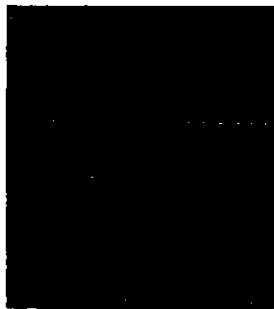


Wessex
Archaeology



**PAINS WESSEX, HIGH POST, WILTSHIRE:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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**PAINS WESSEX, HIGH POST, WILTSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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PAINS WESSEX, HIGH POST, WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SUMMARY

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Wiltshire County Council to undertake an archaeological Watching Brief at the Pains Wessex factory, High Post, Wiltshire (centred on SU 143 370). Work undertaken in the 1950s had indicated the existence of a Romano-British settlement in the immediate vicinity. The Watching Brief confirmed that the Romano-British site extended into the current development site and also identified intensive evidence for a Mid-Late Iron Age settlement in the form of postholes, pits and ditches. The potential for environmental evidence from the settlements is high and archaeological deposits are well preserved. The extent of the Iron Age and Romano-British settlement was not clearly defined.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The project was commissioned and financed by Wiltshire County Council, and Wessex Archaeology is grateful for their co-operation and assistance. Furthermore, gratitude must be expressed to the company of Pains Wessex and their representatives, in particular Mr David North.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Rod Brook and Nicholas A. Wells. The report was compiled by Nicholas A. Wells and A. P. Fitzpatrick. The illustrations were prepared by Rob Read Graphics. Comments on the environmental data were provided by Michael J. Allen and Sarah F. Wyles, and on the artefacts by Lorraine Mepham. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by A. P. Fitzpatrick.

PAINS WESSEX, HIGH POST, WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Wiltshire County Council to undertake an archaeological Watching Brief during the excavation of service trenches to the north of a newly constructed building in the factory complex of Pains Wessex, High Post, near Salisbury (centred SU 143 370). The work was carried out between the 2nd and 27th March 1995.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.1 Pains Wessex is situated on a ridge which runs north from Salisbury and flanked on the east by the River Bourne and on the west by the River Avon. At a height of *c.* 131m OD, the factory site is the highest area on the ridge, thus possessing a commanding view of the surrounding countryside. The local geology is of Upper Chalk with flint nodules.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Within the factory complex, slightly to the south of the present development, the remains of a building was discovered in 1956 (Musty 1957). This was dated to the later Roman period (3rd and 4th Centuries AD) by associated pottery and coins. A single sherd of Iron Age pottery, described as 'early' was also found.
- 3.2 Aerial photographs of the area (reference: Wiltshire County Council collections 1991) suggest the possibility of an, undated, enclosure ditch within which the site may be located.
- 3.3 One kilometre to the north is the univallate hillfort of Ogbury Camp, presumably of Iron Age date, which is surrounded and covered by a field system, probably of Iron Age or Roman in date. This field system covers the undulating landscape continuing to the north and south of the factory complex, and can be seen quite clearly on the aerial photographs of the area (reference: Wiltshire County Council collections 1991).

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 Five trenches totalling approximately 140 m in length were excavated by the contractors at Pains Wessex (Fig. 1). The deepest (trench 1) was no more than 0.8 m, the shallowest (trench 4) at 0.2 m barely scraped into the subsoil. All trenches were approximately 0.5 m wide.

- 4.2 In all cases the trenches were open prior to the arrival of Wessex Archaeology staff hence recording was confined to photographic and graphic recording, with a degree of artefactual recovery (i.e. spoil tip scanning) to elucidate the dating of the site. Where finds were observed in section they were collected, thus providing specific dating for some of the features. Each observed feature was numbered consecutively using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system. No further excavation was undertaken.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1.1 Archaeological deposits comprised a total of 59 features, of which 57 were observed in trench 1. The remainder being in trench 5. No other features were observed in any of the other trenches. Trenches 2 and 3 were both cut into natural chalk, so any features present would have been revealed. Trenches 4 and the remainder of trench 5 were so shallow as to barely have cut into the subsoil. It is possible therefore that further, unobserved, features were present.
- 5.1.2 All features and their components are summarised in Appendix 1. It must be pointed out, however, that because the features were only observed in section, it was not possible to be certain as to their shape in plan, and thus their function.
- 5.1.3 Two sections were drawn of trench 1, both south and north facing, and these are reproduced in Figures 2 and 3. A plan of the trench is shown in Figure 4. All features were cut into natural chalk (context 202). The interface between this and the subsoil was often quite weathered, producing a yellow, crumbly chalk. A thin yellowish brown subsoil (context 201) with frequent flint and chalk inclusions occurred between the topsoil and natural. This layer is very unclear in places, where it seems to merge with the dark yellowish brown topsoil (context 200).
- 5.1.4 The features found in trenches 1 and 5 are summarised below.

5.2 Trench 1

5.2.1 Postholes

Thirty-five postholes were found in trench 1. These were concentrated particularly to the east of ditch 4 and running as far east as ditch 35, though there is an indication that they may continue to the west of the former. All the postholes were seen in section only so it was not possible to identify any groupings belonging to a single building etc. In general the postholes were U-shaped, with only one fill, some with a sorted peagrit lining the base of the feature. None had any associated finds.

5.2.2 Pits

A total of 12 pits was found in trench 1. The clearest examples were concentrated in the western half of the trench, being either vertical sided (i.e. pit 19), or inverted bell shaped (i.e. pit 23). Other possible pits were concave sided with a rounded base. Some had a chalk capping, either as their topmost fill or lower down. Two pits, features 19 and 48, contained Iron Age pottery.

5.2.3 Ditches

Five linear features were found in trench 1, all running approximately north-south. None were fully excavated so no complete profile is available, however, all appear to have steep concave to vertical sides. Three groupings in trench 1 are apparent; (i) a single ditch (feature 4) occurs in the west of the trench amidst the concentration of postholes (see above); (ii) another single ditch (feature 22) occurs midway through the trench filled with redeposited chalk. (iii) three ditches in the east of the trench (features 35, 37 and 203). One ditch, feature 37, contained Iron Age pottery.

5.2.4 Unidentified features

It was not possible to ascertain the function of the remainder of the features in trench 1, however, one, feature 49, contained Iron Age pottery.

5.3 Trench 5

5.3.1 Ditches

Two linear ditches were found in trench 5, both ran approximately north-south and were found in the same area as group (iii) above. One, feature 199, appears to be a continuation of feature 37, and contains both Late Iron Age and 1st century AD (either Late Iron Age or Romano-British) pottery. The other, feature 206, seemed to terminate where it was exposed. Neither feature was revealed fully, but as with the ditches in trench 1, both had concave to vertical sides.

5.4 Other archaeological sites

5.4.1 Earthwork

In addition, a member of the field team observed what may possibly be a circular earthwork, c. 10 m in diameter, within the factory complex at SU 1447 3692. This feature might be archaeological in origin.

