Late Bronze Age Settlement and Burial on Land North of Newmarket Road
Burwell
Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Client: Pegasus Group
OA East Report No: 1704
OASIS No: oxfordar3-195730
NGR: TL 5930 6650
Late Bronze Age Settlement and Burial on Land North of Newmarket Road, Burwell, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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Report Date: December 2014
Report Number: 1704
Site Name: Land north of Newmarket Road, Burwell
HER Event No: ECB 4308
Date of Works: 3rd – 14th November 2014
Client Name: Pegasus Group
Client Ref: Newmarket Road, Burwell
Planning Ref: Pre-planning
Grid Ref: TL 5930 6650
Site Code: BURNMR14
Finance Code: BURNMR14
Receiving Body: Cambridgeshire Stores
Accession No: BURNMR14
Prepared by: Taleyna Fletcher
Position: Project Officer
Date: November 2104
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Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: December 2014

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Summary

Between the 3rd and 14th of November 2014, Oxford Archaeology East conducted an archaeological evaluation on land north of Newmarket Road, Burwell, Cambridgeshire.

The site is located on agricultural land accessed via Melton Farm on the eastern side of Burwell. Although currently cultivated fields, the wider area shows that this land use has persisted for at least 500 years, as ridge and furrow remains have previously been captured on aerial photographic surveys of the area.

The evaluation consisted of 54 machine excavated trenches across three fields under the occupancy of two separate tenant farmers. As the fields had recently been drilled, it was necessary to cause as little damage to the crops as possible – this impacted on the trench design and as a result most trenches were north-east to south-west orientated and between 30 and 50m in length.

The evaluation revealed two main areas of Late Bronze Age archaeology:

An area of approximately six hectares to the immediate east of Melton Farm, in the south-west corner of the site, revealed clusters of postholes from buildings, fencelines or other structures along with several pits and a possible well which all indicate settlement activity in this part of the site.

The second area, approximately 300m to the north-east, revealed what appears to be an isolated cremation (although further investigation around Trench 48 would be required to determine this) as well as a small number of pits and tree throws which contained pottery and animal bone. The cremation vessel was almost complete with just a small amount of damage to the rim and analysis of its contents indicate the cremated remains of an adult and a child.

A number of large features considered to be naturally occurring were recorded across the site. These contained soils similar to the subsoil and varied in depth from 0.25m to 1.50m, some of which contained pottery and animal bone.

Features in both areas yielded Late Bronze Age pottery. Only a small amount of animal bone was recovered from the entire site and just a handful of worked flints. However, surface finds across the site could indicate other areas of flint-working may exist on the site.

The nature of the remains is similar to that recorded approximately 80m to the south-west of the site, at land to the rear of Nos 36-42 Newmarket Road excavated in 2005 (Bailey and Popescu 2006). This site investigated a number of pits and numerous postholes scattered across the site, some were dated, although many remain undated. These features were also interpreted as the presence of structures and fences. Although initially dated to the Iron Age, recent reappraisal of the pottery (Brudenell 2012) from this site has lead to its reinterpretation as a Late Bronze Age site.

Together these sites would indicate a large area of settlement activity from the Late Bronze Age surviving within the eastern environs of Burwell.
N.B.

This fieldwork and reporting was carried out in November 2014 to support the wider Masterplanning process and submission of an outline planning application. This work assessed the site based on the local plan allocation boundary.

Over the course of the past few months the Masterplanning process has now concluded and due to on-site constraints, namely the discovery of a high pressure gas main, the redline boundary has marginally extended in area to the east (see Figure 11: Updated Red-line Boundary). These significant on-site constraints have been acknowledged by the local authority during the formal pre-application process.

It is considered that due to the limited amount of physical development taking place outside of the Local Plan allocation boundary and the similar character and nature of the new land now within the redline boundary, further updates to survey work are not required at this stage. All recommendations in this report are still applicable to and achievable in the submitted scheme.

Greg Shaw
Principal Planner
Pegasus Group
24/06/15
1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work
1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted on land to the north of Newmarket Road, immediately east of Melton Farm on the eastern side of the village of Burwell (Fig. 1). The development area, referred to from here on as “the site” lies approximately 250m to the east of the historic core of Burwell. The site comprised three fields under the occupancy of two separate tenant farmers. At the time of the investigation, two of these fields had been recently drilled and one was under stubble. In order to protect the crop on the areas recently drilled it was necessary to stick to the crop sprayers “tramlines” - this had an impact on the locations of the trenches, however, a 2% sample across the site was eventually achieved (Figures 1 and 2).

1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in response to a Brief from Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team (HET) (Gdaniec 2014), supplemented by a Written Scheme for Investigation (WSI) prepared by OA East (Wiseman 2014). The WSI included a proposed trench design which was approved prior to the start of the works but which had to be amended on site to accommodate the protection of the farmers access to his crop.

1.1.3 The planning proposal is for a mixed residential development (350 homes) with associated services. Due to the perceived high archaeological potential of the site the HET requested that the applicant provided information concerning the potential impact of the proposal on archaeological remains. In order to provide this pre-determination evidence base an archaeological evaluation of the site was deemed necessary.

1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography
1.2.1 The British Geological Survey indicates that the solid geology of the site at Burwell consists of Zig Zag Chalk Formation, with the Tottenhoe Stone Member (Chalk) at the western edge of the site.

1.2.2 The site slopes from 21m aOD at the south-western edge to 18m aOD on the north. It is on the slight ridge of higher land running north-south, crossed by Newmarket Road. The area is currently cultivated, and ridge-and-furrow visible in aerial photographs indicates the area has been undeveloped since the Middle Ages. It is therefore, comparatively undisturbed land.

1.3 Historical and Archaeological Background
1.3.1 A considerable amount of archaeology is known from the surrounding area and the site itself has a record relating to mediaeval ridge and furrow (CHER00388) and another similar record 650m to the north-east (CHER06703). A 19th century windmill is also present within the farmyard of Melton Farm (CHER06495) which now comprises just the mill tower base. It is now thatched and used for farm storage.

1.3.2 Approximately 80m to the south-west of the site, at land to the rear of Nos 36-42 Newmarket Road, Burwell, an excavation was conducted by the CCCAFU in 2005, in advance of the construction of eight houses with associated services and access roads (Bailey and Popescu 2006) (MCB17427). The work revealed the presence of a new Iron Age settlement within which were two large pits of Early to Middle Iron Age date, containing a range of artefacts and ecofacts, some of which may have been
deliberately placed. These notably include several semi-complete pots and a pine marten mandible, pierced to form a pendant. Smaller pits and numerous postholes were found scattered across the site. Some contained Iron Age pottery, although many remains undated. They may indicate the presence of former structures such as buildings and fences. This site has since been reinterpreted and now known to represent part of a Late bronze Age settlement site.

1.3.3 Approximately 1km north-east of the site, two undated burials were uncovered during the excavation of a water pipeline (CHER11314 and 10492). The lack of grave goods and isolated nature of one of these burials has lead to the suggestion of a Prehistoric date (CHER10492).

1.3.4 The only CHER record of Prehistoric finds is a Palaeolithic axe found at Burwell Castle (CHER01775B), 700m to the south-west of the site.

1.3.5 An evaluation at Reach Road in 2007 (ECB2610) in the footprint of a commercial building, revealed a series of features of prehistoric and Romano-British date, suggested to be the remains of field systems. Lithic material was also recovered, indicating some activity in the area from the later Neolithic/early Bronze Age. A former prehistoric water channel was also identified, on the edge of which were found the part remains of at least two individuals, indicated by radiocarbon to be date to the late Iron Age. A rising water table caused abandonment of the area, probably in the later Roman period.

1.3.6 Iron Age and Roman settlement is well attested to the south and west of the development site, particularly to the south-west of the scheduled ancient monument of Burwell Castle (SM29382).

1.3.7 Roman remains considered to be peripheral to a nearby settlement have been recorded at Low Road approximately 750m to the north-east (CHER11989).

1.3.8 Less than 300m south-west of the site a large Saxon cemetery was discovered during the excavation of Victoria Pits on the south side of Newmarket Road in the late 19th and early 20th century (CHER06764). This was the site of a 6-7th century Anglo-Saxon cemetery, where 127 skeletons were found in 125 graves, over half of which contained grave goods (MCB8158). During the excavation of the cemetery, evidence was also found of a potential Roman settlement on the site (CHER06764a).

