

Damascus and Emmaus House,
Salisbury, Wiltshire

Archaeological Post-excavation Assessment Report





**DAMASCUS AND EMMAUS HOUSE, SALISBURY,
WILTSHIRE**

Archaeological Post-excavation Assessment Report

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Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Summary | v |
| Acknowledgements..... | 1 |
| 1 INTRODUCTION | 2 |
| 1.1 Project Background | 2 |
| 1.2 Scope of document..... | 3 |
| 1.3 Location, topography and geology | 3 |
| 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND | 3 |
| 2.2 Previous Archaeological Fieldwork..... | 3 |
| 3 METHODS | 4 |
| 3.1 Aims..... | 4 |
| 3.2 Fieldwork methods | 5 |
| 4 RESULTS | 5 |
| 4.1 Introduction..... | 5 |
| 4.2 Excavation Area | 6 |
| 4.3 Watching Brief | 6 |
| 5 FINDS | 7 |
| 5.1 Introduction..... | 7 |
| 5.2 Pottery | 7 |
| 5.3 Ceramic Building Material..... | 10 |
| 5.4 Clay Pipe | 10 |
| 5.5 Glass | 10 |
| 5.6 Textile | 11 |
| 5.7 Worked Bone..... | 11 |
| 5.8 Animal Bone | 11 |
| 5.9 Other Finds..... | 12 |
| 6 PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE | 12 |
| 6.1 Introduction..... | 12 |
| 6.2 Charred plant remains..... | 12 |
| 6.3 Wood charcoal..... | 13 |
| 6.4 Mineralised remains | 13 |
| 6.5 Small animal and fish bones..... | 13 |
| 7 DISCUSSION..... | 13 |
| 8 STATEMENTS OF POTENTIAL AND PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION..... | 14 |
| 8.1 Structural and background: Potential and further recommendations | 14 |
| 8.2 Finds: Potential and further recommendations..... | 14 |
| 8.3 Palaeo-environmental: Potential and further recommendations..... | 15 |
| 9 PUBLICATION AND ARCHIVE | 15 |
| 9.1 Archive..... | 15 |
| 9.2 Provisional Task List, Resources and Programme..... | 15 |

| | | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| 10 | REFERENCES | 16 |
| | 10.1 Bibliography..... | 16 |
| | APPENDIX 1: OASIS FORM..... | 18 |
| | OASIS ID: wessexar1-116300..... | 18 |

Appendix 1: Context Descriptions

Tables

Table 1: All finds by context

Table 2: Pottery totals by ware type

Table 3: Number of identified animal bone specimens present (or NISP) by period

Table 4: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Table 5: Task list and resources

Figures

Figure 1: Site location showing proposed development

Figure 2: Site plan showing phases of work and archaeological features

Figure 3: Pits 1014, 1016, 1044 and tree throw 1018

Figure 4: Pit 1030

DAMASCUS AND EMMAUS HOUSE, SALISBURY

Archaeological Post-excavation Assessment Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Morgan Sindall (formerly Morgan Ashurst) to undertake a small archaeological excavation and watching brief on land at the rear of Damascus and Emmaus House, at the corner of Dolphin Street and St Ann Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire, centred on National Grid Reference 414780 129690.

Previous phases of evaluation and watching brief on the Site recorded the foundations of an 18th century building fronting onto St Ann Street with two late medieval/early post-medieval pits to the north. Archaeological mitigation comprising a small excavation and subsequent watching brief was undertaken in 2010 and recorded medieval refuse/cess pits to the rear of the extrapolated early building plots, with a small amount of residual Saxo-Norman material indicative of early settlement in the area of St Martins Church which predated the 13th century relocation of Old Sarum to Salisbury.

This report presents an assessment of the fieldwork results, statements of potential and a recommendation that the results of all fieldwork on the Site should be incorporated into a short note in *The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine (Wiltshire Studies)*.

DAMASCUS AND EMMAUS HOUSE, SALISBURY

Archaeological Post-excavation Assessment Report

Acknowledgements

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The project was managed on behalf of Wessex archaeology by Andy Manning. The fieldwork was undertaken by Jonathan Smith, Matt Rous, Tom Wells, Alexander Vellet, Robert Scott, Vasilis Tsamis, Chloe Hunnisett and Samantha Rubinson. This report was compiled by Jonathon Smith, Sian Reynolds and Andy Manning. The finds were assessed by Lorraine Mephram and animal bone by Lorrain Higbee; the environmental samples were processed by Steven Winterton and were assessed by Sarah F. Wyles. Report illustrations were prepared by Linda Coleman.

DAMASCUS AND EMMAUS HOUSE, SALISBURY

Archaeological Post-excavation Assessment Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Morgan Sindall (formerly Morgan Ashurst) to undertake a small archaeological excavation and watching brief on land at the rear of Damascus and Emmaus House (also known as 58 Barnard Street), at the corner of Dolphin Street and St Ann Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire, hereafter referred to as 'the Site'. The Site was centred on National Grid Reference 414780 129690 (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 A previous Planning Application for a single new building in the southeast corner of the Site was made in 2008. Archaeological evaluation using a single trial trench was undertaken pre-determination in January 2008. The evaluation found evidence for late medieval and post-medieval activity within the Site buried under thick deposits of garden soil together with a residual loomweight indicating significantly rare Anglo-Saxon activity. However, the planning application was turned down for non-archaeological reasons.
- 1.1.3 A new redesigned Planning Application was submitted in late January 2009 for the demolition and redevelopment of Damascus House and the refurbishment of the adjoining Emmaus House (Planning application S/2009/376/FULL). The application was approved in August 2009 with an archaeological condition (Condition 7) requiring a programme of archaeological work to be carried out.
- 1.1.4 Although the majority of the proposed works took place within the existing footprint of Damascus House, some works outside the footprint of the building were likely to have a heavy impact on any existing archaeological remains. These works included the construction of a small southern extension and pile foundations for the new building. There was also a proposed redesigning/resurfacing of the car parking area and new buried services in the area to the south of Emmaus House.
- 1.1.5 Given the potential archaeological impact, Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service produced a brief for an Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief, detailing the scope of the required archaeological work (Wiltshire County Council 2009).
- 1.1.6 The fieldwork comprised an archaeological strip, map and record of a 28m² block of land to the rear of Damascus House, and a further detailed watching brief within the Site during groundworks associated with the construction of pile foundations and new services.
- 1.1.7 The fieldwork and post-excavation was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological excavation and Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008).

