

The excavation

The archaeology of 13 Haydon Street, is that of three distinct phases of use and development, categorised as follows;

Phase 1:

The earliest activity recorded on the site is characterised by human burials and features associated with the cemetery. Although

no absolute chronology can be given for this activity, comparable

evidence suggests it dates from sometime between the first and sixth centuries A.D.

Phase 2

The second phase of activity is harder to define. It is characterised by a horizontal truncation, post dating the phase 1

features, and predating the foundation of the Franciscan Abbey of

St. Clare in 1292 A.D. The problem in its definition is that the

truncation being a negative feature, the only evidence available

to categorise it lays with the disturbance to the phase 1

features and the backfilling and levelling of the site previous

to the start of building work in 1292. Chronologically the only

evidence to date this phase, is determined by the terminus ante

quem of phase 1, and the terminus post quem of phase 3.

Phase 3

The third and final phase of activity on the site is that defined

by the foundation of the Abbey of St Clare in 1292, and the subsequent re-use of the Abbey buildings, up to the modern day.

This section of the report is divided into three chapters. Each

chapter describes the archaeology of a single phase, followed by

a discussion and conclusion to each phase.

{.pn28

Phase 1 Introduction.

Where possible the features of this phase are described with the

stratigraphically earliest first. The numerical prefix to each

section refers to the phase and the text section, for example

section 3.34 refers to "Phase 3" and "Text section 34". To avoid

any confusion, each text section is numbered sequentially,

irrespective of the chronological phasing.

Where no stratigraphic relationship exists, the features appear

in numerical order. In the text, bracketed numbers refer to the

site context record. The references <SF..> and <SS..>, refer to

small find reference numbers and soil sample reference numbers

respectively. All levels referred to in the text are in metres

above Ordnance Datum.

{.pn31
1.01 Grave 227.

A grave orientated on a north-south axis, truncated to the east

by grave [430], and to the west by grave [224]. The

southernmost extent of the grave was impossible to establish due

to truncation by the medieval wall [12]. Beneath an orange brown

sandy silt [217], a partially articulated skeleton [226], and a

disarticulated skull [228], were uncovered. Initially, it was

thought that the skull [228], although disarticulated, belonged

to the same burial as the skeleton [226], perhaps having been

disturbed by later intrusions. Further excavation however,

uncovered a second skull, laying below skull[228]. The depth and

position of the lower skull, relative to the surviving bones of

skeleton [226], suggested that the skull [228] had been deposited

in the grave backfill as a result of disturbance to another

inhumation. Stratigraphically, no other grave appeared to pre-

date [227], so it may be that the upper fills [217], of the grave

had been deposited as the result of some later activity, perhaps

the post-Roman horizontal truncation of the site, (Phase 2). Due

to this truncation, it was not possible to establish the relative

ground level at the time of the inhumation and the possibility

exists that earlier features may have been lost. As recorded,

the grave [227], did not appear to have cut any earlier features.

Due to degradation of the bone, the skeleton [226], was in a very poor condition. The skull had lost all of its facial

features, including the lower jaw, surviving as merely the rear

cranial vault. The upper torso, including the pelvis, had totally

eroded, save for the partially degraded humerus of the right arm.

Below the level of the pelvis, the long bones of both legs were

complete. The bone however, was in a very poor condition and fragmented when lifting was attempted. Neither the hands or feet

of the skeleton survived. The surviving bones of skeleton { [226], suggested a supine burial, with the head towards the north

of the grave. The minimal survival of the skeleton did not allow

for interpretation of the manner in which the hands or feet were

arranged at the time of the inhumation, or whether the skull was

facing in any particular direction. No grave goods were found

within the burial, although a small piece of brone <SF 3>, was

recovered from the grave backfill [217], adjacent to the the

uppermost skull [228]. A corroded fragment of iron, <SF 110>,

possibly the remains of a coffin nail, was also recovered from

the grave backfill. Samples, <SS 40> and <SS 41>, were taken of

the surviving bone and of the grave backfill. No indication of a

coffin was found, perhaps due to the truncation, east and west of

the grave, by later burials. The dimensions and profile of the

grave cut were impossible to establish, due to the later burials

leaving the surviving skeleton [226], isolated on a small island

of brickearth. This brickearth measured 1.90m [N-S] by 340mm

[E-W], but it is impossible to relate this, in any interpretive

sense, to the original dimensions of the grave cut. Levels[+

metres O.D]: Skull;11.33m. L.Patella;11.27m. R.Patella 11.28m.

Deepest extent of grave cut, [below pelvis] 11.21m.

{1.02 Grave 224.

A north-south aligned grave, cutting grave [227], to the east.

To the west, grave [224], had itself been cut by the Victorian

pillar base [136], and to the south by the medieval wall [12]. The grave was sealed by a grey-brown sandy brickearth deposit (189), which may be the result of a later disturbance, possibly the post-Roman horizontal truncation of the cemetery.

Excavation showed the grave [224], to contain very little skeletal material [225], in total, two long bones, perhaps

surviving from the legs of the burial. Several iron coffin nails,

<SF 116>, were recovered from the graves silt and brickearth

backfill [216], as well as some disarticulated human bone. A

small, colour-coated pentice beaker, <SF 34>, provisionally

dated to the mid third century A.D, was recovered from the grave

backfill [216], but it is impossible to know whether this had

been placed in the grave backfill deliberately or

redeposited after disturbance of an earlier feature.

Although the grave was orientated along a North-South axis,

the limited survival of skeletal material made it

impossible to deduce the orientation of the original burial.

