

The Anchor Brewery Site, Gigant Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Stage 2 (Trench 4)



March 2000

**THE ANCHOR BREWERY SITE,
GIGANT STREET, SALISBURY,
WILTSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
Stage 2 (Trench 4)**

Prepared on behalf of :

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Gleeson Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a *c.* 0.47 ha. area of land at the site of the former Anchor Brewery in Gigant Street, Salisbury. The work was required in connection with the residential redevelopment of the site. Stage 2 of this evaluation comprised a single machine-excavated trench located within the northern part of the site.

The machine trench identified the likely presence of a building of post-medieval date within the backlands of the chequer. However, the remains have been severely truncated by modern activities and no further archaeological work is proposed here.

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Stage 2 (Trench 4)**

Acknowledgements

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The fieldwork was supervised by Bob Davis, who was assisted by Jon Crisp and Alison Page. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Mick Rawlings, who also compiled this report. The finds were assessed by Lorraine Mepham and the illustrations were prepared by Rob Goller.

THE ANCHOR BREWERY SITE, GIGANT STREET, SALISBURY, WILTSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation Stage 2 (Trench 4)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Gleeson Homes (the Client) to undertake an archaeological evaluation of *c.* 0.47 ha of land at the site of the former Anchor Brewery in Gigant Street, Salisbury. The work was required as part of a proposed residential development of the site.
- 1.1.2 The archaeological evaluation was requested by the Wiltshire County Archaeology Service (CAS), acting as archaeological advisors to Salisbury District Council. This request is in line with national planning guidance for archaeology and development (*Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning* – DoE 1990) and with County and District plan policies.
- 1.1.3 A Project Design for the archaeological evaluation was prepared by Wessex Archaeology (June 1999, Ref. 45700.3) and approved by the CAS. This required the machine excavation of a total of six trial trenches within the proposal area. The location of the trial trenches was based on the results of a prior desk-based assessment of archaeological potential (Wessex Archaeology January 1999, Ref. 45700.1) combined with the perceived impact of the proposed development.
- 1.1.4 A previous report has been submitted by Wessex Archaeology on the results of the first stage of evaluation (February 2000, Ref. 45701.1). This comprised Trenches 1-3 along with a short watching brief which was carried out during the removal of contaminated land from part of the site.
- 1.1.5 This present report sets out in detail the results of the second stage of evaluation, comprising Trench 4. Trenches 5-6 will be the subject of further evaluation reports.

1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

- 1.2.1 The site, centred on NGR SU 14690 29850, covers an area of land approximately 0.47 ha. in extent. It is located in the eastern part of the city of Salisbury and fronts onto Gigant Street to the east and Milford Street to the north (Fig. 1). The site is generally flat and the underlying drift geology is the Higher Terrace Gravel of the Avon Valley, lying above Upper Chalk of the Cretaceous Period.

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 A more detailed archaeological background is provided in the desk-based assessment of archaeological potential; the following is a summary of that information.
- 1.3.2 The city of New Sarum (Salisbury) was established in the early years of the 13th century, with the decision to transfer the cathedral from Old Sarum being taken before 1200. Whilst initially the intention may have been to restrict development to the area close to the cathedral (New Street\St. Ann's Street), this changed rapidly to the extensive development of a regularly planned rectilinear street grid. The roads isolated areas for housing within them, which were called 'chequers'.
- 1.3.3 The proposed Anchor Brewery development site lies within Trinity Chequer. The desk-based assessment identified three areas of higher archaeological potential within the site:
- The Gigant Street frontage – it is likely that this frontage was built up during the early part of the development of the city, probably in the 14th or even the 13th century.
 - The western boundary of the site – this lies along or very close to the line of a former ditch called the Town Drain. It was a major feature of the medieval town, bringing in fresh water drawn from the River Avon and no doubt used for the removal of refuse from the settlement.
 - The site of a former large building adjacent to the western boundary of the site. This is recorded on early maps of the city and is unusually situated in the backlands of the chequer, whereas these areas are normally devoid of buildings.
- 1.3.4 This latter area of higher archaeological potential was the target of Trench 4.

2. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The principal aim of the evaluation was to provide further information concerning the presence/absence, date, nature and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the identified areas of higher archaeological potential. This information will then be available for use in the formulation of a detailed and guided archaeological mitigation policy in respect of the proposed development.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Stage 2 evaluation fieldwork comprised a single machine-excavated trench (Trench 4) located within the western part of the site (Fig. 1). It was targeted at the site of a former large building adjacent to the western boundary of the site which is recorded on early maps of the city.
- 2.2.2 Trench 4 was T-shaped, with a north-south aligned part 8m long and an east-west aligned part 4.5m long. The trench was c. 1.7m wide (Fig. 2).

- 2.2.3 The trench was excavated under constant archaeological supervision using a 180° wheeled excavator. Deposits were removed by the machine in a series of level spits down to a maximum depth of 1.35m below current ground level.
- 2.2.4 Features and deposits were then hand-cleaned. The trench was planned at a scale of 1:20 and sections drawn at a scale of 1:10. Archaeological features or deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's standard *pro forma* system. All features and deposits were photographed using 35mm monochrome and colour slide format.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The results of the Stage 2 evaluation are presented below, with more detailed deposit descriptions available in Appendix 1.

3.2 Trench 4 (Figs. 2-4)

- 3.2.1 The earliest recorded deposit within the trench was a dark greyish-green silty clay (**414; 433**) which represents the basal geology in the area. The surface of this deposit was not level but was at around 45.9m aOD.
- 3.2.2 It was sealed by up to 0.65m of subsoil made up of a number of distinct deposits (**403; 405; 417; 418; 428; 429; 430**). Finds recovered from some of the lower contexts of this sequence were of medieval date, but in the upper parts some post-medieval material was present. This subsoil represents the medieval and post-medieval build-up of garden soil in the backlands of the chequer, although at least one of these deposits (**405**) is probably a levelling material rather than a natural build-up.
- 3.2.3 Located within the subsoil sequence were several features. These included two definite cess-pits (**406; 435**) and one further possible example (**434**), all of which are likely to be of medieval date.
- 3.2.4 Overlying the subsoil sequence was a further thick layer of dark soil (**400, 427**). This is probably a former topsoil, although it may have been another subsoil layer which had been truncated by the construction of the brewery buildings in this area. It contained material of medieval and post-medieval date.
- 3.2.5 This upper layer sealed a small pit (**408**) which was contained material of medieval date along with a large quantity of animal bone, predominantly horn cores. Modern features, including a gravel-filled drain, were cut into the surface of the former topsoil.
- 3.2.6 In the northern part of the trench the putative topsoil sealed a thin and spatially limited sequence of chalk floors and make-up layers (**401; 402; 412; 413**). This had been greatly truncated by later features and the considerable impact of the brewery buildings.

3.2.7 At the western end of the trench was a substantial cut (**424; 425**) which was shown to be the foundation cut for the wall of a relatively recent brick-built structure (**421**). This may have been a culvert for a drain or similar service, and the base of the feature was not reached. It certainly penetrated into the basal clay.

4. FINDS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Finds recovered from Trench 4 have been cleaned and quantified by material type within each context; this information is presented in Table 1.

Key: CBM = Ceramic Building Material; Med = Medieval; P-med = Post-medieval

Context	CBM	Clay Pipe	Med Pottery	P-med Pottery
402	6/142			
403	7/200		2/21	2/13
405	3/300			
407	3/65			
409	3/318			
410	4/105			
411	4/281			
412	2/77			
416	1/19	2/7		9/119
417	3/143			4/60
418	2/76			2/185
420	1/37			1/47
422	3/139			
423	2/45			
427		1/12		
426				1/38
428	2/53			1/3
429	2/78		1/6	
430	4/168		2/168	
432	2/290		3/62	
unstrat	2/122	1/1		9/405
TOTAL	56/2658	4/20	8/257	29/870

4.2 Ceramic Building Material

4.2.1 The most common material type recovered from this trench was ceramic building material, and this consists mainly of fragments of medieval peg tiles (42 fragments), a few of which are glazed. Also recovered were one glazed, crested ridge tile (found unstratified); one small glazed fragment possibly from a roof finial (context **430**); and one ?floor brick fragment (context **432**), all medieval. Other fragments are of post-medieval date and include roof tile and brick fragments. Several of the medieval tile fragments show signs of re-use and most if not all are likely to be residual within post-medieval contexts.

