

# **No. 22 The Close, Rosemary Lane, Salisbury**

## **Archaeological Evaluation**

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## **No. 22 The Close, Rosemary Lane, Salisbury**

### **Archaeological Evaluation**

#### **Summary**

In September 1998 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by The Dean and Chapter, Salisbury Cathedral, to undertake the field evaluation of a proposed extension to No. 22 The Close, Salisbury (centered on SU 14350 29711). No. 22 The Close is a largely 18th century cottage derived from a probably medieval building. The existing north-east wall of the building is probably of medieval construction.

The evaluation was required to establish the presence, nature and extent of any archaeological remains to enable the archaeological impact of the proposed development to be established prior to determination of the planning application.

The field evaluation comprised the hand-excavation of a trench, 5m long and 3m wide, to a depth of 0.60m and two 1m by 1m test pits to a depth of 1.20m, within the footprint of the proposed extension. The medieval component of the north-east wall of No. 22 The Close was also recorded.

The evaluation revealed a probable 18th century courtyard surface with soak-a-way, consisting of at least two phases, sealing deep deposits of building rubble. A number of disturbances of the courtyard may well have been the result of a major renovation of the building known to have taken place in the mid 18th century. This included a linear trench running the length of the wall, associated with red brick underpinning of the medieval wall fabric. The full northern and western extent of the courtyard still remains unclear, although the eastern limit is suggested by surviving traces of kerbing.

The courtyard appears to have remained in use until the early or mid 19th century, when the general ground level within the plot was raised by c. 0.60m by the deposition of large quantities of rubble and garden soils.

A low background of residual medieval material was observed, with small quantities of residual pot sherds and tile recovered from the topsoil, linear trench fill and gravel deposits at the base of test pit 2. No significant medieval features or horizons were encountered within the area of the trench.

**No. 22 The Close, Rosemary Lane, Salisbury**  
**Archaeological Evaluation**

**Acknowledgements**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by The Dean and Chapter, Salisbury Cathedral. The assistance of Mr J R Carley, Close Surveyor, and Mr Tim Tatton-Brown, Cathedral Archaeologist, is gratefully acknowledged. The collaborative role of the Archaeology Service, Wiltshire County Council, and in particular of Helena Cave-Penney and Duncan Coe, is also acknowledged.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Roland J C Smith. The fieldwork was directed by Andrew Manning with the assistance of Christopher Hurn. This report was compiled by Andrew Manning and Roland J C Smith, with comments on the finds by Lorraine Mephem and the illustrations by Karen Nichols.

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**Archaeological Evaluation**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

**1.1. Project Background**

- 1.1.1. In September 1998 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by The Dean and Chapter, Salisbury Cathedral, to undertake the field evaluation of the site of a proposed extension to No. 22 The Close, Salisbury (centred on SU 14350 29711).
- 1.1.2. The field evaluation was undertaken prior to the determination of the planning application for the proposed extension. The Archaeology Service, Wiltshire County Council, had advised that the proposed extension lies within an area of high archaeological potential and that further information was required on the nature and extent of any archaeological remains.
- 1.1.3. The results of the field evaluation should enable judgements on the nature of the archaeological resource and the appropriate response to the development proposals to be formulated on a sound and justifiable basis.
- 1.1.4. The evaluation was carried out from the 28th September to the 2nd of October 1998.

**1.2. Location, Topography and Geology**

- 1.2.1. No. 22 The Close is situated on the north-east of Rosemary Lane, which lies to the north of North Walk (Fig. 1). The proposed extension will be built against the north-east wall of the building and within an existing walled garden.
- 1.2.2. The site lies on level ground around the 46.50m OD contour and is on deposits of Valley Gravel.

**1.3. Archaeological Background**

- 1.3.1. The archaeological and historical background to No. 22 The Close is summarised by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (1993, 131) from which the following information has been taken.
- 1.3.2. No. 22 The Close is one of originally two cottages belonging to the vicars and occupied by their members. The second cottage perhaps stood to the north of No. 22 and was recorded from 1649 until 1729. Although now mainly of mid 18th century appearance, No. 22 The Close contains part of a medieval wall. The ground floor north-east wall is of medieval construction comprising coursed flints with tile lacing courses. The house was probably substantially modified in the early 17th and mid 18th century. In the 18th

century the outer walls were generally rebuilt and raised and a hipped roof built.

- 1.3.3. The proposed extension, measuring 7m by 4.5m, will be constructed against the east end of the north wall of the building with a new opening through part of the surviving medieval fabric of the building (Fig. 2). The evaluation was proposed to examine the nature of this medieval wall and the presence, nature and extent of any further medieval features or deposits to the north of this medieval wall.

