An Archaeological Evaluation at Springfield Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire (SK 9103 3443).

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1. Summary

Following a desk-based assessment and geophysical survey a trial trench evaluation was undertaken at Springfield Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire (SK 9103 3443). No significant archaeological deposits were located. In a number of the trenches north to south aligned features were discovered that could be furrows, the remains of medieval strip farming. The site archive will be deposited with the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

2. Introduction

In accordance with Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG 16, Archaeology and Planning, para 30), this document presents the results of an archaeological evaluation of trial trenching at Springfield Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire (SK 9103 3443) required by the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist.

The area is subject to a planning application (S02/1169/35) for a housing development. It follows the results of a geophysical survey (GSB Prospection Report 2003/54). The evaluation forms part of an Archaeological Impact Assessment following the requirements of the *Brief for Trial Trenching at Springfield Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire* produced by the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist.

All the archaeological work adhered to the Institute of Field Archaeologist's (IFA) *Code of Conduct* and their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* and followed the design specification for archaeological work (ULAS 16.01.05 Appendix 1).

The proposed development site is located at Springfield Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire (Figs 1-2; SK 9103 3443). It lies on the southern outskirts of Grantham and covers an area of 7.6ha. The western half of the site is short pasture while the north-eastern area is covered by factory buildings and a car park.

3. Geology

The British Geological Survey 1:500000 Series England and Wales Sheet 143 show that the majority of the underlying geology of the site is Marlstone bedrock. The southern part of the site is underlain by Upper Lias Clay.

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

Grantham is known to lie in an area rich in archaeological activity dating back to the Mesolithic period (10000-4000BC). Prehistoric sites including flint scatters, a Bronze Age cemetery and cropmarks are known in the area. A Roman settlement is known from Saltersford 2km to the east while the town itself is of middle Saxon date or earlier.

Cropmarks including a multiple pit alignment and a possible long barrow and various findspots close to the application area suggest the presence of prehistoric activity.

Examination of the early Ordnance Survey maps show that the field system has changed little. The 1888 OS map for Grantham shows the development area divided into two fields, the southern boundary containing trees. The 1904 map indicates that the fields had been made into one for the creation of allotment gardens though it would appear that by 1931 the allotments had moved to the eastern fields. The 1965 map shows that the trees forming the southern boundary had been replaced with a fence and buildings. The field also contains small buildings in its south eastern and north eastern corners.

A geophysical survey undertaken by GSB Prospection indicated considerable magnetic disturbance but with weak anomalies which may have archaeological origins.

5. Objectives

The main objectives of the evaluation were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation was to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.

6. Methodology

The development area totalled *c*.3.6ha of which *c*.240 sq metres was evaluated providing a 2.4% sample of the area targeting the geophysical anomalies. This was achieved by excavating eight 20m long, and 2.1m wide trenches.

The topsoil was removed in spits by a 360 machine with a toothless ditching bucket under full archaeological supervision.

The trenches were examined by hand cleaning and the archaeological deposits located were planned and sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence. All plans were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

The site archive will be held by City and County Museum, Lincoln.

7. Results

Trial Trenching

Trench 1

Interval from SW end	0m	5m	10m	15m	21.80m
Topsoil Depth	0.38m	0.34m	0.35m	0.34m	0.36m
Top of Natural	0.38m	0.34m	0.35m	0.34m	0.36m
Base of Trench	0.46m	0.45m	0.44m	0.45m	0.44m

Trench 1 measured 21.80m long and 2.10m wide and was on a northeast to southwest alignment. It was located over two curvilinear geophysical anomalies (Figs.7 and 8).

Approximately 0.35m of very dark brown sandy silt loam was removed revealing dark orange brown sandy silt natural.

The geophysical anomalies were not located. In the north eastern half of the trench numerous north-south plough scores were encountered.

