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The Football Club
Park Road, Ware

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Phase III

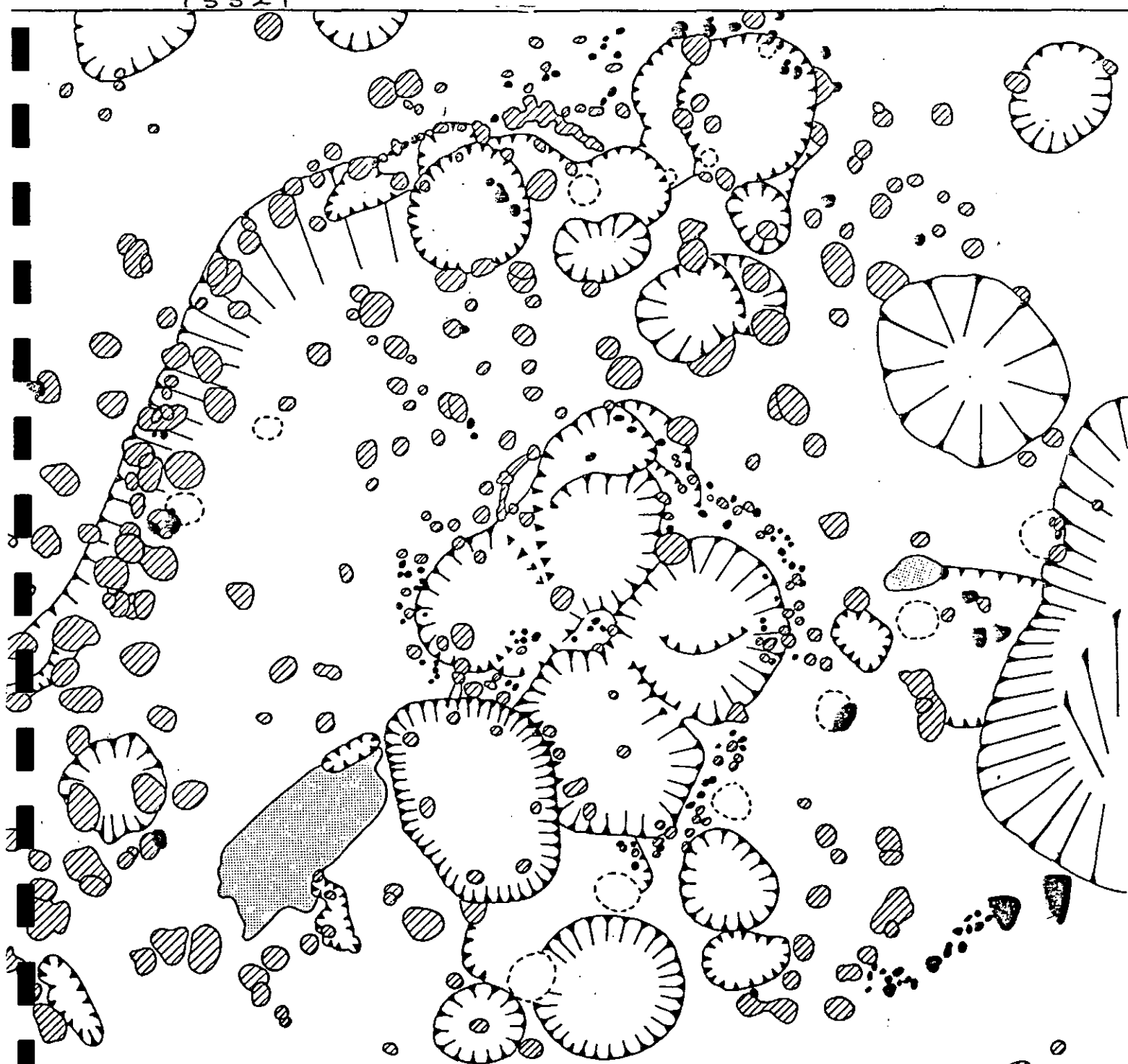
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An Archaeological Evaluation

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Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust



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THE HERTFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Report No.157

THE FOOTBALL CLUB
PARK ROAD, WARE

PHASE III

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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Notes

- ① No section drawings
- ② No detailed trench plans
- ③ No environmental survey
- ④ How does ev. potential fit in with existing work done on other parts of Glaxos
- ⑤ Report on animal bone + human
- ⑥ Publication.

THE FOOTBALL CLUB, PARK ROAD, WARE AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, PHASE III

INTRODUCTION Fig.1

During November and December 1995, the Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust carried out the third phase of an archaeological evaluation within the grounds of Ware Football club on Park Road, Ware (NGR TL 354 145). The work was commissioned by Glaxo Manufacturing Services Ltd, in advance of the construction of a new access road and car park.

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

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.

The local soils are of the Melford association (Soil Survey of England and Wales), which are described as deep well-drained fine loams over clay and fine loam or calcareous clayey subsoil.

The surface geology is chalky till.

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

BACKGROUND Fig.2

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, Londonium in the south and Lincoln in the north.

The remains of the road and town are preserved below the present Glaxo factory immediately to the west of Ware Football Club. Archaeological evaluations and excavations undertaken by HAT and its predecessor HAU (Hart Archaeological Unit), have over the years revealed substantial Roman remains in addition to earlier and later periods of archaeology.

In 1976 to the NW of the Football Club, four burials were discovered during development works. One of these was in a lead-lined coffin.

To the east of the site, on land known as 'The Buryfields', several ditches and a number of late Roman burials were found during sewage improvement works in 1977.

