

Archaeological Watching Brief
at
**HEBRON BURIAL GROUND,
HEBRON ROAD, BEDMINSTER, BRISTOL.**
for
Bristol City Council



Report No. 2337/2012
BHER No. 25067

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HEBRON ROAD, BEDMINSTER, BRISTOL.**

Centred on
N.G.R. ST 58107 71404

Client: Bristol City Council

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Abbreviations

AD	Anno Domini	IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
aOD	Above Ordnance Datum	Km	Kilometre
BaRAS	Bristol & Region Archaeological Services	m	Metre
BC	Before Christ	NGR	National Grid Reference
BRO	Bristol Records Office	NMR	National Monuments Record
c.	Circa	OS	Ordnance Survey
HER	Historic Environment Record		

NOTE

Notwithstanding that Bristol and Region Archaeological Services have taken reasonable care to produce a comprehensive summary of the known and recorded archaeological evidence, no responsibility can be accepted for any omissions of fact or opinion, however caused.

June 2012.

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SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundwork associated with rebuilding boundary walls around Hebron Burial Ground, Hebron Road, in Bedminster, Bristol. No burials were disturbed during the course of the work, but several previously hidden mid-19th to early-20th century burial monuments were uncovered and recorded.

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) at Hebron Burial Ground, Hebron Road, Bedminster, Bristol.
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Bristol City Council and involved monitoring groundwork associated with the replacement of boundary walls around the burial ground.
- 1.3 The archaeological work took place between the 31st of January and the 16th of May 2012.
- 1.4 The project archive will be deposited with Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery under the Accession Number BRSMG 2011/19 and a digital copy of the report will be sent to the English Heritage Archive. The project has been entered in the Bristol Historic Environment Record as: BHER 25067 and in the OASIS Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations as: bristola1-112655.

2. THE SITE

- 2.1 The site (centred on ST 58107 71404) is situated in Hebron Burial Ground, in Bedminster, *c* 1km to the south of Bristol City Centre. The site boundaries are defined by Hebron Chapel (Grade II Listed) to the south-east, Hebron Road to the north-east, Melville Terrace to the south-west, and the rear gardens of No. 46 Hebron Road and Nos. 1-7 Graham Road to the north-west.
- 2.2 The site is situated near the top of a low hill that slopes down from *c* 22m aOD in the south-east to *c* 20m aOD in the north-west. According to the British Geological Survey (2012) the solid geology comprises Triassic Redcliffe Sandstone.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 An archaeological building survey of Hebron Chapel was carried out in 2001 (Pilkington 2001). This document provides an archaeological and historical background to the site, the main points of which are summarized below, with some additional information drawn from other primary and secondary sources.
- 3.2 Hebron Chapel and its adjoining burial ground were built in 1853 on land formerly used by William Goulstone's North Street Academy for Boys (Bantock 2003). The north-east and south-west boundaries of the plot were defined by two pre-existing footpaths or tracks which are depicted on the 1841 Bedminster Tithe map. The Chapel was extended in 1867 and 1872, and again in 1885 in order to accommodate a large new Sunday School, which fronted onto Sion Road.
- 3.3 In the 1850s terraced houses were built along the north-east side of Hebron Road, but the land to the south-west remained open and is labelled as a 'Rope Walk' on the 1881-3 Ordnance Survey 1:500 plan. The land to the north-west of the burial ground also remained open until Graham Road and Melville Terrace were laid out in the 1890s.
- 3.4 Hebron Burial Ground was laid out in a grid pattern divided into 330 numbered plots. Between 1858 and 1965 there were 1,180 burials at Hebron (Hebron Chapel Burial Register), one of whom was Mary Baker, a notorious impostor commonly known as 'Princess Caraboo' (Bantock 2003).
- 3.5 During World War 2 a high explosive bomb landed in the centre of the burial ground. The bomb shattered all of the windows on the south side of the chapel and destroyed or displaced a number of burial monuments.
- 3.6 In 1968 the chapel and burial ground were sold to the Bedminster Spiritualists. The redundant Sunday school was converted into business premises in about 1980, and in 2002 the chapel was converted into flats. In recent years the burial ground was neglected and eventually became heavily overgrown with mature trees and bushes. In 2010 Bristol City Council acquired the burial ground for use as a public open space.

4. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The archaeological work at Hebron Burial Ground comprised the monitoring of groundwork associated with rebuilding boundary walls along Hebron Road and Melville Terrace. In order to minimise the chances of disturbing any burials within the burial ground, all of the foundation trenches were dug along the line of the existing boundary walls. The aim of the watching brief was to record any archaeological features or deposits revealed as a result of this work.
- 4.2 The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the methodology outlined in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Mason 2011), *BaRAS Site Manual* (2005) and complied with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IfA 2008). Burial monuments were recorded using the methodology in *Recording and Analysing Graveyards* (Mytum 2000).
- 4.3 The foundation trench along Melville Terrace (**Cover**) was up to 1m deep and was dug using a 3-ton mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.60m wide toothed bucket. Two lengths of the wall (1 x 10m and 1 x 6m) along Hebron Road (**Plate 1**) were also dismantled and rebuilt, but on this side the new walls were re-built on top of the existing foundations.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1 The excavations were confined to the footprint of the existing boundary walls and no human remains were uncovered.
- 5.2 The boundary walls were constructed with lias rubble bonded with a lime mortar. The soil within the burial ground was a mixed deposit of dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil and an orangey brown silty sand that contained common angular stone, brick, tile, slate and 19th/20th century pottery and glass.
- 5.3 Within the working area to the north-east of the Melville Terrace boundary, eleven mid-19th to early-20th century burial monuments were uncovered and recorded (**Fig. 2; Plates 2 - 13**). Four of the monuments were broken *ex-situ* fragments, three were upstanding headstones; the others were all recumbent or fallen monuments which were buried or hidden by vegetation prior to the present works. A full description of all the recorded monuments is provided in **Appendix 2**.

6. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1. No burials were disturbed during the course of the boundary rebuilding works.
- 6.2. Eleven burial monuments with inscriptions were recorded along the south-west edge of the burial ground.
- 6.3. Many of the inscriptions on the burial monuments at Hebron were recorded by Members of the Bristol and Avon Family History Society (BAFHS) in the 1970s, however only 2 of 8 legible inscriptions recorded during the watching brief could be matched with names in the BAFHS monumental inscription index, which suggests there are probably other unrecorded monuments in the burial ground which may have been missed because they were hidden by earth or vegetation at the time of the original survey.

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES CONSULTED

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8. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

8.1 The BaRAS would like to thank Bristol City Council for funding the project. We would also like to thank Andrew Searle (Technical Services Manager, City Development BCC), Richard Warner (Building Works Inspector BCC), and Stuart Ashton (Site Manager, W.R. Bedfrod (Stone Masonry) Ltd.) for their assistance throughout the project, and Bob Jones (BCC Senior Archaeological Officer) for his advice. The author would also like to thank Dave Napier (BAFHS) for providing a transcription of previously recorded monuments in Hebron Burial Ground.

8.2 The archaeological work was managed by John Bryant (Acting Manager BaRAS). Plans, figures, and plates in this report were prepared by Ann Linge (Design and Production Officer BaRAS). The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken by Cai Mason (Project Officer BaRAS).

APPENDIX 1: Policy Statement

This report is the result of work carried out in the light of national and local authority policies.

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY (ENGLAND)

The *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) for England published by the UK Government in March 2012 states that the historic environment, which includes designated and non-designated heritage assets, is an irreplaceable resource and, as such, should be taken into account by Local Planning Authorities when considering and determining planning applications. This is taken to form part of a positive strategy set out in the respective Local Plan to ensure the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment. The assigned significance of heritage assets will be key factor in terms of their conservation.

Given their irreplaceable nature, any harm to, or loss of, a heritage asset, or heritage assets, should be clearly and convincingly justified as part of a planning application. As part of this, applicants are required to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected by a proposal, including any contribution made by their setting. Where a heritage asset, or assets, are to be harmed or lost as the result of a proposal, the applicant will be required to record and advance the understanding of the significance of that asset or assets, to include making the evidence arising publicly accessible, but this will be in proportion to the significance of the asset/assets in question.

