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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF LAND  
AT MANOR FARM,  
STANTON LE VALE,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(SVMF 10)**

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Work Undertaken For  
**Signet Planning**  
on behalf of  
**Sir Richard Sutton's Settled Estates**

April 2010

Report Compiled by  
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA(Hons)

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES**





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## 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at Manor Farm, Stainton le Vale, Lincolnshire. The evaluation was undertaken in advance of proposed agricultural development at the site.*

*The site lies within an area of high archaeological potential with a number of Neolithic (4000-2200 BC) monuments surrounding the village including a possible henge. Bronze Age (2200-800 BC) round barrows are also known from the general area. Later prehistoric or Romano-British (AD 43-410) enclosures have been mapped from aerial photographs and include one example at the site itself. The site lies east of the core of the shrunken medieval (AD 1066-1540) village best represented by the church of St Andrew and extensive earthworks in the surrounding area.*

*The evaluation identified a sequence of natural, undated, Iron Age to Romano-British and Saxon deposits. Undated remains include ditches, a pit and a number of postholes suggestive of structural activity. Ditches, a pit and a crouched human burial are possibly of Late Iron Age date. A further six ditches were dated to the Romano-British period, spanning the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries, and corresponding to the cropmarks identified from aerial photography. A pit and a deposit were dated to the Early to Middle Saxon period, a period which has left scarce remains in the vicinity of Stainton.*

*Finds retrieved from the investigation comprised pottery of Late Iron Age to Middle Saxon date, slag, a possible Neolithic flint and a collection of animal bone. Cereal processing was found associated with 2<sup>nd</sup> century deposits while grassland, probably pasture, was evident during the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-*

*British period.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Definition of an Evaluation

*An archaeological evaluation is defined as, 'a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, quality and preservation, and it enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate' (IFA 1999).*

### 2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Signet Planning on behalf of Sir Richard Sutton's Settled Estates to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Manor Farm, Stainton le Vale, Lincolnshire, in advance of proposed agricultural development of the site. The work was undertaken between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March 2010 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council.

### 2.3 Topography and Geology

Stainton le Vale is located 8.5km northeast of Market Rasen and 16km northwest of Louth in the administrative district of West Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located 240m northeast of the parish church of St Andrew at national Grid Reference TF 1779 9447 (Fig. 2). The site lies south of a minor road between Stainton le Vale and Orford at a height of

c. 76m OD on land that slopes down to the south.

Local soils are of the Andover 1 Association, typically shallow well drained calcareous soils, with Wickham 2 Association, permeable loamy over clayey soils, to the south of the site (Hodge *et al.* 1984). These soils overlie a drift geology of fluvioglacial sands and gravels which in turn seal a solid geology of Lower Cretaceous limestones (BGS 1990).

## 2.4 Archaeological Setting

Stainton le Vale is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Neolithic period to the present day. Surrounding the village on the higher ground are a number of Neolithic long barrows, some with associated mortuary enclosures. To the east of the site, aerial photographs have revealed the presence of a Neolithic henge which is protected as a Scheduled Monument (County No. 27919). Stone tools of the period are also known from the general vicinity.

Cropmarks have also identified Bronze Age round barrows along with enclosures and linear boundaries that may be of Iron Age or Romano-British date. One such enclosure was identified at the site. Finds of Romano-British pottery have been made to the east and northeast of the village.

Stainton le Vale is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Stainton*, the name is a partial Scandinavianisation of the Old English *Stāntūn* meaning 'the village or farmstead on stony ground' (Cameron 1998, 116). At the time of the Domesday Survey the land was held by William de Perci, Hugh son of Baldric, Drew de Beurere and Rainer de Brimou and contained a mill and the sites of two others and 171 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976). In the subsequent Lindsey Survey of c. 1115, the

land is recorded as being held by the earl of Albermarle, the Count of Mellent, Ralf de Criol and Alan de Perci (*ibid*).

The only extant remains of the medieval period is the church of St Andrew which dates to c. 1300 (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 684). Extensive earthworks survive to the west and south of the church and comprise tofts, hollow ways and enclosures indicating the former extent of the medieval village and are probably the most extensive complexes in the country. Within these earthworks are the remains of four manors relating to the Domesday holdings (Everson *et al.* 1991, 180).

## 3. AIMS

The aim of the evaluation was to gather information to establish the presence or absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits in order to enable the Archaeological Curator to formulate a policy for the management of archaeological resources present on the site.

## 4. METHODS

Two trenches were placed to provide sample coverage within the proposed development area (Fig. 3). These were excavated by machine to the upper surface of natural deposits. Following excavation, the base and sides of the trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical. Archaeological deposits were then examined by hand to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual material. Each deposit exposed during the evaluation was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 2. Sections were drawn at a

scale of 1:10 and plans at 1:20. A photographic record was also compiled. Recording of the deposits encountered was undertaken based on the single context approach developed by the Museum of London (MoLAS 1994) with minor modifications by Archaeological Project Services.

Environmental samples were taken at the discretion of the site supervisor using guidelines established by English Heritage (2002). The methodology for the subsequent processing of the samples is outlined in the environmental report (Appendix 3).

The locations of the excavated trenches were surveyed by using a Thales Global Positioning System (GPS). A base receiver was established over a temporary survey station which logged satellite data while a roving receiver was used to record points of detail. This was processed using N4ce (version 1.11) software to produce CAD drawings.

Following excavation, all records were checked and ordered to ensure that they constituted a complete archive and a stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was produced. Phasing was based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them and supplemented by artefact dating.

## 5. RESULTS

Archaeological contexts are listed and described below. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

### *Trench 1*

The earliest deposit encountered within this trench was a layer of brownish yellow silt and small chalk pebbles (121)

Located at the northern end of the trench was a north-south aligned ditch (112). This measured over 4.6m long and was 1.4m wide and 0.43m deep (Fig. 5, Section 6; Plate 3). A single fill of brown silty sand with chalk pebbles (111) was recorded from which Late Iron Age pottery was retrieved.

Situated 26m to the southeast was an east-west aligned feature (120). Measuring 0.93m wide and 0.13m deep (Fig. 5, Section 7; Plate 4) it contained a fill of brown silty sand (119). Parallel to this was ditch (118) that was 0.61m wide and 0.26m deep. Three fills were recorded, a lower of brown silty sand (117) followed by yellow sandy silt with chalk pebbles (116) and finally yellowish brown silty sand (115).

To the south of this ditch was a northeast-southwest aligned ditch (103) that measured 0.86m wide and 0.39m deep (Fig. 5, Section 8; Plate 5). This contained a single fill of brown silty sand with chalk pebbles (102) that produced Romano-British pottery.

Adjacent to this ditch was a circular posthole (105) that had a diameter of 0.52m and was 0.28m deep (Fig. 5, Section 9). A single fill of yellowish brown silty sand (104) was identified which produced a single sherd of Middle Saxon pottery.

Located 0.7m to the south of the posthole was an oval grave (110) which measured 0.74m long, 0.52m wide and 0.18m deep. Contained within this grave was a crouched inhumation (109) of a child (aged between 8 and 10 years) with its head facing west (Plate 6). The grave had been backfilled with brown silty sand (108).

Cutting the southern edge of this grave was a north-south aligned ditch (107) that

was 0.6m wide by 0.15m deep (Fig. 5, Section 10; Plate 7). Brown silty sand (106) formed the fill from which Iron Age to Roman pottery was retrieved.

Parallel to this ditch, some 3.5m to the southeast was ditch (114). This measured over 1.86m wide and was 0.48m deep (Fig. 5, Section 11; Plate 8). A single fill of brown silty sand with chalk pebbles (113) was recorded from which mid to late 1<sup>st</sup> century AD pottery was recovered.

An intermittent deposit of brown sandy silt with chalk pebbles (101) was recorded along the trench. Measuring 0.13m thick, this may have originated as a subsoil. Sealing all deposits was the current topsoil comprising a 0.22m thick layer of brown sandy silt (100).

### **Trench 2**

Natural deposits were recorded as brownish yellow sand with chalk pebbles (202).

Cut into the natural at the northern end of the trench was an east-west aligned ditch (238). Though unexcavated, this measured over 2.15m wide and contained at least two fills one of brown sandy silt (237) and one of greyish brown sandy silt with chalk pebbles (203). Mid to late 1<sup>st</sup> century AD pottery was recovered from (203).

Located to the southwest was a linear feature (236) possibly a ditch. This was filled with brown silty sand (235). Perhaps representing a continuation of this feature was ditch (234) that was over 0.3m wide and deeper than 0.36m (Fig. 7, Section 16). This contained a fill of greyish brown silty sand (233) from which 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD pottery was retrieved.

Adjacent to this ditch was a circular pit (232). This measured 0.95m long, was wider than 0.39m and was 0.16m deep

(Fig. 7, Section 15; Plate 10). A single fill of brown silty sand (231) was recorded that contained Late Iron Age to Roman pottery.

Situated 2m to the southeast was a double posthole (230). Measuring 0.6m long, 0.4m wide and 0.26m deep (Fig. 7, Section 14; Plate 11) it contained a single fill of brown clayey silt with chalk fragments (229).

Posthole (228) was located 1m to the east and was over 0.39m long by 0.38m wide and 0.37m deep (Fig. 7, Section 13). A single fill comprising brown clayey silt with chalk fragments (227) was identified.

Two further postholes were located to the southeast. The first (226) had a diameter of 0.4m and was 0.21m deep (Fig. 7, Section 12). Brown clayey silt (235) constituted the fill. The second posthole (224) measured 0.28m long by 0.25m wide and 0.19m deep (Fig. 7, Section 5) with a fill of brown clayey silt (223).

