

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/234

**Hundon Hall Barn, Hundon
HUD 032**

HER Information

Planning Application No: SE/07/2013

Date of Fieldwork: 09/09/2009 and 17/09/2009

Grid Reference: TL 8053 5064

Funding Body: Foinaven Ltd

Curatorial Officer: Dr Jess Tipper

Project Officer: Rob Brooks

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

Summary

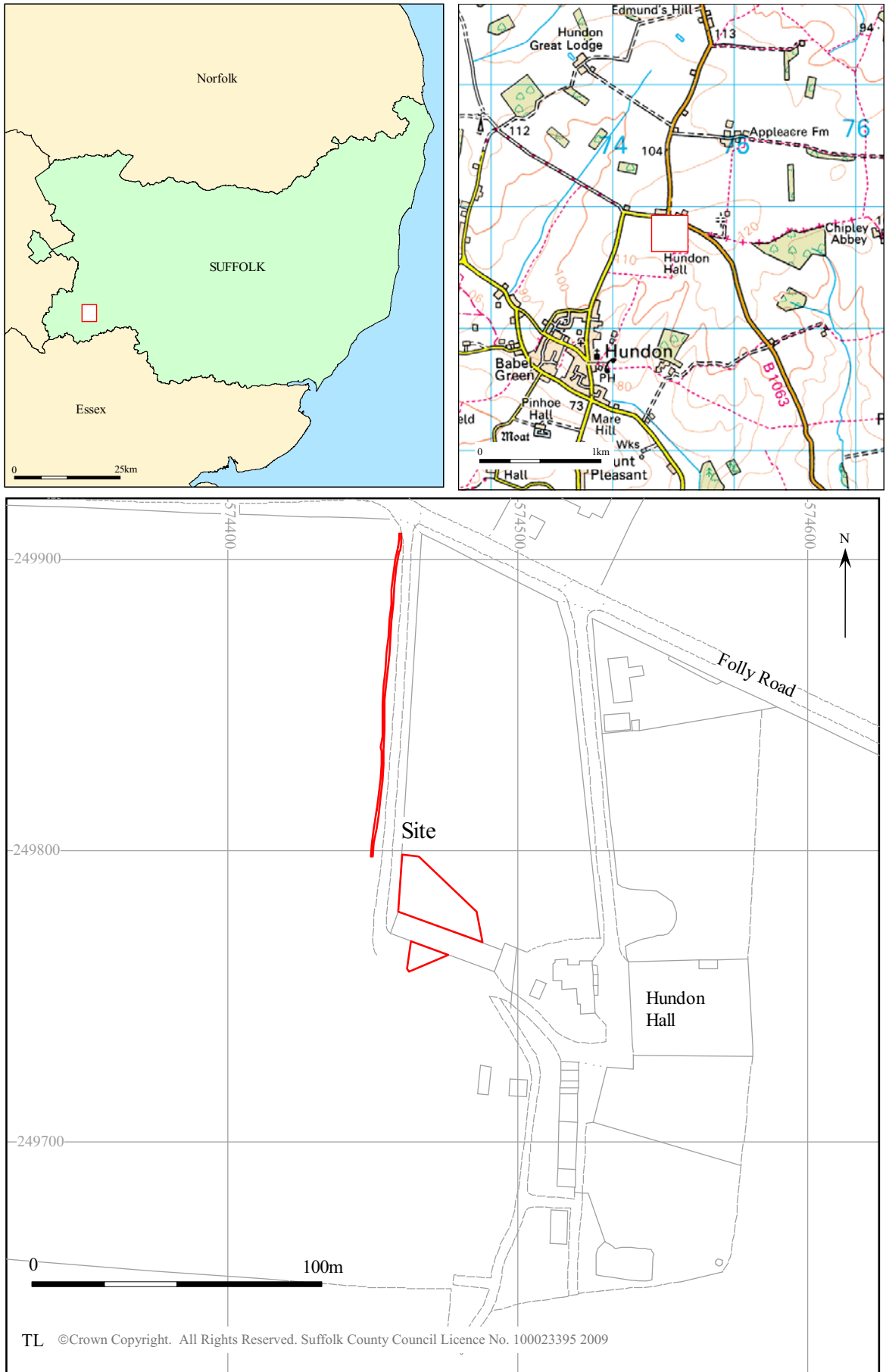
An archaeological monitoring was carried out on land to the north and south of Hundon Hall Barn, Hundon, Suffolk. Various footing trenches, service trenches, soak-aways and topsoil stripping revealed no identifiable archaeological features or finds. Although unclear, there appeared to only be shallow levels of disturbance, except in isolated areas.