Trench 2

Interval from NW end	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m
Topsoil Depth	0.32m	0.24m	0.22m	0.20m	0.20m
Top of Natural	0.32m	0.24m	0.22m	0.20m	0.20m
Base of Trench	0.42m	0.38m	0.40m	0.34m	0.21m

Trench 2 measured 20m long and 2.10m wide and was on a northeast to southwest alignment. It was located over three curvilinear geophysical anomalies (Figs. 7 and 8).

Approximately 0.25m of very dark grey brown sandy silt loam was removed revealing mid greyish orange sandy silt natural.

The only geophysical anomaly encountered was the one located at the far north-east of the trench. It was a very truncated feature with an average width of 1.40m and contained abundant modern pottery. North to south aligned plough scores were also encountered.

Trench 3

Interval from S end	**0m**	**5m**	**10m**	**15m**	**21m**
Topsoil Depth	0.49m	0.49m	0.36m	0.40m	0.42m
Top of Natural	0.49m	0.49m	0.36m	0.40m	0.42m
Base of Trench	0.60m	0.59m	0.44m	0.48m	0.43m

Trench 3 measured 21m long and 2.10m wide and was on a north to south alignment located to the south west of Trenches 1 and 2 (Figs. 7 and 8).

Approximately 0.40m of very dark brown sandy silt loam was removed revealing dark orange brown sandy silt natural in the southern half of the trench and mid orange brown sandy clay natural in the northern half.

Four plough scrapes aligned east to west were encountered.

Trench 4

Interval from SW end	**0m**	**5m**	**10m**	**15m**	**20m**
Topsoil Depth	0.33m	0.33m	0.31m	0.33m	0.38m
Top of Natural	0.33m	0.33m	0.31m	0.33m	0.38m
Base of Trench	0.37m	0.42m	0.39m	0.48m	0.38m

Trench 4 measured 20m long and 2.10m wide and was on a northeast to southwest alignment. It was located over four northwest to south east aligned linear geophysical anomalies (Figs. 7 and 8).

Approximately 0.33m of very dark brown sandy silt was removed revealing mid yellow brown clay natural in the southwest of the trench and iron stone natural in the northeast half.

No archaeological deposits were encountered.

Trench 5

Interval from SW end	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	22.50m
Topsoil Depth	0.18m	0.41m	0.36m	0.33m	0.28m	0.32m
Top of Natural	0.18m	0.41m		0.33m	0.28m	0.32m
Base of Trench	0.30m	0.54m	0.36m	0.48m	0.47m	0.46m

Trench 5 measured 22.50m long and 2.10m wide and was on a northeast to southwest alignment. It was located over two curvilinear geophysical anomalies (Figs. 7 and 8)

Approximately 0.30m of very dark brown silty clay was removed revealing mid yellowish orange sandy silt natural.

Cutting the natural substratum was a north to south aligned linear feature [001]. It was located in the southwest half of the trench and was up to 0.20m deep and 0.45m wide with a flattish base. The features overall length was not established. Cutting the base of [001] were two post-holes [013] and [015]. Feature [013] measured 0.35m by 0.20m and was 0.16m deep and [015] measured 0.20m by 0.25m and was 0.24m deep. The fill of both the post-holes and the linear was mid greyish brown sandy silt containing occasional charcoal flecks and modern pottery. These features were probably part of fence forming an allotment boundary.

To the northeast of [001] two more north to south aligned linear features were encountered. One was a modern stone lined drain [007] that could not be fully excavated due to flooding. The other feature, [003] was up to 1.35m wide and up to 0.20m deep. Its overall length was not established. Its fill consisted of mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and small pieces of weathered sandstone. It produced finds of a post medieval date including brick and pottery. It may be a furrow or a garden feature associated with the allotments of the previous century.

Trench 6

Interval from SW end	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m
Topsoil Depth	0.47m	0.30m	0.37m	0.25m	0.18m
Top of Natural	0.47m	0.30m		0.25m	0.18m
Base of Trench	0.48m	0.39m	0.37m	0.29m	0.20m

Trench 6 measured 20m long and 2.10m wide and was on a northeast to southwest alignment. It was located over two north south aligned geophysical anomaly and one curvilinear anomaly (Figs. 7and 8)

Between 0.18m and 0.47m of very dark brown sandy silt loam was removed revealing mid greyish orange sandy silt clay natural substratum.

