

**Staverton Caravan Park, Fenn Row,  
Wantisden, Suffolk**

**Planning application: DC/16/5009/FUL**

**HER Ref: WNN 052**

**Archaeological Monitoring Report**

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

(June 2019)

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

## **Site details for HER**

Name: Staverton Caravan Park, Fenn Row, Wantisden, Suffolk, IP12 3PJ

Client: Ms K Barker

Local planning authority: East Suffolk

Planning application ref: DC/16/5009/FUL

Development: Use of land for stationing up to 30 holiday lodges

Date of fieldwork: 15 April, 2019

HER ref: WNN 052

OASIS: johnnewm1-348592

Grid ref: TM 3540 5152

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*Summary: Wantisden, Fenn Row caravan park (WNN 052, TM 3540 5152) monitoring of ground works for service trenches and a plant pit did not reveal any archaeological features or finds though the degree of disturbance was minimal given the size of the site (John Newman Archaeological Services for Ms K Barker).*

## 1. Introduction & background

1.1 Hollins Architects and Surveyors client Ms K Barker commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological monitoring of ground works required under a condition for a programme of archaeological works of the planning decision notice for application DC/16/5009/FUL. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief set by Mr J Rolfe of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy this condition and in response JNAS produced the relevant Written Scheme of Investigation (see Appendix II) in order that conditional discharge could be gained from the LPA and ground works commence on site. This development concerns the creation of site for the stationing of up to 30 holiday lodges with associated services (see Fig. 1).

1.2 Wantisden parish is located some 5 miles north east of Woodbridge close to the coast in that part of Suffolk known as The Sandlings; a name derived from the light soils of the area that historically gave rise to extensive areas of heath land. As indicated the local drift geology is made up largely of well drained sands and gravels (deep sands of the Newport Series 20 with extensive areas distant from easily accessible water sources) giving rise to a dispersed settlement pattern scattered across various relatively large parishes. Within this settlement pattern separated by large areas of former heath land small village centres grew from the mid-late Saxon period focused on the respective parish churches though the church at Wantisden is particularly isolated at the eastern limit of the former Bentwaters Airfield with no obvious indication of past settlement nearby. In addition Wantisden has a particularly sparse historic settlement pattern even for the norm in The Sandlings. The light, well drained soils of the Sandlings also attracted settlement from the earliest prehistoric periods and this is well evidenced by the extensive record captured on aerial photographs showing in particular past field systems and ring ditches. The latter usually indicating the sites of Bronze Age burial mounds. The site is at c10mOD on the northern side of an eastward flowing stream.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this development was generated by its location in close proximity to cropmarks recorded on aerial photographs showing ditches and field boundaries (HER WNN 030& 031) indicative of past activity of probable prehistoric, Roman and medieval date. Therefore deposits and finds of multi-period date were anticipated at this site though due to the small scale of the relevant ground works monitoring followed by full reporting was seen as a suitable archaeological mitigation strategy.

## 2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 The monitoring of the ground works for the relevant service trenches, which were excavated using a medium sized 360 machine equipped with a 500mm bucket, was undertaken during a single site visit under good weather conditions and the upcast spoil was inspected closely as the work progressed. In addition the area for a service plant was excavated using a 1200mm wide flat bucket. The areas examined were

recorded in relation to nearby mapped features and a small number of digital images were taken in order to record the monitoring (see Appendix I).

### 3. Results

3.1 The c200m of service trenches for this development were 500mm wide and 600mm deep (see Fig. 2) with 300mm of topsoil above 300mm of very sandy mid brown subsoil above pale brown silty sand. The pit for the treatment plant near the centre of the site was 3000mm x 3000mm and 900m deep into wet pale brown sand with peaty sandy deposits apparent but no archaeological features or finds were revealed.

