

I

EXCAVATIONS AT 59 MANSELL STREET - 29 WEST TENTER
STREET, LONDON E1

SITE CODE WTE 90

TQ 33840/81075

BRUNO BARBER

MUSEUM OF LONDON

DEPT OF GREATER LONDON ARCHAEOLOGY

LEVEL III ARCHIVE REPORT

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ABSTRACT

The excavated deposits lay under some 2.00m of post-medieval overburden representing backfilled quarry pits, dumping of waste material (including that from clay pipe manufacture) and the floors and demolition debris from 19th century structures on the site.

Limited evidence for pre-Roman activity was excavated in the form of a possible linear feature and a small pit, but this provides little scope for interpretation.

Roman cemetery deposits contained nine inhumation burials, ten cremations and several possible burial pits, together with three possible funerary structures, two linear features, various shallow cut features and dump layers.

The linear features appear to be shallow ditches, quite early in the period of cemetery activity, possibly relating to plot boundaries or the organisation of the area as a burial ground.

Most inhumations showed evidence of wooden coffins, some with grave goods, placed both inside and outside the coffin, two were "chalk" burials. There were two major alignments of inhumation, N-S and E-W, reflecting those of the ditches and structures.

Four cremations were found in pottery vessels with lids of tile or pot (B.B. "dog-bowl"), one had an accessory vessel (also a "dog-bowl") and one had an amphora as a secondary container for the cremation vessel. There was some evidence for wooden outer containers for the other vessels. The other cremations were deposited in shallow pits without pottery vessels, but some showed evidence of being buried in wooden

containers. Some of each type of cremation were deposited with grave-goods, both burnt and unburnt. Recovery of bone from the point of cremation appeared to have been extremely variable, as was the fragmentation of the burnt bone.

The structures consisted of a mausoleum built partly in timber with a central (probably inhumation) grave, a robbed out small stone structure with no trace of a burial surviving and a possible post-built structure around the amphora cremation. Debris from the collapse or destruction of the largest mausoleum produced a fragment of funerary inscription.

There was limited evidence of horizontal deposition after the cemetery phase, but this may represent problems of definition at the interface between the cemetery deposits and the post-Medieval overburden.

Acknowledgements

The site was funded by the developers, Sandhu and Sandhu. Machines, lighting and other general help were provided by O'Keefes Construction LTD, the groundworks contractors.

Archaeologists who worked on the site for all or part of the time were: M.Bell, J.Brazier, H.Burkhill, V.Griggs, J.Gould, C.Kirby, P.Mitchell and S.Nichols.

On site finds processing and human bone advice was provided by M. Bardill.

Environmental advice was provided by J.Rackham.

The site was negotiated by S.Haynes and R.Whytehead.

Site Location

The site is located at NGR TQ 3384081075, bounded by West Tenter Street to the E, Mansell Street to the W, MSL 88 to the N and part of No 27 West Tenter Street to the S. (Figs 1 and 2)

The site lies 250m beyond the Eastern wall of Roman London.

Previous Archaeological Work

The site lies in an area known since the 17th century as a Roman cemetery; inhumation and cremation burials have been found in the vicinity (Evans and Pierpoint 1986, Barber, Bowsher and Whittaker 1989).

WTE 90 Group 1

Work in this part of London by the DGLA since 1983 has revealed 588 inhumation burials and 115 cremations, ditches and a possible road (Fig ???), relating to one or more Roman burial areas.

WTE 90 Group 1

<u>Site Code</u>	<u>Inhumations</u>	<u>Cremations</u>
SCS83	4	2
WTN84	120	14
TTL85	1	-
HAY86	15	4
MSL87	230	20
MST87	77	16
MNL88	5	-
ETN88	8	-
HOO88	115	47
PRE89	4	-
WTE90	9	10

Table 1. Excavated sites in the Eastern cemetery. (Ellis 1986, Whytehead 1989, Falcini 1985, Wooldridge 1986, Whittaker 1988, Haynes 1988, Bowsher 1988, Barber and Bowsher 1989, Bowsher 1990, Barber 1990)

An area to the east of the city wall of Londinium has been identified as an area of extra-mural (and outside the city bounds before the wall was constructed) burials. This is one of a series of burial zones identified for Roman London (Fig 3).

Background to the Excavations

When proposals to develop the site of 59 Mansell St / 29 West Tenter Street were first made, a limited amount of trial work was undertaken by the DGLA in 1988 (WTE88, Phillpotts and Williams 1988, Appendix 2). This one trench revealed only extensive post-medieval cut features truncating the natural brickearth and cutting well into natural sands and gravels. However immediately to the North of this site the DGLA had excavated in 1987-88 (MSL87, Whittaker 1988), including parts of the N edge of 29 West Tenter Street and part of the Basement of 59 Mansell Street. On the basis of findings from that site it was apparent that modern disturbance to cemetery levels was variable and that burials could be expected at c. 11.00m OD, ie immediately below the basement slab of 59 Mansell Street or beneath c. 2.00m of post-medieval overburden on 29 West Tenter Street.

Development plans were finalised towards the end of 1989, and in the light of the above information, the Department was able to negotiate a programme of work with the developers and to work beside or in advance of the groundworks contractors.

The excavation ran from February to March 1990 and employed an average staff of one supervisor and three archaeologists.

Site Conditions and Method of Work

The site could be divided into two areas. The basement of 59 Mansell Street where the slab was broken out by the contractors and then the Museum sectioned the post-Roman intrusions and excavated the Roman cemetery deposits. The rest of the area (29 West Tenter Street and part of 27 West Tenter Street) had not been basemented so the post-medieval overburden was excavated by machine, but this could only be done after underpinning the S wall of 31 West Tenter Street, the E wall of 59 Mansell Street and the E wall of 61 Mansell Street. Although difficult, recording was possible in most of these underpinning pits, and only the one against 61 Mansell Street were cemetery deposits disturbed without adequate recording due to overriding safety considerations. Here at least one cremation in a pottery vessel with lid was removed from its context by machine, but was mostly recovered by museum staff (see Group 6 Discussion).

All finds and samples were processed off-site.

Temporary bench marks were established by closed traverse from the O.S. Bench Mark at 4/6 North Tenter Street (13.41m OD). The site grid was set up internally and then tied in to standing buildings featured on the O.S. 1:1250 (Figs ??????).

Organisation of the Report

Each context number is in one sub-group and each sub-group is in one group, so (1.1) is sub-group 1 of group 1. The groups are described in numerical order with a description of each sub-group and a matrix showing the relationships of contexts within the sub-group and how they relate to the sub-groups stratigraphically above and below it.

Discussion of the sub-groups and groups and inter-relationships are entered where appropriate. Full general discussions not yet attempted (as of 30/5/90).

A3 or A4 drawings are inserted where appropriate, most are reductions from Level III drawings or sketch plans on copies of the site base plan.

WTE 90 Group 1

WTE 90 Group 1

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

Group 1: Geology and topography

WTE 90 Group 1

WTE 90 Group 1

Introduction to Group 1Geology

The geology of the area is London Clay overlain by Pleistocene river terrace gravels, capped by brickearth. Table ?? indicates the top height of the surviving brickearth and gravels at sites in the Eastern cemetery.

<u>SITE CODE</u>	<u>BRICKEARTH</u>	<u>SAND/GRAVEL</u>	<u>STREET LEVEL</u>
SCS 83	????	????	????
WTN 84	11.10m OD	10.80m OD	????
HAY 86	11.70m OD*	????	????
MST 87	????	????	????
MSL 87	????	10.80m OD	????
MNL 88	11.62m OD *	11.07m OD	????
ETN 88	11.28m OD	10.63m OD	????
HOO 88	10.80m OD	10.60m OD	????
PRE 89	--	10.55m OD	????
WTE 90	11.26m OD	10.82m OD	13.31m OD

It is unclear whether these * figures relate to the top of undisturbed brickearth or, as seems more likely, to the highest surviving disturbed brickearth of the Roman cemetery stratigraphy.

At WTE 90, the natural was banded sands and gravels with a surface generally at 10.82m OD with occasional peaks to <10.98m OD. Where truncation is not total, this is overlain by the natural brickearth slab to <11.26, but disturbed brickearth, part of the Roman stratigraphic sequence survives in places to c. 11.71m OD.

Topography

The present day topography of the area is of a slight slope to the S, towards the Thames. This would presumably have been the case in Roman times but variations to this will have been lost with medieval and post medieval industrial activity (mostly pitting and dumping) and by late post medieval/modern construction. At West Tenter Street/Mansell Street between 1.00 and 1.50m of post medieval dumping were found to overlie the cemetery deposits.

The main pre-cemetery influence on the site was a large linear feature [see (2.1) and (2.2)] but its date is unknown and it is far from clear that it is a result of human activity. Its only influence on the cemetery appears to have been in the creation of a poorly drained area above its water retentive clay fill.

There was no sign of pre-cemetery gravel extraction such as has been found eg at H00 88.

The cemetery developed with small scale erosion and deposition. Possible topographic influences are the two Group 3 ditches although these are small features and are themselves probably related to other larger boundary features.

The other topographic influence is likely to have been the pattern of roads, paths and major funerary monuments in the area. Hence the alignment of the possible road found on SCS 83 needs to be plotted accurately.

Cemetery activity, ie upcast, dumping, levelling, construction and robbing, formation of natural or cultivated soil will undoubtedly have raised the ground level over time (see especially Groups 4, 8, 9 and 10). The highest surviving Roman deposit is at 11.71m OD, but cremation burials, usually held to have been close to if not actually at the ground surface, occur below 11.67, 11.38 and 11.28m OD.

Group 1.1

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

Context descriptions

[1040][1175][1176][1233] Yellowish brown silt(30) sand(30) and clay(50) in general layer below all traces of human activity, over the S side of the site, Survives 0.50-0.36m thick. Contains occasional fine and medium pebbles, no finds, and signs of animal and root

WTE 90 Group 2

disturbance. Surface of this deposit lies at 11.02 - 11.26m OD, dependant on extent of truncation.

Discussion of (1.1)

Remains of natural brickearth slab These are the only natural deposits assigned context numbers on site. Elsewhere only the sands and gravels were clearly undisturbed and are planned and discussed under Geology in the introduction. Other sub-groups are probably natural in origin, (4.4) and (4.6) in particular, but whether they are just heavily disturbed or actually redeposited was not clear due to soil conditions and the poor definition of features those sub-groups appeared to seal.

WTE 90 Group 2

Group 2: Possible pre-Roman activity

WTE 90 Group 2

WTE 90 Group 2

Group 2.1

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```

(7.1) [1039] * [1010] (5.3)
*****°*****°*****
      Û-----Û-----î
(2.1)      [1043]
           °
           [1044]
*****°*****°*****
      natural

```

Context descriptions

[1044] cut of large linear feature, running E-W.
 Unexcavated.
 As recorded, feature is over 1.57m wide and 3.68m long.

[1043] yellowish/brown clay(10), sand(20) and silt(70),
 with occasional fine pebbles, no finds. Unexcavated.
 Obscured to N and E by concrete backfill of the MSL 87
 excavation.

Discussion of (2.1)

This is the feature identified as a prehistoric ditch in the adjacent MSL 87 excavations. See also (2.2). Could not be excavated due to depth restriction within the basement of 59 Mansell St. Due to basement truncation to around 10.80-10.65m OD, it should be remembered that any shallower Group 2 features would not have survived within 59 Mansell St.

Group 2.2

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```

(4.3) [1111] * (10.1) [1128] * [1121] [1090] [1032] (4.4)
*****°*****°*****°*****°*****°*****
      Û-----Û---Û-----î      °      °
           [1122]=====[1095]==[1033]
(2.2)      |
           |
           | [1096]==[1034]
*****°*****°*****°*****°*****
      |-----Û-----Û-----î
           natural

```

Context descriptions

[1096][1034] Cut of large linear feature, running E-W across the entire length of the site. One section only recorded. "V" shaped in profile, with steep sides and a very uncertain base due to erosion of natural gravel and banded sand. At least 3.00m wide and over 3.25m deep, base at 8.65m-7.00m OD. Cut could not be defined through what appeared to be natural brickearth; this is important to the interpretation of the feature, but may be unreliable as the edges of the feature were truncated, to the N by ditch (3.1) and to the S by unstrat pitting.

