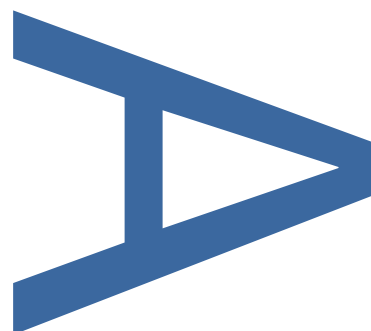
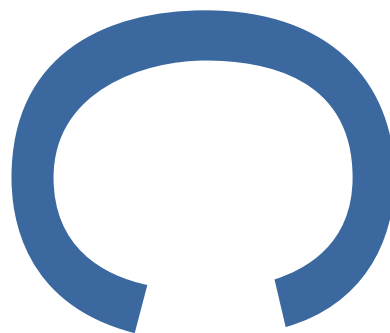


**LAND AT THE FOX INN,  
FRONT STREET,  
ULCEBY,  
NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE:**

**REPORT ON AN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**PCA Report Number: R13856**

**September 2019**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

**DOCUMENT VERIFICATION**

Land at The Fox Inn,  
Front Street, Ulceby, North Lincolnshire:  
Report on an Archaeological Evaluation

Quality Control

<b>Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd</b>	
Project Number	K6267
Report Number	R13856

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Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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---

## Land at the Fox Inn, Front Street, Ulceby, North Lincolnshire:

### Report on an Archaeological Evaluation

---

**Site Code:** UCAP19

**Local Planning Authority:** North Lincolnshire Council

**Planning Reference:** PA/2019/948

**Central National Grid Reference:** TA 1078 1469

**Written and Researched by:** Andrew Failes

**Project Manager:** Gary Taylor

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September 2019



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**PCA Report Number R13856**

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## **Summary**

*This report describes the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at the Fox Inn, Front Street, Ulceby, North Lincolnshire. Punch Partnerships (PML) Ltd commissioned the archaeological work as part of the pre-determination planning process. The aim of the work was to identify, investigate and record any archaeological remains within the proposed development area.*

*No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed during the investigation. Instead, a limited sequence of deposits consisting of naturally deposited clay, overlain by subsoil and modern topsoil was uncovered.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 GENERAL BACKGROUND**

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at the Fox Inn, Front Street, Ulceby, North Lincolnshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR TA 1078 1469). The evaluation took place from 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

1.1.2 The site is located in the village of Ulceby, within the administrative district of North Lincolnshire Council. Ulceby is situated c. 16km northwest of Grimsby and c. 22km east of Scunthorpe (Fig 1). The area under investigation is located north of Front Street, on land to the rear and east of the Fox Inn public house, which is situated southeast of Ulceby village centre (Fig 1). It comprises a single area of roughly rectangular shape (Fig 2) and covers an area of approximately 0.4ha.

1.1.3 During the investigation two trenches were excavated, measuring approximately 15m and 20m in length. A third trench was begun but abandoned as its location was blocking access for the removal of caravans at the site. As a result, an extra c. 4m of trenching was added to Trench 2 forming an L-shaped trench (Fig 3).

1.1.4 Trial trenching was selected as the most appropriate method to characterise the archaeology of the proposed development area. The aim of the trial trenching evaluation was to identify and record any surviving archaeological remains and/or deposits that may be impacted upon during the proposed development.

1.1.5 The archaeological works sought to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition and quality of any archaeological remains on the site, to assess the significance of any such remains in a local, regional, or national context, as appropriate, and to assess the potential impact of the development proposals on the site's archaeology.

1.1.6 This report describes the results of the archaeological evaluation. The site archive will be deposited with the North Lincolnshire Museum under accession code: UCAP

### **1.2 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

1.2.1 The archaeological work was commissioned by Punch Partnerships (PML) Ltd, following requirements by North Lincolnshire Council for an archaeological investigation to assist in the determination of a planning application.

