

Northwood

(OS Ref: TL 8012 3920?)

Information on the parish of Northwood is almost non-existent. From my researches in the Essex Record Office, I have been unable to uncover any information as to its history, appearance, demise or location. The only evidence I have for its existence is its place on the Essex Parish Map. Here it lies between the parishes of Little Yeldham, Castle Hedingham, Gestingthorpe, Belchamp Walter and Belchamp Otten.

While browsing over my OS maps one day, looking for a possible site for this church, I noticed St Mary Hall sitting right in the middle of these very parishes. As this is sited nowhere near another church and was probably named for its association with a building called St Mary's I suspect this area is a likely candidate for the location. The church was perhaps behind the hall - possibly near the pond. On the Chapman and André map of 1777, there is shown a clump of trees called Northey Wood from which the parish got its name!

Location: St Mary Hall is beside a narrow road halfway between Little Yeldham and Belchamp Otten. The owners advised me that there is nothing to see in relation to the church on their land.

Chapman & André map, showing Northey Wood opposite Mary Hall, 1777

