



The Cathedral Hotel Salisbury

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

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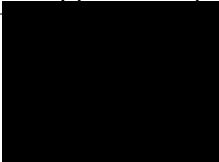
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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Larasian Ltd, to undertake archaeological monitoring and recording during ground investigations at The Cathedral Hotel, Salisbury. The work was completed as a preliminary part of a wider programme of archaeological investigation and recording relating to a planning condition associated with the development of The Cathedral Hotel.

The work involved the monitoring of five ground investigation trial pits, located within the internal and external areas of The Cathedral Hotel. Four of the trial pits contained no evidence of archaeological remains. However, Trial Pit 500 contained a large west to east aligned flint and chalk wall adjacent to the existing south facing frontage of the hotel, alongside Milford Street. This wall is believed to represent a significant medieval structure within the Cross Keys chequer and demonstrates that archaeological evidence is likely to be present on the site.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Larasian Ltd for commissioning the archaeological monitoring and recording. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of the Assistant County Archaeologist, who monitored the project for Wiltshire Council.



The Cathedral Hotel, Salisbury

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Larasian Ltd, to undertake archaeological monitoring and recording (AMR) during ground investigations at The Cathedral Hotel, Salisbury. The monitored works were located within the footprint of the existing hotel, centred on NGR 414555 129970, at The Cathedral Hotel, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 2AJ (Fig. 1).

1.1.2 The AMR was carried out relating to a condition of planning permission, granted by Wiltshire Council (PL/2024/09449). It should be noted that the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2025) and the results of this fieldwork alone does not satisfy condition 8 of the planning application:

Condition 8

No development, other than the demolition works at ground level as shown on approved DWG No. 131 Rev.P1 – Demolition – Ground Floor Plan, shall commence within the red line boundary shown, as shown on approved drawing, DWG No: 001 Site Location plan, until a written programme of archaeological investigation has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The written scheme of investigation will provide for:

A programme of site investigation and recording within the area of archaeological interest. Development will not commence within the area of archaeological interest until the site investigation has been satisfactorily completed.

ii) A programme of post investigation assessment, analysis, publication, dissemination and archiving. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements of the programme have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the written scheme or unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

REASON: To record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost in a manner proportionate to their importance and to make this evidence and any archive generated publicly accessible.

1.1.3 As per correspondence with the Assistant County Archaeologist, additional specific archaeological investigations will be required in due course. The results of these geotechnical investigations will help with the design of any future archaeological investigations.

1.1.4 Previous archaeological work relating to the development has so far included an archaeological desk-based assessment (Wessex Archaeology 2024) as well as a Heritage Statement (Forum Heritage Services (2024).

1.1.5 The AMR was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed (Wessex Archaeology 2024). The Assistant County Archaeologist approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to the fieldwork.

- 1.1.6 The AMR was undertaken on the 7 – 8 July 2025, with five trial pits excavated within the footprint of the site. One of the trial pits (Trial Pit 300 was not excavated below a modern concrete slab).

1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the AMR, to interpret the results within their local or regional context (or otherwise), and to assess their potential to address the aims outlined in the WSI, thereby making available information about the archaeological resource (a preservation by record).

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The location, topography and geology of the site has been discussed within the previous ADBA (Wessex Archaeology 2024) and the WSI relating to this phase of site investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2025). These documents describe the Site as located at the geographical and commercial centre of the medieval city of Salisbury, on the northern side of Milford Street. From the 13th century, the site lay within the Cross Keys ‘chequer’ – one of the original medieval city blocks, immediately east of the Market Square.
- 1.3.2 The Site comprises a large, four-storey building with a yard space to the rear (north). The building is a Grade II Listed Building (NHLE 1259785).
- 1.3.3 Three of the trial pits were excavated within internal areas of the existing building, with the remaining two trial pits excavated to the north and east of the existing restaurant extension within the external yard space (Fig.2)
- 1.3.4 The Site lies at an elevation of approximately 51 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.3.5 The solid bedrock geology of the Site is mapped by the British Geological Survey as chalk of the Newhaven Chalk Formation; a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 86.3-72.1 million years ago during the Cretaceous period (BGS 2025).
- 1.3.6 The city of Salisbury is built on alluvium overlying valley gravels at the confluence of the rivers Avon, Nadder, and Bourne; part of the Solent river system (WCAS 2004). The chalk bedrock of the Site is overlain by superficial deposits of River Terrace Deposits 4 (sand and gravel), formed between 2.588 million years ago and the present, during the Quaternary period. No borehole information or geotechnical data is available for the Site (BGS 2025).
- 1.3.7 Whilst a clay and gravel subsoil was encountered within the Site during a previous archaeological investigation, the depth of this deposit was not recorded (AC Archaeology 1997).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in a prior archaeological desk-based assessment (ADBA; Wessex Archaeology 2024), which considered the recorded historic environment resource within a 500 m study area of the development. A summary of the results was presented within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2025) and is presented below for reference, with relevant entry numbers from the Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record (WSHER) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) included. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.

2.2 Previous investigations related to the development

Archaeological Evaluation (AC Archaeology 1997)

- 2.2.1 An archaeological investigation comprising a single 7 m x 2 m trench was undertaken within the Site, in the rear courtyard. At least one principal wall and two other walls of a medieval domestic building were recorded, together with a series of chalk and mortar floors and other internal surfaces. On the basis of associated finds, the major episode of use of this building was the later- 13th or early-14th century. A series of probable external deposits to the north of the building were also examined, including a chalk-lined well. Archaeological features were encountered at 46 m aOD (AC Archaeology 1997).
- 2.2.2 These remains are of considerable interest as they indicate that the building extended up to 20 m back from the street frontage into the backland, suggesting that it was probably a high status residence (WCAS 2004).

