

Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 1905
issued April 2023**

**Historic building recording of Shell House, St
Osyth's Priory Park, St Osyth, Essex, CO16 8GW:
February 2023**



**CAT project ref.: 2022/01g
ECC code: STOSH23**

**Historic building recording of Shell House, St
Osyth's Priory Park, St Osyth, Essex, CO16 8GW**

February 2023

NGR: TM 11906 16163

**Planning ref.: 16/00671/FUL, 17/00634/FUL &
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**commissioned by Matthew Bynoe (City & Country)
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1 Summary

A programme of historic building recording was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust at Shell House in St Osyth's Priory Park, St Osyth, Essex. Shell House is an 18th century folly built in St Osyth's Priory Park, likely by William Henry the fourth Earl of Rochford. It is constructed from brick and faced with alternating bands of knapped flint and slag. While follies are a common Georgian landscape garden feature, the use of slag on the façade is somewhat unusual. The interior of Shell House was lined with shells, some of which are still surviving, and the floor was constructed from knapped flint and floor bricks. None of the roof survives but historic photographs show that it was thatched.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report of a historic building recording carried out on Shell House, St Osyth Priory Park, St Osyth, Essex. The recording work was commissioned by Matthew Bynoe (City & Country) on behalf of City & Country and was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on 8th February 2023. The site is located in the park associated with St Osyth Priory at NGR TM 11906 16163 (Fig 1).

A planning application (16/00671/FUL) was submitted to Tendring District Council in 2016 comprising the *erection of 17 dwellings for use as residential and holiday accommodation (C3 use); restoration of park landscape; bunding; re-grading of 9 hectares of land; construction and alterations to access driveway; landscaping and all ancillary works*. In 2017 a variation of condition was granted (17/00634/FUL) to *allow the re-location of Lake House North and South Lodge*. A later variation of condition application (19/0032/FUL) to *allow amendments to the elevations of Lake House North and the re-building of the end gable serving Nuns Hall* has superseded this.

In response to this application, the Place Services Historic Environment Advisor (HEA) recommended to the council that a Historic England building recording be made of Shell House prior to any restoration works (ECC 2022). This recommendation was given due to 18th century date of Shell House. The recommendation was based on the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2021).

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the building recording was prepared by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT 2023) and agreed with the HEA. All work was carried out in accordance with this WSI.

All work was carried out according to standards and practices contained in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2014a), *Standard and guidance for archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (2014b), *Management of research projects in the historic environment* (Historic England 2015a), *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14) and *Research and Archaeology Revised: A Revised Framework for the East of England* (EAA 24). In addition, the guidelines contained in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice* (Historic England 2016) were followed.

3 Aims

The aim of the building recording was to provide a detailed record and assessment of Shell House prior to its restoration. The building recording was carried out to Level 2 (Historic England 2016) which is defined as:

“...a descriptive record, made in similar circumstances to Level 1 but when more information is needed. It may be made of a building which is judged not to require a more detailed record, or it may serve to gather data for a wider project. Both the exterior and interior of the building will be seen, described and photographed. The examination of the building will produce an analysis of its development and use

and the record will include the conclusions reached, but it will not discuss in detail the evidence on which this analysis is based. A plan and sometimes other drawings may be made but the drawn record will normally not be comprehensive and may be tailored to the scope of a wider project."

In particular the record considered the:

- Plan form of the site.
- Materials and method of construction.
- Date(s) of the structure.
- Original function and layout.
- Original and later fixtures and fittings.
- Significance of the site in its immediate local context.

4 Methodology

The following are included in this report:

- A documentary, cartographic and pictorial survey of the evidence pertaining to the history and evolution of the site.
- A large-scale block plan of the site.
- Annotated and phased floor-plan of the building at a scale of 1:50.
- A description of the building. The description addresses features such as materials, dimensions, method of construction and phasing.
- A photographic record, comprising digital photographs of both general shots and individual features. Selected examples of the photographic record are clearly tied into the drawn record and reproduced as fully annotated photographic plates supporting the text. The photographic record is accompanied by a photographic register detailing location and direction of shot (Appendix 1).

5 Historical background (Fig 1)

The following background includes extracts of the Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessed via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk> and the Essex Records Office).

The town of St Osyth is recorded as *Cicc* in the Domesday Book of 1086. It is said to be the location of a 7th century nunnery founded by Saint Osyth, from whom the modern town is gets its name. The building recorded for this report is located within the park at St Osyth Priory, to the west of the centre of the historic town.

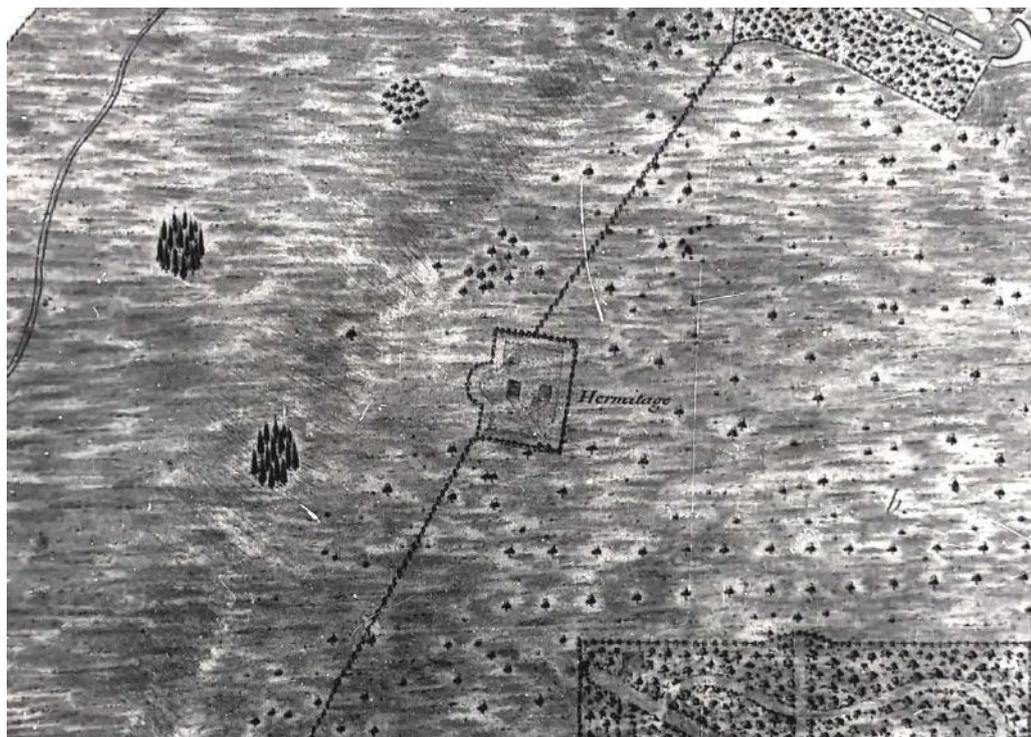
St Osyth's Priory (NHLE No. 1002193) is a medieval priory that was founded in the 1120's by Richard de Belmeis, Bishop of London, as a house for Augustinian Canons. It became an abbey dedicated to Saints Peter and Paul, and Osyth sometime before 1161. The park associated with the priory was most likely gained around 1268, when a charter was granted to the abbey allowing some hunting rights. The abbey was suppressed and surrendered to the crown in 1539.