No archaeological deposits were encountered.

Trench 7

Interval from S end	**0m**	**5m**	**10m**	**15.20m**	**20m**	**22m**
Topsoil Depth	0.35m	0.30m	0.23m	0.31m	0.24m	0.27m
Top of Natural	0.35m	0.30m	0.23m	0.31m	0.24m	0.27m
Base of Trench	0.41m	0.42m	0.39m	0.43m	0.43m	0.43m

Trench 7 measured 22m long and 2.10m wide and was on a north to south alignment. It was located to the north of Trench 9 (Figs. 7 and 8).

Approximately 0.25m of very dark brown sandy silt loam was removed revealing mid greyish orange sandy silt clay natural substratum.

No archaeological deposits were encountered except a north to south aligned plough scrape.

Trench 8

Interval from NE end	**0m**	**5m**	**10m**	**15m**	**20m**
Topsoil Depth	0.49m	0.40m	0.37m	0.30m	0.37m
Top of Natural	0.49m	0.40m	0.37m	0.30m	0.37m
Base of Trench	0.50m	0.46m	0.44m	0.42m	0.41m

Trench 8 measured 20m long and 2.10m wide and was on a northeast to southwest alignment. It was located over three north to south aligned geophysical anomalies (Figs. 7 and 8).

Between 0.30m and 0.49m of dark brown silty clay was removed revealing yellowish brown clay with 25-30% grey clay mottles.

Two north to south linear features, [009] and [011] were encountered at either end of the trench and were probably the anomalies picked up by the geophysical survey. Feature [009] was 0.85m wide and [011] was 1.75m wide. Their overall length was not established. Due to flooding the features were not fully recorded or excavated though their alignment and size suggest that they are either furrows or features created when the land was allotments.

Trench 9

Interval from NE end	**0m**	**5m**	**10m**	**15m**	**20m**	**23m**
Topsoil Depth	0.34m	0.33m	0.36m	0.40m	0.34m	0.39m
Top of Natural	0.34m	0.33m	0.36m	0.40m	0.34m	0.39m
Base of Trench	0.42m	0.39m	0.40m	0.42m	0.41m	0.40m

Trench 9 measured 23m long and 2.10m wide and was on a northeast to southwest alignment. It was located over two curvilinear geophysical anomalies (Figs. 7 and 8)

Approximately 0.35m of dark brown silty clay was removed revealing yellowish brown clay with 25-30% grey clay mottles.

No archaeological deposits were encountered.

Trench 10

Interval from NE end	**0m**	**5m**	**10m**	**15m**	**21m**
Topsoil Depth	0.35m	0.34m	0.41m	0.45m	0.32m
Top of Natural	0.35m	0.34m	0.41m	0.45m	0.32
Base of Trench	0.38m	0.40m	0.52m	0.45m	0.32m

Trench 10 measured 21m long and 2.10m wide and was on a northeast to southwest alignment. It was located over two northeast to southwest aligned geophysical anomalies (Figs. 7 and 8).

Between 0.32m and 0.45m of dark brown silty clay was removed revealing yellowish brown clay with 25-30% grey clay mottles.

No archaeological deposits were encountered.

8. Conclusion

The trial trench evaluation has indicated that north to south aligned ridge and furrow is probably present within the development area suggesting that it has been in agricultural use from the medieval period or earlier. The north to south aligned plough scrapes are further evidence of agricultural activity. It is known from the documentary evidence that the area was used for garden allotments in the previous century and a number of the features encountered are probably associated with this period. Therefore, any archaeological deposits are likely to have suffered from some degree of erosion caused by agriculture.

9. Acknowledgements

This evaluation was supervised by Matthew Hurford with assistance from Gerwyn Richards. Dr. Patrick Clay managed the project.

