

EXCAVATIONS AT 63-66 PRESCOT STREET, LONDON E1.

LEVEL III ARCHIVE REPORT

PRE89

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Abstract

Controlled excavation and monitoring of enabling works were carried out between 21.12.89 to 30.4.89 by the Department of Greater London Archaeology. The site lies to the east of the Roman City wall within a Roman cemetery.

The site lies on a sand and gravel river terrace capped by brickearth (within which the burials are dug). The level of the existing basement had removed the brickearth to a level of 10.55m OD and the site was also extensively truncated by large post medieval pits and modern foundations.

A large linear ditch like feature was recorded running NW/SE across the site, 2.30m wide and surviving 1.70m deep (base at 8.90m OD). No dating evidence was recovered from this feature and it may be natural or ?prehistoric.

An area of Roman quarry pits was identified containing redeposited human remains at the W end of the site.

Remnants of a tile and mortar structure found probably relate to the foundations for some funerary monument e.g. a mausoleum.

Four inhumations were excavated, two aligned N-S with the heads at the N and two E-W with the head at the W. All showed evidence of burial in wooden coffin one which also contained a bed of "plaster". Various artefacts were placed alongside the burials including two pottery vessels, a coin and an articulated fowl. The cranium of one of the skeletons had been removed (leaving the mandible in situ) and placed upside down over the pelvis.

One grave cut an earlier well. The well had been constructed by digging a large circular pit 2.50m wide at the top, 1.50m wide at the base and 2.50m deep. A wooden shaft 0.60 x 0.70m was inserted in the cut and the space behind packed with sand and gravel and ragstone rubble. The well was eventually backfilled and this included two complete dog skeletons, a fragment of funerary tablet, other dressed stone and general "rubbish".

Acknowledgements

The excavation was funded by Minet Properties 1989 Ltd. with attendance and assistance supplied by Trollope and Colls the contractors and Keltbray the groundworkers.

The excavation was professionally carried out by Chris Kirby, Mark Bell and Paul Mitchell with Mike Bardhill the Finds Assistant.

Pottery was examined by Karen Waugh and the human remains by Mike Bardhill.

INTRODUCTION

Site location

The site is located at NGR TQ 3400 8100 bounded on three sides by South Tenter Street, St. Mark Street and Prescott Street, see Figs 1 and 2.

Background to Archaeological investigations

The site lies to the east of the Roman/Medieval City wall within an area recognised as early as the 18th century as a Roman cemetery, inhumation and cremation burials have been found in the vicinity (see appendix 1 for summary of adjacent sites).

Immediately to the North of the site excavation revealed 8 burials and the foundations of a mausoleum at ETN88, (Bowsher,1989). To the North West excavations recorded 132 Roman burials at WTN84, (Whytehead,1986). To the South East an amphorae cremation burial and 12 inhumations were located in 1931 by (G.C Dunning,1946). A Roman road has been recorded at two sites, SCS83 (Ellis,1985) and MNL88 (Haynes,1988) to the north west of Prescott Street and the projected line of this road runs just to the North of the site.

Given the position of the site when it was threatened from a proposed development DGLA(N) undertook a programme of controlled excavation and monitoring of enabling works.

Site conditions and method of work

The work was carried out in a number of stages as dictated by the programme of construction and structural considerations.

Initially a series of underpinning holes were dug around the perimeter of the site to accommodate a new perimeter wall, all these excavations were monitored in case of any archaeological deposits were located. Whilst the underpinning holes were still being dug a central strip of the site, divided into four 12x13m zones (zones 1-4) were examined under a controlled excavation. Once the underpinning and the new perimeter wall was in place, the strip left between the underpinning holes and the controlled excavation was reduced by machine to 9.60m OD and this was also monitored.

The contractors grid was used as the basis of the archaeology grid. A Temporary bench mark was established from a OS Bench Mark at 4 North Tenter Street of +13.41m OD.

Organisation of the report

[123] = context number
(1.1) = group and subgroup number

(20) = % of silt,clay etc. in context descriptions
<1> = sample #
SF 1 = small find #
CBM = ceramic building material

All contexts are in one subgroup and each subgroup has its own matrix and descriptions, discussion is entered where most appropriate. For plan, section and photo numbers see Level III index. Reduced copies of Level III drawings are included in the report. All heights are given in metres above Ordnance Survey Datum.

Historical Background

The site lies to east of the Roman/Medieval City wall and the earliest surviving maps (see appendix 2) show that the area of Prescott Street was largely undeveloped until the end of the 17th century, forming the southern boundary of Goodmans' Fields. The earliest building on the site appears to date from the 18th century.