- 1.1.8 The fieldwork was carried out sporadically as development on site necessitated, throughout 2010.

1.2 Scope of document

- 1.2.1 This report presents an assessment of the results of the entire programme of archaeological fieldwork undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in 2010. The report also contains statements of potential for further work.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The Site occupies the southwestern corner of the Pound Chequer, one of the planned units of the medieval town of Salisbury, which lies at the core of the modern town. The Pound Chequer is trapezoidal in shape due to the converging alignments of the north and south roads of Barnard Street and St Ann Street with the western side fronting onto Love Lane and the eastern side onto Dolphin Street (**Figure 1**).
- 1.3.2 The Site's northern section, that fronting onto Barnard Street is occupied to the west by Damascus House, an early 20th century building, and to the east by Emmaus House, previously known as Barnard Cross House, a building with late 17th origins possibly utilising earlier foundations (RCHME 1980). Land to the rear of the buildings is open ground currently used as car parking and gardens.
- 1.3.3 The topography slopes naturally from west to east towards Milford Hill, with the eastern portion of the Site lying at a height of 47.90m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology is drift deposits of river gravels (BGS 2007, Sheet 298).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 The Site lies within the eastern section of Salisbury's regular medieval grid network of roads and development blocks (Chequers), which date from the early 13th century AD. Although a number of scattered prehistoric and Romano-British finds and isolated features have been recorded throughout the town, no firm evidence for early settlement has yet been found within Salisbury (Wiltshire County Council 2003).
- 2.1.2 The first possible indications of likely settlement is suggested by Anglo-Saxon cemeteries, which have been found at the northeastern and southwestern edges of the later medieval core of Salisbury, together with scatters of finds within the city itself. The first firm historical and documentary evidence for settlement on the site of the later medieval city dates to the 11th and 12th centuries AD at St Martin's (eastern part of the city) and Fisherton Anger (western part of the city). Possible additional settlements may have been located at Town Mill (to the west of the present market place) and east Harnham (south of the city) (WCC 2003, 42).
- 2.1.3 The present city of Salisbury was relocated from its original position at Old Sarum in the early 13th Century AD (from 1219/20 AD). The City was laid out in a regular planned network of land plots, with the Site located within the eastern fringes of the planned City.

2.2 Previous Archaeological Fieldwork

- 2.2.1 The Site lies within a large portion of the Pound Chequer, bounded to the south by St Ann Street and to the east by Dolphin Street. Emmaus House itself is a much adapted building dating from the 17th century AD (WCC 2003).
- 2.2.2 The first recorded fieldwork during roadworks along St Ann Street in the late 1960s found an ovate Acheulian handaxe (SMARG 1967). No significant archaeological evidence was found immediately adjacent to the Site during a watching brief at 64a St Ann Street in the late 1990s (Mansfield 1997).
- 2.2.3 Historic mapping of Salisbury shows the Site as being occupied by buildings running along the four sides of the Pound Chequer at least into the early 18th century (WCC 2003). In the late 19th century, detailed Ordnance Survey mapping shows that former buildings within the southeast corner of the Chequer have been removed and the area occupied by gardens, a situation which, except for the addition of a car parking area, continued to the present day.
- 2.2.4 In 2006, a planning application was presented for the construction of a new building, located within the southeast corner of the Chequer, behind Emmaus House. A brief for an archaeological evaluation was produced by Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service and the evaluation (a single trench approximately 19m by 1.6m) was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology within the proposed location of the building (Wessex Archaeology 2008) (**Figures 1 and 2**).
- 2.2.5 The evaluation uncovered two construction trenches (**128** and **130**) for wall footings of an 18th century building fronting on to St Ann Street, although no associated floor surfaces or internal/structural features survived. Two late medieval/early post-medieval refuse pits **104** and **107** were found at the northern end of the trench, cut into the top of the original ground surface. One of the pits **107** contained a residual fragment of an Early/Middle Anglo-Saxon loomweight. Finds dating to this period are extremely rare in Salisbury and this evidence is important in mapping Early/Middle Anglo-Saxon activity in Salisbury and the County in general.
- 2.2.6 Following the demolition of the building below the current car park, sometime in the late 18th century, ground levels in the general area were raised by between 0.80 - 1.0m.

3 METHODS

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 The aim was to ensure the adequate identification, investigation and recording of important archaeological remains. Following the fieldwork a programme of post-excavation analysis was undertaken commensurate with the quality of the data recovered.
- 3.1.2 The specific objectives of the archaeological excavation were to;
- To investigate and undertake excavation and a watching brief to establish the extent (where possible), date, character, relationship, condition and significance of surviving archaeological features, artefacts and deposits.

- To undertake appropriate preservation by record and ensure appropriate publication.
- To place any identified archaeological remains within their historical context.

3.2 Fieldwork methods

3.2.1 The excavation and watching brief areas are indicated in **Figure 2**.

3.2.2 The work carried out comprised:

- The excavation of an initial area within the new extension to Damascus House. The area covered 20m², but was subsequently extended to 30m² to expose the extent of the identified archaeological features.
- Following the completion of the initial excavation, a larger area behind Damascus House was subsequently machine stripped with an archaeological watching brief carried out during the excavation of the pile foundation trenches. In consultation with Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service (WCAS) the watching brief included excavation of a sufficient number of sections across observed features in order to satisfy the aims and objectives of the fieldwork.

