

East Lodge, the Brighton home of George O'Brien Wyndham, 3rd Earl of Egremont

Sue Berry
34 St Nicholas Lane, Lewes BN7 2JZ

By 1807, George O'Brien Wyndham, the 3rd Earl of Egremont (1751–1837), owner of Petworth in West Sussex and 4, Grosvenor Place in London, occupied East Lodge, the largest of the seaside villas standing on the coast either side of the well-established and fashionable resort of Brighton. Between 1798 and 1800, this villa was built on a two-acre plot in a large field called East Laine by Thomas Neville, the owner of a sugar works in Jamaica. The Earl bought the property from his heir, Richard Neville of George Street, Hanover Square, London. In 1808 the villa, built of cream bricks from Hove, is shown on a map of Brighton by Marchant still well east of the expanding resort (Fig. 1). The Earl extended the house on its east side and added more outbuildings north of the house (Fig. 2). He also spent lavishly

during his frequent visits to this house. Most supplies were bought from local tradesmen, rather than being sent from the estate at Petworth. The Earl's expenditure included the maintenance of some of his racehorses, which competed at the Brighton Races and are probably the subject of the oil painting by P. F. Bourgeois *Swimming Horses at Brighton*, which hangs at Petworth. By the early 1820s, the eastwards expansion of Brighton had reached the house. Rock Gardens ran along the west side of the grounds, Eastern Road along its north side and St James's Street (named after a local chapel) along the south. Infilling to the south reduced the sea view to a view down Rock Gardens (Figs.1 and 3).¹

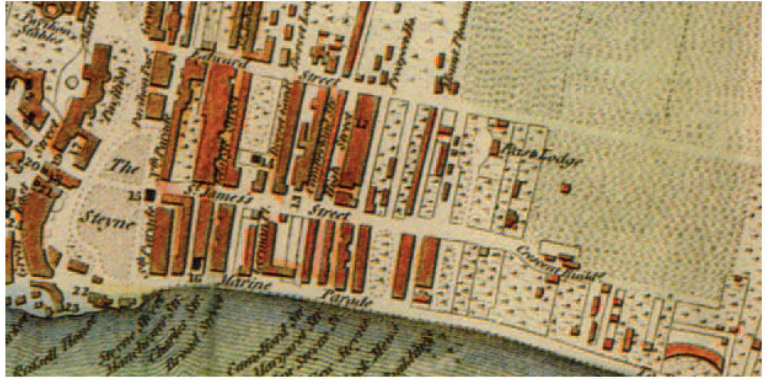


Fig. 1. Site of East Lodge in 1808, on the eastern fringe of Brighton. Source: Marchant's Map of Brighton in 1808. Private Collection.

