The Caravan, Shrubland Sawmill Yard, Coddenham, Suffolk

Planning application: 2999/13 HER Ref: CDD 091

Archaeological Evaluation Report

(© John Newman BA MIFA, 2 Pearsons Place, Henley, Ipswich, IP6 0RA)

(April 2014)

(Tel: 01473 832896 Email: johnnewman2@btinternet.com)

Site details for HER

Name: The Caravan, Shrubland Sawmill Yard, Coddenham, Suffolk, IP6 0PP Clients: The Old Hall Estate Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC Planning application ref: 2999/13 Development: Erection of a single dwelling Date of fieldwork: 25 April, 2014 HER Ref: CDD 091 OASIS ref: johnnewm1-177294 Grid ref: TM 1206 5274

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Summary: Coddenham, The Caravan, Shrubland Sawmill Yard (CDD 091, TM 1206 5274) evaluation trenching for planned single dwelling development close to the eastern side of the small Roman town of Combretovium did not reveal any archaeological features and the few stray finds were of recent date (John Newman Archaeological Services for The Old Hall Estate).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Hollins Architects & Surveyors on behalf of their client, The Old Hall Estate, commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological evaluation works for a single new dwelling development at The Caravan site, Shrubland Sawmill Yard, Coddenham (see Fig. 1). The evaluation requirements were set out in a Brief, following the granting of planning application 2999/13, set by Ms J Plouviez of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS) with the aim of gaining a representative sample by trial trenching of the footprint area concerned. The Written Scheme of Investigation for the archaeological evaluation (see Appendix II) was subsequently prepared by JNAS in order to gain a conditional discharge and allow the trenching to go ahead before any other ground works were undertaken.

1.2 Coddenham parish is located on the northern side of the River Gipping some 5 miles north-west of Ipswich and is therefore close to a major river valley route-way that led from the nearby east coast with its Continental links through to the lands to the west. The major Roman road into northern East Anglia, The Pye Road or A140, also crosses the River Gipping in the south-western part of the parish c700m west of the Sawmill Yard and the Roman period small town of *Combretovium* is located close to this bridging point and communications focus.

1.3 The site for the planned new dwelling is located on the eastern side of The Old Norwich Road which runs in this area parallel and to the east of the River Gipping and just above its floodplain with this site being c400m north-east of the main channel. This site is therefore also above the floodplain and is close to the 15m OD contour in an area generally characterised by light, well drained soils derived from the local naturally occurring glaciofluvial sands with flints. At the time of the evaluation was largely soft ground with the plot occupied by a mobile home and other structures with superficial foundations on the northern edge of the Sawmill Yard.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this planned development was therefore generated by its proximity to the small Roman town of *Combretovium* which extends over a large and only partially defined area to the north-west of the Sawmill Yard.

2. Evaluation methodology

2.1 The area of the proposed residential development was trenched to a previously agreed plan (see Fig. 2) using a small 360 machine equipped with a 900mm flat bucket which was under archaeological supervision at all times with any indistinct areas being hand cleaned for better clarity.

2.2 The sides and base of the trench and the upcast spoil were examined visually and scanned with a metal detector for any finds and any indistinct areas or potential features were investigated by hand. Site visibility for features and finds is considered to have been good throughout the evaluation which was undertaken under initially damp and then slightly overcast conditions. At the end of the evaluation the location of the trench was plotted from nearby mapped features and as the evaluation progressed a full photographic record in digital format (see Appendix I) was taken of the trenching works.

3. Results

3.1 In this case the results are most easily summarised as in the table below as nothing of archaeological interest was revealed (see also Fig. 2 & Appendix I):

Orientation	Length (m)	Topsoil depth (mm)	Subsoil depth (mm)	Drift geology	Archaeological/ natural features & finds
North-east/ south-west	10m	300	200 at northern end grading to 500 at southern end of a mid brown sandy subsoil	Orange sand with small & medium flints	No features & only finds comprised one sherd (5g) of early/mid 20 th C pottery, a few small 19 th /earlier 20 th C tile & brick frags with only metal finds being a few .22 cartridge cases and iron nails of indeterminate date

Table 1: Trench details

3.2 As indicated in the table above no archaeological features or finds of any date were revealed during the evaluation with the depth of the trench increasing from 500mm at its northern end to 800mm at the southern end as the subsoil increased from being 200mm thick to 500mm below 300mm of topsoil. It was notable that the subsoil was clean and undisturbed. At the base of the trench the locally occurring natural glaciofluvial deposit proved to be free draining orange sand with small flints.