1.2.2 The development comprises the erection of four dwellings and associated works, as detailed in planning application PA/2019/948, submitted to North Lincolnshire Council.

1.2.3 National Planning Policy on archaeology and built heritage is set out in National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Published in February 2019, National Planning Framework: Planning for the Historic Environment (NPPF) provides guidance for planning authorities,

property owners, developers and others on the investigation and preservation of archaeological remains.

1.2.4 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority will be guided by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance NPPF, by Local policy and by other material considerations (DCLG 2019).

1.2.5 The Historic Environment Service of North Lincolnshire Council advised an archaeological evaluation of the site, to consist of trial trenching, was required.

1.2.6 The archaeological works were carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA 2019) and approved by the Historic Environment Service of North Lincolnshire Council.

### **1.3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

1.3.1 The British Geological Survey indicates that the underlying bedrock geology at the site consists of Burnham Chalk Formation of the Cretaceous period. This is overlain by superficial deposits of Till, Devensian – Diamicton of the Quaternary period (British Geological Survey Viewer [www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)).

1.3.2 The location for the proposed dwellings consists mainly of a grassed area to the north of the public house and associated parking lot, with and an area of dense undergrowth at the northern and western extents of the site. The site is on fairly level ground at about 30m OD, with a very gradual slope from south to north in the northern extent of the site and very gentle undulations throughout the grassed area.

### **1.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

1.4.1 The North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (NLHER) shows that the application site lies within an area rich in archaeological remains spanning the prehistoric to post-medieval periods. Archaeological and documentary evidence indicate that Ulceby's origins date to at least Saxon times, and possibly earlier. Settlement continued during the medieval period before a likely period of contraction, probably around the fourteenth or fifteenth century.

1.4.2 A desk-top assessment which examined all NHER entries within a 500m radius of the site, supplemented by other archaeological, documentary and cartographic resources, has been recently produced (Dickinson and Leman 2019). Relevant information from that report is summarised below.

#### **Prehistoric**

1.4.3 Barton Street, a prehistoric trackway, is oriented on a northwest to southeast alignment c. 100m southwest of the site. The trackway, one of three in the Lincolnshire Wolds, runs for 70km from Barton-upon-Humber to Alford, possibly continuing to Burgh-le-Marsh. A Celtic



gold coin (a gold stater) has been found in the village c. 250m from the site. A possible barrow is reported to have been seen south of the village in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. However, no trace of this survives and the exact location of it is unknown.

#### **Romano-British**

1.4.4 Small assemblages of Roman pottery have been found at three locations around Ulceby, to the south, east and west of the site. The nearest of these is located some 80m south of the site.

#### **Medieval**

1.4.5 Evidence of Late Saxon activity is focussed on the west side of the village, where gullies, ditches and settlement remains, including building foundations and floors have been revealed in previous investigations. An 8<sup>th</sup> century coin is also reported from the Ulceby area. Medieval settlement remains have also been found in the same areas as the aforementioned Late Saxon evidence, close to the 14<sup>th</sup> century church which probably replaced an earlier foundation noted in the Domesday Book.

1.4.6 A square platform, possibly representing the remains of a house, was identified in the field to the west of the site, c. 30m from the site boundary. Earthwork remains of possible tofts and crofts, including on the site itself and in the fields to the east and west, have also been observed. Several of these lie outside the current village limits, suggesting that the village of Ulceby may have covered a larger area during the medieval period, and subsequently contracted.

#### **Post-Medieval**

1.4.7 Near to the site are various buildings of predominantly 19<sup>th</sup> century date, some of them Listed. Historic maps show buildings on the site since at least 1833. The present buildings at the site, including the pub and associated outbuildings, are shown on maps from 1887.

