

Event 45826
Source 49914
Mon 23947

M1/18

DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT OF LAND
OFF THE HAYFIELDS, WYGATE PARK,
SPALDING,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SWP01)

Work undertaken for
Broadgate Homes Ltd.

August 2001

Report Compiled by
James Albone MA, PIFA

National Grid Reference: TF 2370 2375



A.P.S. Report No. 112/01

CONTENTS

List of Figures

List of Tables

1.	Summary	1
2.	Introduction	1
2.1	Background	1
2.2	Topography and Geology	1
2.3	Definition of a Desk-Based Assessment	1
3.	Project Aims	1
4.	Methods	1
5.	Results	2
5.1	Historical Data	2
5.2	Cartographic Data	2
5.3	Aerial Photograph Data	3
5.4	Archaeological Data	3
5.5	Historic Buildings Data	4
5.6	Walkover Survey	4
6.	Constraints	4
6.1	Heritage Constraints	4
6.2	Other Constraints	4
7.	Assessment of Significance	4
8.	Conclusions	6
9.	Acknowledgements	6
10.	References	6
11.	Abbreviations	7

Appendices

1	Extract from <i>Criteria for the scheduling of ancient monuments</i>
2	List of Sources Consulted
3	Glossary

List of Figures

Figure 1: General location plan.

Figure 2: Site location plan showing known archaeological sites and finds within c.500m.

Figure 3: Extract from Armstrong's '*Map of Lincolnshire 1779*' showing the site location.

Figure 4: Extract from surveyor's drawing for first edition Ordnance Survey map 1815 showing the site location.

Figure 5: Extract from Bryant's '*Map of the County of Lincoln*' showing site location.

Figure 6: Extract from second edition 6" Ordnance Survey map (1906) showing site location.

Figure 7: Extract from revised second edition 6" Ordnance Survey map (1959) showing site location.

Figure 8: Site plan showing details of walkover survey.

List of Tables

Table 1: Known archaeological sites and finds within c.500m of the proposed development site.

List of Plates

Plate 1: General view of the proposed development area, looking west.

Plate 2: General view of the proposed development area, looking southeast.

1. SUMMARY

A desk-based assessment was undertaken to determine the archaeological implications of a proposed residential development on land at The Hayfields, Wygate Park, Spalding, Lincolnshire. Archaeological evidence dating from the medieval to modern periods has previously been identified within the vicinity of the proposed development site.

The site lies on the northwestern edge of the town of Spalding. Previous archaeological records within the assessment area consist of medieval and post-medieval pottery scatters and fields associated with arable agriculture. No archaeological remains have previously been recorded at the proposed development site.

Although no Romano-British remains were identified within the assessment area, these have been recorded further to the west, south and east. It is likely that remains of this period lie buried beneath later alluvial deposits at the proposed development site. Evidence from the surrounding area suggests that these deposits may be at an estimated depth of c.1.0 - 1.5m below present ground level.

A walkover survey was carried out at the site to assess ground conditions and the presence of archaeological remains. A sparse distribution of post-medieval and modern artefacts were noted across the area representing a manuring scatter. The whole of the site would be suitable for further investigations in the form of geophysical or fieldwalking surveys, subject to appropriate ground conditions.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Broadgate Homes Limited to undertake a desk-based assessment of the proposed development site. The archaeological assessment was undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for the Preparation of Desk-*

Based Assessments (IFA 1999).

2.2 Topography and Geology

Spalding is situated 23km southwest of Boston and 30km southeast of Sleaford in the South Holland district of Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The proposed development site is located to the northwest of the town between existing residential areas to the south and east, and Vernatt's Drain to the north. It centres on NGR TF 2370 2375 and lies at a height of approximately 3m above OD on level ground. The site lies on coarse silty calcareous alluvial gley soils of the Wisbech series (Robson 1990).

2.3 Definition of a Desk-Based Assessment

A desk-based assessment is defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) as an '*assessment of the known or potential archaeological resource within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. It consists of a collation of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely character, extent, quality and worth of the known or potential archaeological resource in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate*' (IFA 1999).

3. PROJECT AIMS

The purpose of the desk-based assessment is to obtain information about the known and potential archaeological resource within the vicinity of the proposed development site. In addition to the above, statutory and advisory heritage constraints were identified.

4. METHODS

All archaeological remains or documentary evidence relating to the area within c.0.5km of the proposed development site was considered. Compilation of the archaeological and historical data relevant to the area of the proposed development site involved examination of

appropriate primary and secondary sources available. These have included:

- Historical documents, held in Lincolnshire Archives Office.
- Enclosure, tithe, parish and other maps and plans, held in Lincolnshire Archives Office.
- Recent and old Ordnance Survey maps.
- Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.
- Aerial photographs.
- Archaeological books and journals.

Information obtained from the literature and cartographic examination was supplemented by a walkover survey of the site to assess present land-use and ground conditions.

Results of the archival and field examinations were committed to scale plans of the area.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Historical Data

Historically the proposed development site lay within Pinchbeck parish. Pinchbeck is first referred to as *Pincebec* in the Domesday Survey of 1086. The place-name refers to the stream associated with either the minnow or the linnet (Cameron 1998, 97).

At the time of the Domesday Survey, land at Pinchbeck was held by Ivo Tallboys and Guy of Craon. Included among Ivo Tallboy's holdings were 4 fisheries producing 1500 eels (Morris 1986).

Although historical sources provide information about the development of Pinchbeck village during the medieval period, the outlying rural parts of the parish are less well documented. As the proposed development site is located in such an area its history is difficult to ascertain.

The 17th century was the great period of fen drainage. Vernatt's Drain, which forms the northwest boundary of the site, was constructed in the 1630s as part of the drainage of Deeping

Fen (Wheeler 1896, 318).

During the early 20th century the boundary of Spalding Urban District was extended. Previously it had lain 500m south of the site, but was moved north to the course of Vernatt's Drain. This alteration moved the site from Pinchbeck parish into Spalding and is shown on the cartographic sources discussed below.

5.2 Cartographic Data

The proposed development site is located on the northwestern edge of the modern extent of Spalding. Appropriate maps of the vicinity were examined.

