



making sense of heritage

42–44 Salt Lane, Salisbury, Wiltshire

Archaeological Excavation Report
with Proposals for Analysis and Publication



Planning Ref: S/2012/1136/FULL
Ref: 102330.01
March 2014



**42–44 SALT LANE,
SALISBURY, WILTSHIRE**

**Archaeological Excavation Report
with Proposals for Analysis and Publication**

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Summary

Excavations were undertaken by Wessex Archaeology on a block of land at 42–44 Salt Lane on the south side of the street in advance of redevelopment by Bargate Homes for residential use. A preliminary watching brief, undertaken during site clearance, demonstrated that the deposits at the west end of the Site were undisturbed but that, to the east, all archaeological deposits had been removed by a Victorian cellar.

The results of the excavation suggested that throughout the medieval period, following a phase during which the area was exploited for 'brick earth', plots are likely to have remained largely undeveloped. Land use was primarily cultivated ground or yards divided by simple tenement boundaries. Structural development of the area, within the Griffin Chequer of medieval Salisbury, appears to have commenced in the 15th–16th centuries when a building was erected along the current street frontage, possibly with the gable to the street. This building was furnished with a pitched tile hearth.

Alterations were undertaken on the same tenement divisions in the 16th–17th centuries when buildings constructed with brick and flint foundations were erected. Major redevelopment appears to have taken place along much of the south side of Salt Lane in the 19th century. Buildings, many of which remain extant, were erected both on and to the south of the Site. This work is likely to involved significant alterations to the medieval tenement boundaries.

It is proposed that, following a limited programme of analysis, the results of the excavations at 42–44 Salt Lane should be published (probably as an article in the county journal) along with those from the more extensive investigations undertaken in 2013 between Bedwin Street and Salt Lane in the Vanners Chequer to the north.



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The archaeological excavation was commissioned by Bargate Homes to whom Wessex Archaeology extend thanks. Appreciation is also given to Steve Gray, Site Manager of Bargate Homes, and all other visiting staff from Bargate Homes who helped to make the project run smoothly and successfully. Thanks are also offered to Clare King, Assistant County Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council, for constructive comment and for supporting progress of the work through monitoring meetings.

The fieldwork was directed by Phil Harding, who also compiled this report, assisted by Darryl Freer Talia Hunt and Andy Sole. The pottery and general finds were assessed by Lorraine Mephram, with the faunal remains described by Lorrain Higbee. The environmental samples were processed by Tony Scothern and were assessed by Sarah F. Wyles. This report was edited by Phil Andrews and the graphics were prepared by Rob Goller.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Andy King.



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Bargate Homes Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological work at 42–44 Salt Lane, Salisbury, centred on National Grid reference 414721 130192 (NGR) (hereafter referred to as the Site) (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 A planning application S/2012/1136/FULL was approved with conditions for the redevelopment of the Site, which proposed to demolish an existing building and replace it with three dwellings, detached store buildings and private car parking areas.
- 1.1.3 Condition 10 related to archaeology and stated:
- No development shall commence on site until a written programme of archaeological investigation, which should include on-site work and off-site work such as the analysis, publishing and archiving of the results, has been submitted to and approved by the Local planning Authority. The approved programme of archaeological work shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details

REASON: To enable the recording of any matters of archaeological interest.

- 1.1.4 The proposed new dwellings were located wholly within the footprint of the former building, which was constructed in the 1960s. Construction work within the footprint of the former building was anticipated to include general ground clearance, grubbing out of old foundations, removal of services and excavations for new foundations and services.
- 1.1.5 The area to the rear of the former building comprised car parking space which was to be retained together with patio areas, small gardens and stores. Groundworks in this area were considered to be minimal and insufficient to prove detrimental to archaeological deposits.
- 1.1.6 The area of archaeological investigation was, therefore, confined to the area of the former building footprint (**Figure 1**). In the absence of any methodology by which the archaeological potential of the Site could be evaluated until the area had been cleared, it was proposed to monitor the ground clearance following demolition of the superstructure in an archaeological watching brief.
- 1.1.7 This strategy proposed to determine the extent, date, character and significance of any archaeological resource that might survive, in order that their subsequent treatment could be agreed in consultation with the Client and Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service (WCAS), the archaeological advisors to the local planning authority (LPA), before redevelopment could proceed.



- 1.1.8 Site clearance commenced on 19 December 2013 and revealed the presence of *in situ* archaeological remains within the southern two-thirds of the proposed new building footprint. A resulting on-site meeting held that day with the Client, Clare King of WCAS and Wessex Archaeology determined that a programme of archaeological excavation was necessary within the area shown on **Figure 1** to meet the requirements of the planning condition.
- 1.1.9 Observations during the site clearance established that the eastern part of the proposed new building footprint comprised a Victorian cellar, which had removed any earlier archaeological remains that may have been present.
- 1.1.10 Following completion of work, sufficient to resolve the archaeological development of the Site to the satisfaction of the WCAS, it was agreed that the Client would inform Wessex Archaeology of any intention to undertake supplementary ground works beyond the footprint of the proposed building. This work would be mitigated using a programme of archaeological observation (watching brief) to record any archaeological features that might be present.
- 1.1.11 The agreed scope of works was specified in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which was drawn up by Wessex Archaeology. This document set out the strategy and methodology by which the programme of archaeological works would be implemented. The document was compiled following the demolition of the existing building and the archaeological monitoring of ground clearance that had established the nature and extent of undisturbed archaeological deposits on the Site, and it set out the appropriate methodology agreed in accordance with the site meeting held on 19 December 2013. The WSI was updated subsequently to include agreed terms and methodology for the supplementary watching brief (Wessex Archaeology 2014).
- 1.1.12 These individual WSI documents were compiled, submitted to and approved by WCAS, acting on behalf of the LPA, prior to fieldwork commencing.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site covered c. 440m² and was located on the south side of Salt Lane towards the north-eastern edge of the medieval city of Salisbury (**Figure 1**). A terrace of Victorian houses adjoined the Site to the west and the premises of Salisbury Printing to the east. The former building comprised a flat roofed structure, erected in the 1960s, which occupied a footprint of c. 100m². The rear of the Site was accessed from the east where an asphalt area provided car parking spaces.
- 1.2.2 Salt Lane falls gently from east to west to the flood plain of the River Avon, on which the majority of the medieval city of Salisbury was constructed. The Site lay at a height of c. 48m aOD (above Ordnance Datum).
- 1.2.3 The Site is mapped as the Higher Terrace Gravel of the Avon valley, lying above Upper Chalk of the Cretaceous Period (Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 298). The soils within Salisbury are Calcareous Alluvial Gley Soils (Frome) and the surrounding countryside is composed of Brown Rendzina (Andover 1) and bands of Typical Brown Calcareous Earths (Coombe 1) (Soil Survey of England and Wales Sheet 6, 1983). The Site is near the confluence of the Rivers Avon, Nadder and Wyle.



2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The Site lay within surroundings that are of high historical and archaeological potential. 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 known as Chequers. The Site was situated in the north-eastern corner of the medieval city, on the north side of the Griffin Chequer, which is bounded to the south by Winchester Street, to the east by Greencroft Street, to the north by Salt Lane and to the west by St Edmunds Church Street.
- 2.1.2 A small number of scattered prehistoric, Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon finds and isolated features have been recorded throughout Salisbury. Find spots within the wider study area include important concentrations of Palaeolithic hand-axes to the east of the Site (Milford Hill). Closer to the Site an early Anglo-Saxon inhumation cemetery is also recorded.
- 2.1.3 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).
- 2.1.4 The principal interest of the Griffin Chequer was as a part of the medieval planned layout. The chequer lay immediately west of the earthen ramparts of the medieval city defences, part of which survive as a Scheduled Monument (SM 736).
- 2.1.5 Important and well-preserved medieval buildings have been surveyed to the north, south and west. To the north of Bedwin Street/Bourne Hill is the Council House located on the site of the former College of St Edmunds, which was originally founded in conjunction with St Edmunds Church in 1269. The Wyndham family built the core of the present building in 1670 to which subsequent additions and alterations were made.
- 2.1.6 The earliest known depiction of Salisbury is on Speed's map of 1611. This map is unclear as to the extent of development within the Griffin Chequer, which is depicted as a triangular area by that time.
- 2.1.7 Historic mapping dating from 1711 (William Naish) is more accurate and reliable. This survey indicates occupation along the Salt Lane frontage, but shows a gap in the tenements immediately east of the Site. This feature is replicated at the south end of Greencroft Street and at the south end of St Edmund's Church Street. This feature is distinctive in the Griffin Chequer and may have been incorporated into the layout to provide a full tenement length to properties at the corners of the chequer.
- 2.1.8 The first edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map shows that by 1879 this gap had been closed and structures filled the entire length of Salt Lane. The Site is occupied by a building with a garden/orchard to the rear of the property, and appears to span two tenements. This layout was retained on all subsequent mapping until 1953, suggesting that the building occupying the Site at that time was of 19th century date, at least.
- 2.1.9 The OS map of 1971 shows the Site occupied by the recently demolished 1960s building. In addition, the southern half of the Site had been developed separately, apparently accessed from Greencroft Street.



