

**Suffolk County Council
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The Granary, Hoo Hall, Hoo, Suffolk

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Archaeological Record

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The Granary, Hoo Hall, Hoo, Suffolk

(TM 2556 5933)

An Archaeological Record

This report provides a written and photographic record at English Heritage (2006) Level 2 of a redundant brick granary adjacent to Hoo Hall. The report has been prepared to a brief written by the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Dr Jess Tipper, 7 November 2008, Ref. /HooHall_2008) and is intended to fulfil a condition of planning permission for conversion (Suffolk Coastal District Council application C/07/1122)..

Introduction

The following report is accompanied by a CD containing a full photographic record in the form of 36 8.2 megapixel digital images (Appendix 1) but also includes printed photographs of key features to illustrate the text (Appendix 2). Each image is separately described in the report, and a scale rod with half metre divisions was included wherever possible. The site was inspected on 13th February 2009.

Summary

Hoo Hall lies in open arable countryside immediately north of the isolated church of St Andrew and St Eustachius, and is presumed to be the site of a medieval manor. At the time of the tithe survey in 1846 it formed a substantial tenanted farm of 209 acres, but its ownership had become separated from the lordship. The farmhouse is listed at grade II and contains an early-17th century timber-framed structure of modest proportions in its rear wing and a façade of 19th century white brick. The 19th century barn to the north of the site is also listed, but has been converted for domestic use and, like most of the farm buildings, is now in separate occupation. The most southerly structure of the farm complex is still owned with the hall, which lies 20 metres to its south-east, and forms a pantiled structure of red brick. Dating from circa 1870 it originally contained a granary on its upper storey with a shed that may have operated as a stable beneath. The granary was reached by an internal stair with an external entrance. The building's external appearance has altered very little, but its bins have been removed and, with the exception of one window frame and two sliding window shutters on the upper storey, its internal fixtures and fittings have been lost. Although of some interest as an example of an increasingly uncommon building type, it is not of sufficient age, rarity or architectural merit to justify separate listing.



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Figure 1
Existing Ordnance Survey Site Plan
Outlining the granary in the centre of the site, and showing the L-shaped house to its south-east with the parish church to the south

Historic Context: Documentary & Cartographic Record

Hoo Hall lies in open arable countryside immediately north of the isolated church of St Andrew and St Eustachius, and is presumed to be the site of one of several medieval manors in the parish. The present hall is listed at grade II with a mid-19th century eastern façade of white brick, which probably disguises 18th century fabric, and a timber-framed rear wing which now contains a kitchen. This rear wing appears to represent an early-17th century domestic house of modern proportions, with a clasped-purlin roof and evidence of a hall and parlour divided by an axial chimney bay. There is some evidence of a demolished service bay to the west. Copinger's *Manors of Suffolk* (1909) suggests the site may always have been owned by absentee landlords and occupied by tenants, and this is consistent with the architecture.

At the time of the Hoo tithe survey in 1846 the property formed a farm of 209 acres (possibly with more land extending into neighbouring parishes) owned by the Reverend Ellis Walford, the Rector of nearby Dallinghoo, and occupied by his tenant Ellis L. Gleed. Walford did not own the lordship of the Manor of Hoo Hall however, which belonged to the Duke of Hamilton who owned land elsewhere in the parish and had a seat at Easton Park. The tithe map (figure 2 below) shows the L-shaped farmhouse to the north of the church, much as it remains today, and a linear range of farm buildings extending from the house to a barn at its northern end. This barn is a listed structure which is dated in the Schedule of Listed Buildings to the early-19th century, but has been converted for domestic use and is now in separate occupation. The entire site, numbered 226 on the tithe map, is described only as 'farm yards' on the tithe apportionment.

