
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWALKING
ON THE ROUTE OF THE
SOUTHERN RELIEF ROAD
GRANTHAM
LINCOLNSHIRE
(GSRR13)**

Work Undertaken For
Mouchel

March 2013

Report Compiled by
Tom Lane FSA MifA

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APS Report No **24/13**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



Quality Control

Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey,
Land on the
Grantham Southern Relief Road
Lincolnshire
(GSRR13)

Project Coordinator	Gary Taylor
Supervisor	Tom Lane
Illustration	Steve Malone, Gary Taylor
Analysis and Reporting	Tom Lane


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Date: 13/03/13	

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1. SUMMARY

A programme of systematic fieldwalking was undertaken on land comprising the route of the proposed Grantham Southern Relief Road in advance of planning requirements for development at the site.

This investigation revealed low levels of prehistoric flints and limited medieval and post-medieval artefacts. Roman material was generally sparse but with slight concentrations on the western side of the river near to the known small Roman town of Saltersford.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mouchel to undertake fieldwalking within the proposed route of the Grantham Southern Relief Road.

Fieldwalking was undertaken between the 5th and 26th of February 2013 in accordance with standard methodologies outlined in the Specification.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Grantham is located 35km south of Lincoln in the South Kesteven district of Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The proposed road route is about 2km to the southeast of the town centre and extends for 3km from the B1174, South Parade, on the west side, to the A52/B6403 roundabout near Old Somerby in the east (national grid references SK 9205 3355 – SK 9477 3405 (Fig. 2). At its western end the route commences in Harlaxton parish. However, the majority of the route traverses the parish of Londonthorpe and Harrowby Without.

The study area encompasses the Witham Valley and limestone plateau to the east. The western margin on the B1174 lies at c.

100m O.D. dropping to 60m OD in the valley of the River Witham and rising steadily eastward to 125m OD on Spittlegate Heath above the valley. Soils at the site are mapped as brashy calcareous fine loamy soils of the Elmton 1 Association developed over Jurassic limestone (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 316). British Geological Survey mapping shows greater complexity with Northampton Sand Ironstone and Whitby Mudstone cropping out lower down the valley side below the Lincolnshire Limestone and deposits on alluvium and sand and gravel on the valley floor.

2.3 Archaeological Setting

The western part of the proposed road route is located in the area of the Saltersford Romano-British settlement, where evidence of prehistoric and Saxon activity has also been found. The road route would cross the course of the Salters Way Roman road heading northeastwards from the river crossing (Lane and Taylor 2010). The eastern terminus of the proposed route is at the major Roman road, Ermine Street. In its eastern part, the route crosses a race ground, shown on 18th century maps of the area. Close to the western limit of the route is a ring ditch of a possible Bronze Age barrow (burial). However, this is located close to the site of a cluster of WW2 features and may be associated with those, rather than a prehistoric feature (Archaeological Project Services 2011).

3. AIMS

The aim of the fieldwalking survey was to gather sufficient information to further inform a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site.

In order to achieve this, a number of objectives were formulated and set out below:

- to establish the form, spatial arrangement and density of archaeological activity that may be present within the site
- to determine the likely extent of archaeological activity present within the site
- to determine the date of archaeological remains present on the site

4. METHODS AND CONDITION

Fieldwalking was undertaken within the corridor of the proposed road development site south of Grantham, Lincolnshire (Fig. 2). The site comprised seven fields. Fields 1-5 and Field 7 are in use for arable agriculture, while Field 6 is down to pasture.

Transects 20m apart were walked across the fields. Visibility on the surface of all the fields walked (Nos 1-5) was good. Fields 6 and 7, however, were not walked, the former being down to pasture while Field 7 was covered in stubble and weeds. All the fields walked had good surface visibility and a relatively even surface. Field 3 had a young rape crop and the remainder cereal. Weathering, the breaking down of the soil through agencies such as wind, rain and frost, was medium to high on all fields.

Artefacts were collected, numbered and their locations recorded using a Garmin hand-held GPS.

