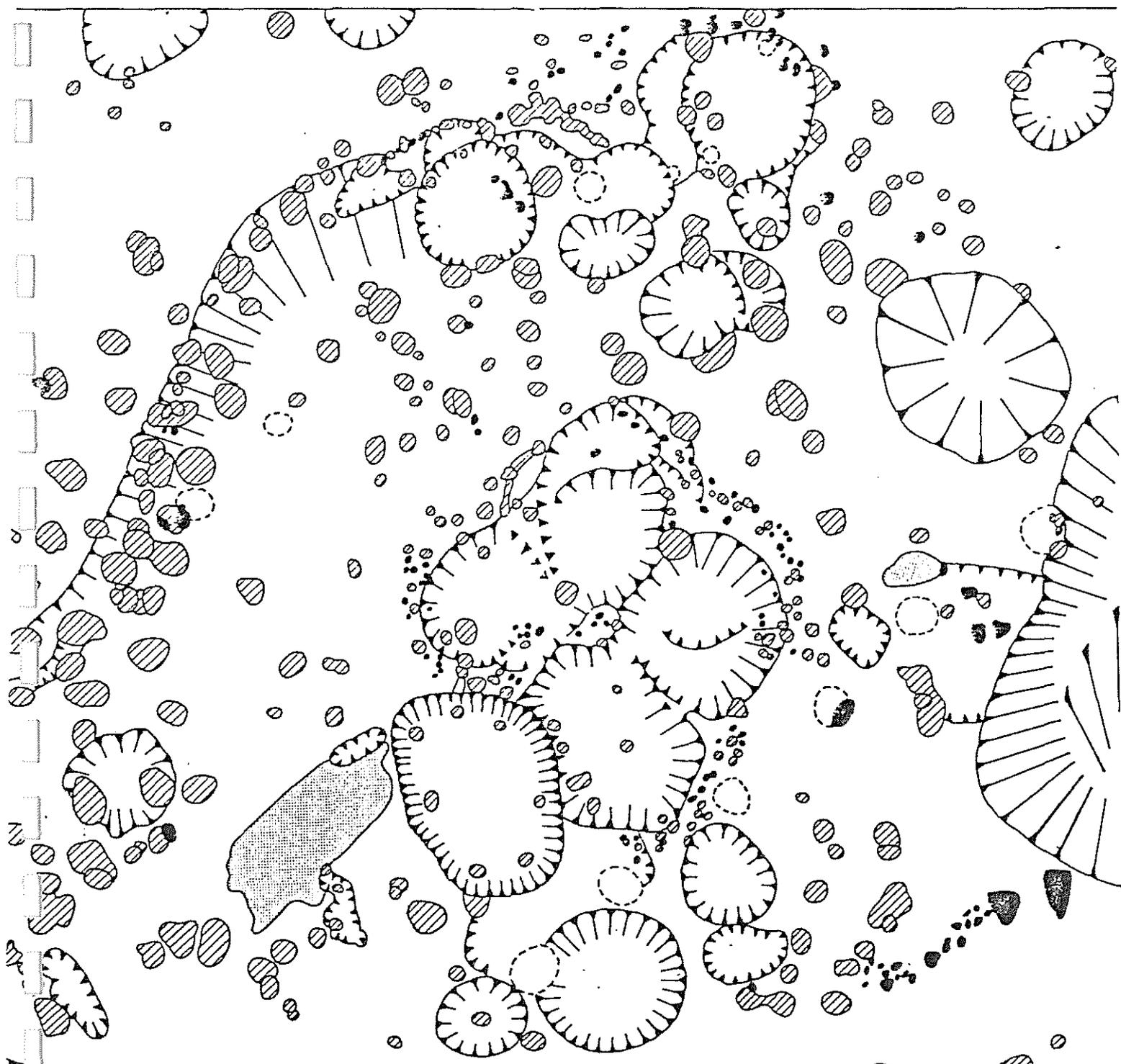


# WARE FOOTBALL CLUB

Park Road, Ware

## Archaeological Monitoring and Recording



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THE HERTFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Report No.170

THE FOOTBALL CLUB  
PARK ROAD, WARE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

Cathy Walker  
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The Seed Warehouse, Maidenhead Yard  
The Wash, Hertford, SG14 1PX

Tel: 01992 558170 Fax: 01992 503184

*Registered Charity No.281819*

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# THE FOOTBALL CLUB, PARK ROAD, WARE AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 During February and March 1996 the Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust (HAT) conducted an archaeological watching brief in the grounds of the former Ware Football Club on Park Road, Ware (NGR TL 354 145, Fig.1). The work was commissioned by Glaxo Manufacturing Services Ltd, and was carried out during the groundwork's for a new car-park and access road.

## 2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The site is located to the north of the river Lea, on the lower slopes of the river valley close to the eastern boundary of the GMS factory complex.

2.2 The local soils are of the Melford Association (Soil Survey of England and Wales), described as deep, well-drained fine loams over clay and fine loam or calcareous clayey subsoil. The surface geology is chalky till.

2.3 The subsoil within the area of the development comprises sandy river-gravels forming an undulating surface. The hollows are filled by substantial deposits of red, sandy brick-earth of 'loessic' or wind-blown origin.

## 3 BACKGROUND

3.1 The development of the Roman town pre-dating Ware was largely the result of the construction of the Roman *Ermine Street* as it crossed the river Lea. The road was originally built as a military route, linking two major Roman towns, London (*Londinium*) in the south and Lincoln (*Lindum*) in the north.

3.2 The remains of the Roman road and town survive beneath the present GMS factory complex, immediately to the west of the site. Archaeological evaluations and excavations by HAT and its predecessor HAU (Hart Archaeological Unit), have over the years revealed substantial Roman remains, as well as evidence of earlier and later periods of archaeology.

3.3 In 1976 four Roman burials, one in a lead-lined coffin, were found to the north-west of the former Football Club. To the east of the site, within 'The Buryfields', several Roman ditches and a number of late Roman burials were also found during sewage improvement works in 1977.

3.4 Between 1977 and 1979 further excavations within the factory revealed worked flint scatters dating from the Mesolithic period (8300-4300 BC) overlain by Roman features, including a section of *Ermine Street* and contemporary buildings eg. a potter's workshop. More burials were found on the western side of the Roman road to the south of the factory complex in 1987, and in 1989 excavations beneath the present P11 warehouse revealed a second section of *Ermine Street*, with workshop buildings at either side (Godwin 1989).