## **2. METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1. Introduction**

- 2.1.1. An outline Brief for the field evaluation was set out in the Archaeology Service's letter of 28 July 1998 to Salisbury District Council. This required the excavation and recording of a 'trench on the proposed location of the extension' with the aim of establishing 'the nature and extent of any archaeological deposits'. A detailed methodology was proposed by Tim Tatton-Brown, archaeological consultant to The Dean and Chapter, Salisbury Cathedral, and in consultation with the Archaeology Service.
- 2.1.2. This detailed methodology required the hand-excavation of a trench, 5m by 3m, against the north-east wall of the existing building (Fig. 2). Topsoil and modern or recent deposits of overburden were to be removed to the top of the first archaeologically significant deposits, in this case a compact, cobbled yard surface. Further excavation of deposits was to be limited but sufficient to establish the nature, character, depth and importance of archaeological deposits within the footprint for the new extension. This was achieved by the hand-excavation of two test pits, each 1m by 1m, through the cobbled yard surface in locations approved by Tim Tatton-Brown (Fig. 2).
- 2.1.3. All features encountered were fully recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma record sheets. Recording included a full photographic archive, including both detailed and general views of the evaluation progress. Field drawings were drawn at an appropriate scale (1:10 for sections, 1:20 for plans) for each of the short sections and one long section. A plan was prepared of all in situ archaeological remains, together with a full record of their levels. All levels were based on a temporary bench-mark at 46.4m OD, placed on the top of the south-western corner of a concrete flower-bed border, immediately adjacent to the garden gate.
- 2.1.4. The surviving courses of the medieval wall on the north-facing elevation of No. 22 The Close were also to be drawn to scale and recorded. This was achieved by taking a montage of scaled photographs, which were subsequently scanned into the framework of an accurate scaled outline of the wall elevation using AutoCAD (Fig. 3).

### **3. RESULTS**

#### **3.1. Evaluation trench**

- 3.1.1. The trench was located against the north-east corner of No. 22 The Close, running 5m along the length of the building and extending 3m into the existing garden (Fig. 2). The ground surface in the garden was at a height of 46.50m OD. The following text summarises the deposits recorded in the evaluation trench. Further contextual information is presented in Appendix 1 while fuller details are available in the project archive.
- 3.1.2. The earliest deposit recorded comprised a mixed horizon of flint and pea gravel (layers 023 and 024) at the lowest points of both test pits, i.e. at 45.28m OD. The rather loose make-up of these layers contained a small proportion of medieval and early post-medieval material, together with fragments of construction material, such as brick and tile. This horizon was sealed by a series of loose deposits containing large proportions of brick, tile and other waste materials (layer 016 in test pit 1 and layers 022, 021 and 020 in test pit 2).
- 3.1.3. These deposits were sealed by two phases of a cobbled flint surface (layers 014 and 015) between 0.58-0.60m below the present ground surface (45.90m OD). The later surface (layer 014) was formed from slightly larger and less densely packed flint cobbles, which partly overlapped the earlier surface. Incorporated within the courtyard surface was a narrow channel, c. 2.6m in length and running south-east to north-west, formed from sandstone blocks, perhaps originally forming part of a run-off to a nearby soak-a-way.
- 3.1.4. The courtyard surfaces were sealed below thick deposits of post-medieval debris, again consisting of a high proportion of 18th and 19th century brick and tile (layers 010 and 019), through which two features had been cut. The first of these was a small pit (cut 013 and fills 011 and 012) at least 0.9m in diameter and 0.25m in depth in the north-west of the trench and containing large quantities of brick/tile debris.
- 3.1.5. The second feature was a long parallel cut running the length of the trench and adjacent to the north-east wall of No. 22 The Close. This cut (008 and fill 007) was 1.38m wide and was filled with 19th century brick and tile debris and may have been related to evidence of brick under-pinning of the medieval wall (Fig. 3).
- 3.1.6. Sealing these two features and the majority of the courtyard surfaces was a thick layer of mixed sandy clay and building debris (layer 006) up to 0.25m in depth. Layer 006 was cut by a shallow pit (017) and was sealed below thick mixed garden topsoil (layers 001, 002 and 004).

#### **3.2. The wall elevation**

- 3.2.1. The recorded section of wall runs for approximately 8.05m in an east to west direction from the north-east corner of No. 22 The Close to a point where the

wall is butted by a later red brick garden boundary wall, probably of 19th century date. The recorded wall elevation can be broadly divided into four constructional phases.