## **2 PROJECT AIMS AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

### **2.1 PROJECT AIMS**

2.1.1 The project was 'threat-led' with potential to disturb or destroy important sub-surface archaeological remains, if present. It also provided an opportunity to investigate the site for which there would otherwise be no budget. Therefore, the broad aim of the archaeological project was to inform the local planning authority and the client regarding the character, date, extent and degree of survival of archaeological remains at the site. Archaeological trial trenching was selected as the most appropriate investigative tool to test the archaeological potential of the site.

2.1.2 Additional aims of the project were:

- To compile a site archive consisting of all site and project documentary and

photographic records, as well as all artefactual and palaeoenvironmental material recovered;

- To compile a report that contains an assessment of the nature and significance of all data categories (e.g. stratigraphic, artefactual etc.).

## **2.2 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

2.2.1 The on-line *East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework, Interactive Digital Resource* was referenced for specific research criteria. In addition, *The Archaeology of the East Midlands, An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*, Leicester Archaeology Monograph **13**, ed. N Cooper (2006), along with the *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*, ed. D. Knight, B. Vyner & C. Allen (2012) were referenced for specific research criteria.

2.2.2 The archaeological evaluation will address the following objectives:

- To record the nature, extent, date, character, quality, significance and state of preservation any archaeological remains affected by the investigation
- To assess where appropriate any ecofactual and palaeo-environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features from within the site

2.2.3 In addition, the evaluation will seek to address the following research objectives:

- To set the site and its potential archaeological remains into the context of the wider landscape
- To confirm the presence or absence of any prehistoric activity
- To confirm the presence or absence of any Romano-British activity within the area
- To confirm the presence or absence of Saxon/medieval activity
- To confirm the presence or absence of any post-medieval activity

## **3 METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY**

3.1.1 The evaluation took place in accordance with the relevant guidance document of the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a); PCA is a CIfA registered organisation (number 23) and operates within the Institute's 'Code of Conduct' (CIfA 2014b). The

evaluation trenches were laid out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation, as accepted by North Lincolnshire Council, Planning and Environment.

- 3.1.2 Ecological surveys carried out previously in the area identified a population of Great Crested Newts (GCN) within most of the water bodies in the local area, including a pond located in the adjacent field to the east of the development site. As such, precautionary measures, set out in a method statement (Swensson 2019) produced by Ecosupport Ltd, were adopted during the investigation. Several avoidance measures were put in place to minimise risk to GCN at the site.
- 3.1.3 Before works commenced, Dean Swensson, the ecologist on site, briefed site operatives on the precautionary steps to be taken during the works, the details of legal protection of GCN, the appearance and habitat of GCN as well as actions to be taken if GCN were identified at the site.
- 3.1.4 Under direction of the ecologist, Trench 2 was moved slightly to the east in order to avoid long grass that could provide shelter for amphibians.
- 3.1.5 At the northern end of the site where the undergrowth was dense and could potentially provide shelter for GCN, the ecologist gradually reduced the vegetation with a strimmer, before raking off the area and performing a fingertip search. As trenches needed to be left open overnight, exclusion fencing was erected around Trench 1 and its associated spoil heap to prevent access to transient amphibians entering the temporary spoil heap.
- 3.1.6 The excavation of all trenches took place under monitoring of both archaeologist and ecologist and earthen ramps were included in the trenches to allow animals and amphibians to escape.
- 3.1.7 The proposed location of Trench 3 at the southern end of the site was problematic as it would have blocked access for caravans moving off the site. As a result, this trench was abandoned and extra meterage added to Trench 2. This decision was approved by the North Lincolnshire Council Historic Environment Officer.
- 3.1.8 All trial trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator fitted with toothless ditching buckets. Deposits were removed in spits to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the clearly defined top of the natural substratum, whichever was reached first. All potential archaeological features were identified and marked at the time of machine clearance of overburden.
- 3.1.9 All exposed deposits were cleaned using hand tools and recorded as set out in the PCA fieldwork manual (Taylor and Brown 2009). Contexts were recorded as set out in the PCA fieldwork manual, including written, photographic and drawn records.
- 3.1.10 Test sondages were excavated through 'natural' deposits in trial trenches to confirm the appropriate geological horizons were reached.

