

**Suddon Hall,  
Kenton,  
Suffolk.  
KNN 020**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

**SCCAS Report No. 2012/201**

**Client: Mr. M. Hunter**

Author: Linzi Everett

May 2013

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## HER Information

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**Report Number:** 2012/201  
**Site Name:** Suddon Hall, Kenton  
**Planning Application No:** 2602/12  
**Date of Fieldwork:** December 2012 - March 2013  
**Grid Reference:** TM 2010 6581  
**Commissioned by:** Mr. M. Hunter  
**Curatorial Officer:** Abby Antrobus  
**Project Officer:** Linzi Everett  
**Oasis Reference:** suffolkc1-150479  
**Site Code:** KNN 020

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:  
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

Prepared By: Linzi Everett  
Date: May 2013

Approved By: Rhodri Gardner  
Position: Contracts Manager  
Date:  
Signed:



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## Summary

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Monitoring of groundworks for an extension to Suddon Hall, Kenton, was carried out as a condition of the planning consent, in order to record any archaeological evidence present. The site lies within a medieval moated site, with only fragments of a once square moat surviving. Strip foundations revealed evidence of the backfilled northern arm of the moat and a probable late medieval or early post-medieval bridge.



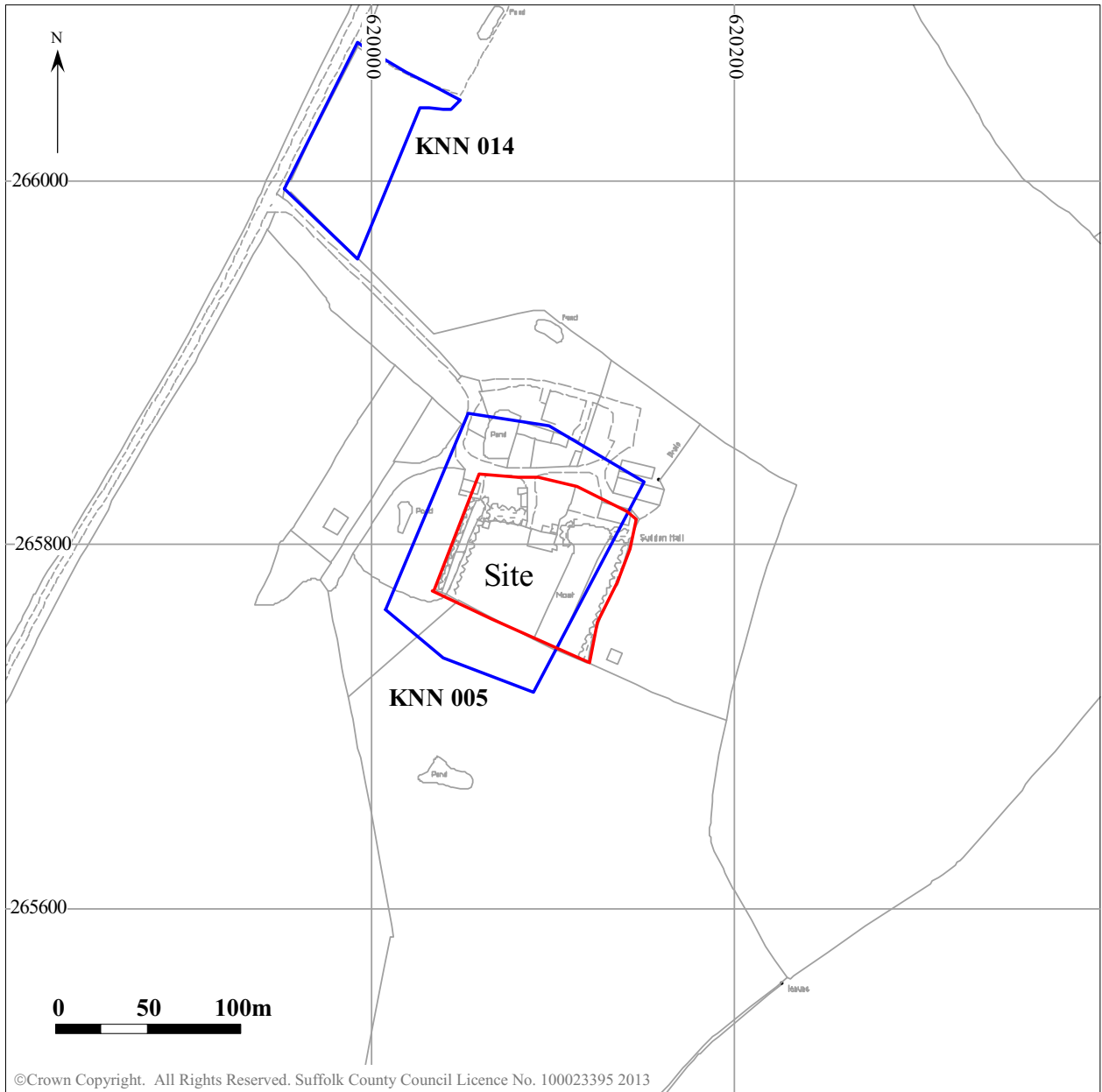
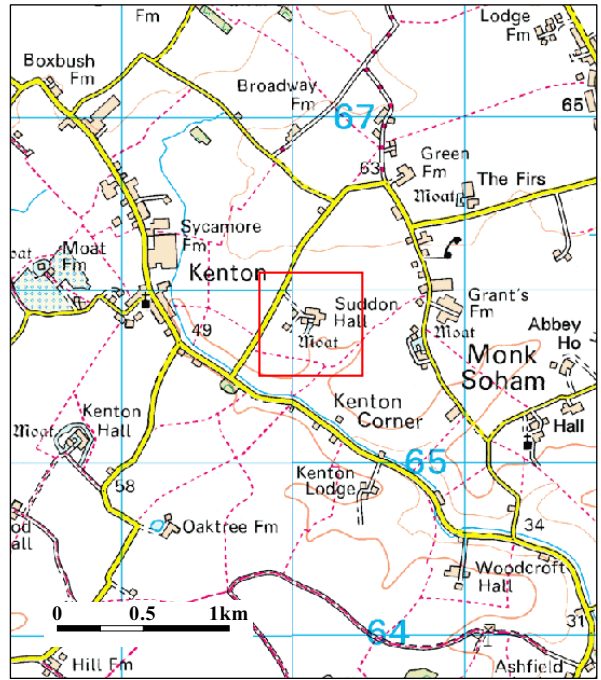