Further excavations through 1977-1979 within the GMS factory complex, revealed worked flint scatters in the naturally deposited brick-earth dating from the Mesolithic period (8300-4300 BC). These were overlain by Roman features, including a section of *Ermine Street* and contemporary buildings, one of which comprised a potters workshop.

Excavations in 1987 revealed more burials towards the south of the factory complex, on the west side of *Ermine Street*.

During late 1989 an excavation was carried out in advance of the construction of the P11 warehouse development. A second section of *Ermine Street* was revealed with workshops at either side.

Several phases of work have more recently been carried out as part of the current Access Project.

Phase 1 of the evaluation of Ware Football club was completed in September 1993. This served to identify the presence of substantial Roman horizons within the Club grounds (WFC Trenches 1-7, HAT Report No.62).

The northern route of the new access road across The Buryfields was evaluated in December 1994. Several ditches and pits containing artefacts of a Roman date were identified. The most notable find was a complete bronze bracelet. (Phase II, Trenches 1-6). Six tree-pits were also excavated (Trenches 1-6). One contained a substantial layer, most likely the fill of a large Roman ditch (HAT Report No.100)

The Trust returned to the site in May 1995 to excavate the small area of activity identified during the evaluation, close to the northern boundary of The Football Club (Phase II, Trench 7; HAT Report No.129). Twelve Roman burials were revealed, some with grave-goods including a ring and a small bracelet.

An excavation was carried out within the factory complex during June 1995 (Phase I, Trench 8), following a small evaluation (Phase I, Trenches 1-3)(HAT Report Nos.101 and 136). A third section of *Ermine Street* was found, with a number of features dating from the 1st - 4th centuries, including a large timber building, a well, and a pond.

The second phase of the Ware Football Club evaluation was carried out during June and July 1995. It consisted of a large single trench (WFC Trench 8) in the SW corner of the grounds. 1st-4th Century Roman features and finds, associated with the back-plots to buildings fronting *Ermine Street* (35 - 40 m westwards), were revealed (HAT Report No.127).

Geophysics?

METHOD OF WORK AND OBJECTIVES Fig.2-3

The work was executed in accordance with a specification (which will be deposited with the site archive), and the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

The principal objective of the evaluation was to define the location, extent, character, condition, significance, and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. The site is currently grassed, and has until recently been used as a football pitch. Cartographic evidence indicates that the area has been used as a recreation ground since before 1875.

Nine linear trenches (lengths 6-20 m; widths 2-4 m)(labelled 9-17 so continuing the number sequence of two previous phases of work) were opened using a mechanical excavator to depths of between 0.7 and 1.4 m. Trench 16 was L-shaped, and had a total length of 31 m. The overburden comprises topsoil, overlying post-Medieval levelling material. The location of some of the trenches differ slightly from the proposed layout because of the presence of underground services and standing structures.

Trenches 14-17 overlay the course of the new access road.

Trenches 9-13 overlay the area of the proposed car-park.

Trenches 11 and 16 were located so as to section the 'palaeochannels' or former water-courses identified during the geophysical survey.

The archaeological features were cut into the natural brickearth and gravel, and were examined by hand. (Approximately 90% of the remains were fully excavated, and all the features were recorded using scaled plans, section drawings, photographs and written descriptions.

Over excavated.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE Fig.3

TRENCH 9 (length 6 m; width 2 m)

The Principal Layers (0.00 m = 36.85 m OD)

Depth	Description
0.00 - 0.75 m	L100 - Topsoil, dark grey/brown loam
0.75 - 1.25 m	L101 - Overburden, mid orange/brown clayey loam
1.25 - 2.00 m	L179 - Mid orange/brown sandy loam
2.00 m +	L102 - Natural brickearth, mid red/orange silty sand

Description: The trench was shortened due to the presence of live services. The trench was mechanically-excavated to the surface of L179.

L179 is likely the fill of a large natural feature (F178). It is probably one of several bournes or former river channels which are known to exist close to the site, and flowed into the river Lea to the south. A similar deposit was encountered to the east during the evaluations of December 1994 (Fig.2, Phase II, Trench 4).

The feature continues beyond the limits of the trench in all directions. It is over 0.75 m deep and appeared to have naturally silted. A number of finds were recovered (see the Concordance of Finds at the end of this report), including nine pottery sherds, mostly dating from the 1st-2nd century AD, although several small residual late Bronze Age/early Iron Age sherds were also present (*Pottery Report*). Eight residual struck flints, and four small fragments of iron slag were recovered.

TRENCH 10 (length; 11 m; width 2 m)

The Principal Layers (0.00 m = 36.12 m OD)

Depth	Description
0.00 - 0.90 m	L100 - Topsoil
0.90 - 1.40 m	L101 - Overburden
1.40 m +	L102 - Natural brickearth

Description: One adult inhumation, F104, was revealed cut into the natural brickearth. The grave was aligned NE/SW, and the skeleton was semi-crouched, facing west, with its head to the south (Fig.4). The right hand held the broken pelvis of a sheep, and a small 4th-century flask or flagon had been placed by the feet (see *Pottery Report*). The grave goods were deposited at the time of burial and were intended to send the individual into the after life with food and drink. Six additional 4th-century pottery sherds, and 25 small animal bone fragments were recovered from the grave backfill (L105).

The skeleton is in good condition, and is comparable to an isolated 4th-century burial, found by HAU in the 1970s, to the west of *Ermine Street*. More particularly, F104 is part of the cemetery, revealed to the north of the site, which was partially excavated in May 1995, as part of the same Access Project (HAT Report No.129). Unlike F104, the inhumations found there were supine.

To the north of F104 a small ovoid pit, F149, was revealed and continued beyond the western section of the trench. It was deliberately backfilled and contained large 1st-2nd-century pottery sherds (33) and a substantial flint cobble.