- 3.2.2. The earliest phase occurs in the west of the recorded section of wall and is at most 1.75m high. It comprises a construction of coursed flint nodules and random coursed stone blocks. The areas of flint construction have occasional tile lacing courses and also small areas of probably inserted brick repairs. The wall has areas of re-pointing and partial rendering making detailed recording difficult in places. Below existing ground level and to the west of later brick underpinning, the footings of this earliest phase of walling comprise at least three courses of flint nodules. The full depth of this footing was not exposed.
- 3.2.3. The second phase occurs in the east of the wall and comprises a fabric of coursed stone blocks of varying sizes. Many of the stone blocks appear rounded and worn prior to being placed in the wall. This may indicate a re-use of some of the blocks but it may also be due to some blocks being different stone types causing weathering at different rates. There are two separate courses of red brickwork within this phase of wall in addition to three courses of red brickwork marking the highest element of this phase of wall.
- 3.2.4. Five courses of stressed quoin stone blocks occur at the north-east corner of the building. At the base of the quoins the wall is founded on an offset to the north which becomes flush with the face of the wall approximately 2m to the west before reappearing as an overhang within the coursed flint of the earliest phase of wall. This intermittent offset and overhang produces an apparent 'kink' in the wall alignment, which may be due to subsidence or a slight change in building line.
- 3.2.5. Below ground level there is a later panel of red brick under pinning, which may be evidence of the wall moving or possibly related to the insertion of a ceramic vent pipe.
- 3.2.6. The third phase of the wall commences at approximately 1.75m above ground level and is marked by a cement-chamfered fillet running for approximately three-quarters of the wall's length. Above this fillet, there are at least two courses of stone blocks and flint nodules below irregular header coursed brickwork with lime mortar and stone blocks. Brick dimensions are on average 4" wide and 2½" deep with some three-quarter bricks and only the occasional full length stretcher brick. They are handmade. At the east end the corner quoins continue for a further three courses.
- 3.2.7. From 2m above ground level the fourth phase of wall construction comprises, where visible, red brickwork of English bond with lime mortar and probably dates to the 18th or 19th century. The brick dimensions are 9" by 2½" by 4" and they are handmade. There are occasional blue glazed headers within this part of the wall. This brickwork is mainly covered in modern tile hangings.



## **4. FINDS**

### **4.1. Introduction**

- 4.1.1. A small quantity of artefactual material was collected during the evaluation. This material has been cleaned and quantified by material type within each context.

### **4.2. Results**

- 4.2.1. The finds recovered during the evaluation are largely of post-medieval date, with a small quantity of residual medieval material. All artefacts have been cleaned and quantified by material type within each context, and broad details of nature, condition and potential date range recorded. The finds are discussed by material type below, and finds totals by context presented in Table 1.

### **4.3. Animal Bone and Shell**

- 4.3.1. The two bone fragments recovered comprise part of a pig mandible, from an immature individual, and an undiagnostic fragment. The shell is all oyster, and includes both left and right valves.

### **4.4. Ceramic Building Material**

- 4.4.1. Three of the fragments recovered (layer 001, 007, 024) are potentially of medieval date; these are in coarse fabrics, one noticeably pale-firing, and one partially glazed on the upper surface. Such tile fragments are frequently encountered in contexts from 13th century onwards in Salisbury; one potential source is known to the south of Salisbury at Alderbury in the later medieval period. Other ceramic building material recovered is likely to be of post-medieval date, and includes fragments of both roof tile and brick.

### **4.5. Clay Pipes**

- 4.5.1. Most of the fragments comprise unmarked stems, but one bowl and a stamped stem are datable. The bowl (layer 006) is of early 18th century type, and the stem fragment (layer 002) is stamped THO/MAS/SON, the name of a Salisbury pipemaker working c.1720-50 (Atkinson 1970, 187).

### **4.6. Pottery**

- 4.6.1. The small pottery assemblage includes sherds of both medieval and post-medieval date. The two medieval sherds were both residual in one post-medieval layer (024); these comprise one rim fragment from a Laverstock-type scratchmarked coarseware jar of 13th century date (for similar examples see Musty *et al.* 1969, fig. 9), and a finer sandy sherd, partially glazed, probably from a jug of later 13th or 14th century date.

4.6.2. The post-medieval assemblage consists largely of sherds of coarse earthenwares, of which the bulk can be identified as Verwood types from east Dorset, which flooded the Wessex market from the 18th century. Smaller quantities of glazed and unglazed redwares (including slipwares) are also present, probably representing the products of more than one source. Other types present include Staffordshire-type slipware, stonewares (including the neck from a Bartmann jug), white salt-glazed stoneware, tinglazed earthenwares, porcelain and modern (19th/20th century) industrial whitewares. With the exception of the latter, all of the post-medieval assemblage could be accommodated within a date range of 17th to early 18th century.

4.6.3. Of particular interest amongst this post-medieval group, however, is the base of a crucible (layer 007) in a coarse sandy fabric, with a vitrified ‘glaze’ running over the underside of the base. This is a small, flat-based wheelthrown vessel, the upper part of which would have been pinched to form a triangular mouth with three pouring spouts. Many crucibles of triangular form are thought to have been imported to this country from Germany, Austria or Bohemia, although it is apparent that local manufacture was also taking place (Cotter 1992). Certainly the fabric of this example (pale-firing, with prominent iron-stained quartz inclusions) would not be out of place within a local context, and it is known that from c.1650 British crucible manufacturers were using pale-firing refractory clays from the Poole Harbour area in Dorset (ibid., 268). Given the associated pottery, a date range in the later 17th or early 18th century seems likely for this vessel.

