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SUMMARY

In 2002 Foundations Archaeology was commissioned by E.C. Harris, on behalf of Bryant Homes South West Limited to excavate an area of land in advance of redevelopment at 124-130 London Road, Gloucester (centred on NGR: SO 844 189). The archaeological works were undertaken between 8th April 2002 and 21st June 2002. The archaeological programme comprised field excavation of the areas situated within the footprints of the proposed buildings and access road and a watching brief on the southern boundary wall footing. The total site area comprised 5740m², but only the footprint of the new buildings, covering a total area of 1646m², was subject to excavation.

The fieldwork revealed significant archaeological deposits predominantly of Romano-British and Medieval date, with a limited number of negative features dating to between the 17th and 19th centuries. Extensive late post-Medieval and modern disturbance was present across the site. The results of the excavation work need to be considered in the light of the extensive later disturbances, which greatly hampered interpretation of the archaeological deposits.

The earliest archaeological features comprised part of a Romano-British cemetery within which a total of 58 burials were present: 39 inhumations and 19 cremations (20 individuals) in addition to a number of disarticulated remains and features which might have represented disturbed cremations or graves from which no bone was recovered. A further 17 burials had been excavated from this cemetery in 1993 by Gloucester Archaeology Unit. A number of Roman ditches, pits and postholes were also identified.

Remains of the Medieval hospital complex were identified. The structural remains of the hospital were in poor condition, having been largely destroyed both when demolished *c.* 1861 and by later post-medieval and modern intrusions. Ditches, which are likely to have represented evidence for the boundary to the hospital precinct, did survive and suggested the hospital and its precinct had been enlarged probably in the 14th-15th century. The easternmost of these ditches was approximately 6m to the west of the boundary shown on a 1744 plan. It is possible, therefore, that the boundary later moved further east, probably as part of the early 17th century renovation. Ridge and furrow features were also present in the south half of the site.

Post-Medieval features were also present within the site area, including a large ditch feature, which probably forms part of the mid 17th century Civil War defences/siege works. Other early post-medieval features included a further ditch, which may also be associated with the Civil War defences/siege works, as well as a number of pits and postholes. Numerous later post-medieval and modern features were also present.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In 2002 Foundations Archaeology was commissioned by E.C. Harris, on behalf of Bryant Homes South West Limited, to excavate an area of land in advance of redevelopment at 124-130 London Road, Gloucester (centred on NGR: SO 844 189), (Figure 1). The archaeological works were undertaken between 8th April 2002 and 21st June 2002. The archaeological programme comprised field excavation of the areas situated within the footprints of the proposed buildings and access road (Figure 2) and a watching brief on the southern boundary wall footing. A watching brief was subsequently undertaken on the new service trenching by E.C. Harris.
- 1.2 The study area was located within an area of land defined as being of archaeological and historical interest. In accordance with the principals of PPG16 (Planning Policy Guidance, note 16) a programme of archaeological works was required prior to development commencing.
- 1.3 The excavation and watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the Project Design prepared by E.C. Harris in March 2002.
- 1.4 This document provides a detailed description of the evidence recovered during the excavation and watching brief and proposes a programme to bring the results to publication. The final format for publication was not finalised in the Project Design, although a range of possible options was suggested (E.C. Harris, 2002). This document now details the proposed publication format and content of the excavation and watching brief report. This document conforms to the specification set out in Appendices 4 and 5 of The Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991).
- 1.5 In the following sections a detailed description of the results of the excavation and of the watching brief is followed by an assessment of its stated aims and an overall assessment of the importance of the site is given. Finally each major category of finds is then similarly assessed in turn.
- 1.6 The site archive and artefactual collection will be deposited with Gloucester City Museum.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The total study area comprised 5740m², although only the footprint of the new build was excavated, totalling approximately 1646m². It was situated on the south side of London Road (B4063), less than 1km east-north-east of Gloucester town centre (Figure 1). The site had formerly been a Severn-Trent Water Depot, but was derelict immediately prior to redevelopment. Ground cover comprised rough scrub. The plot to the west of the site housed a disused garage, while 20th century residential housing was situated to the east. A narrow public footpath, behind which lay residential housing from the 19th and 20th centuries, bounded the southern edge of the site.

- 2.2 According to the Soil Survey of England and Wales (Findlay *et al*, 1984), the site is situated on a natural geology of Lower Lias, overlain by grey to orange brown clay. The site lay at 24m OD and was generally flat, except for a steep drop (30°) in the north-west corner of the site where the land sloped down to meet London Road.
- 2.3 The development area was of demonstrated archaeological potential. Previous desk-based assessments (Gloucester Archaeology, 1992; E.C. Harris 2001), and two subsequent archaeological evaluations (Gloucester Archaeology, 1993; E.C. Harris, 2001) had revealed that the area lay within an extensive Romano-British cemetery. This document should be read in conjunction with the E.C. Harris assessment document.
- 2.4 It has long been known that a cemetery was positioned at Wootton Pitch in the 1st century AD to serve the Neronian vexillation fortress of Legio XX Valeria Victrix which probably stood at Kingsholm, replaced the earlier fort of the part-mounted sixth cohort of Thracians. Two tombstones were found in 1827 close to the junction of Cheltenham Road and London Road attesting to each of these military units; one of the VI Thracians and one (now lost) of Legio XX. Ermine Street, the main Roman road from Cirencester to Kingsholm passed to the north of the cemetery. In the Flavian period Legio XX was transferred to Chester and Legio II Augusta moved to Gloucester and built a new legionary fortress at the site *c.* AD 67. Gloucester subsequently became a *colonia*, the land passing into the ownership of retired legionnaires. A branch road was constructed during the early part of this period to form the eastern approach road to Gloucester and approximately follows the line of the present London Road.
- 2.5 Previous archaeological discoveries suggest that the cemetery dated from the 1st to 4th centuries and burials have been located for a known distance of 480m between 50 London Road and the junction with the Cheltenham Road. The apparent sequence indicated that cremations were present towards the eastern end, becoming an inhumation cemetery closer to the *colonia* as the nature of the accepted Roman burial rite changed from the 2nd century onwards and the settled area of the town contracted.
- 2.6 A 4th century grave containing a bowl and coins of Gratian has previously been located within the site area and burials were also found at the St. Mary Magdalen graveyard in 1856 (Fullbrook-Leggatt 1968). Numerous cremation urns, some buried in stone cysts, were found at St. Margaret's Almshouses in 1861-4. A watching brief outside the site in 1976 revealed Roman street metalling, while a further watching brief of that year revealed cremations and inhumations probably of 2nd-4th century date, including a possible mausoleum. A total of 110 cremations were located in 1870 on land belonging to Mr Niblett of Wotton, but the precise location of these is not known. Two military tombstones were also located at the junction of London Road and Cheltenham Road in 1827. The Gloucester Archaeology Unit found seventeen burials within the site area in 1993.

- 2.7 The remnants of the leper hospital of St. Mary Magdalen were also expected to be present within the site area. It is believed that Llanthony Priory founded the hospital and parsonage, probably in the early 12th century. The hospital lost its means of support after the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the 16th century and rapidly became ruinous. The hospital was granted a charter by James II in 1617 and it was rebuilt in this period. There is no information regarding the main medieval hospital buildings, which lay entirely within the study area, with the exception of the chapel, which lies on the north side of London Road.
- 2.8 Eighteenth and 19th century plans and photographs show the buildings in their 16th century form, built around a central courtyard. They were originally timber-framed but were re-fronted after 1821. The hospital buildings were demolished in, or soon after, 1861. The site was thereafter used for private residences until taken over by the Gloucestershire Power Company Ltd from *circa* 1946. The site was subsequently taken over by the Gloucestershire Water Company, later Severn-Trent Water.
- 2.9 The conclusions of the evaluations were that archaeologically significant deposits were restricted to the northern half of the development area. Extensive post-Medieval and modern disturbance across the site related to a series of demolished 19th/20th century buildings including those associated with the Severn-Trent Water Depot was also noted during these previous works.
- 2.10 In the light of the evaluation evidence and the archaeological potential of the area, further excavation works were required by Gloucester City Council, under the provisions of PPG16 (1990), to record any deposits that would be adversely affected by the development.
- 2.11 The archaeological field works were undertaken in accordance with current planning guidance and in consultation with Tony Walsh of E.C. Harris, acting as archaeological advisor to Bryant Homes. The excavation was undertaken by Foundations Archaeology between 8th April 2002 and 21st June 2002.
- 2.12 The excavation was undertaken to standards set out in the Foundations Archaeology Excavation Manual (1995, revised 1997) and in concordance with standards set by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (Draft Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations, 1994, revised 2001).
- 2.13 In the E.C. Harris Project Design the following aims and objectives, based on the assessment of quality and importance of deposits encountered during the evaluation work (1995, 1997), were stated:
- i) To preserve by record those burials and any archaeological structures and deposits which will be destroyed by the development.

ii) To record in plan, with levels, the location of any burials of archaeological structures revealed by the development that are to be preserved in situ.

2.14 The extent to which the excavation has successfully answered these questions, will be addressed in this document.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The excavation was, at the conception of the project, to include excavation by hand of the footprints of the proposed buildings and the access road/sewer pipeline. During the course of the project, however, the areas subject to archaeological intervention were redefined, following consultation with E.C. Harris and Richard Sermon of Gloucester City Council. The entirety of the access road/sewer pipeline (Area 1) was excavated. The area comprising the footprint of the northern building (Area 2) was stripped under archaeological supervision, and features within the physical footprint of the building were thereafter excavated, although all burials were excavated, regardless of whether they fell within the footprint. Total excavation of the southeast building footing area (Area 4) was initially required. It was subsequently agreed by the City Archaeologist and Mr T. Walsh of E.C. Harris that excavation should be restricted to the north-south aligned branch of the footing area and that the remainder of the plot should be subject to an archaeological watching brief. The trenches, which comprised the northeast building footing (Area 3) were stripped under archaeological supervision, and were thereafter cleaned and excavated by hand. The watching brief areas comprised the southern boundary wall footing and the east-west branch of the southwest building footing area.

3.2 Due to site-access restrictions Area 1 was excavated in five sections with each section back-filled in advance of the opening of a new section.

3.3 In Areas 3 and 4, the building footings were excavated as planned, except in the case of the discovery of a burial. To enable the full excavation of all burials present within, or partially within, the building footings, the mechanical removal of topsoil and overburden outside of the building footings was, on occasions, necessary.

3.4 Topsoil and non-significant overburden were removed to the top of archaeological deposits or natural, whichever was encountered first, under constant archaeological supervision. This was achieved through use of a mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket. All cleaning and excavation was thereafter conducted by hand.

3.5 All archaeological deposits and features were subjected to appropriate levels of investigation. A minimum 5% sample, or a minimum of 1m sample section, of all linear features was required at appropriate intervals and all intersections, overlaps and terminals were investigated. A minimum 50%

sample of all non-linear features was also excavated. All burials were subject to 100% excavation.

- 3.6 Palaeoenvironmental sampling was addressed at an on-site meeting between Richard Sermon, the City Archaeologist, Roy King of Foundations Archaeology, Tony Walsh of E.C. Harris and Dr Helen Keeley, acting as palaeoenvironmental consultant to the project. It was agreed that, due largely to the disturbed nature of deposits, that the potential of the site was low for anything other than charred cereal remains. It was, therefore, agreed that a very limited programme of sampling would therefore take place. In the event only a single context (507) provided palaeoenvironmental evidence.

4 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The archaeological works confirmed the presence a Romano-British cemetery and revealed a series of negative features of the Roman period. The limited survival of the medieval hospital of St. Mary Magdalene was also confirmed by a wall footing and associated drain, as well as a number of ditches representing the hospital boundary. A number of other negative features of medieval date, including an area of ridge and furrow in the south were also present. A small number of post-medieval features were situated in the northern two-thirds of the site. In the south of the area, a series of further negative features of the same date were present, including a large feature that may have represented part of the Civil War defences/siege works. A significant amount of modern disturbance was present across the site, with the exception of the south-west corner.
- 4.1.2 Examination of the stratigraphy across the site revealed significant landscaping of the area during the post-medieval and modern periods. The topography of the natural deposits considered in conjunction with the amount of overburden removed to reach the natural ground suggested that material from the northern part of the site might have been moved to the southern part in order to level the profile of the site. The overburden in the northern two-thirds of the area comprised either a thin skim of modern topsoil directly over the natural or 0.3m to 0.7m of post-medieval and modern dumping layers. The natural deposits in the southern half of the area were overlaid by approximately 0.6m to 0.9m of overburden, which comprised either a buried subsoil and buried topsoil, which were overlaid by modern topsoil or modern dumping layers, or was directly overlaid by modern dumping layers.
- 4.1.3 The ground level of the site immediately prior to development lay at approximately 24m OD and was generally flat, with the exception of the north-west corner of the area which dropped significantly down to the north. The topography of the natural deposits was, however, quite different. The area, in general, sloped down to the north-west, the north-west portion of site lying at 23m OD on average. The difference in height down from east to west

in the northern half of the site was 0.8m on average, being 23.8m OD on average at the north-east of the site and 23.4m OD at the centre north. The slope down from the south-east towards the centre was much the same; the south-east part of the area lay at 23.8m OD on average and the centre of the site lay at 23.55m OD on average. The south-west corner, however, was lower than the rest of the area, and lay at 22.4m OD on average, 1.4m lower than the highest part of the site.

- 4.1.4 The absence of stratigraphic relationships for many features and the problems with providing other than a general date for the majority of the artefactual evidence, has prevented accurate phasing of every feature. As a result, some features have been assigned a general phase; this is not intended to suggest that every feature within a phase was contemporary, nor should the general phasing be considered binding. For the purposes of this document the general phases are illustrated as individual figures.
- 4.1.5 There were significant limitations to the recovery of archaeological information. The necessity of excavating features in a number of discrete blocks hampered general interpretation and limited the ability to ascertain whether features in separate areas were related. Significant post-medieval and modern disturbance further hindered interpretation. The dating evidence recovered from the features was also limited. Several inhumations are broadly dated on the presence of pottery sherds in the grave fill, which were clearly not deposited as grave goods and may, therefore, be either residual or intrusive. Undated cremations and probable cremation pits from which no bone was recovered have been included within the 1st-2nd century section, as no clearly dated cremations were identified after this date.
- 4.1.6 Descriptions are given first by period, then in context number order starting at the lowest and counting upwards. This means that features in Areas 1 and 2 are generally discussed first before those in Areas 3 and 4. However, within each period section features are described in a set order; cremations are given first (where present), followed by inhumations and other features, irrespective of stratigraphic relationships, although these are given where present. This means that a 3rd century ditch cut by and therefore stratigraphically earlier, than a contemporary inhumation will be described after the inhumation. As a result a burial from Area 4 (with a 4000 context number) will be described after a burial in Area 1 (with a 100 or 1000 context number), but before an Area 1 ditch. An Area 4 ditch will, however, be listed after an Area 1 ditch.
- 4.1.7 A number of probable inhumations and cremations were also located, from which all bone had been lost. Where this is a high probability, they are included within the descriptive text as if they were burials.

