

**Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service**

**The Granary,
Red House Farm,
Stradbroke, Suffolk
SBK 034**

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Archaeological Record

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**The Granary,
Red House Farm,
Fressingfield Road,
Stradbroke, Suffolk**

(TM 257 749)

An Archaeological Record

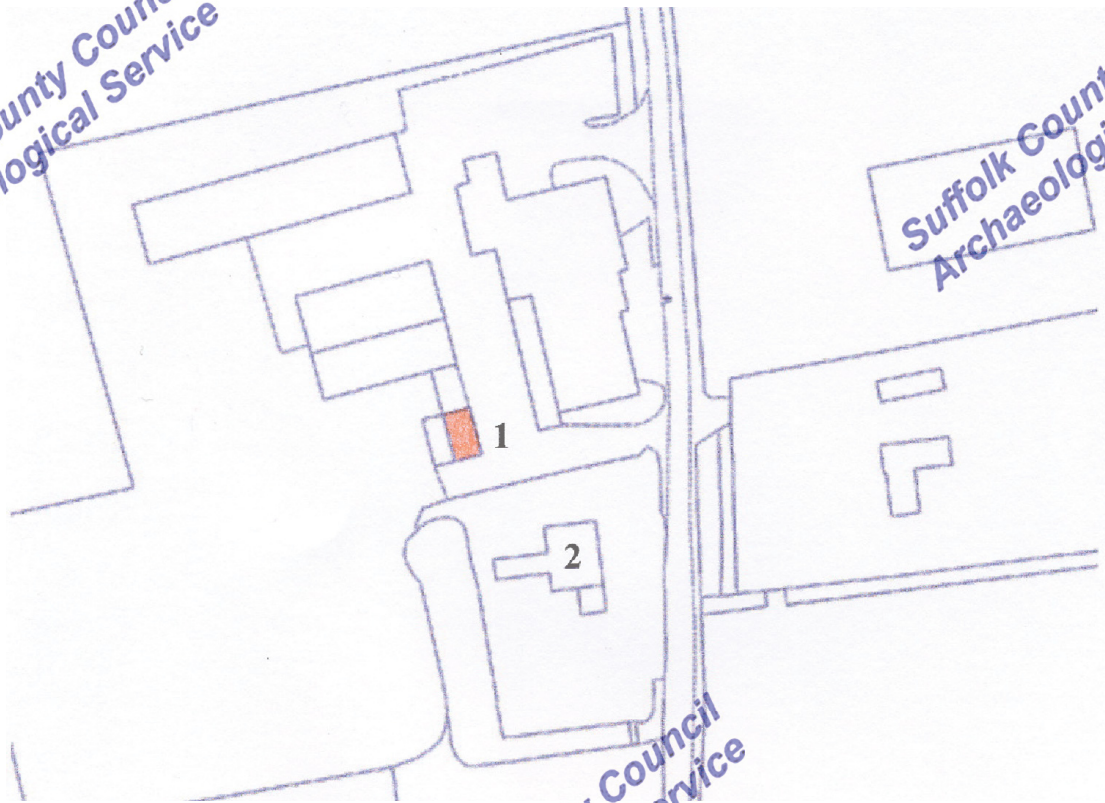
This report provides a written and photographic record at English Heritage (2006) Level 2 of a redundant granary adjacent to a moored farmhouse. It has been prepared to a brief written by the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Edward Martin, 2February 2009, Ref. SpecHBRRedHoFmStradbroke009) and is intended to fulfil a condition of planning permission for conversion (Mid Suffolk District Council application 3407/08).

Introduction

The report is accompanied by a CD containing a photographic record in the form of 26 digital images (Appendix 1) but also includes printed photographs of key features to illustrate the text (Appendix 2). Each image is separately described and wherever possible includes a scale rod with red and white half-metre divisions. The site was inspected on 29th March 2009.

Summary

Red House Farm lies in open arable countryside on the western side of the Fressingfield Road, approximately 2 km east of Stradbroke village. The unlisted farmhouse is ostensibly a red brick structure of the mid-19th century but lies within the remains of what appears to be a medieval moat. At the time of the tithe survey in 1841 it formed a modest tenanted farm with 79 acres. The granary is a red brick and pantiled structure which is shown on the Ordnance Survey of 1884 but not the tithe map of 1841 and is probably contemporary with the farmhouse. It represents a typical East Anglian example of its period, with an open-sided cart lodge on the ground floor (facing east towards the site entrance) and the remains on boarded grain bins on the first floor. The granary was originally reached in the usual manner by an external stair against the southern gable, but is now entered from within. The building is relatively well preserved, with evidence of original red and grey pigment to its timbers and three original louvered windows, each with the remains of vertically hinged internal shutters, but is not of sufficient age or rarity to merit listing.