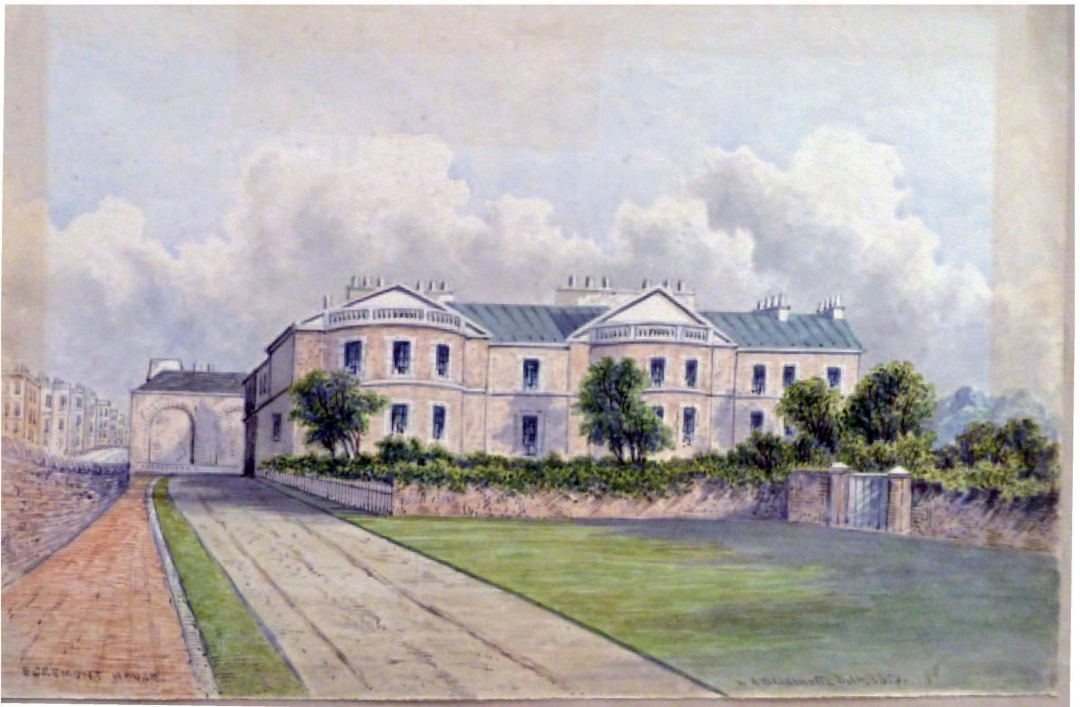


Fig. 2. East Lodge 1853. By William Alfred Delamotte: Egremont House, 1853. Watercolour. Source and Copyright, Brighton Museums and Art Gallery.

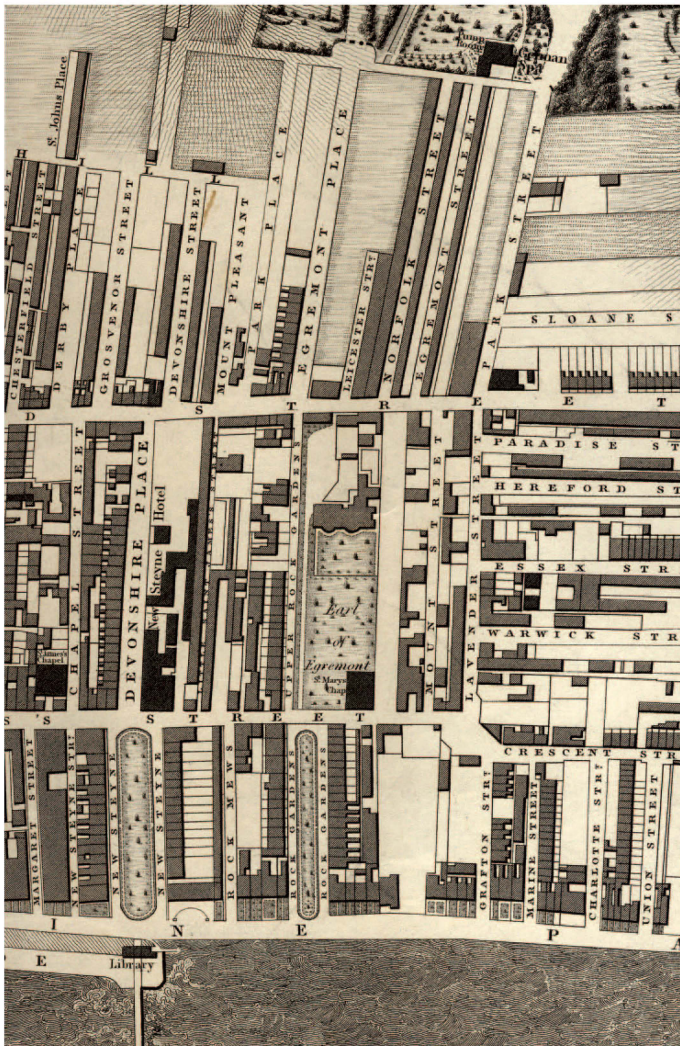


Fig. 3. East Lodge and environs in 1826. Piggott-Smith's map of Brighton of 1826 shows how East Lodge is surrounded by the rapid growth of Brighton eastwards. It just has a view down Lower Rock Gardens. The black block on the southeast side of the grounds is the outline of St Mary's Chapel. The start of the Chain Pier can be seen in the south-western corner. To the north is the entrance to Brighton (now Queen's) Park. Source: Piggott-Smith's map of Brighton of 1826. Private Collection.

By 1813 the Earl supported local charities and campaigned for the establishment of what is now called the Royal Sussex County Hospital, where a bust of him by Carew is in Sussex House. In the mid 1820s he chaired the building committee for the construction of St Peter's Church by Barry. In 1824–25, in return for a pew for the household, the Earl gave land for the construction of St Mary's Chapel (a privately run Anglican chapel) by developer Barnard Gregory to the design of A. H. Wilds (Fig. 4). During the 1830s, residents of Brighton were passengers on ships he funded to transport labourers from Sussex to Upper Canada. The Earl helped to establish a literary and scientific society in Brighton.²

The Earl was a generous host, and so perhaps he allowed the artist J. M. W. Turner the use of rooms in this house, as he did at Petworth from at least the autumn of 1827. East Lodge was conveniently located for painting the recently built Chain

Pier, which stood to the southwest of the house, an attraction for an artist fond of painting seascapes. The Earl held shares in it, which might also explain why the pier made a prudent choice for several of Turner's paintings, some of which still hang at Petworth (Fig. 5).³