[1122][1095][1033] friable when dry, "jelly-like" when wet, yellow/brown silty(20) sandy(10) clay(70) with occasional fine and medium pebbles, heavily mottled with worm casts towards the top of the deposit. Upper fill of large linear feature. Only one 0.20m deep spit was removed by hand from [1095], and one possible worked flint (SF 86) was recovered. See section 13, figure ??.

Section 13, Figure ??

- 1) [1095], see above.
- 2) Yellow/brown slightly clayey silty sand, with occasional fine gravel and moderate thin lenses of light grey silt and white silty clay.
- 3) Light grey brown sand(20) and clay(80) with occasional fine pebble.
- 4) Mixed deposit of stiff yellowish brown clay(50) and medium and coarse pebble(50).
- 5) Mixed, slumped natural sand and gravel with heavy black (?manganese) staining.

Discussion of (2.2)

This is the same feature as that in group (2.1), and as that first identified on MSL 87. Due to safety considerations the site agreement specified that the feature could only be excavated by the contractors machine and then rapidly backfilled. Accordingly, the course of the ditch was defined and one cumulative section was recorded (section 13, figure ??).

The feature appears very regular to be a natural stream channel, lacking the extensive slumping and undercutting that might be expected in the unstable gravels. If it was sealed by the brickearth, then it is not impossible that is a natural glacial feature (?ice wedge).

Given that it is far from certain that the feature is of natural origin, it has to be considered as a potential result of human activity. Where a relationship exists, the feature is earlier than any other context representing human activity,

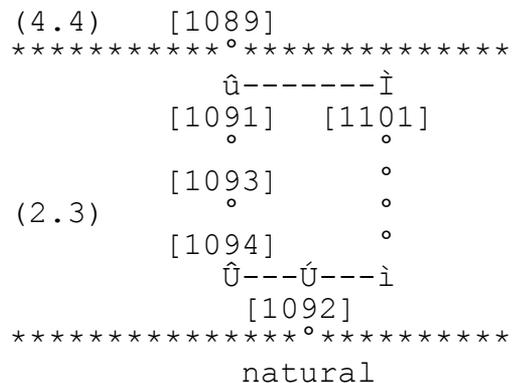
and is therefore potentially pre-Roman. Its fills were extremely clean, and the only find recovered was the possible worked flint. If it is a ditch then it must have been a massive undertaking and a large scale landscape feature, perhaps a boundary. At some point in its life, the feature appears to have held running water shown by lenses of silt and clay in its penultimate fill.

The section through the fills suggest a sequence of: rapid erosion, slow silting or backfilling, water lain deposits and final backfilling or slow silting.

Group 2.3

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence



Context descriptions

[1092] cut, circular in plan, diameter 0.35m, vertical sided 0.85m deep, breaking gradually to a rounded base at 10.07m OD. Backfills offer few clues to function: could be a post pit or a pit with no certain function.

[1091][1093][1094][1101] Backfills of [1092], excavated in half section. See section 12, figure ??, the section through [1101]. Backfill seems to consist of layers of natural sand, gravel and brickearth. Three flint flakes (SF 74) were recovered from (1094), the primary fill.

Section 12, Figure ??

- 1) Light brown sand(70) clay(20) and silt(10), occasional medium/large pebble and iron panning.

WTE 90 Group 3

- 2) Grey clay(60) sand(30) and silt(10) with occasional fine angular gravel
- 3) Light brown clay(70) sand(20) and silt(10) with occasional small pebbles
- 4) Deposit of small/medium pebble(70) clay(15) sand(10) and silt(10) with heavy iron panning, occasional large pebble.

Discussion of 2.3 and Group 2 in general

Although its function is unclear, this feature appears to be pre-Roman. Like (2.2) it appears to be sealed by possibly natural brickearth, but the relationship was obscured by the cut of the ditch (3.1). It is an isolated feature, and might be related to the linear feature (2.1/2.2).

Given that prehistoric material has been identified close to this site, at MNL 88 (Haynes, 1988) and MSL 87 (Whittaker, in prep) signs of human activity prior to the use of the area as a cemetery should not be ignored.

WTE 90 Group 3

Group 3: Roman ditches

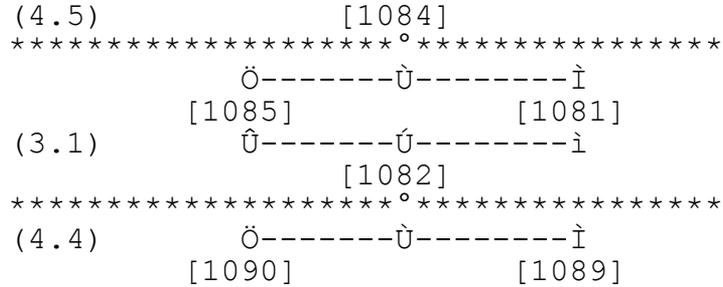
WTE 90 Group 3

WTE 90 Group 3

Group 3.1

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence



Context descriptions

[1082] linear feature, running approximately E-W, irregular in plan, max width 1.10m, irregular profile basically "U" shaped, <0.29m deep, base at 10.76m OD.

[1081][1085] fill of [1082], grey/brown silty clay with occasional pot, animal bone, cremated bone, tile and Cu alloy obj (SF 66). Appears to be a single backfill deposit. Divided into two for finds collection purposes, [1081] to W, [1085] to E.

Discussion of (3.1)

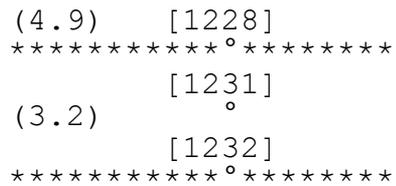
Definition difficult, due to similarity of backfill to dirty overlying brickearth (4.6) and underlying deposits (4.4). Further, the area seems to have been periodically boggy due to the very water retentive clay backfill [1095] in (2.2). Whether or not this was sealed by (4.6) is thus problematical.

Function - ?early boundary feature within cemetery, clearly not a large scale feature. May relate to even smaller gully, (3.2) to the S.

Group 3.2

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence



WTE 90 Group 4
(1.1) [1233]

WTE 90 Group 4

Context descriptions

[1232] Shallow linear cut running E-W for c. 4.40m. Truncated to SE by unstrat, to the NE it could not be traced beyond where it had been truncated by features of (8.1). Width 0.35m, shallow sides 0.18m deep and rounded base to 11.06m OD.

[1231] fill of [1232], grey/brown sand(30) and silt(70) with occasional animal bone, Fe nails, shell, pot, charcoal and mortar flecks, and a large fragment of limestone rubble.

Discussion of (3.2)

Shallow gully. Possible that it was not defined within the recorded sealing layer [1210] (4.10) due to soil conditions, but even if that is not the case it seems unlikely to ever have been a large feature.

Stratigraphically this is an early feature. Relate to (3.1) on grounds of orientation and consider whether these ditches affect or determine the alignment of Group 5 and Group 10 features or whether they are part of a much larger pattern not visible on this small site.

Spot dates for unrelated features should help tie down the speculation.

Group 4: Roman activity below burials

WTE 90 Group 4

WTE 90 Group 4

Group 4.1

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```

(4.2)      [1112]
*****°*****
           [1113]
(4.1)      °
           [1114]
*****°*****
(10.4)     [1115]

```

Context descriptions

[1114] cut, "V" shaped in profile with a rounded base, level from N-S, possibly rectangular in plan but truncated to N by MSL 87. 0.53m E-W, survives 0.46m N-S, steeply sloping sides 0.50m deep, base at 10.82m OD.

[1113] brown clayey silt with occasional fine gravel, pot, tile, bone and small chalk frags. Single backfill of [1114].

Discussion of (4.1)

Either small pit or terminal end of ?linear cut. If a pit, function is unknown. As a linear cut, it could be related to the structure described in (10.1-3), ? as an enclisure ditch, but equally could be anything else given the extent of the survival of Roman deposits in this area of the site. (Need to check if this feature was recorded on MSL 87)

Group 4.2

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```

(10.3) [1100]      (6.1) [1049]      (11.2) [1078] [1080]      (5.7)
[1098]
*****°*****°*****°*****°*****°*****°*****°
*
           û-----û-----û-----û-----û-----î
(4.2)      [1112]
*****°*****°*****°*****°*****°*****°*****°
*
(4.1)      [1113]

```

Context description

[1112] Layer of dark yellow/brown silty (30) sandy(20) clay(50), heavily mottled grey/brown, with moderate fine pebbles, tile and mortar, pot, small clusters of burnt glass frags, bone, shell and small ragstone/?limestone frags up to 60x60x80mm. Truncated to N and S by unstrat activity, survives 1.8m E-W, 0.48m N-S. Surface of layer at 11.35- 11.47m OD, thickness <0.18m.

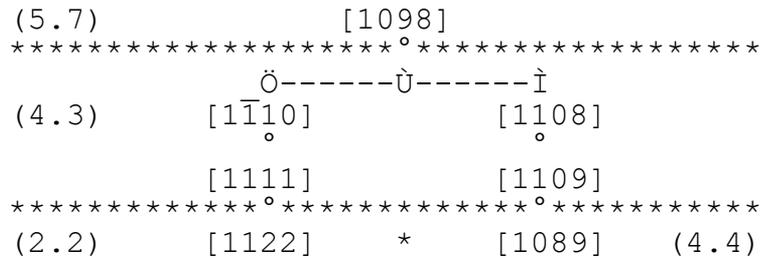
Discussion of (4.2)

Recorded as layer. Must be redeposited after the building debris of (10.4), but no obvious association with that structure. Possible that this context is the fill of a large cut feature, but truncation makes this uncertain.

Group 4.3

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence



Context descriptions

[1111] cut, oval in plan, with steeply sloping sides 0.16m E- W, 0.10m N-S and 0.08m deep, base at 1071m OD. Either stake hole in the base of grave (5.7) or a result of animal/root activity. Filled with [1110], a dark brown clayey silt with flecks of brick and tile.

[1109] cut, possibly oval in plan, surviving 0.71m E-W and 0.53m N-S truncated to the S by unstrat activity, gradually sloping sides 0.35m deep and slightly concave base at 10.72m OD.

[1108] fill of [1009], grey/brown clay(10) sand(15) and silt(75), with occasional shell, mortar and tile flecks, C.B.M. frags, pot and Fe nails (SF 76).

Discussion of (4.3)

[1111] may be a natural feature/animal burrow, or relate to burial (5.7).

WTE 90 Group 5

[1109] is a pit, but function is unclear. It is just possible that it is a grave, and may merit relocation in Group 7, but there are no in situ nails or human bone.

WTE 90 Group 5

Group 4.4

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```

(10.1)
      [1118]*(10.4) [1116]*(4.3) [1109]*(3.1) [1082]*(4.6) [1058]
[1027]
*****°*****°*****°*****°*****°*****°*
*
      Ū-----Ū-----i           °  Ö-----À           °      °
(4.1)           °                °  °                °                °
      [1121]===== [1089]===== [1090]===== [1070]
[1032]
*****°*****°*****°*****°*****°*****°*
*
      °      *      [1091/2] (2.3) *      °                °      °
(2.1)           °      *****°                °                °
      [1122]           [1095]           natural
[1033]

```

Context descriptions

[1121][1089][1090][1070][1032] the same layer, recorded at different times and in truncated "islands" of truncated stratigraphy. Yellow/brown sand, silt and clay with occasional pot and tile. Appears to be redeposited natural brickearth (but see discussion of this text section). 0.13- 0.17m thick with a surface height of 11.02-11.24m OD.

Discussion of (4.4)

This layer looked like slightly disturbed natural brickearth. However features [1096](2.2) and [1092](2.3) were only visible when the layer was removed, so could al be redeposited. The other possible interpretations are: A) that the underlying features pre date the formation of the brickearth or B) that they were cut through (4.4), but this was not recognised on site due to soil conditions.

Group 4.5

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```

(4.6) [1074]
*****°*****
      [1083]
(4.5) °

```

[1084]
*****°*****
(3.1) Ö-Û-----Ï
[1085] [1081]

Context descriptions

[1084] cut, square in plan, 0.30m across, 0.06m deep and vertical sided. Flat base at 11.02m OD. Filled with [1083], dark grey silty clay with occasional pot and a glas frag (SF 63). At time of excavation, it was noted that this feature could be a post-Medieval intrusion.

