ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING:

OLD MANOR HOSPITAL, SALISBURY, WILTSHIRE

Planning Reference: 16/10839/FUL
NGR: SU 1342 3040
AAL Site Code: SAOM 17
Museum Accession Number: SBYWM:2022.20
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-514969



Report prepared for AHH

By
Allen Archaeology Ltd
Report Number AAL2023048

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Allenarchaeology

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Cover image: Working shot, looking south

Executive Summary

- AHH commissioned Allen Archaeology Limited to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks, as a condition of planning consent for redevelopment of Finch House, Old Manor Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

- Evidence of Palaeolithic activity in the area has been recorded with 18th and 19th century brickearth quarrying producing quantities of stone tools and faunal assemblages. To the northwest of the site there is evidence of an Iron Age settlement. To the northeast of Salisbury, Old Sarum was the early focus of settlement activity, advancing to the current site of Salisbury in the 13th century. Extensive brickearth quarrying was undertaken in the area during the post-medieval period. Old Manor Hospital is of a mid-19th century date, developing on the site of a former country house.

- The watching brief comprised the monitoring of the excavation of geotechnical pits, a boundary wall foundation trench, drainage pits and trenches and ground reduction works.

- No archaeologically significant features or deposits were encountered.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 AHH commissioned Allen Archaeology Limited to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks, as a condition of planning consent for the redevelopment of Finch House, Old Manor Hospital, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

1.2 The excavation, recording and reporting conformed to current national guidelines, as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists code of conduct and *'Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief'* (CIfA 2020), the Historic England document *'Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment'* (Historic England 2015) and *'Management of Archaeological Projects'* (English Heritage 1991).

1.3 The documentation and records generated by the excavation will be assembled in accordance with the national guidelines set out in *'Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation'* (AAF 2011). The archive will be submitted to Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum, where it will be stored under the accession code SBYWM:2022.20.

2.0 Site Location and Description

2.1 Salisbury is in the administrative district of Wiltshire Council, approximately 33km northwest of central Southampton. The proposed development area is to the west of the town centre, on the south side of Wilton Road, centred on NGR SU 1342 3040 (Figure 1).

2.2 The recorded bedrock geology comprises chalk of the Newhaven Chalk Formation, overlain by superficial river terrace deposits of sand, silt and clay (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html).

3.0 Planning Background

3.1 Planning permission has been granted by Wiltshire Council *for 'Complete internal re-development and conversion of Finch House into 21 assisted living extra care apartments (C2 Use Class), including alterations to the second floor/roof structure and external repair/restoration works. Associated landscape alterations incorporating new vehicle parking, communal/private gardens and minor adaption to vehicle and pedestrian access'* (Reference 16/10839/FUL). Planning permission was granted subject to conditions, including for a programme of monitoring and recording during groundworks for the scheme.

3.2 The approach adopted is consistent with the recommendations of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), with the chapter of relevance being *'Section 16. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment'* (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities 2021).

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

4.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment was prepared for the site prior to submission of the planning application (AAL 2015). The information presented below is a summary of this data.

4.2 Stone tools and faunal assemblages recovered during 18th and 19th century brickearth quarrying provide evidence for Palaeolithic activity in the vicinity of the site, with some of this former quarrying on or very near to the site. Later prehistoric activity is also evidenced, with Neolithic/Bronze Age flint recorded nearby, and a substantial Iron Age settlement recorded to the northwest of the site. Evidence of Roman activity in the vicinity of the site is very limited with just a single coin recorded to the west of the development area.

4.3 To the northeast of Salisbury, Old Sarum was the early focus of settlement activity, advancing to the current site of Salisbury in the 13th century. The current site lies outside the core of the medieval town but is in the area of the medieval village of Fisherton, a small village recorded in the Domesday Survey.

4.4 Post-medieval evidence in the area is represented by extensive brickearth quarrying, although this has not been accurately mapped and as such the precise extent and distribution of these quarries is not clear.

