

**Old Hall Estate, Needham Road,
Coddendam, Suffolk**

Planning application: 1586/17

HER Ref: CDD 099

Archaeological Trenching Report

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

(April 2018)

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Site details for HER

Name: Old Hall Estate, Needham Road, Coddendam, Suffolk, IP6 9TZ

Client: Old Hall Estate

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 1586/17

Development: Erection of agricultural building with hardstanding

Date of fieldwork: 9 April, 2018

HER ref: CDD 099

OASIS: johnnewm1-312974

Grid ref: TM 1274 5376

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Summary: Coddendam, Old Hall Estate, Needham Road (CDD 099, TM 1274 5376) while specified as an evaluation an agricultural building with an area of hardstanding was constructed prior to any archaeological investigation. Therefore four trenches were excavated around the perimeter of this development. This trenching revealed one large pit, which could have been excavated to extract chalk of possible Roman date as the only finds recovered were three small pottery sherds of this date although these sherds could have been residual finds. Three of the four trenches were blank and a metal detector search of the site only recovered a small number of finds of later Post medieval date (John Newman Archaeological Services for Old Hall Estate).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Hollins Architects and Surveyors commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological trenching required under a condition for a programme of archaeological works of the planning decision notice for application 1586/17. This application covers the construction of a large agricultural building with associated hardstanding at a site just off and to the south of Needham Road, Coddenham (see Fig. 1). On advice from Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS) a condition for an archaeological programme of works commencing with a site evaluation was included in the relevant planning decision notice. However construction works were started and largely completed on site without an evaluation being carried out and therefore it was agreed with Ms F Minter of SCCAS that this situation could be ameliorated by opening a series of evaluation type trenches (see Appendix II) around the perimeter of the development to assess the archaeological potential of this site.

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 (Margary 3d), also crosses the River Gipping in the south-western part of the parish c1900m south-west of this development site and the Roman period small town of *Combretovium* is located close to this bridging point and communications focus. A minor Roman period road (Margary 34b) on a north-east to south-west alignment also runs through the area just to the west of this development site heading towards *Combretovium* though its exact line in this area is uncertain. The site is 700m south-west of the parish church and the historic core of the village.

1.3 The British Geological Survey describes superficial deposits at the site as being chalky till with outwash sands and gravels of the Lowestoft Formation. Topographically the area of this site slopes down with a moderate gradient from south down to the north towards a small stream some 300m to the north with the site being at 34m OD.

1.4 Archaeological interest in this development was generated by its location close to recorded areas (see Fig. 1) where evidence of Roman and Saxon date activity has been recorded (HER CDD 026 & 028) and cropmark evidence for an enclosure of uncertain date (HER CDD 088). The valley of the small stream to the north has also yielded extensive evidence to the north-west for past activity of Saxon date in particular.

2. Trenching methodology

2.1 As outlined above following consultation with Ms F Minter of SCCAS it was agreed that evaluation type trenches should be excavated in areas around the new building which had not been disturbed. This was carried out using a large 360

machine equipped with an 1800mm wide flat bucket. The trenches were then examined for any potential archaeological features and any indistinct areas were further cleaned by hand. A metal detector search was undertaken throughout the trenching. The four trenches were recorded in relation to nearby mapped features and a small number of digital images were taken (see Appendix I). The construction of this agricultural building and hardstanding had involved extensive ground reduction into the natural slope with the excavated material being deposited around the site. Due to this raising of some adjacent ground levels a planned trench on the eastern side of the area was not opened and another trench to the south-west was abandoned when it became clear that the redeposited material in this area had a depth in excess of 1.20m.

2.2 The single feature of any potential significance was in trench 1 (0002) and was initially examined by hand once the upper 600mm of trench material had been stepped back. However due to the size and depth of this feature it was finally excavated mechanically with its spoil being put to one side for examination.

3. Results

3.1 In summary the results from the single evaluation trench are summarised in Table 1 below (in addition see Fig. 2 and Appendix- Images).

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Topsoil (mm)	Subsoil (mm)	Drift geology	Archaeological features and finds
1	Northwest-southwest	30	250-400 (redeposited)	200 mid brown sandy subsoil under 400-600 of redeposited clay	Very silty orange sand with pockets of chalk	One large feature, 0002, initially hand excavated then finished by machine, 3m across, 1500mm deep below 1000mm of top and subsoil, clean mid brown sandy fill 0003, over an area of chalk deposit
2	Northwest-southeast	20	350	250 mid brown silty sand	Very silty orange sand	No features or finds
3	Northwest-southeast	24	350	250 as T2	As T2	No features or finds
4	Northeast-southwest	30	250	250 as T2	As T2 plus pockets of degraded chalk	Two late Pmed ceramic field drains
		104 (187m ²)	250-400	200-250		One probable quarry type pit of ?Roman date

Table 1: Trench details

3.2 As outlined above trenches 2, 3 and 4 did not reveal any features except two later Post medieval ceramic field drains in trench 4 with the overall depth of these trenches being 500mm to 600mm above a very silty orange sand glaciofluvial natural deposit.