Group 4.6

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

Context descriptions

[1071/1074][1058][1027] light yellowish brown sand(30) silt(30) and clay(40), a general layer c. 0.33m deep across much of the area. Numbering relates to truncation of site. [1071/1074] are two spits excavated in the hope that features would begin to show up within this layer. Inclusions of moderate pot, C.B.M. frags, Fe objects, burnt human bone and occasional unburnt human bone. Whole deposit is very heavilly mottled by dark grey silty clay, centred on small disturbances, circular in plan, presumably due to worm and root action. Surface of deposit lies at c. 11.24/11.34m OD.

Discussion of (4.6)

WTE 90 Group 5

Although this layer appeared to be a natural deposit, disturbed by animal/insect/root action, its inclusions suggest that the deposit has been formed as a result of some truncating activity such as ploughing/gardening or is redeposited. Certainly the deposit was found to seal cut (4.5) and ditch (3.1), but soil conditions in wet weather on brickearth overlying the large ditch (2.2) were far from ideal.

WTE 90 Group 5

WTE 90 Group 5

[1234][1221][1217] fills of the above cuts, all basically redeposited brickearth, [1221] and [1217] containing building material an pot, [1234] containing only pot.

WTE 90 Group 5

Group 4.11

Figures

Stratigraphic Sequence

(6.10) [1155]
*****°*****
 [1164]
(4.11) °
 [1173]
*****°*****
(1.1) [1176]

Context descriptions

[1173] very heavilly truncated cut. Part of one N-S edge survives 0.16m deep, flat base at 11.06m OD. Truncated on all sides by unstrat activity.

[1164] brown silt heavily mottled with black silt, with occasional pot, human bone, Fe objects, and ?Cu alloy coin (SF 104).

Discussion of (4.11)

Very hard to guess at function. Could be remnant of small scale brickearth quarrying, or some other cut feature. Cut by a cremation (6.10), but fill contains human bone, so must belong to a period of cemetery activity.

WTE 90 Group 5

WTE 90 Group 5

Group 5: Inhumation burials

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Introduction

Due to the relative lack of intercutting of inhumation burials, they have been grouped together on the basis of function alone until Level III finds reports are available. The group discussion will consider possible phasing of the inhumation burials based on stratigraphic and site records. Sub-groups (5.1-5.5) are located within the basement of 59 Mansell St where cemetery deposits had been truncated to 10.80-1-.65m OD, and this should be borne in mind when considering shallow burials and surface features, etc.

Group 5.1

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```
(12.2)    [1016]
*****°*****
          [1024]
          °
(5.1)     [1026]
          °
          [1025]
*****°*****
          natural
```

Context descriptions

[1025] grave cut, rectangular in plan, with rounded corners. Vertical sides and flat base. Truncated to W by W wall of 59 Mansell St, to S by [1016](12.2) and from above by the basement of the standing building. Survives 0.72m N-S and 0.52m E-W. 0.25m deep with base at c.10.60m OD.

[1026] extended supine articulated adult inhumation, only the lower legs surviving. Head would have been located at the S end of the grave. Burial in a wooden coffin is indicated by a line of in situ Fe nails (SF 28) at the north end of the grave. A pottery bowl (SF 27) was situated to the N of the feet, apparently inside the coffin.

[1024] light brown silty sand with moderate pebbles, occasional tile, pot, shell and disarticulated human bone. Backfill of grave cut [1025].

Group 5.2

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```
unstrat
*****°*****
    [1006]
      °
(5.2)  [1007]
      °
    [1008]
*****°*****
(5.5)  [1020]
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Context descriptions

[1008] grave cut, rectangular in plan with rounded corners, long axis aligned SW to NE, 0.65x2.10m. Steep to vertical sides up to 0.27m deep with flat base at 10.53m OD. Edges slightly unclear to NE where feature cuts [1020] (5.5).

[1007] supine extended articulated adult inhumation, head would have been located at the NE. Some truncation from above by unstrat activity (ie basement of 59 Mansell St) has removed parts of the arms and ribcage and is the most likely explanation for the absence of the skull. Fragmentary surviving arm bones suggest at least one hand rested on the pelvis. Legs extended. Interment in a wooden coffin indicated by in situ Fe nails (SF 17). Over the feet were a pair of hobnail boots (SF 23). Unfortunately it was not possible to block lift these, so they were planned 1:1 in situ.

[1006] light brown clay(20) silt(80) with occasional pebbles, burnt bone frags, pot and redeposited human bone. Backfill of [1008].

Discussion of (5.2)

Alignment of this burial is at variance with that of the other inhumations recorded from this site. The presence of redeposited human bone, ?from [1021] (5.5), indicates that this burial has disturbed at least one cremation and one inhumation. If this does prove to be a late burial, its alignment may suggest some change in custom or management of this cemetery area. The cremated bone serves as a reminder that any topsoil burials, esp cremations will have been

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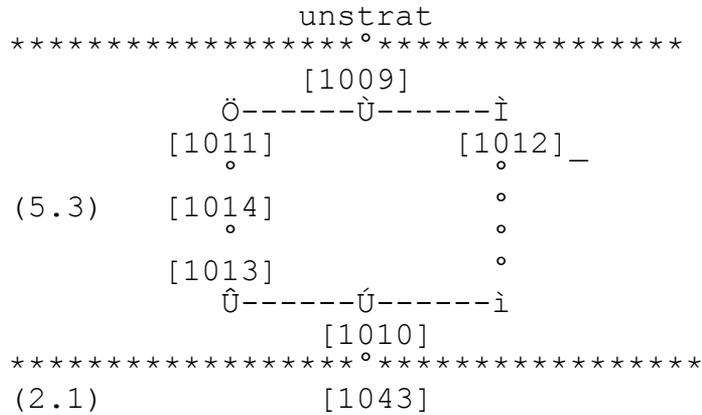
truncated in the area of the basement of the standing building.

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Group 5.3

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence



Context descriptions

- [1010] grave cut, irregular (?due to poor definition) but roughly rectangular in plan, long axis aligned 1.80x0.85m. Near vertical sided, surviving 0.30m deep with a flat base at c.10.32m OD.

- [1013] compact very dark grey/brown silty sand forming an upstanding four sided structure around inhumation [1014], contains Fe nails (SF 22, SF 29) in situ, indicating that this is a coffin stain. No surviving evidence for base or top to coffin. Form of stain as excavated indicates a coffin 1.47x0.43m, the depth being uncertain as the stain only became clear towards the base of the grave.

- [1014] supine extended articulated juvenile inhumation, skull lying at N end of the grave. Arms appeared to be extended by sides, legs extended. Burial in wooden coffin indicated by timber stain [1013] and by further Fe nails in the backfill contexts.

- [1011] loose pale yellow silt/sand/clay with moderate pebbles and occasional pot, overlying inhumation [1014], contained within stain [1013]. Coffin fill, presumably represents the silting up of the coffin as the lid decayed. (Or simply the grave backfill, if there was no lid, but then presumably it would not have appeared as a distinct fill on excavation.) Some coffin nails (SF 25) came from this context.

- [1012] yellow silt/sand/clay with moderate pebbles, no finds. Lower backfill of grave cut [1010], outside coffin.

[1009] Yellow sand/silt/clay with moderate coarse pebbles, occasional pot, tile and in situ coffin nails (SF 20). Upper backfill of [1010]. Coffin nails, if these are the upper nails and not part way down the side suggest that the top of the coffin was at c. 10.60-10.65m OD, giving a depth of the coffin as c. 0.30m.

Group 5.4

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

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(12.2)      [1005]
*****°*****
           [1017]
           °
(5.4)      [1018]
           °
           [1019]
*****°*****
           natural

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Context descriptions

[1019] grave cut, rectangular in plan, but very heavily truncated to the S by [1005](12.2). Survives 0.54m E-Wx0.42m N-S, 0.10m deep with vertical sides and a flat base at 10.75m OD.

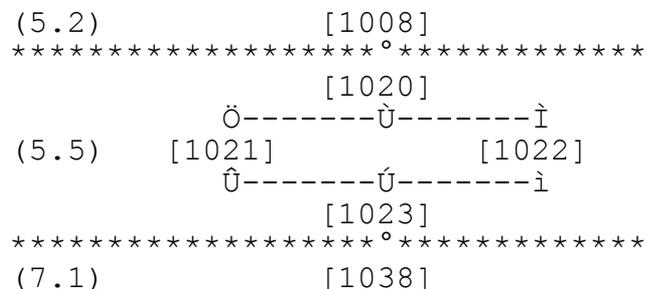
[1018] supine adult inhumation, probably extended, but badly disturbed by Post Med pitting and the basement floor of 59 Mansell St. Head would have been located at N of grave, but does not survive. Mandible is in situ at top of neck, right humerus extended beside body, but all the post-cranial skeleton has been truncated below the clavicles. Inhumation in a wooden coffin indicated by in situ coffin nails (SF 24).

[1017] dark brown/black sand(10), silt(90), with moderate brickearth flecks, occasional chalk and charcoal flecks and pebbles. Backfill of grave cut [1019].

Group 5.5

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence



Context descriptions

[1023] grave cut, rectangular in plan with rounded corners, very heavily truncated by insertion of the basement of 59 Mansell St. Long axis aligned N-S, 2.10x0.47m, with steep sides surviving only 0.06m deep and a flat base at c.10.56m OD.

[1022] compact grey/brown silty sand lying in two strips 0.03m wide on either side of inhumation [1021], parallel to the sides of the grave. Interpreted as a coffin stain, of a coffin 0.45m wide. No trace of the ends of the coffin survive.

[1021] slightly flexed supine adult inhumation, head would have been located at the N, but is assumed to have been truncated by unstrat activity. Mandible lies beside neck, forearms crossed so that hands rest on distal ends of the opposing humeri. Legs slightly flexed at the knee. Burial in wooden coffin indicated by stain [1022] and in situ coffin nails (SF 31)

[1020] yellow/brown silt/sand/clay with moderate gravel, occasional charcoal flecks and pot. Backfill of grave [1023].

Group 5.6

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```

unstrat
*****°*****
    [1045]
      °
(5.6)  [1047]
      °
    [1046]
*****°*****
(6.1)  [1050]

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Context descriptions

[1046] grave cut, heavily truncated from above by unstrat activity, and to N by the shoring from the MSL 87 excavation. Recorded as semi circular in plan, 0.45m E-W, with irregular shallow sides 0.05m deep with a flat base at 11.28m OD. Long axis would have been N-S.

[1047] extended, ?supine, juvenile inhumation. Head would have been located at the N, but only parts of the lower legs have escaped truncation. Burial in a wooden coffin indicated by a line of coffin nails (SF 37) at the S end of the cut. Several large sherds of pot(SF ??), damaged by machine clearance of the post-Med overburden, lay outside the coffin at the S end and may have been grave goods.

[1045] grey/brown silt/sand/clay, with occasional fine pebbles. Backfill of grave [1046].

Group 5.7

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```

(9.1)  [1087]
*****°*****
    [1097]
      °
    [1104]
(5.7)  [1105]
      °
    [1098]
*****°*****
(4.3)  Ö----Û-----Ï

```

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[1110]

[1108]

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Context descriptions

[1098] grave cut, rectangular in plan 0.50m, N end truncated by shoring for MSL 87 excavation, S end by unstrat pitting. Long axis oriented N-S. Steeply sloping sides, the W side stepped inwards, 0.55m deep with flat base at 10.77m OD.

[1105] supine infant inhumation, showing signs of disturbance or post depositional movement, only part of the torso and right arm lying by the side of the body being in situ. Burial in coffin c. 0.35m wide indicated by in situ Fe nails.

[1104] "chalk" deposit within coffin, in three distinct patches overlying parts of the body, most notably the lower right arm.

[1097] brown silty clay with moderate pot, occasional human bone, mortar and plaster. Backfill of grave cut [1098].

