

**Archaeological Excavations Undertaken at West Farm, Main Street,  
Seaton, Rutland. (SP 9005 9823).**

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**Archaeological Excavations undertaken at West Farm, Seaton, Rutland.  
(SP 9005 9823)**

**Gerwyn Richards**

*Summary*

*University of Leicester Archaeological Services was commissioned by Chartermann Designs Ltd to undertake an archaeological excavation in advance of a housing development at West Farm, Seaton, Rutland. An archaeological evaluation carried out by ULAS (ULAS Report No 2001-156) had identified the site as having archaeological potential and the Senior Archaeologist instigated a programme of archaeological investigation. As a result of the evaluation two areas were earmarked for open area excavation, covering an area of approximately 1840m square.*

*Excavation indicated that the area had suffered considerable 20th century truncation. Area 1 was the larger of the two areas and located towards the centre of the development area and contained a considerable amount of earth fast archaeological remains, most of which were clustered adjacent to the westernmost site boundary. A substantial stone-built feature was uncovered within the smaller Area 2 as well as a single linear feature.*

*The majority of the archaeological remains were sample excavated and a wide range of dated material recovered including Iron Age, Romano-British, Saxon and Medieval. By far the majority of the excavated features dated from the 12th to the 14th century. The stone structure within Area 2 was dated to the 19th century.*

*Despite heavy truncation a considerable amount of archaeological information was recovered during the course of the excavation.*

**1. Introduction**

University of Leicester Archaeological Services were commissioned by Chartermann Designs Ltd Homes to undertake archaeological excavations prior to house building at West Farm Seaton, Rutland, (SP 9005 9823; Planning application 01/0429/9). An examination of the Leicestershire and Rutland Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) identified the site as being of possible archaeological significance and as a result the Leicestershire County Council, Senior Planning Archaeologist, as advisor to Rutland County Council, requested an Archaeological Impact Assessment be carried out.

The clients, Rutland Country Homes commissioned an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services ULAS

Report No 2001-16) which identified the site has having potential for buried archaeological remains which would be adversely affected by any potential developments and recommended the further discussion of a scheme of archaeological evaluation.

As a result of the desk-based assessment the Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council, requested a further programme of archaeological investigation, including trial trench evaluation and a buildings survey. The trial trenching was carried out in December 2001 and uncovered evidence of Saxo-Norman occupation within the site and a stone structure of possible medieval origin in the north of the site (Gnanaratnam, 2001; ULAS Report No 2001-156).

In the light of the results of evaluation, the Senior Planning Archaeologist requested further archaeological work in the form of topsoil stripping, recording and excavation of archaeological deposits that would be destroyed or damaged by the development proposals. This report details the results of the excavation, which was undertaken by ULAS between the 17th of February and 24th March 2004.

## **2. Topography, Geology and Land Use**

The site lies approximately 12km southeast of Oakham in the county of Rutland (SP 9005 9823, *Fig 1*). The site is located on the western edge of the village core where the land slopes down steeply from a height of c.86m in the north to c.80m in the south of the site towards the Welland Valley (*Fig 1*). The underlying geology consists of Northamptonshire Sand Ironstone and Liassic clay (Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 157).

The development area consists of some 0.5 ha of land within which it was proposed to build eight new houses and undertake a barn conversion. In recent history, the site had been used as a farmyard and contained various agricultural outbuildings and tracks. These included corrugated iron and concrete or stone structures, including barns and lean-tos, and a 'Nissan Hut' type corrugated iron structure. The isolated building in the south had three stone walls, a partly wooden wall, and a corrugated iron roof and a stone barn with a slate roof, to be the subject of a conversion, in the north-west.

There was some evidence of modern terracing, created mainly by the dumping of material along the southern edge of the site, possibly as a result of 'cut and fill' which may have truncated shallower features to the north of the site.



**Figure 1:** Site location. Scale 1:50000.

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### 3. Archaeological and Historical Background

The place name of Seaton is thought to refer to an early occupant of the village, farmstead *tūn* of a man called *Sæga*, possibly a senior figure within the settlement. The name may also reflect the early Scandinavian origins of the settlement. It has been argued that the *tūn* element of the name is an English characteristic and where there is an Anglo-Scandinavian combination this may represent English settlements re-named by the incoming Danes (Liddle 1982, 13). However other settlements called Seaton originate as farmstead (*tūn*) by the sea or inland pool (*sæ*) (Mills 1998).

The village of Seaton is mentioned in the Domesday Book as Segentone and Seieton and the record of a priest and a mill would imply that by 1086 the village was of a reasonable size.

There has been considerable archaeological evidence recovered from both within the village and the surrounding area, ranging in date from the Roman period through to post-medieval. A Roman brooch was recovered near the Rectory (SMR Ref LE8116) and a possible Roman road running west, southwest east, northeast, approximately 300 metres north of the village (SMR Ref LE5713). Within the village core a number of skeletons have been recovered from the rear garden of 6 Thompsons Lane. Although unfurnished the nearby discovery of an Anglo-Saxon biconical urn and iron spearhead, suggests an Anglo-Saxon date for the burials (SMR Ref LE5715).

There are also medieval remains within the village including All Hallows Church, which is mainly 12th and 13th century in date but contains a Norman south doorway

(SMR Ref LE5704). There are considerable numbers of standing earthworks, probably medieval in date, surrounding the village including evidence of the shrunken medieval village and hollow way approximately 20 metres to the west of the excavation site (SMR Ref LE5701) as well as two small fishponds approximately 50 metres south of the site (SMR Ref LE8906).

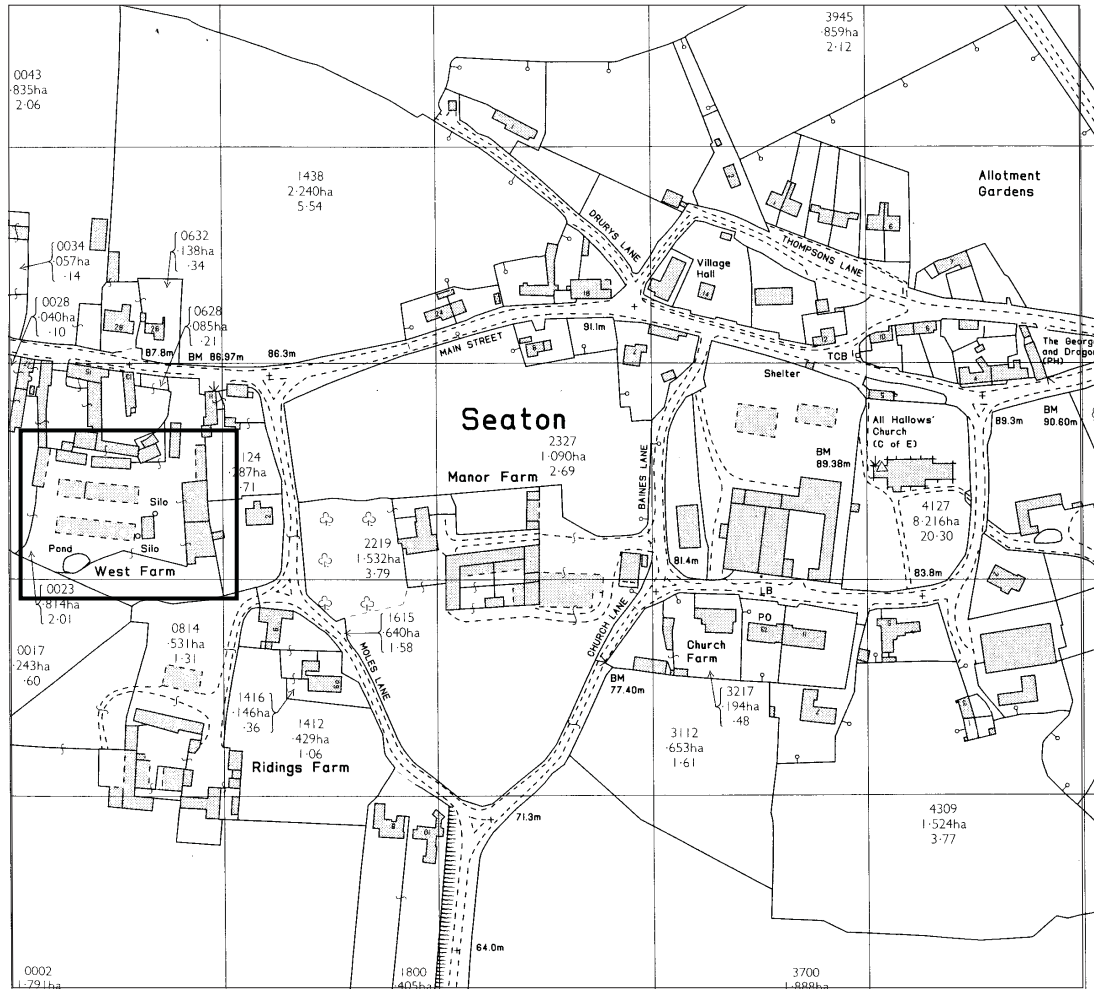


Figure 2 Detailed Site Location of West Farm.

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#### 4. Methodology

In consultation with the Senior Planning Archaeologist it was decided to carry out a controlled topsoil strip under archaeological supervision on two areas where there was the most potential impact during the construction (Fig 5) and then carry out full excavation within these areas. Area 1 was the larger of the two-stripped areas at approximately 1600m<sup>2</sup> and was the area where the main development was to occur, extending from approximately 10 metres from the southern boundary and covering the full width of the site. Area 2 measured approximately 240m<sup>2</sup> and was located on the northern edge of the site between the stone boundary wall of number 13 Main Street and the existing site access.

Both areas were stripped of topsoil using a machine with back actor and ditching bucket. There was clear evidence of modern ground disturbance, possibly cut and fill terracing and as a result the depth of topsoil and overburden varied considerably. Within area 1 the overburden depth varied between 250mm at the northern edge to over 1.2m to the south, the majority of which consisted of dumped material, almost certainly imported, also burying topsoil in places. There was evidence of truncation along the northern edge, although not as severe as expected.

There was very little overburden within area 2 and in places there was only turf lying directly onto stonework. The eastern edge of the trench was below the modern track way which consisted of imported hardcore laid directly onto bedrock. There was no evidence of buried soils, suggesting that the topsoil had been mechanically excavated before the current road surface was laid.

## **5. Results**

The excavation of Area 1 (*Fig 7*) uncovered a number of features of potential archaeological significance, mainly in the form of pits and postholes adjacent to the westernmost boundary of the proposed development. There were also a number of linear features; the majority of which features appeared to be small and possibly seriously truncated. There was also the badly truncated remains of a rectangular stone structure, which corresponded with the location of a building, which appears on early Ordnance Survey maps. The excavation of Area 2 uncovered a number of stone built walls, again corresponding with buildings from the early maps as well as a single east - west aligned linear feature. This appeared to be more substantial than the features uncovered within Area 1, suggesting that the recent truncation was less severe in this area than in Area 1.

### **5.1 Iron Age Features**

An examination of the recovered pottery (*Appendix 3*) included a number of prehistoric sherds, some of which were residual or re-deposited. However there was one apparently undisturbed context [178] (104), a circular pit approximately 400mm in diameter. The uppermost fill consisted of mottled yellowish grey brown silty clay; below this were angular sandstone fragments approximately 200mm to 250mm in size, all appearing to be heat-affected.