Located immediately east of the postholes was an east-west aligned ditch (222). This measured 1.6m wide and 0.8m deep (Fig. 7, Section 4; Plate 12). Two fills were recorded, a primary fill of brown clayey silt (221) overlain by brown clayey silt with chalk fragments (220).

Southeast of this ditch was pit (206) that measured 0.52m long, 0.51m wide and 0.17m deep (Fig. 7, Section 3; Plate 13). The pit had a lining of brown silty clay (207) and was backfilled with brown sandy silt with chalk pebbles (205). A fragment of iron smithing slag was retrieved from the clay lining.

Located 3m to the southeast was a short length of north-south ditch (217) that was over 0.65m wide by 0.19m deep (Fig. 7, Section 2; Plate 14). This contained a fill of yellowish brown clayey silt (216).

Cutting this ditch at its north end was ditch (219). This was 0.6m wide by 0.41m deep with a fill of brown clayey silt (218) from which 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD pottery was collected.

At the southern end of the trench was an east-west ditch (208) that measured over 0.6m wide and was 0.48m deep (Fig. 7, Section 1; Plate 15). This contained two fills, both comprising brown clayey silt with chalk fragments (209 and 210). 1<sup>st</sup> century AD pottery was retrieved from the lower fill.

Cutting this ditch to the north was ditch (211) that was over 0.9m wide and 0.53m deep. This contained a single fill of brown clayey silt with chalk fragments (212) that contained 2<sup>nd</sup> century pottery. Perhaps representing a re-cut of this ditch was ditch (213) that measured 0.8m deep. Two fills of brown clayey silt (214 and 215) were recorded from which 2<sup>nd</sup> century pottery was also retrieved.

Sealing the ditches and extending northwards to ditch (217) was a deposit of greyish brown sandy silt with chalk fragments (204). Measuring up to 0.16m thick, this contained a single sherd of 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> century pottery.

Sealing all deposits within this trench was topsoil comprising brown sandy silt with chalk fragments (201) that measured 0.25m thick.

## 6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits comprise sands and silts with chalk pebbles and relate to the underlying drift deposits of fluvio-glacial origin.

A number of features remain undated due to a lack of artefactual evidence. In Trench 1 these comprise two parallel features, a

ditch and a shallower linear hollow. Four postholes, two ditches and a pit were revealed in Trench 2 that produced no dateable evidence. The postholes are all fairly clustered towards the centre of the trench and may suggest some structural activity in this area.

Remains of Late Iron Age to Early Roman date were also encountered in both trenches. Two ditches sharing a common alignment were dated to this period in Trench 1, one of which cut a crouched inhumation. This burial is undated but is typical of Bronze Age and Iron Age funerary traditions. A single pit was dated to this period in Trench 2.

Features of Romano-British date were the most numerous and span the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD. A ditch of this period was located at the southern end of Trench 1 and five ditches were recorded in Trench 2. The Romano-British ditches in Trench 2 correspond closely to the plot of features recorded from aerial photographs. The nature of the features are suggestive of a small settlement dependent on agriculture and are known from a number of places in the Wolds.

Early to Middle Saxon pottery was retrieved from a pit in Trench 1 and a deposit in Trench 2. Early to Middle Saxon remains are generally scarce in the wider vicinity of Stainton le Vale, though the period is attested to in nearby place-names. These Saxon remains may indicate that a small settlement was located in close proximity to the site.

No medieval remains or finds were encountered which may be considered unusual given the close proximity of the medieval settlement. This may imply that the site was pasture during that time.

Finds retrieved from the site comprise a quantity of Late Iron Age and Roman

pottery with two sherds of Early to Middle Saxon pottery also present. A single worked flint of possible Neolithic date was also found in a Saxon pit. Slag was also present suggesting iron working at the site.

Animal bones, predominantly cattle, but including sheep/goat, pig and dog represent domestic species with smaller mammals and amphibians found in the environmental samples.

Environmental sampling has indicated that during the Late Iron Age and Early Romano-British period the site lay within open short-turfed grassland or pasture. By the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, evidence for cereal processing may indicate a shift in the local agricultural regime.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Manor Farm, Stanton le Vale, in order to determine the range of archaeological deposits prior to development of the site and as the site lies in an area of known archaeological remains of prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval date.

The evaluation revealed undated, Iron Age, Romano-British and Saxon deposits. Undated deposits includes ditches, pits and postholes, the latter possibly structural in origin. Further ditches and a pit are of Late Iron Age date along with a crouched inhumation which may be contemporary.

Six ditches were dated to the Romano-British period and these closely relate to the cropmark evidence recorded at the site. An Early to Middle Saxon pit and deposit attest to occupation of this period which is relatively scarce for the area.

Finds include a range of pottery spanning the Late Iron Age to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD as well as two sherds of Saxon date. A

residual Neolithic waste flint was also retrieved along with slag and animal bone.

The site has particular significance given its location to nearby funerary monuments and evidence for the Iron Age to Romano-British transition. Saxon remains add another important dimension to the site.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr M Pardoe of Signet Planning for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis on behalf of Sir Richard Sutton's Settled Estates. The work was coordinated by Dale Trimble who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

## 9. PERSONNEL

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 Surveying: Chris Moulis  
 Finds Processing: Denise Buckley  
 Finds Illustration: Dave Hopkins  
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth  
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner  
 Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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## **11. ABBREVIATIONS**