3.5 Several evaluations and excavations have been carried out by the Trust as part of the current Access Project (Fig. 2). An initial evaluation of the former Ware Football Club grounds was executed in September 1993 (WFC Trenches 1-7), when the existence of substantial archaeological remains on the site was first established (Walker 1993)

3.6 The northern route of the new access road was evaluated in December 1994. Ditches and pits were revealed containing Roman finds, including a complete bronze bracelet (Phase II, Trenches 1-6). Six tree-pits were also excavated (Trenches TP1-6), one of which contained a substantial Roman layer, probably the fill of a large ditch (Walker 1994a). The Trust returned to 'The Buryfields' in May 1995 to excavate a small area of activity close to the northern boundary of the Football Club, identified during the evaluation (Phase II, Trench 7). Twelve Roman burials were revealed, some with grave-goods, including a ring and a bracelet (Walker 1995a & b).

3.7 Excavations within the factory complex in June 1995 (Phase I, Trench 8) followed a small evaluation (Phase I, Trenches 1-3). A third section of *Ermine Street* was found, and a number of associated features dating from the 1st-4th centuries, including a timber building, a well and a pond (Walker 1995c).

3.8 Phase 2 of the Ware Football Club evaluation was carried out in June and July 1995, following a geophysical survey of the football pitch which failed to identify significant archaeological remains. The evaluation comprised a single trench (WFC 8: Fig. 2) in the south-west corner of the grounds. Roman features dating from the 1st-4th centuries were found, associated with back-plots to buildings fronting *Ermine Street* (Walker 1995a).

3.9 The most recent works, carried out in January 1996, comprised an intrusive evaluation of the grounds and football pitch. A number of Roman features were found towards the central and northern areas of the pitch. These consisted mainly of pits and ditches associated with domestic and agricultural activities to the rear of the street frontage. Two burials were also revealed, one of which contained a small 4th-century flask and a sheep's pelvis, intended as food and drink for the journey into the after-life (Walker 1996).

## 4 METHOD OF WORK AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 The work was executed in accordance with a site specification (which will be deposited with the site archive), and conducted with adherence to the by-laws of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

4.2 The project comprised the groundworks for the construction of a car-park and access road. The impact of the development was confined to the cutting of pad foundations for the car-park structure and main drainage trench. The car-park sub-base, the access road and most of the drainage did not involve ground disturbance to the depth of the archaeological horizon.

4.3 The principal objective was to monitor all aspects of the development likely to affect the archaeological horizon, and to carry out adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed. The work was also designed to secure the analysis, conservation, and long-term storage of the artefactual and ecofactual material recovered.

4.4 The elements of the project to be monitored included:

- i) groundworks associated with the pad foundations of the car-park structure;
- ii) the main drainage trench.

4.5 The monitoring of the drainage pipe-line construction comprised observation during the cutting of the pipe trench, finds recovery and limited recording being the priority. Ninety-six pad foundation bases (Maximum dimensions 3.5 m x 2.2 m), and the base for a tower-crane (dimensions 6 m x 6 m), were excavated to the depth of the archaeological horizon using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Where present, the archaeological features revealed were partially excavated, and recorded using scaled plans and section drawings, photographs, and written descriptions (Fig. 3).

## 5 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE (Figs 3-5)

### SUMMARY

Of the 96 pad foundation bases excavated, 17 contained archaeological features cutting into the natural brick-earth, or occasionally river-gravel, sealed by a thick layer of post-medieval levelling. Shallow features were also identified below the tower-crane towards the centre of the site. The features mainly comprised pits and ditches containing Roman finds, and a small pit containing several prehistoric worked flints. No burials were revealed.

Four main areas of archaeological activity were identified. The location and character of the features supports and supplements evidence gathered during the evaluation of January 1996 (Walker 1996). No significant archaeological remains were revealed during the cutting of the main southern drainage trench, but residual sherds of Roman pottery were retrieved during topsoil stripping for the access road along the southern site boundary.

Only trenches containing material of archaeological significance were numbered (Fig. 3), continuing the numerical sequence established from the three previous phases of archaeological works.

#### TRENCH 18 (length 2 m; width 2 m)

No archaeological features were present, but 2 residual pottery sherds, dating from the later 2nd-3rd century AD, were recovered from the overburden during machining (see *Pottery Report*).

#### TRENCH 19 (length 3.5 m; width 2.1 m)

##### *Level of archaeological horizon - 34.92 m OD*

F100 comprised a small circular posthole (diameter 0.35 m; depth 0.10 m), which would have contained a timber post or stake, probably part of a small building or fence-line. The remainder of any structure is likely preserved beyond the limits of the trench. The feature had been backfilled with mid brown sandy silt (L100), and a small fragment of animal bone and a single sherd of pottery dating from the 2nd century AD (see *Pottery Report*) were retrieved during excavation.

#### TRENCH 20 (length 3.5 m; width 2.1 m)

##### *Level of archaeological horizon - 34.82 m OD*

Immediately to the south of Trench 19 two features were identified, forming part of a small area of activity towards the north of the development.

F102 comprised a large pit (length > 2.5 m; width > 1.5 m; depth 0.3 m), continuing beyond the northern and western trench limits. The feature had been backfilled with brown silty clay, containing a fragment of animal bone, a piece of daub, and 2 sherds of Roman pottery, including the rim of a jar (see *Pot Report*).

F103 was also a large pit extending beyond the trench boundaries (length > 2 m; width > 1.5 m; depth > 0.4 m). Two separate fills were identified, but were not fully excavated. The upper fill comprised deliberate backfilling of dark grey-brown sandy loam, overlaying yellow-brown clayey loam. Sixteen daub fragments, two small fragments of animal bone, and three pottery sherds dating from the 2nd century AD were retrieved from the upper fill during excavation (see *Pot Report*).

The features probably served as rubbish pits, indicating an area of domestic activity to the rear of buildings along *Ermine Street*. A section of the Roman road with workshops either side was located less than 30 m to the west, beneath the present P11 warehouse in the GMS factory complex (Godwin 1989).

#### **TRENCH 21** (length 3.5 m; width 2.1 m)

##### *Level of archaeological horizon - 34.85 m oD*

A small cluster of features was revealed to the north of evaluation Trench 11 (Walker 1996), close to the former stand in an area of previously unidentified archaeological activity. Three features were found in this trench, but one was not excavated, as it comprised the very edge of a much larger pit beyond the trench boundary.