The earliest map examined which is relevant to the area under investigation is Armstrong's '*Map of Lincoln-shire*', which dates from 1779 (Fig. 3). This map is of a small scale and does not show any specific details for the assessment site, although '*Vernattas's Drain*' is marked.

The earliest detailed map of the proposed development area examined was the 1815 surveyor's drawing for the first edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 4). The site area is shown as divided into a series of sub-rectangular fields to the south of Vernatt's Drain. These fields show little correlation to boundaries marked on later Ordnance Survey maps. This discontinuity has also been noted further to the south and it is likely that the fields shown are only a representation of the actual boundaries present in 1815 (Albone 2000, 3).

Bryant's '*Map of the County of Lincoln*' of 1828 is of a small scale and does not show any details for the site area (Fig.5). The site area lay within Pinchbeck parish to the west of a lane called, '*Market Way*', which led to '*Horse Bridge*' over Vernatt's Drain.

No detailed maps or plans (eg. Enclosure, tithe or estate) showing the site area were located during the assessment.

The second edition 6" to the mile Ordnance Survey map of 1906 showed no specific details within the site area. '*Horse Bridge*', to the east

of the site had been renamed 'Two Plank Bridge' by this time (Fig. 6). The pattern of field boundaries in the area is clearly crossed by Vernatt's drain and therefore must be earlier.

By 1959 the Urban District Boundary of Spalding had been moved north to Vernatt's Drain and incorporated the site. A new boundary parallel to the drain was also shown across the site area (Fig. 7).

Like many of the surrounding fields, the two fields at the site had been consolidated to form larger units by 1973 (Fig. 2). Since that date extensive residential development has occurred to the south and east of the site.

5.3 Aerial Photograph Data

Aerial photographs held at the Lincolnshire SMR and Heritage Lincolnshire were examined. No relevant aerial photographs were located in either of these collections. Map overlays compiled from aerial photographs and published sources were also consulted. No cropmarks were recorded within the assessment area on these sources.

Extensive cropmarks of Romano-British field systems and droveways have been recorded to the west of the assessment area (Phillips 1970). Any similar features within the assessment area are masked by deposits of alluvial silt and are not visible as cropmarks.

5.4 Archaeological Data

Records of archaeological sites and finds are held in the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record. Other, secondary, sources were also examined. Details of archaeological

and historical remains falling within c.500m of the site were examined and located on Figure 2. Contemporary environmental conditions, based on results from surveys elsewhere in the Fenland, are also discussed where relevant.

Prehistoric Archaeology

No evidence of prehistoric (pre 50 AD) archaeology was identified in the assessment area. The area was subject to periods of marine incursion from the Neolithic through to the mid-to late Iron Age. Consequently there was little human use of the landscape during that time.

Romano-British Archaeology

The Romano-British period (50 - 410 AD) saw a drop in sea level which resulted in extensive settlement on the marine silts. Subsequent marine incursions late in the period, probably during the 4th century, resulted in the abandonment of these sites. Romano-British ground levels and deposits in the area of the proposed site and further to the northeast are masked by later alluvial silts.

No Romano-British evidence has previously been recorded within the assessment area itself. However, extensive evidence has been recorded further to the south and west where contemporary deposits are exposed. Recent investigations in the centre of Spalding have also exposed Romano-British deposits sealed by later silts.

Anglo-Saxon Archaeology

No archaeological evidence of the Anglo-Saxon period (410 -1066 AD) has been identified within the assessment area.

Medieval Archaeology

A sparse scatter of pottery of medieval date (1066 - 1500 AD), has been identified during a

Map Code No.	SMR Ref.	Description	National Grid Reference (c = centre)
1	----	Medieval and post-medieval pottery	TF 2350 2305c
8	22350	Undated possible lynchets	TF 2350 2350

Table 1: Known archaeological sites and finds from within c.500m of the proposed development site.

walkover survey of a site 500m to the south of the proposed development site (Fig.2, No.1). It is likely that this represented an agricultural manuring scatter (Albone 2000, 8).

Post-medieval Archaeology

The post-medieval period (1500 - 1900 AD) is represented only by a manuring scatter of pottery (*ibid.*) recorded at the southern limit of the assessment area (Fig.2, No.1). Map evidence indicates that much of the area comprises elongated ditched fields (Figs. 2 and 6). This field system is clearly crossed by, and therefore earlier than, Vernatt's Drain which was constructed in the 1630s.

Undated Archaeology

Undated remains, recorded as possible lynchets have been identified c.140m south of the proposed development site (Fig. 2, No.2). However, as this type of feature is normally associated with steep slopes, some doubt must be cast on this interpretation.

5.5 Historic Buildings Data

No listed historic buildings are present within the assessment area.

5.6 Walkover Survey

A walkover survey of the majority of the proposed development site was undertaken on 31st August 2001. The site comprised a single field with a cereal crop and weed vegetation (Pl. 1 & 2). Areas of well-weathered soil were also exposed within the cropped area. A sparse scatter of post-medieval to modern pottery and other artefacts were observed in these areas. No concentrations of artefacts were noted.

A slight mound was present in the western part of the site (Fig. 8). The site is situated too far inland for this feature to be associated with medieval salt-making activity. Its position adjacent Vernatt's Drain suggests that it may be a result of ground disturbance associated with the drain's construction.

The site would be suitable for fieldwalking subject to appropriate ground conditions. The

area would need to be ploughed and allowed to weather before effective fieldwalking could be carried out. No constraints affecting the use of geophysical survey techniques were noted during the walkover survey.

6. CONSTRAINTS

6.1 Heritage Constraints

No Scheduled Ancient Monuments protected by the Ancient Monument and Archaeological Areas Act of 1979 (HMSO 1979) are located within the assessment area. Consequently, all archaeological remains are protected only through the implementation of PPG16 (DoE 1990).

6.2 Other Constraints

No specific checks were carried out for the presence of active services (gas, water, electricity etc.) across the site.

7. ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

For assessment of significance the *Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling ancient monuments* has been used (DoE 1990, Annex 4; See Appendix 2).

Period

Activity dateable from the medieval and later periods has been recognised within the assessment area.

The absence of prehistoric archaeological remains can be attributed to contemporary environmental conditions. Romano-British remains have been recorded beyond the assessment area, further to the west and in Spalding itself to the south.