All fields were walked in 20m transects by two fieldwalkers who collected and recorded the locations of all the finds.

Post-medieval and modern artefacts (including pottery) were not collected, with pottery finds restricted to pre-1600 AD. In the event, a few artefacts not datable in the field were retrieved that were of post medieval date and these are shown on Fig 2.

Following fieldwalking, finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 1).

5. RESULTS

Five fields (Fields 1-5) were walked.

Field 1

Field 1 encompassed the proposed route of the road between Whalebone Lane and the A52 Roundabout, along with a proposed compound area in the northwest corner. All of it was walked at 20m intervals.

Although not collected, moderately sparse post medieval material including pottery and clay pipes was present in the western half of the field.

A slight cluster of mainly flint working waste was found towards the southwest corner. In the compound area a finely worked flint knife of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date was collected.

The earliest pottery recovered was two sherds of medieval wares.

Field 2

Situated west of and parallel to Whalebone Lane Field 2 was ploughed and harrowed with the crop not through. Only three worked flints were found.

Field 3

No finds were made in Field 3.

Field 4

Field 4 sloped west towards the river valley with some notable dry valleys running parallel with the course of the river. It is probable that these are colluviated. A small cluster of three

worked flints was found just outside the area northwest of Whalebone Spinney and a further two flints were found just east of the railway line. Single pottery sherds of Roman and post medieval date were also found at the western end of the field.

Field 5

The east-west route of the proposed road runs along a fairly steep dry valley which may be alluviated. The route widens out near to road at Spittlegate level to facilitate junctions. A proposed compound area was also walked in the southwest corner of the field, adjacent to Salters Way, the presumed course of a Roman road.

Sporadic worked flints were found along with scattered medieval and post medieval pottery. Slight concentrations of Roman pottery were found at the eastern ends of the road line and the compound area. These lie close to the limits of the Roman town at Saltersford and may mark broadly the limit of occupation (Fig. 3).

Field 6

Field 6 was grassed over and not walkable using the above methods. A non-systematic survey of the many molehills in the field did not yield any artefacts.

Field 7

Field 7 was stubble and weed covered and not walkable.

6. DISCUSSION

Fieldwalking undertaken along the route of the proposed Grantham Southern Relief Road and associated compounds yielded moderately sparse flints and pottery.

The earliest finds were thinly scattered flakes and tools of Mesolithic/Early Neolithic date. A small, loose cluster of such flints was found to the east of

Whalebone Lane in the southwest of Field 1. A finely worked flint knife, resembling a plano-convex form, was collected in the compound area east of Whalebone Lane. Plano-convex knives are often associated with burials but no other evidence exists for such a practice in that area.

In the remaining fields prehistoric finds were extremely sparse.

Roman pottery again was sparse, apart from two areas in Field 5, to the west of the Witham valley. Slight concentrations of Roman wares probably mark the western extent of Saltersford Roman town. Where dateable within the Roman period the sherds belong between the 2nd and 4th centuries AD (Fig. 3).

Medieval pottery was sparse indeed and confined largely to Field 5 where it represents no more than a manuring scatter.

Post medieval pottery and other artefacts (eg clay pipes) were not collected but noted to be scattered thinly across the area.

No archaeological features were recognised along the route, other than Saltersford Roman town (Lane and Taylor, 2010), the presence of which was reflected in the clusters of Roman pottery in Field 5 (Fig. 3).

7. CONCLUSION

A programme of fieldwalking on the proposed route of the Grantham Southern Relief Road, Lincolnshire, was undertaken to further inform any archaeological mitigation strategies required ahead of development at the site.

The earliest artefacts identified during the field survey were pieces of worked flint dating to the Late Mesolithic-Early Neolithic. Flints were mostly waste from knapping but scrapers and a finely worked

knife were also present.

Roman finds were made near to the Roman town of Saltersford and probably reflect the extent of its suburbs.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Sally Hales and Clare Howard of Mouchel. Gary Taylor coordinated the project and edited this report in conjunction with Tom Lane.