Discussion of (5.7)

Infant burial at this (normal) depth (ie base of the brick earth) suggests some explanation may be needed for the burial of juvenile (5.6) at such a high OD.

The presence of small patches of "chalk" overlying particular parts of the body may fit with those interpretations (?refs) suggesting that only those parts of a body perceived to have been infected or to have caused its death might have been treated in this manner.

Group 5.8

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

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          unstrat
*****°*****
          [1130]
           °
(5.8)    [1131]
           °
          [1132]
*****°*****
(8.3)    [1183]

```

Context description

[1132] grave cut, truncated to N and S by unstrat activity, to W by contractors' underpinning pit. Rectangular in plan, oriented approximately N-S, survives 1.30m N-S, 0.50m E-W. Vertical sides 0.40m deep and a flat base at 11.22m OD

[1131] extended supine adult inhumation, skull would have been at the N, but has been removed by unstrat activity. Legs extended (with some unstrat disturbance to the feet) and right arm lying flexed with right hand over left pelvic wing. Left arm is extended by side of body with hand lying below pelvis, clasped around a lump of lavastone (SF 110). Three Fe nails were found (SF 111), but these may be redeposited backfill finds and do not seem to indicate a nailed wooden coffin, the body seems too close to the E edge of the grave for one.

[1130] grave backfill. brown sand(20) clay(20) and silt(60), with moderate shell (?oyster), occasional pot, bone, CBM, and small ragstone frags. Several small finds were collected, a fragment of decorated glass rod (SF 109) from between the knees (? a significant position), a glass vessel sherd (SF 108) at the top of the right leg and another fragment of lava.

Discussion of (5.8)

Inhumations without clear evidence for a coffin are far from unknown in the cemetery. Possibly this burial might have been placed in a container fixed by jointing or pegging, but there is no reason to stress this. Such coffins were found at HOO 88, but obviously unencoffined burials are also known. The lava stone apparently clasped in the left hand of the burial may be of some significance, but another piece occurred in the backfill, so the position may be co-incidental. Most of the bone shown as truncated on fig ???? was collected during groundworks, but the skull had been remove4d by post-Med pitting, and the feet disturbed by a similar process.

Group 5.9

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```

(9.9)      [1160]
*****°*****
           [1143]
            °
           [1144]
            °
(5.9)      [1145]
            °

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[1146]
*****^o*****
(4.10) [1210]

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Context descriptions

[1146] grave cut, rectangular in plan, long axis aligned N-S, extreme N end truncated by unstrat pitting survives 0.73m N-S, 0.39m E-W, with vertical sides 0.49m deep and a flat base at 10.87m OD.

[1145] compact white/off-white "chalk" deposit below body. Lies within the outline of coffin nails (see fig ??) and gives the internal dimensions of the coffin as 0.65m N-S and 0.21m E-W. Sharp definition of edges, deposit is between 10 and 60mm thick, apparently moulded around the body, ie thinnest where the inhumation [1044] lies. N.B. N end of coffin has been lost.

[1144] supine infant inhumation, head located at the N, within wooden coffin indicated by in situ Fe coffin nails (SF 97+115), which suggest a maximum depth for the coffin of 0.27m. Body is almost fully extended, arms by side, legs are very slightly flexed, but there are signs of post-mortem disturbance in that the right femur has rotated c. 90 degrees to the axis of the body. Inhumation lies on chalk fill [1145].

[1143] backfill of grave [1146], grey/brown silty sandy clay (redeposited brickearth) with occasional shell, chalk flecks, pot and bone. Small quantities of this fill were sieved for bone retrieval.

Discussion of (5.9)

Burial has a number of features to be expanded on in general discussion.

- 1) N-S orientation. Is it an alignment? What are they aligned on?
- 2) Burial of young child - significant or a result of better recovery techniques.
- 3) Chalk burial. Why? What is the "chalk"? Practical or Ritual?
- 4) Depth of graves, ie just to the top of the gravel.

Group 6: Cremation burials

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Group 6.1

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```

(5.6)      [1046]
*****°*****
           [1050]
           °
(6.1)      [1049]
*****°*****
(4.2)      [1112]

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Context descriptions

[1049] Small pit cut, ovoid in plan, 0.16m N-S, 0.22m E-W, truncated from above by (5.6), surviving 0.07m deep.

[1050] grey/black sand(25) and silt(25) with burnt human bone(50), and occasional charcoal and fine pebbles. Fill of [1049]. Sample <2> taken, 100% of this deposit.

Discussion of (6.1)

Truncated remains of cremation burial, apparently in a small cut without a pottery vessel. Burnt bone may have been placed in an organic container (eg bag or wooden box) but lacking metal fastenings. Parallels for this type of burial exist on many DGLA sites (refs ?????????).

Group 6.2

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```

(12.4)     [1048]
*****°*****
           [1063]
           °
(6.2)      [1064]
*****°*****
(4.7)      [1072]

```

Context descriptions

[1064] cut of small pit for cremation burial, rectangular in plan 0.80x0.60m with rounded corners, steep sides 0.24m deep and a base sloping from N to S, lowest point at 11.09m OD.

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[1065] very dark grey brown silty clay with occasional cremated human bone, pot, tile, and occasional Fe nails, (SF 46), apparently not in situ. Sample <10> taken, 100% of fill.

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Group 6.3

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```

(12.4) [1048]
*****°*****
      [1061]
(6.3)  °
      [1062]
*****°*****
(4.6)  [1071]

```

Context descriptions

[1062] small ovoid cut, 0.32m N-S, 0.29m E-W, with gradual sides 0.08m deep and a concave base at 11.26m OD.

[1061] cremation deposit dark grey/brown silt(85) and clay(15) with moderate burnt human bone, occasional small pebbles, charcoal flecks and pot.

Group 6.4

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```

(12.4) [1048]
*****°*****
      [1059]
(6.4)  °
      [1060]
*****°*****
(4.6)  [1071]

```

Context descriptions

[1060] pit cut, ?ovoid in plan, heavily truncated to E and S by unstratified pitting, surviving 0.30m N-S and 0.75m E-W. Irregularly sloping sides survive 0.37m deep, base does not survive. Lowest surviving point at 10.85m OD.

[1059] cremation deposit. Dark grey silty(30) clay(70) with moderate fine pebble, occasional tile, pot, burnt human bone charcoal flecks, shell and Fe objects (SF 44). Fe objs were mainly nails and possible corner fittings, suggesting that there was a wooden structure, possibly a box in the pit, perhaps to contain the human remains.

Group 6.5

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```

(12.4) [1052]
*****°*****
      [1052]
(6.5)  °
      [1053]
*****°*****
(4.6)  [1071]

```

Context descriptions

[1053] cut for cremation. A shallow scoop c. 1.40m N-S, 0.45m E-W, 0.03m deep, with a deeper, ?circular cut diameter ?0.57m (truncated to the W by MSL 87 excavations), with vertical sides 0.25m deep and a flat base at 11.15m OD.

[1052] cremation deposit. Black silty clay, with moderate shell, burnt human bone, occasional charcoal, glass frag (SF 38), and in situ Fe nails (SF 43) suggesting the presence of a timber structure (?a box) to contain the bone. The nails are remarkable in that they were all point down, possibly suggesting a platform structure, a cover, or a "box" without a base to enclose the vessel once it was placed in the cut.

Group 6.6

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```

      unstrat
*****°*****
      [1055]
(6.6)  °
      [1054]
*****°*****
(4.6)  [1058]

```

Context descriptions

[1054] cut for cremation. Small pit ?circular in plan, truncated to the S by groundworks activity, diameter 0.50m, with vertical sides 0.33m deep and a flat base at 1098m OD.

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[1055] grey/brown silt/sand and clay with frequent cremated human bone, occasional pot, pebble and Fe objects (SF 39/40 and 41). No recorded evidence for presence of an organic container for the cremation. Sample <3> taken, 100% of this deposit.

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Group 6.7

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

(8.1) [1207]
*****°*****
[1202]
○
[1211]
○
(6.7) [1214]
○
[1215]
○
[1203]
*****°*****
(4.8) [1203]

Context description

[1203] cut for cremation within amphora. Rectangular in plan with squarish corners, 0.84m N-S, 0.54m E-W, with vertical sides 0.37m deep, flat base at 10.90m OD and a further scoop in the centre down to 10.82m OD, to take the base of the amphora.

[1215] cremation deposit. Burnt bone fill of cremation vessel (SF 151), badly shattered, apparently by weight of backfill. This deposit assigned sample <17>, 100%.

[1214] soil fill of cremation vessel (SF 151), dark grey fine silt with occasional pottery and ? carnivorous snail shells. Probably entered urn by a mixture of silting and worm action. The urn has been placed upright in the broken off base of a cylindrical conical ended amphora (SF 144), itself placed upright within cut [1203]. This deposit was covered by sherds from the sides of the amphora and by its neck and shoulders, the neck forming a makeshift libation tube down onto the cremation urn. The neck was sealed by a large fragment of ragstone (SF 152).

[1211] Backfill of the upper part of the amphora, covering its replaced neck and sides, yellowish brown silty(40) clay(60), with occasional sherds of the amphora (SF 144).

[1202] backfill of cut [1203], mixed grey brown and yellowish brown silty sandy clay. Heavily flecked with mortar, shell, burnt brickearth and with occasional ragstone frags <70x70x20mm. Contains amphora (SF 144) and

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its fills as the primary deposit (see figures ??? and descriptions below).

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Discussion of (6.7)

Cremation in vessel with amphora used as a secondary container (?coffin substitute). This is a relatively common form of burial rite in the Eastern cemetery area. The form of amphora is unusual (normal type is Dressel 20 globular) but this probably relates to what was commonly available rather than to particular beliefs and mortuary practices.

Positioning of neck of amphora with stone lid at 11.26m OD may indicate approximate position of ground surface at time of burial if its purpose was to allow libations etc after burial. Other possibilities are that the amphora has been crushed downwards to its present level some considerable time after the interment eg on insertion of (6.9) or that the neck and stone lid were only functional during the mortuary rite, not after backfilling.

Note possible (?family) clustering of cremations (6.7/6.8/6.9) within this discrete area.

Note also the number of small pits or post holes in the same area (4.8/4.9/8.1) which may be related, ?as markers or minor memoriae.

See Group 6 Discussion and Group 10 Discussion.

Group 6.8

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```

(8.3)      [1183]
*****°*****
           [1188]
            °
           [1196]
(6.8)      [1197]
            °
           [1189]
*****°*****
           Ö---Û----Ï
(4.8) [1229] * [1201] (8.2)

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Context description

[1189] cut for cremation, square in plan with rounded corners, S edge truncated by unstrat pitting, survives 0.64m E-W, 0.50m N-S. Vertical sides 0.24m deep, then sloping gradually to flat base at 11.12m OD.

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[1196] soil fill of cremation vessel (SF 136). Tile lid of cremation vessel (SF 134) did not seal the vessel perfectly and also the vessel had been slightly crushed by weight of backfill or activity on the surface, allowing soil to enter the vessel. Brown sandy silt.

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[1097] bone fill of cremation vessel (SF 136). On excavation of urn three unburnt bone pins were found (SFs 165/166/167), ?hair pins rather than dress pins on basis of their thin cross section.

[1188] backfill of cut [1189], brown silty(30) sandy(30) clay(40), containing moderate pottery, flecks of mortar, tile and chalk, occasional small frags of tile, chalk and ragstone. Contains cremation vessel (SF 136) with tile lid (SF 134) as the primary deposit, with an inverted "dog-bowl" (SF 135), very poorly fired, lying on the base of the cut.

Discussion of (6.8)

Cremations with unburnt grave goods are well paralled, (Whitehead ?????, Whitaker ?????), as are cremations with accessory vessels (Ibid ??????????????).

"Dog-bowls" are more common as lids for vesels. It is possible that this one was used as a lid for an organic container (?for food offerings) which has subsequently rotted to leave no trace.

Position of lid at 11.38-11.31m OD might be taken as an indication of the ground level in the area at the time of insertion, but this need not be the case.

Possible marker/canopy for this grave recorded in sealing layer (8.3) above. Consisting of several large tile fragments and lumps of ragstone (fig ?????). Could either be a collapsed canopy over this burial or a coincidental dump of building material.