A larger pit at the northern end of the trench Pit F121 ^{CUT} ~~truncated~~ Ditch F127. The pit (diameter 2.1 m; depth 0.45 m) contained four separate fills. Two of the latter contained high quantities of charcoal. Second-century pottery sherds (52), fragments of animal bone (19), daub (1), stone (1) and an iron nail, and a bone-pin were recovered from the uppermost fill (L122).

Ditch F127 (width c.3 m) is shallow and appeared to have silted naturally. No finds recovered during excavation. Towards the centre of the cut are the remains of two hollows suggesting that feature was dug as a series of interconnecting pits.

TRENCH 11 (length 20 m; width 2 m)

The Principal Layers (0.00 m = 35.90 m OD)

Depth	Description
0.00 - 0.40 m	L100 - Topsoil
0.40 - 0.90 m	L101 - Overburden
0.90 m +	L102 - Natural brickearth

Description: The geophysical survey suggested that this trench would overlie a palaeochannel. The reality was that intercutting archaeological features (pits and ditches) were identified at the eastern end of the trench, and continued beyond the eastern, northern and southern baulks.

how else "earliest"?
Stratigraphically the earliest features are two pits. F158 (diameter 0.8 m; depth 0.6 m) is probably circular and was backfilled with compacted clayey loam (L156). It was cut by F154, and no finds were recovered during its excavation.

F155 is also a circular pit (length 1 m). It is very shallow due and was cut by a large pit, F123. It was also backfilled with a dark brown clayey loam (L156). One 1st-2nd-century pottery sherd was retrieved.

F154, which cut F158, is a large irregularly-shaped pit (diameter 2 + m; depth 0.6 m). Its fill was similar to that of F155. Second century pottery sherds (9), one small samian sherd, fragments of daub (3), tile (1) and animal bone (17) were recovered during the excavation of this feature.

Pits F154, F155 and F158 were all truncated by a much larger feature, F123. The latter (diameter 3.15 m; width 2 m) contained two separate fills. The primary fill (L145) comprises clayey loam and contained finds associated with domestic activity, for example, 3rd-century pottery sherds (25), samian, and animal bone fragments (14). An iron object, possibly part of a strap, was also recovered. The secondary fill (L124) contained small fragments of tile (1), brick (2), and daub (1), oyster shell (4), iron (1; not identifiable), animal bone (15; mainly cow, horse, sheep and pig), and 3rd-century pottery sherds (51).

The primary fill of F123 was truncated by a linear ditch, F135. F135 (width 0.5 m; depth 0.2 m) is aligned N/S, shallow, and was cut by a large pit, F117. Ditch F135 had been deliberately backfilled with a layer of compacted clayey loam (L136). Twelve 2nd-century pottery sherds and fragments of daub (1), animal bone (1), and oyster shell (1) were recovered during excavation.

F117 also stratigraphically post-dates a shallow ovoid pit, F133, located to the west. F133 (diameter 1.2 m; width 0.76 m) is very shallow due to it being truncated by later features, principally F117. The fill comprised a dark yellow-brown clayey loam (L134), and contained 3rd-century pottery sherds (15) and some small fragments of tile (1) and daub/brick (2).

The third phase, in this area of dense features, comprises a large pit, F117, which truncated almost all of the features described thus far. F117 (diameter 2.7 + m; depth

0.5 m) had been much truncated by later post-Medieval levelling of the site, and was cut by a shallow ditch, F112. Probably ovoid in shape, it continues beyond the limits of the trench to the north and south. The fill (L118) consists of dark brown clayey loam, and contained a large quantity of finds, including a bronze coin, and 4th-century pottery sherds (157). Iron slag (11) was also recovered, suggestive of industrial activity. Over 180 animal bone fragments were found, some are large, and include horn cores, shoulders, and complete limbs, indicative of butchery rather than smaller table waste. Part of the skeleton of a cat was also recovered. Fragments of tile (16), brick (1) and daub (9) were retrieved indicating the former presence of buildings.

Stratigraphically the latest feature is a shallow linear ditch, F112 (width 1.86; depth 0.25 m), aligned N/S. It cut F117, and was overlain by post-Medieval levelling horizon, L101. Its alignment and position is close to that of the earlier ditch, F135, and it likely represents the vestiges of a boundary ditch. The fill (L113) contained a prolific number of finds, including an iron knife on a loop, possibly part of a larger tool-kit, and a fragment of twisted lead. A small bronze coin was also retrieved. Fifty-three fragments of animal bone, including large limbs and an almost complete upper jaw of a horse were recovered, which again suggests that the butchery of animals was being carried out. A large amount of pottery was also found (86 sherds, cAD 400+).

TRENCH 12 (length 6.5 m; width 2 m)

The Principal Layers (0.00 m = 36.10 m OD)

Depth	Description
0.00 - 0.45 m	L100 - Topsoil
0.45 - 1.35 m	L101 - Overburden
1.35 m +	L102 - Natural brickearth

Description: This trench was shortened substantially due to the presence of standing structures and live services. One archaeological feature was revealed cut into the natural brickearth.

F161 is a large pit (length 2 m; depth 0.7 m) which continued beyond the eastern trench boundary. It is similar to many of the features found during the excavation of Trench 8 in 1995 (Fig. 2), and probably represents the remains of a rubbish pit associated with structures along the *Ermine Street* immediately to the west.

The primary fill (L165) reflects a phase of dumping and the secondary fill is a dark orange-brown silt (L162). Third-century pottery was retrieved from the upper fill (L162, 8 sherds) from the primary fill (L165, 18 sherds), animal bone fragments (18), including cow, horse and sheep, and several oyster and mussel shells were also found, indicating that the pit was used to dispose of domestic waste.

