CHANTRY LANE MARLBOROUGH WILTSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

WEAVER KHAN ARCHITECTS LTD

on behalf of

MR MICHAEL MILES

CA PROJECT: 3122 CA REPORT: 10088

SEPTEMBER 2010



CHANTRY LANE MARLBOROUGH WILTSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CA PROJECT: 3122 CA REPORT: 10088

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Chantry Lane

Location: Marlborough, Wiltshire

NGR: SU 1860 6892

Type: Evaluation

Date: 19 – 21 May 2010

Planning Reference: E/09/0328/FUL

Location of Archive: To be deposited with Wiltshire heritage Museum

Site Code: CLM10

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2010 at Chantry Lane, Marlborough. Two trenches were excavated.

A number of pits of varying size and depth were encountered during the excavation of the two trenches. Pottery retrieved from several of the pits suggests that they date from the 13th to 14th century. The finds recovered, which included pottery, tile and animal bone, suggest that the pits were used for waste disposal, although any alternative use prior to this cannot be discounted. Analysis of the palaeoenvironmental evidence from the pit fills identified cereal and other food crops, as well as charcoal from a range of species of tree.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In May 2010 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Weaver Khan Architects Ltd on behalf of Mr Michael Miles at Chantry Lane, Marlborough (centred on NGR: SU 1860 6892; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to comply with the programme of archaeological works required by Wiltshire Council (WC) as part of planning consent for the construction of four houses (WC planning ref. E/09/0328/FUL).
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with an Archaeological Brief for field evaluation (WC 2010) prepared by David Vaughan, Assistant County Archaeologist, WC, and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2010) and approved by Mr Vaughan. The fieldwork also followed the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (2008), the Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation (WC Archaeology Service 1995), the Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991) and the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide (EH 2006). It was monitored by Mr Vaughan, including a site visit on 20 May 2010.

The site

- 1.3 Chantry Lane lies close to the centre of Marlborough. The site lies immediately to the north of the High Street and is bounded on all sides by buildings. It lies at approximately 137m AOD with the ground dropping away to the south-east.
- 1.4 The proposed development encloses an area of approximately 550m² at the northern end of Chantry Lane. Prior to the work two buildings had recently been demolished to make way for the development.
- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Valley gravel (BGS 1974). This was encountered on site at a depth of 0.8m below present ground level (bpgl) and was tested to a depth of 1.8m bpgl.

Archaeological background

1.6 Chantry Lane lies in the heart of the historic centre of Marlborough. The Wiltshire Historic Environment Record (HER) notes that the site lies in an area of burgage plots established in the 11th to 12th century (WC 2004). 99 High Street (which lies c. 50m to the south of the site) is the medieval Chantry House of St Katherine, built c. 1410 (HER SU16NE453). A shallow ill-defined pit containing three sherds of medieval pottery was found during an evaluation in 1998 at 111 High Street (HER SU16NE484).

Archaeological objectives

1.7 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide data on the date, character, quality, survival and extent of the archaeological deposits within the application area in order that an informed decision on their importance in a local, regional or national context can be made. This information will assist Wiltshire Council in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

Methodology

- 1.8 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 2 trenches, each measuring 7.5m in length and 1.6m in width (Fig 2). A trench was located in each of the two proposed building footprints. Both trenches were moved slightly to avoid services.
- 1.9 Both trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual (2007).
- 1.10 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites (2003) and were sampled, processed and analysed at the request of Mr Vaughan, WC and with the agreement of the client as an appropriate mitigation measure ahead of development. The reporting upon the

analysis within this report will satisfy the condition placed upon the planning consent. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995).

1.11 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with the Wiltshire Heritage Museum, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, finds and environmental samples (palaeoenvironmental evidence) are to be found in Appendices A, B and C respectively.
- 2.2 Pits of varying sizes and depths were recorded in both trenches and are discussed separately below.

Trench 1 (Figs 2 & 3)

2.3 In trench 1 the natural substrate was identified at 0.8m bpgl. At the north end it was cut by a shallow pit 105, which contained a single fill 104, from which two pieces of animal bone were recovered. Towards the southern end of the trench the natural substrate was cut by steep sided and narrow pit 107 which also contained a single fill 106. Several fragments of animal bone were recovered along with 27 sherds of pottery dateable to the 12th to 14th century. Fill 106 was cut by posthole 109, which had a single fill 108 which contained no finds. The natural substrate was also cut by near vertically sided pit 111, filled by 110. This feature was only partially exposed within the trench and its base was not reached. Horse bone and oyster shell were recovered along with five sherds of medieval pottery. All features were sealed by modern make-up deposits 102, 101 and 100.