2.2 Recent investigations in the area

- 2.2.1 A series of excavations and watching briefs have been undertaken in and adjoining the Griffin Chequer in the early part of this century. Excavations at 69 Greencroft Street, on the north side of the Griffin Chequer, recorded footings from two 13th–14th-century buildings on the street frontage at a depth of approximately 1m below the ground surface (Butterworth 2005). These adjacent buildings continued in use into the post-medieval period through various alterations and developments.
- 2.2.2 A watching brief in St Edmunds Church Street, on the south side of the chequer, revealed a number of archaeological features comprising medieval and post-medieval refuse pits, including one pit with a large quantity of horse skulls, four wells and post-medieval walls (Wessex Archaeology 2013a). The results of the watching brief appear to demonstrate a prolonged phase of activity throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods, whilst the nature of the archaeology suggests industrial activity, with the horse skulls indicating a possible nearby knacker's yard/glue factory and a worked red deer antler perhaps reflecting craft-industries using animal by-products.
- 2.2.3 The most recent work was undertaken immediately north of the Site, in the summer of 2013, in advance of redevelopment for residential use within the Vanners Chequer. These excavations provided an intermittent transect across the chequer, from the north side of Salt Lane to Bedwin Street (Wessex Archaeology 2013b; **Figure 1**). The excavation produced a wealth of settlement evidence dating from the medieval, post-medieval and 19th-century periods. Of particular significance was the evidence of medieval housing/occupation, with intact floor levels, some originating from the 13th and 14th centuries, facing directly on to Salt Lane. The footprints of the medieval dwellings saw extensive modification and their development continued throughout the post-medieval period and into the modern era.
- 2.2.4 Archaeological features recorded included walls, floor surfaces, hearths, wells, chalk-lined pits/latrines, property boundaries comprising both ditches and walls, and evidence of extensive 'brick earth' quarrying during the medieval period. The evidence for quarrying, to provide raw material for walls and floors, provided invaluable information to indicate that Salt Lane was not developed as a single phase contemporary with the establishment of the city, but that parts of the outlying city margins remained undeveloped until the 15th–16th centuries.
- 2.2.5 Due to the excavation being undertaken across virtually the whole width of the Vanners Chequer, it was able to provide extensive evidence relating to the development of the chequer through the alignment of property boundaries, many of which could be correlated with those still existing within the chequer today.
- 2.2.6 Of particular relevance to the post-medieval and modern era was the identification of a house on Salt Lane belonging to the pipemakers Morgan and later Skeames who produced clay tobacco pipes at the site from the mid 18th to the late 19th century. Numerous clay pipe wasters were found during the excavation in what would have been the back yard and possibly work area of the house, along with unused pipe clay.
- 2.2.7 The programme of work in the Vanners Chequer provided not only significant archaeological data, but also confirmed that in places archaeological deposits survived in good condition on Salt Lane despite Victorian cellars and modern development removing evidence in other parts.



3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

3.1.1 The archaeological works aimed to provide further information concerning the presence/absence, date, nature and extent of any buried archaeological remains on the Site and to investigate and record these within the constraints of the proposed development. Specific detailed aims were to:

- Record the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be disturbed by development.
- Identify, within the constraints of the development, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the Site.
- Assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological buried deposits and the inter-relationships with one another.
- Assess the potential for activity and settlement on the Site from the Palaeolithic through to the medieval/post-medieval period
- To record any remains pertaining to the medieval planning or later development of the Griffin Chequer through total or sample excavation with supplementary watching brief
- Produce a post excavation report appropriate to the level of archaeological mitigation undertaken (e.g. assessment report, watching brief report) and subsequent publication at least to summary level in the local archaeological journal, which will present the results of the archaeological work in their local and regional context

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

3.2.1 The WSI provided a comprehensive methodology for fieldwork and recording including issues relating to Health and Safety, contamination and identification and location of all below/above ground services. In addition it contained clauses to deal with the unexpected discovery of human remains and treasure.

3.2.2 The initial aim of the investigation was to determine the extent, date, character and significance of archaeological resources that might survive within the footprint of the proposed redevelopment in order that their subsequent treatment could be agreed with WCAS.

3.2.3 Following demolition and clearance of the former building to ground level, the final phases of demolition were subject to an archaeological watching brief. This strategy was designed to ensure that grubbing–out of foundations, which might cause irreversible damage to archaeological resources, was suspended and not resumed until archaeological excavations had been completed.

3.2.4 The watching brief comprised initial excavation using a tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket to remove overburden and expose the uppermost levels of any archaeological resources. Machining ceased at this point.

3.2.5 Significant archaeological resources were preserved *in situ* until an appropriate strategy and timetable for their treatment had been agreed with the WCAS. However, exploratory work was conducted across the entire redevelopment area sufficient to establish the extent and preservation of deposits across the whole Site.



- 3.2.6 Following on-site discussions of the results of this phase of work a mitigation strategy was agreed with WCAS to address the impact of the proposed redevelopment of the Site.
- 3.2.7 Subsequent to this, all overburden was removed systematically by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or natural geology, whichever was encountered first.
- 3.2.8 All machine work was conducted under constant archaeological supervision and ceased as soon as significant evidence was revealed.
- 3.2.9 The excavation area was then cleaned by hand, planned and photographed prior to any hand-excavation. All stratified deposits were excavated by hand.
- 3.2.10 A series of strategically placed interconnecting transects were set out across the Site, then excavated and recorded to reconstruct the complete stratigraphic sequence, intersecting where possible each feature type, including walls, floors, pits and ditches. This strategy was adopted to guarantee that a representative sample of features and deposits was achieved within the Site and provide the best opportunity for the recovery of dating evidence.

3.3 Recording

- 3.3.1 All exposed archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording sheets and recording system.
- 3.3.2 Areas under archaeological investigation were surveyed using a Total Station, located to the OS national grid and calibrated with Ordnance Datum (aOD) heights.
- 3.3.3 A complete drawn record of excavated archaeological features and deposits was compiled, including both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections). Individual graphics were tied to the OS grid and to Ordnance Datum (OD) heights and plans/sections annotated accordingly.
- 3.3.4 A full digital colour photographic record was maintained illustrating the detail and general context of the principal features, finds excavated, and the Site as a whole.
- 3.3.5 Progress of the excavation was recorded in a day book.

3.4 Monitoring

- 3.4.1 Provision was made with Bargate Homes Limited for reasonable access to the Site for representatives of the LPA and WCAS. This agreement was for the purposes of monitoring work and progress on Site to ensure that the terms of the WSI were implemented correctly.
- 3.4.2 Following completion of the work to the satisfaction of the WCAS the Site was formally signed off and handed over for redevelopment.

3.5 Finds

- 3.5.1 All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, except those from features or deposits of obviously modern date. In these circumstances a sufficient sample of artefacts was retained to confirm the date and/or function of the feature or deposit.



- 3.5.2 Spoil from the machine excavation was stockpiled on Site, but, being unstratified and multi-period, was not examined for artefacts.
- 3.5.3 All retained artefacts were bagged and labelled on site with their appropriate context details and returned to Wessex Archaeology's offices, where they were washed, weighed, counted and identified.

3.6 Environmental

- 3.6.1 Arrangements were included in the WSI to ensure that bulk environmental samples should be taken from appropriate deposits and features. The sampling strategy was developed with the Wessex Archaeology environmental manager and according to English Heritage guidelines. Well-sealed and dated or datable archaeological features were sampled for plant macro-fossils (charred and/or waterlogged and wood charcoal), small animal bones and small artefacts.
- 3.6.2 Bulk environmental soil samples were processed by flotation and scanned to assess the environmental potential of deposits and recommendations made regarding appropriate samples that merit full analysis. The residues and sieved fractions were recorded and retained with the project archive.
- 3.6.3 Assessment analysis of charcoal was carried out as a means of obtaining useful data on species availability, management and exploitation as domestic or industrial fuel.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The preliminary watching brief achieved its aims in confirming that significant archaeological deposits were present on the Site and established their extent sufficient to safeguard them against destruction during site clearance.
- 4.1.2 Undisturbed archaeological deposits survived only at the western end of 42–44 Salt Lane. Additional machine-dug investigations at the east end of the Site demonstrated that this area had been totally destroyed by the construction of a Victorian cellar.
- 4.1.3 The results of the watching brief were sufficient, therefore, to demonstrate that the deposits at the west end of the Site were of sufficient importance and well-preserved to necessitate full excavation before redevelopment of the Site could proceed.
- 4.1.4 The excavated area covered approximately 9.4 m N–S by 7 m E–W at the west end of the Site. The Victorian cellar which lay at the east end extended 8 m N–S from the Salt Lane frontage and measured 5.2 m E–W (**Figure 1**).
- 4.1.5 Removal of overburden during the watching brief demonstrated that the undisturbed archaeological deposits were relatively close to the surface of the Site. However, the preservation of Victorian deposits indicated that the sequence was relatively complete and had been little disturbed by the construction of the 1960s building (**Figures 2 and 3**).
- 4.1.6 The excavation strategy employed a number of interconnecting hand-dug transects to resolve the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of the Site. These transects extended from the south end of the Site, beyond the anticipated rear of the street frontage buildings, to link with deposits on the Salt Lane frontage (**Figure 4**).