## 1. Introduction and methodology

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Planning permission for an extension to Suddon Hall, Kenton, required a programme of archaeological works as a condition of the consent. The site lies at TM 2010 6581 (Figure 1), at a height of approximately 54m OD, within a medieval moated manor complex (KNN 005) recorded in the County Historic Environment Record (HER). Suddon Hall itself is a grade II listed farmhouse located towards the north eastern corner of a roughly square moated platform, and described in the English Heritage Schedule as a timber framed building with a late 16th century core, considerably rebuilt in the late 17th or early 18th century. A scatter of medieval pottery and oyster shell was found near ponds to the north west of the site (KNN 014).

Four visits were made to the site by a member of the Field Projects Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) in order to inspect the excavated ground works. A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work was produced by Abby Antrobus of the SCCAS Conservation Team. The fieldwork was commissioned by Mr. M. Hunter.



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Figure 1. Site location showing Historic Environment Record entries

## 2. Results

Demolition of a former extension and removal of floors etc. to the rear of the hall had been carried out to create a new formation level, revealing remains of red brick footings exposed in the stripped surface (Plate 1). Footings measuring 0.5m wide and up to 2m deep were excavated from the new formation level.

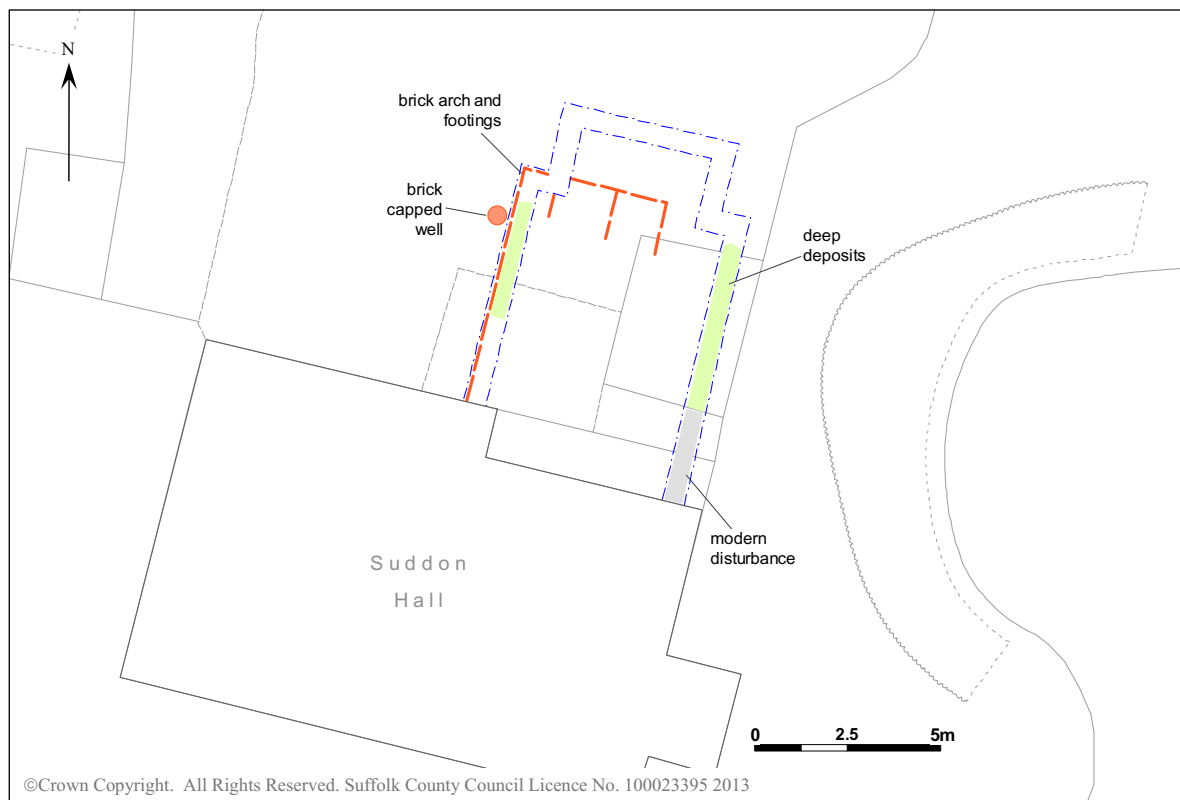


Figure 2. Location of monitored footings

In the footings of the northern part of the extension, c.0.3m of dark brown clay loam topsoil had been stripped off a mixed dark grey brown layer of chalky clay subsoil some 0.4m thick and containing occasional tile, bone and CBM fragments. This layer sealed the pale yellowish brown chalky boulder clay natural subsoil (Plate 2). The footings in this area had been excavated to a depth of 1m.