6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

6.1.1 The artefactual assemblage recovered is restricted in both size and range of material types represented, but the comparatively unabraded condition of the pottery sherds in particular would indicate that the material is relatively undisturbed. The pottery would suggest an overall date range in the Iron Age and Romano-British period for the artefactual assemblage.

6.1.2 All artefacts collected have been cleaned, marked where appropriate, and quantified by material type, both by number and by weight, within each context. This information is presented in Table 1. The finds were then briefly scanned in order to ascertain their nature, date range and condition, and this information is summarised by material type below.

6.2 Coins

One bronze coin was found unstratified in trench 3;

Æ 3 of Crispus (Caesar AD 317-326)

Obv - IVL CRISPUS NOB C

Laureate bust right

Rev - CAESARVM NOSTRORVM

Laurel wreath around VOT X

In exergue; PTR - minted in the first office at *Treveri* (Trier)

6.3 Burnt Flint

The two pieces of burnt, unworked flint are of uncertain date and origin.

6.4 Ceramic Building Material

All the ceramic building material came from unstratified contexts, and none is diagnostic. The presence of Romano-British pottery and the absence of any other post-Roman material from the site would, however, suggest that these pieces are of Romano-British date.

6.5 Fired Clay

The small amount of fired clay recovered consists entirely of small, featureless fragments of uncertain date and origin.

6.6 Pottery

6.6.1 Pottery was the most commonly occurring material type and was retrieved from both unstratified and stratified contexts. Both prehistoric and Romano-British material is present. With the exception of a single grog-tempered sherd, the 51 prehistoric sherds identified are all in moderately coarse, sandy fabrics, a few also containing crushed shell fragments. These sandy fabrics

are not chronologically distinctive and diagnostic material is limited to three jar rims; a broad date range in the Middle to Late Iron Age (3rd to 1st centuries BC) may be suggested.

- 6.6.2 The Romano-British pottery (62 sherds) includes sandy greywares, grog-tempered wares and Black Burnished Ware (BB1), as well as two colour-coated fineware sherds from, respectively, the New Forest and Oxfordshire production centres. The few vessel forms recognisable would suggest that the majority of the Romano-British material can be dated to the early Roman period (1st/2nd centuries AD), although the presence of the colour-coated finewares would indicate at least some late Roman activity (3rd/4th centuries AD).
- 6.6.3 It may be noted that all the Romano-British pottery came from unstratified contexts, with the exception of a small quantity from trench 5, and the only sherds which can definitely be dated to the late Roman period occurred in trench 5.

Table 1: Artefacts by context

Trench	Context	Feature	Animal Bone	Burnt Flint	CBM	Fired Clay	Pottery	Metal
1	Unstrat.	-	8/142	1/6			38/656 ph; RB	1 coin
	-	19	9/82				1/8 ph	
	56	37	3/4				6/52 ph	
	58	37	3/12				3/68 ph	
	86	15	1/6					
	127	41	1/4					
	135	48	2/10	1/16		2/14	8/40 ph	
	136	49	2/20			1/4	2/10 ph	
2	Unstrat.	-	15/112		2/6		14/164 ph; RB	
3	Unstrat.	-	2/6		1/84		26/156 ph; RB	
5	199	198				1/4	15/310 ph; RB	
TOTAL			46/398	2/22	3/90	4/22	113/1464	1

Quantities are presented by number/weight in grammes.

Pottery dating is as follows: ph = prehistoric; RB = Romano-British.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Animal Bone

- 7.1.1 The assemblage of bone was very small (only 46 fragments) and only two species were identified (Table 2). Although the bone was in reasonable condition (no evidence of extensive weathering etc. was noted), all the bones were highly fragmented and nearly 20% of the assemblage was represented by

loose teeth. The bones were scanned and identified to species (Table 2), and the basic faunal element recorded (details are held in the archive).

- 7.1.2 No bone was recovered from contexts with Romano-British pottery. The bone includes cattle and sheep and the small mammal is likely to be sheep as no diagnostic pig bones were recognised. The sheep include juvenile, and cow mandible fragments from feature 136 are from a young cow. The only other possible animal was an unidentified individual represent by a rib and one other bone both from feature 37. These bones are definitely from juveniles, but may be dog, sheep or some other mammal.

Table 2: Animal bone by species

<i>Feature</i>	<i>context</i>	<i>Cow</i>	<i>Horse</i>	<i>sheep/ goat</i>	<i>dog</i>	<i>large mam.</i>	<i>small mam.</i>	<i>other</i>	<i>unid</i>	<i>total</i>
Phase		unstrat. + undated								
Tr 1 unstrat.		1		1			6			8
Tr 2 unstrat.		1		4			7		2	14
Tr 3 unstrat.									2	2
F15	86						1			1
F41	127						1			1
<i>total</i>		2		5			15		4	26
Phase		Iron Age								
F 19		5		1		3			2	11
F37	56							2		2
F37	58			1			2			3
F48	135						2			2
F49	136	1				1				2
<i>total</i>		6		2		4	4	2	2	20
TOTAL		8		7		4	19	2	6	46

7.2 Charred plant material

- 7.2.1 Bulk soil samples of 10 litres were taken from two ditches considered to be of Iron Age date. They were processed by standard flotation methods; the flots retained on a 0.5 mm mesh and the residues on a 1 mm mesh. The residues were fractionated (5.6 mm, 2 mm and 1 mm) and stored dry, but the coarse fraction (>5.6 mm) was sorted, weighed and discarded.
- 7.2.2 The dried flots were rapidly scanned under a x10-x30 stereo-binocular microscope and the presence of plant remains (chaff, grain and weed seeds) was quantified and is presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Charred plant material

Feature type	Context	Sample	Flot						Other	Residue Charcoal >5.6 mm
			Flot size (ml)	Grain	Chaff	Weed seeds unburnt	Weed seeds burnt	Charcoal >5.6 mm		
Ditch 4	102	2000	40	B	-	C	B	A	Mollusc A smb. A	-
Ditch 37	58	2001	40	C	-	A	C	C	Mollusc A	-

KEY: A** = exceptional. A* = 30+ items, A = ≥10 items, B = 9 - 5 items, C = < 5 items, (H) = hazelnuts
smb. = small mammal bones

- 7.2.3 The total flot from both ditches was 40 ml, which is below the average 60 ml for this size sample. Charred plant remains were present in low quantities and included both grain and weed seeds but no chaff was present.
- 7.2.4 A relatively high number of unburnt (?modern) seeds was recorded in ditch 37. This indicates mixing and the incorporation of modern material. While this might indicate mixing of the smaller environmental remains, such as charred weed seeds from other contexts, it is more likely to be due to contamination to the exposed sections of the machine cut trenches.

7.3 Mollusca

- 7.3.1 The calcareous nature of the fills also preserved land snail shells and small mammal bones.