The first edition Ordnance Survey of 1883 (figure 3) shows a very similar yard layout, but with significant changes. The linear range no longer consisted of several structures of varying

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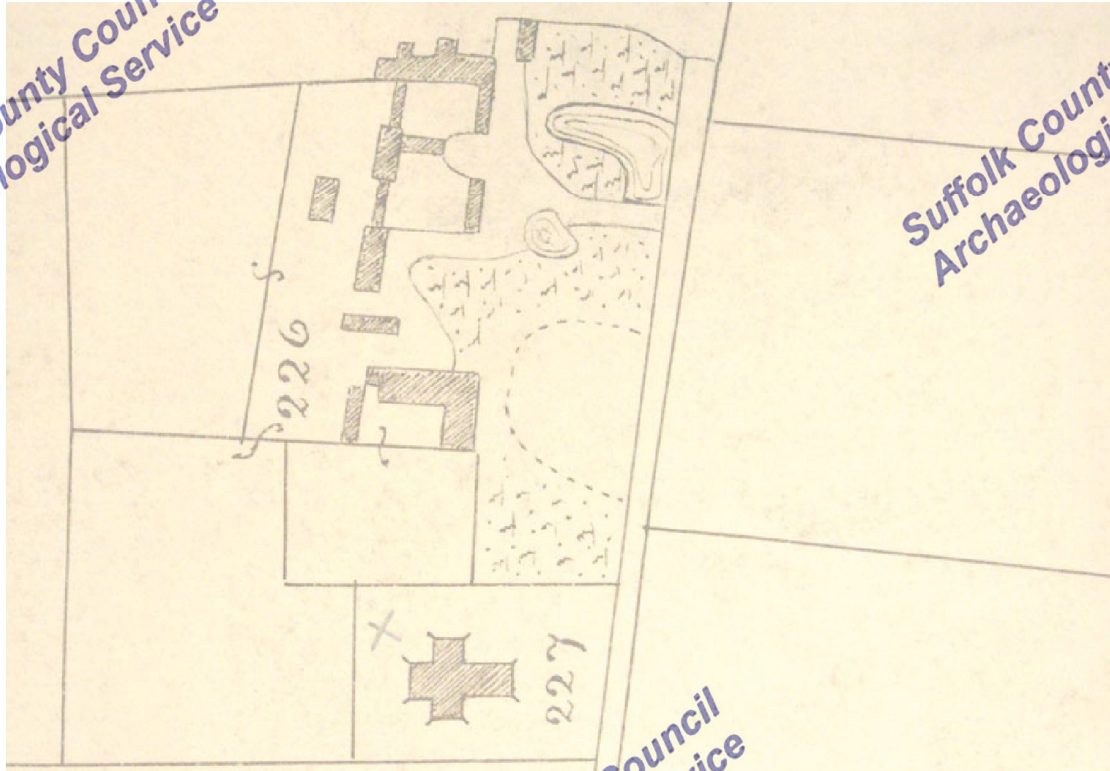


Figure 2

Hoo Hall on the tithe map of 1846 (Suffolk Record Office), showing the L-shaped house between the church to the south and an irregular linear range of farm buildings to the north. The detached shed in the corner of the garden is present, but not the granary.