4.3 Pottery

4.3.1 Much of the small pottery assemblage (37 sherds altogether) is of post-medieval date, including sherds of Verwood-type earthenwares and stonewares, with a likely date range of 17th to 18th centuries. The eight

medieval sherds recovered, from four contexts, are all in Laverstock-type fabrics, both coarse- and finewares. Diagnostic sherds (one coarseware jar rim, one fineware jug handle and one slip-decorated sherd indicate a date range in the 13th or possibly early 14th century.

4.4 Other Finds

- 4.4.1 Other finds comprise four fragments of clay pipe, including one bowl (context **427**) of early 18th century type with a stem stamp IOHN/LONG, a maker not previously recorded in Salisbury or the surrounding area.

5. DISCUSSION

- 5.1** The investigation of Trench 4 which was undertaken as Stage 2 of the archaeological evaluation has shown that this targeted area of higher archaeological potential has been the subject of considerable previous impact. No evidence was found here of the former Town Ditch. This suggests that it lies to the west of the site boundary in this area, or that it was substantially removed during the construction of the brick-built structure **421**.

- 5.2** The building shown in this part of the site on the 1716 map of the city (William Naish) is probably represented within the trench by the sequence of chalk floors and make-up layers described above in para. 3.2.6. This material is very high up in the overall deposit sequence and was present only in the northern arm of the trench. Its position within the sequence suggests a post-medieval rather than medieval date.

- 5.3** If the building extended further to the north, then any remains would have been removed as the floor of the former brewery boiler room was below this level. The remains of the building may continue to the east of the trench, but this area was waterlogged at the time of evaluation and heavy plant associated with the demolition of the brewery had cut very deeply into the site make-up.

- 5.4** As with Trenches 1 and 3 which were undertaken as part of Stage 1 of the archaeological evaluation (Wessex Archaeology Report 45701.1, February 2000), this trench revealed that the deposits in the western part of the site mainly comprise garden soils of medieval and post-medieval date with a few features (cess pits, etc). This is the type of sequence which was predicted for the backlands in this chequer and is generally considered to be of low archaeological value.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1** The Stage 2 evaluation has probably confirmed the presence of a building of post-medieval date in the backlands of the chequer. Unfortunately, the impact of modern buildings, services etc. is so great that the potential for further archaeological investigation of this building must be considered to be extremely low.

7. PROJECT ARCHIVE

- 7.1** The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury under the site code reference 45701. It is hoped that the archive will be deposited in due course at the Museum of Salisbury and South Wiltshire, Salisbury.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Trial Trench summary sequence