4.1.7 The results revealed a number of distinct phases of activity documenting use and occupation on the Site. These phases are described below with approximate dates, where they can be given. The precise detail of this development sequence remains unclear, having been complicated by modifications to the structural remains, likely changes to the lay-out of the tenements and the scarcity of closely datable material. Much of the basic structural chronology has been determined by the presence or absence of bricks.

4.1.8 A subsequent watching brief undertaken on March 17 2014, during service connections to the north within Salt Lane itself, revealed mainly disturbed ground (as far as could be seen) with nothing of interest relating to the excavated sequences to the north and south.

4.2 Natural deposits

4.2.1 The geological sequence was seen in three foundation pits that were dug against the tenement boundary wall of No. 40 Salt Lane after the completion of the archaeological excavation. These three machine-dug pits were spaced approximately 4 m apart and were approximately 1 m square.

4.2.2 They revealed that the basal deposit comprised laminated chalky sand and silt, which occurred at depths that varied between 0.9 m, approximately 46.4 m OD, below the trench surface at the south side of the trench and 1.3 m, approximately 46 m OD, on the street frontage.

4.2.3 These fluvial deposits were overlain by a deposit of mid orange-brown silt 'brick earth' (**158**), identical to that seen on the north side of Salt Lane.

4.3 Phase 1 (13th–14th century)

4.3.1 The upper surface of the natural 'brick earth' (**158**), as revealed in excavated transects across the Site, was relatively level and could be traced across most of the trench from the south side, where it lay at approximately 47.1 m OD (**Figure 4**). However, the surface dropped sharply to approximately 46.6 m OD on the north side parallel with the street frontage, where the 'brick earth' had been dug or quarried away. Similar variations were noted in the surface of the 'brick earth' in the central part of the trench, where the base of the archaeological deposits was encountered at 46.73 m OD. The absence of any clear traces of a former subsoil or topsoil suggests that at some point the entire area had been stripped or reduced in surface height.

4.3.2 The area that had been quarried away at the street frontage was oriented E–W with a flat base and regular sloping sides. The sides of the feature were exposed at two points [**185** and **202**] along its length and the base, as revealed in slot (**185**), was exposed for approximately 1.2 m N–S (**Figure 4**).

4.3.3 In the absence of a northern edge it seems most likely that this feature represents a quarry pit similar to those recorded in the excavations on the north side of Salt Lane (Wessex Archaeology 2013b). These features, which were of a comparable depth to that on the south side of Salt Lane, were considered to have been 'brick earth' extraction pits for use in daub and more frequently for floors.

4.3.4 It is currently not possible to confirm whether extraction of 'brick earth' pre-dated what is now Salt Lane or respected the line of the road as surveyed in the layout of the chequer.

4.3.5 The cessation of quarrying and subsequent development of the Site was marked by a phase during which the land surface was made-up using redeposited 'brick earth' (**157**, **178**, **186**, **195** and **201**; **Figure 4**). The contact surface at the base of the quarry and the

redeposited sediment was clear and showed no indication of a significant time lapse between the two events. The extensive and homogeneous nature of the deposit, together with the clear lack of artefacts, supports the notion that this material was deliberate infill rather than individual pit fills.

- 4.3.6 Dating evidence was scarce, but included isolated sherds of 13th-century pottery, broadly contemporary with assemblages from the base of quarry pits on the north side of Salt Lane. Worked flints of probable Neolithic date were also recovered.

4.4 Phase 2 (15th–16th century)

- 4.4.1 The date of the initial development of the Site is unclear, but is marked by a series of wall fragments (**Figure 2**). Some of these probably relate to the initial medieval tenement boundaries and have been perpetuated throughout the occupation of the Site. At the south end of the trench a deposit of grey silty clay with flints (**131**), approximately 0.22 m thick, occupied a hollow in the redeposited 'brick earth' (**Figure 4**). This feature, which was one of a number of similar features that were present, but not necessarily contemporary, across the Site, also contained sherds of 13th-century pottery.
- 4.4.2 The stratigraphically earliest structural evidence comprised a shallow, mortar wall foundation [**130**], which was aligned N–S and extended 4.7 m northwards from the south edge of the trench. The foundation measured approximately 0.35 m wide and 0.1 m thick, and comprised a deposit of yellow grey mortar.
- 4.4.3 The wall was associated with a series of superimposed make-up layers (**128-9**, **133**), overlain by a fragmentary burnt floor or yard surface (**127**) (**Figure 2**). It is uncertain whether these deposits, which were present only on the west side of the wall foundation, represent an internal floor or an external yard surface.
- 4.4.4 This wall and a subsequent replacement [**138**] define the tenement boundary that can be detected on the most recent OS mapping, and is of similar character to others that were recorded during archaeological excavations within the Vanners Chequer on the north side of Salt Lane (Wessex Archaeology 2013b).
- 4.4.5 It is possible that a series of otherwise undated deposits (**180-4**, **188** and **193**), which include a number of 'floor' surface fragments (**180**, **184**, **188**) and contain areas of discrete burning, can be related to this phase of activity (**Figure 4**). These deposits contained no datable pottery and were seen only where they were cut through by the construction of Phase 5 wall [**141**].

4.5 Phase 3 (16th century)

- 4.5.1 Wall foundation [**130**] was overlain by a deposit of mid brown silty clay (**126**), which was present in sections cut to examine the stratigraphy of deposits at the south end of the Site, beyond the rear of the street frontage tenements.
- 4.5.2 The replacement wall foundation [**138**] ran parallel with and approximately 0.6 m east of wall [**130**] (**Figure 2**). Foundation [**138**] was 0.2 m wide, approximately 0.1 m thick and was constructed of flint nodules, reused tiles and Greensand fragments set in cream coloured mortar.
- 4.5.3 Wall foundation [**138**] extended towards, but stopped approximately 0.6 m short of, a wall foundation [**136** and **163**] of broadly similar character, aligned E–W. Foundation [**136** and **163**] measured approximately 0.5 m wide and 0.07 m thick. It was constructed with a skin

of flint nodules on the north side with reused roof tiles laid horizontally on the south that were bedded in a matrix of cream coloured mortar.

- 4.5.4 Wall foundation [136/163] could be traced for a distance of approximately 3 m from the east edge of the trench before it was cut away by a later wall [120/141]. It is unclear whether foundation [136/163] marked the rear elevation of a building that fronted onto Salt Lane, 5.5 m to the north, or, as suggested by its modest dimensions, part of an ancillary building. Irrespective of its function this wall provided a boundary which subsequent structures appear to have followed.
- 4.5.5 It seems most probable that wall [136/163] was related to a more substantial foundation [111] that was recorded along the present street frontage and which formed part of the tenement foundation to 42–46 Salt Lane (**Figure 2; Plates 1 and 3**).
- 4.5.6 Wall foundation [111] was constructed on a base of pale yellow, well-sorted flint gravel (199) up to 0.35 m thick, which was noted at two locations below the line of the wall. The foundation trench [190] in which this material was laid extended E–W and approximately 0.35 m beyond the wall on the south side, but lay beneath the pavement to the north. The gravel base (199) was capped by a deposit of mid grey brown silty clay (200) which was 0.22 m thick towards the west end of the foundation trench.
- 4.5.7 Wall foundation [111] comprised a series of limestone tabular slabs, up to 0.50 m across and 0.05 m thick, on which the wall itself was built. This was poorly coursed, 0.60 m wide, of unmodified surface flint nodules up to 0.20 m long that were used to form a facing skin, with rubble infill. The build was interspersed with Greensand blocks and occasional chalk lumps. This material was bonded with a cream-coloured mortar mix with chalk flecks.
- 4.5.8 Wall [111] could be traced continuously from the north-west corner of the trench for approximately 8 m before it was truncated by the Victorian cellar to the east. Additional Greensand fragments were observed in the cellar wall, suggesting a former continuation in that direction, although no trace of the [111] survived beyond the cellar. Similarly there was nothing to indicate the location of any return to [111] and there were no traces visible to the south.
- 4.5.9 It seems most probable that wall [111] marks the line of the original façade of the building fronting onto Salt Lane, rather than an internal division that was adopted subsequently as the frontage when the original street was widened.
- 4.5.10 The date of construction for [111] is uncertain, but seems likely to have been in the 15th–16th century. A hearth [164] was found in the north-west corner of the trench (**Figure 2; Plate 1**). The hearth, which butted against the limestone foundation stones of wall [111], measured 1.28 m long, 0.53 m wide and 0.12 m thick. It was constructed of pitched, reused roof tiles, with intermittent bricks, laid perpendicular to wall [111] and set in a foundation bed of silty clay ‘brick earth’, which contained sherds of 15th–16th-century pottery. A single row of tiles laid parallel to the wall formed a clear edge to the rear of the hearth, indicating that it did not form part of an earlier central hearth. A kerb of bricks was laid at the front. This marks the first use of bricks on the Site, there being none in wall [111]. The central area of the hearth was heavily burned.
- 4.5.11 No traces of the chimney structure survived, although it is possible that smoke would have exited through an internal chimney or firehood (Hall 2005), which was becoming more common by the 16th century. Such early chimneys were often constructed of timber and daub and built against the wall, which in Salt Lane may not have been of sufficient thickness and strength (Bob Davis pers. comm.) to incorporate a chimney.