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The Watching Brief has demonstrated the presence of extensive and well preserved archaeological features and deposits which have the potential to yield well-preserved environmental data. These deposits enhance the understanding of the Romano-British settlement found by Musty (1957), and it may be suggested that the deposits recorded by Musty (1957, 173) as lying some depth below the natural ground surface was a grain drier, a type of building well known in Romano-British contexts in Wiltshire

- 8.2 The principle value of the observations made during the Watching Brief is, however, in demonstrating the presence of a hitherto unsuspected Mid-Late Iron Age settlement. The range of postholes, pits and ditches which can certainly or probably be attributed to the Iron Age suggest an intensive occupation, whose extent and dating has yet to be defined. Because of the limited dating evidence available and the fact that the postholes were seen in section only interpretation is necessarily limited. However, the density of features is comparable to local sites of Iron Age with extensive sequences of occupation such as Little Woodbury, Salisbury (Bersu 1940), while the sequence of Iron Age and Romano-British settlement finds immediate local parallels in the sites at Boscombe Down (Richardson 1951). The possible enclosure ditch (section 3.2 above) recognised on aerial photographs would not be inappropriate in either an Iron Age or Romano-British context.

9 THE ARCHIVE

The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology, but will be deposited with the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum, 65 The Close, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 2EN in due course.

10 REFERENCES

Bersu, G., 1940, 'Excavations at Little Woodbury, Wiltshire, Part I: the settlement as revealed by excavation', *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 6, 30-111.

Musty J. W. G., 1957, 'A Romano-British Building at Highpost, Middle Woodford', *Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine* 57, 173-5.

Richardson K. M., 1951 'The excavations of Iron Age villages on Boscombe Down West', *Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine* 54, 123-68.

APPENDIX 1: SITE SUMMARY

Each feature is individually described, with fills listed in stratigraphic order. Where different fills occur in opposite sections this is noted in the summary. All features are in trench 1 unless stated.

Feature 1		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
108	Yellowish brown firm silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments. Peagrit occurs at the base of the feature.	0.11 m
Circular (?) feature with concave sides and a flat base. It is 0.29 m wide and 0.11 m deep. This feature cuts context 107. Possible Post-hole .		

Feature 2		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
107	Yellowish brown firm silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments.	0.29 m
Circular (?) feature with vertical to concave sides and a rounded base. It is 0.20 m wide and 0.29 m deep. Possible Post-hole .		

Feature 3		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
105	Dark yellowish brown firm silty clay. No inclusions.	0.08 m
106	Yellowish brown firm silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments.	0.28 m
Circular (?) feature with steep concave sides and a rounded base. It is 0.28 m wide deep. Possible Post-hole .		

Feature 4		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
North Facing Section - Figure 3		
99	Dark yellowish brown sticky silty clay with occasional small chalk fragments. Frequent small to medium angular burnt flint.	0.46 m
100	Dark yellowish brown sticky silty clay with very frequent small angular chalk fragments	0.17 m
101	Very dark brown crumbly silty clay with rare angular small chalk and flint fragments.	0.15 m
102	Yellowish brown sticky silty clay with very frequent small chalk fragments.	0.31 m
103	Beneath 99. Yellowish brown firm silty clay with frequent small angular chalk fragments.	0.44 m
South facing section - Figure 2		
117	Reddish brown firm silty clay with occasional small to medium flint and chalk fragments, and large angular and rounded flint nodules. Overlies 120.	0.48 m
118	Very dark brown sticky silty clay with rare small angular flint and chalk fragments.	0.37 m
119	Dark yellowish brown sticky silty clay with occasional small to medium angular flint and chalk fragments. Rare large nodular flint. Bone and burnt flint present.	0.30 m
120	Dark yellowish brown sticky silty clay with frequent small angular and rounded chalk fragments.	0.51m
Linear regular feature with concave sides, the eastern side quite steep and the western side shallow. The remainder of the feature was not revealed so its depth is not known. It is 2.7 m wide. This linear ditch runs north-south and is possibly two distinct linear features merging at the point.		

Feature 5		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
97	Yellowish brown firm silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments.	0.20 m
Circular (?) feature with steep concave side and a rounded base. Its is 0.30 m wide and 0.20 m deep. Possible post-hole.		

Feature 6		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
95	Brownish yellow firm silty clay. No inclusions. Same as 123?	0.09 m
96	Yellowish brown firm silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments. Same as 124?	0.16 m
Uncertain feature with shallow concave sides and a rounded base. It is 1.10 m wide and 0.24 m deep. Same as 38?		

Feature 7		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
98	Yellowish brown firm silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments.	0.10 m
Circular (?) feature with concave sides; shallow at its eastern, and steep on its western side. The base is rounded. It is 0.40 m wide and 0.10 m deep.		

Feature 8		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
93	Yellowish brown firm silty clay with occasional small rounded and angular flint and chalk fragments. Peagrit occurs at the base of the feature.	0.24 m
Circular (?) feature with concave to vertical sides and a rounded base. It is 0.25 m wide and 0.24 m deep. Possible post-hole .		

Feature 9		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
94	Yellowish brown firm silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments.	0.17 m
Uncertain feature with very shallow concave sides and an irregular flat base. It is 1.48 m wide and 0.17 m deep.		

Feature 10		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
90	Yellowish brown firm silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments. Peagrit occurs at the base of the feature.	0.16 m
Circular (?) feature with concave sides and a rounded base. It is 0.30 m wide and 0.16 m deep. Possible post-hole .		

Feature 11		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
89	Yellowish brown firm silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments. Peagrit occurs at the base of the feature.	0.10 m
Circular (?) feature with concave sides and a rounded base. It is 0.20 m wide and 0.10 m deep. Possible post-hole .		

Feature 12		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
92	Yellowish brown firm silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments. Peagrit occurs at the base of the feature.	0.05 m
Circular (?) feature with concave sides and a rounded base. It is 0.16 m wide and 0.05 m deep Possible post-hole .		

Feature 13		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
91	Yellowish brown firm silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments. Peagrit occurs at the base of the feature	0.17 m
Circular (?) feature with concave sides and a rounded base. It is 0.22 m wide and 0.17 m deep Possible post-hole .		

Feature 14		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
88	Yellowish brown firm silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments. Peagrit occurs at the base of the feature.	0.26 m
Circular (?) feature with vertical to concave sides and a rounded base. It is 0.20 m wide and 0.26 m deep. Possible post-hole .		

Feature 15		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
87	Yellowish brown firm silty clay with frequent small angular and rounded chalk and flint fragments.	0.18 m
86	Yellowish brown friable silty clay with very frequent small to medium angular and rounded chalk fragments.	0.21 m
Circular (?) feature with concave sides and a rounded base. It is 0.70 m wide and 0.21 m deep. Possible pit .		

Feature 16		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
85	Yellowish brown firm silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments. Peagrit occurs at the base of the feature.	0.25 m
Circular (?) feature with vertical to concave sides and a rounded base. It is 0.15 m wide and 0.25 m deep. Possible post-hole .		