#### 4.7. Other finds

4.7.1. Other finds comprise the base of a small pale green bottle or phial (17th or early 18th century), and a copper alloy button (layer 001).

**Table 1: All finds by context**

Context		Animal Bone		CBM		Clay Pipe		Pottery		Shell		Other finds
Number	Description	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.
1	Topsoil	-	-	1	40	6	18	10	393	1	5	1 vessel glass 1 cu alloy button
2	Garden sub-soil	-	-	1	65	3	10	9	434	-	-	-
6	Demolition deposit	-	-	1	67	2	13	19	827	2	47	-
7	Fill of renovation trench	1	80	1	22	1	3	18	711	1	56	-
15	Cobble surface	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	75	-	-	-
16	Demolition deposit	1	1	-	-	1	2	5	84	-	-	-
20	Demolition deposit	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	137	-	-	-
24	Demolition deposit	-	-	1	32	1	6	5	114	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>2775</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>1 glass/1 cu</b>

## **5. DISCUSSION**

- 5.1.1. The evaluation trench identified a far greater depth of stratified deposits than was initially expected, with a final recorded depth of at least 1.20m. The evaluation trench revealed a courtyard surface with soak-a-way, consisting of at least two phases, sealing deposits of 17th to early 18th century building rubble up to 0.55m in depth.
- 5.1.2. Artefacts recovered from the makeup of the two courtyard surfaces (layers 014 and 015) as well as consideration of material from the sealed building debris would suggest a late 17th or early 18th century date for the courtyard, at the earliest. A number of disturbances cut through the courtyard surface, including a linear trench (cut 008) running the length of the wall, which would appear to be linked to red brick underpinning of the medieval wall fabric. These disturbances may well have been the result of a major renovation of the building known to have taken place in the mid 18th century (RCHM(E) 1993, 131).
- 5.1.3. The full northern and western extent of the courtyard still remains unclear, although the eastern limit is suggested by surviving kerbing within the area of test pit 1. It is also unclear if the surface related to the possible second vicar's cottage shown directly to the north of 22 The Close on Naish's 1716 plan of Salisbury (RCHM(E) 1980) or to later buildings within the same general area and described as a coach house and stables in sale particulars in 1850 (RCHM(E) 1993, 131). Certainly, the courtyard appears to have remained in use until the early or mid 19th century, when the general ground level within the plot was raised by *c.* 0.6m by the deposition of large quantities of rubble and garden soils.
- 5.1.4. The noticeable difference in levels between the former courtyard and those of the present garden and surrounding area of Rosemary Lane is surprising, although no opportunities have been available to investigate if similar raises of ground level have taken place elsewhere in the general area (Tim Tatton-Brown pers. comm.).
- 5.1.5. A low background of residual medieval material was observed, with small quantities of residual pot sherds and tile recovered from the topsoil, construction trench fill and gravel deposits at the base of test pit 2. No significant medieval features or horizons were encountered within the area of the trench.

## 6. PROJECT ARCHIVE

### 6.1. Archive details

6.1.1. The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury under site code W5711. The project archive, including the finds, will be deposited in due course with the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum.

6.1.2. The archive currently comprises the following components:

NAR Cat.	Details	No. of Items	Format
Index	Index to archive	1	A4
B	Level sheets	2	A4
B	Day Book (photocopy)	1	A4
B	Index to Plans and Sections	1	A4
B	Plans and Sections	2	A1
B	Plans and Sections	1	A3
C	Context Finds Record Sheets	24	A4
D	Photographic Record Sheets	2	A4
D	B+W 36 exp. Contact Print Sheets	1	35mm
D	B+W 36 exp. Negatives	1	35mm
D	Colour Slides	25	35mm