m aOD = metres above Ordnance Datum

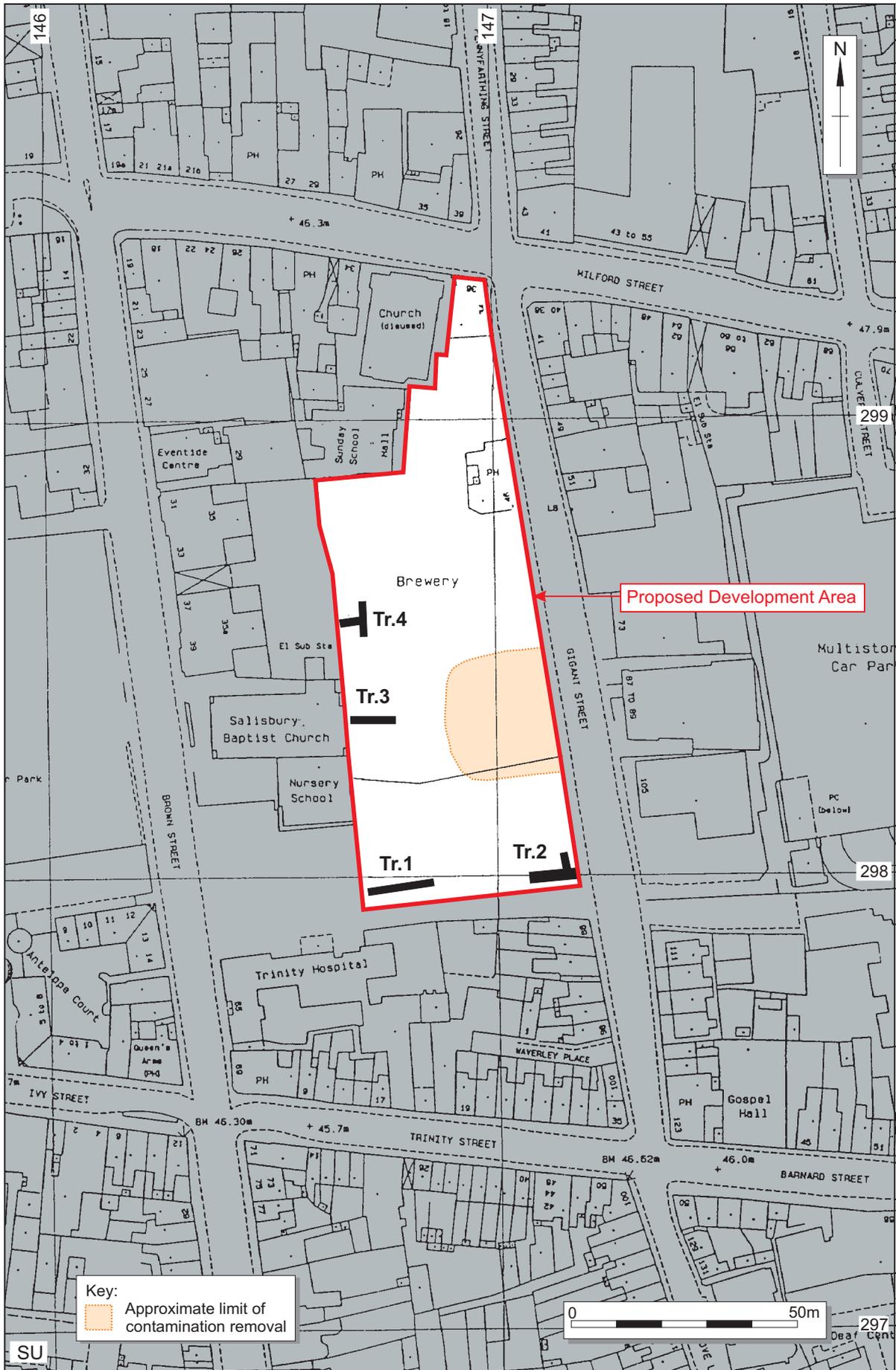
CBM = Ceramic Building Material

Depth (m) indicates the approximate depths of the surface and base of the deposit context below current ground level.

Trial Trench 4		12.5m x 1.7m	North / South + East / West	Surface height. S:46.39m aOD N:46.84m aOD W:46.97m aOD
Context No	Description		Depth (m)	
Layer 400	Topsoil – layer immediately below slab and make-up.		0-0.32m	
Layer 401	Compact chalk surface. Remnant of chalk floor, ? 17 th C building.		0.12 – 0.15m	
Layer 402	Layer of loose chalky mortar, possible floor or make-up. Contained six pieces of medieval roof tile.		0.17 – 0.27m	
Layer 403	Thick deposit of dark brownish-grey clayey silt containing large amount of CBM, also animal bone and two sherds each of medieval and post-medieval pottery. Garden soil.		0.22 – 0.96m	
Layer 404	Mid brownish-grey clayey silt with many small chalk inclusions. Thin tip line over cess pit 406.		0.80 – 0.82m	
Layer 405	Layer of chalky mortar directly over natural geology, contained three pieces of medieval roof tile – possibly some form of levelling deposit.		1.01 – 1.22m	
Pit 406	Sub-circular cess-pit in base of trench.		0.97m +	
Layer 407	Upper fill of cess-pit 406, contained three pieces of medieval roof tile.		0.97m +	
Pit 408	Shallow pit of unknown shape, 0.4m deep and c. 1.24m wide, sealed by topsoil 400.		0.29 – 0.69m	
Layer 409	Upper fill of pit 408, mid brownish-grey clayey silt, contained much animal bone and three pieces of medieval roof tile.		0.29 – 0.67m	
Layer 410	Middle fill of pit 408, light brown sandy silt, contained two pieces of medieval roof tile.		0.43 – 0.69m	
Layer 411	Lower fill of pit 408, dark brownish-black silty clay, contained four pieces of medieval roof tile, also much animal bone, particularly horn cores.		0.43-0.69m	