1. Introduction and methodology

Six drain trenches, three soak-aways, one service trench and eight footing trenches were excavated at Hundon Hall Barn, Hundon on the north and south sides of the existing barn. A soil strip was also carried out around the area of the proposed car port to the north of the barn. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Dr. Jess Tipper, (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team). Foinaven Ltd funded the work that was carried out on the 9th and 17th September, 2009. The site was located at grid reference TL 8053 5064 (Fig. 1) and at 116-118m above the ordnance datum. An associated building recording project (OASIS reference suffolkc1-64641) was carried out by Leigh Alston on behalf of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service and is available online at: <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>, as a grey literature report (Alston, 2009).

The site itself is within the largest Domesday manor recorded in Suffolk, being part of the medieval estate of the Earls of Gloucester. The existing hall dates from the 16th and 17th century (ibid). As such, it was possible that any ground works might reveal Anglo-Saxon or medieval remains and a programme of monitoring was required.

All the trenches were visited either during or after excavation. They were plotted using a Real Time Kinematics GPS, or were planned from OS points and covered an area of c.665.8sqm. As no archaeology was revealed, measurements were made about the depths of the excavations and the geology that was revealed, but no sections were drawn. High resolution digital photographs were taken at 72 x 72dpi of various trenches and of the site in general. The high compaction of the clay natural and the disturbance from previous modern construction, drainage pipes and plant movement made it extremely difficult to interpret the results.



2. Results

(Figs. 2 and 3)

None of the trenches revealed any archaeological features or finds. A fairly consistent soil profile of c.0.3m of topsoil above greyish-yellow or greyish-orange boulder clay 0003 was revealed. Beneath this in the soak-aways mid-dark grey boulder clay 0004 was also revealed to depths of >2m.

At the time of the second site visit the area for the car port and store had been levelled by up to 0.6m in the north and 0.3m in the south. This was to compensate for the natural slope of the site. This meant that the topsoil had been completely removed in these trenches and 0003 truncated to differing levels.