Where surviving, the grave cut was straight sided and flat

bottomed. A single iron nail was noted at the southern end of

the grave. A sample, <SS 39>, was taken of the human bone and

grave backfill. Dimensions of grave, where surviving, 1.90m

N-S by 600mm E-W. Levels: Highest surviving bone; 11.28m.

Deepest extent of grave cut; 11.24m.

{1.03 Grave 430.

A burial orientated along a north-south axis, cutting grave

[227], to the west. The northern and eastern edges of the grave

cut, had been partially removed by the later grave [420].
Due

to either degradation, or more likely the intrusive grave
[420], the skeleton [431], beneath the silt and brickearth
grave

backfill [218], was in a very poor condition. The whole of
the

torso, above the pelvis, was missing, leaving the
skull

disarticulated from the majority of the skeleton. The
skull,

placed at the northern end of the grave, had completely lost
its

lower jaw. Careful examination of the area surrounding
the

misplaced jaw, produced no evidence of human teeth, which
might

well have survived a natural erosion of the bone, suggesting
the

skull had been otherwise disturbed, perhaps as a result of
the

later intrusion by grave [420]. To the south of the
intrusive

grave [420], the long bones of the legs were complete
but

extremely degraded and lacking both fibulae and feet. No
grave

goods were found within the grave, although fragments of the
iron

coffin fittings [432], survived to the north and south of
the

skeleton, <SF 31>. The skull, at the north end of the grave,
was

tilted to face towards the east. Where the grave cut

survived, to the west of the skeleton, it was seen to be

straight sided and flat bottomed, sloping slightly to the

east.

Dimensions of grave: 2.20m N-S by 700mm E-W. Levels: Top of skull

11.16m. Top of right leg: 11.06m. Top of left leg: 11.08m. Height

of coffin brackets: [Highest]; 11.23m. [Lowest];11.15m. Depth of

bottom of grave cut: [Highest];11.06m. [Lowest];11.01m.

{1.04 Grave [420].

A grave aligned on a roughly east-west axis cutting grave [430]

to the west. The grave [420] was partially exposed during the

initial phase of excavation, and the grave backfill numbered [222]. The upper fills of grave [420], were disturbed by the later feature [419], but it was possible to establish the edges of the original grave cut [420], beneath the level of the

intrusive feature. The sandy loam backfill [438], contained a concentration of disarticulated human bone [443], mixed within a

chalk deposit [437]. A sample of the chalk, <SS 57>, was retained

for further analysis. The backfill [438], extended both east and

west of the limits of the intrusion [419], and although similar

in composition to the backfills of feature [419], was thought to

relate to an earlier disturbance to the original grave. Below

the

fill [438], the outline of a coffin [439], was defined by the presence of several iron nails, <SF 36>. Between the edges of the

coffin outline and the sides of the grave, a fine grey sandy silt

[442], appeared to be the remains of the initial grave backfill.

No skeletal remains were found within the coffin backfill. The

evidence of the backfills (222), [438] and [442], coupled with the

absence of in situ skeletal remains suggest that this grave was

disturbed and backfilled prior to the intrusion by the feature

[419]. Dimensions of the coffin [439]; 1.90m East-West by 0.75m

North-South. Dimensions of grave; 2.50m East-West by 1.20m North-

South. Level of bottom of grave after removal of coffin remains;

10.28m.

{1.05 Feature [419].

A rectilinear feature on a north-south orientation, pit [419]

appeared to have been deliberately dug for the reburial of

assorted human bones, perhaps disturbed from adjacent

inhumations. Partially excavated during Area 1 of the excavation

as feature [221], the extension of the site to the north
[Area
2], uncovered the full extent of the feature, which for
recording purposes was renumbered [419]. Within the mixed
sandy
silt fills [214],[215],[220],[418] and [421] were the
disarticulated remains of at least two skeletons. The bones,
[240],[295],[435] and [436], appeared to have been dumped with
very little ceremony, although the bone recorded as context
[240], may have been broken and perhaps burnt before its
redeposition. No grave goods were recorded within the
pit,
although some sherds of pottery and glass <SF2> may be the
result of such goods being broken. Several iron nails <SF117,
SF124, SF130, SF131> were recorded, scattered throughout the
backfills, seemingly not part of any in situ structure.
Fragments of what appeared to be iron slag <SF 118>, a
fragment
of a pipe clay figurine <SF 85> and a small length of copper
or
brone wire <SF 84>, were also found within the pit fill.
At
its northernmost extent feature [419], cut through the grave
[420] and may have resulted in the disturbance of the burial
therein. To the south, the feature [419] had been truncated by
the medieval wall [12] and the Victorian pillar base [137].
Where surviving, the edges of the cut were vertical, but the
bottom of the feature proved difficult to establish due to the
similarity between the backfills of pit [419] and those of
the earlier underlying features. Several bags of
disarticulated

human bone <SS 42>, were recovered from the backfill of the feature. Levels: Bottom of feature as excavated; 10.30m. { 1.06 Feature [434]

A circular feature cut by the multiple burial [417] to the west.

The backfill[433], to this feature contained roughly 50% charcoal

in a sandy silt matrix. A sample <SS 56>, was retained of the backfill for further analysis. This feature was very similar to

the pit [461], further to the north. Level of bottom of excavated

feature: 11.35m.

1.07 Grave group [417].

Orientated on a north-south axis, cutting feature [434] to the

east, the grave[417] was the only example of a multiple burial uncovered in the area excavated. It contained three inhumations, in order of burial graves [324], [323] and [322].

Grave [324].