TRENCH 13 (length 20 m; width 2 m)

The Principal Layers (0.00 m = 35.50 m OD)

Depth	Description
0.00 - 0.40 m	L100 - Topsoil
0.40 - 1.15 m	L101 - Overburden
1.15 m +	L102 - Natural brickearth

Description: Seven archaeological features were found towards the central and southern half of the trench.

The most substantial feature is a large elliptical pit or short ditch, F119 (length 3.7 + m, depth 0.41 m), and continues beyond the eastern and western trench boundaries. The feature appears to have silted naturally (L120), and a small numbers of finds, including 2nd-century pottery sherds (7) and animal bone fragments (9), were recovered during evaluation.

The northern sector of F119 had been truncated by a smaller circular pit, F110 (width 0.55 m; depth 0.5 m). The fill comprises a dark brown silty clay (L111), and contained fragments of animal bone (37), tile (4) and pottery sherds (24, cAD 200-410). A small bronze coin was also retrieved.

Further to the south, a substantial ditch, F137 (width 1.21; depth 0.74), aligned E/W, was discovered. It is either parallel, or at right-angles, to a number of other ditches found during the evaluation. The ditches are not on the same alignment as *Ermine Street*. Three separate fills were identified.

The primary fill (L160) is a dark grey-brown silty clay. Two 2nd-century pottery sherds were recovered during excavation. It is overlain by orange clayey loam (L157). Three small pottery sherds (Roman), animal bone fragments (35), and a whetstone were found. The uppermost fill (L138) contained large numbers of animal bone (64), including complete shoulders and limbs of cattle. The large size and quantity of the bones is suggestive of butchery waste, and one may envisage cattle *sheep?* being driven in from the surrounding countryside and being butchered on the periphery of the Roman settlement.

Ditch F137 was truncated to the north by a large posthole, F139 (diameter 0.71m; depth 0.4 m), which represents a socket which would once have contained the base of a timber post. It is possible that it forms part of a large structure which could not be identified within the narrow confines of the trench. The presence of a deep point indicated that the post been set at the northern edge of the hole. Two 3rd-century pottery sherds, and four animal bone fragments were recovered during evaluation.

At the southern end of the trench, three features were identified. Pit F168 was truncated by F141 and F143. F168 is ovoid (max. diameter 1.38 + m) and continued beyond the southern trench boundary. Two fills were identified: the primary fill (L180) was the result of natural weathering, and the upper fill (L169) reflects deliberate backfilling. Nineteen animal bone fragments in total were recovered from both deposits, but no pottery or other datable finds were recovered.

Of the two later features, F141 is a small circular pit (diameter 0.8 + m). The fill (L142) consists of a dump of dark clay with charcoal flecks. Fragments of animal bone (45), small brick (3) and daub (2), stone (1), and 4th-century pottery sherds (19) were recovered. The animal bones are generally smaller than those from F137, and are more representative of table waste, as opposed to butchery.

F143 (width 1.16 m) is a shallow linear slot in the SW corner of the trench. The fill comprises hard compacted gravel (L144), similar to the fill of a possible house-platform, found in Trench 8 during the evaluation of June 1995 (HAT Report No.136). No finds were recovered.

TRENCH 14 (length 19 m; width 4 m)

The Principal Layers (0.00 m = 36.05 m OD)

<i>Depth</i>	<i>Description</i>
0.00 - 0.40 m	L100 - Topsoil
0.40 - 1.00 m	L101 - Overburden
1.00 m +	L102 - Natural brickearth, and L103 - Natural river gravel

Description: This trench was cut on the line of the new access road, adjacent to the cemetery excavated in May 1995 (HAT Report No.129), consequently the trench was doubled in width to more fully expose any graves, if present.

Eight features were revealed, most are very shallow due to truncation by the post-Medieval levelling of the site. Few finds were recovered, and many of the features were reminiscent of the small, naturally-silted and sterile features revealed during the excavation of Trench 8, located to the SW (Fig.2).

F151 is a linear ditch, aligned E/W, and may represent an eastern continuation of F127, Trench 10. The fill (L152) was naturally deposited and is similar to that of F127. No finds were recovered from either feature. F151 is considerably narrower and more shallow (width 1.5 m; depth 0.3 m), but it may simply have been more truncated.

Immediately south of F151, the eastern terminal of a small parallel gully or slot, F181, was identified. The feature continued beyond the western trench boundary, but was extremely shallow and appeared to have silted naturally (L182). Again, no finds were recovered.

Two shallow ovoid pits, F174 and F189 (max. diameter 1.57-1.77 m; widths less than 1 m), had also silted naturally. The fills (L175 and L190, respectively) comprise light brown silt, and apart from 43 fragments of daub, dumped in one area of L175, few finds were recovered.

A large isolated pit, F176 (max. diameter 1.5 m; depth 0.29), was lost beneath the eastern section of the trench. No finds were present within the fill (L177).

Immediately to the south of this, three intercutting pits were found. Stratigraphically the earliest pit, F187 (diameter 0.85; depth 0.3 m), had been heavily truncated by the later two. The pale silty fill (L188) contained no finds. Pit F187, which was cut by Pit F185, is of a similar size and shape. The fill is slightly darker and more gravelly (L186), again no finds were retrieved.

Stratigraphically the latest pit, F183, is slightly larger (length 1.37 m), and its fill is similar to F185 (L184).

The features in this trench seem to have been naturally silted, seem much truncated, and produced no dating evidence.

