

# The Anchor Brewery Site, Gigant Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Stage 4 (Trench 6)



*June 2001*

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

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
Stage 4 (Trench 6)**

Prepared on behalf of :

**Gleeson Homes  
Haredon House  
London Road  
North Cheam  
SUTTON  
Surrey SM3 9BS**

By:

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

**Report Ref. 45701.4**

**June 2001**

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

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
STAGE 4 (TRENCH 6)**

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
	1.1 Project Background .....	1
	1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology .....	1
	1.3 Archaeological Background .....	2
<b>2</b>	<b>AIMS AND METHODOLOGY .....</b>	<b>2</b>
	2.1 Aims.....	2
	2.2 Methodology .....	2
<b>3</b>	<b>RESULTS.....</b>	<b>3</b>
	3.1 Introduction.....	3
	3.2 Archaeological Deposits.....	3
	3.3 Finds .....	4
<b>4</b>	<b>DISCUSSION.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>CONCLUSIONS.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>PROJECT ARCHIVE.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>APPENDICES .....</b>	<b>6</b>
	7.1 Appendix 1: Summary Trench Description .....	6
	7.2 Appendix 2: All Finds from Evaluation of Anchor Brewery Site .....	8

**FIGURES**

**Figure 1: Site location**

**Figure 2: Trench plan**

**Figure 3: Trench sections**

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

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
STAGE 4 (TRENCH 6)**

**Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Gleeson Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a *c.* 0.47 hectares area of land at the site of the former Anchor Brewery in Gigant Street, Salisbury. The work was required as part of the planning condition for the residential and commercial redevelopment of the site. Stage 4 of this evaluation comprised a single machine-excavated trench located within the north-eastern part of the site.

The machine trench identified the presence of a complex sequence of urban deposits and features, including wall lines, floor surfaces, mortar deposits and hearths. The build-up of urban deposits could be seen to be at least 0.6m in depth. The layers and features represent medieval and post-medieval urban development within burgage plots, including the likely presence of structures fronting onto Gigant Street.

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

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
STAGE 4 (TRENCH 6)**

**Acknowledgements**

The evaluation was commissioned and financed by Gleeson Homes, and Wessex Archaeology are grateful to the client for all of their assistance. Wessex Archaeology are also grateful to Helena Cave-Penney of the Wiltshire County Council Archaeology Service for her collaboration.

The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Mick Rawlings. The fieldwork was supervised by Julie Lovell, assisted by Martin Cambell. This report was compiled by Julie Lovell. The finds were assessed by Lorraine Mephram and the illustrations were prepared by Rob Goller.

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

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
STAGE 4 (TRENCH 6)**

**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 hectares of land at the site of the former Anchor Brewery in Gigant Street, Salisbury. The work was required as part of a proposed residential and commercial redevelopment 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 structure 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 Previous reports have been submitted by Wessex Archaeology on the results of the first three stages of evaluation (February/March 2000, Refs. 45701.1, 45701.2 and 45701.3). These detailed the results of Trenches 1-5, along with a short watching brief carried out during the removal of contaminated ground from part of the site.

1.1.5 This present report sets out the results of the fourth stage of evaluation comprising a single machine-excavated trial trench (Trench 6).

**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 hectares 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 14<sup>th</sup> or even the 13<sup>th</sup> 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 The Stage 4 evaluation addressed the first of these areas of potential.

## **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 4 evaluation fieldwork comprised a single machine-excavated trench (Trench 6) located within the north-eastern part of the site (**Fig. 1**). It was targeted at the street frontage immediately to the north of the Anchor Inn.