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

Palaeolithic and Mesolithic (970,000–4000 BC)

- 2.3.1 Human activity throughout the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods was characterised by small bands of hunter-gatherers moving through the landscape and exploiting resources. The early prehistoric period in Wiltshire is evidenced by flint scatters and the remains of settlement camps, which show a riverine distribution.
- 2.3.2 In Salisbury, important Palaeolithic assemblages have been investigated around Millford Hill, where rich accumulations of artefacts have been recovered from the terrace gravels, primarily during the 19th century (Wymer 1999). Vast quantities of handaxes in particular have been discovered, including 52 on Fowlers Road (MWI9686) along with another 15 on the same street (MWI9866), 29 at Col Pepper's House (MWI9682), and 33 on Elm Grove Road (MWI11092), all situated between 360 and 450 m east of the Site.
- 2.3.3 Further individual Palaeolithic artefacts have been recovered within the city. In closest proximity to the Site, a handaxe was recovered from terrace gravel deposits underlying the Salisbury Market Place, c.150 m to the west (MWI11085). The Site's position on Terrace 4 of the Avon indicates a broad potential for Palaeolithic remains.
- 2.3.4 Mesolithic artefacts have been less frequently recorded in the vicinity of the Site, with a single findspot of a Mesolithic Axe recorded c.340 m to the east (MWI9869).

Neolithic to Iron Age (4000–AD 43)

- 2.3.5 The Neolithic period witnessed hunter-gatherer economies becoming superseded by sedentary lifestyles associated with agricultural practices. Whilst abundant Neolithic evidence is recorded in the wider Salisbury region, only two findspots, of Neolithic axe heads, have been located within the Study Area; c.320 m to the north (MWI11107) and c.330 m to the east (MWI9873).
- 2.3.6 Extensive evidence for Bronze Age funerary activity is known in the landscape surrounding Salisbury, particularly on higher ground. Within the Study Area, a single findspot of Bronze Age flint implements, recorded during an evaluation, is located approximately 360 m south of the Site (MWI9884).
- 2.3.7 Whilst there is some archaeological evidence to suggest earlier prehistoric activity in the vicinity of Old Sarum, it was during the Iron Age that use of the hilltop was formalised through substantial earthworks. A large hillfort was established at Old Sarum around 400 BC (English Heritage 2024), c.2.6 km north of the Site. Away from the hillfort, little evidence of

the Iron Age period has been identified within Salisbury centre, and no features are recorded within the Study Area.

Romano-British (AD 43–410)

- 2.3.8 Old Sarum was occupied by the Romans as a military fort shortly after the conquest of Britain in AD 43 and, along with the civilian settlement beyond the ramparts, became *Sorviodunum* (WCAS 2005). A Romano-British temple precinct later replaced the fort, within the earlier earthworks (English Heritage 2024). Three Roman roads from the north and east converged outside the east gate of the hillfort, connecting *Sorviodunum* with Roman cities at London, Winchester and Dorchester (Allen et al. 2016). The closest example lies c.2 km to the north-west of the Site, running south-west towards Dorchester.

- 2.3.9 With the focus of activity c.2.6 km to the north, little evidence of this period has been recovered from the city centre. However, a hoard of Roman coins, dated from AD 253-313, was discovered at Old George Inn c.260 m south-west of the Site (MWI9905) and a Romano-British bottle was found in a garden c.340 m to the south (MWI9910). A Roman brooch discovered in the market square is also recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Such finds are suggestive of further activity in the vicinity.

Saxon (AD 410–1066)

- 2.3.10 Occupation of Old Sarum continued into the early medieval period, appearing as *Searobyrg* in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle of the late 9th century AD, and becoming the site of a mint in AD 1003 a mint (WCAS 2005, Crittall 1962). Shortly after the Norman Conquest in 1066, a motte and bailey castle was constructed in the centre of the hillfort (EH 2024).
- 2.3.11 Away from Old Sarum, evidence of Saxon occupation within the Study Area comes in the form of a pre-Christian cemetery at St Edmund's Church (MWI11178), and a further, individual inhumation (MWI10907), located 440 m and 480 m north-east of the Site, respectively.

Medieval (AD 1066–1500)

- 2.3.12 A medieval town grew up within Old Sarum, along with a small cathedral. However, it was apparent that the old monument was not well suited as a town, and by 1220 construction had begun on a new cathedral at its present site in Salisbury, c.450 m south of the Site, on land owned by the Bishop of Salisbury. The new town of Salisbury, centred on the cathedral and the meeting of five rivers, quickly grew to become the primary settlement of the county, surrounded by satellite villages. By the 14th century, all the main streets of the city were established (RCHME 1977, Crittall 1962, WCAS 2004).
- 2.3.13 As anticipated, remains of medieval date are recorded throughout the city, including building foundations and structural elements, wells, refuse pits and a variety of domestic and commercial artefacts (Harding 2022, WSHER 2024), as well as isolated medieval findspots. Those in closest proximity to the Site (MWI75187, MWI11275, MWI75756, MWI75768) primarily comprise the wall footings of medieval buildings.
- 2.3.14 The Site lies within the Cross Keys 'chequer' – one of the original medieval city blocks, immediately east of the Market Square. The area, bounded by Milford Street to the south, Brown Street to the east, Winchester Street to the north and Queen Street to the west, is likely to have been one of the areas of Salisbury developed at an early stage. Milford Street and New Canal, known as Winchester Street in 1316, was one of the principal routes through the new city. Previous investigations have indicated evidence of backland

development (i.e. at the centre of the chequer, behind the streets) from the later 13th or early 14th century (WCAS 2004).

- 2.3.15 Lying within the medieval core of the city, any further archaeological remains within the Site are likely to reflect those found in the surrounding chequers; a combination of domestic and commercial evidence, with structural elements towards the fronting the street, and pits, dumps and yards to the rear. Excavations undertaken within the medieval chequers indicate a good potential for medieval remains to survive between the foundations and cellars of post-medieval and modern buildings. This accords with remains previously recorded within the Site (MWI75759) despite the small scale of the investigation.