A loosely compacted sandy silt backfill [427], sealed the

skeleton [428] and a chalk dressing [429]. The chalk layer

overlay all of the long bones and the chest of the skeleton. The

removal of the bones showed that it also underlay the skeleton

forming a rectangular stain, 500mm E-W by 1.90m N-S which

may

define the position of the original coffin, although no

structural remains survived. A single iron nail <SF 32>, was

uncovered within the chalk dressing. A sample <SS 55> was

retained of the chalk [429], for further analysis. The bone of

skeleton [428], was in a reasonably good condition. The skeleton

lay in a supine position with the head to the north of the grave and the hands crossed over the pelvis. The skull had been

disturbed at some time, resulting in the removal of the cranium, {and leaving the jawbone fallen forward onto the sternum.

The original position of the skull was defined as a

depression in the underlying chalk layer. The grave cut [324],

was well defined, being vertically sided and flat bottomed.

From the grave backfill [427], were recovered several iron nails, <SF 126> and a fragment of clear glass, <SF 95>.

Levels: Depression left by disturbed skull; 11.07m. Pelvis;

11.07m. Left Patella; 11.06m. Right Patella; 11.07m. Bottom

of grave cut; North end of grave, 11.08m. South end of grave, 11.04m

Grave [323]

A layer of greyish silty sand [423], approximately 100mm in

depth, sealed the skeleton [424]. Although on the same north-

south axis as the burial [324] below, the position of the

skeleton [424] within grave [323], was exactly reversed, with the

head of the skeleton [424], at the southern end of the grave

cut. No indication of a coffin survived within the grave, although the sloping edge of the cut [323], was seen to become

slightly more vertical after the grave backfill [423] was removed, perhaps indicating the original position of a straight sided coffin. The surviving bones of the skeleton [424] were in a very poor condition, consisting of only the skull, part of the upper arms and the long bones of the legs.

The skeleton lay in a supine position, but it was not possible to tell how the arms of the corpse had been arranged due to the poor survival of the bone. The skull

was tilted onto one side looking towards the east. No grave goods were recorded, although several sherds of pottery were

recovered from the grave backfill [423], as were several iron

nails, <SF 30, SF 123>. Disarticulated human bone was also { recovered from the backfill [423], and sampled for further

analysis, <SS 54>. A burnt fragment of a pipe clay figurine, <SF 93>, also lay within the grave backfill. The vertical

sides of the grave cut [323] were fairly well defined, but the

bottom of the cut overlaying the backfill [427], was only seen

in profile once [427] had been partially excavated.

Dimensions

of grave cut [323]: 2.50m N-S by 700mm E-W. Levels: Top of skull; 11.30m. Left Patella; 11.23m. Right Patella; 11.24m. Bottom of grave cut; 11.21m.

Grave [322]

Beneath the grey-brown sandy silt [415], was laid the articulated

skeleton [416]. The bone was generally in a good condition,

although the skeleton lacked the fingers of both hands, most of

the ribcage and the toes of the left foot. The body had been

interred in a supine position with the head towards the north end

of the grave. The skull was tilted, facing towards the east, and

the arms lay along side the body. No indication of a coffin was

found although the layer [415], sealing the skeleton, did contain

three coffin nails, <SF 26>, dispersed amongst the fill rather

than in any structural pattern. The backfill [415], also

contained some disarticulated human bone, <SS49>, perhaps

redeposited from an earlier disturbed burial. No grave goods were

recorded. The cut for the grave [322], although recognisable

along the sides of the feature, proved difficult to establish

beneath the skeleton, due to the similarity between the two silty sand backfills, [415] and [423]. The grave cut was

only properly identified in profile after the partial excavation of layer [423], revealed the slight disalignment

of the underlying cut [323]. Dimensions of grave cut [322]: {2.10m N-S by 900mm E-W. Levels: Top of skull; 11.52m.

Top of pelvis; 11.43m Pattellae; 11.45m. Bottom of grave cut;

11.37m.

The three burials in grave plot [417], were each within a recognisably separate cut, but with very little deviation from

the alignment of the original interment. This lack of variation in the recuts to the original grave, seems more than

coincidental. Although no above ground structures survived due to the post-Roman horizontal truncation of the site, it seems

likely that the original grave was marked in such a way that made reburials in the same grave possible

All of the finds within the grave backfills of feature [417],

must be treated with some suspicion, as it was not possible

to be sure of the level of contamination from one burial to

another, especially as the relatively shallow depth of the deposits separating each interment suggested that the

earlier coffins may have been smashed down at the time

of the subsequent burials.

{1.08 Feature [461]

A circular feature cut by the grave [450], to the east. The backfill of this pit contained up to 50% charcoal in a mixed sand and ash matrix. A sample <SS 58>, of the backfill [460] was retained for further analysis. This feature was very similar in shape and contents to the feature [434]. Level of bottom of excavated feature: 11.32m.

1.09 Grave 450.

A north-south orientated grave, lying due north of grave [417] and cut by feature [457], to the east and by the medieval wall [94], to the north. Grave [450] cut the ash filled pit [461], to the west. The grave contained the lower half of a skeleton [449], the medieval wall [094], to the north appearing to have

removed the whole of the skeleton above the level of the top of

the long bones of the legs. The bone which did survive was in a

very poor condition, virtually crumbling to the touch. The

surviving skeleton was laid with the feet pointing towards the

south. It was not clear whether the partial disarticulation of

the remaining bones had been caused by the intrusion of the

medieval wall or through the body and grave fills settling, after

burial. No indication survived of a coffin, although several

iron nails, <SF37, SF127, SF145>, were recovered from the silty

sand grave backfill [448], as was some disarticulated human bone.

The grave cut [450] survived to a maximum depth of 300mm and

appeared to be vertically sided and flat bottomed. No grave goods

were recorded within the burial. Levels: Bottom of grave cut;

11.16m. Highest surviving bones, [Femora]; 11.26m.