- 4.5.12 A floor surface (**167**) 0.06 m thick that was covered with quantities of charcoal extended from the brick kerb of hearth [**164**] and capped the ‘brick earth’ foundation. The floor surface extended eastwards for a distance of approximately 2.2 m from the west end of the trench before being cut by feature [**168**] containing dark grey/black silty clay (**146**). Isolated pockets of mid red-brown silty clay ‘brick earth’ were present below deposit (**146**), although whether these were residual fragments of the floor make-up layer (**169**) could not be proven.
- 4.5.13 Feature [**168**] was present across the north part of the Site and extended from Phase 5 wall [**141**] eastwards (see below) (**Figure 4**). It could be traced to the south to wall [**136/163**]. Feature [**168**], which was filled with a thick deposit of soil (**146** and its equivalent to the west **176**), was of a similar type and character to that seen on the south side of wall [**136**], which was filled with deposit (**131**).
- 4.5.14 The sides of feature [**168**] sloped down to a flat base that was clearly defined against the redeposited ‘brick earth’ (**157/178/195**) quarry fill below. The deposit was characterised by dark grey/black silty clay and contained decayed chalk pellets and flint grits. The origin and function of feature [**168**] and its contents, which are, in many respects, similar to deposit (**131**), remains an enigma; pottery sherds from all associated contexts were consistently of 13th-century date.
- 4.5.15 A ‘floor’ (**144**) extended north for a distance of approximately 1.5 m from wall [**136**], before being cut away (**Figures 2** and **4**). The ‘floor’ surface was characterised by areas of burning with quantities of hazelnut shells and sloe stones, fish vertebrae and scales. A thin foundation layer of grey-brown ‘brick earth’ (**145**), 0.04 m thick, which also thinned to the north, produced two sherds of pottery, one of medieval date and the other of late 15th–16th-century date.
- 4.5.16 ‘Floor’ (**144**) could not be identified in an excavated section to the west; however, a layer of re-deposited ‘brick earth’ (**165**) of similar character and elevation to layer (**145**) was present, cut through by Phase 5 wall [**141**].
- 4.5.17 A series of superimposed deposits (**180-4**, **188**), which included a number of ‘floor’ surfaces, were recorded in a transect that was excavated to the south of hearth [**164**] (**Figure 4**). These surfaces were at a slightly lower elevation than the hearth and were undated, yet were cut by wall [**141**] of Phase 5.
- 4.6 Phase 4 (16th–17th century)**
- 4.6.1 A short length of wall foundation [**160**], of a similar construction to wall [**111**], was built over the west edge of hearth [**164**] (**Figure 2**). This flint wall foundation was much mutilated by subsequent redevelopment of the adjoining tenement gable and installation of services, making it impossible to establish its precise place in the chronology of the Site. No trace of facing stones survived or of Greensand blocks.
- 4.6.2 Wall foundation [**160**] is placed here in the site sequence principally due to its stratigraphic relationships with the hearth but also because of the absence of brick in the construction and similarities in its bonding and mortar with wall [**111**]. It is important as marking a subdivision of the building and establishing or re-establishing the current tenement boundary lay-out.
- 4.6.3 Similar uncertainties are associated with N–S wall foundation [**205**] at the rear of the Site (**Figure 2**). This wall foundation protruded from beneath the line of the adjoining tenement gable and corresponded with the current division of the tenements. Foundation [**205**], like

[160], was shallow and constructed of flint rubble, possibly reused, within a creamy mortar. It apparently also contained no brick. It provided no more than an expedient foundation for a wall and is, as such, difficult to date. A 19th-century drain surround abutted the foundation at the extreme southern end.

4.7 Phase 5 (17th–18th century)

- 4.7.1 The clearest trace of major structural alterations were evident as an 'L'-shaped division that extended south, as wall [141], for 4.20 m from wall [111] before turning west (recorded as wall [120]) towards the gable end of 40 Salt Lane (**Figure 2**).
- 4.7.2 The southern part of wall [141] was built in a stepped foundation trench [179]. The stepped lower 0.20 m of the trench was revetted using reused roof tiles (**Plate 2**) and the wall constructed from a height of approximately 47.18 m aOD. Towards its northern end wall [141] was laid directly onto a bed of pitched roof tiles.
- 4.7.3 Wall [141] was constructed of closely spaced and coursed flint nodules, including some that were knapped on the interior surface. The wall survived to a height of around 0.3 m. The exterior facing was less well constructed than the interior, suggesting that the wall was built directly against the side of the construction trench. The core of the wall comprised rubble which was bonded in an off-white very chalky mortar. A spread of this material (177), probably construction debris, extended across the base of the construction cut. A similar spill was noted at the base of the wall in the transect to the north (189).
- 4.7.4 The northern end of wall [141], at its junction with wall [111], was formed of hand-made 'Tudor' bricks, 0.37 m thick, which were also employed to form the corner with wall [120] (**Plate 2**) and the western end of wall [120]. This indicates that wall [120] originally terminated, or was interrupted, possibly by a door-way, at this point, and was not truncated by the construction of the adjoining property No. 40 Salt Lane.
- 4.7.5 Wall [120] was of a similar construction to wall [141] but also included two rows of reused roof tiles laid in a herring-bone pattern (**Plate 2**).
- 4.7.6 The use of bricks in corners and wall terminals marks the first general use of this building material in any walls on the Site. The dimensions of these bricks, which appear not to have been reused, indicate a likely 16th–17th-century date.
- 4.7.7 The construction cuts for walls [120] and [141] were backfilled with a series of deposits, of which the upper parts (173 in the excavated transect to the south and 142 to the north) contained pottery of 17th–18th-century date. In addition, it is possible that this phase of redevelopment can be associated with a levelling layer in which fragments of stamped clay tobacco pipes, dated to the mid–late 17th century, were found, immediately south of the corner of walls [120] and [141].
- 4.7.8 A thin bed of fragmentary roof tiles was visible in the southern section of the excavated transect at the north end of the Site. This bed of tiles extended from the construction cut for a large limestone block incorporated into wall [141], towards a 'corridor' [147] that was located approximately 2.5 m to the east of wall [141] (**Figure 2**).
- 4.7.9 This 'corridor' comprised a kerb of reused roof tiles (148), set on edge, with a surface of tiles (150), including some that were fragmentary and others complete. The corridor extended 2.4 m from the south edge of wall [111] and measured approximately 0.7 wide.

- 4.7.10 The western side of this ‘corridor’ comprised what appears to have been a partition wall [149] of clay with an eastern edge of laid roof tiles
- 4.7.11 There was nothing to indicate where the corridor led or what lay to the south, there being no wall at that end. It is possible that any such wall had been destroyed by the construction of the 1960s building in this area.
- 4.7.12 The area to the east of the ‘corridor’ comprised a spread of broken roof tiles (109) (Plate 3) with an underlying bed of clay (110), which also seems likely to represent a foundation for a floor surface.

4.8 Phase 6 (19th century)

- 4.8.1 The final phase of activity for which firm archaeological evidence was represented comprised walls constructed on chalk foundations (Figure 3; Plate 4). Despite the extensive use of this material the inclusion of bricks in the lowest courses of surviving masonry and the stratigraphic position indicate that this phase is probably of 19th-century construction.
- 4.8.2 The phase 6 foundations were most substantial where they formed the base of a fireplace (117) and its chimney [118] aligned with the centre of the roof ridge line of the adjacent tenement. The foundation trench [171] for this chimney was cut through the earlier deposits to a depth of approximately 0.55 m. The position of the fireplace indicates clearly that the former ridge line would have corresponded with that of the adjacent tenement.
- 4.8.3 The foundation [121] forming the rear elevation of the 19th-century building was 0.80 m across and comprised large, roughly hewn blocks of chalk with rubble infill. The foundation extended approximately 2.4 m from the gable of No. 40 Salt Lane before a narrower off-set [115], 0.50 m wide, continued for a further 2.6 m. This wall turned north for approximately 2.8 m before terminating. It is possible, but uncertain, whether a narrow band of chalk rubble (123) that extended east from the north end of foundation [115] represented a heavily truncated fragment of similar wall foundation.
- 4.8.4 A probable outhouse/lean-to [112] with a tiled floor (114) was appended to the south-east corner of wall [115].
- 4.8.5 A chalk-lined well [104], approximately 0.7 m in diameter and capped by a slab of limestone, extended from the east edge of the trench (Plate 3). The well was constructed of faced blocks of chalk and built within a foundation pit [102] approximately 1.6 m across.
- 4.8.6 It was impossible to confirm the chronological relationship of this latest set of foundations with the construction of the brick-lined cellar to the east. Similarly it is, at present, uncertain to what extent this set of foundations can be correlated with individual buildings shown by the OS mapping. Nevertheless it is clear that during the later part of the 19th century most of the Site was apparently occupied by a single property, comprising two conjoined medieval tenements.

5 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A relatively small assemblage was recovered from the Site, ranging in date from medieval to post-medieval, with a few prehistoric artefacts. The assemblage is dominated by ceramics (pottery and ceramic building material) and animal bone. Other material types



occurred only in small quantities. The character of this assemblage is similar, although on a smaller scale, to that recovered from the nearby site between Bedwin Street and Salt Lane (Wessex Archaeology 2013b), including a similar prominence of late medieval/early post-medieval finds (15th/16th century).

