



Salisbury Central Health Clinic  
Castle Street  
Salisbury  
Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



**SALISBURY CENTRAL HEALTH CLINIC,  
CASTLE STREET  
SALISBURY,  
WILTSHIRE**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

Prepared for

**LIFT Project  
c/o South Wiltshire Primary Care Trust  
Cross Keys House  
Queen Street  
Salisbury  
Wiltshire  
SP1 1EY**

by

**Wessex Archaeology  
Portway House  
Old Sarum Park  
SALISBURY  
Wiltshire  
SP4 6EB**

**REF 63630.03**

**August 2006**

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**Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by the LIFT Project Team, who are hosted by the South Wiltshire Primary Care NHS Trust, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of potential redevelopment of the site of a current car parking facility adjacent to the Salisbury Central Health Clinic (centred at NGR 414280 130240).

The Site is situated between the River Avon and the millstream at the western edge of the historic core of the city of Salisbury. The main aim of the evaluation was to identify the presence of features relating to the maintenance of the millstream, or those pre-dating the medieval city.

Due to a substantial presence of modern made ground across most of the Site, the evaluation was limited to the excavation of two trial trenches aligned along the northern boundary of the Site where these deposits were deemed the thinnest.

The evaluation revealed modern made ground to a depth of 1.2m below ground level overlying alluvial deposits of an uncertain date. A relic watercourse or large ditch, aligned north to south, was noted to run between the two trenches, appearing only partially in both. A small quantity of burnt flint and unabraded worked flint was recovered from the eastern edge of the feature, indicated that it may be of a prehistoric date.

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**Acknowledgements**

Wessex Archaeology is grateful to the LIFT project team for commissioning the work and providing assistance on site. The co-operation and help given by James Hilton, Estate Manager, Kennet and North Wilts. NHS PCT, is acknowledged with thanks. The assistance of Helena Cave-Penny, Wiltshire County Archaeological Services, is also gratefully acknowledged.

The fieldwork was directed by Kevin Ritchie, with the assistance of Vasillis Tsamis. This report was compiled by Kevin Ritchie and Martyn Norris prepared the illustrations. Brigitte Buss managed the project for Wessex Archaeology.

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**Archaeological Evaluation**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 Project Background**

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by the LIFT Project Team ('the Client'), who are hosted by the South Wiltshire Primary Care NHS Trust, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of potential redevelopment of the site of a current car parking facility adjacent to the Salisbury Central Health Clinic (centred at NGR 414280 130240, hereafter 'the Site', **Figure 1**).

1.1.2 A brief for the archaeological works was prepared by Helena Cave-Penney from the Wiltshire County Council Archaeology Service ('the Curator'). A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI, **WA doc ref 63630.01**) was prepared in accordance with it and approved prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

1.1.3 The evaluation was undertaken on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2006.

**1.2 Site Description**

1.2.1 The proposed redevelopment Site is an irregular rectangular area of approximately 2.7ha, which houses the Salisbury Central Health Care Centre to its south, and car parking facilities to the north. A second building was demolished in the current area of car parking in recent times (see **Figure 1**).

1.2.2 The Site is situated on the flat valley floor between the River Avon and the millstream at the western edge of the historic core of the city and lies at *c.*46-47m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). An access road runs between the western edge of the Site and the river. To the north the Site is bounded by the facilities of the National Probation Service, while Avon Approach forms its boundary to the south.

1.2.3 The underlying geology of the Site consists of Recent and Pleistocene Valley Gravels (BGS 1:50,000 Map Sheet 298, *c.* 1976).

1.2.4 Geotechnical investigations in 2005 revealed that a layer of made ground exists to a depth of at least 1m below ground level across the Site (Wessex Archaeology 2006).

**1.3 Historical and Archaeological Background**

1.3.1 The Site lies at the western edge of the medieval city of Salisbury.

- 1.3.2 A desk-based assessment was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in 2006 (*ibid*), which concluded that the archaeological potential of the Site was generally low. The Site is located outside the medieval street grid and remained marginal land during the medieval, post-medieval and earlier modern periods, until its eventual development in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## **2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1.1 The aims of the evaluation were to determine, as far as was reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development, in particular those relating to the maintenance of the millstream or pre-dating the medieval city to survive on the Site.
- 2.1.2 The results of the evaluation will to inform any further archaeological mitigation strategy required.

