An Archaeological Watching Brief and Archaeological Recording at Haymarket Towers, Leicester (planning app. 95/0891/5)

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The Haymarket Towers site lies to the east of the Roman and medieval defences in an area known to have been an extra-mural cemetery zone in the Roman period. Archaeological work in advance of and during development in 1996-7 revealed Roman features including a group of thirteen Romano-British inhumations, probably dating to the fourth century. Other Roman features included a ditch and several gullies. The graves exhibit a funerary ritual of supine inhumations in coffins with some variation in orientation and provision of grave offerings. Four graves contained footwear and one was accompanied by a small pottery vessel. There was also an unusual prone burial with footwear. The next period of identified activity occurred in the medieval period evident from ditches and pits reflecting activities at the border of the town's East Field and suburban activity along Gallowtree Gate. Burial vaults and grave pits from the 19th century Congregational Chapel were also observed.

1 Introduction

The following document is an excavation archive report for the archaeological works undertaken at the Haymarket Towers development from July 1996 to March 1997. The results from the evaluation have been reported previously (Higgins 1996; Higgins and Cooper 1997). A separate osteological report has been produced by Simon Chapman (ULAS report 97/29). This reports on the skeletal analysis on the Roman graves detailed below, the two Roman inhumations discovered nearby in 1991 and the Victorian inhumations from the Congregational Chapel.

2 Background

The area which is now called Haymarket Towers has a planning background going back to 1989 when an archaeological assessment was undertaken for "the Leicester Centre" (planning application 89/0440; Jarrett and Graf 1989). The report drew attention to the likely occurrence of a Roman cemetery based upon previous discoveries in this extra-mural area (illus. 1). However, it also demonstrated the considerable damage to archaeological deposits which had already occurred from modern development in the area, particularly the basement of Lewis's department store, the Congregational Chapel and telephone exchange, would have destroyed much of the archaeological deposits. A subsequent evaluation in March 1991 revealed two Roman burials, intercutting medieval pits, an undated ditch and the emptied vaults of the 19th century Congregational chapel (Lucas 1992, 186).

In 1995 a further planning application (95/0891/5) was made for the proposed development of the Haymarket Towers. This included the demolition of the Lewis's department store and the construction of a new retail development. The planning archaeologist, Anne Graf, identified two areas requiring archaeological evaluation:

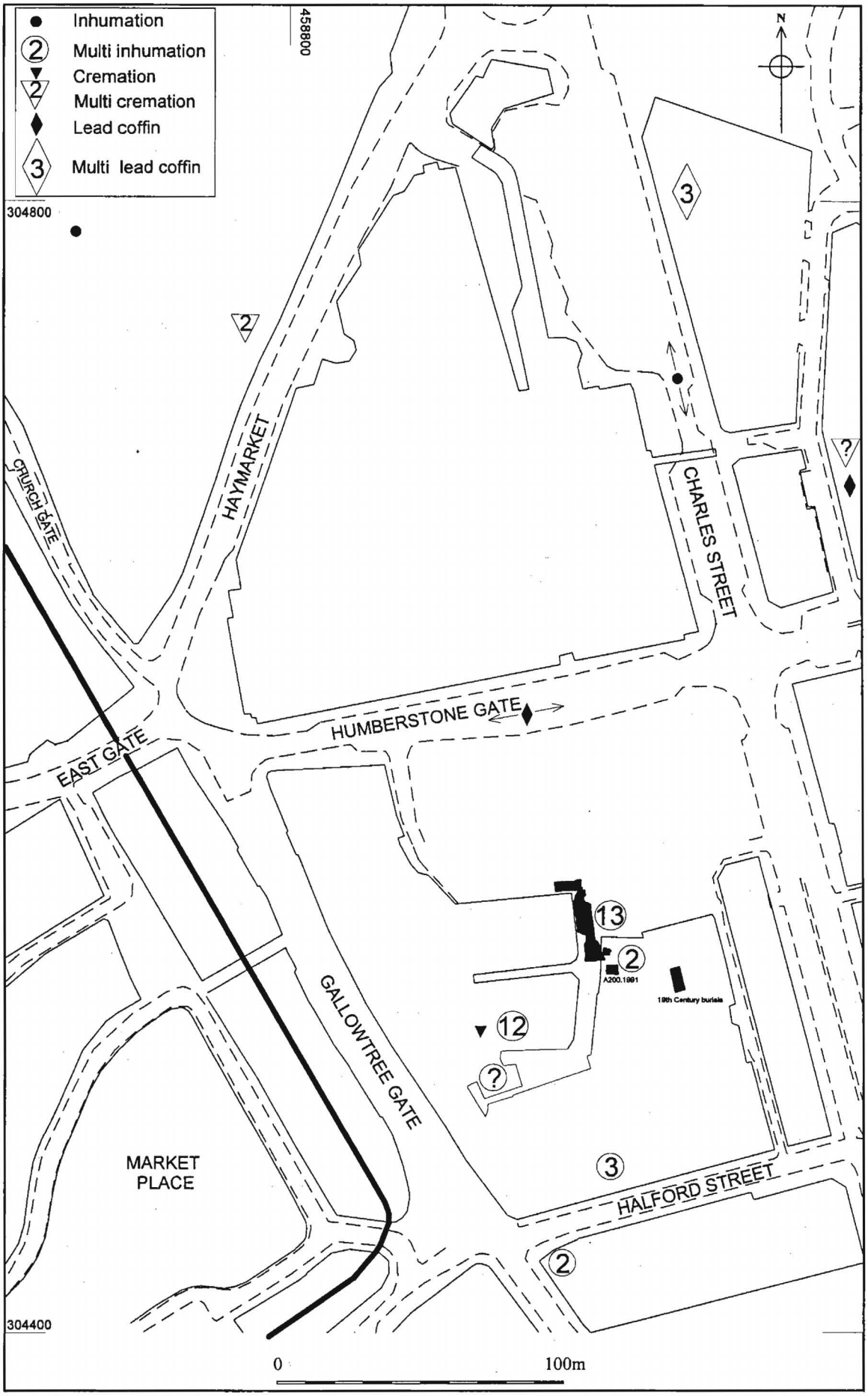


Figure 1: Location plan of site A40.1996 in relation to modern Leicester showing the projected course of the Roman town wall and other known Roman burials in the vicinity. Based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:10 000 map with permission of the Controller of HMSO, © Crown Copyright. ULAS license no. AL51800A0001.

