

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

## Hall Farm, High Green, Nowton NWN 008

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF GROUNDWORKS ASSOCIATED WITH  
CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW FARM BUILDING AT HALL FARM, NOWTON

Planning Application No. SE/06/1209

NGR: TL 8603 6045

OASIS Ref. Suffolkc1-16656

Funded by: M G & M A Roe T/A P C Roe

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2006/71

### *Summary*

*An archaeological monitoring of stanchion pits for a new farm building at Hall Farm, High Green, Nowton did not locate any archaeological deposits.*

### **Introduction**

Three visits were made to the site (Fig. 1) from the 6th to 9th June 2006 to monitor the excavation of stanchion pits for the construction of a new farm building. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by R.D.Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team) to fulfil a planning condition on application SE/06/1209. The work was funded by the developer, M G & M A Roe T/A P C Roe.

Interest in the site was based upon its location partially within the medieval moated site of Nowton Hall, recorded on the County SMR as NWN 001. The c.1890 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition OS shows the site as lying across the southern arm of the moat (Fig. 2) which at this time was largely extant. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century the moat has been almost entirely infilled, with only traces of its course visible in ponds to the east of the farmhouse. The new building was to be constructed on the site of a demolished structure, originally erected in the 1950's.

Despite the changes in the farm during the 20th century the development had the potential to disturb archaeological evidence from the medieval and post-medieval periods relating to the construction and usage of the moated enclosure. An archaeological monitoring of the groundworks was therefore required.

### **Methodology and Results**

Nine of the 24 stanchion pits were observed whilst fully open, including the six along the northern side which lay closest to the former course of the southern moat arm and just within the original enclosure. Each pit measured c.1.5m<sup>2</sup> and up to 1.5m deep (Fig. 3).

