

**LAND TO THE EAST OF THE A 1133,
NEWTON ON TRENT,
WEST LINDSEY, LINCOLNSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

Planning Application No.: 131289
NGR: SK 8390 7475
PCAS Site code: NWTM 14
PCAS Job No.: 1312
Archive accession code: LCNCC 2014.183

Report prepared for

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Summary

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) was commissioned by J. H. Walter, to undertake a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land to the east of the A 1133, Newton on Trent, in the West Lindsey District of Lincolnshire (NGR: SK 8390 7475).

This work was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning application, approved by West Lindsey District Council, for the construction of a single wind turbine (Planning Application No. 131289).

Archaeological interest in this site arises from the identification, by aerial photography, of crop marks to the east of the village which may indicate enclosures and field systems of the late prehistoric/Romano-British period, as well as a possible prehistoric barrow.

Further evidence of past human activity in the area has also been indicated by a large number of early prehistoric worked flint found during the construction of the current course of the A 1133. The remains of two pottery kilns dated to the mid Romano-British period have also been identified in this area.

During the monitoring works, no deposits or features of archaeological significance were observed and no artefacts were recovered. Only a shallow heavily re-worked modern plough soil was observed, directly overlying natural sand.

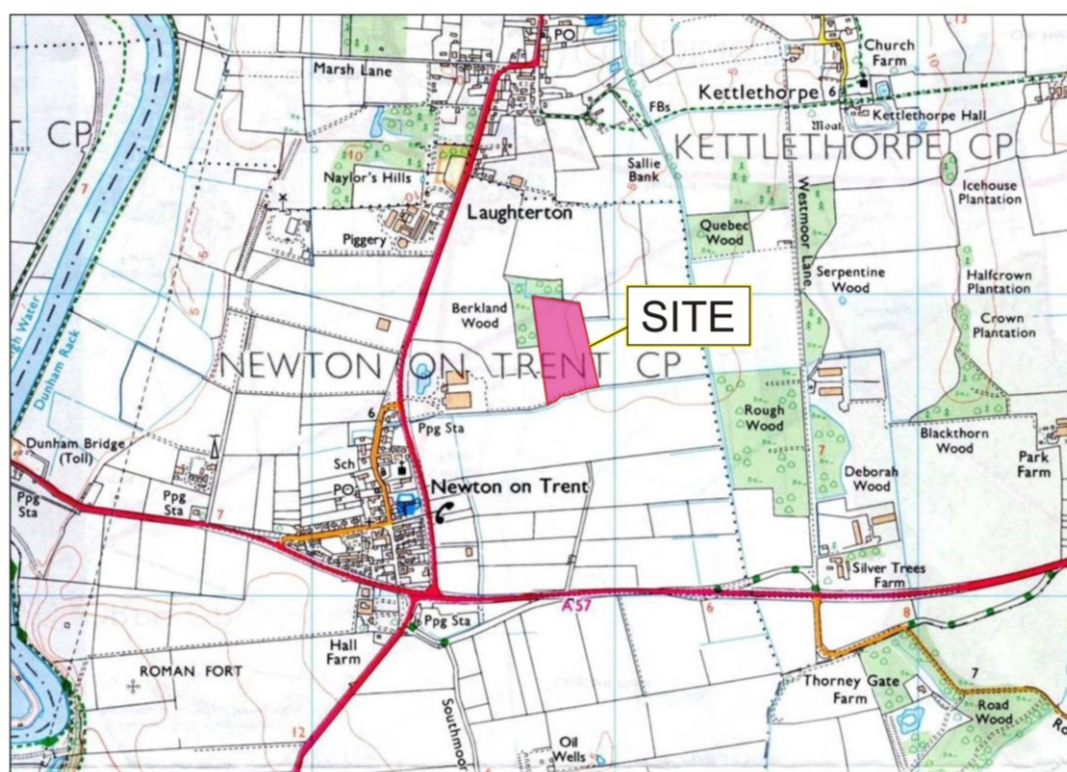


Fig. 1: Site location map. Proposed development site highlighted in red. Scale 1:25 000
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1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) undertook a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land to the east of the A 1133, Newton on Trent in the West Lindsey District of Lincolnshire. This work was undertaken between the 5/1/15 and 9/1/15 as a requirement of a condition attached to a planning application for the construction of a single wind turbine (Planning Application No. 131289).

The scheme of archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with an approved Specification for a Scheme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording (PCAS 2014), the recommendations of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (2012), *Code of Conduct* (Institute for Archaeologists, 1994 as revised) and *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2008 as revised) and the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Handbook (as revised 2012).

