

Essex Sound and Video Archive

Sources on Essex Dialect and Accents



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Essex Sound and Video Archive Sources on Essex Dialect and Accents

This guide to the collection has been produced to assist searchers who are looking for sound and video recordings on the subject of Essex dialect and accents. Before ordering any of the items listed below, consult the tape summaries on the Essex Record Office catalogue database SEAX to make sure that this is the right recording for your needs. Video recordings are indicated by italics.

Almost all of the recordings held at the Essex Sound and Video Archive include voices recorded in different parts of the county. If you are interested in the dialect or accent of a particular town or village, you should carry out an 'Advanced Search' on SEAX for recordings relating to that location. Click 'Advanced Search' on the right hand side of the menu screen, then enter SA in the first box and the name of the place in which you are interested in the second box. This will bring up all of the sound recordings relating to that place. For video recordings you should enter VA in the first box.

The following areas are covered by distinct collections held at the Essex Sound and Video Archive:

- Basildon area (Billericay, Great Burstead, Laindon, Pitsea, Vange): **SA 3** – for Basildon New Town, see **SA 20/2**
- Burnham-on-Couch: **SA 5** and **SA 29**
- Chelmsford: **SA 7** and **SA 15**
- Colchester: **SA 8**
- Great and Little Chesterford: **SA 18**
- Harlow: **SA 22**
- Loughton, Epping and Chigwell: **SA 14**
- North Essex (Alphamstone and Henny, Bardfield, Bulmer, Earls Colne, Finchingfield, Gestingthorpe, Little Maplestead, Steeple Bumpstead, Wickham St. Paul): **SA 17**
- Southend: **SA 4** and **SA 20**
- Waltham Forest (Leyton and Walthamstow): **SA 9**

Also, the Essex Record Office has produced a CD compilation for sale called ***How to Speak Essex: 20th Century Voices from the Essex Sound and Video Archive*** which includes over one hundred examples of Essex accents and dialect recorded in the twentieth century. The earliest example dates from 1906, while the majority are recordings of people born between 1900 and 1940. The CD includes both speech and song, with examples from across the county. These recordings should also demonstrate the diversity of accents in Essex. They have been divided into ten geographical areas in order that the listener can compare, for instance, the accents of villages in the north of the county bordering Suffolk with areas of historic Essex now deemed to be part of Greater London.

1) Dialect

	Reference
A-Z of Essex Villages – Fyfield: old Essex dialect	SA 1/125/1
“All Manner of What”: tales and songs in Essex dialect	SA 6/304/1
“All Manner of What”: dialect songs	SA 6/305/1
Americans at Great Saling Air Base from 1942: Essex dialect likened to Southern American accent	SA 1/633/1
The Battle of Maldon: narrative in Essex dialect	SA 6/730/1
Bob and Tom Hawkins of Tillingham: local accents	SA 26/27/1
Broad Essex: Essex tales told in dialect	SA 6/289/1
Broad Essex: two dialect poems – ‘A Tale of Mersea’ and ‘The Ghost of a Roman Soldier’	SA 6/290/1
Cecil and George Osborne, Cocklemen: dialect words and local accent	SA 20/1557/1
The Cocklemen of Leigh: dialect	SA 19/1056/1
Essex Ballads by Charles R. Benham: two ballads spoken in the Essex dialect, entitled ‘These New-Fangl’d Ways’ and ‘Jim’s New Gal’	SA 24/222/1
Essex Ballads by J. London: ballads sung or spoken in the Essex dialect, entitled ‘Wi’ is Owd Cadepowt’ [catapult], ‘Owd Rat-Tayled Tinker from Owd Lunnon Town’ and ‘Dingie ‘underd Ghoosts O’Alloween’. Also ‘The Queen Bee and Me in the Residency’ in Australian dialect	SA 24/221/1
Essex Dialect: account of local customs in dialect	SA 1/282/1
Essex Dialect: account of local customs in dialect	SA 1/285/1
Essex Dialect: conversation about Christmas and Christmas fare using Essex dialect and vernacular terms	SA 1/347/1
Essex Dialect: conversation on cure for colds, sheep, education and cooking using Essex dialect and vernacular terms	SA 1/346/1
Essex Dialect: humorous dialogue using dialect and vernacular words	SA 1/269/1
Essex Dialect: observations on the weather, farming and working horses using Essex dialect and vernacular terms	SA 1/176/1
Essex Dialect: stories and songs	SA 24/390/1
Essex Dialect: talk by Westley Sandford on Essex dialect and country characters	SA 8/1/14/1
Essex Man and Woman: package on Essex dialect	SA 1/1801/1
Estuary English: report on the spread of Estuary English accent	SA 1/1227/1
Folk Songs and Dance Music: a recording made by the Essex Dialect Conservation Society of singers and country dance music	SA 21/1306/1
<i>Foulness: schools programme on differences in accents spoken by young people and older people on Foulness Island.</i>	VA 27/14/1
Memories of Little Maplestead: dialect words	SA 17/788/1
Memories of Mersea: recording made by the Essex Dialect Conservation Society	SA 17/799/1

