

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

## Stanstead Hall, Stanstead STS 018

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2006  
(Planning app. no. B/05/2168)

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## Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by The Morton Partnership, on behalf of the developer Mr Faleh Al Rashidi and was monitored by R.D.Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team).

The excavation was carried out by a number of archaeological staff, John Craven, Michael Green, Nick Taylor and Jonathan Van Jennians, all from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was directed by John Craven, and managed by David Gill who also provided advice during the production of the report. The desk-based assessment was produced by Anthony Breen. The topographic plan was produced by John Duffy and the feature section by Anna West.

## Summary

An archaeological evaluation, consisting of desk-based assessment, topographic survey and trial trenching was carried out at Stanstead Hall, Stanstead prior to development. The documentary survey has confirmed the location of an earlier hall, probably originally within a moated enclosure, that is indicated on the First Edition OS. This early hall was replaced in the 1830's by the current house, contrary to its Grade II listing as having 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century origins.

Trenching identified foundations for a small range of 19<sup>th</sup> century outbuildings to the current hall and a large undated feature that may be part of a former pond. No archaeological deposits relating to the earlier hall were seen.

## SMR information

Planning application no.	B/05/02168
Date of fieldwork	18 <sup>th</sup> May 2006
Grid Reference:	TL 8439 4924
Funding body:	Mr Faleh Al Rashidi
Oasis reference	Suffolkc1-15183

# 1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of development at Stanstead Hall, Stanstead. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by R.D.Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team – Appendix 1) to fulfil a planning condition on application B/05/02168. The work was funded by the developer, Mr Faleh Al Rashidi.

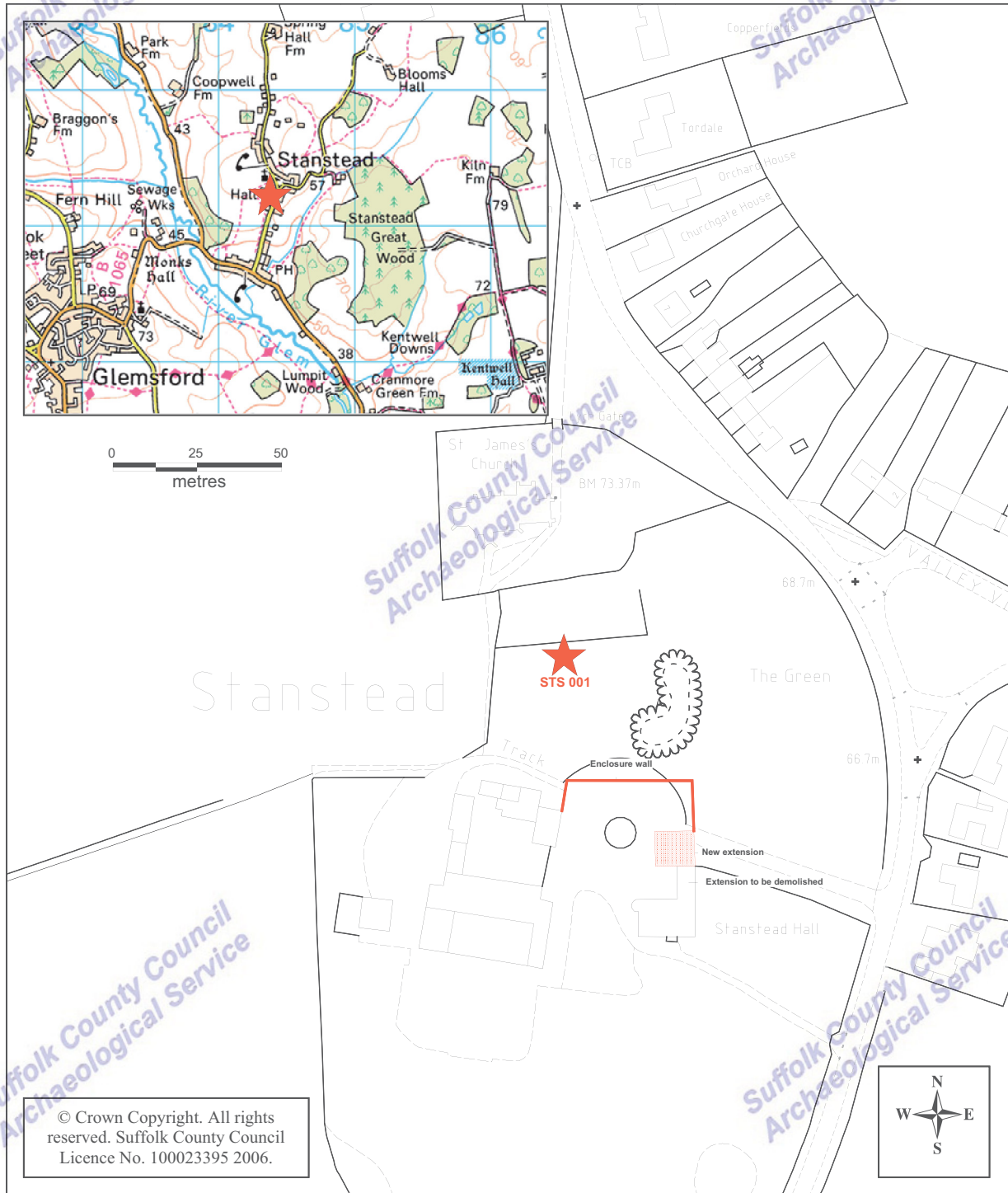


Figure 1. Site location plan

Stanstead Hall is a Grade II listed (LBS 278539) brick house, which the listing describes as dating from the 16-17<sup>th</sup> century with substantial alterations in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Situated at TL 84384922 (Fig. 1), it lies just to the south-west of the village at a height of c.68m OD and

120m south of the parish church. Lying between the hall and the parish church is the known site of an earlier hall, recorded on the County Sites and Monuments Record as STS 001. The north part of this area is now occupied by the parish graveyard, which has expanded at some point in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, while the southern half consists of open lawn on a gentle, generally south-east facing slope containing several ill defined or vague earthworks. The northern part of an L shaped pond, thought to possibly be part of a former moat system, is marked on both the modern and first edition c.1883 OS maps (Fig.2), but is no longer visible on the ground.

The proposed development consisted of the demolition and replacement of the existing north wing of the house, the construction of an additional, cellared wing to the south of this and a boundary wall enclosing a courtyard to the rear of the house. Due to the sites location there was a high potential for groundworks to affect archaeological deposits relating to both the current hall and its predecessor to the north.

A programme of archaeological evaluation was therefore specified to establish whether any archaeological deposits existed in the development area and to characterise their date form and function. This would then enable an assessment to be made of the archaeological implications of the sites development and identify the need, if any, for further work. The evaluation programme consisted of three stages, a desk-based assessment of the Hall, an earthwork and topographic survey of the general area and specific trial trenching of areas to be disturbed by development.

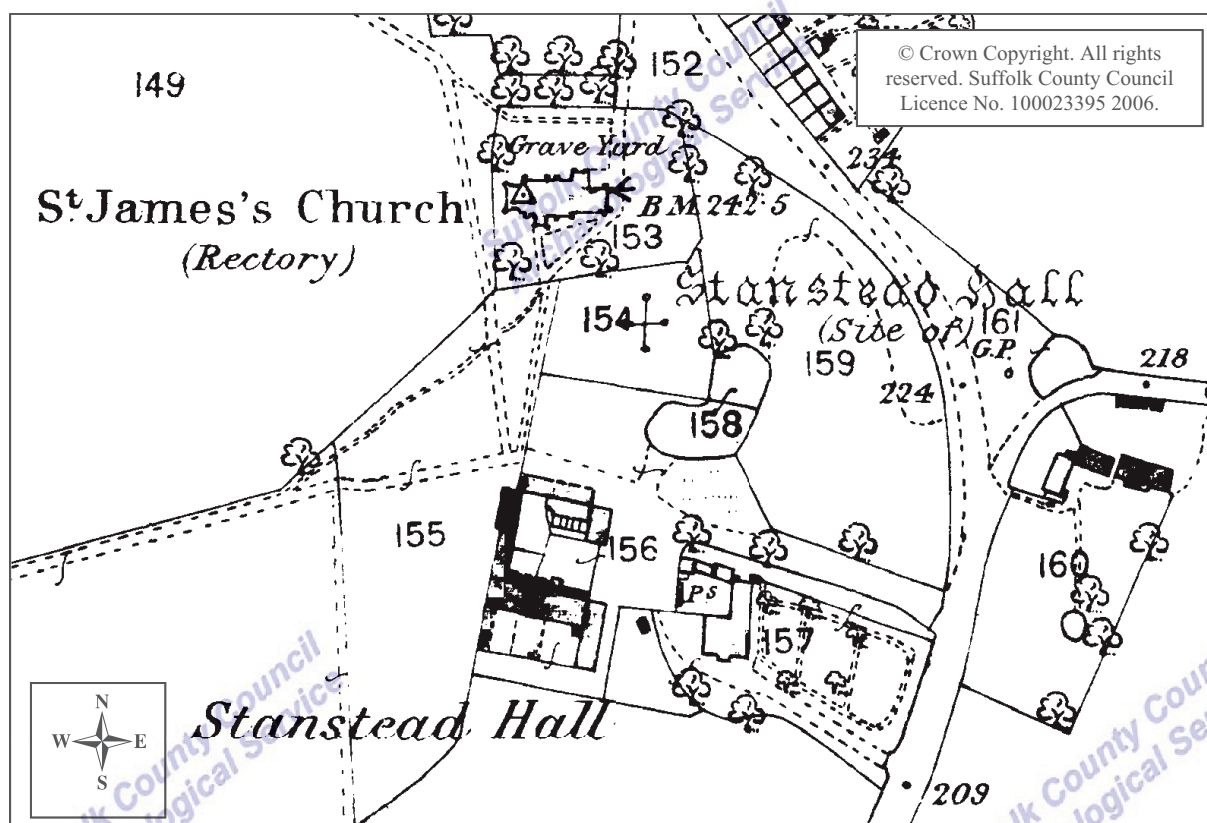


Figure 2. Stanstead Hall, OS First Edition, c.1883.

