



Land to the rear of 52-54 Endless Street,  
Salisbury, Wiltshire

Report on Archaeological Evaluation

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Salisbury, Wiltshire**

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Prepared on behalf of:  
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## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	PROJECT BACKGROUND .....	1
1.2	TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND LAND USE.....	1
1.3	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND .....	1
<b>2</b>	<b>AIMS AND METHODS .....</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1	ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION SITE WORKS .....	2
2.2	METHODOLOGY .....	2
<b>3</b>	<b>RESULTS .....</b>	<b>2</b>
3.1	INTRODUCTION .....	2
3.2	TEST PIT 1.....	3
3.3	TEST PIT 2.....	3
3.4	TEST PIT 3.....	3
3.5	FINDS.....	4
3.6	ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS.....	4
<b>4</b>	<b>DISCUSSION .....</b>	<b>4</b>
4.1	ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL AND PROPOSED IMPACT .....	4
<b>5</b>	<b>ARCHIVE.....</b>	<b>5</b>
5.1	PREPARATION AND DEPOSITION.....	5
<b>6</b>	<b>REFERENCE.....</b>	<b>5</b>

### APPENDIX 1: TESTPIT- SUMMARY CONTEXT DETAILS

#### FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION PLAN AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEST PITS

#### FIGURE 2: PLAN OF TEST PIT 3 & EAST FACING SECTION

## Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Endless Developments Limited (the Client) to carry out an archaeological evaluation to the rear of 52-54 Endless Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire, centred on National Grid Reference 414502 130317.

The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a condition of planning permission for development of the Site granted by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) Salisbury District Council (Planning Reference S/2004/2063).

The evaluation comprised the excavation of three 2m by 2m test pits, opened and recorded on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> March 2005. The archaeological potential of the Site is indicated by the results obtained in Test Pit 3. The archaeological remains identified, including phases of stone and brick built structures of probably medieval and post-medieval date, survive at a depth greater than the impact of the proposed new buildings, which was established as no greater than 0.45m below the existing surface.

The results of the evaluation are significant for indicating the potential for archaeological remains, of medieval and post-medieval date, to survive at the rear of properties, where existing impacts have been slight. Due consideration should be given to the contribution the Site may make to the wider assessment of archaeological potential in Salisbury City centre.

In view of the results of the evaluation, it was agreed with Wiltshire County Archaeology Service that no further archaeological work in respect of the proposed development would be necessary.

## **Acknowledgements**

Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Endless Developments Limited for commissioning the work and providing direct assistance on site. The co-operation and help given by Mr Richard Stanton and Mr Keith Austreng, and their ground crew, is acknowledged with thanks. The collaborative role of Helena Cave-Penny, Wiltshire County Archaeological Service, is also acknowledged.

The fieldwork was directed by Kevin Ritchie, with the assistance of Nick Best. This report was compiled by Kevin Ritchie. Kitty Brandon prepared the illustrations. Paul McCulloch managed the project for Wessex Archaeology.

# **Land to the rear of 52 – 54 Endless Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire**

## **Report on Archaeological Evaluation**

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Project Background**

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Endless Developments Limited (the Client) to carry out an archaeological evaluation to the rear of 52-54 Endless Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire (hereafter the Site), centred on National Grid Reference 414502 130317 (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a condition of planning permission for development of the Site granted by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) Salisbury District Council (Planning Reference S/2004/2063).
- 1.1.3 Wiltshire County Archaeology Services, archaeological advisor to the LPA, issued a Brief for the archaeological evaluation (WCAS 2004). In keeping with the Brief, Wessex Archaeology prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WA 2004) setting out the evaluation methodology (including Site works and post-Site works).
- 1.1.4 The Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists standards and guidance for archaeological evaluations and English Heritage's 1992 guidance 'Management of Archaeological Projects'.

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

- 1.2.1 The Site comprised land to the rear of 52-54 Endless Street, which runs approximately north to south and lies in the northern part of the historic core of the City of Salisbury. The Site was surfaced with Tarmac and used for car parking. To the south and east the Site boundaries are fenced and abut adjoining properties. To the north the Site has open access to Belle Vue Road.
- 1.2.2 The Site was flat, lying at a height of c.47-48 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), typical of its location on the floor of the River Avon valley.
- 1.2.3 The British Geological Survey Map for the area (sheet 298) records the underlying geology of the Site as Valley Gravels with Middle Chalk a short distance to the east and Brickearth a short distance to the west.

#### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

- 1.3.1 The Site lay within the northern part of the thirteenth century planned town of Salisbury and close to the line of one of its historic watercourses. The

watercourses were an integral part of the of the planned medieval town and carried water from the River Avon near Castle Gate, through streets and ‘chequers’, down to the south east of the town. Where these watercourses survive, and are waterlogged, they can contain significant amounts of archaeo-environmental information.

- 1.3.2 The Site was identified as having the potential to contain significant archaeological remains relating to the development of the rear of properties in the medieval period and to the possible water course thought to run through it.

## **2 AIMS AND METHODS**

### **2.1 Archaeological evaluation Site works**

- 2.1.1 The aims of the evaluation, as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation, were to:

- Establish the presence, extent, nature, date and significance of archaeological remains that survive within the Site and within, but not below, the proposed development footprint, i.e. within 0.45m of the existing ground level
- Determine the need for subsequent action, for instance archaeological excavation, in the event archaeological remains were found to exist within the development footprint

### **2.2 Methodology**

- 2.2.1 Three test pits, each measuring 2m by 2m, were opened on the Site, corresponding to the position of proposed new structures (outbuildings, garages) forming part of the proposed development (**Figure 1**). The test pits were machine excavated under constant archaeological supervision using a 1.8m wide toothless grading bucket. Deposits were removed by machine down to a maximum depth of 1.20m or to the top of *in-situ* archaeological or geological deposits, whichever were encountered first.

- 2.2.2 The test pits were recorded and planned using Wessex Archaeology’s *pro-forma* sheets, including a full photographic record.

- 2.2.3 The work was carried out on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> March 2005.

## **3 RESULTS**

### **3.1 Introduction**

- 3.1.1 The results of the evaluation test pits are summarised below. Detailed test pit descriptions in are provided in Appendix 1. The Test pit locations are shown on **Figure 1** and a plan and representative section of Test Pit 3 appears on **Figure 2**.

- 3.1.2 In all cases the test pits were sealed by 0.10m of Tarmacadam overlying 0.15m of gravel hoggin.
- 3.1.3 No recognisable subsoil was recorded in any test pits. Interleaved layers of garden soils comprising rich dark brown silty clay loam and demolition layers comprising bricks, gravel, chalk, slate, ceramic building material (CBM) and other general building debris were observed to a depth of 1.2m in all three test pits.
- 3.1.4 Natural Valley Gravels were not encountered.

### **3.2 Test Pit 1**

- 3.2.1 A single sub angular feature was partially excavated in test pit 1. Feature **107** was only partially visible in the base of the test pit in the south eastern corner and was filled with a mixed deposit of dark brown sandy silts and modern building debris (**106**). No archaeological remains were found.

### **3.3 Test Pit 2**

- 3.3.1 The test pit revealed layers of sand, silty clay and modern demolition material to a depth of 1.2m. No archaeological remains were found.

### **3.4 Test Pit 3**

- 3.4.1 Test pit 3 revealed five walls (**Figure 2**). Wall **38** comprised five courses of unfrogged bricks in Flemish bond aligned north to south along the eastern side of the test pit. Visible in a break in wall **38** were four courses of a second wall (**39**) also constructed in brick but in a Header bond. Both walls were bonded with a sandy mortar. Beneath wall **38** was a single course of unbonded flint nodules.
- 3.4.2 Situated beneath Wall **38** was Wall **41** comprised a single course of flint, limestone and greensand stone blocks bonded with lime mortar. It was located in the south-east corner of Test Pit 3 and was aligned north-west to south-east.
- 3.4.3 Wall **47** was aligned north to south and comprised a single course of unbonded small chalk blocks. The southern end of Wall **47** appeared to have been truncated and tapered slightly. At its extreme southern end it was constructed of two flat slabs of limestone (one above the other) At this point Wall **47** joined Wall **46**.
- 3.4.4 Wall **46** was aligned south-east to north-west and comprised two courses of flint nodules and fragments of CBM set in a lime mortar. Wall **46** was originally joined to Wall **38**, forming the corner of a structure.
- 3.4.5 All the walls survived beneath the proposed level of impact (0.45m below existing ground level) and appear to represent a sequence of structures that formerly occupied an area to the rear of the Site.