Trench 2 (Figs 2 & 3)

The natural substrate 203 was identified at 0.8m bpgl. At the north-east end of the trench it was cut by large pit 204, which contained a single fill 205. This fill contained 40 sherds of Kennet Valley Ware dateable to the 13th to 14th century. The feature was not excavated to full depth with the agreement of Mr Vaughan as it was unstable. Natural substrate 203 was also cut by a small, slightly undercutting pit 206, which was filled by 207 and 208. Primary fill 207 contained three sherds of medieval pottery, one piece of medieval tile, several pieces of animal bone and an almost complete dog skeleton. The upper fill of the pit 208 was truncated by a modern intrusion. All deposits were then sealed by modern make-up layers 202, 201 and 200.

The Finds and Palaeoenvironmental Evidence

- 2.6 Finds including pottery, roofing slate, ceramic building material and animal bone were recovered from five deposits (Appendix B).
- 2.7 Medieval pottery was identified from deposits 106, 110, 205 and 207 and medieval tile from deposits 205 and 207. Much of the medieval pottery consists of handmade Kennet Valley (Newbury B) type unglazed coarsewares, which are broadly dateable across the 12th to 14th centuries. Identifiable forms are restricted to jars with complex everted rims from pit fill 205. Sherds with applied strips with thumbed or stabbed decoration were also recorded from this deposit. Glazed jug or pitcher sherds were identified from pit fills 106 and 110. These together with roof and possible floor tile fragments from pit fills 205 and 207 suggest dating probably in the 13th or 14th centuries.
- 2.8 Animal bone was recovered by hand from deposits 104, 106, 110, 205 and 207. The assemblage is in good condition and could be identified to horse, cow, pig, sheep and dog together with cow-size and sheep-size fragments. A small amount of animal bone was also recovered from the processed environmental samples taken from deposit 205 in pit 204. This material was largely unidentifiable but did yield remains of sheep and sheep-size mammals. Also recovered were small shrew-size mammal bones, toad/frog bones and fish vertebrae. The large mammal bone recovered together with the fish remains are probably representative of food waste

with the possible exception of the horse and dog remains. The dog remains are represented by an almost complete, articulated skeleton.

- 2.9 At the request of Mr Vaughan, WC and as mitigation for the development of the site one bulk soil sample was taken from medieval pit 204 and analysed for plant macrofossil and charcoal remains in order to seek to provide information regarding the function of the pit, socio-economic activities and to infer the composition of the local woodlands and flora.
- 2.10 The main crops cultivated throughout the medieval period consisted of rye, oat, barley and wheat along with legumes (peas, pulse, beans, vetches) (Stone, 2009, 13) of which oat, barley, wheat, pulse and vetches were recovered from pit 204. The absence of any significant quantities of cereal chaff suggests that the grain had been processed before being brought to the site and it is possible that the cereals became carbonised in an oven/hearth either whilst being dried out and hardened before milling or during food preparation processes. The cereals recovered from Chantry Lane were in moderate condition, however the outer layer of many of the grains had become damaged preventing full identification. This supports the assumption that the cereals have been removed from the hearth/oven where they had become carbonised and had been disposed of into waste pit 204.
- 2.11 Herbaceous taxa were also consumed. Dock and cabbage/mustard have both been recorded as being eaten raw as salad, boiled down as vegetable and used in pottages and stews (Harvey 1984, 91; Behre 2008, 67-8). Since these herbaceous taxa were recovered in small quantities it is possible that they were being used as kindling material to light fires in the ovens/hearths. Hazelnuts would have been hand collected and eaten raw or chopped up and put into salads and porridge (Mabey, 2007, 44).
- 2.12 The main fuel represented in pit 204 was oak and ash. Ash and oak would have been chosen as main fuel woods they both have dense heartwood and if dried properly would burn slowly and maintain an even temperature (Cutler and Gale 2000, 120, 205). This is ideal for fuel in a hearth or oven which would require a constant heat for relatively long periods of time (for example for drying out/cooking grain based products). The remaining charcoal recorded from the site consisted dominantly of round wood lateral branch fragments of alder/hazel, hazel,