The pottery recovered was externally scored Fossil Shell Tempered ware; this pottery type remained in use from the fourth century BC through to the mid first century AD. Another similar stone filled pit [180], approximately 2m to the southeast contained the same type of Iron Age pottery and a sherd of first century Romano-British pottery. The proximity and similarity between the two features suggests that they are contemporary and it is likely, therefore that the pit dates from the later Iron Age, or indeed the early Romano-British period.

There were two similar pits, [188] and [190] adjacent to the southernmost edge of the proposed. Excavation indicated that the fills were extremely similar and contained a similar quantity of burnt stone; unfortunately no dating evidence was recovered so it is impossible to date either feature. However, the apparent similarity with [178] would suggest a contemporary date.

There was also a large sub-rounded feature [110] towards the centre of the site. Excavation indicated that [110] was more substantial than the other Romano-British features, approximately 300mm at its deepest and cut into weathered bedrock. The fill consisted mid grey brown silty clay with very few inclusions, only occasional small rounded stones. A single sherd of possibly Iron Age Fossil Shell and Sand Tempered ware and a number of very badly decayed tooth fragments were recovered during excavation.

## 5.2 Romano British Features

In all there were 37 sherds of Roman pottery recovered from 13 separate features during the course of the excavation; however, only a small percentage of these were recovered from securely identified Romano-British features, as follows: [187], a linear feature, [197], another linear feature, and two pits; [180] and [195]. The remaining pottery was residual and recovered from later features.

Of the securely dated Romano-British features, the most notable was a semi-circular pit [180] (066), approximately 400mm in diameter. The fill consisted of mottled brown sandy clay, which appeared to be the final layer of infill. Below the sandy clay the pit was filled with clast supported heat affected sandstone, the fragments ranging from between 50mm to 250mm in size and were mainly sub-angular in shape. The lack of evidence for in-situ burning would suggest that the heat-affected stones are probably re-deposited and, therefore, likely to represent the stone packing of a post hole rather than a hearth.

This pit was located 2.35m west southwest of [178] and as mentioned above the similarity of the two pits and their proximity implies they are contemporary, dating from the first century AD. The exact use of these two pits is unclear, however it is possible that they represent some kind structural remains; possibly a four posted structure with the remaining two pits unfortunately located outside the proposed development area. There is evidence of pre-historic and Romano-British granaries being constructed in this way, the examples excavated at Little Woodbury, Suffolk (Bersu 1940, Cunliffe 1975) are almost identical in size. Alternatively it could be a two-post structure, which have been interpreted as drying frames upright looms or house entrances (Beamish 1998, 34).

The second pit, [195] (090) was similar in size and shape to [180]. The fill consisted of brown medium sand and sub-rounded sandstone cobbles, approximately 150mm to 200mm in size, mainly concentrated on the northern edge of the cut. A single sherd of late first to early second century White ware pottery was recovered, a date similar to that of the other identified Romano-British features. Once again the stones within the fill probably represent packing for a timber post, suggesting a possible structural use, however, the pit was now in an isolated position, so identifying its true use is virtually impossible.

Another linear feature [196] contained first century Calcite Gritted ware. It was very shallow, probably having suffered heavy truncation, like the majority of the other archaeological features. There was an adjacent undated linear feature, [197] to the east.



Securely dated features from both the Iron Age and the Roman period are very limited and from the dating evidence recovered appears be limited to the first century BC and the first century AD. The majority of these, as expected, have also suffered considerable truncation, both from modern intrusions and Saxon and medieval activity. Most of the prehistoric and Romano-British pottery recovered was residual from these features.

Although limited it does confirm the existence of settlement activity from these periods within the locality of the proposed development. Until this excavation there was no evidence of prehistoric occupation within Seaton and evidence of Romano British activity was limited to a single brooch found near the Rectory (SMR Ref LE8116). The evidence recovered from the West Farm excavations suggests that both Iron Age and Roman occupation occurred within the village.

### 5.3 Saxon Features

During the course of the initial archaeological evaluation (Gnanaratnam 2001, ULAS Report No 2001-156) a single sherd of residual Saxon ware, dating from late fifth to early sixth century AD was recovered from a 12th century pit. It was possible therefore that this was associated with the Saxon cemetery to the north perhaps indicating that the centre of early Saxon occupation lay nearby or within the proposed development area.

The excavation, did not uncover more early Saxon evidence; however, a substantial quantity of middle to late Saxon occupational evidence was recovered. These included a series of five elongated clay lined pits towards the eastern edge of the proposed development; four of which, [158], [159], [137] and [125] were excavated. Pits [137], [158] and [159] were aligned north to south, down slope with [125] approximately 1m to the east.

Late Saxon pottery was only recovered from [158] and [159], while Iron Age pottery was recovered from [137], which was probably residual. Although [125] remained undated, its proximity and similarity too the other, dated features would suggest a similar date. A single sherd of possibly of early 12th century Stanion Lyveden ware was also recovered from [159], which although a comparatively later date, it can overlap with that of the earlier late Saxon material. The recovered pottery was a mixture of Lincolnshire Shelly ware and Stamford ware, both Fine and Developed, all dating from the later Saxon period, *c.* AD 850 to 1150.

The fill of these pits consisted of grey orangey brown silty clay, with very few inclusions of note, below which was a layer of grey clay lining, which abutted the undisturbed subsoil, apparently forming an impermeable layer. Generally the pits ranged between 400mm and 600mm in depth with a steep, near vertical cut up-slope and a much shallower cut down slope. The clay lining itself was approximately 100mm in depth

The exact purpose of these pits is unclear, however, their lay out would suggest some kind of running water system, connected to an industrial process, possibly tanning.

### 5.3 Medieval

As expected from the results of the evaluation, the vast majority of the excavated features date from the medieval period, the pottery evidence providing only a very broad time scale from the late Saxon period (c.1150) through to the later medieval period (c.1400 to 1550). This pottery only reflects the date when these features went out of use and it may be that they were established at an earlier date and had remained in use for a considerable period of time.

The excavated features consisted of small pits, postholes and occasional gullies, with the highest concentration along the westernmost boundary of the proposed development. The majority had suffered considerable truncation. A number of standing earthworks, probably medieval in date could be seen within the adjacent pasture (SMR Ref LE5701) and it is possible, therefore, that these archaeological remains represent evidence of shrinkage or settlement shift.

#### Late Saxon-early medieval

The most substantial feature of this date was [202], a large semi-circular pit, approximately 950mm in diameter and 750mm deep, with vertical sides. The secondary fill (019) consisted of yellowish grey brown silty clay, while the primary fill was much less silty and contained abundant, sometimes clast supported, large angular stones. A total of 132 pottery fragments was also recovered, again mainly from towards the base of the feature. The pottery consisted of Stanion Lyveden (105 sherds) and Stamford wares (27 sherds) and one sherd each of Oxidised Sandy ware and Lincolnshire Shelly ware all with a similar date range of late Saxon to medieval; the predominance of Stanion Lyveden pottery does, however, suggest a late 12th to early 13th century date. The majority of the fragments are large and generally un-abraded and represent six individual vessels.

The exact use of this feature is unclear; the examination of the plant remains (below. *Appendix 1*) did not include sufficient material to indicate whether it was a cesspit or not and there were few animal bones present (below *Appendix 2*) to suggest that it was a rubbish pit. It is possible, however, that it was used as a storage pit and the stones recovered during the excavation are the remains of a stone lining.

As previously noted the majority of these features were severely truncated and mainly concentrated along the westernmost boundary. A series of irregular shaped features to the southwest of [202], appeared to be five separate pits forming a roughly rectangular group. The largest of these was an irregular shaped feature, which initial cleaning appeared to consist of four separate fills (070), (071), (151) & (153), possibly representing the deepest parts of a truncated feature. At this stage it was extremely difficult to establish a stratigraphic relationship, therefore, it was decided to half section the features as a whole, initially removing the eastern part of the fills.

The only feature within this group which was clearly identified was [152], a small pit approximately 500mm in diameter and 150mm deep on the southwestern edge of the spread. The fill consisted of very mottled, heat-affected clay, having a sharp boundary with the underlying weathered bedrock. The surrounding clay bedrock also had

evidence of heating, suggesting that the burning had occurred *in-situ*. Unfortunately no dating evidence was recovered.

Excavation indicated that the features did appear to have been severely truncated, only being a maximum of 150mm deep and even shallower in places. It did appear that [146] and [139] were the latest features, although it was not possible to determine the actual relationship between the two features because of the depth of truncation. Feature [139] appeared to be a sub-rounded pit, approximately 650mm by 760mm in size and approximately 120mm at its deepest. The fill (070) consisted of greyish brown sandy clay; again with a sharp edge to the underlying weathered bedrock. A single sherd of late Saxon Stamford ware was recovered along with re-deposited Romano-British pottery.

Feature [146] was slightly larger than [139] and marginally deeper; the fill (138) consisted of coarse brown sand along with a number of medium to large angular sandstone blocks. Once again the boundary with the weathered bedrock was sharp. During the course of the excavation a total of 250 sherds of 12th century Stanion Lyveden pottery was recovered (Colour Plate 1), apparently representing a complete pot, possibly broken *in-situ*. Examination indicated that the vessel was a jar with a simple everted rim, cylindrical body and convex base (Appendix 3).



**Colour Plate 1** *In-situ* Pot [146].

The pot appeared to sit within a semi-circular depression within the bedrock, the base lying flat at the bottom of the depression, covered by the remainder of the pottery fragments. The position of the base suggests that the pot had been placed upright in its present location, probably complete, or nearly complete.

It appeared that [146] truncated another feature to the north, [140]. Feature [140] was also an irregularly shaped pit, approximately 750mm by 1.18m in size, the fill (071) consisting of greyish brown sandy clay. Excavation revealed that this feature was also very shallow; approximately 100mm at its deepest part and once again the boundary with the weathered bedrock was sharp. A linear deposit of large angular flat stone blocks aligned north to south was uncovered in the base of the feature, the stones appearing to be structural rather than part of the fill. However, due to the limited nature of the deposit it is impossible to summarise the exact purpose of these stones.

A number of similar sized stones were uncovered within [146], which, however, had almost certainly been disturbed. This confirms that [146] did indeed truncate [140] and this stone structure continued further down slope. The pottery recovered from [140] included medieval Bourne ware.

The final part of this spread of features was [154], located east of [140], again an irregular shaped feature, approximately 620mm by 1.2m and once again extremely shallow, being only 60mm at its deepest. It appeared to be a gully-like feature containing a medium brown sand fill (153) with a sharp boundary to the weathered bedrock. Several sherds of early 14th century Stanion Lyveden pottery and some animal bone fragments were recovered.

It was possible that the easternmost part of [154] had been truncated by [140], although, it was not possible to establish the exact relationship. A very deep steep-sided posthole [177] was also uncovered at the interface and it was excavated to a depth of 570mm, apparently its base. A single sherd of 11th century sandy shelly ware, possibly Stanion Lyveden pottery was recovered. This pre-dates all the other recovered pottery from this group of features, perhaps suggesting that [177] was the earliest feature within this group.