## **3 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Trial Trench Evaluation**

- 3.1.1 The evaluation methodology was set out in the WSI and is not re-iterated in full here.
- 3.1.2 In view of the known presence of extensive modern made ground across the Site, the evaluation was limited to the excavation of two trial trenches measuring 10m x 2m and 5m x 2 m respectively. (**Figures 1 & 2**)

### **3.2 Survey**

- 3.2.1 The trial trenches were located on the ground using measurements from site boundaries features present on OS maps.

## **4 RESULTS**

- 4.1.1 A full summary of both trenches is included in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.1.2 Modern made ground, consisting of demolition debris probably originating from the recent demolition of a building on the Site, was found in both trenches to a depth of 1.2m below ground level (BGL). In both trenches it overlay pale yellowish-brown alluvial clay deposits, recorded as **(104)** and **(205)** respectively.
- 4.1.3 The eastern edge of a partly exposed, broad linear feature, **[114]**, was revealed in the eastern extent of **Trench 1** (see **Figure 2**). No artefacts were recovered from the top fill, **(115)**, of this feature, however iron-pan mottling indicated that the deposits had been waterlogged for periods of time during its deposition. Health and Safety concerns prohibited hand-excavation of this feature.
- 4.1.4 The western edge of a similar partly exposed linear feature, **[206]**, was also revealed in the western extent of **Trench 2** (see **Figure 2**). A small quantity of unabraded

worked flint and burnt flint was recovered from the fill of this feature, (208), possibly indicating prehistoric activity in the vicinity. The deposit was very similar to (115), and also exhibited signs of waterlogging. As with [114], the feature was not investigated further due to Health and Safety concerns.

- 4.1.5 Based on the orientation and similarity of fills, it appeared that the feature in the eastern end of **Trench 1**, [114], and [206] in the western extent of **Trench 2** represented the eastern and western edge of one broad feature, aligned approximately north-northeast/south-southwest and 10m wide (**Figures 1 & 2**). This interpretation was supported by the similarity of their fills, and further proven by a machine sondage between the trenches (**Figure 1**) which suggested a continuity of deposits in this location. Iron-panning of the feature is indicative of natural silting/standing water, and suggests that the feature is likely to have been a channel of natural or man-made origin.

## 5 FINDS

### 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The evaluation produced a very small quantity of finds (see **Table 1** for a breakdown of finds by context).
- 5.1.2 Three prehistoric flint flakes (context (208)) represent the earliest material. The burnt, unworked flint could also be of prehistoric date. The remainder of the finds are post-medieval, including clay pipe stems and one pipe bowl (context (109); c.1630-40), and pottery (Verwood-type earthenwares from east Dorset, and one modern refined whiteware).

**Table 1: Finds by context (number / weight in grammes)**

| Context      | Burnt Flint | Clay Pipe   | Flint      | Pottery      |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| 103          |             | 2/8         |            | 4/54         |
| 109          |             | 3/15        |            | 3/75         |
| 208          | 4/59        |             | 3/7        |              |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>4/59</b> | <b>5/23</b> | <b>3/7</b> | <b>7/129</b> |

## 6 ENVIRONMENTAL

- 6.1.1 Although Health and Safety concerns prevented investigation by hand-excavation within the trenches, both the alluvial and channels fill deposits within them were visually examined for inclusions of palaeoenvironmental materials, such as charcoal, molluscs etc. However none were observed within the trench base.

## 7 DISCUSSION

- 7.1.1 The investigation demonstrated a relatively undisturbed survival of waterlain deposits, including natural or man-made drainage features, under recent man-made ground along the northern boundary of the development Site at approximately 1.2m BGL.

- 7.1.2 Although the exact nature and date of the wide linear feature extending into both trenches could not be ascertained, the presence of relatively unabraded prehistoric material suggests that activity of that date to which the channel may be related, may have taken place nearby.

## **8 PROJECT ARCHIVE**

- 8.1.1 The project archive is stable and currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury under the site code of **63630**. It is hoped that the archive will be deposited with an appropriate museum at a future date. The small finds assemblage is not recommended for long-term curation.

