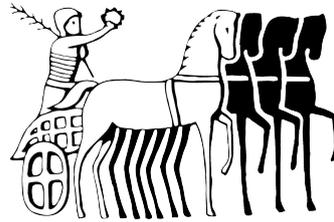
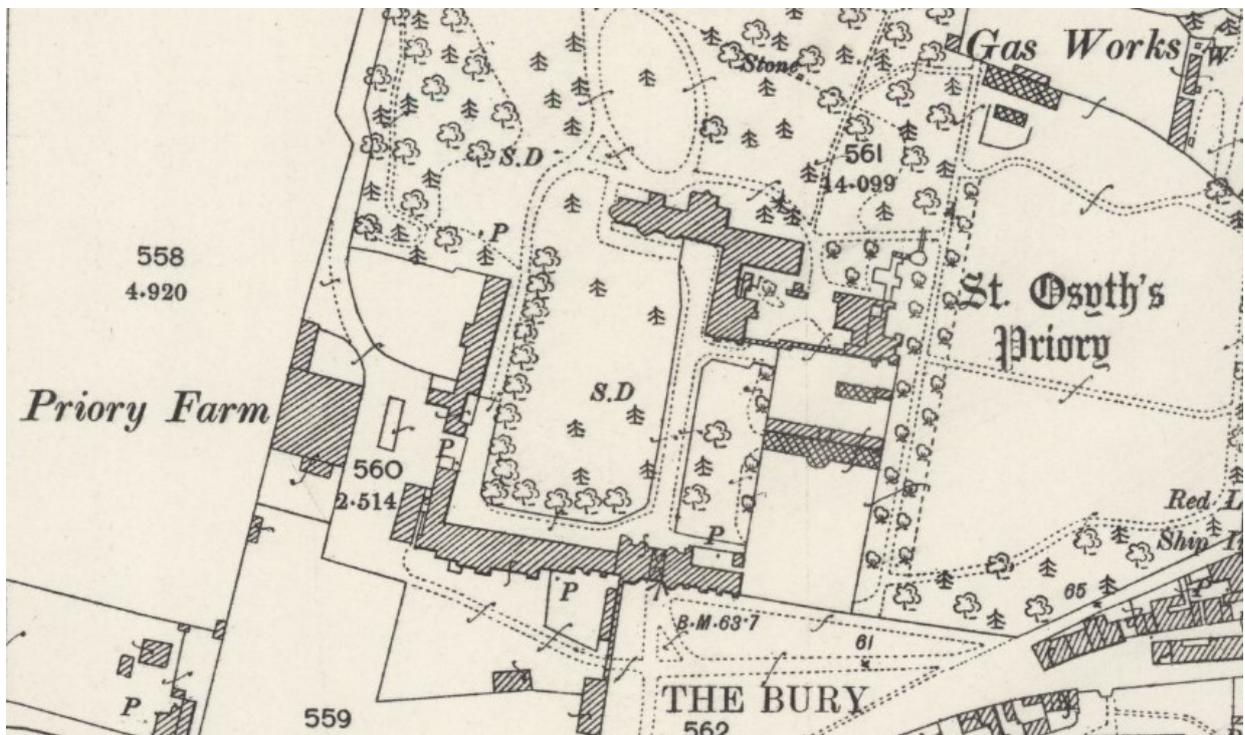


# Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 2058**  
**issued June 2024**

**Archaeological monitoring at  
the East Gatehouse, St Osyth Priory, The Bury,  
St Osyth, Essex, CO16 8NZ: March 2024**



**CAT project ref.: 2024/05b**  
**ECC Code: STOSO8**

**Archaeological monitoring at  
the East Gatehouse, St Osyth Priory, The Bury,  
St Osyth, Essex, CO16 8NZ: March 2024**

**NGR: TM 12125 15638 (centre)**

**Scheduled Monument number: 1002193  
Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments  
(HEIAM): Dr Jess Tipper**

**CAT project ref.: 2024/05b  
CAT Report 2058**

**ECC Code: STOSO8  
OASIS id: colchest3-525123**

**report prepared by Sarah Veasey**

**fieldwork by Sarah Veasey**

**figures by Chris Lister and Sarah Veasey**

**commissioned by Matthew Bynoe, City & Country  
on behalf of St Osyth Priory Estate Ltd**

<b>Prepared by:</b>	Sarah Veasey	Project Officer
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Fig 1 Site location.

Fig 2 Monitoring results.