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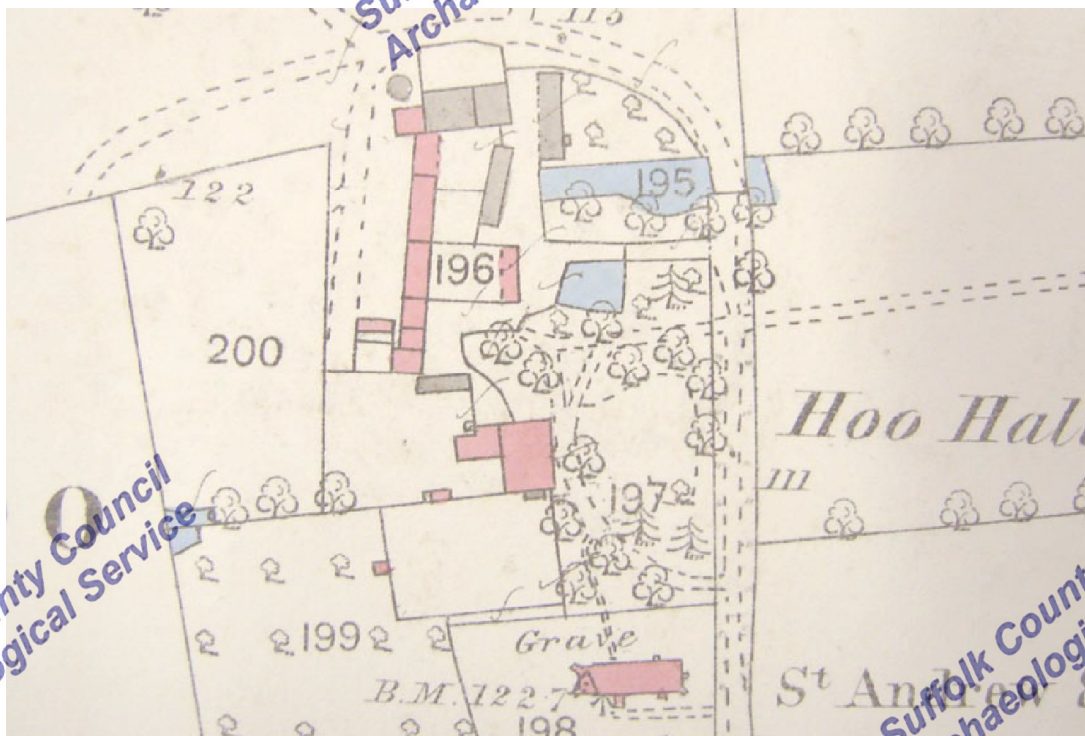


Figure 3

First Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1883. The new granary is clearly identifiable at the southern end of the rebuilt linear range (slightly wider than the adjoining sheds), abutting the older timber shed almost corner-to-corner.

length and width, but had been uniformly rebuilt in brick (as indicated by its red colouring) and the present granary added to the south. The detached timber-framed structure on an east-west axis shown between the house and yard in 1846 still survives, and adjoins the granary almost corner-to-corner. This situation was largely unaltered at the time of the second edition Ordnance Survey in 1904, and remains much the same today, although the majority of the farm buildings are now separately owned and accordingly were not inspected. Only the granary and the sheds at the southern end of the linear range belong to Hoo Hall, and their western elevations are abutted and obscured by a large 20th century farm shed on the site of the small yards (possibly pig sties) shown in 1904.