## 2. Documentary report

Anthony M Breen

### 2.1. Introduction

This report has been prepared for the Suffolk Archaeological Unit and the research has been carried out at the Suffolk Record Office in Bury St Edmunds. The intention is to examine all readily available cartographic sources and other documents relating to the reputed site of Stanstead Hall. The site is to the north of the present hall, which is a listed 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century brick house. The site is marked on the Ordnance Survey though the original field books are no longer extant and the sources for the Ordnance Survey's decision to note the site in their records can no longer be traced in their records.

### 2.2. Maps

The site of the present hall is shown on the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey maps sheet number LXIII.10 first surveyed in 1883. To the north of the present hall the site of the earlier building is marked in the field immediately to the south of the parish church of St James's numbered 154 and measured as 0.366 acres. To the southeast of the site there is a pond numbered 158 and measured at 0.169 acres. The shape of this pond suggests a possible moat. There is only one small building shown on these maps in the area to the north of the present hall, this is in the field marked 159 and measured as 1.407 acres. The present hall 156 is measured as 1.183 acres and the adjoining buildings to the east are in another plot 157 measured at 0.874 acres. To the west the field numbered 155, crossed by a public footpath, is measured as 1.062 acres. The field 165 to the south of the present hall should also be considered. The larger portion of this field is shown on sheet number LXIII.10 and measured as 3.014 acres and a smaller part measuring 1.065 acres is shown on the next sheet LXIII.14. The combined acreage is 4.079 acres.

The site of the present hall is shown though not in full detail on a sale plan (Appendix 2, figs 1a & 1b) dated 1864 (ref. HA 505/3/63). The pond or possible moat is not shown on this map and the range of buildings to the west of the hall itself is also omitted.

The tithe map for Stanstead is dated 1838 (ref. T34/2) (Appendix 2, fig. 2). It does not bear the stamp of the Tithe Commission and was not considered a 1<sup>st</sup> class map, though sufficiently detailed for the purpose of allotting the payment of the tithes. This means that a number of minor geographic details may be omitted from the map. On this map there are a number of differences in the arrangement of the plots of land surrounding the hall when compared with the later Ordnance Survey maps. The pond or possible moat is again not shown on this map. The shape of this pond as shown on the Ordnance Survey maps is out of alignment with the field or plot boundaries shown on both the tithe map and the sale plan of 1864. The two fields numbered 154 and 159 on the Ordnance Survey map are combined here into one field numbered 221. The fields to the south and west of the hall 155 and 165 on the Ordnance Survey map are combined on the tithe map and numbered 224.

In the tithe apportionment dated 5<sup>th</sup> April 1839 (ref. T34/1) the landowner is named as Henry B. Bence and the land was in the occupation of Daniel Alston as tenant. The exact tenurial relationship between these parties is not explained in this document. The land is measured in acres roods and perches and not in the decimal fractions used in the later Ordnance Survey maps. There 40 perches to a rood and four roods to an acre. A perch expressed as a decimal fraction is 0.00625 acres. The plots are described as:

Name	Cultivation	Acreage	(As a decimal acreage)
221 The Pightle	Pasture	1 a 1 r 26 p	1.2875 acres
222 Yards and Buildings	Homestead	1 a 0 r 28 p	1.175 acres
223 House and Gardens	Homestead	0 a 2 r 36 p	0.475 acres
224 Home Pasture	Pasture	4 a 2 r 29 p	4.43125 acres

Unfortunately these acreages do not match those given on the later maps. The total acreage of the four plots as given in the tithe apportionment is 1.87 acres less than the acreage given on the Ordnance Survey maps.

Daniel Alston was the tenant of a farm measured at 210 acres and 29 perches. Henry B. Bence can be identified in other sources as the owner of the Kentwell Hall estate, Long Melford. In Stanstead he held four areas of woodland with a total acreage of 184 acres 1 rood and 29 perches. There were two other tenants on his estate with holdings of 12 acres 2 roods and 7 perches and 6 acres and 22 perches. The total acreage of the Kentwell Estate in this parish was 413 acres 1 rood 7 perches out of a total acreage for the parish of 1162 acres 1 rood 9 perches.

### 2.3. Kentwell Hall Estate

The Kentwell Hall estate consisting of 1,960 acres was sold at auction on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1838 (ref. HA 503/3/51). The site of Stanstead Hall was included in this sale as “Stanstead Hall, Mill and Street Farms. *In the occupation of Mr Daniel Alston, as yearly tenant at exceedingly low Annual Rents, amounting together to £309 : 12 : 6*”.

The particulars continue

Stanstead Hall Farm

“A new and capital Farm House, recently erected in the Elizabethan style, and in all respects well suited for a Gentleman’s Residence, brick built and tiled, containing a good sitting room, parlor, Drawing Room, excellent store room, four capital large bed rooms and one smaller one, cheese room and two servants rooms, kitchen and dairy and back stairs case.

A range of domestic offices, enclosed yard, pleasure garden, and good kitchen garden.

A well enclosed farm yard with brick wall, a waggon lodge and granary over, a large barn lath and plaster, underpinned and thatched, with two thrashing floors, one oak and another brick.

Stabling for seven horses and one stable with two stalls, boarded, underpinned, and thatched, chaff house at the end and open cattle lodge.

A range of piggery’s, &c timber built, tiled and underpinned, and cow house adjoining”.

In the “Particulars of the Lands” the pieces are described as

173 Stanstead Hall 1 a 3 r 38 p  
 174 Barn and Plat 3a 3 r 03 p  
 175 Hall Pasture 1a 2 r 27 p

The crops grown on the farm are mentioned in detail and included wheat, barley, clover, peas, beans & turnips, mangel wurzel and tares.



Attached to the sale particulars is a plan of the entire estate (Appendix 2, figs 3a & 3b). The plan shows the pond or possible moat and to the west a linear building, possibly the barn. The main entrance and driveway appears to the north of the present entrance to the hall.

## 2.4. Deeds

The sale particulars of 1838 are part of a collection of deeds and other documents relating to Stanstead Hall Farm (ref. HA 503/ 3/51). These documents are described in the record office catalogue as “Documents concerning Stanstead Hall Farm, purchased by H.B. Bence from William Logan” (32 documents, in original bundle marked ‘68’) 1765 – 1839”. Amongst these documents there are two earlier plans of the farm.

The earliest plan (Appendix 2, figs 4a & 4b) is attached to deeds of lease and release dated 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> October 1808 between “*Sir Mordaunt Martin Bart and others to Richard Moore Esqr and his trustees*”. The release is endorsed “*Release of the Manor or Manors of Overhall and Netherhall &c in the County of Suffolk*”. The plan lists the contents as

Stansted Hall Land	106 a 0 r 26 p
The Mill Farm	77 a 1 r 14 p
Wood Grounds	161 a 2 r 10 p
(Total)	345 a 0 r 10 p

Without Road Meadow Piece of 0.2 .5

At the foot of the plan there is the inscription “*Reduced from the Large Map of Sixteen Perches to one Inch, By Isaac Johnson Surveyor Woodbridge, Suffolk*”. The Isaac Johnson collection is held at the Suffolk Record Office in Ipswich though there are no maps of Stanstead within the collection.

The area around the hall is not shown in detail and the pond or possible moat is omitted. The formal property description is on the third sheet of parchment in the release.

*“All that or those the manor or Lordship manors or Lordships of Overhall and Netherhall in the County of Suffolk or by whatever other name style or description the same Manor or Lordship Manors or Lordships is or are called or known together with all fines heriots quit rents amerciements royalties jurisdictions franchises courts leet courts baron view of frankpledge and all that to view of frankpledge doth belong reliefs services liberties amoluments hereditaments and appurtenances whatsoever to the said Manor or Lordship Manors or Lordships belonging and all that those several farms called or known by the several names of Stansted Hall and the Mill Farm or otherwise containing together by estimation one hundred and eighty three acres and two roods be the same more or less situate lieing and being in Stansted aforesaid in the county of Suffolk or in some other parish or place parishes or places adjoining or near thereto and now in the occupation of Ambrose Brinckley...”*

The later deed is again a lease and release dated 30<sup>th</sup> June and 1<sup>st</sup> July 1835. The parties were “*Mr William Moutrion and others to Hart Logan esquire, Conveyance by lease and release of the Stanstead Estate in the County of Suffolk*”. On the beautifully coloured plan (Appendix 2, figs 5a & 5b) the site of the hall is clearly shown not in its present position but to the west of the pond or moat and parallel with the church. The deed consists of twelve sheets of parchment and the property description appears on the ninth sheet. It includes a shorter description of the manor and then

*“And also all those two several farms called or known by the name of Stanstead Hall and the Mill Farm or otherwise containing by recent admeasurement one hundred and eighty two acres one rood and thirty perches (more or less)”*.