1.3.9 The site of the former St Andrew's church and its burial yard is believed to have been in the north-east corner of the Newmarket Road/High Street junction (MCB8106). The unfenced yard may have been destroyed by the lime works on the north side of Newmarket Road.

1.3.10 Other excavations within Buwell have revealed 19th century quarrying at the village college (MCB16657) 750m to the north-west of the site, at Isaacson Road 350m to the south (ECB950) and at Mandeville (ECB14124) 700m to the south-west.

1.3.11 An archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 58-60 Newmarket Road (Thatcher 2008) (MCB18199), approximately 170m to the south of this site, revealed two post holes. The lack of dating evidence however meant it was not possible to date them. Several silt patches were investigated across the site but were found to be as a result of root action.
1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like to thank Greg Shaw from Pegasus who commissioned the works and also Edward Tabner from Cambridge County Farms and tenant farmers Bill Barton and Matthew Barber. The site was excavated by the author, assisted by Nick Cox, Daria Tsybaeva, David Browne and Lexi Scard. Thanks are also expressed to Jason and Malcolm from Anthill Plant Ltd. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer, the site survey was undertaken by Stuart Ladd and Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team monitored the work.
2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims
2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

2.2 Methodology
2.2.1 Fifty four trenches were excavated, making a total of 2165 linear metres over three fields under the occupancy of two separate tenant farmers. Although there had been a pre-agreed trench plan, the farmer and client instructed the team to preserve the crop spraying tracks, which were oriented northeast to southwest and set 20m apart, and thus the trench layout had to be re-configured on site. This resulted in trenches on a mostly north-east to south-west and north-west to south east orientation, other than those parallel alongside Newmarket Road (Figure 1). Due to the deviation from the original trench set out plan, trench locations were determined in the field without the benefit of the exact development boundary (red, Figure 1) and as a result Trench 53 extended beyond it. Once realised, the trench was backfilled and the tenant farmer informed. This was within a field which had not yet been drilled. However, a 2% sample across the site was eventually achieved. Other constraints on the placement of trenches were three sets of overhead electricity cables and a high pressure gas main in the northeast corner where no trenching was possible.

2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360° excavator using a 2.10m wide toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and subsoil were stored separately and re-instated during back-filling at the end of the evaluation.

2.2.3 A Leica GPS 1200 system was used initially to lay out the trenches using ordnance survey co-ordinates, according to the pre-agreed trench plan. Due to the necessary deviation from the original trench plan, the newly positioned trenches were surveyed in at the end of the evaluation.

2.2.4 A programme of artefact sampling was employed across the investigation area. Ten litre samples of soil were taken for every 10cm of topsoil and subsoil deposits encountered in each trench. These samples were hand-sorted and any artefacts were assigned context numbers and retained for analysis where appropriate. This strategy was employed at either the southern or the eastern end of every trench. The aim of this was to characterise the artefact contents of the plough-soil and any lower soil horizons.

2.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's pro-forma sheets. Trench plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits supplemented by digital photographs using an Olympus M760 7.1 megapixel camera.
3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction
3.1.1 Results are presented in the following sections, numerically by trench. Basic trench information (length, orientation, depth etc.) is summarised below.

3.1.2 Figures 1 and 2 show the location of all trenches, Figures 3 – 7 and 9 provide a detailed plan of those trenches. Figure 9 shows selected section drawings and Figure 2 also shows the “zones” of archaeology on the site.

3.1.3 A decision was taken on site not to excavate more than one posthole within each group. Excavating a single feature was deemed sufficient to show whether they represented archaeological postholes or mere rooting but at the same time preserved the integrity of the potential structure for further excavation should it be required.

3.2 Trench Descriptions

Trench 1 (Figure 3)
3.2.1 Trench 1 was northeast-southwest orientated and measured 41m long. It comprised up to 0.42m of topsoil, 0.07m of subsoil and the natural geology was chalk. This trench contained four postholes. It included a cluster of three (41, 43 and 45) and one isolated posthole (46) which may be part of a wider group beyond the limits of this trench (Figure 2).

- Posthole 41 was circular in plan, measuring 0.2m in diameter and 0.16m deep. It had vertical edges and a concave base and contained one fill (Figure 9, Section 11). Fill 42 was mid brownish grey clayey silt with occasional stones and no finds.
- Posthole 43 was circular in plan, measuring 0.19m in diameter and 0.05m deep. It had steep sloping edges and a concave base and contained one fill. Fill 44 was mid brownish grey clayey silt with no obvious inclusions and no finds.
- Posthole 45 was circular in plan. This posthole was not excavated.
- Posthole 46 was not excavated.

Trench 2 (Figure 3)
3.2.2 Trench 2 was north-south orientated and measured 48m long. It comprised up to 0.44m of topsoil, 0.12m of subsoil and the natural geology was chalk. This trench contained nine postholes. It comprised two clusters of postholes (28, 2/, 30 and 31, 32, 33, 34, 35) and one isolated posthole (07) which may be part of a wider group beyond the limits of this trench.

- Posthole 7 was circular in plan, measuring 0.3m in diameter and 0.09m deep. It had steep sloping edges and a conical base and contained one fill. Fill 8 was mid greyish brown clayey sand with no obvious inclusions and no finds.
- Posthole 28 was circular in plan, measuring 0.2m in diameter. This posthole was not excavated.
- Posthole 2/ was circular in plan, measuring 0.2m in diameter. This posthole was not excavated.
- Posthole 30 was circular in plan, measuring 0.2m in diameter. This posthole was not excavated.

Group of postholes 31, 32, 33, 34, 35:
- Posthole 31 was circular in plan, measuring 0.15m in diameter. This posthole was not excavated.
- Posthole 32 was circular in plan, measuring 0.2m in diameter. This posthole was not excavated.
- Posthole 33 was circular in plan, measuring 0.2m in diameter. This posthole was not excavated.
- Posthole 34 was circular in plan, measuring 0.2m in diameter. This posthole was not excavated.
- Posthole 35 was circular in plan, measuring 0.2m in diameter. This posthole was not excavated.

**Trench 3 (Figure 3)**

3.2.3 Trench 3 was east-west orientated and measured 25m long. It comprised up to 0.38m of topsoil, 0.10m of subsoil and the natural geology was chalk. This trench contained a pit and a pit or well and a group of three postholes.

- Pit 106 was sub-circular in plan, measuring 1.4m in diameter and was excavated to the depth of 0.11m. It had vertical sides and contained at least one visible fill. Fill 107 was a soft mid greyish brown clayey silt with moderate inclusions of chalk lumps. Fragments of animal bone, burnt flint. A notched flake of grey-brown semi-translucent flint in a slightly abraded condition was also recovered. This flake was used as a sturdy piercer with the notch forming a ‘finger hold’ to facilitate handling (Appendix F). Sherds of Later Bronze Age pottery were also retrieved from this fill. A sample of this deposit was taken for environmental analysis (Sample 3) which revealed only a single fragment of charred grain (Appendix E2).

- Pit 108 was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.75m in diameter. Fill 109 was a compacted light greyish brown silt with very frequent inclusions of chalk lumps. This pit was not excavated.

Group of postholes 110, 112, 113:

- Posthole 110 was circular in plan, measuring 0.27m in diameter and 0.05m deep. It had steep sloping sides and a concave base and contained one fill. Fill 111 was a soft mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional inclusions of stones and chalk lumps.
- Posthole 112 was circular in plan. This posthole was not excavated and is in close proximity to posthole 113.
- Posthole 113 was circular in plan. This posthole was not excavated and is in close proximity to posthole 112.

**Trench 4 (Figure 3)**

3.2.4 Trench 4 was northeast-southwest orientated and measured 46m long. It comprised up to 0.39m of topsoil, 0.17m of subsoil and the natural geology was chalk. This trench contained a pit and seven postholes. The environmental analysis from the pit within this trench suggests a significant assemblage of charred plant remains from a Late Bronze Age context. It is considered possible that given the presence of other postholes within this trench, the assemblage represents the deliberate disposal of burnt grain, possibly as hearth sweepings, from a domestic dwelling (Appendix E2).