AREA 1

- 4.1.8 Area 1 was situated within the area of the proposed sewer pipe-line and access road. The area comprised approximately 466m² and 'dog-legged'

through the site, between Areas 2 and 4. The archaeological remains present within this area were predominantly of Romano-British and medieval date, in addition to a series of substantial post-medieval features. Parts of the area were badly disturbed by modern features; a cellar (noted during the 1993 evaluation, Trench 1), a 19th century well (also noted in the 1993 evaluation, Trench 6) and modern pipe trenches. A series of archaeological test-pits and two archaeological evaluation trenches (Trench 1 and Trench 6, Gloucester Archaeology 1993) were also present in the area.

AREA 2

4.1.9 Area 2 was situated in the northern half of the site, against London Road. The area of the building footprint, comprising approximately 1092m², was machine stripped to the archaeological horizons, although only the parts that fell within the actual footprint itself were subject to excavation, with the exception of burial deposits. The excavation area comprised approximately 567m², roughly half of the stripped area. The western half of the area contained a significant number of negative Romano-British and Medieval features. Modern disturbance was limited, although a large area of post-medieval disturbance was situated in the southeastern corner. The eastern half of the area was badly disturbed by modern features, including the footings of a post-medieval/ modern building. Archaeological features present in this part were limited to shallow, negative Roman features, three inhumations and a series of cremations situated close to the road. It is probable that the modern disturbance had completely destroyed some cremations; many of the surviving cremations showed evidence of serious truncation. The absence of negative features in the eastern half, however, was probably due to a lack of archaeological features as opposed to distortion of the record due to modern activity. A series of archaeological test-pits were concentrated in the east side of the area and an archaeological evaluation trench (Trench 2, Gloucester Archaeology, 1993) was also present.

AREA 3

4.1.10 Area 3 was situated in the southeast corner of the site, within the footprint of a proposed building. It was excavated as two separate blocks aligned north-south and east-west respectively. The area of excavation was restricted to the trench footings only, as opposed to excavation of the complete building footing, except in the case of discovery of a burial, where it was necessary to excavate areas outside the trench footings in order to expose the entire burial. The footings were mechanically excavated under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the natural deposits or the archaeological horizon, whichever was reached first. The area subject to excavation comprised approximately 217m². The archaeological remains present within this area were limited and predominantly undated with the exception of a small group of Romano-British burials and a series of medieval ridge and furrow features. Modern disturbance was mainly restricted to the south-west corner of the area.

AREA 4

4.1.11 Area 4 was situated at the southwest corner of the site and comprised approximately 396m² in extent. The area lay within the footing of a proposed building, however only the north-south branch of the building footing was subject to excavation. Features of archaeological significance were restricted to the northern end of this area. These comprised a series of intercutting inhumations and a late post-medieval ditch, which contained a brick culvert. Modern disturbance was confined to pipe-lines, archaeological test-pits and a concrete building footing. The east-west branch of the footing was not excavated. This course of action was undertaken, in consultation and agreement with, Richard Sermon of Gloucester City Council and Tony Walsh of E.C. Harris. The general absence of archaeological features or deposits within the southern part of the area suggested that a watching brief would be the most appropriate mitigation for the remainder of the area.

4.2 Romano-British (Figures 5,6)

Pre-Flavian

- 4.2.1 Cremation pit [168] measured 0.54m long by 0.44m wide by 0.16m deep and consisted of a bowl shaped cut with sloping sides and an uneven base (Figure 7). It contained a burial urn for a probably male mature adult in a grey sandy clay fill (169).
- 4.2.2 Cremation pit [582] measured 0.79m long by 0.5m wide by 0.09m deep and consisted of a badly truncated sub-oval pit with steep sides and an uneven base (Figure 7). It contained part of a burial vessel for an unsexed adult (583) and at least one other pot in a mid orange sandy clay fill (584). This cremation cut grave [603].
- 4.2.3 Cremation pit [656] measured 0.99m long by 0.8m wide by 0.19m deep and consisted of an irregular shallow sided cut with an irregular base (Figure 8). It contained an unsexed adult, pottery sherds from a minimum of three vessels and nails in a mid grey brown sandy clay fill (657).
- 4.2.4 Cremation pit [671] measured 0.7 long by 0.4m wide by 0.2m deep and consisted of an oval shaped cut with steep sides and a flattish base (Figure 8). It contained a burial urn for an unsexed mature adult in a dark brown silty clay fill (672) from which a number of hobnails were recovered.
- 4.2.5 Cremation pit [680] measured 0.09m in diameter and 0.06m deep and consisted of a badly truncated cut of which only the very base survived (Figure 8). It contained fragments of a single vessel in dark brown/black silty sand fill (681) from which part of a round-bowled spoon was recovered. No human bone was recovered from this feature.

- 4.2.6 Cremation pit [693] measured 0.8m long by 0.72m wide by 0.22m deep and consisted of an irregular sub-rectangular cut with a shallow, sloping northwestern edge and a steep southeastern edge with a flat, sloping base (Figure 9). It contained a part of a burial urn for a probable female of middle adult age and a number of additional sherds in a dark orange brown sandy clay fill (694).
- 4.2.7 Grave [603] was aligned northeast-southwest and measured at least 1.9m long by 0.69m wide by 0.18m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Figure 9). It contained a probable male skeleton (604), aged 20-25 years in a mid brown sandy clay fill (605) from which four sherds of intrusive 2nd century pottery were recovered. It was very clearly cut by 1st-early 2nd century cremation pit [582] and has therefore been included within this period section, although it may actually represent a pre-Roman burial. It was also cut by post-medieval feature [601].
- 4.2.8 Posthole [160] measured 0.47m long by 0.30m wide by 0.25m deep with steep sides, shallower on its north-western edge and significantly deeper on its south-eastern edge, suggesting the presence of a 'post-pipe' (Figure 10). It contained a mid grey brown sand silt with occasional gravel and charcoal flecks (161), from which six sherds of Pre-Flavian pottery were recovered.
- 4.2.9 Pit [722] was present against the northern edge of Area 2 and measured at least 7m long by 2m wide by 0.3m deep with sloping edges and a flat base (Figure 10). It contained a mid brown silty clay (723). No dating evidence was recovered from this feature but it was cut by 1st-early 2nd century cremation [633]. It was also cut by gully [597] and by medieval ditch [623].

1st-early 2nd century

- 4.2.10 Cremation pit [115] measured 0.45m long by 0.40m wide by 0.08m deep and consisted of a sub oval cut with sloping sides and a flat base (Figure 11). It contained a burial urn for an unsexed mature adult in a grey brown silty sand fill (116).
- 4.2.11 Cremation pit [518] measured 0.50m in diameter by 0.20m in depth and consisted of a sub-round cut with sloping sides and a flat base, partly cut away by later feature [519] (Figure 11). It contained a burial urn for an unsexed mature adult and fragments of a second pottery vessel in a mid-dark brown silty clay fill (517).
- 4.2.12 Cremation pit [576] measured 0.5m long by 0.45m wide by 0.25m deep and consisted of a steep-sided cut with a relatively flat base (Figure 12). It contained a burial urn for a young adult male, as well as parts of four further pottery vessels and a number of glass vessels in a dark grey brown sandy silt fill (577).

- 4.2.13 Cremation pit [585] measured 0.35m long by 0.32m wide by 0.05m deep and consisted of a shallow oval cut with sloping sides and a gently rounded base that had been badly truncated (Figure 12). It contained a burial urn for an unsexed infant of about 7 years in a yellow-brown silty sand fill (586). It was cut by cremation pit [591].
- 4.2.14 Cremation pit [633] measured 0.22m in diameter by 0.13m deep and consisted of an oval shaped cut with steep sides and a flat base (Figure 13). It was cut into the top of feature [722] and cut in turn by medieval feature [623]. It contained a burial urn for a female mature adult in a mid grey brown sandy clay fill (634).
- 4.2.15 Cremation pit [674] measured 0.33m long by 0.26m wide by 0.07m deep and consisted of a shallow sub-oval cut with sloping sides and a rounded base that had been badly truncated (Figure 13). It contained a burial urn for an unsexed mature adult (675) in a mid orange brown sandy clay fill (676).
- 4.2.16 Cremation pit [682] measured 0.55m long by 0.42m wide by 0.14m deep and consisted of a sub-oval cut with sloping sides and a rounded base (Figure 13). It contained a burial urn for an unsexed old adult (683) and fragments of a second pottery vessel in a mid brown silty clay fill (684).
- 4.2.17 Cremation pit [1009] measured 0.45m in diameter by 0.24m in depth and consisted of a sub-round cut with steep sides and a flat base (Figure 14). It contained a burial urn for a probable male middle adult (1010) in a dark orange-brown silty clay fill (1011).
- 4.2.18 Cremation pit [1015] measured 0.30m long by 0.28m wide by 0.18m deep and consisted of a sub-round cut with steep sides and a rounded base (Figure 14). It contained a baby aged 0-6 months in a mid grey-brown silty clay (1016). No cremation vessel was present. Three sherds of undiagnostic Roman pottery were recovered from the fill. It cut grave [1031].
- 4.2.19 Cremation pit [1074] measured 0.36m in diameter by 0.06m deep and consisted of a badly truncated sub-circular cut with steep sides and a flat base (Figure 15). It contained part of a burial urn for an unsexed juvenile (1075) aged about 13-15 years in a mid orange brown sandy clay. It cut ditch [1081].
- 4.2.20 Cremation pit [4025] measured 0.48m in diameter by 0.18m in depth and consisted of a sub-circular cut with steep sides and a flat base (Figure 15). It contained a burial urn for an unsexed mature adult (4026) and a sherd from a second vessel in a mid orange brown sandy clay fill (4027). This cremation was present well to the south of the apparent main focus of cremations and was located in an area, which contained a concentration of 2nd-4th century inhumation burials. It was cut by 2nd century burial [4043].
- 4.2.21 Grave [107] was aligned north-south and measured 2m long by up to 0.63m wide by 0.23m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Figure 16). It contained a ?male skeleton aged 25-35 years (109) in a mid orange brown sandy clay

fill (108). Both coffin and hobnails were recovered from the fill, along with a single sherd of 1st-2nd century pottery.

- 4.2.22 Grave [1006] was aligned east-west and measured at least 0.9m long by 0.45m wide by 0.15m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Figure 16). It contained a young male skeleton (1007), aged about 15-16 years in a mid orange brown silty sand fill (1008). Nine sherds of 1st-2nd century pottery and a number of coffin and hobnails were recovered from this fill. The grave was badly truncated and was cut by later inhumation [1012] and by Gloucester Archaeology Evaluation Trench 1 (1993).
- 4.2.23 Grave [1021] was aligned north-south and measured 1.6m long by 0.53m wide by 0.22m deep with sloping sides and an uneven base (Figure 17). It contained an adult female skeleton (1023), aged 30-40 years, in an orange brown silty clay fill from which six sherds of pottery were recovered along with a number of coffin nails.
- 4.2.24 Grave [1028] measured 1.92m long by 0.64m wide by 0.58m deep and consisted of a steep-sided east-west cut with an uneven base (Figure 17). It contained a single child skeleton (1030) of indeterminate sex in an orange-brown sandy clay fill (1029), from which 1st century pottery was recovered. It cut into the top of ditch [1026].
- 4.2.25 Grave [1031] was aligned east-west and measured 1.8m long by 0.6m wide by 0.15m deep with sloping sides and a flat base (Figure 18). It contained a female skeleton (1032), aged 20-24 years in a mid orange-brown sandy clay fill (1033) from which a single sherd of 1st-2nd century pottery was recovered along with a number of coffin nails. The grave was cut by cremation [1015], grave [1034] and Gloucester Archaeology Evaluation Trench 1.
- 4.2.26 Grave [1034] was aligned north-south and measured 2.3m long by 0.5m wide by 0.26m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Figure 18). It contained a probable female skeleton (1035), aged over 30 years in an orange brown sandy clay fill (1036) from which three sherds of 1st-2nd century pottery were recovered. It cut grave [1031] and was cut in turn by a modern pit and Gloucester Archaeology Evaluation Trench 1.
- 4.2.27 Pit feature [120] was situated at the northern end of Area 1. It consisted of a sub-oval cut with steep sides and a rounded base and measured 1.50m long by 1.10m wide by 0.42m deep (Figure 19). It contained a primary fill of light brown grey compact silt sand with very frequent gravel and occasional charcoal fleck inclusions up to 0.13m in depth (126). Finds from this deposit comprised a ceramic spindle whorl (special find 20) and twenty-seven sherds of 1st-2nd century pottery. Fill (126) was overlaid by (121), a mid brown grey compact silt sand with frequent gravel and charcoal fleck inclusions up to 0.30m deep. Artefactual evidence comprised thirteen fragments of 1st- 2nd century pottery.