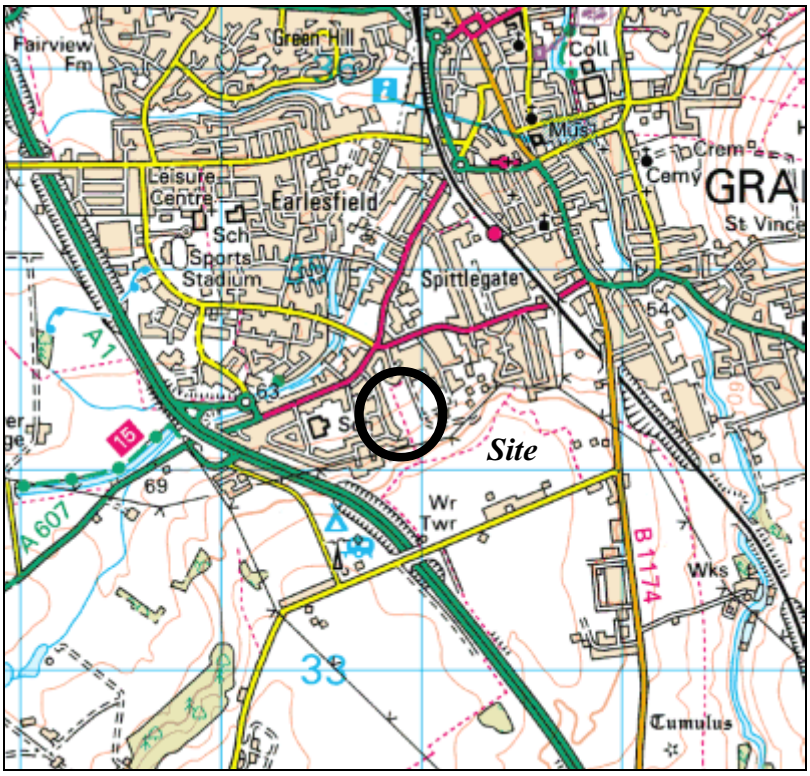

Fig. 1. Location of proposed development area.

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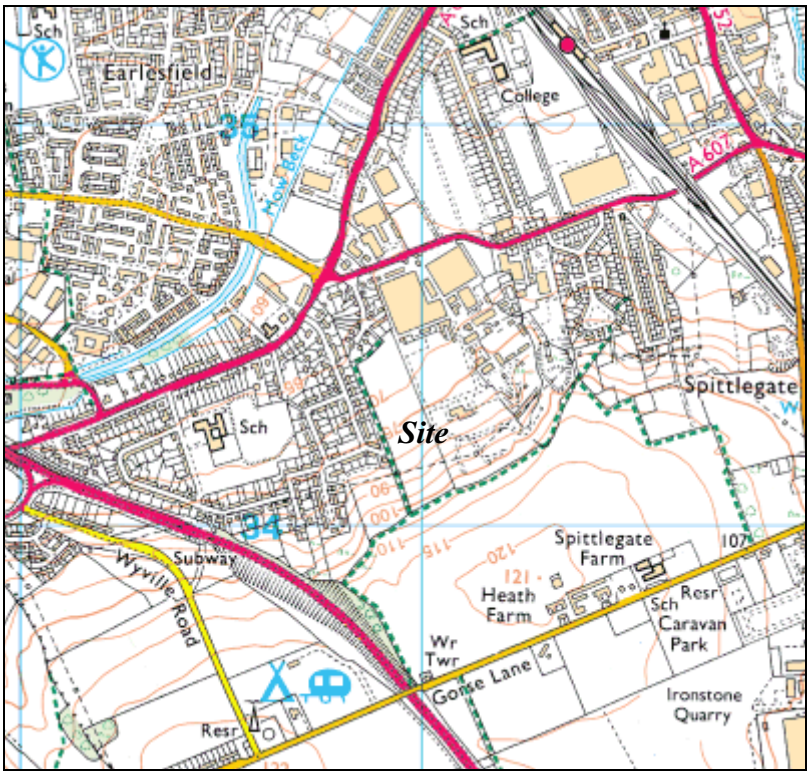

Fig. 2. Location of proposed development area.

