

**ST. OSYTH, ESSEX, ENGLAND:
SEARCHING FOR EARLIER VILLAGE SITES**

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Did St.Osyth experience the world's *first* Industrial Revolution?

SUMMARY: In 1433, the abbey was audited by Dr. Z.Mulakyn representing Bishop Fitzhugh. The audit reported that there were "mill dams" (plural). In the Industrial and now Digital Era, we generally have come to think that "more machinery" = less work = less employment. But in the Age of Plague: higher deaths = lesser availability of labourers = use of more machinery to leverage limited available hands.

Where were the dams? How far would villagers walk to labour at a mill dam? Does this produce a locus of activity to identify early village sites?

Challenge: Search for earlier village centres over several eras

- Roman Britain
- Dark Ages
- Anglo-Saxon Era
- Early Norman Era
- Augustinian Priory/Abbey Era
- Pre-Dissolution Era (before 1539)
- Post-Dissolution

Idea: Evaluate where dams and/or mills might have been located. Use this to evaluate dwelling concentrations over time.

CONTENTS On-line Sources used for this preliminary speculation

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Google Earth: screenshots with speculation notes See images.

**MAPING
TOOLS**

1) Lidar Finder: HM Government is developing lidar (atmosphere penetrating radar) plots of the entire country, in swatches. There is a resource here: <https://www.lidarfinder.com/>

2) Google Earth: Polygons: Can be added to adjusted to the height of the seafloor or ground, to develop a rough estimated height above sea level of the polygon area or transect. **Google Earth's Basic version is Free. There are Paid versions.**

1) Dams. Is the tide mill built 1720 (used until 1929, and destroyed by gale in 1962) the only dam known to have existed in the parish?

<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/essex/vol2/pp157-162>

On 6 May, 1433, the abbey was visited (fn. 41) by Dr. Zanobius Mulakyn, as commissary for Bishop Fitzhugh. Abbot John Fowler was examined and stated that at the monastery, granges and manors there was sufficient stock of cattle and grain; that the house with its buildings and the granges and mill dams were well maintained; and that £40 was due to the house in arrears and debts.

The Google Earth Polygons' tool can be used for various things, such as:

a. Marking parch marks

b. Sea-Level Fluctuation Estimates

- estimate reach of High Tide; and highest ground (adding increments of 5-10m above sea level produces interesting effects);
- use it to set meter depth after calculating math combinations of High Tide, Great Floods, post-glacial isostatic uplift, etc.
- which could be used as a rough corollary to Samuel Pepys' note about the Great Flood of his era (mentioned in Time Team); and
- thence used to estimate whether the Tide-Mill site destroyed in 1962 is one of the "dam" sites owned by the Monastery in 1433.
- <https://tides.willyweather.co.uk/ee/essex/brightlingsea.html>

c. Evaluating spatial/geographic relationships

2) Changing/interchangeable names and spellings for the parish, monastery, manor, village, etc.

The suggestion here is to flowchart every possible place-name, and use this as a scatter-plot to develop hypotheses about the various places wherein the parts of the parish, and the suspected concentrations of population, were over time.

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 1127: | Aufridus de Staunton and his Wife are recorded as owning four messuages of lands and wood named Wyleye, Bentleye, Chicche, and St. Osyth. |
| 1174-1187: | St. Osyth's priory is owner of the manor of Chich St. Osyth. |
| 1198: | Papal writ refers to St. Osyth's, Chic. |
| 1433: | Monastery is referred to as an Abbey. |
| 1494: | Another manor in St. Osyth is called Chich Fadewik or Chiche Frodewik; and the priory owns lands and tenements in St. Osyth called Chiche Ridill. |
| 1539: | Two names for the same place (in the same record albeit different entry dates)? Abbey of St. Osythes, and St. Osith's Monastery. |
| 1539: | Possessions of the monastery of St. Osyth include Rectory of St. Osyth and the St. Osythe mill. |
| 1896: | Parish called Chich St. Osyth's. |

3) Effects of the Black Death: A Late Medieval Industrial Age?

- Were there sufficient labourers available to operate one or more mill dams?
- Were more mill-dams built to leverage the available of waterpower vs. manpower?

Normally, in the Industrial and now Digital Era, we think "more machinery" = less work = less employment. But in the Age of Plague: higher deaths = lesser availability of labourers = use of more machinery (mills) to leverage the limited hands available?

Did the Black Death spark the *first* Industrial Revolution?

1300s:	(early famine) 10 and 15 percent of the population dies.
1348:	40–60 percent of the population dies.
1361–62:	20 percent of the population dies.
1433:	Visitation by Dr. Z. Mulakyn representing Bishop Fitzhugh. Reporting plural "mill dams".
14-15th C:	Intermittent returns of the plague.
1665-66:	Great Plague of London.

<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/letters-papers-hen8/vol14/no1/pp574->
<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/rchme/essex/vol3/pp195-206>
<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/inquis-post-mortem/vol8/pp68-79>
<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/letters-papers-hen8/vol13/no1/pp88-100>
<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/inquis-post-mortem/series2-vol1/pp364>
<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/essex/vol2/pp157-162>
<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/essex/vol9/pp264-269>
<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/essex/vol9/pp230-233>
<https://beresfordslostvillages.wordpress.com/tag/essex/>
http://unlockingessex.essexcc.gov.uk/uep/custom_pages/home_page.asp?

Intriguing. A map error?
A new Church of England
or Nonconformist house
of worship?

4) Preliminary Map Search:

1678:	https://collections.leventhalmap.org/search/commonwealth:ww72bp422 [church <i>south</i> of river]
1695:	https://collections.leventhalmap.org/search/commonwealth:ww72bp48q [church <i>south</i> of river]
1724:	https://collections.leventhalmap.org/search/commonwealth:ww72bp53k [church <i>north</i> of river]
1749:	http://biblio.unibe.ch/web-apps/maps/zoomify.php?pic=Ryh_1807_36.jpg&col=ryh
1764:	https://collections.leventhalmap.org/search/commonwealth:ww72bp34c
1794:	https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~37037~1210043:Sheets-25-26---Cary-s-England,-Wale;JSESSIONID=9b5ccab2-2997-4bb1-92cf-17054b5b9e27?showTipAdvancedSearch=false&showShareIIIFLink=true&showTip=false&helpUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fdoc.lunaimaging.com%2Fdisplay%2FV74D%2FLUNA%2BViewer%23LUNAVIEWER-LUNAVIEWER&title=Search+Results%3A+List_No+equal+to+%270132.016%27&fullTextSearchChecked=&dateRangeSearchChecked=&advancedSearchUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fdoc.lunaimaging.com%2Fdisplay%2FV74D%2FSearching%23Searching-Searching&thumbnailViewUrlKey=link.view.search.url
1817:	https://collections.leventhalmap.org/search/commonwealth:ww72bp554
1903:	https://maps.nls.uk/view/97131089
1953:	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Sea_flood_of_1953 ~5.6m storm tide