In 1553, Thomas Darcy gained possession of the abbey and was responsible for making many structural changes. Many of the medieval buildings were demolished, including the abbey church, and impressive modifications were made to the remaining buildings to create a substantial residence. New buildings were also constructed and the formal walled garden created. Over the next 400 years, the priory and park had considerable reworking, remodelling and modernisation, as well as additional buildings added. In the late 19th century, gravel extraction began within the park and continued into the 20th century.

The area of the ruins of the priory and garden are scheduled (SAM No. 24 and EHER 4) and the park is a Registered Park and Garden (NHLE No. 1000237). St Osyth Priory

and park contains 22 structures which are listed. The building detailed in this report known as Shell House, is an 18th century folly which overlooks Flag Creek to the west. Shell house is not listed but is located within the Registered Park and Garden area.

Much of the current garden and park owe their current form to William Henry, the fourth Earl of Rochford, who made changes to the grounds in the early to mid 18th century. It seems likely that Shell House and the (now demolished) kitchen were also constructed at this time. The earliest estate plan of St Osyth's Priory dates to 1762 and was produced by Edward John Eyre (Map 1). In the centre of the western boundary is an area labelled as 'Hermitage', which depicts Shell House and the kitchen.



Map 1 Extract of Edward John Eyre's 1762 estate plan of St Osyth's Priory. The Hermitage (Shell House) visible in the centre.

The Chapman and André map of 1777 (Map 2) shows the priory and park but not in enough detail to include Shell House.



Map 2 Extract of the 1777 Chapman and André map. The approximate location of Shell House highlighted in purple.

In 1814, the St Osyth Priory estate was surveyed by John Wiggins (Map 3), along with the rest of the parish of St Osyth. Shell House and the kitchen are depicted and labelled as a grotto.



Map 3 Extract of John Wiggins 1814 estate map of St Osyth's Priory.

The 1840 Tithe map is not detailed enough to show Shell House or the kitchen but it does depict the boundary surrounding them.

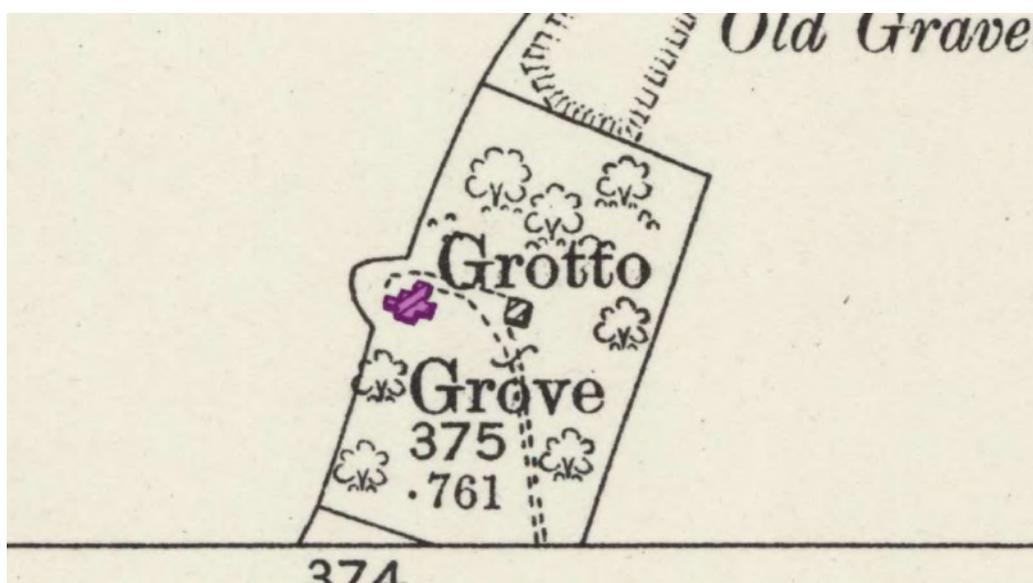


Map 4 Extract of the 1840 Tithe Map. Location of Shell House highlighted in purple.

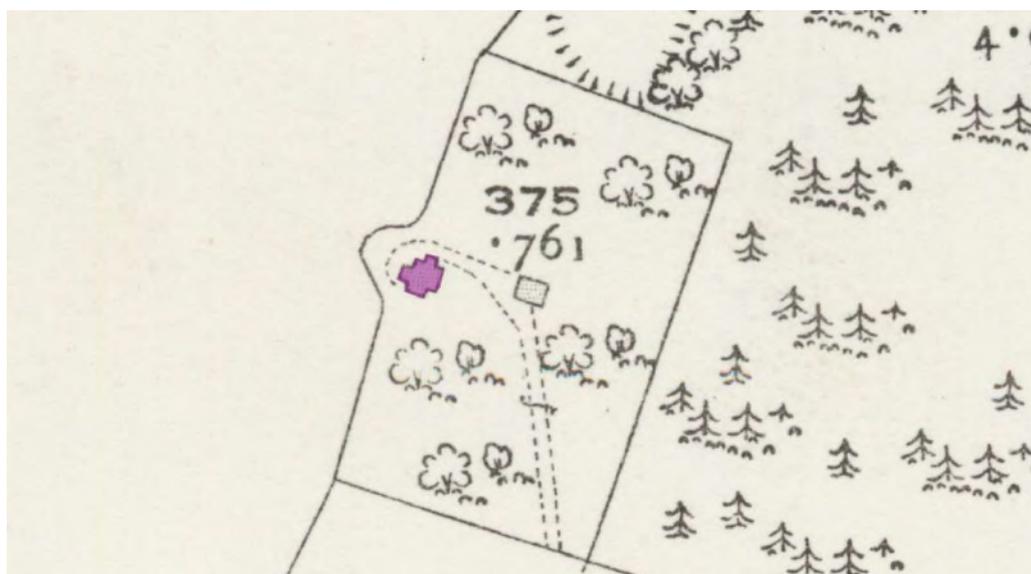
Shell House and the kitchen are represented on OS maps dating from 1880 (Map 5), 1897 (Map 6), 1923 (Map 7) and 1946 (Map 8). Shell House and the surrounding area remains unchanged on all four maps.



Map 5 Extract of the 1880 6 inch OS map. Shell House highlighted in purple.



Map 6 Extract of the 1897 25 inch OS map. Shell House highlighted in purple.



Map 7 Extract of the 1923 25 inch OS map. Shell House highlighted in purple.



Map 8 Extract of the 1946 6 inch OS map. Shell House highlighted in purple.

In 2003, Debois Landscape Survey Group surveyed the historic landscape at St Osyth's Priory, the report reproduced historic photographs of Shell House and the kitchen (Photographs 1-6, date unknown). They show Shell House and the kitchen before they became ruinous, including a thatched roof on both buildings. Unfortunately a fire broke out and destroyed the roof of Shell House (Headley 2011).