### 4. Conclusion

4.1 While this site is close to a recorded evidence for past activity as shown on aerial photographs the limited ground disturbance for this development did not reveal any archaeological features or finds as the only ground disturbance was limited to narrow service trenches and a service plant as the development as a whole will cause little impact on the past landscape.

*(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to everyone on site for their close cooperation during the monitoring)*

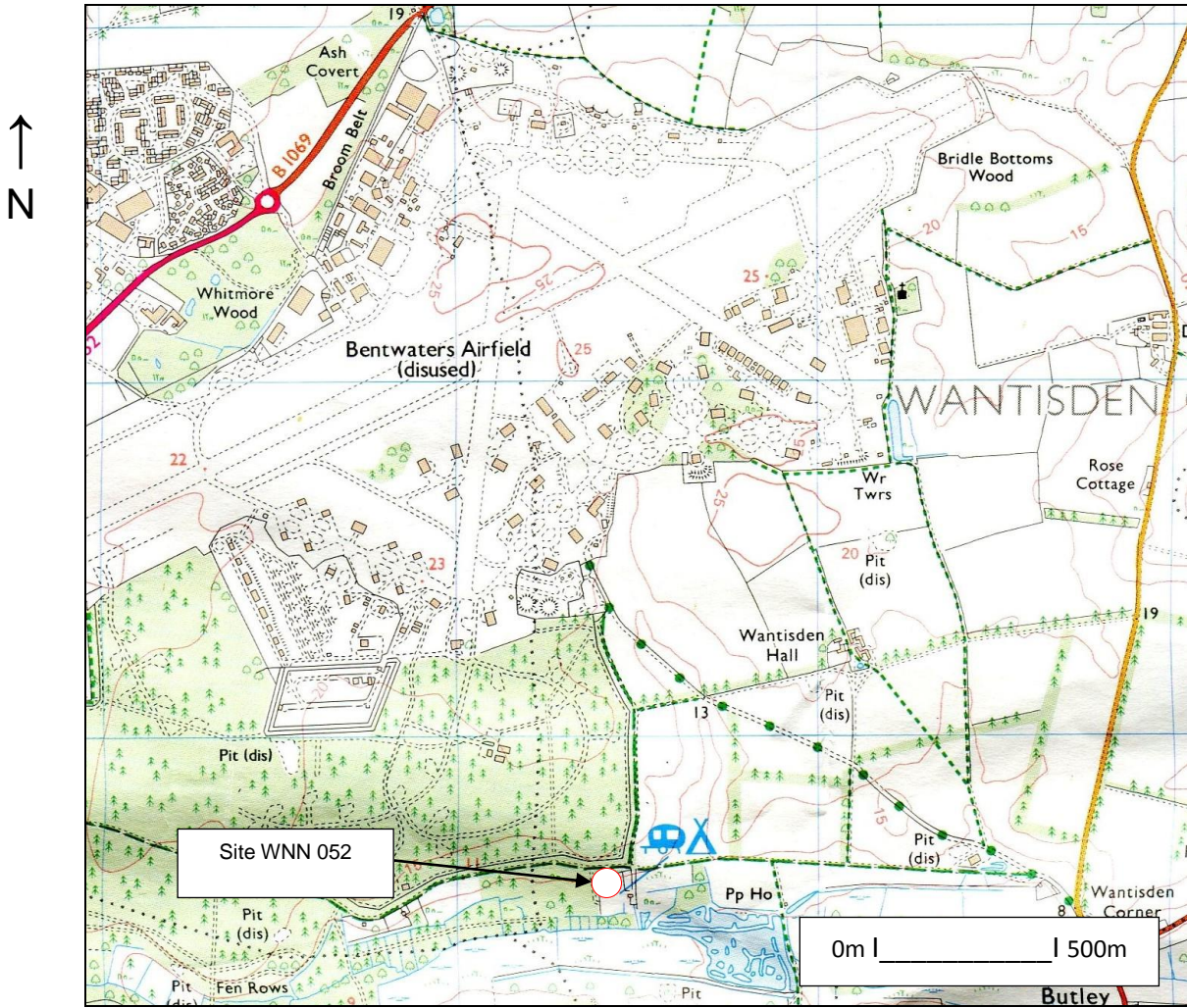


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2008  
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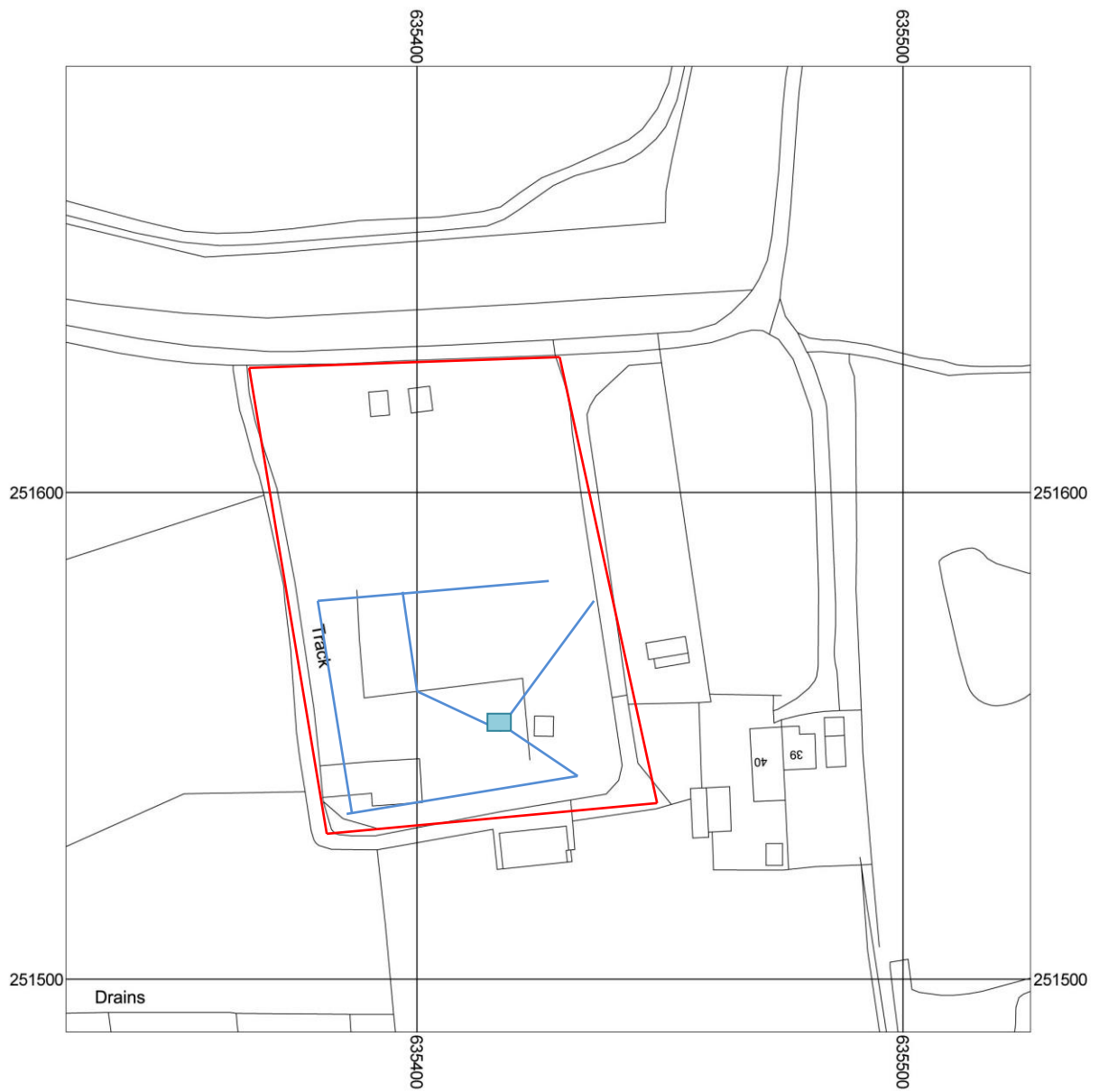