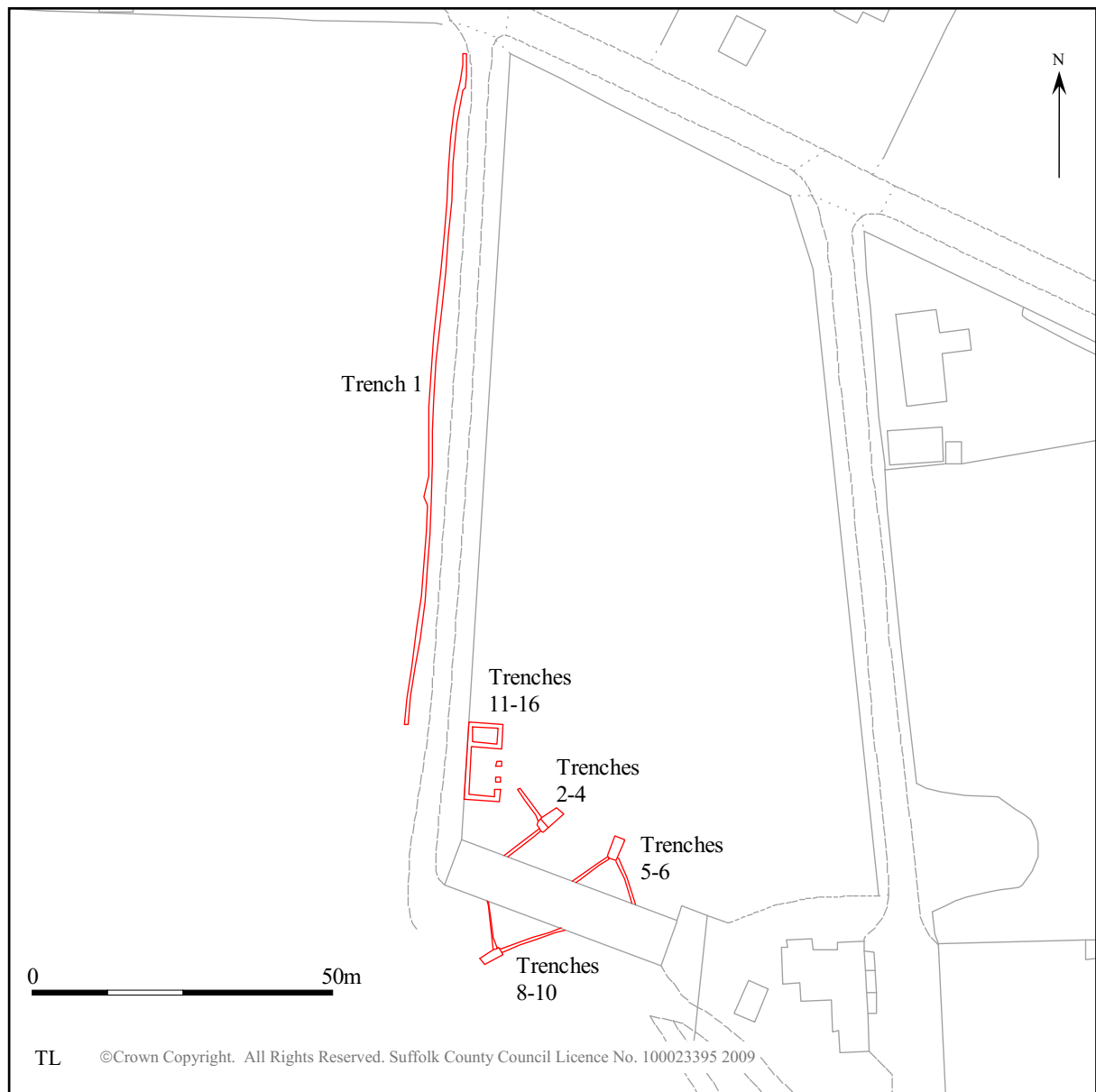


Figure 2. Site plan

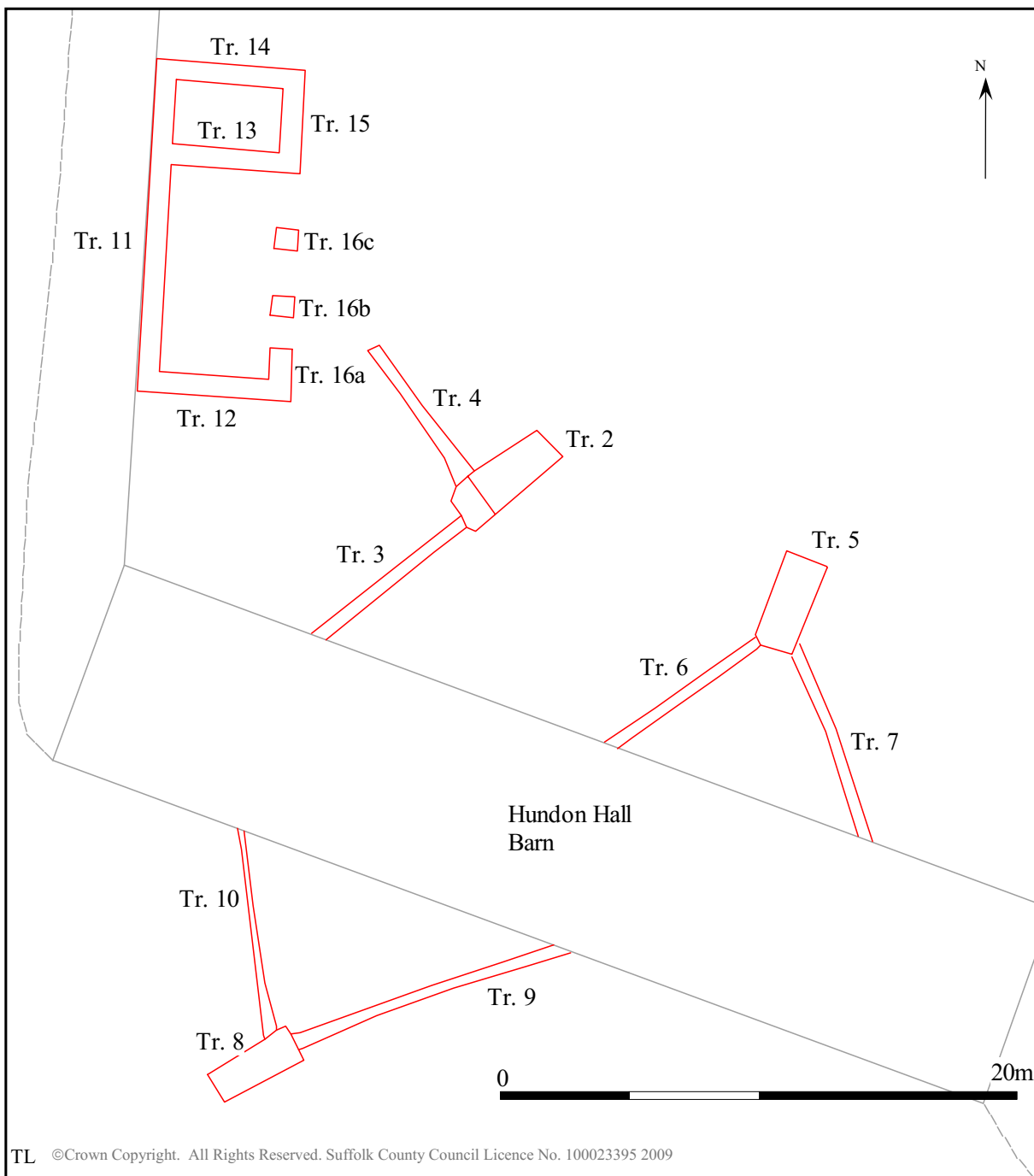


Figure 3. Trench plan

Trench	Length x width x depth	Description
1	111.4m x 0.45m x 0.75m	N-S aligned service trench running along west side of drive-way. 0.3m of topsoil 0002 above greyish orange clay natural. 2 areas of mid-dark brownish-grey clay revealed, but thought to definitely be geological.
2	4.25m x 1.5m x 2m	NE-SW aligned soak-away hole on north side of barn. C.0.1-3m of topsoil 0002, above c.0.6m of greyish-yellow clay 0003 with common chalk fragments. In places the concentration of chalk fragments becomes 50-80%. Below this layer is mid-dark grey clay with frequent chalk flecks and lumps. No archaeology was visible. A drain trench was visible in the south-east section, although its insertion trench was not visible.
5	3.7m x 1.5m x 2m	N-S aligned soak-away hole on north side of barn. This had the same soil profile as Soak-Away 2.
8	3.6m x 1.45m x 2m	SW-NE aligned soak-away hole on south side of barn. This had c.0.2-0.3m of topsoil 0002 mixed with brick dust and rubble. Below this was mixed greyish-yellow clay 0003 with patches of frequent chalk fragments.
3	7.3m x 0.4m x 0.85m	SW-NE aligned drain trench on north side of barn. Revealed topsoil 0002 at depths of c.0.2-3m, but this undulated heavily, suggesting disturbance. No clear cuts and any possible features all seemed to be associated with field drains and therefore to be modern.
4	6.2m x 0.4m x 0.6m	NW-SE aligned drain trench on north side of barn. This had the same soil profile as Drain Trench 3.
6	7.14m x 0.4m x 0.6m	SW-NE aligned drain trench on north side of barn. This had the same soil profile as Drain Trench 3.
7	8.16m x 0.4m x 0.6m	NW-SE aligned drain trench on north side of barn. This had the same soil profile as Drain Trench 3.
9	11.18m x 0.4m x 0.6m	SW-NE aligned drain trench on south side of barn. Revealed disturbed topsoil with brick dust and rubble to depths of c.0.2-0.3m above greyish-yellow clay.