1 the site of the proposed electricity sub-station on Free Lane where there was the potential for Roman burials

2 the site of the proposed new Link Building in the southern area of the former Fox Lane where there was good potential for survival of archaeological deposits including Roman burials and medieval remains between the basements of Lewis's and Marks and Spencer's.

A watching brief was also proposed for areas outside existing basements where groundworks were to be undertaken.

An archaeological evaluation in advance of the new sub-station revealed the fragmentary survival of Roman and medieval deposits along an undisturbed, narrow strip of natural subsoil. Following the evaluation a watching brief on all groundworks was maintained in July and September 1996 by T. Higgins. Much of the area had been destroyed by previous basements but there were occasional islands of undisturbed ground. A Roman inhumation was located during ground reduction works for a new service yard next to Lower Free Lane. Nineteenth century graves and vaults relating to the Congregational Chapel were also recorded. A Home Office licence for the removal of human remains was granted for these and subsequent burials (Licence No. 23442, File No. BCR/96/5/6/4). The burials from the Congregational Chapel were subsequently re-interred at Gilroes Cemetery, Leicester.

In October an evaluation was undertaken in an area to the rear of Marks and Spencers (Fox Lane) under the direction of the author. Early results confirmed the archaeological potential and so the area was subject to full excavation. Twelve inhumations of late Roman date were located together with other features of Roman and medieval date. In March 1997 a watching brief was maintained on an area immediately to the north by T. Higgins. This revealed no further burials but a few truncated post-Roman features.

3 Aims

1 To monitor all groundworks and identify any areas with archaeological potential.

2 To mitigate any destruction of archaeological deposits by a measured archaeological response, balanced against the practicalities of the development programme.

3 To excavate an appropriate sample of any archaeological deposits threatened by the development.

4 Methodology

The area targeted for excavation was the potentially undisturbed ground beneath the southern end of Fox Lane. The southern and northern trench limits were given by previous basement cuts for the Marks and Spencer and Lewis's stores. The timing of the excavation was built into the development programme though planned work on an inspection chamber at the southern end of the trench made that zone a priority. Therefore, the overburden strip was started from this end with a JCB with ditching bucket removing modern overburden and a cultivation soil down to archaeological features or the level of natural ground (whichever was highest). Within the first 7m length of the trench several shallow burials were encountered and so machine excavation was

suspended until these burials had been recorded and excavated. The remaining available area was stripped a few days later. A small area just to the north was dealt with in March 1997 as it became available.

The excavation strategy was to excavate fully all identified graves and to excavate a sample of all other features. Excavation and recording followed standard ULAS methods. The graves were each recorded in relation to two survey points usually positioned above the head and below the feet, outside of the grave pit. During excavation all finds, including individual pot sherds, were located on a 1:20 plan. This was annotated where necessary, for example to give details about the orientation of coffin nail points. Finds were levelled according to a specified survey point eg "0.13m below point A". Cleaned skeletons were drawn at 1:20 and photographed. The survey points of graves were related to the site grid with the exception of graves G1-3 which were surveyed by the site surveyor and located with NGR references. The site grid was related to the National Grid by the site surveyor.

During post-excavation analysis the graves were assigned grave numbers (prefixed with 'G') and other features were assigned feature numbers (prefixed with 'F'). Full descriptions of the deposits are retained in archive. Suffice to say all excavated deposits were sand derived with Roman features generally having more leached sandy fills than post-Roman features.

5 Results

5.1 Natural ground and topography

The modern ground level in this area is at *c.* 61m OD with a gentle fall to the north and east, a gradual rise to the south, and a more substantial rise to the west. The latter can be accounted for by the increasing depth of archaeological strata within the historic core of the town and suburban build up along Gallowtree Gate. The natural substrata of sand was at *c.* 60m OD across the trench. It would appear that the natural substrata was quite variable hereabouts - Dare (1927) recorded natural clay substrata with occasional pockets of sand at a depth of six feet across the Boots site, immediately to the south-west of the present site. Higgins (1996) recorded a natural subsoil of yellowish brown clay at *c.* 60.7m OD. This was overlain by archaeological strata up to 0.70m thick and modern overburden of 0.40m depth.

5.2 Roman features (illus. 2)

Linear features F1-F5

Pit F6

Five linear features and a shallow pit are of suspected Roman date and have been grouped together. Dating resolution was poor due to the small amounts of pottery recovered or due to suspected residuality. F1 - F5 were all cut by furrow F8 but they lacked any relationships with each other. The ditch F3 and two gullies F1 and F5 are broadly parallel which may indicate that they were contemporary. They bear a similar axis to the graves though, given the lack of any stratigraphic links, there is uncertainty about the sequence of graves and linear features.