TRENCH 15 (length 20 m; width 2m)

The Principal Layers (0.00 m = 35.45 m OD)

<i>Depth</i>	<i>Description</i>
0.00 - 0.35 m	L100 - Topsoil
0.35 - 1.00 m	L101 - Overburden
1.00 m +	L102 - Natural brickearth, and L103 - Natural river gravel

Description: Five archaeological features were identified, including the grave of a infant (F114). The grave was aligned E/W, with the head of the skeleton at the west end. The bone is in good condition, and the skeleton was supine. No grave goods were present. One 2nd-century pottery sherd was recovered from the backfill (L115).

A small pit, F125, was located north of the grave. It is shallow and truncated, and probably silted naturally (L126). One small 2nd-century pottery sherd was recovered during its excavation.

The largest feature within Trench 15 was a linear ditch, F106 (width 2.3 + m; depth 0.55 m) aligned E/W, traversing the centre of the trench (F106). The fill, L107, comprises a dark brown highly compacted clayey loam and is the result of deliberate backfilling. Finds from the backfill include fragments of animal bone (31), tile (5), and 3rd-century pottery sherds (6).

To the north of the ditch, F129 (diameter 0.7 m) represents the remains the vestiges of a pit or posthole. It had been filled by natural weathering (L130) and contained 11 small fragments of animal bone.

F131 (width 0.72 m; depth 0.15 m) to the north of the trench comprises an ovoid pit, continuing beyond the northern trench boundary. It had been deliberately backfilled after use with dark clayey loam (L132). Only one 2nd-century sherd of pottery was retrieved during its excavation.

TRENCH 16 (length 31 m; width 2 m)

The Principal Layers (0.00 m = 35.30 m OD)

<i>Depth</i>	<i>Description</i>
0.00 - 0.50 m	L100 - Topsoil
0.50 - 0.80 m	L101 - Overburden
0.80 m +	L102 - Natural brickearth
	L103 - Natural river gravel

Description: Trench 16 was 'L' shaped, with the northern arm measuring 16 m, and the western arm 15 m. The trench was located to section a palaeochannel identified during the geophysical survey. In the event the 'palaeochannel' was an outcrop of gravel (L103) within brickearth (L102).

Three archaeological features were identified.

F172 is an ovoid pit (length 2.5 m; depth 0.15 m) which continued beyond the western section of the trench. Flecks of pottery were identified in the fill (L173), but the only finds recovered were two small struck flint flakes, which are probably residual.

To the south of the trench, continuing beyond its southern boundary, a second pit was found, F166 (depth 0.35 m). It is also ovoid, and filled with light orange-brown sandy loam (L167) which was probably the result of natural weathering.

A third feature comprises a linear gully, F170 (length 4 + m, width 0.75 m), which may be a natural. It is filled with silty gravel (L171). No finds were retrieved during its excavation.

TRENCH 17 (length 13 m; width 2 m)

The Principal Layers (0.00 m = 35.45 m OD)

<i>Depth</i>	<i>Description</i>
0.00 - 0.40 m	L100 - Topsoil
0.40 - 1.00 m	L101 - Overburden
1.00 m +	L102 - Natural brickearth

Description: This trench deviated from the specification to avoid the Trench 8 of the previous site investigation, and it was shortened to maintain access. One archaeological feature was found.

F163 is a circular pit (diameter 0.9 m; depth less than 0.1 m). The fill comprised light brown silty loam backfill (L164), and contained two struck flint flakes.

Hat 180.
Ware Football Ground.

by
C J Going

Preamble.

The collection of pottery comprised c8Kg of material of prehistoric and Romano-British date. Prehistoric material (flint-gritted fabrics) of LBA-EIA date came from contexts 157 and 179, which are datable to the Roman period. There was no recognisable material of the middle or later pre-Roman Iron age and but the overwhelming bulk of the assemblage was of Romano-British date. No material of the post-Roman period was recognised.

Site dating.

As noted above the bulk of the material was of Roman date. The lack of residual prehistoric material suggests that there is unlikely to be substantial earlier phases of site activity in this area. There was a general dearth of first to earlier second century AD material for the most part, and the site assemblage is datable to the later Roman period (the 2nd to 4th centuries AD; see the table, below). On pottery grounds the latest feature to be identified on the site was F112, which is probably datable to the early fifth century AD. The lack of later ceramics suggests that until comparatively recently the site was arable or open ground.

Fabrics and forms.

The pottery types recognised on the site were for the most part wares of local origin, for example wares from the potteries of the Verulamium region (mainly flagon sherds), and the production site at Hadham near Bishops Stortford. There were some examples of wares from more distant regional production sites, such as the Nene valley (mainly fine wares including beakers), the Oxfordshire region (open forms such as dishes and bowls and at least one kitchen grinding bowl or *mortarium*), and sherds of jars in the characteristically shell-tempered fabrics manufactured at the kilns at Harrold in Bedfordshire. A few sherds from large storage jars were found in the fabrics of the kilns at Alice Holt, Surrey. Continental imports were uncommon, but among those noted are sherds of Spanish oil amphorae (from the Guadalquivir region of southern Spain), and a few sherds of the characteristic high-gloss Samian pottery from South and central Gaulish manufacturing sites. A sherd of colour-coated ware (probably a beaker) from another continental production site was also found.

The range of forms and fabrics include wares which are uncommon on rural sites (for example the amphora sherds) and suggests a semi-urban site with fairly good links to major trading networks.

The Pottery from burial F104.