3.2.3 The stripping of overburden was carried out by mechanical excavator, in discrete 0.10m spits under constant archaeological supervision and ceased at the upper surface of significant archaeological features. Topsoil and subsoil/overburden deposits were stored separately and scanned for artefacts.

3.2.4 Further ground reduction, where required, took place under constant archaeological supervision and took the form of a series of foundation trenches into which were set a number of concrete piles intended to support the extension to Damascus house and the construction of two soakaways.

3.2.5 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts (context numbers **1000** to **1070**). Features were located using a Leica GNSS Viva survey system (GPS). All archaeological features and deposits were drawn at an appropriate scale (typically plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10). All principal strata and features were related to the Ordnance Survey datum.

3.2.6 A full photographic record of the investigations and individual features was maintained, utilising digital images. The photographic record illustrated both the detail and general context of the archaeology revealed and the Site as a whole.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 A total of seven archaeological features were identified within the excavation area and subsequent watching brief areas. These features mainly comprised pits of medieval and post-medieval date, sealed by deep later post-medieval made ground and garden soil deposits.

4.2 Excavation Area

- 4.2.1 A 20m² area to the rear of Damascus House was excavated to the level of the first significant archaeological deposits. The excavation area was subsequently extended by an additional 10m² to expose the full extent of the archaeological features encountered, resulting in a total surface area strip of 30m².
- 4.2.2 The natural geology of yellowish grey silty sand **1026** was encountered at an approximate depth of 45.70m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), 1.5m below the then ground surface. The earliest feature was an undated shallow tree throw **1018**, roughly circular with a diameter of 1.24m and depth of 0.10m, which was cut into the natural (**Figures 2 and 4**). This feature was cut by two refuse pits, pit **1014** to the south and pit **1016**, to the north.
- 4.2.3 Feature **1016** could not be exposed in its entirety. This was due to a concrete patio area making the stepping of the section or expansion of the Site to the north impossible. What was observed of **1016** was very similar in nature to pit **1014** one metre to the south. The feature was probably circular with a diameter of approximately 1.70m. It was 1.42m deep and had levelled out to a flat base at a depth of 44.989m aOD. It was filled with a single deposit **1017**, in keeping with the use of the pit as a domestic refuse pit and contained animal bone, shell, medieval pottery of a 13th-14th century date and a single piece of redeposited worked flint of indeterminate date.
- 4.2.4 Pit **1014** was circular feature with a diameter of 1.82m and 1.32m in depth with the base of the pit bottomed at a depth of 44.82m aOD. It was filled with primary deposits **1047**, **1046/1045** and secondary dumped deposits **1021**, **1020** and **1015**. The dump deposits are in keeping with the use of the pit as a domestic refuse pit and contained animal bone, shell, pottery of a broad medieval and early post-medieval date, iron objects (too degraded to more precisely define) and ceramic building material (CBM).
- 4.2.5 The southern edge of the excavation area was extended southwards to fully expose pit **1014**, although it became apparent that this feature was in turn cut by a large, sub-rectangular pit (**1044**). This pit, 2.8m by 1.2m, contained a large number of deposits and finds dating to the later post-medieval period. The pit was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.75m at which point, for safety reasons, excavation ceased.
- 4.2.6 Sealing all the features were deep post-medieval/modern garden deposits **1012** and **1013** (not illustrated) up to 1.5m in depth. Evidence was noted in the sections of the excavation area for modern features including a service trench and brick lined soakaway.

4.3 Watching Brief

- 4.3.1 To the west of the excavation, an area measuring roughly 25m by 20m was fully reduced to approximately 0.30m above the archaeological horizon. Further ground reduction took the form of a series of foundation trenches for the placement of concrete piles and soakaways.
- 4.3.2 The foundation trenches exposed natural geology and a number of archaeological features comprising three pits (**1030**, **1037** and **1041**) which were found in foundation trenches within 20m to the north of the initial excavation area (**Figure 2**).
- 4.3.3 Pit **1030** was the most easterly of the three features (**Figure 4**). It comprised a sub-rectangular pit, 1.30m by at least 0.80m and was 0.55m in depth (base at 44.82m aOD). The pit contained primary cess deposits **1031**, and **1032**, which were capped by a pure clay deposit **1033** interpreted as a capping layer marking the end of its use as a cess pit, above which was a final rubbish dump deposit **1034**. This final fill contained pottery of a broad 13th and 14th century date but also included a single sherd of early 10th-12th century date as well as a small quantity of mineralised textile – possibly linen.
- 4.3.4 Pit **1041** was the largest of the three features, sub-rectangular in plan, 2.7m long, 1.5m wide and excavated to a depth of 0.75m (the feature was not bottomed due to space constraints). It contained two characteristically cessy layers **1058** and **1059**, and a final rubbish deposit **1060**. Again, as with pit **1030**, pottery of a broad 13th and 14th century date was recovered together with a single sherd of early 10th-12th century date.
- 4.3.5 The most westerly pit **1037** was oval in plan and continued beyond the limits of the foundation trench. The exposed area of this pit measured 2.1m x 0.80m and was excavated to a depth of 0.72m, but once again the bottom was not reached due to space constraints. Unlike the two adjacent pits **1030** and **1041**, this feature contained only rubbish deposits with pottery of a broad 13th and 14th century date, animal bone, CBM and shell. No cessy layers were visible in the excavated section.
- 4.3.6 The areas excavated in advance of the construction of two soakaways did not reveal any archaeological features. In addition, subsequent service excavation within the southeastern part of the Site was only to 0.70m in depth below the present ground surface and did not impact on the archaeological deposits and features recorded at a depth of approximately 1m.

5 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 This section discusses the finds recovered from all fieldwork on the Site to date. The assemblage ranges in date from medieval to post-medieval, with one prehistoric artefact.
- 5.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in **Table 1**.

5.2 Pottery

5.2.1 The small pottery assemblage consists of medieval and post-medieval types, all of which are already documented within the city and/or the surrounding area, although there are some less common types present. The assemblage has been quantified by ware type, and the totals are given in **Table 2**.