## **REFERENCES**

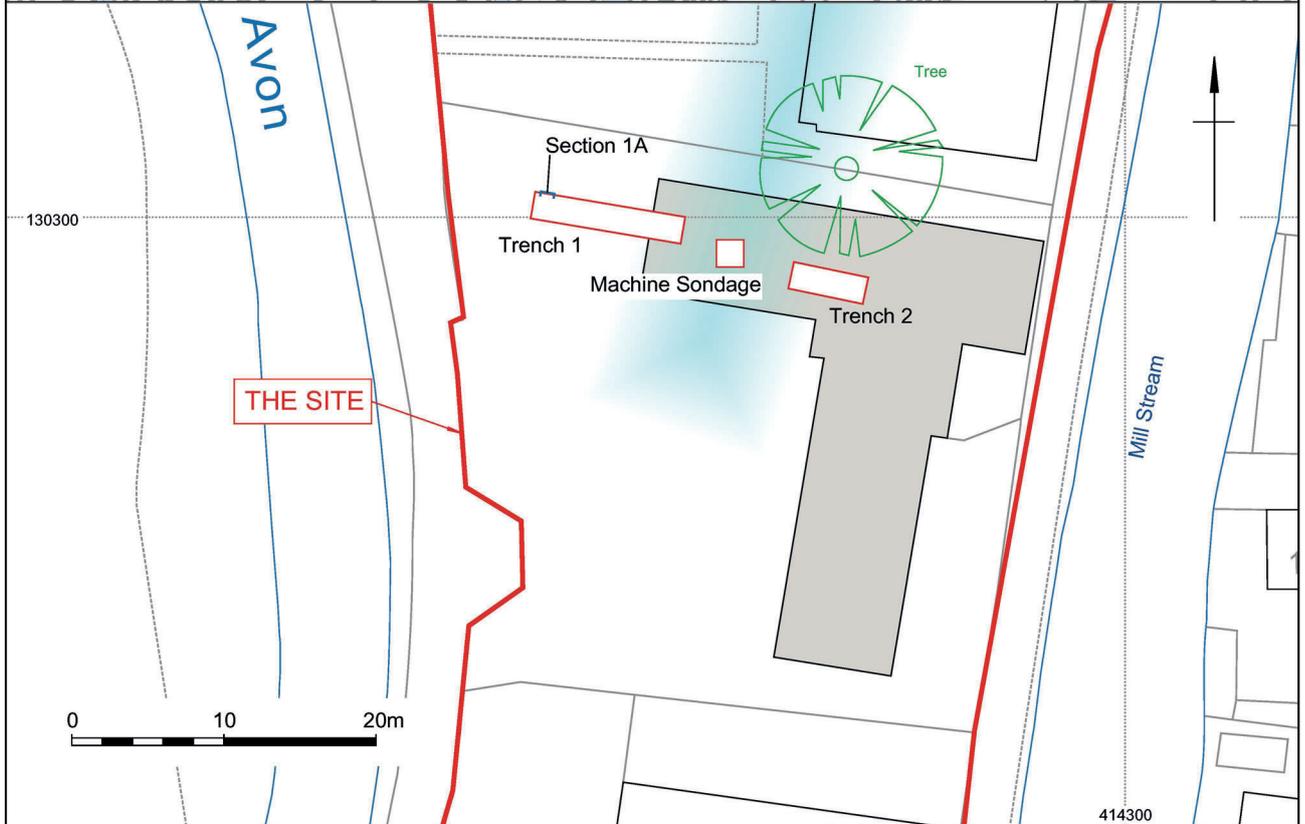
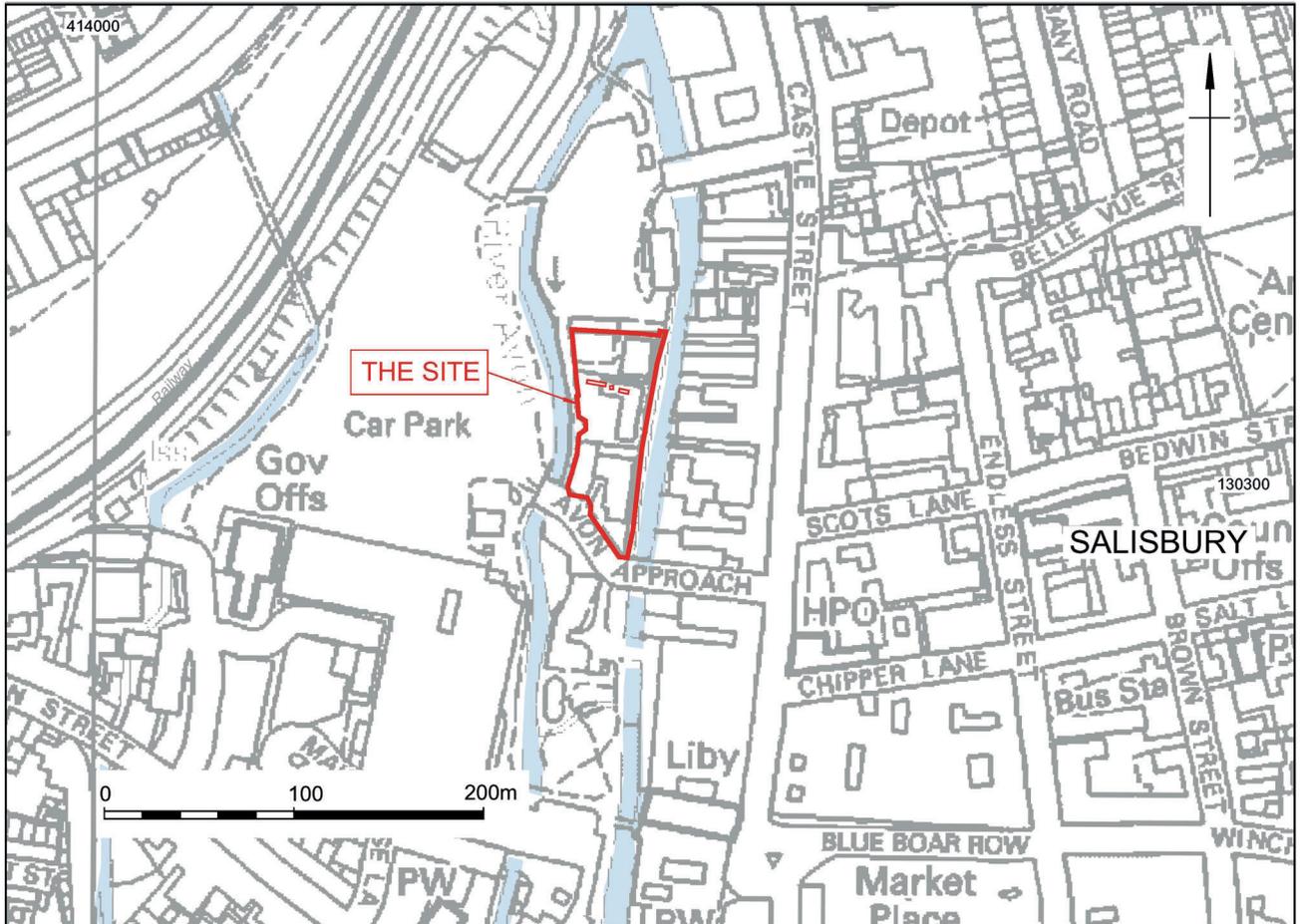
Wessex Archaeology. July 2006. Salisbury Central Health Clinic, Castle Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire: *Written Scheme of Investigation for a programme of Archaeological Evaluation*. WA doc ref 63630.02