- Pit 01 was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.95m in diameter and was dug to the depth of 0.75m (Plate 1). The pit was augered to full depth of 2.1m. It had vertical and slightly undercut edges and contained three fills (Figure 9, Section 1), all of which contained
sherd of Later Bronze Age pottery. The lowest known fill, 02, excavated to the depth of 0.05m, was mid brownish grey clayey silt with moderate inclusions of charcoal and chalk flecks. Animal bone fragments were retrieved from this fill. A sample of this deposit was taken for environmental analysis (Sample 7) which revealed, in addition to poorly preserved charred grains, numerous seeds of corn gromwell, a plant that is commonly found growing amongst crops and is likely to have been harvested with the cereals, a small fragment of charred hazelnut shell is also present. This is a significant assemblage of charred plant remains if the date is indeed Late Bronze Age. It is more reminiscent of an Iron Age or later deposit of charred plant remains (Appendix E2). The secondary fill, 03, was dark greyish brown clayey silt with occasional inclusions of chalk flecks, and a maximum thickness of 0.47m deep. Moderate amounts of animal bone fragments from a sheep or goat were retrieved from this fill. Upper fill 04 was dark brownish grey clayey silt with frequent inclusions of chalk flecks and a maximum thickness of 0.38m. Moderate numbers of sheep or goat bone were also retrieved from this fill.

- Group of postholes 05, 56, 55, 54, 53, 52:
- Posthole 05 was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.35m in diameter and 0.16m deep (Plate 2). This posthole had vertical edges and a concave base and contained one fill. Fill 06 was mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional inclusions of chalk flecks. Two sherds of Later Bronze Age pottery and one piece of burnt flint weighing c.2g were retrieved from this fill. An environmental soil sample was taken from this feature (Sample 4), however it did not contain any preserved remains.
- Postholes 52, 53, 54, 55, 56 and 57 were not excavated.

**Trench 5 (Figure 3)**

3.2.5 Trench 5 was east-west orientated and measured 49m long. It comprised up to 0.40m of topsoil, 0.13m of subsoil and the natural geology was chalk. This trench contained four postholes, two of which were excavated.

- Posthole 115 was circular in plan, measuring 0.22m in diameter and 0.1m deep. It had moderate sloping edges and a rounded base. This posthole contained one fill. Fill 116 was a soft mid greyish brown clayey silt with moderate inclusions of chalk lumps.
- Posthole 117 was circular in plan, although it was not fully revealed in plan, continuing beyond the trench. It measured 0.48m in diameter and 0.15m deep. It had gradual then steep sloping edges and a flat base and contained one fill. Fill 118 was a soft mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional inclusions of stones. A sample of this deposit was taken for environmental analysis (Sample 5), however it was found to contain sparse charcoal only.
- Posthole 119 was not excavated.
- Posthole 120 was not excavated.

**Trench 6**

3.2.6 No archaeological features were found within this trench.

**Trench 7 (Figure 4)**

3.2.7 Trench 7 was northeast-southwest orientated and measured 50m long. It comprised up to 0.40m of topsoil, 0.15m of subsoil and the natural geology was chalk. This trench contained two pits.
- Pit 11 was sub-circular in plan, measuring 2.28m in length, 1m wide and 0.24m deep (Plate 3). It had vertical edges and a flat base and contained two fills (Figure 9, Section 5), both of which contained sherds of Later Bronze Age pottery. Primary fill 12 was light brownish grey silt with frequent inclusions of chalk and a maximum thickness of 0.11m. Fragments of animal bone and one possible worked flint were retrieved from this fill. Upper fill 13 was mid greyish brown silt with occasional inclusions of chalk lumps and a maximum thickness of 0.16m. Fragments of cattle bone were retrieved from this fill as well as an undatable burnt flint flake.

- Pit 14 was sub-circular in plan, measuring 1.1m in length, 0.65m wide and 0.22m deep. It had vertical edges and an uneven base and contained one fill. Fill 15 was mid greyish brown silt with occasional inclusions of chalk lumps. Sherds of Later Bronze Age pottery and fragments on animal bone were retrieved from this fill.

**Trench 8 (Figure 4)**

3.2.8 Trench 8 was northeast-southwest orientated and measured 48 long. It comprised up to 0.42m of topsoil, 0.13m of subsoil and the natural geology was chalk. This trench contained a pit, two postholes and a tree bole.

- Posthole 128 was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.25m in diameter and 0.12m deep. It had vertical stepped edges and a flat base and contained one fill. Fill 129 was a soft mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional inclusions of chalk lumps.

- Posthole 132 was not excavated.

- Pit 130 was sub-circular in plan, measuring 1.05m in length, 0.62m wide and 0.21m deep. It had steep sloping edges and a concave base and contained one fill. Fill 131 was a soft mid greyish brown clayey silt with moderate inclusions of poorly sorted chalk lumps.

**Trench 9 (Figure 4)**

3.2.9 Trench 9 was northwest-southeast orientated and measured 33m long. It comprised up to 0.40m of topsoil, 0.15m of subsoil and the natural geology was chalk. This trench contained a large feature which extended beyond the trench edges, considered to be a natural geological feature. It was investigated in two 1m x 1m test pits, excavated in spits.

- Natural hollow /0 was irregular in plan, measuring 12.5m in length, 2.10m wide (continuing beyond the trench edges) and 1.5m deep (Figure 9, Section 22). It contained three fills. Primary fill 88 was a compacted dark brown silty clay with occasional inclusions of chalk and a maximum thickness of 0.30m. Secondary fill, 87, was a compacted dark brown sandy silt with moderate inclusions of chalk and maximum thickness of 0.20m. Upper fill 86 was a compacted dark brown silty loam with occasional inclusions of chalk and a maximum thickness of 0.40m. Animal bone and sherds of Later Bronze Age pottery were retrieved from this fill.

**Trench 10 (Figure 4)**

3.2.10 Trench 10 was northeast-southwest orientated and measured 47m long. It comprised up to 0.44m of topsoil, 0.18m of subsoil and the natural geology was chalk. This trench contained a cluster of five postholes (O/, 36, 37, 38 and 3/) and one isolated posthole (40) which may be part of a wider group beyond the limits of this trench. It also contained a continuation of the natural hollow /0 recorded in Trench 9.
- Posthole I was circular in plan, measuring 0.25m in length, 0.20m wide and 0.04m deep. It had gradual sloping edges and slightly uneven flat base and contained one fill. Fill 10 was light greyish brown clayey silt with no obvious inclusions or finds.
- Posthole 36 was circular in plan, measuring 0.2m in diameter. This posthole was not excavated.
- Posthole 37 was circular in plan, measuring 0.2m in diameter. This posthole was not excavated.
- Posthole 38 was circular in plan, measuring 0.1m in diameter. This posthole was not excavated.
- Posthole 39 was circular in plan, measuring 0.3m in diameter. This posthole was not excavated.
- Posthole 40 was circular in plan, measuring 0.2m in diameter. This posthole was not excavated.

**Trench 11 (Figure 5)**

3.2.11 Trench 11 was northwest-southeast orientated and measured 45m long. It comprised up to 0.39m of topsoil, 0.11m of subsoil and the natural geology was chalk. This trench contained eight postholes.

- Posthole 78 was figure of eight in plan, measuring 0.30m in length, 0.20m wide and 0.10m deep. It had fairly vertical sides and a base sloping towards East and contained one fill. Fill 77 was a soft light grey clayey silt with no obvious inclusions.
- Posthole 80 was oval in plan, measuring 0.30m in length, 0.20m wide and 0.10m deep. It had vertical sides and a base sloping towards North and contained one fill. Fill 79 was a soft dark brown clayey silt with no obvious inclusions.
- Posthole 81 was circular in plan, measuring 0.4m in length, 0.3m wide. Visible fill was a grey silty clay. This posthole was not excavated.
- Posthole 82 was circular in plan, measuring 0.25m in diameter. Visible fill was an orangey brown sandy silt. This posthole was not excavated.
- Posthole 83 was circular in plan, measuring 0.25m in diameter. Visible fill was an orangey brown sandy silt. This posthole was not excavated.
- Posthole I7 was circular in plan, measuring 0.25m in length, 0.15m wide. Visible fill was an orangey brown sandy silt. This posthole was not excavated.
- Posthole I8 was circular in plan, measuring 0.25m in diameter. Visible fill was a light grey silty clay. This posthole was not excavated.
- Posthole II was circular in plan, measuring 0.5m in diameter. Visible fill was a light greyish brown silty clay. This posthole was not excavated.