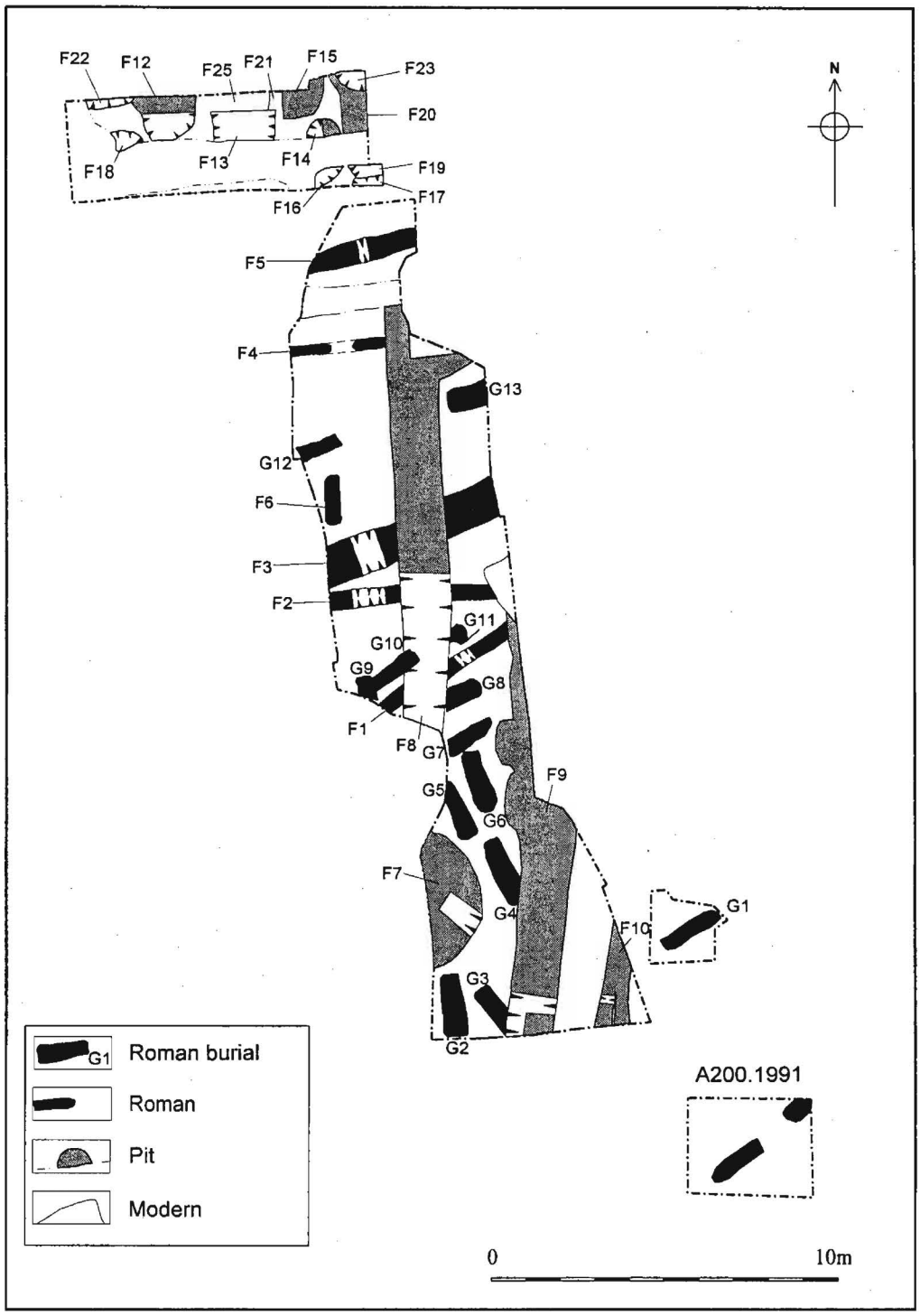


Figure 2: Site plan showing features of all phases.

Table 1: Attributes and context concordance of Roman features (non-graves)

Feature	Description	Contexts fills	cut	Finds evidence
F1	Gully	96	97	2 small RB sherds.
F2	Gully	81, 82	83	20 RB sherds inc. 3rd-4th century. 1 small medieval sherd assumed to be intrusive
F3	Ditch	88	89	19 RB sherds of 2nd-4th century. 1 small frag of CBM. Roman copper alloy spoon probe (SF 194).
F4	Gully			No finds
F5	Gully	98		1 RB sherd
F6	Pit (?Grave)			No finds

5.3 Roman Cemetery

Graves G1-13

The inhumations were generally very shallow and several had been badly disturbed by post-Roman activity, possibly ploughing or cultivation, e.g. graves G7 and G11. Some graves had been truncated by the modern basements. Skeletal survival was also greatly affected by the local sandy substratum such that bone epiphyses rarely survived, and in some cases almost the whole skeleton was lost to chemical attrition e.g. grave G3. There is some discrepancy between the skeletal elements shown on illus. 4 and those listed in the osteological report. This was due to the complete fragmentation of many elements despite careful lifting.

Table 2: Attributes and context concordance of the graves

Grave	Skel. No.	Fill	Cut	Sex	Age	Coffin evidence	Grave goods
G1	44	46	47	M	30-35	4? nails	
G2	51	50	52	m?	55+	6 nails	hobnailed footwear at feet end, against side of grave
G3	64	63	65	m?	30-35	13 nails and stain	
G4	54	53	55	m?	adult	12 nails	small pottery vessel outside of left knee
G5	77	76	78	?	adult	1 nail	hobnailed footwear at feet end, hobnail positions suggest that shoes were placed rather than worn
G6	73	72, 75	74	f?	adult	10 nails	20 hobnails towards the feet indicate disturbed footwear.
G7	70	69	71	?	adult	4 nails	
G8	85	84	86	?	35-40		
G9	87	79	92	m?	30-40	2 nails	pottery handle directly beneath skull apparently to make skull face right (west)
G10	103	80	104	M	45-55	2 nails	hobnailed footwear at feet end, disturbed by later activity
G11[1]	101	100	102	?	adult	nail	
G12	94	93	95	m?	adult	2 nails	
G13	67	66	68	m?	adult		

[1] The skeletal remains were thought to be charnel by Chapman (1997) but would appear to be the remains of a separate burial.