Feature 17		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
84	Yellowish brown firm silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments. Peagrit occurs at the base of the feature.	0.21 m
Circular (?) feature with concave sides and a rounded base. It is 0.20 m wide and 0.21 m deep. Possible post-hole .		

Feature 18		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
83	Yellowish brown firm silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments. Peagrit occurs at the base of the feature.	0.18 m
Circular (?) feature with concave sides and a rounded base. It is 0.30 m wide and 0.18 m deep. Possible post-hole .		

Feature 19		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
80	Very dark yellowish brown sticky silty clay with frequent small to medium angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments.	0.40 m
81	White chalk. Redeposited natural.	0.26 m
82	Light yellowish brown friable silty clay with frequent small angular and rounded chalk and flint fragments. One sherd of Iron Age pottery .	?
Circular (?) feature with vertical sides. Not fully revealed so the depth is unknown. It is 0.89 m wide. Possible pit .		

Feature 20		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
79	Yellowish brown friable silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments.	0.12 m
Circular (?) feature with concave sides and a rounded base. It is 0.19 m wide and 0.12 m deep. Possible post-hole .		

Feature 21		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
77	Yellowish brown friable silty clay with frequent small chalk fragments.	0.20 m
78	White chalk. Redeposited natural.	?
Uncertain feature with concave sides. Not fully revealed so depth is unknown. It is 1.68 m wide. Possible pit .		

Feature 22		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
75	Dark yellowish brown friable silty clay with very frequent small to medium chalk fragments.	0.30 m
76	Yellowish brown friable silty clay with frequent small to medium chalk fragments.	?

Linear regular feature with concave sides. Not fully revealed so the depth is unknown. The width is 2.48m. Possible **linear ditch**, which seems to run north-south.

Feature 23		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
73	Dark yellowish brown silty clay with very frequent small to medium chalk fragments. Redeposited chalk.	0.20 m
74	Very dark brown sticky silty clay with frequent small angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments.	?

Circular (?) feature with concave to vertical sides. Not fully revealed so the depth is not known. It is 1.02 m wide. Possible **pit**.

Feature 24		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
72	Yellowish brown friable silty clay with very frequent small angular chalk fragments and occasional small angular and rounded flint fragments.	0.14 m
71	Yellowish brown friable silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments.	0.14 m

Circular (?) feature with concave sides and a rounded base. It is 0.62 m wide and 0.14m deep. Possible **pit**.

Feature 25		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
69	Yellowish brown friable silty clay with very frequent small angular chalk fragments and occasional small angular and rounded flint fragments.	0.18 m
68	Yellowish brown friable silty clay with occasional small rounded and angular chalk and flint fragments.	0.17 m

Circular (?) feature with concave sides and a rounded base. It is 0.55 m wide and 0.18 m deep. Possible **pit**.

Feature 26		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
67	Yellowish brown friable silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments.	0.20 m

Circular (?) feature with Concave sides and a rounded base. It is 0.75 m wide and 0.20 m deep. Possible **pit**.

Feature 27		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
63	Yellowish brown friable silty clay with occasional small rounded and angular flint and chalk fragments.	0.20 m
64	White chalk. Redeposited natural.	0.30 m
65	Very dark yellowish brown sticky silty clay with very frequent small angular chalk fragments.	?

Circular (?) feature with vertical sides. The eastern edge is very shallow concave at the top of the feature. Not fully revealed so depth is unknown. It is 0.60 m wide. Possible pit.

Feature 28		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
111	Yellowish brown firm silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments. Peagrit occurs at the base of the feature.	0.19 m

Circular (?) feature with concave sides and a rounded base. It is 0.33 m wide and 0.19 m deep. Possible post-hole.

Feature 29		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
112	Dark brown firm silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments.	0.26 m

Circular (?) feature with concave sides and a rounded base. It is 0.37 m wide and 0.26 m deep. Possible post-hole.

Feature 30		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
113	Yellowish brown firm silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments. Peagrit occurs at the base of the feature.	0.20m

Circular (?) feature with concave sides and a rounded base. It is 0.34m wide and 0.20m deep. Possible post-hole.

Feature 31		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
114	Yellowish brown firm silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments. Peagrit occurs at the base of the feature.	0.13m

Circular (?) feature with concave sides and a rounded base. It is 0.24m wide and 0.13m deep. Possible post-hole. Cuts 115.

Feature 32		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
116	Yellowish brown firm silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded flint and Chalk fragments. Peagrit occurs at the base of the feature.	0.26m

Circular (?) feature with concave sides and a rounded base. It is 0.35m wide and 0.26m deep. Possible post-hole.

Feature 33		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
121	Yellowish brown firm silty clay with occasional small to medium angular chalk fragments.	0.28m

Circular (?) feature with concave sides and a rounded base. It is 0.36m wide and 0.28m deep. Possible post-hole.

Feature 34		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
122	Yellowish brown firm silty clay. No inclusions.	0.15m

Circular (?) feature with concave sides and a rounded base. It is 0.36m wide and 0.15m deep. Possible post-hole.

Feature 35		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
	North facing Section - Figure 3	
60	Dark yellowish brown sticky silty clay with occasional small to medium angular and rounded flint fragments.	0.33m
61	Dark yellowish brown sticky silty clay with frequent large angular chalk fragments.	0.08m
62	Dark yellowish brown sticky silty clay with frequent small to medium angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments. Same as context 147.	?
	South facing Section - Figure 2	
146	Greyish brown friable silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments.	0.27m
147	Dark yellowish brown sticky silty clay with frequent small angular and rounded chalk fragments and occasional medium angular flint. Same as context 62?	?

Linear regular feature with vertical to concave sides. The eastern edge is very shallow at the top of the cut. Not fully revealed so the depth is not known. It is 1.55m wide. Profile slightly different in the two sections; the feature is perhaps terminating. Possible linear ditch running north-south. Truncated by feature 55.

Feature 36		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
59	Yellowish brown friable silty clay with occasional small angular flint.	0.20m

Circular (?) feature with vertical to concave sides and a rounded base. It is 0.25m wide and 0.20m deep. Possible **post-hole**.

Feature 37		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
56	Dark yellowish brown sticky silty clay with very frequent small to large angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments. Same as context 199. Six sherds of Iron Age pottery .	0.40m
57	Dark yellowish brown sticky silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments.	0.10m
58	Dark yellowish brown sticky silty clay with frequent small angular and rounded chalk and flint fragments. Sample No 2001 taken. Three sherds of Iron Age pottery .	?

Linear regular feature with vertical to concave sides. The eastern edge is very shallow at the top of the feature. Not fully revealed so the depth is not known. It is 1.85m wide. The profiles in the two sections are slightly different. Possible **linear ditch**, running north-south. Same as feature 198.

Feature 38		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
123	Brown firm silty clay with rare small angular chalk fragments and peagrit. Same as 95?	0.10m
124	Yellowish brown firm silty clay with occasional small to medium angular flint fragments. Same as 96?	0.19m

Uncertain feature with shallow concave sides and an irregular flat base. It is 1.10m wide and 0.24m deep. Same as 6?