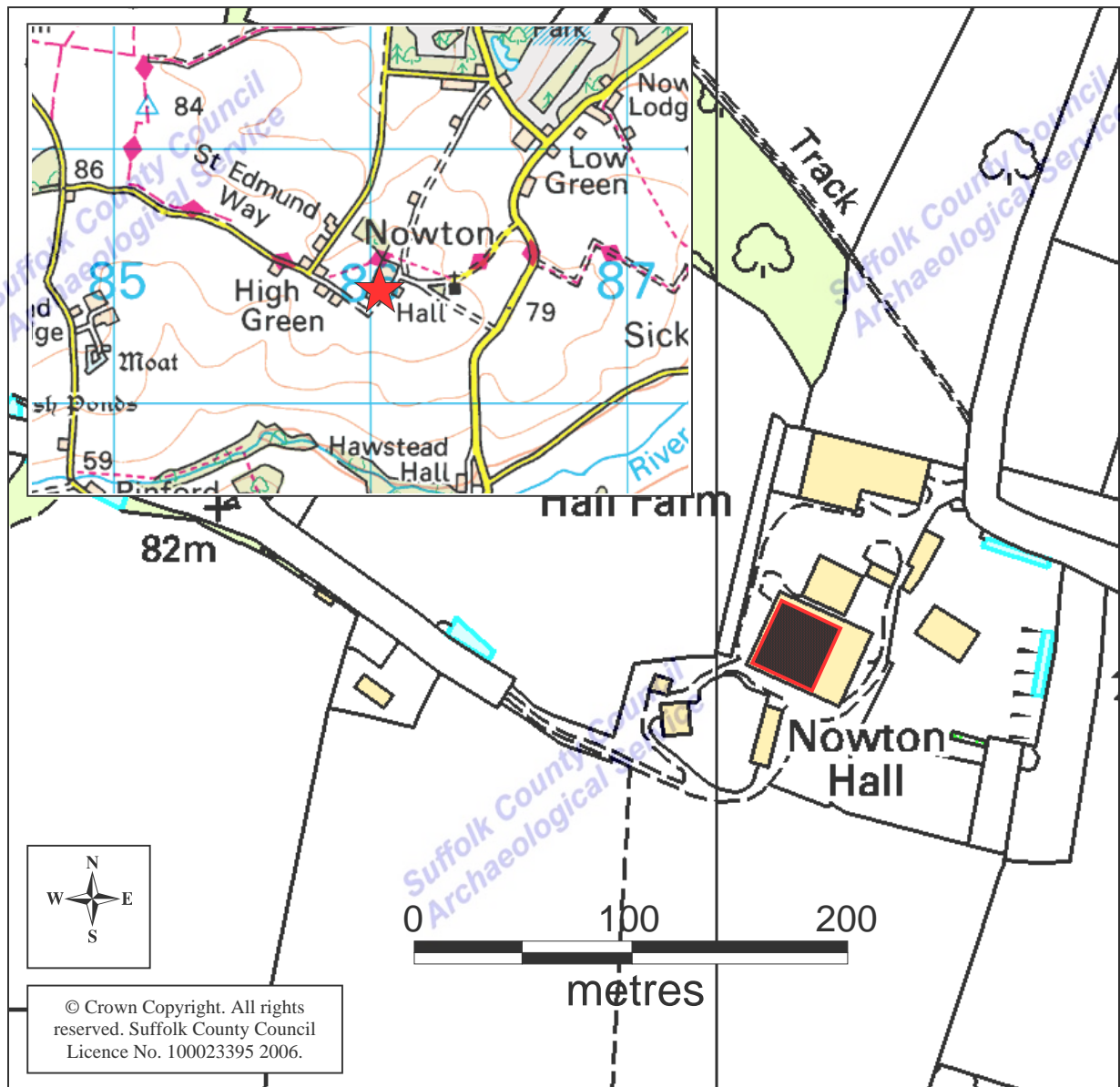


Figure 1. Site location plan

The six pits of the northern wall showed heavy modern disturbance to a depth of 1m on their southern sides, before the truncated natural clay and chalk subsoil was seen. On their northern sides, probably just outside the footprint of the previous buildings, the natural subsoil was visible at a depth of 0.6m under modern deposits.

In the other three pits observed the former topsoil was visible under 0.3m of modern deposits. This topsoil, a dark brown clay/loam was c.0.3-0.45m thick and overlaid the natural clay subsoil. The natural water table was at a depth of c.1.2m.

## Discussion

No evidence of the former moat was seen in any of the observed pits and it probably runs just a little to the south of the northern line of six pits and will not be disturbed by the development. These six pits, which lay within the moated enclosure, showed substantial modern disturbance and truncation which made observation difficult and has probably removed any archaeological evidence of medieval or post-medieval occupation.