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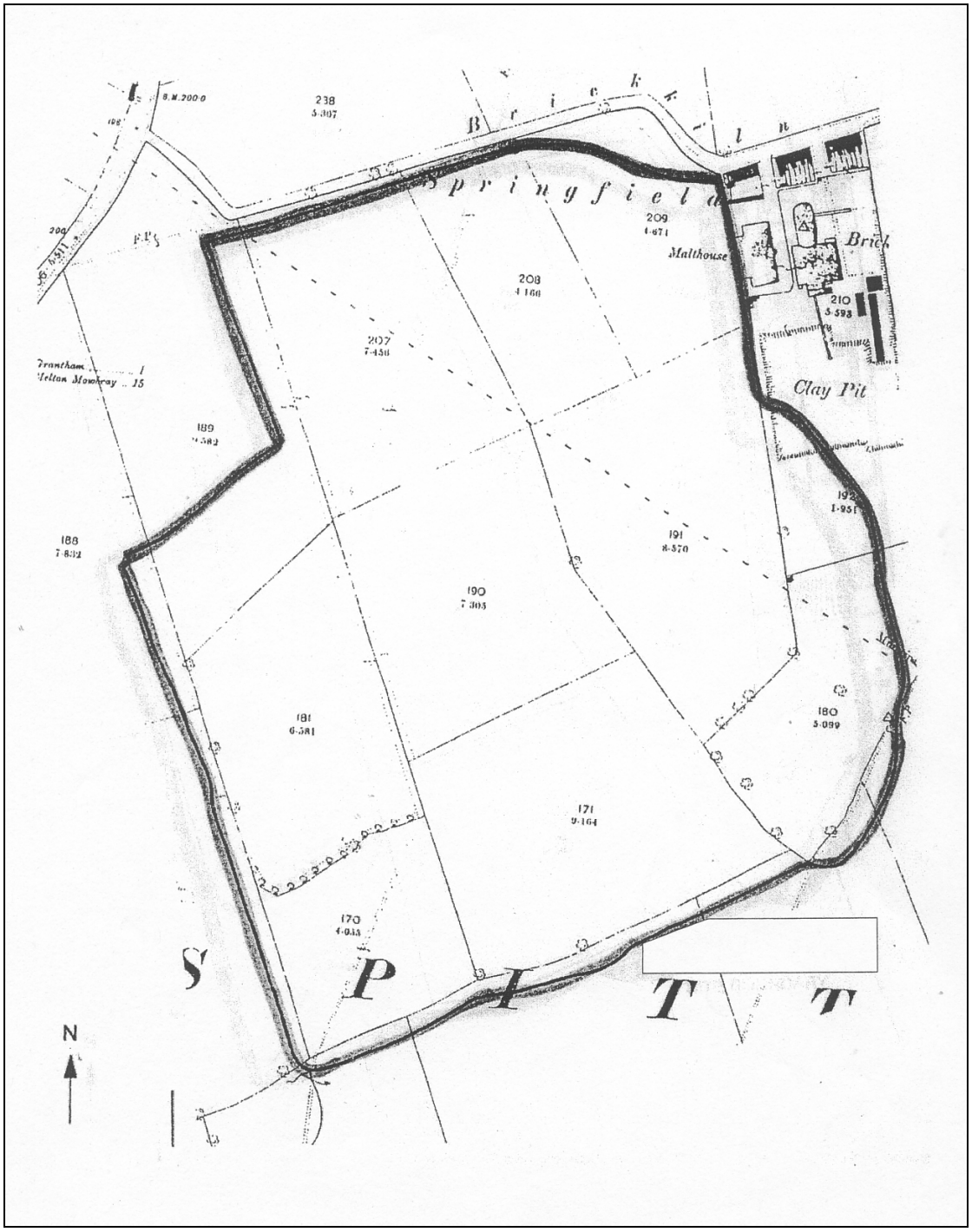

Fig. 3. 1888 Ordnance Survey map Springfield Park, Grantham with development area outlined. (Not to scale).