hawthorn/rowan/crab apple and wild/bird cherry which were most likely collected as deadwood and used within brushwood bundles as kindling for the fire.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 Five pits were encountered within the two trenches, four of which could be dated to the 13th or 14th centuries. The fifth pit was extremely shallow and may have been significantly truncated, however it is similar in character to the pit identified during an evaluation in 1998 at 111 High Street (SMR SU16NE484), which was dated to the medieval period. In addition, the proximity of the fifth pit to the other dated features at Chantry Lane could also suggest that this pit dates from the same period. The site lies in an area of known burgage plots thought to be established in the 11th to 12th century. The disposal of rubbish in pits within individual burgage plots was common in the 11th to 13th centuries (Schofield and Vince 1994, 129) and the contents of the pits, both artefactual and ecofactual, suggests they were used ultimately for the disposal of waste material. If there was an alternative primary use before this it cannot currently be determined.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Alexandra Wilkinson, assisted by Hazel O'Neill. The report was written by Alexandra Wilkinson. The finds report was prepared by Ed McSloy and the palaeoenvironmental report by Sarah Cobain. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennet. The archive has been compiled by Alexandra Wilkinson and prepared for deposition by Jon Hart. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1. 7.5m by 1.6m. Ground level: 137.49m – 137.70m AOD

| No. | Туре | Description | Length | Width | Depth |
|-----|---------|---|--------|-------|-------|
| | | | (m) | (m) | (m) |
| 100 | Layer | Broken brick/concrete hardstanding | | | 0.2 |
| 101 | Layer | Dark blackish brown silt make up | | | 0.2 |
| 102 | Layer | Light grey silt and rubble make up | | | 0.4 |
| 103 | Deposit | Natural: Orangey red silty clay with flint inclusions | | | |
| 104 | Fill | Fill of pit 105 : Brownish grey silt with frequent flint and charcoal | | 1.6 | 0.07 |
| 105 | Cut | Cut of large shallow pit | | 0.5 | 0.3 |
| 106 | Fill | Fill of pit 107: Brownish grey silt with frequent flint and charcoal | | | 0.52 |
| 107 | Cut | Cut of pit | | | 0.52 |
| 108 | Deposit | Fill of posthole 109: Brownish grey silt | | | 0.5 |
| 109 | Cut | Cut of posthole | | | 0.5 |
| 110 | Deposit | Fill of pit 111:Brownish grey silt with frequent flint and charcoal | | | >0.62 |
| 111 | Cut | Cut of small pit | | | >0.62 |

Trench 2. 7.5m by 1.6m. Ground level: 137.34 – 137.76mAOD

| No. | Туре | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) |
|-----|---------|--|------------|--------------|--------------|
| 200 | Layer | Light grey sandy rubble | | | 0.1 |
| 201 | Layer | Make-up: Dark brownish black sandy silt, rubble | | | 0.3 |
| 202 | Layer | Make-up: Mid greyish brown silty sand, occasional rubble | | | 0.15 |
| 203 | Deposit | Natural: Mid brownish orange gravel mixed with clay | | | |
| 204 | Cut | Cut of pit | | | >0.55 |
| 205 | Fill | Fill of 204: Dark brownish black sandy silt, stones and charcoal | | | >0.55 |
| 206 | Cut | Cut of irregular pit | | >0.8 | >0.79 |
| 207 | Fill | Fill of 206: Mid brown silty sand, flint nodules | | >0.59 | 0.24 |
| 208 | Fill | Fill of 206: Dark brown silty sand, gravel and charcoal | | >0.8 | 0.55 |