{1.10 Feature [457].

A roughly circular feature cutting grave [450] to the south and

west. This feature appeared to be sealed by the medieval silt

dump [153]. The similarity between the dumped deposit [153], and

the feature backfill [456], although seemingly distinguished as

separate during excavation, could mean that this feature was a much later intrusion than the excavator imagined. Bottom of excavated feature: 11.12m.

1.11 Grave 469.

A north-south aligned grave, cut to the north by grave [452] and partially truncated to the south by the medieval stairway [101]. Due to the possibility of contamination by the medieval intrusion the uppermost fill of this feature was numbered [458]. Once the edges of the grave cut [469] were recognised the grave backfill was renumbered [467]. The sandy silt grave backfill [467], contained several iron nails <SF143>, fragments of glass <SF 49> and part of a bone needle <SF 50>. It is not certain whether these objects had been deliberately placed within the grave backfill or had resulted from a previously disturbed context. Grave backfill [467] sealed the skeleton [468]. The body lay with its head to the north of the grave in a supine position. The skull was tilted to face towards the east. The arms lay along side the body with the hands either side of the pelvis. The bone was in a very poor condition, missing most of the lower ribcage and spine and several bones of the hands and right foot, as well as part of the pelvis. Iron nails <SF48>, surviving around the body, suggested that the original burial had been made in a coffin. Two

iron

objects in a very degraded condition, were recovered from the {skeleton. Around the right elbow was an iron band <SF 58> and on

the right wrist a similar iron bracelet <SF 57>. The sides of the grave cut [469] were for the most part vertical, although with a noticeable slope outwards at the level the grave was first identified at. The dimensions of the cut at its highest level were difficult to establish due to truncation to

the north and south, but at the level of the interment the grave measured, 2.10m N-S by 900mm E-W. Levels: Top of skull;

10.88m. Top of right arm; 10.78m. Pelvis; 10.77m. Left ankle;

10.80m. Bottom of grave cut; [lowest], 10.76m. [highest], 10.78m.

1.12 Grave 452.

A north-south aligned grave, cut to the west by a shallow pit [447]. The uppermost backfill of this grave was numbered [462],

as it was not certain when excavation began, whether the upper fills were contaminated by later intrusions. Several iron

nails <SF 141>, a stamped Samianware base <SF 78> and a fragment

of decorated plaster <SF 79>, were recovered from the backfill [462]. Once the uppermost edges of the grave cut had been defined, the backfill of the grave was renumbered [451]. The sandy silt grave backfill [451], contained several iron nails <SF

122>, a fragment of iron waste <SF 111>, the rim of a small glass vessel <SF 38>, an engraved cancell coal pendant<SF 39>,

bearing the head of a Medusa figure and a fragment of a Samian-

ware vessel bearing the stamp "MARTIM" <SF76>. The skeleton[465]

was one of the deepest recorded anywhere in the area under excavation, in places over a metre below the level from which the

grave cut was first recognised. The sides of the cut [452] were

nearly vertical and flat bottomed, although sloping slightly from north to south downwards. The depth and consistency of the {grave backfill, would appear to show that the skeleton had been

undisturbed. Even so the bone was in a very poor condition, missing part of the skull, the left shoulder blade and both feet.

This was probably due to the bone naturally eroding, perhaps

explained by the depth of the grave being such, that it had

been partially cut into the natural gravels underlying the brickearth. The body lay with its head to the north, the skull tilted to face west. The arms lay straight along side the body

with the hands crossed over the pelvis. The spine and sternum

were heavily degraded giving the impression of an iron-pan like

stain, along the length of the body. Aside from several iron nails <SF 62>, which appeared to be the in situ remains of the

original wooden coffin, three other small finds were recovered

from around the body. A single jet bead <SF 59>, was located between the pelvis and the top of the right leg. An iron and copper object <SF 61>, was located at the base of the left

arm overlaying the pelvis and may have originally been attached

to a finger. An iron object <SF 60>, sat on the right femur, but may have been a coffin nail dislodged when the coffin fell

apart. Small areas of chalk [465] survived over the ribcage and

the partially degraded left shoulder and spread down to cover

a section of the pelvis. This was sampled for further analysis

<SS 60>. At its southern extreme, the grave [452], partially cut

an earlier grave [469], at a level of +11.50m O.D. The almost vertical cut however, after the initial break of the slope, was

such that it did not disturb either of the bodies contained within the grave cuts. The dimensions of the grave, at its deepest extent, were 1.75m N-S by 700mm E-W. Levels: Top of skull; 10.54. Chest; 10.50m. Pelvis; 10.47m. Left femur;

10.50m. Bottom of grave cut; [highest], 10.52m. [lowest],

10.44m. {

1.13 Feature [445].

To the east of cut [452], was a rectilinear cut feature [445].

This had been heavily disturbed by the insertion of the Victorian

pillar base [479], and the post-Roman horizontal truncation of

the site reduced its depth to a maximum of 60mm. Although no human bone was recovered from the silt and sand backfill [444], the shape and alignment of the cut suggest that it may have been a robbed out grave. Several iron nails <SF 135>, were recovered from the backfill [444]. Dimensions of cut: 1.70m N-S by 500mm E-W. Levels: Top of cut: 11.60m. Bottom of cut 11.54m

1.14 Feature 464.

To the east of graves [452], [445], [470] and [469], was uncovered a north-south aligned linear feature [464]. This had been partially uncovered during an earlier phase of excavation, numbered feature [199], but had not been fully explored. It took the form of a straight edged, semi round bottomed cut, with an average width of 300mm, backfilled with lenses of silt and brickearth. From the backfills several iron nails were recovered <SF119, SF125, SF142>. At its north and south termini, the feature deepened and appeared to turn towards the west, but later intrusions limited the extent to which the feature could be traced. The feature varied in depth from 80 to 130mm, [Maximum depth; +11.39m OD.]; its shallowness suggesting that it may have suffered from the post-Roman truncation of

the

area, complicating the interpretation of its original function or

causation. The feature may result from animal activity on the site, or is possibly the bottom of a narrow foundation trench.