Geology and Topography and truncation

The site lies on a sand and gravel river terrace which would have been capped by brickearth. At adjacent sites the top of the surviving brickearth was found at 11.28m OD (ETN88) and 11.25m OD (WTN84). The top of the basement slab at Prescott Street was between 10.70m OD and 11.07m OD, the slab and rubble make-up was c.0.30m thick so the highest possible surviving natural could occur at 10.40m - 10.77m OD, in fact the highest surviving natural sand and gravel was at 10.55m OD. No in situ brickearth survived within the site limits due to this horizontal truncation, however one kingpost pit was dug outside the perimeter of the site beneath the pavement and brickearth was recorded at between 10.88 and 11.08m OD, [see (1.2)].

The base of the lowest grave at ETN88 was at 10.02m but the rest were around 10.60m OD. Hence only the deepest graves and features would be expected to survive at Prescott Street.

There was also considerable vertical truncation from the existing building. Approximately 20% of the site was disturbed from stanchion bases some 2.80m square and dug to a depth of at least 8.50m OD. Also various parts of the site were disturbed by deeper basements, lift shafts and service trenches.

Group 1 ?natural features

1.1 Linear feature

Figures 3,4,5

stratigraphic sequence

```
(2.1)      [7]
*****|*****
          [9]
(1.1)      |
          [8]
*****|*****
          natural
```

context descriptions

[9] Large linear cut 2.30m wide, 1.70m deep and orientated NW/SE with the base of the cut at 8.90m OD. The cut had steep sides producing a V shaped profile to a flat base.

[8] Series of light brown and orange-brown "brickearth" type deposits with a small amount of slumping at the sides of the cut. No finds or any inclusions, fill of [9], the top of which at 10.63m OD.

Discussion

Similar features in this area of large ditch like features filled with clean "brickearth" type material and no finds have been found at H0088 (Barber and Bowsher,1989), MST87 (Whittaker in prep) and WTE90 (Barber,1990) all earlier than the cemetery features. At H0088 it was interpreted as a natural feature (pers comm. James Rackham and Ian Tyers) at MST87 and WTE90 (the same feature) was tentatively interpreted as prehistoric.

This ditch is similar to the MST87 and WTE90 feature and lack of dating evidence or any inclusions at all suggest it is either prehistoric or a natural feature.

This feature was seen to continue immediately to the S during machine reduction and to the N beneath grave cut [62]. In both cases this was only observed and it was not possible to record the feature.

1.2 brickearth layers ?

Figure 3

stratigraphic sequence

```

                unstrat
*****|*****
                [1]
(1.2)   |
                [2]
*****|*****
                natural
```

context descriptions

[2] mottled light-brown silt(60) clay(40), no inclusions. Top of layer at 10.88m OD, 0.40m thick overlying natural sand and gravels at 10.44m OD. Layer 0.68m x 1.13m.

[1] mid brown silt (70) clay (30) with some oyster, pot, CBM and bone. Top of layer at 11.08m OD.

Discussion

Deposits recorded in Kingpost 1 pit dug outside the perimeter of the site below the pavement, see fig 3. [2] is probably natural brickearth overlying natural sand and gravel and [1] being a similar deposit is probably the disturbed top of the natural brickearth. No features were discernible cut into either layer.

Group 2

2.1 pit

Figure 4

stratigraphic sequence

```
                unstrat
*****|*****
                [23]
(2.1)      |
                [7]
*****|*****
(1.1)      [9]
```

context descriptions

[7] truncated shallow cut 1.00m x 0.64m, lowest point at 10.35m OD.

[23] orange-brown sandy silt (80) gravel (20), no finds, single fill of [7]

Discussion

Small pit of unknown date cut into top of (1.1).

Group 3 ?Roman quarry pits

3.1 pits

Figure 3

stratigraphic sequence

```
                unstrat
*****|*****
                [3]
(3.1)      |
                [4]
*****|*****
                natural
```

context descriptions

[4] series of intercutting cuts into natural sand and gravel, only recorded in section and only the bases of these cuts visible. The lowest point on the base of the cut at 9.22m OD.

[3] series of banded fills of cuts [4]. These range from redeposited brickearth to light grey silt and gravel lenses. Occasional inclusions of Roman pottery, oyster, CBM and opus signinum.

[46] mottled mid grey silt (80) sand (20) with some charcoal flecks, ragstone frags and pot. Fill of [51], 0.35m thick.

[45] orange-brown sand (60) silt (30) grave (10) with a redeposited human cranium. Fill of [51], 0.35m thick.