2.0 Site location and description (Figs. 1 & 2)

The village of Newton on Trent lies within the valley of the River Trent in the District of West Lindsey, approximately 14km west of Lincoln and 12km south of Gainsborough. It is situated at the crossroads of the main road that follows the River Trent from Newark to Gainsborough (A1133) and the road westwards from Lincoln to the Trent crossing at Dunham Bridge (A 57).

The development site is located approximately 1km to the northeast of the village. It consists of a single field, currently used to accommodate free-range poultry, with an existing access track connecting it to the A 1133. The site is surrounded on all sides by agricultural land except for an area of woodland to the northwest. Another wind turbine is located in the neighbouring field to the east. The new wind turbine site occupies an area of 0.28 hectares within the south side of the field.

The approximate central National Grid Reference for the site is SK 8390 7475.

3.0 Geology and topography

The drift geology of the site is mapped as Holme Pierrepont Sand and Gravel, above a solid geology of Mercia Mudstone of the Triassic Period (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

Newton on Trent is situated on low-lying ground within the former flood plain of the River Trent. The topography of the area is generally low lying and flat as is the site itself. It lies at approximately 10m above Ordnance Datum.

4.0 Planning background

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) came into force in March 2012. This places the responsibility for dealing with heritage assets (archaeology) affected by development proposals with the developer. Developers are required to 'record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible' (NPPF, s.141).

Planning permission was granted in July 2014 for the construction of a 500kw wind turbine with a hub height of 50m, to include transformer station at its base and all ancillary works (Planning Application No. 131289).

The Planning Archaeologist for West Lindsey District Council advised that a scheme of archaeological monitoring was necessary during the groundworks to identify and record any encountered archaeological remains, therefore a condition for archaeological mitigation was attached to the planning decision notice.

5.0 Archaeological and historical background

The archaeological and historical background of the site has been outlined in the Specification (PCAS 2014) and is reproduced here:

The earliest evidence for human activity in the area of Newton on Trent is derived from cropmarks recorded by aerial photography in fields to the east of the village. A circular cropmark suggests a possible prehistoric burial mound (HER ref. 52587), as well as linear cropmarks indicative of prehistoric settlement and field systems (HER refs. 52579, 52586). Similarly to the south of the site, medieval ridge and furrow, a possible prehistoric linear ditch system, and a further ring ditch have also been identified from aerial photographs (PCAS 2014).

Southwest of the village is the site of a Roman fort. This was a vexillation fort, a 25 acre site that would have accommodated some 3000 legionaries (half the strength of a legion) while on campaign, and dates to the very early military occupation of Britain; it is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument, SAM no. 174 (marked as 'Roman Fort' on modern OS mapping, **Fig. 1**). During the construction of the bypass (A 1133) to the west of the site in 1983, Romano-British pottery kilns were identified: the River Trent probably served as a means of export for locally produced ware (*ibid.*).

Newton is a common name, deriving from the Old English *nīwe* + *tūn*, simply meaning 'the new farmstead, estate or village'. Historically the name first appears in the Domesday Survey of AD 1086, but no population was recorded: the only entry is for 100 acres of meadow belonging to the Archbishop of York's estate at Laneham in Nottinghamshire (*ibid.*).

A geophysical survey carried out as part of the programme of archaeological investigation recorded no anomalies that could be identified as potential archaeological features, but only the features associated with the modern poultry sheds, such as buried services, areas of hard-standing and other features associated with agricultural land use, such as land drains (Bunn, 2014). As the survey results provided no useful information it is not reproduced here.

6.0 Methodology

The adopted methodology followed the scheme set out within the Specification (PCAS 2014) and is summarised here:

Archaeological monitoring and recording took place during all groundworks for the new wind turbine, transformer, new access track and pit to accommodate the mat for the temporary crane used to erect the turbine.

The excavations of footings and trenches were undertaken using a mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket. The monitoring was undertaken by suitably experienced archaeologists.

The basis for field recording was a measured plan supplied by the developer. Monitored excavation areas were plotted on this plan.

A written record of each stratigraphic horizon was made on standard PCAS Trench recording forms. These were supplemented by a drawn record consisting of measured plan and section drawing (not illustrated) at scales (1:1250 and 1:20).

Alongside the written and drawn record, a digital and colour slide photographic record was maintained.

A narrative account of the daily progress was also maintained.

No artefacts were recovered and no deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified.

7.0 Results (Fig. 2)

The monitoring scheme produced a site archive which consists of:-

- One Day Record Sheet which records the monitored work over five days.

- One Trench Recording Sheet which records two contexts (001) & (002).

- One A3 plan of the site recording the location of monitored groundworks.

- One Photographic Register which lists 29 digital and three colour slide photographs.