9. PERSONNEL

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Site Team and Surveying: Denise Buckley,
Neil Jefferson
Finds Analysis: Alex Beeby and Tom Lane
Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Illustration: Steve Malone
Analysis: Tom Lane

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Finds Recent Work on Roman Lincolnshire*
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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

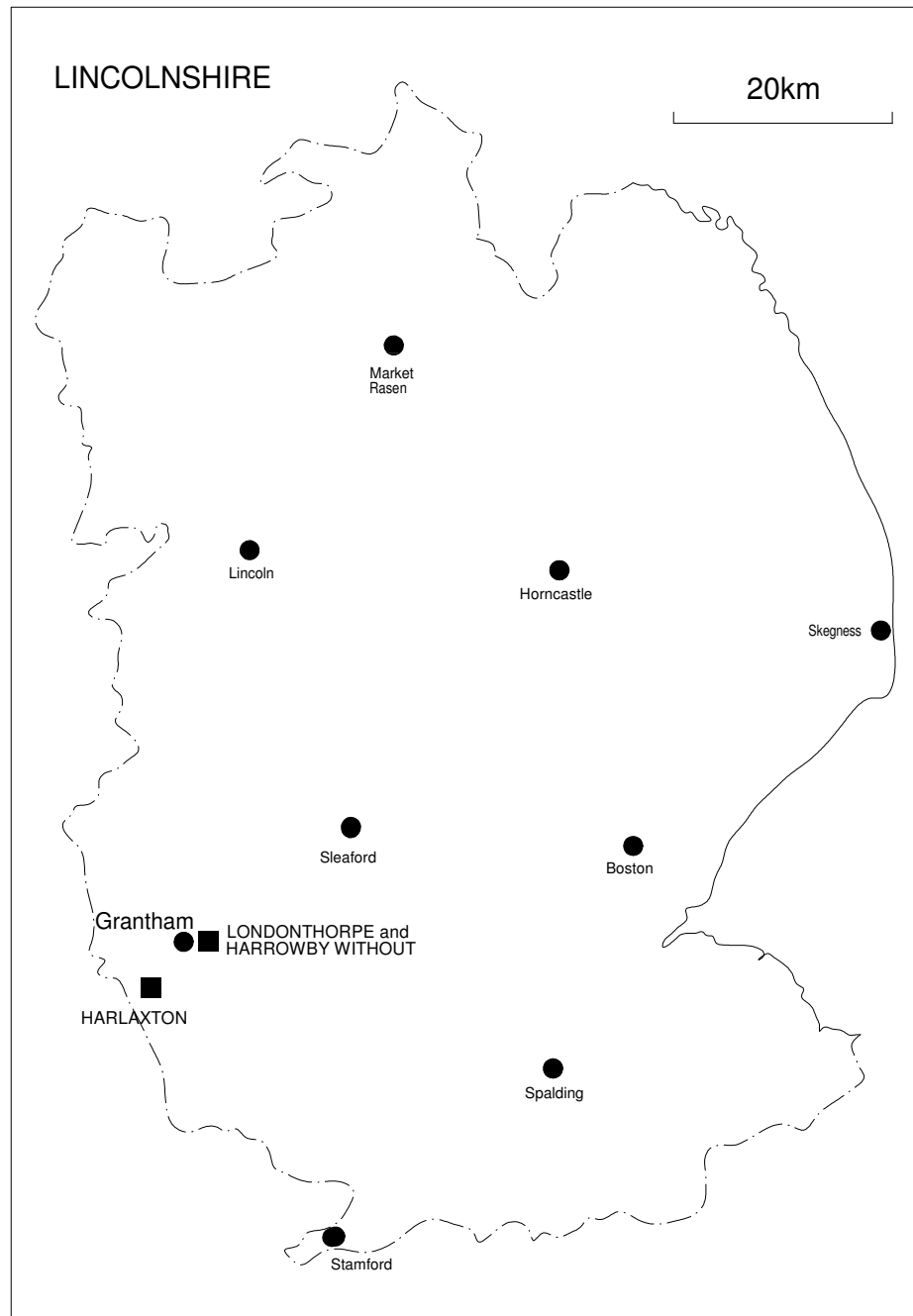
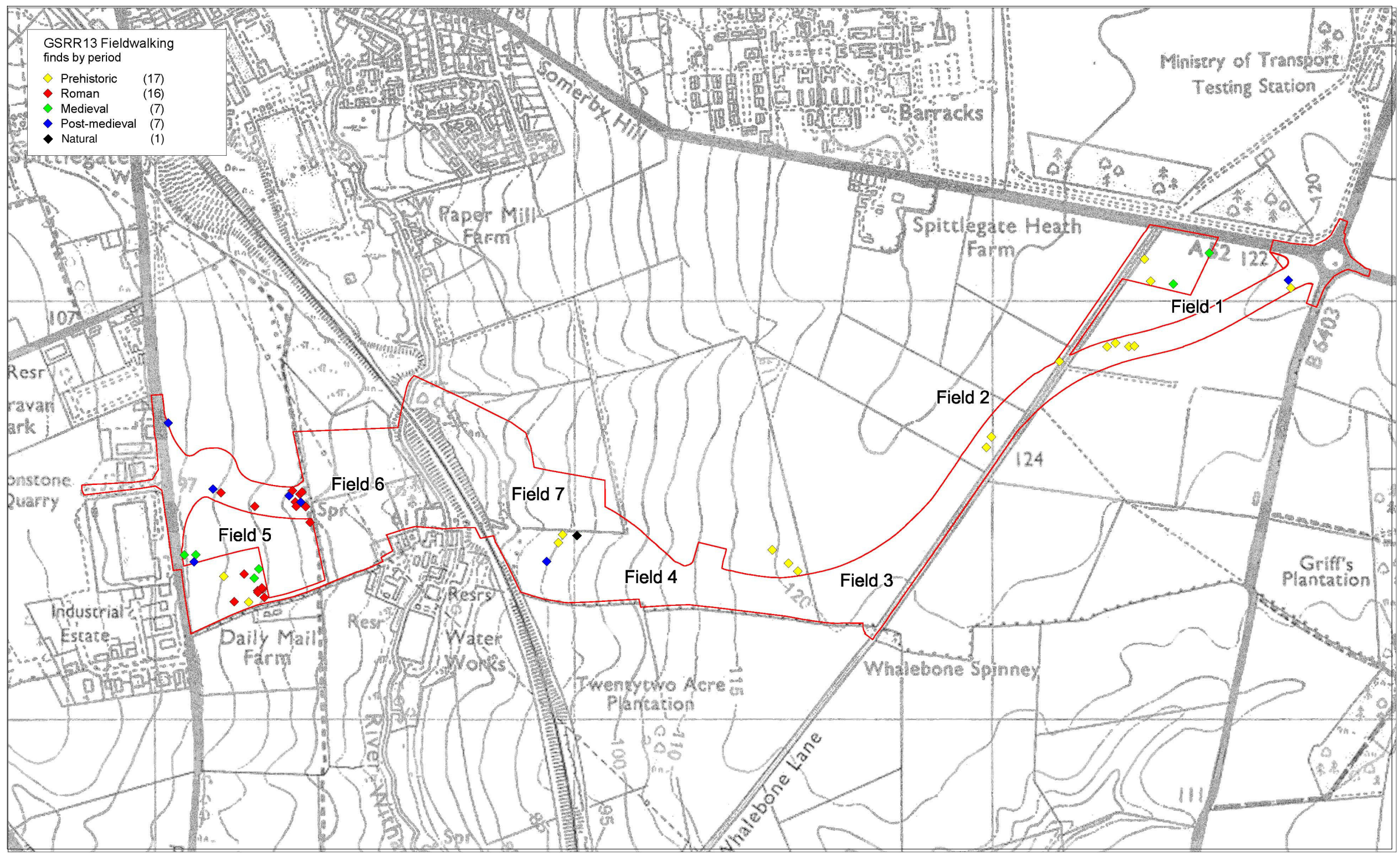