By the legs of the skeleton in F104 was a globular-bodied, narrow-necked flask or flagon in a micaceous reduced fabric. The core and margins are fired to a brownish grey, the surfaces black-grey. It is perhaps a product of the Hadham kilns (4th century). The pot was originally burnished overall, but the surfaces are almost entirely spalled. The vessel looks worn and its rim and part of the neck have been knocked off in antiquity. Whether this was deliberate or not is unclear, but some pottery vessels from Pagan burials were deliberately 'killed' as part of the depositional ritual. This may have been the case here.

No single vessel or pottery sherd merits unusual attention.

HAT 180: Context Dating

<i>Context</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Date</i>
105	cAD 350+	107	cAD 250+
108	cAD250+	111	cAD200-410.
113	cAD400+	115	C2nd+
118	cAD350+	120	C2nd+
122	cAD140-180	124	cAD 220-300
126	C2nd+	132	C2nd+
134	cAD200+	136	C2nd+
138	C2nd+	140	CAD240+
142	CAD300-400+	145	c220+
148	C2nd+	150	C1st-2nd.
153	C2nd+	156	C1st-2nd
157	Roman	159	C1-2nd+
160	C2nd+	162	CAD200+
165	cAD200+	179	C1-2nd.

DISCUSSION

An average of 1 m of overburden was removed by machine. The overburden was most deep towards the northern and western sectors of the site. The lack of success of the geophysical survey is likely due to the depth of the overburden overlaying the archaeological remains.

This should have been established before survey

All of the archaeological features had been much truncated by later activity, and were overlain a thick post-Medieval levelling layer. Roman finds were identified within the overburden.

Cartographic evidence indicates that the site has been used as a recreation ground since before 1875, so the levelling of the football pitch and surrounding land must have been carried out prior to this date.

The greatest density of archaeological features occurred in the central area of the site (within Trenches 10-13 and 15), about 50 m west of Ermine Street. Much less activity was identified in the north eastern (Trench 14) and southern sectors (Trenches 16-17).

} possibly

The evidence almost exclusively dates from the Romano-British period, but two pits (Tr. 17 F163 L164 and Tr. 16 F172 L173) each contained two struck flints. Other residual struck flints was found in low numbers, notably Tr. 9, L179. Residual late Bronze Age/early Iron Age sherds were found within Tr. 9 F178 L179.

Trench 9 contained a large deposit, likely of the fill of a former bourne or water course, which once flowed southwards into the river Lea. Several other bournes have been identified in the area, for example, most recently during the evaluation of the new northern access road in December 1994.

The 3rd-4th century cemetery, located immediately to the north of the site and revealed in May 1995, was seen to continue but not to be extensive. Only two burials were revealed during the evaluation (Trenches 10 and 15).

→ dispersed.

specialist report?

Several features contained large numbers of complete limb bones and skulls from large animals such as cows suggesting that butchering was being undertaken, and one can envisage cattle being driven in from the surrounding countryside and slaughtered on the periphery of the town.

} specialist view needed

The majority of the features comprise pits and ditches which contained material associated with domestic activities. Some structural evidence was revealed, but the narrow width of the trenches meant that building plans could not be identified. Several features contained brick, tile and tile, indicative of structures.

There was little evidence of industrial activity excepting a few fragments of iron slag (Tr. 11 F117 L118). In the Roman town of Middlewich, the plots of land to the rear of the main street were used for intensive industrial activities. In contrast at Holditch, the same type of plots contained ovens, wells and other domestic features. This suggests that Roman towns had areas set aside for specific functions, but these activities are

governed largely by economic factors and not necessarily by deliberate town planning, making each small town unique in its development (Burnham 1987).

In many small Roman towns, for example, Water^{two LWS} Newton, field-plots flanked the main streets, and had an agricultural function. The ditches found during the evaluation may represent the vestiges of field boundaries. This suggestion is supported by the occurrence of charred cereal remains, predominantly spelt wheat, recovered during excavations within the factory complex in June 1995 (HAT Report No.136).

Aug
sampling?

The features revealed during the evaluation are most likely representative of back-plots to workshops and dwellings on *Ermine Street*, with principally a domestic or agricultural function.

CONCLUSION

Archaeological remains were encountered, principally in the central and northern sectors of the site. A gradual run-out of features was identified, southwards, towards the river. The features mainly comprise pits and ditches, indicative of domestic activity, with a limited number of structural features. The features are typical of activities associated with back-plots of dwellings and workshop buildings fronting *Ermine Street*, some 50 m to the west. The pottery collection accurately reflects the site: Chris Going notes that the forms and fabrics include wares which are uncommon on rural sites (for example, the amphora sherds), and suggest a semi-urban site with fairly good links to major trading networks.

so what?

The cemetery to the north of the site was seen to continue, but not to be extensive.

Significant archaeological horizons were identified at the following depths:

Trench 9	35.60 m OD
Trench 10	34.72 m OD
Trench 11	35.00 m OD
Trench 12	34.75 m OD
Trench 13	34.35 m OD
Trench 14	35.05 m OD
Trench 15	34.45 m OD
Trench 16	34.50 m OD
Trench 17	34.45 m OD