## 1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at the East Gatehouse, St Osyth Priory, The Bury, St Osyth, Essex during groundworks for creation of a new floor. The site is located within the East Gatehouse of St Osyth Priory, a medieval priory that was founded in the 12th century. The works partially exposed a modern brick floor, which comprised both square and rectangular floor bricks, likely associated with the building's domestic conversion in the 20th century.

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for archaeological monitoring at Darcy House, St Osyth Priory, The Bury, St Osyth, Essex which was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on 7th March 2024. The work was commissioned by Matthew Bynoe of City & Country, on behalf of St Osyth Priory Estate Ltd, and took place during groundworks for a new floor.

As the site lies within a Scheduled Ancient Monument (NHLE Nos. 1000237 and 1002193), the works require scheduled monument consent under Section 2 (control of works) of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended). Scheduled monument consent was granted in 2018 (S00184261) but lapsed in 2023 before any works were completed. Although monitoring of the works was undertaken, it was without an approved method statement for the investigation.

All fieldwork and reporting were undertaken in accordance with:

- *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2015),
- Professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2020a-b, 2022, 2023a-b),
- East of England standards and frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Brown & Glazebrook 2000, Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- Relevant health and safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2024).

## 3 Archaeological background

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

The town of St Osyth is recorded as *Cicc* in the Domesday Book of 1086 and is said to be the location of a 7th-century nunnery founded by Saint Osyth, from whom the modern town gets its name. The proposed development site is located within the grounds at St Osyth Priory, to the west of the centre of the historic town.

St Osyth 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, NHLE. 1002193 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 East Gatehouse is Grade I listed as part of the Gatehouse complex at the priory (Gatehouse and East and West flanking Ranges NHLE no. 1111495). It is 15th century in origin and is the most prominent monastic building at St Osyth Priory but is also considered to be one of the finest monastic buildings in the country. After the priory was purchased by Mr Somerset Struben de Chair in 1954, the gatehouse was converted into a domestic dwelling (Andrews 2015).

For a full archaeological background see the desk-based assessment by Archaeological Solutions (Higgs 2017) and the historic town assessment report for St Osyth (Medlycott 1999). For further details on the East Gatehouse see *A report on the wing to the east of the gatehouse* (Andrews 2015).

#### 4 Aim

The aim of the archaeological monitoring was to identify, excavate and record any archaeological contexts revealed during groundwork to construct a new floor.

#### 5 Results (Figs 2-3)

A CAT archaeologist attended the East Gatehouse at St Osyth Priory after works to reduce the floor within the most easterly room partially uncovered a brick floor. The most recent floor covering was removed prior to CAT's attendance and the remaining subbase excavated to a depth of 0.20-0.25m. A pre-existing trench between the floors was also excavated a further 0.15m which exposed a thin concrete base to the floor laid on a clayey subsoil.

The exposed floor was sealed by a layer of sandy crush (c 0.20-0.25m deep) and comprises a combination of square bricks (brick dimensions 200 x 200 x ? mm) and rectangular bricks (brick dimensions 220 x 110 x ? mm) laid in a herringbone pattern. The floor was left *in-situ* and covered back over. Subsequent groundworks did not penetrate deep enough to expose any more of the floor.



**Photograph 1** Exposed floor, view south-east.



**Photograph 2** Exposed floor, view south-west.



**Photograph 3** Floor overview, view south south-east.

## **6 Finds**

There were no archaeological finds.

## **7 Conclusion**

The works in the East Gatehouse at St Osyth Priory partially uncovered a modern brick floor, probably associated with the domestic conversion of the Gatehouse in the 20th century. The two different patterns within the floor may indicate a partition was once present within the room.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Matthew Bynoe of City & Country and St Osyth Priory Estate Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, L Pooley and A Wightman. The fieldwork was carried out by S Veasey. Figures are by C Lister and S Veasey.

## 9 References

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

- |                          |       |   |
|--------------------------|-------|---|
| Andrews, D               | 2015  | <i>A report on the wing to the east of the gatehouse</i>  |
| Brown, N & Glazebrook, J | 2000  | <i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper <b>8</b> (EAA <b>8</b> )                         |
| CAT                      | 2024  | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>   |
| ClfA                     | 2020a | <i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.</i> ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2020.        |
| ClfA                     | 2020b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2020. |
| ClfA                     | 2022  | <i>Code of Conduct.</i> ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2022.  |
| ClfA                     | 2023a | <i>Standard for archaeological monitoring and recording.</i> ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.   |
| ClfA                     | 2023b | <i>Universal guidance for archaeological monitoring and recording.</i> ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.   |
| Gurney, D                | 2003  | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>14</b> (EAA <b>14</b> )  |
| Higgs, K                 | 2017  | <i>Proposed service trenching St Osyth Priory, St Osyth, Essex: an archaeological desk-based impact assessment.</i> Archaeological Solutions Report 5369  |
| Historic England         | 2015  | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>   |
| Medlycott, M             | 1999  | <i>St Osyth - Historic Town Assessment Report</i>   |
| Medlycott, M             | 2011  | <i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>24</b> (EAA <b>24</b> )                                     |
| MHCLG                    | 2019  | <i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government  |