Layer 412	Dark greyish-brown silty clay below possible chalk floor surface 401, contains two pieces of medieval roof tile. Probably floor make-up.	0.08m – 0.21m
Layer 413	Layer of crushed chalk, probably a floor surface equivalent to 401 in opposing section. Appears to slump downwards in western part.	0.32 – 0.36m
Layer 414	Light greyish-brown clayey silt, fill of feature 434 .	0.90m +
Layer 415	Dark greyish-green silty clay, basal geological deposit. Surface of this deposit is not level.	1.07m +
Layer 416	Dark greenish-brown clayey silt, fill of extensive pit. Contained one piece of medieval roof tile, two pieces of clay pipe stem and nine sherds of post-medieval (18 th century) pottery.	0.00 – 0.70m
Layer 417	Dark yellowish-brown clayey silt, subsoil layer. Contained three pieces of medieval roof tile and four sherds of post-medieval (18 th century) pottery.	0.61 – 0.95m
Layer 418	Dark greyish-green silty clay, subsoil layer. Contained two pieces of roof tile (one medieval and one post-medieval) and two sherds of post-medieval (18 th century) pottery. Directly over natural geological deposit 415.	0.93 – 1.16m
Feature 419	Extensive shallow feature in upper part of sequence.	0.00 – 0.70m
Layer 420	Dark orange-brown clayey silt. Contained one piece of medieval roof tile and one sherd of post-medieval (18 th century) pottery.	0.60m +
Wall 421	North-south aligned brick wall footing, robbed out and visible only at base of trench.	0.95m +
Layer 422	Light grey sandy silt, fill of foundation trench for wall footing 421. Contained three pieces of post-medieval roof tile.	0.00 – 0.86m
Layer 423	Light grey sandy silt, fill of foundation trench for wall footing 421. Contained two pieces of post-medieval roof tile.	0.72 – 1.12m
Cut 424	Foundation trench for building represented by wall footing 421.	0.00 – 1.20m+
Cut 425	Foundation trench for building represented by wall footing 421 equivalent to 424 but on north-facing section.	0.00 – 1.35m +

Layer 426	Fill of 425, over wall footing 421. Contained one sherd of post-medieval roof tile.	0.00 – 1.35m +
Layer 427	Dark grey sandy silt immediately below slab level, equivalent to 400. Contained one piece of clay pipe stem.	0.00 – 0.56m
Layer 428	Pale grey sandy silt subsoil, contained two pieces of medieval roof tile and one sherd of post-medieval pottery. Possibly equivalent to 403.	0.38 – 0.56m
Layer 429	Mid to dark grey silt subsoil, contained two pieces of medieval roof tile and one sherd of medieval pottery.	0.55 – 0.90m
Layer 430	Mid grey coarse silt subsoil, contained three pieces of medieval roof tile, one piece of medieval ceramic roof furniture, and two sherds of medieval (13 th century) pottery.	0.94 – 1.10m
Pit 431	Sub-circular pit c. 1.10m diameter.	0.85 – 1.20m +
Layer 432	Fill of pit 431 . Contained one piece of medieval roof tile, one piece of medieval brick and three sherds of medieval pottery.	0.85 – 1.20m +
Layer 433	Natural alluvium at base of trench.	1.15m +
Pit 434	Sub-circular pit at base of trench.	0.90m +
Pit 435	Circular cess-pit in base of trench.	1.10m +
Layer 436	Light greenish-grey fill of cess-pit 435 .	1.10m +



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey's 1:1250 map of 1997 with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Wessex Archaeology, Salisbury (AL18030A)