Feature 39		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
125	Brown firm silty clay. No inclusions.	0.17m

Circular (?) feature with concave sides and a rounded base. It is 0.43m wide and 0.17m deep. Possible **post-hole**.

Feature 40		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
126	Yellowish brown firm silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments. Peagrit occurs at the base of the feature.	0.32m

Circular (?) feature, the western side being concave, the eastern convex. The base is rounded. It is 0.33m wide and 0.32m deep. Possible **post-hole**.

Feature 41		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
127	Yellowish brown firm silty clay with occasional small angular flint fragments. Peagrit occurs at the base of the feature.	0.10m
Circular (?) feature with concave sides and a flat base. It is 0.45m wide and 0.10m deep. Possible pit.		

Feature 42		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
128	Yellowish brown firm silty clay. No inclusions.	0.14m
Circular (?) feature with concave sides and a rounded base. It is 0.29m wide and 0.14m deep. Possible post-hole.		

Feature 43		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
129	Yellowish brown firm silty clay. No inclusions.	0.17m
Circular (?) feature with concave sides and a rounded base. It is 0.34m wide and 0.17m deep. Possible post-hole.		

Feature 44		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
130	Yellowish brown firm silty clay. No inclusions.	0.17m
Circular (?) feature with concave sides and a rounded base. It is 0.35m wide and 0.17m deep. Possible post-hole.		

Feature 45		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
150	Yellowish brown firm silty clay. No inclusions.	0.13m
Circular (?) feature with concave sides and a rounded base. It is 0.30m wide and 0.13m deep. Possible post-hole.		

Feature 46		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
131	Yellowish brown firm silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments. Peagrit occurs at the base of the feature.	0.25m
Circular (?) feature with steep concave sides and a rounded base. It is 0.32m wide and 0.25m deep. Possible post-hole.		

Feature 47		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
134	Yellowish brown friable silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments.	0.19m
Circular (?) feature with concave sides and a rounded base. It is 0.27 m wide and 0.19m deep. Possible post-hole.		

Feature 48		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
135	Yellowish brown friable silty clay with frequent small to large angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments. Eight sherds of Iron Age pottery.	0.56m
Circular (?) feature with concave sides, the eastern shallow and the western steep. The feature was not fully revealed so the depth is not known. It is 1.90m wide. Possible pit. Cuts context 136. Truncates feature 49.		

Feature 49		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
136	Dark yellowish brown friable silty clay with occasional small to medium angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments. Occasional large nodular flint. Cut by feature 48. Two sherds of Iron Age pottery.	?
Uncertain feature with only one visible side, which is concave to vertical. Not fully revealed so the depth is unknown. It is at least 0.56m wide. Truncated by feature 48.		

Feature 50		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
137	Yellowish brown friable silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded chalk fragments.	0.17m
Circular (?) feature with concave sides and a rounded base. It is 0.30m wide and 0.17m deep. Possible post-hole.		

Feature 51		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
138	Yellowish brown friable silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded chalk fragments.	0.18m
Circular (?) feature with concave sides and a rounded base. It is 0.25m wide and 0.18m deep. Possible post-hole.		

Feature 52		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
139	Yellowish brown friable silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded chalk fragments.	0.23m

Circular (?) feature with steep concave sides and a rounded base. It is 0.23m wide and 0.23m deep. Possible **post-hole**.

Feature 53		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
140	Yellowish brown friable silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded chalk fragments.	0.18m

Circular (?) feature with concave sides and a flat base. It is 0.29m wide and 0.18m deep. Possible **post-hole**.

Feature 54		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
145	Yellowish brown friable silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded chalk fragments.	0.16m

Circular (?) feature with concave sides, the western being shallow, the eastern steep. The base is rounded. It is 0.38m wide and 0.16m deep. Possible **pit**.

Feature 55		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
148	Reddish brown friable silty clay with occasional small angular flint fragments.	0.44m
149	Yellowish brown friable silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments.	?

Uncertain feature with steep concave sides. Not fully revealed so the depth is unknown. It is 1.02m wide. Possible **pit**. Cuts context 146. Truncates feature 35.

Feature 110		
Filled with		
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Max. Depth</i>
109	Yellowish brown firm silty clay with occasional small angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments. Peagrit occurs at the base of the feature.	0.21m

Circular (?) feature with vertical to concave sides with a rounded base. It is 0.23m wide and 0.21m deep. Possible **post-hole**.

Feature 198		Trench 5
Filled with		
Context	Description	Max. Depth
199	Dark brown sticky silty clay with frequent small angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments. Same as context 56. One sherd of late Iron Age and 14 of 1st century AD pottery.	?
Linear regular feature with steep concave sides. Not fully revealed so the depth is unknown. It is 1.20m wide. Possible linear ditch running north-south. Same as feature 37.		

Feature 203		
Filled with		
Context	Description	Max. Depth
204	Dark greyish brown friable silty clay with occasional rounded and angular flint and chalk fragments.	?
Linear regular feature with steep concave sides. Feature not fully revealed so depth unknown. It is 0.80m wide. Possible linear ditch running east-west.		

Feature 205		Trench 5
Filled with		
Context	Description	Max. Depth
206	Greyish brown friable silty clay with frequent small to medium angular and rounded flint and chalk fragments.	?
Linear regular feature with steep concave sides. Not fully revealed so the depth is unknown. It is 0.55m wide , though it does differ in both sections, suggesting that the feature is tapering towards the east. Possible linear ditch running east-west.		