3.3 The only finds seen in the upcast spoil were a small sherd early/mid 20th century pottery and a few small fragments of brick and tile of 19th/20th century date with the few metal finds comprising .22 cartridge cases and iron nails of indeterminate date. All of these finds of recent date were from the topsoil and the upper part of the subsoil.

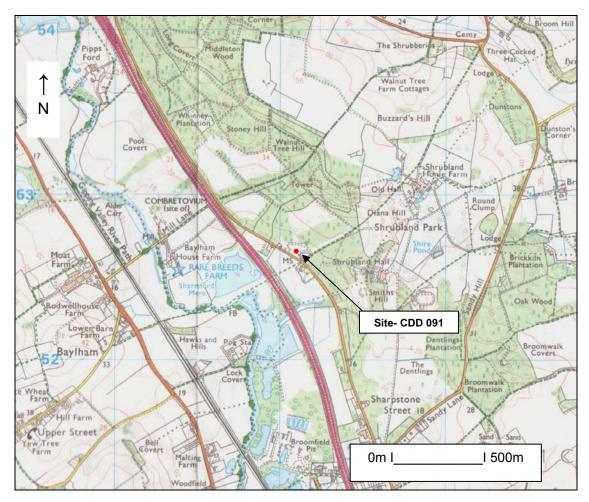
4. Conclusion

4.1 With such negative results regarding any significant evidence for past activity from a substantial sample of the proposed development footprint it can only be concluded that this site lies outside the Roman period settlement of *Combretovium* and while only a small area has been examined this is a useful addition to the local archaeological record.

4.2 Based on the evaluation results it is recommended that no further archaeological investigations need to be carried out on the proposed site of the new dwelling at The Caravan, Shrubland Sawmill Yard, Coddenham.

Archive- to be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the HER ref. CDD 091.

Disclaimer- any opinions regarding the need for further archaeological work in relation to this proposed development are those of the author's alone. Formal comment regarding the need for further work must be sought from the official Archaeological Advisors to the relevant Planning Authority.



(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Fraser Hall for his close cooperation, to James Armes for the metal detector search and to Martin Day for his skilled machine operation)

Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

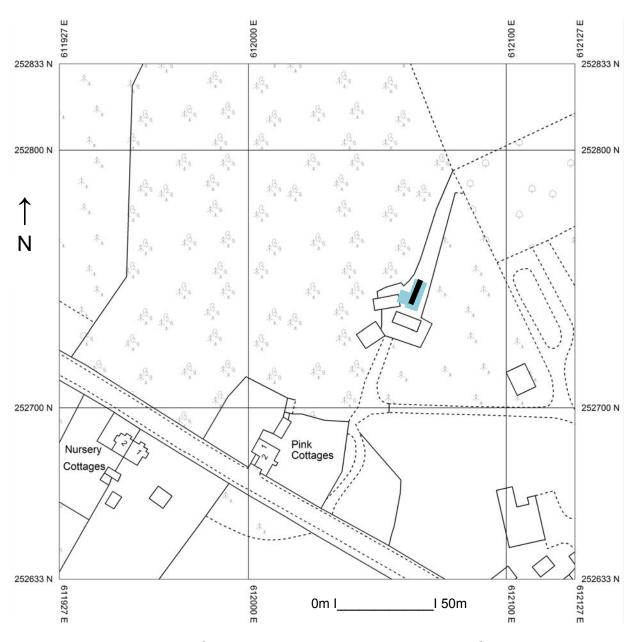


Fig.2: Location of evaluation trench (blue- new dwelling footprint) (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2014 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