Post-medieval to modern (AD 1500–present)

- 2.3.16 The pattern of settlement in the study area established in the medieval period continued through the post-medieval period and largely into the present day. The majority of the Listed Buildings within the study area were established during the post-medieval period. Milford Street continued to form a central thoroughfare of the city, lined with shops, inns and houses.
- 2.3.17 Post-medieval finds and features are frequently encountered during archaeological investigations within the city centre, and given the unchanged street grid, follow a similar pattern to the medieval evidence, with structural remains focussed towards the street frontages, and open ‘backlands’ to the rear (Harding 2022). The high water table in Salisbury means that, in general, excavations have encountered deposits extending to about a metre in depth (WCAS 2004).
- 2.3.18 Early maps of Salisbury, dating to the 17th and early 18th century, show little specific detail of the Site. However, Speed’s 1611 map (Wessex Archaeology 2024, p. 13, Inset 1) and William Naish’s Map of Salisbury of 1716 (Wessex Archaeology 2024, Figure 7a;) both illustrate Cross Keys Chequer as developed along each of the four streets, with smaller buildings and open space within the backlands. In the latter map, the northern half of the Site appears largely undeveloped, with three garden/yard boundary lines visible.
- 2.3.19 The first edition of the Ordnance Survey, dated 1881 (Wessex Archaeology 2024, Figure 7b), gives a greater level of detail of activity and structures within the Site. The hotel is now labelled, illustrated as a narrower building than its modern-day counterpart. The eastern half of the Site comprises part of three plots fronting Milford Street and are presumed to be separate properties to the hotel. To the rear, the courtyard is considerably smaller than today, with a number of small buildings visible. Those separate from the surrounding buildings may have been sheds or outhouses, however, their function remains uncertain.
- 2.3.20 By the publication of the 1925 Ordnance Survey (Wessex Archaeology 2024, Figure 7c), the hotel building appears broadly in its current form. However, a number of buildings are still visible to the rear of the main building, and it is unclear as to which of the many surrounding properties these are associated. These rear buildings continue to be depicted into the latter half of the 20th century, but by the start of the 21st century, the courtyard appears on satellite imagery as is does today.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 The aims of the AMR, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2025), were to:

- allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of the development or other works;
- provide an opportunity, if needed, to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the allocated resources are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and
- guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

3.2 General objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the AMR, also defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2025), were to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified works area;
- record and establish, within the constraints of the works, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains (a preservation by record);
- place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- make available information about the archaeological resource on the site by preparing a report on the results.

3.3 Site-specific objectives

3.3.1 The site-specific objectives, as defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2025), were to:

- Examine evidence for remains of a 13th to 14th century building recorded during the previous evaluation (AC Archaeology 1997)

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methodology set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2025) and in general compliance with ClfA standards and guidance (ClfA 2023a–b). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

- 4.2.1 The AMR monitored five trial pits located in both internal and external areas of the Cathedral Hotel (Fig 2). Each test pit was assigned a trench number (100 – 500) and was monitored during machine excavation and any subsequent hand excavation.
- 4.2.2 Three of the five trial pits were excavated at the locations described within the WSI. However, Trial Pit 100 was relocated to the external side of the same wall it was originally targeted on and Trial Pit 400 was moved to the cellar due to its original location's proximity to the existing lift shaft.

- 4.2.3 Trial pit 300 was not excavated to its target depth due to structural safety concerns.
- 4.2.4 The attending archaeologist monitored all mechanical excavations within the specified area. Where necessary, the surfaces of uncovered archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand to aid visual definition. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the project aims.
- 4.2.5 Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, although those from features of modern date (19th century or later) were recorded on site and not retained.

Recording

- 4.2.6 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.
- 4.2.7 The trial pits and archaeological features found within them have been located to client plans that are related to OS mapping or structures/features that appear on OS mapping. This was achieved using hand-held measuring tapes and the basic principles of triangulation.
- 4.2.8 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

- 4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2025). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014a), *Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011) and ClfA's (n.d. a) *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 1: Description).

4.4 Monitoring

- 4.4.1 The Assistant County Archaeologist monitored the AMR on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and the Assistant County Archaeologist.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Only Trial Pit 500 contained evidence of archaeological features, with the remaining trial pits all formed of made ground deposits and the existing modern surface material. The excavated trial pits were small in scale measuring around 1 m by 1 m at locations 100, 200 and 500. Trial Pits 300 and 400 measured 0.3 m x 0.3 m and 0.4 m x 0.4 m respectively.

- 5.1.2 Despite the keyhole nature of the excavation and the lack of archaeological finds in Trial Pits 1-4, the discovery of the large flint wall foundation in Trial Pit 500 is of archaeological significance.

Trial Pit 100

- 5.1.3 This trial pit contained a layer of 50 mm thick modern brick with mixed layers of yellow, brown and pink type 1 gravels. The surface materials continued to a depth of 0-0.8 m before a made ground deposit of mid greyish brown silty clay with demolition rubble inclusions was recorded to the base of the trial pit at 1 m below ground level. At 1 m deep the deposits appeared to be changing, with possible river gravels noted (Fig 6).

Trial Pit 200

- 5.1.4 The top 0.2 m of Trial Pit 200 were made up of paving slabs and type 1 gravel. The remainder of the trial pit consisted of a dark brown silty clay demolition layer to its maximum depth of 1.1 m (Fig 7).

Trial Pit 300

- 5.1.5 Trial Pit 300 was abandoned due to there being no support under the existing brickwork of the rear extension. The only deposit monitored during the initial breaking of ground consisted of a slab of reinforced concrete.