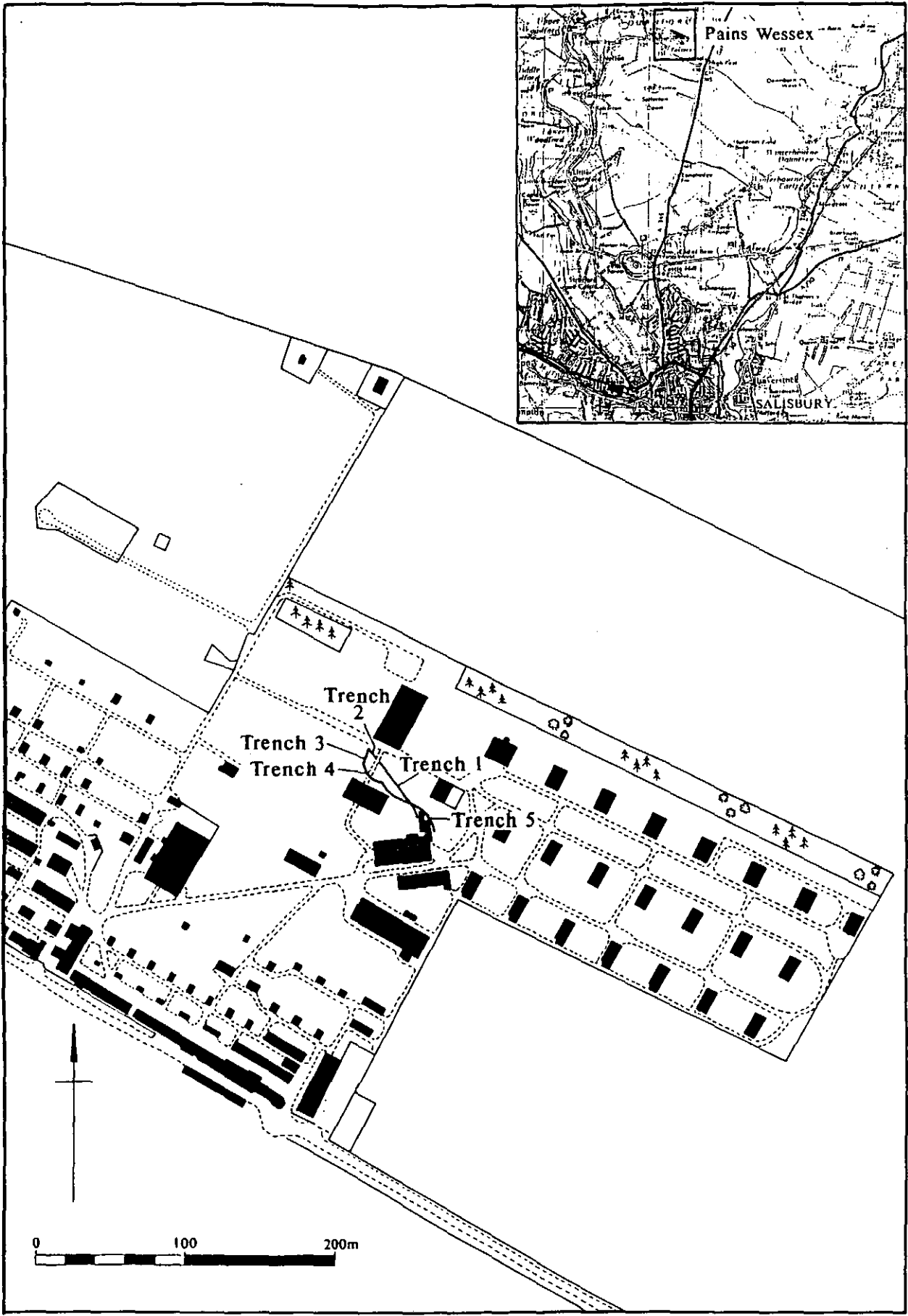


Figure 1: Location of Trenches

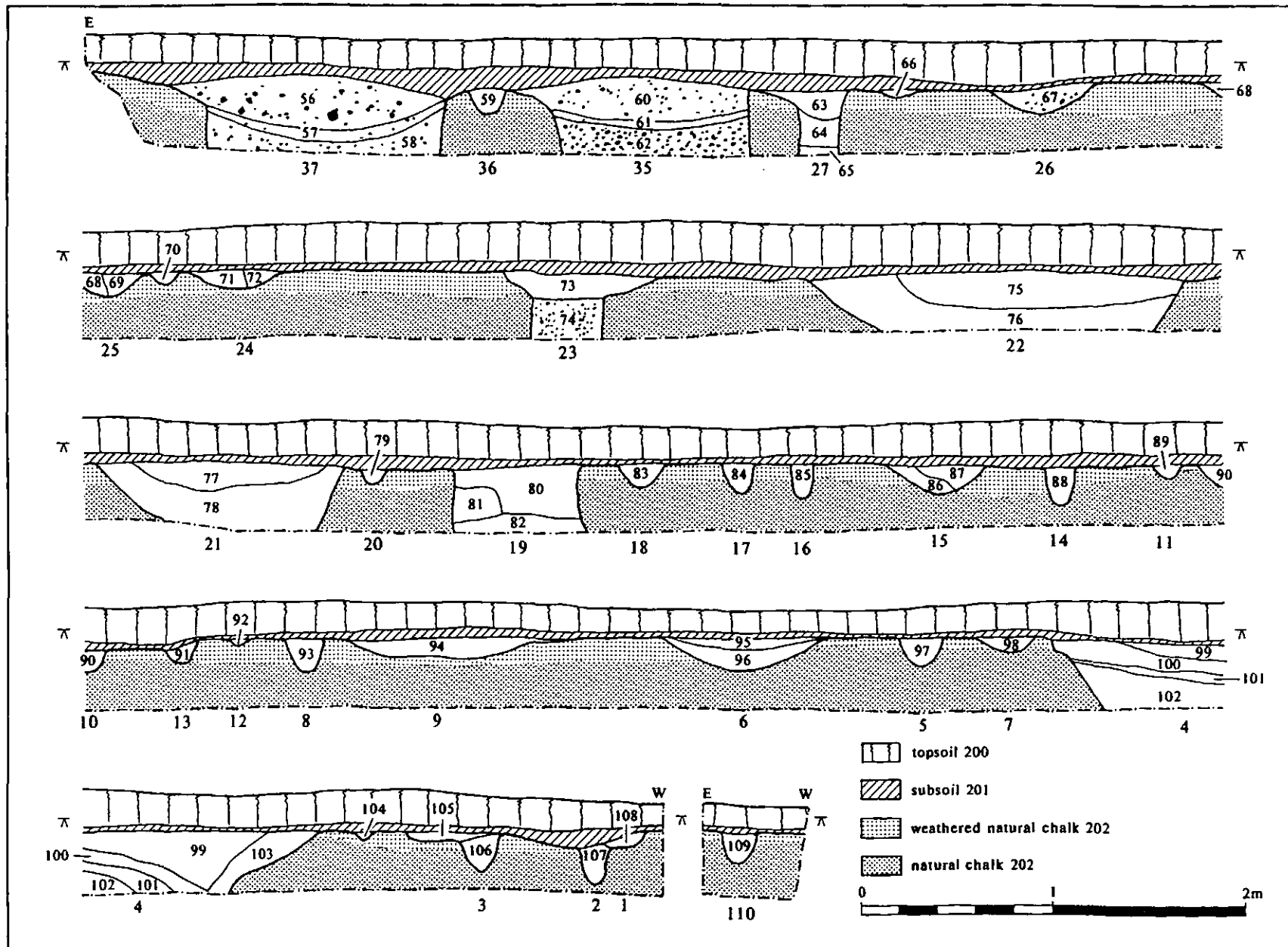


Figure 2: South facing section of Trench 1

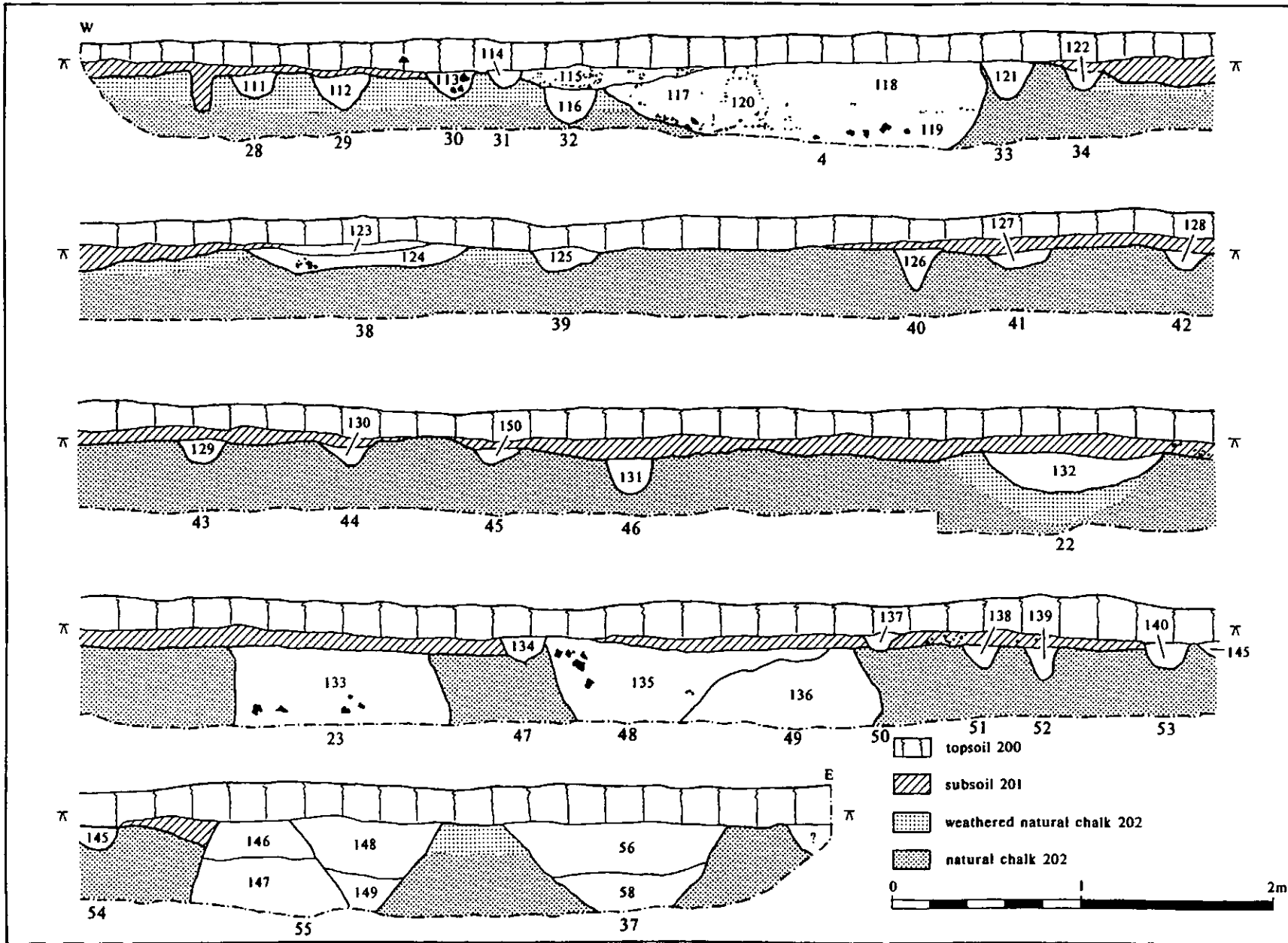


Figure 3: North facing section of Trench 1



Wessex Archaeology

21 APR 1996

Add to
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OUR REF: APF/RSI/3/38977B

29th March 1996

Helena Cave-Penney
Archaeology Service
Wiltshire County Council
Library and Museum Service
Bythesea Road
TROWBRIDGE
Wiltshire BA14 8BS

Dear Helena

Pains Wessex, High Post: Watching Brief

The report on this project should be incorporated in 'Excavation and Fieldwork in Wiltshire in 1995' in the next *WAM*

At the moment I am inclined to think that, despite the wealth of evidence, the summary plus a reference, is the appropriate level of publication. However, it would be well worthwhile reproducing one of the sections, if the editor will accept this (e.g. as enclosed).

I would be grateful for your thoughts on this matter.

Yours sincerely

~~Dr~~ *Wishes*

Anders

DR A P FITZPATRICK MIFA
Project Manager

encl.

**PAINS WESSEX, HIGH POST:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

SUMMARY

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Wiltshire County Council to undertake an archaeological Watching Brief at the Pains Wessex factory, High Post, **Middle Woodford** (centred on SU 143 370). Work undertaken in the 1950s had indicated the existence of a Romano-British settlement in the immediate vicinity (Musty 1957).