Medieval evidence is limited to a sparse scatter of pottery identified at a site 500m to the south. Post-medieval and modern artefacts were identified during the walkover at the present site and the site to the south. The field system in the area is perhaps medieval or early post-medieval

in origin.

Rarity

The sparse pottery scatters identified at the proposed development site and the site to the south are likely to represent manuring scatters. These are typical of areas which have been in arable cultivation.

Documentation

Records of archaeological sites and finds made in the assessment area are kept in the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record and parish files at Heritage Lincolnshire. A number of previous assessments have been carried out in the vicinity (Albone 2000).

Group value

The sparse nature of the archaeological evidence from the assessment area does not present any temporal or spatial groupings. The sparse scatter of post-medieval and later pottery identified during the walkover survey suggest arable land-use at those times.

Survival/Condition

All pre-medieval archaeological remains potentially existing within the assessment area survive only as buried remains. It is possible that remains of these periods are sealed beneath later silt deposits. Romano-British pottery was recently found below 2m of later silt deposits on Pinchbeck Road to the east of the proposed development site. Any such buried archaeological remains are likely to be comparatively well preserved.

Any shallow buried archaeological remains which may exist at the site are likely to have been damaged by ploughing activity.

Fragility/Vulnerability

As already discussed, any near-surface archaeological remains which may exist at the site have probably been damaged by agricultural activity. These remains would be very susceptible to further erosion, both from ploughing and groundworks associated with development. Archaeological remains sealed below silt deposits would be under some threat from any deeper groundworks associated with

the proposed development

Diversity

A low period diversity is represented by the identified archaeological remains. Sites relating to agriculture and drainage were identified, representing a low functional diversity.

Potential

Due to the contemporary environmental conditions suggested for the site area during the prehistoric period, the potential for unidentified remains of this age is low.

The presence of Romano-British settlement to the west, south and east suggest a moderate potential for archaeological remains of this period to be present at the site. Although no Romano-British evidence has been identified within the assessment area, it is highly likely that remains of this period are buried beneath later alluvial deposits. Romano-British levels have been identified below c.0.8 - 1.0m of silt immediately west and south of the site and pottery has been found at a depth of c.2m a short distance to the east. In view of this it is suggested that any Romano-British remains at the proposed development site may lie at a depth of c.1.0 - 1.5m below the present ground level. However, the presence and depth of these deposits could only be confirmed by trial excavation.

No evidence of Anglo-Saxon date was identified at, or near, the proposed development site and the potential for remains of this period to be present at the site appears to be low.

Although no medieval pottery was observed at the site during the walkover survey such material has been recognised in the vicinity. Additionally, the pattern of field boundaries in relation to Vernatt's Drain indicates that the area has been fields since before the 1630s. However, the potential for significant remains of this period to be present appears to be low.

The sparse scatter of post-medieval and modern pottery identified during the walkover survey suggests an arable land-use throughout these periods. It is likely that further associated

remains, such as former boundary/drainage ditches, will exist at the site

8. CONCLUSIONS

The assessment has identified evidence relating to medieval, post-medieval and modern activity within the assessment area.

Although no evidence of Romano-British date was identified within the assessment area, finds of Romano-British date from the surrounding area suggest that contemporary deposits may lie at a depth of c.1.0 - 1.5m below present ground level.

Anglo-Saxon evidence is absent from the assessment area. Archaeological remains of this period may also be sealed by later alluvium although the present evidence suggests that there is little potential for their existence at the site.

A sparse distribution of medieval, post-medieval and later artefacts identified at the site during the walkover survey and in the vicinity seem to represent manuring scatters associated with arable agriculture.

The walkover survey also established that the site would be suitable for further evaluation in the form of geophysical or fieldwalking survey subject to appropriate ground conditions.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Broadgate Homes Ltd who commissioned this report. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who jointly edited this report with Tom Lane. Maps were computerised by Rachael Hall. Access to the County Sites and Monuments Record was kindly provided by Mark Bennet and Sarah Grundy of the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council. Thanks are also due to the staff of the Lincolnshire Archives Office and Lincoln Central Library.

10. REFERENCES

Albone, J., 2000 *Desk-Based Assessment at Land West of Woolram Wygate, Spalding, Lincolnshire*. APS Report 185/00

Armstrong, A., 1779 *Map of the County of Lincoln-Shire*

Bryant, A., 1828 *Map of the County of Lincoln*

Cameron, K., 1998 *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names*.

DoE, 1990 *Archaeology and Planning*, Planning Policy Guidance note 16

Hallam, H.E., 1965 *Settlement and Society. A Study of the Early Agrarian History of South Lincolnshire*.

HMSO, 1979 *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act*

IFA, 1999 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments*

Ordnance Survey, 1815 *Surveyors drawing for first edition map. 2" to the mile*.

Ordnance Survey, 1906 *6" to the mile map; Lincolnshire [Parts of Holland] Sheet CXXXIV.SW*. Second Edition.

Ordnance Survey, 1959 *6" to the mile map Sheet TF22SW*.

Ordnance Survey, 1973 *1:10000 map; Sheet TF22SW*

Pevsner, N., 1995 *Lincolnshire. The Buildings of England* (2nd edition revised by J. Harris and N. Antram)

Phillips, C.W., 1970 *The Fenland in Roman Times*

Robson, J.D., 1990 *Soils of the Boston and Spalding District*.