Group 6.9

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```

(9.3) [1174]
*****°*****
      [1177]
      °
(6.9) [1179]
      °
      [1178]
*****°*****
(8.3) [1183]

```

Context descriptions

[1178] cut for cremation burial, square in plan with rounded corners, truncated to N by [1134] (12.5), survives 0.60m E-W, 0.48m N-S. Steep sides 0.27m deep and rounded base to 11.39m OD.

[1179] burnt bone fill of cremation vessel (SF 119). No soil had entered the vessel, and the bone assemblage was in an excellent condition, extremely clean apparently washed after cremation. An assemblage of snails was recovered during off-site excavation and there was a solid concretion of burnt bone in the base of the vessel. Some indication that large pieces of bone (long bone ends, vertebral bodies) were arranged around the sides of the vessel and that the centre of the deposit mostly consisted of smaller frags esp torso and inomminate frags.

[1177] backfill of [1178], grey brown silty (30) sandy (30) clay (40) with occasional pebbles, mortar flecks, small ragstone and ironstone. Contained cremation vessel (SF 119) with a lid of re-used tile (SF 117). Beside and to the south of the vessel was a piece of imbrex. Two apparently in situ Fe nails (SF 121) were found to the S of the vessel, suggesting it might have been interred in a wooden box 0.40m wide.

Discussion of (6.9)

Cremation in vessel with possible secondary container of wood (cf Barber and Bowsher ????????) as opposed to the re-use of an amphora as in (6.7)

May have disturbed (crushed) amphora cremation (6.7)

Imbrex is in a position familiar for secondary vessels. Possibly covered food deposit or an organic secondary vessel which has not survived.

The tile lid at 11.67m OD may indicate the approximate ground level at the time of interment. If this is an acceptable hypothesis then cremations (6.7/6.8/6.9) indicate considerable change in ground level in this area of the site. Either the ground surface was originally at c. 11.26m (6.7) and due to the dumping of spreads of building material and redeposited brickearth recorded on the site matrix rose to c. 11.67m OD (6.9) or there has been an interval of truncation not recognised on site, lowering the ground level from 11.67m to c. 11.30m OD. The former seems more likely (but how likely is that?).

Group 6.10

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```
unstrat
*****°*****
    [1156]
(6.10)  °
    [1155]
*****°*****
(4.11)  [1164]
```

Context descriptions

[1155] cut for cremation, very irregular in plan c. 0.45m E-W, 0.47m N-S, irregular sides 0.08m deep and an uneven base to 11.25m OD. A small circular continuation of this cut in the NE corner had a diameter of 0.09m and base at 11.21.

[1156] cremation deposit, black silt(80) with cremated human bone(20), and occasional shell, pot, and Fe nails (SF 100). Sample <13> taken, 100% of this deposit. Cremated bone and small nails or tacks were concentrated in the small circular feature and in the centre of the main cut.

Discussion of (6.10)

Fe nails do not appear to all be in situ, but may indicate the presence of a wooden container for the cremated bone. The circular cut in the corner of the feature may represent animal activity, it seems too in substantial to be a stake hole. Pot sherds could represent a disturbed cremation vessel, but they seemed much finer than the standard urn fabric.

GROUP 6 DISCUSSION

Cremations and markers/structures ie Group 6/10 links

- Group 7.2 is almost certainly a grave, but it is not entirely certain that it contained an inhumation rather than a cremation, although the former is more likely. This probable burial was associated with a funerary structure (10.5).

- Again, if the interpretation of (10.1 etc) as a robbed out funerary monument is correct, and its reconstructed size approximately right then it could only have either a free standing monument/altar or a mausoleum to contain a cremation.

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Extreme truncation by the robbing makes this impossible to prove.

- Of note in this context are a number of small cut features in the area where the cremations in pottery vessels were located. As recorded during excavation they lie in several sub-groups: (4.8) (4.9) and (8.1), and are separated by thin layers of disturbed brickearth. In themselves they could be isolated post holes, but all appear to pre-date cremations (q6.8/9). In composite plan (see Figure ????) they invite consideration as a rectangular timber structure around the amphora cremation (10.7). This interpretation is perhaps not to be favoured as it implies that some relationships were missed on site, especially that between cremation (6.7) and post-pit [1218](4.8) but soil conditions were not ideal, many features being backfilled with little more than redeposited brickearth. Timber structures around cremations have been provisionally identified at MSL87 (Whittaker pers comm). Whether these can be called mausolea/ motuary houses/ etc is uncertain. All these cut features which have a relationship to [1201](8.2) are sealed by it, and this layer may represent the robbing or collapse of this structure. (See discussion of Group 8.2 and note that it could also represent the construction debris of the Group 10.5 structure or just a dump)

WTE 90 Group 7

Group 7: Possible burials

WTE 90 Group 7

WTE 90 Group 7

Group 7.1

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```

(5.5) [1023]
*****°*****
      [1038]
(7.1)  °
      [1039]
*****°*****
(2.1) [1043]

```

Context descriptions

[1039] cut, possibly rectangular in plan, truncated to E by (5.5), to the S by (5.2). Only parts of two sides remain, 1.00m N-S and 0.20m E-W. Vertical sides 0.08m deep and flat base at 10.56m OD.

[1038] light brown sand(10), clay(10) and silt(80), with moderate pebbles and occasional charcoal, tile and chalk flecks. Fill of [1039]

Discussion of (7.1)

Given the alignment, OD heights, shape and appearance of this feature and its location in an area of burials, it is likely that this is the truncated remnant of an inhumation grave.

Group 7.2

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```

(8.3) [1183]
*****°*****
      [1204]
      °
(7.2) [1216]
      °
      [1205]
*****°*****
(4.10) [1210]

```

Context descriptions

[1205] cut of probable grave. Severely truncated to N by unstrat pitting, reconstructs as either a N-S rectangular inhumation burial pit or a square cremation pit. Full

WTE 90 Group 8

width E-W 0.70m, surviving length 0.40m. Sides slope gently for 0.10m at the top of the cut and then become vertical, 0.65m deep, with a flat base at 10.69m OD.

WTE 90 Group 8

WTE 90 Group 8

[1216] packing deposit found lining the S and E edges of the cut, <0.09m wide, in its lower 0.25m only. Brown silt(15) sand(15) clay(30) and medium pebbles(40).

[1204] backfill of [1205], brown clay(10) sand(40) and silt(50) with occasional pebbles and CBM flecks. Contains in situ massive Fe nails in two layers, upper (SF 148) at c. 10.83-10.95m OD and lower (SF 149) at c. 10.70-10.75m OD.

Discussion of 7.2

Fe nails and packing indicate that this is a pit with a massive wooden structure in it. Most likely interpretation is that it must be a grave pit containing a wooden coffin. It cannot be certain whether this was to hold a cremation or an inhumation burial, but the depth of the cut and the scale of the wooden construction would tend to suggest an inhumation.

This probable burial is almost certainly related to the structure (10.5). This cannot be proved on stratigraphic grounds but it appears in horizontal terms to be the central burial within that mausoleum.

WTE 90 Group 8

GROUP 8: Roman activity between burials

WTE 90 Group 8

WTE 90 Group 8

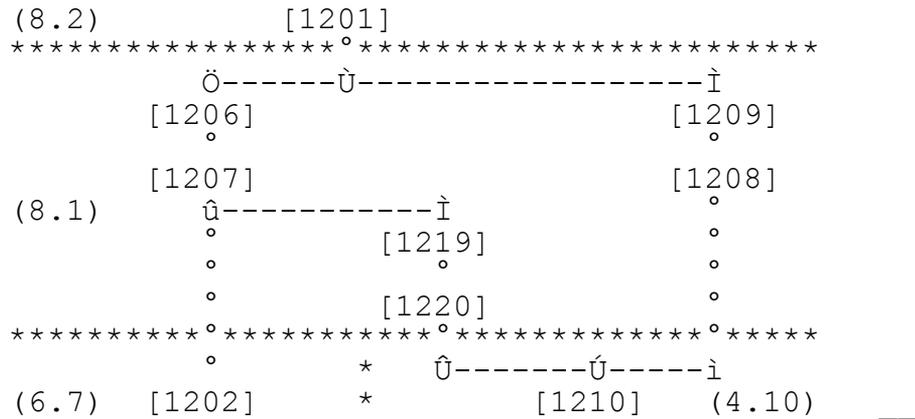
Introduction to Group 8

All layers and features in Group 8 are non-burial features firmly located within the period of cemetery activity, that is, they are both cut by/sealed by burials and themselves cut or seal burials.

Group 8.1

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence



Context description

[1207] ?post-pit, sub-rectangular in plan, 0.48m N-S, 0.32m E- W, steep sides 0.20m deep and a flat base at 11.07m OD. Filled with [1206] grey/brown silty clay, find free.

[1220] post-pit or robbed out post. Consists of a central circular cut with vertical sides, c. 0.23m in diameter, and a flat base at 10.88m OD, within a larger cut 0.44m N-S, 0.36m E-W with irregular sides. Filled with [1219] grey silty(60) clay(40) with occasional tile frags up to 40x50x100mm, pot and small ragstone chippings.

[1208] ?post hole, ovoid in plan, 0.36m N-S, 0.40m E-W, shallow sloping sides 0.18m deep and a flat base at 11.10m OD. Filled with [1209] grey sandy silt with occasional pot and medium pebbles.

Discussion of (8.1)

Possible post-pits. [1220] and [1207] appear to represent a post being robbed and replaced.

The features may all be related and also need to be considered with post-holes/pits in the same area (4.8) (4.9) (8.1).

WTE 90 Group 9

Possibly together they indicate some form of timber funerary structure or are individual markers associated with cremations (6.7/8/9).

WTE 90 Group 9

WTE 90 Group 9

and chalk, bone, Fe nails (SF 133), glass frag (SF 132), Cu alloy/Fe composite object (SF 130) and a fragment of inscribed memorial stone (SF 131). Layer 5.00m E-W, 2.40m N- S, surface levels 11.65 - 1145m OD, average thickness 0.15- 0.20m.

Discussion of (8.3)

Layer containing building material. Origin is uncertain - could either be from the collapse or destruction of the underlying mausoleum (10.5) or from else where in the cemetery, the former is the favoured interpretation, apparently in keeping with the sequence of activity in the area. Tombstone (SF 131) is significant ?only 2nd found stratified in modern cemetery excav in London, but very fragmentary (See notes in discussion section of Group 10.5).

WTE 90 Group 9

Group 9: Roman activity above burials

WTE 90 Group 9

WTE 90 Group 9

Group 9.1

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```

unstrat
*****°*****
      [1086]
      °

```

(9.1) [1088]

```

      [1087]
*****°*****
(5.7) [1097]

```

Context descriptions

[1087] cut irregular in plan, truncated to the N by MSL 87 excavations, 3.80m E-W, 0.62m N-S, vertical sides 0.25m deep, with a slightly undulating base at c. 10.76m OD.

[1088][1086] silty(10-20) clay(80-90) backfills of [1087] with occasional pot, tile, CBM, shell, charcoal flecks and small chalk frags.

Discussion of (9.1)

Was this feature identified in MSL 87 ? If not, then there are no clues as to its function.

Group 9.2

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```

(9.3) [1174]
*****°*****
      Ö-----Û-----Ï
      [1167]          [1212]
      °

```

(9.2) [1168] [1213]

° [1180]

° [1181]

```

*****°*****
      Û-----Û-----Ï
(8.3) [1183]

```

WTE 90 Group 10

WTE 90 Group 10

Context descriptions

[1168] small pit, irregular in plan, 0.50x0.50m at maximum, 0.27m deep with a concave base to 11.13m OD. Filled with [1167] grey/brown silty clay with occasional pot, bone, charcoal and shell frags.

[1213][1181] two small pits, [1213] circular in plan, dia 0.50m, 0.20m deep with a flat base at 11.35m. Filled with [1212] redeposited brickearth with occasional pot, ragstone frags and Fe nails (SF 120). [1181], mostly truncated but apparently a similar but slightly larger feature, c. 0.75m diameter, filled with [1180] redeposited brickearth with occasional pot.