Photograph 1 Shell House and the kitchen. Photograph taken facing south-west.
(Photograph reproduced from Debois Landscape Survey Volume 3: Plans and Postcards 2003)



Photograph 2 The kitchen. Photograph taken facing south-east. (Photograph reproduced from Debois Landscape Survey Volume 3: Plans and Postcards, 2003)



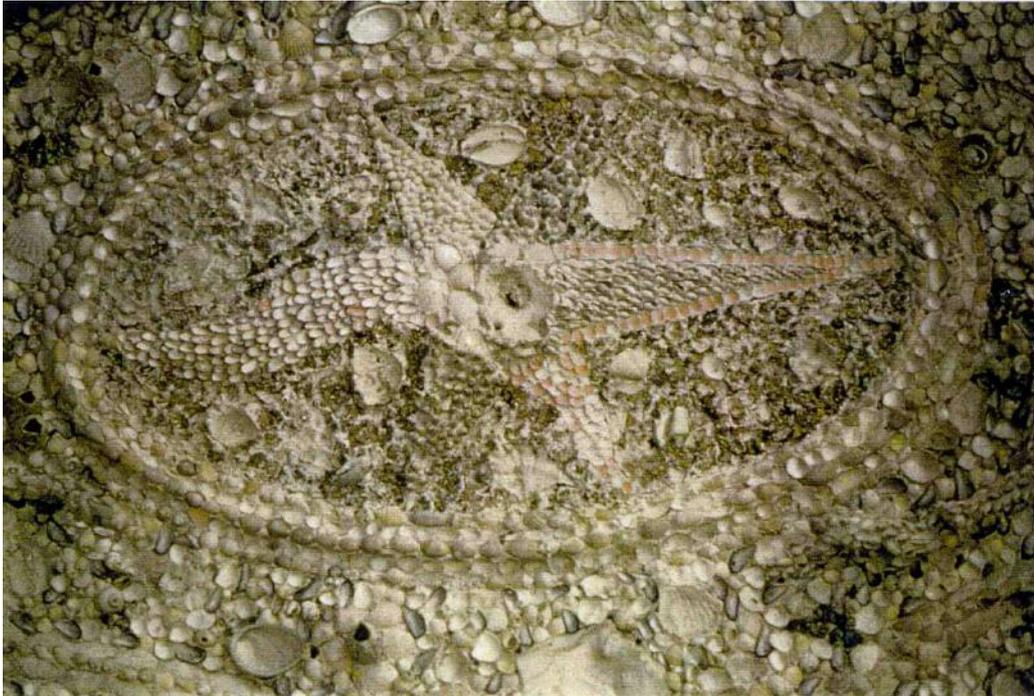
Photograph 3 Shell House. Photograph taken facing south-east. (Photograph reproduced from Debois Landscape Survey Volume 3: Plans and Postcards, 2003)



Photograph 4 Shell house. Photograph taken facing north north-east. (Photograph reproduced from Debois Landscape Survey Volume 3: Plans and Postcards, 2003)



Photograph 5 Interior shell decoration in Shell House. (Photograph reproduced from Debois Landscape Survey Volume 3: Plans and Postcards, 2003)



Photograph 6 Interior shell decoration in Shell House. (Photograph reproduced from Debois Landscape Survey Volume 3: Plans and Postcards, 2003)

6 Building recording descriptive record (Fig 2-6)

The building detailed in this report is the remains of an 18th century folly known as Shell House. It is constructed from red brick laid in Flemish bond (brick dimensions: 210 x 105 x 60mm) and faced in alternating layers of knapped flint and slag (25-30cm thick). The folly is supported on foundations constructed from septaria. None of the kitchen survives above ground.

On the western elevation is a doorway with a carved stone surround (Photograph 11). There are two iron pintles on the northern side and a mortice carved into the stone on the southern side. There are remains of a window opening on both the northern and southern elevations: both are degraded but the northern more so. There is evidence of a brick window-sill on the southern opening. On the interior of the folly, the windows were surrounded with carved stone blocks and slag. Photographs 3 and 4 show the windows originally had a pointed arch shape, evidence of this shape can be seen on the window opening in the southern wall (Photograph 14).

On the interior walls of the folly are patchy remains of a mortar skim with cross-hatched key marks. In some areas a secondary skim of mortar survives, into which shells have been pressed (Photograph 18).

There are two fireplaces in Shell House, one on the northern wall (Photograph 15) and one on the southern (Photograph 16). Both have the remains of a carved stone and slag surround. The northern fireplace has slightly blackened lower bricks, evidence it may have used for a small fire at some point. The southern fireplace is decorative and is lined with a pink mortar with shells pressed in.

On the eastern wall is an alcove with a concrete sill and a carved stone surround (Photograph 17) The back of the alcove is constructed with half-bricks laid in header bond. A small amount of keyed mortar survives in the alcove.

Roughly half of the floor remains (Photograph 19). It is constructed from a combination of different shaped floor bricks surrounding areas of knapped flint.



Photograph 7 Western elevation. Photograph taken facing south-east.



Photograph 8 Northern elevation. Photograph taken facing south-west.



Photograph 9 Eastern elevation. Photograph taken facing north-west.



Photograph 10 Southern elevation. Photograph taken facing north-east.



Photograph 11 Detail of doorway on northern elevation. Photograph taken facing east south-east.



Photograph 12 Internal view of eastern and southern wall. Photograph taken facing south-east.



Photograph 13 Internal view of northern and eastern wall. Photograph taken facing north-east.



Photograph 14 Internal detail of window opening on southern wall. Photograph taken facing south-west.



Photograph 15 Detail of fireplace in northern wall. Photograph taken facing north-east.



Photograph 16 Detail of fireplace in southern wall. Photograph taken facing south-west.



Photograph 17 Detail of alcove in eastern wall. Photograph taken facing south-east.



Photograph 18 Detail of shells in plaster on southern wall. Photograph taken facing south-west.



Photograph 19 Detail of floor. Photograph taken facing south-east.

7 Discussion

Shell House¹ is a folly that was constructed in the early-mid 18th century. Follies are architectural features of gardens which were popularised in the Georgian period. Fashionable landowners added follies to landscape gardens to enhance a view, create mood or simply lend interest to a tour of the grounds (Jackson 2001). While most follies were purely decorative, others, such as Shell House, may have served a function, such as a summerhouse.

It seems likely that Shell House was constructed by William Henry, 4th Earl of Rochford, possibly for his wife Lucy Young, whom he married in 1742. The Earl inherited the priory from his father in 1738 but by 1746 had to start selling parts of the estate to fund his lavish lifestyle. As follies were all the rage with Georgian aristocracy, it seems probable the Earl was 'keeping up with the Joneses' by constructing Shell House even if he could not afford to (perhaps indicated by the construction materials).

Shell House is constructed from red brick faced with alternating bands of slag and flint with carved stone detailing. The use of slag as a facing material is interesting as it is primarily a waste material. It has likely been chosen due to its morphology and low cost. It has a dark grey colour with blue hues, the surface is rough in areas and smooth and glass-like in others and littered with vesicles, which emulates the pitted surface of dried coral.

Not only would slag have been visually interesting, as it is a waste material, it would have been cheap to source. In all probability the slag was sourced from a local foundry or blacksmiths, possibly one associated with the St Osyth priory estate. A slightly more unconventional theory is the slag may have been used as ship ballast, dumped in the creek when cargo was collected and subsequently collected and used². It also seems

-
- 1 Although often referred to as a grotto, Shell House doesn't strictly fall into this category. Grottos tend to be small caves, natural or man-made, influenced by Roman *nymphaea* (sea caves associated with the goddess Venus). Shell Houses made attractive alternatives to grottos where grounds may have been unsuitable (or too expensive) to excavate.
 - 2 Excavations on Maldon High Street by CAT in 2008 uncovered a number of examples of non-local stones which were proposed to have been reused ship ballast collected from the river (CAT Report 496).

probable the knapped flint and carved stone used for Shell House has been salvaged from the demolished monastic buildings of the priory, another potential cost-saving measure.

While unusual, the use of slag as a building material is not completely unheard of during the post-medieval period. A shell grotto was constructed in 1757 in the grounds of Hampton Court House in Surrey. This building was designed by Thomas Wright of Durham, an astronomer-come-architect and garden designer, for the 2nd Earl of Halifax. Similar to Shell House, the shell grotto at Hampton Court House utilises slag on its facing, but in more irregular fashion.