### 3.5 Finds

- 3.5.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered from the three test pits excavated. These have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in **Table 1**. The assemblage comprises material of medieval and post-medieval date, and the range of material present is entirely to be expected from a site within Salisbury.
- 3.5.2 The assemblage includes local and non-local pottery types (Laverstock-type medieval coarseware, probably 13<sup>th</sup> century; post-medieval Verwood-type earthenware from east Dorset and redwares probably from north Wiltshire or Somerset, tinglazed earthenware and German stoneware), and medieval roof tiles in coarse fabrics, such as are found in the city from the earliest 13<sup>th</sup> century levels. The medieval pottery and tile occurred here residually in post-medieval contexts.

**Table 1: Finds by context**

CBM = ceramic building material (number / weight in grammes)

TP	Context	Animal Bone	CBM	Pottery	Oyster Shell	Other Finds
1	106	10/222	1/108	1/45	2/24	
1	108		2/77			
1	110		6/226	1/11	1/4	
1	111		2/34			
1	unstratified	9/121		2/79	2/63	
2	205			4/216		1 bottle glass
3	45	10/639			2/59	2 clay pipe
	<b>TOTAL</b>	29/982	11/445	8/351	7/150	

### 3.6 Environmental remains

- 3.6.1 Owing to the limited investigation carried out, no sampling of deposits for environmental remains was undertaken.

## 4 DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Archaeological potential and proposed impact

- 4.1.1 The archaeological potential of the Site is indicated by the results obtained in Test Pit 3. The archaeological remains identified, including phases of stone and brick built structures of probably medieval and post-medieval date, survive at a depth greater than the impact of the proposed new buildings, which was established as no greater than 0.45m below the existing surface (**Figure 2**).
- 4.1.2 The results of the evaluation are significant for indicating the potential for archaeological remains, of medieval and post-medieval date, to survive at the rear of properties, where existing impacts have been slight. Due

consideration should be given to the contribution the Site may make to the wider assessment of archaeological potential in Salisbury City centre.

- 4.1.3 In view of the results of the evaluation, it was agreed with WCAS that no further archaeological work in respect of the proposed development would be necessary.

## **5 ARCHIVE**

### **5.1 Preparation and Deposition**

- 5.1.1 The archive will be prepared to the standards set out in *Management of archaeological projects* (English Heritage 1991).
- 5.1.2 The site archive will be prepared for long-term storage in accordance with *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage* (Walker 1990) and *Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission 1994). It is proposed in principle that the entire archive (including the finds) will be deposited with the Salisbury Museum. Provision will be made for the cost of long-term storage in the post-fieldwork costs.
- 5.1.3 If necessary, the paper records of the site archive will be security microfilmed prior to deposition.
- 5.1.4 The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury, under site code 59330.

## **6 REFERENCE**

Wessex Archaeology, 2005, '52-54 Endless Street, Salisbury Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for Programme of Archaeological Work', Client document T9213.