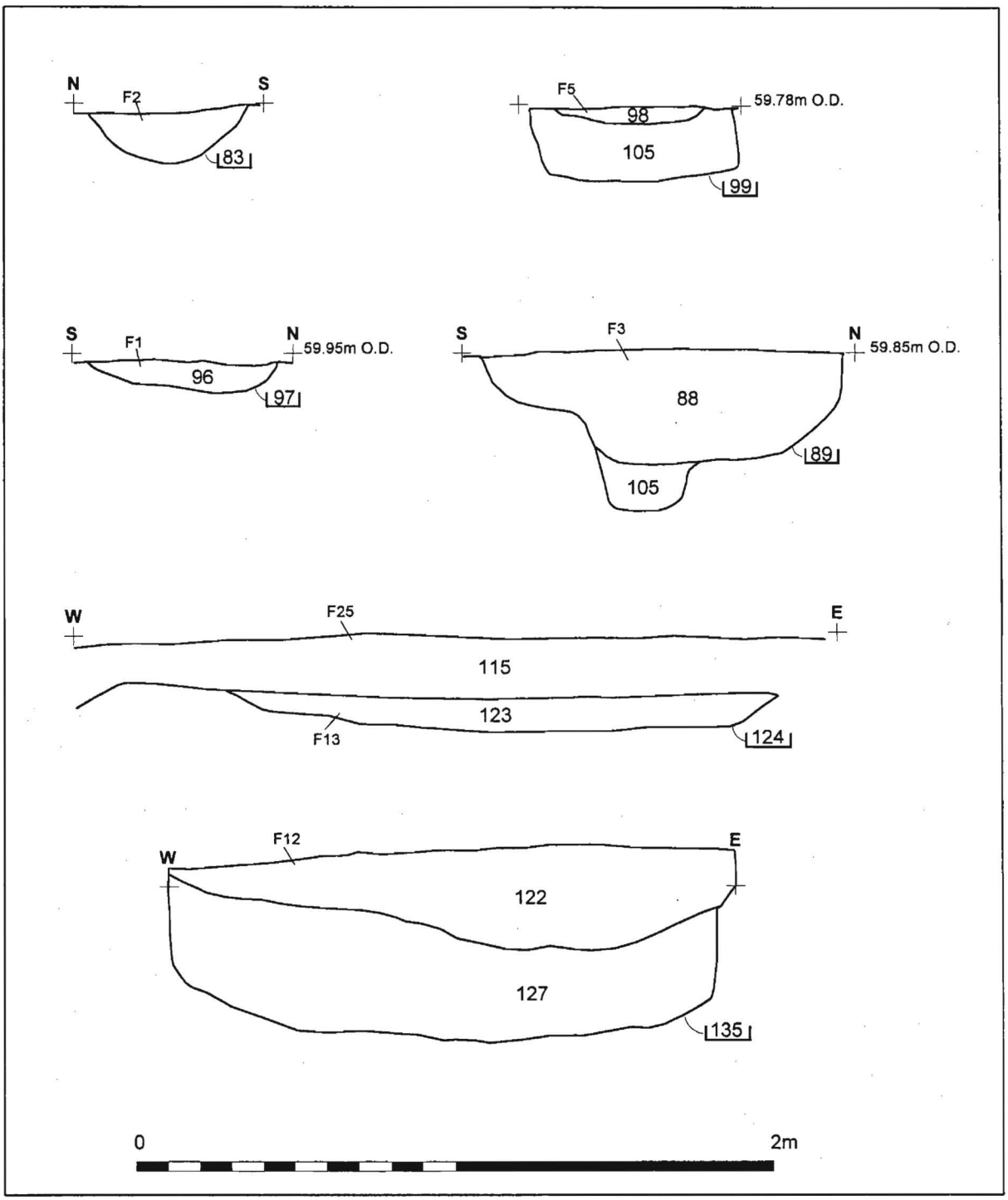


Figure 3: Sections

Cemetery Population

Due to the poor bone survival there is some uncertainty of gender for the majority of individuals (table 2). However, all were adult and included two certain males, six possible males, one possible female and four indeterminate. The adjacent burials excavated in 1991 were of two certain adult males. At the nearby Boots site Dare (1927) reports the gender of four adult individuals, three males and one female, though there is no account of which skeletal attributes were used to assign gender. Despite the small sample size it would appear that there is a bias towards adult males in this burial group. The absence of individuals from the lower age ranges is not thought to be due to taphonomic reasons ie the differential preservation of adult bones. If younger burials had been interred it would be expected that appropiately sized grave pits would have been observed. The only feature that could be interpreted as a grave pit F6 was of a comparable size to other graves.

An apparent adult male bias has been reported from other cemeteries in Roman Britain. At Bath Gate, Cirencester 71% of burials were males and it has been suggested that the population may have included a large proportion of retired soldiers and government officials. However, a similar proportion of males at London has been attributed to the gravitation of males to urban centres for employment (de la Bédoyère 1992, 117-8). At Leicester, the broadly contemporary population recovered from the Newarke Street site shows a contrasting pattern with an even gender balance and all age groups represented (Wakeley 1996, 33). However, there is a predominance of females dying in the younger age groups which Wakeley (1996, 34) suggests may be due to a high mortality associated with pregnancy and childbirth, leaving more of the male population to survive into the later years.

Cemetery layout

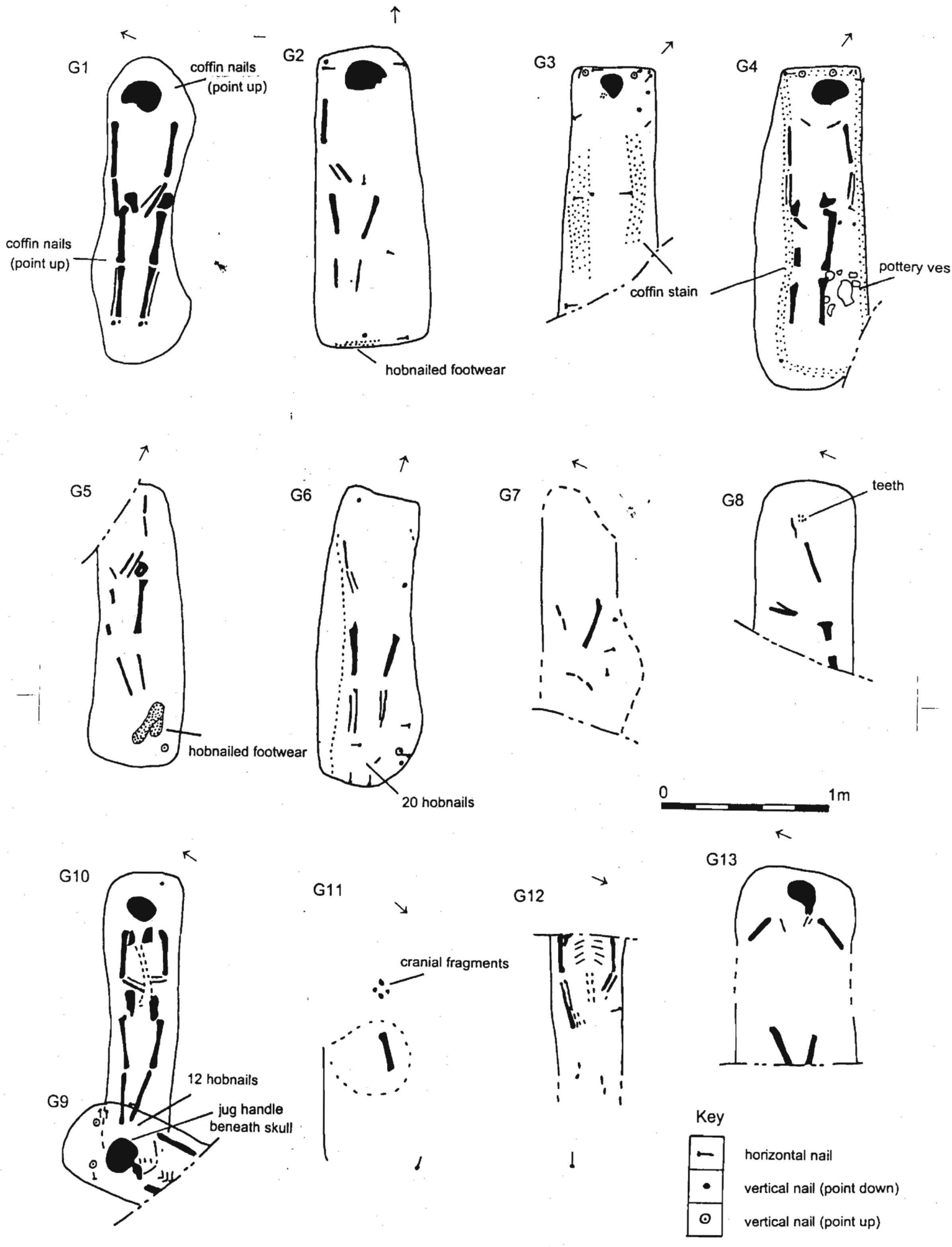
In the small area excavated some patterning can be discerned. The graves are orientated on two distinct axes, NNW-SSE and WSW-ENE (but hereafter regarded as N-S and E-W). There is a general trend for N-S burials to the south of the site giving way to E-W to the north. Although the E-W burials appear to reflect the alignment of some of the linear features (F1 and F3) they occur to either side of these features. It is possible that the graves were infilling earlier plots.