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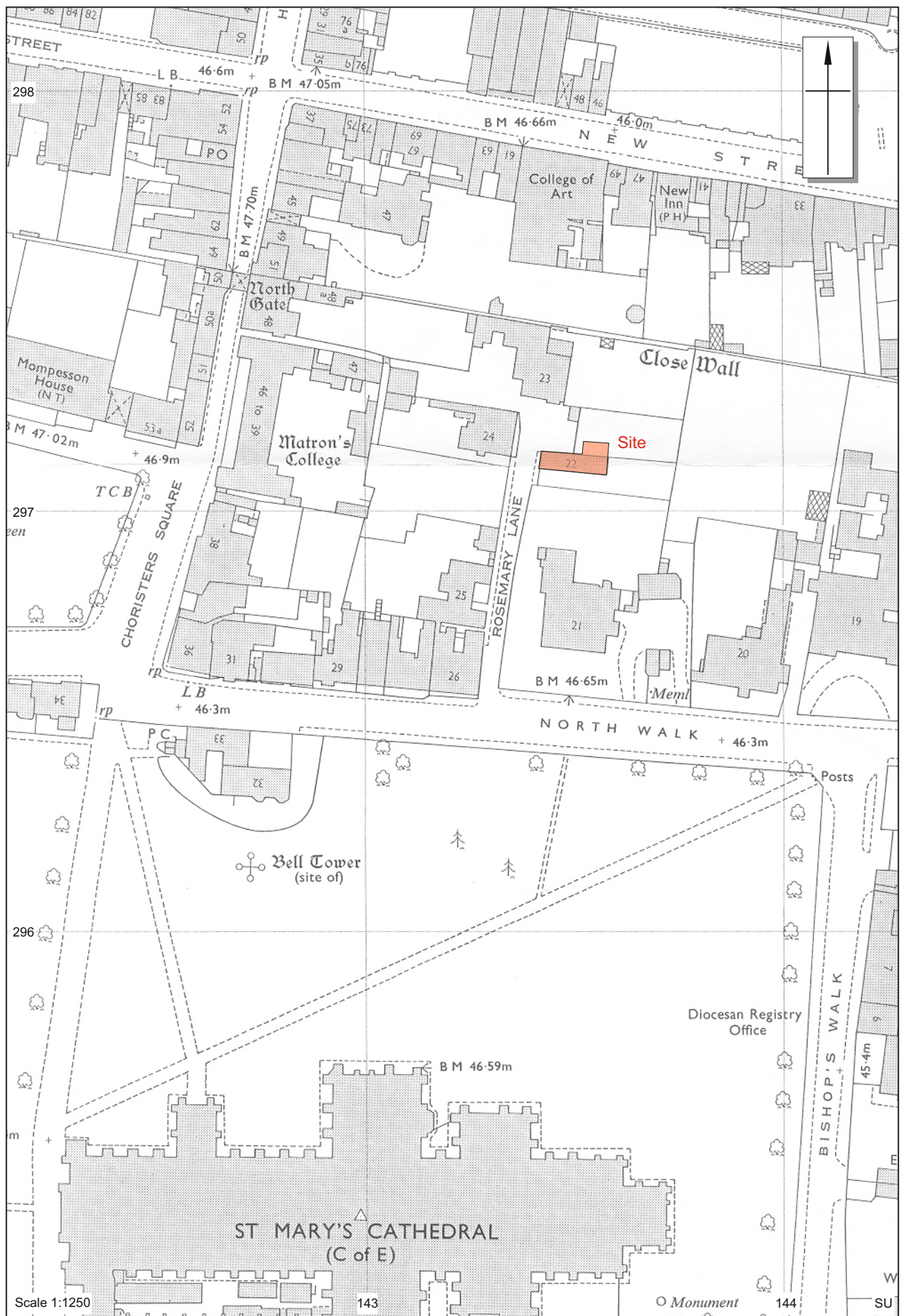
Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England, 1993, *Salisbury The Houses of the Close* HMSO

## 8. APPENDICES

### 8.1. Appendix 1: Trench Summary

8.1.1. The context summaries for each trench are presented, where possible, in stratigraphic order.

<b>Trench</b>		
<b>Length: 5m Width: 3m Max. depth: 1.22m</b>		
<b>Context no.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness</b>
1	Garden topsoil	0.20 - 0.25
2	Garden sub-soil.	0.10 – 0.15
3	Red brick flower-bed border.	0.20
4	Disturbed garden sub-soil with traces of brick rubble and small flint gravel.	0.15 - 0.25
5	Cut for 3.	0.20
6	Demolition Layer –: Grey sandy clay with large quantities of brick, tile and mortar fragments and sub-rounded flint gravel.	0.25
7	Fill of trench [8] parallel to the wall of the building. May be related to under-pinning of the medieval wall fabric. Grey sandy clay, similar to 006, with large quantities of brick, tile and mortar fragments and flint gravel.	Not excavated
8	Cut for wall trench, filled by 7.	Not excavated
10	Dark sandy clay deposit consisting of dumped construction and general waste material including: ceramic building material, bone and pottery.	>0.12
11	Upper fill of pit [13]. Grey sandy clay containing demolition material including: brick, tile, mortar and sandstone fragments with frequent deposits of bone and pottery sherds.	>0.11
12	Primary fill of pit [13]. Dark grey sandy clay with large quantities of demolition material.	>0.10
13	Pit cut filled with 11 and 12.	>0.15
14	Cobbled courtyard surface. Partly overlies 15.	0.10
15	Cobbled courtyard surface. Smaller cobbles than 14.	0.07
16	Mid sandy clay with gravel and pebble inclusions and large quantities of demolition material.	0.50
17	Pit cut, filled with 18.	0.23
18	Fill of small pit [17]. Mid grey sandy gritty clay filled with large quantities of demolition material including ceramic building material and mortar.	0.23
19	Dark-mid sandy clay deposit consisting of dumped construction and general waste material including: ceramic building material, animal bone and pottery. Similar to 10.	>0.20
20	Light grey sandy clay layer of construction material. Large quantities of brick and tile.	0.20
21	Light brown sandy gravel. Thin deposit of fine sand and pea gravel.	0.02
22=16	Mid grey sandy clay with small quantities of brick, tile, animal bone and pottery fragments.	0.40+
23=24	Light brown sandy clay with a large percentage of fine flint and pea gravel. Small quantities of construction material mixed with animal bone and pottery.	Not excavated