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HAT 180 WARE FOOTBALL CLUB CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Context	Tr	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	Building Material	Bone	Metal	Other
105	10	Fill of grave cut 104	cAD 350+	6 sherds		25 frags		
107	15	Fill of ditch 106	cAD 250+	6 sherds	5 tile frags	31 frags		
108	10	Skeleton in grave 104	C4th	SF 1: 1 vessel		SF 5: 1 bone		1 human skeleton
111	13	Fill of ditch 110	cAD 200-410	24 sherds	4 tile frags	37 frags	SF 15: 1 Cu alloy coin	
113	11	Fill of ditch 112	cAD 400+	86 sherds	7 tile frags 7 daub frags 4 fired clay frags	53 frags	SF 2+4: 2 Fe objects SF 6: 1 Cu alloy coin SF 3: 1 lead alloy frag	1 burnt flint
115	15	Fill of grave cut 114	C2nd+	1 sherd				
116	15	Skeleton in grave 114						1 human skeleton
118	11	Fill of pit 117	cAD 350+	157 sherds	16 tile frags 1 small brick frag 9 daub frags	180 frags	SF 9,12+13: 11 slag frags SF 10,11+14: 3 Fe objects SF 8: 1 Cu alloy coin	3 struck flints, 1 shell frag, several charcoal frags
120	13	Fill of pit 119	C2nd+	7 sherds		9 frags		
122	10	Fill of ditch 121	cAD 140-180	51 sherds 1 samian	1 daub frag	19 frags	SF 7: 1 Fe nail	1 stone frag
124	11	Fill of ditch 123	cAD 220-300	51 sherds	1 small tile frag 2 small brick frags 1 daub/clay frag	15 frags	SF 17: 1 Fe object	1 struck flint, 4 shell frags
126	15	Fill of pit 125	C2nd+	1 sherd				
130	15	Fill of posthole 129				11 frags		
132	15	Fill of pit 131	C2nd+	1 sherd				
134	11	Fill of pit 133	cAD 200+	15 sherds	1 tile frag 2 daub/brick frags			
136	11	Fill of ditch 135	C2nd+	12 sherds	1 daub frag	1 frag		1 shell frag
138	13	Fill of ditch 137	C2nd+	3 sherds	2 brick/tile frags	64 frags	SF 18: 1 Fe nail	1 stone frag
140	13	Fill of pit 139	cAD 240+	2 sherds		4 frags		

142	13	Fill of pit 141	cAD300-400+	19 sherds	3 brick/tile frags 2 daub frags	45 frags		1 stone frag, 1 burnt flint
145	11	Fill of ditch 123	c220+	25 sherds 1 samian		14 frags	SF 16: 1 Fe strip	
148	10	Fill of ditch 121	C2nd+	1 sherd		2 frags		1 shell frag
150	10	Fill of pit 149	C1st-2nd	33 sherds				
153	11	Fill of pit 154	C2nd+	9 sherds 1 samian	1 tile frag 3 daub frags	17 frags		
156	11	Fill of pit 155	C1st-2nd	1 sherd				
157	13	Fill of ditch 137	Roman	3 sherds		35 frags		SF 19: 1 whetstone
159	11	Fill of pit 158	C1st-2nd+	3 sherds		2 frags		1 flint chip
160	13	Fill of ditch 137	C2nd+	2 sherds				
162	12	Fill of pit 161	cAD 200+	8 sherds	2 tile frags 3 daub frags	11 frags		12 shell frags
164	17	Fill of pit 163						2 struck flints
165	12	Fill of pit 161	cAD 200+	18 sherds		7 frags		2 shell frags, 1 charcoal frag
169	13	Fill of pit 168				15 frags		
173	16	Fill of pit 172						2 struck flints
175	14	Fill of pit 174			43 daub frags			
179	9	Fill of ditch 178	C1st-2nd	9 sherds		1 frag	4 slag frags	8 struck flints, 2 burnt flints
180	13	Fill of pit 168				4 frags		