Figure 1: Site and trench location

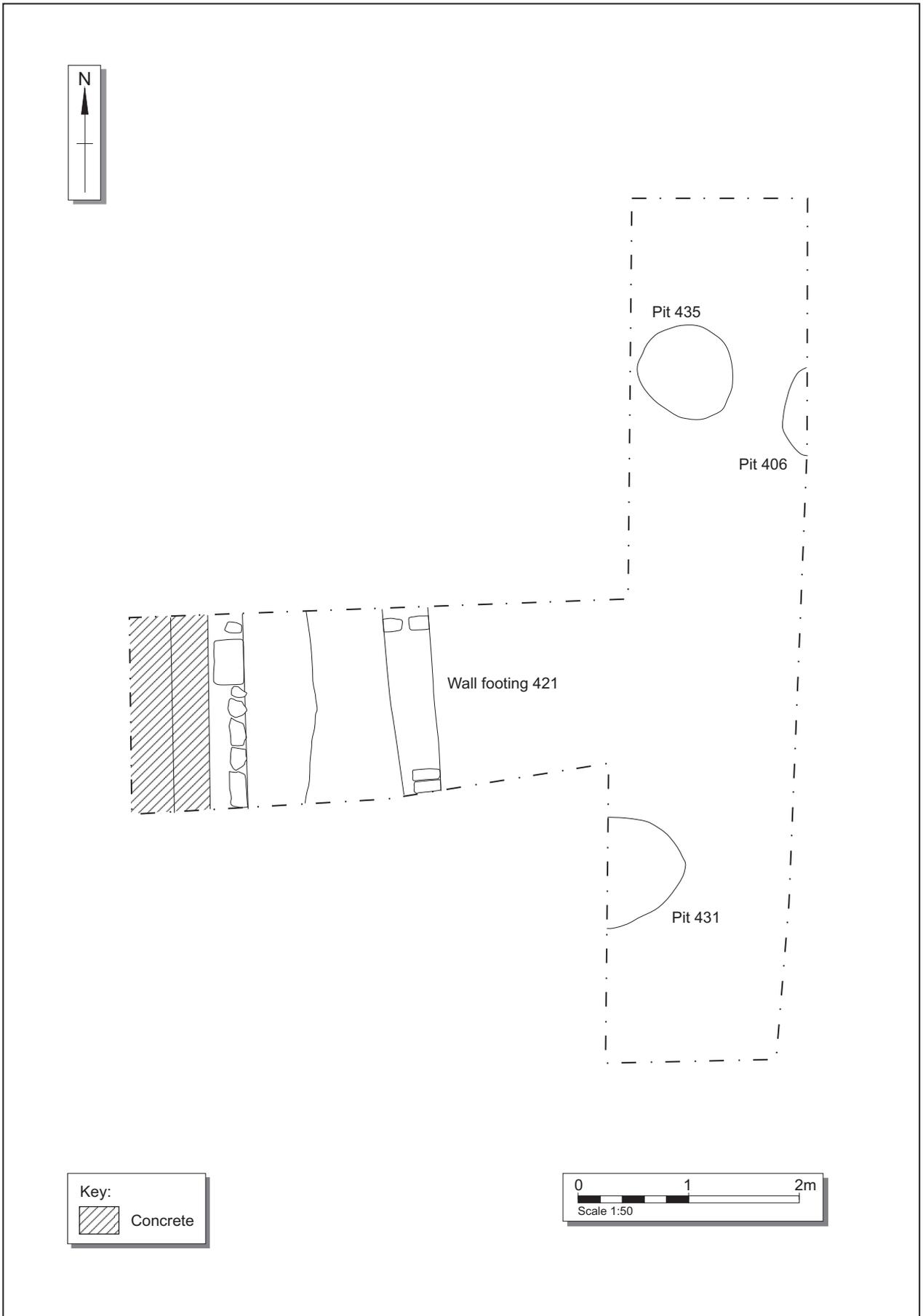


Figure 2: Trench plan

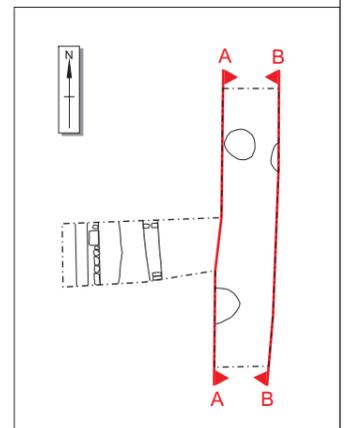
