PROPOSED NEW ACCESS, THE BURY, ST OSYTHS PRIORY, TENDRING, ESSEX

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

Authors:							
Lisa Smith BA (Fieldwork and report)							
Sophie Unger MA (Research	h)						
Claire Dollman (Graphics)							
NGR: TM 1215 1560	Report No.3184						
District: Tendering	Site Code: STOTB08						
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No. 3270						
Signed:	Date: October 2008						

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Archaeological Solutions Ltd, 98 - 100 Fore Street, Hertford, SG14 1AB. Tel: 01992 558170 Fax: 01992 553359 E-mail: info@ascontracts.co.uk Web: www.archaeolgicalsolutions.co.uk Registered Number: 4702122

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Oasis Summary Sheet

Project details							
Project name	Proposed new access, The Bury, St Osyth Priory, Tendring,,						
-	Essex: An archaeological evaluation.						
Project description (250 words)							
In October 2008, Archaeo	ological Solutions	Ltd conducted an archa	ieolo	gical evaluation on			
land at The Bury, St Osyth	Priory Park, St C	Syth, Tendring, Essex (N	GR T	TM 1167 1566). The			
evaluation was commission	ned to seek evider	nce in support of the his	toric	usage of a blocked			
gateway leading from The	Bury to the priory	2.					
The trial trench evaluation	n revealed a sma	ll number of archaeolog	ical j	features comprising			
two ditches (F1006 & F1	016), a posthole	(F1009) and a series of	of su	rfaces on the same			
alignment as the modern re	oad leading from 1	the gatehouse to Mill Stre	eet.				
	-th oth o	2000					
Project dates (fieldwork)	7 th - 9 th October	2008					
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	?				
P. number	3270	Site code	ST	OTB08			
Type of project	Trial Trench Ev	aluation					
Site status	None						
Current land use	Previous triang	ılar green					
Planned development	New access road	d					
Main features (+dates)	Ditches, pit, pos	t hole, surfaces					
Significant finds (+dates)	12^{th} -14 th century	y pottery, post-medieval C	CBM				
Project location							
County/ District/ Parish	Essex	Tendring		St Osyth			
HER/ SMR for area	Essex Historic E	Environments Record					
Post code (if known)							
Area of site							
NGR	TM 1215 1560						
Height AOD (max/ min)	c. 15m AOD						
Project creators							
Specification issued by	Historic Environ	nment Management (HEM	A) tee	am, Essex			
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Garv Brogan						
Funded by	ed by City & Country						
Bibliography	· · · ·						
Full title	Proposed new	access, The Bury, St C	Syth	Priory, Tendring,			
	Essex: An archaeological evaluation.						
Authors	Smith, L & Ung	er, S					
Report no.	3184						
Date (of report)	October 2008						

ST OSYTH PRIRY PARK, ST OSYTH, TENDRING, ESSEX

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In October 2008, Archaeological Solutions Ltd conducted an archaeological evaluation on land at The Bury, St Osyth Priory Park, St Osyth, Tendring, Essex (NGR TM 1167 1566). The evaluation was commissioned to seek evidence in support of the historic usage of a blocked gateway leading from The Bury to the priory.

The trial trench evaluation revealed a small number of archaeological features comprising two ditches (F1006 & F1016), a posthole (F1009) and a series of surfaces on the same alignment as the modern road leading from the gatehouse to Mill Street.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In October 2008 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) conducted an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at St Osyth Priory Park, St Osyth, Tendring, Essex (NGR TM 1167 1566 (Fig 1 & 2). The evaluation was carried out at the request of City & Country Residential Ltd, to provide supporting information prior to inform proposals for potential future planning applications for the site.

1.2 The evaluation (trial trenching) was conducted in accordance with a specification (Written Scheme of Investigation) prepared by Archaeological Solutions (dated 29/08/2008), which was approved by Essex County Council Historic Environment Team (ECC HEM). The assessment and evaluation complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (revised 2001) as well as with the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The evaluation aimed to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. The evaluation also aimed to identify areas of previous ground disturbance on the site.

Planning policy context

1.4 The relevant planning policies which apply to the effect of development with regard to cultural heritage are Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 'Planning and the Historic Environment' (PPG15) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 'Archaeology and Planning' (PPG16) (Department of the Environment).