Distinctive black slag blocks can be seen in buildings and walls in many villages and towns bordering the Severn and Wye in Gloucestershire, including in some areas of Berkeley Castle (Spry 2002). In areas of Sheffield, a product called crozzle (waste from steel cementation) has been used to top walls (Historic England 2015b).

The use of shells as interior dressing of rooms and grottos gained popularity in the 17th century and sky rocketed in the early-mid 18th century. A passion for shells raged amongst rich Georgians, shells were imported, bid for at auction and purchased at inflated prices (Jackson 2001). As shell work was a popular and socially approved hobby for women in the 18th century, it seems plausible that Shell House was decorated by William Henry's wife. Many of the surviving shells in Shell House, however, seem to be species common to the UK rather than expensive imports, seemingly another way to keep costs down.

On early mapping, Shell House is identified as a 'hermitage', a building historically constructed for a hermit to live in seclusion. Hermits were usually accommodated by religious communities but later became something of a garden ornament for Georgian aristocracy. In early instances of hermitages, the idea of a hermit was hinted at rather than personified, but were these were usually later replaced with actual hermits – men hired for the sole purpose of inhabiting a small structure and functioning as any other garden ornament. In return the "hermit" was afforded a place to live and a small salary (Campbell 2013). While it is possible a hermit was in residence at the priory, it is more likely Shell House was constructed as a place to withdraw from the manor to relax.

At first glance, the most interesting thing about Shell House seems to be the use of slag on its façade (as previously discussed, a fairly unique practice). However, when the provenance of Shell House is studied a bit closer, it reveals a possible link to the masonry of the lost ecclesiastical buildings of the priory. At this point, it is tempting to remark on a frivolous Earl trying to maintain the image of a lifestyle he cannot afford, forcing him to use readily available, cheap materials when constructing a folly to impress his new wife. Nevertheless, it is the origin and use of these cheap, visually interesting materials that has made Shell House distinctive in appearance and perhaps somewhat more interesting than the average folly.

8 Acknowledgements

Colchester Archaeological Trust would like to thank Matthew Bynoe (City & Country) for commissioning and City & Country for funding the historic building recording. The recording was carried out by Sarah Veasey. Figures are by Sarah Veasey, based on original architects drawings by City & Country Group. The project was monitored by Teresa O'Connor for Essex County Council.

9 References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in .pdf format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

Campbell, G	2013	<i>The Hermit in the Garden: from Imperial Rome to Ornamental</i>
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		<i>Gnome</i>
CAT	2023	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for historic building recording and archaeological evaluation on land at St Osyth Priory Park, St Osyth, Essex, CO16 8GW by S Veasey</i>
CAT Report 496	2008	<i>Archaeological evaluation and excavation at 143-147 High Street, Maldon, Essex – July-August 2008 by H Brooks and A Wightman</i>
CIfA	2014a (updated 2019)	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
CIfA	2014b (updated 2019)	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures</i>
MHCLG	2021	<i>National planning policy framework</i>
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England East Anglian Archaeological occasional papers 14 by D. Gurney</i>
EAA 24	2011	<i>Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England, East Anglian Archaeological occasional papers 24 by M Medlycott</i>
ECCPS	2022	<i>Brief for Archaeological evaluation and historic building recording on land at St Osyths Priory Park, St Oysths, Tendring by T O'Connor</i>
Headly, G & Meulenkamp, W	2011	<i>Follies of England Book 13: Follies of Essex</i>
Historic England	2015a	<i>MoRPHE: Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i>
Historic England	2015b	<i>Archaeometallurgy: Guidelines for Best Practice</i>
Historic England	2016	<i>Understanding Historic Buildings. A guide to good recording practice</i>
Jackson, H	2001	<i>Shell Houses and Grottoes</i>
Rice, G	2010	<i>The Life of the Fourth Earl of Rochford (1717-1781), Eighteenth Century Anglo-Dutch Courtier, Diplomat and Statesman</i>
Smith, P	2011	<i>St Osyth's Priory Historic Buildings Report</i>
Spry, N	2003	<i>'Eighteenth Century Slag Construction Blocks in Gloucestershire – A Survey' in Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology Journal</i>

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held by the ECC
ERO	Essex Records Office
Flemish-bond	a brickwork bond created from alternating headers and stretchers within a single course
Georgian	Period of history between 1714 and 1830
HE	Historic Environment
knapped	a stone (typically flint) shaped by being struck
modern	period from the 19th century onwards to the present
NGR	National Grid Reference
pintle	an upright pivot on which a hinge rests
OASIS	O nline A ccess to the I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
slag	Waste material from metal working

11 Archive deposition

The archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with the Archaeological Data Service.

12 Contents of digital archive

The CAT WSI
The report (CAT Report 1905)
Digital plans
Site digital photos and log

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Distribution list

City & Country
Teresa O'Connor, ECCHEA
EHER

Appendix 1:

Full digital photographic record

STOSH23_PhotoGraph_001.JPG	Western elevation. Photograph taken facing east south-east.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_002.JPG	Western elevation with scale. Photograph taken facing east south-east.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_003.JPG	Northern elevation. Photograph taken facing south-west.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_004.JPG	Northern elevation with scale. Photograph taken facing south-west.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_005.JPG	Northern elevation. Photograph taken facing south south-west.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_006.JPG	Northern elevation with scale. Photograph taken facing south south-west.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_007.JPG	Eastern elevation. Photograph taken facing north-west.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_008.JPG	Eastern elevation with scale. Photograph taken facing north-west.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_009.JPG	Southern elevation. Photograph taken facing north north-east.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_010.JPG	Southern elevation with scale. Photograph taken facing north north-east.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_011.JPG	Southern elevation. Photograph taken facing north-east.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_012.JPG	Southern elevation with scale. Photograph taken facing north-east.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_013.JPG	Detail of doorway on northern elevation. Photograph taken facing east south-east.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_014.JPG	Detail of doorway on northern elevation with scale. Photograph taken facing east south-east.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_015.JPG	Detail of upper pintle on western elevation. Photograph taken facing north-east.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_016.JPG	Detail of lower pintle on western elevation. Photograph taken facing north-east.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_017.JPG	Detail of mortice carved into stone in doorway on western elevation. Photograph taken facing south-east.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_018.JPG	Detail of northern side of door-frame on western elevation. Photograph taken facing north-east.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_019.JPG	Detail of southern side of door-frame on western elevation. Photograph taken facing south-east.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_020.JPG	Detail of window opening in northern elevation. Photograph taken facing south-east.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_021.JPG	Detail of window opening in northern elevation with scale. Photograph taken facing south-east.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_022.JPG	Detail of window opening in the southern elevation. Photograph taken facing north-east.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_023.JPG	Detail of window opening in the southern elevation with scale. Photograph taken facing north-east.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_024.JPG	Internal view of eastern and southern wall. Photograph taken facing south-east.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_025.JPG	Internal view of eastern wall. Photograph taken facing east south-east.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_026.JPG	Internal view of northern and eastern wall. Photograph taken facing north-east.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_027.JPG	Internal view of southern wall. Photograph taken facing south-west.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_028.JPG	Internal view of northern and western wall. Photograph taken facing north-west.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_029.JPG	Internal detail of window opening on northern wall. Photograph taken facing north-west.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_030.JPG	Detail of fireplace in northern wall. Photograph taken facing north-east.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_031.JPG	Detail of alcove in eastern wall. Photograph taken facing south-east.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_032.JPG	Detail of fireplace in southern wall. Photograph taken facing south south-west.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_033.JPG	Internal detail of window opening on southern wall. Photograph taken facing south-west.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_034.JPG	Internal detail of plaster on northern wall. Photograph taken facing north-west.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_035.JPG	Internal detail of plaster on northern and western walls. Photograph taken facing north-east.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_036.JPG	Detail of carved stone and slag in fireplace surround on northern wall. Photograph taken facing north north-east.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_037.JPG	Detail of plaster in alcove on eastern wall. Photograph taken facing south-east.
STOSH23_PhotoGraph_038.JPG	Detail of carved stone sill in alcove on eastern wall. Photograph taken facing south-east.