Trial Pit 400

- 5.1.6 The location of Trial Pit 400 was moved from the ground floor to the cellar as a result of the existing lift shaft. Two deposits were recorded, with the cellar's brick floor present to 0.22 m deep and a made ground of mid to dark greyish brown silty clay with demolition debris recorded to 0.32 m. As with Trial Pit 100, a possible change to natural river gravels was identified at the base of the Trial Pit.

Trial Pit 500

- 5.1.7 Trial Pit 500 was located on the south facing Milford Street frontage of the Cathedral Hotel and measured 1.1 m in length and 1 m wide. The initial excavation of the Trial pit revealed the surface of a mortared flint wall foundation (503) that was cut by internal division wall (505) of the extant Cathedral Hotel. Wall 503 was found on an east to west alignment and was traced through the centre of the opened trial pit (Figs 3 to 5).
- 5.1.8 A hand excavated slot was then dug through the deposits alongside wall foundation 503, on its northern side. This slot measured 1 m in length and 0.6 m wide and was excavated to a depth of 1.2 m, revealing deposits of made ground, the north face of wall foundation 503 and the stratigraphically earliest deposit, a mid to darkish grey brown silty clay with chalk fragments, 506, which is likely to represent the upper parts of the floodplain gravel.
- 5.1.9 Wall foundation 503, which was approximately 0.60 m wide and constructed using flint cobbles bonded in a chalky mortar was also founded on the floodplain gravel 506. This construction type would suggest a possible medieval date for the feature, while its size and bedding on the natural flint gravels is perhaps indicative of a large high-status building.
- 5.1.10 Wall foundation 503 was cut through by the existing hotel wall 505, followed by layers of demolition rubble and soil. Demolition layer 507 was the next deposit in the stratigraphic sequence and contained ceramic building material (CBM), possible mortar flecks and rare oyster shell and is probably of post-medieval date, although no intrinsically datable artefacts were recovered.

- 5.1.11 A dark greyish brown silty clay soil (504) overlaid demolition layer 507. Layer 504 was a dark greyish brown silty clay containing some post-medieval demolition debris, rare oyster shell and rare animal bone (not recovered). Above this a second soil layer (502) of mid greyish brown silty clay, common CBM, demolition rubble and rare oyster shell was recorded. This was finally overlaid by the existing concrete floor surface (501) within the Hotel building.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

- 6.1.1 A small group of finds (1954 g) was recovered from two contexts, both within trench 500. The deposits relate to a soil horizon (context 502) and a demolition or levelling deposit (context 507). The artefacts are in good condition and comprise solely medieval or later ceramic building material (CBM). All the items have been cleaned and quantified within each context, and this information is presented in Table 1. The reporting corresponds with CIFA's (2021) level 1: 'Description' as outlined in the *Specialist's Toolkit for Reporting*.

Table 1 Summary of Finds by Context and Material Type (number/weight in grammes)

Trench	Cxt. No.	Deposit Type	Ceramic Building Material	
			No.	Wgt.
500	502	Soil horizon	1	1424
	507	Demolition deposit	5	530
Total			6	1954

- 6.1.2 The CBM includes a probable 16-17th century brick from soil horizon 502. The piece measures 116 mm wide and 47 mm thick but is broken at one end. The fabric is coarse mid-red, hard and sandy with rare flint gravel measuring up to 20 mm across and frequent iron-rich argillaceous inclusions (<4 mm) present throughout the fragment. These inclusions are indicative of a local production. Despite bricks of this size and nature being produced from the 16th century onwards (Ryan 1996, Appendix 1), this brick has clearly been re-used as it displays two types of mortar. One header, stretcher and the lower bed is covered with a chalky, lime-based mortar. In contrast, the upper bed displays a hard, cement-based mortar of probable post-1800s date; the lime-based mortar is likely to be earlier.
- 6.1.3 The demolition or levelling deposit, 507, contains material of more varied date. Two have strong potential to be medieval. One is a 38 mm thick brick fragment, in a similar fabric to that already outlined, which has potential to be of 14th century date onwards plus a roof tile with a square peg-hole measuring 10 mm across. The latter are known to be made from the 13th century onwards at Alderbury (Saunders 2001, 172-3), with examples known from Clarendon Palace. These occur alongside three fragments of later brick, in a less coarse but similar fabric, one of which displays a lime-based sandy mortar and measures 58 mm in thickness, suggesting a date of production of late 17th/early 18th century onwards.

6.2 Recommendations for analysis

- 6.2.1 The material has been recorded to an adequate level for the archive and for this reason no further examination is considered necessary.

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Summary

- 7.1.1 The AMR was successful in highlighting the presence of surviving archaeological features and deposits, with flint wall foundation 503 of local significance. No other archaeological evidence was encountered during the AMR, but this was not surprising given the limited size of the geotechnical investigations.
- 7.1.2 Given previous findings from excavations in the external yard in the northern part of the site (AC Archaeology 1997) and the presence of wall foundation 503 within the existing building footprint, it is likely that further archaeological remains are present on the site. These archaeological remains have the potential to enhance the understanding of the medieval Cross Keys 'chequer' – one of the original medieval city blocks.