Medieval

5.2.2 Medieval pottery amounts to 109 sherds. This is largely divided between the two locally produced types, coarseware and fineware, both of which were manufactured at the 13th/early 14th century kilns at Laverstock, outside the city (Musty *et al.* 1969; Musty *et al.* 2001). The coarsewares, however, clearly have an earlier origin, as they are known from 11th century deposits at Old Sarum, and from other earlier medieval sites in the area. In this instance, there are certainly examples of the coarser variants of the coarseware fabric, and also sherds with deep scratchmarking, a technique common on Laverstock-type wares in the 12th and 13th centuries.

5.2.3 Diagnostic coarseware forms in Laverstock-type ware comprise jars (all with the 'archaic', simply everted rim profile of 11th to 13th century date); bowls or curfews with heavy triangular-profile rims, one with ring-and-dot stamps on top of the rim; and at least one jug/pitcher form (rod handle). The finewares were used almost exclusively for jugs, generally glazed and often slip-decorated. The upper part of one such jug, in conjoining fragments, survives from pit **1041**, with decoration consisting of simple vertical slip stripes, while other body sherds carry more elaborate applied slip motifs. The decorated jugs are typical of the Laverstock kilns' production period of mid 13th to early 14th century.

5.2.4 Two sherds are in a finer, micaceous fabric with sparse quartz and flint inclusions, of a type found widely across north and west Wiltshire and possibly made in the Warminster area. These wares are much less commonly found in Salisbury than the Laverstock-type wares, and may suggest a date prior to the establishment, and predominance, of the Laverstock kilns. However, their overall potential date range spans the medieval period, and both were found with Laverstock-type coarsewares (pit **1016**).

5.2.5 One other slip-decorated fineware sherd appears to be of non-local type, possibly from the Donyatt production centre in Somerset. Donyatt-type wares, as well as the West Wiltshire-type wares described above, are occasionally found in 13th/14th century assemblages within the city, but clearly faced too much competition from the local wares to make much impression on the local market.

5.2.6 Of more interest, however, are two sherds in ware types that are rarely found within the city. One sherd, from pit **1041**, is in a hard-fired, wheelthrown fabric tempered with prominent quartz grains and occasional sandstone and possibly limestone; this is comparable to wares identified at the Saxon palaces at Cheddar, in contexts dating from the 10th to 12th centuries (Rahtz 1979). The second sherd, from pit **1030**, is in a coarse, calcareous fabric containing crushed fossil shell. This type, along with Cheddar-type wares, is known from early medieval sites in the area, such as Wilton and Amesbury, but both are very rarely found in Salisbury itself. It is notable, however, that the Site lies close to the early medieval settlement

around St Martin's Church, which pre-dated the foundation of the city in 1220 (Chandler 1987, fig. 4).

- 5.2.7 Medieval sherds were found in several cut features, as well as in garden soils **1012** and **1013**; in the latter deposits they were almost certainly residual, but for pits **1016**, **1030**, **1037** and **1041** they provide the primary dating evidence.

Post-medieval

- 5.2.8 The remaining sherds are post-medieval, and include two sherds of imported German stoneware, one of Raeren type (late 15th/16th century; garden soil **1012**) and one of Cologne/Frechen type (late 16th/17th century; pit **1044**). There is also one sherd from a Spanish olive jar (pit **1044**), a type imported from the late 16th to the 18th century.
- 5.2.9 Four sherds are in a fine sandy fabric which appears to be transitional (15th/16th century) between the medieval Laverstock industry and the post-medieval earthenware industry centred on Verwood in east Dorset (see below). These sherds were found in pits **1006** and **1014**, and garden soil **1013**, and include a lid-seated jar rim.
- 5.2.10 The remaining sherds are all in coarse earthenwares and, apart from one example of a West Country style graffito ware (pit **1044**), all are Verwood-type wares from east Dorset. The largest group of these (62 sherds) came from pit **1044**, and included sherds from at least two chamber pots and one bedpan; the group (largely on the absence of factory-produced refined wares) is likely to be of later 17th or early 18th century date, a date range supported by the clay pipes from the same pit (see below).

Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

| Context | Animal Bone | CBM | Glass | Iron | Pottery | Shell | Other Finds |
|--------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| 1007 | 6/170 | 1/120 | 3/30 | | 5/202 | 1/12 | 1 clay pipe |
| 1008 | | | 1/9 | | | | |
| 1012 | 21/497 | 6/125 | | 1/7 | 4/81 | 1/24 | 1 clay pipe |
| 1013 | | | | | 2/37 | | |
| 1015 | 7/61 | 32/1322 | 1/1 | | 4/40 | | |
| 1017 | 6/56 | | | | 4/100 | 3/9 | 1 worked flint |
| 1021 | 12/498 | 23/1330 | | 3/78 | 2/89 | 1/6 | |
| 1022 | 1/19 | | | | 1/8 | | |
| 1029 | 1/4 | 6/369 | | | | 1/10 | |
| 1032 | | | | | | | 20 frags textile |
| 1034 | 42/118 | | | 1/2 | 45/749 | 1/16 | |
| 1038 | 26/397 | 83/3900 | | | 3/121 | 5/61 | |
| 1040 | 2/9 | 3/118 | | | | | |
| 1047 | 4/142 | 3/355 | | | 1/13 | | |
| 1048 | 38/1230 | 27/3900 | 3/90 | 4/22 | 66/4577 | 6/61 | 2 stone; 6 clay pipe |
| 1059 | 1/166 | | 4/1 | | 2/17 | | |
| 1060 | 22/196 | 1/12 | | | 45/773 | | 1 burnt flint |
| TOTAL | 189/3563 | 185/11551 | 12/131 | 9/309 | 184/6807 | 19/199 | |