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

MoLAS Museum of London Archaeology Service



Figure 1 - General location plan



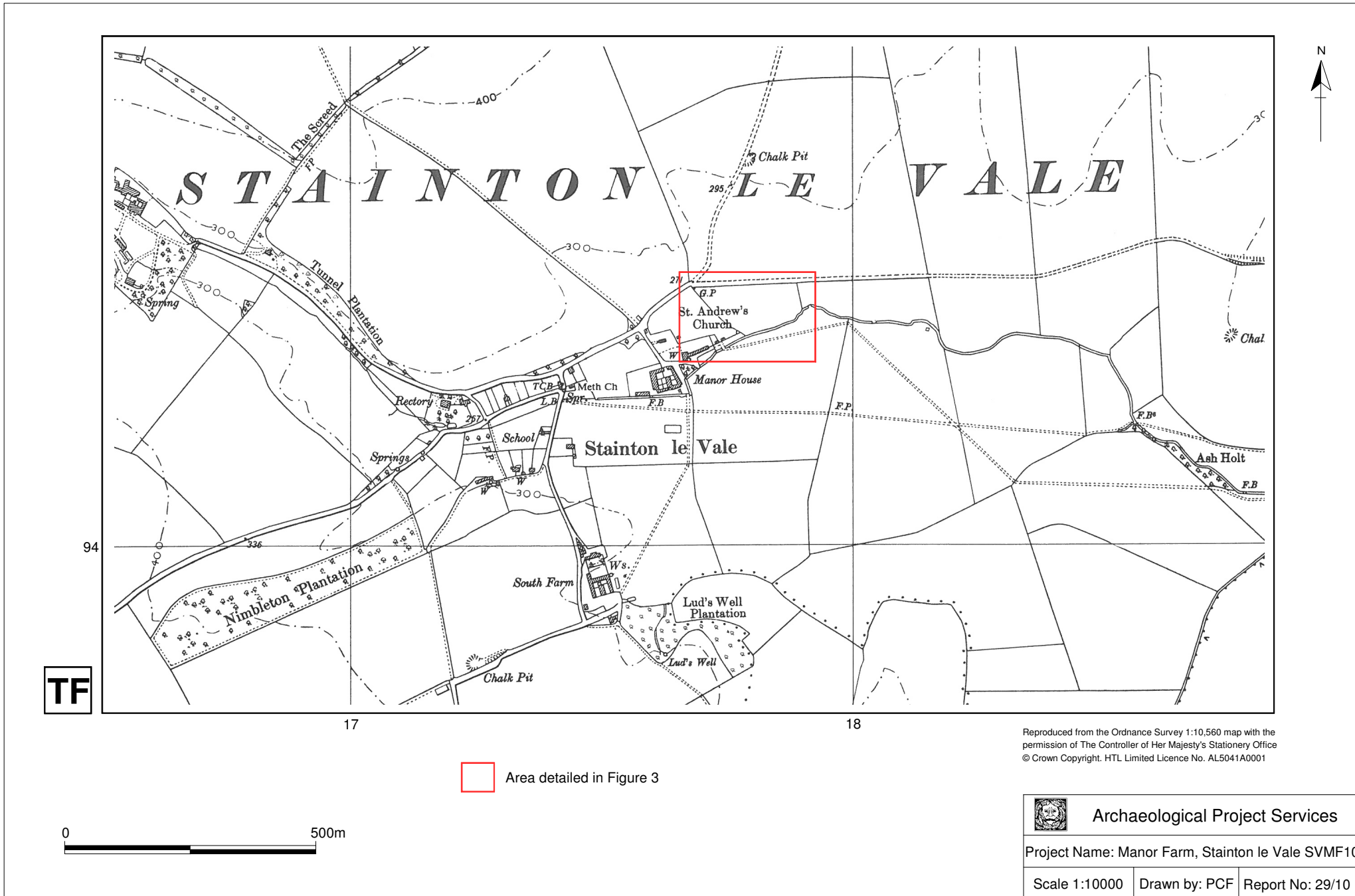


Figure 2 - Site location plan

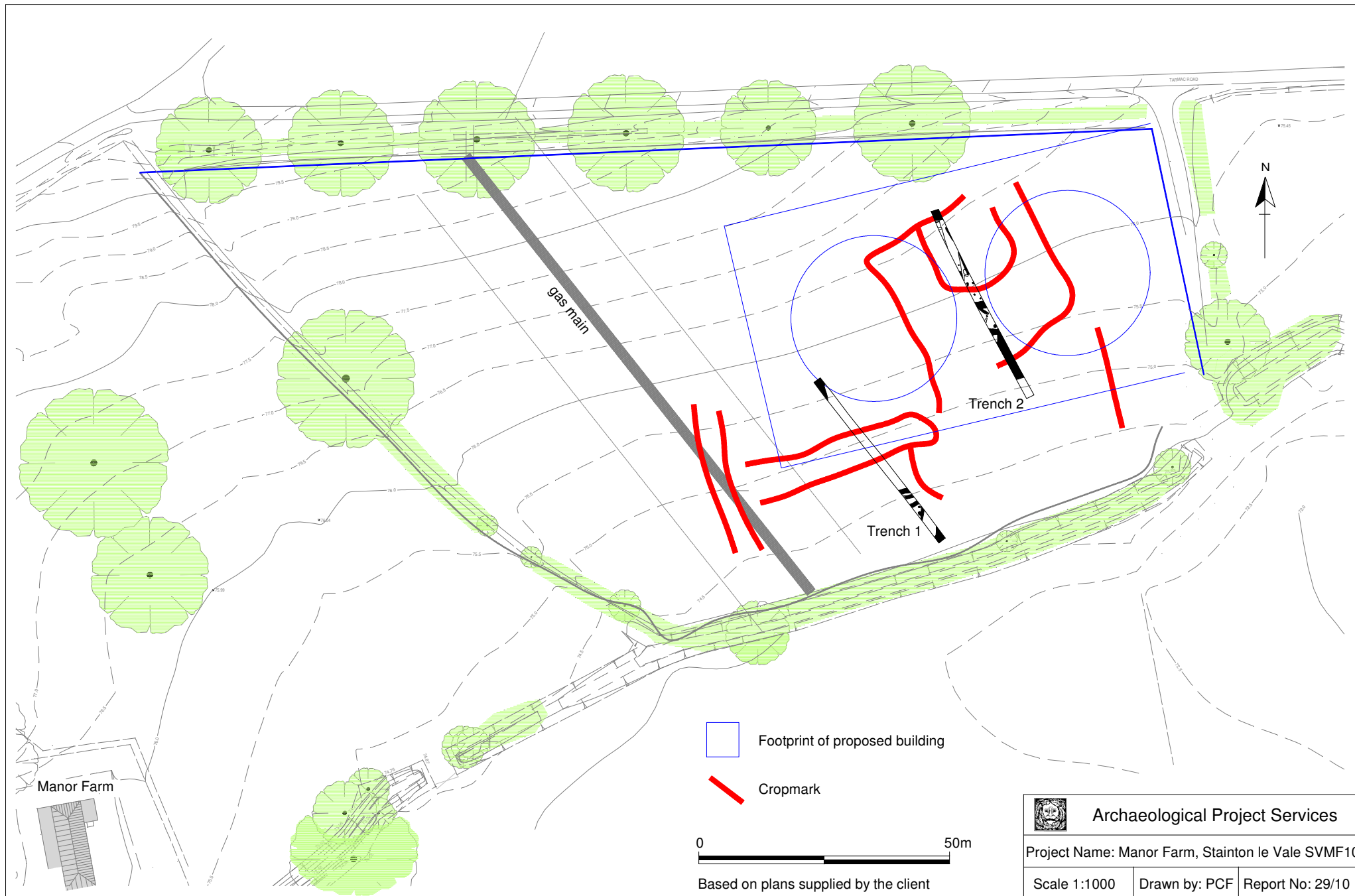


Figure 3 - Trench location plan

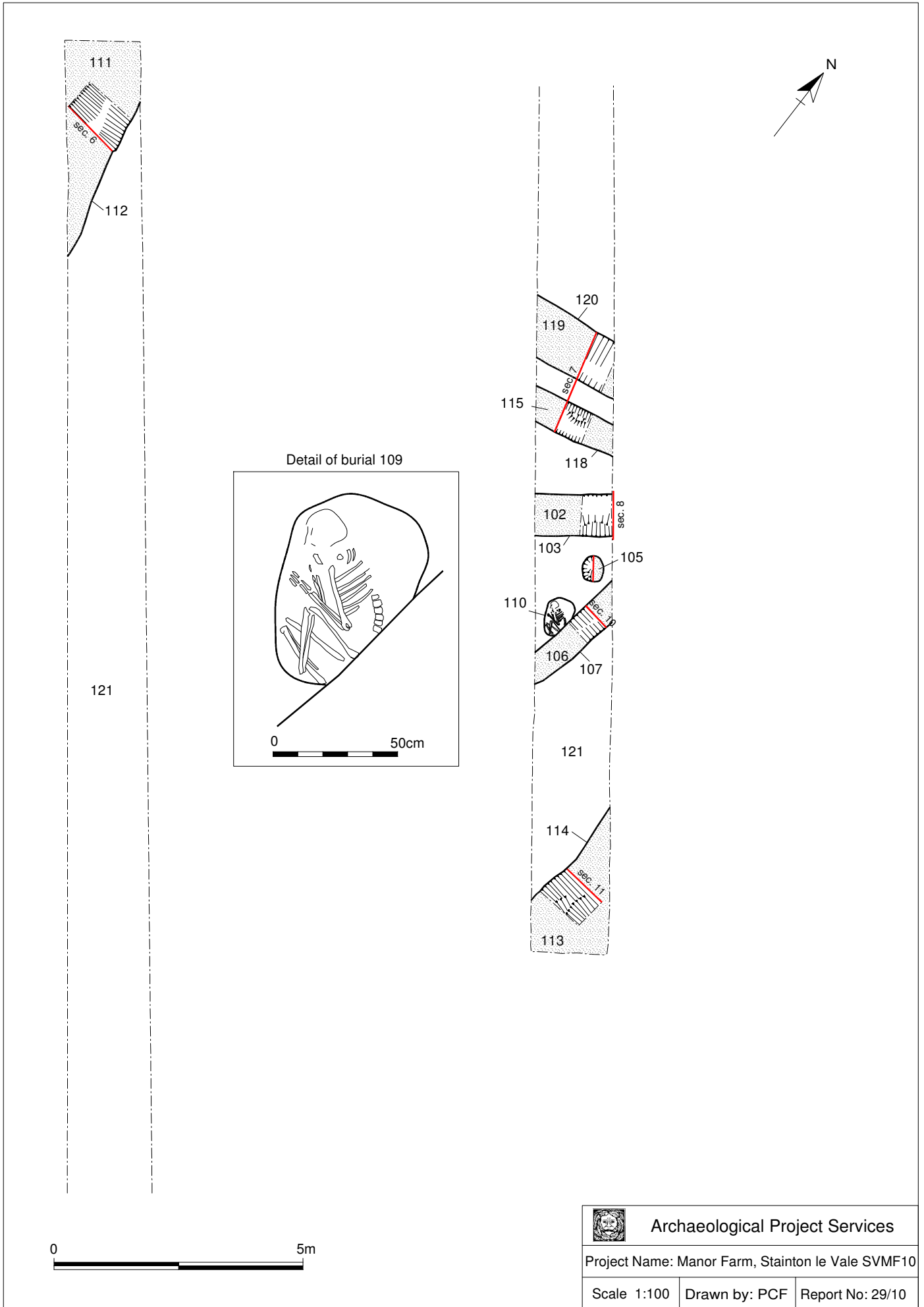
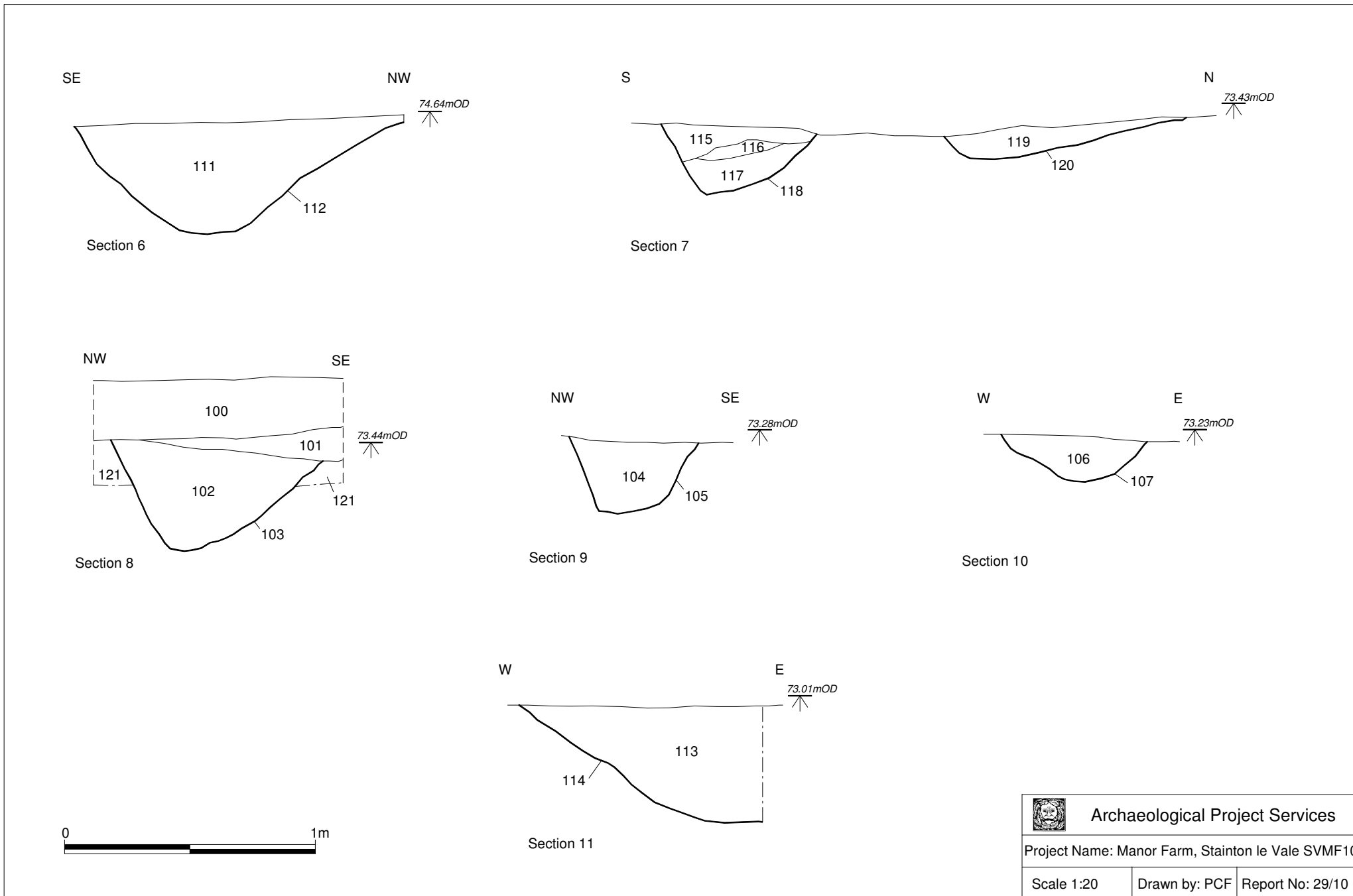