## **3.2 RECORDING METHODOLOGY**

- 3.2.1 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.
- 3.2.2 Manual plans and section drawings of archaeological features and deposits were drawn at an appropriate scale (1:10, 1:20 or 1:50).
- 3.2.3 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded utilising PCA's printed pro forma.
- 3.2.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process. Digital photographs were taken of all archaeological features and deposits.
- 3.2.5 All finds encountered were collected by hand and assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from the site.

## **3.3 POST-FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY**

- 3.3.1 Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers Guide* (HE 2015) was used as the framework for post-excavation work.
- 3.3.2 The stratigraphic data for the project comprises written, drawn and photographic records. A total of six archaeological contexts were defined within the two trenches. Post-excavation work involved checking and collating site records, and phasing the stratigraphic data (Appendix 1).
- 3.3.3 No artefactual material or other categories of organic or inorganic artefactual material were revealed during the investigation. As a result, no material required specialist stabilisation or an assessment of its potential for conservation research.
- 3.3.4 The complete site archive will be packaged for long-term storage and curation marked in accordance prepared in accordance with: *Guidelines for deposition of Archaeological Archive with North Lincolnshire Museum Service* (North Lincolnshire Museums Service 2016). In preparing the site archive for deposition, all relevant standards and guidelines documents referenced in the Archaeological Archives Forum guidelines document (Brown 2011), the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) document (Walker 1990), and the relevant ClfA publication (ClfA 2014c) will be adhered to.

## **4 RESULTS**

### **4.1 DEPOSITS AND FEATURES IDENTIFIED BY TRENCH**

#### **Trench 1**

4.1.1 The natural deposit encountered at the base of Trench 1 consisted of firm to plastic, mid yellowish brown silty clay (102).

4.1.2 This was overlain by subsoil, up to 0.2m thick, of firm to slightly plastic, dark to mid yellowish greyish brown silty clay (101) with red mottle.

4.1.3 Topsoil, comprising friable dark greyish brown sandy clayey silt (100) with occasional sub-rounded pebbles, small chalk fragments and rare flecks and fragments of ceramic building material (CBM).

#### **Trench 2**

4.1.4 The earliest deposit identified in Trench 2 was naturally deposited, firm mid orangey brown sandy clay (202), containing occasional flint pebbles.

4.1.5 This was overlain by a 0.2m thick layer of firm, mid to light yellowish brown clayey sand subsoil (201).

4.1.6 The subsoil was overlain by a 0.2m thick deposit of topsoil, consisting of friable, mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt (200) with frequent tree roots.

## **5 DISCUSSION**

### **5.1 SUMMARY**

5.1.1 The archaeological sequence is described by placing stratigraphic sequences within broad phases, assigned on a site-wide basis in this case. Interpretation has been added to the data, and these phases have been correlated with recognised historical and geological periods. The following describes the archaeological sequence as determined by the physical relationship between deposits.

### **5.2 PHASE 1: NATURAL SUB-STRATUM**

5.2.1 Phase 1 represents the natural geological material exposed within the two trenches. This probably represents the superficial geology of glacial till in the area.

### **5.3 PHASE 2: SUBSOIL**

5.3.1 A subsoil deposit overlay the natural sub-stratum in both trenches. This may represent a former ploughsoil as it contained some cultural material (CBM) within it.

### **5.4 PHASE 3: MODERN TOPSOIL**

5.4.1 Modern deposits were represented by a relatively thin (0.2m) layer of sandy silt topsoil.

## **6 CONCLUSION**

### **6.1 SUMMARY OF PROJECT DATA**

6.1.1 No archaeological features were revealed during the investigation. Instead, the investigation revealed a limited sequence of deposits comprising a natural clay substratum, overlain by subsoil and modern topsoil.