The western footing trench exposed a red brick structure all along its western section. This consisted of a well finished wall extending the full depth of the trench (up to 2m at its deepest point) with a rounded arch towards the north (Plates 3 & 4). The eastern return of the structure consisted of the same brick but had a rough finish, suggesting it was not intended to be seen, unlike the wall and arch. The fill inside the arch comprised a loose, dark grey loamy clay at the top, c.0.5m thick, sealing a layer of pale yellowish brown

natural chalky boulder clay (c.0.5m thick) which in turn sealed a dark bluish grey clay, also present through the base of the trench and waterlogged. It appeared to be a natural clay layer, and the point at which the water table was hit.



Plate 1. Brick footings exposed in the stripped footprint. Looking east.



Plate 2. Soil profile in the northern extension footings



Plate 3. East facing brick wall with a rounded arch, with the 'rougher' finish to the eastern return visible in the top right of the photo.



Plate 4. Full depth of the brick wall, immediately south of the arch, showing waterlogged clay through the base.

Immediately west of the brick arch feature, a capped well was noted. Its approximate location is shown on Figure 2.

The eastern arm of Suddon Hall's moat survives, widening out to the west at its northern end. The soil profile in the adjacent footing were not immediately suggestive of a backfilled moat but a wide, albeit quite shallow feature with gently sloping sides and a flattish base. It is thought likely that this represents the northern return of the moat (Plate 5). Its fill was a loose, fairly homogenous greyish brown silty clay, similar to the fill immediately below the arch in the opposite footing.

Also monitored was a shallow service trench to the west and north of the extension but this did not extend beyond the topsoil.



Plate 5. Likely backfilled moat in the eastern footing, sealed by former floor surfaces. Looking north west.

### 3. Discussion

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The wall and arch noted in the west footing seem likely to have originally formed part of a bridge spanning a northern arm of the moat. The bricks used suggest a late medieval or more likely early post-medieval date. When this part of the moat was backfilled is unclear, but the extension built over the line of the moat was in place by the 1880's, as shown on the 1880's-1920's Ordnance Survey maps (Figure 3), and may have reused some of the earlier brick structures noted during the monitoring in its construction.