Figure 4 - Trench 1: Plan




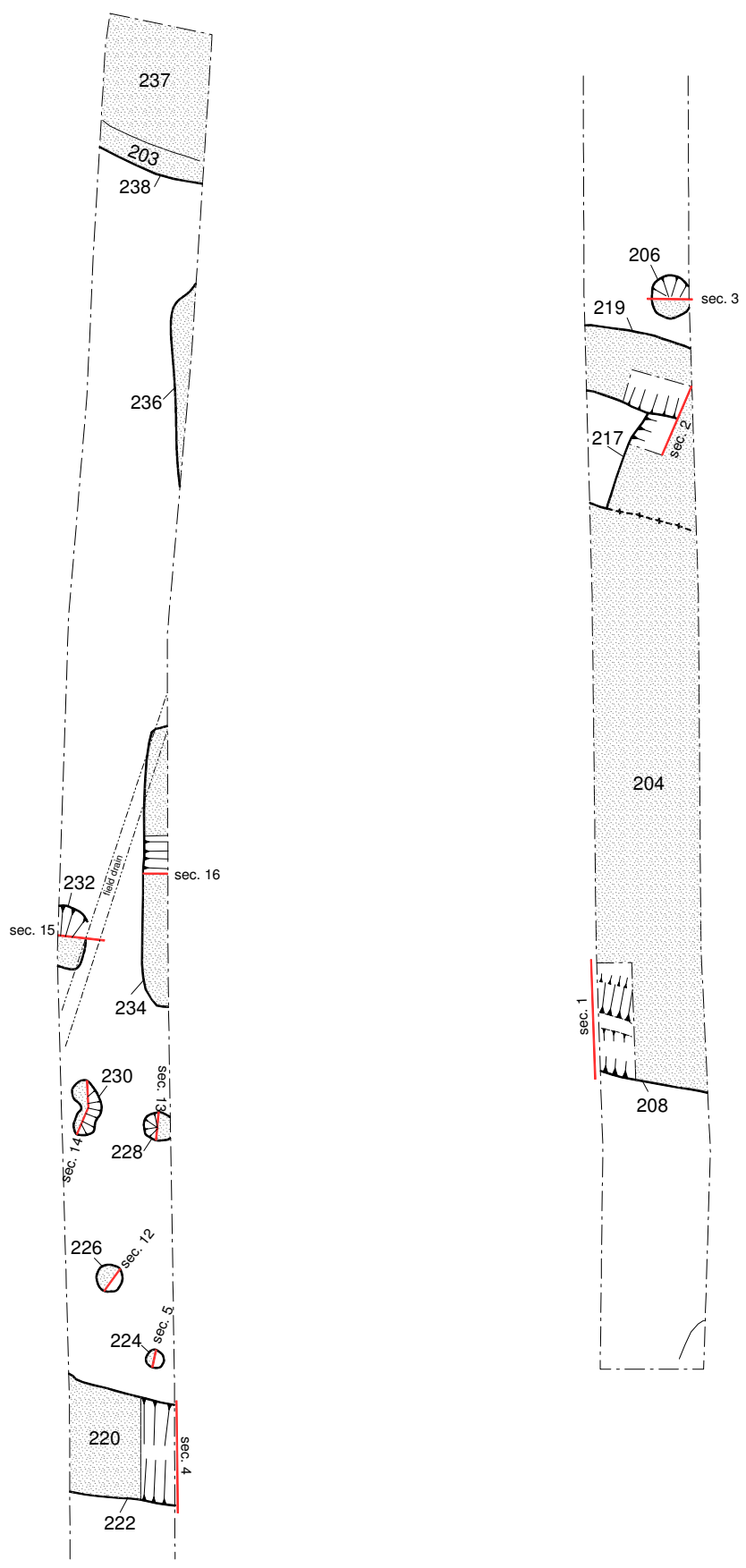
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Figure 5 - Trench 1: Sections




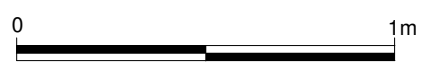
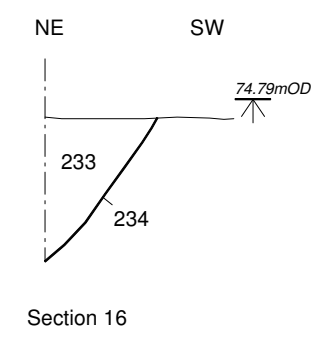
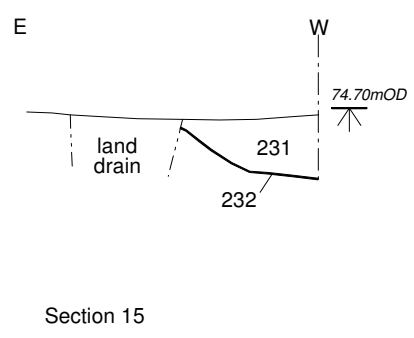
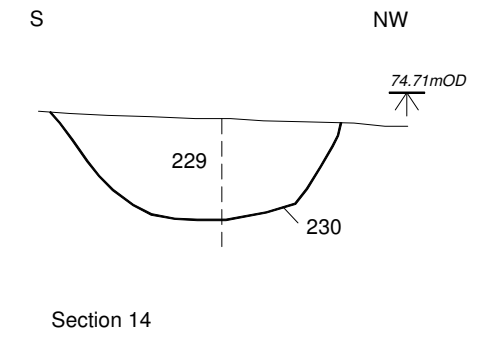
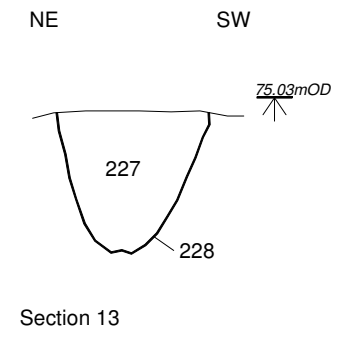
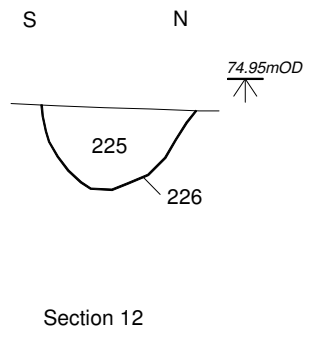
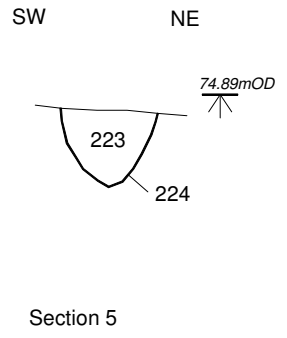
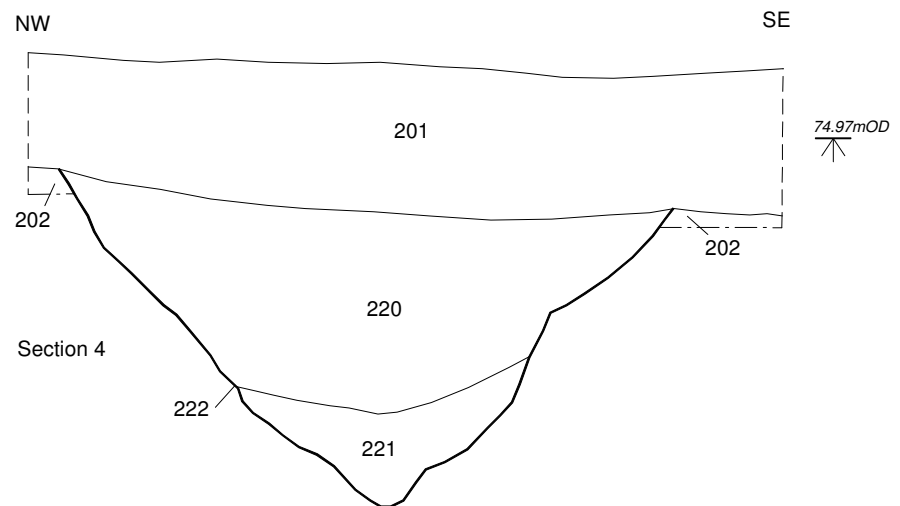
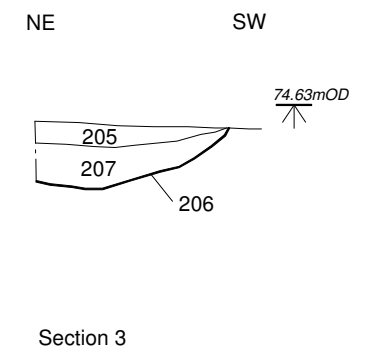
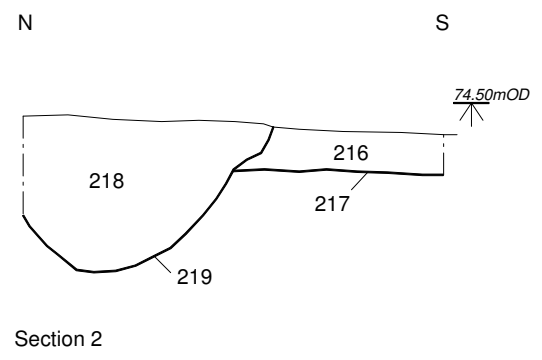
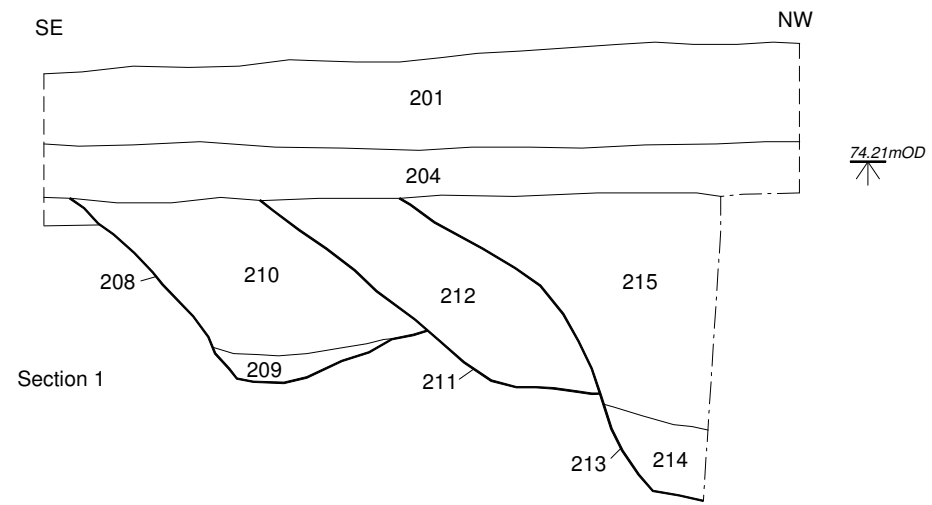
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Figure 6 - Trench 2: Plan