F104 was probably the south-west corner of a pit or ditch (length >1.15 m; width > 0.6 m; depth 0.2 m). It was steep-sided, and had been backfilled with mid orange-brown loam. Finds from the fill include a small fragment of animal bone, and five Roman pottery sherds, probably from the Hadham region kilns dating from the 3rd century (see *Pottery Report*).

F105 was a subcircular pit, continuing beyond the southern trench boundary (length 2.6 m; width > 1.5 m; depth 0.35 m). The mid orange-brown loam fill contained three small fragments of animal bone, and a tiny sherd of 1st-2nd century Roman pottery (see *Pot Report*).

#### **TRENCH 22** (length 3.5 m; width 2.1 m)

##### *Level of archaeological horizon - 34.91 m OD*

Immediately to the south of Trench 21, part of a feature was revealed within the confines of this trench. F106 was the eastern half of a probable subcircular, steep-sided pit (length 1.5 m; width > 0.7 m; depth 0.4 m). The fill comprised brown sandy loam containing four worked flint flakes, one of which had several blade removal scars. The flint is of good quality and in mint condition, almost certainly in its primary context. Three of the flakes are similar, and may have been struck from the same core, or at least from the same knapping episode. No firm date can be assigned to the feature, but the flint is consistent with material associated with the Neolithic (4300-2400 BC) and Bronze Age periods (2400-700 BC).

#### **TRENCH 23 and 24** (lengths 3.5 m; widths 2.1 m)

##### *Level of archaeological horizon - 34.67 m OD*

These trenches comprise the most northerly of a group of pad foundations containing archaeological features. They are located immediately to the south of evaluation

Trench 10, where a late Roman burial and several other features had previously been excavated (Walker 1996).

Two parallel north-south aligned ditches were revealed. F107 was the most westerly, continuing beyond the north, south and west limits of both trenches (length > 7 m; width > 0.9 m; depth 0.25 m). The orange-brown sandy loam backfill contained three small animal bone fragments and a sherd of pottery dating from the 1st-2nd century AD (see *Pottery Report*).

F108 continued beyond the north, south and east limits of both trenches. It was slightly wider and more regular in shape than F107 (length > 7 m; width > 1.4 m; depth 0.2 m), although the fill was similar. Twenty-nine small animal bone fragments, including a horse's tooth, were retrieved during excavation. Most were too small to identify, and are indicative of table-waste rather than large-scale butchery.

#### **TRENCH 25** (length 3.5 m; width 2.1 m)

##### *Level of archaeological horizon - 34.60 m OD*

Two archaeological features were identified. F110 comprised a small fraction of the northern terminal of a ditch, also found in Trench 26 and in the earlier evaluation Trench 11 to the south (Walker 1996). It was recorded in plan only within the confines of this trench, and was excavated and more fully described in Trench 26.

F109 comprised part of the northern terminal of a ditch parallel to F110, continuing beyond the western and southern limits of the trench (length > 6 m; width > 0.7 m; depth 0.3 m). No finds were recovered from the dark brown sandy loam backfill.

#### **TRENCH 26** (length 3.5 m; width 2.1 m)

##### *Level of archaeological horizon - 34.36 m OD*

F110 was a straight north-south aligned linear ditch (length > 5 m; width 1.9 m; depth 0.2 m), with a rounded terminal located in to the north in Trench 25. It continued beyond the trench limit, and was probably one of two similar inter-cutting ditches identified in the earlier evaluation Trench 11, less than 3 m to the south (Walker 1996). The fill comprised mid grey-brown clayey loam, and contained a piece of tile and five fragments of animal bone. The feature probably served as a boundary ditch during the Roman period.

#### **TRENCH 27** (length 3.5 m; width 2.1 m)

##### *Level of archaeological horizon - 34.32 m OD*

Immediately to the south of the earlier evaluation Trench 11 (Walker 1996), which contained complex archaeological features at its eastern end, a large feature was identified.

F111 was probably the north-west corner of a huge pit (length > 3.5 m; width > 2.1 m; depth > 0.4 m), filling most of the trench and continuing beyond its boundaries. Its function is uncertain, but it may have served as a quarry-pit. The backfill comprised dark brown sandy loam, and contained three tile fragments, thirteen small pieces of

animal bone, and eight Roman pottery sherds, mainly dating from the 3rd century AD (see *Pottery Report*).

**TRENCH 28** (length 3.5 m; width 2.1 m)  
and **Crane Base** (length 6 m; width 6 m)

*Level of archaeological horizon - 34.14 m OD*

Trench 28 represents part of a large area of archaeological activity, and is located immediately to the south of Trench 27. The base for a tower-crane was excavated to the east, forming a significant extension of the exposed archaeological horizon. Three parallel north-south aligned linear ditches were identified. These most likely represent former Roman field boundaries, although not enough finds were recovered to provide an accurate date.

F112 (length >2.1 m; width 1 m; depth 0.3 m) was the most westerly ditch, continuing beyond the northern and southern limits of Trench 28. Only one small fragment of animal bone was recovered from the dark brown loam backfill.

Less than one metre to the east, a second narrow linear ditch was found on the boundary between Trench 28 and the crane base. This was unexcavated, but its dimensions and fill were similar to F112.

The third feature represented the rounded southern terminal of a shallow ditch, located towards the centre of the crane base, and continuing beyond its northern limit (length 3.5 m; width 1 m; depth 0.1 m). No finds were recovered.

**TRENCH 29** (length 3.5 m; width 2.1 m)

*Level of archaeological horizon - Approximately 31.30 m OD*

Located 12 m to the west of former evaluation Trench 13, which contained pits and ditches of a Roman date (Walker 1996), this represents the most northerly of a group of four trenches containing archaeological features.

F113 was an east-west aligned straight ditch, continuing beyond the east, west and southern sections of the trench (length >3.5 m; width >1 m; depth 0.5 m). The steep concave northern edge slopes down beyond the trench limits. The alignment of the feature suggests this was probably the western extension of a boundary ditch found towards the southern end of evaluation Trench 13. The fill comprised dark brown clayey loam, containing a small fragment of animal bone, and five 2nd-century Roman pottery sherds, including a bead-rimmed dish dating from c. AD 160 (see *Pottery Report*).

**TRENCH 30** (length 3.5 m; width 2.1 m)

*Level of archaeological horizon - 34.21 m OD*

Three features were identified within this trench, located immediately to the south of Trench 29. The first represented a small part of a large pit or ditch continuing beyond the limits of the trench. This was not excavated.