5.1.2 Finds have been quantified (count and weight) by material type within each context, and the results are given in **Table 1**. The finds are discussed by material type below.

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

Context	Animal Bone	CBM	Clay Pipe	Metal	Pottery	Shell	Other Finds
103			1/4		1/19		
107	85/1787	12/1071			13/56		
108	6/172			1 Cu; 1 Fe	3/14		
117					2/39		
119				1 Cu			
120		1/2176					
122		1/230			1/23		
124	5/17	4/164	12/35		1/3		1 ceramic 'marble'
125	8/111				2/9		1 burnt flint
131	5/71	5/251			10/170	3/126	
134	1/5		2/9		18/255		2 glass
135	16/269	3/260	1/7	1 Fe	5/43		
141		8/4355					
142	39/184	1/33		2 Fe	7/35	8/107	1 fired clay; 1 glass
143				2 Fe			
145	6/97	6/184			2/20		
146	31/474	17/854		2 Cu	27/419	11/288	2 slag
150		2/827					
164		1/1568			2/8		
165				3 Fe			
167				1 Fe			
169	8/24			4 Fe	3/6	1/6	
173	23/249	2/87		2 Fe	7/53		
175				3 Cu			
176	14/308	1/11			1/40		
178		5/251			1/7		
186	1/77				1/8		7 worked flint; 1 burnt flint
187							1 worked flint
195	7/274	1/144		3 Fe	4/35		
203					3/44		
TOTAL	255/4119	70/12466	16/55	7 Cu; 19 Fe	114/1306	23/527	

CBM = ceramic building material; Cu = copper alloy; Fe = iron



5.2 Pottery

- 5.2.1 The assemblage is entirely of medieval to post-medieval date. Condition of the assemblage is fragmentary, but generally fair – levels of surface and edge abrasion are low to moderate. Mean sherd weight overall is 11.5g.
- 5.2.2 The whole assemblage has been quantified (sherd count and weight) by ware type. All of these are known types (e.g. Laverstock-type coarseware, Raeren stoneware). Totals by ware type are given in **Table 2**.

Table 2: Pottery totals by ware type

PERIOD	Ware	No. Sherds	Weight (g)
Medieval	Crockerton-type sandy ware	1	9
	Laverstock-type fineware	12	140
	Laverstock-type coarseware	40	590
	Donyatt-type slipware	1	5
	<i>sub-total medieval</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>744</i>
Late medieval/early post-medieval	Tudor Green	18	43
	Early Verwood	8	94
	Post-medieval redware	4	67
	Raeren stoneware	5	68
	<i>sub-total late med/early post-med</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>272</i>
Post-medieval	Verwood-type earthenware	22	257
	Tinglazed earthenware	1	23
	Staffs-type marbled slipware	1	6
	Border ware	1	4
	<i>sub-total post-medieval</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>290</i>
	OVERALL TOTAL	114	1306

- 5.2.3 Pottery derived from a number of contexts, mainly floor, make-up, levelling and other layers – there were no groups from cut features. Given this provenance, and the small quantities involved (the highest number of sherds from any context was 27, and most contexts yielded less than ten sherds), the pottery can only be used confidently as a *terminus post quem*, rather than as firm dating evidence.

Medieval

- 5.2.4 As might be expected, the medieval assemblage is dominated by local products: coarsewares and (in smaller quantities) finewares comparable to the products of the 13th to early 14th-century kilns at Laverstock just outside the city (Musty *et al.* 1969; Musty *et al.* 2001). These wares are ubiquitous in the city from its early 13th-century foundation onwards. The coarsewares, as seen here, were used primarily for jars. There is one possible dish rim (floor make-up layer **145**), a pipkin handle (layer **146**), and a short, tubular spout, perhaps from a spouted pitcher (layer **131**), although these vessels rarely continued in use beyond the end of the 12th century. One body sherd with thin red-painted slip decoration is probably from a jug (layer **146**).

- 5.2.5 The finewares represent glazed jugs, although there is only one example here of a decorated vessel, with trailed slip and applied stamped pellets (layer **146**).
- 5.2.6 There are just two medieval sherds which represent non-local sources. The first is the rim from a jar in a relatively fine-grained, micaceous sandy fabric, possibly from the Crockerton production centre near Warminster (made ground **142**), and the second is a body sherd from a jug, green glazed over white slip, comparable to products of the Donyatt production centre (layer **195**). Both these vessels are likely to be of 13th or 14th-century date.

Late medieval/post-medieval

- 5.2.7 Ceramic groups from the late 15th and 16th centuries are scarce within the city, but have been identified on a few sites, including the nearby site to the north of Salt Lane (Wessex Archaeology 2013b). These 15th/16th-century groups are characterised by the presence of 'Tudor Green' vessels from the Surrey/Hampshire border industry, often accompanied by a 'transitional' late Laverstock- or early Verwood-type ware, and Raeren stoneware. Examples are seen here in several contexts, and also include a few sherds of coarse glazed redwares, possibly locally made.

Post-medieval

- 5.2.8 The post-medieval group consists largely of sherds of Verwood-type earthenwares from east Dorset. These have a currency from at least the mid 17th century and extending as late as the mid 20th century, but the absence of any other wares here later than 18th century suggests that these sherds have a more restricted date range. The other post-medieval sherds include single examples of Surrey Border ware (17th/early 18th century), Staffordshire-type marbled slipware, and tinglazed earthenware, all with a date range of 17th to early 18th century.

5.3 Ceramic building material (CBM)

- 5.3.1 This category includes roof tile, floor tile and brick. Roof tile is predominant (65 fragments), and this group consists mainly of flat peg tile fragments. These all appear to be of medieval type, occurring in coarse, poorly-wedged fabrics, often pale-firing, and containing prominent iron oxide and clay pellet inclusions. Tiles of this type are ubiquitous throughout the city from its earliest foundation. Their source is presumed to be local and one manufacturing centre is documented at Alderbury from the mid 14th to the late 15th century (Hare 1991), but either this or some other local source must have been supplying the city at an earlier date. Two peg tiles preserve measurable widths, both from wall **[141]**, where they were presumably reused (170 mm and 180 mm respectively), and there are a number of glazed fragments, deriving from the lower (visible) part of the tiles.
- 5.3.2 There are also two fragments, also glazed, from medieval ridge tiles; the larger of these, from floor layer **[150]**, retains part of the applied crest. These ridge tiles could have been made at the Laverstock pottery production centre (Musty *et al.* 1969, 140).
- 5.3.3 Samples of bricks were taken from walls **[120]** and **[141]**, and hearth **[164]**. All three are unfrosted, and handmade in coarse fabrics. Those from the two walls are relatively thin (225-30 x 110 x 40-5 mm); their dimensions fall within the expected range for early post-medieval bricks, and would be consistent with a date range in the 16th or 17th century (Drury 2009, 140, TB2/3). The same is true for the brick sample from hearth **[164]** (55 mm in depth).

5.4 Clay tobacco pipe

- 5.4.1 The clay pipe consists largely of plain stem fragments. In levelling layer (**124**), however, were two pipes marked with their makers' marks: a bowl of mid to late 17th-century form with a 'gauntlet' heel stamp of the debased form known as the 'monkey's paw' (the pipemaking Gauntlet family of Amesbury made pipes throughout the 17th century, and they were widely copied); and a stem with the stamp of Thomas Hunt, working in Marlborough c. 1667-96 (Atkinson 1965, 92-3, fig. 2, no. 61).

5.5 Metalwork

- 5.5.1 The metalwork includes objects of copper alloy and iron. The ironwork in particular is in poor condition, and all objects are heavily corroded.
- 5.5.2 The iron appears to consist almost entirely of nails and other structural items (such as joiners' dogs). The copper alloy includes a tap (floor surface **119**), two pins (layer **175**), and a wire loop fastener of late medieval/early post-medieval type (layer **175**; Margeson 1993, 20, no. 101). A ring with a diameter of 43 mm (made ground **108**) is of unknown function.

5.6 Animal bone

- 5.6.1 The assemblage comprises 255 fragments (or 4.119kg) of animal bone, once conjoins are taken into account this fall to 239 fragments (**Table 3**). Bone fragments were recovered by hand from fifteen separate contexts of medieval and post-medieval date. In addition, during the processing of bulk soil samples for the recovery of charred plant remains and charcoal, some small animal and fish bones were recorded in the flots (see **Table 4**).

Table 3: Animal bone: number of identified specimens present (or NISP) by period

Species	Medieval	Post-medieval	Total
cattle	16	23	39
sheep/goat	11	50	61
pig		5	5
horse	1		1
fallow deer		1	1
domestic fowl	4	5	9
goose		4	4
duck		1	1
ling		1	1
unidentified	22	95	117
Total	54	185	239

- 5.6.2 The assemblage was rapidly scanned and the following information recorded where applicable: species, skeletal element, preservation condition, fusion and tooth ageing data, butchery marks, metrical data, gnawing, burning, surface condition, pathology and non-metric traits. This information was directly recorded into a relational database (in MS Access) and cross-referenced with relevant contextual information.

Preservation condition

- 5.6.3 Bone preservation is on the whole very good - cortical surfaces are intact and surface details such fine knife cuts are clear and easily observed. Gnaw marks were noted on only

c. 3% of post-cranial bones, which suggests that scavenging dogs did not have open access to bone waste, perhaps because any surface detritus was removed or buried rather than left to accumulate.