4.5 An archaeological evaluation, followed by a small archaeological strip, map and record scheme (SMR), was undertaken approximately 130m northwest of the development area during Phase 3 of the works in April 2019, comprising the excavation of six 15m x 1.8m trenches (AAL 2019). During these works a post-medieval brick kiln was uncovered alongside possible evidence for the quarrying of brickearth. Several undated pits were also recorded. A second evaluation was carried out in July of the same year during Phase 4 works, approximately 60m southeast of the development area, with a further six trenches excavated (AAL 2019). Brick walls associated with the former Old Manor Hospital were identified and a stratigraphic sequence of made ground and demolition layers was exposed.

4.6 The Old Manor Hospital is of a mid-19th century date, developing on the site of a former country house. It was the largest private asylum between 1878 and 1890, and the complex also included the nurse's home, the villa Avon House, a ballroom, and fountain.

5.0 Aims and Objectives

5.1 The purpose of the archaeological monitoring and recording was to allow the preservation by record of the archaeological resource within the proposed development area, where exposed by the groundworks.

6.0 Methodology

6.1 A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken on groundworks undertaken in relation to the excavation of two geotechnical pits, a new north boundary wall foundation trench, drainage pits and trenches and ground reduction works and took place intermittently between 9th March 2022 and 9th February 2023.

6.2 Sections to show the sequence of deposits across the site were marked with string and nails and allocated an individual three-digit drawing number. A comprehensive record of all

drawings was maintained, and the location of every section drawing plotted onto the site master plan and correctly referenced. All drawn sections were then drawn at an appropriate scale (1:10, 1:20 or 1:50), with Ordnance Datum heights being displayed on each drawing. All and drawn sections were accurately located using a Leica GS08 GPS, receiving RTK corrections, providing centimetre accuracy.

6.3 The works were also recorded by full colour photography, with an identification number board, appropriate metric scales and a north arrow. General site shots were also be taken to show the location of the groundworks and the stratigraphic sequence.

7.0 Results

Geotechnical Pits

7.1 The monitoring of the excavation of two geotechnical pits took place on the 9th March 2022. Both pits measured 2m long, 0.45m wide and 2m deep. Test Pit 1 was located to the east of Finch House. The earliest deposit encountered was the natural geology of light yellowish brown silty clay with flint fragments, 1003. This was sealed by 0.6m of reddish-brown silty clay, 1002, which in turn was sealed by 1m of made ground, consisting of greyish brown silty clay with gravel and brick fragments, 1001. The latest deposit of 0.5m of made ground consisted of granular crushed rock aggregate with modern ceramic building material (CBM, e.g., brick, tile) and concrete inclusions, 1000 (Plate 1).



Plate 1: East facing section of Test Pit 1. Graduated scale set to 3m

7.2 Test Pit 2 was located to the south of the hospital. The earliest deposit exposed was the natural geology, 2002, made up of brownish yellow silty clay that contained increasing amounts of gravel as the pit got deeper, this was sealed by 1m of reddish-brown silty clay made ground, 2001, which in turn was sealed by another made ground layer of granular crushed rock aggregate with CBM and concrete inclusions, 2000.

Boundary Wall Footing Trench, South of Wilton Road

7.3 A foundation trench was excavated along the northern site boundary, running parallel to Wilton Road. The earliest deposit exposed across the trench was the natural geology, 102, which consisted of a light yellowish brown silty clay brickearth. Overlying this was 0.2m of mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional fragments of flint and CBM, 101. This was sealed by circa 0.1m of tarmac, 100 (**Error! Reference source not found.**).



Plate 2: North facing representative section, Scale 1m

Drainage Works in Western Courtyard, South of Finch House

7.4 The earliest deposit encountered during drainage works in the western courtyard area was the natural geology of light yellowish brown silty clay brickearth, 106/110, sealed by approximately 0.2m of mid to dark yellowish brown silty clay subsoil, 105/109. This in turn was covered by between 0.25m and 0.8m of made ground, consisting of redeposited yellowish brown silty clay brickearth with frequent fragments of modern CBM and stone, 104, which was sealed by a 0.2m thick layer of concrete, 103/107 (Plate 3).