**Trench 12 (Figure 5)**

3.2.12 No archaeological features were found within this trench.

**Trench 13 (Figure 5)**

3.2.13 Trench 13 was northeast-southwest orientated and measured 50m long. It comprised up to 0.36m of topsoil, 0.05m of subsoil and the natural geology was chalk. This trench contained three postholes.
- Posthole 133 was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.35m in length, 0.22m wide and 0.13m deep. It had vertical edges and a flat base and contained one fill. Fill 134 was a soft mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional inclusions of chalk flecks.
- Posthole 135 was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.2m in diameter and 0.04m deep. It had steep sloping edges and a concave base and contained one fill. Fill 134 was a soft mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional inclusions of chalk.
- Posthole 137 was circular in plan, measuring 0.10m in diameter. Visible fill was an orangey brown sandy silt. This posthole was not excavated.

**Trench 14 (Figure 5)**

3.2.14 Trench 14 was northeast-southwest orientated and measured 48m long. It comprised up to 0.39m of topsoil, 0.07m of subsoil and the natural geology was chalk. No archaeological features were recorded within this trench, however a natural hollow, like that recorded in Trench 9 and 10 was present. A sondage was excavated through this feature using the machine bucket in order to establish its depth and nature of the soils contained within it.

- Natural hollow 144 was sub-circular in plan, measuring 23.5m in length, 2m wide visible in trench and 0.4m deep. It was test pitted down to a fairly flat base and contained one fill. Fill 143 was a soft dark brown clayey loam with very occasional inclusions of chalk.

**Trench 15 (Figure 6)**

3.2.1 Trench 15 was northeast-southwest orientated and measured 38m long. It comprised up to 0.12m of topsoil, 0.42m of subsoil and the natural geology was chalk. This trench contained nine postholes, including a cluster of three (16, 22 and 23) (Plate 5).

- Posthole 18 was circular in plan, measuring 0.25m in length, 0.20m wide and 0.09m deep (Plate 4). It had steep, near vertical sloping edges and a flat base and contained two fills (Figure 9, Section 8). Primary fill 19 was dark reddish brown clayey silt with frequent inclusions of chalk fragments and a maximum thickness of 0.21m. Upper fill 20 was dark reddish brown clayey silt with no obvious inclusions and a maximum depth of 0.12m.
- Posthole 21 was circular in plan, measuring 0.2m in diameter. This posthole was not excavated.
- Posthole 16 was circular in plan, measuring 0.25m in length, 0.18m wide and 0.04m deep. It had it had gently sloping edges with an uneven base and contained one fill. Fill 17 was dark reddish brown clayey silt with one fragment of unworked flint.
- Posthole 22 was circular in plan, measuring 0.2m in diameter. This posthole was not excavated.
- Posthole 23 was circular in plan, measuring 0.2m in diameter. This posthole was not excavated.
- Posthole 24 was circular in plan, measuring 0.25m in length, 0.2m wide. This posthole was not excavated.
- Posthole 25 was circular in plan, measuring 0.2m in diameter. This posthole was not excavated.
- Posthole 26 was circular in plan but part-covered by the southern section of the trench, visibly measuring 0.15m in length, 0.1m wide. This posthole was not excavated.
- Posthole 27 was circular in plan, measuring 0.25m in length, 0.2m wide. This posthole was not excavated.
**Trench 16 (Figure 6)**

3.2.2 Trench 16 was northwest-southeast orientated and measured 48m long. It comprised up to 0.40m of topsoil, 0.05m of subsoil and the natural geology was chalk. This trench contained four postholes.

- Posthole 47 was circular in plan, measuring 0.23m in diameter and 0.1m deep. It had vertical edges and an uneven base and contained one fill. Fill 48 was mid greyish brown sandy clay with moderate inclusions of small fragments of chalk. No finds were retrieved from this fill.
- Posthole 4/ was circular in plan, measuring 0.3m in diameter. This posthole was not excavated.
- Posthole 50 was circular in plan, measuring 0.3m in diameter. This posthole was not excavated.
- Posthole 51 was circular in plan, measuring 0.2m in diameter. This posthole was not excavated.

**Trench 17 (Figure 7)**

3.2.3 Trench 17 was northeast-southwest orientated and measured 33m long. It comprised up to 0.39m of topsoil, 0.07m of subsoil and the natural geology was chalk. This trench contained three pits and three postholes.

- Pit 102 was circular in plan, measuring 0.8m in length, 0.4m wide and 0.1m deep. It had gradually sloping sides and a concave base and contained one fill. Fill 103 was a dark blackish brown silt with very occasional inclusions of chalk flecks. Sherds of Later Bronze Age pottery, cows teeth and flint were retrieved from this fill.
- Pit 104 was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.4m in length, 0.3m wide and 0.08m deep. It had steep sloping sides and an uneven base separated into two concave bases and contained one fill. Fill 105 was a compacted mid reddish brown clayey silt with no obvious inclusions.
- Pit 150 was irregularly sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.7m in length, 0.4m wide. This pit was not excavated.
- Posthole 151 was circular in plan, measuring 0.3m in length and 0.25m wide. This posthole was not excavated.
- Posthole 152 was circular in plan, measuring 0.5m in length, 0.45m wide and 0.19m deep. It had steep sloping edges and an uneven base and contained one fill (Figure 9, Section 42). Fill 154 was a mid reddish brown clayey silt and contained no obvious inclusions. A sample of this deposit was taken for environmental analysis (Sample 6), however it did not contain any preserved remains.
- Posthole 153 was circular in plan, measuring 0.3m in length and 0.25m wide. This posthole was not excavated.

**Trench 18 (Figure 7)**

3.2.4 Trench 18 was northeast-southwest orientated and measured 32m long. It comprised up to 0.19m of topsoil, 0.25m of subsoil and the natural geology was chalk. This trench contained two pits and six postholes.

- Pit 75 was sub-circular in plan, partly covered by baulk, visibly measuring 0.7m in length, 0.52m wide and 0.33m deep (Plate 6). It had steeply sloping sides with a slightly concave base and contained one fill. Fill 76 was compacted dark blackish brown clayey silt with occasional inclusions of sub-rounded chalk fragments and flecks of charcoal. Fragments
of animal bone and sherds of Later Bronze Age pottery were retrieved from this fill. This context also contained two flints; one flake and one retouched flake, both in a very sharp condition and are likely to have been deposited shortly after manufacture (Appendix F). A sample of this deposit was taken for environmental analysis (Sample 1). Analysis revealed it contained four charred grains, two of which are probably wheat. Other finds from this feature suggest that it was used as a rubbish pit.

- Pit 1 was sub-rectangular in plan, measuring 0.30m in length, 0.15m wide and 0.06m deep. It had gradually sloping side with a concave base and contained one fill. Fill 92 was light reddish brown clayey silt with no obvious inclusions.
- Posthole 61 was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.6m in length, 0.5m wide and 0.12m deep. It had gradually sloping sides and an uneven base and contained one fill. Fill 62 was light reddish brown clayey silt with occasional inclusions of small sub-rounded chalk fragments.
- Posthole 63 was circular in plan, measuring 0.25m in diameter and 0.03m deep. It had gently sloping edges and an uneven sides and contained one fill. Fill 64 was compacted mid reddish brown clayey silt with occasional inclusions of small chalk fragments.
- Posthole 13 was circular in plan, measuring 0.25m in diameter. This posthole was not excavated.
- Posthole 14 was circular in plan, measuring 0.2m in diameter. This posthole was not excavated.
- Posthole 15 was circular in plan, measuring 0.3m in length, 0.2m wide. This posthole was not excavated.
- Posthole 16 was circular in plan, measuring 0.25m in diameter. This posthole was not excavated.

**Trench 19 (Figure 7)**

3.2.5 Trench 19 was northeast-southwest orientated and measured 38m long. It comprised up to 0.39m of topsoil, 0.05m of subsoil and the natural geology was chalk. This trench contained two pits, a possible gully and a cluster of seven postholes.