1.5 PPG16 (1990) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to archaeology. It states that there should always be a presumption in favour of preserving nationally important archaeological remains *in situ*. However, when there is no overriding case for preservation, developers are required to fund opportunities for the recording and, where necessary, the excavation of the site. This condition is widely applied by local authorities.

1.6 PPG15 (1994) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to the conservation of the historic environment by protecting the character and appearance of Conservation Areas and protecting listed buildings (of architectural or historical interest) from demolition and unsympathetic change and safeguarding their settings as far as is possible. This condition is also widely applied by local authorities.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE (Figs. 1 - 2)

2.1 The site lies in St Osyth, a village c.4km west of the coastal town of Clacton-on-Sea. St Osyth's Creek lies c.500m south-west of the site and flows into the Brightlingsea Creek which joins the River Colne at the town of Brightlingsea.

2.2 The site lies within The Bury, a triangular-shaped piece of land to the front of the 12th century and 16th century gatehouses to St Osyth Priory. The site lies to the south and outside of the Priory complex, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM no. 24). It lies to the east of the Priory Park within an area of extensive known cropmarks plotted by the National Mapping Programme (NMP). The road named The Bury lies to the south-east of the site with residential development located on the opposite side of the road. An undeveloped plot of land is situated to the west of the site.

3 METHODOLOGY (Desk-based assessment)

Information was sought from a variety of available sources in order to meet the objectives of the desk-based assessment.

3.1 Archaeological databases

3.1.1 The standard collation of all known archaeological sites and spot-finds within St Osyth comes from the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER). In order to provide a representative sample, the HER database was searched for all known entries within a 1km radius of the site. Entries within an approximate 1km radius of the site are plotted below (Figure 3). Their significance, where relevant, is discussed in Section 4.2. Significant HER entries from beyond the 1km radius have also been discussed where relevant.

3.2 Historical and cartographic sources

3.2.1 The principal source for these types of evidence was the Essex Record Office (ERO), Chelmsford. Relevant documents are listed in Appendix 1 and reproduced in Figures 4-7.

3.3 Secondary sources

3.3.1 The principal sources of secondary material were the Essex Record Office as well as AS's own reference library. All sources, including websites, are listed in the bibliography.

3.4 Geological/geotechnical information

3.4.1 A description of the superficial and solid geology of the local and surrounding area was compiled in order to assess the likely presence and potential condition of any archaeological remains on the site. This information was drawn from appropriate maps based on the work of the Geological Survey of Great Britain.

4 THE EVIDENCE

4.1 Topography, geology and soils

4.1.1 The site lies at an elevation of approximately 15m AOD with the land decreasing in level south west towards the creek. The solid geology of St Osyth consists of London Clay overlain by Glaciofluvial drift geology (BGS 1989). The soils of the area are of the Wix association (SSEW 1983). These consist of deep permeable coarse loamy soils often associated with drained sandy and coarse loamy soils with a slight risk of water erosion (SSEW 1983). These oils traditionally support cereal, sugar beat and other arable crops as well as some grassland (SSEW 1983).

4.2 Archaeological and historical background

The archaeological and historical background has been summarised from the desk-based assessment undertaken by Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit on the site in 2007 (Heppell 2007).

Prehistoric (c. 700,000 BC – AD 43)

4.2.1 Prehistoric evidence is poorly represented in St Osyth and as a consequence little is known about possible prehistoric occupation of the area. Only occasional finds have been discovered in the general area of St Osyth. Bronze Age and Iron Age activity was revealed during investigations at Lodge Farm, *c*.1.75km east of the site. During an archaeological investigation by Time Team and Wessex Archaeology in the town, a single heavily abraded piece of prehistoric pottery was discovered (Wessex Archaeology 2005). Within the Priory Park (*c*. 500m north-west of the site) the EHER records the presence of a 'possible tumulus' (EHER 2837). This earthwork is first depicted on the map of 1968 with a further tumulus also noted closer to the priory, *c*.250m north-east of the site (EHER 2828). The official definition of a tumulus from the National Monument Record is an 'artificial mound of earth, turf and/or stone, normally constructed to contain or conceal burials' and are often prehistoric in date. Further prehistoric material has been uncovered during aggregate extraction within the park area including Iron Age material (EHER 2904).

Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

4.2.2 As is the case with the prehistoric period, there is a dearth of Roman evidence in St Osyth. During aggregate extraction in 1962, the remains of a small Roman building were discovered in St Osyth Priory Park, *c*. 1km north-west of the site (EHER 2890). It is thought that the building was of wattle and timber superstructure with a thatched roof and has been tentatively dated to the $3^{rd}/4^{th}$ century. During excavations by Time Team and Wessex Archaeology in 2005, Roman material was revealed above a kiln found 500m south-west of The Bury (Wessex Archaeology 2005). Although this material was thought to be residual and did not date the kiln, it indicates that Roman activity occurred close to the site. A Roman pit with a fluted brown ware vase was also discovered in the priory precinct (EHER 2822). The main piers of the undercroft at St Osyth's Priory were built almost entirely of Roman tile with some inclusions of brick (EHER 2820). Whilst re-used in the medieval period, some type of building or brick works must have been close by for the quantity of material to be discovered in the area.

Anglo-Saxon and Medieval (AD 411 – 1539)

4.2.3 Documentary sources indicate that the settlement of St Osyth originated in the Anglo-Saxon period, from at least the 7th century when a nunnery was founded in the village (then named *Cicc* referring to the Creek) during the reign of *Sighere*, King of Essex (Wessex Archaeology 2005). It is thought that Osyth was granted a nunnery by *Sighere*, her presumed husband, and decided to retire as an abbess of the nunnery. However, legend says Osyth was murdered in her chapel during an attack by the Danes in 653 AD and was subsequently canonised. Whilst there is no mention of a religious house in the Domesday Book, it is thought that the chapel was situated in Nun's Wood where a 14th century ruin has been noted. Archaeological investigations in the town have not produced much more evidence to enhance our knowledge of this period. One piece of Saxon pottery was found during an excavation by Colchester Archaeological Trust in 1999 to the south of the church and two small pieces during the excavation by Time Team (Wessex Archaeology 2005). 10th century Middle Saxon pottery sherds were also discovered during investigations at St Osyth primary school (EHER 2902) with several (possibly Saxon) burials also located in a similar area (EHER 3298).

The Domesday Book entry for St Osyth indicates that a substantial town existed prior 4.2.4 to the foundation of the Augustinian Priory. No church was recorded but extensive land holdings with pasture land, woodland for livestock and a mill were recorded (Morris 1986). The Augustinian Priory dedicated to St Peter and Paul (EHER 4; SAM 24) was founded in 1121 by the Bishop of London and became an Abbey in c. 1150. Its most significant remains are the sub-vault of the Dorter range dating from the foundation and a fine example of a 15th century gatehouse. Adjacent to the large gatehouse, built in 1495, a further 12th century gate (with the gateway blocked) is located to the east, which features original architectural mouldings. It is likely that this gatehouse was constructed at a similar time to the priory and was subsequently replaced by the larger gatehouse in the late 15th century. St Osyth's became the wealthiest monastic house and Cicc the largest parish in the county. The town became established along the eastern and southern boundaries of the abbey precinct and relied on the wealth of the abbey to extend further. In addition the abbey held land in 36 towns and villages throughout Essex and Suffolk. St Osyth is an area of high archaeological potential due to the medieval priory/abbey and its associated structures. Finds of medieval pottery have been discovered in the priory precinct (EHER 2825; c. 250m north-west of the site). Although the site is situated outside the main abbey precinct, it would have seen transitory activity from travellers and cart traffic passing through both gatehouses of the priory. A fair is also thought to have taken place on the Bury grassland, it is said to have competed with Colchester in significance (website 2). Evidence of either of these activities may be encountered during the evaluation.

Post-medieval and Modern (AD 1540 - present)

4.2.5 The abbey was dissolved in 1539 and granted to Thomas Cromwell, and later Thomas Darcy in 1553. Many medieval structures were demolished and new buildings constructed after the dissolution and Thomas Darcy established the priory as a residential home. By 1721, the priory and its land were passed to Betty Savage and her husband Fredric Zuylestein de Nassau, the 3rd Earl of Rochford, relation to William of Orange. The priory was largely rebuilt in this period and subsequent owners demolished the Georgian wings, built the Victorian Banqueting Hall and restored the 15th century gatehouse. In later years, the priory was opened to the public to display the wealth of paintings which Somerset De Chair's wife had purchased. The cartographic sources have proven that the Bury grassland has remained undeveloped throughout the later post-medieval period with several trees lining the borders of the site.