To the south of the above features there was a linear spread of small stones, (036) aligned north-northeast to south-southwest, down slope. There was a very faint change of colour within the weathered bedrock, suggesting a possible fill. A number of sherds of medieval pottery were recovered during the excavation; however, a modern brick was present pressed into the weathered bedrock at the base of the feature and in all likelihood (036) was a truncated field drain.

To the east of (036) were two small semi-circular shaped pits, [204] and [205]. Both were of a similar size, approximately 800mm in diameter; [204] was the more clearly defined of the two, the fill, (021) consisting of mid-grey brown silty clay with frequent sub-angular stones and evidence of *in-situ* burning. Despite the size of the stones they did not appear to be post packing. The boundary with the weathered bedrock was clear. Feature [205] was slightly smaller, the fill (022) being the same silty clay with occasional angular stones; there was however, no evidence of burning, unlike [204].

Unfortunately no dating evidence was recovered from [204], but a number of sherds of 13th century Stanion Lyveden ware were recovered from [205]. Once again this is of a similar date range to the majority of the dated features within this part of the proposed development area.

Once again the features were very shallow, less than 200mm deep, again indicating the depth of truncation, which has occurred on site.

There were a multitude of similar small pits and postholes within this western part of the development area, the majority of which were sampled through excavation and the results were on the whole identical to those already discussed. Most had been seriously truncated and were less than 300mm deep cut into the weathered bedrock. The pottery recovered consisted mainly of 12th to 14th century material and some occasional earlier residual Saxon and Romano-British pottery.

There were also a number of linear features uncovered during the excavation, the most substantial of which was [150] aligned east to west, which apparently followed the contours of the site for approximately thirty metres. The western extent appeared to be a clear butt end, but the easternmost end had been truncated. A series of sections as well as the butt end were excavated through [150]; the fill (031) consisted of dark grey brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular stone fragments of various sizes. The boundary with the weathered bedrock was sharp and in some places [150] appeared to have been cut into the solid Northampton Sand ironstone. Once again the feature was very shallow, only a maximum of 200mm at its deepest, again indicating the depth of truncation which has occurred across the site.

A total of 17 sherds of pottery were recovered from the all of the cuts, the latest of which was a 13th century Lyveden jar, while the earliest was 10th/11th century Stamford ware. There was, however, no evidence of re-cuts within the ditch, suggesting that it had not been maintained, or repaired during its use, or that truncation had destroyed all but the primary fill and the base of the ditch.

Given its location and alignment [150] probably represents the remains of a field boundary or even the rearmost plot boundary. Approximately four metres from the westernmost butt end there was evidence of another linear feature, (067) running at a right angle to [150]. This, however, had been almost completely truncated, and attempted excavation indicated it was only approximately 20mm to 30mm deep; two sherds of late Saxon pottery were recovered from the surface of (067). It is likely that (067) and [150] are the remains of the medieval plot boundaries, and although the pottery recovered is later in date, it is also possible that [150] is also late Saxon in origin. These boundaries would have remained in used for an extended period of time; therefore, the apparent wide time span of use is to be expected.

Towards the centre of the proposed development area there were a number of linear features, which, although badly truncated, appeared to form a rectangular enclosure, approximately 13 metres by four metres. In all there were four identifiable linear features, [187] and [182] aligned approximately north to south, in parallel, while [187] and [189] were aligned east to west with a break, representing a possible entrance towards the centre. There is a small pit [185] at the right angle between [186] and [182]. The exact relationship between [189] and [187] is unclear, again as a result of truncation.

Due to the truncation it was decided to excavate the easternmost butt end of [189]. Generally the feature was approximately 450mm wide increasing to 1.15m at the butt end. The fill (046) consisted of light greyish brown silty clay with only occasional

small sub-angular stones present. Again due to truncation the feature was only 130mm deep and the boundary with the underlying bedrock was clear. A total of nine sherds of pottery were recovered, the latest of which was mid 12th century Stamford ware. A single sherd of residual Romano-British Calcite Gritted ware was also present.

Two sections were excavated through [182] - the butt end and a 800mm long section further to the north. Again the ditch was narrow, approximately 450mm wide and only 140mm deep and the fill (059) was the same as that excavated from [189], however on this occasion the boundary with the underlying bedrock was sharp. Again a number of pottery sherds of a similar date range to [189] were recovered.

The excavation of [186] had similar results; the westernmost butt end opposite [189] was excavated along with a 1.0m section towards the centre. On this occasion the feature was even shallower than elsewhere, at only 100mm. Once again a number of sherds of pottery were recovered of a similar date that in [189].

There was a small posthole, [185] at the right angle between [186] and [185], which was half sectioned. It was extremely shallow, only approximately 60mm deep, the fill was identical to that from the adjacent linear features and no dating evidence was recovered.

Despite the depth of the truncation it is safe to assume that this series of features represent the remains of a small domestic enclosure. The majority of the recovered dating evidence related to the 11th and 12th centuries, probably representing the final period of use for the enclosure; in all probability the enclosure is earlier in date, possibly late Saxon. Again the depth of truncation meant only the very base of the features survived, and in all likelihood the four separate features and the posthole originally formed a single feature with a probable entrance on the southernmost boundary where the butt end of [189] was located.

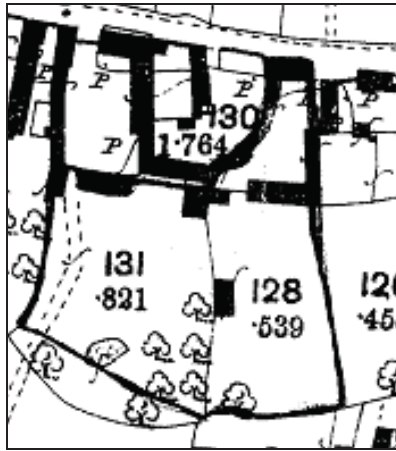
#### **5.4 Stone Built Features Area 1**

As well as the earth fast archaeological remains there were also a number of stone built features uncovered within Area 1. The most notable of these was a substantially built structure towards the centre of the proposed development area. There were two identifiable walls, one aligned north to south with an east to west aligned return at its southern end. Approximately 3.0m. of the north - south wall was exposed, with three courses of surviving stonework in places; approximately the same amount of east west aligned wall also survived and again stood to a height of three courses.

The walls themselves were roughly coursed local sandstone and rubble core held in clay approximately 600mm wide. There was no evidence for a bonding agent (mortar) other than clay or of a foundation trench and the interior of the structure appeared to consist of compacted weathered bedrock. However as elsewhere the depth of truncation was severe and the original surface is likely to have been lost.

It appears that this building was still standing when the initial archaeological desk based assessment was carried out in 2001 (Marsden 2001; ULAS Report No 2001/16) but appeared to have been reduced in height and a "Dutch Barn" style roof added

(Colour Plate 2). Early cartographic evidence (*Fig 3*) for the proposed development area recorded an isolated structure in approximately the same location as the uncovered structure and in all likelihood the remains are those of this building.



**Figure 3** 1886 Ordnance Survey map Rutland Sheet No. XIII.11

There was a second stone structure adjacent to the southernmost boundary of the proposed development area. It consisted mainly of a spread of sandstone rubble with only a very short length of *in-situ* wall aligned north to south. A number of sherds of medieval pottery were recovered during the hand cleaning of this stone spread; these however were not stratigraphically sealed and therefore only of limited use in dating the feature. As this area was not going to be directly affected during the construction work it was decided not to carry out any further excavation.

The final stonework within Area 1 was a short length of apparently well-constructed wall towards the western edge of the proposed development. The wall itself was



**Colour Plate 2** Partially Stone Built Barn (Photographed in 2001)

approximately 3.0m long and 600mm wide and of roughly coursed local sandstone with a rubble core and there was no evidence of a bonding agent, although once again clay was likely with lime mortar above ground. Unfortunately there was no associated dating evidence therefore it is impossible to confirm the date of this wall. In all likelihood, however, it is post-medieval in date and the depth of the truncation within this part of the proposed development means it is unlikely that any earlier features, especially stone built would have survived.

## **6. Area 2**

During the course of the archaeological evaluation (Gnanaratnam, A; ULAS Report No 2001-156) traces of a stone built structure were uncovered within evaluation trench 5. It was decided; therefore, to excavate a second area centred on trench 5 in order to further investigate this structure, a second open area excavation was, therefore, located adjacent to the site entrance onto Main Street, exposing approximately 240m<sup>2</sup>. There was very little or no overburden at all within this area and evidence of the stone structure was uncovered immediately below the rough vegetation cover.

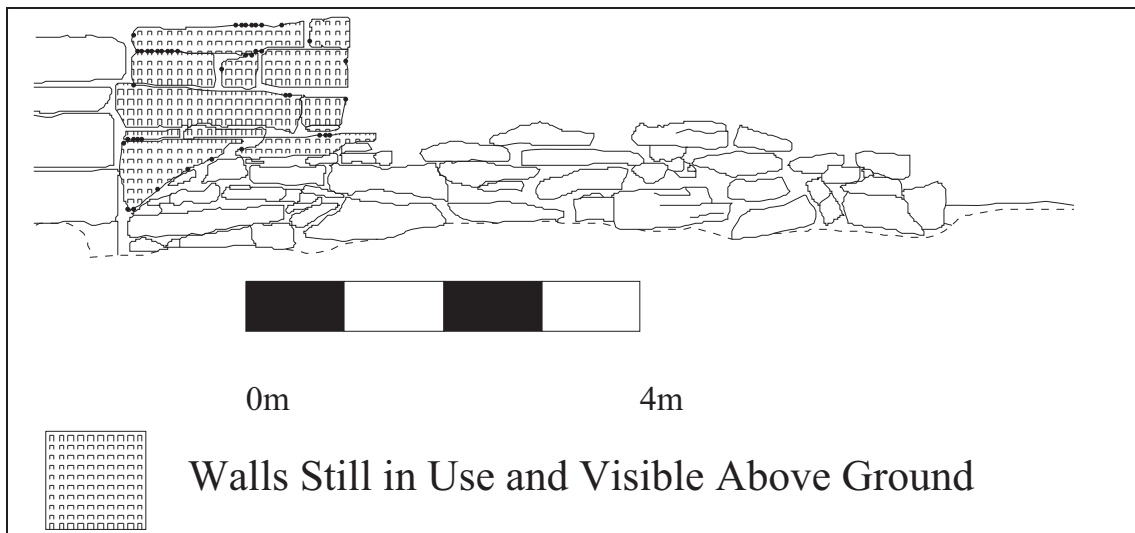
### **6.1 Stone Structure**

Initial topsoil stripping uncovered a number of concentrations of stonework including at least two identifiable lengths of wall and a number of stone spreads. Further hand cleaning indicated two clearly identifiable walls, aligned north to south and east to west and rubble evidence of an almost totally truncated second east - west wall forming what appeared to be a rectangular structure. There was evidence that the southernmost east - west aligned wall continued further to the east, however this had been severely truncated and only an alignment of rubble remained. There was a further rubble alignment to the south, although no discernable structure was evident (*Fig 6*).

The walls themselves were of a roughly coursed local sandstone and rubble core held in clay approximately 600mm wide, and up to three courses high in places with evidence of lime pointing. The walls appeared to be constructed directly onto the weathered bedrock, with no evidence of a foundation trench, although, it is entirely possible that this had been completely truncated, as there was very little in the way of overburden within this area.

