

ROMAN BURIALS FROM THE LONDON FRUIT AND WOOL EXCHANGE REDEVELOPMENT, SPITALFIELDS, LONDON E1

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INTRODUCTION

The following specialist report has been published online and contains supplementary information in support of an article in *LAMAS Transactions* Volume 71 (2020) (Knox *et al* 2021, 1–21).

All figures referred to in the following text are included in the published article.

APPENDIX ONE: BURIAL CATALOGUE

Conventions and Abbreviations

Beneath a heading giving the burial number (Bu1–Bu22), the first line of each entry lists type (inhumation, unurned cremation burial). All burials are assumed to be of single individuals unless otherwise stated. This is followed by a summary of the relevant aspects of the burial, grouped under a series of sub-headings for: grave cut (including the period and land use to which the burial has been assigned); skeleton or burnt bone (the burial rite, demographic and other osteological data); coffin; burial goods; finds from the grave backfill. Age ranges refer to the age category each burial was assigned to. Pathological conditions are described in more detail elsewhere (above, ‘The human bone’). Accession numbers and context numbers relate to the unique site code. Abbreviations used in the catalogue follow those set out in the introduction. Burial goods are catalogued here, and illustrated where possible, to enable them to be seen alongside other aspects of the associated burial.

For the locations of the burials, see Fig 3. Selected finds (usually illustrated) are numbered by category as: <P1>–<P17> (pottery) and <S1> (small finds). Complete lists of the pottery fabric codes used in this catalogue, their expansions and date ranges, are available online at <http://www.mola.org.uk/resource-library>. The abbreviation EVE refers to estimated number of vessels.

Abbreviations of dimensions used in the catalogues are as follows:

D	depth;
Diam	diameter;
H	height;
L	length;
Th	thickness;
W	width;
Wt	weight.

The Burials

Burials in OA3

Bu1

Inhumation burial

Grave

[303]; period 3, OA3

Fill: [302]

Orientation: west–east.

Skeleton [301]

Position: supine, extended; head to west.

Preservation: poor

Age: 26–35 years

Sex: ?male

Pathology: calculus; linear enamel hypoplasia; possible healed periostitis at the medial proximal anterior left femur.

Bu2

Inhumation burial

Grave

[253]; period 3, OA3

Fill: [251]

Orientation: north–south

Relationships: truncated by Bu3.

Skeleton [252]

Position: supine, extended; head to north. Only lower limbs remaining.

Preservation: poor

Age: adult

Sex: undetermined

Pathology: none.

Bu3

Inhumation burial

Grave

[230]; period 3, OA3

Fill: [228]

Orientation: west–east

Relationships: truncates Bu2.

Skeleton [229]

Position: supine, extended; head to west, right forearm behind back.

Preservation: poor

Age: 26–35 years

Sex: ?female

Pathology: cribra orbitalia (L3/R2); periodontitis; possible lesions left maxilla; caries, calculus and linear enamel hypoplasia at the mandibular canine.

?Coffin

Possible coffin suggested by iron nail staining.

Burial goods

<P1> Ceramic accessory vessel (Fig 7)

<465>, [229]

Location: immediately south of right tibia (?within coffin).

Black-burnished ware 2 black-burnished-type everted-rimmed jar with slightly curved everted rim and acute lattice decoration (BB2 2F5-6 AL); near complete; 25 sherds. Rim Diam 115mm; 0.73 EVEs; H 110mm; Wt 289g. Date c.AD 150–200.

<S1> Copper alloy finger ring (Fig 7)

<357>, [229]

Location: worn on a finger of right hand.

Complete; Diam 20.3mm; Internal Diam 17.1mm; W 2.2mm. Cast copper-alloy ring; D section, or perhaps now sub-square in places. Single unexpanded form without a distinct bezel. Corroded, possibly plain but there may be a faint trace of a wavy rib/zig zag. Cool does not include plain rings in her typology; as these can have many functions loose finds from London have not always been assumed to be finger rings. She classes those with zig zags in her group 20 and dates them to the 3rd/4th century (1983, 268–71). See Riha (1990) for plain rings (*eg ibid*, 47–8, types 34–5) including some examples from graves.

Burial date: ?3rd century AD.

Bu4

Inhumation burial

Grave

[233]; period 3, OA3

Fill: [231]

Orientation: west–east

Relationships: truncated by Bu13.

Skeleton [232]

Position: supine, extended (disturbed); head to west.