The estate was sold to Henry Bence on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1839. Again the deeds are in the form a lease and release of *“The Manors of Overhall and Netherhall and of two farms called Stanstead Hall Farm and Mill Farms and of certain wood and other grounds situate in Stanstead and Long Melford in Suffolk”*. There is no plan of the estate attached to this deed. The property description is much briefer and after the section on the manors it states *“And also the freehold part and parts of and in All those two several messuages or tenements and farms called or known by the name of Stanstead Hall and the Mill Farm or otherwise containing by recent admeasurement one hundred and eighty two acres one rood and thirty perches (more or less) ...”*.

Under *“Particular of Stanstead Hall and Mill Farms”* there is the phrase *“A New and Capital farm house in all respects well suited to a Gentleman ...”*. Both the lease and release include a full schedule of the lands as they are described in the sale particulars.

Most of the documents in the collections are mortgages and as the purpose of the deeds is to show true title the documents contain lengthy recitals of former exchanges or partial exchanges. The earliest document is dated 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1765 and is a *“Settlement on Sir Mordaunt’s marriage with Miss Everilda Dorothea Smith”*. The document again mentions the manors followed by *“And also all that capital messuage or mansion house now late or heretofore commonly called or known by the name of Stanstead Hall in Stanstead aforesaid And all and singular the lands and hereditaments thereunto belonging or therewith used occupied or enjoyed formerly in the tenure or occupation of Mary Browning widow and now or late of Mary Went her assigns or undertenants ...”*.

There appears to be no earlier deeds for the manor and farms though the collection has not been catalogued in great detail.

## **2.5. Status of the Site of Stanstead Hall**

There is an important change in the description of the property as it appears in the deeds. In 1765 there is the reference to Stanstead Hall but the later deeds mention Stanstead Hall Farm. The question is whether or not these buildings are on the same site. There are also the references not to one manor but two, Overhall and Netherhall.

The descent of the lordship of these manors is described in Copinger’s *“Manors of Suufolk”*. He identifies the main manor as *“Stanstead or Overhall”* and *“Netherhall”* as a secondary manor. In around 1572 Overhall *“passed to Richard Martyn, a member of the Martyn family of Long Melford settled there before the time of Richard II”*. Previously in 1533 Richard’s father Roger Martin acquired the lordship of Netherhall or *“Stansted Manor”* and on his death the lordship passed to his son Richard Martin or Martyn. In 1569 Richard was called *“to shew title to Stanstead alias Staynton alias Netherhall”*. The manors remained in the possession of various members of the Martyn family until Sir Mordaunt Martyn sold them shortly before his death in 1815.

The various members of this family chose to have their wills probated at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury and the records of this court are now at the National Archives in Kew. The wills are available on-line and the indexes show that each member of this family gave their residence not as Stanstead but Long Melford. Most chose to be buried in Long Melford Church. The family’s

tombs are mentioned and described in Parker's "History of Long Melford" and were situated in the Martyn Aisle and chapel in Long Melford Church.

In the Hearth Tax returns of 1674 none of the Martin family are listed under Stanstead. The name of Sir Roger Martin appears under Long Melford and his house, the third largest, had 19 hearths. The next name in the returns for Long Melford is Richard Martyn esq who paid the tax for 6 hearths. There is no evidence that the family ever lived in Stanstead.

In 1674 the principle dwelling in Stanstead appears to be the house occupied by Mr Cutler and containing 6 hearths. There is a will of Thomas Cutler dated 1<sup>st</sup> August 1651 and probated at the Perogative Court on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1651. The document mentions various properties in Stanstead, one of which Spring Grove is described as "*lying betweene the demeane lands of Stansted Hall towards the south*". Demeane or demesne lands are those held by the lord of the manor. Unfortunately Cutler does not name his principle residence.

There are extensive manorial records for the tenants of these manors. The earliest records in the form of court rolls dated 1510 – 1543 are damaged as are a number of the earlier documents but from the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards the records are complete and could be used to identify and trace all the copyhold lands. It is possible that the property descriptions might contain sufficient details to enable an identification of the hall site, though such research would be prolonged.

On the tithe map and in the apportionment there is one other building identified as a hall. This is Spring Hall to the north of Stanstead Hall on the road to Hartest. The owner in 1838 was Robert Mapletoft and he is not identified in Copinger's work as the lord of any of the Stanstead Manors.

## 2.6. Recusants

It is slightly unusual for a family like the Martyns to have a large landed estate but to choose to reside elsewhere. There is an additional factor that might have influenced their choice of place of residence, this is they were Roman Catholics. Until the extension of the franchise in the reforms of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the right to vote was confined to freeholders. The possession of land brought certain privileges and focused political influence on to a small class of landowners. The privileges of landownership did not extend to "popish recusants". Their refusal to conform to the rites of the established church resulted in them facing imprisonment and heavy fines or forfeiture of property. From 1605 Roman Catholics were barred from office and the professions. From 1678 until 1829 they could not sit in either house of Parliament. From 1692 onwards they faced double Land Tax on their property and in 1699 a law was passed barring them from purchasing or inheriting property. This measure was not repealed until 1778.

There are a few unusual details in these deeds. The first is in the separation of the land a corporeal hereditament from the titles. In legal terms incorporeal hereditaments related to the intangible parts of the estate such as "appurtenances, rents and titles", Roman Catholics could be inherited these elements. The form of deed known as a lease and release was not unusual in itself though they are intended to obscure the transfer of the freehold it is important to note that they were not the only form of deed in use in this period. Other estate owners chose to register their properties through the enrolment of their property title at one of the royal courts Exchequer or Chancery in London. Catholic during the period 1692 to 1778 may have avoided such a procedure.

The separation of the title of the lordship from the site of the hall does not mean in this instance that they were two separate locations and Stanstead Hall Farm should be considered the site of one of the manorial halls.

## 2.7. The Green

The acreage of this site in the tithe apportionment is different to that given on the later Ordnance Survey maps. The plan on the 1835 deed shows an area of green that is common land to the east of the hall and along both sides of the road. Most areas of common land were enclosed through act of Parliament, though not all. In some areas if green was the property of the one manor it could be enclosed without resort to parliament. There was also a general enclosure act that gave powers to enclose such areas. The difference in the acreage might reflect that the plots included areas of the green that were not subject to tithes.

## 2.8. The Listed Building

Stanstead Hall is described in the English Heritage's "Listed Buildings Online" as "A C16-C17 red brick house which retains its original appearance although much altered and renovated in the C19 and C20 some of the brickwork is original". Babergh District Council prepared this description when the building was listed in 1978. The property descriptions included in the sale particulars and deeds with the plans attached seem to contradict this description. It is however possible that the building used material from an earlier building or adapted part of another structure.

## 2.9. Conclusion

The site of *Stanstead Hall* as shown on the Ordnance Survey maps is correct. There was a substantial building on this site until the late 1830's. The shape of the adjoining pond suggests a fragmented moat though this detail is omitted from a number of the earlier maps. The original hall site was abandoned in the 1830's when "*A New and Capital farm house in all respects well suited to a Gentleman ...*" replaced it.

The position of the building in relation to the church suggests that it should be the site of the principal manor. Copinger suggests that Overhall was the main manor, though this requires further research.

The various deeds obscure the title to the property and this may reflect the need of a Catholic family to preserve their property during a period of persecution. The family did not live in Stanstead but in Long Melford may have chosen not to invest money in a property that was tenanted leaving it to decline in status to a farmhouse.

## 3. Earthwork survey

The documentary survey confirmed the known site of the former medieval hall as being to the north of the proposed development and this meant that although the evaluation trenches had high potential to identify related archaeological deposits they were going to be situated on the periphery of the potential site.

The topographic survey of the general area which had been specified as part of the archaeological programme was therefore to include the probable Hall site, and an area to the south and east, which consisted of open lawn and was available to survey (Fig. 3). The area

immediately to the north of the former Hall site had, at some point since 1880, been included in the extended parish graveyard.

An initial site visit noted that the survey area lay on a broad south-east facing slope. The L shaped pond, or possible section of moat, was no longer discernable by eye but the area in general showed a variety of slight undulations or possible earthworks. The southern edge of this area, where three trial trenches were to be placed, had been heavily truncated by the current Hall's circular driveway.

