

Ebbsfleet, Kent

Υψηλὴ Πλευρὰ

St Augustine's Cross

Site of meeting of King Epelberht with St Augustine

Grid ref TR 3?? 6??

Date

AD 597

The site is marked by a modern cross in Anglo-Saxon style.

'... Some days after, the king came into the island (of Thanet), and sitting in the open air, ordered Augustine and his companions to be brought into his presence. For he had taken precaution that they should not come to him in any house, lest, according to an ancient superstition, if they practised any magical arts, they might impose upon him, and so get the better of him. But they came furnished with Divine, not with magic virtue, bearing a silver cross for their banner, and the image of our Lord and Saviour painted on a board; and singing the litany, they offered up their prayers to the Lord for the eternal salvation both of themselves and of those to whom they were come.'

St Bede the Venerable, The Ecclesiastical History of the English Nation, JM Dent and Sons Limited.

An artist's impression of the scene in AD 597, when St. Augustine accompanied by forty monks preached to the pagan King Epelberht, who was later converted to Christianity. Illustration from City of Pilgrims: pub Dean and Chapter of Canterbury Cathedral and Pitkin Publications Limited

