

monasteries. On its far wall a now-reduced recess preserves the position of the main fireplace and chimney.

Later changes

Six years after Henry VIII dissolved the monastery in 1538, he sold it to a Hadleigh clothier whose son built a mansion on one side of the Gatehouse.⁹ Most of the monastery was quarried for building materials, but the Refectory survived as it was easily repurposed as a granary. The windows were replaced with ventilators built of bricks. Large openings to admit wagons were made on the long sides and the bay we see today jutted into the cloister. Thereafter known as Abbey Barn, the building played an important role in the agricultural improvements introduced by Sir Bernard Greenwell prior to World War 2.¹⁰ After the war it continued to be used for the milling of animal feed on the estate, but the vibrations of machinery eventually rendered the old building unsafe.

In 2019 a permanent home was found for the boat collection in Poland. A team of Gdansk Maritime Museum staff packed the craft expertly in large lorries for (it is hoped) their last journey. They are receiving conservation and will form a special exhibition to mark the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Museum.



Notes

Illustrations: author and Butley Research Group archive; elevations: courtesy survey-solutions.co.uk

- 1 Goddard, D., 1980, *Exeter Maritime Museum*
- 2 Myres, J.N.L., 1933, Butley Priory, Suffolk, *Archaeological Journal* 90:177-281; Fenwick, V. and Harrup, V., 2009, *Untold Tales of the Suffolk Sandlings*
- 3 Development of the Screen: Wood, Margaret, 1981, *The English Mediaeval House*, pl XXV
- 4 It is referred to in 1527 as the rooms or chambers which had recently belonged to the priors of the monastery. Beyond lay his one-and-a-half acre garden and orchard listed in 1538. For the rectangular plans of lodgings, such as the Prior's House, Wenlock, see Wood, 1981: fig 58, pl 16
- 5 In 1504 bequests to the Refectory were described in William Pakeman's will (Myres, 1933: 218)
- 6 The piles supporting the Priory Mill were mistakenly assumed to be a landing-stage, and the mill-stream a 'canal', by John Ward-Perkins, unaware that the river walls were early in date: Myres, 1933: 260-264; Fenwick and Harrup, 2009: 4; Fenwick, 2014, The mysterious mill and some Domesday anomalies resolved, *Orford & District Local History Bulletin*, 22: 6-7
- 7 Dickens, A.G. ed., 1951, *The Chronicle or Register of Butley Priory, Suffolk*, 1510-35.
- 8 Prior Rivers did much to restore the priory's finances. Wood, 1981: ch 17, The Kitchen.
- 9 It had 22 bedrooms and an inventory survives: Fenwick, V, 2010, A vanished Tudor country house at Butley, *Orford & District Local History Bulletin*, 14: 7-12
- 10 Fenwick, V., 2016, A glimpse of farming on the Butley Estate, *Orford & District Local History Bulletin*, 26: 25-31