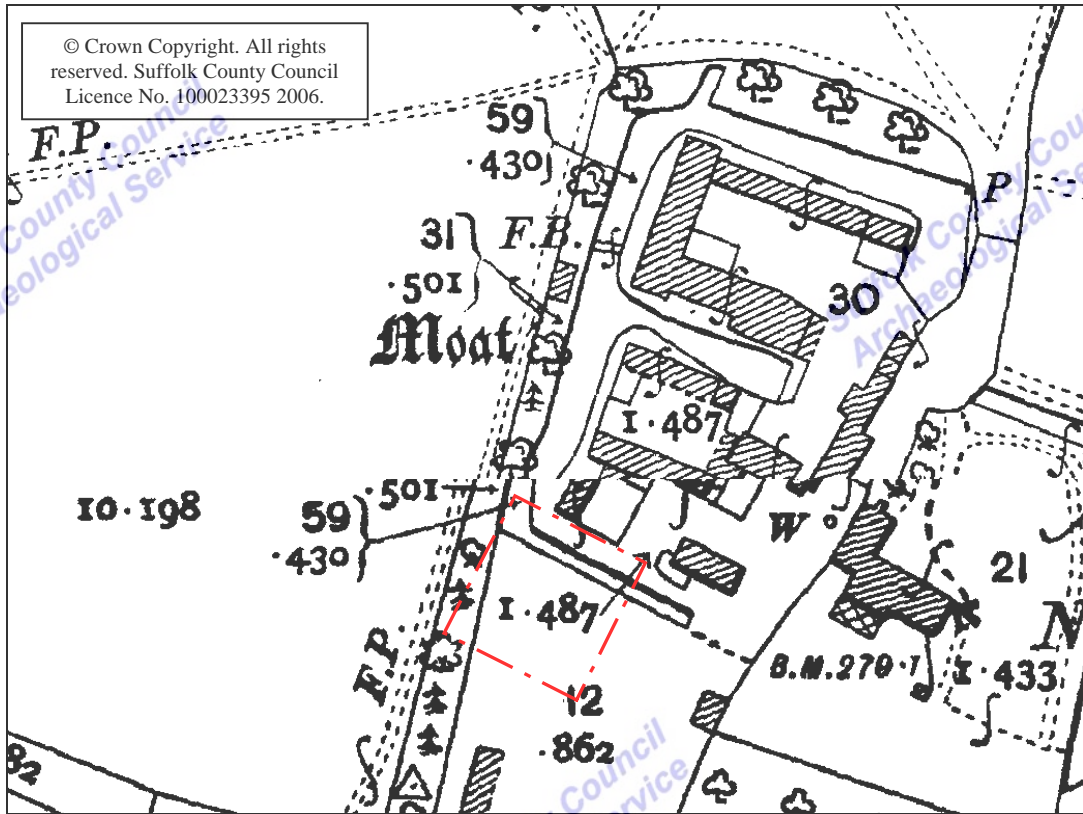


Figure 3. Site on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS

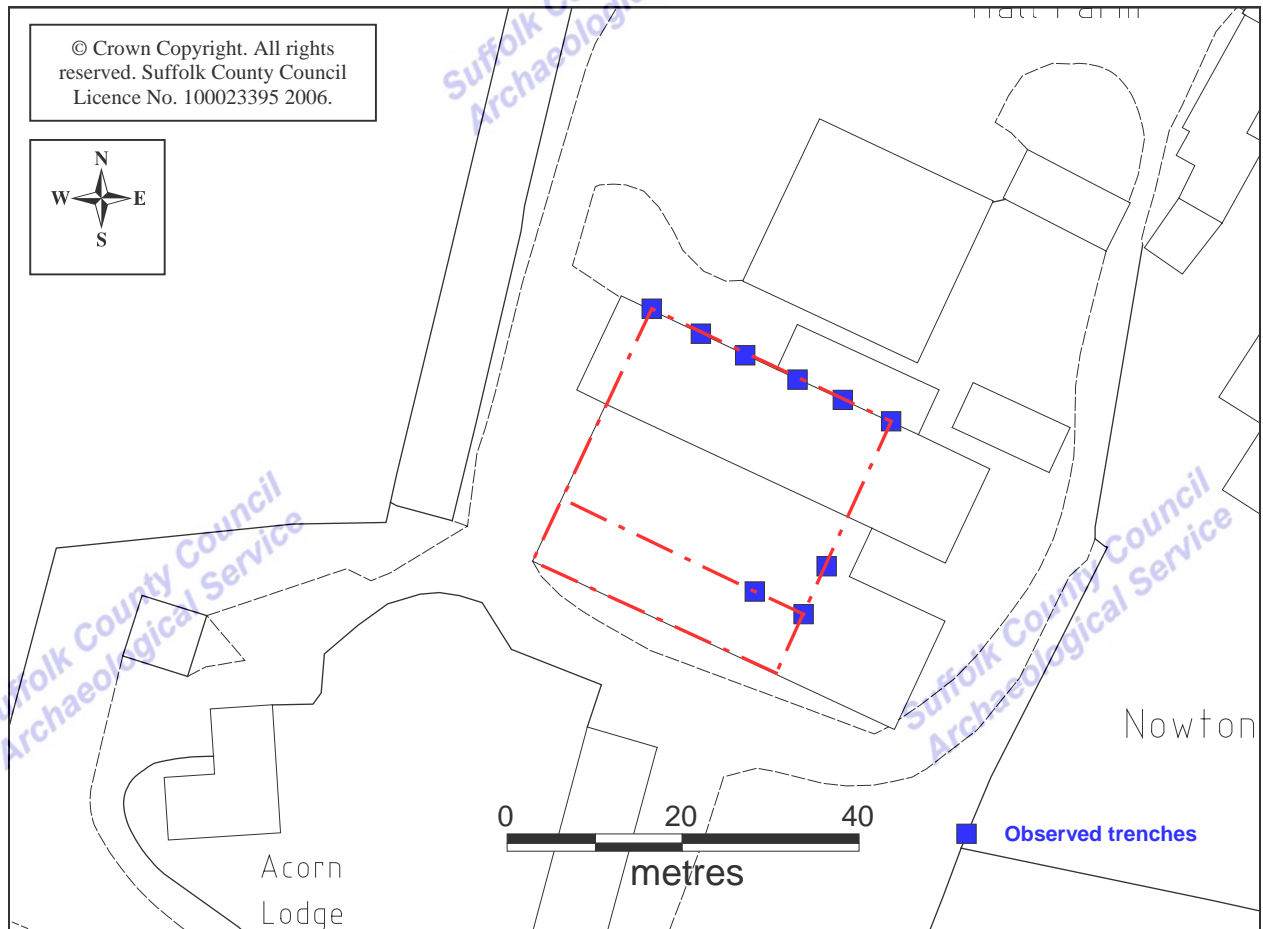


Figure 3. Site plan

In the remaining three pits the former topsoil was seen intact beneath the modern farmyard and laid directly over the subsoil. No archaeological features were apparent and it seems likely that this area, to the south of the moated enclosure, has generally been in use as open agricultural land until the 20th century.

J. A. Craven  
Assistant Project Officer  
Field Team  
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service  
July 2006

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service