- 2.2.2 The 8.2m long trench was opened to the north of the Anchor Inn and located parallel to the street frontage. A perpendicular 1.6m length adjoined the western part of this trench to the north.
- 2.2.3 The overburden was removed under constant archaeological supervision by a 180° tracked excavator equipped with a toothless bucket. The southern end of the main trench was truncated by a recent, rectangular, concrete-lined cellar. The eastern side of the trench was truncated by a brick-lined coal cellar. The brick floor to this coal cellar was removed by hand to establish the nature of the archaeological deposits surviving beneath.
- 2.2.4 Features and deposits were hand-cleaned and the trench was planned at a scale of 1:20. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's standard *pro forma* system. All features and deposits were photographed using 35mm monochrome and colour slide format. No detailed excavation of deposits occurred.

### **3 RESULTS (Figs. 2 and 3)**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

- 3.1.1 The surface of the trench comprised a thick layer of concrete (**600**) overlain in places by tarmac. The eastern part of the trench was heavily truncated by a 4.4m x 2m brick-lined coal cellar (**602**) which was present to a depth of 0.90m below current ground level. The southern end of the trench was similarly disturbed by a 2.5m x 2m wide sub-rectangular concrete cellar, which was also 0.90m deep.
- 3.1.2 A number of archaeological deposits were recorded in the trench sections and a small number of features survived in the trench base beneath the brick cellar. The concrete cellar floor was not removed.
- 3.1.3 Two modern east-west aligned mains services (**640; 648**) crossed the trench at the north and south ends respectively.

#### **3.2 Archaeological Deposits**

- 3.2.1 The earliest features observed in the trench were two hearths (**613; 644**); both were cut into dark grey or greyish-brown silty clays (**614; 603**) in the base of the trench. Two sherds of medieval pottery (13<sup>th</sup> century) were recovered from the surface of layer **603**.
- 3.2.2 The remains of several phases of building(s) were recorded within the trench. A substantial north-south aligned chalk block and flint wall (**642**) surviving to a depth of 0.60m was found in the eastern edge of the trench, i.e. the street frontage. Towards the northern end of this wall was a blocked aperture, probably a window (**645**). Adhering to the internal face of the lower part of the wall was a surface render of mid grey/brown sandy clay (**647**).
- 3.2.3 Perpendicular to wall **642** at the northern end of the trench was a second wall (**605**), clearly defined by substantial greensand foundation stones. These two



walls appear to represent the external walls of an early structure on the site. Wall **605** was extended to the west at a later date by a less substantial wall (**606**) constructed of chalk and flints with a course of slanted tiles on its internal face.

- 3.2.4 The remains of several internal dividing walls were observed in the western part of the trench. Two narrow chalk block walls (**607**; **608**) formed the north-east corner of another room, and the foundation of at least one further internal wall (**610**) with a tile base was also recorded here.
- 3.2.5 The east-facing section of the trench revealed a sequence of medieval and possibly late medieval deposits comprising a 0.25m thick layer of demolition debris (**618**) overlying chalk rubble (**615**) and a mixed deposit (**617**). A number of crushed chalk layers indicative of surfaces or floors (**622**; **623**; **625**; **626**) were exposed in the western section of the main trench. Stratigraphically above these layers were three cut features (**630**; **634**; **636**) representing post-medieval intrusion on the site.

### **3.3 Finds**

- 3.3.1 A single fragment of partially glazed roof tile of medieval date and two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the base of the trench (**603**). One of the sherds has been identified as a fragment of a Laverstock coarseware jar with soot around the rim and scratch marks. This vessel is likely to be of 13<sup>th</sup> century date.

## **4 DISCUSSION**

- 4.1 There is considerable recent intrusion along the eastern and southern edges of the trench as a result of the insertion of cellars. However, the majority of the archaeological deposits in the west and north of the trench appear to be relatively undisturbed.
- 4.2 The potential maximum thickness of the significant stratified archaeological layers is *c.* 0.6m, although some occasional discrete features, e.g. hearths, pits etc. may be of greater depth.
- 4.3 The identified deposits and features largely represent medieval and possibly late medieval urban development comprising structures fronting onto Gigant Street and contemporary activity within the backlands. Post-medieval and modern truncation has occurred in places and has truncated the upper part of the medieval and late medieval sequence.