Table 2: Pottery totals by ware type

| Date Range | Ware type | No. sherds |
|---------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| MEDIEVAL | Calcareous ware | 1 |
| | Cheddar-type ware | 1 |
| | Donyatt-type ware | 1 |
| | Laverstock-type coarseware | 54 |
| | Laverstock-type fineware | 49 |
| | West Wiltshire-type ware | 2 |
| | <i>sub-total medieval</i> | 108 |
| POST-MEDIEVAL | Cologne/Frechen stoneware | 1 |
| | Early Verwood-type ware | 4 |
| | Olive jar | 1 |
| | Raeren stoneware | 1 |
| | Verwood-type earthenware | 68 |
| | West Country graffito ware | 1 |
| | <i>sub-total post-medieval</i> | 76 |
| | OVERALL TOTAL | 184 |

5.3 Ceramic Building Material

5.3.1 The CBM largely comprised fragments of medieval peg (roof) tile; these occurred in coarse, poorly wedged fabrics, often pale-firing, and with prominent inclusions of iron-rich compounds; several fragments were partially glazed, and one fragment (from pit **1037**) was severely warped. Such tile is ubiquitous on sites within Salisbury and the surrounding area, from 13th century levels onwards, and was almost certainly made locally; one possible source known from the 14th/15th century, for example, was at Alderbury, just to the south of the city (Hare 1991, 89-90).

5.3.2 One fragment from a glazed, crested ridge tile, also of medieval date, was recovered from pit **1014**, and from the same context came three fragments of tile in a fine, pale-firing fabric (quite distinct from the normal peg tile fabrics, and closer to the Laverstock-type pottery fabrics) which could derive from some other form of roof furniture, for example a louver or finial.

5.4 Clay Pipe

5.4.1 The eight fragments of clay pipe recovered comprised six stems and two bowls. One of the stems is stamped with a maker's mark, as are both of the bowls (also on the stem). Three different pipemakers are represented. The stem (from pit **1006**) carries the mark of Thomas Mason (c. 1730-50), while the two bowls (both from pit **1044**) carry the stamps of, respectively, Edward Higgens (c. 1700-10) and Will Harden (c. 1700-20). All three were certainly or probably working in Salisbury (Atkinson 1965, fig. 2, 69; 1970, fig. 2, 19, Appendix D; 1972, 154, fig. 1, 10).

5.5 Glass

- 5.5.1 Four small fragments from pit **1041** are in a severely degraded glass, virtually opaque. They appear to derive from the edge of a footring from a drinking goblet, and are possibly of late medieval or early post-medieval date (perhaps 15th/16th century).
- 5.5.2 A fragment from pit **1014** is of painted window glass, but is too small to determine motif style (and therefore date), although from the condition appears to be post-medieval.
- 5.5.3 Other fragments of glass, from pits **1006** and **1044**, are from green wine bottles of later 17th or early 18th century type.

5.6 Textile

- 5.6.1 A number of small fragments of mineralised textile were recovered from medieval pit **1030**; all appear to be linen, although some fragments are in a coarser weave.

5.7 Worked Bone

- 5.7.1 One object of worked bone was recovered, from medieval pit **1030**. This is a tuning peg, with a squared end, the opposite end broken. Bone tuning pegs are known from c. 1300 well into the 14th century, but the medieval examples are generally hand-made, while this example appears to have been turned, and with a more prominent squared head than the medieval examples illustrated (Lawson 1990, 711-3, fig. 201, III, IV).

5.8 Animal Bone

- 5.8.1 The assemblage includes 101 identified bones (**Table 3**). The following species have been identified and are listed in order of relative abundance: cattle, sheep/goat, pig, domestic fowl, fish, goose, horse and rabbit. The fish remains include a cleithrum (part of the skull) from a large cod.
- 5.8.2 The assemblage is generally characteristic of normal consumption waste, although one horn core was noted (pit **1014**). Measurements taken on the horn core indicate that it is from a short-horned breed of cattle. Horn cores have been recovered in large quantities from several sites within the south-eastern part of the city, and probably relate to tanning, a noisome industry relegated to the outer limits of the medieval city. Skinners and tanners are recorded as working in the St Ann Street area (Chandler 1987, 110).

Table 3: Number of identified animal bone specimens present (or NISP) by period

| Species | medieval | post-medieval | undated | Total |
|----------------|----------|---------------|---------|-------|
| cattle | 15 | 17 | | 32 |
| sheep/goat | 21 | 11 | | 32 |
| pig | 10 | 7 | | 17 |
| horse | | 1 | | 1 |
| rabbit | 1 | | | 1 |
| domestic fowl | 10 | | | 10 |
| domestic goose | 1 | 1 | | 2 |
| fish | 5 | 1 | | 6 |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|-----------|----------|------------|
| <i>Total identified</i> | 63 | 38 | | 101 |
| <i>Total unidentifiable</i> | 75 | 20 | 3 | 98 |
| Overall total | 138 | 58 | 3 | 199 |

5.9 Other Finds

5.9.1 Other finds include marine shell (all oyster); stone (two roof tile fragments), iron objects (two nails; three sheet/plate fragments; one unidentified fragment); one prehistoric worked flint (waste flake); and one piece of burnt, unworked flint (unknown date and origin).

6 PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A total of four bulk samples were taken from four medieval pits/cess pits, **1014**, **1016**, **1030** and **1041**, and were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains, wood charcoal and mineralised remains.

6.2 Charred plant remains

6.2.1 Bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2mm, 1mm and 0.5mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains recorded in **Table 4**. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).

6.2.2 The flots were generally large with low levels of roots. Charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation.

6.2.3 Charred cereal remains were recovered in high numbers from all four pits. These were mainly grains and rachis fragments of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum turgidum/aestivum*) with smaller numbers of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grains. The other charred remains included shell fragments of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) and seeds of oat/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* sp.), vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.), celtic bean (*Vicia faba*) and lentil (*Lens culinaris*).

6.2.4 These charred remains are indicative of general food and domestic waste upon the Site and clearly such waste has been mixed with general cess material from or within latrines.