Fig. 2: Location of monitored service trenches and treatment plant area  
(Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2019 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

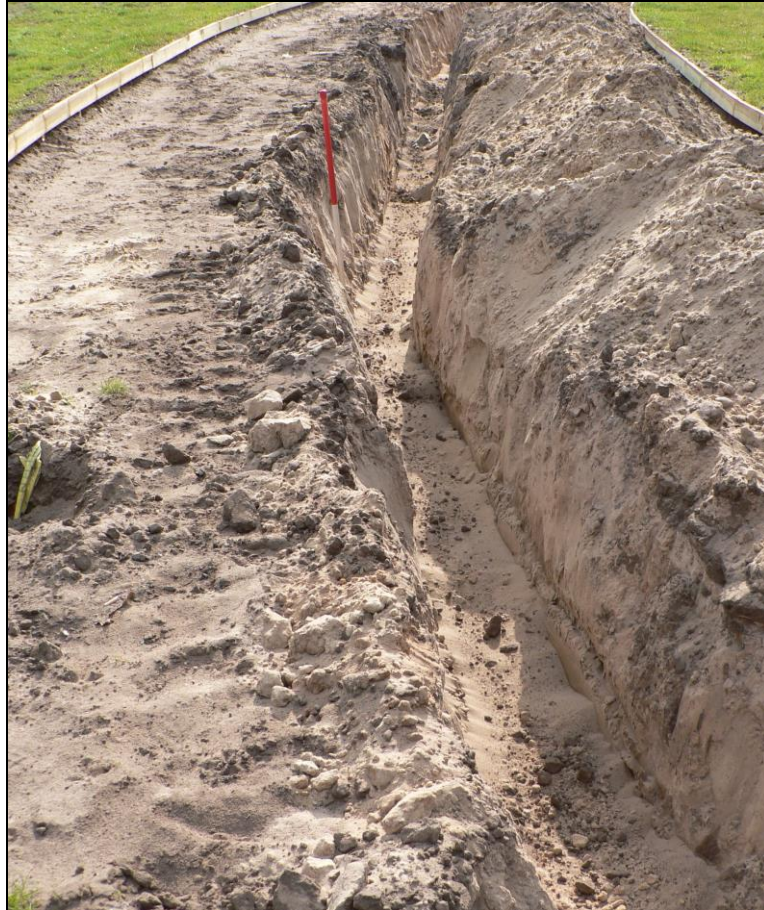
## Appendix I- Images



General view from north



Service trench along eastern edge



Service trench on western side



Plant pit towards centre of site



**Staverton Caravan Park, Fenn Row,  
Wantisden, Suffolk**

**Planning application: DC/16/5009/FUL**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for  
Continuous Archaeological Monitoring**

## **Site details**

Name: Staverton Caravan Park, Fenn Row, Wantisden, Suffolk, IP12 3PJ

Client: Ms K Barker

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: DC/16/5009/FUL

Proposed development: Use of land for stationing up to 30 holiday lodges

Brief ref: SCCAS Archaeological monitoring brief\_DC\_16\_5009\_FUL Staverton Caravan Park Fenn Row Wantisden

Proposed date for ground works: tbc

Grid ref: TM 3540 5152

Current land use: rough grass

## **Contents**

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

## 1. Introduction

1.1 Hollins Architects and Surveyors on behalf of their client Ms K Barker have commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological monitoring of ground works required under a condition for a programme of archaeological works of the planning decision notice for application DC/16/5009FUL. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological condition and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief set by Mr J Rolfe of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS) to satisfy the condition. The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This proposed development site (PDS) concerns the creation of a site for the stationing of up to 30 holiday lodges.