Due to the level of truncation it is impossible to establish whether the walls represent the remains of a building or merely boundary walls. The dimensions of the walls are similar to the walls still in use on adjacent properties, the majority of which are boundary walls; it is likely, therefore, that these newly exposed walls were originally boundary walls. The southernmost wall abuts an existing wall, so it was possible, to examine the relationship between the existing wall and the newly exposed walls (*Fig 4*).





**Figure 4** Relationship between existing walls and uncovered Walls in Area 2.

An examination of the junction between the two walls indicated that they were indeed contemporary with each other, forming a rectangular enclosure approximately three metres by five metres, with no apparent gateway or entrance. The interior surface consisted of compacted weathered bedrock and what appeared to be an east - west aligned linear feature, [126] which clearly pre-dated the stonework.

Dating this type of stone structure is extremely difficult. Although a number of fragments of 19th to 20th century ceramics were recovered, these are likely to relate to the abandonment and demolition of the walls. A linear feature (below) appeared to be of some antiquity and would provide assistance with dating. In all likelihood, however, the walls are post-medieval in date.

## 6.2 Linear Feature

Further examination of Area 2 indicated that there was another linear feature [121] to the east, on the same alignment, and in all likelihood a continuation of [126], however, the north south aligned stone structure and a very narrow parallel linear feature [129] obscured the exact relationship. It appeared to terminate as a butt end and another apparent linear feature [120] also abutted approximately 250mm to the east before continuing below the baulk. Both of these features were of approximately the same size, 750mm to 1.0m wide and the fill consisted of greyish brown silty clay.

Stratigraphically it was necessary to excavate [129] first as it clearly truncated [121]. Excavation revealed that [129] contained a modern ceramic drain, so excavation ceased at this point. The excavation of [126] revealed a substantial feature approximately 430mm deep, much deeper than the features excavated within Area 1, suggesting a less truncation within this area. The ditch had been cut into the weathered bedrock with relatively steep sides of approximately 45 degrees and ranging between 400mm and 600mm in width.

Pottery recovered from both [121] and [126] consisted of Late Saxon through to medieval, including Stamford wares, Stanion Lyveden wares, Bourne wares and a single sherd of Romano-British Calcite Gritted ware, almost certainly residual. This

pottery indicates a date range between the 9th and 14th centuries, with the ditch going out of use sometime in the later part of the 14th century. Unusually there was no evidence of re-cuts within the ditch, which would be expected given its apparent longevity. It appears, therefore that the ditch was not maintained during the greater part of its lifetime.

The location and alignment, parallel with Main Street, suggests that this ditch is the rearmost medieval plot boundary, which appears to have been superseded by the southernmost wall, which has only moved approximately 1.50m to the south, but maintained the original line. This suggests that very little alteration has occurred within this part of the village within the modern period.

The excavation of the field drain [129] also contributed towards the dating of the stone building. The drain was ceramic and cylindrical of the type used extensively from the early 19th century through to the later part of the 20th century and clearly sealed by the southernmost wall. It is safe to assume that the drain and the wall are contemporary as the construction of the wall did not damage the buried drain, giving a likely early 19th century date for the stone structures. The early edition Ordnance Survey maps show buildings within this part of the development area, however, none can be clearly identified, as the apparent alignments do not correspond with the uncovered structure.

## **7. Conclusion**

In all a substantial quantity of archaeological remains were uncovered and recorded during the course of this excavation. There were deposits and features indicating occupation during the Iron Age, early Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. Unfortunately this later 20th century development has caused severe truncation across the majority of the site and as a result the majority of the features were very shallow, with only a very few exceeding 200mm in depth. By the far the greatest density of features dated to the medieval period, from the 11th through to the 14th centuries, concentrated along the westernmost boundary of the proposed development area.

On the whole the features were isolated and there was no identifiable stratigraphy. There were only two identifiably Iron Age features although a number of sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered from later features. Although limited this is the first evidence of Iron Age occupation within the village itself and is, therefore of some significance. There were also a number of securely dated Romano-British features, adding to previously recovered Romano-British occupational evidence from the village. It also suggests a possible continuation of occupation from the Iron Age through to the Romano-British period.

Unfortunately the evidence of early and middle Saxon occupation was limited to a few sherds of Saxon pottery, some from sealed contexts. This however, is not unusual as evidence of Saxon occupation is normally scarce. A number of Saxon burials were uncovered to the north of the proposed development area, and it is likely, therefore, that the excavation lay on the periphery of the Saxon settlement.

By far the greatest density of excavated features dated to the medieval period, mainly dating from the 12th to 14th centuries. The majority of these were located adjacent to

the westernmost boundary of the proposed development site. Despite severe truncation, the pottery recovered was, as a whole in large, un-abraded fragments, indicative of occupation in the medieval period. However, the density of features along the westernmost boundary would suggest that the proposed development area lay on the periphery of the medieval settlement, the bulk of which lay further to the west, and indeed, there are standing earthworks within the adjacent field. This suggests that the village was larger and more linear during the medieval period than it is now. There is also the possibility that the nucleus of the village has shifted, or contacted nearer the church to the east.

There is evidence that the Saxon settlement was on the northern edge of the current village and the lack of evidence from this period recovered during this excavation may support this. It appears, therefore, that the nucleus of the village altered between the Saxon period and the later medieval period. It is entirely possible, therefore, that the nucleus of the medieval village also moved. A number of medieval villages are known to have twin nuclei, Barrowden in Rutland is a nearby example, it is possible that this was also the case for Seaton although it is extremely difficult to confirm this given the limited nature of the work, so far carried out.

The excavation has recovered some evidence of the diet and economy of the medieval settlement. The bones are mostly from the main domesticates, cattle, sheep/goat and pig. It is likely that they represent domestic waste, from butchery and food preparation, which became incorporated into the features along with other domestic rubbish. A greater variety of species were represented in the medieval period, which may indicate a broadening of the diet. The medieval features also contained a thin scatter of charred plant remains, which probably resulted from food preparation waste from nearby occupation. Evidence of free-threshing wheat and the additional cereals hulled barley, rye and possibly oats was present, similar to other assemblages from medieval village core sites. A few weed seeds suggested that the cereals could have been cultivated on clay soils such as are found in the vicinity.

The pottery from the site can provide information on the trading contacts with the settlement at Seaton. The range of fabrics present is typical of that found in Rutland, as recent work by ULAS at the nearby villages of Glaston, Barrowden, Whitwell, Empingham and Cottesmore has shown. Seaton lies within the core pottery distribution area of Stamford (Kilmurry 1980, 156), a major pottery production centre, which predominant in the 11th-12th centuries. The Lincoln/Lincolnshire Shelly wares are also present but only make up a very small part of the late Saxon assemblage. Stanion Lyveden wares from north Northamptonshire make up the most common medieval ware, Stanion lies less than 15 kilometres to the south. Bourne, some 30 kilometres to the northeast, and Nottingham, approximately 55 kilometres to the northwest, were also supplying pottery.

Despite the truncation on the site at Seaton the excavation has revealed more evidence of the origins of Rutland villages complementing work at Glaston, Barrowden, Whitwell, Empingham and Cottesmore. Case studies such as these have shown that important, yet ever-diminishing archaeological resources exist within historic village cores. This evidence has been shown to exist in varying degrees of fragility but nevertheless, provided that effective strategies are employed to predict and record such remains when they are threatened, they can provide valuable information for the

documentation of life in medieval rural communities. At a local level information relating to early village life such as social status, patterns of consumption, use of space can be attained. On a larger scale, collectively the information from such sites can be compared to other rural locations and also to contemporary urban situations in order to provide answers to the questions of the dynamics of village formation, change over time and the relationship between villages and towns.

## **8. Acknowledgements**

The excavation was carried out between 17th February 2004 and March 24th 2004 under the supervision of the author with the assistance of Eric Thurston and other ULAS staff. Patrick Clay who also edited the text managed the project.

## **9. References**

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## **10. Archive**

The Archive Consists of

- 167 Colour Slides
- 173 Monochrome & Contact Sheets
- 57 Permatrace Drawings (13 A4, 12 A3, 32 A2)
- 5 A4 Context Summary Sheets.

- 116 A5 Single Context Record Sheets.
- 1 A4 Drawing Sheet Index.
- 3 A4 Drawing Record Sheets.
- 2 A4 Small Finds Index Sheets.
- 3 A4 Photograph Index Sheets.
- 5 A4 EDM Survey Notes.
- 1 A4 Environmental Sample Index.
- 2 A4 Sample Group Forms.