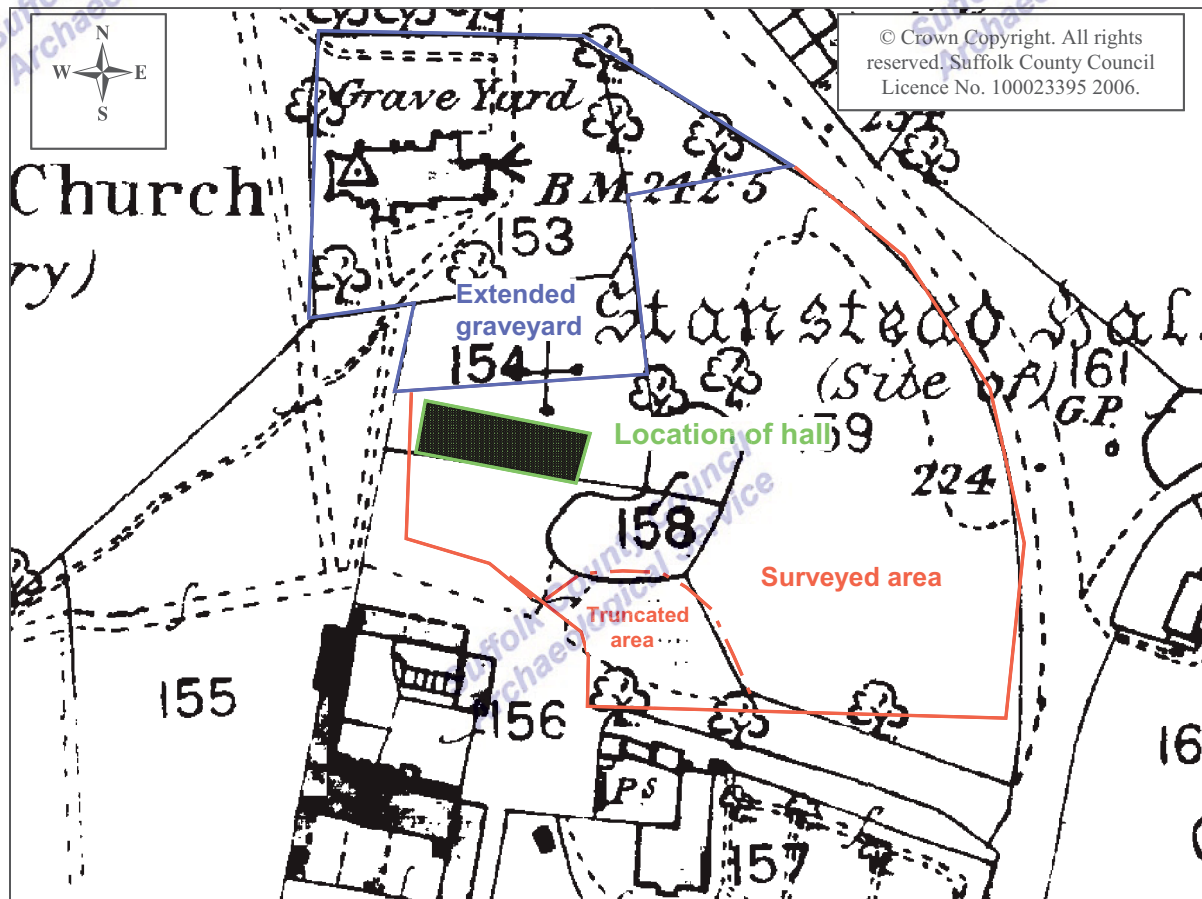


Figure 3. Survey area in relation to First Edition OS

A coarse topographic survey was then carried out using a Total Station Theodolite and relating to an OS benchmark at TM 8435 4934. Points were first of all recorded on an approximate 5m grid across the entire area. This was then followed by measurements being taken at specific points in attempt to trace the very indistinct earthworks that were visible by eye.

The results of the survey though were inconclusive (Fig. 4). The plan, in which the colour differentiation is at 0.25m intervals, clearly shows the overall slope descending from a possible platform where the hall was located but does not show any earthworks of note. At this level of detail the former pond also does not show as a clear feature, although its position broadly corresponds with the edge of the platform. To the south-west of the pond there is a sharper incline in the slope (the change from yellow to green) before it levels out into the level gardens in front of the current hall. It is also evident that the location of the proposed boundary wall, subsequently investigated by trenches 01-03, has been heavily truncated, with the circular drive being terraced into the slope.

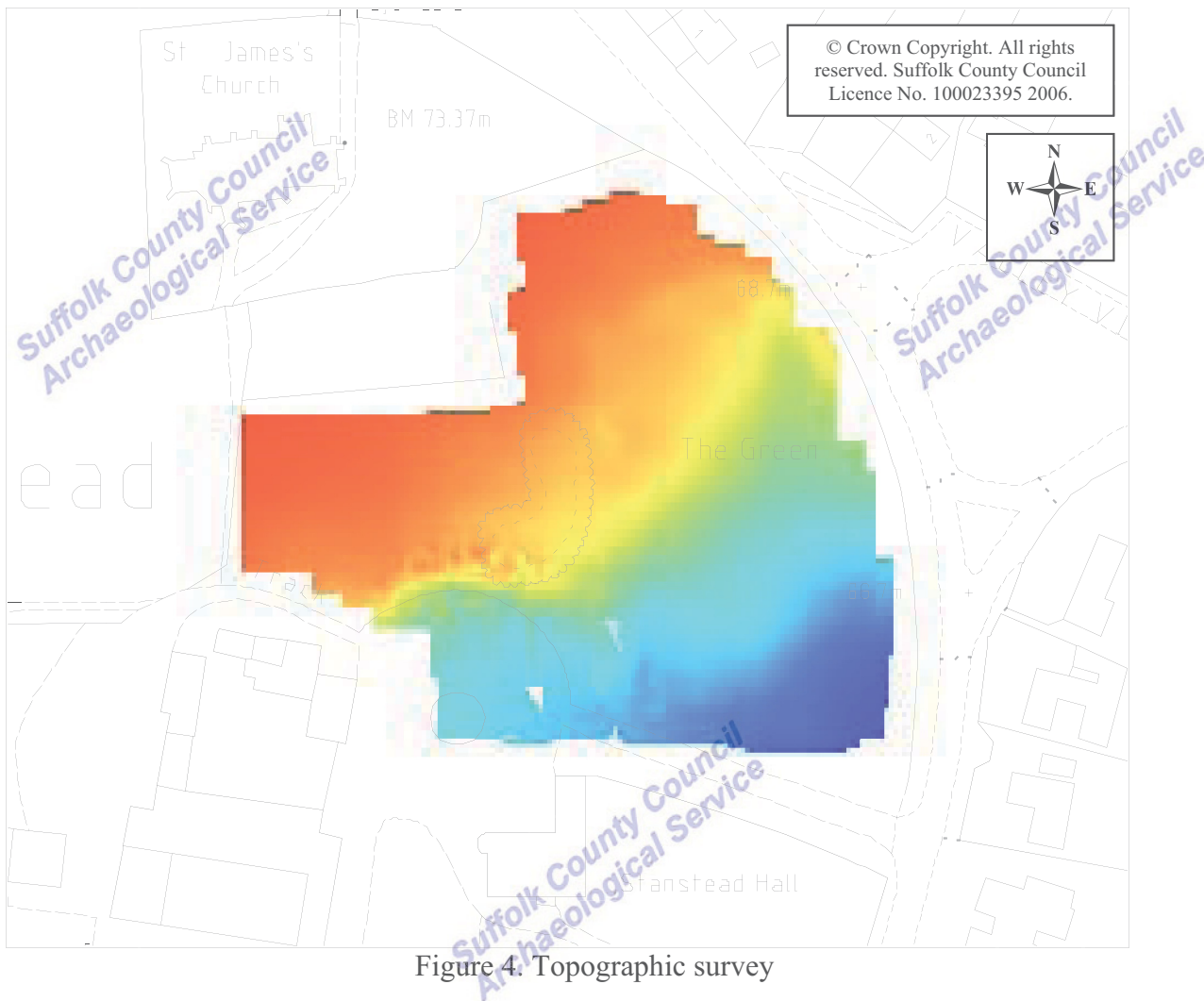


Figure 4. Topographic survey

## 4. Field evaluation

### 4.1. Introduction

A series of five trenches were excavated in areas that were to be affected by the development. Three trenches were placed along the proposed course of the boundary wall, with two more on the footprint of the proposed extension. These trenches had two broad aims, the first of which was to see if any archaeological deposits existed relating to the medieval hall, particularly in trenches 01-03. Secondly trenches 04 and 05, being located immediately adjacent to the later hall, had the potential to identify a demolished range of buildings shown on the first edition OS, and help date the current structure.

### 4.2. Methodology

Five trenches, with a total length of 36.5m were opened by a mechanical excavator equipped with a ditching bucket, under the supervision of an archaeologist. Trenches 01-04 were excavated to the top of the natural subsoil, a thick yellow/brown clay with occasional chalk and gravel. The depth of the subsoil varied according to the level of modern truncation, particularly as trenches 01-03 were placed through the artificial slope on the edge of the terraced driveway. Trench 05 did not reach the subsoil as several brick walls were encountered at a shallow depth. Excavated soil was examined for unstratified finds.

Archaeological features were then clearly visible and were cleaned, and representative samples excavated, by hand.

Feature sections and soil profiles were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and digital photographs are included in the digital archive. The trenches were planned, and site levels were taken using a TST. Levels relate to the OS benchmark used for the topographic survey at TM 8435 4934.

The site archive is kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under SMR No. STS 018.