6.2.5 Lentil from pits **1014** and **1030** are of some interest. Given the warmer climate of the 9th to early 13th century this crop may have been more commonly grown locally prior to the down turn in climate in the late 13th / early 14th century. The range of crops is otherwise fairly typical of the medieval period, and there were no remains of fig or grape seen within the assemblages to suggest any imported crops that might denote higher status.

6.3 Wood charcoal

6.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Table 3**. Wood charcoal fragments of > 4mm were only recovered in a large quantity from pit **1014**.

6.4 Mineralised remains

6.4.1 Mineralised remains, including those of bran fragments, seeds and insects, were observed in the samples (**Table 4**). Pit **1030** was particularly rich, especially in mineralised insect remains. It seems likely that pits **1030** and **1041** were used as cess pits.

6.5 Small animal and fish bones

6.5.1 Small animal bones, including those of fish and small mammals were noted in the bulk sample flots (**Table 4**).

Table 4: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

| Feature | Context | Sample | Vol (L) | Flot size | Roots % | Grain | Chaff | Cereal Notes | Charred Other | Notes for Table | Charcl > 4/2mm | Other |
|----------------------|---------|--------|---------|-----------|---------|-------|-------|--|---------------|---|----------------|---|
| Medieval Pits | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1014 | 1015 | 1001 | 20 | 1175 | 3 | A* | A | Free-threshing wheat and barley grain frags, Free-threshing wheat rachis frags | A | <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Lens culinaris</i> , <i>Avena/Bromus</i> | 15/50 ml | Sab/f (A), min. matter inc seeds (A) |
| 1016 | 1017 | 1003 | 20 | 500 | 10 | A | - | Free-threshing wheat and barley grain frags, | C | <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frags | 5/10 ml | Sab/f (B), min. matter inc seeds (A) |
| 1030 | 1032 | 1004 | 6 | 500 | 2 | A | C | Free-threshing wheat and barley grain frags, Free-threshing wheat rachis frags | C | <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Lens culinaris</i> , <i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frags | 2/5 ml | Sab/f (A*), min. matter inc seeds + lots of insects (A**) |
| 1041 | 1059 | 1005 | 9 | 250 | 10 | A | C | Free-threshing wheat and barley grain frags, Free-threshing wheat rachis frags | B | <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Vicia faba</i> , <i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frags | 1/2 ml | Sab/f (A*), min. matter inc seeds + insects (A*) |

Key: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5; sab/f = small animal/fish bones

7 DISCUSSION

- 7.1.1 The previous evaluation within the southeastern corner in 2008 had indicated a high potential for medieval and post-medieval features to survive sealed below later deep dumped deposits which were used to significantly raise ground levels within the central garden.
- 7.1.2 The fieldwork, initially within the excavation area and later in a wider area to the rear of Damascus House, has confirmed the presence of a small number of medieval and post-medieval pits associated with buildings formerly located in the Pound Chequer. No evidence for surviving archaeological features or structures was found within the footprint of Damascus House, after demolition. A comparison of the levels between the top of the archaeological horizon containing the features (between 45.60 to 45.22m aOD) and the top of the modern concrete walkway running along the southern wall of Damascus House (45.80m aOD with an impact of at least 1m below this) clearly shows that the construction of Damascus and Emmaus Houses is likely to have completely truncated any surviving archaeological remains in the footprint of the buildings, although features have been preserved within the former central garden area, to the rear.
- 7.1.3 Pottery and other finds recovered from pits **1016**, **1030**, **1037** and **1041** give a broad medieval date and together with pit **1014**, which contained late medieval and early post-medieval pottery, precede the construction date of any of the known existing buildings in the Chequer. In addition, a horn core found in pit **1016** may relate to the activity of the skimmers and tanners which have been recorded as working in the St Ann Street area.
- 7.1.4 However, two of these pits (**1030** and **1041**) also contained a small quantity of Saxo-Norman pottery. While this material is likely to have been redeposited, this material is probably associated with the earlier settlement which would have been focused around St Martins church, before the relocation of Salisbury in the early 13th century. Together with the Early/Middle Anglo-Saxon loomweight recovered during the previous evaluation (pit **104**), this material shows that there is the potential for the survival of evidence associated with pre-13th century settlement in the general area.

8 STATEMENTS OF POTENTIAL AND PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION

8.1 Structural and background: Potential and further recommendations

- 8.1.1 Given the relatively low number of features, the good level of dated features and available information on the nature and context of the Site, there is no potential for further analysis or investigation of the historical context of the Site. Therefore no further work is proposed, beyond a short note of the results to be submitted to *The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine (Wiltshire Studies)*.

8.2 Finds: Potential and further recommendations

- 8.2.1 This is a small artefactual assemblage, containing types that are all well documented elsewhere within Salisbury and the surrounding area. Apart from augmenting the overall dataset from the city, no new information has been forthcoming, and no further work is therefore proposed. All finds have been recorded to an appropriate archive level.
- 8.2.2 As commonly occurring types, retention for long-term is not recommended for the ceramic building material (with a few exceptions), the post-medieval glass, the shell, and the plain clay pipe stem; these have, therefore, been discarded.

8.3 Palaeo-environmental: Potential and further recommendations

Charred and mineralised plant remains

- 8.3.1 There is some potential for further analysis of the charred and mineralised plant remains to provide some limited information on the nature of the site. The range of charred material is similar to those recorded at Ivy Street/Brown Street (Hinton 2000). However, it should be noted that a much wider range of plant material was recovered from Ivy Street/Brown Street, the majority of which was preserved by waterlogging. These included cereals, pulses, fruits, nuts and spices as well as weed seeds, although such differences may be related to differences in status, as much as preservation conditions. There was also better preservation of plant remains, again by charring, materialisation and waterlogging, at the nearby site of Anchor Brewery, Gigant Street (Hinton 2005).
- 8.3.2 As such it is unlikely that any detailed analysis of the plant remains from Damascus and Emmaus House would add a great deal to the understanding of this area of medieval Salisbury. Therefore, no further work is proposed.