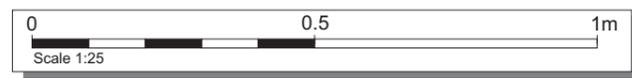
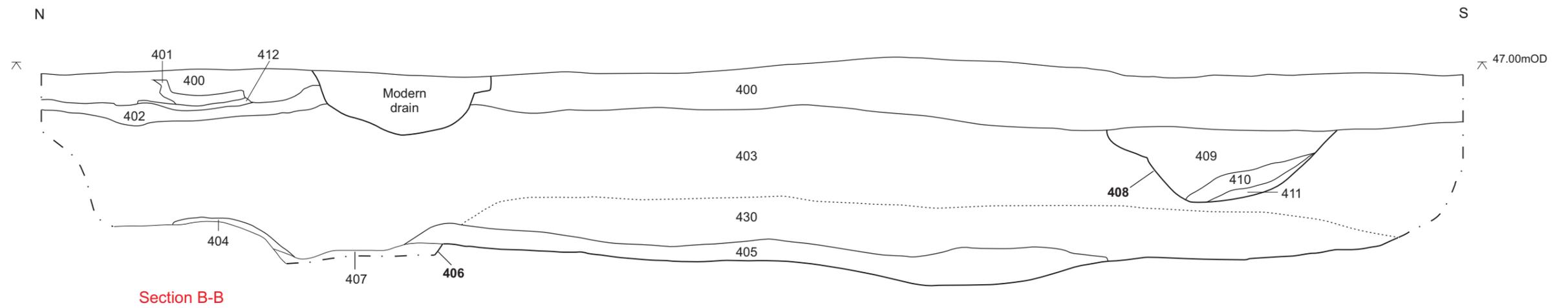
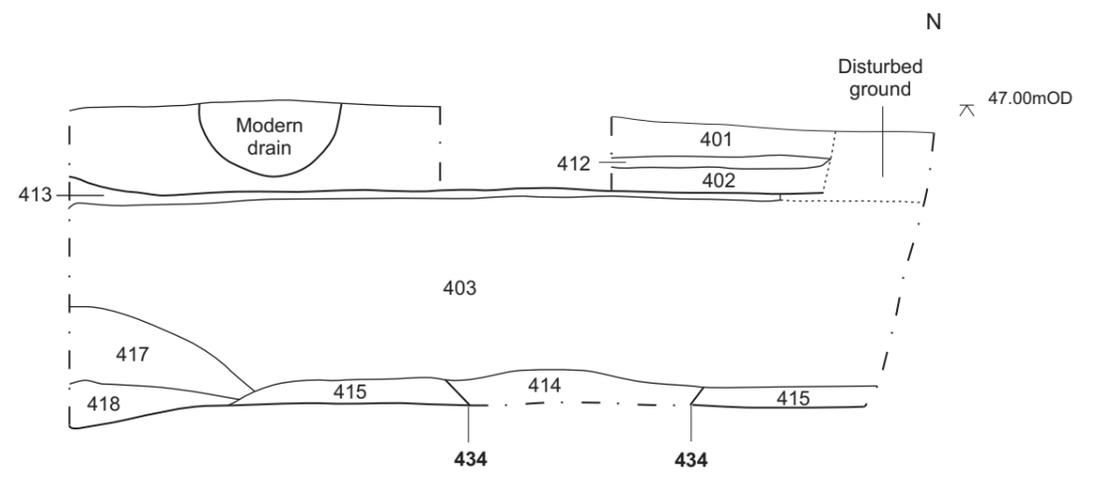
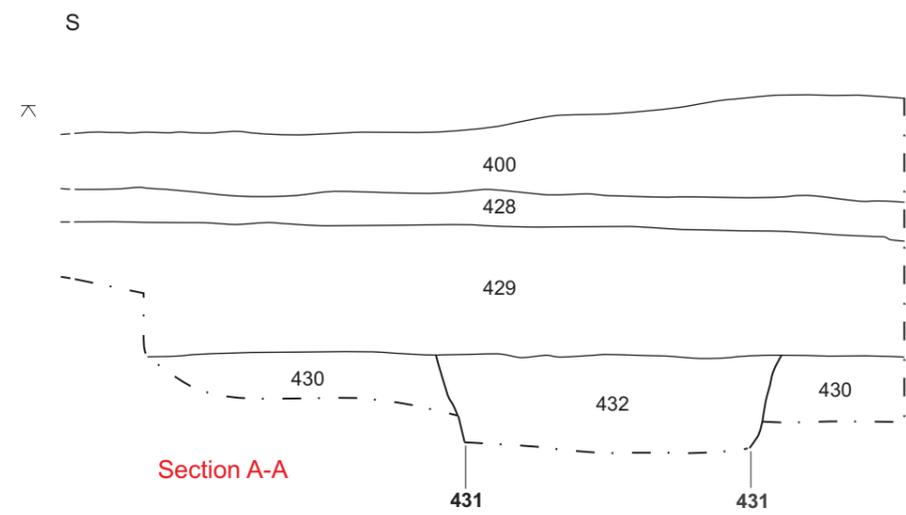