1.2 The monitoring 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)* and nationally in *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001 & reissued 2014)*.

## 2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 Wantisden parish is located some 5 miles north east of Woodbridge close to the coast in that part of Suffolk known as The Sandlings; a name derived from the light soils of the area that historically gave rise to extensive areas of heath land. As indicated the local drift geology is made up largely of well drained sands and gravels (deep sands of the Newport Series 20 with extensive areas distant from easily accessible water sources) giving rise to a dispersed settlement pattern scattered across various relatively large parishes. Within this settlement pattern separated by large areas of former heath land small village centres grew from the mid-late Saxon period focused on the respective parish churches though the church at Wantisden is particularly isolated at the eastern limit of the former Bentwaters Airfield with no obvious indication of past settlement nearby. In addition Wantisden has a particularly sparse historic settlement pattern even for the norm in The Sandlings. The light, well drained soils of the Sandlings also attracted settlement from the earliest prehistoric periods and this is well evidenced by the extensive record captured on aerial photographs showing in particular past field systems and ring ditches. The latter usually indicating the sites of Bronze Age burial mounds.

2.2 At present the PDS, which is at c10m OD, some 1900m south-west of the parish church is on the northern side of an eastward flowing stream and is currently largely rough grassland.

## 3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant brief 'This site lies in an area of archaeological potential recorded on the County Historic Environment Record, in a favourable topographical location for early settlement; on a light soil, on a south facing slope

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and adjacent to a river. The site is in close proximity to the cropmarks of undated ditches and field boundaries (WNN 030 and WNN 031). As a result, there is high potential for the discovery of below-ground heritage assets of archaeological importance within this area, and groundworks associated with the development have the potential to damage or destroy any archaeological remains which exist.'

3.2 The archaeological advice then confirms that while this small scale development may reveal deposits of archaeological significance this potential disturbance to local heritage assets can be mitigated by their investigation and recording as ground works progress through a programme of continuous monitoring by an archaeologist with subsequent full reporting.

## 4. Aims of the Site Monitoring

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the PDS lies in a location with high archaeological potential to contain evidence for past activity of multi-period date as the cropmarks noted above may be of prehistoric, Roman or post-Roman date. In addition settlement evidence of multi-period date may be present as the PDS is close to a water source. This monitoring will aim to record all possible details relating to the depth of overburden and evidence, character and date of any past activity that is revealed with the primary aim of gaining more information relating to past activity potentially of later Saxon to early Post medieval date.

## 5. Methodology

5.1 To inform any positive results from the monitoring a search will be commissioned from the County HER covering the area within 500m of the PDS with the relevant invoice number noted in the report.

5.2 The construction method to be used on the site for the lodges has yet to be confirmed but is likely to be a shallow raft type which may only be some 300mm deep. In addition service trenches will be excavated and at least one treatment plant will be required. It is therefore proposed that ground works going below a depth of 300mm will be monitored during and after excavation and the upcast spoil will be examined for finds and the trench sides and base and the upcast spoil will be scanned with a metal detector. Any unexpected findings will be reported back to the relevant Suffolk CC Archaeological Office as will notice of when the site works are scheduled to start. Time will be available to hand clean sections as necessary and investigate any possible archaeological deposits.

5.3 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of archaeological contexts under an overall site HER number supplied by Suffolk CC. 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 with the monitored footings shown. Sections will

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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 recording. Archaeological deposits will be fully hand investigated (contained features and linear features sectioned within the constraints of the relevant limited ground works) and recorded with sections recorded related to the trench sides with levels OD. Even if no archaeological deposits are revealed every effort will be made to gain a record of the natural occurring deposits and overburden that could help in the understanding of the general history of land-use and topography at the site. Where appropriate palaeoenvironmental samples (40 litres) will be taken for processing and assessment by a specialist conversant with regional archaeological standards and research agendas if relevant archaeological deposits are revealed. If human burial evidence is revealed the SCC Archaeological Officer and the Coroner will be informed and a Ministry of Justice licence obtained before excavation, recording and removal of the remains. The possibility of modifying the ground work design to leave any such remains in situ will also be examined (the potential of this site to contain burials is assessed as being low).