Wood charcoal

- 8.3.3 There is only a low potential for the analysis of the wood charcoal to provide a detailed picture of the management and exploitation of the local woodland resource. The wood charcoal does not appear to relate to any particular structure or settlement activity. Therefore, no further work is proposed.

Insect remains

- 8.3.4 The mineralised insect remains may relate to post depositional processes within these pits and are reflective of cessy environments. As such detailed analyses of these remains may only provide limited assistance to a further understanding of the nature of this Site. No further work is proposed.

9 PUBLICATION AND ARCHIVE

9.1 Archive

- 9.1.1 The project archive, consisting of an A4 ring binder, a collection of digital photographs and survey data is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology at Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wiltshire. In due course the archive will be deposited under the project code **74240** with Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum, Salisbury.

9.2 Provisional Task List, Resources and Programme

- 9.2.1 An approved scope of final publication will be discussed and agreed with Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service. At this stage, it is proposed that the results of the fieldwork will be summarised into a short note to be submitted to *Wiltshire Studies*.
- 9.2.2 A list of the required tasks is set out below in **Table 5**, leading to the depositing of the project archive and to include the details within the proposed publication text.

Table 5: Task list and resources

| Task | Staff/Grade | Time required |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| REPORTING TASKS | | |
| Revised Site description and discussion into publication text | PO | 0.5 days |
| Drawing Office: Site illustrations | Drawing Office | 0.5 days |
| Archive preparation | P0 | 0.5 |
| Microfilm | Marathon | Fixed price |
| Archive store costs and transport | 1 ring binder file and digital data | Fixed price |

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APPENDIX 1: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: wessexar1-116300

Project details

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Project name | Damascus and Emmaus House, Salisbury, Wiltshire. | |
| Short description of the project | <p>Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Morgan Sindall (formerly Morgan Ashurst) to undertake a small archaeological excavation and watching brief on land at the rear of Damascus and Emmaus House, at the corner of Dolphin Street and St Ann Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire, hereafter referred to as 'the Site'. The Site was centred on National Grid Reference 414780 129690. Previous phases of evaluation and watching brief on the Site recorded the foundations of an 18th century building fronting onto St Ann Street with two late medieval/early post-medieval pits to the north. This report presents an assessment of the results of a number of phases of excavation and watching brief undertaken by Wessex Archaeology throughout 2010. The 2010 fieldwork recorded further medieval refuse/cess pits to the rear of the extrapolated early building plots, with a small amount of residual Saxo-Norman material indicative of settlement in the area of St Martins Church which predated the 13th century relocation of Old Sarum to Salisbury. It is proposed that the results of all fieldwork on the Site should be incorporated into a short note in the appropriate journal, but that no further post-excavation analysis is justified.</p> | |
| Project dates | Start: 01-01-2010 End: 22-12-2011 | |
| Previous/future work | Yes / No | |
| Any project codes | associated reference | 68220 - Contracting Unit No. |
| Any project codes | associated reference | 74240 - Contracting Unit No. |
| Type of project | Recording project | |
| Site status | None | |
| Current Land use | Residential 1 - General Residential | |
| Monument type | PITS Medieval | |
| Monument type | PITS Post Medieval | |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Medieval | |
| Significant Finds | ANIMAL BONE Medieval | |
| Investigation type | 'Part Excavation ', 'Watching Brief' | |
| Prompt | Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS | |

Project location

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Country | England |
| Site location | WILTSHIRE SALISBURY Damascus and Emmaus House (also |

known as 58 Barnard Street), Salisbury

Postcode SP1 2BG
 Study area 1.00 Hectares
 Site coordinates SU 147 297 51.0659115287 -1.790189973520 51 03 57 N 001 47
 24 W Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 45.00m Max: 47.00m

Project creators

Name of Wessex Archaeology
 Organisation
 Project brief City/Nat. Park/District/Borough archaeologist
 originator
 Project design Wessex Archaeology
 originator
 Project director/manager A Manning
 Project supervisor Matt Rous
 Type of Developer
 sponsor/funding body
 Name of Morgan Sindall
 sponsor/funding body

Project archives

Physical Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass','Textiles','Worked bone','Worked
 stone/lithics'
 Digital Contents 'none'
 Digital Media 'Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets','Survey','Text'
 available
 Paper Contents 'none'
 Paper Media 'Context sheet','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General
 available Notes','Plan','Report','Section','Survey '

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title AMASCUS AND EMMAUS HOUSE, SALISBURY, Post-excavation
 assessment report
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Smith, J, Reynolds S and Manning, A
 Other bibliographic 74240
 details
 Date 2011
 Issuer or publisher Wessex Archaeology

Place of issue or Salisbury
publication

Description Standard A4 soft-back report.

Entered by Andrew Manning (a.manning@wessexarch.co.uk)