Appendix I- Images



General view from north



Trench from south

Deposit profile

The Caravan, Sawmill Yard, Coddenham, Suffolk

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation

(© John Newman BA MIFA, 2 Pearsons Place, Henley, Ipswich, IP6 0RA) (Tel: 01473 832896 Email: johnnewman2@btinternet.com)

Site details

Name: The Caravan, Sawmill Yard, Coddenham, Suffolk

Client: The Old Hall Estate

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 2999/13

Proposed development: Erection of single dwelling

Proposed date for evaluation: tbc

Brief ref: 2014_02_05_SCCAS_Trenched Archaeological Evaluation_Coddenham Sawmill Yard Caravan

Grid ref: TM 1202 5268

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- 1. Introduction
- 2. Location, Topography & Geology
- 3. Archaeological & Historical Background
- 4. Aims of the Site Evaluation
- 5. Methodology
- 6. Risk Assessment
- 7. Specialists

Proposed location of trial trench

1. Introduction

1.1 Mr F Hall on behalf of The Old Hall Estate has commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological site evaluation for a proposed small scale residential development that has recently received consent to go ahead. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological requirements for planning application 2999/13, and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief for Archaeological Evaluation set by Ms J Plouviez of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS). The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This proposed development concerns the construction of a single dwelling on land at The Sawmill Yard, Coddenham.

1.2 The evaluation will be carried out to the standards set regionally in the *Standards* for Field Archaeology in the East of England (EAA Occ. Papers 14, 2003), locally in Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver. 1.1 (Suffolk CC) and nationally in Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (Institute for Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001).

2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 Coddenham parish is located on the northern side of the River Gipping some 5 miles north-west of Ipswich and is therefore close to a major river valley route-way that led from the nearby east coast with its Continental links through to the lands to the west. The major Roman road into northern East Anglia, The Pye Road or A140, also crosses the River Gipping in the south-western part of the parish and the Roman period small town of *Combretovium* is located close to this bridging point and communications focus.

2.2 The proposed development site (PDS) is located on the eastern side of The Old Norwich Road which runs in this area parallel and to the east of the River Gipping and just above its floodplain with the PDS being c400m from the main channel. The PDS is therefore also above the floodplain and is close to the 15m OD contour in an area generally characterised by light, well drained soils derived from the local naturally occurring glaciofluvial sands with flints and at present it is soft ground with the plot occupied by a mobile home and other structures with superficial foundations.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief 'This site lies in an area of archaeological potential recorded in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record, close to extensive areas of late Iron Age and Roman activity (CDD 017) on the north side of a Roman small town complex. Finds in the vicinity include a pottery kiln producing mortaria (CDD 081) and possibly also burials. There is high potential for important heritage assets to be located in this application area, which has not been subject to previous systematic archaeological investigation.' A site evaluation by trial trenching will therefore be required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost. The further recording of any archaeological deposits may involve excavation prior to ground works commencing or monitoring of the relevant ground works

4. Aims of the Site Evaluation

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the main archaeological potential relates to the site's location close to the previously recorded evidence for extensive Roman period activity. The aim of the evaluation is therefore to examine the specified sample of the proposed development area with an evaluation trench under controlled conditions so, if archaeological deposits are revealed they can be sampled and characterised. With this information a strategy can then be formulated for their possible preservation in situ or, failing that, the systematic recording of these deposits and the associated working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

5. Methodology

5.1 The proposed development is for a single dwelling on land at the western side of The Sawmill Yard, Old Norwich Road, Coddenham. The evaluation trenching will be in an area that is currently soft ground.

5.2 The Brief requires a single 1.8m wide trench to sample the PDS and a proposed trenching plan is included below which is designed to avoid disrupting the current use of the site. This will be undertaken using a 1.00m or 1.20m wide toothless ditching bucket on a suitably sized machine operated by an experienced driver with a trench plan as set out below. The machine will be closely supervised by an experienced archaeologist as the overburden is removed in shallow spits to the top of any archaeological deposits that are present, where hand investigation will start, or to expose the underlying drift geology which will be further hand cleaned and examined. The spoil will be stored adjacent to the excavated trench with top and sub soil kept separate to allow for subsequent sequential backfilling. No trenches will be backfilled until the relevant officer at SCCAS has been consulted and should any modification to the trench layout be required due to any unforeseen circumstances,

such as local services, then SCCAS will be contacted immediately. A metal detector search will be carried out by an experienced operator at all stages of the evaluation. The up cast spoil will also be closely examined for unstratified artefacts as evidence for past activity in rural areas in particular is often as evident via artefact scatters as by undisturbed archaeological deposits.