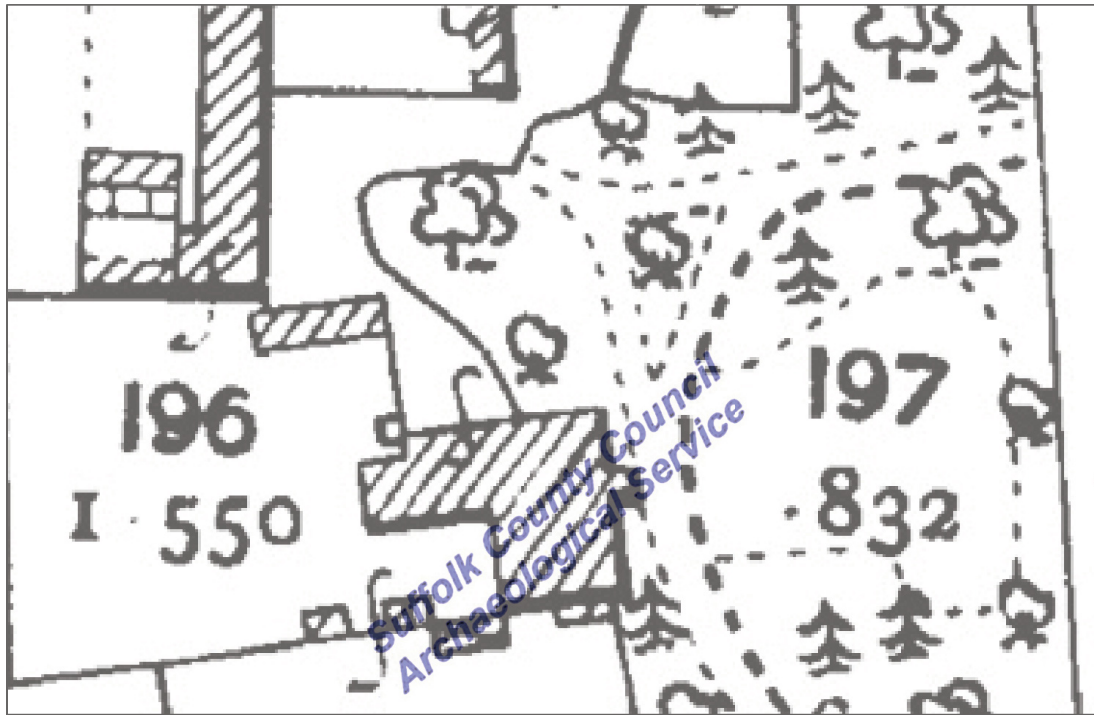


Figure 4

Second Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1904. The granary is abutted on the west by a small yard with a shelter shed to the south and a series of three still smaller yards to the north which may represent pig sties. These structures have since been replaced by a large farm shed which is now in separate occupation and obscures the granary's western elevation.

Building Analysis

N.B. Access to the granary from the west was restricted by the presence of a large 20th century farm shed in separate occupation. The majority of the contemporary farm buildings are also in separate occupation and were not therefore inspected for the purpose of historic context.

The former granary at Hoo Hall is a pantiled structure of red brick which lies at the southern end of a linear range of contemporary single-storied sheds. The house is distant by approximately 20 metres to the south-east. The building does not appear on the parish title map of 1846 but is shown on the Ordnance Survey of 1883, and a construction date of *circa* 1870 is consistent with both the cartographic and architectural evidence.

Aligned on an east-west axis the granary extends to 7.3 metres in overall length by 6.25 metres in width (24.5 ft by 20.5 ft) and rises to 3.75 metres (12 ft) at its eaves. The brickwork is laid in Flemish bond. The granary storey is reached by an internal stair with an external access door to the north of the eastern gable, which stair is enclosed by a boarded partition with a slatted door (photo A2.4). The space is lit by central windows in both gables, each of which retains an original sliding internal shutter of deal boards (A2.6); the eastern window also preserves its original frame, but its western counterpart has been replaced. Grain bins were attached to both side elevations with an axial passage, but only their boarded sides and vertical hatch grooves now remain. The deal roof structure consists of clasped purlins with nailed collars and a ridge-board, and retains original plastered reed between its rafters.

The lower storey now forms a storage shed with a ceiling of tall-sectioned joists laid on a pair of re-used 17th century binding joists (containing empty mortises with diminished shoulders for flat-sectioned joists, as seen in A2.7). This ceiling supports the granary floor, 2.3 metres above an original brick floor with an axial drain extending from the southern jamb of its northern entrance door (alongside the stair door). The interior is now unlit, but there is evidence of a blocked window in the rear western elevation. A boarded partition separates the principal space from a narrow shed behind the stair, which shed is lit by a window at the western end of its northern elevation. The presence of the floor drain suggests the ground storey was designed as a stable (probably for driving rather than farm animals) and notches in the brickwork of its southern internal elevation may have held a manger and rack. The boarded shed would have operated as a tack room, but no fittings remain and this is not certain. The whitewashed boarding includes re-used material with both red and grey/black pigment, indicating the external appearance of local weatherboarding before the advent of tar in the late-19th century. A small horse shoe has been nailed to the same internal boarding immediately adjacent to the eastern entrance door.