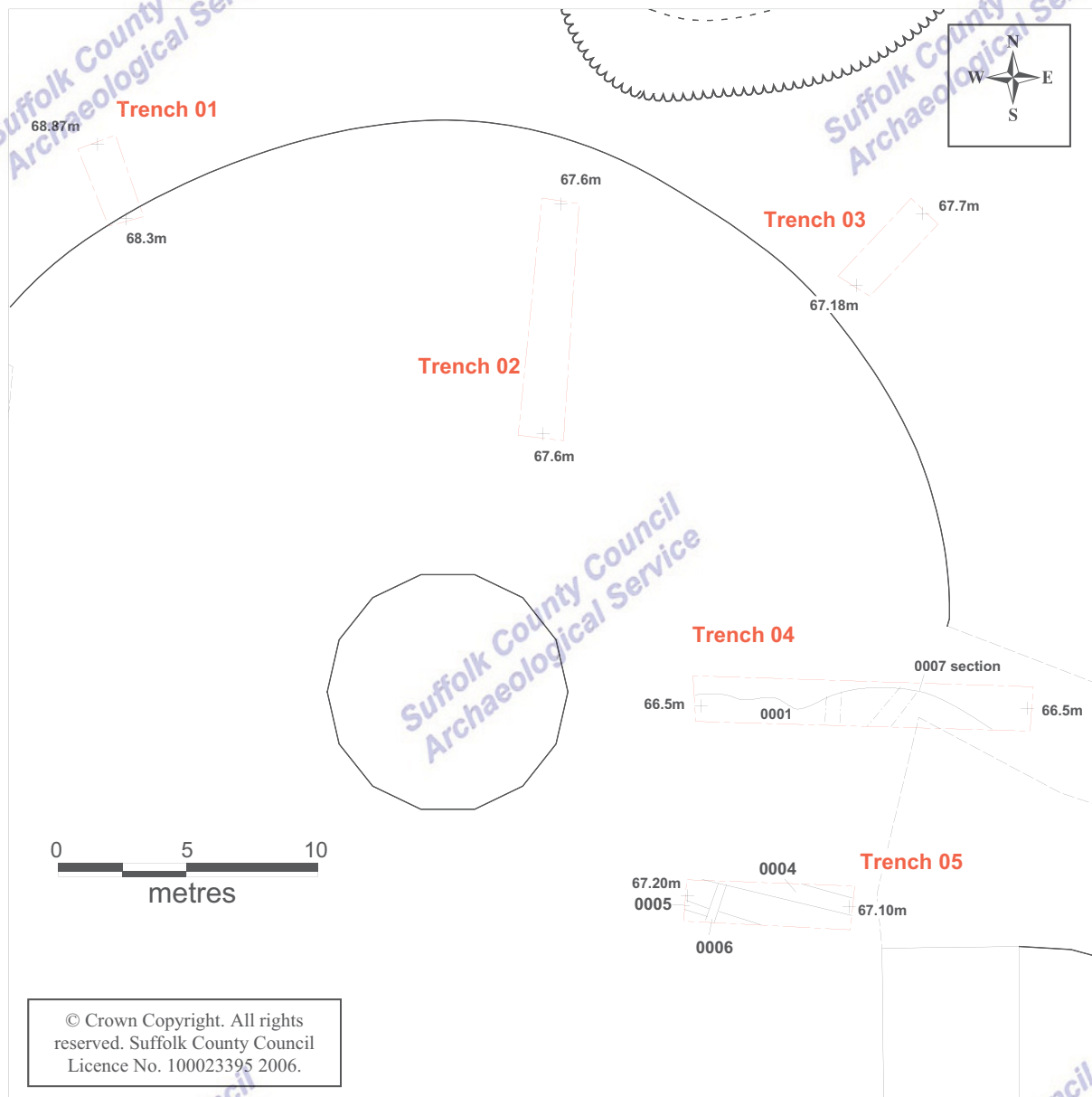


Figure 5. Trench plan

### 4.3. Results

Trench 01, measuring 3.6m long and aligned north-south, was placed in the modern south facing bank that had been created by the terracing of the driveway into the natural slope. The natural clay subsoil was seen at a depth of 0.3m-0.6m and, at the north end of the trench, was probably relatively untruncated. Towards the south though the subsoil dropped sharply by 0.5m and had clearly been truncated. No archaeological features were seen.

Trench 02, measuring 9.2m long and aligned north-south, was placed at the base of the modern bank through the driveway which had already been partially lowered. The natural clay subsoil

was seen under 0.2m of gravel and rubble and had clearly been heavily truncated, particularly at the northern end. No archaeological features were seen.

Trench 03, measuring 4.1m long and aligned north-east to south-west, was placed through the modern bank. This trench however lay further down the natural slope than trenches 01 and 02 and the effects of the terracing were limited. The untruncated natural clay subsoil was seen sloping down to the south, sealed under an intact 0.3m of original topsoil plus irregular modern deposits. No archaeological features were seen.

Trench 04, measuring 13.1m long and aligned east-west, was placed through the gravel driveway to the north of the hall and broadly at the base of the natural slope. Up to 0.5m of deposits forming the driveway overlaid the natural subsoil of clay and occasional patches of gravel. The southern side of the trench contained the long irregular edge of a feature, 0001, cut into the subsoil. Two sample sections were excavated through this feature with one, 0007, being recorded. The section showed a moderate slope which appeared to be levelling out although the base of the feature was reached. A basal fill, 0002, of light grey clay, flint cobbles and chalk lay over the features sloping edge. Above this was the main infill, 0003, a clean mid grey/blue clay containing occasional pieces of wood up to 0.2m long.

Trench 05, measuring 6.5m long and aligned east-west, was placed through the gravel driveway adjacent to the north wing of the hall where, on the first edition OS, a small range of buildings is shown. After the removal of 0.2m of gravel, two wall foundations and a brick lined drain were clearly visible. Machining was then halted and the trench cleaned by hand. The top of the three features were at the same level and corresponded with the base of the driveway, which lay upon a clay surface which was probably redeposited natural subsoil.

The southern wall, 0005, was on an east-west alignment and was constructed from red bricks set in a friable yellow mortar. Very few of the bricks were visible as the wall had been neatly demolished leaving an intact layer of mortar across the top.

To the west wall 0005 was cut by a north-south aligned drainage trench, 0006, which was lined with loose red bricks and contained a ceramic pipe. To the north this drain was cut by wall 0004, which consisted of a concrete foundation and the basal red brick course of a recently demolished garden wall.

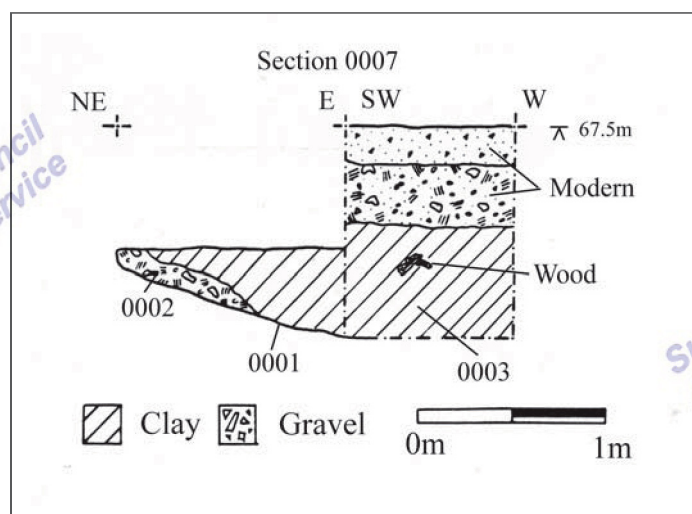


Figure 6. Sections



## 5. Discussion

The documentary survey has helped to clarify two main aspects of the history of Stanstead Hall; the existence and location of an earlier Hall and the date of construction of the current building.

The presence of a large rectangular building, likely to be the medieval Stanstead Hall, stood until around the 1830's, probably originally within a moated enclosure of which the L-shaped pond was the last remnant. The current range of outbuildings broadly correspond with those shown on the early 19<sup>th</sup> century maps and appear to predate the current hall.

The Listed Building Register details Stanstead Hall as being of 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> century origins albeit with later modifications. The documentary research however shows this to be incorrect as it is not shown on the 1835 Deed map, or the Kentwell Hall estate sale plan of 1839. However in the documents associated with the latter map the current hall is clearly described as "A new and capital Farm House, recently erected in the Elizabethan style, and in all respects well suited for a Gentleman's Residence".

This indicates that the older hall was replaced at some point in the 1830's by a completely new structure and was, by c.1880 completely demolished. This complete replacement may perhaps be due to a lack of interest or investment in the older Hall by the Martin family who had lived instead in Long Melford. The reference to being erected in "the Elizabethan style" accounts for the error in the Listed Building register, which was probably written after a relatively rapid or superficial initial survey.

The second stage of works, the topographic survey, was inconclusive. However it has shown that the location of the earlier hall was on a level platform, adjacent to the church grounds and overlooking the Green to the east. It has also demonstrated the substantial level of truncation in trenches 01-03.

The final phase of evaluation, the trial trenching, was heavily affected by truncation in trenches 01-03. There was no indication of any archaeological deposits in these three trenches which, although truncated, may have been expected as they are in close proximity to the former hall site, albeit outside the probable moated enclosure indicated by the former L shaped pond.

The nature, date and function of the large possible feature, 0001, in trench 04 is unclear. However its size and the nature of its fills indicate that it may have been infilled in water logged conditions. If this is so then this may simply be a former individual pond or part of a wider water management system relating to either of the two halls.

The drain 0006 and wall 0004 in trench 05 were clearly relatively modern and of limited interest. The wall 0005 however is clearly the surviving foundation of the southern edge of the range of buildings shown on the first edition OS and demonstrates that the foundations for these outbuilding may survive intact under the driveway.

## 6. Conclusion and Recommendations

The combined evidence from the desk-based assessment, survey and trial trenching shows that the former medieval hall lies to the north of the proposed development and there is no indication that archaeological deposits from this period will be disturbed. The date of the current hall has also been established as 19<sup>th</sup> century, considerably later than previously assumed.

Trenches 01-03 show that the proposed construction of the boundary wall mainly lies on an area of heavy truncation and is outside the probable enclosure of the earlier hall. No further archaeological work is therefore thought to be necessary for this part of the development.

Trenches 04 and 05 did identify features albeit only of limited potential interest, particularly as it is now apparent that the hall is only of 19<sup>th</sup> century date. The large feature, 0001, in trench 04, will probably be wholly removed by the construction of the new cellared wing, as will any surviving foundations from the demolished outbuildings as seen in trench 05. A program of archaeological monitoring of the initial stages of excavation for the cellars may be necessary to fully record these archaeological deposits.