## **5 CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 The archaeological deposits located within Trench 6 represent urban stratigraphy within the medieval city of Salisbury.

- 5.2 The nature of the remains are such that they merit preservation by record, i.e. detailed archaeological excavation.
- 5.3 Excavation would provide the opportunity for investigation into the medieval origin of Trinity Chequer, particularly the Gigant Street frontage and its subsequent development into the late medieval period.
- 5.4 The scale and nature of any detailed excavation must be commensurate with the scale and nature of the impact of the proposed redevelopment on these underlying deposits.

## **6 PROJECT ARCHIVE**

- 6.1 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.

## APPENDIX 1: Summary Trench Description

Trial Trench 6		8.5m x 3m (4.6m wide at north end)	Surface height. S:46.19m aOD N:46.46.28m aOD
Context No	Description		Height m.aOD
Layer 600	Concrete		46.27
Cut 601	Cut for 19 <sup>th</sup> century brick coal cellar <b>602</b>		45.80
Coal cellar 602	Sub-rectangular brick-line coal cellar running parallel to Gigant Street		base 45.30
Layer 603	Dark grey silty clay		45.37
Layer 604	Mortar foundation cut by <b>601</b>		45.32
Wall foundation 605	Greensand block – corner stone for wall		45.59
Wall 606	East-west aligned chalk and flint wall with slanted tiles on its internal face		45.77
Wall 607	East-west aligned chalk block wall		45.67
Wall 608	North-south aligned chalk block wall		45.37
Layer 609	Mid-brown sandy clay with moderate greensand blocks and sparse tile fragments		45.37
Foundation 610	Base of internal wall comprising re-used tiles		45.37
Floor 611	Greenish-brown clayey sand		45.30
Layer 612	Yellowish-brown sandy silt		45.35
Hearth 613	Tile hearth		45.25
Layer 614	Greyish-brown silty clay with some evidence for burning		45.29
Layer 615	Chalk block rubble		45.60
Layer 616	Crushed chalk in a grey silty clay matrix		45.70
Layer 617	Mixed layer of sands, silts and clays with sparse rubble fragments and gravel throughout		45.55
Layer 618	Demolition layer comprising dark brown sandy clay with greensand and chalk blocks, fragments of ceramic building material and charcoal		45.65
Layer 619	Pale yellowish-brown silty sand		45.63
Layer 620	Layer of charcoal		45.65
Layer 621	Layer of grey sandy clay		45.78
Floor layer 622	Mid grey crushed chalk		45.81
Floor layer 623	Pale grey crushed chalk		45.84
Layer 624	Pale red silty clay		45.70
Floor layer 625	Mid grey crushed chalk		45.65
Floor layer 626	Pale grey crushed chalk		45.69
Layer 627	Greyish brown sandy clay		45.78
Layer 628	Crushed brick		45.80
Layer 629	Greyish-brown sandy clay		45.92
Cut 630	Irregular cut seen in east-facing section. filled with <b>631</b>		45.85
Layer 631	Dark brown sandy clay with common charcoal flecks		45.90
Layer 632	Greyish-white crushed chalk and tile fragments		45.94
Layer 633	Greenish-brown sandy clay with mixed gravels and brick rubble		45.98
Cut 634	Possible pit cut seen in east-facing section. Filled with <b>635</b>		45.98
Layer 635	Dark greyish-brown sandy clay with mixed gravels and chalk rubble		45.98
Cut 636	'U'-shaped pit seen in east-facing section. Filled with <b>637</b>		45.98
Layer 637	Burnt, ashy silty clay with brick and tile		45.98
Layer 638	Dark grey silty clay with crushed chalk		45.59