The two contexts recorded consisted of modern plough soil (001), observed as red-brown sandy loam c. 0.35m thick, which sealed the natural substrate (002), consisting of yellow-orange sand with some light grey veining, sandy iron stone concretions and rare lenses of light grey clay at depth.

Most of the development footprint area was excavated only to the top of the natural substrate. This included the area of the access track (See **Fig. 2** Photo. No.1) as well as the area of the crane mat.

The observed stratigraphic sequence was uniform, consisting of c. 0.35m of modern plough soil directly overlying the natural substrate. There was a clear horizon between the plough soil and the underlying natural substrate with evidence of the surface of the natural sand being re-worked into the modern plough soil with no surviving subsoil observed (see **Fig. 2** Photo. No. 2).

Only at the location of the turbine tower base (see **Fig. 2** Photo. No. 3) and transformer did the excavation extend below the top of the natural substrate. No buried former land surface was observed in the deeper excavations and nothing else was observed to indicate that the upper surface of the sand may have been a wind blown deposit or post glacial alluvial.

No archaeological features, layers or artefacts were observed during the course of the groundworks.



Fig. 2 Location of monitored groundworks (1:2500) with selected photographs (Scale 1m)

8.0 Discussion and conclusion

The actual area of groundworks for the wind turbine base, transformer, access road and mat for the temporary crane was relatively small and no archaeological features were observed during this work.

9.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The monitoring scheme has confirmed that no archaeological features were affected during the groundworks for this development.

10.0 Bibliography

Bunn, D., 2014, *Archaeological Geophysical Survey: Proposed Wind Turbine Site, Newton-on-Trent, Lincolnshire*. Unpublished client report for Pre-Construct Geophysics.

Clay, 2002, *Archaeological Watching Brief Report; Newton on Trent Primary School, High Street, Newton on Trent, Lincolnshire*. Unpublished client report for Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln).

Ordnance Survey, 2010, *Newark-on-Trent, Retford, Southwell & Saxilby*: Explorer series no. 271, 1:25,000 edition. The Ordnance Survey, Southampton.

PCAS 2014. Specification for a Scheme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording. Proposed wind turbine site, Land to east of A 1133, Newton on Trent, West Lindsey, Lincolnshire. Unpublished document by PCAS.

<http://www.heritageconnectlincoln.com/>

<http://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html>

11.0 Site Archive

The documentary and physical archive for this scheme is currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. This will be deposited at The Collection, Lincoln within six months of completion of this report under the Lincolnshire Museums archive accession code LCNCC 2014.183.

Appendix 1: Context descriptions

Context	Type	Description	Finds/Dating
001	Layer	Topsoil (plough soil) – Mid red-brown sandy loam. < 0.35m thick.	-
002	Layer	Natural substrate – Yellow-orange sand with some light grey veining and small sand/iron stone concretions and rare small lenses of clay at depth with a clear horizon with over lying topsoil.	-

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OASIS ID: preconst3-227621

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and recording on land east of the A1133, Newton on Trent
Short description of the project	Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) was commissioned by J. H. Walter, to undertake a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land to the east of the A 1133, Newton on Trent, in the West Lindsey District of Lincolnshire (NGR: SK 8390 7475). This work was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning application, approved by West Lindsey District Council, for the construction of a single wind turbine (Planning Application No. 131289). Archaeological interest in this site arises from the identification, by aerial photography, of crop marks to the east of the village which may indicate enclosures and field systems of the late prehistoric/Romano-British period, as well as a possible prehistoric barrow. Further evidence of past human activity in the area has also been indicated by a large number of early prehistoric worked flint found during the construction of the current course of the A 1133. The remains of two pottery kilns dated to the mid Romano-British period have also been identified in this area. During the monitoring works, no deposits or features of archaeological significance were observed and no artefacts were recovered. Only a shallow heavily re-worked modern plough soil was observed, directly overlying natural sand.
Project dates	Start: 05-01-2015 End: 09-01-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	NWTM 14 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Site location LINCOLNSHIRE WEST LINDSEY NEWTON ON TRENT Land east of the A1133,
 Study area 0.28 Hectares
 Site coordinates SK 8390 7475 53.262824523141 -0.742018977782 53 15 46 N 000 44 31 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd
 Project brief originator Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
 Project design originator Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd
 Project director/manager Will Munford
 Project supervisor M. Rowe
 Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient The Collection, Lincoln
 Digital Archive ID LCNCC 2014.183
 Digital Contents "none"
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Text"
 Paper Archive recipient The Collection, Lincoln
 Paper Archive ID LCNCC 2014.183
 Paper Contents "none"
 Paper Media available "Context sheet","Diary","Miscellaneous Material","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

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