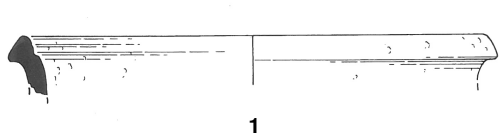
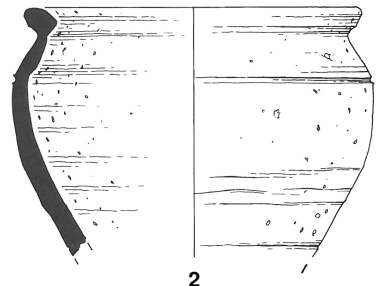
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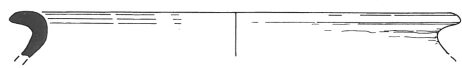
Figure 7 - Trench 2: Sections



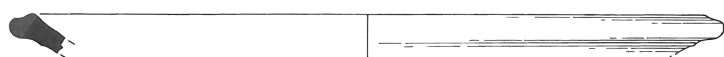
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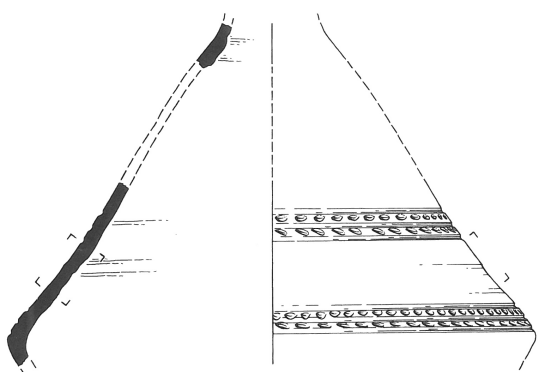
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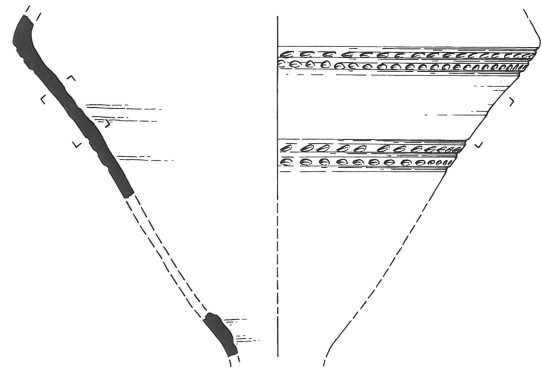
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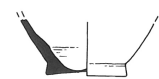
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	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: Manor Farm, Stainton le Vale SVMF10		
Scale 1:4	Drawn by: DWH	Report No: 29/10

Figure 8 - The illustrated pottery





Plate 1 – View over the investigation area, looking southwest



Plate 4 – Undated features (118) and (120), looking west



Plate 2 – Trench 1 after cleaning, looking northwest



Plate 5 – Early to Middle Saxon pit (105), looking east



Plate 3 – Late Iron Age ditch (112), looking south





Plate 6 – Crouched inhumation (109) within grave (110), looking northwest



Plate 8 – 1<sup>st</sup> century ditch (114), looking northeast



Plate 7 – Iron Age/Romano-British ditch (107), looking northeast



Plate 9 – Trench 2 after cleaning, looking northwest





Plate 10 – Iron Age/Romano-British pit (232), looking southeast



Plate 13 – Undated pit (206), looking southeast



Plate 11 – Undated double posthole (230), looking northwest



Plate 14 – Undated ditch (217) and 2<sup>nd</sup> century ditch (219), looking east



Plate 12 – Undated ditch (222), looking northeast



Plate 15 – Romano-British ditches (208), (211) and (213), looking southwest

## Appendix 1

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

#### Trench 1

No.	Description	Interpretation
100	Firm mid to dark brown sandy silt, 0.22m thick	Topsoil
101	Firm dark brown sandy silt with frequent chalk pebbles, 0.13m thick	
102	Firm mid brown silty sand with frequent chalk pebbles	Fill of (103)
103	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, >1.6m long by 0.86m wide and 0.39m deep, vertical to steep sides and flattish base	Ditch
104	Firm mid yellowish brown silty sand	Fill of (105)
105	Circular feature, 0.52m diameter by 0.28m deep, steep to near vertical sides and flat base	Posthole
106	Firm mid brown silty sand	Fill of (107)
107	Linear feature, aligned north-south, >2m long by 0.6m wide by 0.15m deep, steep sides and rounded base	Ditch
108	Firm mid brown silty sand	Fill of (110)
109	Crouched inhumation, young child with head to north and the body facing west	Burial
110	Oval feature, 0.74m long by 0.52m wide by 0.18m deep, steep to near vertical sides and flattish base	Grave
111	Firm mid brown silty sand with frequent chalk pebbles	Fill of (112)
112	Linear feature, aligned north-south, >4.6m long by 1.4m wide by 0.43m deep, steep sides and flattish base	Ditch
113	Firm mid brown silty sand with frequent chalk pebbles	Fill of (114)
114	Linear feature, aligned north-south, >2.7m long by >1.86m wide by 0.48m deep, moderate sides and rounded base	Ditch
115	Firm mid yellowish brown silty sand	Fill of (118)
116	Firm dark yellow sandy silt with chalk pebbles	Fill of (118)
117	Firm mid brown silty sand	Fill of (118)
118	Linear feature, aligned east-west, >1.7m long by 0.61m wide by 0.26m deep, steep sides and uneven base	Ditch
119	Firm mid brown silty sand	Fill of (120)
120	Linear feature, aligned east-west, >1.7m long by 0.93m wide by 0.13m deep, gradual sides and flattish base	
121	Firm light brownish yellow silt and chalk pebbles	Natural deposit

#### Trench 2

No.	Description	Interpretation
201	Soft dark brown sandy silt with frequent chalk pebbles, 0.25m thick	Topsoil
202	Firm light brownish yellow sand and chalk pebbles	Natural deposit
203	Firm dark greyish brown sandy silt with frequent chalk pebbles	Fill of (238)
204	Firm dark greyish brown sandy silt with frequent chalk pebbles	Deposit
205	Firm dark brown sandy silt with frequent chalk pebbles	Fill of (206)
206	Oval feature, 0.52m long by 0.51m wide by 0.17m deep, moderate sides and rounded base	Pit
207	Firm to stiff light brown silty clay	Fill of (206)