Further monitoring may be required if the demolition of the existing north wing and construction of its replacement is to involve the removal and replacement of foundations or any other disturbance below ground level. Archaeological monitoring of this development may be able to further confirm the date of the current Hall.

J.A.Craven  
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June 2006

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## References

### Published Works

W.A. Copinger, 1905, *The Manors of Suffolk*, Volume 1, London.

F.S.A. Hervey, 1905, *Suffolk in 1674 the Hearth Tax*, Suffolk Green Books, Woodbridge.

Sir William Parker, Bart, 1873, *The History of Long Melford*, London.

### Maps

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Map sheet number LXIII.10 surveyed 1883

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Map sheet number LXIII.14 surveyed 1883

T 34/1 Tithe Apportionment 1839

T 34/2 Tithe Map Stanstead 1838

Kentwell Hall Estate and Bence Family Collection

HA 505/3/63 Plan of estates for sale in Stanstead (printed) 1864

HA 505/3/51 Documents concerning Stanstead Hall Farm, purchased by H.B. Bence from William Logan” (32 documents, in original bundle marked ‘68’) 1765 – 1839

Plans 1808 and 1835

### Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Division alone. The need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its archaeological advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council’s archaeological contracting service cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

# Appendix 1

## SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

### *Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation*

#### STANSTEAD HALL

*The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety and other responsibilities, see paragraphs 1.7 & 1.8.*

This is the brief for the first part of a programme of archaeological work. There is likely to be a requirement for additional work, this will be the subject of another brief.

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 An application [B/05/02168] has been made to add a new wing, cellars and garden walls to the Hall.
- 1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins (PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition). **An archaeological evaluation of the application area will be required as the first part of such a programme of archaeological work; decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of additional briefs.**
- 1.3 The development area lies immediately adjacent to a 16-17<sup>th</sup> century brick house (LBS 278539 Grade II) and is close to the known site of an earlier Hall (County Sites and Monuments Record STS 001). There is, therefore, a high probability that the development will affect archaeological deposits.
- 1.4 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.
- 1.5 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.
- 1.6 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as

suitable to undertake the work, and the PD/WSI as satisfactory. The PD/WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.

- 1.7 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with this office before execution.
- 1.8 The responsibility for identifying any restraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c.) rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such restraints or imply that the target area is freely available.

## 2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation

- 2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ* [at the discretion of the developer].
- 2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- 2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses and natural soil processes. Define the potential for existing damage to archaeological deposits. Define the potential for colluvial/alluvial deposits, their impact and potential to mask any archaeological deposit. Define the potential for artificial soil deposits and their impact on any archaeological deposit.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for waterlogged organic deposits in the proposal area. Define the location and level of such deposits and their vulnerability to damage by development where this is defined.
- 2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 2.6 Evaluation is to proceed sequentially: the desk-based evaluation will precede the field evaluation. If field-walking is proposed it will precede trenching. The results of the desk-based work and any field-walking are to be used to inform the trenching design. This sequence will only be varied if benefit to the evaluation can be demonstrated.
- 2.7 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final

report preparation may follow. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design, this document covers only the evaluation stage.

- 2.8 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.
- 2.9 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.
- 2.10 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

### 3. **Specification A: Desk-Based Assessment**

- 3.1 Consult the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), both the computerised record and any backup files.
- 3.2 Examine all the readily available cartographic sources (e.g. those available in the County Record Office). Record any evidence for historic or archaeological sites (e.g. buildings, settlements, field names) and history of previous land uses. Where permitted by the Record Office make either digital photographs, photocopies or traced copies of the document for inclusion in the report.
- 3.3 Assess the potential for documentary research that would contribute to the archaeological investigation of the site and provide a brief history of the site bearing particularly of the likely location of earlier buildings and general land use.

### 4 **Specification B: Field Evaluation**

- 4.1 Examine the area for earthworks, e.g. banks, ponds, ditches. If present these are to be recorded in plan at 1:2500, with appropriate sections. A record should be made of the topographic setting of the site (e.g. slope, plateau, etc). The Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service must be consulted if earthworks are present and before proceeding to the excavation of any trial trenches.
- 4.2 Trial trenches to examine the area of new house building and the line of the enclosure wall are to be dug. Linear trenches must be used. An indicative trench layout is shown at Figure 1. Details of trench size and location may be adjusted following a site visit. The final trench design must be approved by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service before field work begins.
- 4.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine fitted with toothless bucket and other equipment. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 4.4 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence

by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of further excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.

- 4.5 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled.
- 4.6 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 4.7 The contractor shall provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from J Heathcote, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy and Wiltshire 1994) is available.
- 4.8 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 4.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 4.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service during the course of the evaluation).
- 4.11 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.  
“Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England” English Heritage and the Church of England 2005 provides advice and defines a level of practice which should be followed whatever the likely belief of the buried individuals.
- 4.12 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. Any variations from this must be agreed with the Conservation Team.
- 4.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies.
- 4.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

## 5. General Management

- 5.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service.
- 5.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors).
- 5.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.
- 5.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 5.5 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* and for *Field Evaluations* should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

## 6. Report Requirements

- 6.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 6.2 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 6.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 6.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 6.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 6.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 6.7 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County SMR if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 6.8 The site archive is to be deposited with the County SMR within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.



- 6.9 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to the Conservation Team, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 6.10 County SMR sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 6.11 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 6.12 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the SMR. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Robert Carr

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service Conservation Team  
Environment and Transport Department  
Shire Hall  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Tel: 01284 352441

Date: 9 May 2006

Reference: /Stanstead Hall

**This brief and specification remains valid for 12 months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.**

**If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.**

## Appendix 2: Documentary report maps

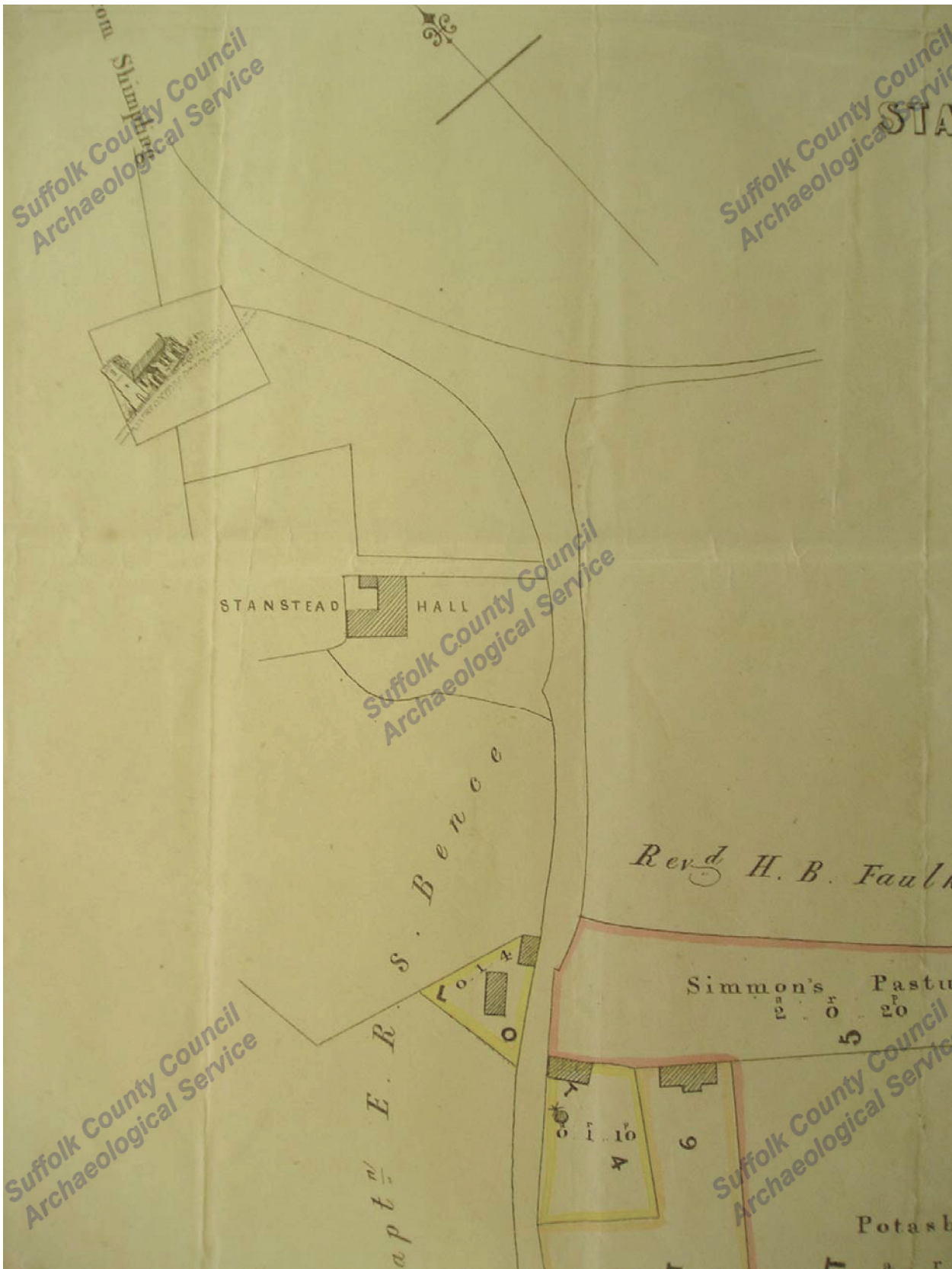


Figure 1a. Sale plan 1864 detail.

