

NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

An Archaeological watching brief was carried out on construction work during the redevelopment of disused buildings on the site of Chantry Barns, Orford, Suffolk. A small trench was excavated around the perimeter of Barn 1 for the construction of a retaining wall. Four pits, possibly dating to the post medieval period, were excavated in the trench.

1 INTRODUCTION

Site Location (Fig 1)

- 1.1 The site is centred on National Grid Reference TM 42085 49690. The site lies just to the south of the junction of Gedgrave Road and Broad Street in the small town of Orford.

2 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

- 2.1 Proposals have been made by John Crane Property Developments to redevelop four redundant farm buildings on Chantry Farm and convert them into new houses. Planning permission (REF: C02/1067) for this development, has been granted by Suffolk Coastal Planning Department (05/02/03) subject to a condition requiring an archaeological watching brief during all ground-penetrating works, in order to ensure that the archaeological interests of the site were protected.

3 PLANNING AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The site lies within an area of regional archaeological importance, as defined in the County Sites and Monuments Record. Orford Castle lies to the north-west of the site and dates to the 12th century. Recent excavations at Castle Hill revealed structural post holes and clay ovens dating to the 12th century when the town itself was founded, (Suffolk County Council 2000).
- 3.2 The site also lies a short distance from the River Ore which may have been used during the medieval period for the local fishing industry.
- 3.3 The extent of medieval occupation on the south side of Broad Street is unknown. The eastern end was occupied by the Austin Friary, founded in 1295 and it may be that occupation continued westward to Chantry Farm.
- 3.4 A watching brief was completed in 2004 by AOC Archaeology on the redevelopment of Barn 3. Two phases of drainage work took place on site. No archaeology was observed in the Phase 1 trench but several pits and a ditch were recorded in Phase 2, which were dated to the medieval period.

4 STRATEGY

Aims of the Investigation

- 4.1 The general and specific aims of the evaluation are as laid out in the brief issued by Suffolk County Council and the Written Scheme of Investigation issued by AOC Archaeology in 2004, (AOC 2004b). They are:
- To provide a record of archaeological deposits which would be damaged or removed by any development (including services and landscaping) permitted by the current planning consent.
 - To record any evidence of medieval occupation that is present on the site.
 - The final aim will be to make public the results of the archaeological work.

Methodology

- 4.2 A watching brief was carried out during all intrusive groundwork. The scale and scope of the work was reviewed in consultation with Keith Wade, of the Environmental and Transport Department, Suffolk County Council.
- 4.3 A unique SMR code, (ORF-105) was obtained for the previous watching brief in 2004 and will be reused for this phase of work. The code was also used as a site code and the archive reference.
- 4.4 All works were carried out in accordance with regional and national guidance, (English Heritage, 1998a and b, IFA 1994) and was monitored by Keith Wade (Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Advisor to Suffolk Coastal District Council). The watching brief was supervised by the author.
- 4.6 Standard AOC Archaeology techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of written context records for each deposit, and cut encountered, with scale plans and/or section drawings recorded where appropriate and a photographic record produced, (AOC 2004b).

5 RESULTS

Trench 1 (Fig 2&3)

- 5.1 The watching brief took place on a single trench, measuring 20m long (with a 2.5m gap) by 0.40m wide. The trench ran northeast-southwest, before turning south for a further 11m. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.25m deep.
- 5.2 The results are displayed in the table below:

Context	Description	Width	Length	Depth
3/001	Modern made ground	Trench	0.30m	0.10m
3/002	Tarmac	Trench	1.50m	0.10m
3/003	Fill of 3/004	Trench	1.40m	0.37m
3/004	Pit cut	Trench	1.40m	0.37m
3/005	Fill of 3/006	Trench	1.31m	0.50m
3/006	Pit cut	Trench	1.31m	0.50m
3/007	Fill of 3/008	Trench	0.80m	0.60m
3/008	Pit cut	Trench	0.80m	0.60m
3/009	Fill of 3/010	Trench	1.20m	0.60m
3/010	Pit cut	Trench	1.20m	0.60m
3/011	Buried soil	Trench	0.60m	NFE
3/012	Natural	Trench	-	NFE