The soil profile in the eastern footing may not have been identified as a backfilled moat had the potential bridge not been exposed, despite its location on the line of the presumed northern arm. The cut was relatively shallow and noticeably higher than the adjacent pond. In addition, the fill was pale, loose and relatively dry, without any of the dark, wet, humic fills normally characteristic of redundant moats. This may indicate that the northern arm of the moat was a dry ditch, or that it was well cleaned of silts soon before it was quickly and deliberately backfilled.

No other cut features were observed in the monitored groundworks, nor were any pre-modern finds recovered from the upcast spoil which had been stockpiled on site.

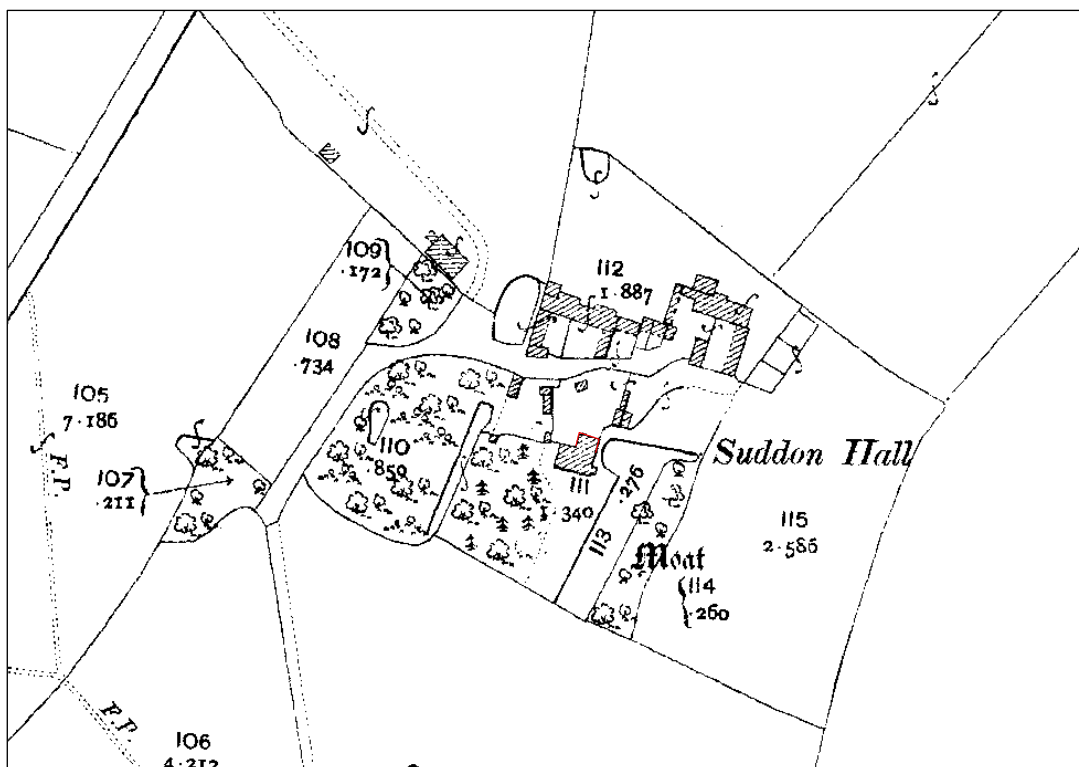


Figure 3. Extract from the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map (c.1904) showing Suddon Hall and its remnant moat arms to the east and west of the house, with the former northern extension shown in red.





## OASIS ID: suffolkc1-150479

## Project details

Project name	KNN 020 Suddon Hall, Kenton
Short description of the project	Monitoring of groundworks for an extension to Suddon Hall, Kenton, was carried out as a condition of the planning consent, in order to record any archaeological evidence present. The site lies within a medieval moated site, with only fragments of a once square moat surviving. Strip foundations revealed evidence of the backfilled northern arm of the moat and a probable late medieval or early post-medieval bridge.
Project dates	Start: 04-12-2012 End: 14-05-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2602/12 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	KNN 020 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	KNN 005 - Related HER No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	MOAT Medieval
Monument type	BRIDGE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

## Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK KENTON KNN 020 Suddon Hall
Study area	3600.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 2010 6581 52 1 52 14 45 N 001 13 28 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 52.00m Max: 54.00m

## Project creators

Name of Organisation	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Dr Abby Antrobus

Project director/manager	Rhodri Gardner
Project supervisor	Linzi Everett
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr. M. Hunter

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	AHDS
Digital Archive ID	KNN 020
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Paper Archive ID	KNN 020
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Correspondence","Photograph","Report"

### Project bibliography 1

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