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	<b>O</b> nline <b>A</b> ccess to the <b>I</b> ndex of <b>A</b> rchaeological <b>I</b> nvestigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
ws	written scheme of investigation

## 11 Archive deposition

**Digital record:** This project falls within the ClfA definition of a sterile project (<https://www.archaeologists.net/selection-toolkit/sterile-projects>), and as such the preserved archaeological archive will take the form of a single digital document that incorporates all the relevant elements from the project archive. This document will be uploaded to OASIS and released into the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) library, from where it will be curated by the ADS. The single digital document will include the report, brief, WSI, photographs, and original site data (for example context sheets, section drawings).

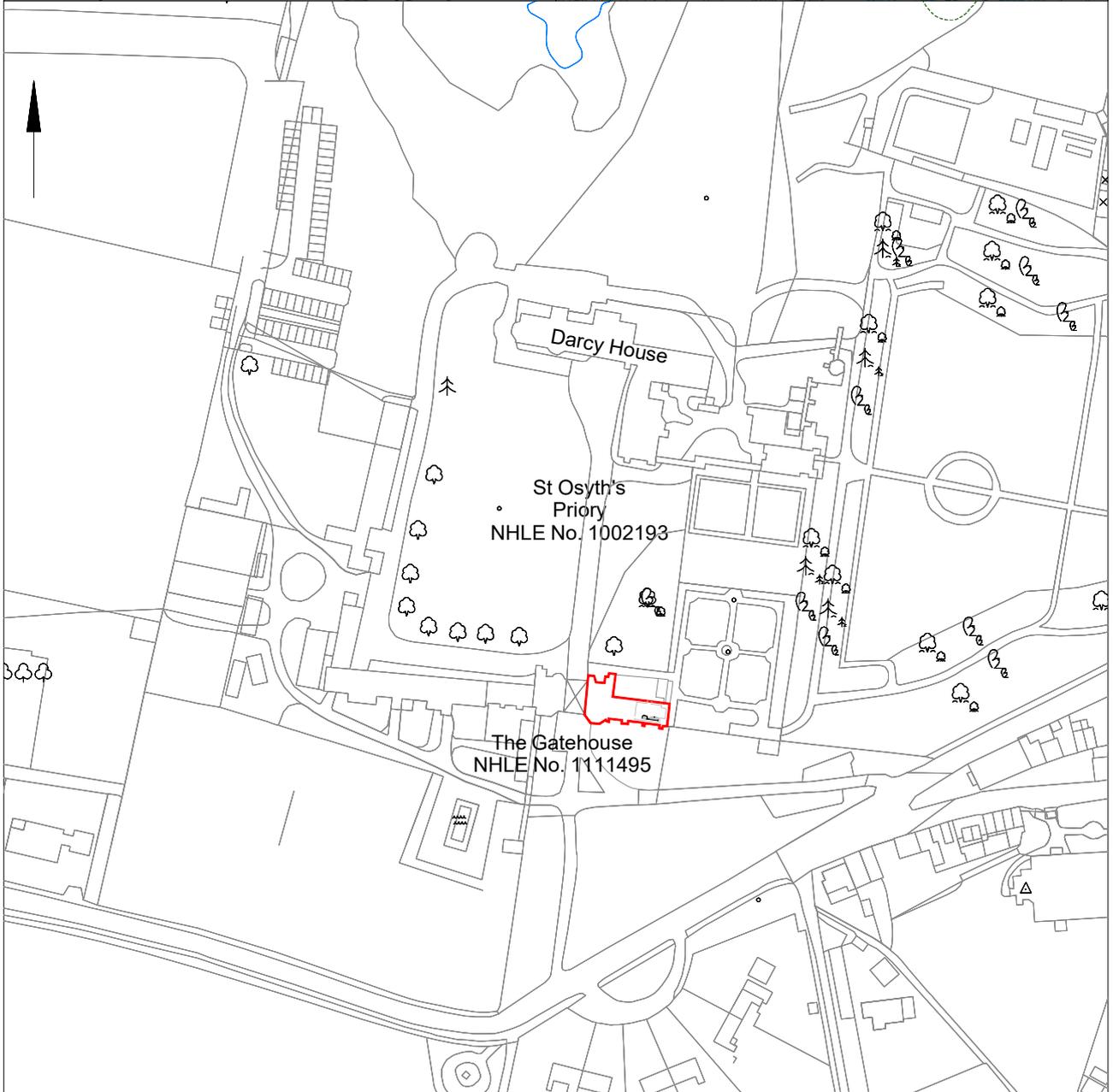
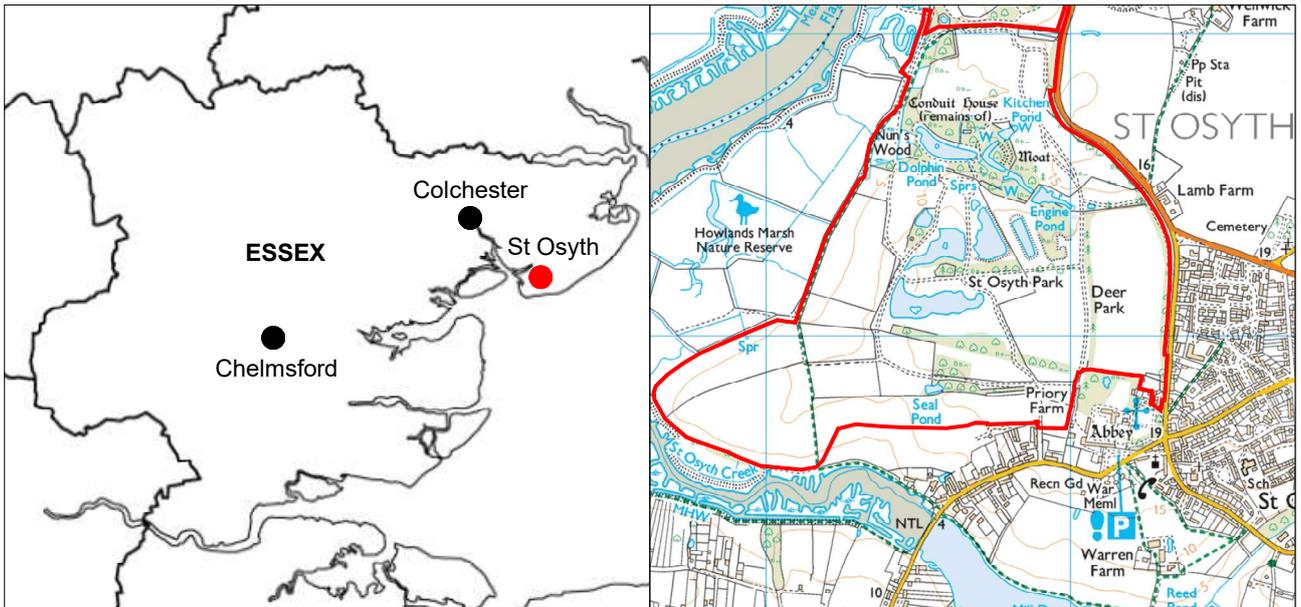
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**Distribution list:**