[52] mottled grey-brown silt(60) sand (40) with some charcoal, pot, bone and oyster shell. Latest surviving fill of [51], 0.33m thick.

[54] cut seen in section only. S edge beyond limit of excavation, N edge shallow slope to a flat base at 9.60m OD.

[53] grey brown silt (80) sand (20) with some charcoal flecks, CBM, pot, op signinum and burnt bone. Single fill of [54].

3.3 pit

Figure 4,3

stratigraphic sequence

```
unstrat
*****|*****
      [55]
(3.3)  |
      [56]
*****|*****
natural
```

context descriptions

[56] cut recorded in section only, only the base of the cut visible which appears flat at 9.37m OD.

[55] series of fills of cut [56]. Orange or grey-brown silty sands with some pot, bone, oyster, ragstone frags, Fe nails (SF 27), CBM and mortar flecks.

Discussion

In this group are a series of intercutting pits of a similar scale all dug into natural sand and gravels to a depth of 9.22m- 9.60m OD at the West end of the site, all were only recorded in section. The fills of these pits were broadly similar being orange or grey-brown silty sand with small amounts of inclusions and varying amounts of gravel.

This group appears to be quarry pits as suggested by their uniform size, extent and the composition of the fills. However, there are a large number of post-medieval quarry pits on the site but these are dug to a greater depth, contain

post-medieval material and the fills often black. All the material recovered from Group 3 appeared to be Roman. Some disarticulated human bone was recovered from the fills of Group 3 pits, that is derived from the surrounding Roman cemetery or from burials disturbed during the digging of these pits.

Group 3 pits are interpreted as quarry pits backfilled after the Roman cemetery was in use. They are all located at the West end of the site.

Group 4 Tile structure

4.1 Tile structure

Figure 4

stratigraphic sequence

```
          unstrat
*****|*****
      [5]
(4.1)  |
      [6]
*****|*****
      natural
```

context descriptions

[6] truncated corner of a shallow cut into natural sand and gravel. Surviving sides orientated N/S and E/W and 0.42m x 0.42m and 0.12m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base at 10.53m OD.

[5] Large frags of tile in a compact pink mortar with flecks of CBM, single fill of [6], 0.12m deep. Sample <1>

Discussion

Heavily truncated remains of a tile structure, all that survives is one corner of the primary coarse. Given the location of the site it may well be the remains of some funerary monument.

Group 5 Linear features and pit

5.1 linear cuts

Figure 4

stratigraphic sequence

```
          unstrat
(6.1) [38] (8.1) [25] |
*****|*****|*****|*****
      [41]      [26] = [11]
(5.1)  |          |   |
      [42]      [27] = [12]
*****|*****|*****|*****
      |_____|_____|
          |
      natural
```

context descriptions

[42] linear cut orientated NW/SE, vertical sides and a flat base (U-shaped profile) sloping from NW to SE from 10.35m to 10.26m OD. 0.24m deep and 0.30m wide. Cut to the E by well construction cut [38] (see 6.1)

[41] grey and orange-brown sandy clay with some gravel. Single fill of [42].

[27] linear cut orientated NW/SE, steep sides and a narrow base (V-shaped profile) at 10.31m OD. 0.15m deep and 0.22m wide, cut to the W by grave cut [25] (see 8.1).

[26] green-brown sandy clay with some gravel. Single fill of [27].

[12] linear cut orientated NW/SE, steep sides and a narrow base (V-shaped profile) at 10.34m OD. 0.20m deep and 0.20m wide.

[11] green-brown sandy clay with some gravel. Single fill of [12].

Discussion

Linear cuts [27] and [12] are part of the same feature having a similar profile, orientation, width, fill and are cut to a similar depth.

Linear cut [42] is on a similar orientation but has a different profile. Given the horizontal truncation on the site these cuts could have originally been up to 0.90m deep (compared with the height of natural at ETN88). So (5.1) may all be part of a ditch running NW/SE, earlier than a grave (8.1) and well construction (7.1).

It is also possible that (5.1) may somehow be related to well (group 6), forming some form of surface drainage into the well?

(5.2) pit?

Figure 4

stratigraphic sequence

```
      (6.1) [38]
*****|*****
      [43]
(5.2)  |
      [44]
*****|*****
      natural
```

context descriptions

[44] shallow cut truncated by [38] and [25], 0.18m deep, lowest point at 10.33m OD.

[43] orange-brown sand (60) silt (40), no inclusions. Single fill of [44].