Grave pits

The grave pits were rectangular with vertical sides and flat bases with dimensions suitable to accommodate the coffin (or corpse). They were generally very shallow, just cut into the top of the natural substrata though some truncation of the upper surface of the natural sands may have occurred with medieval ploughing and/or cultivation. There is a suspicion that some of the graves had not been fully excavated by the archaeologist (eg graves G1 and G4), with the coffin stain having been seen as the grave cut. This occurred with the western side of grave G6 and was only recognised following the lifting of the skeleton. The small size of the grave for G10 may be another example.

Coffins

Probable evidence for coffins in the form of nails was observed in eleven graves, of which three also demonstrated a coffin either by a distinct stain (G3 and G4) or by fill


G1
coffin nails (point up)
coffin nails (point up)
G2
hobnailed footwear
G3
coffin stain
G4
pottery ves
G5
hobnailed footwear
G6
20 hobnails
G7
G8
teeth
0
1m
G10
12 hobnails
G9
jug handle beneath skull
G11
cranial fragments
G12
G13
Key
horizontal nail
vertical nail (point down)
vertical nail (point up)

differentiation (G6). Other cemetery studies have used an arbritary minimum number of nails to signify a coffin, for example at Cirencester only graves with over three nails were analysed for evidence of coffin construction (Viner and Leach 1982, 87-8). However, for this study any grave with nails has been considered as likely to have been coffined. The small number of nails in some graves can be related to their extreme truncation. Of course, it is possible that coffins were constructed without the use of nails as exemplified locally at Great Holme Street (John Lucas, pers. comm.) At Newarke Street the occasional use of nails was noted and thought to perhaps relate to the strengthening of weak joints. With such difficulties it was thought better to state that 'no graves produced positive evidence for the lack of coffins' (Cooper 1996, 23).

Four graves had coffin nail patterns which allow a consideration of construction techniques. At the Butt Road cemetery, Colchester the standard coffin construction was of head and foot boards set within the side boards with a base board which ran the full length and width of the box (Crummy and Crossan 1993, 34-5 and 120-2). A similar construction method can be inferred from the nail positions in graves G4 and G9 (illus. 4 and 5). An alternative construction method in a few of the Butt Road graves showed side and end boards nailed to the edge of a smaller base board ie base board within the side and end boards (Crummy and Crossan 1993, 121). This is the probable coffin construction for G2 (though no nails for fixing the end boards were noted). Similarly, the horizontal nails recorded at the base of G3 attest to side boards attached to the outside of a base board. However, the head board (foot board evidence lost to later truncation) showed an unusual variation in being joined on the base board and butting over the side boards providing a corner gap. Such an aberrant construction might imply a lack of carpentry skill, though it may have been compensated by timber jointing of which we have no evidence.

Corpse orientation and position

Corpse orientation is approximately the same as the grave pits and can be seen on illus. 2 and 4. Three burials had the head to the west, three had the head to east, six were buried with the head to the north and one was uncertain. It would appear that burials in graves orientated N-S were not buried with the head to the south, suggesting conformity to an established norm. The orientation of the Haymarket Towers graves contrasts with those recorded at the near-contemporary Newarke Street site where the norm was for burials with head to the west.

With the exception of grave G10 the burials had all been laid out in a supine position. Grave G10 was in an unusual prone position. The skull and right humerus were at a noticeably higher level and the skull was tilted back quite severely. The position can probably be accounted for by the taphonomy of corpse decomposition. As the chest cavity collapsed the right humerus appeared to have caught on the side of the grave (or coffin). The position of the head was probably caused by the tenacity of the ligaments in the region of the neck - as the body collapsed the head was pulled backwards (S. Chapman, pers. comm.).

Prone burials in formal cemeteries appear to be increasingly common in the fourth century (Philpott 1991, 73). There has been considerable discussion about the reasons for prone burials and a number of factors have been suggested (Philpott 1991, 74):

- There may have been ritual reasons for such treatment

- Some may represent hasty or careless burials, especially when burials were wrapped in shrouds
- There may have been intent to dishonour the dead, perhaps preventing a dead soul from passing to the otherworld. Prone burials are often located at the periphery of formal cemeteries.
- The attitude at death may have prevented the normal laying out of the corpse.

Grave offerings

Four burials were accompanied by footwear evident from their hobnailed soles. In each case the footwear was located towards the feet end of the grave. For graves G2 and G5 there was evidence for the deliberate placement of the footwear rather than them being worn at the time of burial. In G2 a pair of shoes had been placed on their sides, overlapping and against the edge of the grave pit or coffin with the soles facing the corpse. In G5 the distinct shape of two soles could clearly be seen. They had been laid flat, overlapping slightly with their soles lowermost (i.e. nail points up). The footwear from G6 and G10 had both been somewhat displaced by later activity. G10, dated to the 4th century, is notable for the prone position of the corpse - hobnails are rare for such burials (Philpott 1991, 173).

Hobnails were also recorded with one of the two later Roman burials located in 1991 during an evaluation immediately to the east of the present site (Lucas 1991). Two later Roman graves from the Republic Car Park site in Oxford Street also contained hobnails, one of which showed evidence for being deliberately placed and not worn on the feet (Gossip 1998 and pers. comm.). Hobnails were also recorded from two graves at Great Holme Street in the western suburbs of Leicester (Philpott 1991, 354).

Grave G4 was found with a fragmented small pottery vessel of 4th century date located just outside of the left knee and tibia (pieces of the vessel were also recovered from beneath the left tibia). Its position would suggest that it had been included within the coffin, or possibly on top of it.