Figure 1 General Location Plan



- GSRR13 Fieldwalking finds by period
- ◆ Prehistoric (17)
 - ◆ Roman (16)
 - ◆ Medieval (7)
 - ◆ Post-medieval (7)
 - ◆ Natural (1)

	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: Grantham Southern Relief Road		
Scale: 1:10000	Drawn by: SJM	Report No: 24/13

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Figure 2 Fieldwalking plot

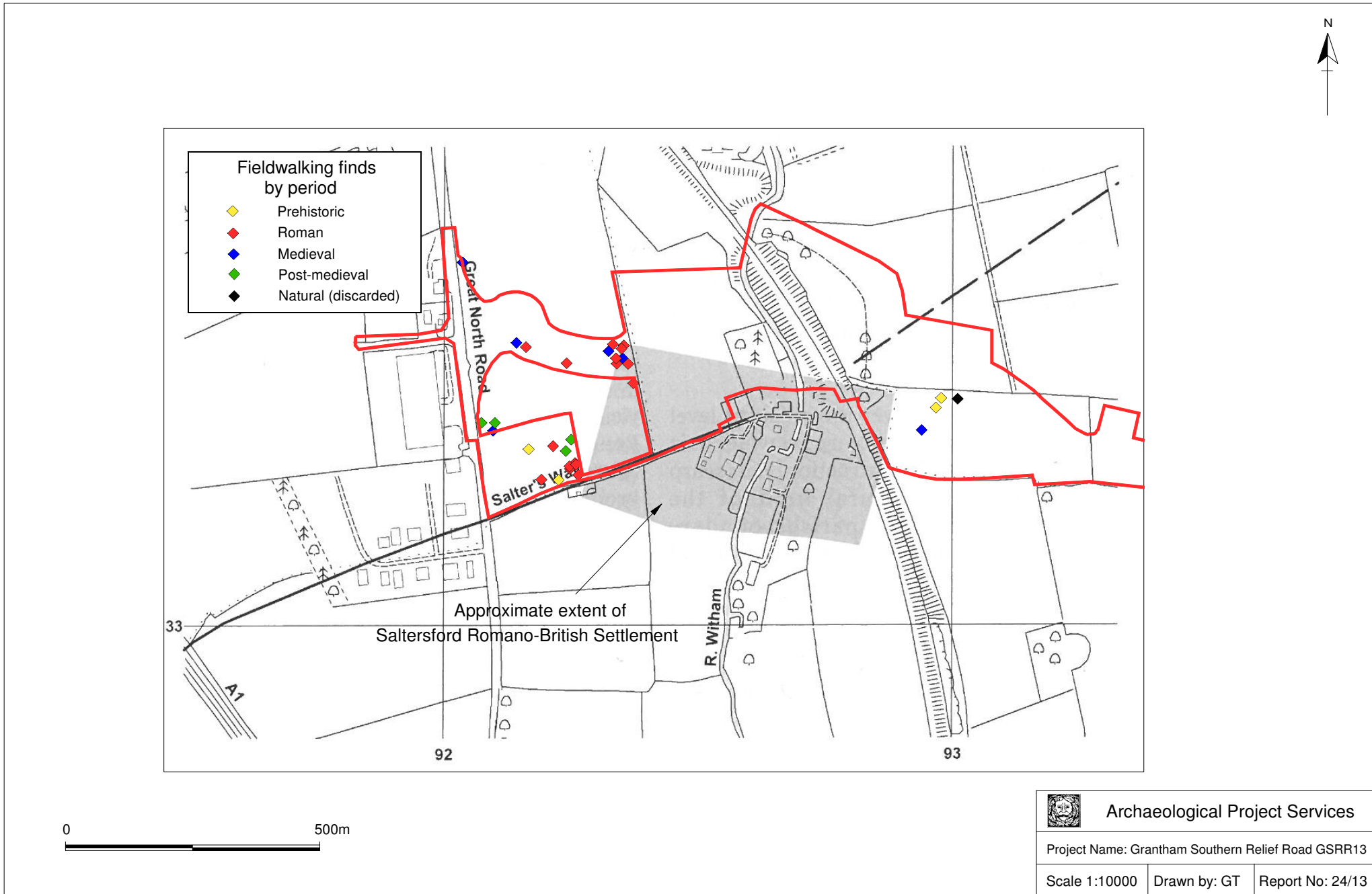


Figure 3 Distribution of fieldwalking finds in area of Saltersford Romano-British settlement