Undated

4.2.6 Extensive cropmarks have been identified to the west of the site. A ring ditch and other pits, linear ditches and rectangular enclosures are indicative of previous activity. The sub-surface features may be infilled post-medieval field boundaries although it is also possible that these represent features of prehistoric date.

4.3 The site

4.3.1 The plan of the estate in 1814 (Fig 4) depicted the whole area surrounding the site dominated by the Priory and its associated land. The site encompassed a single triangular plot of land (to the south of the priory precinct) which was undeveloped in 1814 and was likely to have been unoccupied grassland. Later maps throughout the 19th and 20th centuries (Fig 5, 6 & 7) depict no changes to the site with the land remaining undeveloped, presumably until the present day.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Four trenches were excavated in areas thought to have high potential for identifying any original road surfaces leading into the Priory (Figs. 2 & 8). There are a number of gateways into the Priory, the main one being the impressive 15^{th} century gatehouse. In addition, there is a also a gateway with 12^{th} century architectural mouldings and a blocked gateway of 13th century date, to the east of the current gatehouse. The trenches were placed in locations agreed with ECC and City & Country Residential Ltd, in order to examine any evidence for early access routes (eg surfaces) into the Priory from The Bury. The trenches measured between 2m and 10m in length and were all 1.6m in width.

5.2 Undifferentiated overburden was mechanically excavated, thereafter all further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as necessary.

6 **DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS**

Individual trench descriptions are presented below

6.1 Trench 1

Sample section 8.	: West end	l, South facing						
0.00m = 17.12m	0.00m = 17.12m AOD							
0.00 - 0.22m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional angular						
		gravel, fragments of CBM and moderate rounded pebbles.						
0.22 - 0.41m	L1001	Made Ground. Mid greyish brown sandy silt with moderate						
		angular gravel, rounded pebbles and oyster shell visible as lenses						
		throughout.						
0.41 - 0.55m	L1008	Demolition Layer. Mid greyish brown sandy silt with						
		concentrations of frequent fragments of CBM, mortar and						
		occasional angular gravel in a mid greyish white mortar silt						
		matrix.						
0.55 - 0.73m	L1011	Made Ground. Mid brownish grey sandy silt with moderate						
		angular gravel, rounded pebbles and oyster shell.						
0.73m+	L1012	Silty Sand Natural. Mid brownish yellow silty sand with frequent						
		angular gravel and occasional fragments of flint.						

Sample section 9: East end, South facing					
0.00m = 17.10m	4OD				
0.00 - 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above.			
0.30 - 0.44m	L1001	Made Ground. As Above.			
0.44 - 0.59m	4 – 0.59m L1008 Demolition Layer. As Above.				
0.59 - 0.72m	- 0.72m L1011 Made Ground. As Above.				
0.72m+	L1012 Silty Sand Natural. As Above.				

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

6.2 Trench 2

Fig. 8 DP 2

Sample section 3: East end, South facing						
0.00m = 17.05m	0.00m = 17.05m AOD					
0.00 - 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr. 1				
0.24 - 0.45m	L1001	Made Ground. As Above Tr. 1				
0.45 – 0.57m L1008 Demolition Layer. As Above Tr. 1						
0.57 – 0.89m L1011 Made Ground. As Above Tr. 1						
0.89m+	L1012	Silty Sand Natural. As Above Tr. 1				

Sample section 4: West end, South facing						
0.00m = 16.97m	0.00m = 16.97m AOD					
0.00 - 0.18m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr. 1				
0.18 - 0.40m	L1001	Made Ground. As Above Tr. 1				
0.40 - 0.47m	0.40 – 0.47m L1008 Demolition Layer. As Above Tr. 1					
0.47 - 0.89m	L1011	1 Made Ground. As Above Tr. 1				
0.89m+	L1012	Silty Sand Natural. As Above Tr. 1				

Description: A ditch (F1006) and a posthole (F1009) were present.

6.2.1 Shallow Ditch F1006 (Length >7.20m x Width 0.78m x Depth 0.17m) was aligned approximately E/W (Fig 8, DP 7). It had gradually sloping sides. The base was not seen. Its fill, L1007, was angular gravel in a mid yellowish brown sandy matrix. CBM (34g) and animal bone (30g) were present.

6.2.2 Posthole F1009 ($0.45m \ge 0.31m \ge 0.12m$) was identified to the north of Ditch F1006, at the eastern end of Trench 2 (Fig 8). It was sub rectangular in plan with steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1010, was a dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional angular gravel. CBM (18g) and animal bone (17g) were present.