Wheeler, W.H., 1896 *A History of the Fens of*

South Lincolnshire

11. **ABBREVIATIONS**

APS	Archaeological Project Services
DoE	Department of the Environment
HMSO	Her Majesties' Stationery Office
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
LAO	Lincolnshire Archives Office
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record Office

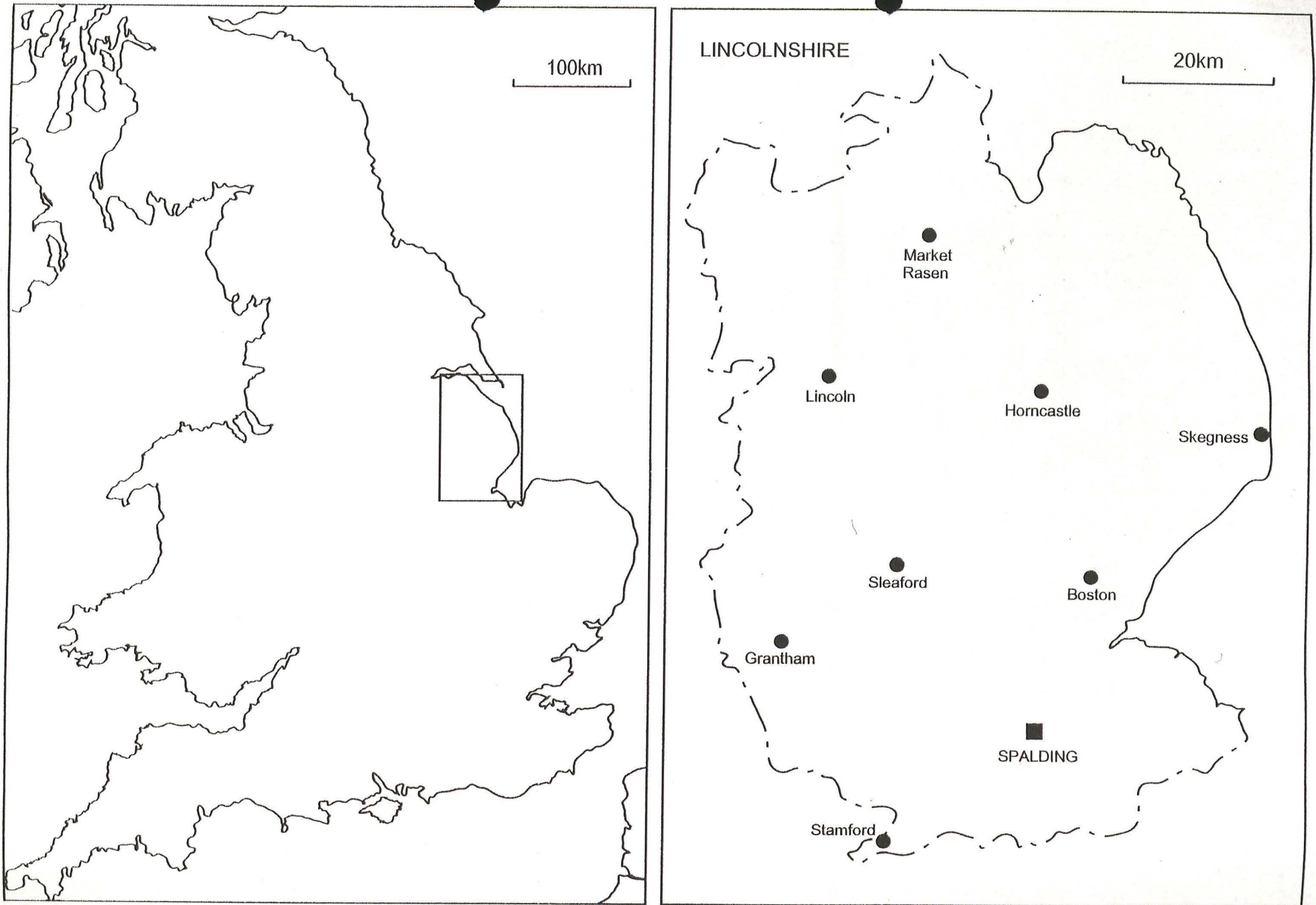


Figure 1: General Location Plan

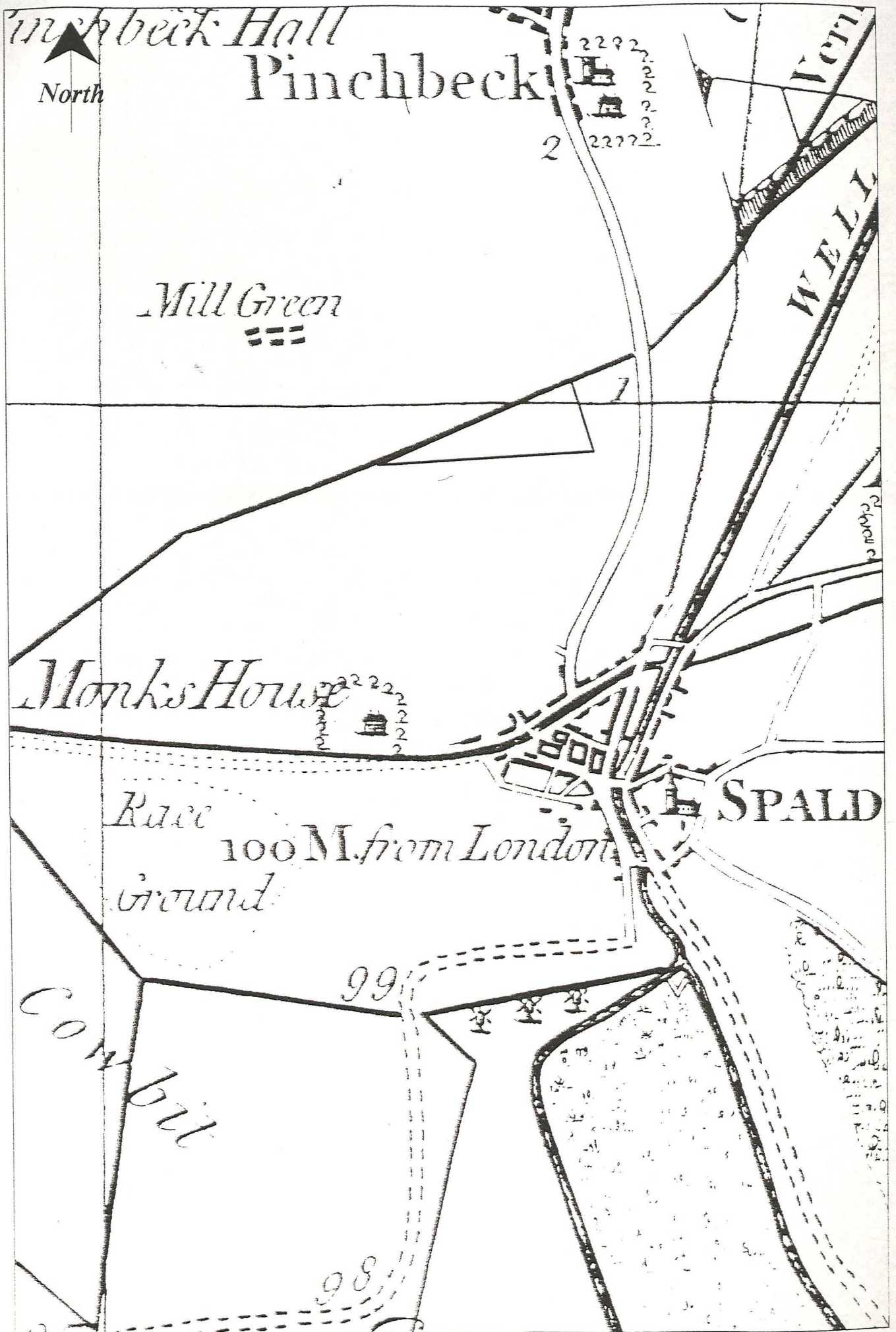


Figure 3 Extract from Armstrong's 'Map of Lincolnshire 1779' showing the site location