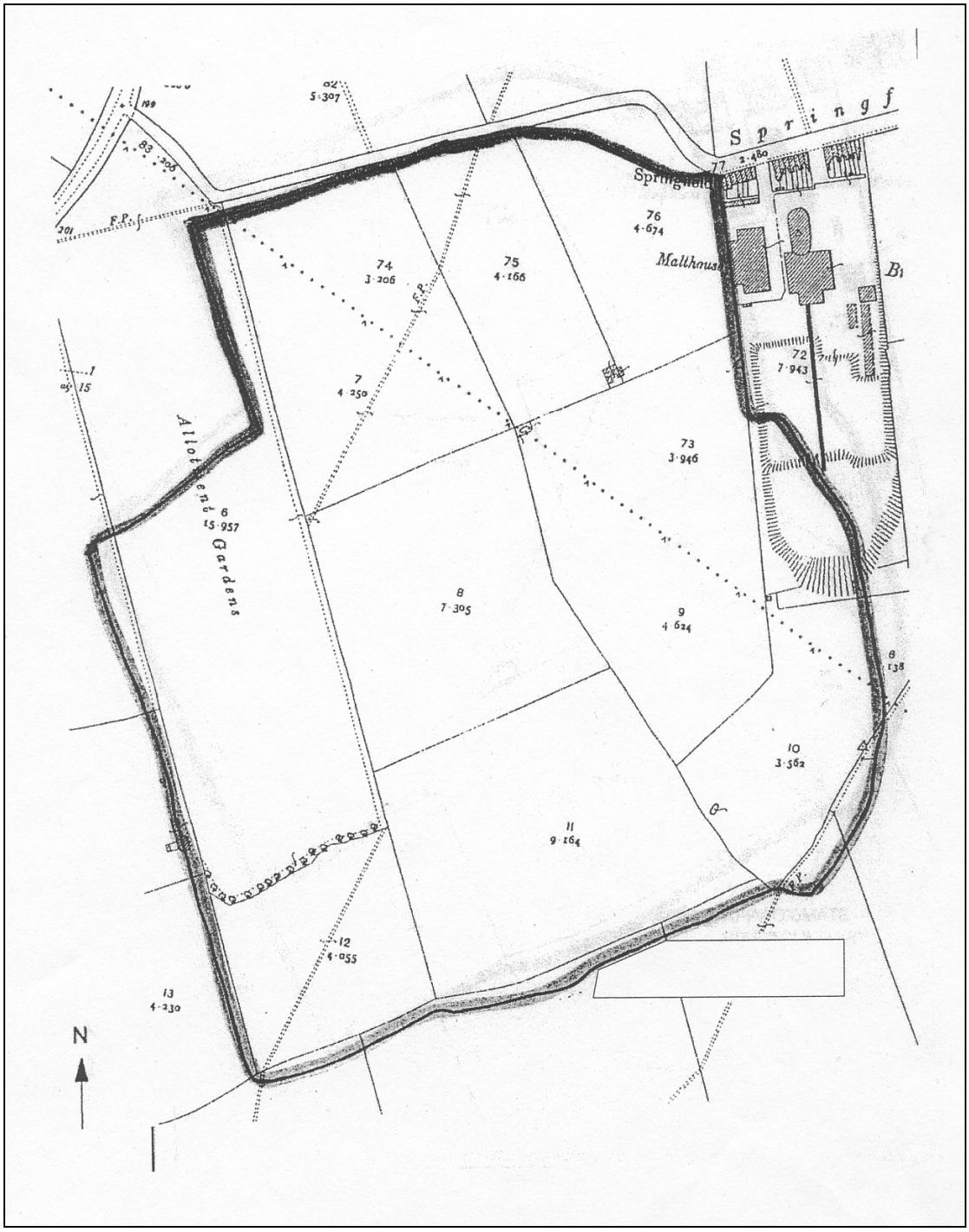

Fig. 4. 1904 Ordnance Survey map Springfield Park, Grantham with development area outlined. (Not to scale).