After the death of the Earl, the Wyndham family retained the house and used it for entertaining. The contents were carefully maintained. In the 1850s, Colonel George Wyndham, the Earl's eldest son (who inherited the Sussex estates and the house in London in 1837) had the pictures cleaned by the same restorer who worked at his other family homes. The house was sold by the family in the early 1870s, and in 1877 Richard Foster sold the whole site to Brighton Corporation for the widening of Rock Gardens and Eastern Road, and East Lodge was demolished. The Corporation then sold the surplus land, and the late Victorian houses along the east side of Upper Rock Gardens stand on part of the site.⁴

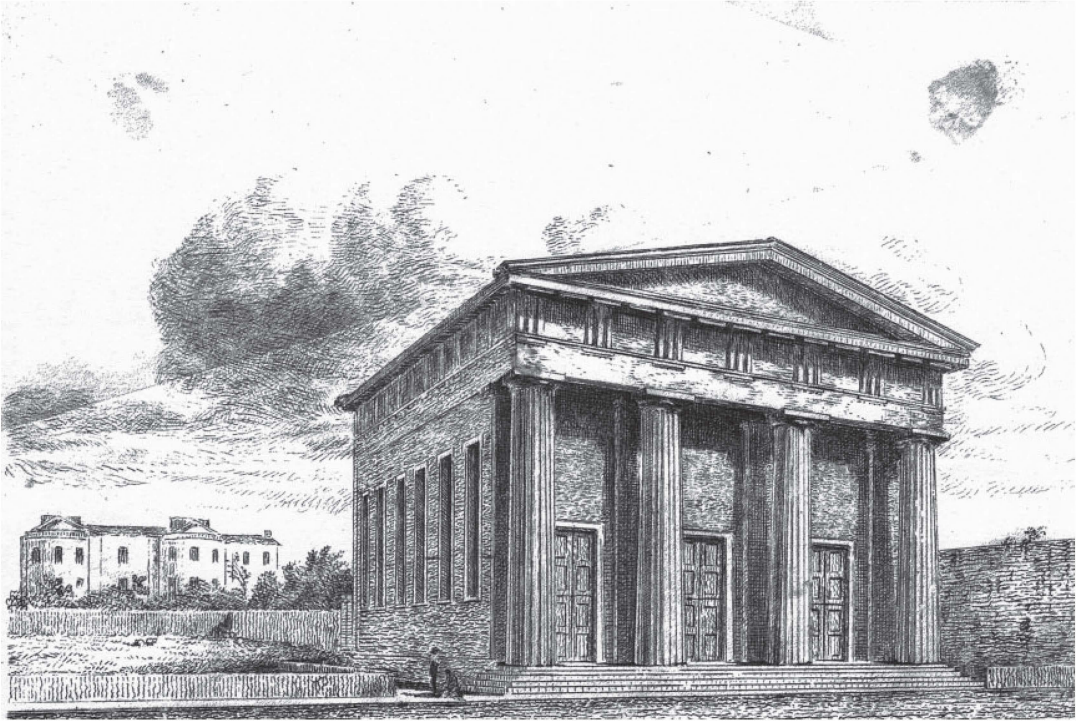


Fig. 4. East Lodge (at the back) with St Mary's Chapel. Source: Print probably late 1820s, engraver and date unknown. Private Collection.



Fig. 5. Brighton Chain Pier by JMW Turner at Petworth House c. 1828–30. This print of the oil painting in the Carved Room at Petworth was etched by R. Wallis and published by James Virtue, with the permission of Lord Leconfield. Source: Private Collection.

