

by his first entry under the heading of the new stable. He wrote '*Makinge of an awtar as they terme it*', and recorded five shillings paid to John Wincke for clearing his pit. A further '*awtar*' was made by two other men at Wincke's pit, for which they were paid twenty pence².

Crag and chill pits

Wincke's pit can be seen on Norden's map near Crag Farmhouse to the east of Sudbourne Church. Norden shows the pit by a series of dots, and it lay within Wincke's copyhold of about ten acres. In the schedule, part of his survey, Norden wrote, '*In this is a quarrie of stone*'. Samuel Palgrave earned ten pence a day for 25 days digging, and William Barnes and others carried nearly 200 loads to Chapmans, earning ten pence a load. These entries suggest that the digging of crag from this pit was intermittent, therefore requiring some clearance of grass and plant growth.

Apart from the coralline crag pit in Sudbourne, which was the copyhold of John Wincke, Norden records other such pits in Orford and a 'chilpit' nearby. The Sudbourne pit was marked by dots. The other pits are not so delineated, unfortunately. Edward Sawre held half an acre, marked by the letter 'O', 'near the stone pits'. William Goltje's two acres, marked 'A' on the map, were in 'a close by Chilpits', and John Copping's two acres, marked 'A' and 'B', were 'near the Chilpits'. Thus the coralline crag pit was probably where the present overgrown pit is beside Doctor's Drift close to the junction with Daphne Road, and the 'chilpit' was on the site of today's house named Shellpits. 'Chilpit' does not appear in any dialect dictionary, but in the same way that 'sheep' was pronounced 'ship', so 'shell' might be pronounced 'shill', hence 'chil'. It would therefore be a red crag pit, rather than a stone pit³. Thus the name of the present house appears to be entirely correct! The name 'chill pitt' goes back at least to the reign of Edward VI, when it was part of an abutment on a lease.

Sir Michael Stanhope's stables at his manor house, Chapmans (which is also shown on Norden's map with the name it later came to have, Sudbourne Hall), are not the handsome brick stables now converted into houses at Sudbourne Park. The buildings forming the present Courtyard almost certainly date from a later rebuilding of Sudbourne Hall in 1784 by the architect James Wyatt for the Earl of Hertford⁴. If, as seems likely, the house and stables were rebuilt on the same footprint as the earlier house, the stone from Orford Castle will still be there beneath the newer buildings, trees and lawns.

Vic Harrup

Notes

1. For Bulletin articles mentioning Sir Michael Stanhope, see Bulletin 5, pp1-2 ('Chillesford Lodge: a nineteenth century model farm' by Edward Martin) and Bulletin 6, at pp11-12. ('The search for the hospital of St Leonard' by Jane Allen).
2. No dictionary or book of Suffolk dialect can shed any light on this word which would seem to be a term of art associated with working with stone. Any suggestions from readers would be welcome.
3. See John Potter's article in Bulletin 4, p 4 ('Some observations on Orford Castle') for information about the characteristics of the local crag.
4. See Jane Allen, *The Wallace Connection*, Orford Museum,, 2008, pp 21, 23.

References

- Suffolk Record Office (Ipswich): Manor of Sudbourne rental 1606, ref. V5/18/10.1.
John Norden's Survey of the Estates of Sir Michael Stanhope, ref. V5/22/1 and EE5/11/1.
Lease from the reign of Edward VI, ref. EE5/6/89.