Historic Significance

The granary is a relatively well-preserved example of its type, which has altered little in external appearance since its construction in the third quarter of the 19th century. It is not of sufficient age or architectural merit to justify separate listing, however, and its historic significance is diminished by the absence of original fixtures and fittings. It appears to have formed part of a major refurbishment of the entire farmyard in the manner of a model farm, but is now in separate occupation and much of the yard's historic integrity has been lost to sub-division and partial domestic conversion.

Appendix 1 (on accompanying CD): Full Photographic Record

Description of Photographs in Appendix 1

Photograph no.

1. View to north showing proximity of Hoo hall to right and parish church in rear to left.
2. 19th century eastern white brick facade of Hoo Hall (included for site context).
3. View of site from east showing proximity of granary in rear on right to Hoo Hall on left.
4. Northern elevation of Hoo Hall from site of granary, showing edge of eastern brick facade to left.
5. Northern elevation of Hoo Hall from site of granary showing early-17th century range.
6. Southern end of yard range from east showing granary to left and property boundary wall to right.
7. View of farmyard to north over property boundary wall showing proximity of listed barn in rear.
8. View to south showing granary to right with northern elevation of Hoo Hall in rear to left.
9. Southern external elevation of granary showing 20th century farm shed to left.
10. Eastern external gable of granary showing stair door closed.
11. Eastern external gable of granary showing stair door open.
12. Detail of external window in eastern gable.
13. Detail of external brickwork in eastern gable showing entrance door to right.
14. Detail of granary stair from east.
15. Granary stair from interior to west showing external door in eastern gable.
16. Upper storey from west showing interior of eastern gable with enclosed stair to left.
17. Upper storey from south-west showing enclosed stair with slatted door.
18. Upper storey from east showing interior of western gable with evidence of grain bins to right and left.
19. Upper storey from north-east showing evidence of boarded bins to southern elevation.

20. Upper storey from north-west showing evidence of boarded bins to southern elevation.

21. Detail of sliding window shutter to internal eastern gable of upper storey.
22. Detail of sliding window shutter to internal western gable on upper storey.
23. Detail of remains of boarded grain bins in north-western corner of upper storey.
24. Detail of groove for bin hatch against internal western gable of upper storey.
25. Detail of groove for bin hatch against internal eastern gable of upper storey.
26. Detail of roof structure from west showing original plastered reed infill.
27. Interior of lower storey from eastern entrance showing blocked window in western elevation.
28. Interior of lower storey from west showing eastern entrance to left.
29. Detail of ground-floor ceiling from west showing empty mortises in re-used 17th century joists.
30. Detail of brick floor from west showing longitudinal drain with eastern entrance in rear.
31. Interior of lower storey from south showing boarded partition to stair and door to storage shed.
32. Interior of lower storey from south-east showing entrance door to storage shed.
33. Interior of storage shed behind stair viewed from east.
34. Interior of storage shed behind stair from west showing underside of stair with door to right.
35. Detail of re-used internal boarding to north of entrance showing nailed horse shoe and pigment.
36. Detail of re-used internal boarding to north of entrance showing reddle and grey pigments.

Appendix 2 (pp. 9-12): Selected Printed Photographs

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A2.1 View of site from east showing the proximity of the granary (in rear to right) to the principal eastern façade of Hoo Hall to left

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A2.2 Southern end of yard range from east showing the granary to left and the modern property boundary wall which separates the rest of the farm buildings to the right

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A2.3 Southern external elevation of granary showing 20th century farm shed obscuring western gable to left

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A2.4 Upper granary storey from south-west showing enclosed stair with slatted door and evidence of grain bins with axial passage against eastern gable to right

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A2.5 Upper storey from east showing interior of western gable with evidence of grain bins to right & left

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A2.6 Detail of deal sliding window shutter to internal eastern gable of upper storey

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A2.7 Detail of ground-floor ceiling from west showing empty mortises in re-used 17th century binding joists

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A2.8 Interior of lower storey from eastern entrance showing blocked window in western elevation and boarded partition to stair and shed to right