5.5 All finds will be collected and processed unless any variation is agreed with the relevant SCC Archaeological 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 SCC Archaeological Store under their relevant HER code and site numbering for future reference under the *Guidelines for preparation and deposition of Archaeological Archives in Suffolk* (2017). If this is not possible then the SCC Archaeological Officer will be consulted over any requirements for additional recording. Any discard policy will be discussed and agreed with the relevant Archaeological Officer at Suffolk CC.

5.6 An archive of all records and finds will be prepared consistent with the principles in *MoRPHE* and this will be deposited with the Suffolk CC HER within 4 months of working finishing on site under the relevant HER number. As necessary the site digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) within the agreed allowance for the monitoring and reporting works.

5.7 The monitoring report will be consistent with the principles of *MoRPHE* and this report will summarise the methodology employed and relate the archaeological record directly to the level of site visibility. The report will also give an objective account of the deposits and stratigraphy recorded and finds recovered with an inventory of the latter. Any interpretation of the monitoring results will be clearly separated from the objective account of the monitoring and its results. The report will give a clear statement regarding the results of the site monitoring in relation to both the more detailed aims in section 2 above and their significance in the context of the

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Regional Research Framework (EAA Occ. Papers 3, 8 & 24 1997, 2000 & 2011). A draft .pdf copy of the report will be presented to the Archaeological Service at Suffolk CC within 3 months of the completion of the site works. Once accepted a bound hard copy will be provided for the County HER, a pdf copy will also be sent to the client's agent so they can gain discharge of the relevant condition. The project will be registered on the OASIS online archaeological record before site works start 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.

## 6. Risk Assessment

6.1 Protective clothing will be worn on site (hard hat, high visibility vest/coat, steel-toe cap boots & ear muffs if required). A safe working method will be agreed with the contractors on site in order to maximise access to disturbed ground and 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 Before work on site starts any special requirements regarding potential site contamination will be discussed with the client and any ground test reports examined. Gloves and hand wash/wipes be available and any information on possible ground contamination will be passed to finds and environmental specialists. The potential for services in the area will be discussed with the client and their contractor.

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

6.5 Deep holes/trenches will only be entered if assessed to be safe and after consultation with the contractor on site, they will not be entered if no-one else is in the vicinity.

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)
Palaeoenvironmental samples:	V Fryer (Freelance)
Pre-historic flint:	S Bates (Freelance)

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Pre-historic pottery:	S Percival (Freelance)
Post Roman ceramics & CBM:	S Anderson (Freelance)
Roman period ceramics	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Roman period small finds	N Crummy
Post Roman small finds:	JNAS

## OASIS ID: johnnewm1-348592

### Project details

Project name	Staverton Caravan Park, Fenn Row, Wantisden, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Wantisden, Fenn Row caravan park (WNN 052, TM 3540 5152) monitoring of ground works for service trenches and a plant pit did not reveal any archaeological features or finds thought the degree of disturbance was minimal given the size of the site.
Project dates	Start: 15-04-2019 End: 15-04-2019
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	WNN 052 - Related HER No.
Any associated project reference codes	DC/16/5009/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 3 - Disturbed
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL WANTISDEN STAVERTON CARAVAN PARK FENN ROW
Postcode	IP12 3PJ
Site coordinates	TM 3540 5152 52.111228390971 1.43833940397 52 06 40 N 001 26 18 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 9m Max: 10m
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	Staverton Caravan Park, Fenn Row, Wantisden, Suffolk-Archaeological Monitoring Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Newman, J
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