No.	Description	Interpretation
208	Linear feature, aligned east-west, 0.6m wide by 0.48m deep, steep sides and rounded base	Ditch
209	Firm to friable light brown clayey silt with chalk fragments	Fill of (208)
210	Firm to friable light brown clayey silt with chalk fragments	Fill of (208)
211	Linear feature, aligned east-west, 0.9m wide by 0.53m deep, moderate sides and rounded base	Ditch
212	Firm light brown clayey silt with chalk fragments	Fill of (211)
213	Linear feature, aligned east-west, 0.85m wide by 0.8m deep, steep sides, not fully excavated	Ditch
214	Firm mid brown clayey silt with chalk fragments	Fill of (213)
215	Firm mid brown clayey silt with chalk fragments	Fill of (213)
216	Firm light yellowish brown clayey silt	Fill of (217)
217	Linear feature, aligned north-south, >0.65m wide by 0.19m deep, moderate sides and rounded base	Ditch
218	Firm mid brown clayey silt	Fill of (219)
219	Linear feature, aligned east-west, 0.6m wide by 0.41m deep, steep sides and rounded base	Ditch
220	Firm mid brown clayey silt with chalk fragments	Fill of (222)
221	Firm mid brown clayey silt	Fill of (222)
222	Linear feature, aligned east-west, 1.6m wide by 0.8m deep, steep sides and rounded base	Ditch
223	Firm light to mid brown clayey silt	Fill of (224)
224	Oval feature, 0.28m long by 0.25m wide by 0.19m deep,, steep sides and tapered base	Posthole
225	Firm light to mid brown clayey silt	Fill of (226)
226	Circular feature, 0.4m diameter by 0.21m deep, steep sides with tapered base	Posthole
227	Firm mid brown clayey silt with frequent chalk fragments	Fill of (228)
228	Oval feature, >0.39m long by 0.38m wide by 0.37m deep, steep sides and tapered blunt base	Posthole
229	Firm to friable mid brown clayey silt with frequent chalk fragments	Fill of (230)
230	Irregular feature, 0.6m long by 0.4m wide by 0.26m deep, steep sides and rounded base	Double posthole
231	Firm mid brown silty sand	Fill of (232)
232	?circular feature, 0.95m long by >0.39m wide by 0.16m deep, steep sides and rounded base	Pit
233	Firm to soft mid greyish brown silty sand	Fill of (234)
234	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, >4.2m long by >0.3m wide by >0.36m deep, steep sides, not fully excavated	Ditch
235	Firm mid brown silty sand with frequent chalk pebbles	Fill of (236)
236	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, >3m long by >0.32m wide, not excavated ( <i>possible continuation of (234)</i> )	Ditch
237	Firm mid brown sandy silt	Fill of (238)
238	Linear feature, aligned east-west, >2.15m wide, not excavated	Ditch

## Appendix 2

### THE FINDS

#### ROMAN AND IRON AGE POTTERY

By Alex Beeby and Barbara Precious

##### Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by Darling (2004) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. A total of 69 sherds from at least 34 vessels, weighing 1724 grams was recovered from the site.

##### Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Archive catalogue 1, with a summary in Table 1 below.

There are no cross context vessels, although similar pieces from a large jar recovered from layer (204) and pit [219] are probably from the same vessel.

##### Condition

The total mean average sherd weight is moderately high at 25 grams, reflecting the fairly fresh nature of much of the material recovered. Despite the high average weight there are a large number of pieces within the group with fresh breaks and several examples of multiple sherds from single vessels. This is probably largely due to the hostile nature of the soil and the slightly friable nature of much of the shell-tempered pottery. Because of this it is probably most useful to discuss the assemblage in terms of number of vessels represented rather than number of sherds

Sherds from just four vessels (12% of the total) are classed as abraded, three of which are Iron Age shell tempered types. Abrasion here most likely due to soil conditions rather than redeposition. There is good evidence for domestic usage within the assemblage; six vessels, probably all jars, have external soot deposits, evidence of use over a hearth or fire, and two vessels have internal scale deposits. A further two vessels have internal leaching perhaps suggesting they were used to contain acidic contents. The presence of these effects on both the Iron Age/native type ceramics and the more Romanised forms is of interest and suggests continuity in the type of domestic taking place on the site.

##### Dating

A summary of dating listed by context is included in the table below (Table 1). The material has a fairly tightly restricted range of dates from the Late Iron Age to the 2nd Century. There is nothing here definitely produced after around AD 150.

Table 1, Date of the Pottery and Average Sherd Weight by Context

Tr	Date Range (Latest Date)	Context (fill)	Context (cut)	Total NoS (all dates)	W (g)	Av. Sherd W (g)
N/A	<i>Unstratified Group</i>	001	N/A	3	57	19
1	2nd to 3rd Century	102	103	1	6	6
	Iron Age to Roman	106	107	2	101	50.5
	Late Iron Age	111	112	14	119	8.5
	Mid to Late 1st Century	113	114	6	232	38.7
2	Mid to Late 1st Century	203	238	2	106	53
	1st Century	209	208	3	27	9
	Early to Mid 2nd Century	212	211	2	30	15
	Early to Mid 2nd Century	204	N/A	2	63	31.5
	Early to Mid 2nd Century	214	213	9	127	14.1
	2nd Century or Later	215		9	435	48.3
	Early to Mid 2nd Century	218	219	13	369	28.4
	Late Iron Age or Early Roman	231	232	2	24	12
Early to Mid 2nd Century	233	234	1	28	28	
<b>Total</b>				<b>66</b>	<b>1667</b>	<b>N/A</b>

## Results

A summary of the pottery types recovered from SVMF10 is included in the table below (Table 2). There is a fairly restricted range of fabrics represented, mostly coarse grey or shell tempered types. There is just a single piece from of fineware vessel, a beaker in a miscellaneous oxidised fabric.

Table 2, Summary of the Roman Pottery

Fabric	Cname	Full name	NoS	NoV	W(g)
Oxidised (Fine)	OX	Miscellaneous Oxidised Ware	1	1	28
Reduced (Coarse)	GREY	Miscellaneous Grey Ware	25	12	435
	GREY1	Miscellaneous Grey Ware Type 1 (Site Specific)	9	5	554
	GRFF	Fairly Fine Grey Ware	1	1	26
	GRSAN	Undifferentiated Grey Ware with Sandwich Core	1	1	6
	IAGR/IA GR?	Native Tradition Grit Tempered Ware/Native Tradition Grit Tempered Ware?	5	5	121
Shell	IASH	Native Tradition Shell-Tempered	26	8	545
	IASHF	Iron Age Tradition Fine Shell-Tempered	1	1	9
<b>Total</b>			<b>69</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>1724</b>

## Provenance

Material was recovered from both of the excavated trenches, Trenches 1 and 2. A small number of unstratified finds were also recovered and given the context number (001).

### Trench 1

Four ditches in Trench 1 produced material; these were [103], [107], [112] and [114].

### Trench 2

A total of six linear ditch features in Trench 2 produced material; these include [208], [211], [213], [219], [234] and [238]. Pottery was also recovered from a pit, [232], and a layer, (204).

## Range

There is a restricted range of vessel and forms represented and most of the vessels are utilitarian in nature, see Table 3 below for a full summary. There are just two examples of beakers, a beaded rim beaker from (001) and an unclassified beaker from [234], the assemblage is otherwise almost entirely dominated by domestic jar and bowl forms. Three sherds from a crudely made unidentified object or vessel (MISC) are an exception to this. This item, from [219] is made in a greyware type fabric, may well still be domestic in nature, perhaps part of an oven or other ceramic structure.

### Bowls

There are six bowls present within the group in both native and Romanised type forms. Four of these are Native type bowls (BNAT). These vessels are characteristic of the late Iron Age in this region and continue to be produced into the 2nd Century AD. BNAT bowls are generally a round-bodied form with at least one internal ledge/lid seating. At least two of the bowls here are wheel made, whilst one is hand made and last appears to be hand made with a wheel finished rim. The more Romanised bowl forms are a carinated B334 bowl (B334) from [213] and an interesting early wide-mouthed bowl type (BWNN) from [211]. The B334 type is common in Lincolnshire in early to mid 2nd Century assemblages, whilst the BWNN is probably of a comparable date. Though this piece has been recorded as a BWNN the rim is not dissimilar to a flanged bowl, perhaps suggesting a typological link to this form. A very similar vessel is known from the kilns at Roxby in the far north of the county near the Humber estuary (see Rigby, 1976, 131, fig 66, 33).

### Jars

Most of the jars are of the standard types found on domestic sites of a 1st-2nd Century date, including Late Iron Age/ Early Roman cordoned jar or bowl, two storage jars (JS), seven large jars (JL) and a single example of a Black

Burnished Ware type ‘Cook Pot’ (CP). Of particular addition interest is a very unusual form from [219]. This piece in a fairly standard sandy greyware fabric, seems to be in a perhaps, almost biconical form. Preliminary reconstruction has suggested a tall, sharply carinated vessel of a very untypical type, most probably a jar, although another form type, perhaps a funnel can not ruled out as a possibility. This vessel has banded horizontal line and stab decoration very similar to those from Roxby (See Rigby, 1976, 138, fig 65, 10). A biconical jar everted rim jar form is known from Dragonby, dated to the mid to mid/late 1st Century AD (Dragonby Romano-British site horizon I) (Gregory, 1996, 522, fig 20.3, 784), that vessel though is not a close parallel in shape and is in a very different, hard grey native fabric.

### *The Fabrics*

There are a number of both native and Romanised fabrics represented. Native fabrics include Native Tradition Grit tempered Ware (IAGR) and Native Tradition Shell and Fine Shell Tempered Wares (IASH, IASHF).

The only two Romanised fabrics of particular note are a site specific grey ware type (GREY1) and a miscellaneous Oxidised ware (OX). Fabric GREY1 is a hard grey fabric with ill-sorted well rounded to rounded quartz inclusions up to 1.25mm in diameter a sparse clay pellets, hard rounded ferruginous inclusions and very sparse burned out vegetable matter voids. There are five vessels in this fabric including four large jars and a bowl or dish. These include at least one jar form and a decoration type found at the Roxby kilns, probably suggesting an origin in that area.

The oxidised fabric (OX) is fine micaceous, calcareous fabric with sparse rounded to angular ferruginous grits up to 0.30mm in diameter. Although the source of this material is unknown oxidised finewares in beakers forms, of this type are known to have been produced at Dragonby, north of Scunthorpe.