- 4.2.28 Pit [548] consisted of a sub-oval cut near the north-west corner of Area 2. It measured 2.10m long by 1.36m wide by 0.79m deep with steep sides and a narrow, rounded base (Figure 19). It contained a mid grey brown firm, friable sand clay with rare gravel inclusions (549) from which two sherds of 1st-2nd century pottery were recovered.
- 4.2.29 Feature [554] consisted of a sub-oval cut near the north-west corner of Area 2. It measured 2.85m long by 1.02m wide by 0.10m deep (Figure 19). It was filled with a mid grey brown friable, firm sand clay with rare gravel inclusions (555) from which two sherds of late 1st-2nd century pottery and a fragment of CBM were recovered. This pit was very similar in size and shape to the inhumation cuts present on the site, although it contained a north-south linear arrangement of stones at its northern end. It is possible, though unlikely, that this feature was excavated for use as a grave but not utilised.
- 4.2.30 Possible post-hole [593] was sub-rectangular in plan with steeply sloping sides and a wide, fairly flat base (Figure 20). It measured 0.67m in length, 0.40m in width and 0.30m in depth and was filled with a mid grey brown silt sand with occasional gravel, chalk and charcoal flecks and small limestone fragments (594). It was cut by cremation pit [591] and cut posthole [609]. Artefactual evidence comprised five fragments of Roman brick/tile and eleven sherds of 1st century Roman pottery.
- 4.2.31 Possible post-hole [609] was oval in plan and measured 0.38m long by 0.24m wide by 0.17m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Figure 20). It contained a yellow brown silty sand (610) and was cut by post-hole [593] and cremation [591].
- 4.2.32 Post-hole [611] measured 0.55m long by 0.40m wide by 0.42m deep with steep sides and a wide, slightly concave base (Figure 20). It was filled with a mid brown yellow compact silt sand (612), with frequent gravel and charcoal flecks and occasional charcoal fragment inclusions. The fill also contained limestone fragments (average size of 0.15m by 0.10m by 0.05m), which were interpreted as 'post-packing' material. Artefactual evidence from [611] comprised 24 fragments of brick/tile with mortar fragments adhering to some surfaces and four sherds of 1st-2nd century pottery.
- 4.2.33 Ditch [1026] was aligned northeast-southwest and measured at least 6m long by 1.70m wide by 0.50m deep with steep sides and a wide base that declined to the southeast (Figure 20). It contained an orange brown sandy clay (1027) with few small sub-angular limestone and sandstone fragments and occasional charcoal fleck inclusions. No artefactual evidence was present, but the ditch was stratigraphically earlier than grave [1028].
- 4.2.34 Ditch [1081] was only partially within the excavation area. It was aligned northwest-southeast and measured at least 4m long by at least 0.90m wide by 0.70m deep with a steep sided western edge (Figure 21). Although the base was reached, this was not sufficient to ascertain its profile. The ditch contained a primary fill of grey brown sandy clay (1087), beneath a mid

orange brown sandy silt clay (1082) from which four sherds of undiagnostic Roman pottery were recovered. It was cut by cremation [1074] and pit [1079]. This ditch therefore, would appear to date to the earlier part of the 1st century Roman occupation.

- 4.2.35 Two sections of ditch were revealed during excavation of Area 3, both dating to the 1st century AD. Ditch [3043] was aligned NNW-SSE and measured 0.9m wide by 0.39m deep, with steep sides and a flat base (Figure 21). It contained a mid brown silty clay fill (3044). Ditch [3045] was aligned northwest-southeast and measured 2.45m wide by 0.54m deep, with sloping sides and a flat base (Figure 21). It contained an orange-brown sandy clay primary fill (3046) up to 0.42m deep and a secondary fill of grey brown silty clay (3047) up to 0.14m deep. It is possible that these two sections of ditch represented elements of the same feature.

2nd century

- 4.2.36 Cremation pit [146] measured at least 0.7m long by 0.65m wide by 0.30m deep and consisted of a sub-oval cut with steep sides and a gently rounded base (Figure 22). It contained a burial urn for a male middle adult (147) in a yellow brown silty sand fill (148). A number of additional pottery sherds and fragments of burnt bone were recovered from a hollow beneath the cremation urn.
- 4.2.37 Cremation pit [158] measured 1.15m long by 0.42m wide by 0.52m deep and consisted of a deep sub-oval cut with steep sides and a gently rounded base (Figure 22). It contained a burial urn for an unsexed adult and a juvenile aged about 6 years in a mid brown sandy clay (159). A single coin of contemporary date was also recovered along with a number of other sherds of pottery. It cut [172] and was cut by [154].
- 4.2.38 An adjacent post-hole [156], may have been associated with the cremation as a grave marker. This feature measured 0.19m in diameter and 0.22m in depth and was circular in plan with vertical sides and a narrow rounded base (Figure 22). It was filled with (157), a light orange brown, compact, firm sand clay with occasional charcoal flecks, small limestone fragments and flint chips from which no artefactual material was recovered. It was cut by the western edge of gully [154].
- 4.2.39 Possible cremation pit [564] measured 0.35m long by 0.25m wide by 0.05m deep and survived only as a slight concave hollow containing a yellow brown silty sand with charcoal fragments (565). It is probable that this feature represents a truncated cremation pit, from which no trace of the actual cremation survived (Figure 22).
- 4.2.40 Possible cremation pit [591] measured 0.55m long by 0.40m wide by 0.18m deep with sloping sides and a rounded base (Figure 23). It contained a yellow brown sandy silt (592) with quantities of charcoal and burnt clay, as well as a small number of tiny burnt bone fragments, which were not identifiable to

species. It is probable that this feature represents a truncated cremation pit, from which no trace of the actual cremation survived. It cut post-holes [609] and [593] and cremation [585].

- 4.2.41 Possible cremation pit [644] measured 0.3m in diameter by 0.08m deep with sloping sides and a rounded base, which contained a mid grey brown sandy clay with charcoal fragments (645). It is possible that this feature represents a truncated cremation pit, from which no trace of the actual cremation survived (Figure 23).
- 4.2.42 Cremation pit [666] measured at least 0.84m long by 0.64m wide by 0.10m deep and consisted of a sub-oval cut with steep sides and an uneven base (Figure 23). It contained a burial urn for an unsexed mature adult (667) within a yellow brown silty sand fill (668) from which a number of contemporary pottery sherds were recovered. It was cut by post-medieval pit/posthole [669].
- 4.2.43 Grave [3040] was aligned north-south and measured at least 1.9m long by 0.83m wide by 0.41m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Figure 24). It contained a male skeleton (3041), aged 25-30 years in a mid brown sandy clay fill (3042) from which ten sherds of 2nd century pottery and residual 1st century pottery were recovered
- 4.2.44 Grave [4022] was aligned approximately north-south and measured at least 1.3m long by 0.90m wide by 0.22m deep, with indistinct edges and a flat base (Figure 25). It contained a female skeleton (4024), aged 40-50 in a mid brown sandy clay (4023), from which a single sherd of intrusive post-medieval pottery was recovered. No dating evidence was recovered from this grave, but it is stratigraphically earlier than grave [4040]. It has arbitrarily been assigned a 2nd century date, but may be of earlier origin.
- 4.2.45 Grave [4040] was aligned east-west and measured at least 1.91m long by 0.71m wide by 0.32m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Figure 25). It contained a probable adolescent female skeleton (4041), aged 12-15 years in a mid grey brown sandy clay fill (4042) from which three sherds of 2nd century pottery were recovered. It cut grave [4022] and was cut by 4th century grave [4019].
- 4.2.46 Grave [4043] was aligned ENE-WSW and measured at least 2.10m long by 0.76m wide by 0.40m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Figure 26). It contained a female skeleton (4044), aged 40-50 years in a mid orange brown sandy clay fill (4045) from which twenty-five sherds of 2nd century pottery were recovered. The skeleton of a baby (4030), aged 0-6 months was also present within the fill. It was cut by 2nd century grave [4040] and itself cut cremation [4025].
- 4.2.47 Grave [4051] was aligned northwest-southeast and measured at least 2.20m long by 0.80m wide by 0.35m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Figure 26). It contained a probable male skeleton (4053), aged 20-23 years in a mid

yellow brown sandy silt fill (4052) from which six sherds of 2nd century pottery were recovered. It was cut by 2nd century grave [4043].

- 4.2.48 Ditch [527] was much disturbed by post-medieval and modern activity and therefore had no surviving relationship with other features. It was aligned NNE-SSW in the southwest corner of Area 2 and measured at least 9m long by 1.15m in width by 0.48m in depth with steep, slightly convex sides and a wide, flat base (Figure 27). It was primarily filled with (528), a mid yellow brown plastic sand clay up to 0.29m deep, with frequent, rounded fragments of limestone and sandstone and limestone gravel, occasional charcoal flecks and rare flecks of CBM. A number of finds were recovered from this fill, including sixteen sherds of 2nd century pottery and a coin of Hadrian dated AD 118-119 (special find 4). Fill (528) was overlaid by a mid grey brown, firm, friable, compact sand silt clay (529), up to 0.15m in depth, with frequent chalk and limestone flecks, occasional charcoal flecks and a few small and medium limestone and sandstone fragments, from which twenty-six sherds of 2nd century pottery were recovered. This ditch probably represents a continuation of ditch [1041] in Area 1.
- 4.2.49 Feature [143] was much disturbed and truncated by medieval drain [113] to the east and by modern disturbance to its west, therefore only a small portion of it was visible. It may have been a pit and measured at least 2m in length by at least 0.95m in width by 0.28m in depth with steeply sloping edges and a wide, uneven base (Figure 28). It was filled with a mid orange brown firm, compact sand clay (144), with frequent, small flint nodules and occasional chalk and charcoal fleck inclusions, from which five sherds of early 2nd century pottery were recovered.
- 4.2.50 Posthole [174] survived as a badly truncated feature beneath medieval ditch [164]. The posthole measured 0.35m long by 0.30m wide by 0.19m deep with steeply sloping sides tapering to a narrow base (Figure 28). It contained a light orange-brown silty clay fill (175) from which pottery dating to the 2nd century AD was recovered.
- 4.2.51 Feature [697] was a north-west/south-east aligned ditch of which only a length of 5.4m was visible. It was truncated by a modern drain cut on its western edge and was obscured by the limit of excavation to the east. It measured at least 2.0m wide by 0.35m deep and appeared to have a gently sloping western edge and a flat base (Figure 28). It was filled with (698), a red brown plastic silt clay, with occasional flint nodule inclusions. Artefactual evidence from the feature comprised three fragments of possible 2nd century pottery.
- 4.2.52 Feature [707] was a probable pit, although it may also have been a ditch terminus. It measured at least 6m long by 3m wide by 0.40m deep with sloping irregular sides and an uneven base (Figure 28). It contained an orange brown sandy clay fill (708) from which late 2nd century pottery was recovered.

- 4.2.53 Ditch [1041] was present on a similar alignment to ditch [527] and may represent a southwards extension of that feature. Ditch [1041] measured 0.90m wide by 0.16m deep, with gently sloping sides and a wide, flat base (Figure 29). It contained (1042), a light brown clay sand with medium sandstone fragment inclusions. It was associated with [1045], which appeared to feed into [1041].
- 4.2.54 Ditch [1045] survived for a length of 4m; between ditches [1041] and [1037]. It was north-south aligned and measured 0.60m wide by 0.16m deep, with indistinct, gently sloping sides and an uneven base (Figure 29). Ditch [1045] was filled with (1046), a light brown hard, sticky clay sand with frequent sandstone fragments. No dating evidence was recovered from either [1041] or [1045] but they were both stratigraphically earlier than ditch [1037] from which 2nd-3rd century pottery was recovered.
- 4.2.55 Pit [1054] measured at least 2m long by 1.6m wide by 0.16m deep, with shallow irregular sides and an uneven base (Figure 29). It contained an orange brown silty clay (1055), from which a single sherd of 2nd century pottery was recovered.
- 4.2.56 Ditch [3013] was aligned northeast-southwest and measured at least 1.5m long by 1.40m wide by 0.50m deep with steep sides and a rounded base. It contained a medium yellow brown sandy clay fill (3014) from which twenty-one sherds of 2nd century pottery were recovered. It is likely that this feature is a continuation of ditch [3037].
- 4.2.57 Pit/posthole [3019] measured 0.54m in diameter by 0.13m deep with steep sides and a rounded base (Figure 30). It contained a dark grey brown silty clay (3020), with quantities of charcoal, from which four sherds of 2nd century pottery were recovered.
- 4.2.58 Ditch [3037] was aligned northeast-southwest and measured at least 5.5m long by 1.75m wide by 0.25m deep with sloping sides and a flat base (Figure 30). It contained a mid yellow brown sandy clay (3038), from which four sherds of 1st-2nd century pottery were recovered. It is probable that this feature represents a continuation of ditch [3013].

2nd-3rd century

- 4.2.59 Ditch [154] was aligned approximately north-south and measured at least 1.50m long by 0.63m wide by 0.28m deep, with steep sides and a narrow, rounded base (Figure 31). The ditch terminated close to the northern extent of the excavation area and the terminal was rounded with steep sloping sides. It contained (155), a mid orange brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal and chalk flecks and small limestone and flint chip inclusions. Artefactual evidence recovered from the feature consisted of twenty-nine sherds of 2nd-3rd century pottery. It was cut by medieval drain [113].

- 4.2.60 Three substantial ditches were identified within the excavation areas, although only small sections of the ditches survived due to later disturbance. Features [589], [654] and [703] probably comprised components of a boundary ditch, either dividing the cemetery into 'precincts' or defining an enclosure.
- 4.2.61 The westernmost ditch, [589], was situated across the north-west corner of the area and terminated on intersection with [654]. It was aligned northeast-southwest and measured at least 14.5m long by 2.21m wide by up to 0.40m deep with sloping sides and a rounded base (Figure 31). It contained a mid grey brown sandy clay (590), with frequent flecks and fragments of charcoal and occasional limestone brash inclusions, from which twenty-nine sherds of 3rd century pottery were recovered.
- 4.2.62 Ditch [654] lay at right angles to [589], orientated approximately north-west/south-east. The feature could be traced from its intersection with [589], across the centre of the area to the south-eastern corner, where it terminated at its intersection with [703]. It was, however, severely truncated and, in places, completely removed by a series of modern disturbances in the centre of the area. In total it measured 38m in length, was irregular in width, varying from 1.60m at the eastern end to 2.40m at its centre and western end, and varied in depth from 0.40m at the east end to 0.75m at the west end with steep, irregular sides and a wide, rounded base (Figure 32). The terminal was rounded and measured 0.36m deep, with sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a mid grey brown sandy clay (655), with occasional limestone fragment and charcoal fleck inclusions. Artefactual evidence from the ditch comprised six sherds of 3rd century pottery and a single sherd of residual 1st-2nd century pottery. A late 3rd-4th century coin (SF12) is probably intrusive in context.
- 4.2.63 Ditch [703] was also probably contemporary with ditch [654]. It began at the southeast end of [654], was orientated at right angles to it and stretched from its south side to the edge of the excavation area for a length of 2.5m. The ditch was aligned northeast-southwest and measured 1.89m wide by 0.46m deep with steep, irregular sides and a narrow, rounded base (Figure 32). It contained a mid grey brown sandy clay (704), with occasional limestone fragment inclusions. Artefactual evidence comprised three sherds of undiagnostic Roman pottery and a 2nd-3rd century coin. No clear trace of this feature was located in Area 3, where it may have been removed by post-medieval feature [3011].
- 4.2.64 Ditch [1037] was north-south aligned and measured at least 7m long by 1.52m wide by 0.60m deep, with steep sides sloping to a narrow base (Figure 33). Several large, rounded limestone fragments were present set in a line along the base of the ditch and pressed into the natural clay. These stones were overlain by the primary fill, which consisted of yellow brown sandy clay (1038). This fill contained three sherds of undiagnostic Roman pottery. The primary fill was overlaid by (1039), a mid yellow brown friable sand clay with occasional small and large sub-angular limestone fragment inclusions.