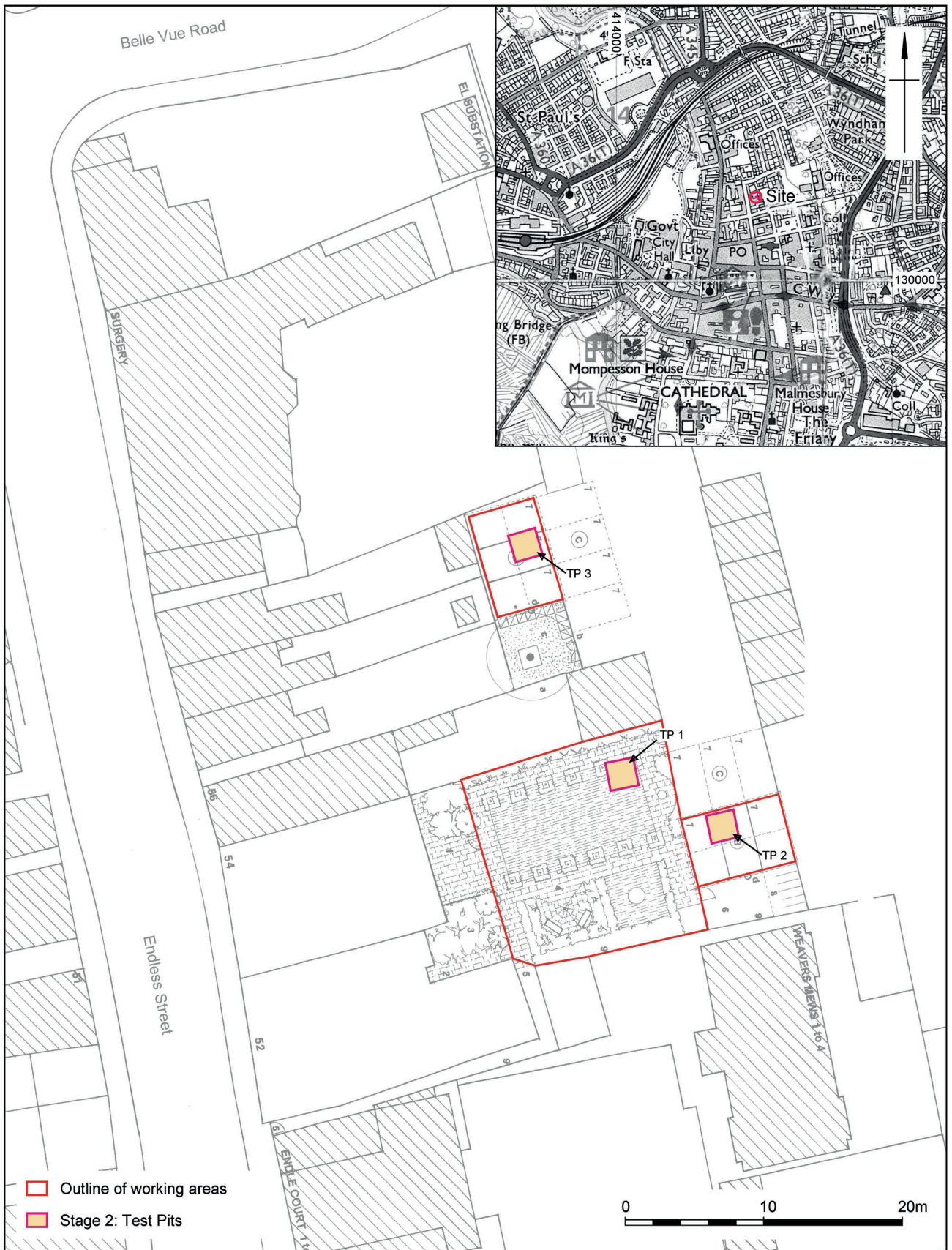
Wiltshire County Archaeology Service, 2004, Archaeological Excavation Brief for Land to the rear of 52-54 Endless Street, Salisbury'.

## APPENDIX 1: TESTPIT- SUMMARY CONTEXT DETAILS

<b>Test pit:1</b>		<b>Surface Height: 47.75m aOD</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>
101	Modern Tarmacadam surface	0 – 0.12m
102	Lens of building sand.	0.12 – 0.16m
103	Gravel hogging (small)	0.16 – 0.50m
104	Gravel hogging (medium)	0.50 – 0.67m
105	Grey brown sandy silt.	0.67 – 0.79m
106	Mixed deposit of dark grey and black sandy silt with high content of modern building debris, fill of 107.	0.79 +
107	Sub angular cut feature filled with 106.	0.79m +
108	Light greyish brown sandy silt with inclusions of CBM and friable mortar fragments.	0.79 – 0.81m
109	Light brown sandy silt with CBM inclusions.	0.81 – 0.93m
110	Mixed dark brown/black (with green tinge) sandy silty loam.	0.93m+
111	Mixed dark grey/ light grey and light brown silty loam. Some CBM inclusions.	1.20m+

<b>Test pit:2</b>		<b>Surface Height: 47.75m aOD</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>
201	Modern Tarmacadam surface	0 – 0.13m
202	Lens of building sand.	0.11 – 0.14m
203	Gravel hogging with crushed building debris.	0.13 – 0.29m
204	Dark brown/ black silty clay with high humic content.	0.22 – 0.38m
205	Dark grey/black silty clay with rare inclusions of pebbles and CBM.	0.38 – 0.60m
206	Light brown sandy silt and green sand.	0.65 – 1.10m
207	Redeposited light brown clay.	0.65 – 1.10m
208	Mixed layer of demolition material.	0.60m +
209	Pea grit and gravel in sand matrix.	0.29 – 0.45m