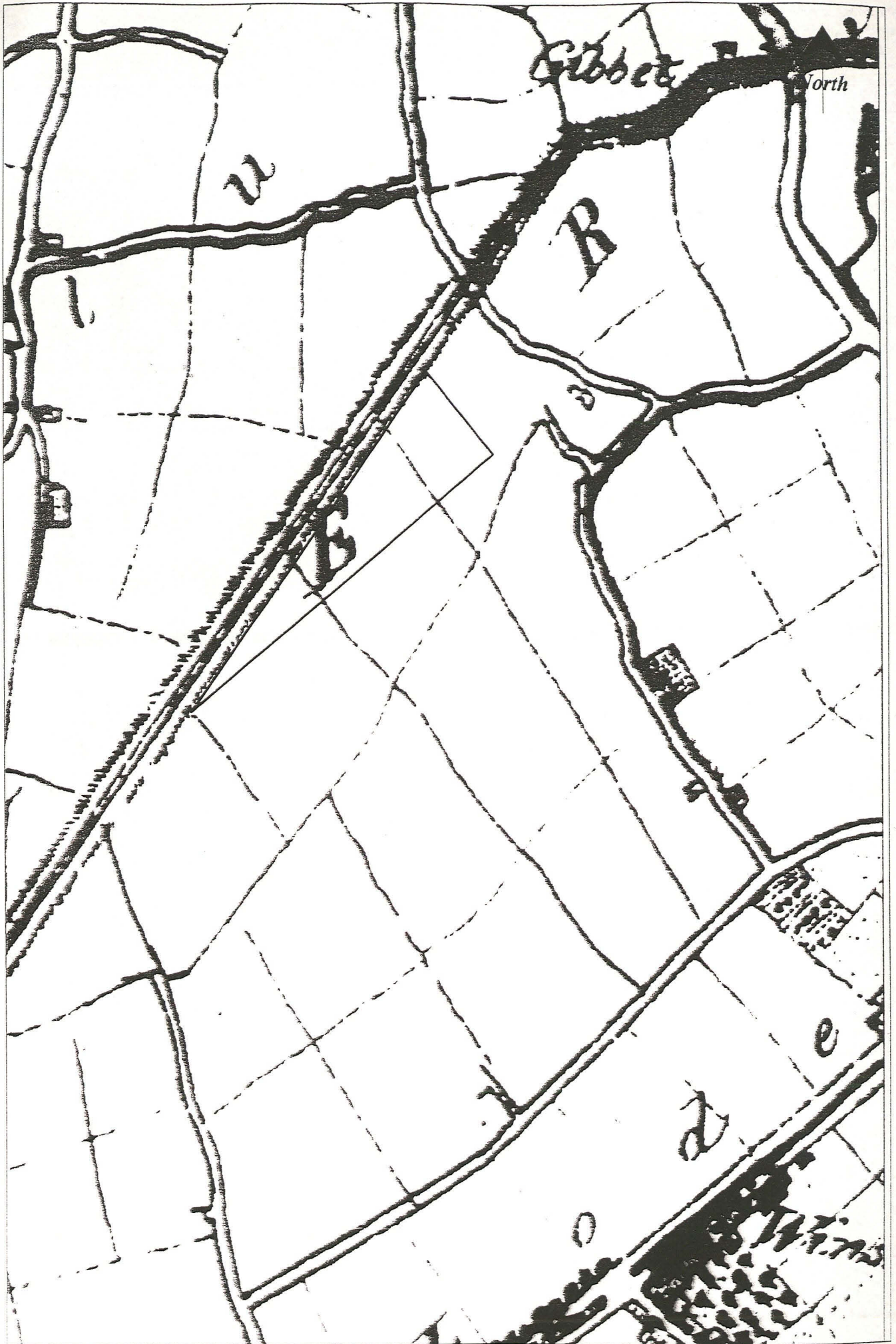


Figure 4 Extract from surveyors drawing for 1st edition Ordnance Survey map 1815

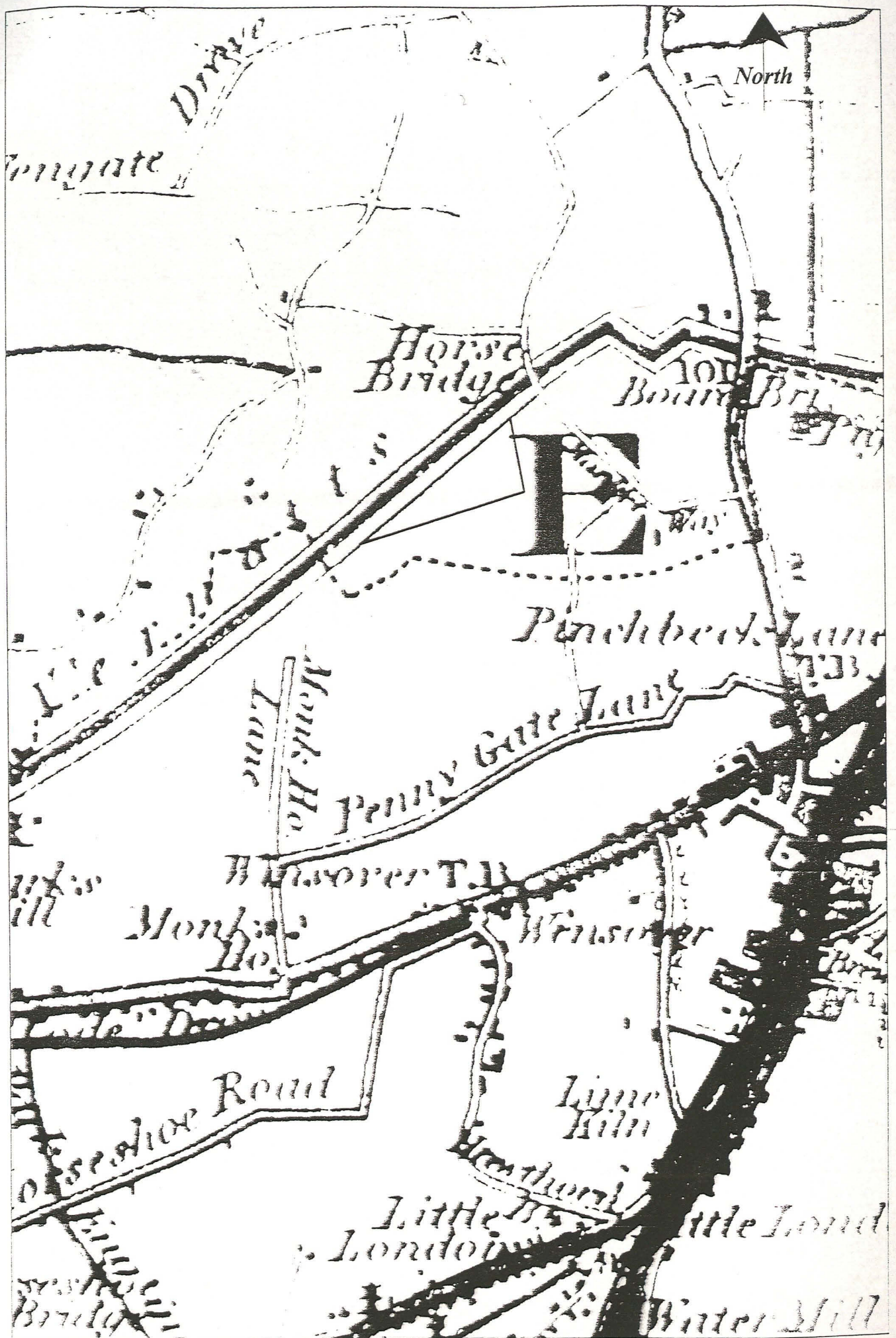