Appendix 1

GSRR 13 GRANTHAM SOUTHERN RELIEF ROAD

Fieldwalking Finds, by Alex Beeby and Tom Lane

PLOT NO.	MATERIAL	CERAMIC CNAME	CERAMIC FULL NAME	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION	DATE	Period	Grid		Ref
								EASTING	NORTHING	
1	Pot	BOU	Bourne 'D' ware		5 Smooth Fabric with Ca; Jug, body sherd	15th-M17th	Post-medieval	492034		333706
2	Pot	NOTG	Nottingham Glazed ware		8 Jug; burnt; body sherd; white slip	M13th-15th	Medieval	492100		333392
3	Pot	BERTH	Brown Glazed Earthenware		10 MP type; burnt; base sherd	16th-17th	Post-medieval	492141		333549
4	Pot	GREY	Greyware		4 Body sherd		Roman	492160		333540
5	Pot	GMICG	Grey Fine Micaceous		7 Base sherd; closed form		Roman	492241		333508
6	Stone				19 POSSIBLE ROOF TILE			492322		333534
7	Pot	RAER	Raeren Stoneware		41 Drinking jug; base	M15th-16th	Post-medieval	492323		333533
8	Pot	GFIN	Fine Greyware		1 Beaker; body sherd	L1st-3rd	Roman	492331		333545
9	Pot	MOMH	Mancetter Hartshill Mortaria		34 Bead and flange type; profile; oxidised fabric probably burnt	M2nd-3rd	Roman	492338		333518
10	Pot	GREY	Greyware		15 Jar or bowl with cordon below neck	2nd-3rd	Roman	492340		333508
11	Pot	GREY	Greyware		5 Jar or bowl with curved rim		Roman	492349		333537
12	Pot	BERTH	Brown earthenware		45 Fine micaceous fabric; pipkin handle	16th-17th	Post-medieval	492351		333518
13	Pot	NVGW	Nene Valley Greyware		16 Base; jar	M2nd-3rd	Roman	492354		333542
14	Pot	NVCC	Nene Valley Colour Coat		27 Bowl; base; string marks	3rd-4th	Roman	492363		333507
15	Pot	GREY	Greyware		13 Body sherd		Roman	492373		333470
16	Pot	NOTS	Nottingham Stoneware		3 Bowl; body sherd	18th-19th	Post-medieval	492939		333376
17	Flint			<1	Flint flake	neolithic	Prehistoric	492967		333421
18	Flint				2 Flint Blade Flake	Neolithic	Prehistoric	492977		333440
19	STONE				NATURAL	DISCARD		493011		333438
20	Flint				2 Blade flake	neolithic	Prehistoric	493478		333404
21	Flint				4 Blade flake	Neolithic	Prehistoric	493517		333372
22	Flint				8 Scraper broken in antiquity. Patinated	Mesolithic?Early Neo	Prehistoric	493539		333353
23	Flint				2 Blade Flake	Meso/early Neolithic	Prehistoric	493990		333648
24	Pot	SHMM	Prehistoric Shell Tempered with Moderate Medium sized Inclusions		20 Handmade; prehistoric; body sherd; high organic content	LBA-IA	Prehistoric	494002		333673
25	Flint			<1	Broken Blade flake	early Neolithic	Prehistoric	494165		333853
26	Flint				2 Squat flake with small flake removals on Dorsal surface	Meso/early Neolithic	Prehistoric	494279		333888
27	Flint				2 Heavily patinated blade flake	Meso/early Neolithic	Prehistoric	494299		333897
28	Flint				7 End scraper (proximal end) with some blade removal on dorsal	Meso/early Neolithic	Prehistoric	494331		333889
29	Flint				1 Flint Blade flake	Early Neolithic	Prehistoric	494344		333890
30	Pot	NOTS	Nottingham Stoneware		8 Bowl; body sherd; engine turned decoration	19th	Post-medieval	494712		334047
31	Flint				2 Heavily patinated blade flake	Early Neolithic	Prehistoric	494718		334029
32	Pot	NOTG	Nottingham Glazed ware		23 Body sherd; abraded; jug	13th-15th	Medieval	492073		333391