- 5.3 The lowest deposit in the trench was the natural sand (3/012), which was recorded as compact yellow and moist sand. Cutting into the natural were two pits [3/008] & [3/010]. Pit [3/008] was filled with dark grey clay sand which contained fragments of oyster shell, tile, animal bone and a single fragment of medieval pottery. The second pit, [3/010] contained a mottled fill of dark grey and brown clay sand with occasional fragments of oyster shell.
- 5.4 Overlying the sand in the centre of the trench was a small layer of buried soil or occupation layer, (3/011). The layer consisted of mottled brown and yellow clayey sand. No finds were recovered from this deposit.
- 5.5 Cutting into (3/011) were two pit features [3/004] and [3/006]. The former feature contained dark grey sandy clay (3/003), with occasional oyster shell. The latter, contained a similarly composed fill (3/005), but also contained a single fragment of 19th century glass, peg tile and animal bone.
- 5.6 None of the above features contained any evidence suggesting they were being used for continual domestic dumping. It is possible that they relate to an earlier land use such as gardens dating to the 19th century, although more conclusive evidence would be needed to confirm this. The single fragment of pottery, which

was recovered from feature [3/008], is likely to be residual as no other medieval evidence was recorded during this phase of watching brief.

6 FINDS

- 6.1 A single piece of medieval pottery was recovered from feature [3/008]. The pottery dates to the 13th/14th century, where it is likely to have been used as a domestic vessel. The pottery was covered in burnt food residue. The fragment of pottery will be retained until the completion of all phases of work, after which the assemblage will be deposited into the local archive.

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The watching brief exposed several features that would be impacted on by the development. Post medieval and residual early medieval evidence was recorded in the foundation trench, the majority of which will be preserved *in situ*, due to the limited scale of intrusive works on site.
- 7.2 This limited watching brief is the second phase of archaeological work associated with the redevelopment of the existing buildings on this site.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC Archaeology, (2004a) *Archaeological Investigation, Watching Brief Report, Chantry Barns, Orford, Suffolk.*

AOC Archaeology, (2004b) *Archaeological Watching Brief at Chantry Barns, Orford, Suffolk. Written Scheme of Investigation.*

Suffolk County Council, (2000). *Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service Annual Report 2000-2001.*

APPENDIX A

OASIS ID: *aocarcha1-8269*

Project details

Project name	Chantry Barns, Broad Street, Orford
Short description of the project	An Archaeological watching brief was carried out on construction work during the redevelopment of disused buildings on the site of Chantry Barns, Orford, Suffolk. A small trench was excavated around the perimeter of Barn 1 for the construction of a retaining wall. Four pits, possibly dating to the post medieval period, were excavated in the trench
Project dates	Start: 12-05-2005 End: 12-05-2005
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	ORF-105 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	ORF-105 - SM No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 4 - Storage and warehousing
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC VESSEL Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country	England
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Site location	SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL ORFORD Chantry Barns
Postcode	IP12 2NQ
Study area	330.00 Square metres
National grid reference	TM 42085 49690 Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	AOC Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	AOC Archaeology
Project director/manager	Mark Beasley
Project supervisor	Catherine Edwards
Sponsor or funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	AOC Archaeology
Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
Physical Archive notes	To be kept at AOC archaeology until transported to the local archive
Physical Archive Exists?	Yes
Digital Archive recipient	AOC Archaeology
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Digital Media available	'Database','Text'
Digital Archive notes	To be kept at AOC archaeology until transported to the local archive

Digital Archive Exists?	Yes
Paper Archive recipient	AOC Archaeology
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Matrices','Plan','Report','Unpublished Text'
Paper Archive notes	To be kept at AOC archaeology until transported to the local archive
Paper Archive Exists?	Yes

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Chantry Barns, Orford, Suffolk, Archaeological Investigation, Watching Brief Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Edwards, C.
Date	2005
Issuer or publisher	AOC Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	Unpublished text with drawings, tables

Entered by	Catherine Edwards (catherinedwards@aocarchaeology.co.uk)
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