It was partially cut by the eastern most extent of grave [470].

{1.15 Grave 470.

An east-west aligned grave truncated to the west by grave [471] and partially disturbed by a test pit, dug by the site

contractors. The uppermost 0.30m of the grave backfill were assigned the context number [455], because of possible contamination of the grave fills from the contractors

excavations. Beneath this arbitrary level the grave backfill was

renumbered [454]. Grave cut [471], to the west, had removed all

of the skeleton [475], above the level of the top of the legs.

The undisturbed human remains suggested that the skeleton had

been interred with its head at the west end of the grave. A dressing of chalk [473] covered most of the surviving bone, except in the area of the left tibia. This chalk layer was seen

to underlay all of the remaining skeleton. A sample was retained

of the chalk for further analysis <SS 61>. The bone, once exposed, was in good condition. The outline of the chalk dressing corresponded with several iron nails, <SF 64>,

suggesting the body was originally placed within a wooden coffin. At the east end of the grave, adjacent to the left foot, was placed a blue glass bottle, <SF 52>. By its position, relative to the coffin nails and chalk lining, this would appear to have been placed within the coffin. Slightly to the north, outside the coffin, was laid a small earthenware amphora <SF53>, overlaying an ivory bracelet <SF63>. On the same side of the grave, 1.50m further west, but again outside the coffin, was laid a burnished ware beaker bearing the motto, "UTERE", and a pattern of white slip glaze. The dimensions of the original grave cut were impossible to deduce because of the truncation to the west by grave [471], and the later insertion of the medieval wall [478], but the surviving cut showed it to be at least 2.00m East-West by 1.00m North-South. { Where the sides of the grave cut did survive they were seen to be almost vertical and the grave flat bottomed. Levels:
Coffin nails; [highest], 10.91m. [lowest], 10.69m. Bones; [highest] 10.64m. [lowest], 10.63m. Bottom of grave cut; 10.56m.

1.16 Grave 471

An east-west aligned grave cutting the earlier grave [470], to the east. As with grave [470], a contractors test pit had

cut

the uppermost layers of thegrave backfill. To try and avoid any

possibility of contamination the top 300mm of the grave fill was

given an arbitrary number [455], changing to [477] once the grave

cut had been properly defined. The sandy silt backfill [477],

overlay a skeleton [476], which had been truncated above the

knees by the intrusive medieval wall [478]. The surviving bone,

[the feet, fibulae and tibia of both legs], was in a good

condition. The skeleton [476], had been lain on a bedding of

chalk [472], with the feet towards the eastern end of the grave

cut. The extent of the chalk appeared to define the position of

the original wooden coffin, although no structural remains

survived. No chalk appeared to have been placed over the

skeleton. The chalk deposit [472] measured 650mm at its widest

extent. The linear dimensions of the grave cut were difficult to

deduce due to the medieval truncation. At the eastern end of the

grave, the cut survived to its fullest width, 1.25m, but it was

not possible to deduce the length of the original grave.

Disarticulated human bone was found in the grave backfill [477],

as well as a single iron coffin nail, <SF 129>, perhaps as a

result of the disturbance of grave [470], to the east.

Levels:

Top of tibia; 10.61m. Bottom of grave cut; 10.56m. {
1.17 Feature [426].

A rectilinear north-south aligned feature to the west of
graves

[414] and [441] and truncated to the north by the medieval
wall

[094]. Feature [426] was very similar to feature [464], to
the

west, with almost vertical sides and a rounded base. It
contained

a sandy silt backfill [425]. Although approximately twice the
width of cut [464], at some 600mm, and generally deeper,
[Maximum depth; +11.29m OD.], the feature [426] proved no
easier to interpret. Feature [426] was cut by grave [414]. A
shallow cut [407], containing the sandy silt backfill [406],
slightly to the west of feature [426], was not significant
enough

to interpret but may have been associated with feature [426].

Feature [407] contained some disarticulated human bone, <SS
51>

and also two fragments of iron nails, <SF 27, SF 132.>.

{1.18 Grave [414]

An East-West aligned grave, the middle of a series of three along the easternmost limit of excavation. Beneath the sand and silt grave backfill [411], was uncovered a skeleton [413], covered with a chalk dressing [412]. The chalk extended to cover all of the bone which had survived. Where the chalk was not present, over the lower leg bones, these bones had totally degraded. A sample of the chalk <SS 48>, was saved for further analysis. The skeleton was laid with its head to the east end of the grave, slightly tilted, to face towards the south. Aside from the missing leg bones and part of the lower jaw, the bone was in a reasonably good condition, if in places slightly crumbly. Around the left wrist, were placed three bracelets, one each of glass, brone and shale and a set of 26 decorated jet beads, <SF 21,22,23,24>. The limits of the chalk bedding beneath the body, and the presence of several iron nails, <SF 25>, suggested the body had originally been buried in a wooden coffin. A single nail, <SF 109>, was recovered from the grave

backfill [411]. Dimensions of coffin: 1.40m E-W by 500mm N-S.

The sides of the grave cut were for the most part vertical and

flat bottomed. Dimensions of grave cut: 2.20m E-W by 800mm N-S.

Levels: Top of skull; 11.15m. Chest; 11.10m. Pelvis; 11.09m.