While the NPPF takes into account the historic environment as a whole, additional protection is afforded to designated heritage assets under current English Law. Any proposal that would result in harm or loss of a designated heritage asset is also required to be justified by the applicant in meeting strict criteria set out in the NPPF.

DISTRICT POLICY

Bristol City Council Supplementary Planning Document (2006) states (policy SPD No.7, p4):

- (i) There will be a presumption in favour of preserving any archaeological features or sites of national importance, whether scheduled or not.
- (ii) Development which could adversely affect sites, structures, landscapes or buildings of archaeological interest and their settings will require an assessment of the archaeological resource through a desktop study, and where appropriate a field evaluation. Where there is evidence of archaeological remains, development will not be permitted except where it can be demonstrated that the archaeological features of the site will be satisfactorily preserved in situ, or a suitable strategy has been put forward to mitigate the impact of development proposals upon important archaeological remains and their settings; or, if this is not possible and the sites are not scheduled or of national importance, provision for adequately recording the site prior to destruction is made, preferably by negotiating a planning agreement to ensure that access, time and financial resources are available to allow essential recording and publication to take place.

APPENDIX 2: Monumental inscriptions

Monument No.	Description	Dates
1	<p>Headstone (Plate 2). Flat topped with convex shoulders. Sandstone. Broken, not in-situ.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>'In Loving memory of John Bunting Died 4 March 187[3 or 5] Also Mary ___ Lived _____ Who fell _____ March 26 1902 Rock of ages Cle[ft for me]'</i></p>	1873/5 - 1902
2	<p>Headstone with kerb (Plate 3). Flat topped with slightly curved top on cubed base with a plain kerb. Sandstone. In-situ.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>'In Loving memory of Henry Charles Callen. Who died Dec 18 1873. Aged 11 months Also Henry Callen, Father of the above named. Who died Nov. 26 1874. Aged 28 years. "Lord remember me". Also Richard Buffett Callen, Deeply regretted brother of Henry, Who died April 20 1875. Aged 35 years Also Jane Callen, Mother of Henry & Richard, Who died April 11 1889. Aged 72 years. "The Lord is good" Also Charles Callen, Husband of the above named Who entered into rest Feb 4 1900. Aged 86 years. "with long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation". Psalm 91.16, verse. Also Sarah Jane Daughter of Charles and Jane Callen Died August 2 1922, Aged 73 years'</i></p>	1873 - 1922

Monument No.	Description	Dates
3	<p>Headstone (Plate 4). Flat topped. Sandstone. Broken, not in-situ (Plate).</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>‘In affectionate remembrance of Charlotte Gallop Who departed this life Nov 18 1877, Aged [3]8 years Thy will be done Also of William Gallop Who departed this life March 11 1882 Aged 63 years “In the midst of life we are in death” Also of Sarah Gallop Who departed this life July 2nd 1885 Aged 53 years Sim ___ to Thy ___ross ___’</i></p>	1877 - 1885
4	<p>Fallen headstone with kerb (Plate 5). Gothic pointed top with 1 stepped base with a plain kerb. Sandstone. Broken in-situ.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>‘In Loving memory of Annie The beloved wife of George Garland Who died Oct 9 1911. Aged 53 years. Until the day breaks and the shadows Flee away Also of George Garland Husband of the above Who passed away Nov. 3rd 1934. Aged 77 years “Reunited”’</i></p>	1911 - 1934
5	<p>Fragment of ledger (Plate 6). Sandstone. Name of stonemason in bottom right corner. Broken, not in situ.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>‘ ___ Mrs. William ___ of Bedminster, who departed this life 10th June 1887 Aged 72 years’</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Harris Cathay</i></p>	1887
6	<p>Fragment of kerb (Plate 7). White marble with lead lettering. Broken, not in situ.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>‘ ___ husband died Jan 6th 1934, aged 69 years’</i></p>	1934