Plate 3: Northeast facing section of excavations below western bay window, Scale 1m

Drainage Works in Eastern Courtyard, South of Old Hospital

7.5 The earliest deposit exposed during drainage works in the eastern courtyard was the natural geology of light yellowish brown silty clay brickearth, 112, which was sealed by approximately 1m of mixed redeposited mid to dark brown and greyish brown silty clay soils with occasional stone and modern CBM inclusions, 111 (Plate 4).



Plate 4: General shot showing drainage trenches in eastern courtyard, looking northwest, Scale 1m

Ground Reduction Works in Southeast of Site

7.6 The earliest deposit exposed during the ground reduction in this area consisted of in excess of 0.7m of made ground made up of mixed silty clay soils with moderate CBM inclusions, 114. Sealing the made ground was approximately 0.1m of tarmac over 0.2m of flint gravel, 113.

8.0 Discussion and Conclusions

8.1 No archaeologically significant deposits, features or finds were exposed during the monitoring of the groundworks. A stratigraphic sequence of natural geology made up of silty clay brickearth sealed by modern made ground was observed across the development area. Redeposited soils, possibly indicative of previous quarrying works, were also observed in the western courtyard to the south of Finch House.

9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

9.1 The method of investigation was appropriate for the nature of the project and has allowed for a permanent record of the stratigraphic sequence prior to development.

10.0 Acknowledgements

10.1 Allen Archaeology Ltd would like to thank AHH for the commission of this project and the crew and ground workers who helped facilitate it.

11.0 References

AAF, 2011, *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*. Archaeological Archives Forum

AAL, 2015, *Archaeological desk-based assessment: Old Manor Hospital, Fisherton, Salisbury, Wiltshire*, Allen Archaeology Limited report number 2015058

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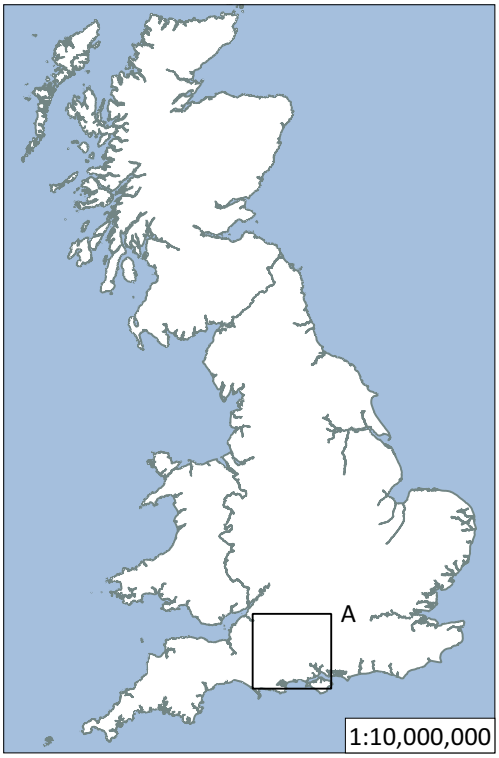
Appendix 1: Context Summary List

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/ depth (m)	Interpretation
100	Layer	Tarmac			0.1	Modern tarmac forming the edge of external pedestrian walkway south of Wilton Road
101	Layer	Loose, mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional fragments of flint gravel and modern building material including bricks			0.3	Made ground
102	Layer	Firm, light yellowish brown silty clay brickearth with occasional small flint gravel fragments			0.5+	Natural geology
103	Layer	Hard, grey concrete			0.2	Concrete pad
104	Layer	Firm yellowish brown silty clay brickearth with frequent stone and brick fragments			0.3	Made ground
105	Layer	Firm, mid - dark yellowish brown silty clay brickearth with occasional small stones			0.2	Possible buried subsoil
106	Layer	Firm, light yellowish brown silty clay brickearth with occasional small flint gravel fragments			0.5+	Natural geology
107	Layer	Hard, grey concrete over silty clay			0.5	Concrete pad and made ground
108	Layer	Firm, yellowish brown and greyish brown silty clay with moderate flint gravel and fragments of brick			0.8	Made ground
109	Layer	Firm, mid - dark yellowish brown silty clay brickearth with occasional small stones			0.2	Possible buried subsoil
110	Layer	Firm, light yellowish brown silty clay brickearth with occasional small flint gravel fragments			0.15+	Natural geology
111	Layer	Loose to moderately firm, mid - dark brown and greyish brown silty clay with occasional stone and brick fragments			1.0	Made ground