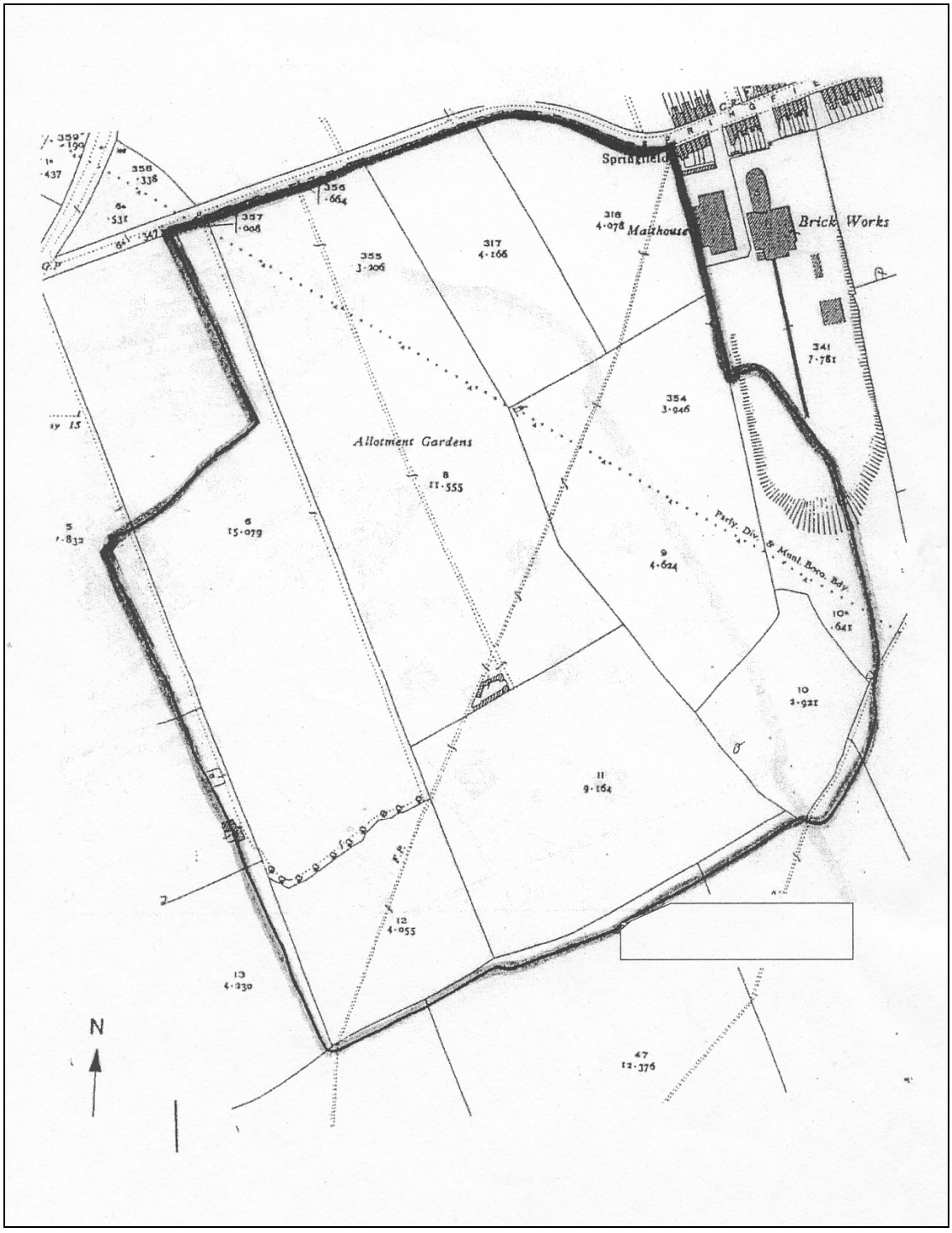

Fig. 5. 1931 Ordnance Survey map Springfield Park, Grantham with development area outlined. (Not to scale).

