

## **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 series of small trenches were excavated to the south of Barn 2, for the construction of new internal and external walls. No archaeology was recorded in any 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, Suffolk.

## 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 12<sup>th</sup> century. Recent excavations at Castle Hill revealed structural post holes and clay ovens dating to the 12<sup>th</sup> 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 Two phases of watching brief have been completed on site in 2004 and 2005 by AOC Archaeology on the redevelopment of Barn 1 and 3. Both of the previous phases on site uncovered several small pits dating to the medieval period, (AOC 2004b & 2005).

## 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 2004a). 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 2004a).

## **5 RESULTS (Fig 3 & 4)**

- 5.1 A total of seven trenches were excavated on site. Two measured 14.20m, two measured 5.20m, two measured 3.40m and the final trench measured 2.40m. All of the trenches were excavated to a depth of between 1.80m and 2.20m deep. The trenches have been grouped together and recorded as Trench 4 for simplicity and also due to their similarity in stratigraphy, which was consistent across the site. This is described below.
- 5.2 The earliest deposit in Trench 4 was (4/005), light brown yellow, loose sand. This is the lowest natural deposit in the trenches. Overlying this was an organic layer of dark grey brown sandy clay, (4/004). This layer contained fragments of organic matter; mainly the remains of plant roots, and in places, the clay contained rounded pebbles. The layer was recorded as measuring 0.20m to 0.40m across the site.
- 5.3 Overlying this was a layer of peat, (4/003), which was mainly recorded in sections towards the north of the excavation, though some patches were recorded in the other sections. The deposit was approximately 0.30m deep and may indicate a change in the environment, such as the growth of vegetation where it was previously not seen. Overlying this deposit was a further layer of an organic clay deposit, (4/002) which is likely to be natural alluvium. This probably indicates a second change in the environment, back to wet conditions such as an increase in tidal activity or localised flooding. This is indicative of salt water marsh environments.
- 5.4 The last deposits in the trenches were several small layers of dumped material probably relating to the occupation of the site from the post medieval period to the present, (4/001).

## **6 FINDS**

- 6.1 No finds were recovered from the site.

## **7 CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1 No archaeology was recorded in this final phase of watching brief. The stratigraphic depth observed in this final watching brief is similar to Trench 1 which was excavated during the watching brief in 2004. The 2004 trench revealed deep deposits of made ground, worked soil and natural sand. This trench was positioned towards the south or the back of the property, whereas trenches 2 and 3 excavated during the previous watching brief phases were located towards the front of the properties. The trenches at the front of the properties contained only 0.30m of made ground and disturbance which directly overlaid medieval pits and the natural sand horizon. In Trench 1 and 4 the trenches were much deeper, with the natural sand recorded at 1.60m-1.80m below ground level, overlaid by alluvial clay and peat or worked soil and made ground dumps. The variation between the front and the back of the property is quite pronounced. The disparity between the

two suggests that the backs of the properties are sitting in a previous natural water channel, which has silted up over time and has eventually being levelled and built on.

This Watching Brief forms the final phase of archaeological work on this site. The results of which will be made public via the ADS OASIS project and a copy of the report will be made available to the local studies library.

## 8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC Archaeology, (2005). *Archaeological Investigation, Watching Brief Report, Chantry Barns, Orford, Suffolk.*

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

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

English Heritage (1998a). *Archaeological Guidance Paper 3: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London* (English Heritage London Region 1998).

English Heritage (1998b). *Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Reports.* (English Heritage London Region 1998).

Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994). *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations.*

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

## APPENDIX A

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-9684

### Project details

Project name	Chantry Barns, Orford, Suffolk
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 series of small trenches were excavated to the south of Barn 3, for the construction of new internal and external walls. No archaeology was recorded in any other the trenches.
Project dates	Start: 12-08-2005 End: 16-08-2005
Previous/future work	Yes / No
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
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL ORFORD Chantry Barns
Postcode	IP12 2NQ
Study area	84.00 Square metres
National grid reference	TM 42085 49690 Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	AOC Archaeology
Project brief	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

originator	
Project design originator	AOC Archaeology
Project director/manager	Mark Beasley
Project supervisor	Catherine Edwards
Sponsor or funding body	J.A and S. M. Crane Property Developments

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	AOC Archaeology
Digital Contents	'Survey'
Digital Media available	'Survey','Text'
Digital Archive notes	Will be held At AOC Office until Local Museum can receive the archive
Paper Archive recipient	AOC Archaeology
Paper Contents	'Survey'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Matrices','Photograph','Plan','Report','Unpublished Text'
Paper Archive notes	Will be held At AOC Office until Local Museum can receive the archive

### 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 illustrations

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