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Figure 1

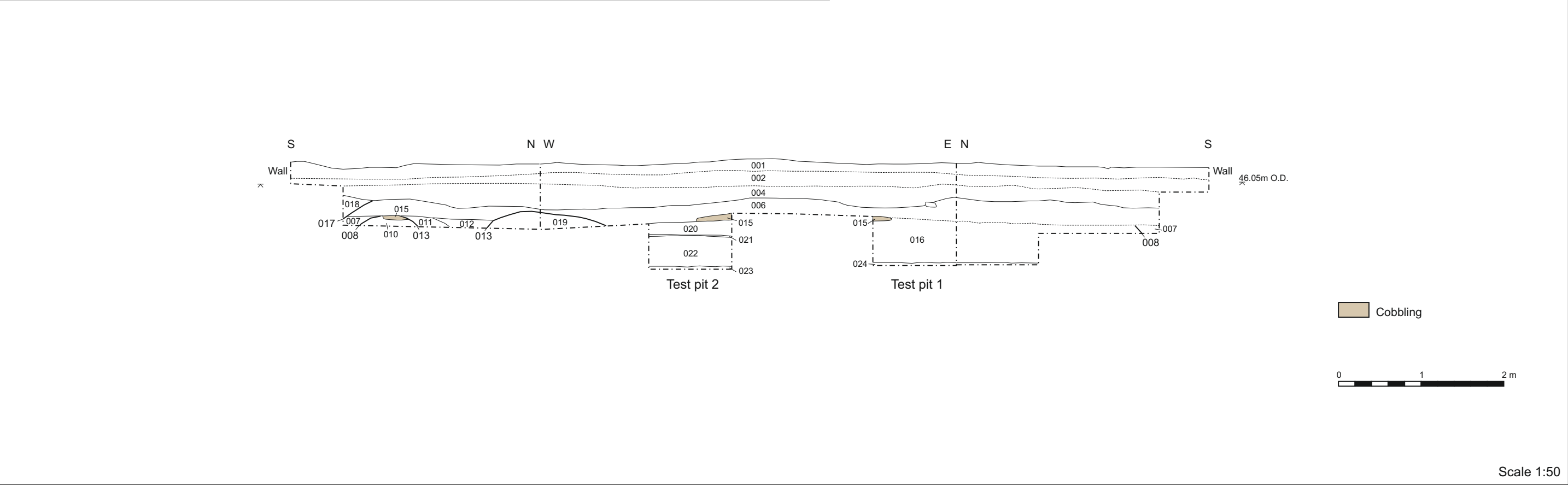