F114 comprised a probable ditch (length >2.2 m; width >1.5 m; depth 0.4 m), curving to the north into a possible terminal and continuing beyond the southern and eastern trench limits. It had a steep concave profile, and contained a dark brown compact clayey loam backfill. A small fragment of animal bone, an iron nail, and six pottery sherds dating from the 2nd-3rd century AD (see *Pottery Report*) were recovered during excavation.

F116 was a shallow and heavily truncated subcircular or subovoid pit (length > 2 m; width > 1.5 m; depth 0.1 m) extending beyond the southerly and westerly trench limits. The fill consisted of mid brown clayey loam, containing three 2nd-century Roman pottery sherds (see *Pottery Report*).

#### **TRENCH 31** (length 3.5 m; width 2.1 m)

##### *Level of archaeological horizon - 34.30 m OD*

The excavation of this trench revealed a continuation of archaeological activity to the south of Trench 30. F115 was a large irregular feature (length >2.2 m; width >1 m; depth 0.1 m), probably representing several cuts which could not be separated within the small confines of the trench. The homogeneous orange-brown sandy loam fill was very shallow and truncated, and no finds were recovered.

#### **TRENCH 32 and 33** (lengths 3 m; widths 1.8 m)

##### *Level of archaeological horizon - 35.31 m OD*

These adjacent trenches were located at the north end of the development, revealing part of a cluster of archaeological features which extend into Trenches 19 and 20. A single ESE-WNW aligned linear ditch was identified continuing beyond the south, east and west boundaries of both trenches.

F117 may be part of a large channel (length >6 m; width > 1 m; depth >0.2 m), first located in evaluation Trench 9 to the west (Walker 1996). Ditch sections on a similar alignment were also located in evaluation Trenches 10 and 14 to the east, but these were probably a little too far south to be part of the same feature. No dating evidence was retrieved from the dark brown loam backfill. The alignment is slightly different to that of other Roman ditches identified on the site, although it is at right-angles to *Ermine Street*, which runs approximately 20 m to the west.

#### **TRENCH 34** (length 3.5 m; width 2.1 m)

##### *Depth of archaeological horizon - 34.54 m OD*

This trench is to the south of a group of pits and ditches found in Trenches 23-28, and immediately north of evaluation Trench 13, which contained features dating from the Roman period (Walker 1996).

F118 comprised a north-south aligned ditch (length > 2.3 m; width >1 m; depth 0.15 m), extending beyond the limits of the trench on three sides. Its shallow, gently

sloping profile was backfilled with orange-brown sandy loam. No finds were recovered, but the alignment and character of the fill suggests a probable Roman date.

#### **TRENCH 35** (length 2.5 m; width 1.8 m)

##### *Depth of archaeological horizon - Approximately 34.30 m OD*

F119 represents the southern edge of a large pit (length >1.7 m; width > 1.2 m; depth 0.3 m), continuing beyond the northerly, easterly and westerly sections of the trench. It may be part of the same feature as F115 in Trench 31, immediately to the north. The orange-brown sandy loam backfill yielded fifteen small pieces of animal bone, and seven pottery sherds dating from the 2nd century AD (see *Pottery Report*).

#### **DRAINAGE TRENCHES AND OTHER GROUNDWORKS**

A drainage trench was cut under archaeological observation, running from the south-east corner of 'The Buryfields' to the south of the new car-park structure. No archaeological remains were revealed, even though the pipe-trench exceeded the depth of the known archaeological horizon.

No archaeological features were observed during any other groundworks, and the siting of a new oil interceptor was not monitored as it is located in an archaeologically sterile area. During topsoil stripping for the new access road to the south of the development, twenty Roman pottery sherds were retrieved, including four partially reconstructed vessels, some of which may have comprised part of a mid to later 2nd-century cremation burial (see *Pottery Report*).

## **THE ROMANO-BRITISH POTTERY By Chris Going**

The assemblage consisted of 67 sherds of pottery. The overwhelming majority was datable to the later first or second centuries AD, and all of it could fall within the period c.AD 80-230. Its condition was generally good, with fractures being in most instances slightly worn, but not generally eroded. There appears to have been little post-depositional disturbance of this material.

Most of the fabrics represented are of local origin, and are characteristic in all respects of the wares produced in the extensive pottery production sites in the Much Hadham area of the Ash valley, 20 km east of Ware. Most of the pottery from this source was in reduced wares, which make up the majority of the products encountered in the industry's saturated 'home' market, in an area of c.25 km radius. The forms noted included a platter (unstrat.), a typical product of the pottery before the middle of the 2nd century AD, when it appears to have been replaced by bead-rimmed dishes, of which two were noted here (Contexts 113 and unstrat). However, the most common vessel class noted was the jar, of which a variety of forms were recovered. The most characteristic of these was a type with rilled decoration. This vessel, known as the 'Braughing Jar', is a staple Hadham product. The proportions of the types noted here (eg in Context 103 and T18) are characteristic of the 2nd-3rd centuries AD, rather than later. The few body sherds with large inclusions, which appear to have been dragged across the pot during throwing, probably come from the lower walls of these vessels.

Some oxidised Hadham products were noted (Contexts 111, 116). These appear to have come exclusively from closed forms such as flagons, and are in the duller fabric which is characteristic of the earlier Roman period. Oxidised products were produced in the Hadham potteries throughout the Roman era, but were not widely distributed until after the later 3rd century AD.

The only other definite Hertfordshire product was the lower portion of a flagon in Verulamium region ware. This came from the southern boundary of the site. Its state suggests that it had been buried intact, and thus was probably part of a ploughed-out burial, a conclusion supported by the similar condition of two closed forms in Hadham grey ware also from this part of the site. If so, a date in the late Hadrianic-Antonine period is suggested.

More distant provincial imports were surprisingly rare: there were no colour-coated or buff wares. Continental wares were also barely present. There was no samian, and the only definite continental products observed were two sherds of a Dressel 20 amphora (a scrap from Context 111 and a spike from Context 119). Spikes are not particularly closely datable on typological grounds, but this is probably of 2nd-century date.

## 6 DISCUSSION

6.1 The trenches monitored were too small to reveal complete building plans, or to expose a large enough area to accurately interpret the surviving archaeological remains. However, four separate areas of archaeological activity were identified, mainly from the Roman period, containing pottery datable to the later first or second centuries AD.

6.2 Only one prehistoric feature was found, a subcircular pit within Trench 22 (Fig. 3). High quality worked flint flakes in mint condition, almost certainly in their primary context, were recovered from the fill. No other prehistoric remains were found, but residual struck flint was recovered during the evaluation of January 1996 (Walker 1996). Mesolithic flint scatters have also been found in the brick-earth below the later Roman horizons within the factory complex to the west.