Preservation: poor

Age: 36–45 years

Sex: male

Pathology: scallop like wear on the right dentition 12–13 (?occupational), caries.

Burial goods

<P2> ?Ceramic accessory vessel (Fig 7)

<466>, [232]

Location: found on chest, probably disturbed, possibly residual.

Verulamium region white ware (late) bead and flange mortarium (VRW 7BEF); 2 large sherds. Rim Diam 250mm; 0.37 EVEs; Wt 441g. Date c.AD 140–200.

Bu5

Inhumation burial

Grave

[300]; period 3, OA3

Fill: [299]

Orientation: east–west

Relationships: heavily truncated.

Skeleton [298]

Position: supine extended; head to east; only fragmentary long bones survive.

Preservation: poor

Age: adult

Sex: undetermined

Pathology: none.

Bu6

Inhumation burial

Grave

[267]; period 3, OA3

Fill: [264]

Orientation: north-west to south-east

Relationships: truncates Bu18.

Skeleton [265]

Position: supine, extended; head to north-west.

Preservation: poor

Age: 1–5 years

Sex: undetermined

Pathology: none.

Coffin

[266] indicated by badly degraded iron nails, suggesting L 1.10m, W 0.45m.

Burial goods

<P3> Ceramic accessory vessel (Fig 7)

<467>, [265]

Location: to left of head, within coffin.

Black-burnished ware 2 jar with ungrouped vertical burnished lines (BB2 2 VL); miniature; near complete but missing rim; 1 sherd. H c.100mm; Wt 126g. Date c.AD 120–250.

<P4> Ceramic accessory vessel (Fig 7)

<468>, [265]

Location: beside right foot, outside coffin.

Thameside/Kent ware jar or beaker with elongated indentations (TSK 2/3 END); near complete; 43 sherds. Rim Diam 115mm; 0.45 EVEs; H 145mm; Wt 279g.

Date c.AD 180–250. Cf Monaghan Class 2D2.2, c.AD 190/200–20/30 (Monaghan 1987, 66–7).

<P5> Ceramic accessory vessel (not illustrated)
<469>, [265]

Location: beside left shoulder, outside coffin.
Black-burnished style ware jar with ungrouped vertical burnished lines (BBS 2 VL); base/lower body; 6 sherds. Wt 66g. Date c.AD 120–250.
Burial date: c.AD 180–250.

Bu7

Inhumation burial

Grave

[262]; period 3, OA3
Fill: [260]
Orientation: north-west to south-east
Relationships: probably truncates Bu17.

Skeleton [261]

Position: supine, extended; head to north-west.
Preservation: moderate
Age: 18–25 years
Sex: ?female
Pathology: calculus.

Burial goods

<P6> Ceramic accessory vessel (Fig 7)
<470>, [260]

Location: beside right knee.
Black-burnished ware 1 everted rimmed jar with upright rim (BB1 2F1-3); burnt; near complete; 23 sherds. Rim Diam 90mm; 0.95 EVEs; H 116mm; Wt 182g. Date c.AD 120–200.

<P7> Ceramic accessory vessel (Fig 7)
<471>, [260]

Location: corner of grave beside right foot.
Black-burnished ware 2 everted rimmed jar with cavetto rim and ungrouped vertical burnished lines (BB2 2F9 VL); near complete; 18 sherds. Rim Diam 120mm; 0.18 EVEs; H 132mm; Wt 154g. Date c.AD 200–50.
Burial date: c.AD 200–50.

Bu8

Inhumation burial

Grave

[263]; period 3, OA3
Fill: [259]
Orientation: north-west to south-east

Skeleton [258]

Position: supine, extended; head to north-west.
Preservation: poor
Age: 36–45 years
Sex: male
Pathology: none.

Burial goods

<P8> ?Ceramic accessory vessel (not illustrated)
<472>, [259]

Location: between the knees, and sherds at pelvis and skull (disturbed, deliberately broken, or redeposited).

Un sourced white slipped ware flagon; possible North Kent source (RWS 1); base/lower body; 18 sherds. Wt 135g. Date c.AD 50–300.

Bu9

Inhumation burial

Grave

[257]; period 3, OA3
Fill: [254]
Orientation: west–east

Skeleton [255]

Position: prone, extended; head to west.
Preservation: moderate
Age: 36–45 years
Sex: ?female
Pathology: caries, calculus, linear enamel hypoplasia, periodontitis, scalloped wear at the 33, 34 (?occupational).

Coffin

[256], indicated by presence of nails.