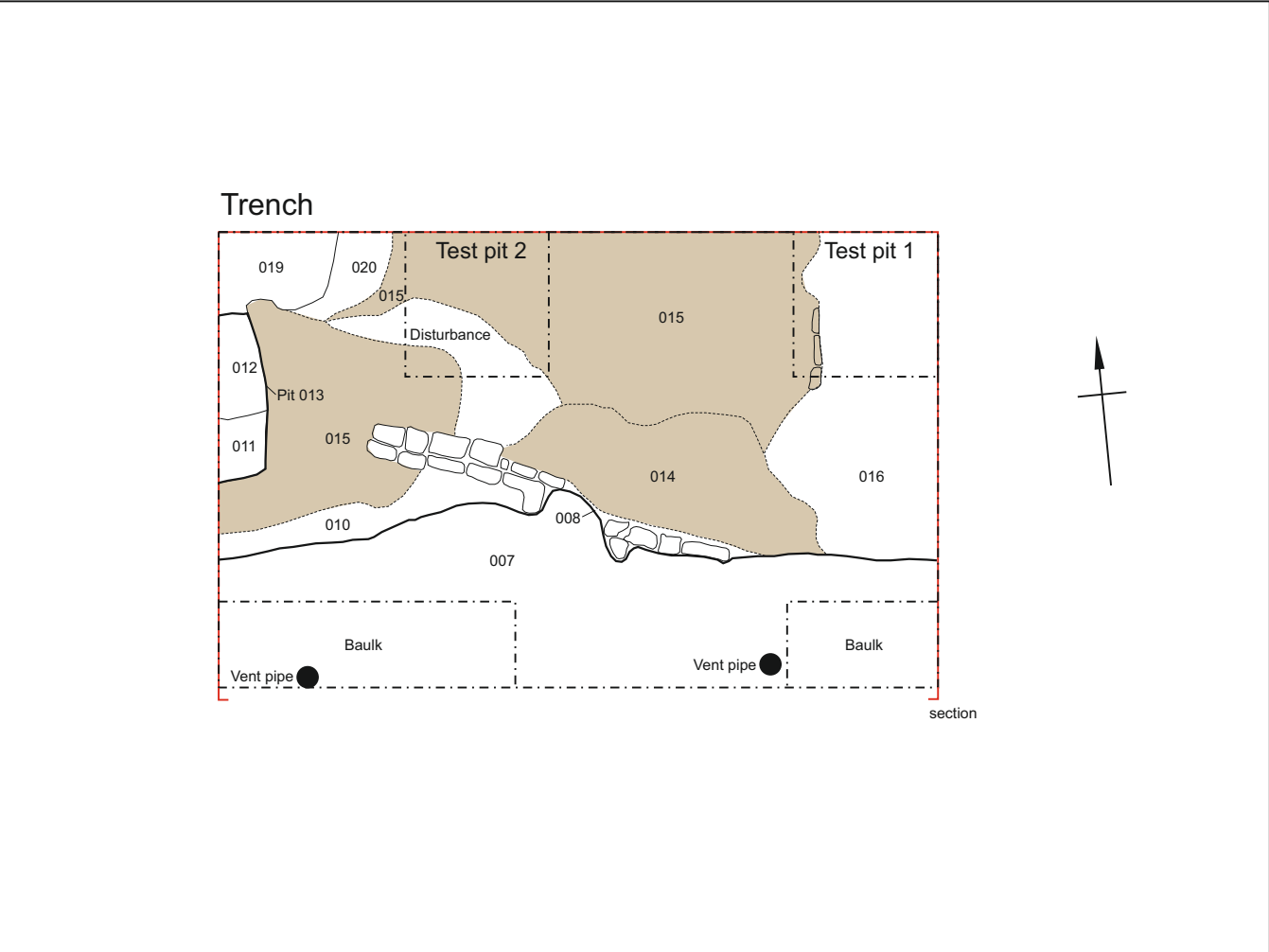
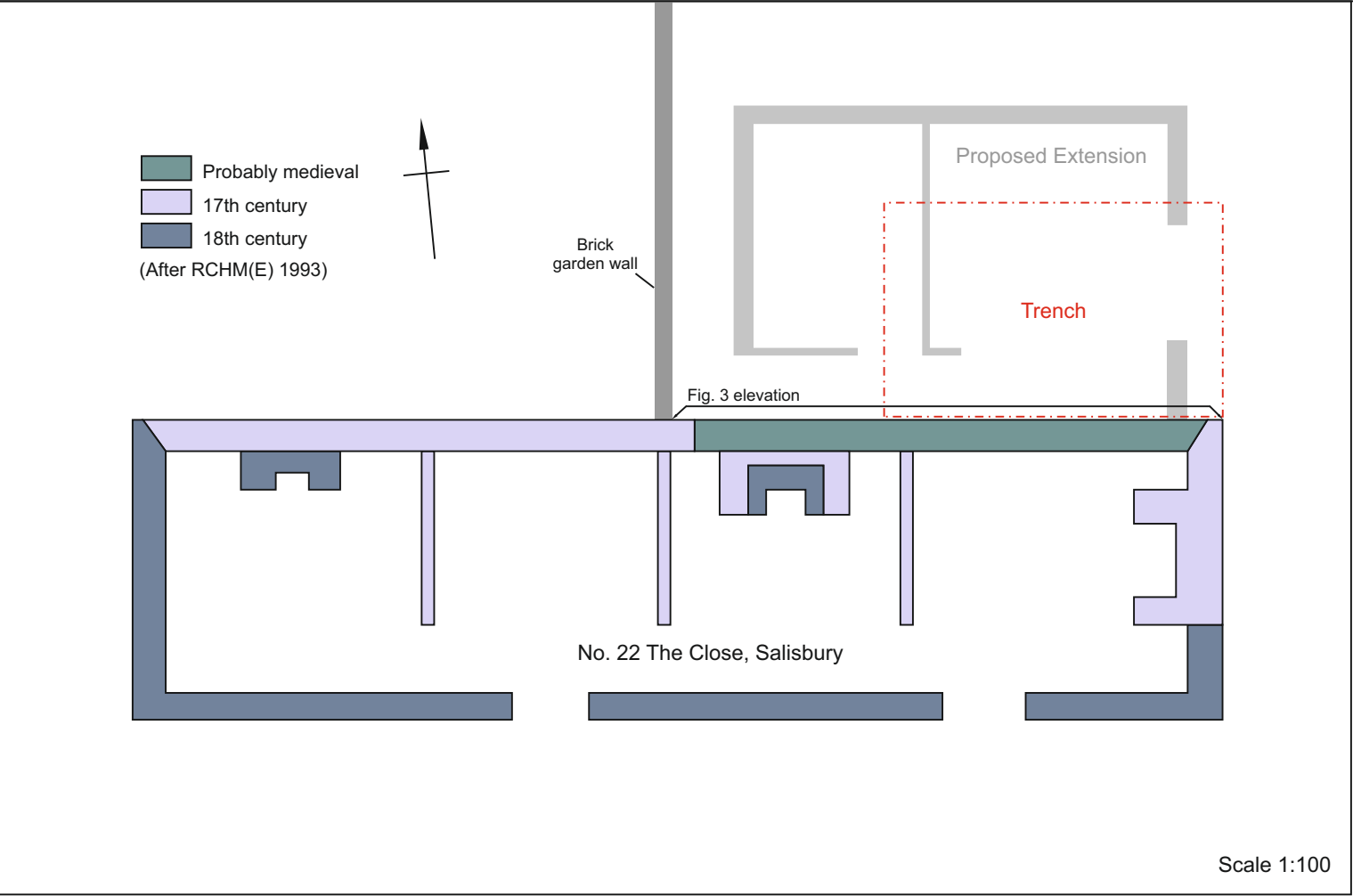