5.3 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of contexts under an overall site HER number obtained from the Suffolk CC HER beforehand. All contexts will be numbered and finds recorded by context. Conventions compatible with the county HER will be used throughout the monitoring. Site plans will be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate and sections at 1:10 or 1:20 (all on plastic drawing film) and related to OS map cover. Sections will be levelled to a datum OD. A photographic record of high resolution digital images will be made of the site and exposed features.

5.4 As necessary and to define archaeological deposits exposed surfaces will be trowelled clean before appropriate hand investigation and recording. Exposed archaeological features will be sampled at standard levels with care being taken to cause minimum disturbance to the site consistent with evaluation to a level adequate to properly form a subsequent mitigation strategy. Significant features such as solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post holes (where fills are sampled) will have their integrity maintained (and during backfilling). Otherwise for discrete, contained, features, sampling will be at 50%- possibly rising to 100% if requested, and 1m wide sampling slots across linear features. If human burial evidence is revealed the SCCAS Officer will be informed and the clear presumption must be to preserve such remains in situ with minimum disturbance during this evaluation stage. If this is not possible then a Ministry of Justice licence will be obtained prior to full on site recording (total 100% sampling if a cremation deposit) and removal of the remains followed by examination by the relevant specialist and possibly scientific dating. If human remains do have to be recorded, removed from site and reported on then these works will add an additional cost to the evaluation works which may involve radiocarbon dating (in this case the likelihood of revealing human burial is assessed as being medium at this location as burials may often be scattered across Roman period rural settlement areas).

5.5 All finds will be collected and processed unless any variation is agreed with the relevant SCCAS Officer. Finds will be assessed by recognised period specialists and their interpretation will form an integral part of the overall report. Finds will be stored according to ICON guidelines with specialist advice/treatment sought for fragile ones. Every effort will be made to gain the deposit of the site finds to the SCCAS Store under their relevant HER code and site numbering for future reference. If this is not possible then the SCCAS Officer will be consulted over any requirements for additional recording (which may have an additional cost implication). Any discard policy will be discussed and agreed with the relevant SCCAS Officer.

5.6 Where appropriate palaeoenvironmental samples will be taken for processing and assessment by a specialist conversant with regional archaeological standards and research agendas. The sampling, processing and assessment will follow the guidelines as detailed in A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis (Murphy P L & Wiltshire P E J, 1994). In accordance with standard practice bulk samples of 40 litres (or 100% of the deposit where less) will be taken from a representative cross section of archaeological deposits of all periods (respecting defined fills within features), in consultation with the relevant SCCAS Officer (and RSA if the deposits merit more targeted advice) including deposits that cannot be immediately dated by their artefact content, so the state of preservation and full archaeological and palaeoenvironmental potential of the deposits can be assessed and any further sampling, should further field work take place, be systematically planned and fully costed. Archaeological deposits of all types may reveal valuable data through the processing and assessment of samples with high priority features including the primary fills of pits, wells and cesspits, layers of middens, occupation surfaces and structural features as well as other discrete activity areas, contents of hearths, ovens, and other craft related or industrial structures. In addition more generalised settlement and land use features such as ditches may also yield valuable and informative data when sampling is undertaken systematically as the sum of all the assessment results can add considerably to the interpretation of a site and its landscape. Through an integrated study of all the data recovered from the evaluation the results from the assessment of the samples will be reviewed in terms of:

