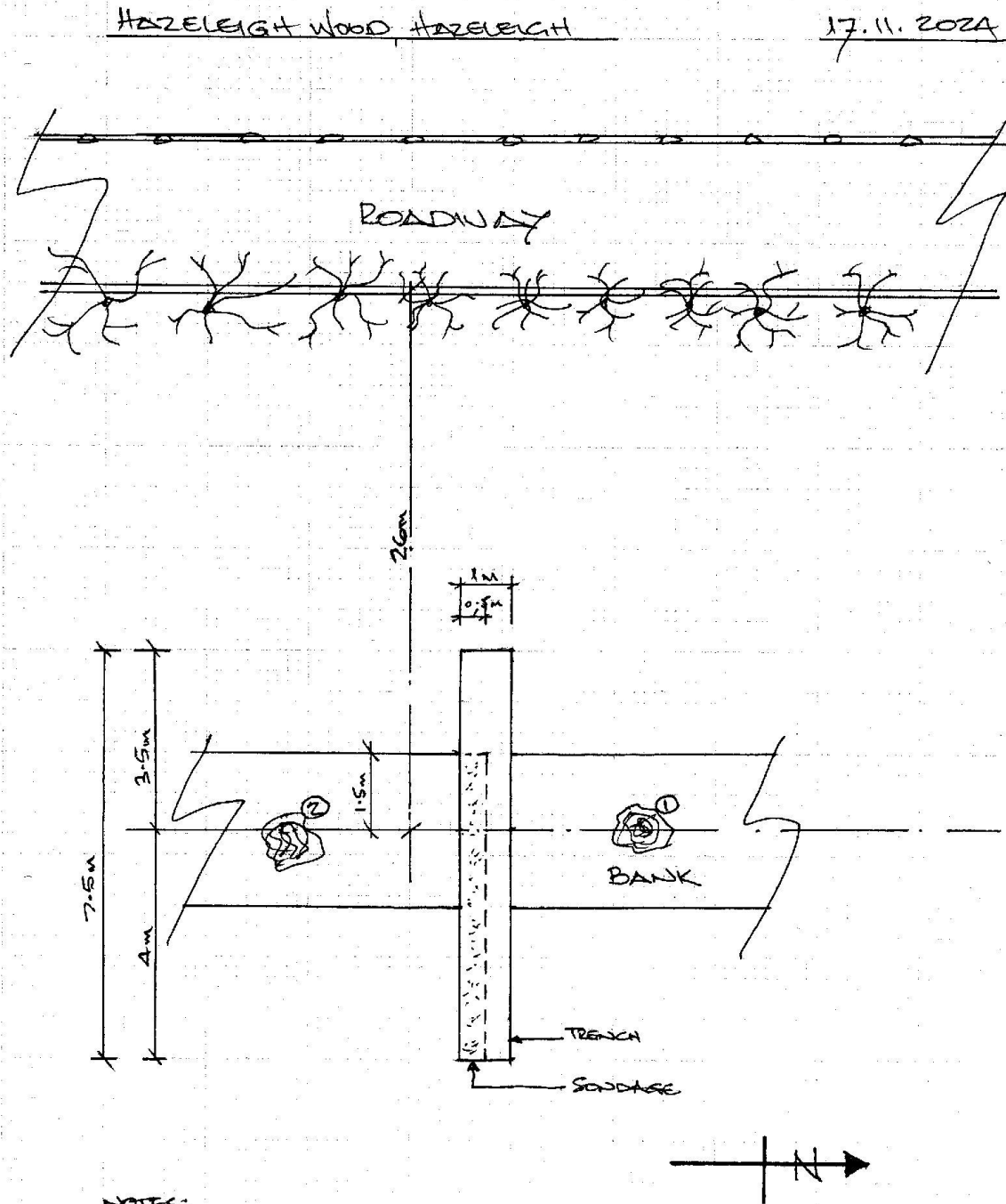






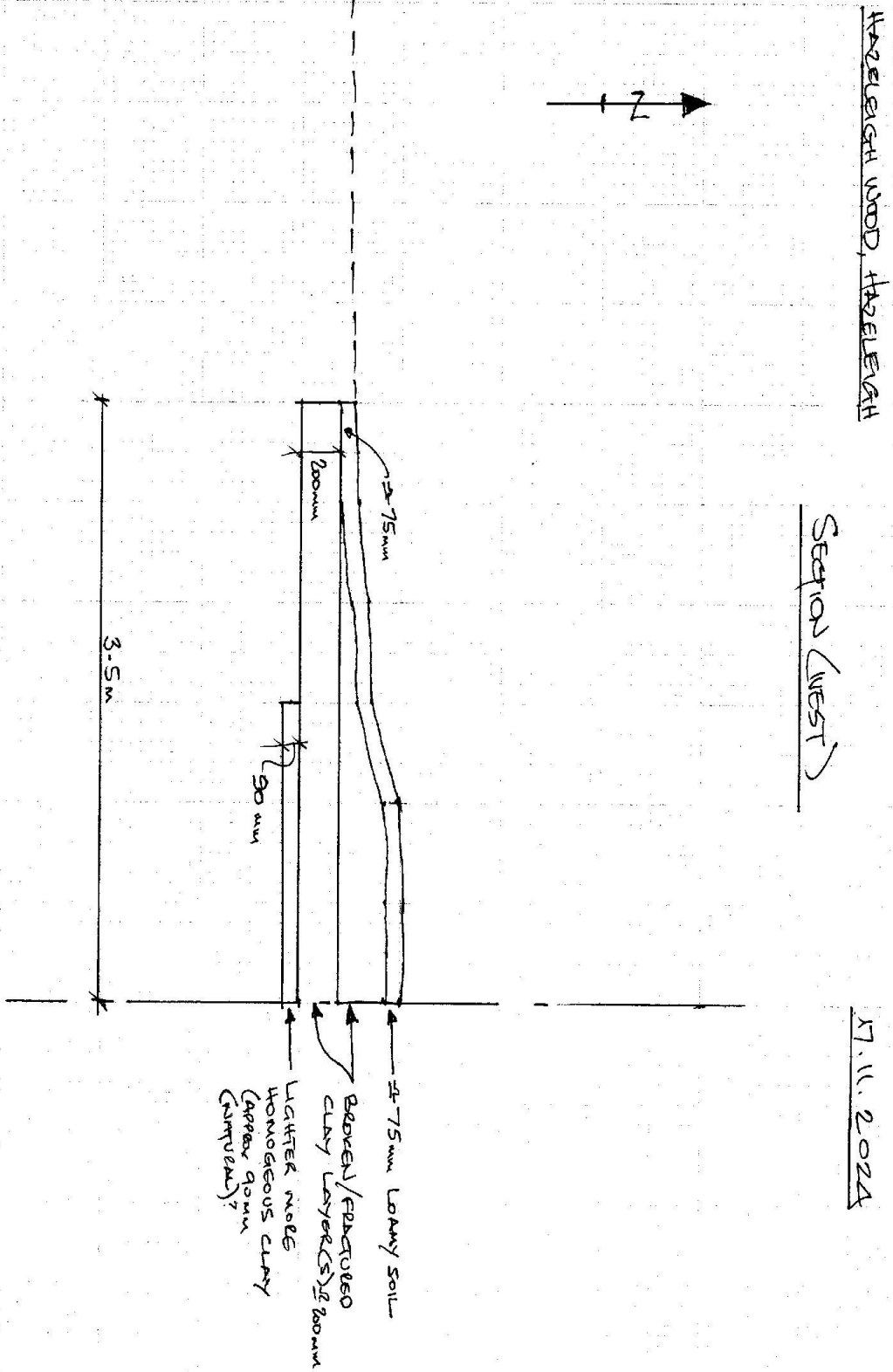
## APPENDIX 2: TRENCH LOCATION & SECTIONS

The sketch plans below provide trench location and sections:



**NOTES:**

- ① AGE ASSESSED OAK TREE: GIRTH 150.3 cm AT 1.5m HIGH (SEE NOTES)
- ② OAK TREE (NOT ASSESSED)
- GPS DATUM (±3m): N: 51.704973  
E: 000.650051