The Watching Brief confirmed that the Romano-British site extended into the current development site and allows the suggestion to be made that the deposits recorded by Musty at some depth below the natural ground surface were associated with a grain drier.

A hitherto unsuspected Mid-Late Iron Age settlement was also identified. The range of postholes, pits and ditches with the potential to yield well-preserved environmental data and which can certainly or probably be attributed to the Iron Age suggest an intensive occupation, whose extent and dating has yet to be defined (**Fig. 1**).

Due to the limited dating evidence available and the fact that the postholes were seen in section only interpretation is necessarily limited. However, the density of features is comparable to local sites of Iron Age with extensive sequences of occupation such as Little Woodbury, Salisbury (Bersu 1940), while the sequence of Iron Age and Romano-British settlement finds immediate local parallels in the sites at Boscombe Down (Richardson 1951). A possible enclosure ditch, which would not be inappropriate in either an Iron Age or Romano-British context, has also been identified on aerial photographs.

REFERENCES

Bersu, G., 1940, 'Excavations at Little Woodbury, Wiltshire, Part I: the settlement as revealed by excavation', *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 6, 30-111

Musty J. W. G., 1957, 'A Romano-British Building at Highpost, Middle Woodford', *WAM* 57, 173-5

Richardson K. M., 1951 'The excavations of Iron Age villages on Boscombe Down West', *WAM* 54, 123-68

CAPTION

Figure 1

Pains Wessex, High Post. Pits, ditches, postholes and other archaeological features recorded in the south facing section of the machine cut trench. Drawn by Rob Read.