STOSH23_Photograph_039.JPG	Internal detail of plaster on eastern wall. Photograph taken facing south-east.
STOSH23_Photograph_040.JPG	Internal detail of plaster on southern wall. Photograph taken facing south-west.
STOSH23_Photograph_041.JPG	Detail of carved stone and slag in fireplace surround on south south-west.
STOSH23_Photograph_042.JPG	Internal detail of plaster in fireplace of southern wall. Photograph taken facing south-east.
STOSH23_Photograph_043.JPG	Internal detail of plaster in fireplace of southern wall. Photograph taken facing south south-west.
STOSH23_Photograph_044.JPG	Internal detail of plaster in fireplace of southern wall. Photograph taken facing south-west.
STOSH23_Photograph_045.JPG	Internal detail of plaster on southern wall. Photograph taken facing south south-west.
STOSH23_Photograph_046.JPG	Internal detail of plaster on western wall. Photograph taken facing west south-west.
STOSH23_Photograph_047.JPG	Internal detail of plaster on southern wall. Photograph taken facing south-west.
STOSH23_Photograph_048.JPG	Internal detail of plaster on southern and western wall. Photograph taken facing south-west.
STOSH23_Photograph_049.JPG	Detail of floor. Photograph taken facing south.
STOSH23_Photograph_050.JPG	Detail of floor. Photograph taken facing south south-west.
STOSH23_Photograph_051.JPG	Detail of floor. Photograph taken facing south-west.
STOSH23_Photograph_052.JPG	Detail of floor. Photograph taken facing south-east.
STOSH23_Photograph_053.JPG	Detail of floor with scale. Photograph taken facing south-west.
STOSH23_Photograph_054.JPG	Detail of pattern in floor with scale. Photograph taken facing east south-east.
STOSH23_Photograph_055.JPG	Detail of pattern in floor. Photograph taken facing south-east.
STOSH23_Photograph_056.JPG	detail of patter in floor. Photograph taken facing north-west.
STOSH23_Photograph_057.JPG	Location shot of folly. Photograph taken facing north-east.
STOSH23_Photograph_058.JPG	Brick foundations to the east of shell house. Photograph taken facing east.
STOSH23_Photograph_059.JPG	Brick foundations to the east of shell house. Photograph taken facing east.
STOSH23_Photograph_060.JPG	Brick foundations in relation to Shell House. Photograph taken facing north-west.
STOSH23_Photograph_061.JPG	Shell House location shot. Photograph taken facing north-west.
STOSH23_Photograph_062.JPG	Shell House location shot. Photograph taken facing west north-west.
STOSH23_Photograph_063.JPG	Detail of building materials.
STOSH23_Photograph_064.JPG	Detail of building materials.

STOSH23_PhotoGraph_001Western elevation. Photograph taken facing east south-east.

STOSH23_PhotoGraph_002Western elevation with scale. Photograph taken facing east south-east.



STOSH23_PhotoGraph_003Northern elevation. Photograph taken facing south-west.

STOSH23_PhotoGraph_004Northern elevation with scale. Photograph taken facing south-west.



STOSH23_Photograph_005Northern elevation. Photograph taken facing south south-west.



STOSH23_Photograph_006Northern elevation with scale. Photograph taken facing south south-west.



STOSH23_Photograph_007Eastern elevation. Photograph taken facing north-west.



STOSH23_Photograph_008Eastern elevation with scale. Photograph taken facing north-west.



STOSH23_PhotoGraph_009Southern elevation. Photograph taken facing north north-east.



STOSH23_PhotoGraph_010Southern elevation with scale. Photograph taken facing north north-east.



STOSH23_PhotoGraph_011Southern elevation. Photograph taken facing north-east.



STOSH23_PhotoGraph_012Southern elevation with scale. Photograph taken facing north-east.



STOSH23_Photograph_013Detail of doorway on northern elevation. Photograph taken facing east so... STOSH23_Photograph_014Detail of doorway on northern elevation with scale. Photograph taken faci...



STOSH23_Photograph_015Detail of upper pintle on western elevation. Photograph taken facing nort... STOSH23_Photograph_016Detail of lower pintle on western elevation. Photograph taken facing north...



STOSH23_Photograph_017Detail of mortice carved into stone in doorway on western elevation. Photo...



STOSH23_Photograph_018Detail of northern side of doorframe on western elevation. Photograph tak...



STOSH23_Photograph_019Detail of southern side of doorframe on western elevation. Photograph ta...



STOSH23_Photograph_020Detail of window opening in northern elevation. Photograph taken facing ...



STOSH23_Photograph_021Detail of window opening in northern elevation with scale. Photograph taken facing north.



STOSH23_Photograph_022Detail of window opening in the southern elevation. Photograph taken facing south.



STOSH23_Photograph_023Detail of window opening in the southern elevation with scale. Photograph taken facing south.



STOSH23_Photograph_024Internal view of eastern and southern wall. Photograph taken facing south.



STOSH23_PhotoGraph_025Internal view of eastern wall. Photograph taken facing east south-east.



STOSH23_PhotoGraph_026Internal view of northern and eastern wall. Photograph taken facing north-



STOSH23_PhotoGraph_027Internal view of southern wall. Photograph taken facing south-west.



STOSH23_PhotoGraph_028Internal view of northern and western wall. Photograph taken facing north-



STOSH23_PhotoGraph_029Internal detail of window opening on northern wall. Photograph taken facing north-east.



STOSH23_PhotoGraph_030Detail of fireplace in northern wall. Photograph taken facing north-east.



STOSH23_PhotoGraph_031Detail of alcove in eastern wall. Photograph taken facing south-east.



STOSH23_PhotoGraph_032Detail of fireplace in southern wall. Photograph taken facing south south-...



STOSH23_PhotoGraph_033Internal detail of window opening on southern wall. Photograph taken facing north...



STOSH23_PhotoGraph_034Internal detail of plaster on northern wall. Photograph taken facing north...



STOSH23_PhotoGraph_035Internal detail of plaster on northern and western walls. Photograph taken...



STOSH23_PhotoGraph_036Detail of carved stone and blue slag in fireplace surround on northern wal...



STOSH23_Photograph_037Detail of plaster in alcove on eastern wall. Photograph taken facing south...



STOSH23_Photograph_038Detail of carved stone sill in alcove on eastern wall. Photograph taken fac...



STOSH23_Photograph_039Internal detail of plaster on eastern wall. Photograph taken facing south-e...



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STOSH23 Photograph_041Detail of carved stone and blue slag in fireplace surround on south south-...



STOSH23 Photograph_042Internal detail of plaster in fireplace of southern wall. Photograph taken fa...



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STOSH23_Photograph_046Internal detail of plaster on western wall. Photograph taken facing west s...



STOSH23_Photograph_047Internal detail of plaster on southern wall. Photograph taken facing south-...



