

Hospitality

Unfortunately it isn't possible to identify which was Peter Lathbury's house in Orford. There they were introduced to his spaniel, named Rover, who was skilled in closing doors by leaping against them. Clearly the clergyman was a naturalist. In his parlour were many books, fossils, shells and minerals, stuffed birds, a camera obscura, a solar microscope and '*North's glass Machine for impregnating water with fixt air*'. At supper they were joined by the Revd John Connor (whom they mistakenly named Mr O'Connor), '*from Ireland, a temporary curate in Orford*'². Charles made one of his humorous but affectionate observations about his friend at this point in his journal. Mr O'Connor was '*smitten with esteem*' for William because he seemed attentive when the former spoke French, but actually William was asleep! Not surprising after such a long walk on a warm day.

An excursion near Orford

The following day the two botanists looked around the garden where they found '*seven edifices for a certain use built in a peculiar style all of wood and not larger than Centry Boxes*'. Here they are almost certainly referring to privies, which were commonly sited outside, but seven seems a very large number for one household. Taking with them water and a basket containing cheese, biscuits and porter, they crossed the river to the marshes on the other side, leased by Mr Lawton of Ipswich. Some were cultivated, but the expense of keeping the river walls intact meant they were not very profitable. The 7th Regiment of Dragoons, stationed at Norwich, had sent their horses to graze here and were '*no small ornament to the Place*'. On the marshes and the pebbly beach further on they identified many plants, including couch grass which they observed helped to consolidated the shingle, and sea pinks (thrift). Then the two men took advantage of the cooling pleasures of '*rowing and tumbling*' in the waves, one much like a porpoise according to the other. The reference to this animal explains the later remark about the wild man of Orford.

Hall, church, castle and lighthouses

Sudbourne Hall had been observed on the way to Orford. Lord Hertford³ had spent £10,000 on building his mansion. The old house had been a half H, which was now filled up into a square. Red brick has been employed although the front was white stucco⁴. It was remarked that a modern seat within two miles of the sea should '*command an extensive view of that most sublime object of Nature*', but rising ground obscured it.