Monument No.	Description	Dates
7	<p>Low monument with hipped top on a base (Plates 8 & 11). Sandstone. In-situ.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <i>‘ _____ bra _____ _____ of James Cor[y] _____ asleep in _____ of June 1876. Aged 33. _____ race _____ one lie the _____ William Reynolds _____ who died _____ 1874. Aged 64 years ’</i> </p>	1874 - 1876
8	<p>Low monument with convex top (Plates 9 & 11). Sandstone. In-situ.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <i>‘ Sacred to the memory of Jemima. The beloved wife of Joseph Clark, who died Sept 29th 1858, Aged 41 years Resurgam Also Catherine Emma Daughter of the above Who died Sept 9th 1861 Aged 13 years. She sleeps in Jesus Also of the above named Joseph Clarke, Beloved wife [sic] of Elizabeth Clark Who departed this life February 28th 1896 Aged [8]2 years 11 months. A _____ ent from the body present with the Lord ’</i> </p>	1858 - 1896
9	<p>Low monument with convex top (Plates 10 & 11). Sandstone. In-situ.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <i>‘ To the memory of Elizabeth O _____ Died Sept _____ A _____ Edwin _____ nd _____ Died Feby 1854 Aged _____ Sarahann _____ Died 185[?] Aged _____ mon[ths] Eliza _____ e Dando Died No _____ years L _____ le Belov[ved] _____ Henry Hill Died March _____ 1872 Aged _____ _____ h _____ isb _____ Died _____ _____ e _____ ’</i> </p>	1854 - 1872
10	<p>Headstone with kerb (Plate 12). Gothic pointed topped with 2nd stage cube/cuboid and a plain kerb. Sandstone. In-situ. Lettering too faint to transcribe.</p>	

Monument No.	Description	Dates
11	<p>Headstone (Plate 13). Flat top with triangular central feature. In-situ.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <i>‘[In] loving memory of Harriet the beloved wife of Joseph Sparks. who departed this life April 12th 1897. Aged 60 years Her end was peace Also the above Joseph Sparks. Who died March 14th 1904. Aged 65 years. “Thy will be done” Also Charles Sparks son of the above Who died May 22nd 1905. Aged 27 years. Also Eliza, Daughter of the above Joseph Sparks. Who died Aug. 19th 1922. At rest Also Harriett Emma _____ of the above _____ 1940 Aged 63 years.’</i> </p>	1897 - 1940