Discussion

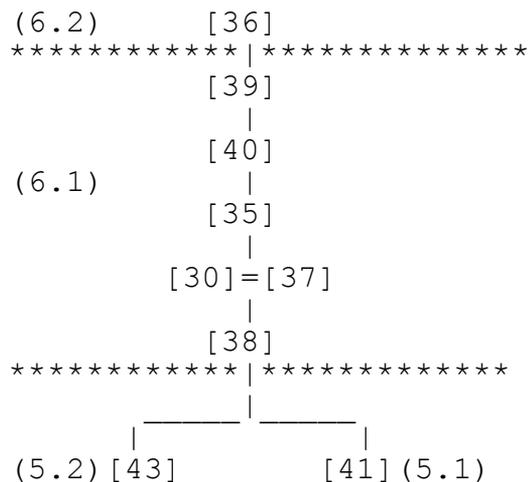
(5.2) is a heavily truncated shallow pit. It is included in this group as it is earlier than the well construction cut [38] (see 6.1).

Group 6 Well

6.1 well construction

Figures 3,4,7,11

stratigraphic sequence



context descriptions

[38] large cut, square in plan at top, sub-circular at the base. S and W edge is vertical and then it steps in and becomes vertical again. The top of the N edge is truncated by a post medieval pit, the E edge has been modified by the later grave cut [25]. The cut is 2.50m wide at the top and 1.05m wide at the base. The pit survives to a depth of 2.50m with the base at 8.01m OD. Construction cut for a well.

[30]=[37] on initial excavation appeared as a square wood lined cut (hence two context numbers), subsequent excavation revealed that it was a square well shaft described by a wood stain, that is, the remnants of a wooden shaft inserted into cut [38]. The shaft was 0.60m x 0.70m and 2.09m deep, the top

recognised at a level of 10.12m OD. No evidence of the construction of the wood shaft was discernible, some Fe nails were found around the top in brickearth [39] (SF 13) and fill [31] (SF 11) that may relate to this wood shaft.

[35] compact ragstone "rubble" (80) sand and gravel (20), no inclusions. The average size of the ragstone rubble was 150x150x150mm, the largest boulder was 430x270x220mm and the also included one piece of dressed stone (SF 25). Top of fill at 9.52m OD. The fill is contained between the well shaft [30]=[37] and the construction cut [38]. The sand and gravel increased towards the edge of cut [38] suggesting it was derived from collapse of the sides while the well was being constructed. Rubble backfill to support/pack well shaft [37]=[30] against construction cut [38]. Sample for ID <6>.

[40] compact sand(60) gravel(30) silt(10) with some pot and ragstone frags. Top of fill slopes into centre of cut from 10.17- 9.99m OD. Redeposited sand and gravel used as packing behind well shaft [30]=[37].

[39] light brown silt(80) and clay(20) with some pot, oyster and small ragstone frags. Fill increase in depth towards centre of cut to 0.30m, the top slopes into the centre of the cut from 10.50m to 10.12m OD.

Discussion

(6.1) represents the construction phase of a well the sequence of activity was as follows;

1. Large cut dug to a depth of 8.09m OD.
2. Wooden shaft 0.60x0.70m (presumably prefabricated) inserted into the cut .
3. Some collapse of sides and ragstone rubble packed in behind the well shaft to a height of 9.52m OD.
4. Redeposited sand and gravel dumped on top of the rubble packing again to hold the shaft in place and fill the construction cut.
5. Redeposited sand and gravel sealed by a layer of brickearth type material, possibly functioned as an impermeable layer.

(6.2) well disuse and backfilling.

Figures 3,4,7

stratigraphic sequence

(8.1) [25]
*****|*****

```

[28]
|
[29]
|
[31]
|
(6.2) [32]
|
[33]
|
[34]
|
[36]
*****|*****
(6.1) [39]

```

context descriptions

[36] mottled grey-brown clay(70) silt(20) sand (10) with some pottery and lots of chalk and ragstone frags. Fill 0.60m thick with the top at 8.57m OD. Primary deposit in well shaft.

[34] grey-brown clay(60) silt(30) sand(10) with lots of ragstone frags including dressed stone (SF 22 and 23) and some bone, CBM, Fe nails (SF 17) and Fe object (SF 16). The ragstone included a large boulder 500x350x150mm and a fragment of memorial stone (SF 22) at 8.59m OD. On the N side of the well shaft a complete articulated dog skeleton was found at 8.69m OD. The top of the fill was at 9.51m OD and 0.50m thick. Sample <4>.

[33] grey-green clay(80) silt(20) with frequent charcoal flecks and moderate CBM, ragstone frags, pottery and animal bone, also occasional glass frags (SF 15), cu. alloy (SF 14) and a fragment of a pottery with cremated bone adhering to it (SF 10). A complete articulated dog skeleton was lying within the fill at 9.10m OD on its side against the S side of the well shaft. The top of the fill was at 10.11m OD and 1.00m thick. Sample <3>.

