

SAMPLE



The now roofless brick warehouse. Before World War II it was still used by Winch's barges, including the Bluebell, to store: hay and straw awaiting shipment; and offloaded coal.

Boyton Dock

The high ridge of Boyton carried an old east-west route, once called the Portway, which terminated at a ferry-crossing and a landing-place on Butley Creek still known as Boyton Dock.

Further upstream at Burrow Hill there was another ferry, while at the end of Dock Drift lay the Priory's own dock, convenient for the import of building materials and wine, and the despatch of wool and grain from its barns. At the head of the creek barges could turn and load grain and flour from the dock which served Chillesford and its Mill.

Robert Forth's estate included the Manor of Boyton and he will also have used the dock there for his own produce. However, the court rolls record two occasions in 1576 on which he obtained income from the use of the Dock. In October a 'fleebote' named the 'Free Butter' (Freebooter) was anchored

A vellum document records the sale of Boyton Manor by William Forth to Francis Warner of Parham in 1634. Francis' son Edmund Warner did not prosper financially and in 1689 he had to mortgage the estate in order to raise £1,500. After his death his widow was forced to sell a portion to pay his debts. Enough remained, however, for his granddaughter Mary to set up a charitable trust with Pryce Devereux and other Suffolk gentry. She died before her almshouses were completed in 1746 and six poor men and the same number of poor women were admitted. The building was enlarged in 1828 and 1860 and is still in use. Trustees continue to administer the estate to provide an income to support it.

there. The owners were Deressham and John Saverssham from Skilling, Holland, who paid £4, and a further £5 was received from Clement Draper and Jeremy Beckes of London. The following month a similar boat the 'Poppen Jaye' from Aucusan [Haugesund in Norway] anchored loaded with timber and £6 13s 4d was charged for groundage.

White clay

When William Forth sold the Manor of Boyton and other lands to Francis Warner in 1634 he probably didn't know about the seam of 'white earth'. This fine clay, sought-after as a slip for earthenware, appears in a document dated 1675 from which it can be deduced that 300 tons were being extracted annually.

An opportunity to export clay to the Netherlands occurred after the end of war with the Dutch and the 'Glorious Revolution' which placed William of Orange on the throne of England. However, Edmund Warner fell foul of the authorities in 1693 because he was suspected of



Benjamin Furly was Warner's agent in Rotterdam. As a young man he was converted when he heard a Quaker preach in his father's hayloft in Colchester. He resided in Rotterdam for 55 years until his death in 1714. There he built a library worth over £7,500 and was a noted linguist and scholar. A possible descendant of Benjamin twice scratched his name on a window-pane at Butley's Oyster Inn where he presumably lodged in the 1770s.

exporting fuller's earth, then a prohibited substance due to its rarity in Europe. Depositions were taken from various witnesses, including Warner's agent.

The deponents said that in times of peace in Europe clay would be obtained from Flanders, Germany or 'Sweedland', but in times of war from England. Conclusive evidence that Boyton clay was not suitable for fulling lay in the price obtained. The

SAMPLE