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Figure 1

Existing Ordnance Survey Site Plan

Showing the granary (1) in red with the farmhouse (2) to the south-east. The remaining farm buildings to the north-east date chiefly from the 20th century. The site of the house is enclosed by a partial moat on the west and south.

Historic Context: Documentary & Cartographic Record

Red House Farm lies in open arable countryside on the western side of the Fressingfield Road, approximately 2 km east of Stradbroke village. The unlisted farmhouse is ostensibly a red brick structure of the mid-19th century but lies within the remains of what appears to be a medieval moat.

Figure 1 shows the site in 1841, as depicted on the Stradbroke tithe map. The rectangular predecessor of the present farmhouse is shown in red on the approximate site of its square replacement. A group of farm buildings in grey lies to the north of the site, but the granary had not yet been built and its position is occupied by a pond which may represent a continuation of the moat. The property formed a tenanted holding of respectable but modest proportions, with 79 acres of land owned by Thomas Sandcroft Holmes and occupied by Jonathan Davy (27% pasture and the rest arable). The farm site is described as ‘premises’ in the schedule which accompanies the map (plot 768) with Long Field to the north (769) and Corner Meadow to the south (767).

The site had been transformed by the time of the first edition Ordnance Survey in 1884, with a new farmhouse and the arrival of the granary. The eastern elevation of the latter is depicted by a broken line to indicate that it formed an open-sided cart lodge in the expected location for such buildings opposite the entrance to the yard. The single-storied shed to the north had also been built by 1884, and a structure of similar proportions is shown on the site of the existing 20th century block-work lean-to against the granary’s western elevation. The modern farm buildings against the road appear to be replacements of the 20th century.



Figure 2

Detail of the Stradbroke tithe map of 1841 (Suffolk Record Office) showing the previous farmhouse in red. The granary had not yet been built, and its site is occupied by a pond which may represent a continuation of the medieval moat.