City & County

Dr Jess Tipper, Historic England

Essex Historic Environment Record



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Fig 1 Site location.





Fig 2 Monitoring results.

# OASIS Summary for colchest3-525123

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-525123
Project Name	Watching Brief at East Gatehouse, St Osyth Priory, The Bury, St Osyth, Essex, CO16 8NZ
Sitename	East Gatehouse, St Osyth Priory, The Bury, St Osyth, Essex, CO16 8NZ
Sitecode	
Project Identifier(s)	2024/05b
Activity type	Watching Brief
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Scheduled monument consent
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	07-Mar-2024 - 07-Mar-2024
Location	East Gatehouse, St Osyth Priory, The Bury, St Osyth, Essex, CO16 8NZ NGR : TM 12125 15638 LL : 51.79913707741046, 1.075028309030367 12 Fig : 612125,215638
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Essex Local Authority District : Tendring Parish : St. Osyth
Project Methodology	A CAT archaeologist attended the East Gatehouse at St Osyth Priory after works to reduce the floor within the most easterly room partially uncovered a brick floor. The floor was recorded and subsequently recovered.
Project Results	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at the East Gatehouse, St Osyth Priory, The Bury, St Osyth, Essex during groundworks for creation of a new floor. The site is located within the East Gatehouse of St Osyth Priory, a medieval priory that was founded in the 12th century. The works partially exposed a post-medieval brick floor, which comprised both square and rectangular floor bricks.
Keywords	Floor - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Private or public corporation St Oysth Priory Estate Ltd
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD Historic England review - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	L Pooley, A Wightman, C Lister
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - STOCO8
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;