Memories of Mount Bures: dialect word for yeast	SA 24/1616/1
'Springfield Bits': an example of local dialect	SA 24/1414/1
<i>Suffolk dialect</i>	VA 5/3/1

2) Some accents

	Reference
Bocking: Olive Getgood	SA 8/1853/1
Burnham-on-Crouch: George Shelley	SA 5/389/1
Burnham-on-Crouch: Frank Sims	SA 24/728/1
Canvey Island: Aubrey Stevens	SA 20/1144/1
Chelmsford: Peter Seabrook	SA 1/905/1
Chelmsford: Stan Petchey	SA 24/359/1
Clavering: Betty Turner and Molly Law	SA 26/69/1
Clavering: "Farmer's Boys" – former agricultural workers	SA 6/288/1
Colchester: Albert King	SA 8/391/1
Cold Norton: Dorothy Cowell	SA 26/30/1
Colne Engaine: Gertie Watson	SA 12/538/1
Easthorpe: Jack Bishop	SA 26/77/1
Great Bardfield: Arthur and Milly Green	SA 19/1/40/1
Great Chesterford: Gladys Reynolds	SA 18/909/1
Jaywick: Audrey and Derek Frost	SA 16/759/1
Kelvedon: Albie Wilkes	SA 24/1012/1
Kelvedon: Chris Warner	SA 44/1/70/1
Kelvedon: Fred Joyce[?]	SA 44/2/3/1
Leigh-on-Sea: Sydney Willder	SA 12/578/1
Little Bromley: Peter Herring	SA 8/1752/1
Maldon: Michael Emmis	SA 1/1109/1
Manuden: Frank Pratt	SA 24/1600/1
Navestock: Jack Root – former farmer and market gardener	SA 24/822/1
Pleshey: blacksmith	SA 19/1061/1
Quendon: Leslie Basham	SA 13/717/1
St. Osyth: Phyll Hendy	SA 26/66/1
Southend: Walter J. Wixley	SA 4/252/1
Southminster: Bill Chapman	SA 26/91/1
Terling: Fred Thurgood, Ted Thurgood and Fred Twin – gamekeepers	SA 24/1422/1
Thaxted: Ruth Rolph	SA 24/1670/1
Thurrock: Pat Jemmett	SA 1/537/1
Vange: Jessie Payne	SA 3/419/1
Walthamstow: Mrs Gorringe; and Mr Gorringe of Epping	SA 9/427/1
Walthamstow: Mrs Summers	SA 22/1364/1

3) Posh voices

	Reference
Norman Joscelyn of Braintree	SA 8/1829/1
Sir John Ruggles-Brise of Finchingfield	SA 1/111/1; SA 1/112/1; SA 1/113/1;