Figure 5 Extract from Bryant's 'Map of the County of Lincoln' showing site location

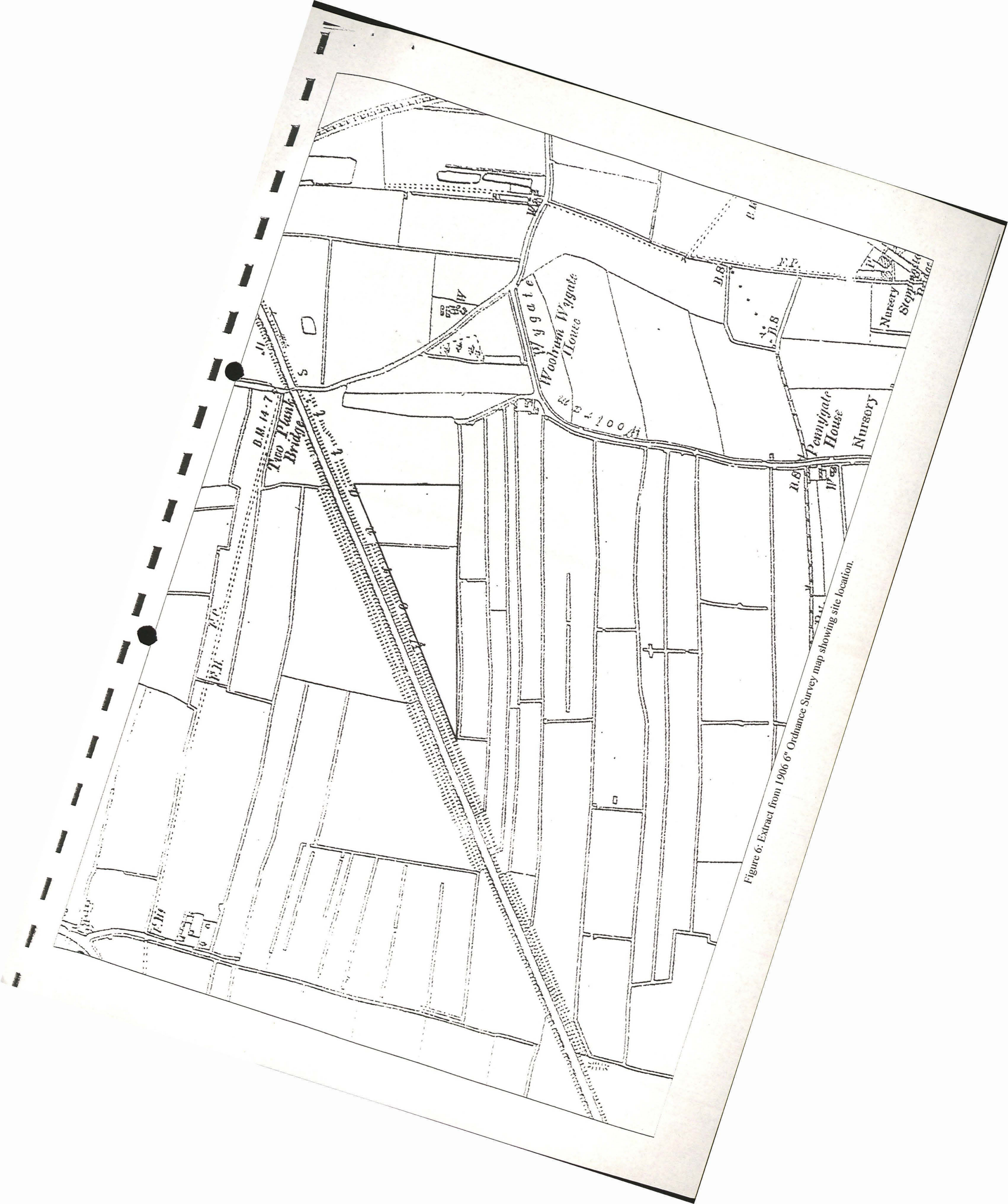


Figure 6: Extract from 1906 6" Ordnance Survey map showing site location.