Bu10

Inhumation burial

Grave

[249]; period 3, OA3
Fill: [247]
Orientation: north-west to south-east

Skeleton [248]

Position: supine, extended; head to north-west; fragmentary pelvis and lower limbs only remain.
Preservation: poor
Age: adult
Sex: undetermined
Pathology: healed periostitis right tibia.

Burial goods

<P9> ?Ceramic accessory vessel (Fig 7)
<473>, [247]

Location: uncertain; recorded as associated with skeleton.
Rheinzabern samian Dragendorff form 33 cup (SAMRZ 6DR33); 4 sherds. Rim Diam 135mm; 0.25 EVEs; H 85mm; Wt 129g. Date c.AD 130–235.

Bu11

Inhumation burial

Grave

[245]; period 3, OA3
Fill: [243]
Orientation: north–south

Skeleton [244]

Position: supine, extended; head to north; only fragmentary femurs remain.
Preservation: poor
Age: adult
Sex: ?male
Pathology: none.

Finds in backfill [243]

Un sourced amphora fabric unclassified amphora (AMPH 8); 1 sherd. Weight 8g. Found by the lower leg and almost certainly an accidental inclusion. Date c.AD 50–400.

Bu12

Inhumation burial

Grave

[227]; period 3, OA3

Fill: [225]

Orientation: north–south

Relationships: overlies Bu3.

Skeleton [226]

Position: supine, extended; head to north; lower limbs do not survive.

Preservation: moderate

Age: adult

Sex: male

Pathology: caries, crowding.

Bu13

Inhumation burial

Grave

[224]; period 3, OA3

Fill: [221]

Orientation: west–east

Relationships: truncates Bu4

Skeleton [222]

Position: supine, extended; head to west.

Preservation: moderate

Age: 18–25 years

Sex: ?male

Pathology: caries, calculus, dental wear.

Coffin

[223] indicated by presence of nails

Burial goods

<P10> Ceramic accessory vessel (Fig 7)

<474>, [222]

Location: outside coffin, beside left hip.

Black-burnished ware 2 black-burnished-type everted-rimmed jar with cavetto rim (BB2 2F7); near complete; 84 sherds. Rim Diam 150mm; 0.68 EVEs; H 150mm; Wt 472g. Date c.AD 175–225.

<P11> Ceramic accessory vessel (Fig 7)

<475>, [222]

Location: outside foot end of coffin

Black-burnished ware 2 black-burnished-type everted-rimmed jar with slightly curved everted rim and acute lattice decoration (BB2 2F5-6 AL); near complete; 59 sherds. Rim Diam 160mm; 0.64 EVEs; H c.168mm; Wt 638g. Date c.AD 150–200.

<P12> Ceramic accessory vessel (not illustrated)

<476>, [222]

Location: outside coffin, beside left knee

Black-burnished-style ware jar (BBS 2); base/lower body sherds; 24 sherds. Wt 156g. Date c.AD 120–250.

Burial date: c.AD 175–250.

Bu14

Inhumation burial

Grave

[246]; period 3, OA3

Fill: [178]

Orientation: north–south

Relationships: overlies Bu15; distinct cut not identified on site, but they are treated here as distinct graves rather than a double burial.

Skeleton [179]

Position: supine, extended; head to north

Preservation: poor

Age: ≥46 years

Sex: male

Pathology: osteoarthritis spine T3–T4 and left humeral head; dental caries, calculus, periodontitis and a periapical lesion linear enamel hypoplasia, wear on the left dentition with scalloping.

Burial goods

Due to the superimposition of two burials and poor preservation, the association of the two accessory vessels with Bu14 rather than Bu15 should be treated as tentative.

<P13> Ceramic accessory vessel (Fig 7)

<477>, [178]

Location: beside expected position of right lower leg

Black-burnished ware 2 everted-rimmed jar with slightly curved everted rim and black-burnished-type grouped vertical burnished lines (BB2 2F5-6 GVL); three small surface blisters suggest the vessel is a possible second. Near complete; 18 sherds. Rim Diam 100mm; 0.52 EVEs; base Diam 55mm; H 132mm; Wt 273g. Date c.AD 150–200.

<P14> Ceramic accessory vessel (Fig 7)

<478>, [178]

Location: beside left knee

Colchester colour-coated ware bag-shaped beaker with cornice rim (COLCC 3J CR). Near complete; undecorated; 11 sherds. Rim Diam 60mm; 0.18 EVEs; H 86mm; Wt 60g. Date c.AD 100–250. The form was produced in the Colchester kilns from c.AD 110/125 to the late 2nd/early 3rd century (Form Cam 391A/B, Symonds & Wade 1999, 270, fig 5.33, 62, 64; 485).