STOSH23_Photograph_048Internal detail of plaster on southern and western wall. Photograph taken ...



STOSH23_Photograph_049Detail of floor. Photograph taken facing south.



STOSH23_Photograph_050Detail of floor. Photograph taken facing south south-west.



STOSH23_Photograph_051Detail of floor. Photograph taken facing south-west.



STOSH23_Photograph_052Detail of floor. Photograph taken facing south-east.



STOSH23 Photograph_053Detail of floor with scale. Photograph taken facing south-west.



STOSH23 Photograph_054Detail of pattern in floor with scale. Photograph taken facing east south-e...



STOSH23 Photograph_055Detail of pattern in floor. Photograph taken facing south-east.



STOSH23 Photograph_056Detail of pattern in floor. Photograph taken facing north-west.



STOSH23_PhotoGraph_057Location shot of folly. Photograph taken facing north-east.



STOSH23_PhotoGraph_058Brick foundations to the east of shell house. Photograph taken facing east.



STOSH23_PhotoGraph_059Brick foundations to the east of shell house. Photograph taken facing east. STOSH23_PhotoGraph_060Brick foundations in relation to Shell House. Photograph taken facing north...



STOSH23_Photograph_061Shell House location shot. Photograph taken facing north-west.



STOSH23_Photograph_062Shell House location shot. Photograph taken facing west north-west.



STOSH23_Photograph_063Detail of building materials.



STOSH23_Photograph_064Detail of building materials.



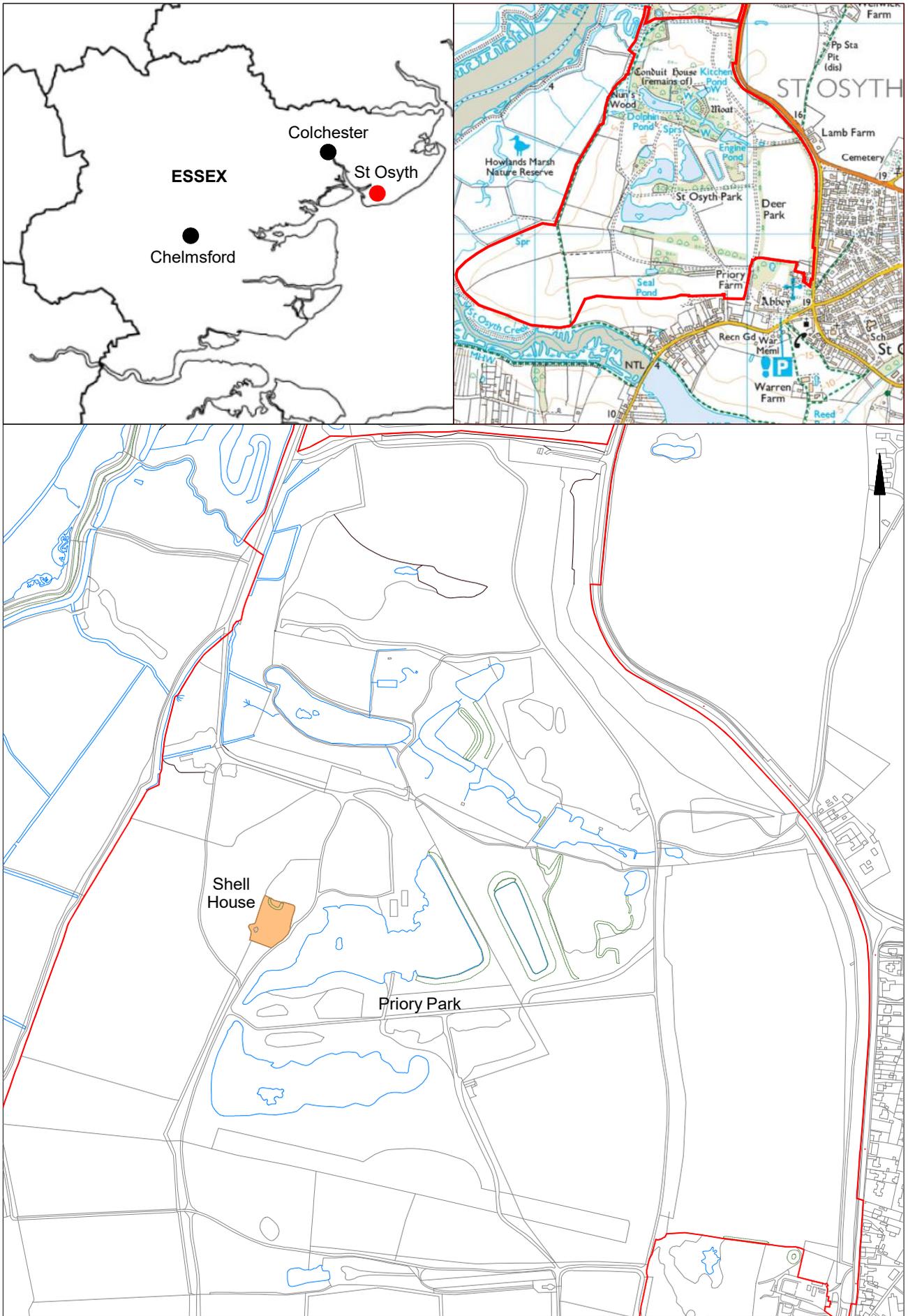


Fig 1 Site location.