**APPENDIX 1 – Trench summaries**

| <b>Trench No. 1</b> | <b>Orientation: East to West</b>   | <b>Dimensions: 10m x 2m<br/>Max. depth: 1.20m</b> |
|---------------------|--|---|
| <i>Context</i>      | <i>Description</i>   | <i>Depth BGL</i>                                  |
| 100                 | Deposit. Tarmac surface of car park. (As 105 & 109).                                 | 0 - 0.5m  |
| 101                 | Deposit. Light yellowish brown gravel <0.05m (As 106 & 110)                          | 0.05 – 0.15m                                      |
| 102                 | Deposit. Light yellowish brown gravel <0.10m (As 107 & 111)                          | 0.15 – 0.55m                                      |
| 103                 | Deposit. Dark greyish brown silty clay with inclusions of modern CBM. (As 108 & 112) | 0.55 – 1.20m                                      |
| 104                 | Deposit. Light yellowish-pale brown silty clay                                       | 1.2m +  |
| 105                 | Deposit. As 100.   | 0 – 0.5m  |
| 106                 | Deposit. As 101.   | 0.05 – 0.15m                                      |
| 107                 | Deposit. As 102.   | 0.15 – 0.55m                                      |
| 108                 | Deposit. As 103.   | 0.55 – 1.20m                                      |
| 109                 | Deposit. As 100 + 105.   | 0 – 0.5m  |
| 110                 | Deposit. As 101 + 106.   | 0.05 – 0.15m                                      |
| 111                 | Deposit. As 102 + 107.   | 0.15 – 0.55m                                      |
| 112                 | Deposit. As 103 + 108.   | 0.55 – 1.20m                                      |
| 113                 | Deposit. As 104.   | 1.20m +   |
| 114                 | Cut. Eastern edge of north to south aligned linear feature                           | 1.20m +   |
| 115                 | Deposit. Brown silty clay loam/silty clay with some orange mottling. Fill of 114.    | 1.20m +   |