- Pit 60 was sub-circular in plan, measuring 1.4m in length, 0.5m visibly wide and 0.33m deep. It had steep sloping edges and a flat base and contained one fill. Fill 65 was mid reddish brown silty clay with occasional inclusions of flecks to medium fragments of chalk. This pit was truncated by posthole 73 and truncates pit 66.
- Pit 66 was sub-circular in plan, partly covered by the baulk, measuring 0.5m in length, 0.3m visibly wide and 0.3m deep. It had steep sloping edges and an uneven V-shaped base and contained one fill. Fill 67 was compacted light brownish grey sandy clay with moderate inclusions of flecks to small fragments of chalk. This pit was truncated by pit 60.
- Gully (?) 68 was curvilinear in plan, measuring 0.7m in length up to baulk, 0.3m wide. This feature was not excavated.
- Posthole 58 was circular in plan, measuring 0.23m in diameter and 0.13m deep. It had vertical edges and an uneven base and contained one fill. Fill 59 was mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional inclusions of chalk flecks.
- Posthole 6/ was circular in plan, measuring 0.25m in diameter. This posthole was not excavated.
- Posthole 70 was circular in plan, measuring 0.18m in diameter. This posthole was not excavated.
- Posthole 71 was circular in plan, measuring 0.18m in diameter. This posthole was not excavated.
- Posthole 72 was circular in plan, measuring 0.25m in diameter. This posthole was not excavated.
- Posthole 73 was circular in plan, measuring 0.25m in diameter. This posthole was not excavated.
- Posthole 74 was circular in plan, measuring 0.2m in diameter. This posthole was not excavated.

**Trenches 20-22**

3.2.6 No archaeological features were found within these trenches.

**Trench 23 (Figure 10)**

3.2.7 Trench 23 was northeast-southwest orientated and measured 40m long. It comprised up to 0.40m of topsoil, 0.05m of subsoil and the natural geology was chalk. Two clusters of possible stakeholes were recorded within this trench, one group of three and one group of six.

- Stakehole 138 was circular in plan, measuring 0.11m in diameter and 0.15m deep (Figure 9, Section 35). It had vertical edges and a concave base and contained one fill. The axis of this stakehole was slightly leaning East-West. Fill 139 was a mid brownish grey clayey sand with occasional inclusions of small chalk fragments.
- A group of six stakeholes 145 et al. was present in Trench 23. They were all circular in plan, measuring approximately 0.1m in diameter. The visible fill was mid greyish brown. The group was not excavated.

**Trenches 24-28**

3.2.8 No archaeological features were found within these trenches.

**Trench 29**

3.2.9 Trench 29 was northeast-southwest orientated and measured 30m long. It comprised up to 0.40m of topsoil, 0.03m of subsoil and the natural geology was chalk. This trench contained a single pit.

- Pit 140 was sub-circular in plan, visibly measuring 0.8m in length, 0.7m wide and 0.17m deep. It had steep edges and an uneven V-shaped base and contained two fills. Primary fill 141 was a compacted light whitish brown silty clay with occasional inclusions of charcoal flecks and a maximum thickness of 0.17m. Secondary fill 142 was a dark brownish grey silty clay with occasional inclusions of charcoal flecks and a maximum thickness of 0.1m.

**Trenches 30-37**

3.2.10 No archaeological features were found within these trenches.
**Trench 38 (Figure 8)**

3.2.11 Trench 38 was northeast-southwest orientated and measured 50m long. It comprised up to 0.52m of topsoil, 0.12m of subsoil and the natural geology was chalk. This trench contained a tree throw from which Later Bronze Age pottery and a spindlewhorl were recovered.

- Tree throw **100** was sub-circular in plan, measuring 2m in diameter and 0.16m deep (Plate 7). It had gradual irregular edges an uneven base and contained one fill. Fill 101 was mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional inclusions of charcoal flecks, small fragments of chalk and small burnt seeds. Later Bronze Age pottery sherds, cattle bone and a fragment of a spindle whorl (SF No 2) were retrieved from this fill. The spindlewhorl was decorated around the base with an incised band 3mm wide. It was made of a dense fine fabric with sparse flint inclusions (Appendix C).
- The spindlewhorl is similar to, though more finely made than, an example found in the Later Bronze Age deposits at Runnymede Bridge (Needham and Spence 1996, fig.99, C35). A sample of this deposit was taken for environmental analysis (Sample 2), however it did not contain any preserved remains.

**Trenches 39-41**

3.2.12 No archaeological features were found within these trenches.

**Trench 42**

3.2.13 Trench 42 was northwest-southeast orientated and measured 49m long. It comprised up to 0.30m of topsoil, 0.20m of subsoil and the natural geology was chalk. This trench contained another natural hollow as recorded in Trenches 9, 10 and 14. This was also investigated in a 1m x 1m test pit.

- Natural hollow **127** was oval in plan, measuring 7m in length, 2m wide and 0.2m deep. It was test pitted down to a very uneven base and contained one fill. Fill 126 was a compacted light greyish brown sandy silt with very occasional inclusions of chalk. Sherds of Later Bronze Age pottery and cattle teeth were retrieved from this fill as well as 3 pieces of burnt flint weighing c.16g and a small undatable flint flake.

**Trench 43 (Figure 8)**

3.2.14 Trench 43 was northeast-southwest orientated and measured 48m long. It comprised up to 0.39m of topsoil, 0.07m of subsoil and the natural geology was chalk. This trench contained two pits, both continuing to the north, beyond the trench edge.

- Pit **122** was oval in plan, measuring 1.3m in length, 0.7m wide and 0.5m deep. It had vertical sides and a slightly concave base and contained one fill. Fill 121 was a soft orangey brown silty sand with occasional inclusions of chalk. Sherds of Later Bronze Age pottery were retrieved from this fill.
- Pit **123** was oval in plan, measuring 2.7m in length, 0.75m deep. Visible fill was orangey brown sandy silt. This pit was not excavated.

**Trench 44**

3.2.15 No archaeological features were found within this trench.
**Trench 45**

3.2.16 Trench 45 was northwest-southeast orientated and measured 40m long. It comprised up to 0.20m of topsoil, 0.15m of subsoil and the natural geology was chalk. This trench contained a single posthole.

- Posthole 125 was circular in plan, measuring 0.3m in diameter and 0.3m deep. It had vertical edges and a concave base and contained one fill. Fill 124 was an orangey brown sandy silt with occasional inclusions of chalk.

**Trench 46**

3.2.17 No archaeological features were found within this trench. However plough scars within the natural chalk showed up particularly well in this trench (Plate 8).

**Trench 47 (Figure 8)**

3.2.18 Trench 47 was northeast-southwest orientated and measured 50m long. It comprised up to 0.30m of topsoil, 0.22m of subsoil and the natural geology was chalk. This trench contained another natural hollow as recorded in Trenches 9, 10, 14 and 42. This was also investigated in a 1m x 1m test pit.

- Natural hollow 156 was curving in plan where visible in the trench and measuring 6.3m in length, 2m wide and 0.1m deep. It was test pitted down to a slightly convex base and contained one fill. Fill 155 was a mid brown silty sand with very occasional inclusions of chalk.

**Trench 48 (Figure 8)**

3.2.19 Trench 48 was northeast-southwest orientated and measured 40m long. It comprised up to 0.28m of topsoil, 0.11m of subsoil and the natural geology was chalk. This trench contained what appears to be a small isolated pit (148) containing a vessel with cremated human bone (Plates 9 and 10). A tree throw was also investigated and recorded.

- Tree throw 146 was sub-circular in plan, measuring 1.1m in length, 0.8m wide and 0.2m deep. It had irregular edges varying from steep to gently sloping and a very irregular base and contained one fill. Fill 147 was a mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional inclusions of lighter patches silty clay.

- Pit 148 was circular in plan, measuring 0.31m in diameter and 0.15m deep (Figure 9, Section 38). It had vertical edges and a slightly uneven flat base and contained one fill. Fill 149 was a mid greyish brown clayey sand with very occasional inclusions of small chalk fragments. A near intact Late Bronze Age cremation urn (SF No 4. 157-158) was retrieved from this fill. Cremation urn 157 was circular in plan, measuring 0.21m in diameter and 0.15m deep (0.175m with the rim). The cremation vessel was almost complete with just a small amount of damage to the rim and analysis of its contents indicate the cremated remains of an adult and a child. See Appendix B for the full pottery assessment and Appendix D for the assessment report for the cremated bone. (Plates 11 and 12). The contents of the cremation urn was processed to look for environmental remains (Samples 8-11). Calcined bone was recovered from each spit and no plant remains, including charcoal, were present.
Trench 49-54

3.2.20 No archaeological features were found within these trenches.

3.3 Finds and Environmental Summary

3.3.1 Approximately 100 sherds of pottery were recovered from excavated features which includes an almost complete vessel containing cremated human remains. All the sherds are of Later Bronze Age date (c.1000-800BC) with the exception of three abraded sherds which are prehistoric but are otherwise not closely datable. Six hundred grams of animal bone was recovered from the evaluation. The assemblage consisted of 26 fragments of which nine were identifiable to species. Identifiable material was recovered from six contexts.