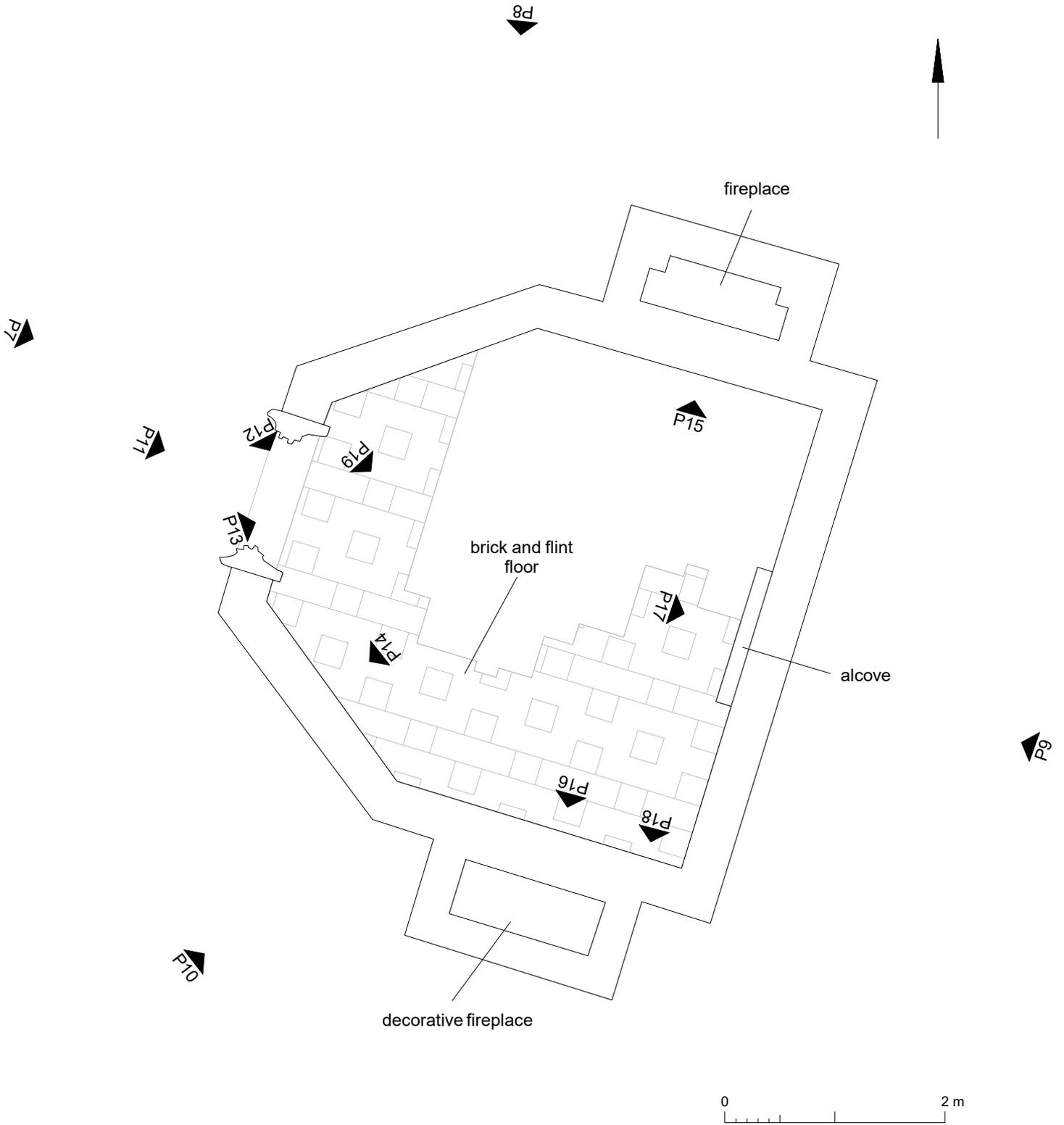


Fig 2 Floor plan. Location and direction of photographs reproduced in the text shown.

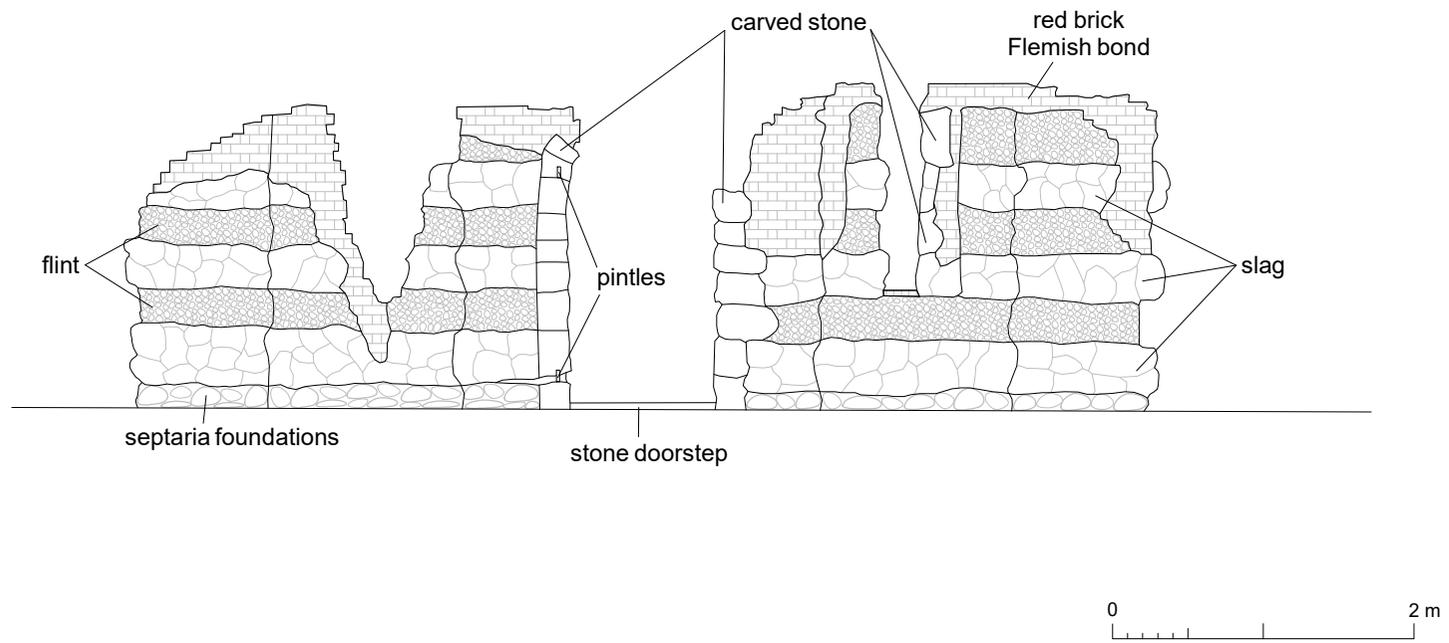


Fig 3 Western elevation.

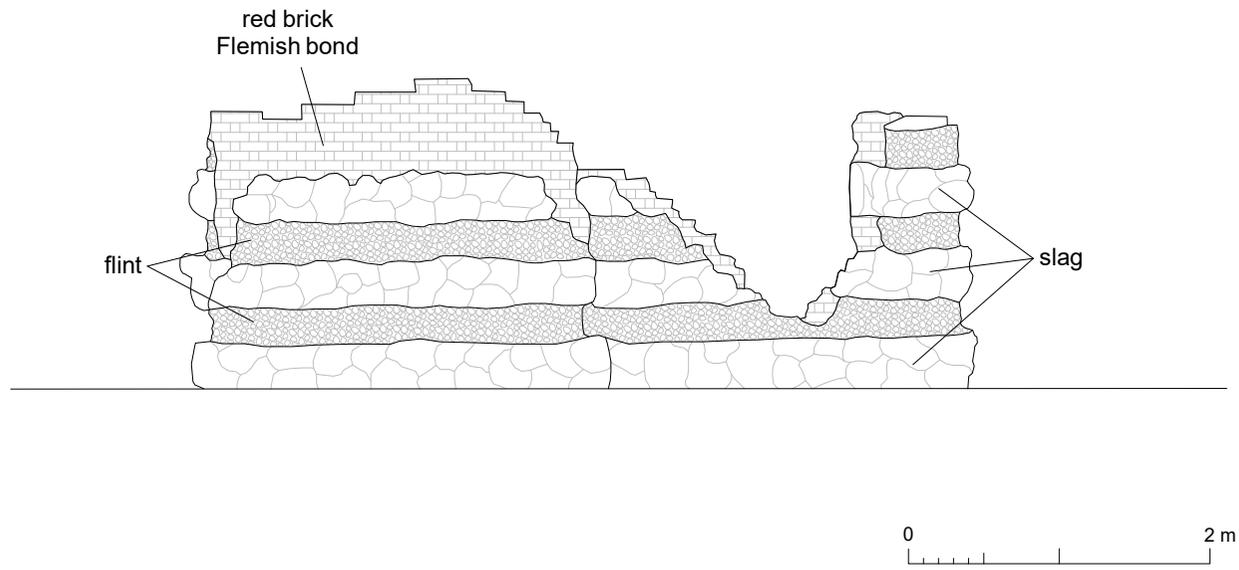


Fig 4 Northern elevation.