### **6.2 SIGNIFICANCE OF RESULTS AND POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER WORK**

6.2.1 The main aim of the evaluation was to inform the Local Planning Authority, as advised by North Lincolnshire Council Planning and Environment, and the client regarding the extent, depth and nature of archaeological deposits within the location of the proposed development.

6.2.2 Based on the results of the archaeological evaluation, further archaeological works are considered unlikely. Any decision regarding further archaeological work will be at the discretion of the North Lincolnshire Council Historic Environment Officer.

## **7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

*Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Punch Partnerships (PML) Ltd for commissioning the work. Thanks also go to Dean Swensson of Ecosupport Ltd, who worked on site with the PCA team, implementing precautionary measures to reduce the risk of disturbance to Great Crested Newts and other Fauna at the site. The staff at the Fox Inn Public House kindly allowed use of their welfare facilities. Alison Williams, the Historic Environment Officer for North Lincolnshire Council, monitored the site.*

## **8 PERSONNEL**

Site Supervisor: Andrew Failes

Site Staff: Margaret Leman

CAD Figures: Ray Murphy

Report Editing: Gary Taylor

## **9 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

### **9.1 WRITTEN SOURCES**

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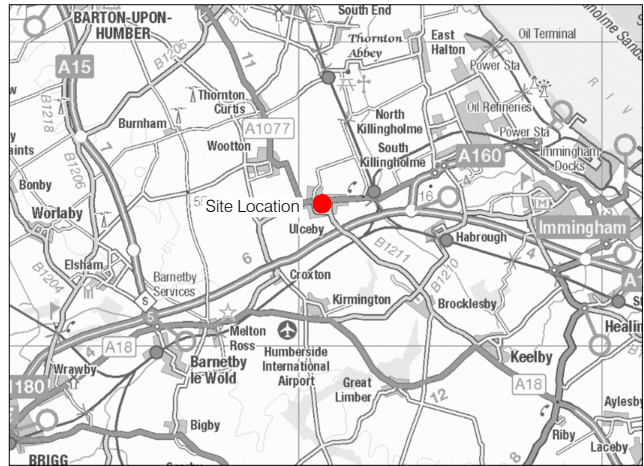
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## **9.2 WEBSITES**

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Accessed on 04/03/2019







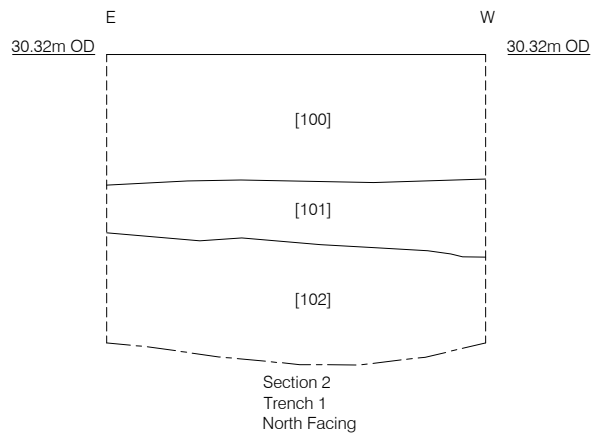
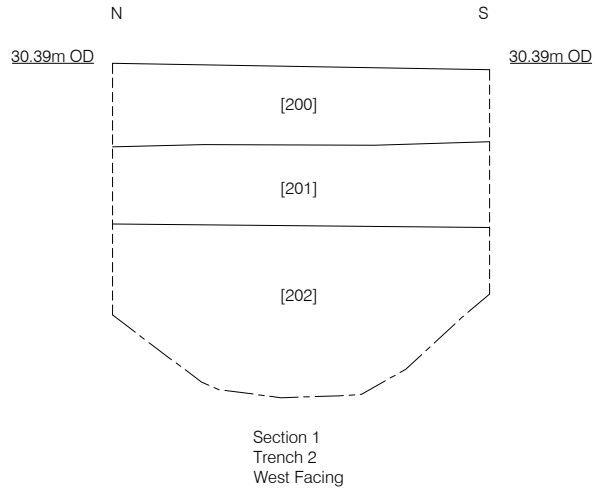
0 25m

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23/09/19 RM

Figure 2  
 Detailed Site Location and Plate Locations and Directions  
 1:625 at A4



## Appendix 1: Site Photographs



Plate 1 – Shot of site, looking north from the fence at the southern end of the site.