Burial date: c.AD 150–250.

Bu15

Inhumation burial

Grave

[246]; period 3, OA3

Fill: [178]

Orientation: north–south

Relationships: overlain by Bu14 (see above for problems of definition).

Skeleton [180]

Position: supine, extended; head to north.
 Preservation: poor
 Age: 26–35 years
 Sex: ?female
 Pathology: calculus.

Burial goods

See above (Bu14) for the problems of grave definition and association of ceramic accessory vessels to either Bu14 or Bu15.

Bu16

Inhumation burial

Grave

[207]; period 3, OA3
 Fill: [205]
 Orientation: north-west to south-east.

Skeleton [206]

Position: supine, extended; head to north; only fragmentary lower limbs remain.
 Preservation: poor
 Age: adult
 Sex: undetermined
 Pathology: possible periostitis left tibia (but unclear due to post-mortem damage).

Bu17

Inhumation burial

Grave

[220]; Period 3, OA3
 Fill: [218]
 Orientation: north-west to south-east
 Relationships: probably truncated by Bu7.

Skeleton [219]

Position: supine, extended; head to north; only lower arms and lower limbs remain.
 Preservation: poor
 Age: adult
 Sex: undetermined
 Pathology: none.

Burial goods

<P15> Ceramic accessory vessel (Fig 7)
 <479>, [218]

Location: at south end of grave, beyond feet
 Unsourced fine reduced ware beaker or miniature jar (FINE 3). Near complete but missing rim, 14 sherds. Wt 76g. Date c.AD 50–400.

<P16> Ceramic accessory vessel (Fig 7)
 <480> [218]

Location: beside left foot
 Verulamium region white ware ring-necked flagon with cupped mouth (VRW 1B9). Near complete; 11 sherds.; 1.00 EVEs; Wt 181g. Date c.AD 140–60.

<P17> Ceramic accessory vessel (Fig 7)
 <481>, [218]

Location: overlying feet/ankles, but disturbed with two sherds beside right femur

Black-burnished ware 2 black-burnished type round-rimmed bowl (BB2 4H). 8 sherds. Rim Diam 180mm; 0.16 EVEs; H 61mm; Wt 97g. Date c.AD 120–300.
 Burial date: c.AD 140–200.

Bu18

Inhumation burial

Grave

[240]; period 3, OA3
 Fill: [238]
 Orientation: north-west to south-east
 Relationships: lower limbs truncated by Bu6.

Skeleton [239]

Position: supine, extended; head to north.
 Preservation: poor
 Age: 6–11 years
 Sex: undetermined
 Pathology: enamel hypoplasia.

Bu19

Inhumation burial

Grave

[270]; period 3, OA3
 Fill: [268]
 Orientation: east–west.

Skeleton [269]

Position: prone, extended; head to east; right arm extended away from torso
 Preservation: poor
 Age: 36–45 years
 Sex: ?male
 Pathology: caries, calculus, porotic hyperostosis across the occipital and parietals, cribra orbitalia (L3/R3).

Burials in OA4

Bu20

Inhumation burial

Grave

[278]; period 3, OA4
 Fill: [277]
 Orientation: east–west
 Relationships: head end truncated.

Skeleton [275]

Position: supine, extended; head to east; only lower arms and fragments of pelvis and femurs survive.
 Preservation: poor
 Age: adult
 Sex: undetermined
 Pathology: none.

Bu21

Inhumation burial

Grave

[314]; period 3, OA4
 Fill: [313]

Orientation: west–east.

Skeleton [312]

Position: supine, extended; head to west.

Preservation: poor

Age: 36–45 years

Sex: male

Pathology: osteophytes, degenerative disc disease; caries, calculus and periodontis.

Burials in OA5

Bu22

Unurned cremation burial

Grave

[316]; period 3, OA5

Shape: sub-circular; D 0.15m

Relationships: truncated by 20th-century construction

Burnt bone [315]

Total Wt burnt bone: 987g

Colour: 20% white, 50% light blue-grey

Identified elements: skull fragments; left pubic symphysis, vertebrae and rib fragments; hand phalanges, hamate, radius and ulna fragments; femoral, tibia and fibula fragments, foot phalanges

Age: 26–35 years

Sex: male

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