7.2 Discussion

- 7.2.1 The AMR was designed to record the presence, condition and date of any archaeological deposits and features that were exposed in a series of geotechnical test pits. This exploratory phase of work was designed to evaluate the depth of current foundations and assess their impact on the proposed redevelopment of the Cathedral Hotel. The trial pits were cut through post medieval and modern backfill that was related to construction cuts of the respective wall foundations. It is therefore impossible to speculate on the survival of internal medieval and post medieval floor surfaces or internal wall foundations as described by AC Archaeology (1997) which may be present.
- 7.2.2 The principal result of the fieldwork relates to the discovery of a substantial wall foundation 503 on the street frontage. Opportunities to undertake archaeological investigations on street frontages are rare in Salisbury but are essential to establish the precise location of street frontages. Excavation of these locations in the city is frequently constrained by the need to avoid active on-street services or undermine pavements. Buffer zones are required to mitigate these threats excluding access to foundations on former street frontages.
- 7.2.3 The discovery of wall foundation 503 has therefore provided an unusual, but significant, opportunity to record such structural remains in this location. The construction technique, using mortared flint nodules, is typical of medieval wall foundations seen elsewhere across the city although these are often of a more rudimentary construction. Foundations of this type were frequently used and reused on the same building footprint throughout the medieval and post medieval periods making them difficult to date accurately within that broad period.
- 7.2.4 The foundations functioned to support the main superstructure of the building which was primarily of timber framed construction, of two or three storeys and jettied. It is possible that the presence of a former a jetty can be recognised at The Cathedral Hotel. The current façade lies outside the wall foundation 503 a location that may have been influenced by the overhang. A similar scenario can be seen in the Red Lion Hotel where the medieval jetty is hidden by the current frontage which has encroached into the courtyard. Currie and Rushton (2005, 226) noted that buildings frequently encroached into the street as properties were redeveloped to increase the internal floor space. This process, 'purpresture', was resolved by the payment of a fine but was otherwise tolerated by the authorities.
- 7.2.5 The foundation was undoubtedly capable of supporting a timber framed building of considerable status, appropriate for a resident living on the principal street axis of the city along New Canal and Milford Street. The exaggerated depth may have resulted from a need

to bed the foundations on floodplain gravel. An alternative possibility can be drawn from foundations with comparable dimensions in the Close where flint and stone were used in the superstructure (Wessex Archaeology 2021).

- 7.2.6 Stone built buildings are rare in Salisbury but are best represented by the 15th century house of John Halle, now the Odeon cinema and also on New Canal. This high-status residence, which was built using ashlar and flint, lies in the economic hub of the city. Comparable reconstruction from excavated foundations is more difficult to justify; however, Currie and Rushton (2005) have noted that secular buildings at Le Crane and 47 New Street were of stone construction and argued that medieval buildings at the junction of Milford Street and Gigant Street were also built in this way.
- 7.2.7 They also considered that stone property boundaries may have been relatively common features among the affluent occupants of Salisbury, citing properties owned by William Teynturer, whose properties were defined by stone walls.
- 7.2.8 Any possibility of applying these models to the Cathedral Hotel are restricted by the inability to place the foundation within the wider tenement pattern of Salisbury. The limited extent makes it impossible to establish whether the property relates to a large corner tenement at the junction of Queen Street and Milford Street or to a property fronting onto Milford Street, which seems more likely. The issue is not resolved by including the wall line identified by AC Archaeology. This foundation is likely to define the rear properties fronting onto Milford Street but, sadly, cannot be located with any confidence.

8 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

- 8.1.1 The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. Salisbury Museum has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

8.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

- 8.2.1 The physical archive will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Salisbury Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Brown 2011; ClfA 2014b; SMA 1995).
- 8.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:
- 01 files/document cases of paper records and A3/A4 graphics

Digital archive

- 8.2.3 The digital archive, which comprises born-digital data (e.g., site records, survey data, photographs and reports), will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata.

8.3 Selection strategy

- 8.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected for retention are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities (i.e., the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving museum).
- 8.3.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy) and follows ClfA's (n.d. b) *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (e.g., Wessex Archaeology's specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.
- 8.3.3 Project-specific proposals for selection are presented below. The proposals are based on recommendations by Wessex Archaeology's specialists and will be updated in line with any further comment by other stakeholders (e.g., museum, local authority), prior to deposition of the archive. Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by Wessex Archaeology.

Finds

- 8.3.4 Given the residual nature of the medieval elements, plus the post-medieval or later date of most of the CBM, it is recommended that all the material be discarded, as there are no intrinsically significant items within the assemblage.

Documentary records

- 8.3.5 Paper records comprise site registers (other pro-forma site records are digital), drawings and reports (written scheme of investigation, client report). All will be retained and deposited with the project archive.

Digital data

- 8.3.6 The digital data comprise site records (tablet-recorded on site) in spreadsheet format; finds records in spreadsheet format; survey data; photographs; reports. All will be deposited, although site photographs will be subject to selection to eliminate poor quality and duplicated images, and any others that are not directly relevant to the archaeology of the site.

8.4 Security copy

- 8.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g., Brown 2011), on completion of the project, a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file.

8.5 OASIS

- 8.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (<http://oasis.ac.uk>) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 2). A pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the Assistant County Archaeologist on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.



9 COPYRIGHT

9.1 Archive and report copyright

- 9.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.
- 9.1.2 Digital copies of the final report will be made available to the Historic Environment Record (HER) through OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations). Geospatial/survey data forming part of the digital archive will be supplied, on request, to the HER.

9.2 Third party data copyright

- 9.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g., Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Trench tables

Trench No 100		Length 1 m	Width 0.80 m	Depth 1 m	
Context Number	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL
101	Made Ground	Yellows, browns and pinks. Topped with a line of 50mm thick modern brick. Mixed layers of type 1 and footing material.			0.00–0.80
102	Made Ground	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Made ground with Post-Med demolition rubble inclusions.			0.80+

Trench No 200		Length 0.80 m	Width 0.70 m	Depth 1.10 m	
Context Number	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL
201	Modern surface	Paving slabs and type 1			0.00–0.20
202	Made demolition layer				0.20–1.10+

Trench No 300		Length 0.30 m	Width 0.30 m	Depth m	
Context Number	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL
301	Concrete	Concrete slab			0.00

Trench No 400		Length 0.40 m	Width 0.40 m	Depth 0.32 m	
Context Number	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL
401	Modern surface	Cellar brick floor			0.00–0.22
402	Made demolition layer	Mid to dark greyish brown silty clay with demolition debris.			0.22+