| <b>Trench No. 2</b> | <b>Orientation: East to West</b>  | <b>Dimensions: 5m x 2m<br/>Max. depth: 1.20m</b> |
|---------------------|---|--|
| <i>Context</i>      | <i>Description</i>  | <i>depth BGL</i>                                 |
| 200                 | Deposit. Hoggin infilling depression left by demolished building.                           | 0 – 0.15m  |
| 201                 | Deposit. Mixed chalk and modern building debris in a dark brown silt loam matrix.           | 0.15 – 0.30m                                     |
| 202                 | Deposit. Dark brown silty loam with high content of angular chalks < 0.10m.                 | 0.30 – 0.50m                                     |
| 203                 | Deposit. Crushed chalk with occasional CBM and some dark brown silty loam.                  | 0.50 – 0.60m                                     |
| 204                 | Deposit. Dark brown silty loam with inclusions of modern building debris and crushed chalk. | 0.60 – 1m  |

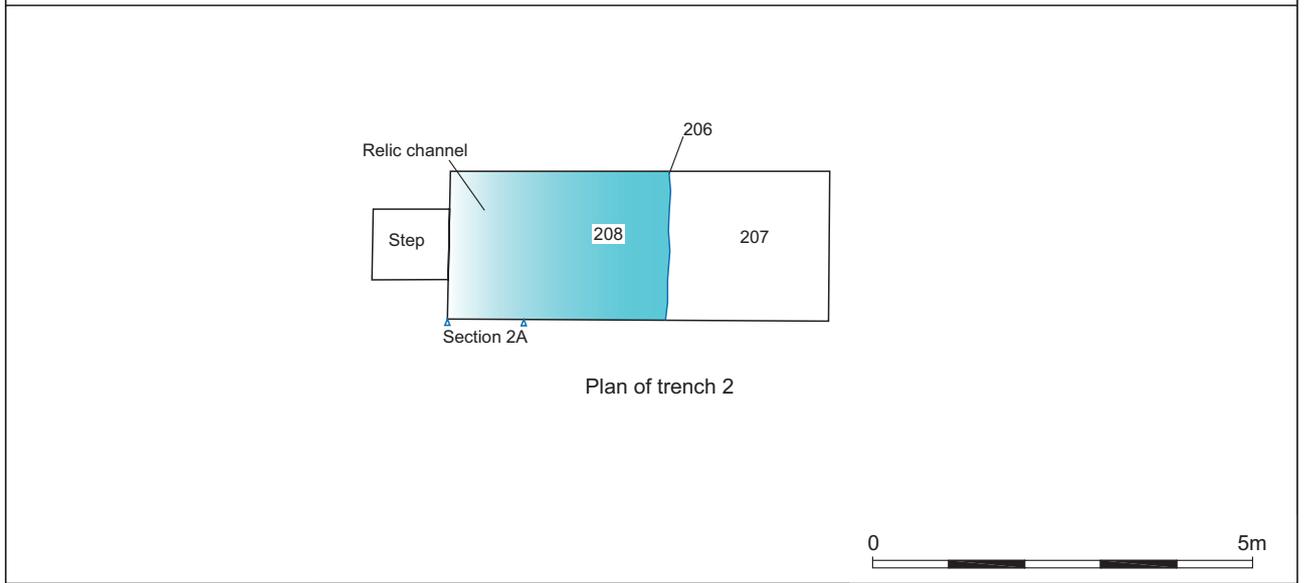
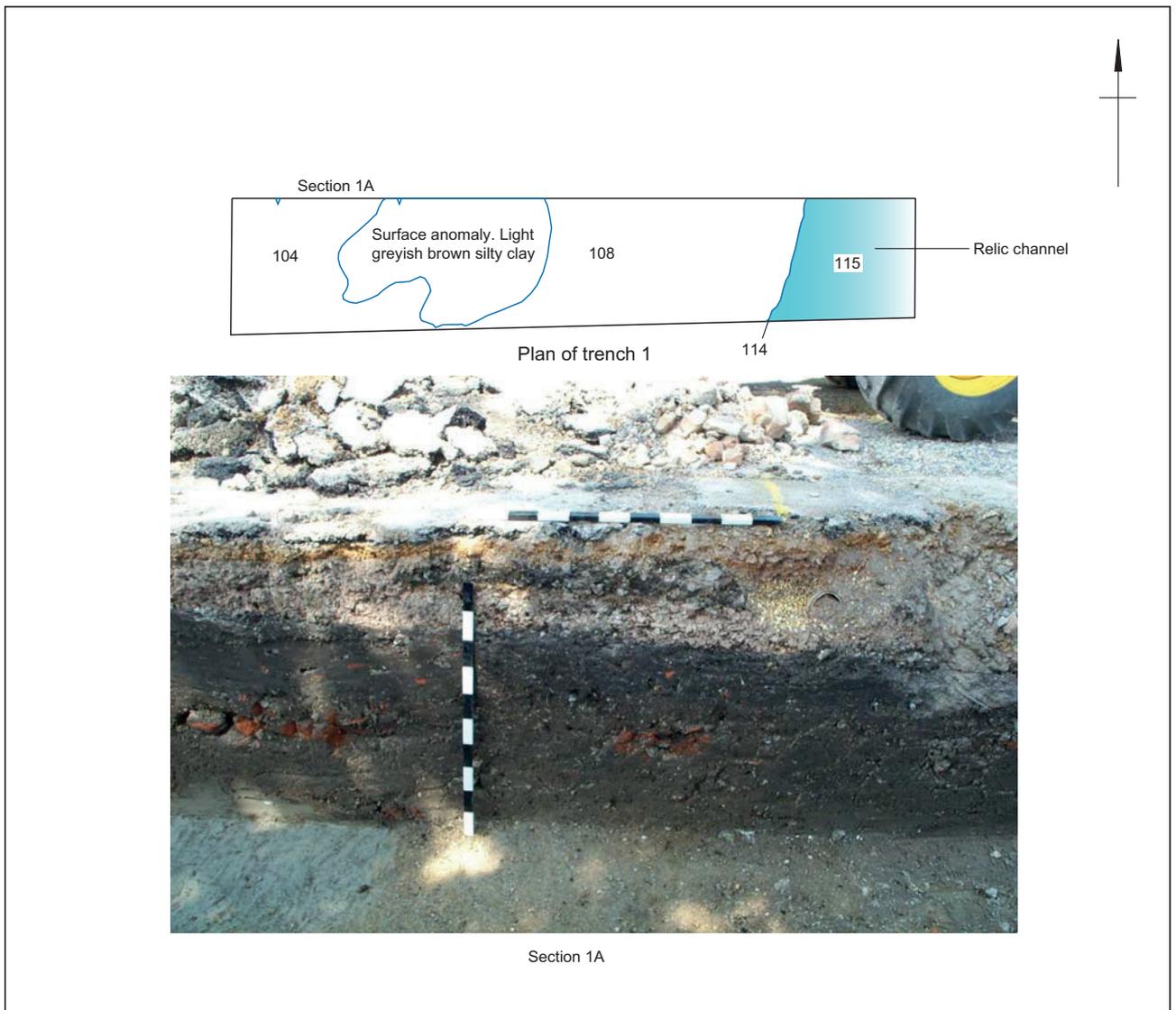
|     |   |            |
|-----|---|------------|
| 205 | Deposit. Very silty clay with occasional small chalk inclusions.  | 1m – 1.20m |
| 206 | Cut. North to south aligned linear feature. Only eastern edge visible within trench. A sondage in Trench 1 revealed the western edge. Possible palaeochannel. | 1.20m -    |
| 207 | Deposit. Natural, almost yellow alluvium.   | 1.20m -    |
| 208 | Deposit. Brown silty clay loam/silty clay with some orange mottling. Fill of 206, unexcavated, worked and burnt flint recovered from surface.                 | 1.20m -    |



|  |  |                     |
|--|--|---------------------|
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Site and trench location plan, showing projected alignment of relic channel

Figure 1



|   |   |   |                    |
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Trench plans and sample section

Figure 2



**WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED.**

**Head Office:** Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.

Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 [info@wessexarch.co.uk](mailto:info@wessexarch.co.uk) [www.wessexarch.co.uk](http://www.wessexarch.co.uk)

**London Office:** Unit 113, The Chandlery, 50 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7QY.

Tel: 020 7953 7494 Fax: 020 7953 7499 [london-info@wessexarch.co.uk](mailto:london-info@wessexarch.co.uk) [www.wessexarch.co.uk](http://www.wessexarch.co.uk)