Discussion of (9.2)

[1168] maybe a robbed out post, [1213] and [1180] could be post settings, but could equally be small pits.

Group 9.3

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```

(1.1) [1134] * (9.4) [1172] * (9.7) [1166]
*****°*****°*****°*****
      Û-----Ú-----î
(9.3)                               [1174]
*****°*****°*****°*****
      Ö-----Û-----Û-----î
(6.9) [1177] * [1167] [1212] (9.2)

```

Context description

[1174] Layer, <5.10m E-W, 1.80m N-S, surface levels 11.66m OD in the N, 11.66m OD in the S, 0.15m deep. Brown silty(60) clay(40) mottled yellow/brown and grey/brown with moderate pebbles, mortar and tile flecks, occasional pot, CBM, animal bone, small ragstone frags and Fe nails (SF 116).

Discussion of (9.3)

Origin of this deposit uncertain, but appears to be dumping, although its edges were far from distinct and tend to merge with other Group 9 layers. The quantity of Fe nails in this and overlying deposits needs explaining. The only excavated feature on site which could have produced this is the Group (10.5) muasoleum, which was at least partly constructed in timber.

Context also contains tiles (See figure ?????) towards its base, which now appear likely to have been associated with the underlying cremation, (6.8), perhaps as a marker, possibly constructed in a similar way to the tile canopies over certain inhumation burials (seen at Hooper St, ???????).

Group 9.4

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```

(9.5)    [1140]
*****°*****
          [1162]
(9.4)    °
          [1172]
*****°*****
(9.3)    [1174]

```

Context description

[1172] layer, light grey silt(60) sand(20) and clay(20), with occasional pot, tile, animal bone, charcoal, mortar and burnt brickearth flecks, and Fe nails (SF 114). Probable dump, 1.85m E-W, 1.20m N-S, <0.10m thick, surface levels 11.65m OD in the N to 11.53m OD in the S.

[1162] layer, dark grey/brown silt(40) sand(30) and clay(30), with moderate chalk, mortar and burnt brickearth fragments, occasional pot, animal bone, small ragstone frags, Fe nails (SF 107) and shale bracelet frag (SF 103). Dump layer, 1.20m E-W, 0.52m N-S, 0.08m thick, surface levels 11.67m OD in the N, to 11.56m OD in the S.

Discussion of (9.4)

Dump layers containing redeposited building material and ? grave goods. Origin uncertain, but might relate to cut features not found within the area of excavation, to a deliberate attempt to raise the ground level, to a phase of clearance. In this connection, the Fe nails may derive from the timber structure of mausoleum (10.5). See Groups (8.3), (9.3).

Group 9.5

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

(12.5) [1136]
*****°*****
 [1139]
(9.5) °
 [1140]
*****°*****
(9.4) [1162]

Context descriptions

[1140] cut, oval in plan, 0.60m N-S, 0.37m E-W, shallow sloping sides 0.12m deep and rounded base to 11.43m OD.

[1139] fill of [1140] dark grey/brown silt(80) and sand(20) with occasional pot, bone and CBM.

Discussion of (9.5)

No possible interpretation, other than "shallow pit" possible.

Group 9.6

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

(9.7) [1171]
*****°*****
(9.6) [1198]
*****°*****
(4.10) [1210]

Context descriptions

[1198] layer, light grey silty sandy clay and yellow/brown sandy silty clay, with frequent flecks of mortar, CBM and burnt brickearth, occasional pot and animal bone. Possible dump layer 2.50m E-W, 1.60m N-S, 0.16m deep, surface level 11.42m OD.

Discussion of (9.6)

Similar levels and composition to [1183](8.3), possibly related. Otherwise appears to be just a dump of redeposited, contaminated brickearth.

WTE 90 Group 10

WTE 90 Group 10

Group 9.7

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```

(9.8)    [1163]
*****°*****
          û-----î
          [1165]    [1170]
(9.7)    °
          [1166]    [1171]
*****°*****°*****
(9.3)    [1174] *   [1198] (9.6)

```

Context descriptions

[1166] shallow pit cut, sub-rectangular in plan, 2.10m E-W, 1.10m N-S, steeply sloping sides 0.30m deep, flat base at c. 11.25m OD. Filled with [1165], grey/brown silt(60) and clay(60) with CBM, pot, animal bone, Fe nails (SF 113), chalk flecks and ragstone frags <150x150x150mm.

[1171] small pit cut, sub-rectangular in plan 1.14m E-W, 0.42m N-S, gently sloping sides 0.08m deep, with a flat base at 11.36m OD apart from a slight depression at the E end of the cut to 11.23m OD. Filled with [1170], dark grey silty(70) clay(30), with occasional pot, CBM, and small ragstone frags.

Discussion of (9.7)

Function of these pits is uncertain. Not entirely certain that they are Roman (no spot dates).

Group 9.8

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```

(9.9)    [1157]
*****°*****
(9.8)    [1163]
*****°*****
          û-----î
(9.7)    [1165] [1170]

```

Context description

[1163] dump layer, grey/brown silt(70) clay(20) and sand(10) with moderate pot, CBM, Fe nails (SF 105), large

WTE 90 Group 10

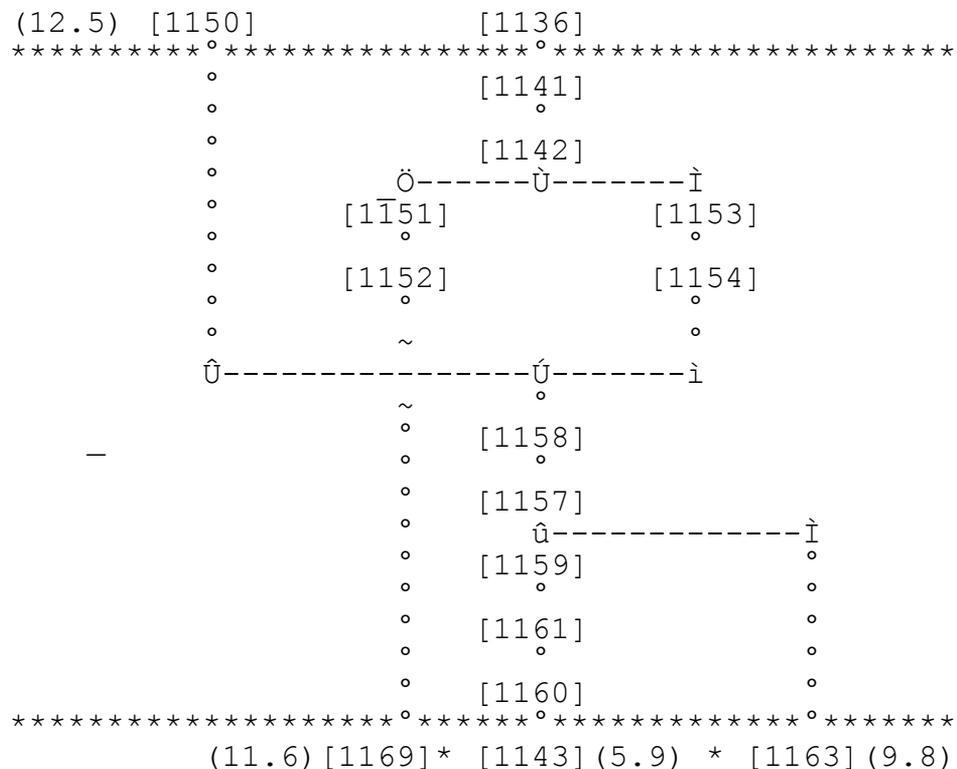
Fe concretion (SF 106), occasional shell, animal bone, small ragstone frags and mortar flecks. 3.80m E-W, <0.80M N-S, truncated to S by unstrat piting. Surface levels 11.38 - 11.52m OD.

WTE 90 Group 10

Group 9.9

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence



Context description

[1160] cut, semi-circular in plan, 1.30m E-W, truncated by unstrat pitting to N, shallow sloping sides, 0.10m deep, rounded base to 11.21m OD. Filled with [1161] and [1162], basically redeposited with occasional shell and CBM including a tessera. May simply be the disturbed top of underlying inhumation grave (5.9).

[1157] ephemeral cut with very poor definition, oval in plan, c. 1.20m E-W, 2.00 N-S, <0.08m deep, and level base at c. 11.35m OD. Filled with [1158] dark grey silt(70) and sand(30) with moderate oystershell, occasional pot, animal bone and CBM. No function apparent

[1152][1154] two possible small post-hole cuts, dia c. 0.20m, 0.15m deep. Filled with [1151] and [1153], grey/brown silty clay with occasional bone and CBM. No other associated evidence for structural activity, so function unknown.

WTE 90 Group 10

[1142] pit cut, truncated to the N by unstrat activity, possibly sub-rectangular in plan, 0.90m E-W, W edge vertical, 0.14m deep, other surviving edges slope gently to a flat base at 11.34m OD. Filled with [1141] dark grey clay/silt with occasional pot and animal bone.

WTE 90 Group 10

WTE 90 Group 10

Group 10: Structures/demolition/robbing

WTE 90 Group 10

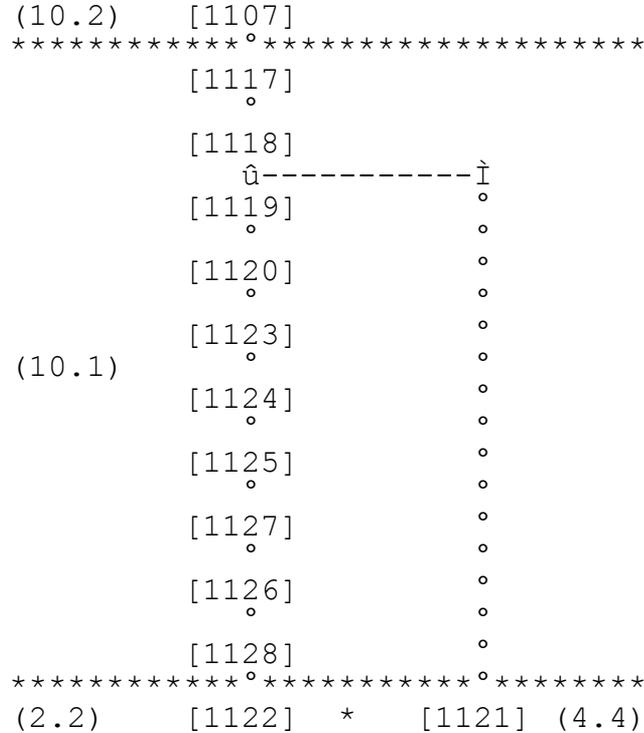
WTE 90 Group 10

WTE 90 Group 10

Group 10.1

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence



Context description

[1118][1120][1127][1128] a series of cuts which are interpreted as the earliest phase of robbing of a funerary monument. As recorded on site, [1128], an "L" shaped cut, with vertical sides and flat base at c. 10.80m OD forming the S and W sides of the structure is the earliest. It is not clear whether its rubble fill [1126] is robber backfill or poor quality foundations for the structure. This is recorded as cut by a flat based cut, at 10.91m OD, part of its S side only remaining, 0.10m deep. This may represent the level of initial clearance during robbing. Cut [1120], base at 10.60m OD is interpreted as the robbing of the N side of the structure, [1118], base at 10.80-10.90m OD as the the robbing of the E side.

[1117] backfill of [1118], grey/brown clay(15) sand(10) and silt(75), with occasional ragstone frags below 120x120x120mm and pot.

WTE 90 Group 11

[1119] backfill of [1120] yellow/brown sandy silt with moderate chalk flecks and frags less than 100x100x100mm, occasional tile frags and pot.

[1123][1124][1125] backfills of [1127], with moderate mortar, tile, pot, small chalk frags, ragstone frags up to 100x50x40mm, and a tessera (SF 84).

[1126] backfill of [1128], with containing frequent small and large ragstone frags up to 160x300x120mm, small mortar lumps, small and large tile frags up to 160x90x50mm and pot.

Discussion of (10.1)

The above description should be clearer in combination with figure ??. Truncation by the shoring works for MSL 87 to the N and W and by unstrat post-Medieval pitting to the S means that this interpretation should be seen as provisional only. The cuts in this sub-group may all have been broadly contemporary, and as soil changes were very subtle the stratigraphic sequence recorded may not be entirely correct.