3.3.2 Metal detecting was undertaken with the assistance of local group Hereward Detectorists, however spoil heaps did not yield any finds beyond the clearly modern. Artefact sampling of the top and sub soils also failed to produce any significant artefacts.

3.3.3 Eleven bulk samples were taken from features within seven of the evaluation trenches. In general the samples were poor in terms of identifiable material. The charred plant remains consist mainly of cereal grains that were poorly preserved, most probably due to taphonomic factors. The presence of rootlets in all of the samples could have resulted in movement of material between contexts. One sample from a trench which contained several postholes did represent the deliberate disposal of burnt grain, possibly as hearth sweepings, from a domestic dwelling.
4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion

4.1.1 The evaluation has revealed the presence archaeological remains within the development area. Although identified as existing primarily within two “zones” on the site (Figure 2), the concentration of settlement-related features was recorded across the south-west of the site within an area of approximately 6.5 hectares.

4.1.2 The nature of the archaeology recorded in the south-west corner of the site i.e. predominantly postholes belonging to buildings and fencelines with a small number of pits and perhaps a well would suggest settlement. The location of the settlement is within the lower ground on the site as it drops to around 19m OD. The contour line shown on Figure 1 corresponds almost exactly with the “zone” of more dense settlement-related archaeology recorded in the investigations. This lower-lying land would ideally suit occupation and the presence of the well in Trench 4 shows that the water supply was only 2m below the ground surface. Environmental sampling also supports this suggestion as deliberate disposal of burnt grain, possibly as hearth sweepings, from a domestic dwelling were noted from a pit in Trench 4.

4.1.3 The more scattered/sparse remains including the cremation in the northern part of the site would hint at activity beyond the boundaries of the settlement. All of the Later Bronze Age pottery recovered from features in both areas however, do indicate contemporary activity.

4.1.4 The nature of the remains is very similar to that recorded at the Newmarket Road site excavated in 2005 (Bailey and Popescu 2006). This site investigated a number of small pits and numerous postholes scattered across the site, some were dated, although many remain undated. These features were also interpreted as the presence of structures and fences. Although initially dated to the Later Iron Age, recent reappraisal of the pottery (Brudenell 2012) from this site has lead to a suggestion of a Later Bronze Age date. Another site investigated at Newmarket Road (Thatcher 2008) which contained undated postholes may also be a continuation of activity contemporary with this site.

4.1.5 The three struck pieces are made from a good knapping quality flint that was probably obtained from relatively unweathered derived deposits on the chalk as would be available in the vicinity. Whilst not diagnostic formal types, they are all technologically characteristic of later prehistoric flintworking industries that can be dated to the later second and first millennia BC and are likely to be contemporary with the Late Bronze Age activity recorded at the site.

4.1.6 All the pots are of domestic origin probably including the cremation vessel which is of the same form as others found in both 2005 and 2014. This suggests that a coarse jar, perhaps in use in the household of the deceased, had been chosen as a burial container for cremated remains.

4.1.7 The presence of a Later Bronze Age cremation vessel in association with occupation evidence is highly significant, especially considering the very small number of examples of cremations of this date which have previously been recorded.
4.2 Conclusions

4.2.1 The evaluation has been successful in achieving the project aims: to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

4.2.2 This investigation indicates occupation at the site in the Later Bronze Age, c.1000-800BC, and is almost certainly contemporary with activity identified during previous excavations at 36-42 Newmarket Road (Bailey and Popescu 2006) and potentially even linked to the undated remains recorded at 58-60 Newmarket Road (Thatcher 2008).
APPENDIX A. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Reference</th>
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<tbody>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wiseman, R.</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation: Newmarket Road, Burwell</td>
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APPENDIX B. PREHISTORIC POTTERY

By Sarah Percival

Introduction

B.1.1 A total of 101 sherds weighing 1,907g were collected from fourteen excavated contexts, including complete vessel containing cremated human remains. The rest of the pottery is fragmentary and is mostly small and poorly to moderately preserved. The average sherd weight, excluding the cremation vessel, is 5g. All the sherds are of Later Bronze Age date (c. 1000-800BC) with the exception of three abraded sherds which are prehistoric but are otherwise not closely datable.

Methodology

B.1.2 The assemblage was analysed in accordance with the Guidelines for analysis and publication laid down by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (PCRG 2010). The total assemblage was studied and a full catalogue was prepared. The sherds were examined using a binocular microscope (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types. Fabric codes were prefixed by a letter code representing the main inclusion present (F representing flint, G grog and Q quartz). Vessel form was recorded; R representing rim sherds, B base sherds, D decorated sherds and U undecorated body sherds. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Decoration and abrasion were also noted. The pottery and archive are curated by OAE.

Fabrics

B.1.3 Nine fabrics were identified in three fabric groups (Table B1). Most numerous of these are the flint-tempered fabrics which form 95.5% of the total assemblage by weight (527g). Sandy fabrics containing rounded quartz grains form 1.6% of the assemblage (9g) and shelly fabrics 1.8% (10g). The complete cremation vessel is made of shelly clay containing numerous small to medium shell plates along with moderate, medium sized flint inclusions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fabric</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Weight (g)</th>
<th>% weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F2</td>
<td>Common medium flint up to 3mm in fine clay matrix</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>65.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>QF</td>
<td>Common rounded quartz sand, moderate medium flint up to 3mm.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F1m</td>
<td>Moderate fine flint less than 2mm, moderate mica in fine clay matrix</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F1</td>
<td>Moderate fine flint less than 2mm in fine clay matrix</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F3</td>
<td>Moderate to common coarse flint up to 5mm.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sh1</td>
<td>Common shell pieces and plate shaped voids</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q1</td>
<td>Common quartz sand</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qm</td>
<td>Common quartz sand with moderate mica</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
<td>546</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table B1: Quantity and weight of prehistoric pottery by fabric

B.1.4 The predominant use of flint is especially prevalent amongst Post Deverel-Rimbury assemblages from the region (Brudenell 2012). The range and relative proportions of fabrics present are identical to those found during previous excavations at the site which produced a large assemblage of 1,534 Later Bronze Age sherds weighing
23,224g (Brudenell 2012). This assemblage was originally suggested as being of Iron Age date but was re-dated when examined by Matt Brudenell as part of his PhD.

**Forms**

B.1.5 Of especial interest is the complete jar containing the cremated remains. This vessel, which weighs 1,361g, is of Brudenell's form F1, a form also found during previous excavations at the site (Brudenell 2012, fig.4.1, F6). The jar has a high rounded shoulder and short, slightly everted neck ending in a simple, flat rim. The coarse jar is undecorated and appears to have been selected from the domestic vessel repertoire for use as a cremation urn.

B.1.6 Rims from a further five vessels were found. Three are large enough to suggest a vessel form, these being one high shouldered jar of similar form to the cremation jar, one closed jar with bulbous body and fingernail decoration to the interior of the rim (Brudenell 2012, fig.4.1, A) and one fine burnished cup (Brudenell 2012, fig. 4.1, S). Bases are simple and decoration extremely limited with only one vessel (type A above) featuring fingernail impressions. Almost all the body sherds are smoothed or wiped, some with the vertical fingertip fluting characteristic of many Later Bronze Age vessels (Needham 1995, 168).

B.1.7 The range of vessels found compares well with those present within the larger assemblage from the 2005 excavations. This assemblage is suggested to be of domestic origin and sooting found on the exterior of several sherds from the 2014 excavation confirms that this too is a utilitarian assemblage.

**Deposition**

B.1.8 Pottery was recovered from thirteen features in eight trenches (Table B2). Pottery from all trenches is of the same Later Bronze Age type suggesting that occupation of the that date is present across the whole area investigated and is an extension of the contemporary activity identified in 2005 (Bailey and Popescu 2006).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trench</th>
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<th>Context</th>
<th>Feature type</th>
<th>Weight (g)</th>
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<td>3</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>Pit</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
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</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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*Table B2: Weight of prehistoric pottery by trench and features*
B.1.9 The majority of the pottery came from pits. This is again similar to the deposition of the assemblage recovered in 2005 (Bailey and Popescu 2006). Small quantities of pot were also found in natural features and tree throws.