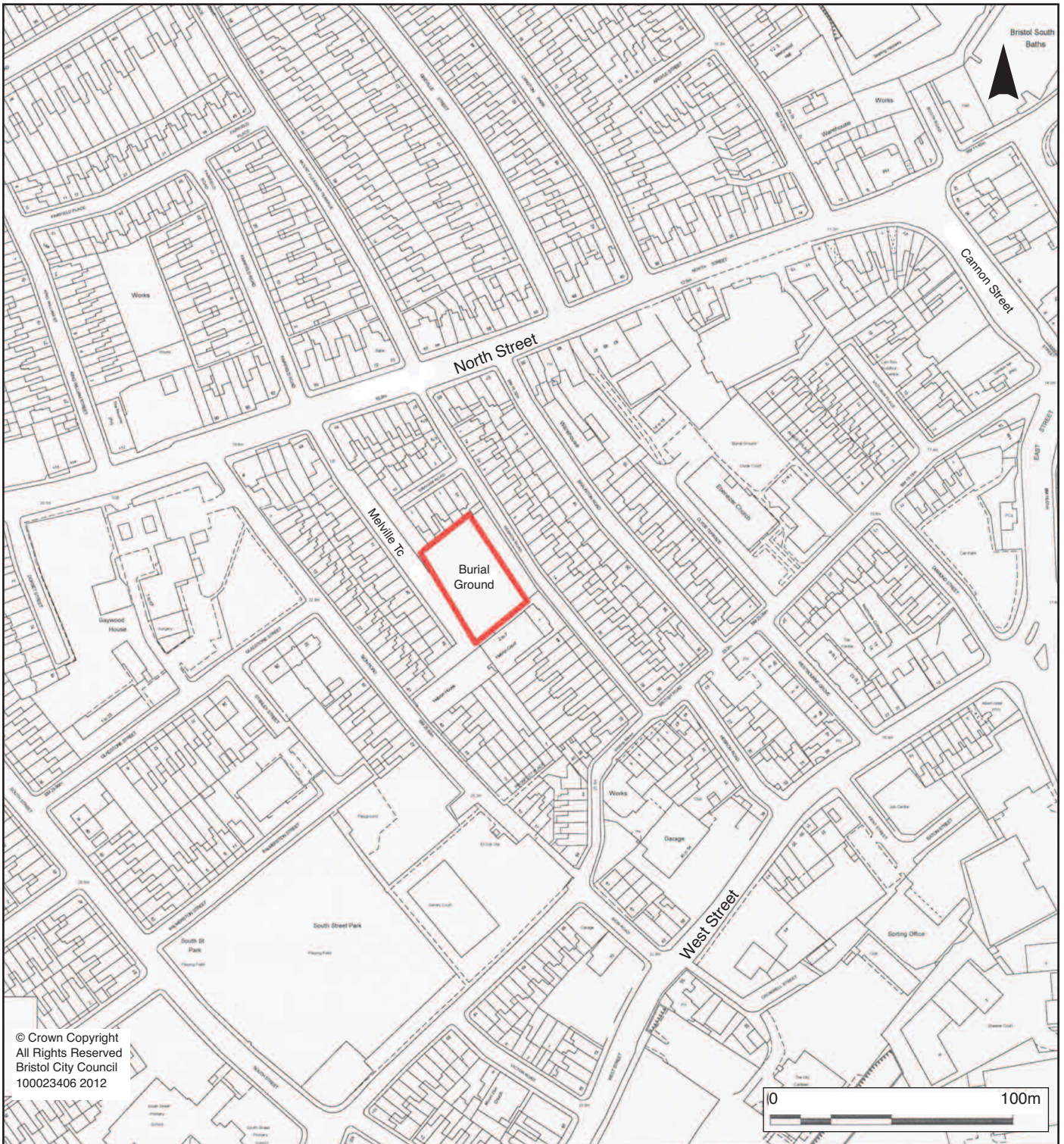


Fig.1 Site location plan, scale 1:2500

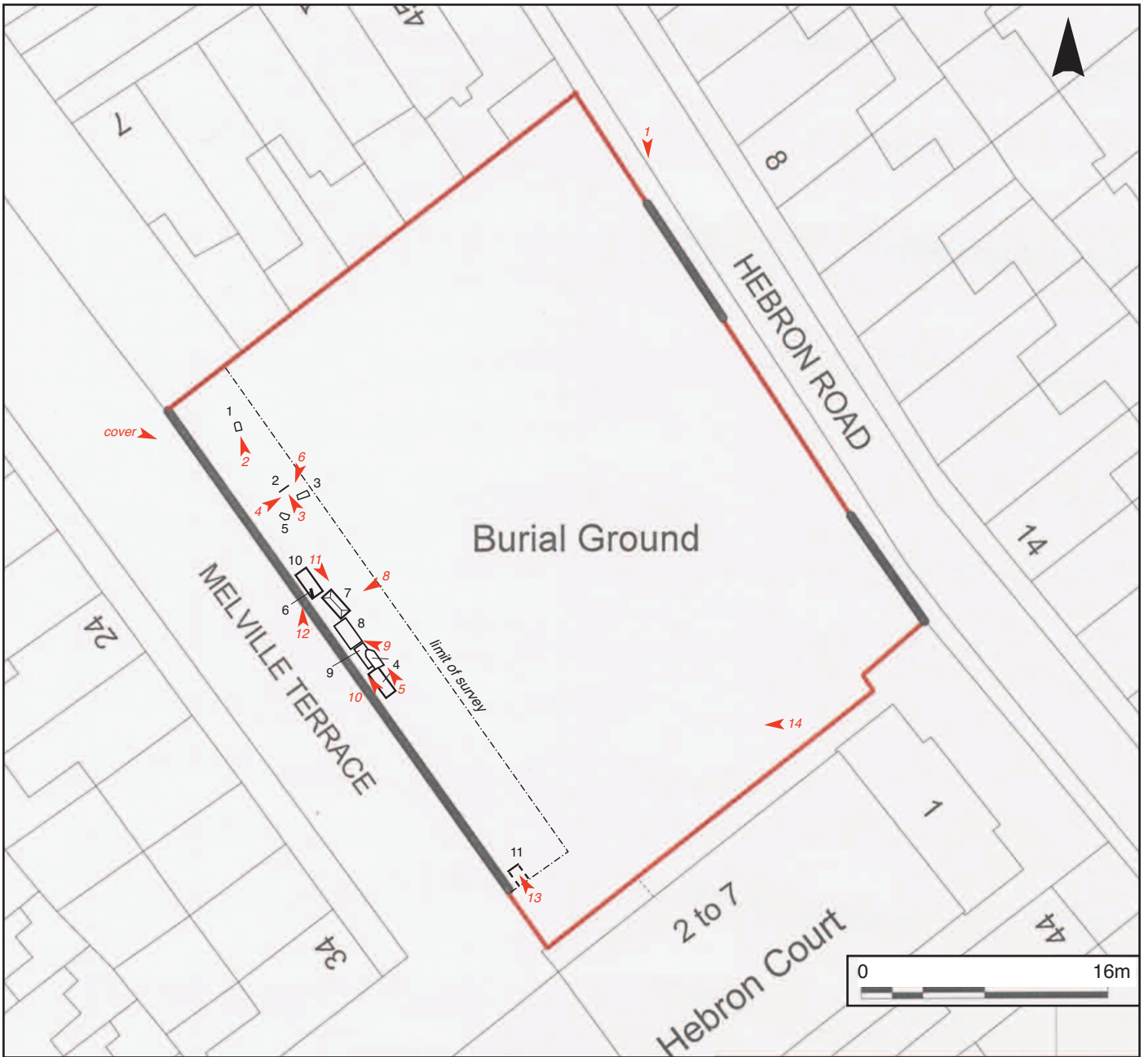


Fig.2 Site plan, scale 1:400, showing new boundary wall trench locations (in black), surveyed burial monuments and plate directions (in red)

Plate 1
Rebuilding the boundary
wall along Hebron Road,
viewed from the north



Plate 2
Monument 1, viewed from
the south



Plate 3
Monument 2, viewed from
the south-east



Plate 4
Monument 3, viewed from
the south-west



Plate 5
Monument 4, viewed from