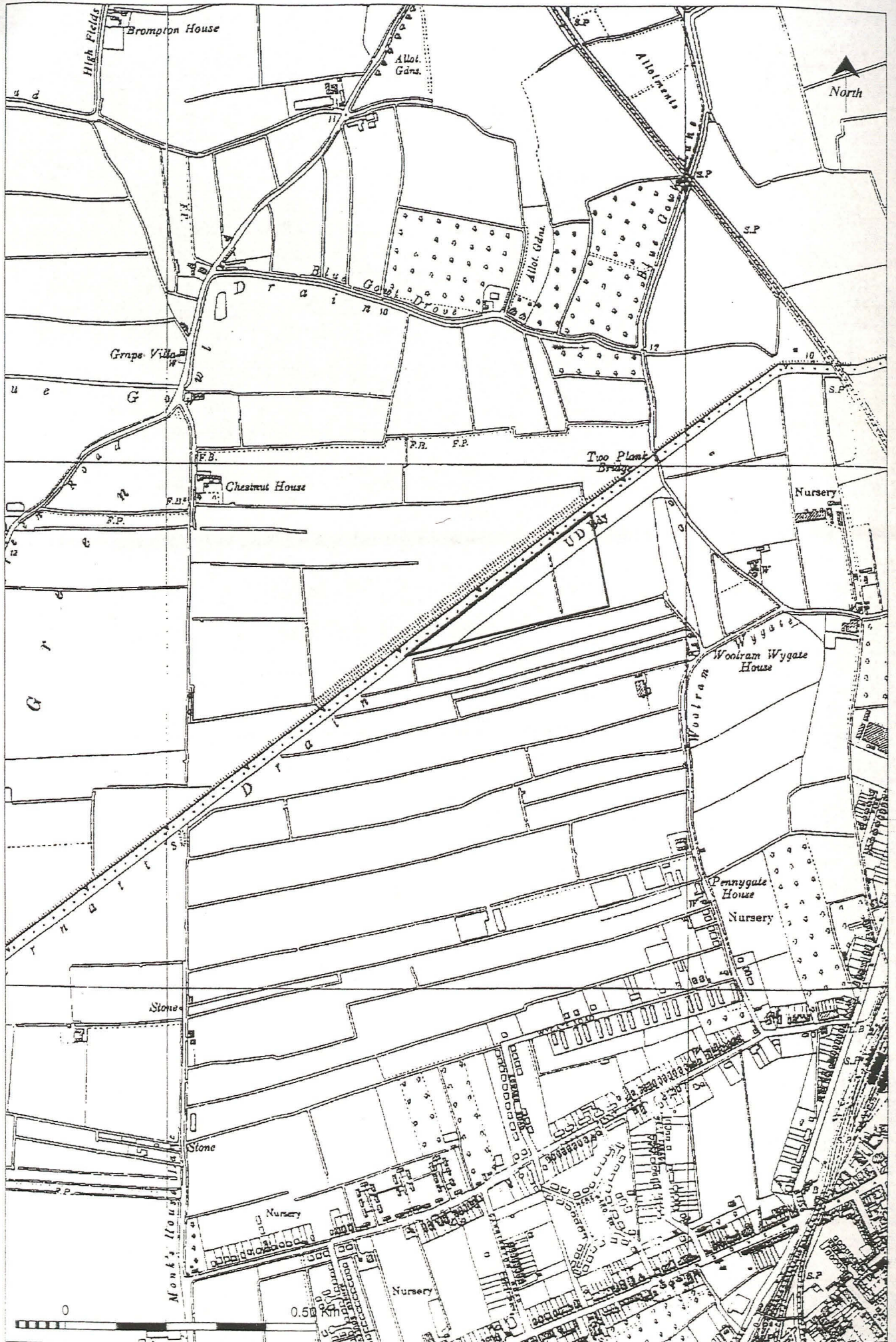


Figure 7: Extract from 1959 6" Ordnance Survey map showing site location.