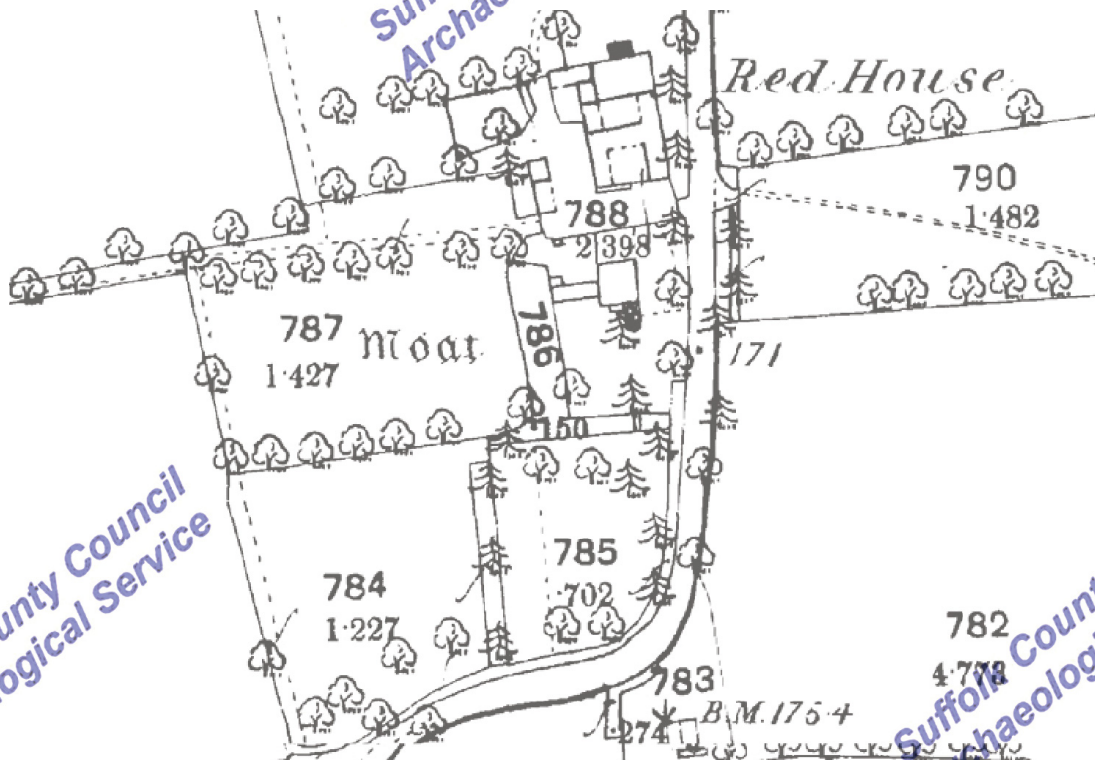


Figure 3

The first edition Ordnance Survey of 1884, showing the granary and the square outline of the present farmhouse for the first time

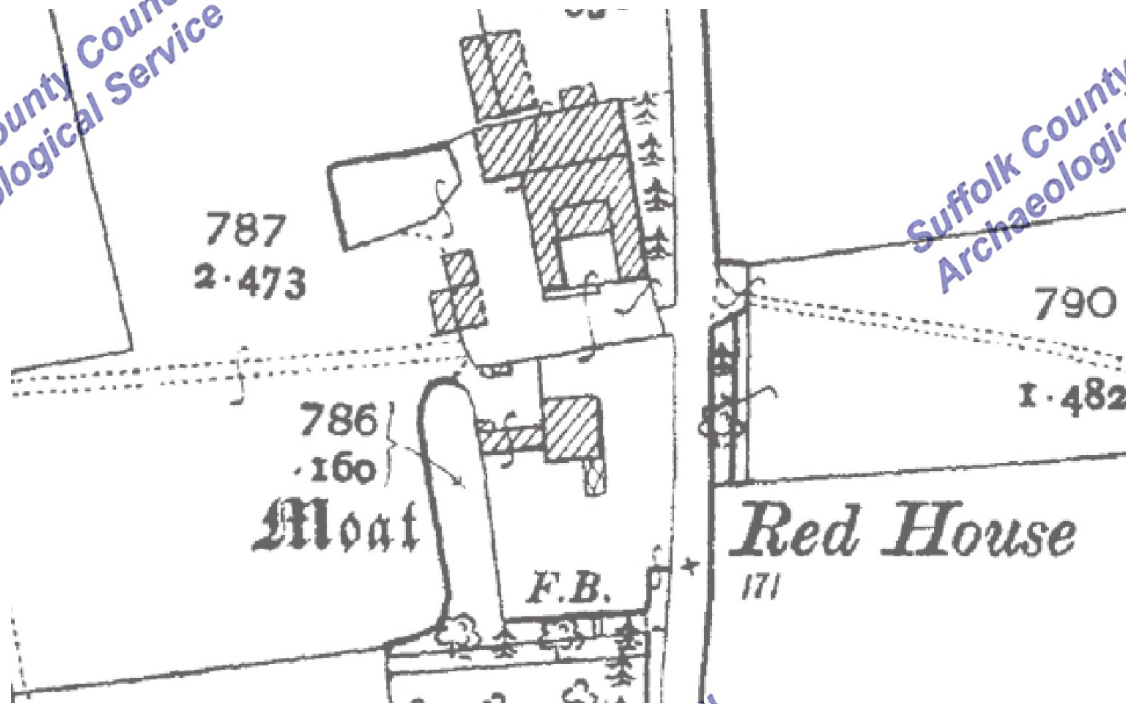


Figure 4

Second Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1904. The granary is shown as in 1884 with an open-sided eastern elevation and additional sheds to the north and west. Its location opposite the entrance to the site from the Fressingfield Road is typical of cart lodges with first-floor granaries.