3.3 Trench 1 did reveal one large cut feature (see Fig. 3) which was initially identified as a large ditch but later hand and machine excavation suggests that it is a large quarry pit (0002) some 3000mm in width with a rounded profile 1500mm deep below 1000mm of partly re-deposited top and subsoil and with a clean mid brown sandy fill (0003) that contained few finds save 3 small Roman period grey ware pottery sherds (wt. 12g). As a probable quarry type pit it is interesting to note that this feature (0002) in trench 1 was over an area of degraded chalk in an area where the natural glaciofluvial deposit is largely very silty orange sand.

3.4 A thorough metal detector search of the upcast spoil and the area around the new building recovered very little with the earliest datable finds being a very worn 18th century halfpenny and a worn Victorian 6d 1872 coin plus a few non-ferrous fragments including a late Post medieval sheet metal copper alloy thimble.

4. Conclusion

4.1 While this site is close to extensive evidence for past activity of Roman and Anglo-Saxon date in particular the trenching carried out suggests that the construction of the new agricultural building has not disturbed significant archaeological deposits. With evidence of just one probable quarry type pit (0002) of Roman, or possible post-Roman, date it appears that this development area was peripheral to nearby more intense areas of past activity.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful Andrew the machine operator and to James Armes and Keith Lewis for the detector search at the site and Sue Holden for her illustration work)