6.3 Trench 3

Fig. 8

Sample section: North end, West facing				
0.00m = 16.71m AOD				
0.00 - 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr. 1		
0.33 - 0.52m	L1001	Made Ground. As Above Tr. 1		
0.52m+	L1012	Silty Sand Natural. As Above Tr. 1		

Sample section 12: South end, West facing						
0.00m = 16.67m AOD						
0.00 - 0.39m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr. 1				
0.39 – 0.65m L1001 Made Ground. As Above Tr. 1						
0.65m+	L1012 Silty Sand Natural. As Above Tr. 1					

Description: Ditch (F016) was present.

6.3.1 Ditch F1016 (>1.60m x 1.01m x 0.32m) was partially seen, aligned east to west, at the northern end of Trench 3 (Fig 8). It had steep irregular sides. Its full profile was not seen. Its fill, L1017, was a dark greyish brown silty sandy with frequent angular gravel and flecks of CBM. L1017 was heavily root disturbed. No finds were present.

6.4 Trench 4

Fig. 9 DP 8

Sample section 6:	North en	d, south facing
0.00m = 16.12m	AOD	
0.00 - 0.09m	L1002	Surface and Preparation Layer. Frequent angular orangey flint
		and gravel within a brownish grey sandy silt matrix.
0.09 - 0.20m	L1003	Surface. Frequent rounded clinker pebbles in a dark greyish black
		sandy matrix
0.20 - 0.38m	L1004	Made Ground. Dark greyish brown sandy silt with frequent small
		stone throughout.
0.38 - 0.48m	L1005	Metalled Surface. Compact layer of chalk nodules, frequent large
		fragments of CBM, large rounded cobbles and flecks of mortar
		and charcoal in a dark greyish brown sandy silt matrix.
0.48 - 0.54m	L1013	Made ground. Light greyish brown sandy silt with occasional
		small stones.
0.54m+	L1012	Silty Sand Natural. As Above Tr. 1

Description: A pit (F1014) and two wheel ruts (F1018 & F1020) were recorded

6.4.1 Pit F1014 (>0.52m x 0.42m x 0.13m) was seen against the southern extent of Trench 4 (Fig 8). Its shape was not seen in plan. It had a u-shaped profile with a concave base. Its fill, was a dark greyish black silty sand with moderate fragments of CBM, chalk and gravel inclusions. CBM (639g) was present.

6.4.2 Wheel Rut F1018 (>0.70m x 0.45m x 0.11m) was identified after the removal of L1013 (Fig 9). It was linear in plan, aligned N/S across the trench. Its profile was u-shaped with a concave base. Its fill, L1019, was a mid brownish grey sandy silt with frequent angular gravel and CBM. No finds were present. F1018 was associated with Wheel Rut F1020. No finds were present.

6.4.3 Wheel Rut F1020 (>0.70m x 0.54m x 0.10m) was seen to the west of F1018 and was also aligned N/S (Fig. 8). In profile it was u-shaped with a concave base. Its fill, L1021, was a mid brownish grey sandy silt with frequent angular gravel and flecks of CBM. No finds were present.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features and finds during the archaeological trial trench evaluation at land at The Bury, St Osyth Priory, St Osyth, Essex.

8 **DEPOSIT MODEL**

8.1 The majority of the trenches (Tr.1-3) were excavated through grassland where a consistent layer of topsoil (L1000) was encountered up 0.18m and 0.39m in depth. The topsoil consisted of a dark greyish brown sandy silt with very occasional angular gravel, fragments of CBM and moderate rounded pebbles. In all trenches it overlay made ground (L1001).

8.2 Made ground (L1001) was identified as a mid greyish brown sandy silt with moderate angular gravel, rounded pebbles and oyster shell visible as lenses throughout this deposit. It varied between 0.22m and 0.65m in depth. CBM (300g), an iron nail (7g) and animal bone (190g) were recovered from this layer. In Trenches 1 and 2, made ground (L1001) was seen to overlie a demolition layer (L1008). In Trench 3 it was directly above the natural (L1012).

8.3 In Trenches 1 and 2, a layer of demolition material (L1008) was encountered after the removal of made ground (L1001). Its depth was recorded at between 0.40m and 0.59m. L1008 consisted of a mid greyish brown sandy silt with concentrations of frequent fragments of CBM, mortar and occasional angular gravel in a mid greyish white mortar silt matrix. These patches of demolition were frequently seen in Trench 2 and less so in Trench 1 where they seem to peter out (DP 3&4).