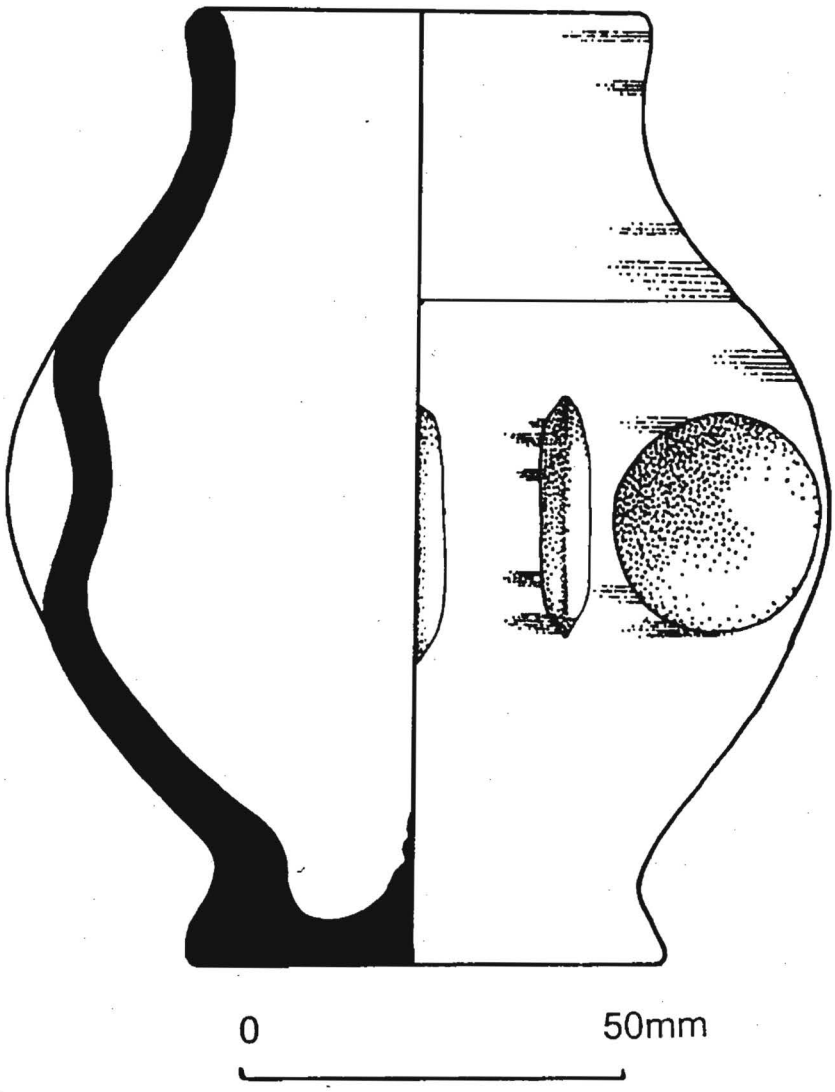
In G9 there was a pottery handle directly beneath the skull which appeared to have been deliberately positioned to support the head of the corpse (facing right, to the west). This is perhaps better described as possible grave furniture rather than an offering.

Several other graves produced sherds of Roman pottery whose condition (small and abraded) and range (showing a variety of fabric types) would suggest that they were residual pieces.

Dating

Given the layout of the cemetery, with the lack of intercutting graves, it is assumed that the burials in the area examined were broadly contemporary. However, direct dating evidence is sparse and limited to two of the graves. Grave G4 was associated with a small grey ware beaker that can be assigned to the 4th century. A sherd of 4th century pottery was recovered from G10.

Some support for a 4th century date for cemetery activity in this area is provided by the evidence from the adjacent Boots site (Dare 1927). Dr. R. Pollard has re-evaluated the dating of the pottery vessels associated with the graves - these can all be assigned to the mid to late fourth century (Pollard, pers. comm.; Cooper 1996, 29). An associated glass



5 Pottery vessel from grave G4

drinking vessel has also been assigned to a similar date (see Conclusion below for further discussion).

The eastern suburbs cemetery area

As with the Newarke Street area much of the evidence for the Roman cemetery is based upon chance observations during construction work. The most pertinent site for this discussion is 30-6 Granby Street (Boots the chemists) recorded in 1926-7 by M. Paul Dare during building works (Dare 1927). The account of the discovery makes it clear that all of the burials were located by workmen. Although as many as 12 individuals may have been represented many of these had been disturbed in antiquity and by the workmen. The groups presented by Dare are really little better than locations for different observations. It would appear that none of the burials were excavated as such - no mention of grave pits etc. and all are described as lying on the floor of the natural clay, some six feet down. However, it is reasonable to accept that the finds of complete pots and a glass conical vessel were grave offerings even if we cannot be certain which graves they belong to.

In his discussion of the dating of the Boots burials Dare (1927), suggests a broad date range of AD 80-300, with the "greatest period of activity" at AD 100-180. However, in a re-evaluation of the dating evidence given by Dare for the Newarke Street area and the Boots site Dr. R. Pollard has shown the dates to be erroneous for much of the published pottery (pers. comm. and Cooper 1996, 29). The pottery vessels from Boots (Dare 1927, plate III) can now be assigned to a mid to late fourth century date. An associated truncated conical glass beaker with trailed decoration has also been placed in the fourth century (Cool and Price 1995, 92).

The two burials to the south east (A200.1991) were assigned a 3rd century date on the basis of pot sherds recovered from the grave fill. However, as this is probably residual pottery the burials could easily date to the 4th century.

Therefore it is suggested that many, if not all, of the burials in this area of the eastern suburbs cemetery are probably 4th century. This is important in that the grave group is feasibly contemporary with the recently excavated group of burials from Newarke Street (Cooper 1996). There are some stark contrasts in burial ritual between the two burial groups which may reflect religious or social differences (see Conclusion).

Other burials recovered from the eastern extra-mural area include Roman and Anglo-Saxon cremations from near the east gate (Clock Tower), inhumations from 54 Granby Street and four burials in lead (or lead-lined) coffins (illus. 1).

5.4 Medieval and early post-medieval features

Miscellaneous features F7-25

The features have been grouped together due to the poor quality of dating evidence (lack of stratigraphic links and sparse quantity of pottery). They have been presented here as they were interpreted on site. However, there is a strong suspicion that the layers F20-21 and F22 were actually the upper fills of features F13-15 which were intercutting.

When pottery was recovered it was invariably of an early medieval date, which is taken to indicate the likely date of many of the features. However, it is possible that some of the material is residual in later features. Two features (F12 and F17) were thought by the excavator to be Roman in date, probably from the amounts of Roman material present.