[32] grey-green silty clay with 20% oyster shell. Top of the fill at 10.07m OD and 0.15m thick.

[31] orange-brown clay(60) sand(40) with occasional charcoal and mortar flecks, pottery, CBM and Fe nails (SF 11). 0.40m thick, top sloping into centre of well shaft from 10.49 - 10.15m OD.

[29] grey-green clay silt with occasional CBM, pottery, charcoal and mortar flecks. 0.26m thick with the top of the fill at 10.30m, truncated by modern intrusions.

[28] orange-brown silty clay with occasional CBM, 0.12m thick with the top at 10.47m OD.

Discussion of (6.2)

[36], [34], [33] and [32] represent the backfilling of the well shaft. These contexts all contain quantities of "rubbish", presumably once the well had gone out of use it became a convenient rubbish pit. The lower fills [36] and [34] contained large amounts of ragstone as well as a fragment of funerary tablet, this material could be derived from a funerary monument that was demolished or fallen into disrepair. Such a structure was found ??? m to the N at ETN88. The well shaft was also used to dispose of two dogs. Analysis of the samples for evidence of small mammals may indicate how quickly the well shaft was backfilled.

Once the well shaft was backfilled the upper part of the well was backfilled, this activity is shown by [31], [28] and [29].

Group 6 discussion

This feature has been interpreted as a wood lined well. If the Roman ground surface was around +11.30m OD (Bowsher,1988) it would have originally been some 3.30m deep. The square wooden lining is a similar size to those found in the City at Queen Street (Wilmot,1982) although no comparison of the timber construction is possible as the wood only survives as a stain. However the lack of any quantity of Fe nails would suggest it was constructed by joints rather than nails. The top of the well is truncated by the basement slab so no evidence survives of any well head structure.

If this feature is a well then obviously the water table in the Roman period was above 8.01m OD (the base of the well) in this area.

The presence of a redeposited cremation vessel and a fragment of funerary tablet in the backfill which was subsequently cut by a later grave (8.1) suggest the well was in use during the life of the cemetery. The presence of a well in the cemetery is not unlikely given the distance to any other water supply e.g. the River Thames. Water could be an essential item in a Roman cemetery for e.g.;

- feasting (Guy,1981)
- ablutions
- preparation of the body
- washing cremated material prior to putting them in a pottery vessel which has been suggested at nearby sites, (Barber and Bowsher, 1989).

A somewhat similar feature was recorded at West Tenter Street, deep pit 169 (Whytehead,1986). A circular cut 4.20m in diameter at the top with sloping sides leading to a vertical

slope near the base which was at 8.70m OD. At the base of the cut were the remnants of a wood lining 1.10m square plus a ragstone rubble packing around the edge of the cut. On the base of the cut was a layer of calcium carbonate. This feature was interpreted as relating to the enactment of the plaster burial rite, however the construction i.e. a large cut with a wooden shaft and ragstone packing is very similar to the well at Prescott Street and may also be a well.

The depositing of broken funerary monuments in the backfill of a well was recorded in excavations beneath Southwark Cathedral (Hammerson, 1978). The well construction again consisted of digging a circular pit 2.50m in diameter and then inserting a wooden shaft 1.00m square and the space behind was packed with clay. The well was then backfilled in the 4th century, the lower fills contained a dog and a cat skeleton the upper fills contained large quantities of building material including a group of Roman sculptures and a fragment of tombstone. It is suggested that these sculptures are derived from a rich mausoleum and the breaking and disposal of pagan objects may relate to Christian iconoclasm....???

Group 7 Inhumation

7.1 N-S inhumation

Figures 4,8,11

stratigraphic sequence

```

(8.1)      [25]
*****|*****
          [19]
          |
(7.1)      [20]
          |
          [22]
          |
          [21]
*****|*****

```

natural

context descriptions

[21] N-S grave cut with vertical sides and base sloping from N to S by 0.08m. 1.64 x 0.98m and 0.40m with the base at 10.15m OD.

[20][22] extended supine adult inhumation with head at the N. Upper arms extended at side of body with no lower arms or hands surviving. Femora extended. Coffin nails (SF 8) indicate burial in a wooden coffin also contained within the coffin was a "bed" of "chalk" like deposit [22], sample <2>. This deposit was completely underlying the skeletal remains. Adjacent to the left shoulder a large fragment of floor tile (SF 6) lay on

edge presumably as packing/decoration between the coffin and the grave cut.

Beneath the left shoulder an assemblage of fowl bones were recovered.