Trench No 500		Length 1.10 m	Width 1 m	Depth 1.20 m	
Context Number	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL
501	Modern floor.	Grey concrete			0.00–0.12
502	Soil layer.	Mid greyish brown silty clay			0.12–0.30m min.
503	Property foundation wall.	Linear property foundation wall. aligned East to West. with straight sides and a flat base. Constructed from flint. Maximum height: 0.50 m.			0.30–0.86
504	Soil layer.	Dark greyish brown silty clay			0.45–0.60
505	Internal N-S wall of Cathedral Hotel.	Linear internal n-s wall of cathedral hotel. aligned N-S with straight sides and a flat base. Constructed from brick and plaster. and bonded with mortar.			0.00–0.86
506	Soil layer.	Mid to darkish grey brown silty clay with chalk frags			0.86+
507	Internal(?) demolition layer?	Mid yellowish grey brown silty clay			0.60–0.86



Appendix 2 OASIS record

OASIS ID (UID)	wessexar1-535782
Project Name	Watching Brief at The Cathedral Hotel, Salisbury
Sitename	The Cathedral Hotel, Salisbury
Sitecode	297391
Project Identifier(s)	297391
Activity type	Watching Brief
Planning Id	PL/2024/09449
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates	07-Jul-2025 - 08-Jul-2025
Location	The Cathedral Hotel, Salisbury NGR: SU 14555 29970 LL: 51.06887935865587, -1.793648827458837 12 Fig: 414555,129970
Administrative Areas	Country: England County/Local Authority: Wiltshire Local Authority District: Wiltshire Parish: Salisbury
Project Methodology	The watching brief monitored five trial pits located in both internal and external areas of the Cathedral Hotel. Each test pit was assigned a trench number (100 – 500) and was monitored during machine excavation and any subsequent hand excavation. Three of the five trial pits were excavated at the locations described within the WSI. However, Trial Pit 100 was relocated to the external side of the same wall it was originally targeted on and Trial Pit 400 was moved to the cellar due to its original location's proximity to the existing lift shaft. Trial pit 300 was not excavated to its target depth due to structural safety concerns. The attending archaeologist monitored all mechanical excavations within the specified area. Where necessary, the surfaces of uncovered archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand to aid visual definition. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the project aims. Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, although those from features of modern date (19th century or later) were recorded on site and not retained.
Project Results	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Larasian Ltd, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground investigations at the Cathedral hotel, Salisbury. The work was completed as a preliminary part of a wider programme of archaeological investigation and recording relating to a planning condition associated with the development of the Cathedral Hotel. The work involved the monitoring of five ground investigation trial pits, located within the internal and external areas of the Cathedral Hotel. Four of the trial pits contained no evidence of archaeological remains. However, Trial Pit 500 contained a large west to east aligned flint and chalk wall adjacent to the existing south facing frontage of the hotel, alongside Milford Street. This wall is



	believed to represent a significant medieval structure within the Cross Keys chequer and demonstrates that archaeological evidence is likely to be present on the site.
Keywords	
Funder	Private or public corporation Larasian Ltd
HER	Wiltshire and Swindon HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Ruth Panes
HER Identifiers	
Archives	