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

| Context | Artefact type | Ct. | Wt.(g) | Date |
|------------|--|--------|--------|---------|
| 104 | Animal Bone; cow, cow-size | 2 | 275 | - |
| | Slate | 1 | 305 | |
| 106 | Animal Bone: pig, sheep, cow-size | 6 | 111 | C12-C14 |
| | Medieval pottery: Kennet valley coarsewares | 6 | 140 | |
| | Animal Bone: cow, pig, sheep size | 4 | 216 | |
| | Oyster shell | 2 | 141 | |
| | pottery: Kennet valley coarsewares; ?Newbury | 21 | 10 | |
| | C sandy with glaze spots; Laverstock? | | | |
| 110 | Animal Bone: horse | 1 | 145 | |
| | Oyster shell | 3 | 29 | |
| | Animal Bone; sheep, cow-sized | 6 | 109 | C13? |
| | Medieval pottery: jug fabric; Kennet valley | 5 | 32 | |
| | coarseware | | | |
| | Slate | 2 | 5 | |
| 205 | Animal Bone: cow, sheep, sheep-size | 11 | 219 | C13-C14 |
| | CBM: misc tile; ?floor tile | 2 | 62 | |
| | Medieval pottery Kennet valley coarsewares | 13 | 230 | |
| 205 | Small animal bone | 10-50 | 1 | C13-C14 |
| Sample <1> | Burnt animal bone | 10-50 | 7 | |
| • | Large animal bone | 200+ | 43 | |
| | Fish bone | 10-50 | 1 | |
| | Charcoal | 200+ | 4 | |
| | Coal | 10-50 | 2 | |
| | Seed | 200+ | 2 | |
| | Clinker | 10-50 | 2 | |
| | Slag | 3 | 18 | |
| | Shell | 14 | 1 | |
| | Chalk | 1 | 6 | |
| | CBM | 50-100 | 19 | |
| | Burnt flint | 10-50 | 120 | |
| | Fired clay | 7 | 1 | |
| | Slate/CBM | 1 | 33 | |
| | Hammer scale | 1 | 1 | |
| | Medieval pottery: Kennet valley coarseware | 27 | 57 | |
| | Newbury C? glazed | | | |
| | Magnetic material | 200+ | 52 | |
| | Flot 1mm | - | 56 | |
| | Flot 0.25mm | | 26 | |
| 207 | Animal Bone: cow, horse, pig, sheep, partially | 134 | 866 | C13-C14 |
| | complete dog skeleton, cow-size, sheep-size | | | |
| | Medieval tile: glazed ridge tile | 1 | 54 | |
| | Medieval pottery: Kennet valley coarsewares; | 3 | 21 | |
| | south-east Wilts sandy coarseware | | | |

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Table 1: Table to show artefact and ecofacts recovered from Pit 204

| Context | Sample | Charcoal | Shell | Animal Bone | Small Animal bone | Burnt bone | Seeds | Cremated Human bone | Fired clay | Magnetic material | Pottery | Burnt stone | Other biological | Other cultural |
|---------|--------|----------|-------|----------------|-------------------------|---------------|-------|---------------------------|------------|----------------------|---------|----------------|---------------------|---|
| 205 | 1 | A | D | A | D | D | A | | E | A | D | | | CBM – C Flint – D Slag – E Clinker – D Coal – D Chalk – E Slate - E |

Key A = 200+ fragments, B = 100–200 fragments, C = 50–100 fragments, D = 10-50 fragments, E = 1–10

Plant macrofossil and charcoal remains were retrieved by the standard flotation procedures employed by Cotswold Archaeology using a 250 micron sieve to collect the flot and 1mm mesh to retain the residue. The residue was dried and sorted by eye and the floated material scanned and seeds identified using a low power stereo-microscope (Brunel MX1) at magnifications of x10 to x40. Identifications were carried out with reference to images and descriptions by Cappers et al. (2006), Berggren (1981) and Anderberg (1994). Nomenclature follows Stace (1997).

Up to 100 charcoal fragments of the >2mm sieve fraction were fractured by hand to reveal the wood anatomy on radial, tangential and transverse planes. The pieces were then supported in a sand bath and identified under an epi-illuminating microscope (Brunel SP400) at magnifications from x40 to x400. Identifications were carried out with reference to images and descriptions by Cutler and Gale (2000) and Heller et al. (2004) and Wheeler et al. (1989). Nomenclature of species follows Stace (1997).