8.4 A second layer of made ground (L1011) was seen beneath Demolition Layer L1008. It was a mid brownish grey sandy silt with moderate angular gravel, rounded pebbles and oyster shell and was seen up to 0.89m below the ground surface. Medieval pottery (43g), post-medieval CBM (187g) and animal bone (31g) were present. In both Trenches 1 and 2 it was directly above the natural.

8.5 In Trench 4, a series of surfaces were encountered. The uppermost layer consisted of a modern gravel hardcore layer (L1002) and its associated preparation layers. This was identified

as a layer of frequent angular orangey flint and gravel within a brownish grey sandy silt matrix. It was up to 0.09m below the ground surface and was directly above an earlier tarmac surface (L1003). L1003 consisted of frequent rounded clinker pebbles in a dark greyish black sandy matrix and was seen up to 0.20m below the ground surface.

8.6 After the removal of L1003, made ground was encountered consisting of a dark greyish brown sandy silt with frequent small stone throughout. It was between 0.20m and 0.38m in depth and sealed Metalled Surface L1005. L1005 was a compact layer of chalk nodules, frequent large fragments of CBM, large rounded cobbles and flecks of mortar and charcoal in a dark greyish brown sandy silt matrix (Fig 9, DP 5 & 6). It has been identified as the earliest surface in this sequence. CBM (1985g), animal bone (385g) and oyster shell (59g) were present. L1005 was seen up to 0.48m below the ground surface.

8.7 A second layer of made ground (L1013) was identified after the removal of L1005. It was a light greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small stones. It was seen above the natural in Trench 4 at a depth of 0.54m.

8.8 The natural (L1012) was identified in the base of all trenches as a mid brownish yellow silty sand with frequent angular gravel and occasional fragments of flint. It was seen between 0.52m and 0.89m in depth.

9 **DISCUSSION**

9.1. The trial trench evaluation of The Bury at St Osyths Priory site revealed a small number of archaeological features, comprising two ditches (Tr.2 F1006, Tr.3 F1016, 1 pit (Tr.4 F1014), 1 posthole (Tr.2 F1009) and two metalled surfaces (Tr.4 L1005, L1005). All of the features were well preserved.

9.2 There was an absence of any surfaces in Trenches 1 and 2 leading from the original gatehouse and the entrance leading to the abbey church and Mill Street. A demolition layer (L1008) in Trenches 1 and 2 may have accumulated during repairs or alterations to the priory wall.

9.3 The evidence recovered from Trench 4 indicates that the modern access road leading from the $(15^{\text{th}} \text{ century})$ gatehouse to Mill Street was originally an earthen track before becoming a more established surface. No evidence to indicate medieval usage of the trackway was recorded.

9.4 The two shallow ditches (Tr. 2 F1006 and Tr. 3 F1016) and the posthole (Tr.2 F1009) may be related to temporary structures associated with the fair that is thought to have taken place on the Bury grassland.

9.5 All features that produced finds were found to contain CBM. The CBM assemblage from the site has been dated as post-medieval indicating that these features were of approximately this date (see Peachey, this report). The only earlier material to be recovered were the two sherds of 12^{th} to 14^{th} century pottery recovered from L1011 (see Thompson, this report). However, this layer also contained post-medieval pottery and overlay Ditch F1006, which also contained post-medieval pottery. This suggests that the medieval pottery was redeposited from elsewhere in this layer.

9.6 The dating evidence demonstrated that no features or deposits that can be positively identified as being medieval in date were encountered during the trial trench evaluation. None of the encountered deposits can be categorically stated to represent an historic medieval routeway leading to the earlier two gateways.

ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The archive will be deposited with Colchester Museum within the next six months, and will be prepared in accordance with the UK Institute for Conservation's *Conservation Guideline No. 2*. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

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Website 1

http://www.stosyth.gov.uk/default.asp?calltype=ourhistory

Website 2

http://www.soba-stosyth.co.uk/Briefhistory1.htm

APPENDIX 1 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Date	Мар	Scale	Location
1814	Plan of the Parish of Chich St Osyth in the	-	ERO
	County of Essex, the Estate of Fredrick		
	Nassau Esq.		
1876	1 st Edition Ordnance Survey map	25"	ERO
1897	2 nd Edition Ordnance Survey map	6"	ERO
1915-24	3 rd Edition Ordnance Survey map	6"	ERO

APPENDIX 2 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

						CBM	A.Bone	
Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	(g)	(g)	Other
1001			Made Ground			300	190	Fe Nail (1), 7g
1004		4	Layer				60	Oyster Shell (6), 53g
								Clay Pipe Stem Fragment (1),
								2g
1005		4	Layer			1985	385	Oyster Shell (8), 59g
			Linear Feature					
1006	1007	2	Fill			34	30	
1009	1010	2	Posthole Fill			18	17	
				12th - 14th				
	1011	1	Made Ground	Centuries	(2), 43g	187	31	
1014	1015	4	Pit Fill			639		

APPENDIX 3: SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery

Peter Thompson

The evaluation recovered 2 wheel-made medieval sherds, weighing 43g, in quite good condition with only slight abrasion. Both sherds are greywares with lighter grey cores containing poorly sorted sub-angular to rounded white and clear quartz and mica, with a small amount of burnt organics. One sherd is a small flanged jar rim approximately 14 cm across and the other, probably from a separate vessel, a body sherd leading to a base angle. They belong to the Essex Fabric 20 Greyware group dated c. late 12th to 14th centuries. The comparative thickness of the sherds might suggest they date to the first half of the period.

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The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

Trial trench excavations produced a total of 47 fragments (3163g) of post-medieval CBM including fragments of peg tile, glazed floor tile and brick that probably date from the early/mid 16^{th} to early 18^{th} centuries AD. Although fragmentary the CBM was only slightly abraded.

Methodology

The CBM was recorded by fragment count and weight (g). Fabrics were examined at x20 magnification and the single fabric defined described below. All data was entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will be deposited as part of the archive.

Fabric Descriptions

Fabric 1: Oxidised red-orange (2.5YR 4/8) throughout, although reduced cores or surfaces may occur. Inclusions comprise common quartz (generally <0.25mm, occasionally larger, sparse iron rich grains (0.1-0.5mm) and sparse-occasional flint (2-7mm). The fabric is very hard with a slightly abrasive feel.

Commentary

This small assemblage appears relatively homogenous and only a single fabric utilised for all three recorded forms, suggesting very local if not site specific production. The principal concentration of CBM is present in Layer L1005, accounting for 14 fragments (1985g) of the assemblage. The bulk of this group is comprised of fragmented peg tile, while a single fragment of 55mm thick brick and sparse fragments of 35mm thick glazed floor tile are also present. The floor tile has a thick

dark green lead glaze on its upper surface which has frequently run down and partially covered the sides of the tile. The size and type of the brick and floor tile suggest a date in the early/mid 16th to early 18th centuries AD. A further fragment of 55mm thick brick was present in Pit F1014 (L1015) and a further fragment of glazed floor tile was recovered from Made Ground L1001, while the remainder of the assemblage comprised fragmented peg tile. The peg tile fragments were present in Made Grounds L1001, L1011, Linear F1006 (L1007), Posthole F1009 (L1010) and Pit F1014 (L1015) but were not present in any concentration.

Animal bone

James Morris

Introduction

In total 23 fragments of animal bone was recovered from 6 contexts. Spot dates are only available for context L1011 which dates to the high medieval period. The bone was relatively well preserved with little sign of erosion, although a number of elements had been fragmented by modern damage.

Methodology

Taxonomic identifications were checked utilising available reference collections. Where fragments could be assigned to a particular size of mammal but not to species, the categories 'SAR' (small ungulate size) for indistinguishable fragments from sheep/goat, pig (*Sus scrofa*) size mammals, and 'LAR' (large ungulate size) for indistinguishable fragments from cattle (*Bos taurus*) size mammals. Measurements follow von den Driesch (1976) and are included in the site achieve. Evidence of gnawing, burning, butchery (knife cuts, chopping, deliberate smashing, sawing) pathology and any taphonomic effects was also be recorded.

All data was entered into a Microsoft access database which will be included in the site archive.

Results

In total it was possible to identify 15 fragments to element and species. The majority of the identify remains are from cattle. The other species identified were, two sheep/goat (*Ovis/Capra*), one horse (*Equus caballus*) and one rabbit (*Cuniculus oryctolagus*). The rest of the remains were from either small or large ungulate sized animals. The results are summarised by context in table 1.