6.3 Trenches 19, 20, 32 and 33, located to the north-west of the development, constitute the first area of Romano-British activity. Former evaluation Trench 10 lies less than 12 m to the east, where a ditch, a pit, and a late Roman burial were found (Walker 1996). Two rubbish pits and a small posthole were revealed within Trenches 19 and 20, indicative of domestic activity to the rear of properties on *Ermine Street* less than 30 m to the west. A ditch in Trenches 32 and 33 probably represents the continuation of a large channel, formerly identified within evaluation Trench 9.

6.4 Less than 16 m to the south a second cluster of Roman pits was identified in Trench 21, close to the prehistoric pit found in Trench 22. Both areas lie approximately 30 m to the east of *Ermine Street*, and probably represent further activities associated with properties on the street frontage, eg. domestic rubbish pits behind dwellings and workshops, some of which were identified during excavations below the present P11 warehouse (Godwin 1989).

6.5 Almost 40 m to the south, a third concentration of Roman features was found within the area covered by Trenches 29-31 and 35. Less than 40 m from *Ermine Street*, this may also be the result of activities to the rear of buildings on the former street frontage. One large timber-post-built structure was identified close to the Roman road during excavations as part of the current access project within the factory complex (Walker 1995c). The feature types were similar to those found during Phase II of the Ware Football Club evaluation (Trench WFC8, Fig.2) (Walker 1995a), comprising mainly pits and ditches containing small fragments of animal bone and pottery indicative of domestic activity.

6.6 The final concentration of features to be identified during the watching brief was located immediately to the south of evaluation Trench 10. The activity extended southwards to the evaluation Trench 13, which also contained substantial Roman features excavated during the recent evaluation (Walker 1996). The remains comprised mainly linear ditches on a north-south alignment within Trenches 23-29 and 34, and the tower-crane base to the east of Trench 28. The ditches were parallel but fairly close together, probably representing a former boundary marker during the Roman period. A child burial was found within evaluation Trench 15, some 18 m to

the east, and other smaller features were found in Trench 14, but as a general rule fewer archaeological remains were found on the eastern side of the ditches.

6.7 The monitoring of the large drainage trench across the south of the development, and other components of the groundworks, yielded no further information, although residual Roman pottery was recovered during the digging of foundation pad Trench 18, and from topsoil stripping for the access road to the south of the property. The latter yielded part of a flagon and two other vessels from a possible ploughed-out late 2nd-century cremation burial.

6.8 As in the evaluation, little evidence of industrial activity was found, unlike other Roman towns, eg. Middlewich, Cheshire, where plots of land to the rear of the street frontage were used for intensive industrial purposes. In Holditch the same plots contained ovens, wells and domestic features such as pits, seen at Ware on a more limited scale. This implies that these areas were used for specific functions governed by economic factors, and not by deliberate planning (Burnham 1987).

6.9 At Water Newton, Cambs, the plots had an agricultural function, and a number of ditches found in Ware during both the watching brief and the evaluation preceding it, probably served as field boundaries. It is interesting that these ditches did not share an alignment with *Ermine Street*, but have a north-south alignment more in keeping with present boundaries. A significant quantity of spelt wheat, common during the late Iron Age and early Roman period, was recovered during the excavation of June 1995 within the factory complex (Walker 1995c). Although it is possible that the crop was harvested away from the town, spelt is not free-threshing, and would have had to be transported whole and processed in the town, making a local agricultural base more likely.

## 7 CONCLUSION

7.1 Four concentrations of archaeological features containing Roman finds dating from c. AD 80-230 were revealed during the watching brief. The evidence comprised an intensive area of activity towards the centre of the former football pitch between evaluation Trenches 10, 11 and 13, with smaller clusters of features to the east and west. Although a small child burial and several other features were present in evaluation Trenches 14 and 15, no features were found during the watching brief to the east of several north-south aligned boundary ditches found in Trenches 23-29 and 34.

7.2 Surprisingly, no archaeological remains were found in the row of foundation pads closest to *Ermine Street*, despite the presence of a Roman rubbish pit in evaluation Trench 12, and Roman features found during the excavation of evaluation Trench 8 (Walker 1995a) near the western boundary of the Football Club. However, these foundation pads were considerably smaller than those further to the east, and it is likely that archaeological remains survive between them.

7.3 The Roman features mainly comprised pits and ditches indicative of domestic activity. Only one small posthole was found, and no substantial structures were

identified. A number of ditches on similar alignments were revealed, probably representing small field boundaries. The evidence mirrors the evaluation of January 1996 (Walker 1996), suggesting activities associated with the back-plots of dwellings and workshop buildings fronting the Roman road. This is supported by the finds assemblage, comprising small fragments of animal bone and Romano-British pottery sherds, mainly of local origin and characteristic of the wares produced in the Much Hadham area 20km to the east of Ware.

7.4 No further burials were revealed, but others are likely to survive between the pad foundations in areas not threatened by the development. The remains of a later 2nd-century ploughed-out cremation burial was recovered during topsoil stripping close to the southern site boundary.

7.5 In addition to the Roman remains, one prehistoric feature was identified comprising a small pit in Trench 22. Worked flint in a primary context was collected from the fill, but no secure date was achieved.

## 8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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HAT 188 WARE FOOTBALL CLUB CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Context	Tr	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	Bone	Building Material	Other
u/s			late C2nd	20 sherds: 4 vessels partially reconstructed, w=811g			
u/s	18		C2-3rd?	2 sherds, w=119g			
101	19	Fill of posthole 100	C2nd	1 sherd, w=21g	1 frag, w=14g		
102	20	Cut and fill of pit		2 sherds, w=28g	1 frag, w=45g	1 daub frag, w=21g	
103	20	Cut and fill of pit	C2nd+	3 sherds, w=43g	2 frags, w=14g	16 daub frags, w=86g	
104	21	Cut and fill of pit/ditch		5 sherds, w=118g	1 frag, w=12g		
105	21	Cut and fill of pit	C1st-2nd	1 sherd, w=3g	3 small frags, w=1g		
106	22	Cut and fill of pit					4 flint flakes, w=42g
107	23	Cut and fill of ditch	C1st-2nd	1 sherd, w=6g	3 frags, w=8g		
108	23	Cut and fill of ditch			29 frags, w=218g		
110	25/26	Cut and fill of ditch			5 frags, w=395g	1 tile frag, w=123g	
111	27	Cut and fill of large pit	C2nd+	8 sherds, w=91g	13 frags, w=143g	3 tile frags, w=176g	1 burnt flint frag, w=15g
112	28	Cut and fill of ditch			1 frag, w=43g		
113	29	Cut and fill of ditch	c AD 160+	5 sherds, w=84g	1 frag, w=4g		
114	30	Cut and fill of pit/ditch		6 sherds, w=122g	1 frag, w=4g		SF 1: 1 Fe nail
116	30	Cut and fill of pit		3 sherds, w=58g			
119	35	Cut and fill of pit	C2nd+	7 sherds, w=468g	15 frags, w=246		2 small oyster shell frags, w=5g