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/ depth (m)	Interpretation
112	Layer	Firm, light yellowish brown silty clay with occasional small flint gravel fragments			0.1+	Natural geology
113	Layer	Firm, dark grey tarmac with granular crushed rock aggregate with inclusions of brick and concrete			0.3	Tarmac and made ground
114	Layer	Mixed silty clay with moderate brick and stone inclusions			0.7	Made ground
1000	Layer	Granular crushed rock aggregate with inclusions of brick and concrete			0.5	Made ground
1001	Layer	Firm greyish brown silty clay with occasional gravel and brick fragments			1.0	Made ground
1002	Layer	Loose, reddish brown silty clay			0.6	Made ground
1003	Layer	Firm, light yellowish brown silty clay with small flint gravel fragments			0.1+	Natural geology
2000	Layer	Granular crushed rock aggregate with inclusions of brick and concrete			0.4	Made ground
2001	Layer	Loose, reddish brown silty clay			1.0	Made ground
2002	Layer	Loose, brownish yellow slightly sandy silty clay, becoming gravellier with increasing depth			0.7+	Natural geology



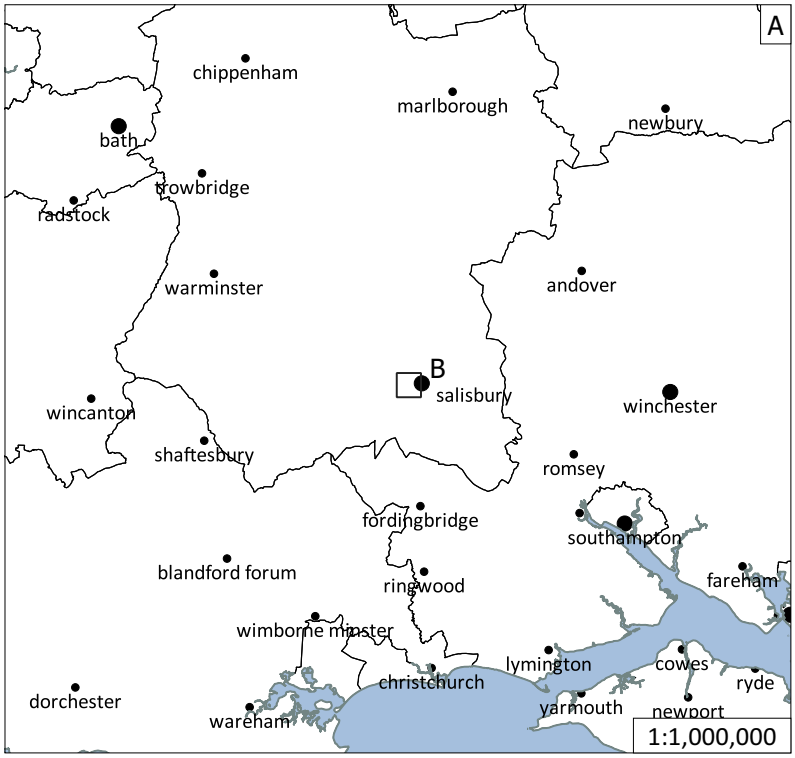




Figure 1: Site location outlined in red

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Site Code	SAOM 17
Scale	1:10,000,000 1:1,000,000 1:25,000 @ A4
Drawn by	D Leigh
Date	18/04/2023