*Table 3, Forms Present Within the Assemblage*

Vessel Type	Full name	Cname	NoS	NoV	W(g)
Beaker	Unclassified beaker	BK	1	1	28
	Beaker with bead rim	BKBR	1	1	4
Bowl	Bowl or Jar carinated	B334	1	1	26
	Bowl Native Tradition/Bowl Native Tradition?	BNAT/BNAT?	9	4	315
	Wide Mouthed Bowl with No Neck	BWNN	2	1	30
Bowl/Dish	Bowl or Dish	BD	1	1	25
Cook pot	Cook pot	CP	2	1	59
Jar	Unclassified Jar	J	14	7	215
	Carinated Jar?	JCAR?	3	1	92
	Large jar	JL	11	7	735
	Storage Jar	JS	15	2	131
Jar or Bowl	Jar or Bowl with Carination?	JBCAR?	1	1	23
	Cordoned Jar or Bowl	JBCOR	1	1	9
Jar/Beaker	Unclassified Jar/Beaker	JBK	1	1	2
Misc	Unknown Vessel or Object	MISC	3	1	22
N/A	Undiagnostic of Form	-	3	3	8
<b>Total</b>			<b>69</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>1724</b>

### **Potential**

The assemblage poses no problems for long term storage and should be retained. A total have seven vessels have been chosen for illustration for their intrinsic value and are shown in Table 4 below.

*Table 4 – Illustrated vessels (Fig. 8)*

Dr	Cxt	Tr	Fabric Cname	Fabric Cname	Form Cname	Form Full name
1	001	N/A	IAGR	Native Tradition Grit Tempered Ware	BNAT	Bowl Native Tradition
2	113	2	IASH	Native Tradition Shell Tempered	BNAT	Bowl Native Tradition
3	212	2	GREY	Miscellaneous Grey Ware	BWNN	Wide Mouthed Bowl with No Neck
4	215	2	GREY1	Miscellaneous Grey Ware Type 1 (Site Specific)	BD	Bowl or Dish
5	218	2	GREY1	Miscellaneous Grey Ware Type 1 (Site Specific)	JL	Large jar
6	218	2	GREY	Miscellaneous Grey Ware	JCAR	Carinated Jar

Dr	Cxt	Tr	Fabric Cname	Fabric Cname	Form Cname	Form Full name
7	231	2	IASH	Native Tradition Shell Tempered	BNAT?	Bowl Native Tradition?

### Summary

An interesting small group of a domestic nature was recovered during the evaluation. The material dates from the late Iron Age until at least the mid 2nd Century AD. Although this only a small group, it is notable perhaps that there is no evidence of high status consumption or Romanised food preparation. This might suggest a continuation of Iron Age type domestic activity here for some time after the Roman invasion.

### POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Alex Beeby and Anne Boyle

#### Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005). A total of 2 sherds from 2 vessels, weighing 28 grams was recovered from the site.

#### Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 5 below. The pottery is early to mid Saxon in date.

#### Condition

One piece is heavily abraded, whilst the other is relatively fresh. A single piece has a thick external soot deposit, evidence of use over a hearth or fire.

#### Results

Table 5, the Post Roman Pottery Archive

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Fab	Form	NoS	NoV	W(g)	Dec	Part	Comment	Date
1	104	ESGS	Early to Mid Anglo-Saxon Greensand Quartz Tempered		Jar or Bowl	1	1	4		Neck	Common poorly sorted well rounded to subangular quartz up to 1mm; sparse angular flint pieces up to 1.5mm; hard polished rounded to subrounded Fe	M6th - 9th
2	204	SSTCL	Central Lincolnshire Early to Mid Saxon Sandstone Tempered	Fabric F	Jar or Bowl	1	1	24	Incised vertical lines	BS	Common moderately well sorted well rounded to angular quartz including Greensand and roseate quartz; Sandstone; Sparse hard rounded Fe; sparse Ca - Shell?; heavy external sooting	M5th - M8th

#### Range

There are just two sherds of Saxon pottery from the SVMF10. One piece from layer (104) is a sherd of Greensand Quartz tempered ware (ESGS), a type common in this area. The second piece is from a jar or bowl in Central Lincolnshire Sandstone tempered fabric (SSTCL). Both sherds could conceivably be of a similar date, though both are far too late to suggest any kind of continuity with Roman settlement on the site. The presence of domestic material of this date suggests that there may be a settlement of early to mid-Saxon date in close proximity to the site, as this kind of material seems rarely to travel far after deposition.

#### Potential

The assemblage should pose no problems for long term storage and should be retained.

#### Summary

Two sherds of early to mid Saxon pottery were recovered from SVMF10 suggesting habitation of this date nearby.



**FAUNAL REMAINS***By Paul Cope-Faulkner***Introduction**

A total of 16 (211g) fragments of animal bone were recovered from stratified contexts. A further 36 fragments were recovered from samples taken for environmental analysis. Additionally, 8 mollusc shells weighing 255g were retrieved.

**Provenance**

The bone was retrieved from the fills of

**Condition**

The overall condition of the remains was good to moderate.

**Results***Table 6, Fragments Identified to Taxa*

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Number	W (g)	Comments
106	large mammal	vertebra	1	23	axis
111	cattle	molar	1	11	
113	cattle	calcaneum	1	42	rodent gnawing
	pig	maxilla	1	16	
115	medium mammal	long bone	1	7	
	unknown	unidentified	1	2	
119	cattle	ulna	1	10	heavy gnawing
215	sheep/goat	mandible	1	13	
221	large mammal	tarsal	1	5	ext/midd cuneiform
	oyster	shell	8	255	4 have U or V-shaped notches at outer edge of lip
225	large mammal	patella	1	15	poss dog
	small mammal	rib	1	1	
231	cattle	mandible	1	38	
	large mammal	ulna	1	14	
	large mamma;	rib	1	13	
	unknown	unidentified	2	1	

*Table 7, Animal bone from the environmental samples*

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Number	W (g)	Comments
106 <3>	medium mammal	long bone	1	4	Mainly long bones
	medium mammal	skull	1	1	
	medium mammal	unidentified	9	1	
	small mammal	various	8	<1	
111 <1>	large mammal	unidentified	3	3	
214 <9>	large mammal	scapula	1	4	
	large mammal	unidentified	2	2	
	small mammal	unidentified	3	<1	
	small mammal	rib	1	<1	
220 <7>	medium mamma	unidentified	6	1	
	amphibian	long bone	1	<1	

**Summary**

Cattle, sheep/goat and pig are typical livestock of the Iron Age and Romano-British periods. Dog is also present, as represented by a rib but also recognised through gnawing on a cattle ulna. Smaller mammals and amphibians were retrieved from samples. As a small assemblage, further analysis is not recommended at this stage. However, if further work is envisaged, the collection would warrant re-examination in the light of new discoveries. The bone should be retained as part of the site archive.

A group of oyster shells, representing food waste, was recovered. Half of the examples found are notched at the lip, from being opened with a tool that cut into and crushed the edges.

**WORKED FLINT***By Tom Lane***Introduction**

A single worked flint weighing 3g was recovered.

**Condition**

The flint is in good condition and presents no problems

**Results***Table 8, Worked Flint Archive*

Cxt	Description	No	Wt (g)	Date
104	Flake from core, blade scars, slightly patinated	1	3	Neolithic?

**Provenance**

The flint was recovered from a posthole.

**Range**

A single prehistoric flint, a fragment from a bladecore of probable Neolithic date, was found.

**Potential**

As an isolated item the flint is of low potential, but indicates prehistoric activity, albeit transient, in the area.

**OTHER FINDS***By Gary Taylor***Introduction**

Three 'other' finds, weighing a total of 272g, were recovered.

**Condition**

All of the other finds are in good, archive-stable condition.

**Results***Table 9, Other Materials*

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
207	slag	Iron smithing slag	1	8	
215	stone	Burnt stone	1	261	
235	cinder	Cinder	1	3	

**Provenance**

All of the other finds were recovered from Trench 2. They were retrieved from

**Range**

All of the other finds are associated with high temperature processes. The burnt stone and cinder may be from domestic or cooking fires though the slag is from iron smithing.

**Potential**

The other finds are of moderate potential and indicate a variety of high temperature processes occurring at the site or nearby.

**SPOT DATING**

The dating in Table 10 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

*Table 10, Spot dates*

Cxt	Date	Comments
001	Unstratified	
102	2-3 <sup>rd</sup> century	
104	Mid 6 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> century	
106	IA-Rom	
111	LIA	
113	Mid-Late 1 <sup>st</sup> century	

Cxt	Date	Comments
203	Mid-Late 1 <sup>st</sup> century	
204	Mid 5 <sup>th</sup> – mid 8 <sup>th</sup> century	
209	1 <sup>st</sup> century	
212	Early – mid 2 <sup>nd</sup> century	
214	Early-mid 2 <sup>nd</sup> century	
215	2 <sup>nd</sup> century +	
218	Early-mid 2 <sup>nd</sup> century	
231	LIA	
233	Early-mid 2 <sup>nd</sup> century	

### ABBREVIATIONS

ACBMG	Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
BS	Body sherd
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
LHJ	Lower Handle Join
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
PCRG	Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group
TR	Trench
UHJ	Upper Handle Join
W (g)	Weight (grams)

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### ARCHIVE CATALOGUES

#### *Archive catalogue 1, Roman Pottery*

Tr	Cxt	Fabric	Form	Dec	NoV	Alter	Dr	Join	NoS	W (g)	Comments
	001	GREY	BKBR		1				1	4	RIM; HARD ROUNDED FE; Q UPTO 0.75MM; E TYPE 1-2C?
	001	IAGR	BNAT	HM/WF	1		1		1	15	RIM; LID SEATED; EROM
	001	GREY1	JL		1				1	38	BS; CLAY PELLIS; SIMILAR TO IAGR BUT ROMANISED
	001	ZDATE									EM2C
	001	ZZZ									MIXED UNSTRAT GROUP
1	102	GRSAN	J		1				1	6	BS
1	102	ZDATE									2-3C