	SA 1/114/1; SA 1/115/1; SA 13/612/1; SA 13/644/1; SA 20/1544/1; SA 20/2/16/1
Miss Stephenson of Great Chesterford	SA 18/924/1
Miss Tennant of Ugley	SA 1/148/1
Brigadier John Vaizey of Tilbury-juxta-Clare	SA 24/1002/1
Alderman Hugh Wright of Chelmsford	SA 24/1280/1

4) A-Z of Essex Villages

The A-Z of Essex Villages was a series of recordings broadcast by BBC Essex radio from 1986 to 1988. The programmes include short interviews with a number of local residents in each of the villages. The villages were chosen from all parts of the county and therefore the series may serve as a useful resource for studying the range of accents to be found in Essex.

	Reference
Abbess Roding	SA 1/173/1
Ashdon	SA 1/10/1
Ashdon (background)	SA 1/11/1
Bradfield	SA 1/12/1
Bradwell-juxta-Coggeshall	SA 1/174/1
Castle Hedingham	SA 1/195/1
Castle Hedingham (background 1)	SA 1/196/1
Castle Hedingham (background 2)	SA 1/197/1
The Chignals	SA 1/13/1
The Chignals (background 1)	SA 1/14/1
The Chignals (background 2)	SA 1/15/1
The Chignals (background)	SA 1/230/1
Danbury	SA 1/213/1
Doddinghurst	SA 1/16/1
Doddinghurst (background)	SA 1/17/1
Easthorpe (background)	SA 1/224/1
Elsenham	SA 1/123/1
Elsenham (background)	SA 1/124/1
Faulkbourne	SA 1/225/1
Fyfield	SA 1/125/1
Doddinghurst (background 1)	SA 1/231/1
Doddinghurst (background 2)	SA 1/232/1
Gosfield	SA 1/233/1
Great Oakley	SA 1/281/1
Great Wakering	SA 1/126/1
Great Wakering (background 1)	SA 1/127/1
Great Wakering (background 2)	SA 1/128/1
Hadstock	SA 1/266/1
Havering-atte-Bower	SA 1/129/1
Havering-atte-Bower (background 1)	SA 1/130/1

Havering-atte-Bower (background 2)	SA 1/131/1
Ingatestone	SA 1/132/1
Ingatestone (background)	SA 1/133/1
Jaywick	SA 1/194/1
Kelvedon	SA 1/134/1
Kirby-le-Soken	SA 1/256/1
Latchingdon	SA 1/257/1
Lindsell	SA 1/135/1
Mistley	SA 1/18/1
Mistley (background)	SA 1/19/1
Nazeing	SA 1/136/1
Osea Island	SA 1/137/1
Osea Island (background)	SA 1/138/1
Paglesham	SA 1/139/1
Paglesham (background 1)	SA 1/140/1
Paglesham (background 2)	SA 1/141/1
Quendon	SA 1/142/1
Radwinter	SA 1/333/1
Rowhedge	SA 1/143/1
Roxwell	SA 1/144/1
Roxwell (background)	SA 1/145/1
Sandon	SA 1/555/1
Steeple Bumpstead	SA 1/146/1
Tillingham	SA 1/147/1
Tiptree	SA 1/330/1
Ugley	SA 1/148/1
Virley	SA 1/149/1
Virley (background)	SA 1/150/1
White Colne	SA 1/151/1
White Colne (background 1)	SA 1/152/1
White Colne (background 2)	SA 1/153/1
The Yeldhams	SA 1/154/1
Bumper edition – a selection of excerpts from the 1987 series	SA 1/155/1

The Essex Sound and Video Archive is being added to all the time and there may be recordings on this subject that have been recently added to the collection. Please consult the Essex Record Office catalogue database SEAX for further references.

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Cover photo:

*Photograph of 3 men drinking in a public house, n.d. [post 1921]
(ref: D/DU 1072/16)*