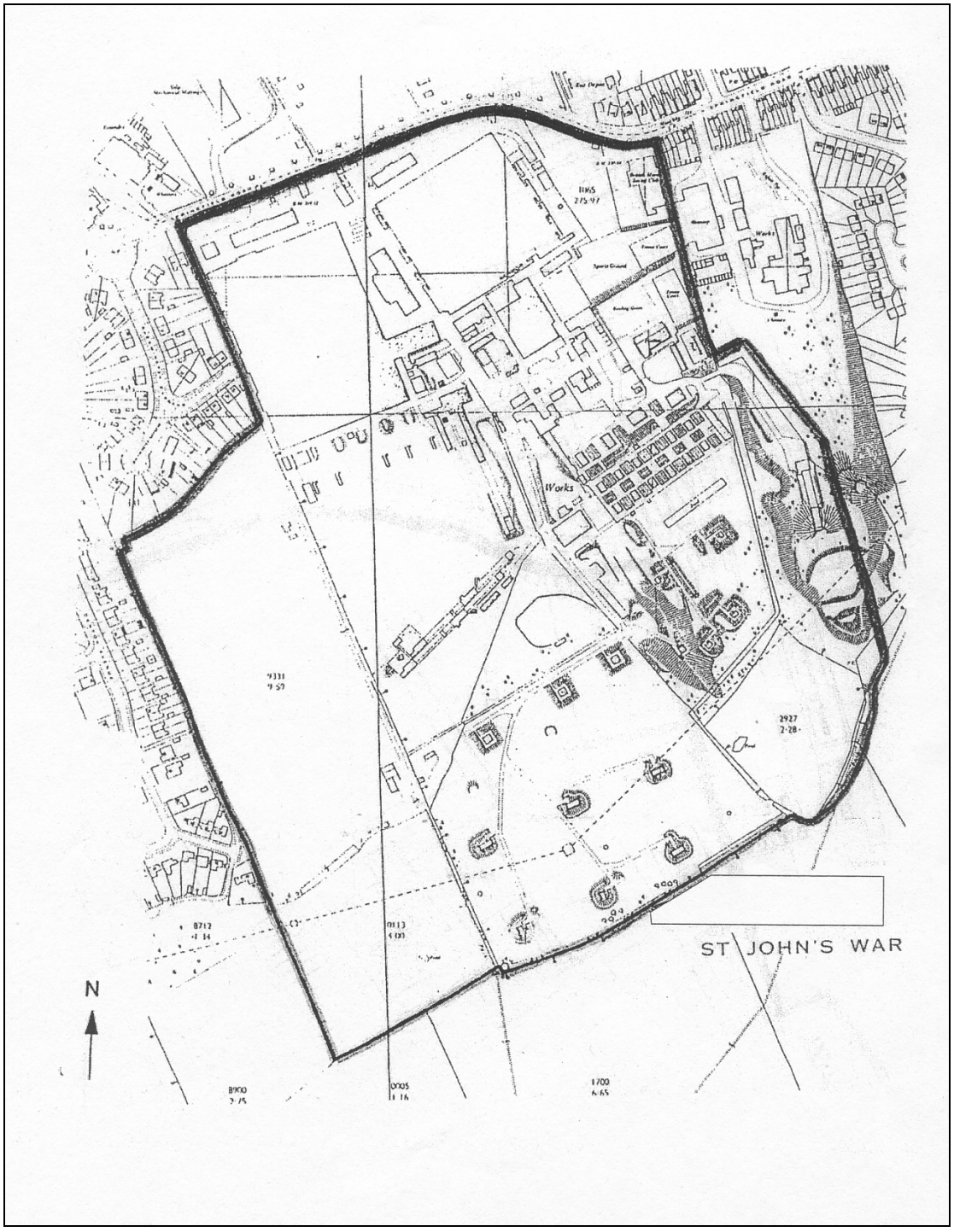

Fig. 6. 1965 Ordnance Survey map Springfield Park, Grantham with development area outlined. (Not to scale).

Fig. 7. Location of geophysical anomalies. (Scale 1:1250).