Tr	Cxt	Fabric	Form	Dec	NoV	Alter	Dr	Join	NoS	W (g)	Comments
1	106	IASH	JL	HM	1				1	99	BS; COIL BUILT; SILTY BACKGROUND +Q; INTERNAL WIPE MARKS
1	106	IASH			1	V ABR			1	2	BS
1	106	ZDATE									IA-ROMAN
1	111	IASH	JS	HM	1	V ABR; SCALE INT			13	110	BS; LOW FIRED; FE AGE
1	111	IASHF	JBCOR		1				1	9	BS; V FINE SHELL
1	111	ZDATE									LIA
1	113	IASH	BNAT	BG; WM	1	SMASH	2		6	232	RIM TO LWALL; SIM TO WINTERING FIG 74 9 WITH BG; JOIN SHERDS; CLAY PELLETS; NAT TYPE GRITTY FAB WITH LARGE FE AND FINE SHEL
1	113	ZDATE									ML1C
2	203	IAGR	BNAT	WM	1				1	49	RIM TO GIRTH; ROMAN
2	203	IASH	JL	WM	1	SCALE INT; ABR			1	57	BS; ROMAN
2	203	ZDATE									M1-L1C
2	204	GREY1	JL	SWL	1			AS 218	1	47	RIM; CLAY PELLETS; ROXBY TYP
2	204	GREY	J	BG	1				1	16	BS; CLAY PELLETS
2	204	ZDATE									EM2C
2	209	IASH	JS		1	RE-OX O B EDGE; LEACH INT			2	21	BSS
2	209	IAGR	J	WM	1				1	6	BS; GREY; CALCAREOUS FAB
2	209	ZDATE									1C
2	212	GREY	BWNN		1		3		2	30	RIMS; JOIN; ROXBY FIG 66 33-34; ALMOST BFL
2	212	ZDATE									EM2C
2	214	GREY	JBK		1	BURNT OXID?			1	2	BS; OX WITH REDUCED CENTRAL CORE; SAMP 9
2	214	IAGR?			1	SCALE INT			1	1	FLAKE; SAMP 9
2	214	GREY	J	STAB; BG	1	SOOT EX			6	98	BSS; SPARSE CLAY PELLETS; FINE CA; AND Q GRITS; ROXBY PRODUCT?; ROXBY JAR TYPE B FIG 65 10
2	214	GRFF	B334		1				1	26	RIM TO GIRTH; MICACEOUS FAB
2	214	ZDATE									EM2C
2	215	GREY	J		1				2	24	BSS
2	215	GREY	JBCAR?		1	OX EX			1	23	BS
2	215	ZDATE									2C+
2	215	GREY1	JL	BL?	1				5	363	BSS; INT PULLING MARKS; SOOT INT AND EXT; COARSE GREY WITH Q GRITS CA AND CLAY PELLETS
2	215	GREY1	BD		1	ABR INT - POSS TROWEL MARK	4		1	25	RIM; VERY UNUSUAL RIM; ALMOST JDW TYPE
2	218	GREY1	JL	SWL	1	SOOT EX	5?	AS 204	1	81	RIM
2	218	GREY	J		1	SOOT EX			2	52	BSS; SAME FAB AS JCAR FROM THIS CXT
2	218	GREY	JCAR?	STAB; BGS	1		6		3	92	BSS; VERY UNUSUAL CARINATED/BICONICAL FORM; ROXBY DEC

Tr	Cxt	Fabric	Form	Dec	NoV	Alter	Dr	Join	NoS	W (g)	Comments
2	218	IAGR	JL	WM	1				1	50	BS; CLEAR WM MARKS
2	218	GREY	CP	LA	1	BURNT; HEAVY EXT SOOT + O BREAK			2	59	RIM TO GIRTH; CA GRITS UPTO 5MM
2	218	GREY	J		1				1	13	FTM
2	218	GREY	MISC		1				3	22	GREYWARE TYPE FAB; SHAPED CERAMIC OBJ OR PART OF VESS; OX SURFS; VERY ODD
2	218	ZDATE									EM2C
2	231	IASH	BNAT?	HM	1	SOOT EX	7		1	19	RIM, IN TURNED BEAD RIM; IA?; POSS BOWL; SIMILAR VESSELS KNOWN FROM DRAG; EG FIG 19.53 633
2	231	IASH			1	SOOT EX; LEACH INT			1	5	BS; LIA
2	231	ZDATE									LIA+
2	233	OX	BK	B	1				1	28	FTM; ROUNDED FE AMD CA; CF DRAG PG 581- SIM FAB DIFF FORM
2	233	ZDATE									EM2C

## Appendix 3

### AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CHARRED PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND OTHER REMAINS FROM MANOR FARM, STANTON LE VALE

*By Val Fryer*

#### **Introduction and method statement**

Evaluation excavations at Stainton le Vale, undertaken by Archaeological Project Services (APS), recorded a small number of features of probable Late Iron Age to Romano-British date. Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken and four were submitted for assessment.

The samples were bulk floated by APS and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern contaminants including fibrous roots, arthropod remains and a large number of shells of the burrowing snail *Cecilioides acicula* were present throughout.

#### **Results**

Although the flots were all extremely small (considerably less than 0.1 litres in volume), all contained reasonably well-preserved plant macrofossils including barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains, spelt wheat (*T. spelta*) chaff and seeds of common segetal/grassland weeds including goosegrass (*Galium aparine*), medick/clover/trefoil (*Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus* sp.) and dock (*Rumex* sp.). Shells of terrestrial molluscs, mostly notably those found in open, short-turfed grassland, were predominant within samples 1, 3 and 7, while sample 9 contained a small number of shells of the freshwater obligate snail *Anisus leucostoma*. Charcoal/charred wood fragments were present at a very low density throughout and other remains were also scarce, although pieces of black porous material, all of which were probably derived from the combustion of organic remains at very high temperatures, were noted in all four assemblages.

#### **Conclusions and recommendations for further work**

The assemblage from sample 9 (context [214]) would appear to be derived from a very low density of either cereal processing debris or burnt hay/straw. The remaining assemblages contain insufficient material for close interpretation, although it is, perhaps, likely that all are derived from scattered domestic/agricultural refuse, which accidentally became incorporated within the feature fills.

Although the assemblages are small, the fact that all contain well-preserved macrofossils clearly illustrates that plant remains are present within the archaeological horizon at Stainton le Vale. Therefore, if further interventions are planned, additional plant macrofossil samples of approximately 20 – 40 litres in volume should be taken from all dated contexts recorded during excavation.

#### **Reference**

Stace, C, 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles*. Second edition. Cambridge University Press

#### **Key to Table**

x = 1 – 10 specimens    xx = 11 – 50 specimens    cf = compare

Table 1: Charred plant macrofossils and other remains

Sample No.	1	3	7	9
Context No.	111	106	220	214
Feature No.	112	107	222	213
Feature type	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch
<b>Cereals</b>				
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)			x	x
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)	x		xcf	xcf
<i>T. spelta</i> L. (glume bases)				x
Cereal indet. (grains)		x	x	x
(detached sprout frag.)				x
<b>Herbs</b>				
Asteraceae indet.				x
<i>Atriplex</i> sp.				x
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> (L.)A.Love		x		
<i>Galium aparine</i> L.				x
<i>Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus</i> sp.				x
Small Poaceae indet.			x	
<i>Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus</i>				x
<i>Rumex</i> sp.				x
<i>Valerianella dentata</i> (L.)Pollich				x
<b>Other plant macrofossils</b>				
Charcoal <2mm	x	x	x	x
Charcoal >2mm			x	x
Charred root/stem		x		x
Indet.seeds		x		x
<b>Mollusc shells</b>				
<b>Woodland/shade loving species</b>				
<i>Aegopinella</i> sp.			xcf	
<i>Oxychilus</i> sp.			xcf	
<i>Vitrea</i> sp.			x	
Zonitidae indet.	x	x	x	
<b>Open country species</b>				
<i>Helicella itala</i>	x	x		
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>			x	
<i>Vallonia</i> sp.	x	x		x
<i>V. costata</i>	x	x	x	
<i>V. pulchella</i>		xcf		
<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>		xcf	x	
<b>Catholic species</b>				
<i>Cepaea</i> sp.	x	x	x	
<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp.	x		x	
<i>Trichia hispida</i> group	x	x	xx	
<b>Freshwater obligate species</b>				
<i>Anisus leucostoma</i>				x
<b>Other remains</b>				
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	x	x	xx
Black tarry material		x		
Small coal frags.			x	
Small mammal/amphibian bones		x		
Sample volume (litres)	10	10	10	10
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%	100%

## Appendix 4

### GLOSSARY

<b>Bronze Age</b>	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
<b>Context</b>	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
<b>Cropmark</b>	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
<b>Cut</b>	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
<b>Fill</b>	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
<b>Iron Age</b>	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
<b>Layer</b>	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
<b>Medieval</b>	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
<b>Natural</b>	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
<b>Neolithic</b>	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500-2250 BC.
<b>Post-medieval</b>	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
<b>Prehistoric</b>	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 1 <sup>st</sup> century AD.
<b>Romano-British</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
<b>Saxon</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany.
<b>Toft</b>	Elongated and parallel plots of land containing a dwelling.



## Appendix 5

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

60	Context records
2	Photographic record sheets
11	Sheets of scale drawings
4	Daily record sheets
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Box of finds

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

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

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

The Collection  
Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire  
Danes Terrace  
Lincoln  
LN2 1LP

Accession Number: 2010.35

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: SVMF10

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

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