Left femur; 11.10m. Right femur; 11.09m. Bottom of grave

cut; 11.06m.

{1.19 Feature 410

An east-west aligned cut to the south of grave [414]. The

sandy silt backfill [405], contained a small colour coated pot

<SF 20>, several iron nails <SF 28> and some disarticulated

human bone <SS 52>, but no evidence was found within the

feature of an articulated burial. Due to the shallowness

of the feature, [maximum depth 60mm], it may be that the body

was removed at the time of the post-Roman horizontal

truncation. Levels: Bottom of the cut; 11.40m.

Feature 441.

An East-West aligned feature to the north of grave [414]. The cut

[441] was well defined, with vertical sides and a flat bottom, but once the sandy silt backfill, [440] had been removed there

was no trace of any human remains. An eastern extension to the area under excavation, showed that the feature had been truncated by a Victorian wall. Within the backfill [440] were recovered several iron nails <SF 35>, but no human bone. It was

not possible to establish the full dimensions of the feature due to the eastern truncation. The shape and orientation of [441], suggest it may have been a grave, perhaps robbed out at the time of the Victorian intrusion to the east. Level of bottom

of cut; 10.91m.

Features [410] and [441], although not containing human burials,

were so close in alignment to the burial [414], and equidistant

to the north and south, that it may be possible that the three

graves formed a burial group.

{1.20 Burial 516

After the completion of the excavation in Areas 1-3, the opportunity was afforded to extend the limit of excavation

slightly further to the east, by the insertion of a basement

light outside the standing building, [Area 4]. This enabled the

eastern extent of graves [414] and [441] to be established and

uncovered two further features. One, a shallow pit [510], contained some pottery and animal bone in the backfill [509], but

did not appear to be associated with a burial. The second feature, grave [512], was the only instant uncovered of a child

burial on the site. Unfortunately the burial had been virtually

bisected along its east-west axis by a Victorian concrete

wall, but enough survived to show that the burial [516] was made with the head to the east, the skull having tilted to face

the north. The body was covered with a chalk dressing, [515]

of which a sample <SS 69>, was kept for further analysis. The grave cut was 700mm long east-west. The width could not be ascertained due to the northern truncation. No grave goods were

uncovered, but a quantity of what appeared to be articulated bird

bones, were found in the backfill[511], at the eastern end of

the grave. The fill [511] also included fragments of several coffin nails, <SF73,SF146>, and a single fragment of a glass

vessel,<SF 75>. Levels: Top of skull; 11.38m. Bottom of grave

cut; 11.33m.

{Phase 1. Discussion and conclusions

The human activity recorded as the earliest phase of the excavation, falls into two groups. The majority of features excavated were the remains of horizontally truncated inhumations with a smaller number of perhaps associated features. The text descriptions of the associated features explains the inconclusive nature of the associated features, so the conclusions of the phase will concentrate on the burials.

The graves.

Thirteen articulated or partially articulated burials were uncovered in an area measuring approx 7.5m by 7m. [52.5 sq metres.] A single grave contained the remains of iron coffin fittings, but no skeleton and three features, by their shape and orientation, suggested themselves to be graves, although no remains of skeletons or coffins survived within them. The burials appeared to have been made on one of two distinctive alignments.

One group of seven graves respected the site east-west grid line, whilst ten graves corresponded to the site north axis. At the time of excavation the burials were recorded on the basis of

their general alignment, restricted to either north-south or east-west. As part of the post excavation work, the alignment of

the burials was related to the notional site grid, and then the

Ordnance Survey grid north. The site grid was seen to vary by a

consistent 10.5 degrees west of the OS grid north across the site. For comparison with other forms of survey the graves were

also aligned with the magnetic and true north poles. This produced a variation for the magnetic pole, [as of 1986], of three degrees east of the site grid and for true north of 9 degrees east of the site grid. The orientation of the graves was

assumed by a line bisecting the graves along their longest axis { and the resultant ratio compared with the given standard. This

information is tabulated in Figure 3.[overleaf]. In addition to

the ratio of each grave to any given standard, the mean variation

of the total range of graves was calculated, in an attempt to categorise the alignments as deliberate or random. Furthermore on

the basis of "the exception proving the rule", the range of orientations was calculated with the removal of the extremities

of range.

It is unlikely, even considering the limited number of

inhumations uncovered at Haydon Street, that the alignment of the

graves was purely arbitrary. If variations of up to five degrees

were allowed in alignment for human error, it could be suggested

that the graves at Haydon Street were aligned either on a true north or true east basis, that mean giving the least variation from any fixed standard.

Due to the later horizontal truncation, of the whole cemetery area, it is not possible to establish whether graves were deliberately placed in relation to surface features, such as buildings or roads, or merely respected the position of previous

burials. The three inhumations in the north-south aligned grave

plot [417], show secondary burials closely respecting the position of the original interment. This would suggest that the

original burial was marked in some way, as to make subsequent burials possible. Unfortunately the dating evidence from any of

the graves within the plot [417], was not conclusive enough to be

able to accurately define the period of time that the plot was in

use. Three east-west aligned graves, [410], [414] and [441], appeared to have been deliberately dug equidistant to each other,

perhaps partially determined by the linear feature [426]. Three

north-south aligned graves [452], [445] and [469] were grouped {very closely together, and although there was evidence that the

later graves had disturbed the backfill of the earlier burials,

some care appears to have been taken to ensure that the actual interments were left untouched.

It is possible that the selection of grave position was made with regard to surface features or a desire to respect the dignity of earlier inhumations. This is one aspect of the cemetery arrangement which appears to have continued despite a

change in the normal burial custom from north-south to east-west

aligned graves. At present it is not possible to date the change

in grave alignment, due to the lack of dateable material recovered from the undisturbed graves, but isotope Carbon 14 dating of the skeletal material from the Haydon Street graves, might be more specific.