And will be held by Rutland County Museum under Accession No. RA.02.2002

11 Figures

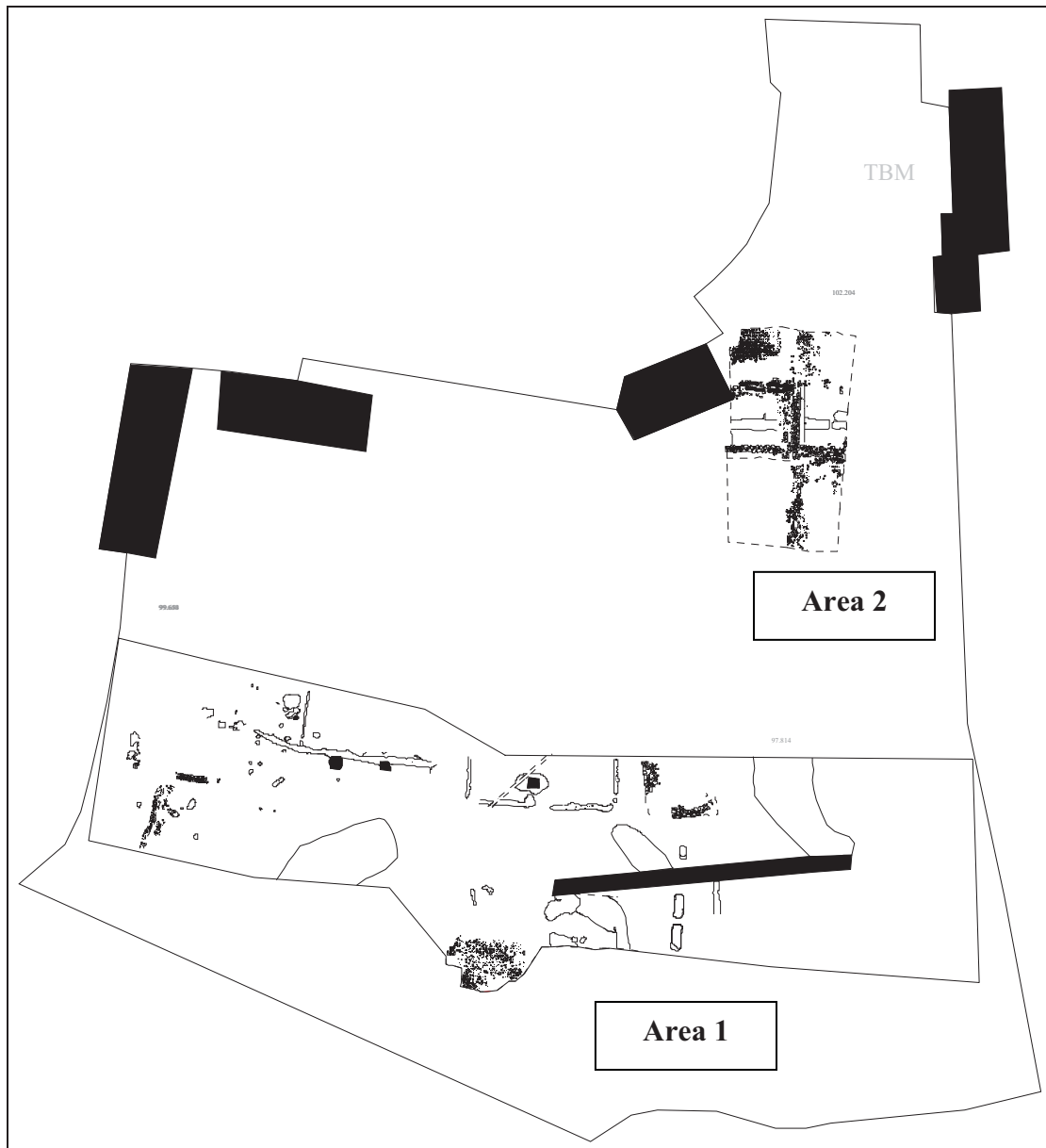


Figure 5 Location Of Areas 1 and 2 West Farm



0m

10m

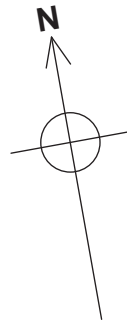


Figure 6 Area 2 Plan

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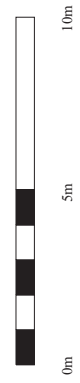
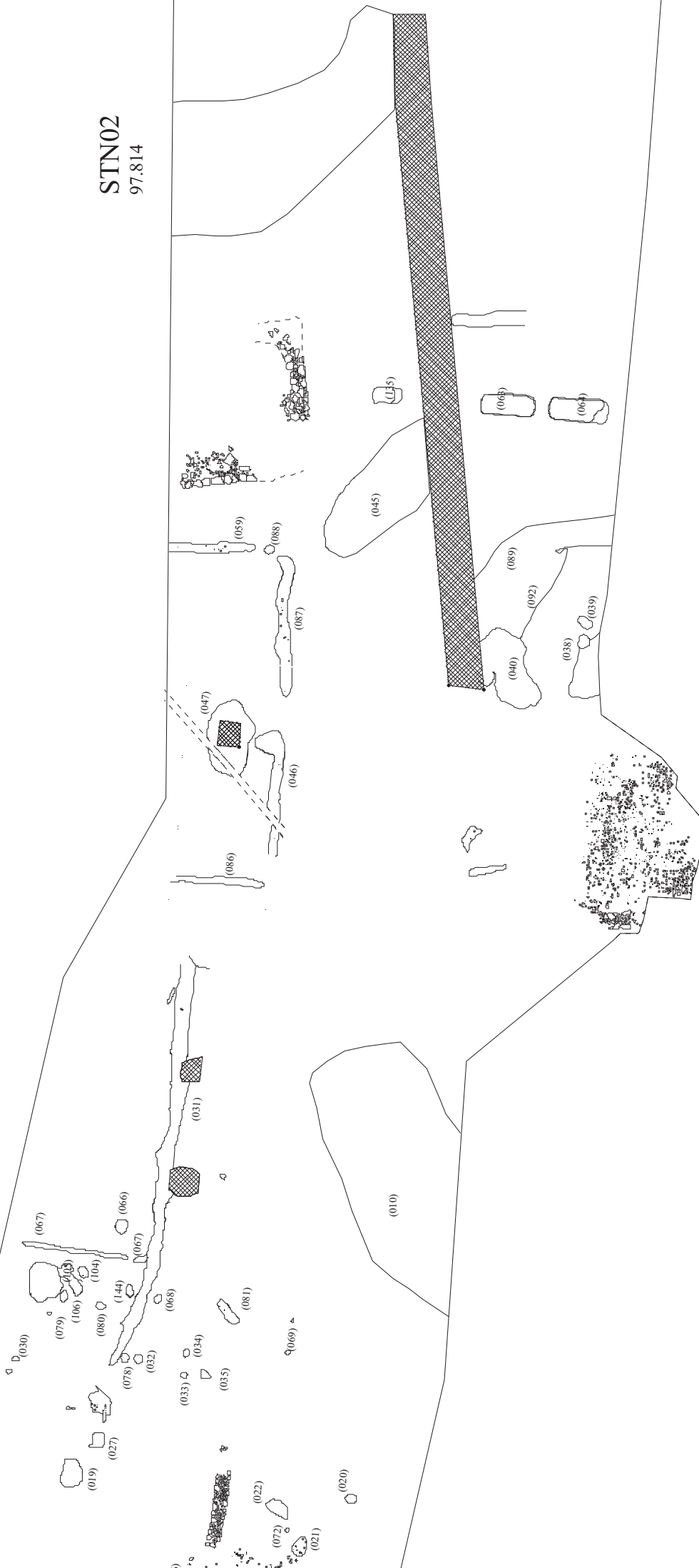
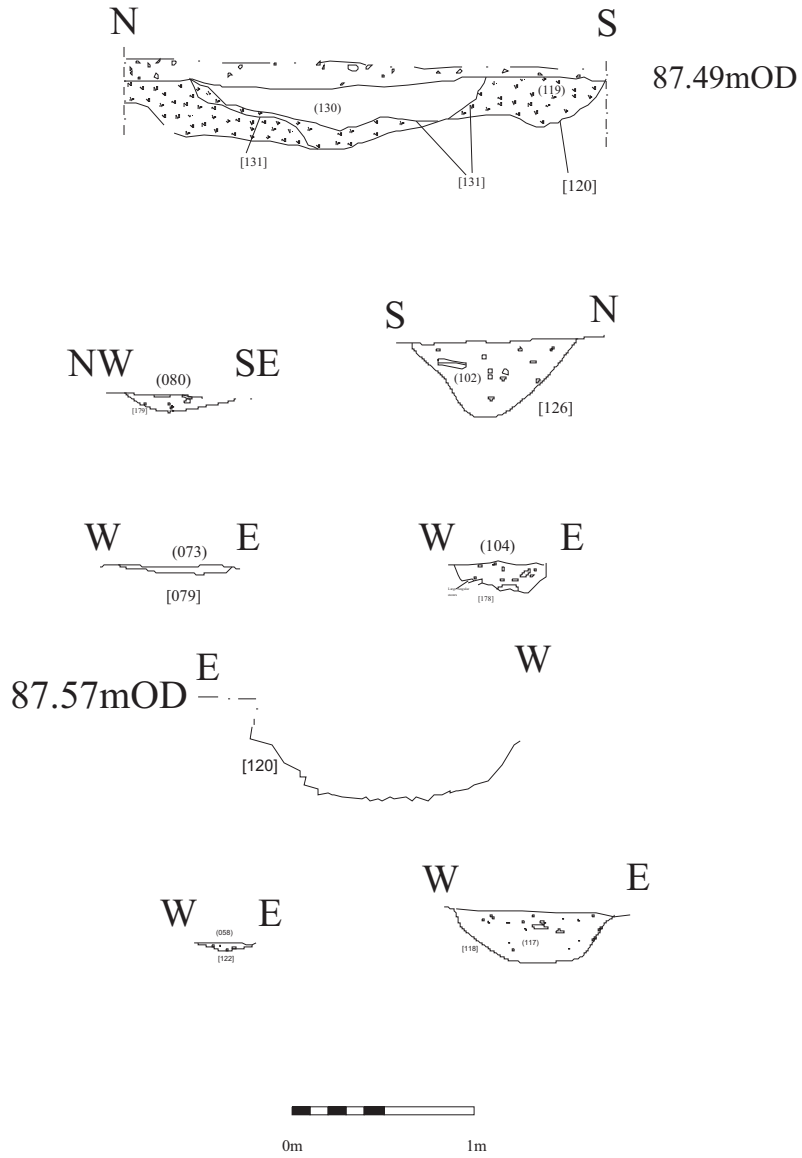
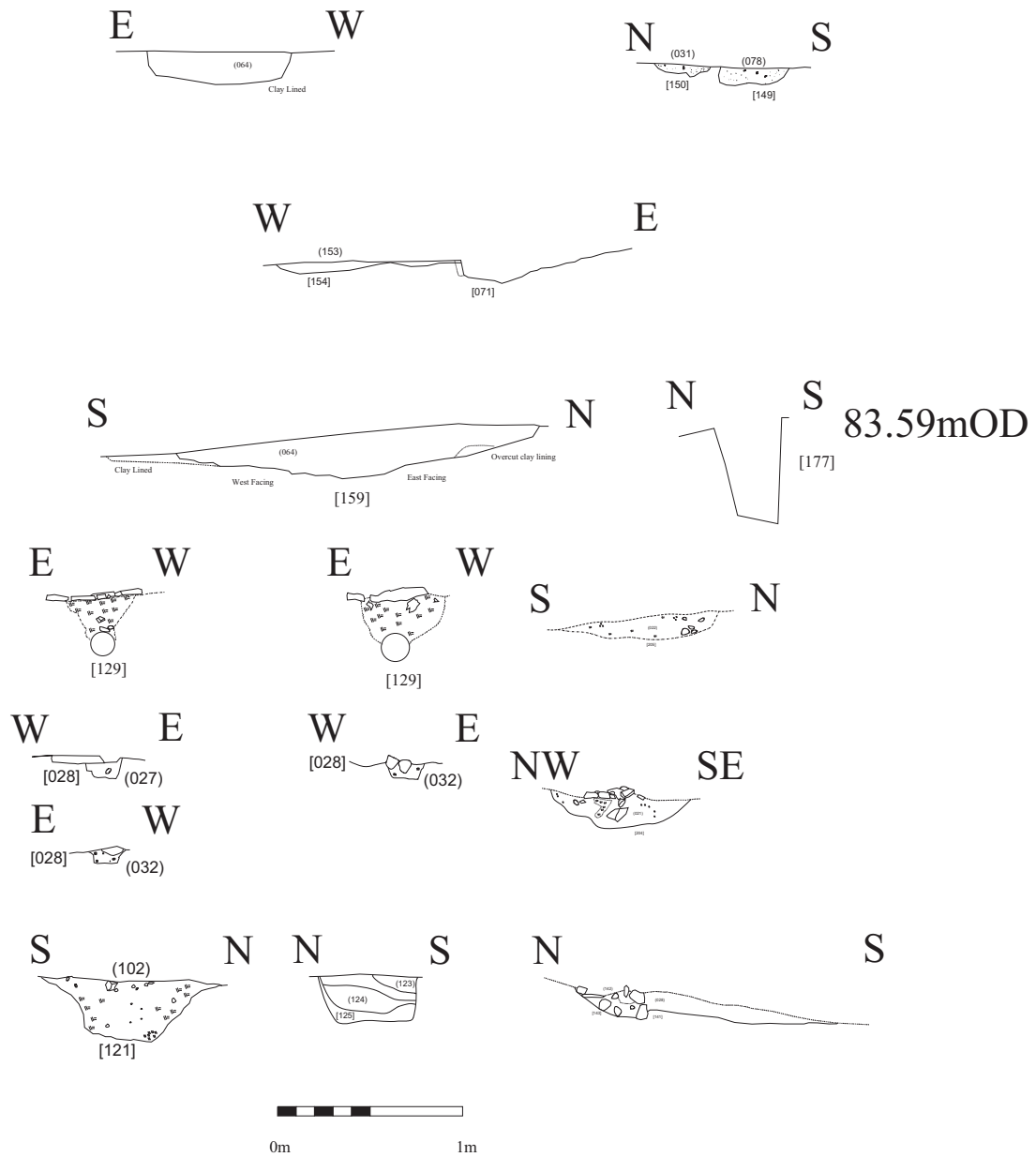