- What is the quality and state of preservation of charred plant remains, mineralised plant and animal related remains, small vertebrates and industrial residues such as evidence for iron working (contributing to the fullest interpretation of the evaluation results and to aid the planning of any further field work- <u>if any RC dates are required on should features containing suitable</u> <u>material but no easily dateable finds then this will incur an additional cost</u>.
- What is the concentration of macro-remains (to inform sampling strategy in any further field work), in particular how might bulk sampling inform the interpretation of burial deposits.
- Can any patterning or similarities/differences be ascertained between deposits from different periods represented on site, similarly can any useful comparisons be made with undated and unphased deposits (to aid interpretation of the evaluation results and help in the study of undated deposits which may otherwise be overlooked and which may via sampling yield material for RC dating)
- Do waterlogged deposits exist on site, if so is there potential for palaeoenvironmental data from preserved insects or pollen and do such deposits contain organic material suitable for RC dating from samples taken

as advised by the relevant soil specialist (who would also coordinate the assessment for pollen and insect remains), the RSA will also be consulted in such cases in conjunction with the relevant SCCAS Officer. Incremental column samples will be taken should waterlogged deposits be revealed in close consultation with the evaluation soils specialist with 10-20 litre sample sizes which will be sub-sampled for preserved pollen, insects, diatoms, preserved parasite eggs etc. If waterlogged wood is encountered it will ideal to leave in situ, if it has to be lifted it will be packed while wet in black polythene and stored at 5C until it can be transferred to a specialist for species identification, assessment and potential for RC dating is undertaken (examination of the topographic location of the site indicates that the presence of waterlogged deposits is unlikely unless deep features are revealed).

 Deep blanket type deposits resulting from both natural and human derived actions and events can yield valuable land use and palaeoenvironmental information. In particular such deposits can form at the base of a slope, if located in the evaluation the relevant SCCAS Officer and RSA will be consulted over monolith sampling and assessment by the relevant evaluation specialist (the composition of such deposits may give information on past land use in the area through a study of the soil matrix notwithstanding additional data if it is waterlogged)

5.7 An archive of all records and finds will be prepared consistent with the principles in *Management of Archaeological projects* (MAP2, and particularly Appendix 3). This archive will be deposited with the Suffolk CC HER within 3 months of working finishing on site under the relevant HER number and following the guidelines outlined in '*Deposition of Archaeological Archives in Suffolk*' (SCCAS Conservation Team 2008). As necessary the site digital archive will deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) within the agreed allowance for the monitoring and reporting works.

5.8 The evaluation report will be consistent with the principles of MAP2 (particularly Appendix 3.1 & Appendix 4.1) and this report will summarise the methodology employed and relate the archaeological record directly to the aims of this WSI and section 4 above in particular. The report will give an objective account of the deposits and stratigraphy recorded and finds recovered with an inventory of the latter. The report will include an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features in relation to both dated and undated features and in terms of patterning across the site.

5.9 Any interpretation of the evaluation will be clearly separated from the objective account of the evaluation and its results and the results will be discussed with the relevant SCCAS Officer at an early stage in the reporting process following reporting on the day of the immediately apparent conclusions. The report will give a clear statement regarding the results of the site evaluation in relation to both the more

detailed aims in section 4 above and their significance in the context of local HER records and of the Regional Research Framework (EAA Occ. Papers 3, 8 & 24, 1997, 2000 & 2011). There will be no further work on site until the evaluation results have been assessed and the SCCAS Officer has considered whether further archaeological works are required if this application receives consent. The report may give an opinion regarding the necessity for further evaluation work as appropriate. A draft copy of the report will be presented to SCCAS following completion of the site works. Once accepted a bound hard copy will be provided for the County HER with a digital version on disc. As required the site evaluation will be registered on the OASIS online archaeological record followed by submission of the final draft in .pdf format. An HER summary sheet will be completed and a summary prepared of any positive results for inclusion in the annual PSIAH round-up. A vector plan of the trench locations will be provided in .dxf format for inclusion in the County HER.

6. Risk Assessment

6.1 Protective clothing will be worn on site (hard hat, high visibility vest/coat, steeltoe cap boots, and ear muffs if required). A safe working method will be agreed with the machine operator for excavation of the trenches and examination of the up cast spoil while at the same time allowing efficient use of plant. Suitable clothing will be available to mitigate against extremes of weather.