Two east-west aligned burials, graves [471] and [420], show the

widest variations in alignment relative to the other burials. It

is interesting that these were the only two burials on the site

which could be shown stratigraphically, to have disturbed earlier

inhumations. It is possible that they date from a later period of

the cemetery, perhaps where some vestige of orientation remained

but where less reverence was placed upon the disturbance of earlier burials.

{ Table 1. Grave Orientation.

Grave	Context Desc	Site N	Variance [in degrees] to:		
			Mag N [1986]	True N	OS N
[469]	N-S	10E	7E	1E	0.5W
[452]	N-S	4E	1E	5W	6.5W
[444] 2.5W	N-S	8E	5E	1W	
[322]	N-S	11E	8E	2E	0.5E
[323]	N-S	11E	8E	2E	0.5E
[324]	N-S	11E	8E	2E	0.5E
[450]	N-S	15E	12E	6E	4.5E
[224]	N-S	3E	0	6W	7.5W
[227]	N-S	2E	1W	7W	8.5W
[430] 5.5W	N-S	5E	2E	4W	
[512]	E-W	95E	92E	86E	84.5E
[441]	E-W	96E	93E	87E	85.5E
[414]	E-W	99E	96E	90E	88.5E
[410] 89E	E-W	99.5E	96.5E	90.5E	
[420]	E-W	114E	111E	105E	103.5E
[471]	E-W	89E	86E	80E	78.5E
[470]	E-W	102E	99E	93E	91.5E

Mean variation
 Either side of
 a cardinal axis: 8.02deg. 5.74deg. 4.21deg.
 4.53deg

Range of orientations.

N-S graves:

Total range	13 degrees.
Range -1	9 degrees.
Range -2	8 degrees.

E-W graves:

Total range	16.5 degrees.
Range -1	12.5 degrees.
Range -2	9 degrees.

{The burials.

Whilst it may be possible to distinguish an order in the orientation of the Haydon Street graves, there appears to be no

distinct pattern to the contents of any particular burial. Five

distinctive features were noted across the total range of graves,

which might, with positive dating evidence, distinguish either a

particular burial practice or even the date of the inhumation.

These were:

1: The orientation of the head, [or in truncated burials, the feet], of the skeleton.

2: The arrangement of the limbs of the skeleton.

3: Whether grave goods were present on the body, or laid within

the grave before backfilling.

4: Whether the burial had been made within a coffin.

5: Burials that contained any form of chalk dressing.

With the analysis of the human bone from the Haydon Street burials yet to be completed, it is difficult to draw any conclusions regarding the individuals who were buried on the site. The poor condition of much of the skeletal material may further complicate this process. All the articulated burials uncovered lay in an elongated supine position. Two forms of limb arrangement were noted. In four burials the arms and hands lay along side the body and in two instances the hands were crossed over the pelvis. In the majority of burials the bone had eroded to such an extent that it was not possible to establish the position of the hands. The two burials with the hands crossed over the pelvis were laid with their heads to the north end of the grave. The four burials laid with the hands along side the body, exhibited a wider range of orientation, two aligned with the head to the north, one to the east and one to the west. { No particular distinction was noted in the arrangement of the feet and legs of any of the skeletons, but as in the case of the hands, degradation of the bone had left very few skeletons intact. Many of the skulls uncovered appeared to be inclined to one side or another of the grave, but how much this was due to post-burial settling or displacement as distinguished from deliberate arrangement could not be deduced.

Two of the north-south and a single east-west aligned burial contained grave goods which appeared to be personalised jewellery, attached or laid on the skeleton.

The east-west burial [414], contained three bracelets and a string of jet beads around the left wrist of the skeleton, but no other goods within the grave or grave backfill. In the case of the north-south burials, grave [469] contained a single iron object on the left hand which might be the remains of a ring, whilst grave [452] produced two metal objects looped around the right elbow and the wrist of the skeleton. A single jet bead lay within the backfill of grave [452] as did a cannel coal pendant bearing the head of a Medusa. It is not certain whether the pendant and the jet bead were placed deliberately within the burial. Two further graves, [410] and [224] contained intact colour coated pots within the grave backfill but again it is not possible to establish the degree of deliberation in the placement of these goods.

A single east-west aligned grave [470], contained grave goods laid both inside and outside the original coffin.

The evidence of coffins within the graves was minimal. No fabric

evidence survived of any coffins or shrouds. Some graves appeared

to have in situ coffin nails arranged around the skeletal remains, but although numerous these gave little indication of

the type or extent of the original container. The graves which contained chalk, either above or below the skeletal remains gave

the best indication, at least dimension wise, of the containers

in which the burials had been made. On the whole the sharp edges

of the chalk deposit would appear to respect the internal dimensions of the original coffin. This information is

categorised in figure 4. In the majority of cases, coffin remains

were distinguished by the iron coffin nails, which varied in number from 1 per grave up to 15. In many cases iron nails were

found within the general grave backfill and not around the skeleton, where a coffin ought to be. It was not possible to establish whether the iron nails were the result of redeposition

from previously disturbed burials or whether as the result of their displacement at the time of the structural remains of an in

situ coffin rotting away. Coffin remains appeared to be consistent across the range of graves, irrespective of grave orientation, body arrangement or grave backfills.

A single burial [420], retained the impression of differential backfilling to the area between the edge of the coffin and the sides of the grave cut, but this may be due to the subsequent robbing of the grave and the different material backfilled, rather than a deliberate action at the time of the original inhumation.