Discussion

B.1.10 The assemblage indicates occupation at the site in the Later Bronze Age, c.1000-800BC, and is almost certainly contemporary with activity identified during previous excavations at the site (Bailey and Popescu 2006; Brudenell 2012). All the pots are of domestic origin probably including the cremation vessel which is of the same form as others found in both 2005 and 2014. This suggests that a coarse jar, perhaps in use in the household of the deceased, had been chosen as a burial container for cremated remains. Needham lists only fifteen examples of likely Later Bronze Age cremations within pottery containers in England, more often being fine ware burnished bowls and most dating broadly to the 8th to 6th centuries BC (Needham 1995, 168; Brudenell 2012, fig. 7.7).

B.1.11 The presence of a Later Bronze Age cremation vessel in association with occupation evidence is highly significant, especially considering the very small number of examples of cremations of this date which have previously been recorded. Radiocarbon dating of the bone from the cremation would be extremely useful to date both the activity at the site and the pottery vessels associated with it.
APPENDIX C. ARTEFACT OF BAKED CLAY

By Sarah Percival

C.1.1 The single, incomplete baked clay spindle whorl weighing 25g was collected from context (101) fill of tree throw 100, which also contained Later Bronze Age pottery. The conical weight is 29mm high and has a diameter at the base of 40mm, and at the top of 30mm. Around the base the spindle whorl is decorated with an incised band 3mm wide. The spindlewhorl is made of a dense fine fabric with sparse flint inclusions.

C.1.2 The spindlewhorl is similar to, though more finely made than, an example found in the Later Bronze Age deposits at Runnymede Bridge (Needham and Spence 1996, fig.99, C35).
APPENDIX D. CREMATED BONE ASSESSMENT

By Natasha Dodwell

Introduction

D.1.1 A single urned cremation burial, (158) was identified in Trench 48. The near intact Late Bronze Age vessel was excavated and recorded in the OAE finds department in accordance with current guidelines (McKinley 2004).

Methodology

D.1.2 The bone was removed in spits (each c. 50mm deep) in order that any potential spatial patterning of elements could be observed and then passed through a series of graded sieves so that the degree of bone fragmentation could be objectively assessed (Table D1). All extraneous material was removed from residues >4mm and the cremated bone analysed and weighed. The smaller, <4mm fraction was scanned for identifiable elements (notably teeth).

D.1.3 Age was assessed by the stage of epiphyseal fusion (Schaefer et al 2009), dental development (Brown 1985) and general robusticity of elements. None of the areas of the skeleton usually used to sex an adult individual were identified amongst the fragments. No grave or pyre goods were recovered from the urn and the silty sand matrix which held the bone was charcoal free.

Results and Analysis

D.1.4 The total weight of bone recovered is 1262g and, whilst the vast majority of bone within the urn is adult –sized a dozen or so gracile limb shafts and a single tooth crown point to the partial remains of an immature individual being interred with the adult. No bone was visible on the surface of the fill and so it is thought that this represents all of the bone that was originally deposited. This weight is within the range of weights (1000-2400g) observed for cremated adult individuals from modern crematoria, but below the average weight (1650g) (McKinley 2000a, 269). Very few adult skull fragments were identified and this, combined with the lower than average weight suggests that not all of the body was collected from the pyre and placed in this pot. No deliberate arrangement of elements within the vessel was recognised and the immature elements were recovered from each of the 4 spits.

D.1.5 The vast majority (c.95%) of bone fragments were a buff white colour, suggesting that the cremation process had been efficient with pyre temperatures reaching over 600°C (McKinley 2004, 11). However, some elements, specifically the femur and to a lesser degree the tibia shafts were charred a brown black colour suggesting the lower limb(s) had not been exposed to intense heat; either because of their position on the pyre and/or their dense covering of soft tissue.

D.1.6 The largest fragment of bone recorded was 53.70mm (femur shaft). Although there are very similar percentages of bone in both fractions in all but the basal spit the majority of bone was recovered from the 4-10mm fraction. Several authors have suggested deliberate fragmentation of cremated bone ‘to a consistent size for burial’ (e.g. Stirland, 1994,554) and whilst this is a possibility McKinley has argued convincingly that the size of cremated bone fragments is dependent on many processes such as how the pyre was tended, how the bone was collected, even how it was excavated and the bone processed (1994).
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bone weight</td>
<td>% bone weight</td>
<td>Bone weight</td>
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<td>552g</td>
<td>43.7</td>
<td>710g</td>
<td>56.3</td>
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</table>

Table D1. Weight of bone from the sorted fractions

D.1.7 The largest fragment of bone recorded was 53.70mm (femur shaft). Although there are very similar percentages of bone in both fractions in all but the basal spit the majority of bone was recovered from the 4-10mm fraction. Several authors have suggested deliberate fragmentation of cremated bone ‘to a consistent size for burial’ (e.g. Stirland, 1994:554) and whilst this is a possibility McKinley has argued convincingly that the size of cremated bone fragments is dependent on many processes such as how the pyre was tended, how the bone was collected, even how it was excavated and the bone processed (1994).

**Recommendations**

- The bone needs to be washed so that any possibly pathological lesions can be recorded (a rinse under running water is sufficient rather than a meticulous clean)
- If time allows then the 2-4mm residue needs to be sorted to facilitate comparisons with other assemblages. Percentages of bone in each fraction can then be calculated.
- Each fraction needs to be separated into body part, as recommended by McKinley 2004.
Appendix E. Ecofact Reports

E.1 Faunal Remains

By Chris Faine

E.1.1 Six hundred grams of animal bone was recovered from the evaluation. The assemblage consisted of 26 fragments of which 9 were identifiable to species. Identifiable material was recovered from 6 contexts. Sheep/Goat is the dominant taxon, with the assemblage consisting of partial femora from contexts 03 and 04, and a fragmentary metatarsal and calcaneus from contexts 04 and 76 respectively. Context 03 also contained a single adult 1st molar. Cattle remains consisted of a scapula and femur from contexts 13 and 101 respectively, along with adult 1st molars from contexts 103 and 126.

E.2 Environmental Remains

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

E.2.1 Eleven bulk samples were taken from features within seven evaluation trenches from Land north of Newmarket Road, Burwell in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

E.2.2 Features sampled are provisionally thought to date to the prehistoric period and include pits and post-holes and cremation 157.

Methodology

E.2.3 The total volume (up to twenty-four litres) of each bulk sample was processed by water flotation (using a modified Siraff three-tank system) for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residues were allowed to air dry. A magnet was dragged through each residue fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The dried flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and a complete list of the recorded remains are presented in Table E1. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (1997) for other plants. Carbonized seeds and grains, by the process of burning and burial, become blackened and often distort and fragment leading to difficulty in identification. Plant remains have been identified to species where possible. The identification of cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).

Quantification

E.2.4 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds and cereal grains have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories

# = 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens ##### = 100+ specimens
Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal, magnetic residues and fragmented bone have been scored for abundance

+ = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant

Results

E.2.5 Preservation is by carbonisation and is generally poor. All of the samples were contaminated with modern rootlets and, in some cases, modern seeds of goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.) which are indicative of animal burrowing.

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<th>Chaff</th>
<th>Weed Seed s</th>
<th>Flot comments</th>
<th>Hammer scale</th>
<th>Small animal bones</th>
<th>Large animal bones</th>
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<th>Burnt flint</th>
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<td>0</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>#</td>
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<td>#</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>###</td>
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<td>#</td>
<td>Charred wheat and barley grains. Two spelt glume bases, Charred Lithospermum seeds</td>
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Table E1: Environmental samples

E.2.6 The results are presented by trench:

Trench 3

E.2.7 Sample 3, fill 107 of Pit 106 contains a single fragment of charred grain.
Trench 4

E.2.8 Pit 01 contained three fills, the lowest of which (fill 02) was sampled (Sample 7) and contains numerous charred grains that are poorly preserved. Barley (Hordeum vulgare) and wheat (Triticum sp.) have been identified by their morphology and it is likely that the wheat variety is that of spelt (T. spelta) as several of the grains are of droplet form with a flat ventral surface that is characteristic of this species. Two glume bases of spelt wheat confirm this likely identification.

E.2.9 Also present within this sample are numerous seeds of corn gromwell (Lithospermum arvense), a plant that is commonly found growing amongst crops and is likely to have been harvested with the cereals. It produces a large stone-like seed that would have made the grain unpalatable. It is likely that a seed of this size would have been picked out by hand during the final processing stage of cleaning the grain. A small fragment of charred hazelnut shell (Corylus avellana) is also present. This is a significant assemblage of charred plant remains if the date is indeed Late Bronze Age. It is more reminiscent of an Iron Age or later deposit of charred plant remains.