Artefactual evidence recovered comprised fifteen sherds of 2nd-3rd century Roman pottery. It is possible that [1037] represents a continuation of ditch [589].

3rd-4th century

- 4.2.65 Grave [658] measured 1.9m long by 0.6m wide by 0.13m deep and consisted of a shallow north-south aligned cut, disturbed on its western side by a modern pipe trench (Figure 34). It contained a single young female skeleton (659) aged 20-25 years, with a copper bracelet of 2nd-4th century date in a mid orange-brown sandy clay fill (660). A number of coffin nails and four sherds of residual 1st century pottery and were also recovered from this fill. The grave has been assigned to the later part of the date-range suggested by the bracelet, since 4th century examples are by far the more common (Cool 2004).
- 4.2.66 Grave [661] was aligned approximately east-west and survived for a length of only 0.5m between later features [580] and [568]. It was 0.74m wide by 0.15m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Figure 34). It contained a skeleton (662) of undetermined sex, aged 25-35 years in a mid orange brown sandy clay fill (663) from which a single sherd of undiagnostic 1st-4th century pottery was recovered. It cut 2nd-4th century grave [677] and feature [648].
- 4.2.67 Grave [677] was aligned approximately northeast-southwest and measured at least 1.90m long by 0.80m wide by 0.15m deep, with steep sides and a flat base (Figure 35). It contained a female skeleton (678), aged 18-20 years in a mid orange brown sandy clay fill (679) from which a single sherd of 2nd-4th century pottery was recovered. It was cut by 1st-4th century grave [661] and by medieval ditches [568] and [571].
- 4.2.68 Grave [1012] was aligned northeast-southwest and measured at least 1.8m long by at least 0.35m wide by 0.19m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Figure 35). It contained a probable female adult skeleton (1014) of uncertain age in a mid orange brown sandy clay fill (1013) from which two sherds of residual 1st-2nd century pottery were recovered along with a bracelet and ten coins dating between AD 348 and AD 364. The burial was equivalent to [104]/(105) from the 1993 Gloucester City Unit evaluation. It cut earlier grave [1006].
- 4.2.69 Grave [1083] was aligned northeast-southwest and measured 2.30m long by 0.83m wide by 0.19m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Figure 36). It contained a male skeleton (1084), aged 40-50 years in a mid grey brown sandy clay (1086) from which a number of 1st century pottery sherds were recovered. The grave is dated, however, by a coin of Allectus, dated AD 293-296 found in the left hand of the skeleton.
- 4.2.70 Grave [4007] was aligned approximately north-south and measured at least 1.10m long by at least 0.6m wide by at least 0.08m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Figure 36). It contained a probable male skeleton (4009), aged 43-

55 years in a mid yellow brown sandy fill (4008) from which seven sherds of 3rd-4th century pottery were recovered. It was cut by grave [4010].

- 4.2.71 Grave [4010] was aligned approximately northwest-southeast and measured 2m long by 1.2m wide by 0.35m deep, with steep sides and a flat base (Figure 36). It contained a male skeleton (4012), aged 40-50 years in a mid yellow brown sandy silt (4011) from which thirty-one sherds of 3rd-4th century pottery were recovered. It cut graves [4007], [4013] and [4016].
- 4.2.72 Grave [4013] was aligned approximately north-south and measured 2.10m long by 0.67m wide by 0.12m deep, with steep sides and a flat base (Figure 37). It contained a male skeleton (4015), aged 60+ years in a mid brown silty clay fill (4014) from which four sherds of 3rd-4th century pottery were recovered. It cut grave [4016].
- 4.2.73 Grave [4016] was aligned approximately north-south and measured 1.80m long by 0.40m wide by 0.10m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Figure 37). It contained a probable male adult skeleton (4018) of uncertain age in a mid brown silty clay (4017) from which three sherds of 3rd-4th century pottery were recovered. It was cut by graves [4010], [4013], and [4019].
- 4.2.74 Grave [4019] was aligned approximately north-south and measured at least 1.8m long by at least 0.54m wide by 0.28m deep, with ill-defined edges and a slightly uneven base (Figure 37). It contained a female skeleton (4021), aged 40-50 in a grey brown sandy clay (4020), from which six sherds of 3rd-4th century pottery were recovered. It cut grave [4022].
- 4.2.75 Grave [4031] was aligned approximately north-south and measured at least 1.80m long by 0.80m wide by 0.22m deep, with gently sloping sides and a flat base (Figure 38). It contained an adult skeleton (4033) of undetermined sex in a mid grey brown sandy clay (4032), from which twenty-one sherds of 3rd-4th century pottery were recovered. It was cut by graves [4034] and [4037].
- 4.2.76 Grave [4034] was aligned northeast-southwest and measured 1.92m long by 0.65m wide by 0.13m deep, with steep sides and an uneven, flat base (Figure 38). It contained a female skeleton (4036), aged about 50 years in a mid grey brown sandy clay (4035), from which three sherds of residual 1st-2nd century pottery and five sherds of 3rd-4th century pottery were recovered along with a bracelet and a coin dated AD 348-364. It cut grave [4031].
- 4.2.77 Grave [4037] was aligned approximately northeast-southwest and measured at least 1.10m long by 0.80m wide by 0.20m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Figure 38). It contained a probable male skeleton (4039), aged 55+ years in a grey brown sandy clay fill (4038) from which a coin dated AD 313-330 was recovered along with fourteen sherds of intrusive medieval pottery.
- 4.2.78 Grave [4068] was aligned approximately east-west and measured at least 1.5m long by 1.0m wide by 0.05m deep with indistinct sides and an uneven

base (Figure 39). It contained two badly disturbed burials; an adult skeleton (4066) of undetermined sex and an infant (4067) of undetermined sex, aged about 1 year, in an orange brown sandy clay (4069), from which four sherds of 3rd-4th century pottery were recovered along with a brooch, a buckle, a belt plate and a ring.

- 4.2.79 Layer (134) appeared to have been preserved by its proximity to a post-medieval cellar. It covered an area approximately 2m by 2m and was 0.18m thick. It consisted of a mid yellow brown sandy silt from which seven sherds of undiagnostic Roman pottery were recovered along with a coin dated AD 275-296. It was overlain by medieval layer (133).
- 4.2.80 Feature [138] was identified beneath layer (134). It consisted of a probable pit of uncertain dimensions, at least 1m long by 0.7m wide by 0.12m deep with sloping sides and a gently rounded base (Figure 39). It contained a mid yellow brown sandy silt (139), from which two sherds of undiagnostic Roman pottery were recovered. This layer has been arbitrarily assigned to the 3rd century, but might actually also date to any period within the first two centuries.
- 4.2.81 Pit [599] measured 1.30m in diameter by 0.20m deep, with sloping irregular sides and a rounded base (Figure 39). It contained a mid orange brown sandy clay (600), from which sixteen sherds of 3rd century pottery were recovered, along with substantial quantities of cattle bone. The feature appeared to fall within the area of ditch [654], although this area was substantially cut away by medieval ditch [568].
- 4.2.82 Feature [648] was aligned north-south and measured at least 1.5m long by 0.50m wide by 0.35m deep, with sloping sides and a flat base (Figure 39). It contained a mid to dark orange brown friable sand clay (649), with occasional limestone brash and charcoal flecks, from which two sherds of undiagnostic Roman pottery were recovered. It was cut by grave [661], and ditches [580] and [568]. It is likely to itself represent either an unused grave, a grave cut within which the body has been removed or destroyed by later intrusion. It has been assigned to this period on stratigraphic grounds, but may be earlier.

Undated Roman

- 4.2.83 Possible cremation pit [701] was located in the northeast corner of Area 2. It measured 0.74m long by 0.60m wide by 0.08m deep with irregular indistinct sides and an uneven base (Figure 40). It contained an orange-brown sandy clay (702), with areas of burning and frequent charcoal fragments, from which no ecofactual or artefactual evidence was recovered. It is possible that this feature represented the remains of a cremation from which all trace of the burial had been removed by later disturbance.
- 4.2.84 Grave [178] was aligned approximately east-west and measured 1.24m long by 0.74m wide by 0.22m deep, with steep sides and a slightly rounded base (Figure 40). It contained a probable male skeleton (180), aged 25-35 years, in

a mid orange brown sandy clay (179). The grave was partly cut away to the west by a modern water main.

- 4.2.85 Grave [524] was aligned approximately north-south and measured 1.39m long by 0.60m wide by 0.17m deep, with steep sides and a slightly rounded base (Figure 40). It contained a female skeleton (526), aged 30-40 years in a mid orange brown sandy clay (525). The grave was partly cut away by medieval feature [530].
- 4.2.86 Grave [685] was aligned approximately east-west and measured at least 0.85m long by 0.50m wide by 0.02m deep, with ill defined edges and a flat base (Figure 41). It contained a decapitated child burial (687), aged about 4 years, with the skull placed on the lower legs. The grave was filled with a mid brown sandy silt (686).
- 4.2.87 Grave [719] was aligned approximately east-west and measured 2.20m long by 0.63m wide by 0.21m deep, with steep sides and a flat base (Figure 41). It contained a male skeleton (720), aged 50+ years in a mid orange brown clay sand (721).
- 4.2.88 Grave [3008] was aligned approximately east-west and measured approximately 2.20m long by 0.60m wide by 0.22m deep, with badly disturbed sides and a flat base (Figure 42). It contained part of a male skeleton (3009), aged 40-50 years in a mid brown silty clay (3010).
- 4.2.89 Grave [3031] was aligned approximately northeast-southwest and measured at least 2.07m long by 0.54m wide by 0.13m deep, with steep, uneven sides and a flat base (Figure 42). It contained a male skeleton (3032), aged about 30 years in a yellow brown gritty clay (3033). It was partly cut away by a modern pipe trench.
- 4.2.90 Grave [3034] was aligned approximately northeast-southwest and measured at least 2.0m long by 0.52m wide by 0.08m deep, with indistinct, uneven sides and a flat base (Figure 43). It contained a female skeleton (3035), aged 30-40 years, in an orange brown gritty clay (3036) from which a .
- 4.2.91 Grave [4054] was aligned approximately north-south and measured 1.90m long by 0.70m wide by 0.25m deep, with steep sides and a flat base (Figure 43). It contained a male skeleton (4056), aged 50-60 years, in a mid yellow brown sandy silt (4055). It cut grave [4070].
- 4.2.92 Grave [4057] was aligned approximately north-south. It measured 1.0m long by 0.50m wide by 0.06m deep, with indistinct sides and a flat base (Figure 43). It contained the prone, decapitated skeleton of a child (4058), aged approximately 7-9 years, in a mid orange brown sandy clay (4060). It was cut away to the north by a modern drain.
- 4.2.93 Grave [4061] was aligned approximately northwest-southeast and measured 2.10m long by 0.90m wide by 0.21m deep, with steep sides and a flat base

(Figure 44). It contained a male skeleton (4063), aged 50-60 years, in a mid orange brown sandy clay (4062).

- 4.2.94 Grave [4070] was aligned approximately north-south and measured 2.0m long by 0.90m wide by 0.30m deep, with steep sides and a gently rounded base (Figure 44). It contained a female skeleton (4072), aged 20-25 years, in a mid yellow brown silty sand (4071). It was cut by [4054].
- 4.2.95 Pit [544] was located in the southwest part of Area 2. It measured 1.06m long by 0.61m wide by 0.28m deep with steep sides and a narrow uneven base (Figure 45). It contained a mid grey brown silty clay (545), with frequent limestone fragments, from which a number of small undiagnostic fragments of brick/tile were recovered. The pit was cut by medieval gully [534] and may tentatively, on the basis of the artefactual and stratigraphic evidence, be dated to the Roman period.
- 4.2.96 Ditch [573] was situated in the southwest corner of Area 2. It was aligned east-west and extended into the study area for a length of 2.0m. It measured 0.64m wide by 0.19m deep, with sloping sides and a wide base, which had been badly disturbed by an animal burrow (Figure 45). It contained an orange brown sandy clay (574), from which two sherds of undiagnostic Roman pottery were recovered. The ditch terminated at the western edge of Roman ditch [527] and was cut by medieval gully [534].
- 4.2.97 Gully [597] was aligned north-south in the central part of Area 2. It measured at least 4.5m long by 0.40m wide by 0.18m deep with steep sides and a gently rounded base (Figure 45). It contained a mid brown silty clay (598), from which two sherds of undiagnostic Roman pottery were recovered. It cut 2nd-3rd century ditch [654].
- 4.2.98 Feature [1024] was situated at the centre of Area 1. It was roughly rectangular in plan and measured at least 1.0m long by 0.70m wide by 0.24m deep, with sloping sides and a flat base (Figure 45). It was cut on its southeast edge by a modern linear feature and terminated in a near straight-sided edge immediately to the southeast of [1017]. It contained a mid grey brown hard, friable sand clay (1025), with a few limestone fragment and charcoal flecks, from which a number of undiagnostic bone fragments and two iron nails were recovered. It is likely that this feature represents a grave cut in which the body has been almost completely destroyed.
- 4.2.99 Feature [1048] was aligned northeast-southwest and measured at least 0.50m long by 0.78m wide by 0.20m deep, with steep sides and a flat base (Figure 45). It contained a mid brown sandy clay (1049), from which a number of undiagnostic bone fragments were recovered. It was cut on its western side by Roman ditch [1037] and probably represents a disturbed grave cut.
- 4.2.100 Feature [1050] was a small, shallow pit or linear terminus which measured 0.90m in length, at least 1.24m wide and 0.28m deep with steep sides narrowing to a rounded base (Figure 46). It was filled with (1051), an orange

grey brown friable sand clay with occasional small sub-angular limestone fragment and a few charcoal fleck inclusions. Artefactual evidence consisted of a single sherd of undiagnostic Roman pottery. It was cut by pit [1043]

- 4.2.101 Pit [1043] was a large, irregular pit measuring at least 3.50m long by at least 2m wide by 0.70m deep, with steep, concave sides and a wide, uneven base (Figure 46). It contained primary fill (1047), a mid yellow brown compact silt sand with frequent gravel, occasional limestone fragment and charcoal fleck inclusions, 0.35m in depth. Fill (1047) was overlaid by (1044), a medium brown silt clay with occasional gravel, limestone fragment and chalk fleck inclusions, 0.55m in depth. The feature contained three sherds of undiagnostic Roman pottery.
- 4.2.102 Feature [1077] survived in only a single small area, being partly underneath the edge of excavation and partly cut away by modern intrusions. The feature probably comprised a pit. It measured at least 1.50m long by 0.70m wide by 0.20m deep with of uncertain profile (Figure 46). It was filled with a yellow brown sandy silt (1078) from which two sherds of undiagnostic and undated Roman pottery were recovered.
- 4.2.103 Feature [1079] lay at the eastern end of the area. It was cut by a modern trench and cut the south-west edge of ditch [1081]. It measured at least 1.90m long by 0.94m wide by 0.52m deep, with steep sides and a narrow base (Figure 46). It was filled with (1080), a mid grey brown firm, compact sand clay with frequent chalk and charcoal fleck, occasional brick fleck and a few sub-angular limestone fragment inclusions. Artefactual evidence from this fill comprised an undiagnostic pottery sherd of Roman date up to 0.52m thick. Fill (1080) was overlaid by (1086), a mid brown grey very compact, firm sand clay with frequent small, sub-angular limestone fragments, occasional to frequent charcoal, chalk and brick fleck and occasional sandstone fragment inclusions up to 0.35m thick. Finds from this fill comprised an oyster shell and a fragment of undiagnostic brick/tile.
- 4.2.104 Gully [3021] was located towards the southern end of the north-south block of Area 3, in the base of a furrow. It was aligned northwest-southeast, subsequently curving north-south and measured 1.3m long by 0.29m wide by 0.18m deep, with sloping sides and a narrow, uneven base (Figure 46). It contained an orange brown sandy clay (3022), with small sub-angular limestone fragments and charcoal flecks, from which a single undiagnostic fragment of brick/tile was recovered. The gully may tentatively, on the basis of the artefactual and stratigraphic evidence, be dated to the Roman period.