Articulating remains in the form of two cattle thoracic vertebrae were recovered from context L1005. Both vertebrae had pathology present in the form of excessive remodelling and pitting of the arch foramina, neural spine and lateral facets. One of the vertebrae has a large extra bone growth on the cranial ventral aspect of the vertebra body. The growth may have attached to the previous vertebra in the spine column. The other vertebral body has a large cloaca on the ventral aspect. The excessive bone remodelling combined with the cloacae would suggest that the animal suffered from an infection in the spinal region. It is possible the pathology is the result

of bovine tuberculosis, however at present there is no established osteological criteria for tuberculosis in animals (Mays, 2004).

					Р	D	
Context	Species	Element	Side	%C	fusion	fusion	comments
1001	HOR	MC		25		F	Modern damage to shaft
	COW	MC	R	25	F		Erosion on shaft
	S/G	SCP	L	25		F	
	LAR	RIB		10			Shaft. In three fragments
							Lower molar not yet fully
	COW	LM					formed
1004	COW	RAD	L		F		In 6 fragments.
	LAR	LFRAG		10			
	SAR	RIB		10			
1005	COW	VT		75	F	F	Pathology present
	COW	VT		75	F	F	Pathology present
							Some pitting on the dorsal
	COW	VC		50		U	aspect of the vertebra body
	LAR	VT		10			
	LAR	VL		10			
	SAR	LFRAG					
	LAR	FRAG					
	COW	PEL	L	10	F		
	RABBIT	TIB	R	50		F	
	S/G	MC		10			Shaft fragment
1007	COW	UM2	L	75			In wear
1010	COW	HUM	L	10			
	COW	HC		10			In three fragments
1011	COW	TIB		10			In four fragments
	SAR	RIB		10			Shaft fragment

Table 1 Summary of individual faunal remains from the site. Elements are abbreviated, see appendix for key. %C indicates the percentage completeness of the elements, P fusion and D fusion indicate if the proximal and/or distal epiphysis are fused (F=fused, U=unfused).

Discussion

The size of the evaluation assemblage, although not large has indicated that a variety of species were deposited on the site. However detailed understanding of the uses and husbandry of these species is not possible due to its small size. The presence of pathology on two of the cattle remains is of interest, however, no dating evidence is present for the context. The preservation of the assemblage was good and any further work on the site will be likely to produce a faunal assemblage.

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Appendix

Element	Anatomy
FRAG	fragment
HC	horncore
HUM	humerus
LFRAG	limb shaft fragment
LM	lower molar
MC	metacarpus
PEL	pelvis
RAD	radius
RIB	rib
SCP	scapula
TIB	tibia
UM2	upper molar 2
VC	cervical vertebra
VL	lumbar vertebra
VT	thoracic vertebra

Shell

James Morris

A small amount of marine shell was recovered from the site. In total 5 oyster shells were recovered from context 1004 and 6 context 1005. The shells were relatively fragmented and no upper and lower bivalve pares were identified. There was no evidence of opening on any of the shells. Oysters were commonly consumed in the medieval period, and are a common occurrence on archaeological sites (Wilson, 1991, 42). It is likely that further excavation will produce a moderate sized shell assemblage of a similar composition.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1 Trench 1, view east



DP 3 Trench 1 south facing section, view northeast



DP 5 Metalled Surface L1005, view east



DP 2 Trench 2, view east



DP 4 Trench 2 south facing section, view northeast



DP 6 Trench 4 north facing section, view south



DP 7 Ditch F1006, view east



DP 8 Trench 4 post excavation, view east



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 Fig. 1
 Site location plan

 Scale 1:25,000 at A4









Archaeological Solutions Ltd Fig. 4 Reproduction of Plan of the Parish of Chich St Osyth in the County of Essex, the Estate of Fredrick Nassau Esq. 1814 Scale 1:10,000 at A4



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Fig. 5	1st edition OS map 1876	
Scale 6": 1 mile at A4		



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Archaeological Solutions LtdFig. 62nd edition OS map 1897Scale 6": 1 mile at A4



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> Archaeological Solutions Ltd Fig. 7 3rd edition OS map 1915-24 Scale 6": 1 mile at A4



Trench 2





1016



Trench 3



Trench 4













Archaeological Solutions Ltd Fig. 8 Trench plans and sections Scale 1:20 and 1:50 at A3