<b>Test pit:3</b>		<b>Surface Height: 47.72m aOD</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>
30	Modern Tarmacadam surface	0 – 0.10m
31	Gravel hogging.	0.10 – 0.25m
32	Dark brown organic loam (garden soil), with some inclusions of building debris.	0.25 – 0.60m
33	As 32 but greater inclusions of building debris.	0.25 – 0.60m
34	Lens of chalky gravel.	0.55 – 0.65m
35	As 32 but with very high mortar content.	0.60 – 1.09m
36	Lens of ash and charcoal.	0.90 – 1.20m
37	Grey mortar and sandy chalk with crushed building debris.	0.92 – 1.20m
38	Wall of Flemish Bond.	0.60 – 0.94m
39	As 38 but of Header Bond.	?
40	Single course of un-bonded flints beneath wall 38.	0.94 – 1.01m
41	Limestone, Green Sandstone and flint wall bonded with Limestone mortar. Associated with wall 46, beneath wall 38.	0.75 – 0.95m
42	As 32.	0.25 – 0.60m
43	Grey silty loam with high content of building debris.	0.60m +
44	Green and brown clay and clayey silt containing high content of crushed building debris. Slopes down to north from over wall46.	0.80m +
45	As 32. Slopes down to north from over wall46.	0.80m +
46	Flint and Lime mortar wall. Cut by wall 47.	0.80m +
47	Single course of small chalk blocks, un-bonded.	1.20m +