Plate 2 – Shot of northern end of site, showing undergrowth.



Plate 3 – Trench 1 plan, looking east.



Plate 4 – Section 2, Trench 1



Plate 5 – Trench 2 plan, north-south aligned segment of L-shaped trench



Plate 6 – Trench 2 plan, east-west aligned segment of L-shaped trench



Plate 7 – Section 1, Trench 2

## Appendix 2: Context Index

Abbreviations: UE means 'unexcavated'; N/A means 'not applicable'; > means 'greater than'; < means 'up to'; Context numbers are followed by a brief description and interpretation; their dimensions in metres (in the order length x width x depth; or diameter x depth); and their critical stratigraphic relationships.

Trench	Context	Category	Description			Interpretation	Dimensions (m)	Above	Below
			Colour	Texture	Inclusions				
	100	Deposit	Dark greyish brown	Friable sandy clayey silt	Occasional sub-rounded pebbles, small chalk fragments, rare small fragments of CBM	Topsoil	0.34m thick	101	-
	101	Deposit	Dark to mid yellowish greyish brown with red mottle	Firm silty clay	Occasional charcoal flecks, rare small fragments/flecks of CBM	Subsoil	0.2m thick	102	100
	102	Deposit	Mid yellowish brown	Firm silty clay	-	Natural deposit		-	102
	200	Deposit	Mid to dark greyish brown	Friable sandy silt	Frequent roots	Topsoil	0.2m thick	201	-
	201	Deposit	Mid to light yellowish brown	Firm clayey sand	Occasional manganese	Subsoil	0.2m thick	202	200



	202	deposit	Mid orangey brown	Firm clayey sand	Occasional flint	Natural deposit		-	201
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## **Appendix 3: OASIS FORM**

# 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: preconst1-368018**

### Project details

Project name	Land at Fox Inn, Front Street, Ulceby, North Lincolnshire
Short description of the project	the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at the Fox Inn, Front Street, Ulceby, North Lincolnshire. The Cordage Group commissioned the archaeological work as part of the pre-determination planning process. The aim of the work was to identify, investigate and record any archaeological remains within the proposed development area. No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed during the investigation. Instead, a limited sequence of deposits consisting of naturally deposited clay, overlain by subsoil and modern topsoil was uncovered.
Project dates	Start: 17-09-2019 End: 19-09-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	UCAP19 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	UCAP - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	PA/2019/948 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 3 - Disturbed
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF  
Position in the planning process Between deposition of an application and determination

### Project location

Country England  
Site location NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE ULCEBY Fox Inn, Front Street, Ulceby, North Lincolnshire  
Study area 0.4 Hectares  
Site coordinates TA 1078 1469 53.616776534377 -0.325091043559 53 37 00 N 000 19 30 W Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation PCA Newark  
Project brief originator PCA  
Project design originator Gary Taylor  
Project director/manager Gary Taylor  
Project supervisor Andy Failles  
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No  
Physical Archive ID UCAP  
Digital Archive recipient North Lincolnshire Museum  
Digital Archive ID UCAP  
Digital Contents "none"  
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"  
Paper Archive recipient North Lincolnshire Museum  
Paper Archive ID UCAP  
Paper Contents "none"  
Paper Media available "Context sheet","Diary","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey","Unpublished Text"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Description	A4 Comb Bound
Entered by	Gary Taylor (gtaylor@preconstruct.com)
Entered on	25 September 2019

## OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice

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