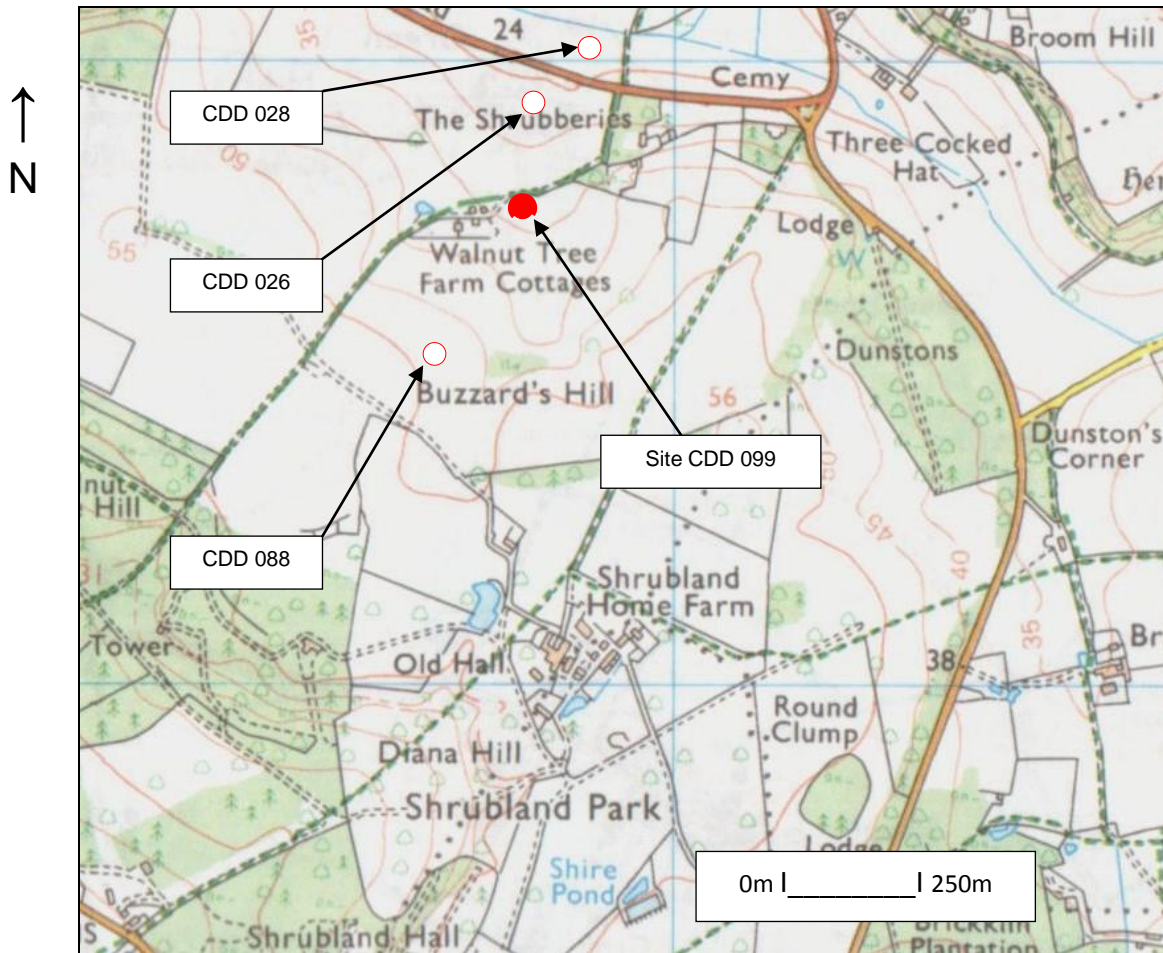


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006
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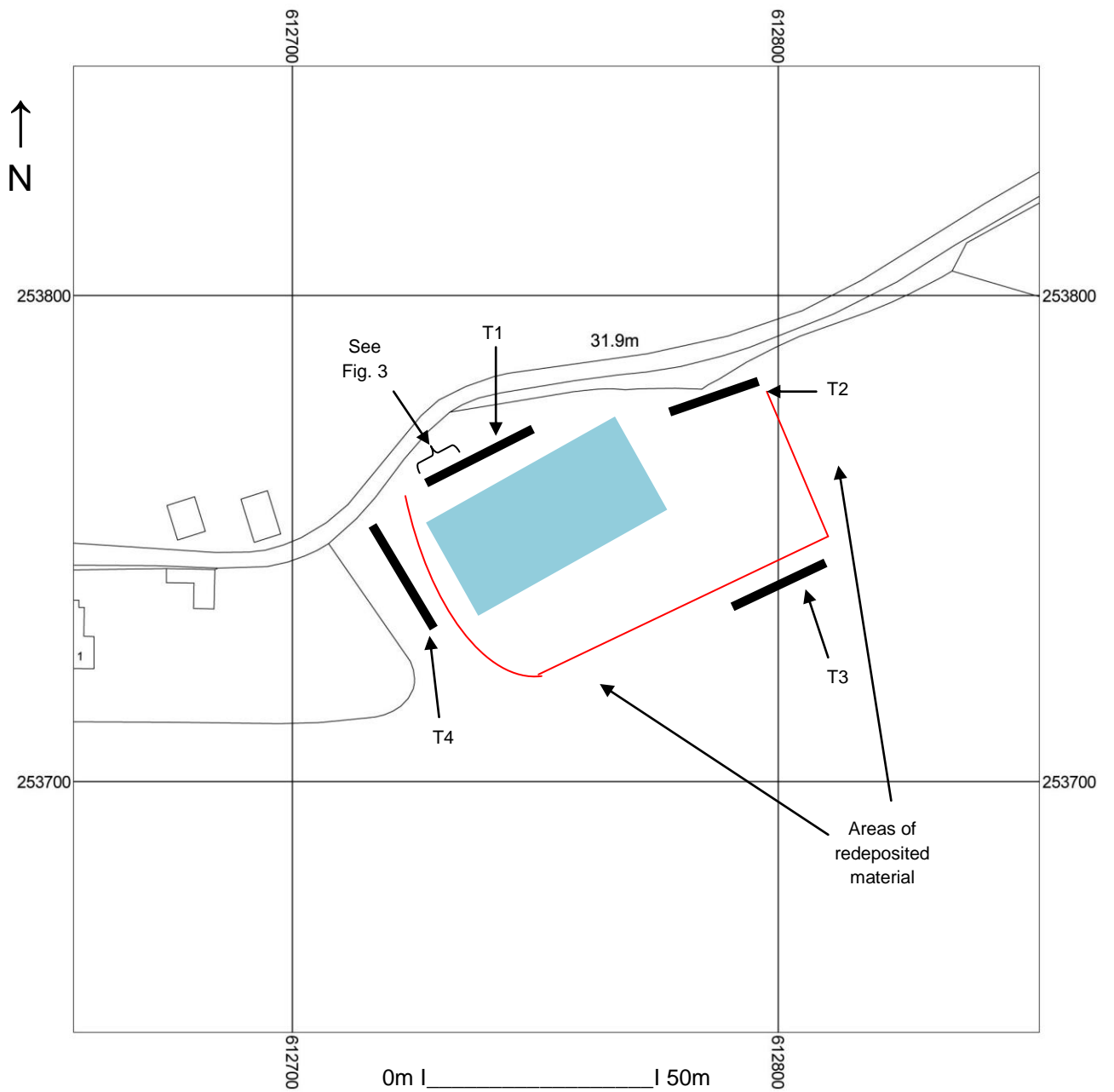