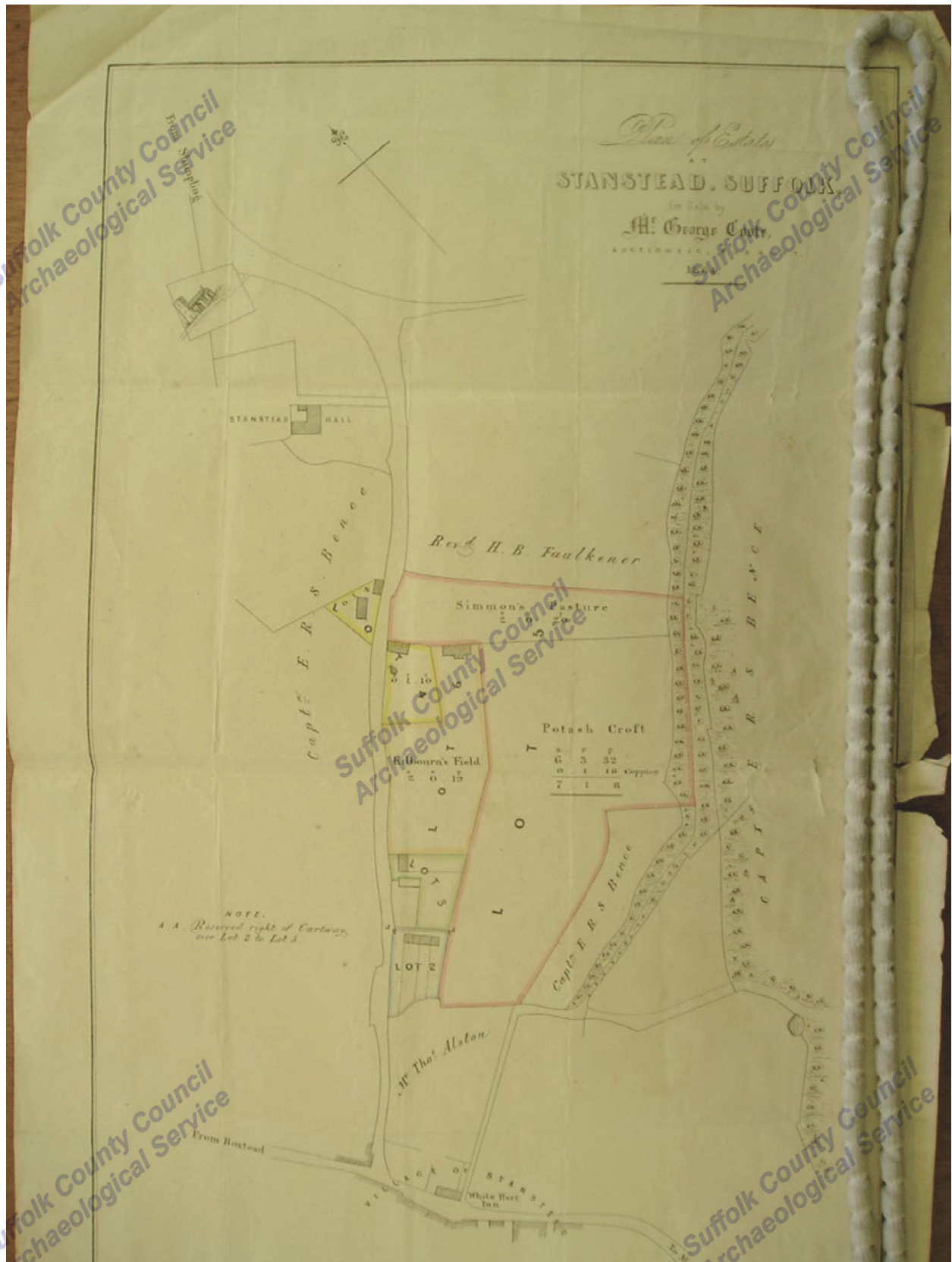


Figure 1b. Sale plan 1864.

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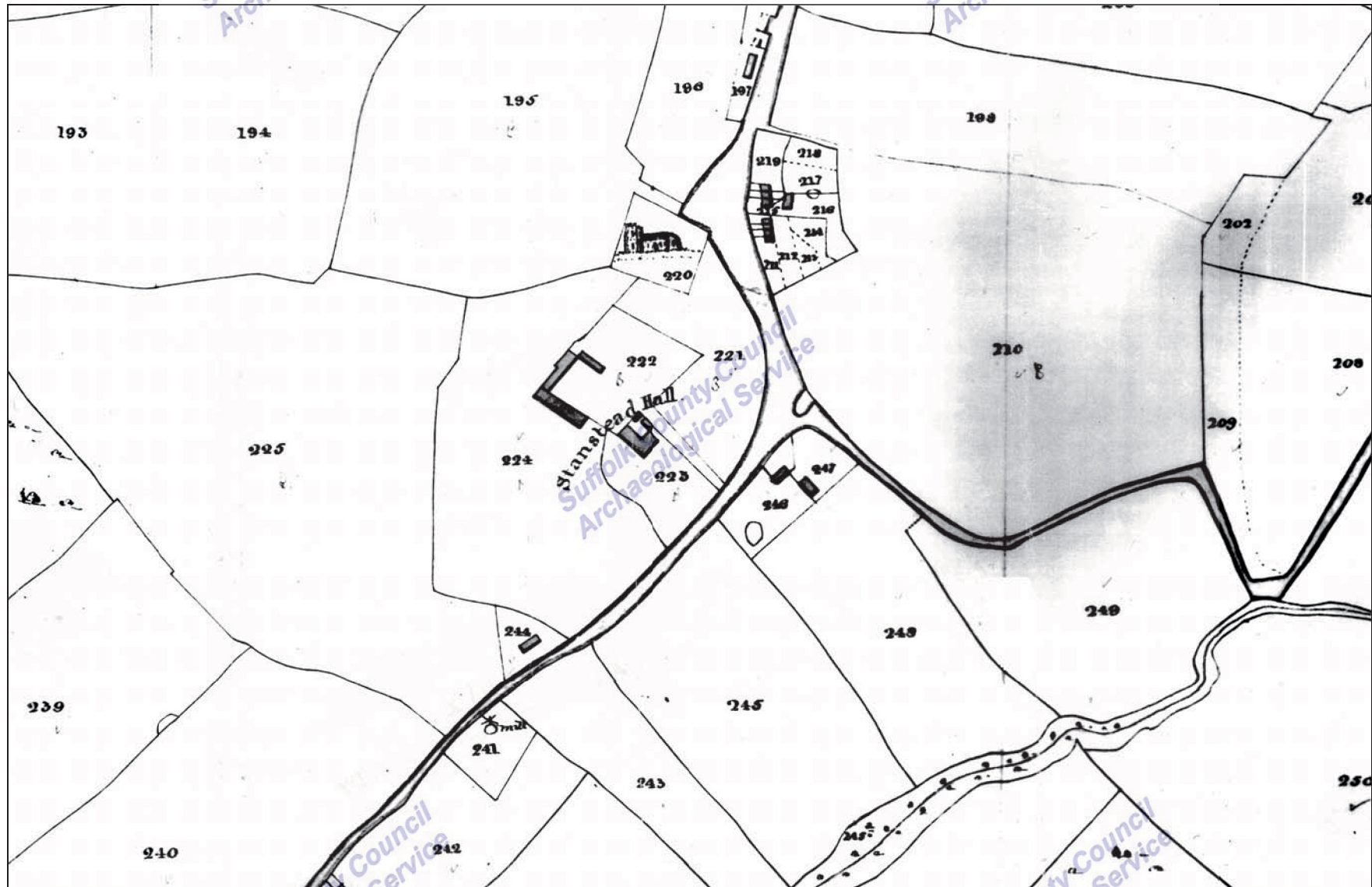