Building Analysis

Proportions and Structure

The granary is a red brick structure of two storeys on a north-south axis with an open cart lodge on its lower storey and a grain floor above. The open arcade of the cart lodge faces east towards the entrance to the site from the Fressingfield Road, but was partly enclosed with block-work and doors to form cattle stalls during the mid-20th century. An iron hay basket against the rear internal elevation bears witness to this conversion. The building extends to 8.7 m in overall length by 5.8 m in width, and its walls rise to 4.5 at the eaves. The rear, western elevation and both gables are of 35 cm-thick Flemish-bond brickwork, but the eastern elevation consists only of weatherboarded studwork above its open lower storey. The softwood ceiling lies 2.5 m above ground level and consists of tall-sectioned common joists lodged on two binding joists with chamfered and pegged central Sampson posts. Fragments of original lime plaster keyed on reed survive on the soffits of the floorboards. The southern bay has been divided from the rest by a secondary boarded partition and a half-height block-work wall divides the two northern bays into a pair of stalls. The arcade posts and rails retain what is probably an original layer of light grey pigment beneath secondary tar, and the Sampson posts are reddled. The granary floor is now reached by a secondary internal stair against the southern gable, but was originally accessible only by an external door in the same gable in the usual manner. The granary is lit by two louvered windows in the western elevation and another in the northern gable, each retaining the fragmentary remains of boarded internal and vertically hinged shutters. The gable window is now blocked by a secondary single-storied 19th century brick shed. The remains of boarded grain bins lie against the eastern elevation and the butt-purlin roof structure retains its original whitewashed render beneath its pan-tiles. A lean-to wood shed of mid-20th century block-work adjoins the western elevation, but the late-19th century Ordnance Surveys suggest that a similar structure formerly occupied the same site.

Date and Historic Significance

The granary at Red House Farm is an unusually well-preserved example of a mid-19th century cart lodge and granary of typical East Anglian form. It appears on the Ordnance Survey of 1884 but not the tithe map of 1841 and was probably built in the 1850s or 1860s when many local farmyards were refurbished in response to the agricultural revolution of that period. The single-storied shed to the north is of similar construction but evidently post-dates the granary as it blocks the latter's gable window, and the building is probably contemporary with the new farmhouse. Although of considerable historic interest at a local level the structure is not of sufficient age or rarity to merit listing.

Appendix 1 (on accompanying CD): Full Photographic Record

Description of Photographs in Appendix 1

Photograph no.

1. General view of site from road to south, showing entrance to yard to left.
2. Entrance to yard from east, showing farmhouse to left and granary in rear to right.
3. General view of site from west showing house to right and granary in centre.
4. 20th century roadside sheds from south, showing yard entrance to left.
5. Eastern external elevation from east showing single-storied shed to right.
6. Eastern external elevation from north-east showing junction of granary and shed.
7. Detail of louvered window in northern external gable of granary from later single-storied shed.
8. Eastern external elevation from south-east.
9. Detail of northern half of eastern external elevation showing boarded first-floor granary.
10. Detail of northern half of eastern external elevation showing boarded first-floor granary.
11. Exterior from south-east showing granary door in southern gable.
12. External rear (western) elevation showing original window above blockwork lean-to.
13. Detail of original louvered window in western elevation of granary.
14. Northern bay of ground storey from east, showing northern gable to right.
15. Central bay of ground storey from east showing internal partition to stair to left.
16. Detail of original reddled central post beneath ground storey binding joist.
17. Detail of ground storey ceiling from south, showing post of open arcade to right.
18. Detail of ground storey ceiling showing original render to soffit of floorboards.
19. Detail of arcade post from north showing grey pigment.
20. Detail of arcade post from south showing secondary tar over grey pigment.
21. Secondary internal granary stair against southern gable, seen from north-east.
22. Interior of upper storey granary from south, showing boarded grain bins to right.

23. Interior of granary showing original gable entrance adjacent to existing stair trap.

24. Internal western elevation of granary showing original vertically hinged shutters.

25. Detail of boarded grain bins in north-eastern corner of granary.

26. Detail of original roof structure from south-west.

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

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A2.1 Entrance to yard from road to east, showing farmhouse to left and granary in rear to centre with 20th century farm sheds to right

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A2.2 Eastern external elevation of granary showing open arcade to ground floor and later single-storied shed to right

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A2.3 Exterior from south-east showing original granary door in southern gable

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A2.4 External rear (western) elevation showing farmhouse to right and original granary windows above 20th century blockwork lean-to

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A2.5 Detail of original louvered window in western external elevation of granary

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A2.6 Detail of softwood ground storey ceiling from south, showing post of open arcade to right

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A2.7 Interior of granary on upper storey from south, showing boarded grain bins to right and central window in northern gable blocked externally by secondary shed

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A2.8 Interior of granary showing original gable entrance door adjacent to existing internal stair trap