the south-east



Plate 6
Monument 5, viewed
from the north

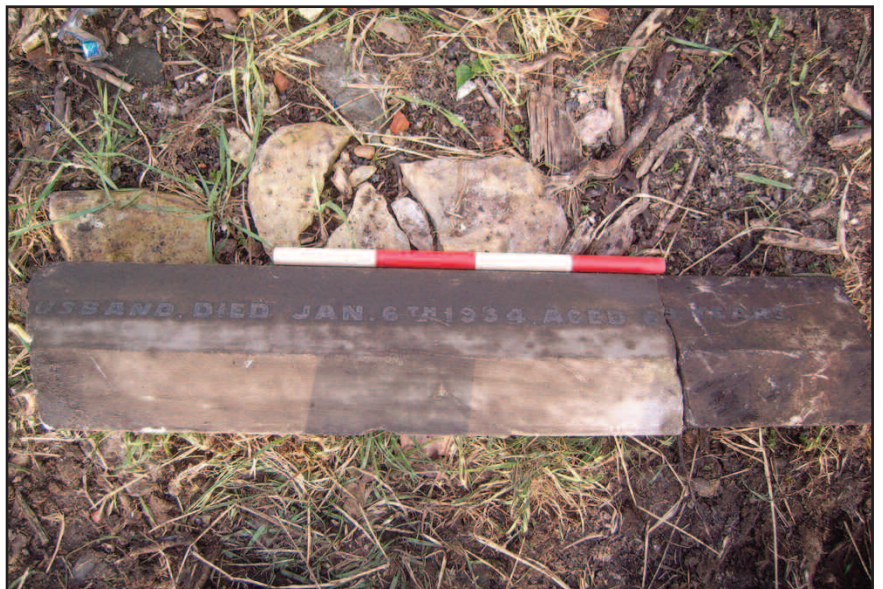


Plate 7
Monument 6, viewed
from the west



Plate 8
Monument 7, viewed
from the north-east



Plate 9
Monument 8, viewed from
the south-east



Plate 10
Monument 9, viewed from
the south-east



Plate 11
Monuments 7-9, viewed
from the north-west

Plate 12
Monument 10, viewed
from the south



Plate 13
Monument 11, viewed
from the south-east



Plate 14
General view of the burial
ground from the east