Figure 2. Tithe map, 1838

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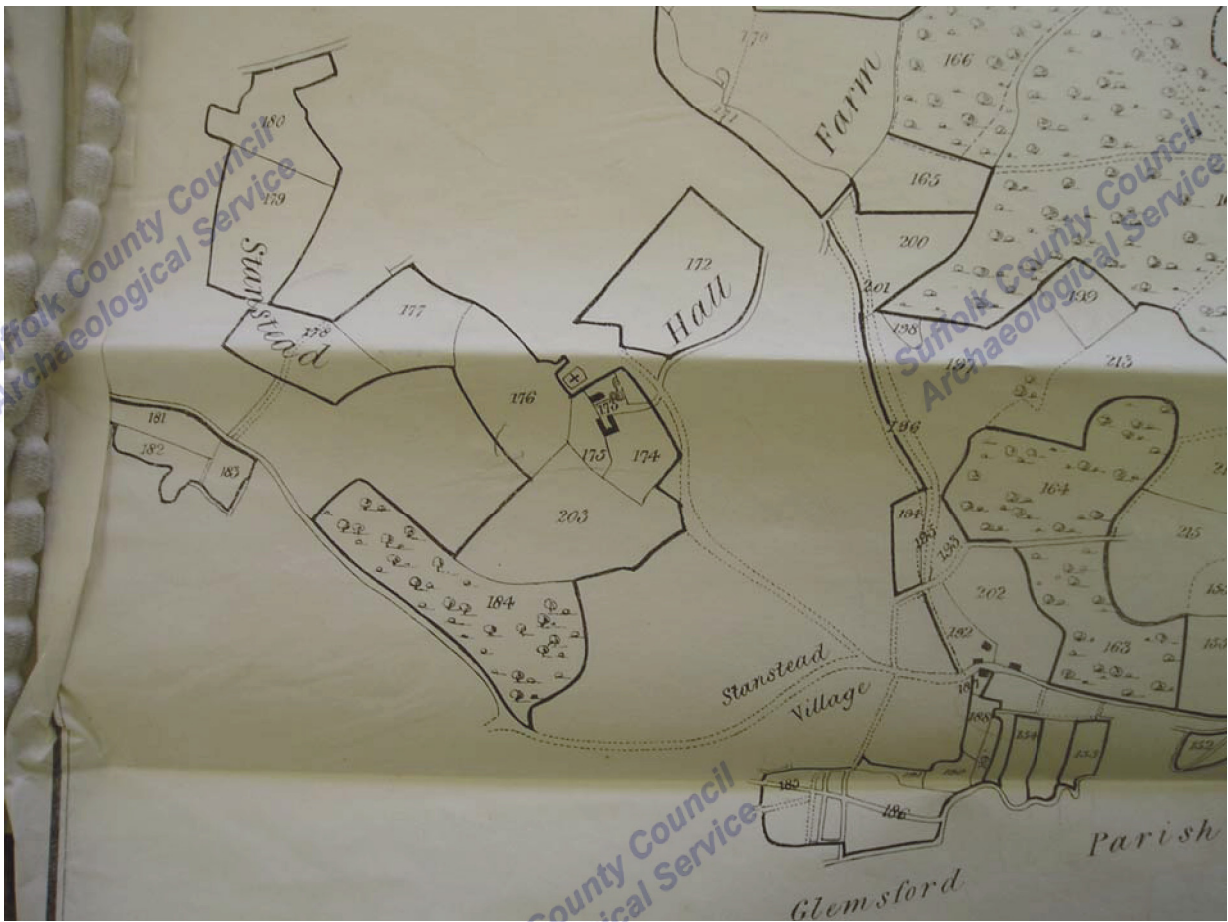


Figure 3a. Kentwell Hall Estate sale plan 1839 detail.

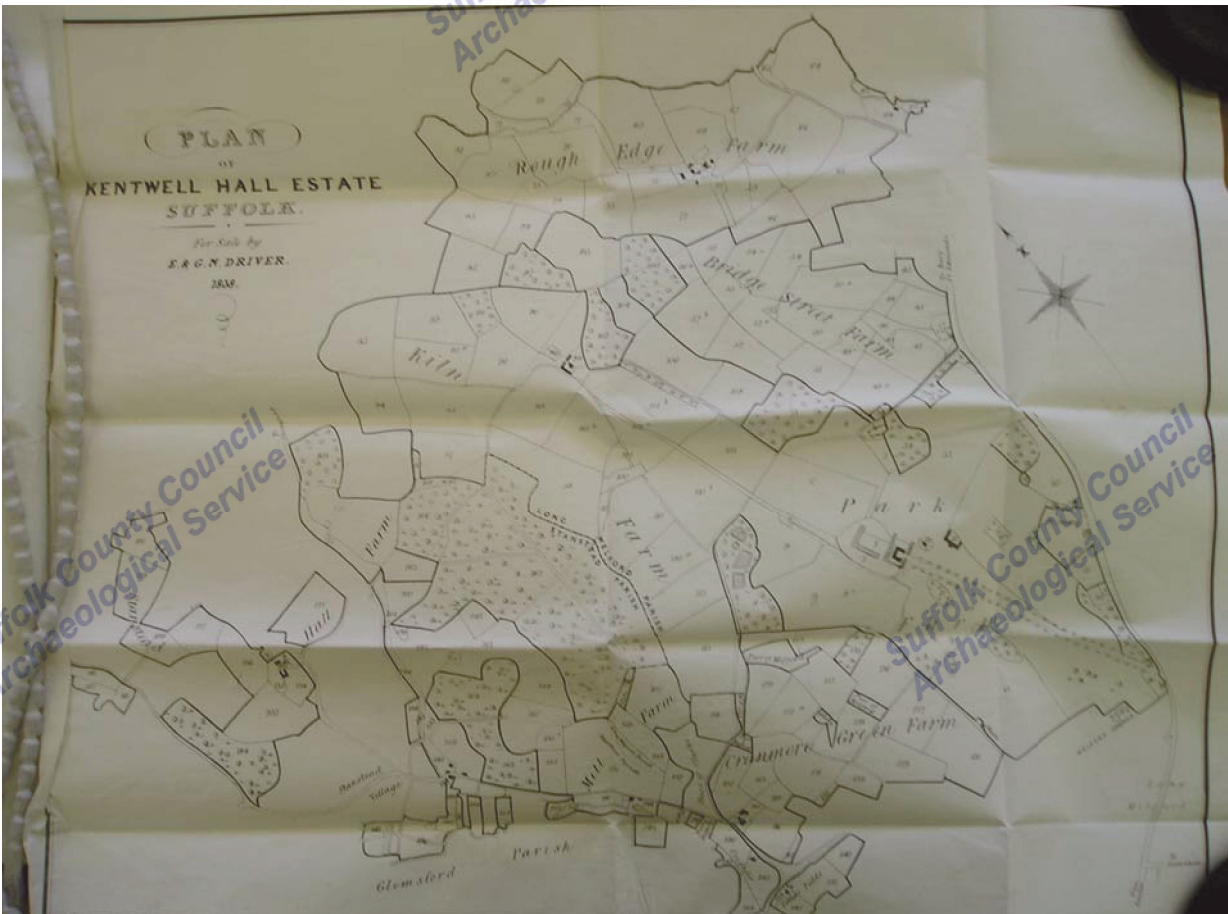


Figure 3b. Kentwell Hall Estate sale plan 1839.



Figure 4a. Deed plan 1808 detail.

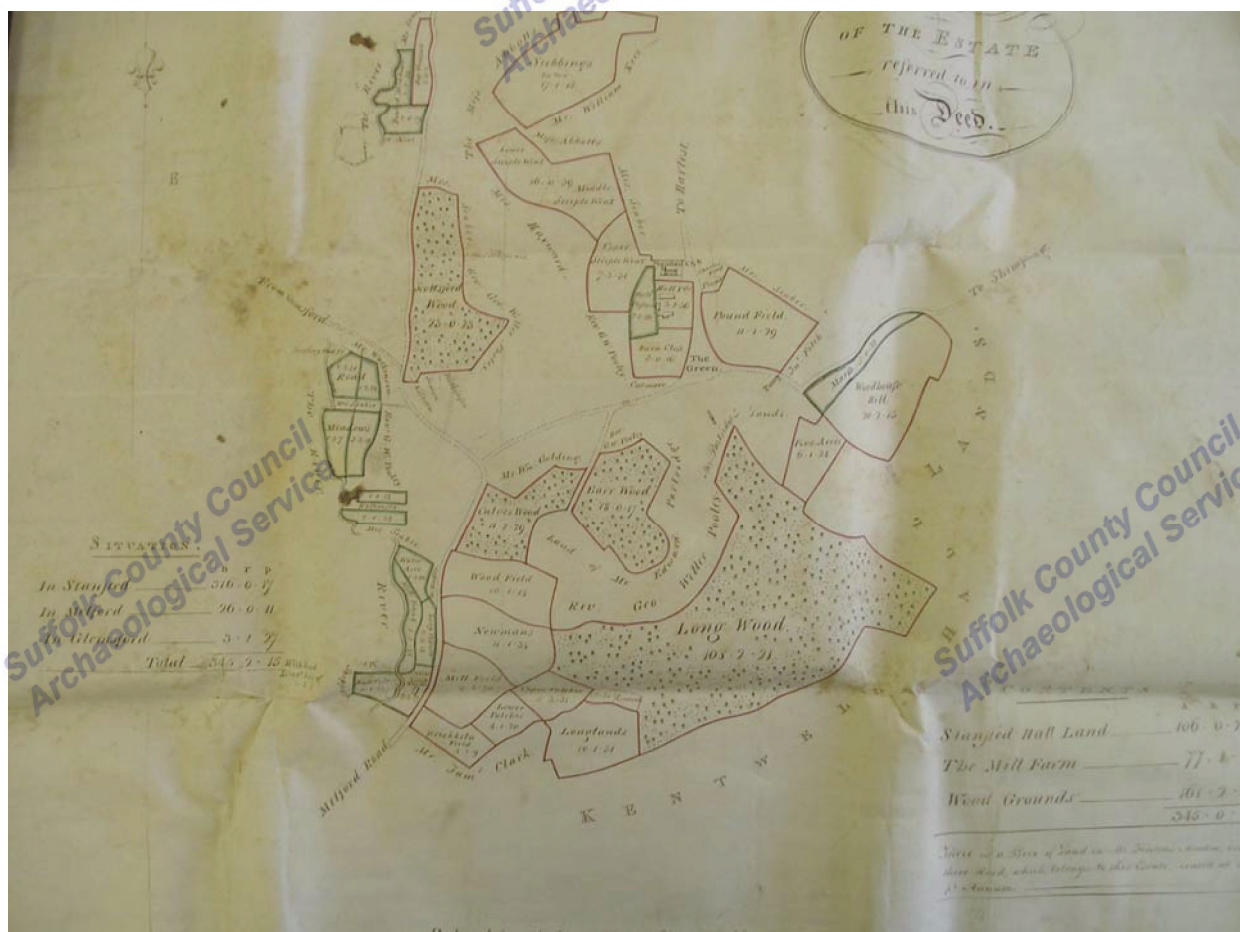


Figure 4b. Deed plan 1808.





Figure 5a. Deed plan 1835 detail.



5b: Deed plan 1835.