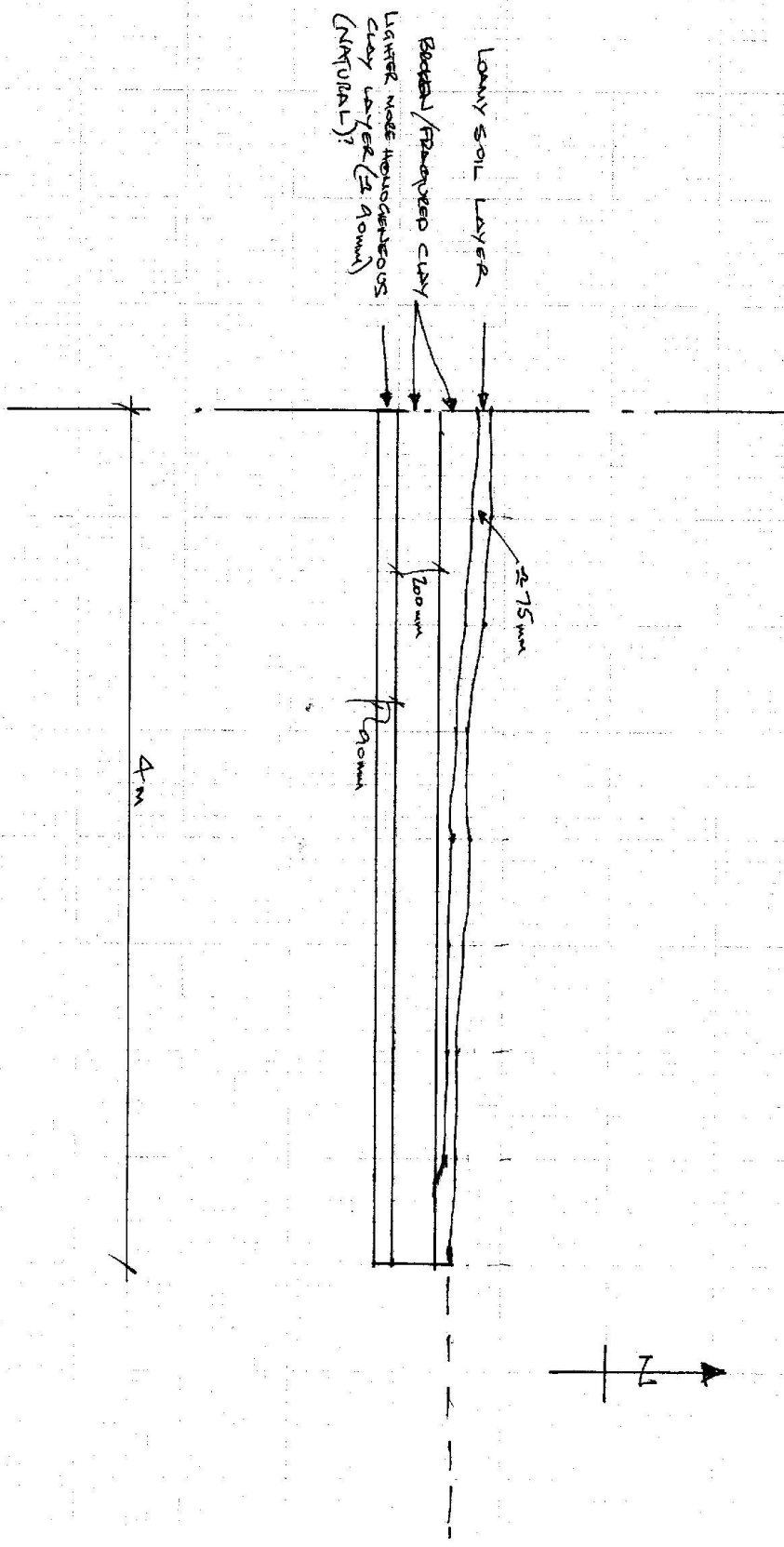




HARLEIGH WOOD, HARLEIGH

SECTION (EAST)

17.11.2024





## APPENDIX 3: PHOTOGRAPHS



Fig 1: West Side of Trench



Fig 2: West side of trench viewed towards centre of bank.



Fig 3: West sondage to centre of bank.



Fig 4: East side of trench.



Fig 5: East side of trench towards centre of bank.



Fig 6: East sondage towards centre of bank.



Fig 7: Full trench view, centre with East to Left and West to Right.



## APPENDIX 4: A SHORT HISTORY OF OWNERS

A short history of owners of Hazeleigh Hall Wood has kindly been researched and prepared by Pat Sheehy of MAHG and is incorporated into this report as follows:

“Hazeleigh is a small village in Essex which lies 2.6 miles South West of Maldon and it shares a joint Parish Council with its neighbour Woodham Mortimer.

Hazeleigh Hall Wood appears on maps going back to the 1830s but there are references to a wood going back to medieval times. It abuts the old church yard of St Nicholas and Hazeleigh Hall both of which lie south and next to one corner of the wood.

There had been a St Nicholas since medieval times. The last church was built by Giles Aleyne and wife Sarah in about 1590. By 1900 St Nicholas church had fallen into disrepair and was demolished in 1922. Hazeleigh Hall consists of a house and part of a moat. It is a two storey high, timber frame, plastered building with a tiled roof. The main block is c.16<sup>th</sup> century with later additions from the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

One of the earliest names for the village is Haegel Leah. Haegel translates as wood or clearing. There were people living in Hazeleigh during Anglo Saxon times as an 8<sup>th</sup> century silver coin called a sceat was found in this area.