4.3 Medieval (Figure 47)

11th-12th century

- 4.3.1 Posthole [176] consisted of a sub-oval cut and measured 0.41m long by 0.33m wide by 0.23m deep, with vertical edges and a wide, slightly rounded base. It contained an orange grey sand clay (177), with frequent flint grit,

occasional small sub-rounded flints and charcoal flecks, from which two sherds of 12th century pottery were recovered along with three sherds of residual Roman pottery.

- 4.3.2 Pit/posthole [601] consisted of a rectangular cut measuring 0.64m long by 0.44m wide by 0.43m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base (Figure 48). It contained a mid orange brown sandy clay (602), from which six sherds of 12th century pottery were recovered. It cut grave [603].
- 4.3.3 Two parallel ditches [650] and [652] were present in the eastern part of Area 2. Ditch [650] was aligned east-west and measured at least 8m long by 0.80m wide by 0.03m deep, with gently sloping sides and an uneven flat base (Figure 48). It contained a mid brown firm, friable sand clay (651). This feature ran parallel to medieval ditch feature [652] and is likely to have been associated with it.
- 4.3.4 Ditch [652] was aligned east-west aligned and measured 1.01m wide by 0.07m deep, with sloping sides and a flat base (Figure 48). It was visible for a length of only 10.40m, as it was truncated by modern disturbance to the east and petered out to the west. The ditch contained a mid-brown sandy clay (653), from which two sherds of 11th-12th century pottery were recovered.
- 4.3.5 Ditch [571] was aligned north-south and measured at least 10m long by 0.50m wide by 0.45m deep, with steep sides and a rounded base (Figure 48). It contained a mid brown friable silt clay (572), with occasional gravel inclusions. It cut graves [661] and [677] and was cut by ditch [580] to the east and by ditch [568] to the west. It has therefore been assigned to this period on stratigraphic grounds.

12th-13th century

- 4.3.6 A linear masonry feature (507) was present in the eastern part of Area 2. This feature was aligned approximately east-west and consisted of a paved surface measuring 5.2m long by 0.90m wide (Figure 49). It comprised irregular unbonded stone slabs (0.15m x 0.3m x 0.2m) laid tightly together, on-edge, and packed with occasional, larger limestone fragments and large fragments of pottery. At either end of the feature were blocks of masonry, which consisted of large limestone fragments with some evidence of mortar. At the centre was a narrow gully, down to which the paved surfaces gently sloped. The surfaces of the stones, especially of the larger slabs, showed some evidence of wear and patches of heat discoloration were visible along the length of the feature. The southern side of the surface was regular, implying it was the original limit of the surface; the northern edge was irregular suggesting the feature may have previously extended further northwards. A shallow construction cut [511], which contained a yellow brown silty clay (512), was visible on the southern side, although it was elsewhere truncated. It was overlain by a layer of mid brown friable silt clay (506), from which two sherds of 13th century pottery were recovered.

- 4.3.7 A second linear arrangement of flat stones and tile (509) was present in the eastern part of Area 2, approximately 5m to the north of (507). The feature was located in a shallow cut [505] measuring 2.20m long by 1.10m wide by 0.06m deep (Figure 50). The stone and tile surface was aligned approximately east-west and measured 2m long by 0.40m wide by 0.05m thick, laid directly onto the natural gravel. It comprised a layer of flat stone slabs, broken peg tiles and sub-rounded boulders made of sandstone, overlying the natural ground. The stone slabs measured approximately 0.40m by 0.30m by 0.05m; the tiles measured 0.30m by 0.25m by 0.05m; the boulders measured approximately 0.20m by 0.15m by 0.10m. It may have represented a feature associated with the former medieval hospital buildings. It was overlain by a thin layer of mid brown sandy silt clay (508), from which nine sherds of 12th-13th century pottery were recovered.
- 4.3.8 A small, fairly deep pit, [519], was situated close to the north west corner of the area. It was sub-circular in plan and measured 1.90m long by 0.90m wide by 0.45m deep, with a vertical eastern edge, a steeply sloping western edge and a flat base (Figure 50). It contained a primary fill of mid grey brown sandy clay (522), up to 0.22m thick, from which twenty-eight sherds of 12th century pottery were recovered. This fill was overlain by a mid brown clay silt (520), with occasional, small limestone fragment inclusions, from which thirteen sherds of 12th-13th century pottery were recovered, as well as four sherds of residual Roman pottery.
- 4.3.9 Ditch [568] was aligned north-south and measured at least 17m long by 2.50m to 3.50m wide by 0.70m to 1.02m deep, with a steeply sloping eastern edge, a gentler western edge and an uneven base (Figure 51). It contained a primary fill of redeposited gravel (637), up to 0.15m thick, beneath a pale brown to mid grey brown sand clay with gravel inclusions (569/636), from which twenty-one sherds of 12th-13th century pottery were recovered.
- 4.3.10 A substantial, north-south aligned ditch [621] was present from the southern boundary of Area 2 and terminated within the area. It measured at least 17m long by 2.95m wide by 0.49m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base, which contained a mid grey brown loose silt sand (622), with occasional limestone fragments, gravel and charcoal flecks (Figure 51). The terminus was 0.41m deep, with sloping sides and a rounded base. The feature was severely truncated by various features and modern disturbance; a modern pipeline cut away much of its western edge and further modern disturbance was present along its length, in addition to truncation by GCU Evaluation Trench 2 and ditches [530], [552], [566] and [726]. Artefactual evidence comprised two undiagnostic iron objects, four residual sherds of Roman pottery and five sherds of 13th century pottery.

13th-14th century

- 4.3.11 A substantial deposit of grey green sandy silt (133) was present at the northern end of the Area 1. It measured at least 3.5m long by 2m wide by 0.45m deep, but was truncated by modern disturbance on the north and south

sides, by the limit of excavation on the east side and by wall cut [141] on the west (Figure 52). Artefactual evidence from the layer comprised four residual sherds of Roman pottery, five sherds of 13th-15th century pottery and three fragments of undiagnostic brick/tile. It overlay layer (134), which was Roman in date.

- 4.3.12 The only surviving structural remains of this phase, which appeared to related to the medieval hospital building consisted of a north-east/south-west aligned drain [113] and foundation trench [141] (Figures 52-53).
- 4.3.13 The stone drain, [113] (111) and [122] (123), was closely associated with the wall footing [141] and lay parallel to it (Figures 52 and 53). The drain was constructed in two sections. A narrow, higher gully, [122] (123), ran down to a wider, deeper gully, [113] (111). Each of the gullies was lined with dressed, limestone blocks. The higher portion of the drain was set within the wall footing, and the lower protruded out to the south west, beyond the footing. Drain cut [113] had a steeply sloping south-east edge, a vertical north-west edge and a flat base and measured 6.30m in length, 1.90m in width and 0.55m in depth.
- 4.3.14 The stone lining of the drain, (111), occupied approximately one third of the cut and was situated on its north-west edge (Figures 52 and 53). It was constructed of large limestone blocks. The base comprised wide, flat stones measuring 0.30m by 0.46m by 0.03m. A series of well-dressed, large rectangular blocks measuring approximately 0.45m by 0.21m by 0.20m stood on edge above the base blocks to form the sides of the drain. The side stones were laid on a layer of smaller stones measuring 0.15m by 0.10m by 0.06m, pressed into the underlying natural gravel. A single capping-stone, consisting of a large, flat block measuring 0.32m by 0.28m by 0.05m, remained in-situ at the southern end of the drain. The stones comprising the drain were 'plugged' with small, undressed stones where necessary and bonded with a dark grey firm, plastic, compacted clay (145), with very frequent tiny limestone chips and rare charcoal flecks, from which a single sherd of 11th/12th century pottery was recovered.
- 4.3.15 The remainder of cut [113] was filled with (142), a dark brown compact, firm, friable sand clay (142), with frequent charcoal and chalk flecks. In addition, two large limestone fragments were present, measuring 0.20m by 0.20m by 0.10m, which were 'packed' with four small limestone fragments (Figure 52). It was possible cut [113] originally contained a continuation of the wall footing (127), suggested by the width of the cut and the presence of large limestone fragments within the fill. Artefactual evidence from (142) comprised fifteen sherds of 13th century pottery and four residual sherds of Roman pottery. The drain cut feature [143].
- 4.3.16 The foundation trench [141] measured 3m long by at least 1.30m wide by 0.65m deep, with steep sides and narrow base. The cut contained a badly damaged stone wall footing, (127) and was associated with stone drain [113/122] (Figure 53). A modern brick wall and a post-medieval well [130],

had truncated the northeast edge. At the northeast end it turned westwards to form a corner. The southwest end appeared to curve sharply to the east, but was cut at this point by a modern brick wall footing.

- 4.3.17 Wall (127) survived for a length of 2.5m and consisted of undressed sub-round limestone rubble blocks ranging in size from 0.4m by 0.4m to 0.2m by 0.5m (Figure 53). These remaining stones appeared to form the core of a substantial footing, with the dressed, external stones having previously been robbed. The stones were set within a dark grey green loose silt (114), with frequent gravel and limestone fragments and occasional charcoal flecks, from which an assemblage of 13th-15th century pottery was recovered. The shape and alignment of the wall was, however, very much obscured by modern disturbance and the limit of the excavation area.
- 4.3.18 Ditch [164] was aligned northeast-southwest in the western part of Area 1. It measured at least 2.8m long by 2.24m wide by 0.46m deep with a gently sloping southern side, a near vertical northern edge and a narrow, undulating base (Figure 54). It was primarily filled with (166), an orange brown sticky, hard silt clay with a few small sandstone and flint nodules, charcoal and flecks of brick/tile inclusions, up to 0.33m thick, from which seven sherds of 13th-15th century pottery were recovered. It was overlaid by (165), a dark brown hard, friable silt clay with sandstone, flint nodule and charcoal fleck inclusions up to 0.13m thick. A section of sub-rounded stones, (171), loosely slotted together and two courses deep was laid into the top of (165) along its northern edge. It is probable the stones had been placed to consolidate the ditch.
- 4.3.19 Pit [513] measured 3.20m long by at least 2.0m wide by 0.72m deep, with sloping sides and a gently rounded base (Figure 54). The pit was cut away on its eastern side by a modern foundation trench, which obscured its relationship with ditch [621]. The primary fill was a mid grey brown moderately loose silt sand (521), with occasional gravel and charcoal fleck inclusions, up to 0.13m deep, from which two sherds of residual Roman pottery and a single sherd of 12th century pottery were recovered. This fill was overlaid by (516), a mid brown moderately loose silt sand with occasional gravel and charcoal flecks and rare limestone fragment inclusions, up to 0.11m deep. Fill (516) was overlain by (514), a mid brown loose sand silt with occasional gravel, charcoal flecks and rare limestone fragment inclusions, up to 0.30m deep, from which fifteen sherds of 13th-14th century pottery were recovered. This was overlaid by (515), a mid yellow brown moderately compact silt sand with frequent gravel, charcoal flecks limestone fragment inclusions, up to 0.13m thick, from which two sherds of 12th-13th century pottery were recovered.
- 4.3.20 Ditch [530] was aligned roughly east-west and measured at least 7.30m long by 0.95m wide by 0.10m deep, with steep sloping sides and a flat base (Figure 54). The ditch ended to the west in a sub-round shallow terminal. It contained a mid brown grey sandy clay (531), with frequent limestone brash and occasional flint nodule and chalk fleck inclusions, from which five sherds

of 13th-14th century pottery were recovered. It cut north-south ditches [542] and [621].