[19] orange clay(70) sand(30) with lenses of grey silt and frequent gravel. Also some pottery, CBM, bone, ragstone and charcoal flecks. Grave backfill.

Discussion

When processing the bone impressions were seen on the "chalk" from around the vertebrae region. They appeared to be from contact with either wood or fabric. The wood impressions were presumably from the base of the coffin. The fabric impressions were probably from some material worn by the body e.g. a shroud, given that the body overlay the "chalk". Awaiting further analysis of these impressions.

Group 8 inhumation

(8.1) N-S inhumation

Figures 4,9,11

stratigraphic sequence

```

                                unstrat
*****|*****|*****
          [10]
          |
          [13]
          |
          [14] plus wood stains [15]-[18]
          |
          [24]
          |
          [25]
          |
*****|*****|*****|*****
          [19] (7.1)                [28] (6.2)
```

context descriptions

[25] N-S grave cut with vertical sides and the base sloping from S-N. 2.00 x 0.90m and 1.10m deep with base at 9.42m OD.

[24] displaced adult inhumation with head at the N. The cranium was prone as was the mandible although separated from the cranium suggesting the body was originally prone, it was not possible to tell from the rest of skeleton whether prone or supine. The skull, vertebrae, and arm bones were located on the E side of the grave. Only one femur was located and this was sloping some 0.20m over the earlier well fills (Group 6). Coffin nails indicate burial in a wooden coffin although they do not form a cohesive pattern, suggesting post burial disturbance.

The jumbled appearance of the skeleton may due to a number or combination of factors;

- slumping into the underlying soft backfills of the well.
- sloping base of the grave cut
- body semi- decomposed and somewhat displaced when buried
- post burial disturbance through ground water

One cu. alloy coin (SF 9) was found adjacent to a coffin nail at the S end of the grave and may have been deliberately placed in the coffin.

[15]-[18] a series of wood stains found within grave backfill [14]. [15], [16], [18] appear as four "planks" c.0.15m wide

and up to 0.83m long lying at 90 degrees to the main axis of the grave and [17] as a circular stain 0.15m in diameter. On excavation it was thought that these stains would relate to a wood coffin or grave structure. However subsequent excavation revealed an earlier wood lined well and these pieces of wood may be derived from it.

[14] mid brown silt(60) sand(20) clay(20) with frequent gravel, charcoal with occasional CBM, pottery, chalk and ragstone frags and cu. alloy object (SF 2), glass frag (SF 3) and nails (SF 4&5). Grave backfill.

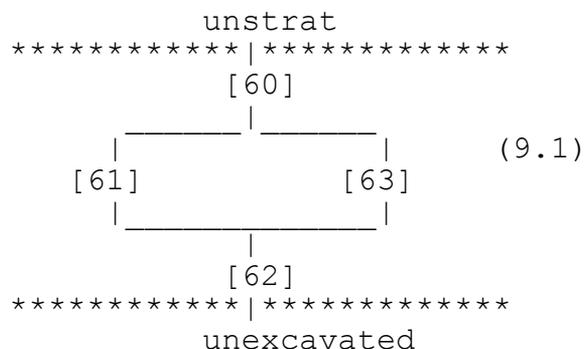
[10][13] these two fills represent the upper fills of grave cuts [25] and [21] before a distinction could be made between the two grave cuts therefore they are somewhat contaminated !

Group 9 Two E-W inhumations

(9.1) E-W inhumations

Figures 4,10,11

stratigraphic sequence



Note These two inhumations were located during the general ground reduction of the site beyond the limits of area excavation. Unfortunately the contractors were less than accommodating and there was a severe restriction on time therefore the level of recording and understanding is much less than would be normally expected.

[62] linear E-W cut. 1.60 x 1.00m and 0.40m deep with the base at c.10.23m OD. This was excavated as one cut but the presence of two skeletons within the cut may indicate it was originally two cuts.

[61] extended supine adult inhumation with the head to the W. The mandible was lying in situ and supine, the cranium was lying prone facing W over the pelvic girdle. The right arm was extended lying at the side of the body, the right humerus was extended with the lower arm lying across the pelvis with the right hand on the left side of the pelvis. Femora extended.

Coffin nails indicate burial in a wood coffin. A complete ceramic flagon (SF 29), see appendix 5, was located to the S of the head. To the N of the upper body an area of one or more hobnails (SF 31) was block lifted.

[63] supine adult inhumation with the head at the W, truncated from the shoulders down. Coffin nails indicate burial in a wood coffin. A complete miniature mica-dusted indented beaker (SF 28), see appendix 5, was located to the W of the skull.