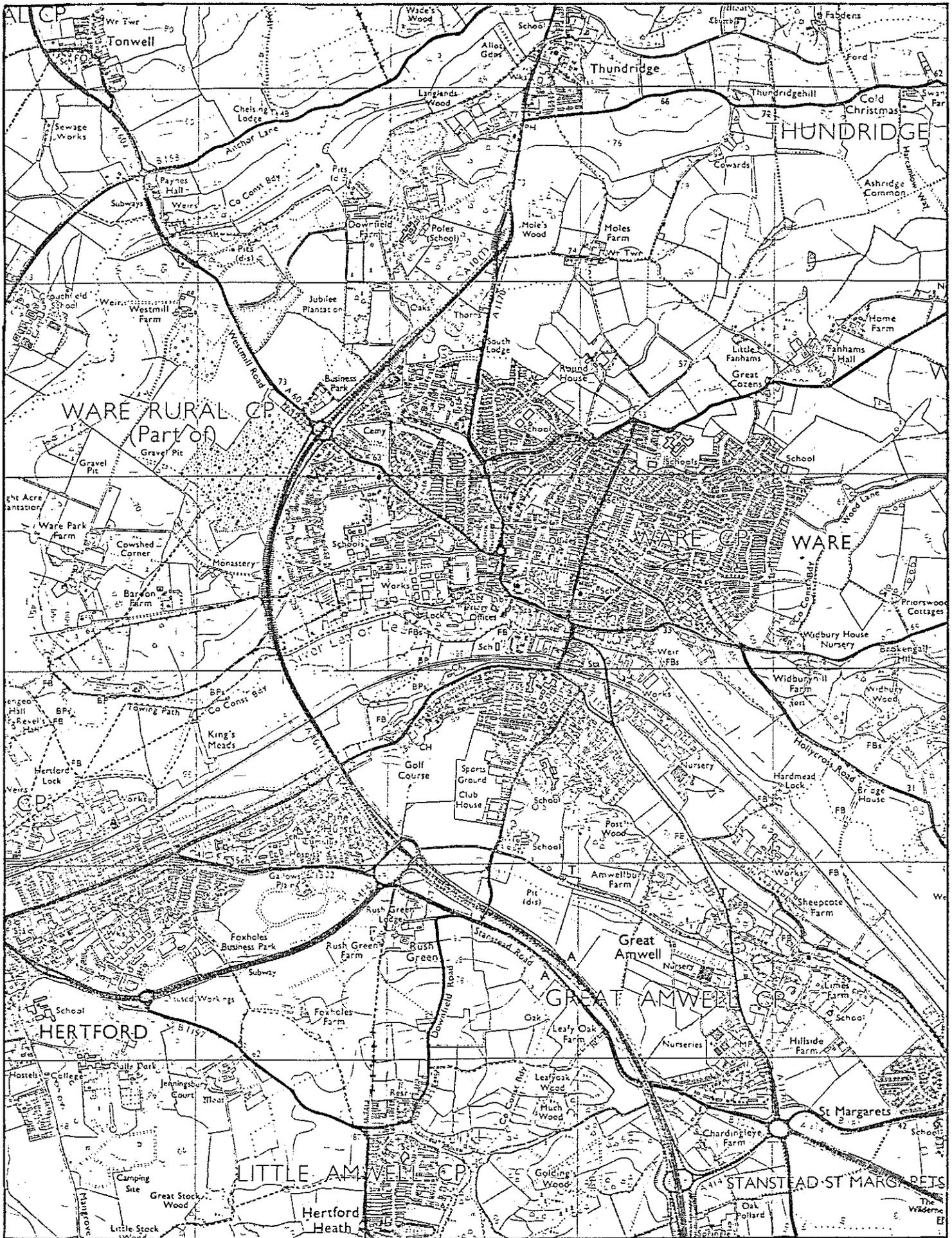
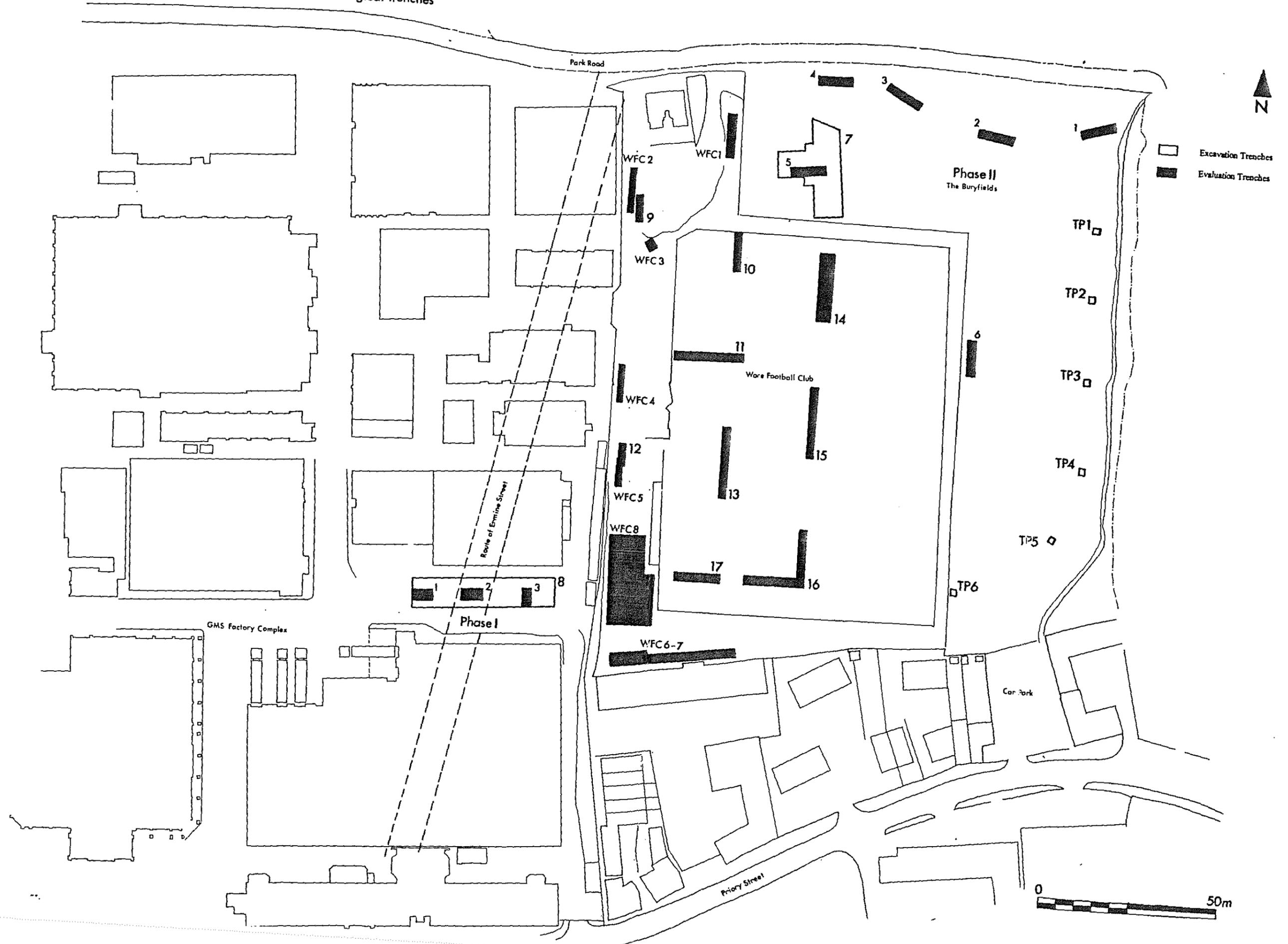