- 4.3.21 Gully [534] was aligned roughly east-west and measured at least 11.40m long by 0.25m wide by 0.28m deep, with near vertical sides and a narrow base (Figure 55). It contained a mid brown sandy clay (535), from which a single sherd of 12th-13th century pottery was recovered. The gully cut ditches [542], [573] and [621] and was itself cut by undated pit [646] and modern features.
- 4.3.22 Ditch [542] was aligned roughly north-south and measured at least 13m long by 1m wide by 0.44m deep, with steep sides and a flat base, along with a rounded northern terminal (Figure 55). It contained a primary fill of mid orange-brown sandy clay (570), up to 0.20m thick, from which twelve sherds of 13th-14th century date were recovered. This fill was overlain by a mid grey brown sandy clay (537/543), up to 0.24m thick, from which thirty-nine sherds of 12th-13th century pottery were recovered. A modern feature had substantially destroyed the eastern edge to ditch [542] and obscured its relationship to ditch [621].
- 4.3.23 Ditch [552] was aligned approximately east-west and measured 8m long by 0.90m wide by 0.40m deep, with sloping sides and a flat base. Both termini were rounded, with gently sloping sides and a rounded base (Figure 55). It was lined at the base with small sandstone fragments and contained a mid brown silty clay (553), from which no dating evidence was recovered. It cut ditches [542], [568] and [621] and was itself cut by modern features. No dating evidence was recovered from the feature, nonetheless it appears to form one of a series, along with [530] and [566], of short segments of east-west ditch set on a north-south alignment. It has, therefore, been assigned to this date range.
- 4.3.24 Pit [562] measured 0.75m long by 0.60m wide by 0.24m deep with sloping sides and a rounded base (Figure 56). It contained a mid grey brown sandy silt (563), from which a single sherd of 13th-15th century pottery was recovered. The pit was located close to the junction of ditches [568] and [623].
- 4.3.25 Ditch [566] was aligned approximately east-west and measured 8.5m long by 0.70m wide by 0.18m deep, with sloping sides and a rounded base (Figure 56). Both termini were rounded with gently sloping sides, although the western terminus was considerably more tapering than the eastern. It contained a mid brown silty clay (567), from which two sherds of 13th-15th century pottery were recovered.
- 4.3.26 Curvilinear ditch [623] was aligned northwest-southeast and appeared to feed into [568], close to its northern extent. It measured 2m wide by 0.90m deep, with sloping sides and a flat base (Figure 56). It contained a primary fill of pale brown gravely clay (624), up to 0.20m thick, from which twenty-four sherds of 13th-14th century pottery were recovered along with two residual sherds of Roman pottery. The latest fill consisted of a pale blue grey clay

(626), with sandy gravel inclusions, up to 0.28m in depth. No finds were recovered from this fill.

- 4.3.27 Ditch [638] was aligned north-south and measured at least 1.0m long by 0.75m wide by 0.20m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a narrow, pointed base (Figure 56). It contained a mid grey brown firm sand clay (639). No finds were present within the feature and stratigraphically it could have been Roman or medieval in date as it cut Roman pit [722] and was cut by medieval ditch [623]. Its north-south alignment, however, implied it was more likely to be of medieval date.
- 4.3.28 Feature [3006] was a small, round pit or linear terminus situated in the north-east corner of Area 3. It measured at least 0.58m long, 0.90m wide and 0.21m deep, with sloping sides and a rounded base (Figure 56). It was filled with (3007), a mid brown hard silt clay with small sandstone inclusions. Dating evidence for the feature consisted of a single pottery sherd of 13th-15th century pottery.
- 4.3.29 A series of east-west aligned ridge and furrow features [3004] spanned Area 3 in the southeast part of the study area. On average they were 2.5m wide, 0.5m deep and were filled with buried subsoil/ploughsoil (3005), a brown grey firm, friable sand clay with frequent brick, chalk and charcoal flecks and a few small sub-angular limestone fragment inclusions.

4.4 Post-medieval (Figure 57)

- 4.4.1 Post-medieval and modern features were predominantly associated with the 19th century cottages and the later Severn Trent Water Depot, which had previously occupied the site. Wall footings, service trenches, wells, cellars and other features were present across the site area. These features are not described in detail within this report, with the exception of features [1088], [3011] and [4046].
- 4.4.2 A number of early post-medieval features, dating from the 16th-18th centuries were present.
- 4.4.3 Pit [546] was circular in plan and measured 0.68m in diameter by 0.35m deep, with steep sides and a wide, slightly rounded base (Figure 58). It contained a light to mid brown hard, friable silt clay (547), with occasional limestone fragments and charcoal flecks, from which a single sherd of 17th century or later pottery was recovered.
- 4.4.4 Pit or post-hole [669] was sub-circular in plan and measured 0.22m in diameter by 0.10m in depth, with steeply sloping sides and a narrow, rounded base (figure 58). It was filled with (670), a dark brown soft, friable sand clay with occasional small, sub-angular limestone fragments and a few charcoal fleck inclusions, from which seven small, undiagnostic sherds of brick/tile of post-medieval date were recovered. The feature cut through the southern edge of cremation pit [666].

- 4.4.5 Ditch [726] was aligned approximately east-west and extended eastwards across the area as far as Gloucester Archaeology Evaluation Trench 2, within which it terminated. The ditch measured at least 16m long by 2.02m wide by 1.52m deep, with steep, irregular edges and a narrow base (Figure 58). It contained a mixed black-brown sandy clay fill (727), from which pottery of 17th/18th century date was recovered.
- 4.4.6 Ditch [1017] was aligned east-north-east/west-south-west, and turned to become east-west aligned at the west end. It measured at least 10m long, 1.75m wide and 0.44m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a wide, rounded base (Figure 59). It contained a mid brown friable clay sand (1018), with occasional limestone fragment inclusions, from which a clay pipe stem fragment along with a sherd of 16th-17th century pottery and three fragments of tile were recovered. It was cut by modern pipe trenches along its western edge and also by Gloucester Archaeology Evaluation Trench 1, in which it was recorded as [97], which terminated within the trench.
- 4.4.7 Ditch [1056] was north-south aligned and measured at least 18.5m long by 6.5m wide by 0.92m deep, with sloping sides and a rounded base (Figure 59). The primary fill consisted of a compact sand and gravel layer (1073), with occasional grey clay lenses, up to 0.26m thick. Partially overlaying (1073) and partially overlying the base of the cut was a blue grey sand clay silt (1057), with occasional flint nodule inclusions, up to 0.24m thick, from which twenty sherds of pottery dating to the 15th-17th century were recovered. Both (1073) and (1057) were overlain by a grey brown sand clay silt (1058), with occasional charcoal, gravel and CBM fleck inclusions, up to 0.42m thick, from which twelve sherds of 15th-18th century pottery were recovered.
- 4.4.8 A thin layer of light orange brown sand clay (1060), with frequent gravel and occasional charcoal flecks, up to 0.08m thick was present against the eastern side of [1056]. This deposit contained no dating evidence and is likely to represent slumping of the edge. It was partly overlain by a light brown sandy clay (1059), with occasional gravel inclusions, up to 0.26m thick, from which a single very small sherd of intrusive 18th century pottery was recovered. Fill (1059) also overlay fill (1058).
- 4.4.9 Feature [1056] was re-cut along its eastern edge by ditch [1064]. This feature measured at least 2.6m wide by 0.42m deep, with sloping sides and a gently rounded base (Figure 59). It contained a primary fill of mid grey brown clay silt (1061), up to 0.35m thick, which was partly overlain by a mottled blue grey clay (1065), up to 0.41m thick. The western edge of [1064] was subsequently cut along its western edge by a second re-cut of [1056].
- 4.4.10 Ditch [1066] measured at least 3.1m wide by 0.50m deep, with sloping sides and a flat base (Figure 59). It contained a primary fill of mid brown sandy clay (1053), up to 0.12m thick, beneath a mid brown silty sand (1062), up to 0.40m thick, from which a single sherd of 17th century or later pottery was recovered. This layer was sealed beneath a mid orange brown sandy clay

gravel (1063) up to 0.18m thick. The latest fills of [1066] consisted of a mid brown sandy clay (1067), up to 0.20m thick, beneath a mid orange brown sandy clay (1068), up to 0.33m thick. Both [1064] and [1066] were sealed beneath a mid brown sandy clay deposit (1069), up to 0.25m thick from which twelve sherds of 16th-17th century pottery were recovered.

- 4.4.11 Small pit [1070] cut the western edge of ditch [1066]. The pit measured 1.06m in diameter by 0.31m deep with a steeply sloping eastern edge, a gently sloping western edge and a narrow base (Figure 59). It contained a primary fill of mid brown clay silt (1071), up to 0.14m thick, beneath a brown orange silt sand (1072), with charcoal inclusions, up to 0.17m thick. No artefactual evidence was recovered from [1070], which was also overlain by (1069).
- 4.4.12 Ditch [1056] continued northwards to terminate within Area 2 as ditch [724] where it measured 6.00m wide. The terminus lay outside the building footprint and was preserved *in situ*. In this area the feature was badly truncated and disturbed by modern features. It contained a grey-brown clay sand silt (725), with occasional gravel and charcoal flecks, equivalent to (1058), from which eight sherds of 17th century pottery were recovered. No re-cuts were evident within this part of the feature.
- 4.4.13 Feature [1088] comprised a large north-south aligned ditch or pit, which measured approximately 7m wide and over 1m deep towards the eastern end of Area 1 (Figure 57). It was late post-medieval/early modern in date and was probably a landfill feature associated with the closure of the Severn-Trent Water Depot.
- 4.4.14 Ditch [3011] was aligned northeast-southwest in the northwestern corner of Area 3. It measured at least 3.5m long by at least 1m wide. The location of this ditch against the edge of excavation meant that it could not be safely excavated (Figure 57). It contained limestone rubble in a brown sandy clay fill (3012), from which fragments of coal and post-medieval brick/tile were recovered.
- 4.4.15 A substantial ditch cut [4046] was present in Area 4. It measured 4.5m wide by 1m deep, with sloping sides and a rounded base (Figure 57). It contained a mortared brick and stone-built, arched culvert, (4050) of 19th/20th century date. It contained a primary fill of mid grey brown sand silt (4049), with frequent gravel, up to 0.70m thick, overlaid by a mid grey brown sand silt (4048), with frequent charcoal flecks, up to 0.40m thick. Fill (4048) was overlaid by a mid grey brown sand silt (4047), with frequent limestone fragments and gravel and occasional charcoal flecks, up to 0.60m thick. The southern edge of this feature was cut away by a modern concrete footing.

4.5 Undated (Figure 60)

- 4.5.1 A number of undated features were present within the excavation areas.

- 4.5.2 Posthole [118] was present close to the northern edge of the site. It was sub-oval in plan and measured 0.43m long by 0.41m wide by 0.25m deep, with a gently sloping northern edge and a near vertical southern edge (Figure 61). The cut was significantly deeper to the south, suggesting a 'post-pipe' on the southern edge. It contained a mid brown grey compact silt sand (119), with frequent flint gravel and occasional charcoal flecks.
- 4.5.3 Posthole [124] was located immediately to the west of posthole [118]. It was sub-oval in plan and measured 0.37m long by 0.32m wide by 0.15m deep, with steep sides and a rounded base (Figure 61). It contained a mid orange brown sand (125), with occasional gravel and rare charcoal flecks.
- 4.5.4 Pit [550] was a discreet, sub-circular feature located in the northwest corner of Area 2. It measured 0.63m in diameter by 0.18m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a narrow, rounded base (Figure 61). It contained a mid grey brown sand clay (551). No finds were associated with the feature.
- 4.5.5 Pit [556] was located in the northwest corner of Area 2. It measured 2.0m long by 0.83m wide by 0.30m deep, with near-vertical sides and a flat base (Figure 61). It contained an orange brown sandy clay (557), with gravel inclusions, from which no artefactual material was recovered. It cut Roman ditch [589].
- 4.5.6 Postholes [558] and [560] were located close to each other near to the centre of Area 2. Posthole [558] was sub-oval in plan and measured 0.55m long by 0.40m wide by 0.15m deep, with gently sloping sides and a wide, irregular base (Figure 61). It contained a mid red brown loose silt sand (559), with frequent gravel inclusions. Posthole [560] was oval in plan and measured 0.45m long by 0.40m wide by 0.18m deep with sloping sides and a wide, flat base (Figure 61). It contained a mid yellow brown silt sand (561), with occasional gravel and charcoal flecks. No artefactual evidence was derived from either feature.
- 4.5.7 Pit [578] was an irregular, sub-oval feature located in the northwest corner of Area 2. It measured 0.75m long by 0.54m wide by 0.29m deep, with steep sides and a narrow base (Figure 61). It contained a mid orange brown firm, plastic gritty clay (579), with frequent limestone fragments. No finds were present within the feature.
- 4.5.8 Ditch [580] was aligned north-south and measured at least 14m long by at least 1.25m wide by 0.65m deep with sloping sides and a gently rounded base (Figure 62). It contained a mid brown silty clay (581) with frequent gravel inclusions. It cut Roman feature [648] and medieval ditch [571] and was cut by a modern feature along much of its eastern edge.
- 4.5.8 Pit [606] was located in the southwest part of Area 2. The cut was an irregular rectangle in plan and measured 0.72m long by 0.48m wide by 0.08m deep, with gently sloping edges and an uneven base (Figure 62). It contained

the badly disturbed remains of an animal burial (607) in a grey brown silty clay (608), from which no artefactual material was recovered.

- 4.5.9 Pit [640] was located in the northwest part of Area 2. It was oval in plan and measured 1.25m in diameter by 0.21m deep, with gently sloping sides and a wide, rounded base (Figure 63). It contained a mid orange brown clay silt (641), with occasional charcoal flecks and occasional limestone fragments, from which no artefactual material was recovered. The pit was cut into the top of Roman ditch [589].
- 4.5.10 Posthole [664] was located in the northeast part of Area 2 adjacent to cremation [644]. It was an irregular sub-oval in plan and measured 0.47m long by 0.45m wide by 0.15m deep, with steeply sloping, root disturbed sides and a rounded base (Figure 63). It contained a mid orange plastic sand clay (665), with small, sub-angular limestone and gravel fragments and rare charcoal flecks, from which no artefactual material was recovered.
- 4.5.11 Posthole [695] was located in the eastern part of Area 2. It was oval in plan and measured 0.31m long by 0.24m wide by 0.06m deep, with sloping sides and a rounded base (Figure 63). It contained a grey brown friable sand clay (696), with occasional, small limestone fragments, from which no artefactual material was recovered. It cut the edge of medieval ditch [652] and was therefore stratigraphically datable to the medieval period or later.
- 4.5.12 Pit [711] was located in eastern part of Area 2 and was partly destroyed by modern building foundations. It was sub-circular in plan and measured approximately 1.2m in diameter by 0.36m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base (Figure 63). It contained a mid brown sand clay (712), from which a single undiagnostic fragment of brick/tile was recovered.
- 4.5.13 Posthole [1019] was located near the centre of Area 1. It was circular in plan and measured 0.30m in diameter by 0.23m deep, with a vertical northern edge, a southern edge that gently sloped down from the surface then became vertical and a narrow, rounded base (Figure 63). It contained a light orange brown soft, plastic, compact silt clay (1020), with occasional charcoal flecks.
- 4.5.14 Posthole [3015] was located at the southern end of Area 3 and was partly obscured by the edge of excavation. It was sub-square in plan and measured at least 0.50m long by 0.61m wide by 0.52m deep, with vertical edges and a narrow base (Figure 63). It contained a mid to dark mottled brown silt clay (3016), with occasional flecks of chalk and charcoal, from which no dating evidence was recovered.
- 4.5.15 Ditch [3027] was located towards the southern end of the north-south block of Area 3 in the base of a furrow. It was aligned approximately east-west and measured at least 0.80m long by 0.50m wide by 0.20m deep with sloping sides and a gently rounded base (Figure 63). It contained a dark grey brown loose silt sand (3028), with frequent charcoal flecks and rare gravel inclusions, from which no artefactual material was recovered.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The excavations at 124-130 London Road have revealed part of a Roman cemetery extending 55m to the south of London Road as well as a number of other Roman features. Elements of the medieval hospital have also been located, along with large ditches that probably formed part of the hospital precinct, as well as a number of other features. Early post-medieval features comprise ditches, pits and postholes, including a feature that may represent part of the Civil War defences/siege works of the 1640's.

