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## Essex HER



**Name:** Belhus Park  
**SMR Number:** 5087  
**Type of record:** Monument  
**Grid Reference:** TQ 574 815  
**Map Sheet:** TQ58SE  
**Parish:** THURROCK, ESSEX

### Summary

Mid 18th century ice house confirmed in the grounds of Belhus Park.

### Full description

Mid 18th century ice house confirmed in the grounds of Belhus Park. <1> The nature of the brickwork and historical documents suggest its incorporation into a mid 18th century improvement scheme. <2> Excavated in June and July 1979 in advance of works for the M25, which it was feared might damage the structure. The work aimed to remove material from the well and record the walls. The foundations of the entrance passage and of the buttresses to support the roof were located. The floor level was indicated by a few remaining bricks. A piece of clay roof tile from this area (with a hole pierced before firing) was the only evidence for the covering of the passage roof that projected beyond the mound. The well contained leaf mould over collapsed wall and roof material. Wooden posts may have been part of the door frame. A large wooden padlock, probably late 19th century, may be associated. A platform around the side of the well was found. Ice was presumably stored above this level. The platform was sloped to allow water run off. A drain, small, was found leading from the well. The floor of the well was of large bricks. The icehouse itself was of red bricks without frogs. Repairs had been carried out to the platform, possibly indicating use until the late 19th century, but not necessarily as an icehouse. A local tradition suggests use as a game store and this may have been so at the turn of the century. Late Victorian pottery found in the well was not useful for dating the roof's collapse. No indication of steps was found nor for any ornamentation. No precise dating evidence but the icehouse may be associated with mid 18th century improvements carried out by Lord Dacre (Thomas Barrett-Lennard, 1717-1786), a pond and ornamental mounds. A 1760's date is suggested. <3> A mound shown on the C and A map of 1777 may be the icehouse. <4>

Site Assessment = Wall was backfilled after excavation. Detailed plans and photographs in Thurrock Museum. <5> <6>

Bennett, Alison, 1992, *Proposed widening of the M25 an Archaeological Assessment* (DESC TEXT). SEX62031.

Historic Landscape Management, 2002, *Mardyke Valley Project; A Brief Landscape History of the Mardyke Valley* (DESC TEXT). SEX68863.

Sparkes, Mr, unknown, *Relevant documents to Belsue Estate collected and published by Mr Sparkes, curator of Thurrock Museum* (DESC TEXT). SEX63779.

<1> unknown, 1960 Onwards, *SMR form unknown* (DESC TEXT). SEX4.

<2> Carney, TJ in Eddy, MR, 1980, *Excavations in Essex 1979 (EAH 12), Vol 12, No 2, p39* (DESC TEXT). SEX17570.

<3> Carney, TJ, 1980, *Belhus Park Ice House, Aveley, No 23, pp96-106* (EXCAV REPORT). SEX17571.

<4> Chapman, J and Andre, P, 1777, *Chapman and Andre (C&A), sheet XXII* (Map). SEX1417.

<5> Thurrock Museum, unknown, *PLAN-MEASURED Thurrock Mus* (MENTION). SEX17572.

<6> Thurrock Museum, unknown, *PHOTO Thurrock Mus* (Photograph). SEX6300.

<7> Essex County Council, unknown, *County Parks Archaeological Survey - Belhus Woods* (DESC TEXT). SEX60939.

## Monument Types

- DRAIN (C18?, Post Medieval - 1540 AD to 1900 AD)
- ICEHOUSE (C18, Post Medieval - 1540 AD to 1900 AD)

## Associated Finds

- BRICK (Post Medieval - 1540 AD to 1900 AD)
- BRICK (Post Medieval - 1540 AD to 1900 AD)
- BRICK (Post Medieval - 1540 AD to 1900 AD)
- PADLOCK (Post Medieval - 1540 AD to 1900 AD)
- VESSEL (Post Medieval - 1540 AD to 1900 AD)

## Associated Events

- SALV EXCAV by Carney, TJ, 1979 (Ref: ?)
- Proposed widening of the M25 an Archaeological Assessment (Ref: ?)
- Mardyke River Valley Project (Ref: ?)

## Protected Status

- Historic Environment Character Zone: Thames Gateway 122\_1
- Historic Environment Character Area: Thames Gateway 122

## Sources and further reading

- DESC TEXT: Bennett, Alison. 1992. Proposed widening of the M25 an Archaeological Assessment.
- DESC TEXT: Sparkes, Mr. unknown. Relevant documents to Belsue Estate collected and published by Mr Sparkes, curator of Thurrock Museum.
- DESC TEXT: Historic Landscape Management. 2002. Mardyke Valley Project; A Brief Landscape History of the Mardyke Valley.
- <1> DESC TEXT: unknown. 1960 Onwards. SMR form unknown.
- <2> DESC TEXT: Carney, TJ in Eddy, MR. 1980. Excavations in Essex 1979 (EAH 12). Vol 12, No 2, p39.
- <3> EXCAV REPORT: Carney, TJ. 1980. Belhus Park Ice House, Aveley. No 23, pp96-106.
- <4> Map: Chapman, J and Andre, P. 1777. Chapman and Andre (C&A). Paper. sheet XXII.
- <5> MENTION: Thurrock Museum. unknown. PLAN-MEASURED Thurrock Mus.
- <6> Photograph: Thurrock Museum. unknown. PHOTO Thurrock Mus.
- <7> DESC TEXT: Essex County Council. unknown. County Parks Archaeological Survey - Belhus Woods.

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