Medieval

- 5.6.4 The medieval assemblage comprises 54 fragments of bone, 59% of which are identifiable to species and skeletal element. Most of the identified bones belong to cattle and sheep, both of which are represented by a range of different skeletal elements. Complete sheep mandibles were recovered from layer (146) and garden soil (176), and these are from animals aged between four to six years (MWS G, after Payne 1973). Less common species include domestic fowl and horse. In addition, small numbers of fish vertebrae and scales were present in the bulk samples from floor surfaces (144) and (167) and from layer (146).

Post-medieval

- 5.6.5 The post-medieval assemblage comprises 185 fragments, 49% of which are identifiable to species and skeletal element. Bone fragments were recovered from ten separate contexts, and relatively large numbers (c. 65% of the total) were retrieved from layer 107 and made ground (142).
- 5.6.6 Sheep bones dominate that assemblage, and account for 56% NISP (see **Table 3**). Most parts of the mutton carcass are represented in the assemblage including both cranial and post-cranial fragments. The post-cranial bones are from both immature and adult animals, and age information obtained from three complete mandibles indicates the presence of sheep aged between three to four, and six to eight years (MWS F and H).
- 5.6.7 Cattle bones are also relatively common and a large concentration were noted from layer (107). The range of cattle skeletal elements suggests that mixed waste from different sources, including both butchery and domestic consumption. Most of the cattle bones are from skeletally mature animals, although a few calf bones were also noted, indicating that veal was occasionally available. Measurements taken on a complete metacarpal provided a withers (or shoulder) height estimate of 1.3m.
- 5.6.8 Less common species include pig, domestic fowl, goose, fallow deer, duck and ling. One of the goose bones from levelling layer (169) is from a juvenile bird, and 'green geese', as they are commonly referred to, are generally eaten between May and June (Serjeantson 2002, 42; Stone 2006, 152).

5.7 Marine shell

- 5.7.1 The marine shell consists entirely of oyster. Both right and left valves are represented, i.e. both preparation and consumption waste. The shell is in poor condition, flaking and soft, and no shells retain original measurable dimensions.

5.8 Other finds

- 5.8.1 Other finds comprise very small quantities of prehistoric worked flint (seven waste flakes and one scraper); burnt, unworked flint (unknown date and function); fired clay (ceramic 'marble' and small piece of brass-founding waste); glass (post-medieval window glass and possible drinking vessel fragments); and metalworking debris (ironworking slag).



6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A series of five bulk samples were taken from a range of floor surfaces (**144**, **167** and **188**), layer (**146**) and a possible hearth [**193**]. These samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and wood charcoal.

6.2 Charred plant remains

6.2.1 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2 mm and 1 mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. The 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) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, tables 3, page 28 and 5, page 65), for cereals.

Table 4: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Samples				Flot							
Feature	Context	Sam Ple	Vol. Ltrs	Flot (ml)	% roots	Charred Plant Remains				Charcoal >4/2mm	Other
						Grain	Chaff	Other	Comments		
Floor surface	144	1	8	45	3	-	-	A	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell and <i>Prunus spinosa</i> stone frags	3/8 ml	Sab/f (A) Moll-t (C)
Layer	146	2	20	35	3	A	-	B	Free-threshing wheat and Barley grain frags, <i>Avena/Bromus</i> , <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Galium</i> , <i>Rumex</i>	5/7 ml	Sab/f (A), min. matter (C)
Floor surface	167	3	10	40	3	C	-	-	Free-threshing wheat grain frags. Mature and round wood frags	10/5 ml	Sab/f (B)
Floor surface	188	4	5	225	2	C	-	C	Indet. grain frags, <i>Chenopodium</i> , <i>Rumex</i> , Mature and round wood frags	65/50 ml	Sab (C), Moll-t (C)
?Hearth	193	5	9	5	5	C	-	C	Indet. grain frag, <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	<1/<1 ml	Sab (C)

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

6.2.2 The flots varied in size with only low numbers of roots and modern seeds. Charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation.

6.2.3 Cereal remains were observed in four of the samples, in a moderately high quantity in the sample from layer (**146**). These remains included grain fragments of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum turgidum/aestivum* type) and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*).

6.2.4 The sample from floor surface (**144**) produced high numbers of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell and sloe (*Prunus spinosa*) stone fragments. The low numbers of weed seeds observed in the assemblages included seeds of oat/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* sp.), vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.), bedstraw (*Galium* sp.), docks (*Rumex* sp.) and goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.).



6.2.5 These species can be found in grassland, wasteland and arable environments. There are similarities between these small assemblages and those recorded from other sites in Salisbury (Hinton 2000: 2005).

6.3 Wood charcoal

6.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Table 4**. A large quantity of wood charcoal fragments greater than 4 mm was retrieved from floor surface (**188**). The wood charcoal assemblage included both mature and round wood fragments.

6.4 Land snails

6.4.1 A few molluscs were observed while assessing the bulk samples. Nomenclature is according to Anderson (2005) and habitat preferences according to Kerney (1999).

6.4.2 A small number of shells of the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus* were noted in the samples from floor surfaces (**144**) and (**188**). The sample from floor surface (**188**) also included a specimen of *Succinea/Oxyloma* sp., marsh species.

7 SITE DISCUSSION

7.1.1 The archaeological aims of the excavation were to record and chart the sequence of occupation at 42–44 Salt Lane, part of the Griffin Chequer of medieval Salisbury. This has been achieved although unresolved issues remain in the chronological detail in places as a result of uncertain stratigraphic relationships.

7.1.2 The earliest traces of activity are provided by residual, probably Neolithic worked flints, which are likely to have been introduced to the Site with material used to backfill quarry pits in the natural 'brick earth'. Exploitation of the 'brick earth' has been established as an important feature of the earliest medieval activity in this part of Salisbury on the north side of Salt Lane in the Vanners Chequer (Wessex Archaeology 2013b).

7.1.3 This raw material formed an important component of medieval timber-framed houses, used to both manufacture daub and to provide material for clay floors. Relatively small quantities of pottery from these quarry pits suggest that this exploitation was of 13th–14th-century date. This is consistent with the chronology established in the Vanners Chequer, although a sherd of 15th–16th-century pottery was found in the deposit towards the west of the Site.

7.1.4 Significantly, there is nothing to indicate that any structures were in place on the Site at that time, suggesting that the Site may have remained unoccupied until the 15th or 16th centuries, although it is possible that property or cultivation divisions were present. This trend is reflected in the pottery assemblage and is largely consistent with the pattern recorded on the north side of Salt Lane (Wessex Archaeology 2013b) and is exemplified by a wall [**130**] on a N–S axis in the southern part of the Site. Based on the alignment, its dimensions and comparable walls on the north side of Salt Lane, this wall seems most likely to represent a tenement boundary wall.

7.1.5 The area to the west of wall [**130**] comprised a series of make-up layers within which pottery was scarce, although that present was of medieval (13th+ century) date. It seems most probable that this area was used as a yard. No traces of occupation were present to the east of the wall.

- 7.1.6 The tenement boundary wall did not extend to the street frontage, but terminated and was replaced by a wall [138] on a similar alignment and of similar construction, probably early in the 16th century. This wall apparently related to a more robust, but none-the-less also relatively insubstantial wall foundation [136/163], which was aligned E–W.
- 7.1.7 Wall [136/163] marked a line that has remained more or less unaltered in subsequent building arrangements. It is unclear whether this wall was part of a building, representing the rear wall of an outhouse or lean-to, or a property or cultivation boundary.
- 7.1.8 The most substantial structural foundation on the Site was found on the line of the present street frontage. Wall [111] was of sufficient size and substance to have been reused in subsequent redevelopments of the Site into the 19th century.
- 7.1.9 The construction date of these two walls [111 and 136/163] aligned E–W is uncertain, but a 15th–16th-century date is suggested. Their composition was predominantly of flint, with supplementary use of chalk and Greensand in the wall on the street frontage. This is often considered to be indicative of medieval walls in Salisbury.
- 7.1.10 The wall [111] on the street frontage was linked to a hearth (164), and well-used internal floor surface (167), which was built against the foundation and, therefore, contemporary or later than the wall. The construction date of the hearth was established by sherds of 15th or 16th-century pottery that were found in its make-up. The hearth also made limited use of ‘Tudor’ bricks, which were absent in the street frontage wall, and which may reflect innovative use of this material in the hearth.
- 7.1.11 Given the absence of any contradictory evidence in the form of earlier floors or associated artefacts, it is concluded that hearth [164] and floor (167) were probably contemporary.
- 7.1.12 Evidence for use of the Site up to the 15th–16th centuries is, therefore, slight, with few floor surfaces or convincing structures. The most obvious conclusion is that the Site remained unoccupied, possibly as open cultivated ground interspersed with yards. Large areas of the Site were composed of undifferentiated ‘soil’, which filled ‘hollows’ in the made-up ground.
- 7.1.13 These areas of ‘soil-filled hollows’ contained only medieval pottery, which accounts for 24% of the total pottery assemblage from the excavation, making it difficult to argue for any other date for this deposit. To the south the soil respected the undated E–W wall line [136/163], apparently post-dating it, yet one of the hollows (168) cut through the floor surface (167) associated with the Tudor hearth (164) at a point beneath a later 16th–17th-century wall [160].
- 7.1.14 The problem therefore arises about how best to explain the apparent reversed stratigraphy whereby the medieval ‘soil’ post-dates a post-medieval hearth.
- 7.1.15 One way of resolving this stratigraphic conundrum, without invoking the concept of material being introduced, can be made by suggesting that the 16th–17th-century wall [160] replaced an earlier wall, of similar character and date to the E–W wall [136/163] to the south, which remained in use until the 16th or 17th century. Any deposits to the east of this putative wall were removed to construct the Tudor hearth.
- 7.1.16 This interpretation also makes it possible to account for the series of superimposed but undated deposits, including ‘floor’ surfaces that were cut by 16th–17th-century wall [141]. These deposits have been included above with those of Phase 3 primarily on their discontinuous nature with areas of burning, although they may equally relate to Phase 4

activity. In either case it suggests that the line of the ‘missing wall’ may mark the eastern edge of an ‘earlier’ phase of occupation towards the eastern end of the south side of Salt Lane in much the same way that occupation on the north side was also multi-period and episodic.

