

# **Grantham Southern Quadrant**

## **Summary of Archaeological Study – July 2011**

### **1 Background**

Land on the southern edge of Grantham (the 'Southern Quadrant') owned by Buckminster Estates has been identified for potential future development within the Local Development Framework for South Kesteven Core Strategy adopted by South Kesteven District Council (July 2010). Desk-based Assessment has been undertaken as part of consideration of the Grantham Southern Relief Road which would serve the development area (Jacobs 2009). A further study (Malone 2011) has addressed recommendations for further desk-based work within that initial report.

### **2 Known Archaeology**

Desk-based studies have identified archaeological potential within the study area as follows:

**Prehistoric** – possible ring-ditch; scatter of prehistoric finds in the valley of the River Witham and on the heath; no current evidence for sites of major significance

**Roman** – significant remains probable in the vicinity of Saltersford; Roman road line running up onto heath; possible outlying buildings close to this route

**Saxon and medieval** – site of Houghton shrunken medieval village, in existence prior to 1086, now reduced to single farm, extent or survival (if any) unclear

**Post-medieval** – site of former Houghton Paper Mill; lime kilns associated with quarries on Spittlegate Heath; industrial development at Spittlegate. Enquiry of the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record establishes that there are no additional records of sites or finds since 2009.

### **3 Cartographic and air-photographic**

Air-photographic assessment suggests that the ring-ditch cropmark may have much more recent origins. The Roman road line across the heath has been clarified. Map regression has provided insight into the pre-enclosure landscape of the area – including the presence of a Race Course on the heath above Grantham (however, this may have left little, if any, physical trace). Post-medieval industrial development and quarrying are the most readily identifiable changes to the landscape.

### **4 Further studies**

Geophysical survey and trial trenching have been recommended by the SKDC planning archaeologist. Trenching as a blanket prospection tool can be an expensive option.

Fieldwalking and geophysical survey would allow trenching to be better targeted. Results of such further study would not be required until schemes are further advanced. However, both can be dependent on land use / availability and need to be planned ahead where possible.

## **5 Remaining issues**

Setting: There are no Scheduled or Listed heritage assets within the study area. However, impact on the setting of the Scheduled bowl barrow in Little Ponton will need to be considered once development proposals are better defined.

## **6 Masterplan Implications**

There are no Scheduled Monuments or Listed Buildings under statutory protection within the proposed development area. Heritage assets within the study area would be protected through implementation of Planning Policy Statement 5 under which further investigative works or larger-scale excavation might be required where construction was likely to have a negative impact. The most significant heritage constraints are sites in the valley of the River Witham, particularly the Roman settlement at Saltersford, and perhaps also the shrunken medieval settlement of Houghton. Elsewhere there are likely to be some