5.1.2 The site has been very badly disturbed by late post-medieval and modern development. The excavations were restricted to the areas, which would be damaged by the proposed development, this limited the scope for interpretation of linear features. All identified burials were, however, fully excavated.

5.2 Roman (Figures 5-6, 64)

5.2.1 The earliest feature identified on site probably consisted of the large irregular cut [722]. This feature may predate the cemetery itself and possibly represented a small gravel quarry pit for the construction of the branch of Ermine Street Roman road. Cut [722] was infilled by the 1st century, a cremation of that date subsequently being cut into it.

5.2.2 The main activity during the Romano-British period involved the utilisation of the area as a cemetery. A total of 39 inhumations and 20 cremation burials were excavated during the works at 124-130 London Road (although no bone was recovered from one of the cremation pits [701]). A further three features [564, 591 and 644] may also represent cremations from which all bone had previously been lost. Two possible grave cuts were also present from which no bone was recovered. These latter features are not included in any statistical analysis. A further 17 burials were excavated in 1993 by the Gloucester City Archaeological Unit; two of which comprised part of inhumations excavated during the current project (Figures 6, 64).

5.2.3 The earliest burials consisted of a small group of dispersed cremations in the northern part of the site, close to London Road. The earliest of these appear to be [168, 582, 656, 671, 680 and 693]; all of which are pre-Flavian in date and may be military in origin. Cremation burial appears to continue through the 2nd century, but no 3rd or 4th century examples appear to be present. Inhumation burials are present from the 1st century, becoming more common during the 2nd century and apparently replacing cremations altogether by the 3rd century. A single inhumation, [603], is likely to date from the very earliest Roman period, or possibly to represent a pre-Roman burial.

- 5.2.4 It is important to note that the site had been subject to extensive post-Roman disturbance, which will have resulted in the loss of a number of inhumations and cremations (Figure 3). It is difficult, therefore, to discuss the layout of the cemetery, or the age/sex of those buried within it, as the sample is clearly incomplete and any discussion of precincts/family groups etc must take this into account. Nonetheless, it appears likely from the results, both of the 1993 evaluation and the current excavations, that cremations were predominantly located in the northern part of the site, closer to London Road. There were, however, others further to the south, [1074 and 4025], which appear to be outliers, but may, of course, merely be the only two survivors of a much greater number. Burials were present across the area and do not appear to be sited by period. There were notable concentrations in Area 4 and Area 1 (including Trench 1 of the 1993 evaluation), which may have formed part of a single large group (Figures 6, 64).
- 5.2.5 Ditches [527] and [1041] appeared to form a linear boundary on a roughly north-south alignment and may have represented an internal division within the cemetery dated to the 1st and 2nd centuries (Figures 5,6).
- 5.2.6 There is little other evidence for cemetery organisation, although there were a number of ditches [1037]/[589], [654] and [703], which may have formed part of an enclosure/precinct situated in the central part of the site dated to the 2nd-3rd century. A small number of burials were present within the area of this putative enclosure, as well as a single cremation. It is possible that the feature was entirely unrelated to the cemetery, but this would appear moderately unlikely. The general absence of burials within this area may be partly due to extensive later disturbance, but may also point to the presence of a mausoleum of relatively high status. The two inhumations from the excavation and one inhumation from the evaluation located within this area are both undated, while the cremation is of 2nd century date. It is entirely possible that all four burials predate the construction of the putative enclosure and that it contained a mausoleum, of which no trace survived within the excavated area.
- 5.2.7 A number of other linear features and pits/postholes of Roman date were also excavated. These did not form any appreciable pattern to indicate purpose or function (Figure 5).

Cremations

- 5.2.8 A total of 19 certain cremation burials (20 individuals) were identified, along with four further features that had a high probability of being cremations from which all bone had been lost. Each of these contained human bone from a single individual, with the exceptions of cut [518], which contained two bodies and cut [680], which had been so badly truncated that no bone was recovered. A burial urn was recovered from each burial with the exception of [1015] from which no urn was recovered. The cremations are summarised on Table 1 in approximate date order.

- 5.2.9 Nearly all of the cremations had suffered a degree of truncation. Most of the cremations appeared to be sited towards the front of the site, close to London Road, which had suffered the greatest degree of medieval, post-medieval and modern disturbance, although two examples were identified further back from the frontage ([1074] and [4025]). It is likely that many cremations had been destroyed prior to the archaeological excavations.
- 5.2.10 Most of the cremations were associated with pottery sherds from other vessels. The practice of smashing other pots at the time of burial and placing the fragments in the cremation pit along with the main vessel, or adding an entire new vessel to the cremation pit, is a burial ritual noted to be frequent in Romano-British Gloucester. Other objects, including a metal pin, a complete ceramic oil lamp, iron nails, glass vessels and part of a copper alloy spoon were also found associated with the cremation pits.
- 5.2.11 Table 1 and Figure 64 indicate that no conclusions can be drawn from the available evidence as to change within the cremation rite with regard to age or sex, from the pre-Flavian period through to the 2nd century. In the pre-Flavian period, cremation appears to be the only method of burial (except for inhumation [603] discussed in section 5.2.32), with inhumation becoming almost as popular during the 1st-2nd century (six inhumations and nine cremations). There are no cremations dated later than the 2nd century, after which inhumation becomes the only identified burial rite. This is moderately, but not particularly unusual; inhumation did not generally become popular until the 3rd century, but there are numerous examples of earlier inhumations, while cremations are also known, though much more rarely, until the 4th century.
- 5.2.12 The ages of the individuals covered all ranges, from new-born to mature adult, with both males and females represented (Figure 64). These results suggest that the cremation rite of burial within this population was not the preserve of any particular age or gender group. Although the sample is small and few of the cremations could be accurately sexed it is apparent that early cremation was not reserved for military personnel at the Kingsholm fort and later Gloucester fortress. The presence of females and children may, of course, represent the families of soldiers, particularly senior officers who might have had spouses and children with them, although (illicit) 'local' families of legionnaires may also have been afforded this rite. It is well known, however, that cremation became the favoured burial rite throughout 'Romanised' Britain during the first two centuries AD and was by no means restricted to military personnel even in the earliest periods. It is unfortunate that the majority of Pre-Flavian cremations are unsexed, with only a single probable male and a probable female.
- 5.2.13 The cremation pits were a variety of shapes. The majority were sub-oval or oval, although sub-square and irregular cuts were also present.

- 5.2.14 Two possible examples of an external burial structure were present in Area 2. Posthole [609] may have represented a grave-marker for cremation [585] and posthole [664] may have represented a grave-marker for cremation [644].

Table 1: Cremation Burials

Burial Number	Date	Age	Sex
168/169	Pre-Flavian	Young adult	?Male
582/583	Pre-Flavian	Adult	?
656/657	Pre-Flavian	Adult	?
671/672	Pre-Flavian	Mature adult	?
680	Pre-Flavian	No bone	?
693/694	Pre-Flavian	Middle adult	?Female
115/116	1 st century	Mature adult	?
632/633	1 st century	Mature adult	Female
518/517	1 st -early 2 nd century	Mature adult	?
576/577	1 st -early 2 nd century	Young adult	Male
585/586	1 st -early 2 nd century	Seven years	?
674/675	1 st -early 2 nd century	Mature adult	?
682/683	1 st -early 2 nd century	Old adult	?
1009/1010	1 st -early 2 nd century	Middle adult	?Male
1015/1016	1 st -early 2 nd century	Birth-6 months	?
1074/1075	1 st -early 2 nd century	Juvenile	?
4025/4026	1 st -early 2 nd century	Mature adult	?
146/147	2 nd century	Middle adult	Male
158/159	2 nd century	Adult and juvenile	? and ?
666/667	2 nd century	Mature adult	?

Inhumations

- 5.2.15 A total of 39 inhumation burials were recovered from 37 graves. The Gloucester City Archaeology Unit had previously recovered seventeen bodies in 1993, of which two were equivalent to burials excavated during the present phase of work. In total, therefore, 54 identifiable inhumation burials have been recovered from the site. Quantities of disarticulated bone were also recovered from a minimum of four individuals, but are likely to represent many more than this. No dating evidence was provided for the Gloucester Archaeology evaluations, which inhibited integration of this skeletal material with the results of the excavation. The inhumations are summarised on Table 2 (Excavation) and Table 3 (Evaluation) and are illustrated schematically on Figure 64. The inhumations are given in date order on Table 2, but no precise dating was available for the inhumations recovered during the evaluation.
- 5.2.16 The burials did not form a continuous spread across the area, but were positioned in two main groups with other, dispersed, individuals present throughout the site (Figure 64). The two groups comprise the dense group in the northern part of Area 4 and the burials immediately to the northwest in Area 1, located in both the evaluation and the current excavations. The two

groups were very close to each other and may, in fact, have represented a single large concentration, possibly a family group. The dispersed nature of the remaining burials, in which large gaps existed where no burials were present, appears mainly to reflect the pattern of burial. Later intrusions, such as the medieval hospital and the post-medieval cellar, however, had a significant, artificial, impact on apparent distribution.

- 5.2.17 No clear evidence for burial structures was recovered from the area. It has previously been suggested that the burials were grouped around mausolea. No evidence for such structures has been located in the present excavations, although it is possible that a substantial enclosure containing a mausoleum was present within the site area. It should be noted, however, that the interpretation of an enclosure is based on a number of ditch sections, separated by baulks and modern disturbances. It is of some interest that the densest groupings of inhumations lay outside this possible enclosure, suggesting that the area within the feature was, after its construction, purposely kept sterile with the exception of a possible high status burial at the centre.
- 5.2.18 No wooden remains were present within the graves, although many of the graves contained nails, indicative of the presence of wooden coffins. A possible external burial structure also appeared in the area: inhumation [178] had a closely associated post-hole, which may have indicated the presence of a grave-marker. It should be noted, however, that posthole [176] contained medieval pottery and may not, therefore be contemporary.
- 5.2.19 The great majority of the inhumation burials were supine, although it was not possible to tell in all cases. There were a total of three prone bodies, one of which was decapitated. Two other decapitated burials were also present. Two of the fifteen additional burials recovered by Gloucester City Archaeology Unit in 1993 were prone (100 and 108), and one was supine and decapitated (92). Therefore, out of a total of 54 burials, there were eight deviant burials (14.85%). Prone burials comprise 9.99% of the assemblage, comparable with 8.8% at the Roman cemetery in Cirencester (McWhirr et al, 1982). At the Lankhills Roman cemetery in Winchester (Clarke, 1979), however, the percentage of prone burials was only 0.5%.
- 5.2.20 In general it is believed that prone burials resulted either from carelessness or from disrespect. In the latter case, these graves tended to be isolated on the fringes of cemeteries. There seems little evidence for this at the site. It would seem likely, at first glance, that the child burials [1028] and [4057] were the result of carelessness; however [1028] was cut into a ditch [1026] which might represent an early division within the cemetery, while [4057] was also decapitated, which indicates that some care had been taken with the inhumation. The remaining two prone burials were [4043] and [4061]. The former contained a prone adult female of 40-50 years along with an infant aged 0-6 months. The burial was included within the densest grouping of skeletons and itself cut several graves containing supine skeletons. It is possible that this burial represented an otherwise well-respected aged woman

dying in or soon after a very late childbirth and perhaps buried prone to placate gods/relatives/authorities, but not sufficiently anathematised to move her from the family plot. Burial [4061] contained a prone male of 50-60 years, again within the dense family group. It is of some interest that three of the four prone burials were present within this dense group of burials. The 1993 evaluation revealed two prone burials. Burial (100) consisted of a female aged 55+ years and burial (108) consisted of a child aged about 8 years; carelessness may again have resulted in the prone position of the child.

- 5.2.21 The two remaining decapitated skeletons were a child, [685] and an adult female [1021]. Burial (92) consisted of a supine male aged 30+ years, with the skull placed beneath the knees.
- 5.2.22 A single crouched burial [178] was also present. Crouched burials of 2nd-4th century date are known from Kingsholm and it is considered likely that this represents a survival of native tradition (Heighway 1980).
- 5.2.23 Alison Taylor (pers. com.) considers this to be a rather high percentage of unusual burials compared to many other sites. These types of burial also tend to be later (3rd-4th century) and are associated generally with poor rural settlements, rather than urban sites. In general, prone and decapitated bodies tended to be spatially associated with one another, and found on the outskirts of cemeteries. This does not appear to hold true at 124-130 London Road, although it is difficult to say what may have constituted a boundary at this site.
- 5.2.24 A total of four child burials were recovered from the evaluation and a further four from the excavations. Two adolescents (1007) and (4041) were also located during the excavations. The percentage of children (excluding the adolescents) from the study area is (14.85%) of which 50% consisted of deviant burials. Two burials were prone, one prone and decapitated and one supine and decapitated.
- 5.2.25 The percentage of children from the site appears generally comparable with other excavated Roman cemeteries (14.1% in the eastern cemetery of Roman London, 20% at St. Bartholomews, London, 17.4% at Cirencester and 23.9% at Lankhills) (Mackinder, 2000). It must be remembered, however, that the present site does not constitute an entire, discrete cemetery, but forms part of a much larger cemetery extending a considerable distance along London Road. It is not within the bounds of this report to attempt to establish overall demographics for this larger cemetery.
- 5.2.26 There were 23 males and 21 females, which could be assigned sex (or probable sex). The cemetery is, therefore, unusual in that there is no clear preponderance of males over females. In this, it is comparable to the Watling Street cemetery (Mackinder, 2000), Poundbury (Waldron, 1994) and Ancaster (Cox, 1989). Very few skeletons could be accurately ascribed a height, although the stature of six males (between 1.62m and 1.78m) and two females (both about 1.58m) could be ascertained. The impression given, therefore, is

that males were slightly taller than females, but the sample is too small for meaningful statistical analysis.