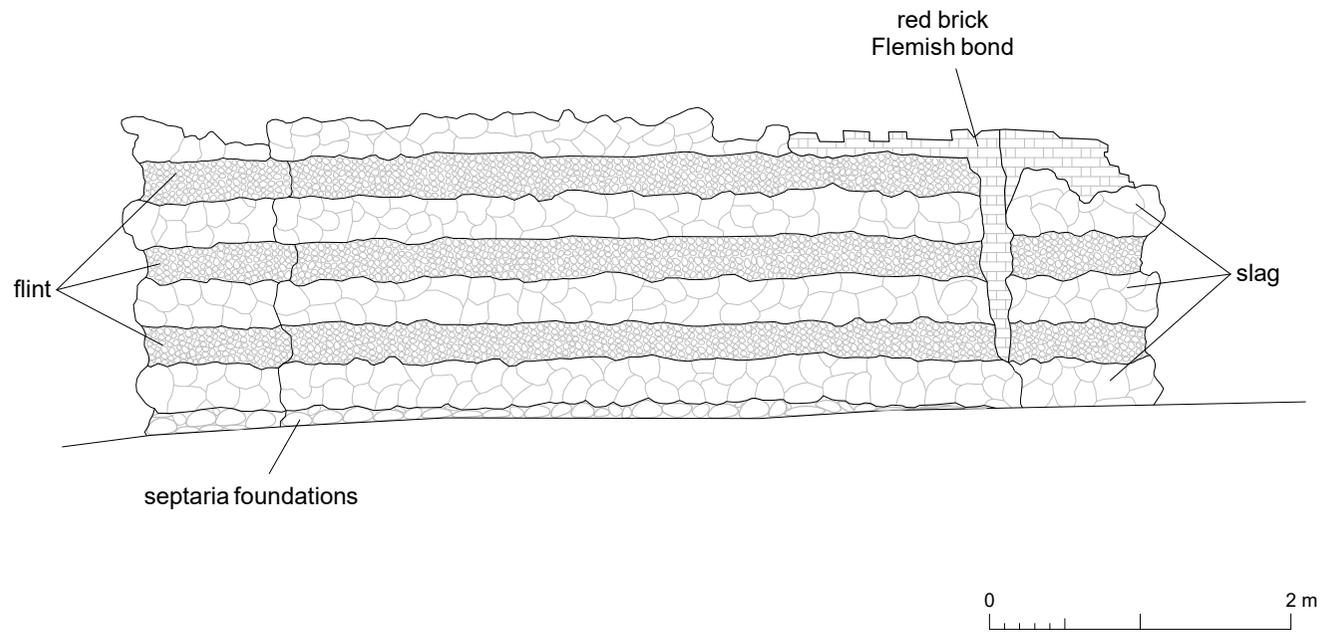


Fig 5 Eastern elevation.

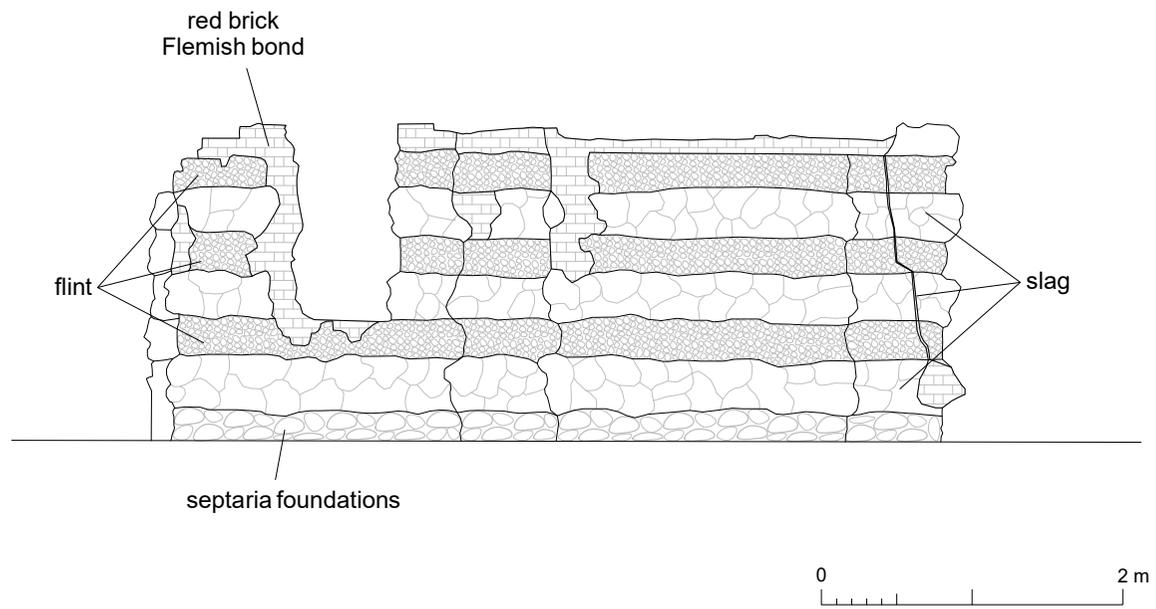


Fig 6 Southern elevation.

Summary for colchest3-512505

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-512505
Project Name	Descriptive Buildings Record (Level 2) at Shell House, St Osyth's Priory Park, St Osyth, Essex, CO16 8GW
Sitename	Shell House, St Osyth Priory Park, Essex
Activity type	Descriptive Buildings Record (Level 2)
Project Identifier(s)	2023/01g
Planning Id	19/00032/FUL, 16/00671/FUL, 17/00634/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	08-Feb-2023 - 08-Feb-2023
Location	Shell House, St Osyth Priory Park, Essex NGR : TM 11472 16325 LL : 51.8055521512329, 1.06599122715998 12 Fig : 611472,216325
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Tendring Parish : St. Osyth

Project Methodology	<p>The aim of the building recording was to provide a detailed record and assessment of Shell House prior to its restoration. The building recording was carried out to Level 2 (Historic England 2016) which is defined as:</p> <p>“...a descriptive record, made in similar circumstances to Level 1 but when more information is needed. It may be made of a building which is judged not to require a more detailed record, or it may serve to gather data for a wider project. Both the exterior and interior of the building will be seen, described and photographed. The examination of the building will produce an analysis of its development and use and the record will include the conclusions reached, but it will not discuss in detail the evidence on which this analysis is based. A plan and sometimes other drawings may be made but the drawn record will normally not be comprehensive and may be tailored to the scope of a wider project.”</p> <p>In particular the record considered the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan form of the site. • Materials and method of construction. • Date(s) of the structure. • Original function and layout. • Original and later fixtures and fittings. • Significance of the site in its immediate local context. <p>The following are included in the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A documentary, cartographic and pictorial survey of the evidence pertaining to the history and evolution of the site. • A large-scale block plan of the site. • Annotated and phased floor-plan of the building at a scale of 1:50. • A description of the building. The description addresses features such as materials, dimensions, method of construction and phasing. • A photographic record, comprising digital photographs of both general shots and individual features. Selected examples of the photographic record are clearly tied into the drawn record and reproduced as fully annotated photographic plates supporting the text. The photographic record is accompanied by a photographic register detailing location and direction of shot (Appendix 1).
Project Results	<p>A programme of historic building recording was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust at Shell House in St Osyth's Priory Park, St Osyth, Essex. Shell House is an 18th century folly built in St Osyth's Priory Park, likely by William Henry the fourth Earl of Rochford. It is constructed from brick and faced with alternating bands of knapped flint and slag. While follies are a common Georgian landscape garden feature, the use of slag on the façade is somewhat unusual. The interior of Shell House was lined with shells, some of which are still surviving, and the floor was constructed from knapped flint and floor bricks. None of the roof survives but historic photographs show that it was thatched.</p>
Keywords	Folly - Georgian - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	S, Veasey
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - STOSH23
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;