Hazeleigh Manor itself appears in the Little Domesday Book and the wealth of the manor is described over a period of time. The Book was compiled in about 1086 therefore it is speaking of a period lasting 25 to 30 years. It noted that there had been a decline in the number of people living in Hazeleigh and that before 1066 there were more pigs than sheep but afterwards there were more sheep than pigs. Generally speaking, Hazeleigh had declined in value.

Prior to 1066 Hazeleigh manor was held by the Saxon Siward for 4.5 hides. Aelmer a free man held 0.5 hide and 20 acres but it is unclear what exactly he held whether a second manor or part of Hazeleigh Manor. A few other people were recorded as living in the village. After 1066 the manor was held by the Norman Randulf Peveral and Serlo held the land from him. Aelmer was replaced by Godric and only one other villager was recorded. Apart from sheep and pigs, the Little Domesday Book records cows, cobs (horses), and woodland.

By the 1400's Sir John Howard 7th Lord Plaiz and his wife Joan had an estate that included part of Maldon, Woodham Mortimer, Purleigh, Mundon and Hazeleigh, collectively called Earls Maldon. Lady Joan Howard died in 1424 and the property passed to their daughter Elizabeth Howard (c. 1410–1474), who married John de Vere 12<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford in 1425. Elizabeth was a first cousin of John Howard, 1st Duke of Norfolk and from her grandfather she inherited lands in Suffolk and Norfolk as well as Essex making her a very wealthy heiress.

During the War of the Roses the Lancastrian Earl of Oxford was executed in 1462 by Edward IV for treason and Elizabeth was forced to surrender her Essex manors to Richard Duke of Gloucester later Richard III. Richard III granted the manors to Sir Robert Percy therefore as the Duke of Gloucester and then as King he owned Elizabeth's Essex manors including Hazeleigh for a period of time. Elizabeth son the 13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford fought with the forces of Henry Tudor at Bosworth and was able to regain his mother's land in Essex. Also at Bosworth was her cousin Norfolk, a supporter of Richard III, who died on the battlefield.



In the following centuries the owners of Hazeleigh Hall Wood appears to be local landed gentry. During the 18<sup>th</sup> century a family called Trapps occupied Hazeleigh Hall for approximately fifty years. Most were buried at St Margaret Church Woodham Mortimer, presumably because St Nicholas had fallen in status. In the Victorian period the Hall and the wood were owned by one person but occupied by another. For example, the Grimwoods (owners) and the Cozens (occupiers) were related to one another by marriage. James Brewster Cozens was married to Elizabeth who was an only surviving child of Jeffery Grimwood of Cressing Temple. James B Cozens died on the 20<sup>th</sup> August 1859, aged 65 years, and Elizabeth died at Witham on the 12<sup>th</sup> April 1861 and is buried in the family vault in Cressing church yard.

In November 1857 the Pechell Trust acquired the Hazeleigh Hall estate. This included Hazeleigh Hall, Jenkins Farm in Woodham Mortimer, Limebourne Brook Farm in Maldon and Mosklyns in Purleigh, making a total area of 1,013 acres. The trust sold Hazeleigh Hall estate in the early 1920s and the trust itself ceased to exist in 1984 with the death of Sir Ronald Horace Pechell, the last of the Pechells.

**The two following lists have been compiled from various online sites and secondary sources:**

Early written forms of Hazeleigh from The Essex Place Name Project:

Document date	Place name variations
1086;1250	Halesleiam; Halesheiam; Heyslessleye
1212;1212;1222;1230	Heylesle(y) (Magna);Hailesle; Heilesle; Haylesle(e)
1546;1557;1627	Helesle;Hayslef;Hayleslight;Haseley

The Essex Place Name Project gives details of the wood with different owners and occupiers from about 1838 onwards although this arrangement probably happened earlier.