Entered on 22 December 2011



Site location showing proposed development

Figure 1



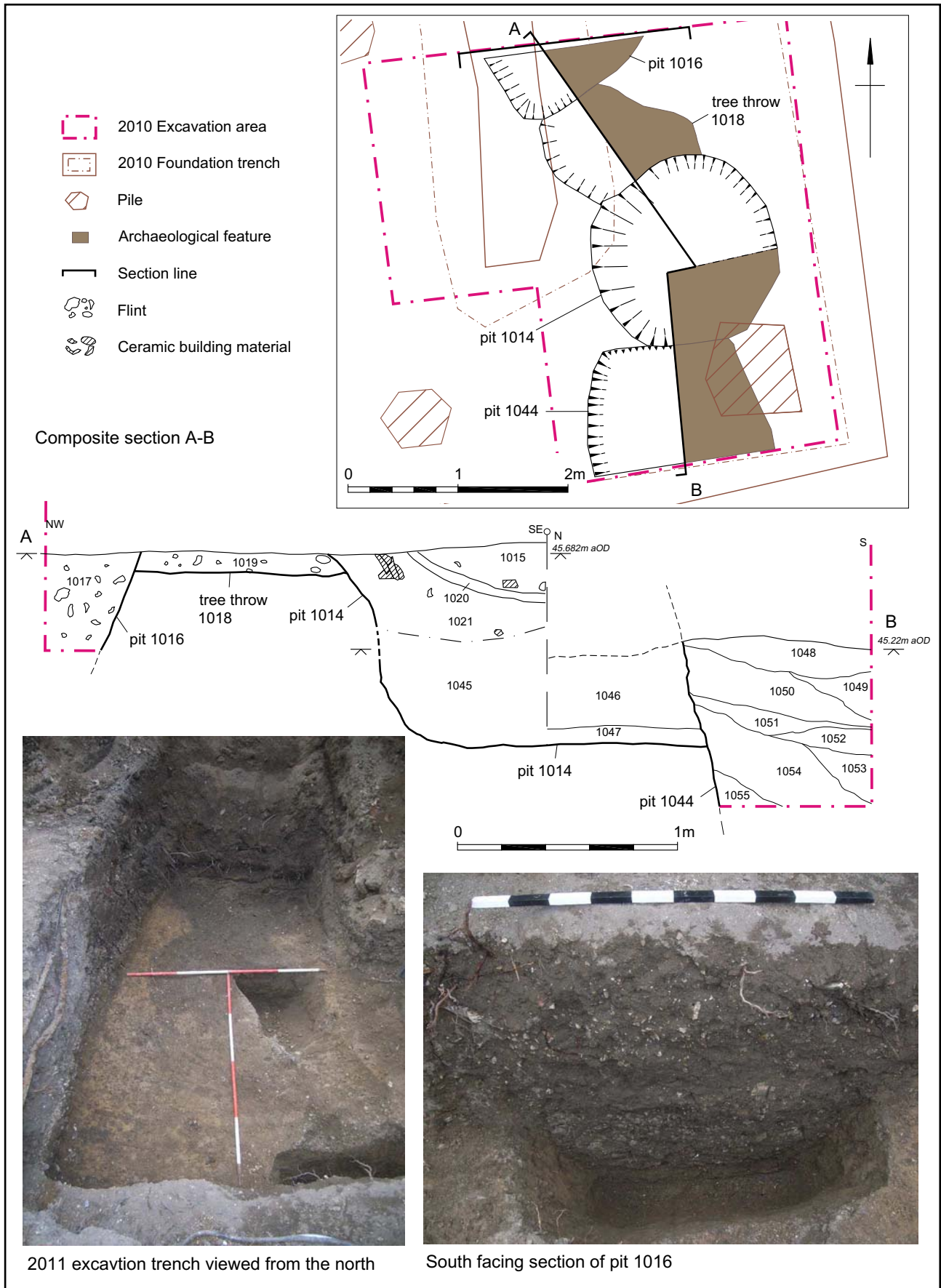
-  2010 Foundation trench
-  2010 Watching Brief area
-  2010 Excavation area
-  2008 Watching Brief area
-  2008 Evaluation trench
-  Archaeological feature
-  Pile
-  Soakaway pit

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Site plan showing phases of work and archaeological features

Figure 2



2011 excavation trench viewed from the north

South facing section of pit 1016

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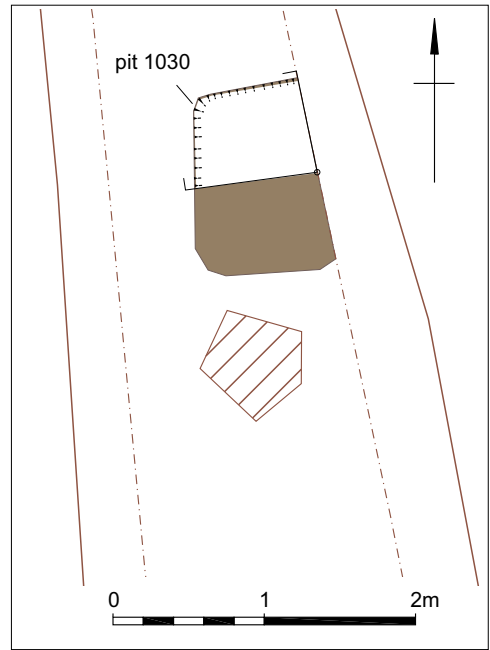
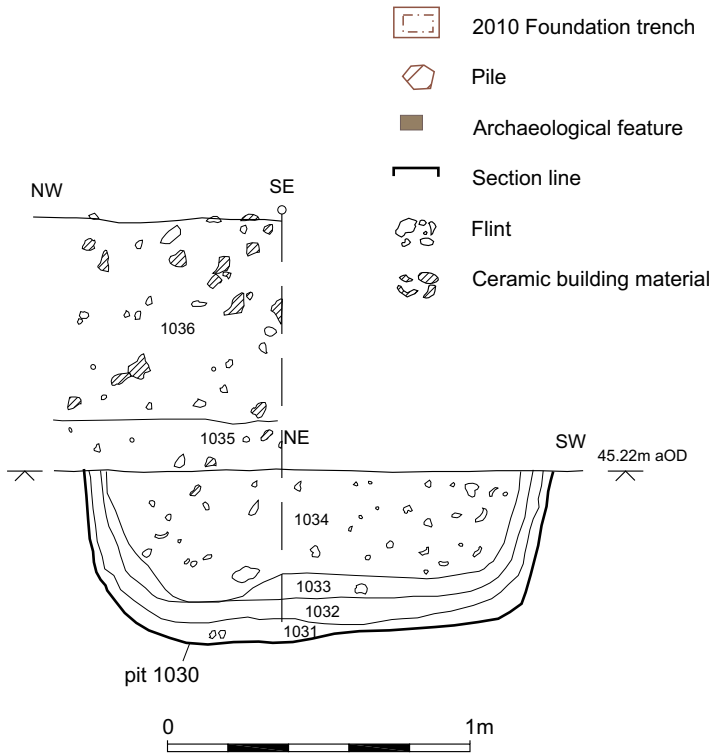
Date: 30/11/11

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Illustrator: SEJ

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North-west facing section of pit 1030

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