However, the cuts are interpreted as the result of the robbing of a small four sided structure, at least partly built of chalk and ragstone. Its external dimensions appear to have been approximately 1.00m E-W and 1.20m N-S. It is possible that cut [1120] does not represent the position of the N wall, being heavily truncated and surviving only 0.20m wide, but there are parallels for this size of structure in a cemetery setting. Trenches [1118] and [1126] display their full width. If [1126] is not a robber cut it would suggest that the foundations were approximately 0.30m wide and the robber cuts 0.40m wide.

Further interpretation is hampered by the fact that the structure was so heavily robbed (see also 10.2/3/4). If the structure ever extended above the Roman ground surface, its dimensions would have been slightly smaller than those given above. It may have been a free standing monument beside a burial, now lost, or a mausoleum to contain a cremation burial, destroyed in the robbing of the structure. (Refs ??????????)

Group 10.2

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

(10.3) [1100]
*****°*****

WTE 90 Group 11

WTE 90 Group 11

[1102]
[1103]
(10.2) [1106]
[1107]

(10.1) [1117]

WTE 90 Group 11

Context descriptions

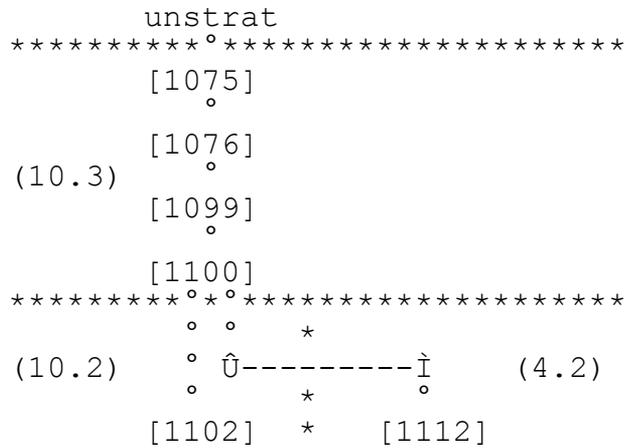
[1103][1107] Recorded as two irregular cuts; may be a part of something bigger, but more likely are just incorrectly recorded complex backfills of the robbing seen below in (10.1).

[1102][1106] Fills of [1103] and [1107], clay/sand/silt occasional tile <10x100x100mm, angular ragstone frags <80x80x80mm, pot and flecks of mortar.

Group 10.3

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence



Context description

[1100][1076] recorded as the cuts of two pits with rather indefinite edges. Highest point 11.48m OD, lowest point 10.94m OD, Truncated to the N, W and S by unstrat post med pitting.

[1099][1075] grey/brown silt(75) sand(10) and clay(15) with varying quantities of pot, Fe nails (SF 71), shell, building materials (small ragstone, chalk and tile frags, mortar/plaster lumps, 5 tesserae), redeposited human bone (right scapula) and a Cu alloy coin (SF 55 in [1075]).

Discussion of (10.3)

At time of excavation, these were thought to be two isolated pits, but given the complex underlying stratigraphy indicative

of a robbed out structure (10.1/2), and the inclusions in the fills, it seems likely that these features are part of the sequence of backfilling after robbing. Unfortunately, this is the only group in the string (10.1/2/3) to have a relationship with another string of cemetery stratigraphy, namely that it is later than (4.2/3) and (10.4), which does not help to identify the position from which the structure was cut.

Group 10.4

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```

(4.1)    [1114]
*****°*****
          [1115]
          °
(10.4)   [1116]
*****°*****
(4.4)    [1121]

```

Context descriptions

[1116] grey brown clay(30) and silt(70) matrix around frequent small, angular ragstone chippings <40x40x40mm, mortar and chalk flecks, moderate tile frags <100x100x100mm, mortar lumps <70x70x70mm. Layer Truncated to N, S and W, runs out to E, surviving 1.13m E-W, 0.56m N-S, 0.07m dep. Fairly level surface around 11.30-11.24m OD.

[1115] light brown clayey silt matrix around frequent stone frags (ragstone and ?limestone) 30x30x30mm-100x100x100mm, moderate pot, tile and mortar. Truncated by unstrat to W, N and S, and to E by (5.7), survives 2.30m E-W, 0.50m N-S and 0.03-0.10m deep. Fairly flat, but jagged surface at 11.32- 11.28m OD.

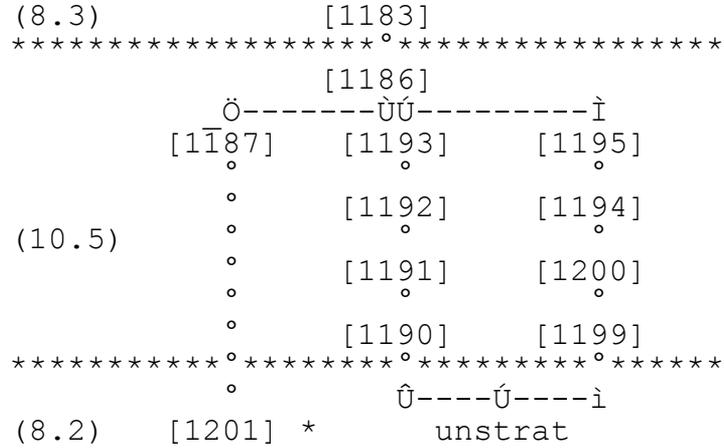
Discussion of (10.4)

Due to its proximity to (10.1/2/3), and its similar inclusions, this sub-group is probably related to similar activity. Although it was tempting to interpret this as a surface, it seems far too irregular and not particularly compacted. It appears to be a dump deposit, quite possibly resulting from either the construction or demolition of the structure proposed in the discussion of (10.1).

Group 10.5

Figures

Sratigraphic sequence



Context descriptions

[1187] cut defining outline of a structure. Linear, with two corners turning through 90 degrees. Cut is irregular in plan, a trench c. 0.50-0.60m wide describing a "U" shape, truncated to the N by unstrat pitting, presumably would originally have been rectangular or square. Vertical sided, except at the corners which are considerably undercut by the post pits [1190]and [1199], flattish base at between 10.77m and 10.83m OD (coresponding to the interface between gravel and brickearth). E-W dimensions are 2.50m extrnally and 1.50-1.60m internally. N-S dimensions lost due to truncation.

[1190][1199] Two massive post pits were found in the base of cut [1187] at the two surviving corners. Slightly irregularly oval in plan 0.80m and 0.70m N-S respectively, both 0.90m E-W, between 0.40 and 0.50m deep. Very gradual break of slope at the top, then vertical sides and a flat base at 10.36-10.32m OD.

[1191][1200] compact silt sand and clay with 10% medium pebbles, v. occasional pot. Backfill of post pits.

[1192][1194] secondary cuts within the larger post pits [1191/2]. [1192], to the east is very irregular at the top, 0.60x0.52m, becoming regular, square in plan 0.30x0.36m with vertical sides and and aflat base at 1035m OD. [1194], to the W is square in plan 0.30x0.32m, with vertical sides and a flat base at 10.36m OD.

WTE 90 Group 11

[1193] backfill of [1192], grey/brown sand(10) silt(30) and clay(60) with occasional charcoal flecks, fine pebble, small chalk frags, and pot including stamped samian (SF 147).

WTE 90 Group 11

[1195] backfill of [1194], dark brown sandy silt(20) and clay(80) with moderate fine pebbles, occasional pot, bone, CBM and an Fe object (SF 143).

[1186] Backfill of [1187], also sealing [1193] and [1195]. Brown silt(10) clay(30) and sand(50) with frequent gravel, occasional chalk flecks, CBM, Fe nails, pot, glass, animal bone, decorated tile (SF 137) and a complete pottery lamp.

Discussion of (10.5)

Mausoleum. Relates to (7.2) interpreted as the central burial for this structure. Also relates to some Group 9 features, and (8.3) which appear to represent the destruction or collapse of the structure. If the structure was robbed then (8.2) a rubble layer cut by [1187] may be debris from the construction of the feature.

Position of the structure in relation to the development of the site (in absence of spot dates) can be summarised from the stratigraphic sequence. If [1187] is a robber cut, then the structure was robbed after the interment of (6.7), but its construction cannot be related to any burials. If [1187] is a construction cut, then the structure was constructed after (6.7).

The alignment of the structure appears to have been determined by that of earlier gully (3.2). Burials (5.8) and (6.9) are later than debris from the collapse/robbing of the structure. There is no stratigraphic relationship between it and burial (5.9). The structure, many of the inhumation burials and stratigraphically unrelated ditch (3.1) share common alignments, most likely determined by larger scale patterns within the cemetery area than are likely to be understood on a small site.

The possibility of mausolea attracting focal burials has been discussed in many cemetery studies (eg ??????) [although often in Christian contexts].

As to the structure itself, the crucial matter of interpretation is whether cut [1187] represents a construction trench or a robber cut. It seems most likely that the slightly irregular cut is a robber trench, its backfill incorporating debris from the fabric. The secondary cuts within the post-pits are unfortunately contradictory; the timber upright represented by [1192] appears to have been robbed out, while that represented by [1194] shows no sign of robbing and seems to have rotted in situ. Such a structure would presumably be built of stone/tile reinforced by timber.

If [1187] is not the cut to rob a building built mainly of stone/tile, then a structure built mainly of timber (?and

daub) must be envisaged. If so [1187] must be the cut for a massive timber sill-beam, which may have been robbed or rotted in-situ. The evidence is equivocal, certainly the backfill contained many Fe nails (see also 11.6), and the layers and features stratigraphically above this structure contain very large quantities of nails which could have derived from a timber structure.

N.B. Inscription fragment (SF 131) from (8.3) may well have come from the standing structure of this monument. It is certainly part of a tombstone, apparently consisting of parts of the last two lines of the inscription:

L.1	...	...	...	...	...	TUS
L.2	...	...	...	...	...	C

In a funerary context this can only be interpreted as (L.1) the name of the heir in the nominative and (L.2) the C of "curavit" following the standard pattern H - F - C for "Heres F???? Curavit".

Group 11: Floating contexts/dustbin

WTE 90 Group 11

WTE 90 Group 11

introduction

Contexts have been assigned to this group if they are stratigraphically isolated, not obviously Post-Medieval in date, or are stratigraphically later than any features definitely associated with the cemetery. It is thus quite a mixed bag of contexts, but in the absence of spot-dates it is safer to keep them isolated than to assume them to be part of the cemetery activity. Group (1.1) is located in the basement of the standing structure; it should be remembered that truncation in this area has been particularly severe, with archaeological deposits starting at around 10.80-10.65m OD.

Group 11.1FiguresStratigraphic sequence

```

                unstrat
*****°*****
                [1036]
(11.1)         °
                [1037]
*****°*****
                natural

```

Context descriptions

[1037] cut, only part of one edge surviving, slightly undercut, surviving 0.86m deep, with concave base to 9.75m OD. Side oriented N-S. Truncated to N by MSL 87 excavation, to E by unstrat pitting.

[1038] light yellowish brown silt(40), sand(30) and clay(30), with occasional medium pebble and one potsherd (SF 30). Fill of [1037], slightly paler towards top of the fill and slightly greyer towards the base.

Discussion of 11.1

Possibly a ditch cut, if the truncated side of the feature had a symmetrical profile, but could just be a pit. Fill colours probably a result of oxidation/moisture content. Fill was remarkable for its cleanliness, and thought to be related to the large linear feature in Group 2, but the pot sherd seems likely to be Roman. If a ditch, this may well relate to a boundary within the cemetery, causing or resulting from the N-S alignment of many of the burials in this area.

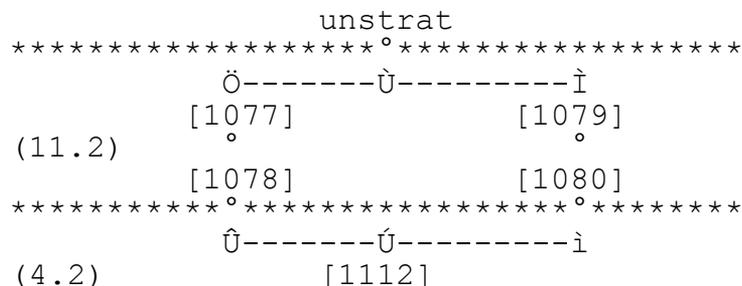
WTE 90 Group 12

WTE 90 Group 12

Group 11.2

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence



Context descriptions

[1078] cut of small bowl shaped pit, possibly circular in plan, diameter 0.62m, depth 0.16m, base at 11.31m OD. No obvious function.

[1077] dark grey silty(40) clay(60) with moderate chalk flecks, moderate tile, pot, shell and pebles. Backfill of [1078].

[1080] cut of possible robbed out post, circular in plan, diameter 0.40m at top with sides sloping gently to a sharp break of slope, where the sides become vertical, circular in plan, diameter 0.22m. Depth of cut 0.26m with flat base at 11.22m OD.

[1079] dark grey silty(60) clay(40) pebble, small building material frags, pot and a Cu alloy coin (SF 61). Backfill of [1080].

Discussion of 11.2

Sub-group consists of two isolated features, a pit and a possible robbed post hole. Hard to interpret, may tie in with features located during MSL 87 immediately to the N, and could be associated with the robbing of the funerary structure (10.1-10.3) immediately to the W.

Group 11.3

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```

(12.4)      [1048]
*****°*****
(11.3)      [1069]
*****°*****
(4.6)       [1071]

```

Context description

[1069] Dark grey clay(15) silt(85) with small frags of building material including moderate angular ragstone frags, occasional oyster, charcoal flecks and pot (?sherds of one vessel, possibly a flaggon). Small layer 0.63x0.40m.