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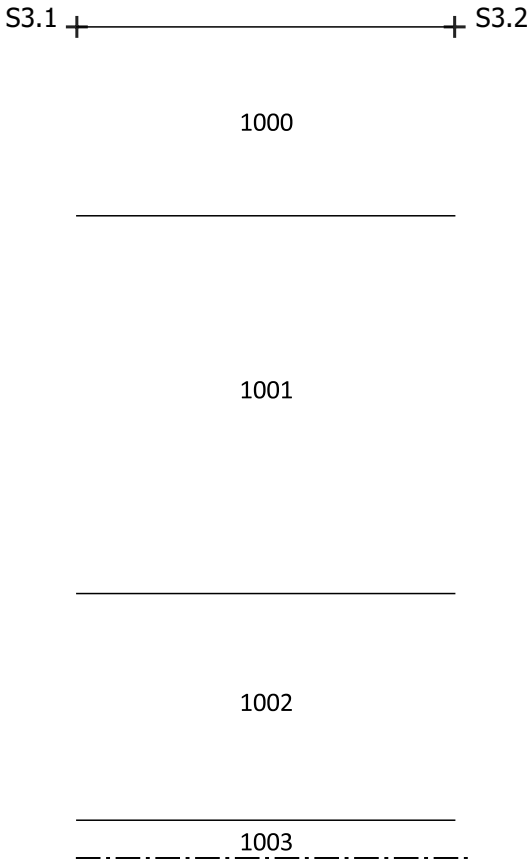
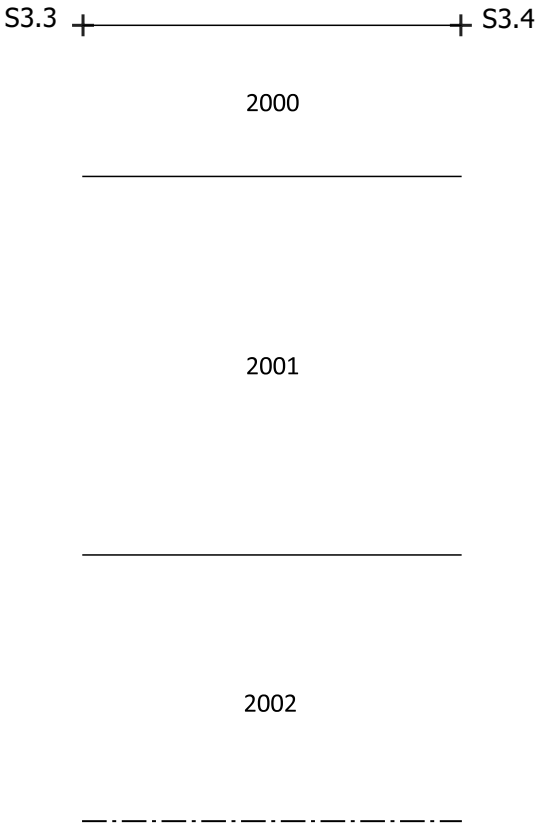
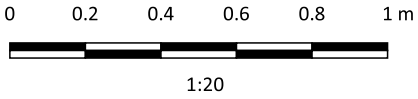
Figure 2: Location of Monitored Areas

East Facing Section of Test Pit 1



Southeast Facing Section of Test Pit 2





Site Code	SAOM 17
Scale	1:20 @A4
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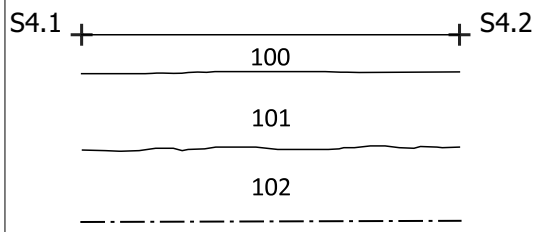
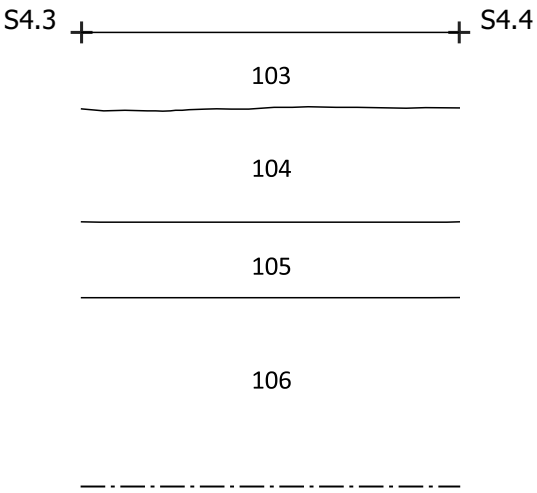
Figure 3: Sections