A P Fitzpatrick

Wessex Archaeology

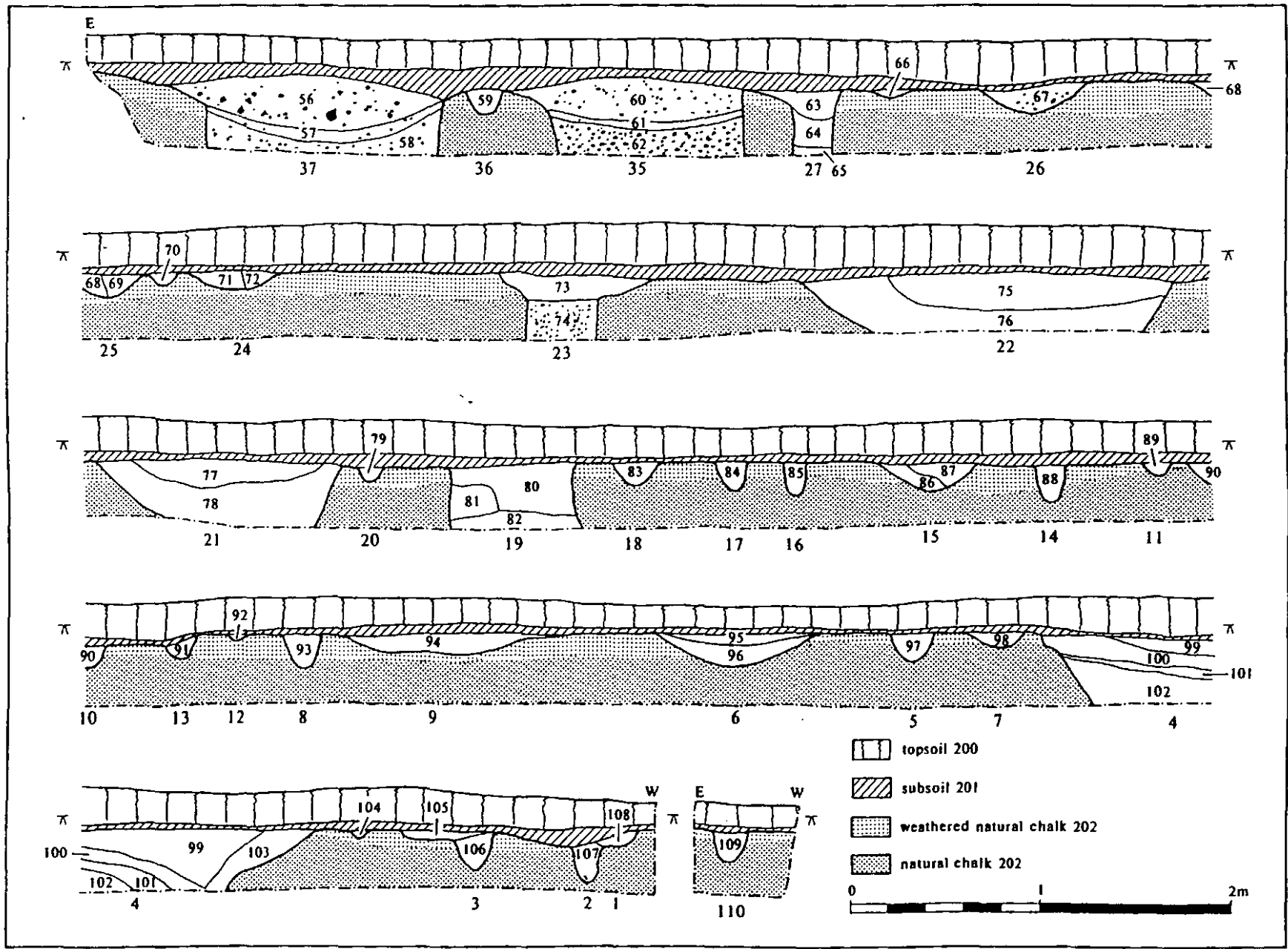


Figure 2: South facing section of Trench 1

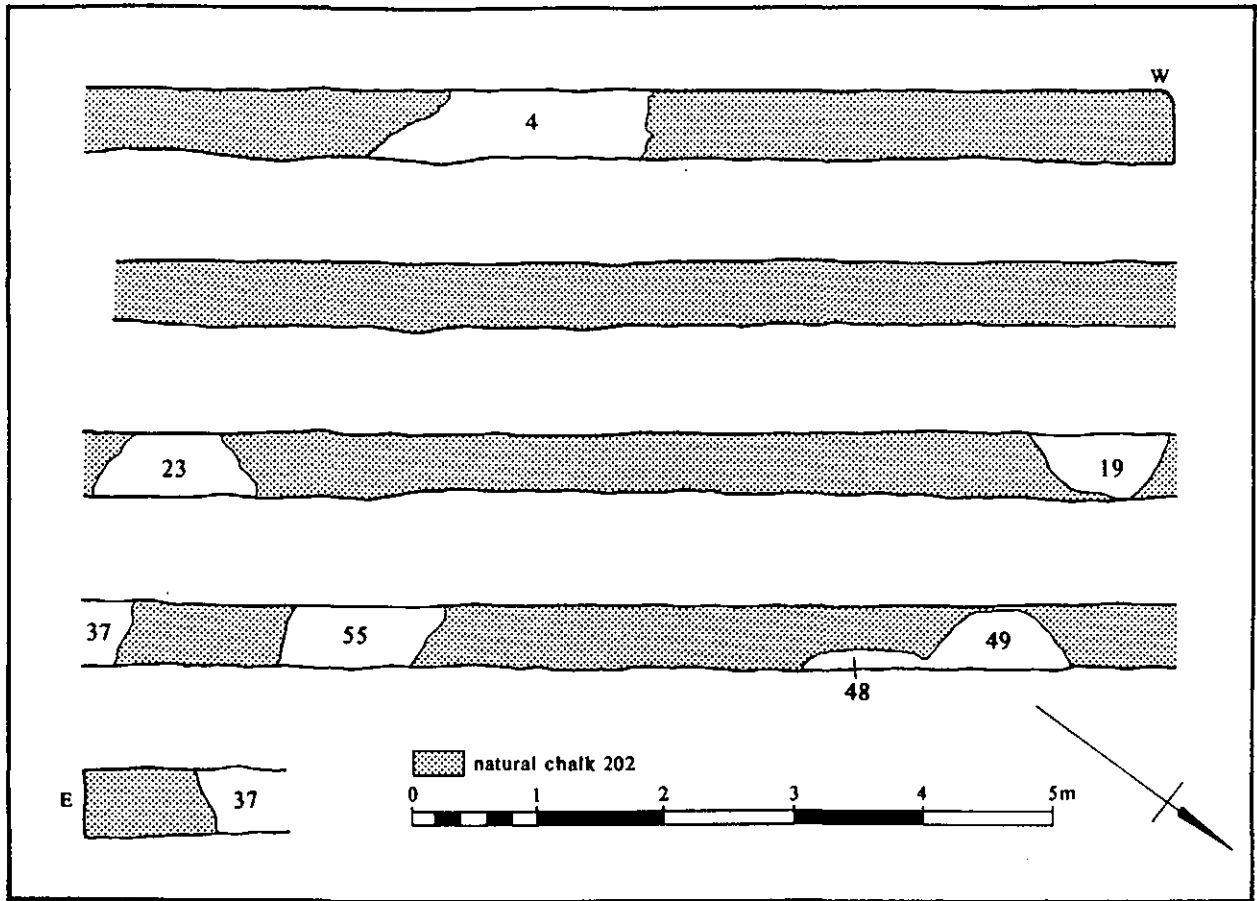


Figure 4: Plan of Trench I



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