33	Pot	MP	Midlands Purple		16 Rim; closed; upright rim with lid seat	15th-16th	Post-medieval	492096		333375
34	Flint				15 heavily patinated object with some edge damage/possible limite	Prehistoric	Prehistoric	492167		333340
35	Pot	GREY	Greyware		8 Base with possible moulded foot ring; Jar or bowl; abraded		Roman	492192		333280
36	Pot	GREY	Greyware		4 Body sherd; abraded		Roman	492216		333346
37	Flint				1 Small triangular section blade flake	Neolithic	Prehistoric	492227		333279
38	Pot	BOUA	Bourne Medieval Fabrics A-C		18 Rim;trangular rim; fabric B	M12th-14th	Medieval	492240		333336
39	Pot	GREY	Greyware		35 Base; very abraded; could be LIA or Saxon	Roman?	Roman	492248		333306
40	Pot	GREY	Greyware		6 Body sherd; abraded		Roman	492249		333302
41	CBM	RTMISC	Miscellaneous Roof Tile		13 Edge; highly fired; probably Peg, nib or ridge tile	13th-16th	Medieval	492251		333358
42	Pot	GREY	Greyware		6 Body sherd; abraded; ?ID; possibly Saxo-Norman 10th-12th	Roman?	Roman	492258		333313
43	Pot	NVGW	Nene Valley Greyware		3 Body sherd; jar or beaker	M2nd-3rd	Roman	492260		333310
44	Pot	NVGW	Nene Valley Greyware		5 Body sherd; beaker	M2nd-3rd	Roman	492264		333290
45	Flint				4 Heavily patinated blade flake	neolithic	Prehistoric	494368		334098
46	Flint				9 Flint knife heavily worked on dorsal surface	Late Neolithic/EBA	Prehistoric	494383		334045
47	Pot	ELY	Ely type ware		12 Body sherd; abraded; jug or jar	L12th-M14th	Medieval	494437		334038
48	Pot	NOTLGW	Late Nottingham Glazed ware		8 Body sherd; jug	14th-16th	Medieval	494523		334112

Appendix 2

GLOSSARY

Alluvium	Deposits laid down by water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea, and fresh water alluvium is laid down by rivers and in lakes.
Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
Colluvium	Weathered material that has been transported downslope by gravitational forces and deposited at the base of the slope.
Manuring Scatter	A distribution of artefacts, usually pottery, created by the spreading of manure and domestic refuse from settlements onto arable fields. Such scatters can provide an indication of the extent and period of arable agriculture in the landscape.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Mesolithic	The 'Middle Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 11000 - 4500 BC.
Modern	Relating to the 19 th -21 st centuries.
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500 - 2250 BC.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period when Britain was occupied by peoples from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas. The period dates from approximately AD 450-1066.

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

5	Field Survey Sheets
3	Daily Record Sheets
1	Annotated site plan
1	Bag of Finds

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Accession Number:	2013.7
Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	GSRR13
OASIS Identification Number:	archaeo11-143618

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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