Table 2: Inhumations from 2002 Excavations

Burial No.	Date	Age	Sex	Position	Alignment
1028	1 st c	c. 7 years	?	Prone	ENE-WSW
107	1 st -early 2 nd	c. 25-35 years	?Male	Supine	NNE-SSW
1006 ?eq GC 81	1 st -early 2 nd	15-16 years	Male	Supine	E-W
1021	1 st -early 2 nd	Adult	Female	Supine, decapitated?	NE-SW
1031	1 st -early 2 nd	20-24 years	Female	Supine	E-W
1034 eq GC 112	1 st -early 2 nd	30 years +	?Female	Supine	N-S
603	Pre-Flavian	20-25 years	?Male	Supine	NE-SW
658	2 nd c	20-25 years	Female	Supine	N-S
3040	2 nd c	25-30 years	Male	Supine	N-S
4040	2 nd c	12-15 years	?Female	Supine	NW-SE
4043	2 nd c	40-50 years & 0-6 months	Female & ?	Prone & ?	E-W
4051	2 nd c	20-23 years	?Male	Supine	N-S
661	3 rd -4 th c	25-35 years	?	?Supine	E-W
677	3 rd -4 th c	18-20 years	Female	Supine	NNW-SSE
1012 eq GC104	3 rd -4 th c	Adult	?Female	Supine	NE-SW
1083	3 rd -4 th c	40-50 years	Male	Supine	NE-SW
4007	3 rd -4 th c	43-55 years	?Male	Supine	N-S
4010	3 rd -4 th c	40-50 years	Male	Supine	NW-SE
4013	3 rd -4 th c	60+ years	Male	Supine	N-S
4016	3 rd -4 th c	Adult	?Male	Supine	N-S
4019	3 rd -4 th c	40-50 years	Female	Supine	NW-SE
4031	3 rd -4 th c	Adult	?	Supine	N-S
4034	3 rd -4 th c	c. 50 years	Female	Supine	E-W
4037	3 rd -4 th c	55+ years	?Male	?Supine	NE-SW
4068	3 rd -4 th c	Adult & c. 1 year	? & ?	? & ?	NE-SW
178	Undated	25-35 years	?Male	Crouched	E-W
524	Undated	30-40 years	Female	Supine	NE-SW
685	Undated	c. 4 years	?	Decapitated, Supine	WNW-ESE
719	Undated	50+ years	Male	Supine	WNW-ESE
3008	Undated	40-50 years	Male	?Supine	WNW-ESE
3031	Undated	c. 30 years	Male	Supine	NE-SW
3034	Undated	30-40 years	Female	Supine	NE-SW
4022	Undated	40-50 years	Female	Supine	N-S
4054	Undated	50-60 years	Male	Supine	N-S
4057	Undated	7-9 years	?	Prone, decapitated	N-S
4061	Undated	50-60 years	Male	Prone	N-S
4070	Undated	20-25 years	Female	Supine	N-S

Table 3: Inhumations from 1993 Evaluation

Burial Number	Age	Sex	Position	Alignment
74	28-30 years	Male	Supine	N-S
77	24-25 years	?	Supine	N-S
80	c. 6 years	?	Supine	N-S
83	55+ years	?Male	Supine	E-W
86	Mature Adult	?Male	?	?
89	30-35 years	Female	Supine	N-S
92	30+ years	Male	Supine, Decapitated	N-S
95	Adult	Female	Supine	N-S
100	55+ years	Female	Prone	N-S
105 eq 1014/[1012]	Adult	?Female	Supine	N-S
108	8 years	?	Prone	N-S
113 eq 1035/[1034]	24-30 years	Female	Supine	N-S
116	60+ years	Female	Supine	N-S
119	Adult	?Male	?	?
122	9-10 years	?	?	?
125	Adult	Male	?	N-S
134	30-40 years	Female	Supine	E-W

5.2.27 Grave goods were relatively scarce and are discussed in detail in Appendices 3-5. Burial (1084) was an adult male with a coin of Allectus (SM13) held within its left hand. Burial (1014) was a probable adult female buried with a purse/bag of eight coins (SM10) and with two bracelets encircling her left wrist (SM11).

5.2.28 Burial (659) was an adult who had been buried wearing a bracelet on the lower, left arm (SM8). Burial (4066) was an adult of undetermined sex associated with a brooch, a buckle and a belt plate, as well as a pottery beaker. The grave is dated to the 3rd-4th century, a time when wearing a brooch had become uncommon; the buckle is a late 2nd-early 3rd century military type. The grave cut [4068] also contained an infant (4067) aged about 1 year, which was associated with a copper alloy ring (SM21).

5.2.29 Burial (4036) was associated with a coin (SM15) and a copper bracelet, broken into five fragments (SM14 & 23) situated just below the pelvis. Burial (4039), an adult male, had a coin (SM16) placed just below the pelvis, a spearhead (SM28) and an iron object (SM33).

5.2.30 Cremation [682] was associated with a copper alloy spoon. Glass vessels were found in cremation pits [576], [582], [656], [671], [693] and [1010].

5.2.31 Coffin nails were found with every inhumation except burials [178], [1028], [3008], [4013] and [4016]. Burial [178] was crouched and clearly not buried in a coffin, while [1028] was a prone child burial that may also not have been placed in a coffin. Burial [3008] was very incomplete and the lack of coffin

nails may be due to later disturbance. Burials [4013] and [4016] were both located in an area of dense burial and evidence for associated coffins may have been removed by later burials. Nails associated with either coffins or pyre construction were recovered with cremations [656], [671] and [693]. Hobnails were found with burials [107], [1006], [678], [3032], [3035] and [3041]. Hobnails were also recovered from cremation [671].

- 5.2.32 Sherds of pottery were recovered from a number of graves. This material did not represent grave goods but may be generally considered to provide a *terminus post quem* for the inhumations. In at least one case, however, the pottery appears to be intrusive. Grave [603] contained fragments of 2nd century pottery, but the grave was very clearly cut by a cremation buried in a Pre-Flavian ceramic vessel. It is possible, but unlikely, that there was curation of pre-Flavian vessels, which were used for later cremations. The inhumation is therefore also likely to be of Pre-Flavian date representing a continuation of native burial practice, with intrusive pottery from an unrecognised later feature. The possibility that Pre-Flavian vessels continued to be used for cremation burials into the 2nd century must, however, be considered. This would introduce uncertainty into one of the more typical dating techniques for cremation burials and would impact on the dating not only of the cremations from this site, but those across Gloucester and possibly nationwide.
- 5.2.33 A second example of a cremation cutting a burial was also identified in the case of cremation [1015] and inhumation [1031], both apparently of 1st-early 2nd century date.
- 5.2.34 The results of the excavation have identified that parts of the cemetery had been re-used, or intensively used over a long period of time, with a number of burials cut by later inhumations. Of particular note is the relationship between [1006] and [1012] where the earlier burial, [1006], must have already been de-fleshed as the bones appeared to have been 'moved over' to make room for the later burial.
- 5.2.35 There appears to be no significance to orientation of graves; both east-west and north-south alignments being present from the 1st century through to the 4th century, although north-south aligned graves are more common throughout. There appears to be no significant division between sexes or adults and children, with all ages and sexes present within the dense group in the eastern part of the site, although Figure 64 suggests only male inhumations in the northwestern corner of the site, with scattered female inhumations through the central part of Area 2. It is unfortunate that inhumation [661] within this latter area is unsexed, since that would either support or disprove entirely any suggestion of division by sex. It should also be noted that the female burials in this area are not consistent in date, but range from the 2nd century through to the 3rd-4th century. It is more likely that this apparent distribution is entirely fortuitous.

- 5.2.36 The osteological report on the burials recovered both from the evaluation (1993) and the excavation (2002) is included as Appendix 1. Individual skeletal recording sheets are held as part of the archive.
- 5.2.37 In general, therefore, it is possible to conclude that both the cremation and inhumation burials comprise a very incomplete sample of part of a much larger cemetery extending along London Road. The statistical data resulting from the excavations must be viewed in this light.

5.3 Medieval (Figures 47, 65)

- 5.3.1 Medieval features identified during the course of the excavations appeared to be predominantly associated with the medieval hospital of St. Mary Magdalene. Preservation of medieval features was generally poor.
- 5.3.2 The earliest feature identified consisted of two parallel 11th-12th century ditches in the northeastern part of the study area (Area 2), which may represent a trackway. These features were entirely unrelated to other medieval features. A roughly north-south ditch [571] was present in the central part of Area 2 and was cut by later boundary ditch [568].
- 5.3.3 Two large north-south aligned ditches [621] and [568], approximately 3m apart, were present within the central part of Area 2, although neither could be traced to the south of this area due to extensive post-medieval and modern disturbance. Ditch [621] terminated within the site area, while [568] extended northwards beyond the site boundary and was linked with a northwest-southeast aligned 'feeder' [623], which may have been added at a slightly later date.
- 5.3.4 It is probable that ditches [621] and [568]/[623] formed part of the boundary to the medieval hospital's precinct and may represent a change to the precinct boundary, possibly following an expansion of the hospital complex. The dating evidence from the two features is not conclusive, although [621] appeared to be of 13th century date and the primary fill of [568] contained 13th-14th century pottery, which potentially places the construction of ditch [568] up to a century later. Medieval ditch [571] and undated ditch [580] were both present immediately to the east on a similar alignment and may also represent features associated with the hospital boundary
- 5.3.5 A narrow north-south ditch [542] was also present within this area, immediately to the west of ditch [621], although the relationship between the two features had been destroyed by modern intrusion. It is possible that this feature was also associated with the boundary to the hospital.
- 5.3.6 These boundary ditches were also identified during the evaluation by Gloucester City Archaeology Unit, where it was suggested that they had their origin in the medieval period but were re-dug during the Civil War, in order to fortify the precinct (1993). This interpretation was derived from the recovery of a significant assemblage of 17th century material. However, in the

light of the excavation evidence, it was evident that Gloucester Archaeology Trench 2 cut across the boundary ditches at the point that they were cut by an east-west aligned 17th century ditch, [726]. It has now been demonstrated that the boundary ditches were of medieval date and were not re-used during the Civil War.

- 5.3.7 Structural evidence for the hospital itself was located in the form of a substantial wall fragment [141] and associated stone-lined drain [113] in the northwest corner of the study area, as well as two linear northeast-southwest aligned stone features (507) and (509).
- 5.3.8 Feature (507) may have represented an entrance or portal into a yard or range of buildings, as suggested by the wear on the stones. The feature was associated with burning, which initially suggested it could have been a hearth or kiln. It is also possible, however, that the heat discoloration could also have derived from fire destruction of a range of buildings. A palaeoenvironmental sample from this feature yielded low levels of burnt common mixed grain and weeds likely to represent general domestic waste, possibly floor sweepings, that were burnt at the same time as the stone structure. It is unlikely therefore, that the feature represented a hearth or kiln.
- 5.3.9 Feature (509) was present 5m to the north of feature (507). It consisted of a linear arrangement of flat stones and tiles, with large rounded stones at the eastern end. The feature is not readily interpretable, but may represent either a wall base or, more likely, a section of pavement.
- 5.3.10 The enclosure award map of 1744, which located the position of the medieval hospital, chapel and the extent of their grounds, did not compare well with the evidence from the excavation works. The hospital precinct boundary, as portrayed on the enclosure map, was situated approximately 6m to the east of the later boundary ditch, as identified during excavation in Area 2 (Figure 65). In addition, the masonry linear features in Area 2 did not correspond well with the outline of the hospital building as marked on the enclosure map. This may partly be due to inaccuracies in the enclosure map (an error margin of 6m may be seen as small on a map of 25" to one mile) and that the ditches identified in Area 2 were those of the boundary to the hospital precinct, but it is also possible that the ditches represent medieval precinct boundaries and that the boundary shown on the 1744 plan is that of a slightly extended hospital subsequent to the early 17th century renovations.
- 5.3.11 Three short sections of east-west aligned ditch [530], [552] and [566] were also located, cut through the top of the earlier boundary ditch [621]. These features also cut north-south ditch [542] and, in the case of [552], also cut later boundary ditch [568]. The dating evidence from these features is imprecise, but stratigraphically they are likely to be 14th-15th century in date. The purpose of these ditches is uncertain, but their regular arrangement may suggest that they were bedding trenches for the hospital herb garden.

- 5.3.12 A small section of substantial ditch [164] was present to the south of wall [141], but was badly disturbed by modern intrusions. An east-west gully [534] and a number of pits and postholes were also present, but none of these features can be attributed to any known element of the hospital or its precinct.
- 5.3.13 The southeastern part of the study area (Area 3) contained remnant ridge-and-furrow earthworks.

5.4 Post-medieval (Figure 57)

- 5.4.1 Early post-medieval features within the study area consisted of two postholes/small pits in the northern part of Area 2 and a number of segments of ditch.
- 5.4.2 The earliest ditch [1017] dated 16th–17th century, survived only as a very short length and cannot be readily interpreted. A section of east-west ditch [726] represented part of the possible Civil War defences/siegeworks identified by Gloucester Archaeology during evaluation trenching in 1993. This ditch cut through three north-south medieval ditches [542], [568] and [621], which was not readily apparent during the evaluation and gave the impression of a much larger, frequently re-cut feature. It is possible, but unlikely, that [726], at only 2m wide, represents part of the Civil War defences. The very substantial north-south ditch [1056/724] may, however, represent part of these Civil War works. Artefactual material recovered from the feature suggests a date of 15th–18th century and there are at least two re-cuts. It would seem likely that the ditch represents a 17th century feature, which remained open in some form until the 18th century. The original ditch and both re-cuts are sealed beneath a layer of sandy clay (1059), which may represent the remains of a slight bank.
- 5.4.3 Two 19th/20th century features are also of note. These comprised a large cut at the eastern end of Area 1, which is notable because it removed all evidence of the medieval boundary ditches within this area. The culvert located in Area 4 is also of interest as it lay on the same alignment as a ‘succession of ditches’ discovered within Gloucester Archaeology Evaluation Trench 3 (1993). The evaluation report (*ibid*) postulated that the ditches in Trench 3 were equivalent to those present in Trench 2, and together comprised the boundary ditch, which surrounded the medieval hospital precinct in the 17th century. It is likely, in fact that these ditches represent a continuation of the cut for the culvert, which did not pre-date the 19th century. It is possible, however, that the culvert may have been a re-cut of an earlier ditch, for which no evidence survived within the excavation area.
- 5.4.4 Four demolished 19th/20th century buildings with associated structures and features were also present within the site area.

5.5 Undated (Figure 60)

5.5.1 Numerous features were present within the study area, which could not be assigned to any date range either from artefactual evidence or stratigraphic relationship. These included a pits, postholes and ditches/gullies.

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