Fig. 2: Location of trenches (light blue- new building, red- area of ground reduction)
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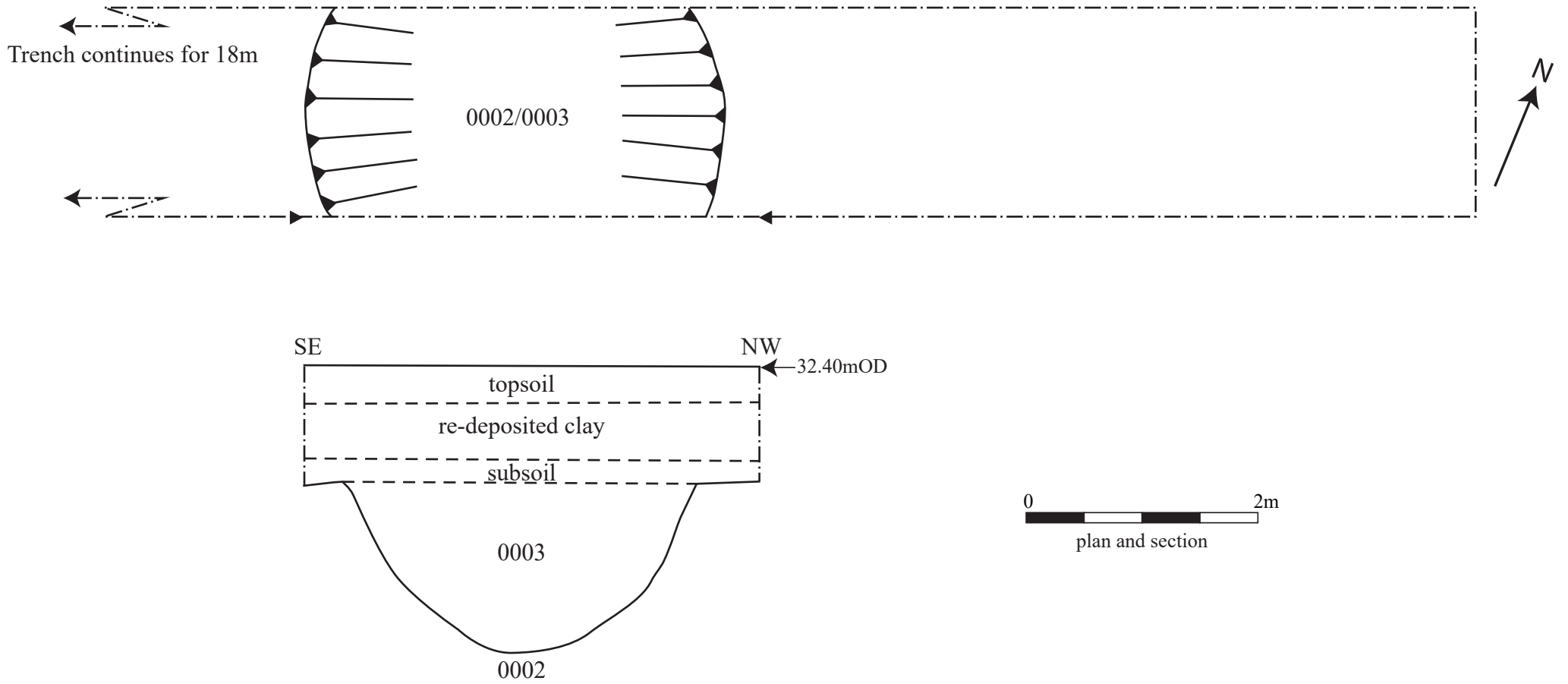


Fig. 3: Trench 1 plan and section.