Discussion of (11.3)

Layer is stratigraphically between layers (12.3) and (4.6) and not definitely related to cemetery activity. It may well represent cemetery activity, either as a dump, or as a truncated remnant of something else eg a surface, or the base of a shallow cut. Physically close to cremations without vessels (6.2), (6.5) etc and could be contemporary with any of these, perhaps a remnant of some (wait for it) "ritual" activity.

Group 11.4

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```

(12.4)      [1048]
              Ö-----Û-----Ï
*****°*****°*****
              [1068]      [1056]
(11.4)      [1067]      [1057]
*****°*****°*****
(4.6)       Û-----Û-----Ï
              [1071]

```

Context descriptions

[1067] cut of shallow scoop, probably circular in plan, but truncated to E by unstrat feature. Gently sloping sides 0.19m deep and rounded base at 11.11m OD.

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[1068] dark grey silt(50) clay(50) with occasional pot,
charcoal and tile flecks, cremated and unburnt ?human
bone, Cu alloy coin (SF 48), carved bone object (SF 49)
and Fe nails (SF 51). Backfill of [1067]

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[1057] cut of shallow bowl shaped pit, circular in plan, with a slightly deeper depression in the centre. Depth 0.20m, base at 11.10m OD.

[1056] dark brown/black clay(20) silt(80), occasional pot, burnt bone, tile, shell and mortar flecks, small ragstone frags, the inclusions becoming more frequent towards the base of the cut, including Fe nails (SF 34,36,42), and a Cu alloy coin (SF 35). The lower part of the fill was sampled, <5>. Backfill of [1057]

Discussion of 11.4

These two features were not considered on site to contain enough cremated bone to be categorised as cremations in pits without vessels. However, they may have to be moved into Group 7, possible burials when all the finds and environmental material is processed. The finds are very similar to cremes without vessels both from this site and H00 88.

Group 11.5

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```
unstrat
*****°*****
[1001]
(11.5) °
[1002]
*****°*****
(4.10) [1051]
```

Context descriptions

[1002] cut, semi-circular in plan (but half or more lies outside the area of excavation) 0.70m N-S, 0.42m E-W, steep sides 0.41m deep with concave base to 10.88m OD.

[1001] fill of [1002], compact white mortar with occasional burnt flint and charcoal fragments. Sample <1> taken.

Discussion of (11.5)

Only partly within the area of excavation, so interpretation is uncertain. Feature is probably circular in plan, but could be linear etc. Function is unknown, fill is unlike foundation or robber material.

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Group 11.6

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```

(9.9)    [1152]
*****°*****
          [1169]
(11.6)   °
          [1182]
*****°*****
(8.3)    [1183]

```

Context descriptions

[1182] cut, thought to be a grave when defined; subsequently proved to be a part of (10.5) [1187].

[1169] fill of [1182], see above, main point to note was the quantity of nails (SF 122) in this deposit.

Discussion of (11.6)

This feature was thought to be a grave and was first defined in section. It proved to be part of the mausoleum (10.5), but the rest of its cut was only defined below (8.3). Rather than suggest that cut [1187] should all be above (8.3), it seems more likely that this cut [1182] was chased from section, leading to incorrect definition and recording.

Group 11.7

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```

          unstrat
*****°*****
          [1184]
(11.7)   °
          [1185]
*****°*****
(8.3)    [1183]

```

Context descriptions

[1185] heavily truncated small cut, possibly circular in plan, 0.06m deep, possible base at 11.54m OD.

[1185] dark brown/black sand(10) clay(20) and silt(70), with occasional flecks of mortar, chalk and CBM, pot,

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animal bone, small frag of painted plaster (SF 125) and Fe
object (SF 126).

WTE 90 Group 12

WTE 90 Group 12

Discussion of (11.7)

Uncertain interpretation, contains building material and could be associated in some way with the robbing of structure (10.5).

WTE 90 Group 12

Group 12: Post-Roman contexts

WTE 90 Group 12

WTE 90 Group 12

Introduction

The (implicit) research design for this project meant that obviously post-Roman deposits were removed by machine where possible. The contexts in this group represent intrusions into the top of the Roman stratigraphy which were recorded in the course of excavation. Most of these features and layers were clearly of Post-Medieval date.

Group 12.1

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```

                                unstrat
*****°*****
      Ö-----iÖ-----i
(12.1) (1030)   (1041)   (1028)
      °         °         °
      [1031]   [1042]   [1029]
*****°*****°*****°*****
      Ū-----Û-----i
      -
                                natural
```

Context descriptions

All contexts in this text section were rapidly removed and recorded in section so as to determine their date and the extent of surviving Roman stratigraphy in the basement of 59 Mansell St.

(1030) backfills of [1031], excavated and recorded in section only, to establish date and to determine that all Roman deposits had been destroyed in this area of the site. See section 4, figure ??

[1031] cut of large negative feature, extent and depth undetermined. Comparisons with similar features encountered on most sites in the area suggests it was dug as a gravel quarry or industrial pit.

Section 4, Figure ??

- 1) Very dark grey/brown silt with occasional pebbles
- 2) Yellowish brown silt/sand/clay (redeposited brickearth) with occasional tile and pebble

- 3) Very dark grey brown silt with moderate mortar, tile, pot, and frequent bone, mollusc
- 4) Yellowish brown silt/sand/clay (redeposited brickearth)

(1041) backfills of [1042], excavated and recorded in section only to establish date and to determine whether Roman deposits had been destroyed in this part of the site. See section 6, figure ??

(1042) cut of large negative feature, extent and depth undetermined. May have been for industrial use or to quarry natural sand and gravel.

Section 6, Figure ??

1-2) dark brown silty sand with varying proportions of inclusions of brick, coal, animal bone, clay pipe, chalk and mortar flecks.

3-4) brown sandy silt mottled with redeposited brickearth containing varying proportions of inclusions of brick, tile and chalk flecks, pot and pebbles.

5-7) dark brown sandy silt with inclusions of brick, tile, chalk, coal and pebbles in varying proportions.

8) redeposited brickearth.

9-10) brown sandy silt with brick, tile and chalk frags in varying proportions.

11) redeposited brickearth

12-14) brown silty clay with chalk flecks, brick, tile and charcoal flecks in varying proportions

(1028) backfills of [1029], excavated as part of contractor's test pit. (See Appendix ?? and section 5, figure ??). This test pit produced a ceramic miniature oil lamp, SF 1, but it appeared to be redeposited from its original, presumably funerary, context.

[1029] Cut of large negative feature, extent unknown. Lowest recorded point on cut at 9.54m OD, but base of cut was still sloping down as it ran beyond the limits of excavation. Parallels on this site and others in the area suggest that this is a quarry pit.

Section 5, Figure ??

1) light yellow brown silt(40), sand(30) and clay(30) with moderate mortar and medium pebbles.

2) mid grey brown silt with mortar flecks and occasional fine pebbles.

3) yellow/brown sand(30), silt(40) and clay(30) without inclusions.

4) mixed deposit of greysilty clay(50) and yellow sand and coarse gravel(50). with occasional oyster, pot and tile.

5) yellow brown silt(40), sand(30) and clay(30) heavily mottled with grey/brown silt, with moderate pot, tile and medium pebbles.

6) dark grey/brown clay(20) and silt(80) with moderate fine pebbles, mortar flecks, pot and tile.

Group 12.2

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```

                                unstrat
*****°*****
      Ö-----İ
(12.2) (1015)          (1003)
        °
      [1016]          (1004)
        °
                                [1005]
*****°*****°*****
      °          *          °
(5.1)  (1024)    *    (1009)    (5.3)
        °          *

```

Context descriptions

These two Post-Medieval pits were excavated stratigraphically, recorded in plan and section, but subject to the depth restriction agreed with the structural engineers.

(1015) backfills of [1016], bands of grey brown and yellow brown silty clay containing moderate disarticulated human bone, nails, clay pipe, Roman and Post-Med pot and tile. (see section 3, figure ??)

[1016] vertical sided cut of uncertain size, truncated to S by unstrat drain trench, to W by the W wall of 59 Mansell St. Excavated to 9.68m OD, where excavation was halted due to depth restriction.

(1003) mixed grey/brown silty clay and yellowish brown sandy clay with occasional tile, pot and pebbles.

(1004) grey/brown silty clay with moderate pebble, tile, brick, pot and bone. Not fully excavated.

[1005] vertical sided pit of uncertain dimensions, truncated to S by unstrat drain trench, to E by unstrat Post-Med pit. Excavated to 9.68m OD.

Section 3, Figure??

1,3,5) grey/brown silty clay
2,4,6) yellow/brown silty clay

Group 12.5

Figures

Stratigraphic sequence

```

                                unstrat
*****°*****
      Ö-----À
      [1133]      [1135]
      °
      [1134]      [1136]
      °
      (12.5) °      °      [1137]  [1147]  °
      °      °      °      °      °
      °      °      [1138]  [1148]  °
      °      °      Ô---Ú--ì      °
      °      °      [1149]      °
      °      °      [1150]      °
*****°*****°*****°*****°*****
      °      *      °      *      [1158]  [1141]  (9.9)
(9.3) [1174] * (9.5) [1139] *
```

Context descriptions

- [1134] cut, sub-rectangular in plan 0.78m N-S, 1.00m E-W, steep sides 0.30m deep, with a concave base to 11.33m OD. Filled with [1133], black sand(20), clay(30) and silt(50) with occasional pot and clay pipe frags.
- [1136] irregular cut, truncating cemetery stratigraphy in this area from N to S from 11.63m OD to 11.50m OD. Only exists in this form due to machine clearance. Part of much larger cut feature. Filled with [1135], containing post-Medieval material.
- [1138] cut, irregular in plan, 1.20m N-S, 0.70m E-W, with shallow sides 0.15m deep and a base sloping from 11.52m OD to the N to 11.41m OD in the S. Filled with [1137], dark grey/brown silt(80) and clay(20).
- [1148] post-hole cut, circular on plan, diameter 0.20m, vertical sides 0.20m deep, with a base at 11.34m OD. Filled with [1147], a loose black silt.
- [1150] cut, "L" shaped in plan with rounded corners, 1.20m E-W and 1.40m N-S, steep sides 0.23m deep, and a flat base

at 11.40m OD. Filled with [1149], a dark grey/brown silt containing post-Medieval material.

Discussion of (12.5)

These features are grouped together because they all appear to have been backfilled in the post-Medieval period, and are not further discussed because they only existed in their recorded form as a result of machine clearance of the southern side of the site.