Figure 7 Area 1 Plan

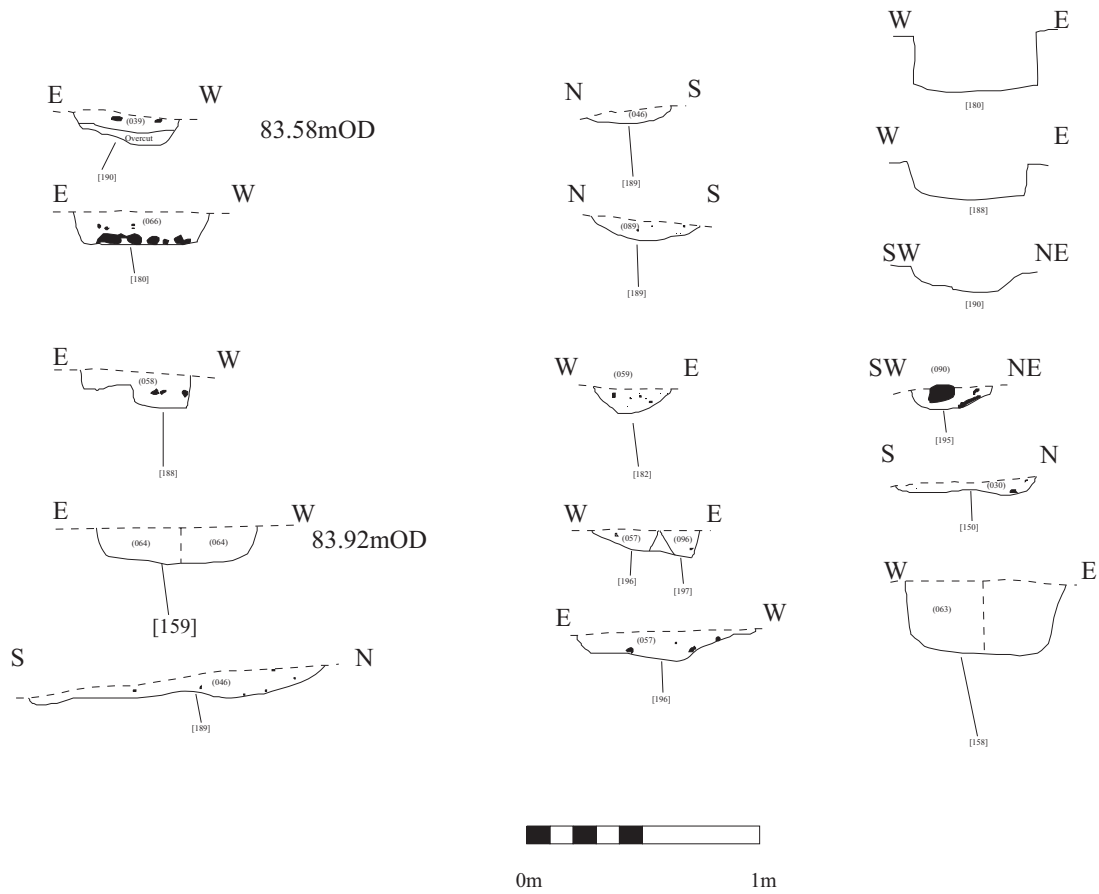




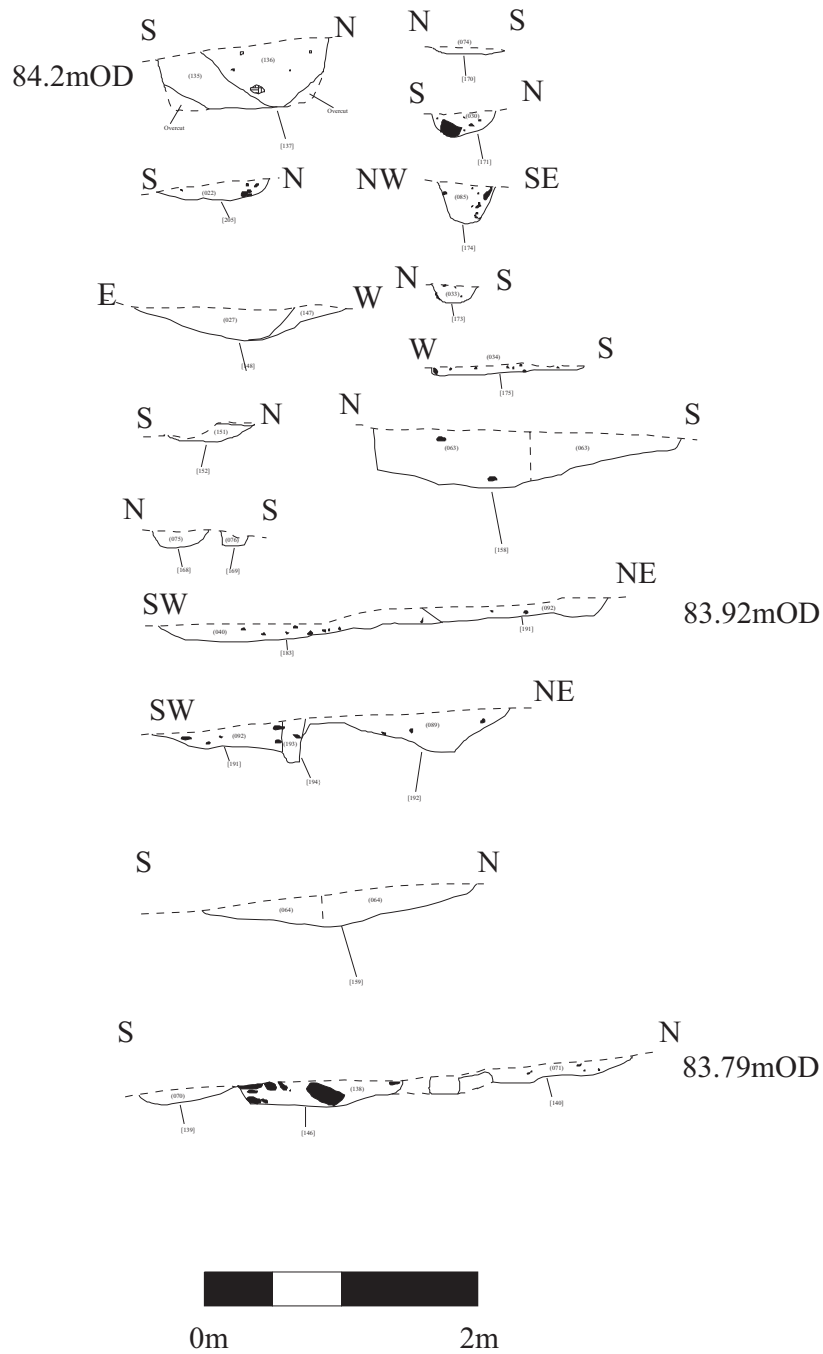
**Figure 8** Sections Through Features [131], [179], [126], [079], [178], [122], [118], & Profile Through [120]. With Selected OD Values.



**Figure 9** Sections Through Features [159], [150], [149], [137], [154], [071], [129], [205], [028], [204], [121], [125], [143], [141], & Profile Through [177]. With Selected OD Values.



**Figure 10** Sections Through Features [190], [189], [180], [188], [159], [189], [182], [196], [197], [195], [150], & [158]. Profiles Through Features [180], [188], & [190]. With Selected OD Values.



**Figure 11** Sections Through Features [137], [170], [171], [174], [148], [173], [175], [152], [168], [169], [158], [183], [191], [194], [192], [159], [139], [146], & [140]. With Selected OD Values.

## 11. Appendix 1

### Plant remains from West Farm, Seaton, Rutland (RA2.2002)

Angela Monckton (December 17th 2004)

#### Introduction

The site in the village was excavated by ULAS directed by Gerwyn Richards and medieval and other features were found. Sampling was carried out during the excavation to recover charred plant remains which can provide evidence of crops cultivated and activities on sites in the past. There is a lack of evidence from rural medieval sites and it was hoped that remains of medieval date would be found to add to others from Leicestershire and Rutland to provide evidence about the countryside in the medieval period. An Iron Age pit was also sampled.

#### Methods

Samples were taken from pits, ditches and a well from contexts which were thought to have the potential to contain remains. Samples from one prehistoric and 10 medieval contexts were processed amounting to a total of 156 litres of soil in 24 sample parts.

The samples were wet sieved in a York tank with a 0.5mm mesh and flotation into a 0.3mm mesh sieve. The residues were all air dried and the fraction over 4mm sorted for finds and discarded while the fraction below 4mm was reserved. This was carried out by Dave Parker at ULAS.

The flotation fractions (flots) were air dried and all sorted for plant remains using a x10 stereo microscope. The plant remains were then identified by comparison with modern material at the University of Leicester. The remains were counted and listed (table 1), the plant names follow Stace (1991) and are charred seeds in the broad sense unless described otherwise.

#### Results

Charred plant remains were found in small numbers in all the samples and the plants found were all typical of medieval sites.

**The cereals:** The majority of the identified grains were of wheat (*Triticum* sp), mainly of the characteristic short broad shape of free-threshing wheat which could be either bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum* s.l.) or a second type of free-threshing wheat called rivet wheat (*Triticum turgidum* type) known from medieval England (Moffett 1991). Unfortunately wheat chaff fragments (rachis) were not found so the wheat could not be identified further. Barley grains (*Hordeum vulgare*) were also found in smaller numbers and these included hulled grains. Rye (*Secale cereale*) was also present in small numbers as an additional cereal and oats (*Avena* sp.) were also possibly present. Evidence of glume was also present as a single glume of spelt or emmer (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*) probably residual from the prehistoric period.

**Other useful plants:** Other food plants were legumes only as fragments, possibly of peas or cultivated vetch but this could not be confirmed from the incomplete remains. A few fragments of hazel nutshell (*Corylus avellana*) were evidence of the use of gathered food. Seeds of flax or linseed (*Linum usitatissimum*) were also present representing another crop.

**Wild plants:** The few charred weed seeds were mainly weeds of disturbed ground or arable land such as stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*) which was common in medieval times and

is a plant of heavy soils, and cleavers (*Galium aparine*) a weed of autumn sown cereals such as wheat and rye. Others included vetches (*Vicia/Lathyrus*), docks (*Rumex* sp), large grasses including brome grass (*Bromus* sp.) and small grasses (Poaceae) all of which may also be arable weeds.