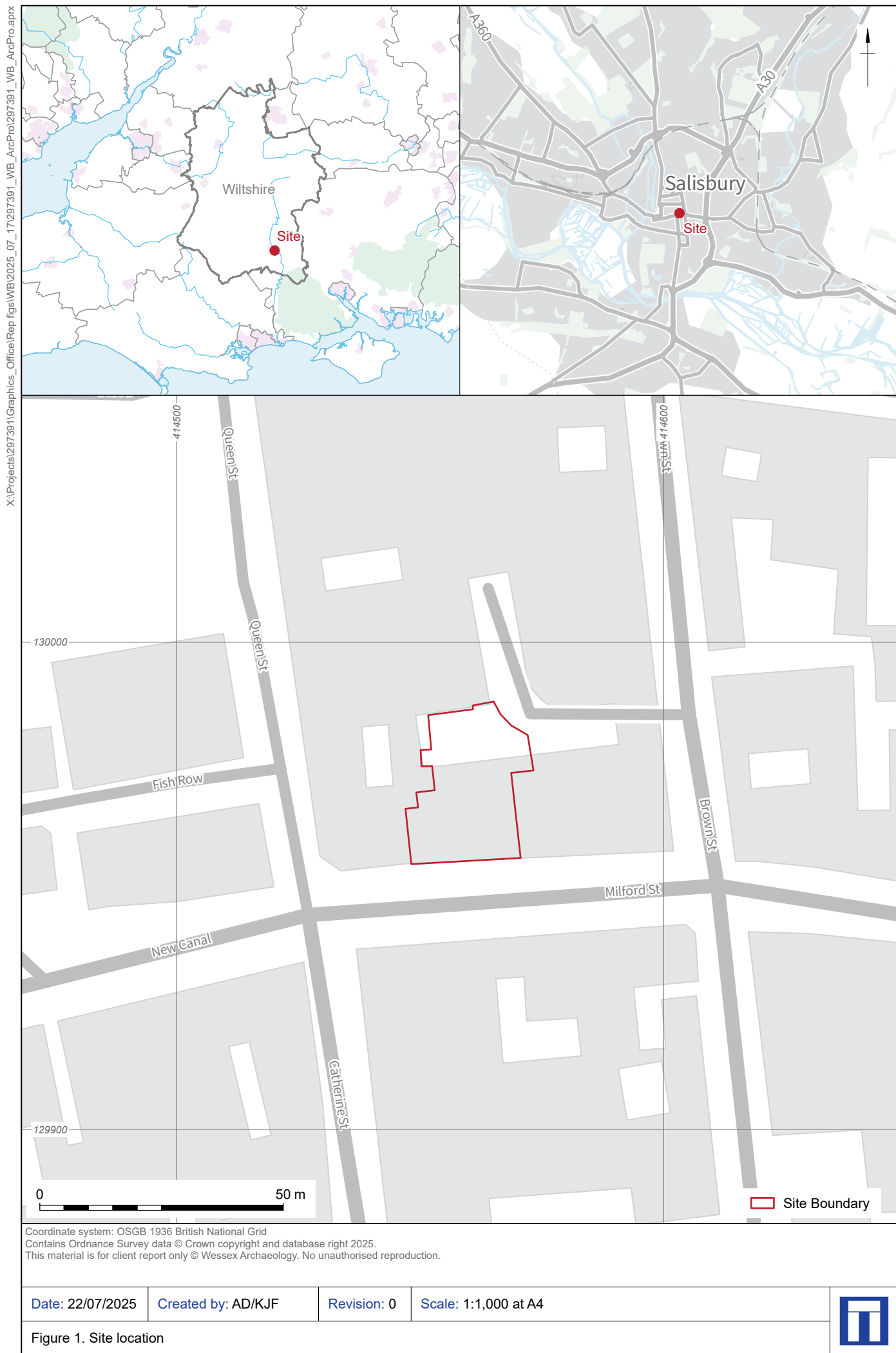
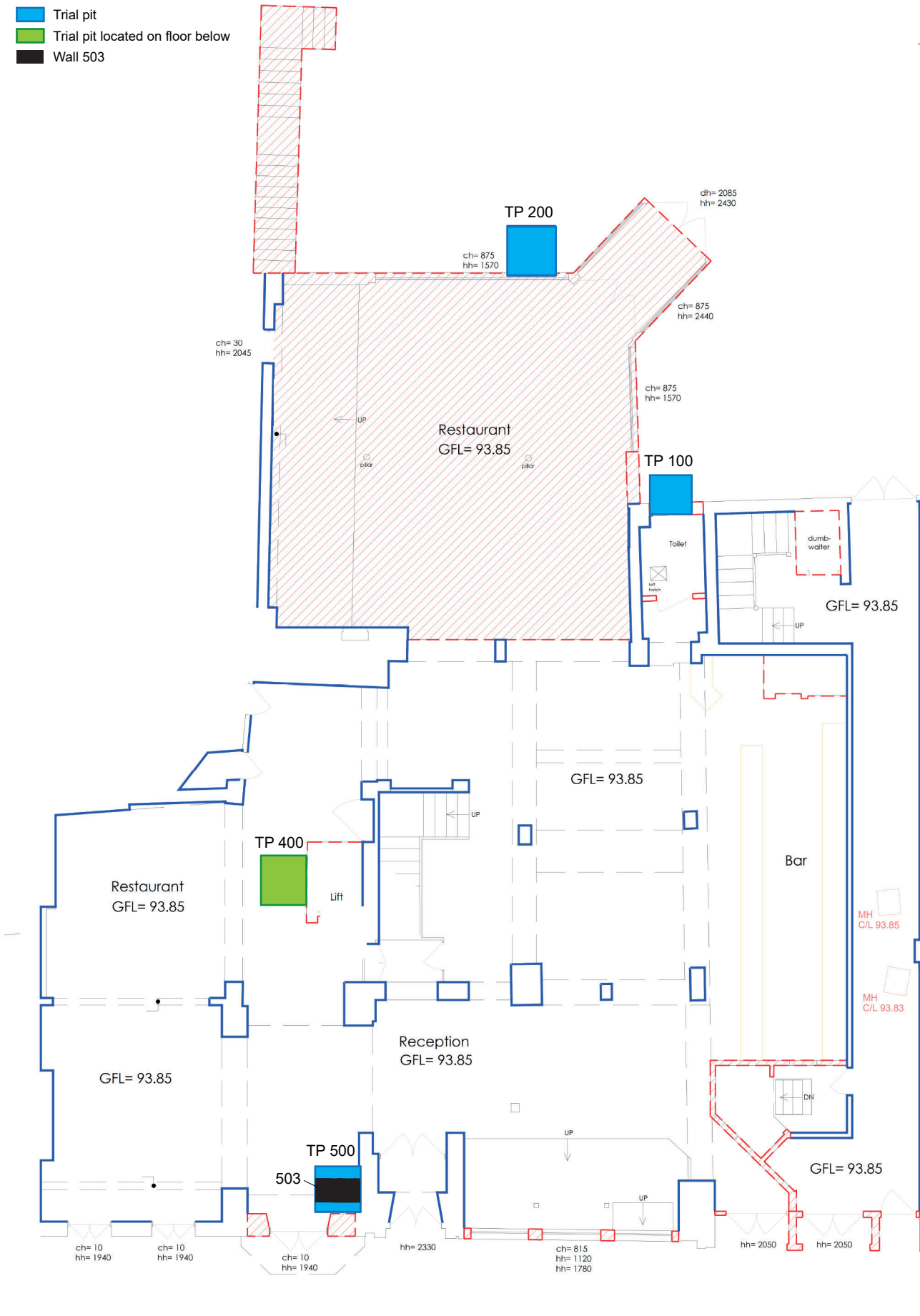