[60] mid brown silt(60) sand(40) with occasional pottery, CBM, charcoal and mortar flecks and Fe nails (SF 30). Grave backfill.

Discussion of the inhumations Groups 7-9

These four inhumations conform to the burial practise recorded on the sites excavated within this cemetery area. Not enough burials survived to discuss the layout/organisation of this part of the cemetery apart from that the two alignments of the burials are either approximately N-S with the head at the N or E-W with the head at the W, which is the general pattern seen in the cemetery.

All the burials showed evidence for burial in a wooden coffin. The burial goods placed alongside the body include fowl remains, coin and pottery vessels.

(8.1) cuts (7.1) removing its skull indicating two phases of burial.

The position of (9.1) has implications for the projected line of the road assuming that no burials would have a direct relationship with the road. Taken with the evidence from ETN88 (see fig 11) the Prescott Street burials fit the usual cemetery pattern i.e. burials N/S or E/W with the E/W burials parallel to the projected line of the Roman road.

Post Medieval feature

Some of the post-medieval features were recorded in section during the monitoring of the kingpost pits (see level II archive), one machine trench was recorded in the area of controlled excavation to show the depth and size of the large post medieval pits that covered a large part of the site.

section 2

Figure 3

A series of pits dug to below 8.55m OD into natural sand and gravels and backfilled with a series of banded fills of black silt and light brown sandy clay including post medieval pottery and peg tile.

Summary of dating evidence

The only dating evidence available is from the pottery, see appendix 5. No dating evidence is available for Groups 1,2,4, or 5.

Pottery from the Roman quarry pits (Group3) dates from the late 1st/early 2nd century AD. The presence of human remains in the fills of these pits suggest the reworking of cemetery deposits, i.e. all the pottery is residual.

The well (Group 6) appears to have been constructed from the late 1st/early 2nd century AD and backfilled from the mid/late 2nd century AD, perhaps in use for around 50 years.

Pottery from burial (8.1) which cuts the well (Group 6) dates from the mid/late 2nd century AD. Pottery from burial (7.1) which is cut by (8.1) dates from the early/mid 2nd century AD.

The two complete pots from burials in (9.1) are 2nd century AD. As primary deposits these pots are a good dating evidence.

All the pottery dates from the late 1st century AD and the 2nd century AD, the absence of 3rd/4th century pottery which is prevalent on nearby cemetery sites may be a function of the horizontal truncation on site.

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Note on human remains by Mike Bardhill

All skeletons show complete ephysial fusion (where visible), so all are adult. No sign of trauma or disease or any of the skeletons.

Skeleton [20] Possible female however bone preservation poor, completely decalcified, outer layer of cortical missing on majority of long bones. Torso in better condition probably where "plaster" provided a barrier between the bone and the underlying acidic sand and gravels.

Skeleton 24 Female on general grassile appearance, bone matrix in fair condition, cranial sutures completely closed.

Skeleton 61 Sex indeterminate.

Skeleton 63 Probable male, sexed on cranium only.

Location of drawings

Verti-file

Level III Figs 3.4.6.11

Plan Chest

Level III Figs 1,2,5,7,8,9,10

Developers' Report drawings

Reduced photocopies of all figs.