However, both also produced medieval pottery. The medieval pottery was recovered from a lower fill of F12, so it is unlikely that the material is intrusive. The medieval sherds from F17 are fairly large, also suggesting that they were not intrusive.

Feature	Description	Contexts		Dating evidence from finds and stratigraphy
		fills	cut	
F7	Circular pit	61	62	4 sherds ranging from 13th century to early post-med.
F8	Furrow?	90	91	Post-dates Roman features.
F9	Ditch	56	57	13th century sherd. Cuts grave.
F10	Ditch	58	59	12th/13th century sherd
F11	Soil layer	60		
F12	Pit (stone-filled)	122, 127	135	12th/13th century sherds (x2)
F13	?Furrow	123	124	Overlain by layers F25 and F21. Equivalent to F8.
F14	Pit	130	131	Overlain by F21
F15	Pit	125	126	Overlain by F21
F16	Cut feature	112	117	
F17	Pit	111	118	12/13th century sherds (x2) and ?residual RB sherds (x11) and tile. Cut by F19.
F18	Pit	128	134	
F19	Linear cut	119	120	Post-dates F17
F20	Layer	121		12th/13th century sherd
F21	Layer	113		medieval sherds (x7) inc 13th century. Post-dates F13-15.
F22	Layer	129		
F23	Pit	133	132	Post-dates F20, 'looked modern'
F24	?Post-hole	114	116	Post-dates F21
F25	Layer	115		Medieval pot inc 11/12th (x1) and 13th century sherds (x4). Post dates F13.

The features in the southern trench could be interpreted as field boundaries and a plough furrow. The majority of post-Roman features were located in the northern trench, indicating more intensive activity in that area. The large circular pit F7, of early post-medieval date could be interpreted as a sand quarry.

Suburban settlement in the Bishop's fee, the eastern suburbs, is documented from the 13th century, though much of this was probably to the east of St. Margaret's church and along Belgrave Gate (Courtney 1998, 123). By the early modern period there is substantial settlement along Humberstone Gate and Gallowtree Gate and the suburb formed the wealthiest part of the borough (Courtney 1998, 123). The Speed map of 1610 (surveyed *c.* 1600) shows a continuous line of buildings along the eastern side of Gallowtree Gate, though the topographic accuracy is questionable. Further detail is provided by the William Senior Survey of the Bishop's Fee 1627 which shows plot divisions along Gallowtree Gate and two major buildings. The Haymarket Towers trenches were set well back from the Gallowtree Gate frontage, though it is feasible that ditch F8 represents the back plot boundary seen on the 1627 map. A ?medieval stone wall was discovered by Dare (1927) on the Boots property just to the south-west of the site.

5.5 19th Century

Graves G14-18

Grave	Context	Description
G14	48	Infant burial in wooden coffin
G15	49	Partially exhumed grave - leg bones remaining
G16		Empty grave - skeleton exhumed
G17		Brick built grave vault - skeleton exhumed
G18		Brick built grave vault - skeleton exhumed

The graves are remnants of the graveyard of the Congregational Chapel. The graves were exhumed prior to the building of the Telephone Exchange, though evidently some graves were overlooked. The skeletal remains have been re-interred at Gilroes Cemetery.

6 Conclusion

As suspected the archaeological remains in this area of Leicester have been heavily disturbed by 19th and 20th century development. However, as shown in these recent excavations, there can be localised areas where survival of deposits is good.

The excavation has provided another small but informative sample of late Roman burials from Leicester. It has been suggested that the burials were near contemporary to the Newarke Street sample excavated in 1993-4 (Cooper 1996) dating to the latter half of the fourth century. Both areas show formal cemeteries with inhumations buried in coffins and a general lack of grave intersection. However, there are contrasting aspects of the burial ritual and the demographic structure of the populations. The Newarke Street graves were characterised by the lack of grave goods such as pottery and glass vessels and hobnails. The corpses had been layed out in a supine position, aligned with the head to the west, and included many examples with discontinuous stone linings (interpreted as coffin markers). Demographically the burials demonstrated an even gender spread with all age groups represented. In contrast, the Haymarket Towers burials were often provided with such grave goods and exhibited a range of grave/corpse alignment. There was also a rare example of a prone burial. There would appear to be a strong bias towards adult male burials in the Haymarket Towers area. These differences between the two sites suggest that the different areas were used by different social groups and lends some support to the interpretation of the Newarke Street burials as Christian and the Haymarket Towers examples as pagan (Cooper 1996; *sensu* Watts 1991).

7 Archive

The archive will be deposited at Jewry Wall Museum, Leicester under the accession number A40.1996. This includes the site and post-excavation records for each stage of the project, including the evaluation reported previously.

The documentary archive comprises:

- 27 site plans on 11 A2 permatrace sheets
- 9 section drawings on three A2 permatrace sheets
- 124 colour slides, labelled with film and shot numbers
- 110 monochrome contact prints and negatives
- 135 context or skeleton sheets

- site indices for contexts, sections, plans, films and soil samples
- digital files from Intsurveyor (digitised plans and sections) - the plan files have been almagamated as a single Turbocad file related to NGR. Illus. 1 and 2 are produced from this master file.

The material archive comprises:

- the human skeletal material in archive boxes
- Roman and post-Roman ceramics, animal bone, building material, metal finds and other finds in archive boxes

9 Publication and presentation

A short report distilled from the above archive will be submitted to the editor for inclusion in the next volume of *The Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*. An interim report was published in the latter journal in 1997.

10 Bibliography

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Lynden Cooper, November 1998.

APPENDIX: FINDS REPORTS

The Roman Pottery — Patrick Marsden

A total of 197 sherds of Roman pottery, weighing 1629 g was recovered from the site. This consists of wares typically found at sites in Leicester (Pollard 1994, 112-114). The overall date range for the pottery is 1st-4th century, although much of the diagnostically earlier material is residual in later features.

Grave G4 produced most of a grey ware beaker with alternating circular and double slit folds (illus. 5). The outer surface of the beaker is a dark grey colour and burnished. Similar forms are known within the Nene Valley colour-coated ware tradition (Howe et al 1980, Fig. 5 nos. 51-53), which this vessel is probably copying. On this basis a 4th century date is suggested for the beaker.

Full ware and fabric records for the Roman pottery by context were recorded on ULAS sheets and are retained in archive.