**Uncharred seeds:** seeds of weeds in uncharred condition were unusually numerous. These did not appear to be from waterlogged preservation as no other organic remains were present, neither did the pits appear to be cesspits as they lacked mineralised food remains. The only fruit pips were a small number of elder and bramble which could be from natural vegetation so this was not thought to represent sewage. The seeds included nettles, goosefoots, fools-parsley, dead-nettles, woundwort, campion and others all of which are to be found in rough pasture or field margins. Seeds can persist in some soil conditions for long periods, particularly more robust seeds such as these. They may be preserved in sewage, or where mortar, plaster or lime is present. If these seeds are not intrusive modern seeds from land drains or suchlike, it is possible they may be from animal dung or slurry from grazing animals. They may, however, have originated from the surrounding vegetation falling into pits preserved by soil conditions or presence of lime.

## Discussion

The prehistoric pit 113 contained free-threshing wheat grains and other seeds similar to the medieval samples and was thought to contain intrusive later material. Of the seven medieval pits (table 1) the most productive was pit 204 with a moderate number of charred remains dominated by cereal grains with weed seeds of vetches, large grasses and stinking mayweed. This probably represents domestic waste from preparation of cereals for consumption. There were few uncharred seeds in this deposit unlike the rest of the pits which contained numerous uncharred seeds. However, the charred remains in the rest of the pits were similar but less numerous with occasional fragments of legumes and nutshell which appears to represent a scatter of domestic waste from food preparation. Similar waste was found in the ditches 184 and 150 while little was found in the well 202 which had the most intrusive roots. The uncharred seeds in the pits and ditches may be remains from decayed manure or slurry or possibly run off from drainage ditches, the seeds representing the surrounding vegetation. The pits may have acted as a sump for the area.

The samples here contain a few charred grains and weed seeds with no identifiable chaff. The low density scatter of remains suggests domestic waste rather than cereal processing. Free-threshing wheat separates easily from the ear during threshing after which winnowing removes small light weed seeds and the light chaff (Hillman 1981, Jones 1990). None of the waste from these processes was found here. The samples here contain grains with a few larger weed seeds and may represent waste from the final stages of cereal cleaning by hand sorting during food preparation. The presence of legume fragments and nutshell in the sample may suggest that this was domestic rubbish from a hearth burnt during food preparation or cooking, hearth cleanings then accumulated or were dumped in the features. The legumes found show cultivation and consumption of possibly peas, although this is possibly cultivated vetch perhaps as an additional crop which may have been used for animal fodder. Flax was also present perhaps as linseed which is edible and shows the cultivation of this crop in the area.

These samples are thought to represent domestic waste which has been found in samples from a few other villages including Anstey (house platform), Freeby, Barrowden, Claybrook Magna, and Stapleton as well as in samples from within the town of Leicester (summarised in Monckton 2004). Some of the villages have produced different samples rich in chaff and weed seeds, indicating agricultural processing of cereals, such as have been found at Saxby, Anstey (ditch), and Wyfordby. The former including rivet wheat as an additional type of the cereal, the latter two with bread wheat only identified (Monckton 2004, Jarvis forthcoming).

It is possible that such remains may be found in other parts of this village should further investigations occur, but domestic activity and possibly stock keeping are suggested in the area sampled here.

### **Conclusions**

Medieval samples produced a thin scatter of charred plant remains probably as food preparation waste from nearby occupation. Evidence of free-threshing wheat and the additional cereals hulled barley, rye and possibly oats was found. A few weed seeds suggested that the cereals could have been cultivated on clay soils such as are found in the vicinity. Other remains of charred legumes were found possibly of peas or cultivated vetch and some hazel nutshell fragments also suggested other foods consumed and the presence of domestic waste. Seeds of flax or linseed were present as evidence of another crop. More numerous uncharred seeds may have been preserved in the conditions in the pits as remains from manure or animal slurry but were of uncertain date.

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**Table 1. Charred plant remains from Seaton, Rutland.**

Phase	IA	Med	Med	?	?	Med	?	Med	Med	Med	Med	
Feature type	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	D	D	W	
Context	112	63	138	151	104	66	39	21	59	31	19	
Cut number	113	158	146	152	178	180	190	204	184	150	202	
Sample	1	2	3	4	7	8	15	16	13	18	20	
CEREAL GRAINS												
<i>Triticum</i> free-threshing grain	2	-	-	1	1	3	1	4	1	6	-	Wheat
<i>Triticum</i> spp.	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	Wheat indet.
<i>Secale cereale</i> L.	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	4	1	-	-	Rye
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. grain	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Barley
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. hulled grain	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Barley, hulled
<i>Avena</i> sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Oat
Cereal/Poaceae	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	-	Cereal/Grass
Cereal grains indet.	4	2	5	1	3	2	2	21	3	9	2	Cereal
CEREAL CHAFF												
<i>Triticum</i> sp. glume	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	Emmer/Spelt
Cereal chaff fragment	-	-	-	-	-	-	1?	1?	-	-	-	Cereal chaff
USEFUL PLANTS												
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	Hazel nut shell
<i>Pisum/Vicia sativa</i> type cult.	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	Peas/Vetch
<i>Linum usitatissimum</i> L.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	Flax/Linseed
WEEDS												
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Docks
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	Vetch/Vetchling
<i>Vicia</i> sp.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	1	Vetch
<i>Galium aparine</i> L.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	Cleavers
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	Stinking mayweed
<i>Bromus</i> sp.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	Brome grass
Poaceae (large)	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	7	-	2	2	Grasses, large
Poaceae (small)	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	Grasses, small
Indeterminate seeds	-	-	1	-	2	-	1	1	1	1	2	Indet. seeds
Uncharred seeds	++	+++	++	++	++	++	+++	+	+	++	+	Uncharred seeds
OTHER REMAINS												
Charcoal	+	+	+	+	++	+	++	+	+	+	+	Charcoal
Roots uncharred	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	++	Snails
Summary												
Total	8	3	10	2	14	11	8	46	9	27	10	items
Volume of sample	9	12*	7	11*	10*	14*	11*	5	12*	15*	20*	Litres
Volume of flot	12	20	25	6	9	9	30	20	15	20	15	mls
Density charred remains	0.9	0.5	1.4	0.4	2.8	1.6	1.5	9.2	1.5	3.6	2.0	items/litres

Key: + = present, ++ = moderate amount, +++ = abundant. glume. = glume base, ra = rachis segment.  
 cf. = probable identification. \* = 50% sorted. Remains are seeds in the broad sense unless stated.



## Appendix 2

### The Animal Bone from Excavations at West Farm, Seaton

Jennifer Browning

#### *Introduction*

A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from excavations of deposits dating from the Iron Age to the post-medieval period at West Farm, Seaton, Rutland. A total of 252 fragments were recovered by hand, some of which were fragmented parts of the same bone. Re-assembly resulted in a revised total of 238 bones. Most of the bone was recovered from ditch and pit fills.

#### *Methods*

Bones were identified with reference to comparative skeletal material held by Leicester University, School of Archaeology and Ancient History. Taxon, anatomical part, state of fusion, completeness and modification by human or other elements was recorded, to elicit information on species proportions, skeletal representation and age. Part of bone present were recorded following, where possible, the zoning method defined by Serjeantson (2000) with additional zones ascribed to mandibles, based on the system outlined by Dobney and Reilly (1988). The information was compiled onto a *pro forma* computerised spreadsheet (Microsoft Excel).

Phase	Contexts	No. Fragments
Iron Age	89	15
Roman	57, 66, 90	60
Late Saxon	52, 63,	66
Early medieval	9	6
Medieval	10, 28, 31, 64, 117, 119, 124, 138, 147, 153, 157,	37
Early post medieval	19, 27, 58	6
undated	67, 23, 38, 39, 102, 115, 157, 187,	48
		238

Table 1: Number of fragments from each phase.

An examination of average number of bones per context shows that the highest frequency of bones was recovered from late Saxon deposits.

#### *Results*

The assemblage was extensively fragmented, although bone surfaces were usually fairly well preserved. The number of identified bones is very low (28%) and many of these are teeth, which often better than other types of bone. There was very little useful ageing information and few examples of butchery or gnawing. However, the teeth present belonged to the permanent dentition and there were few un-fused bones, which suggests that the bones derive mainly from adult animals.

Phase	Identified										Total					
	?mussel	cattle	sheep/ goat	dog	dom fowl	hare	horse	pig	roe	c-size		sh-size	unident-ified			
Iron Age		1	1									2	2	11	<b>15</b>	
Roman		3						2				5	15	2	38	<b>60</b>
E Med		3	1									4	1	1		<b>6</b>
Late Saxon		8	10	1				1				20	5	12	29	<b>66</b>
Medieval	1	5	8			1	2	1				18	3	9	7	<b>37</b>
EPM		1			1							2	2	2		<b>6</b>
unknown		5	8				1	1				15	7	17	9	<b>48</b>
Total	1	26	28	1	1	1	1	6	1			66	31	45	96	<b>238</b>

Table 2: *Taxa* identified from each phase

### *Iron Age*

Only two elements from the Iron Age assemblage were identified; both were tooth fragments and belonged to cattle and sheep/goat respectively.

### *Roman*

The majority of the Roman assemblage consists of unidentified fragments, however cattle and pig were identified in the assemblage.

### *Late Saxon*

Cattle, sheep/goat, pig and dog were identified in the assemblage. Pig and dog were represented by a single bone each, while sheep/goat were primarily represented by teeth. Cattle bones were most common. There were two butchered bones in the assemblage, an atlas and a rib, both cattle.

### *Medieval*

The average number of bones per context was very low but the medieval deposits did demonstrate the widest species range. Cattle, sheep/goat, and pig were all identified, with sheep/goat being the most common. Once again many of the identified elements are loose whole or fragmented teeth. Wild animals are represented by a hare mandible in deposit 119 and a single tooth of roe deer in deposit 31. A single fragment of mussel shell was also identified. The distal end of a sheep tibia had a hole in the centre of the shaft above the articulation. This appeared to have been made deliberately, although there were no other signs of working.

### *Early post medieval*

A single bone each of cattle and domestic fowl was recovered from this phase.

### ***Conclusion***

The small size and poor quality of the assemblage, particularly when divided into phases, means that the nature of animal exploitation at the site remains enigmatic. It is likely that most of the discernable differences between the phases are affected by factors such as recovery, preservation and the amount of feature excavated. However,

a few general observations can be made. The bones are mostly from the main domesticates, cattle, sheep/goat and pig. It is likely that they represent domestic waste, from butchery and food preparation, which became incorporated into the features along with other domestic rubbish. A greater variety of species were represented in the medieval period, which may indicate a broadening of the diet. Gnawing on a small proportion of the bones from late Saxon and early medieval deposits indicates that some bones were left lying around for scavengers prior to deposition. There are no distinctive bone groups that might indicate particular crafts or activities.

### **Appendix 3**

#### **The pottery from excavations at West Farm, Seaton, Rutland.**

##### **D. Sawday**

###### *Introduction*

The pottery, 1010 sherds, weighing 7.328 kg, was examined under a binocular microscope and catalogued with reference to the ULAS fabric series (Blinkhorn 1999), (Blinkhorn 2004), (Clark 1999), (Davies and Sawday 1999), (Davies and Sawday 2004), (Marsden 2000). The vessel form nomenclature used is for the medieval pottery is that recommended by the Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG 1998).