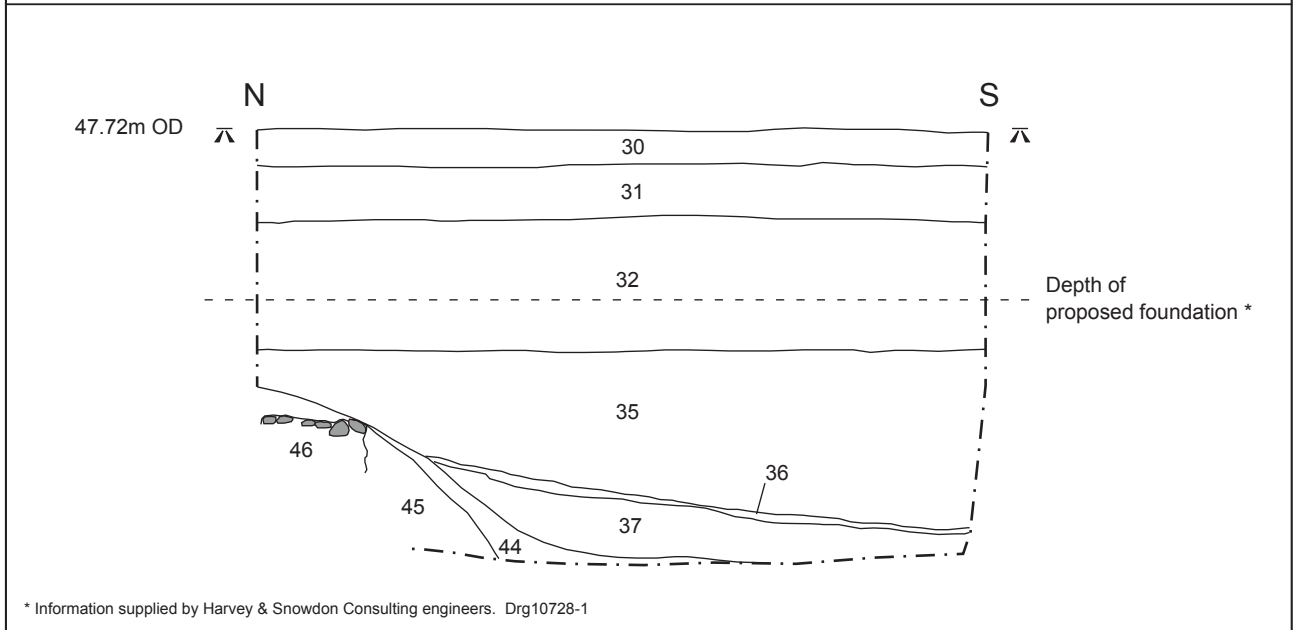
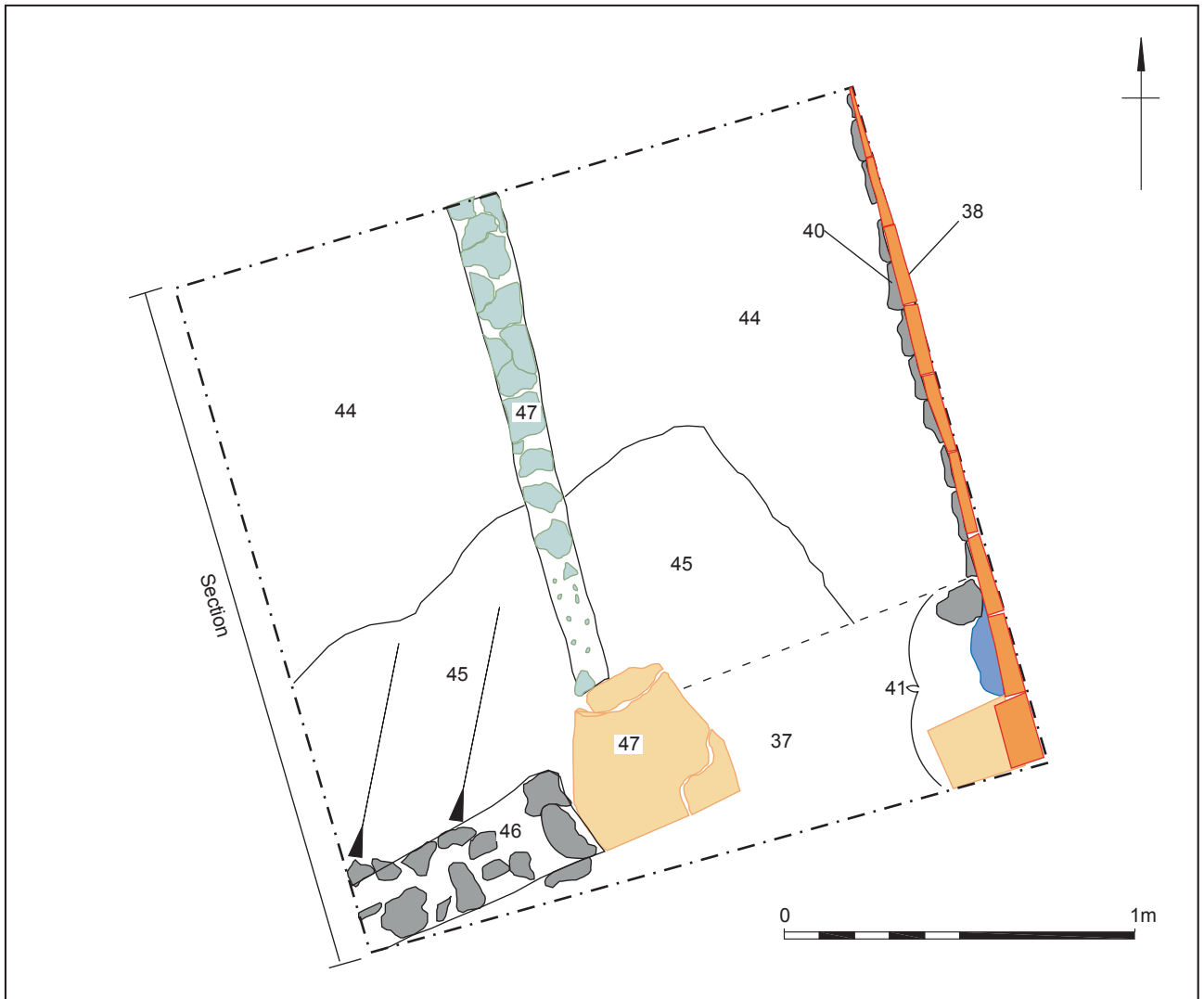
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Site location plan, and archaeological test pits

Figure 1



\* Information supplied by Harvey & Snowdon Consulting engineers. Drg10728-1

	Flints               Sandstone               Chalk Limestone               Bricks              - - - - Limit of excavation	
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Plan of Test Pit 3 & east facing section

Figure 2



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