Fig.1 Site Location Plan

Fig.2 GMS Access Project, Location of Archaeological Trenches



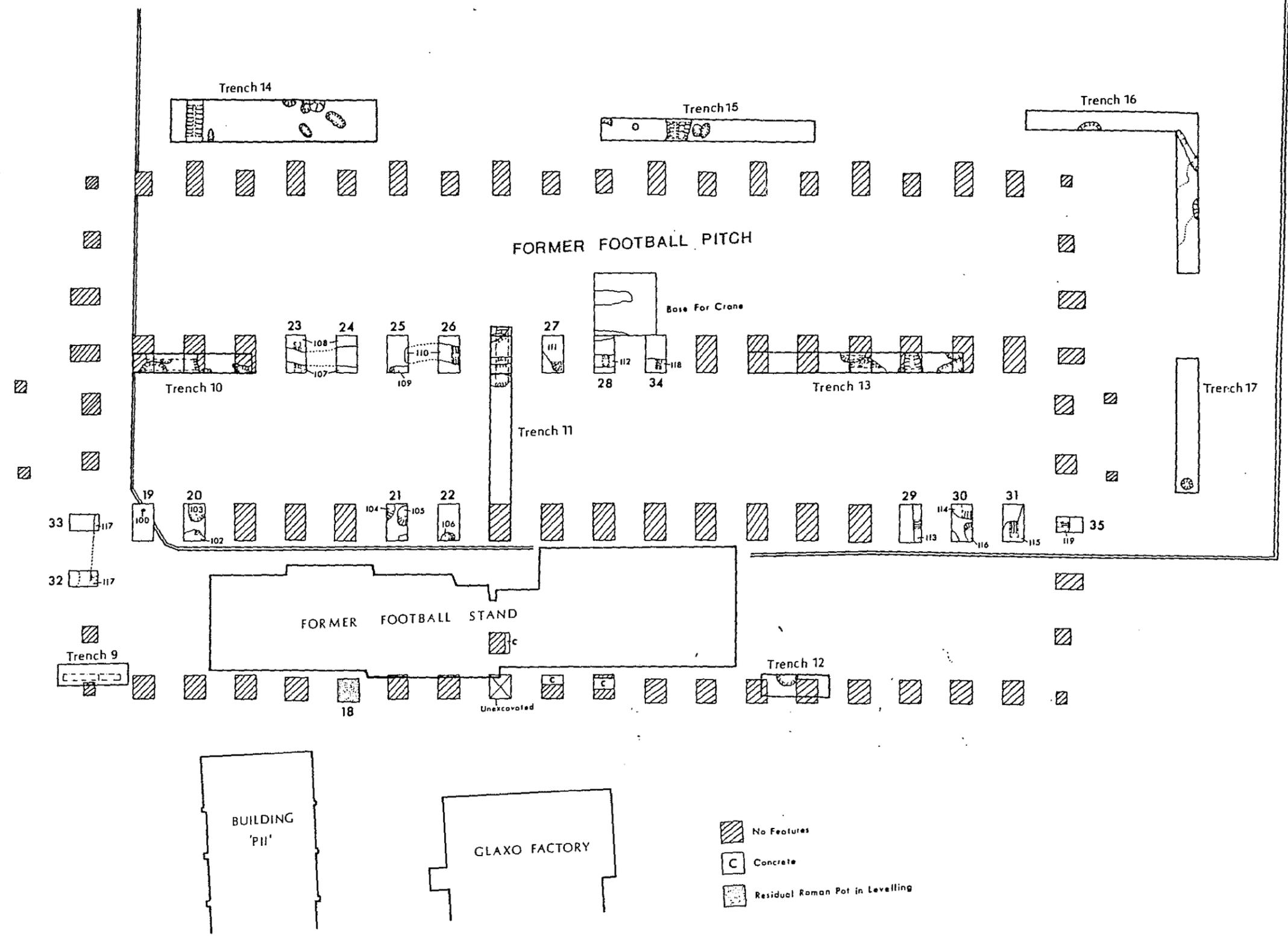
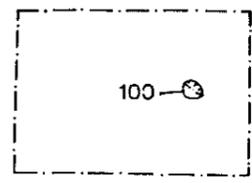
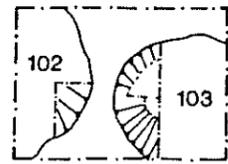


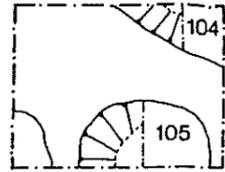
Fig. 3 Plan of Evaluation Trenches and Foundation Pads Showing Archaeological Features