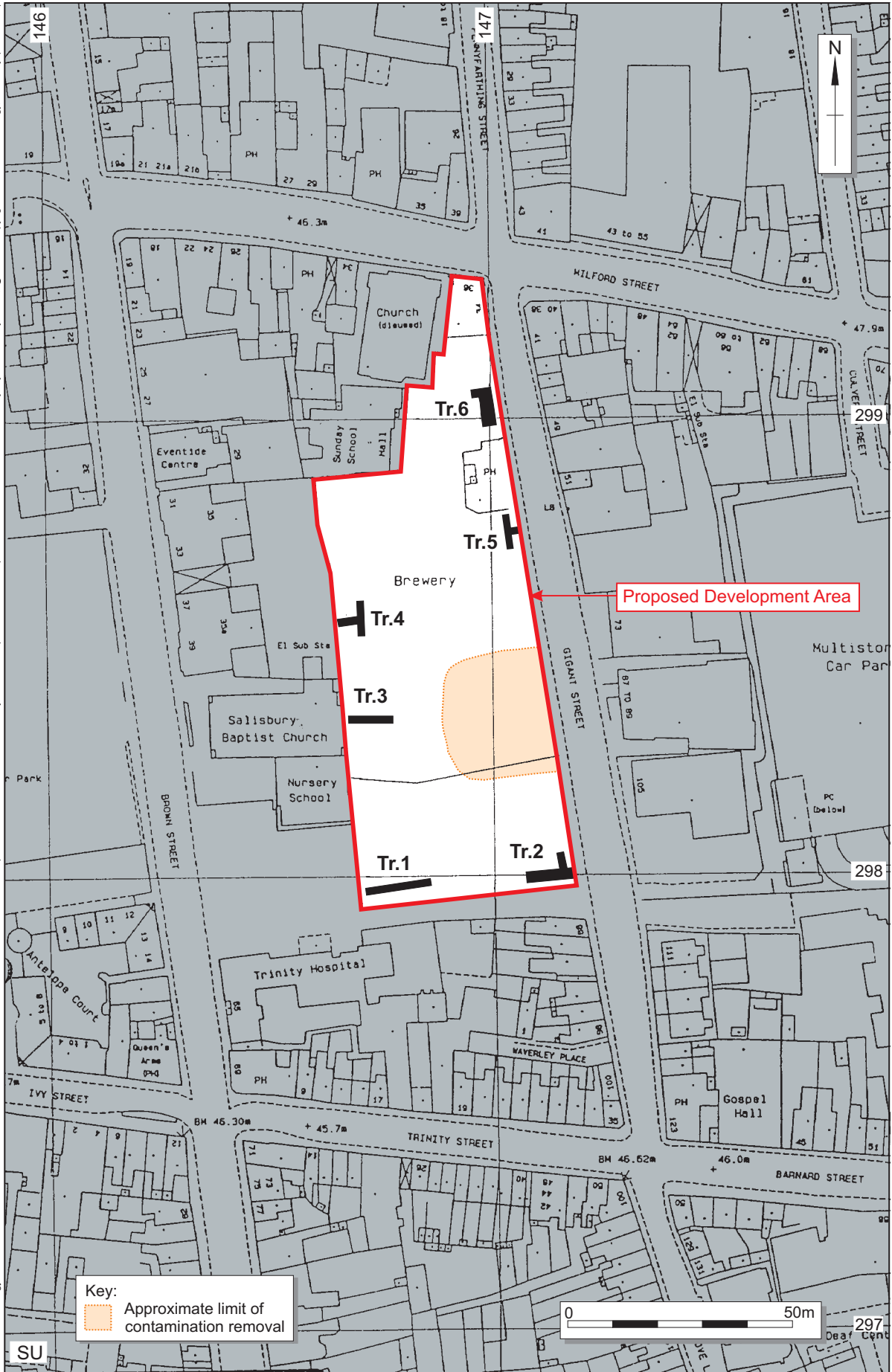
Layer 639	Dark greyish-brown sandy clay	45.72
Drain 640	East-west aligned modern service pipe	45.97
Layer 641	Backfill of modern drain <b>640</b>	45.97
Wall 642	North-south aligned chalk block and flint wall	46.09
Layer 643	Greenish-grey sand	45.94
Hearth 644	Tile hearth	45.18
Later 645	Blocked window - chalk and flint infill with angled tile	45.59
Layer 646	Mid grey brown sandy clay with frequent chalk flecks and occasional tile fragments	45.49
Layer 647	Yellow brown silty clay	45.68
Trench 648	Modern service trench filled with brick rubble	46.12