E.2.10 Several post holes were noted in Trench 4 and is is possible that the assemblage represents the deliberate disposal of burnt grain, possibly as hearth sweepings, from a domestic dwelling. Post hole 05 (fill 06) was sampled (Sample 4) but does not contain any preserved remains.

Trench 5

E.2.11 Post hole 117 (Sample 5, fill 118) was found to contain sparse charcoal only.

Trench 17

E.2.12 Posthole 152 was one of three post holes noted in this trench. The single fill 154 (Sample 6).did not contain any preserved remains.

Trench 18

E.2.13 Fill 76 of pit 75 (Sample 1) contains four charred grains, two of which are probably wheat. Other finds from this feature suggest that it was used as a rubbish pit.

Trench 38

E.2.14 Sample 2, fill 101 of tree-throw 100 does not contain any preserved remains

Trench 48

E.2.15 Pit 148 was a small isolated pit that contained a near-intact Late Bronze Age cremation urn (SF No 4) which was excavated in the laboratory and the contents sampled in spits (Samples 8 to 11, fill 158). Calcined bone was recovered from each spit and no plant remains, including charcoal, are present.

Comments

E.2.16 In general the samples were poor in terms of identifiable material. The charred plant remains consist mainly of cereal grains that were poorly preserved, most probably due to taphonomic factors. The presence of rootlets in all of the samples could have resulted in movement of material between contexts.

E.2.17 If further excavations are planned for this site, a targeted approach to environmental sampling is recommended as the samples from Land north of Newmarket Road, Burwell have shown that there is limited preservation of plant remains.
APPENDIX F. LITHICS ASSESSMENT

By Dr Barry Bishop

Introduction

F.1.1 The archaeological investigations at the above site resulted in the recovery of three struck flint flakes. This report describes the material and assesses its archaeological significance. All metrical descriptions follow the methodology established by Saville (1980).

Description

Context [76] Fill of pit [75]

F.1.2 Retouched flake of grey-brown semi-translucent flint in a very sharp condition. It has a 6mm deep plain-flaked striking platform, a pronounced bulb of percussion and a hinged distal termination. Its dorsal surface is formed by a single flake scar and c. 10% is covered by thin but unweathered chalky cortex. Its right margin has irregular bifacial retouch that accentuates a spur-like point 32mm long and which has further crushing along its edges, making a very sturdy and relatively sharp piercer. There is also sporadic blunting retouch around its striking platform, possibly undertaken to aid handling. It measures 55mm long by 98mm wide and is 11mm thick.

F.1.3 Flake of grey-brown semi-translucent flint in a very sharp condition. It has a 6mm deep plain-flaked striking platform that also exhibits undeveloped Hertzian cones from previous failed attempts at detachment, a pronounced bulb of percussion and a slightly hinged distal termination. Its dorsal surface is formed by two flake scars. It measures 30mm long by 22mm wide and is 6mm thick.

Context [107], fill of pit [106]

F.1.4 Notched flake of grey-brown semi-translucent flint in a slightly abraded condition. It has a 6mm deep plain-flaked striking platform with some edge trimming, a pronounced bulb of percussion and a slightly hinged distal termination. Its dorsal surface is formed by 3–4 flake scars and also retains part of an earlier striking platform near its distal end. Additionally, c. 20% is covered with a slightly worn but thick and rough cortex. A shallow notch 12mm wide and 3mm deep has been cut into its right lateral margin and there are traces of abrasion around part of its distal termination, which is thick but narrow and formed by the remnant of the earlier striking platform. Taken together, these features suggest that the flake was used as a sturdy piercer with the notch forming a ‘finger hold’ to facilitate handling. It measures 52mm long by 42mm wide and is 8mm thick.

Discussion of the Struck Flint

F.1.5 The three struck flakes are made from a good knapping quality flint that was probably obtained from relatively unweathered derived deposits on the chalk as would be available in the vicinity. Whilst not diagnostic formal types, they are all technologically characteristic of later prehistoric flintworking industries that can be dated to the later second and first millennia BC and are likely to be contemporary with the Late Bronze Age activity recorded at the site. The two pieces from pit [75] are both in a very sharp condition and are likely to have been deposited shortly after manufacture. The unretouched flake is typically ‘squat’ (Martingell 1990; 2003), whilst the piercer is an elaborate implement and, for its time, very well made. The notched flake from pit [106] shows more post-depositional wear but is likely also to be at least broadly contemporary with the pit. It is morphologically similar to the piercer from pit [75] and
likely to have been used in a similar manner. It shows the ad hoc utilization of a fortuitously pointed edge which is also typical of Middle Bronze Age and later industries.

**Significance and Recommendations**

F.1.6 The assemblage indicates flint use at the site contemporary with the Late Bronze Age features although the number of pieces present would suggest that it was not being routinely employed, unlike at numerous other contemporary sites along this part of the Fenland edge. That two out of the three pieces recovered are piercers of a similar form may indicate that specific or specialised tasks were being undertaken.

F.1.7 Due to the size of the assemblage no further analytical work is warranted. As it has some potential in contributing to a wider appreciation of later prehistoric landscape use in the area, it should be recorded in the Historic Environment Record and a brief description included in any published account of the fieldwork.
**APPENDIX G. OASIS REPORT FORM**

**Project Details**

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**Type of Project/Techniques Used**

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- [ ] Aerial Photography - new
- [ ] Annotated Sketch
- [ ] Augering
- [ ] Dendrochronological Survey
- [ ] Documentary Search
- [ ] Environmental Sampling
- [ ] Fieldwalking
- [ ] Geophysical Survey
- [ ] Grab-Sampling
- [ ] Gravity-Core
- [ ] Laser Scanning
- [ ] Measured Survey
- [ ] Metal Detectors
- [ ] Phosphate Survey
- [ ] Photogrammetric Survey
- [ ] Photographic Survey
- [ ] Rectified Photography
- [ ] Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
- [x] Sample Trenches
- [ ] Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
- [ ] Targeted Trenches
- [ ] Test Pits
- [ ] Topographic Survey
- [ ] Vibro-core
- [ ] Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)

**Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods**

List feature types using the **NMR Monument Type Thesaurus** and significant finds using the **MDA Object type Thesaurus** together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state “none”.

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### Project Originators

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<td>Project Brief Originator</td>
<td>Kasia Gdaniec, Cambs County Council</td>
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<td>Project Design Originator</td>
<td>OA East</td>
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<td>Project Manager</td>
<td>Richard Mortimer, OA East</td>
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<td>Supervisor</td>
<td>Taleyna Fletcher</td>
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### Project Archives

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### Archive Contents/Media

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### Digital Media

- Database
- GIS
- Geophysics
- Images
- Illustrations
- Moving Image
- Spreadsheets
- Survey
- Text
- Virtual Reality

### Paper Media

- Aerial Photos
- Context Sheet
- Correspondence
- Diary
- Drawing
- Manuscript
- Map
- Matrices
- Microfilm
- Misc.
- Research/Notes
- Photos
- Plans
- Report
- Sections
- Survey

### Notes:

[Blank space for notes]
Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red)
Figure 2: Overall trench plan showing zones or archaeology (green). Scale 1:3000
Figure 3: Plan of Trenches 1-5

Key
- Limit of excavation
- Section (illustrated)
- Break of slope
- Evaluation Trench
- Cut number
- Archaeological feature

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Report Number 1704
Figure 4: Plan of trenches 7-10
Figure 5: Plan of Trenches 11-14
Figure 6: Plan of trenches 15 and 16
Figure 7: Plan of trenches 17-19

Key
- Limit of excavation
- Section (illustrated)
- Break of slope
- Evaluation Trench
- Cut number
- Archaeological feature

Natural hollow

Tr 17

Tr 18

Tr 19

Tr 10

Figure 7: Plan of trenches 17-19
Figure 8: Plan of trenches 38, 43, 47 and 48
Figure 9: Selected sections

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Figure 10: Plan of trench 23, 24
Figure 11: Updated red-line boundary (data supplied by the client)
Plate 1: Pit 01, Trench 4

Plate 2: Posthole 05, Trench 4
Plate 3: Pit 11, Trench 7

Plate 4: Posthole 18, Trench 15
Plate 9: Pre-excavation shot of cremation, Trench 48

Plate 10: Working shot of cremation during excavation
Plate 11: Cremation, Trench 48

Plate 12: Cremation vessel (post excavation)