Trench	Length x width x depth	Description
10	8.02m x 0.4m x 0.6m	NNW-SSE aligned drain trench on south side of barn. Revealed disturbed topsoil with brick dust and rubble to depths of c.0.2-0.3m above greyish-yellow clay.
11	12.85m x 0.8m x 0.6m-1m	N-S aligned footing trench on north side of barn for car port and store. 0.6m deep at south end x 1m deep at north end. The sections in this trench and the other footing trenches were covered with dust particles from the building work and were hard to clean due to the nature of the topsoil and clay subsoil.
12	5.95m x 0.8m x 1.0m	E-W aligned footing trench on north side of barn for car port and store. Emerges from south end of Trench 11 on east side.
13	5.75m x 0.8m x 0.7m	E-W aligned footing trench on north side of barn for car port and store. Emerges 8.8m up Trench 11 on east side.
14	5.75m x 0.8m x 0.6m	E-W aligned footing trench on north side of barn for car port and store. Emerges from north end of Trench 11 on east side.
15	4.05m x 0.8m x 0.7m	N-S aligned footing trench on north side of barn for car port and store. Joins together Trenches 13 and 14. Becomes gradually deeper towards south end.
16 A-C	See description x 0.8m x 0.6m	Three small lengths of footing trench that run north from the eastern end of Trench 12. 16A was 2m long and B and C were 0.8m long.

Table 1. Trench descriptions

Context	Description
0001	Unstratified finds. None were collected.
0002	Topsoil. Coarse, mid greyish-brown sandy, clayey material. Contained common small, sub-rounded chalk fragments. C.0.3m deep.
0003	Subsoil below 0002. Greyish-yellow or greyish-orange clay with common sub-rounded chalk fragments. Highly compacted. C.0.6m deep.
0004	Subsoil below 0003. Mid-dark brownish-grey boulder clay. Highly compacted. >1.1m deep.

Table 2. Context list

References

Alston, L., 2009, *Hundon Hall Barn, Hundon, Suffolk HUD 032 Historic Building Record*. Grey literature report, available at: <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

R. Brooks

November, 2009