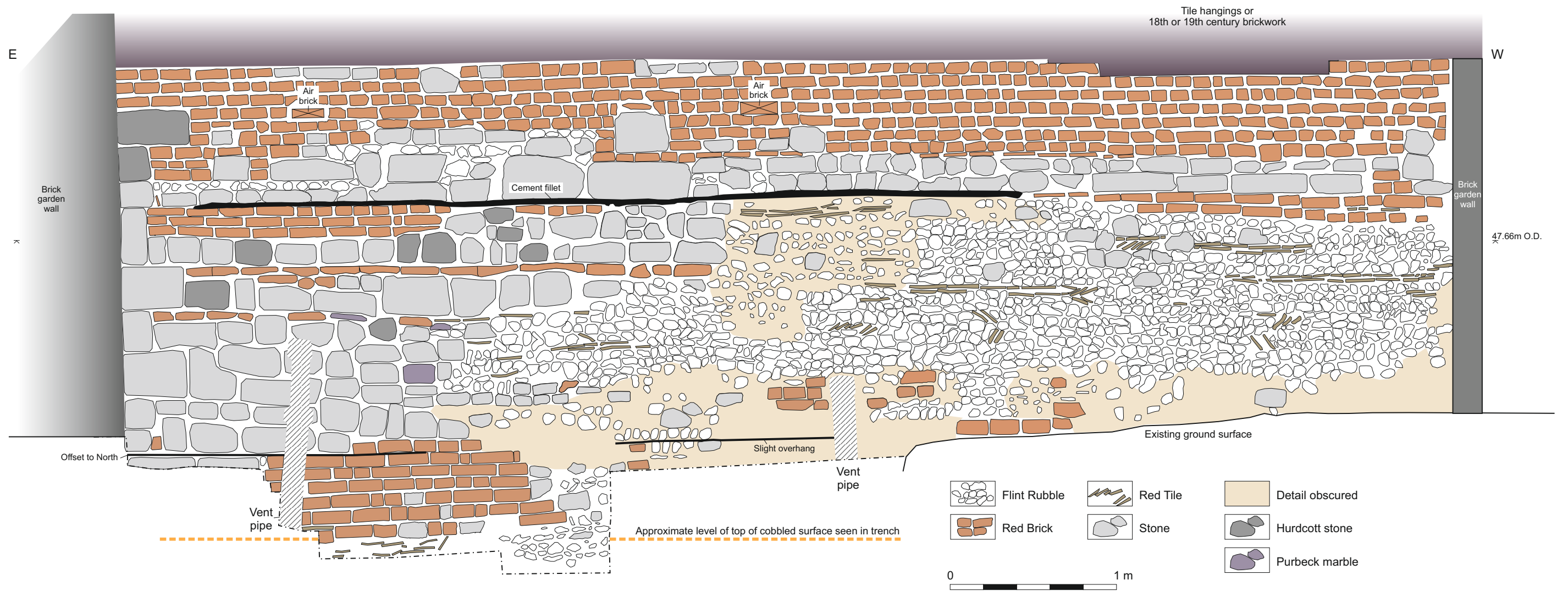


Figure 2





Scale 1:25

Figure 3