Five, of the seven, east-west aligned burials contained a chalk

dressings either above or below the skeleton. Two of the north-

south graves contained chalk, one where the body lay on a chalk

bedding the other where the chalk was placed only over the limbs.

Where chalk occurred, in any burial, beneath the skeleton it appeared to be spread throughout the coffin. However the chalk { laid over the body appeared to be much more selective. It is difficult to tell whether the purpose of the chalk dressing was

in some form ritual or whether it performed a sanitary function,

as in the form of quicklime, to quickly rot the flesh of the burial, to absorb bodily juices or even in some way to preserve

the bone.

All of the graves had suffered some degree of truncation, either

due to the Phase 2 general horizontal truncation of the cemetery,

or as a result of intrusion by later features or walls. As previously mentioned, most of the graves had been placed with some degree of care, relative to previous inhumations, excepting

two, graves [471] and [420]. A further feature [419], appeared to

be an attempt to reinter disturbed human bones, but other than that it was, stratigraphically, one of the later features of Phase 1, no definite date can be put upon it.

The major problem in drawing any conclusions from the Haydon

Street burials, concerns the limitations of the sample. Although

beyond the scope of this archive report, a more viable conclusion

could probably be drawn by comparing and including the

information recorded on the three other known burial sites in the

near vicinity, West Tenter Street, [WST 84], the Mansell Street

site, [MST 87] and the St Clare Street site, [SCS 83].

{ Table 2. Burial Summary

GraveNo and Orientation	Skeleton No.	Head to:	Hand pos:	Coffin remains	Grave goods	Chalk lining	Backfill finds.
[469] N-S i, g, wb, c	[468]	N	side	yes	i.	n/a	ab, bm.
[452] N-S i, dp, c, g bm	[465]	N	o/pel	yes	i, j.	yes	c/coal, ab, cu.
[444] N-S i, ab, c, bm.	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	n/a	n/a	
[322] N-S i, hb, c, ab	[416]	N	side	yes	n/a	n/a	bm.
[323] N-S i, c, hb, ab bm	[424]	S	miss	no	n/a	n/a	p/clay,
[324] N-S i, g, ab, c	[428]	N	o/pel	no	n/a	yes	

bm.

[450] N-S [449] N miss no n/a n/a i, c, hb.

[224] N-S [225] n/k miss yes n/a n/a
c, hb, i, ab

bm, g.

[227] N-S [226] N miss no n/a n/a
i, c, ae, hb

bm.

[430] N-S [431] N miss yes n/a n/a i, c, bm.

[512] E-W [516] E side no ab. yes
c, g, bm,
i, ab.

[441] E-W n/a n/a n/a no n/a n/a
c, ab, i,
bm.

[414] E-W [413] E side yes s, j, g
ae, yes
c, i, bm,
ab, hb.

[410] E-W n/a n/a n/a no n/a n/a c, i, hb.

[420] E-W [443] n/k n/k yes n/a yes
c, i, hb,
ab, bm.

[471] E-W [476] W miss yes n/a yes
c, i, hb
ab, bm.

[470] E-W [475] W miss yes c, g, wb yes
c, hb, ab
i, bm.

Key to finds within graves:

- ae....brone.
- ab....animal bone.
- bm....building material
- c....ceramic [pottery].
- c/coal...cannel coal.
- cu....copper.
- dp....decorated plaster.
- g.....glass.
- hb....human bone.
- i.....iron.
- j.....jet.
- p/clay...pipe clay.
- s.....shale.
- wb....worked bone. {Table 3. HAY

86. Grave Summary.

SS	GRAVE	FILLS	SKELETON	CaCO2	SF	
	[227]	[217]	[228] [226]	n/a	<110> <003>	n/a
	[224]	[216] [189]	[225]	n/a	<034> <116> <082> <083>	n/a

[430]	[218]	[431]	n/a	<031>	n/a
[419]/[221]	[214] [215] [220] [418] [421]	[240] [435] [436]	n/a	<002> <124> <131> <084> <085> <117> <118> <130>	n/a
[420]	[438] [222]	[443]	yes	<036>	n/
[417]/[322]	[415]	[416]	n/a	<26>	n/a
[417]/[323]	[423]	[424]	n/a	<30> <93> <123>	<54>
[417]/[324] <55>	[427]	[428]	[429]	<126> <95> <32>	
[450]	[448]	[449]	n/a	<37> <127> <145>	n/a
[469]	[467]	[468]	n/a	<143> <57> <58> <48> <49> <50>	n/a
[452]	[451] [466]	[465]	yes	<38> <39> <59><60><61> <76><111> <122> <62>	<60>
[445]	[444]	n/a	n/a	<135>	n/a
[470] <61>	[454]	[475]	[473]	<64> <52> <53><63><51> <54><55><56> <80>	
[471]	[477]	[476]	[472]	<129>	n/a
[464]	[463] [195]	n/a	n/a	<119><125>	n/

	[197] [198]			<142>	
[426]	[425]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<48>	[414]	[411]	[413]	[412]	<21><22><23>
				<24><25>	
				<109>	

{Table 3 Ctd HAY 86. Grave Summary.

	GRAVE	FILLS	SKELETON	CaCO2	SF	SS
	[441]	[440]	n/a	n/a	<35>	
<52>	[410]	[405]	n/a	n/a	<28> <20>	
<69>	[512]	[511]	[516]	[515]	<146><75>	
					<73>	
	[407]	[406]	n/a	n/a	<27><132>	<51>
	[510]	[509]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<58>	[461]	[460]	n/a	n/a	<144>	
	[459]	[458]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	[457]	[456]	n/a	n/a	<140>	n/a
<56>	[434]	[433]	n/a	n/a	<113>	