6.2 Vehicles will be safely parked away from work areas and lines of access.

6.3 Discussion with the client has already confirmed that there is no known, or likely, ground contamination. No overhead services impinge on the trench locations. Gloves and hand wash/wipes be available and any information on possible ground contamination revealed during the evaluation will be passed to finds and environmental specialists.

6.4 A fully charged mobile phone will be carried and a first aid kit will be taken to site.

6.5 It is unlikely that any trench plus excavated feature depth will go below c1/1.3m from the present ground level. If any excavations need to go deeper measures such as stepping in the sides will be employed.

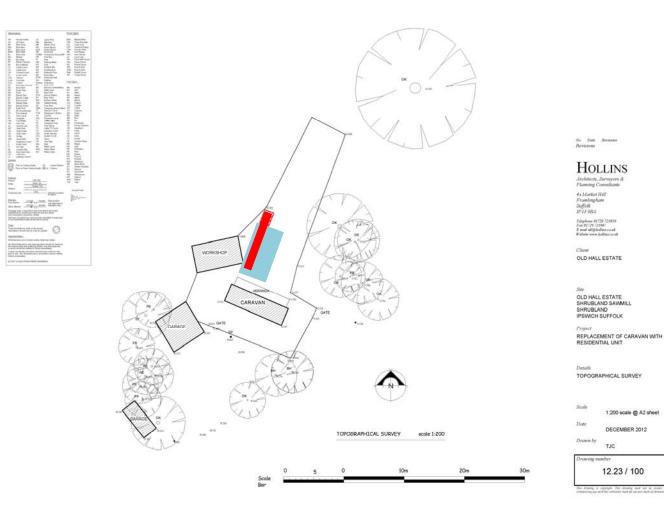
6.6 JNAS holds full insurance cover for archaeological site works from the specialist provider Towergate Risk Solutions covering Public & Products Liability, details can be supplied on request.

7. Specialists

Conservation:	Conservation Services
Faunal remains:	J Curl (Sylvanus Archaeology)
Human remains:	S Anderson (Freelance)

John Newman Archaeological Services

Metal detecting:	J Armes (experienced freelance)
Palaeoenvironmental samples:	V Fryer (Freelance)
Soils specialist	R Macphail (UCL)
Pre-historic flint:	C Pendleton (Freelance)
Pre-historic pottery:	S Percival (Freelance)
Post Roman ceramics & CBM:	S Anderson (Freelance)
Roman period small finds:	N Crummy (Freelance)
Roman period ceramics:	S Benfield (CAT)
Medieval coins:	M Allen (Fitzwilliam Museum)
Post Roman small finds:	JNAS



Proposed dwelling footprint- light blue (trench 10m x 1.80m)

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

List of Projects | Manage Projects | Search Projects | New project | Change your details | HER coverage | Change country | Log out

Printable version

OASIS ID: johnnewm1-177294

Project details

Project name	Sawmill Yard, Old Norwich Road, Coddenham, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation Report
Short description of the project	Coddenham, The Caravan, Shrubland Sawmill Yard (CDD 091, TM 1206 5274) evaluation trenching for planned single dwelling development close to the eastern side of the small Roman town of Combretovium did not reveal any archaeological features and the few stray finds were of recent date.
Project dates	Start: 25-04-2014 End: 25-04-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	2999/13 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	CDD 091 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK CODDENHAM SAWMILL YARD, OLD NORWICH ROAD
Study area	120.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	

	TM 1206 5274 52.1316824781 1.09875563506 52 07 54 N 001 05 55 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 15.00m Max: 16.00m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	John Newman Archaeological Services
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	John Newman
Project director/manager	John Newman
Project supervisor	John Newman
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Report"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	The Caravan, Sawmill Yard, Shrubland Park, Coddenham, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Newman, J
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	John Newman Archaeological Services
Place of issue or publication	Henlet, Suffolk
Description	Loose bound client report
Entered by	John Newman (johnnewman2@btinternet.com)
Entered on	30 April 2014