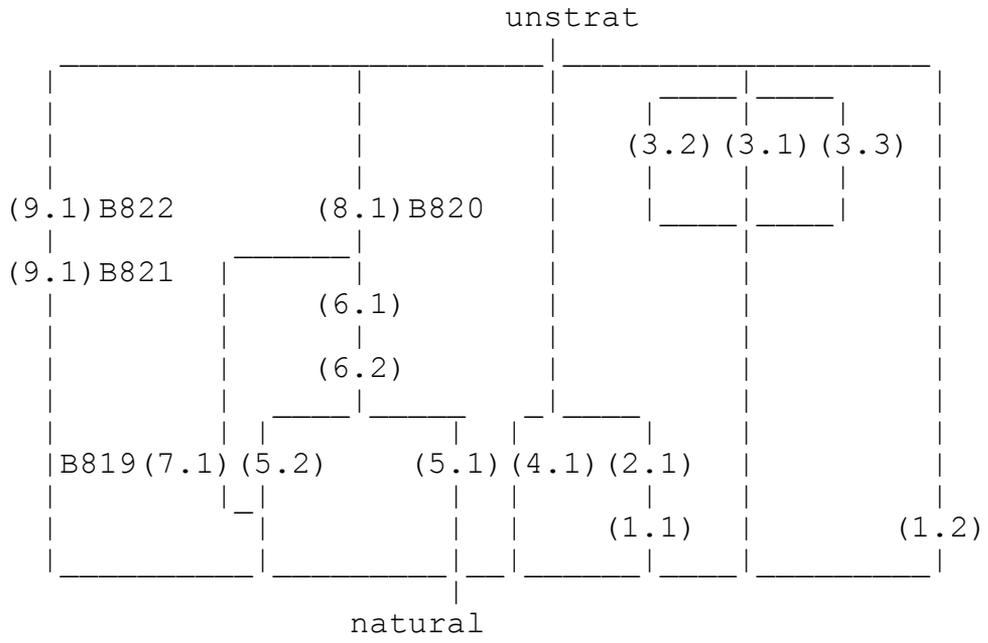
Files on disc

PRE89 Level III archive

PREIND Level III index

PRE89DEV Developer Report.

PRE89 subgroup matrix



PRE89 LEVEL III INDEX

context Colour	type	level II		level III		B/W
		plan	section	sub-group	figure	
1	layer	1	-	1.2	3	
2	layer	2	-	1.2	3	
3	fill	-	1	3.1		1.1-3
1.2-3						
4	cut	-	1	3.1	3	1.1-3
1.2-3						
5	structure	-	-	4.1	4	1.4-6
1.13-15						
6	cut	6	-	4.1		1.4-6
1.13-15						
7	cut	7	-	2.1	4	
8	cut	9	3,4	1.1	3,4,5	1.4-6
1.13-15						
1.16-21	1.19-27					
9	fill	9	3,4	1.1	3,4,5	1.4-6
1.13-15						
1.16-21	1.19-27					
10	fill	-	-	8.1		
11	fill	-	-	5.1		1.25-27
1.31-33						
12	cut	12	-	5.1	4	1.25-27
1.31-33						
13	fill	-	-	8.1		
14	fill	-	-	8.1		
15	w/stain	15	-	8.1		1.28-30
1.34-36						
16	w/stain	15	-	8.1		1.28-30
1.34-36						
17	w/stain	15	-	8.1		1.28-30
1.34-36						
18	w/stain	18	-	8.1		
19	fill	-	-	7.1		1.31-36
2.2-7						
20	skeleton	20	-	7.1	4,8,11	1.31-36
2.2-7						
21	cut	21	-	7.1	4,8,11	1.31-36
2.2-7						
22	"plaster"	20	-	7.1	4,8,11	1.31-36
2.2-7						
23	fill	-	-	2.1		
24	skeleton	24	-	8.1	4,9,11	2.2-12
2.8-18						

25	cut	25	-	8.1	4, 9, 11	2.2-12
2.8-18						
26	fill	-	-	5.1		

context Colour	type	level II		level III		B/W
		plan	section	sub-group	figure	
27	cut	27	-	5.1	4	
28	fill	-	-	6.2	7	
29	fill	-	-	6.2	7	
30	"cut"	30	5	6.1	7	2.32-36
3.11-22						
3.1-9						
31	fill	-	-	6.2	7	
32	fill	-	-	6.2	7	
33	fill	33	-	6.2	7	2.20-25
2.26-32						
34	fill	-	-	6.2	7	2.29-31
3.2-3.10						
35	fill	-	5	6.1	7	3.1-9
3.23-25						
36	fill	-	-	6.1	7	
37	w/stain	-	5	6.1	7	2.32-36
3.11-22						
3.1-9						
38	cut	38	-	6.1	3, 4, 7, 11	3.11-22
3.28-38						
39	fill	-	5	6.1	7	
40	fill	-	5	6.1	7	
41	fill	-	-	5.1		
42	cut	42	-	5.1	7	
43	fill	-	-	5.2		
44	cut	44	-	5.2	7	
45	fill	-	6	3.2	6	
46	fill	-	6	3.2	6	
47	fill	-	6	3.2	6	
48	fill	-	6	3.2	6	
49	fill	-	6	3.2	6	
50	fill	-	6	3.2	6	
51	cut	-	6	3.2	3, 4, 6	4.27-29
4.13-15						
52	fill	-	6	3.2	6	
53	fill	-	6	3.2	6	
54	fill	-	6	3.2	6	

context Colour	type	level II		level III		B/W
		plan	section	sub-group	figure	
55	fill	-	7	3.3		
56	cut	-	7	3.3	3,4	4.27-29
4.13-15						
57	not used					
58	not used					
59	not used					
60	fill	-	-	9.1		
4.7-12						
61	skeleton	-	-	9.1	10	4.5-7
4.1-3						
62	grave cut		-	9.1	4,10,11	4.5-7
4.1-3						
63	skeleton	-	-	9.1	10	