NOTES

- ¹ Brighton Local Studies Centre, SB352.1 T. Pocock, An equalization of the houses, stables, coachouses and other buildings, Draft MSS 1815,75. *Attree's Topography of Brighton and Picture of the Roads* (London, Longman, 1809), 23. S. Berry *Georgian Brighton* (Chichester:Phillimore, 2005),16–19. West Sussex Record Office (hereafter WSRO) PHA 5958, 6618, 9213. East Sussex Record Office (hereafter ESRO) ACC 7600, R/C/4/135/1–5. HOW/78-82, HOW/83/2. The Earl sold Egremont House in Piccadilly and moved to 4, Grosvenor Place in 1794; see C. Rowell, *Petworth: The people and the place* (London: the National Trust, 2012), 76.
- ² *Morning Herald* 18 Feb 1813. *The Times* 30 April 1836, 18 May 1836. S. Berry 'Places of Worship in Georgian and Regency Brighton and Hove', *The Georgian Group Journal* **XIX** (2011), 163–164. S. Berry, 'The construction of St. Peter's Church, Brighton, c. 1818–1835, *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **148** (2010), 206. WSRO PHA 8532, 8622, 8748, 9213, 10630, 8696, 8694, 11316. ESRO AMS/5552/1, 2. C. Wright, *The Brighton Ambulator* (London: C. Wright, 1818), 105–109.
- ³ Luke Herrmann, 'Turner, Joseph Mallord William (1775–1851), *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004; online edn, Oct 2006 [http://www.oxforddnb.com.ezproxy.londonlibrary.co.uk/view/article/27854, accessed 14 July 2013]. C. Rowell, *Petworth: the people and the place*, 79. J. G. Bishop, *The Brighton Chain Peer in Memoriam, Its History from 1823 to 1896* (Brighton: Author, 1897), Appendix ii.
- ⁴ Wyndham, Col. G., East Lodge, Upper Rock Gardens, *Leppard and Co Brighton Street Directory* (Brighton: Leppard, 1839) 24. Leconfield, Lord, East Lodge, St James's Street, *The Brighton Court and General Directory* (Brighton: Pearce, 1863) 24. ESRO R/C/4/135/1–5. WSRO PHA 7521–7527, 8532, 10068–10069. *The Times* 24 Nov 1837.

Table 1. Quantification of finds.

Type	Number
Enfield (percussion)	1
Martini Henry	185
.303 minus jacket	176
.303 round nosed	570
.303 pointed Mk VII	5
Jacketed parabellum/0.3	21
0.38?	1
Unjacketed .22 to .455	167
Sub-total for bullets	1126
Pellets/shot (airgun)	329
Projectiles? (uncertain lead fragments)	162
Grand total	1617

various marks of late Victorian–Edwardian round-nosed 0.303 bullets (up to 66%, if all sea-worn 303s belong here). In contrast, Great War, or later, pointed Mark VII 303s total less than 0.4% of the assemblage. Subdominant is the Martini-Henry 0.450 (16%), which historically preceded the above jacketed ammunition. Muzzle loaders are represented by a single 0.457 Pritchett bullet (for the Enfield percussion rifle). A service connection is suggested by a broad arrow still preserved on the bases of several round-nosed 303s. Other jacketed bullets comprise only 2% of the total, but are diverse, including 9mm (Parabellum), 0.3, 0.455 (Webley) and 70.38 from revolvers and automatic or semi-automatic guns dating from the 1930s and World War 2. Other unjacketed bullets (15%) range from 0.455s down to numerous 0.22s; these are also diverse, including pre-Great War Webley ball marks IV and V (short-lived revolver bullets with controversial flat tops), some of which are broad arrow marked. The smaller calibres can be attributed to training and/or sporting and hunting firearms, as well as the associated conical and diabolo air-gun pellets and ubiquitous small shot.

Occasional cartridge remains found are mostly too worn to read, but one is dated November 1916, and three Great War rifle grenade fuzes and Mills bomb base plug fragments were also recovered. The assemblage lacks earlier Victorian Minié and post-Pritchett Snider rifle bullets. The variety of projectiles precludes a shipwreck source, but not other marine sources such as coastal erosion, natural or anthropogenic.

A walk-over survey coupled with satellite images¹ revealed an abandoned cliff-top butt to the west of Old Nore Point (NGR TV 436 999; Fig. 1). This proved the presence of a former cliff-top range, but this eroding butt is some 0.5 km west of the beach finds (Fig. 1). The lack of projectiles on the foreshore below this butt strongly suggested that the concentration collected further east did not originate from this point.

Consultation of the historic O.S. maps failed to show any firing range in the vicinity of the beach, although declassified government documents mention a military cliff and sea range as being established to the west of Newhaven harbour in December 1914, after having been proposed earlier in 1896.² However, the proposals map, drafted in 1906, actually shows an approximately east to west rifle range along the beach beyond the harbour breakwater (Fig. 1), with butts immediately west of the finds area.³ The exclusion of the beach range from the O.S. maps may well be the result of the close proximity of the fort, itself omitted for security reasons.

Rediscovered rifle ranges near Newhaven

E. & B. Jarzembowski, Bishopstone Manor South, Bishopstone, Seaford, BN25 2UD. (jarzembowski2@live.co.uk)

Walking the foreshore below Newhaven Heights after shingle drift in August 2008 revealed an unexpected concentration of fired projectiles. After a number of subsequent searches, this was found to be part of a c. 350m scatter along the wave-cut platform (Fig. 1). The assemblage includes well over 1000 items of many different calibres (Table 1) and countless lead shot. The latter were mostly of 0.1–0.2in diameter or smaller, but occasionally with examples to c. 0.54in diameter.

Breech-loading rifle bullets of military calibre dominate the assemblage (83% of all bullets). At least 51% belong to