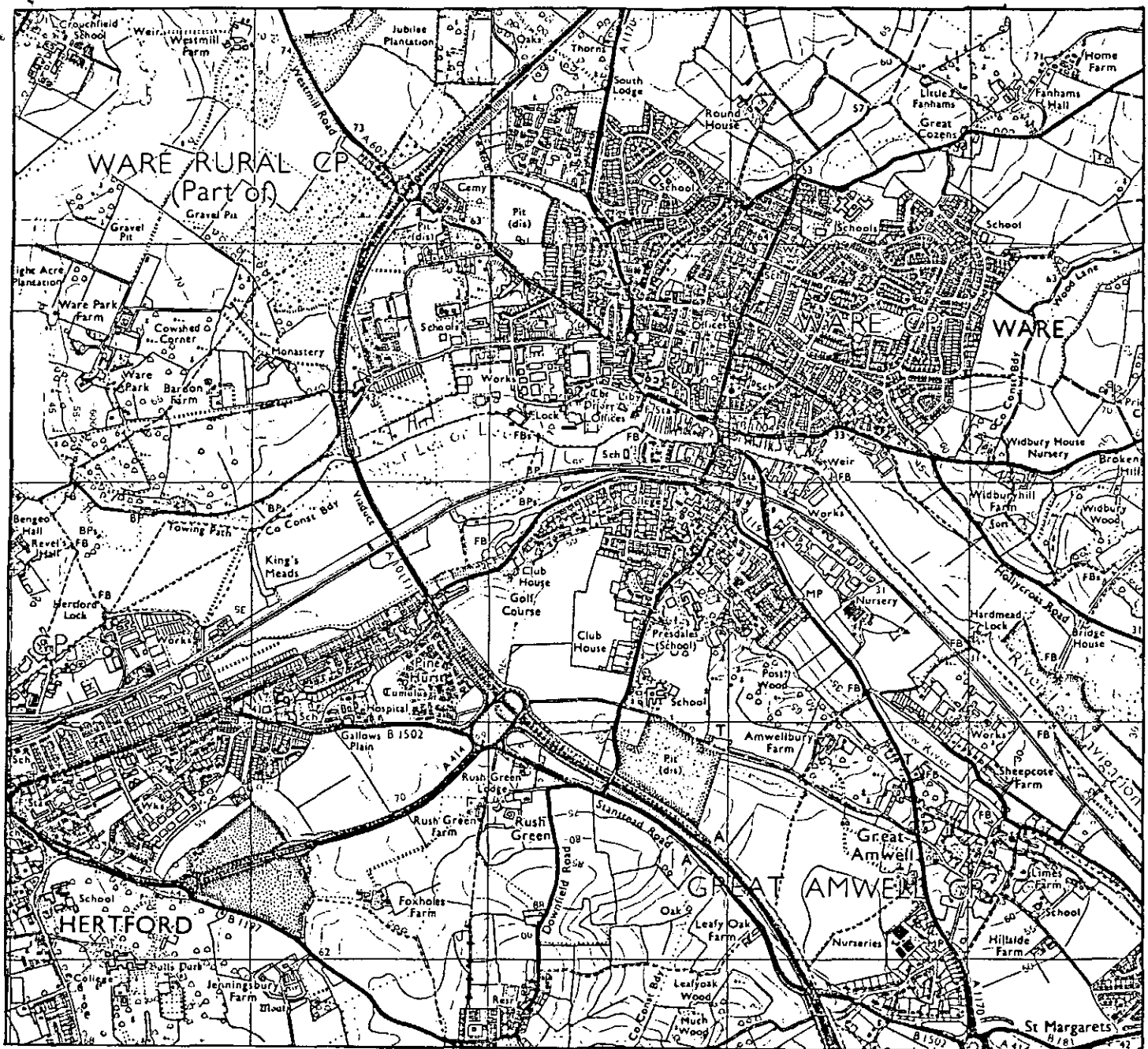


Fig.1 Site Location Plan

Fig.2 GMS Access Project, Location of Archaeological Trenches



Fig.3 Plan Showing the Location of Archaeological Features

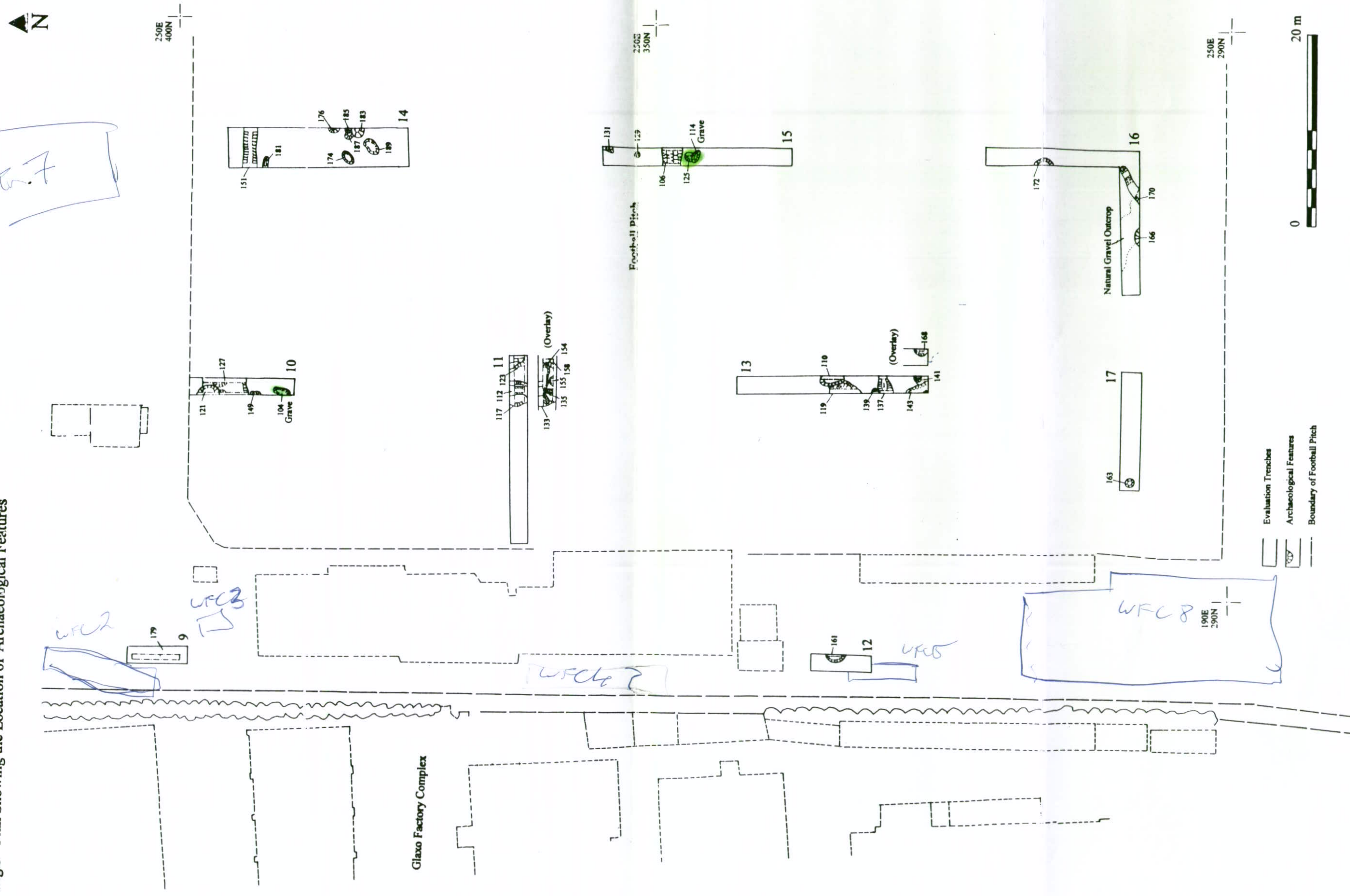


Fig.4 Plan of Grave 104