KEY

Site Boundary

Existing Residential Development

0 100m

N

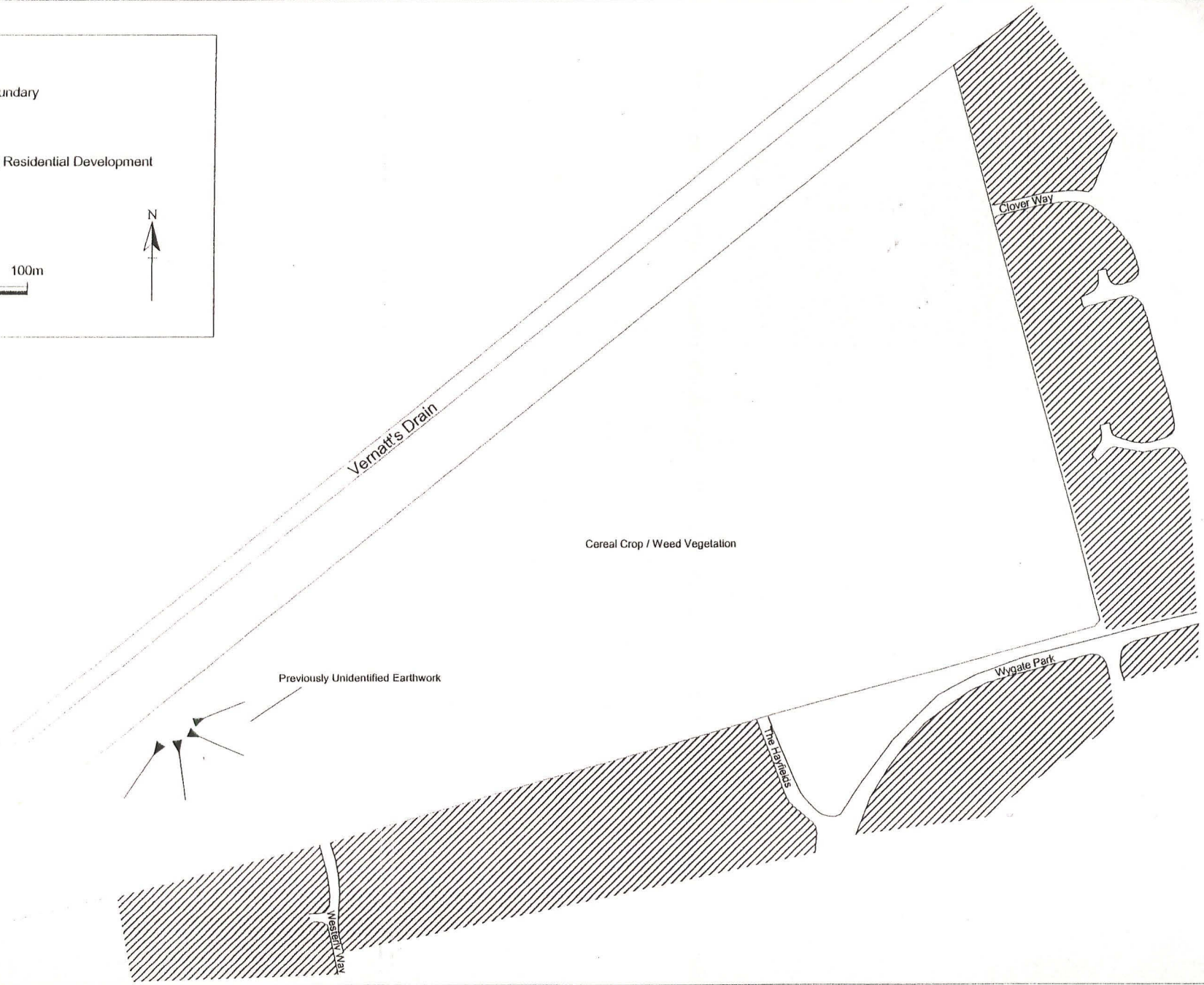


Figure 8 Site plan showing details of the walkover survey

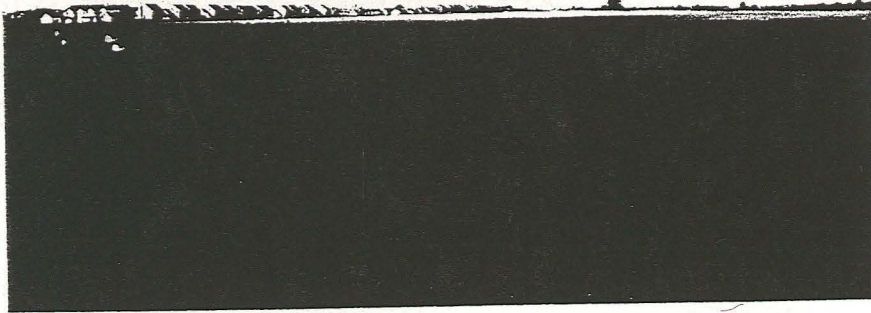


Plate 1: General view of the proposed development area,
looking southwest.



Plate 2: General view of the proposed development area,
looking east.

Appendix 1

Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling Ancient Monuments - Extract from *Archaeology and Planning* DoE Planning Policy Guidance note 16, November 1990

The following criteria (which are not in any order of ranking), are used for assessing the national importance of an ancient monument and considering whether scheduling is appropriate. The criteria should not however be regarded as definitive; rather they are indicators which contribute to a wider judgement based on the individual circumstances of a case.

i *Period*: all types of monuments that characterise a category or period should be considered for preservation.

ii *Rarity*: there are some monument categories which in certain periods are so scarce that all surviving examples which retain some archaeological potential should be preserved. In general, however, a selection must be made which portrays the typical and commonplace as well as the rare. This process should take account of all aspects of the distribution of a particular class of monument, both in a national and regional context.

iii *Documentation*: the significance of a monument may be enhanced by the existence of records of previous investigation or, in the case of more recent monuments, by the supporting evidence of contemporary written records.

iv *Group value*: the value of a single monument (such as a field system) may be greatly enhanced by its association with related contemporary monuments (such as a settlement or cemetery) or with monuments of different periods. In some cases, it is preferable to protect the complete group of monuments, including associated and adjacent land, rather than to protect isolated monuments within the group.

v *Survival/Condition*: the survival of a monument's archaeological potential both above and below ground is a particularly important consideration and should be assessed in relation to its present condition and surviving features.

vi *Fragility/Vulnerability*: highly important archaeological evidence from some field monuments can be destroyed by a single ploughing or unsympathetic treatment; vulnerable monuments of this nature would particularly benefit from the statutory protection that scheduling confers. There are also existing standing structures of particular form or complexity whose value can again be severely reduced by neglect or careless treatment and which are similarly well suited by scheduled monument protection, even if these structures are already listed buildings.

vii *Diversity*: some monuments may be selected for scheduling because they possess a combination of high quality features, others because of a single important attribute.

viii *Potential*: on occasion, the nature of the evidence cannot be specified precisely but it may still be possible to document reasons anticipating its existence and importance and so to demonstrate the justification for scheduling. This is usually confined to sites rather than upstanding monuments.

Appendix 2

LIST OF CONSULTED SOURCES

Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record, parishes of Spalding and Pinchbeck

Aerial photographs and map overlays held by Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record and Heritage Lincolnshire

Lincolnshire Archives:- cartographic sources; secondary sources (books and journals)

Heritage Lincolnshire library

Lincoln Central Reference Library

OS Maps: 1815, 1906, 1959, 1973

Information held by Archaeological Project Services

Sources Not Consulted and Reasons

Geotechnical information - No information available

Primary historical documentation held at Lincolnshire Archives - previous experience has shown that the consultation of primary historical documentation is extremely time consuming and only informative, in archaeological terms, in fortuitous instances.

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

- Anglo-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.
- Cropmark** A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological or geological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
- Domesday Survey** A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
- Geophysical Survey** Essentially non-invasive methods of examining below the ground surface by measuring deviations in the physical properties and characteristics of the earth. Techniques include magnetometry and resistivity survey.
- Iron Age** A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
- Medieval** The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
- 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.