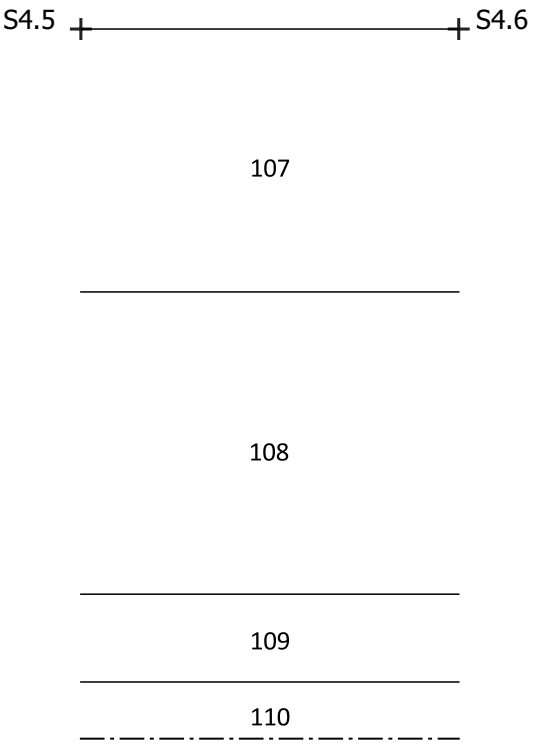
South Facing Section of Boundary Wall Foundation Trench



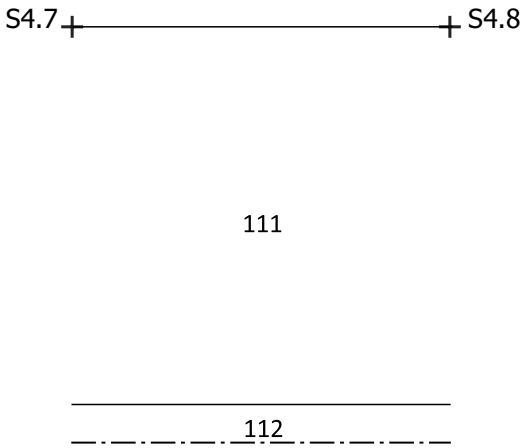
Northeast Facing Section of West Courtyard Drainage Pit



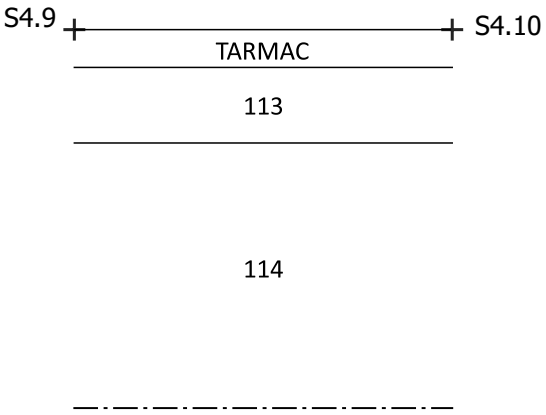
West Facing Section of West Courtyard Drainage Pit



West Facing Section of East Courtyard Drainage Pit



West Facing Section of Southeast area Ground Reduction



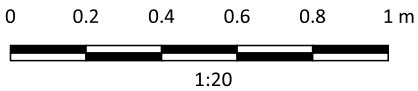


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Figure 4: Sections



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