



# 82 St Anne's Street Salisbury, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation

**Online archive report**



Ref: 49846.02  
Date: October 2001

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**82 ST. ANNE'S STREET, SALISBURY, WILTSHIRE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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**On behalf of:**

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Figure 1: Site and trench location

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*Cover photograph* shows the Site and Trench 1, looking west along the trench.

## **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at 82 St. Anne's Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire, for Damen Associates on behalf of Dr. Collier and Partners. The work was carried according to a Specification prepared by the Archaeology Section of Wiltshire County Council. The Site consisted of a lawned garden to the rear of the existing surgery, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SU 414866 129665. It is the location of a proposed one-storey pharmacy building.

No archaeology was previously known on the Site, but the putative course of the City Rampart was thought to run through the property.

The evaluation entailed the excavation of one machine-dug trench. Early modern brick, stone and cut features associated with post-medieval and early modern drains or soakaways were recorded. Only a few post-medieval and early modern artefacts were found, with two prehistoric flints in a residual context. The shallow footings of the proposed pharmacy will not have an impact upon any significant archaeological remains.

## **Acknowledgements**

The project was commissioned and funded by Damen Associates on behalf of Dr. Collier and Partners, and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Mr. C.M.J. Burrows and Dr. Collier respectively. Wessex Archaeology also gratefully acknowledges the assistance and co-operation of Ms. Helena Cave-Penney of the Archaeology Section of Wiltshire County Council. Mr. Richard Hughes from Salisbury District Council and the contractors Kinlake Developments Ltd. were also most helpful.

Jo Best, Adrian Chadwick and Phil Jefferson carried out the fieldwork. Adrian Chadwick compiled this report, and Karen Nichols prepared the survey plan and other illustrations. Lorraine Mephram produced the finds report, and Jonathan Nowell managed the project for Wessex Archaeology.



# **82 ST. ANNE'S STREET, SALISBURY, WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project background**

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at 82 St. Anne's Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire, for Damen Associates on behalf of Dr. Collier and Partners. The Site consisted of a lawn and garden to the rear of the existing surgery, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SU 414866 129665. It is the location of a proposed one-storey pharmacy building.
- 1.1.2 The requirement for archaeological evaluation followed advice from the Archaeology Section of Wiltshire County Council suggesting that archaeological remains may be disturbed by the proposed development. This advice was informed by previous archaeological work in the immediate area.
- 1.1.3 The work of Wessex Archaeology was carried out according to a Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation (2001) prepared by the Archaeology Section of Wiltshire County Council.
- 1.1.4 The archaeological evaluation consisted of one machine-excavated trial trench, and was undertaken between the 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> October 2001.

## **2 THE SITE**

- 2.1.1 The Site comprised a walled garden, lawn and car park approximately 2125m<sup>2</sup> in area (Figure 1). It was located on the south side of St. Anne's Street, behind the existing doctor's surgery. It was bordered to the west by a brick boundary wall, and to the east by another brick boundary wall that runs parallel to the Churchhill Way South dual carriageway. The modern ground level of St. Anne's Street was approximately 43 metres above Ordnance Datum (m aOD), and behind the surgery the ground sloped away gently to the south.
- 2.1.2 The modern land-use and vegetation on the Site consisted of a flower bed and shrubbery.
- 2.1.3 The underlying geology of the area consisted of Upper Cretaceous Middle Chalk, with drift geology of valley gravels (Geological Survey of England and Wales 1: 50 000 Sheet 298).
- 2.1.4 No archaeology was previously known on the Site, but the putative north-south course of the City Rampart was thought to run through the immediate area.

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK**

- 3.1.1 The aim of the evaluation was to provide information on the extent, date, nature, condition and importance of any buried remains surviving within the Site so that authoritative mitigation measures could be developed alongside the preparation of detailed development plans for the proposed scheme.
- 3.1.2 The objectives of the evaluation were informed by the Wiltshire County Council Specification.

### **4 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1.1 The evaluation method consisted of the excavation of one trial trench, opened using a small, tracked 360° mechanical mini-digger with a toothless 1m wide ditching bucket, under the constant supervision of a qualified archaeologist.
- 4.1.2 The trench was excavated to the top of archaeological deposits or to the top of the natural undisturbed deposits, whichever was encountered first. Artefacts observed within the machine-excavated material, with the exception of obviously modern objects, were recorded and retained.
- 4.1.3 The trench was then investigated by hand, with all recording carried out using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. The trench was recorded photographically using both colour slide and black and white 35mm film. Representative plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20, and sections at 1:10. All deposits were assigned unique context numbers. The recording was undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation 1999.
- 4.1.4 The trench was surveyed in using 30m tapes. Heights above Ordnance Datum (m aOD) were established by transferring levels from a survey point utilised by the developer.