Figure 3: East and West facing sections

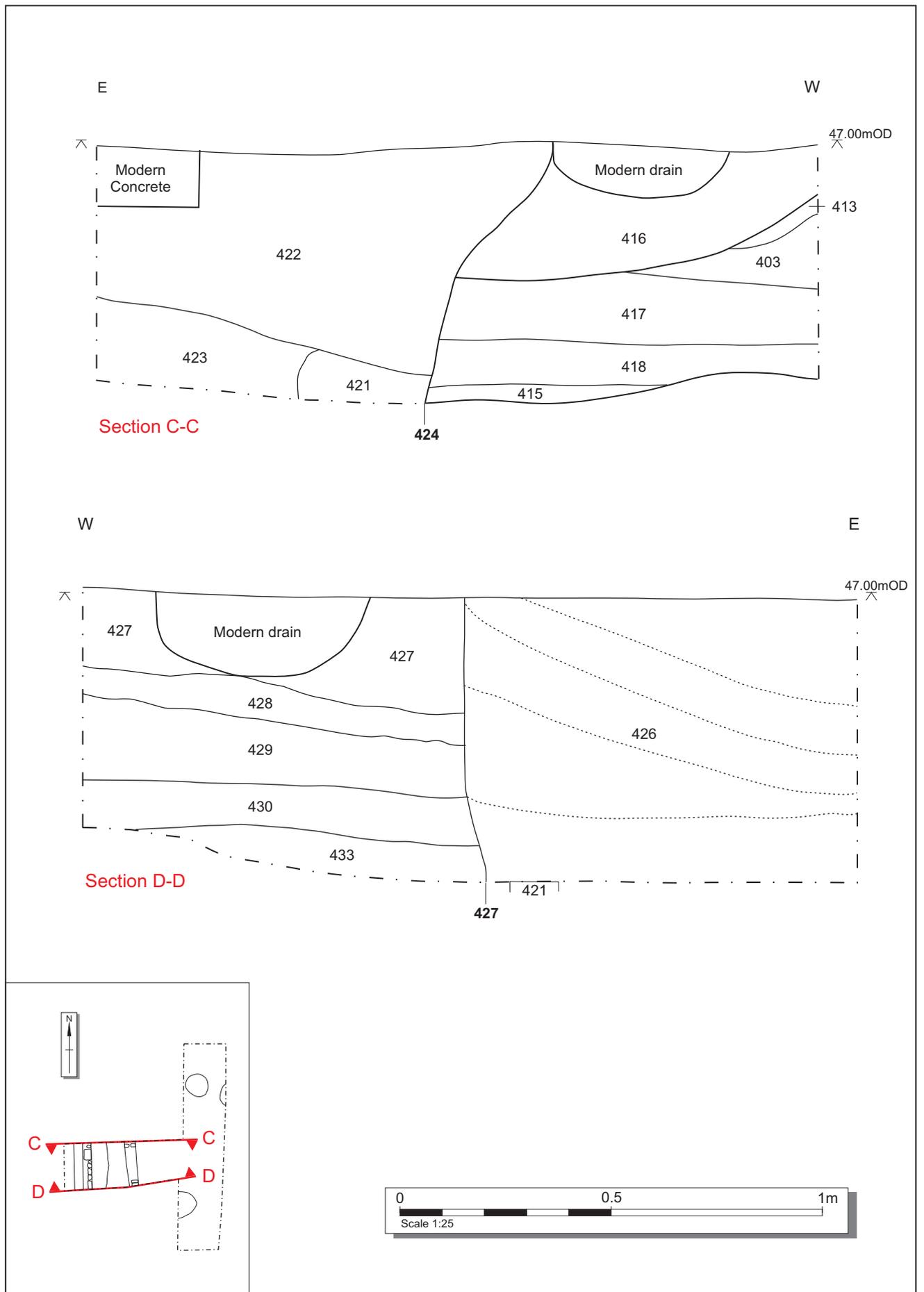


Figure 4: North and South facing sections