**APPENDIX 2: All Finds from Evaluation of Anchor Brewery Site  
(No/Weight in grams)**

<b>Trench</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Animal Bone</b>	<b>CBM</b>	<b>Med. Pottery</b>	<b>P-med pottery</b>	<b>Other finds</b>
1	102	4/58	4/392	7/152	8/354	1 x worked flint (12g) 1 x glass (1g)* 1 x oyster shell (12g) 2 x clay pipe (10g)*
2	203			1/2	2/28	1 x wood charcoal*
2	204		2/32	5/40		
2	205			3/22		
2	206		1/9*	6/253		
2	212					1 x wooden stake fragment*
2	216			1/4		
2	226					1 x copper alloy pin
2	227	2/26	2/138		2/64	1 x slag (4g)
2	228	1/4	4/116			
4	402		6/142			
4	403		7/183	2/21	2/13	
4	405		3/300			
4	407		3/65			
4	409		3/318			
4	410		4/105			
4	411		4/281			
4	412		2/77			
4	416		1/19		9/119	2 x clay pipe (7g)
4	417		3/143		4/60	
4	418		2/76		2/185	
4	420		1/37		1/47	
4	422		3/139			
4	423		2/45			
4	426				1/38	
4	427					1 x clay pipe (12g)
4	428		2/53		1/3	
4	429		2/78	1/6		
4	430		4/168	2/168		
4	432		2/290	3/62		
4	unstrat		2/122*		9/405	1 x clay pipe (1g)*
5	530			2/?*		
5	unstrat					1 x copper alloy frag* 1 x struck flint* 1 x metal ring*
6	603		1/212	2/120		
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7/88</b>	<b>70/3540</b>	<b>35/850</b>	<b>41/1316</b>	

\* = discarded

Wessex Archaeology 22/05/01 RG ref:k 45701.4  
Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey's 1:1250 map of 1997 with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office, © Crown Copyright Wessex Archaeology, Salisbury (AL18030A)