Appendix I- Images



General view from east



Trench 1 from east



Pit 0002 in trench 1 from north with redeposited clay layer above probable quarry pit



Trench 2 from west



Trench 2 deposit profile



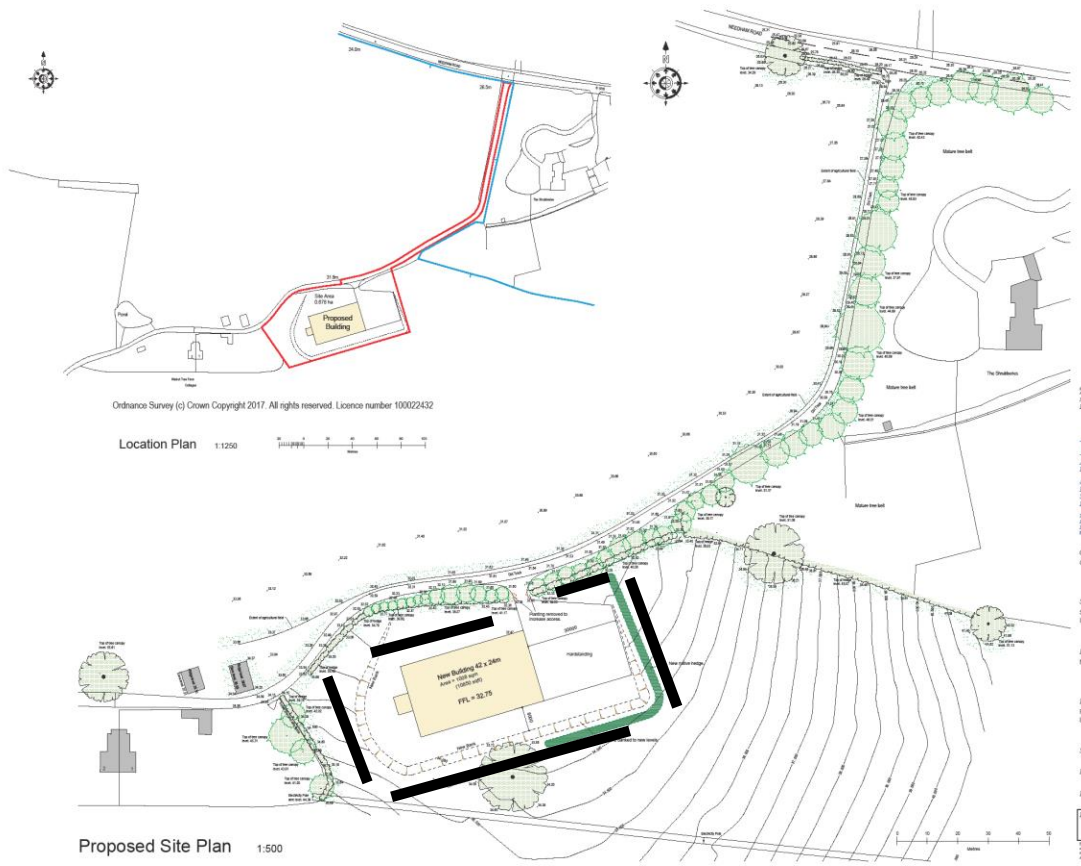
Trench 3 from east



Trench 3 deposit profile



Trench 4 from south



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Location Plan 1:1250

Proposed Site Plan 1:500

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Client
 OLD HALL ESTATE

Site
 SHIRELAND
 SPINWICH

Project
 NEW GRAN STORE

Details
 PROPOSED SITE PLAN &
 LOCATION PLAN

Scale
 1:500 1:1250 @ A1
 Date
 FEBRUARY 2017
 Drawn by
 PJT

Drawing number
1701 2 B

OASIS ID: johnnewm1-312974

Project details

Project name	Old Hall Estate, Needham Road, Coddendam, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation Report
Short description of the project	Coddendam, Old Hall Estate, Needham Road (CDD 099, TM 1274 5376) while specified as an evaluation an agricultural building with an area of hardstanding was constructed prior to any archaeological investigation. Therefore four trenches were excavated around the perimeter of this development. This trenching revealed one large pit, which could have been excavated to extract chalk of possible Roman date as the only finds recovered were three small pottery sherds of this date although these sherds could have been residual finds. Three of the four trenches were blank and a metal detector search of the site only recovered a small number of finds of later Post medieval date.
Project dates	Start: 09-04-2018 End: 09-04-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	CDD 099 - Related HER No.
Any associated project reference codes	1586/17 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	QUARRY PIT Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	COIN Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Rural commercial
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 OLD HALL ESTATE, NEEDHAM ROAD
Postcode	IP6 9TZ

Study area	6000 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 1274 5376 52.140577443921 1.109314610518 52 08 26 N 001 06 33 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 29m Max: 30m
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 recipient	Landowner
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Metal"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
Paper Contents	"Ceramics","Metal"
Paper Media available	"Plan","Report","Section"
Project bibliography	
	1
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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