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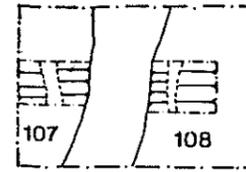
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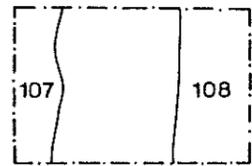
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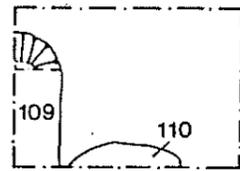
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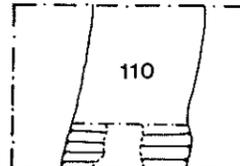
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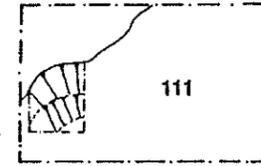
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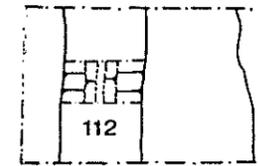
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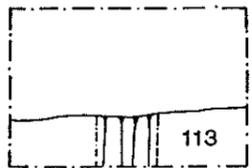
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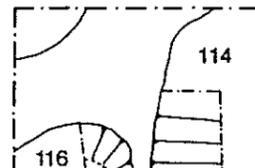
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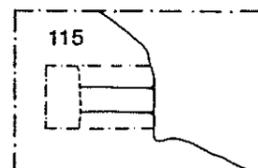
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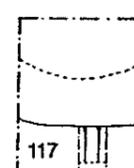
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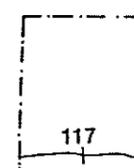
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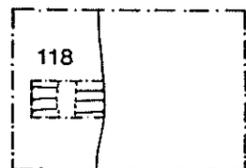
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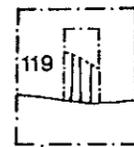
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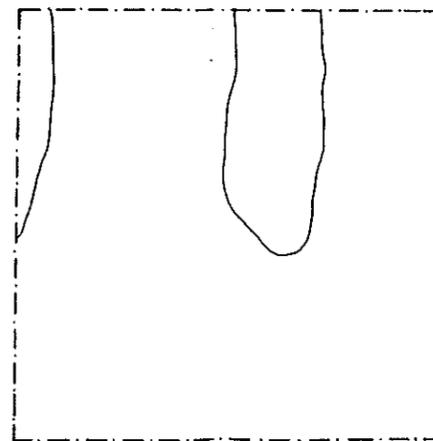
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BASE FOR CRANE



Fig. 4 Plan of Archaeological Features

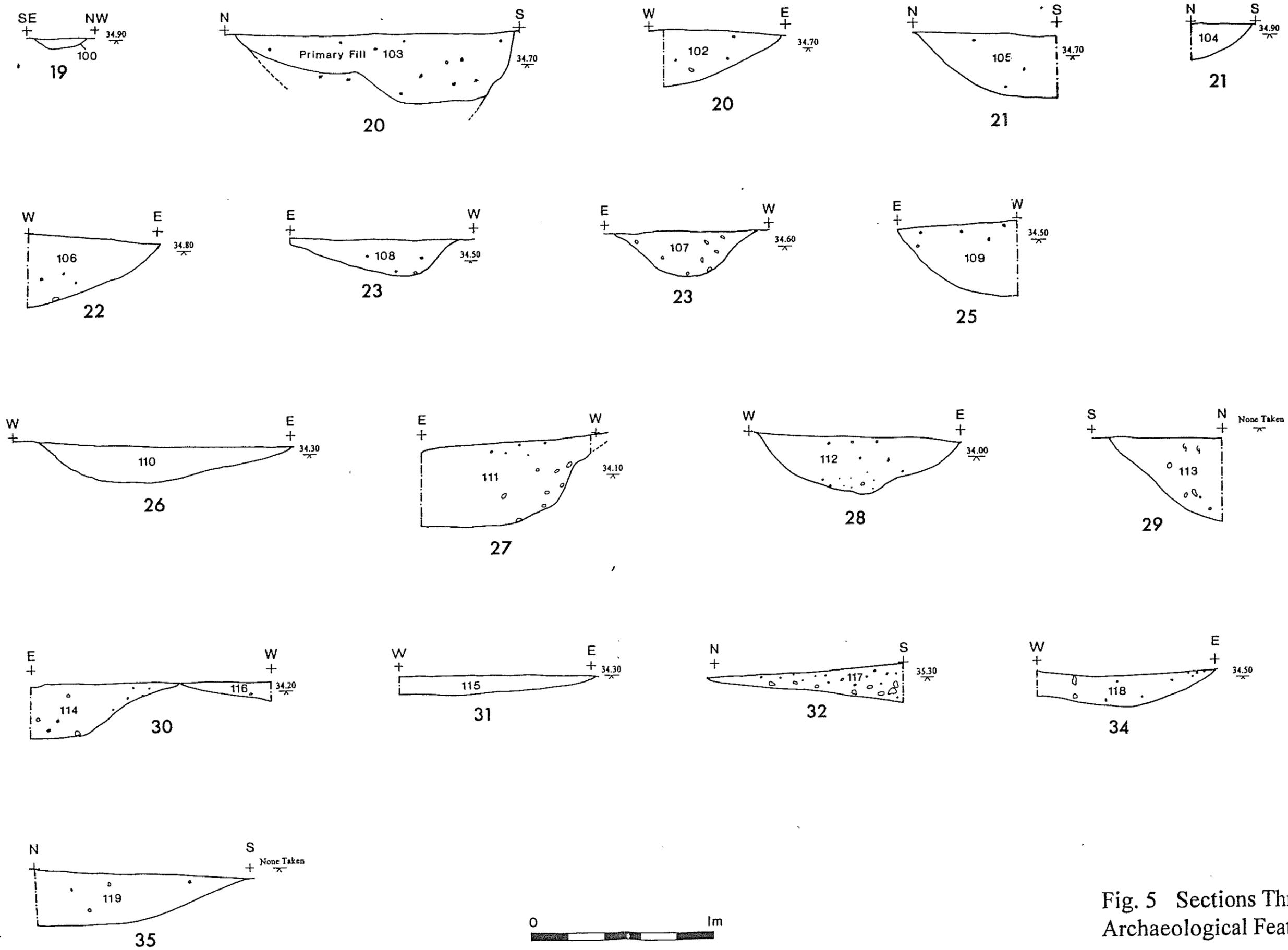


Fig. 5 Sections Through Archaeological Features