- 7.1.17 Examination of the OS mapping for 1880 also suggests that a greater degree of tenement subdivision, redevelopment and realignment has taken place on the south side of Salt Lane than on the north. This is especially noticeable at the west end of the Site where the line of a tenement boundary projected from the north side of Salt Lane (where the mapped subdivisions are more consistent) passes through the approximate line of the ‘missing wall’. Such a model would also account for the anomaly of the hearth [164] at the junction of the present tenement layout.
- 7.1.18 While neither of the suggested reconstructions is entirely satisfactory, the discussion above suggests that the former, postulating an earlier and now ‘missing’ wall, has distinct merits. It provides some explanation for the recorded sequence and the ‘soil deposits’ within an acceptable chronology. It also allocates a 15th–16th-century date, courtesy of a single sherd of pottery, to a thin floor surface (144) which overlay the ‘soil’ and which extended to the E–W wall [136/163] at the south. This floor probably represented an outhouse or yard surface, which was truncated to the north by later developments. The proposed sequence also allows for the wall [111] on the street frontage to be potentially earlier than Tudor hearth [164].
- 7.1.19 This phase of activity is tentatively linked to the construction of wall [136/163] to the south, which was related to an internal floor (144), the make-up of which contained a sherd contemporary with the construction of hearth [164].
- 7.1.20 The location of the Tudor hearth [164] in the north-west corner of the Site, immediately adjacent to the adjoining tenement, provides an interesting anomaly within the present layout of the tenements. It suggests that some properties on Salt Lane were once larger, possibly occupying two tenement blocks, and were subdivided subsequently.
- 7.1.21 The location of the hearth relative to the present street frontage also deserves consideration. It is possible that it was originally located within the central part of the building and its current position results from widening of a once narrower street. Alternatively, and perhaps more attractively, the hearth may have been positioned in the gable end of a range that extended back from the street frontage. At any event it seems difficult to envisage its position within a timber-framed jettied façade.
- 7.1.22 The later phases of the occupation are clearer. They comprised two walls of flint, tile and brick [120/141], of probable 17th-century date, to the west and a series of floor foundations of broken tile fragments and a tile ‘corridor’ to the east. These may be contemporary or post-date the two walls.
- 7.1.23 The final phase of occupation as represented in the archaeology largely comprised chalk rubble foundations, apparently supporting a brick structure. This phase which also included a fireplace, a probable outhouse floored with roof tiles, and a chalk-lined well are likely to be of 19th-century date.
- 7.1.24 In conclusion, archaeological evidence from recent excavations in both the Vanners Chequer and the Griffin Chequer suggests that the east end of Salt Lane remained relatively undeveloped until the later medieval or early post-medieval periods. This may to some extent be confirmed by the total absence of wells from the Site until the 19th century.



- 7.1.25 The belated development of this particular part of the city may relate to a number of factors; a location on the periphery of the city, on a lane that was not a major thoroughfare, and a point that was overlooked by the city ramparts.
- 7.1.26 This pattern mirrors much of the detail depicted on early mapping. Speed's map of 1611 remains somewhat sketchy, but nevertheless shows incomplete development of these chequers. Naish's survey of 1711 or 1716 is more informative, confirming the archaeological evidence that both sides of Salt Lane had been developed by that time. Significantly, although the OS maps show that the south side of Salt Lane enjoyed almost unbroken development by the later 19th century, Naish documented a break in the street frontage in the NE corner, immediately adjacent to the Site. It is possible that this is reflected in the almost total lack of archaeological activity at the east end of the Site.

8 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

8.1 Introduction

- 8.1.1 It is proposed that the results of the relatively small-scale excavations at 42–44 Salt Lane be published alongside the more extensive investigations at Bedwin Street undertaken in 2013 (Wessex Archaeology 2013b). The publication will comprise a single report that integrates the individual site sequences, finds assemblages and environmental data from both phases of work, with illustrations and discussion covering the two sites.

8.2 Stratigraphic sequence

- 8.2.1 A detailed assessment of the stratigraphic sequence has been presented above and is followed, in the discussion, by a consideration of the significant aspects of the Site, including chronology, layout, structural development and status.
- 8.2.2 The Extensive Urban Survey of Salisbury (WCAS 2004) highlights the archaeological potential of the city and identifies a number of *lacunae* in the evidence, some where excavations such as that at Salt Lane can help fill these gaps. Although a considerable number of excavations have taken place in the city, many of the earlier ones remain unpublished. The excavation at 42–44 Salt Lane was limited in extent, but when combined with the results of the more extensive excavations to the north, between Salt Lane and Bedwin Street in the Vanners Chequer (Wessex Archaeology 2013b), they will enable a relatively comprehensive understanding of the sequence and changing character of the medieval and later settlement here to be established, particularly when combined with the results of the finds, environmental and documentary work.
- 8.2.3 The potential of the Site can also be considered in the wider terms of the research framework for the archaeology of south-west England (Webster 2008), in particular *Research Aim 36: Improve our understanding of medieval and later urbanism*. Within this, it is to the themes of understanding the form, function and specialisation that towns offered, as well as the transition from the medieval to the post-medieval phase, that the results from the Site at Salt Lane, coupled with those from Bedwin Street can most usefully contribute.

8.3 Finds

- 8.3.1 This is a relatively small assemblage and, if considered alone, has little potential for further analysis and publication. However, given the proximity to the recently excavated site on Bedwin Street (Wessex Archaeology 2013b), and the similarity in character of the assemblages from the two sites, it seems logical to propose that finds from the current



Site are considered alongside the larger assemblage from Bedwin Street, and that the two assemblages are published together.

8.4 Environmental

- 8.4.1 The analysis of the charred plant assemblages from floor surface (**144**) and layer (**146**) has the potential to provide a small amount of information on the nature of the settlement and the local environment. However, this is restricted by the relatively limited assemblages recovered.
- 8.4.2 The analysis of the wood charcoal from floor surface (**188**) could provide some information on the species composition and management and exploitation of the local woodland resource. However, this would be limited by being from a single assemblage that does not appear to be related to any specific activity on the Site.

9 METHOD STATEMENT

9.1 Introduction

- 9.1.1 The post-excavation assessment (including potential and proposals) for Bedwin Street has already been completed (Wessex Archaeology 2013b), and the method statements below have been prepared with this in mind.

9.2 Stratigraphic sequence

- 9.2.1 Once the initial post-excavation analysis for 42–44 Salt Lane is completed, revisions will be made as required to the phasing. However, it is anticipated that there will be very little change to what is presented in this assessment.
- 9.2.2 The publication text for 42–44 Salt Lane will be written, largely drawing on the detailed information which is presented here. This text will include the key results of the specialist work, which will be integrated within the overall chronological framework, and together this will form an integral element of the stratigraphic text for both phases of work. Illustrations covering all areas of investigation will be prepared to accompany the report.
- 9.2.3 For the overall discussion, the archaeology in the vicinity of the sites, in particular, will be reviewed through reference to published reports and available grey literature, with additional information drawn from documentary sources. This will contribute towards an enhanced discussion of the site and their broader setting within the medieval and later city of Salisbury.

9.3 Finds

- 9.3.1 Only the pottery warrants further analysis. Other categories of material have already been recorded to an appropriate archive level; the information gathered during the assessment phase, and presented here, can be summarised for incorporation in the publication report.
- 9.3.2 The medieval and post-medieval pottery has already been quantified by fabric type, using the type series developed for Salisbury (e.g. Mephram 2000), but full details of vessel forms, surface treatments and decoration have not been recorded. Existing records will therefore be enhanced using the standard Wessex Archaeology recording system for pottery (Morris 1994), which accords with nationally recommended minimum standards (MPRG 2001). Medieval vessel forms will be recorded using the Salisbury type series, which follows recommended nomenclature (MPRG 1998); other published corpora will be used for post-medieval vessel forms (e.g. Copland Griffiths 1989 for Verwood-type



earthenwares). The results of the analysis will be combined and presented with the data from the Bedwin Street site. No further illustration is proposed, as vessel forms largely replicate the known type series.