Post-Roman pottery — Deborah Sawday

Context	Fabric	Ware	Sherd No.	Weight Grams	Comments
<117>, 53	PM	Potters Marston	1	2	12/13th century
<176>, 80	CG	Calcite Gritted	1	3	12/13th century
(56)	NO3	Nottingham ware 3	1	6	green glazed, c. mid 13th c.
(58)	PM	Potters Marston	1	17	convex base, sooted externally, 12th/13th century
(61)	PM	Potters Marston	1	28	12th/13th century
(61)	CW2/MB	Cistercian/Midland Blackware	1	11	late medieval/early post medieval
(61)	CC1	Chilvers Coton ware 1	1	12	green glazed, knife trimmed, 13th century
(61)	NO3	Nottingham ware 3	1	52	green glazed, lightly reduced internally, later 13th century
(75)	CG	Calcite Gritted	1	2	12th/13th century
(81)	NO3	Nottingham ware 3	1	11	glazed & lightly reduced internally, later 13th century
(110)	EA10	White Earthenware	6	85	modern
(111)	PM	Potters Marston	2	18	sooted externally, 12th/13th century
(113)	PM	Potters Marston	2	53	flat base & upright, squared, cooking pot/jar rim, both sherds sooted
(113)	SP3	Splashed ware 3	1	9	convex base, spots of orange glaze
(113)	CC1	Chilvers Coton ware 1	1	4	green glaze
(113)	MS3	Medieval sandy ware 3	3	52	2 with yellowish green glaze & one with incised horizontal lines, probably all 13th century
(115)			1	5	Roman
(115)	ST2	Stamford ware 2	1	8	sooted & knife trimmed externally, c.1050-1200
(115)	PM	Potters Marston	3	29	upright, collard cooking pot jar rim with internal thickening
(115)	MS3	Medieval Sandy ware 3	1	8	probably 13th century
(121)	PM	Potters Marston	1	17	upright bowl with everted rim, probably 13th century,
(122)	PM	Potters Marston	1	4	
(122)	CC1	Chilvers Coton ware 1	1	4	
(122)	CC2	Chilvers Coton ware 2	1	3	13th/14th century
(127)	LY4	Stanion Lyveden type ware 4	1	12	12th/13th century

The Roman graves G4 and G10 each contained a single small fragment of 12th or 13th century medieval pottery , as did the ?Roman pit (111). The layers (113), (115) and (121) contained thirteen sherds of medieval pottery dating from the mid 11th to the 13th century. The four sherds from the pit, (122)(127), dated to the 13th, or possibly, the 14th

centuries, whilst the seven sherds from the linear features (56), (58) and (81) dated from the 12th or 13th centuries to the late medieval, or possibly early post medieval period.

Of the 29 post-Roman sherds, twelve were in the early medieval fabric, Potters Marston, the single sherds of Stanion Lyveden type and Splashed ware, and the two Calcite Gritted sherds being of a similar date range. The 13th or 14th century material is represented by the eleven sherds in Chilvers Coton, Nottingham and Medieval Sandy ware. The single sherd of Saxo Norman Stamford ware, and the late medieval/early post medieval Cistercian/Midland Blackware sherd complete what is a typical range of domestic pottery, in terms of vessel types and fabrics, for Leicester during this period. The relative proportions of the fabrics suggesting that activity was concentrated in the vicinity during the 13th and 14th centuries.

Other Finds — Lynden Cooper

Coffin nails

All large nails recovered from graves are interpreted as coffin nails - further discussion of their attribution is given above.

Some 57 nails were recovered from graves. A single large nail from soil layer (60) was probably derived from a disturbed grave. All nails were given a small find (SF) number which can be found in the small find site index. The position and orientation of the nails is given in illus. 4, with the small find numbers annotated on the site plans (6.1 - 6.13). The radiography plates are with the archive.

Most of the nails were 40-70mm long, though those from G3, G6 and G9 were larger, up to 100mm long. All were of Manning Type 1, that is rectangular sectioned shafts and square shaped and domed heads.

Hobnails

Hobnails representing footwear were recovered from four graves. In two cases (G2 and G5) the outline of the soles could be clearly seen in the nail pattern. These were heavily studded and may represent the remains of the *calceus*, a shoe, rather than the *solea*, a thonged sandal (Crummy 1983, 53). The other hobnail groups (G6 and G10) showed no obvious patterning possibly due to truncation or disassociation from having been worn at the time of burial. The hobnails were quite varied in dimensions probably caused by differential corrosion.

Catalogue

SF 112, (50), G2. Pair of hobnailed footwear placed on their sides, flush against foot end of grave cut. Nail positions suggest they were not on the feet. The hobnails were sealed in expanding foam and lifted en bloc. They were partially excavated in post-excavation and sealed in resin. The density of the hobnail/soil/foam block caused some difficulty in gaining a good X-ray image. Approximately 100 hobnails, with two coffin nails and a smaller nail in the soil block. The latter may represent a repair to a cracked leather sole.

SF 125, (63), G3. Single ?hobnail.

SF 159, (72), G6. Twenty hobnails from area of feet.

SF 208 and SF 209 [x11], (80), G10. Twelve hobnails from area of feet.

SF 148 [x88] and SF 149 [x60] , (76), G5. A pair of hobnailed footwear. An additional nine hobnails could not be assigned to a definite shoe (labelled SF148/149).

Copper Alloy objects

Spoon probe. SF 194, (88), F3. Roman ditch. Bent, spoon end damaged, other end snapped. Length (incomplete) = 115mm. Junction between shaft and spoon has a zoomorphic moulding on both sides similar to an example from Colchester (Crummy 1983, 60, **1917**). The shaft has circular section and tapers at the other end, but uncertain whether it would have had another spoon.

Pin. SF120, (63), G3. Grave fill, outside of coffin stain. Length (incomplete) = 46mm Pin shaft, possibly a hairpin, broken at both ends. Circular section.

Other finds

Context	Description
61	Post-Roman roofing slate (with nail hole); 2 Fe objects (1 possible coffin nail); animal bone frags
72	1 small CBM frag
80	Small slag frag; animal bone frags
81	1 small CBM frag
88	1 small CBM frag; 2 small frags of fired clay
109	1 small CBM frag; animal bone frags
110	Post-med glass frag; oyster shell frags; animal bone frags; clay pipe (1 bowl & 1 stem frag)
111	Coal frag; ?Roofing slate frags; animal bone frags; 1 large frag of tegula with chamfered cut-out
113	2 small CBM frags; animal bone frags
115	2 small CBM frags; animal bone frags
122	1 small CBM frag; animal bone frags
127	3 large tegulae frags; 1 small CBM frag; 1 large CBM frag
129	animal bone frags
130	animal bone frags
132	animal bone frags

Illustrations