Table 2: Plant macrofossil species identifications

| Sample Number | • | | 1 | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-----|--|
| Context Number | | | | |
| Flot Volume (ml |) | | 81 | |
| Family | Species | Common Name | | |
| Betulaceae | Corylus avellana | Hazelnut shells | 19 | |
| Brassicaceae | Brassica spp | Mustard/Cabbage | 2 | |
| Fabaceae | Lens culinaris | | 5 | |
| | Vicia spp | Vetch species | 3 | |
| | Vicia sepium | Bush vetch | 4 | |
| Poaceae | Avena spp | Oat | 9 | |
| | Hordeum vulgare | Barley | 37 | |
| | Triticum spp | Wheat | 6 | |
| | Triticum aestivum | Bread/free threshing wheat | 173 | |
| | Triticum monococcum | Einkorn | 1 | |
| | Triticum dicoccum | Emmer | 20 | |
| | Triticum spelta | Spelt | 7 | |
| | Triticum dicoccum/spelta | Emmer/spelt | 18 | |
| | Poaceae | Indeterminate cereal grain | 148 | |
| | Poaceae | Cereal chaff - culm node | 1 | |
| | Poaceae | Cereal chaff - rachis | 1 | |
| Polygonaceae | Polygonum spp | | 1 | |
| | Rumex crispus | Curled dock | 2 | |
| Rubiaceae | Galium aparine | Goosegrass | 1 | |
| | To | otal Macrofossils identified: | 458 | |

NB All plant macrofossil remains were recovered carbonised

Table 3: Charcoal species Identifications

| Sample Number | | | | | |
|------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----|--|--|
| Context Number | | | | | |
| Flot Volume (ml) | | | | | |
| Family | Species | Common Name | | | |
| Aquifoliaceae | llex aquifolium | Holly | | | |
| Betulaceae | Betula spp | Birch | | | |
| | Alnus glutinosa/Corylus avellana | Alder/hazel | 20 | | |
| | Corylus avellana | Hazel | 8 | | |
| Caprifoliaceae | Viburnum spp | Viburnum | | | |
| Fagaceae | Quercus robur/petraea | Sessile/pedunculate oak | 44 | | |
| Oleaceae | Fraxinus excelsior | Ash | 12 | | |
| Pomoideae | Maloideae spp (Crateagus monogyna/sorbus spp/Malus sylvestris) | Hawthown/rowan/ crab apple | 9 | | |
| Rosaceae | Prunus avium/padus | Wild/bird cherry | 7 | | |
| | Prunus spinosa | Blackthorn/sloe | | | |
| Salicaceae | Salix spp/Populus spp | Willow/poplar | | | |
| | | Indeterminate | 4 | | |
| | | Total Fragments Identified: | 100 | | |

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

| Project Name | Chantry Lane, Marlboroug | Chantry Lane, Marlborough, Wiltshire | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| Short description (250 words maximum) | Cotswold Archaeology in Lane, Marlborough. Two the Anumber of pits of vary encountered during the trenches. Pottery retrieve suggests that they date century. The finds recommendations are constant to the continuous conti | An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2010 at Chantry Lane, Marlborough. Two trenches were excavated. A number of pits of varying size and depth were encountered during the excavation of the two trenches. Pottery retrieved from several of the pits suggests that they date from the 13th to 14th century. The finds recovered, which included pottery, tile and animal bone, suggest that the pits were used for waste disposal, although any alternative use prior to this cannot be discounted Analysis of the palaeoenvironmental evidence from the pit fills identified cereal and other food crops, as | | | |
| | were used for waste alternative use prior to the Analysis of the palaeoen | | | | |
| Project dates | 19-21 May 2010 | | | | |
| Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc) | Field Evaluation | | | | |
| Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc) | None | None | | | |
| Future work | Unknown | Unknown | | | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | | | | | |
| Site Location | Chantry Lane, Marlboroug | h, Wiltshire | | | |
| Study area (M²/ha) | 550m ² | | | | |
| Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference) | SU 1860 6892 | SU 1860 6892 | | | |
| PROJECT CREATORS | | | | | |
| Name of organisation | Cotswold Archaeology | | | | |
| Project Brief originator | Wiltshire Council | | | | |
| Project Design (WSI) originator | Cotswold Archaeology | | | | |
| Project Manager | Richard Young | | | | |
| Project Supervisor | Alexandra Wilkinson | | | | |
| PROJECT ARCHIVES | Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.) | Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc) | | | |
| Physical | Wiltshire Heritage Museum | Ceramics, animal bone, oyster shell, | | | |
| Paper | Wiltshire Heritage Museum | Context sheets, trench sheets, permatrace drawings | | | |
| Digital | Wiltshire Heritage Museum | Database, digital photos | | | |
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