Figure 1. Site location



- Trial pit
- Trial pit located on floor below
- Wall 503



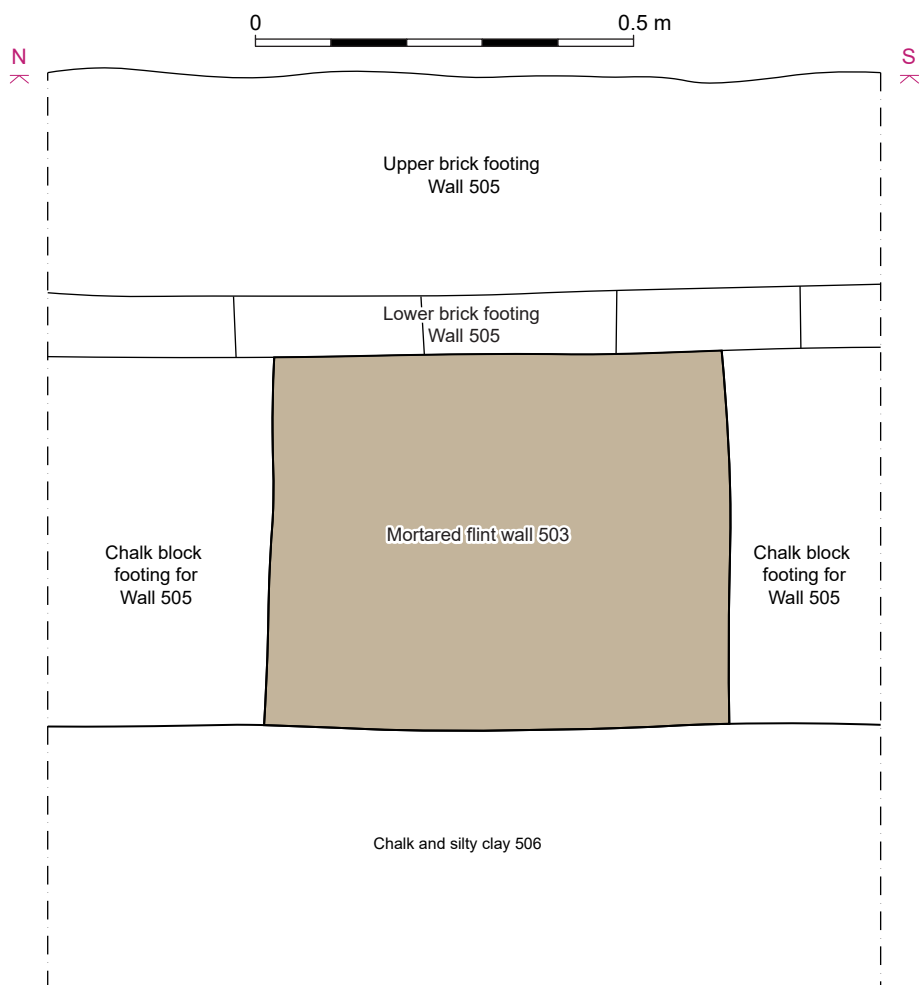
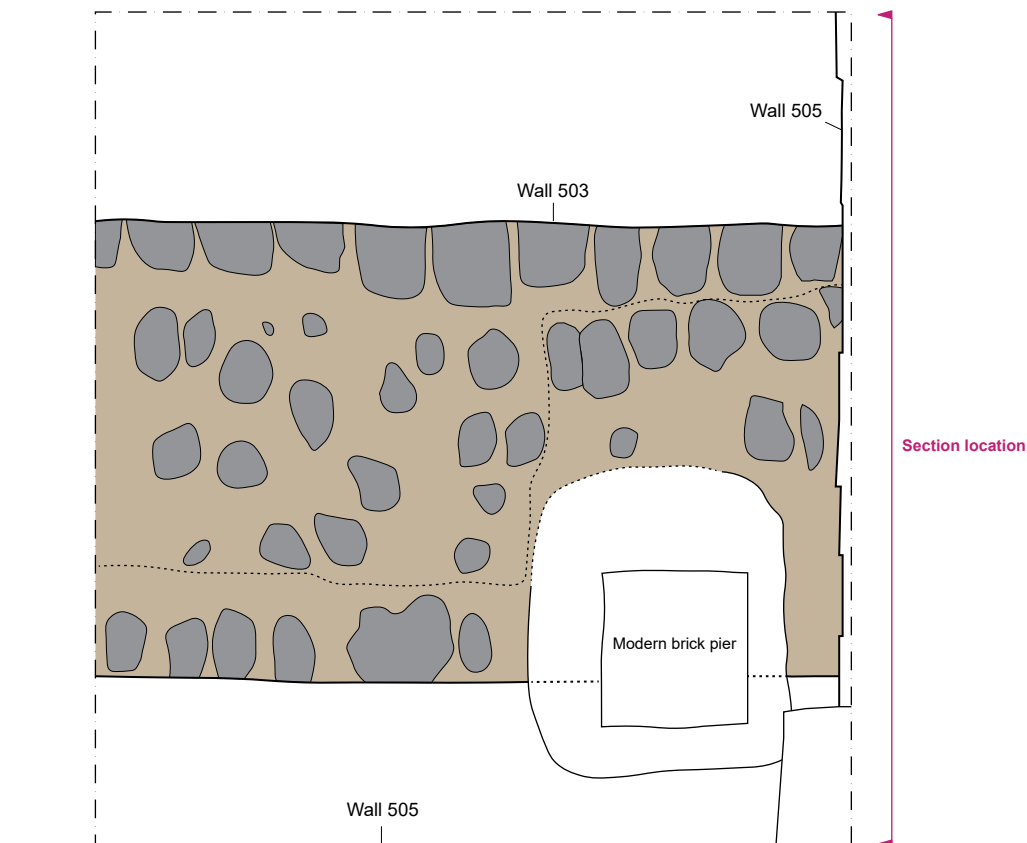
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Figure 2. Trial pit locations



Flint
Mortar



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Figure 3. Plan and west facing section of Trial Pit 500





Figure 4. Trial pit 500. 1 m and 0.5 m scales



Figure 5. West facing section of Trial Pit 500.
1 m and 0.5 m scales



Figure 6. North facing section of Trial Pit 100. 1 m and 0.5 m scales



Figure 7. East facing section of Trial Pit 200. 1 m and 0.5 m scales



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