### **5 RESULTS**

#### **Introduction**

- 4.1.5 The trench location was agreed with the Wiltshire County Council Archaeology Officer, and is shown in Figure 1.
- 4.1.6 The topsoil (001) consisted of very dark brown-black silty loam. The natural undisturbed subsoil (012) was of mottled light yellow brown or olive gravel and marl, which was clearly defined from the deposits above.



## 4.2 Trench 1

Trench 1 was 7.70m long, and a maximum of 1.50m wide (**Figure 2**). It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.92m. It ran roughly E-W across the northern, higher part of the garden, at right angles to the existing brick garden wall. Natural subsoil was encountered at a depth of 0.92m. There was considerable root disturbance, particularly at the western end where a tree-root mass lay just north of the trench.

Below the topsoil 001 was a dark grey silty loam 011, up to 0.24m thick. This in turn overlay a variety of features in the western half of the trench. Both 001 and 011 were garden soil deposits.

Within construction cut 006 and 0.50m below the modern ground surface was a rectangular structure (005) of mixed half and full size red and yellow bricks, many different from one another in style and colour, and some clearly damaged or broken. These bricks were bonded together by a loose, off-white mortar, and also by a patch of cement, and were a single course wide. Most bricks appeared to be 19<sup>th</sup> century in date, but had clearly been re-used. The backfill of the construction cut was 008, a mixed deposit of rubble and dark grey silty loam. Two residual prehistoric flints were recovered from this deposit.

Structure 005 was at least 1.30m long and 0.50m wide, and it enclosed a space at least 0.65m long and 0.40m wide. The base of this possible cess pit or soakaway was not reached, but was at least 0.40m deep and filled with rubble backfill including brick and tile fragments, mortar and loose dark grey-brown silty loam. Tree-root disturbance was especially severe here, as large roots had grown down into the rubble. Early modern porcelain and ceramic drainage pipe fragments were recovered from this deposit.

Running southwards from structure 005 was a linear alignment of dressed rectangular limestone slabs (007), the largest of which was 0.31m long and 0.34m wide. This same slab overlapped and abutted the bricks of structure 005, and thus post-dated it. These stones may have been the capping or cover slabs of a north-south running drainage cut, but this feature was not excavated further, and it was not established if there was an underlying cut or not.

Cut 006, and the possible construction cut of the limestone slabs 007, both appeared to cut a deposit of compact dark grey brown clayey loam, deposit 007. This also appeared to be derived from garden soils, and so south of 005 and 006 the trench was stepped and machined deeper. At a depth of 0.90m a rectilinear feature was noted, running on a roughly north-west to south-east alignment.

Excavation of a 0.45m wide section through this feature showed it to be the cut (004) of a narrow gully, up to 0.50m and at least 1.80m long, with steep sides dropping to a flat or very gently concave bottom. This was cut into mottled natural marl and gravel deposits. Its fill (003) was a dark grey brown, compact clayey loam with chalk inclusions, and was sealed by the garden soil deposit 009. This fill 003 contained some animal bone fragments, but no dateable artefacts. However, this feature was likely to have been a drainage gully, of post-medieval or early modern date. It may

have been connected in some way to the south-east corner of the soakaway 005, or that structure may have represented a later phase of drainage activity.

In the north-facing section of Trench 1, a small group of loose bricks was noted, associated with deposit 010 (**Fig. 2**), a dark grey sandy silty loam. This deposit and the bricks lay between deposits 011 and 009, and it was not clear if they lay within a shallow cut or just a natural depression. They may reflect some form of levelling activity, perhaps associated with an old garden or yard surface. Alternatively, this may have been another shallow gully.

## **5 THE FINDS**

A very small quantity of artefactual material was recovered during the evaluation. None of this material has been retained beyond quantification and identification. The finds comprised two fragments of animal bone (gully 004), one fragment of brick and three of ceramic drainpipe (soak-away 006), one sherd of transfer-printed ware (soak-away 006) and two worked flint blades (soak-away 006). The latter are the only finds which are not either probably or demonstrably of post-medieval date; these blades are not particularly chronologically diagnostic although blade technology is generally characteristic of the earlier prehistoric period (Mesolithic/Neolithic).

## **5 DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.2.3 The features recorded in Trench 1 appeared to be post-medieval or post-modern in date, and probably represent drainage activity. They lie under deposits of mixed garden soil.
- 5.2.4 No trace of the City Rampart was revealed, and this may lie further to the east of Trench 1.
- 5.2.5 The footings for the proposed one-storey pharmacy building are not likely to impact upon any significant archaeological remains.

## APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARY

Numbers attributed to cut features shown in **bold**.

+ indicates deposits/features not fully excavated.

‘Depth’ refers to depth from modern ground surface.

<b>Trench No. 1</b>	<b>Co-ordinates: Ground Level (m AOD):</b>	<b>Dimensions:</b> 7.7m long, 1.50m wide <b>Max.depth:</b> 0.92m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>
001	Topsoil	0-0.30
002	Rubble backfill within soak-away <b>006</b>	0.50+
003	Dark grey-brown fill of gully <b>004</b>	0.90-1.10
<b>004</b>	Small rectilinear NW-SE gully	0.90-1.10
005	Brick lining of <b>006</b>	0.50+
<b>006</b>	Subrectangular cut for soak-away	0.50+
007	Probable stone capping for drain	0.42+
008	Dark grey-brown backfill of <b>006</b>	0.50+
009	Dark grey-brown silty layer	0.40-0.92
010	Grey silt with bricks and stone	0.40-0.70
011	Mottled dark grey layer	0.30-0.42
012	Natural marl and gravel	0.92+
013	Natural yellowish brown clay	0.92+
014	Patch of reddish brown clay	0.42+

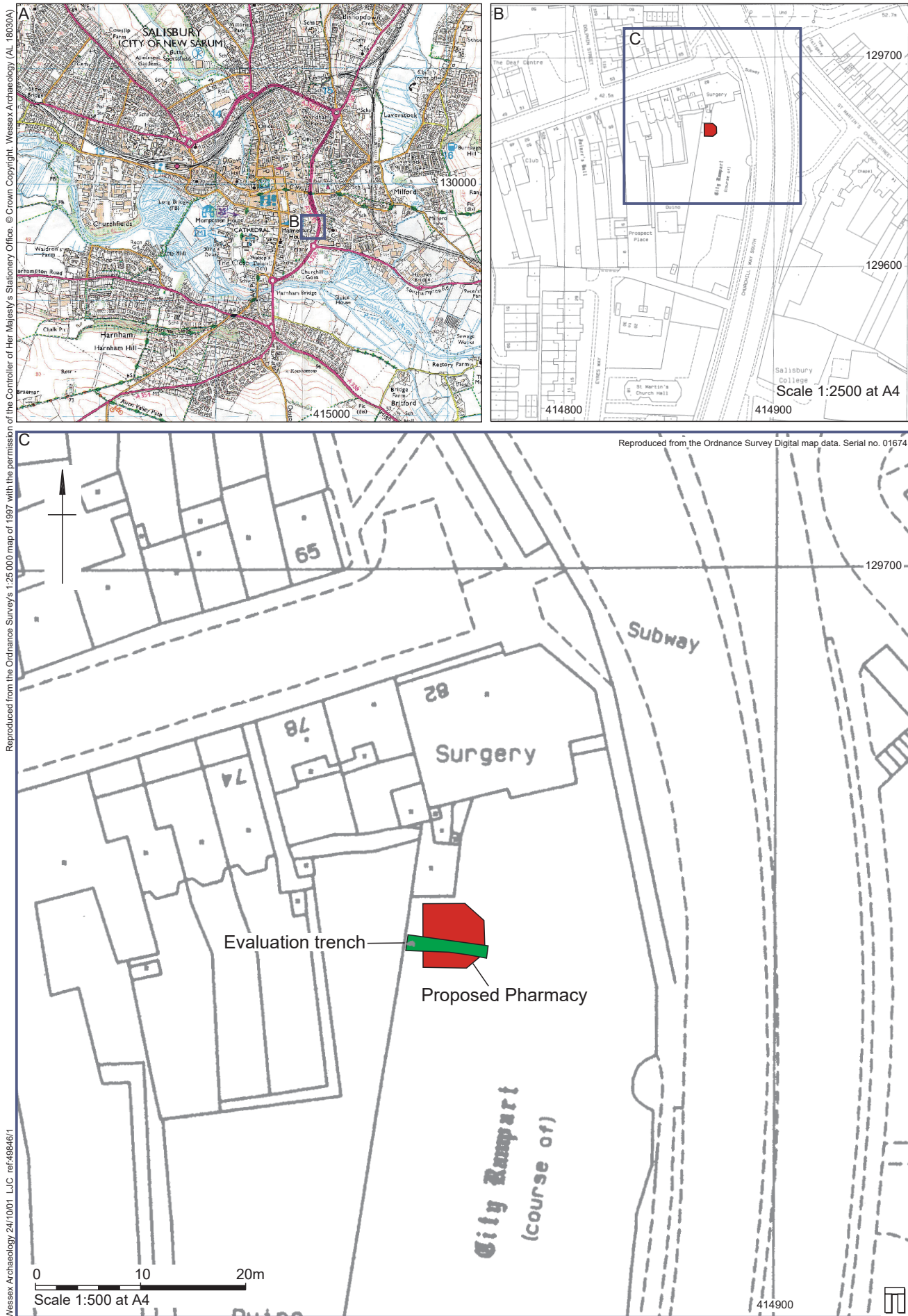
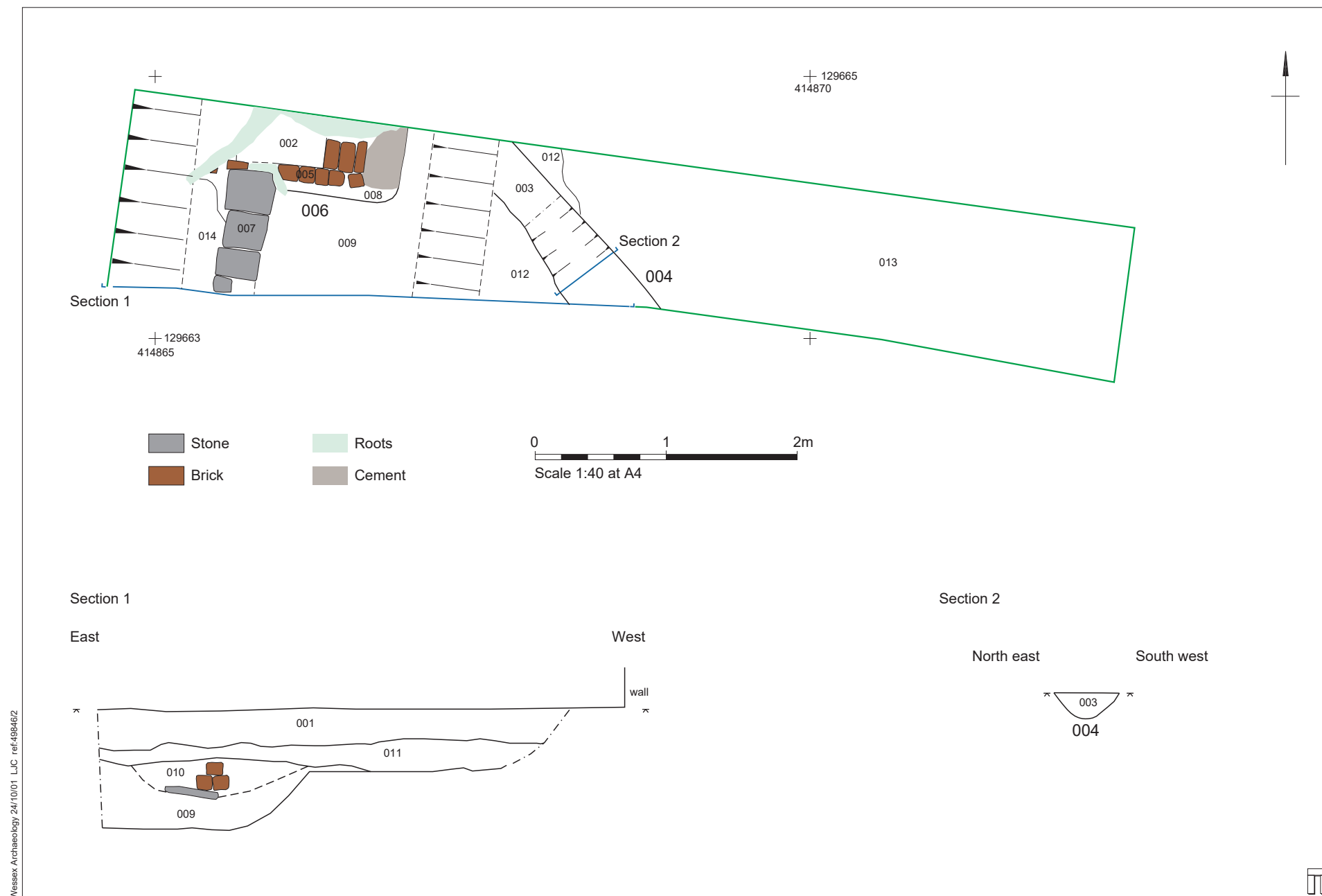


Figure 1



### Detailed trench plan and sections

Figure 2



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