###### *The Iron Age Pottery*

Eight sherds of pre-historic pottery, weighing twenty eight grams, was recovered from the excavations. Six of the sherds, weighing fifteen grams, were in fabric S1, a fossil shell tempered ware. One sherd, weighing one gram, occurred in the fabric S2, a fossil shell and sand tempered ware, and another, weighing twelve grams, in Fabric Q2, had a quartz and igneous rock temper (Marsden 2000). Sherds in both fabrics S1 and S2 were decorated with scoring (ibid, 173).

The Iron Age pottery was recovered from a range of contexts across the site, usually representing the only find from particular feature. Thus, single sherds in fabric S1 were the only datable finds from the clay lined pit [137], the gully [128], and the post hole, [192], and two more sherds were the only finds from the post hole [178]. Another sherd in fabric S1 was found in the pit [180] together with a piece of Roman Grog tempered ware, fabric GT. A fragment of fabric S2 was the sole find from the pit [113], whilst a sherd in fabric Q2 was recorded as surface find number 6.

### ***The Roman Pottery***

Thirty seven sherds of Roman pottery, which weighed one hundred and seventy grams, were recorded from the site in a range of fabrics, (Clarke 1999), (Table 1).

Fabric	Sherds Nos.	Weight Grams	Average Sherd Weight Grams
CG – Calcite Gritted ware	28	129	4.6
SW – Sandy ware	1	2	2.0
GT – Grog Tempered ware	2	5	2.5
MD – Mica Dusted ware	1	4	4.0
GW1 – Grey ware 1	3	24	8.0
WW – White ware	2	6	3.0
Totals	37	170	

Table 1: The Roman pottery site totals, by fabric, sherd numbers and weight (grams).

One sherd was found in the pit [180] together with a fragment of Iron Age pottery as noted above. Single sherds occurred as the only find in the linear features [187] and [197], the post hole [195] and the clay lined feature [158]. The remainder was recovered together with later material in the linear features [183] and [189], the spreads 157 and [109] and the pits [114], [125], [139] and [160]. Roman pottery also made up surface find numbers 4, 26, 27 and 52.

### ***Pottery – Period Unknown***

Seven sherds of calcite gritted pottery, weighing forty four grams, and of uncertain date, were recovered as surface find numbers 5, 12, 18, 21, 25, 40 and from context [3].

### ***The Late Saxon and Later Pottery (Tables 2 and 3)***

#### *The Early/Middle Saxon Pottery*

Four sherds of early/middle Saxon pottery, weighing twenty four grams, were recovered from the site, (Table 2), two in a quartz/quartzite fabric, and the remainder with a granite temper. One sherd was found in context [12] together with late Saxon Stamford ware and Lincoln/Lincolnshire Shelly ware, and another in the spread [109] with a range of late Saxon, medieval and later pottery. Two more Saxon sherds were recorded as surface finds, numbers 42 and 43.

Quartz and Granite tempered fabrics are typical of the pottery of the pottery of this period in the area, but the granite tempered fabrics in particular are no longer thought to be only fifth century in date, and are now known in later contexts in the midlands region (Blinkhorn 2000, 84).

Fabric/Ware	Sherd Nos.	% of sherd totals	Weight Grams	% of weight totals	Av. Sherd Weight
<b>Early Saxon</b>					
SX – Granite Tempered	2		14		7.0
SX – Quartz & Quartzite Tempered	2		10		5.0
<b>Early Saxon Sub Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>6.0</b>
<b>Late Saxon</b>					
ST3 – Coarse Stamford ware	79		750		
ST2 – Fine Stamford ware	111		432		
ST1 – ‘Developed’ Stamford ware	77		612		
<b>Stamford ware Sub Total</b>	<b>(267)</b>	<b>(27.8)</b>	<b>(1794)</b>	<b>(25.1)</b>	<b>(6.7)</b>
LI – Lincoln/Lincolnshire Shelly ware	17		72		
<b>Late Saxon Sub Total</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>29.6</b>	<b>1866</b>	<b>26.1</b>	<b>6.5</b>
<b>Medieval</b>					
LY1 – Stanion Lyveden Type ware 1	88		884		
LY2 – Stanion Lyveden Type ware 2	18		167		
LY4 – Stanion Lyveden Type ware 4	88		1298		
LY – Stanion Lyveden Type ware	453		2785		
<b>LY – Stanion Lyveden Type ware Sub Total</b>	<b>(66.2)</b>	<b>(69.1)</b>	<b>(5199)</b>	<b>(72.9)</b>	<b>(7.8)</b>
OS – Oxidised Sandy ware	2		6		
BO2 – Bourne ware/type ware 2	1		7		
BO3 – Bourne ware/type ware 3	6		25		
BO4 – Bourne ware/type ware 4	5		25		
NO3 – Nottingham ware 3	1		2		
<b>Medieval Sub Total</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>68.0</b>	<b>5023</b>	<b>72.2</b>	<b>7.9</b>
<b>Late Medieval/Early Post Medieval</b>					
MP – Midland Purple ware	2		9		
BO1 – Bourne ware/type ware 1	1		2		
RW1 – Post Medieval Redware 1	2		12		
<b>Late Medieval/Early Post Medieval Sub Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>4.6</b>
<b>Post Medieval/Modern</b>					
EA/EA6/EA10 – Post Medieval/Modern Earthenwares	3		18		
<b>Post Medieval/Modern Sub Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>6.0</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>958</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>7130</b>	<b>99.5</b>	

Table 2: The Saxon and later pottery totals by fabric, sherd numbers, and weight (grams).

### *The Late Saxon and Later Pottery*

Of the nine hundred and fifty four sherds of Saxon and later pottery, eight hundred and eighty five were recovered from stratified contexts. (Tables 2 and 3). Whilst the early/middle Saxon pottery has been described above the medieval and later pottery is examined below.

### *The Ceramic Record*

Typically, Stamford ware dominates the late Saxon assemblages, with Lincoln/Lincolnshire Shelly wares only present in much smaller quantities. In the medieval period, the Stanion Lyveden wares are the most common, whilst only a few sherds occur in the medieval and later Nottingham and Bourne wares and the late medieval Midland Purple ware.

The pottery occurs in a range of domestic forms. Although the Stamford wares were very fragmentary, with an average sherd weight of only 6.7 grams (table 2), several fine tables ware vessels were identified; probably all spouted pitchers or jugs some with the 'developed' copper glaze, together with occasionally rouletted jars and bowls. A few jars and bowls were also present in the Lincoln/Lincolnshire Shelly wares. Jars, bowls and jugs occurred in the Stanion Lyveden wares, including highly decorated versions of the latter in fabric LY1, whilst thumbled decoration was common on the two former vessels.

### *The Stratified Record*

The pottery was recovered from across the site (Table 3) in a wide range of contexts. Unfortunately none of the contexts could be closely dated due to the highly levels of residuality evident in almost all the features containing pottery. Most produced material dating from the late Saxon into the medieval period, from the tenth or eleventh centuries into the thirteenth or fourteenth centuries if not later.

### *Conclusions*

The range of fabrics present at Seaton is, as recent work by ULAS elsewhere in the county has shown, notably at the nearby villages of Glaston and Barrowden, but also at Whitwell, Empingham and Cottesmore, typical of that found in Rutland. Here as elsewhere in the region, the pottery is evidently local in origin, with Stamford, a major pottery production centre, predominant in the early period. This is not surprising as Seaton lies within the core pottery distribution area of Stamford (Kilmurry 1980, 156). Typically also, the Lincoln/Lincolnshire Shelly wares are present, from sources to the north of the county, but only make up a very small part of the late Saxon assemblage.

Also, not surprisingly, the Stanion Lyveden wares from north Northamptonshire make up the most common medieval ware, Stanion lies less than fifteen kilometres to the south. However, the ware did not monopolise the market, as pottery from Bourne, some thirty kilometres to the north east, and Nottingham, approximately fifty five kilometres to the north west is also present, albeit only in very small quantities.

Unfortunately, truncation of the site in modern times has disturbed the archaeological levels and destroyed much of the stratigraphy on the site. However, the pottery still provides evidence of activity in the vicinity during the prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and medieval periods. Furthermore, the quantity, lack of abrasion and relatively large sherd size of at least some of the medieval pottery, especially that from the pit [200], hints at occupation during the later 13th and early 14th centuries in the vicinity from the later ninth or tenth centuries, to the 13th or 14th centuries. The pottery evidence also seems to suggest that there was little activity in the area from the later 14th century onwards, and that the site was perhaps under pasture from the later medieval period into modern times.

Fabric	Context							
	Pits 20, 24, 102, [114] [118] [125] [139] [140] [141] [146] [154] [160] [162] [163] [175] [202] [204] [208]	Spreads 23, 47, 48, [109] 157, 201	Post holes [174] ] [177] ]	Elongated features [205] [164]	Clay lined features [158] [159]	Linear features 67 [120], [150] [182] [183] [186] [189] [198]	Hollow way [8]	Totals
<b>Late Saxon</b>								
ST3	15/95	26/118		2/4	8/30	15/340		66/587
ST2	20/76	47/159	2/4	2/4	2/4	11/43	8/64	92/354
ST1	11/78	9/31		1/2		2/14	53/475	76/600
<b>ST Sub Total</b>	<b>(46/249)</b>	<b>(82/308 )</b>	<b>(2/4)</b>	<b>(5/10)</b>	<b>(10/34)</b>	<b>(28/397)</b>	<b>(61/539)</b>	<b>(234/1541)</b>
LI	1/2	9/38			2/5	2/8		14/53
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>47/251</b>	<b>91/346</b>	<b>2/4</b>	<b>5/10</b>	<b>12/39</b>	<b>30/405</b>	<b>61/539</b>	<b>248/1594</b>
<b>Medieval</b>								
LY1	10/101	44/406		6/50		14/166		74/723
LY2	2/1					2/5	9/95	13/101
LY4	76/1235	10/55					1/4	87/1294
LY	329/1908	80/648	1/3	7/30	3/12	22/88		442/2689
<b>LY Sub Total</b>	<b>(417/324 5)</b>	<b>(134/ 1109)</b>	<b>(1/3)</b>	<b>(13/80)</b>	<b>(3/12)</b>	<b>(38/259)</b>	<b>(10/99)</b>	<b>(616/4807)</b>
OS	1/2	1/4						2/6
BO2							1/7	1/7
BO3	1/2	4/19				1/4		6/25
BO4	1/2	2/9		1/6				4/17
NO3						1/2		1/2
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>420/3251</b>	<b>14/1141</b>	<b>1/3</b>	<b>14/86</b>	<b>3/12</b>	<b>40/265</b>	<b>11/106</b>	<b>630/4864</b>
<b>Late Med /Early PM</b>								
MP	2/9							2/9
BO1	1/2							1/2
RW1		1/8		1/4				2/12
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>3/11</b>	<b>1/8</b>		<b>1/4</b>				<b>5/23</b>
<b>PM/Mod</b>								
EA/EA6-10	1/12	1/2						2/14
<b>Totals</b>	<b>471/3525</b>	<b>234/ 1497</b>	<b>3/7</b>	<b>20/100</b>	<b>15/51</b>	<b>70/670</b>	<b>72/645</b>	<b>885/6495</b>



Table 3: The Saxon and later pottery from stratified contexts, by fabric, sherd numbers, and weight (grams).

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