From The Essex Place Name Project:

Document date	Place name	Owners	Occupier
1838	Hazeleigh Wood Acre 2 Rod 3 Perch 39	Jeffery Grimwood,	James B Cozens,
1846	Hazeleigh Wood Acre 12 Rod 1 Perch 18	execs of Jeffery Grimwood	Louisa Brook Blake; Catherine Kerr, Eliza Kerr,
1846, OS 1875	Hazeleigh Wood Acre 0 Rod 1 Perch 8	execs of Jeffery Grimwood	James Brewster Cousins,
1846, OS 1875	Hazeleigh Hall Wood Acre 52 Rod 0 Perch 32	Louisa Brook Blake; Catherine Kerr, Eliza Kerr,	
1846, OS 1875	Homestead [Hazeleigh Hall] Type building Acre 3 Rod 1 Perch 0	Louisa Brook Blake; Catherine Kerr, Eliza Kerr,	Charles Barrett,
1846, OS 1875	Church Yard [St Nicholas] Acre 0 Rod 1 Perch 2		Abuts Hazeleigh Wood





**The two tables below include some of the owners of the wood and Hazeleigh Hall as the wood often forms part of the hall's estate:**

A number of people associated with Hazeleigh Hall were buried at St Margaret Church, Woodham Mortimer.

Inside the church is a memorial to Dorothe Alleine, 11<sup>th</sup> child of Giles and Sarah Alleine of Hazeleigh Hall. She died in 1584 aged 3 years. Also, there is a memorial to Elizabeth Richardson daughter of James Brewster Cozens of Woodham Mortimer Lodge who died Oct 1840 aged 18 years.

**In the churchyard the following names appear on head stones:**

Name	Relationship	Place	Died	Age
Stephen Trapps		Haysleigh	26/01/1728	53 years
Susanna Warner	Daughter of Stephen and Elizabeth Trapps	Hasleigh Hall	9/12/1741	25 years
Elizabeth Trapps	Wife of Stephen Trapps	Hasleigh Hall	11/00/1741	66 years
Stephen Trapps	Son of Stephen and Elizabeth Trapps	Hasleigh Hall	8/03/1755	42 years
John Trapps	Son of Stephen and Elizabeth Trapps	Hazeleigh Hall	12/09/1773	62 years
Mary Trapps	No other details			

From Maldon Archaeological and Historical Group - St Nicholas Graveyard Survey, Hazeleigh.

Name	Died	Age
Thomas Trapps	05/04/1778	30 years
Thomas Trapps	01/03/1799	30 years

**Documentary Sources:**

- 1923 Royal Commission on Historic Monuments Essex Vol4 p66;
- From the Essex Society for Archaeology and History and its sister publication Essex Journal the following (ESAH Volume 31 p151, Volume 36 p97);
- Wikipedia;
- The Essex Place Name Project at Essex Record Office;
- St Margaret Church Woodham Mortimer compiled by The Essex Society for Family History;
- Essex Journal Summer 1986 Vol21 (2);
- Maldon Archaeological and Historical Group St Nicholas Graveyard Survey;
- Richard III Paul M Kendall."



## APPENDIX 5: HER SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name/Address:</b> Hazeleigh Hall Wood, Hazeleigh Hall Lane, Maldon, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Woodham Mortimer & Hazeleigh	<b>District:</b> Maldon
<b>NGR:</b> TL 831040	<b>Site Code:</b> MAHG / HW
<b>Type of Work:</b> Investigation of linear bank feature.	<b>Site Director/Group:</b> MAHG (Maldon Archaeological & Historical Group)
<b>Date of Work:</b> 27 <sup>th</sup> November and 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2024.	<b>Size of Area Investigated:</b> 10,000m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Location of Finds/Curating Museum:</b> MAHG	<b>Funding source:</b> None
<b>Further Seasons Anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related HER Nos:</b> None
<b>Final Report:</b> Produced by MAHG on 06 February 2025.	
<b>Periods Represented:</b> Un-defined.	
<p><b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From walking the site, where possible, and reviewing both maps and LIDAR data the bank appears to run south to north from the South West corner area of the wood to the North West corner area of the wood, terminating close to the stream, for approximately 142.54 metres. It is cut across by an east/west running footpath. The data suggests that at a point some 12 metres north of that footpath the bank may also turn Eastwards for approximately 44 metres.</li> <li>The girth of the tree growing roughly on the centre of the bank immediately to the north of the trench measured 150.3cm at 1.5 metres above ground level. Using an assumed growth rate of 1.88cm/year for slightly crowded growth conditions we estimate the trees age to be approximately 90 years.</li> <li>From the in-situ archaeology we consider that this linear feature consists of a man-made bank, most likely created using hand tools with no associated ditch(es). The date first constructed has not been possible to ascertain.</li> <li>The purpose of the creation of the bank is uncertain and may be either a boundary enclosure associated with the manor house, a Parish Boundary, or similar.</li> </ul>	
<b>Previous Summaries/Reports:</b> None	
<b>Author of Summary:</b> Bernie Steel, MAHG	<b>Date of Summary:</b> 06.02.2025