9.4 Environmental

9.4.1 No further analysis of the charred plant remains or charcoal is proposed.

10 RESOURCES AND PUBLICATION

10.1 Proposed publication

10.1.1 In view of the quantity and nature of the archaeological evidence obtained from the two phases of excavation at Salt Lane and Bedwin Street, it is proposed that the results of the proposed analysis should be published as a short article (approximately 25 pages) in the *Wiltshire Archaeology and Natural History Magazine*.

10.1.2 However, an alternative that may be considered, depending on the Client's requirements, is a stand-alone, full colour publication (approximately 20 pages) which would include the principal results from analysis of the stratigraphic, finds and environmental elements of the excavation.

10.2 Management structure

10.2.1 Wessex Archaeology operates a project management system. The team will be headed by a Senior Project Manager, in this instance Lorraine Mephram who will assume ultimate responsibility for the implementation and the execution of the project and the achievement of performance targets, be they academic, budgetary or scheduled.

10.2.2 The manager may delegate specific aspects of the project to other key staff, who both supervise others and have a direct input into the compilation of the report. They may also undertake direct liaison with external consultants and specialists who are contributing to the publication report and the museum named as the recipient of the project archive. The manager will have a major input into how the publication report is written and will define and control the scope and form of the post-excavation programme.

10.3 Performance monitoring and quality standards

10.3.1 The Project Manager (Lorraine Mephram) will be assisted by the Quality and Publications Manager (Philippa Bradley), who will help to ensure that the report meets internal quality standards as defined in Wessex Archaeology's guidelines.

10.4 Designated project team

10.4.1 The designated project team consists entirely of internal Wessex Archaeology staff, with the exception of the documentary researcher who will be an external specialist. The post-excavation team will be managed by Lorraine Mephram, and the lead author will be Phil Harding. The following Wessex Archaeology staff are currently scheduled to undertake the work as outlined in the task list (**Table 5**).



10.5 Task List

Task ID	Task	Staff	Days
Management			
1	Project management	Lorraine Mepham	1
Finds			
2	Pottery	Lorraine Mepham	1.5
3	Other finds	Lorraine Mepham	0.5
4	Finds illustrations	Elizabeth James	1
Documentary			
5	Documentary research	External specialist	1
Stratigraphic text			
6	Introduction	Phil Harding	1
7	Site description by phase/area	Phil Harding	2
8	Integrate specialist reports	Phil Harding	0.5
9	Research and discussion	Phil Harding	1
10	Compile bibliography and check text	Phil Harding	1.5
11	Site illustrations	Elizabeth James	2
Report production			
12	Report editing	Phil Andrews	1
13	Report QA and submission	Pippa Bradley	0.5
14	Journal charge		£250
Archiving			
15	Archive preparation and deposition	Various	1.75
16	Box storage charge	Artefacts, ecofacts & paper archive	£200

11 STORAGE AND CURATION

11.1 Museum

11.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Salisbury & South Wiltshire Museum. Transfer of title of the finds to the Museum will be sought from the landowner.

11.1.2 The Museum is not currently accepting archaeological archives due to lack of storage space; the archive will therefore continue to be held by Wessex Archaeology until this situation is remedied, but if this period exceeds two years from the completion of the project, storage charges will be levied.

11.2 Preparation of archive

11.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Salisbury & South



Wiltshire Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

11.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the site code (**102330**), and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

- 4 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts & ecofacts, ordered by material type
- 1 files/document cases of paper records & A3/A4 graphics
- 3 A1 graphics

11.3 Conservation

11.3.1 No immediate conservation requirements were noted in the field. Finds which have been identified as of unstable condition and therefore potentially in need of further conservation treatment comprise the metal objects.

11.3.2 Metal objects have been X-radiographed as part of the assessment phase, as a basic record and also to aid identification. On the basis of the X-rays, the range of objects present and their provenance on the Site, no objects are considered to warrant further conservation treatment.

11.4 Discard policy

11.4.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the dispersal of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. A selection strategy also exists for archaeological material recovered from Salisbury, prepared by Wessex Archaeology with the agreement of Salisbury & South Wiltshire Museum. This covers the following material types:

- *Ceramic Building Material*: flat tile discarded, apart from glazed pieces and complete lengths or widths; all other roof tile (e.g. ridge tile); brick discarded apart from selected samples of complete bricks; all floor tile (both glazed and unglazed, plain and decorated) retained.
- *Metal objects*: all iron nails discarded.

11.4.2 All finds will be recorded to an appropriate archive level before discard, and discard will be fully documented in the project archive.

11.4.3 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002).

11.5 Copyright

11.5.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The recipient museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms with the *Copyright and Related Rights* regulations 2003.



11.6 Security copy

- 11.6.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

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Site location plan

Figure 1



Plan of principal late medieval and early post-medieval features and deposits

Figure 2



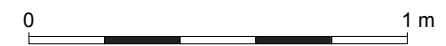
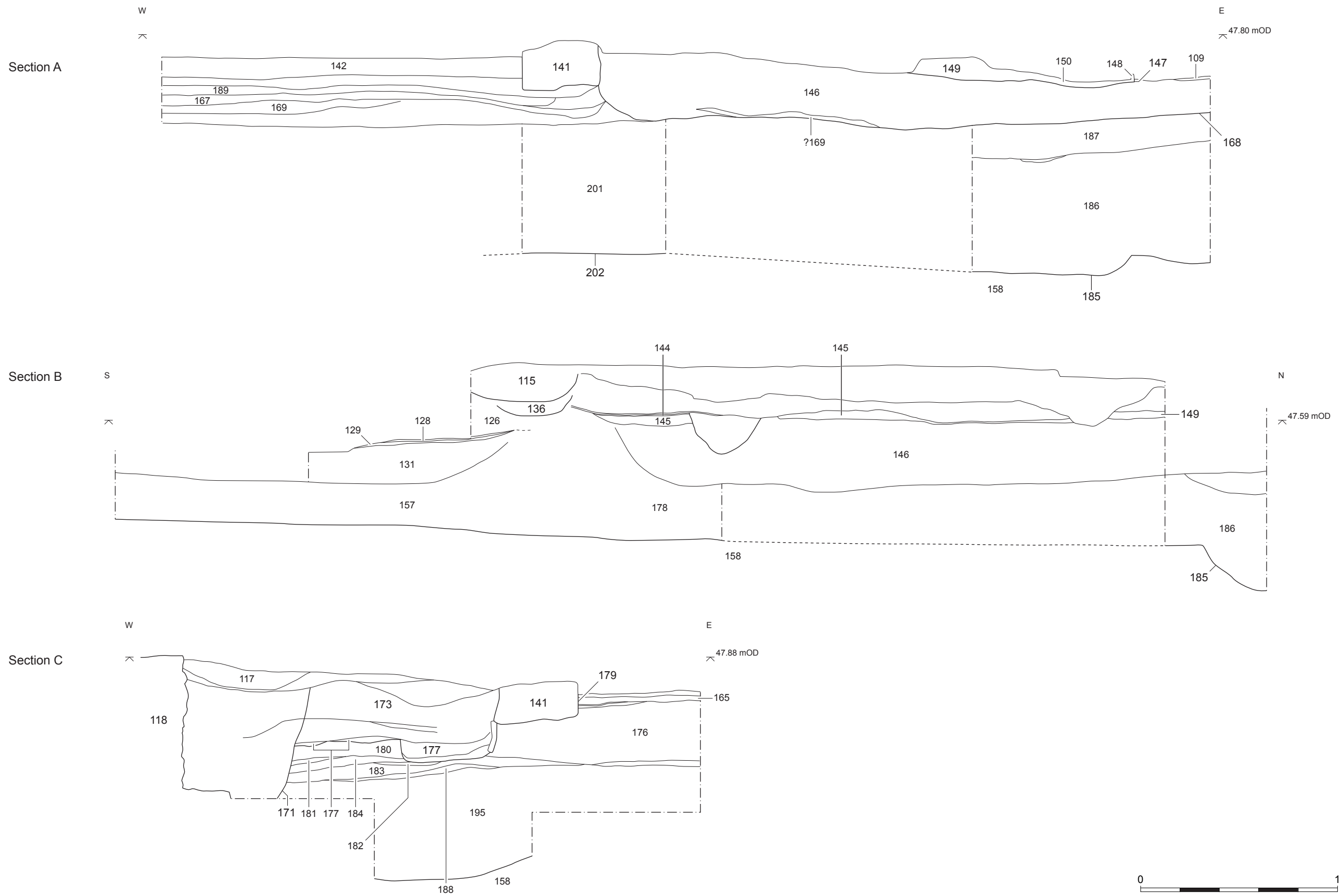
Plan of principal 19th-century features and deposits

Figure 3

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Plate 1: Hearth [164] adjacent to wall [111], with wall [141] to right and wall [160] bottom left; viewed from south (scales 0.5m & 1m)



Plate 2: Wall [120], with wall [141] to left; and chimney [118] to right; viewed from north (scales 0.5m & 1m)



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Plate 3: Tile spread (109) cut by well [104], with wall [111] to right and 'corridor' [147] at top; viewed from east (scales 1m & 2m)



Plate 4: Walls [123], [115], [121] and chimney [118] (cut by 1960's foundations), with wall [141] visible beneath; viewed from north-east (scales 2m)

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