Site and trench location

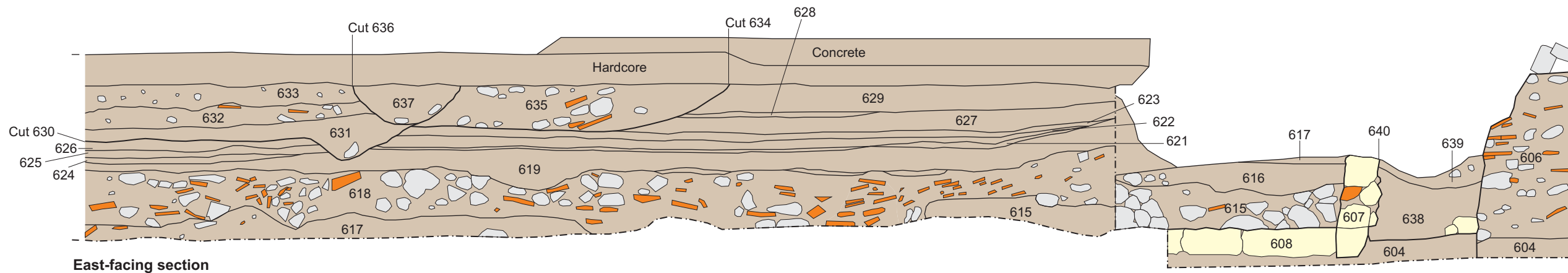
Figure 1



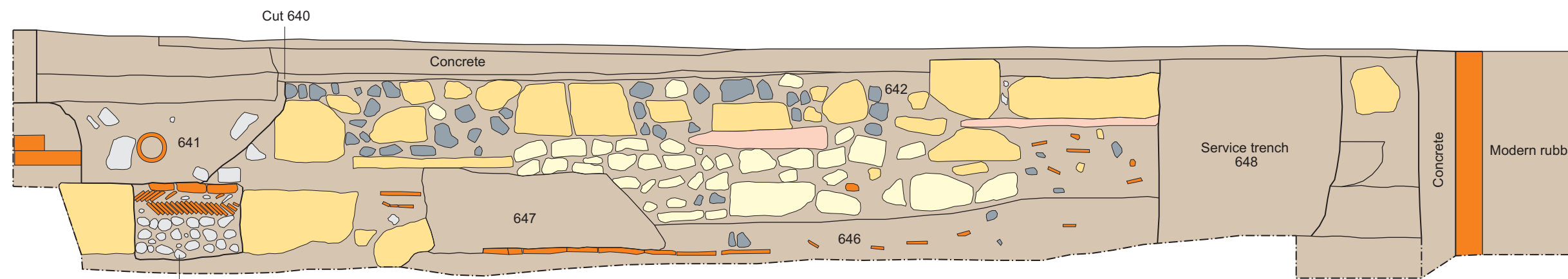
Wessex Archaeology 22/05/01 RG ref:45701.2

Plan of trench 6

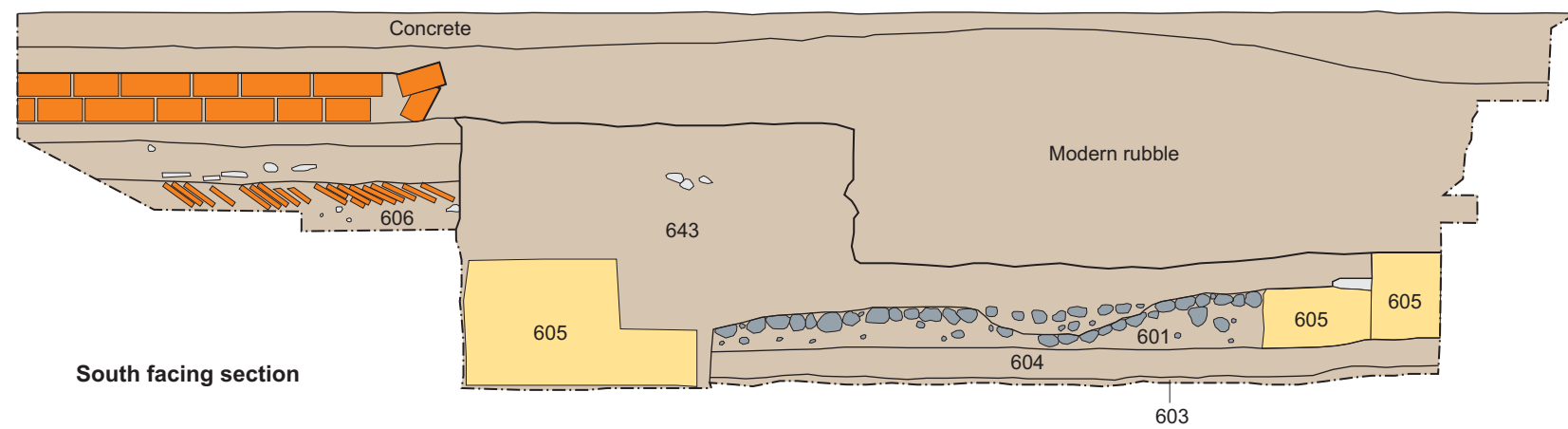
Figure 2



East-facing section



West-facing section



South facing section

- Key:
- Chalk
  - Ceramic building material
  - Flint
  - Mortar
  - Greensand

