

Late Iron Age Cremations from CZ6 (Area Q1), Beaulieu Chelmsford, Essex



Post-Excavation Assessment



November 2016

**Client: Countryside Zest
(Beaulieu Park) LLP**

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Late Iron Age Cremations from CZ6 (Area Q1), Beaulieu, Chelmsford, Essex

Post-excavation Assessment

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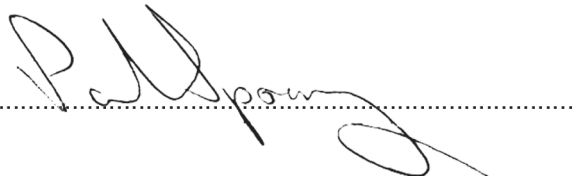
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Summary

An archaeological excavation was carried out within land parcel CZ6 (Area Q1), Beaulieu, Chelmsford (TL 7344 1075). The fieldwork took place between the 28/9/15 and the 02/10/15. An area 542 sq m was opened targeting a Late Iron Age cremation encountered during the trial trench evaluation of CZ6.

Four Late Iron Age cremations and two undated pits were found. The four cremations comprised individuals each interred within a pottery vessel and buried in a pit. All the remains were severely truncated by modern ploughing.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Between the 28th September and 2nd October 2015 Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological excavation at Beaulieu, Chelmsford: Land Parcel CZ6 (Area Q1) (TL 7344 1075) (see Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 Outline planning permission for the Beaulieu development has been granted by Chelmsford City Council (ref: 09/01314/EIA). The new neighbourhood, will comprise up to 3,600 new homes and up to 62,300m² of mixed use development including new schools, leisure and community facilities, employment areas, new highways and associated ancillary development, including full details in respect of roundabout access from Essex Regiment Way and a priority junction from White Hart Lane.
- 1.1.3 These archaeological excavations were undertaken to mitigate construction impacts of an area of residential housing (Land Parcel CZ6) with associated access and infrastructure.
- 1.1.4 This work was carried out in accordance with the Beaulieu Archaeological Investigation Strategy (URS 2013a), and an Archaeological Method Statement prepared by Oxford Archaeology East (Mortimer 2015).
- 1.1.5 This excavation is part of an ongoing archaeological project, across a phased development. The time-scale for this development is dependant on many factors and so cannot be accurately determined at the present time. The work presented in this Post-Excavation Assessment will eventually be incorporated into wider Analysis and Publication Reports.
- 1.1.6 This assessment has been conducted in accordance with the principles identified in English Heritage's guidance documents *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*, specifically *The MoRPHE Project Manager's Guide* (2006) and *PPN3 Archaeological Excavation* (2008).
- 1.1.7 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 Beaulieu (the Site) is located approximately 4km to the north-east of Chelmsford, Essex. The Site encompasses an area of high ground surrounded on three sides by river valleys. To the west and south is the River Chelmer, and to the east is Boreham Brook. North of the Site the ground rises towards the village of Terling. From the southern part of the Site there are views south towards the Chelmer Valley and Danbury Hill.
- 1.2.2 Area Q1 is situated in the north-eastern part of the Beaulieu development (centred on TL 7344 1075; Figure 1) and encompasses one small area within an agricultural field,
- 1.2.3 The superficial geology consists of boulder clay of the Lowestoft Till formation underlain by London Clays. To the south of the area lay a mixture of head deposits and sand and gravels (British Geological Survey).

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

Neolithic

- 1.3.1 Essex has some of the earliest surviving evidence of settlement, mainly concentrated to the north-east along the River Crouch at Lawford and Lemarsh (Hedges, 1984). Evidence for possible domestic settlement within the vicinity of Beaulieu was recorded at Court Road, 1km to the north-west, in the form of several pits with Neolithic pottery within their fills (SMR 6142).

Bronze Age

- 1.3.2 Settlement continued to be concentrated along the river valleys of the Chelmer and Crouch, however during the Bronze Age the landscape was enclosed by field systems for the first time, such as those found at Great Wakering (Kemble, 2001). These enclosed field systems would have continued in use through into the early Iron Age. It has been suggested that these Bronze Age field systems form the basis for the modern landscape in the Chelmer Valley (Drury & Rodwell, 1980).
- 1.3.3 Several crop-marks have been recorded by aerial photography to the south of Belstead Hall and interpreted as part of a Bronze Age settlement (SMR 16888), with further domestic dwellings excavated at Springfield Lyons, 2.5km to the south-west. Further occupation sites are attested to by the recovery of artefacts, such as at New Hall School, to the south-east and Pratt's Farm, to the north.

Iron Age

- 1.3.4 The settlement pattern during the Iron Age would have been of nucleated settlements within a larger farming landscape. Evidence of this, within the vicinity of the development area, was seen to the south of Belstead Hall (SMR 17438). This comprised a large enclosure with associated pits and smaller ditches (Drury, 1978).
- 1.3.5 The Later Iron Age witnessed an expansion of settlement onto the heavier clay soils and the continued occupation of the estuaries. These estuarine sites are seen to become more complex in nature over time, with higher population density and sustained occupation, such as has been found at Little Waltham (Drury 1980).
- 1.3.6 By the end of the Iron Age sites such as Gosbecks oppida show that portions of the population were highly structured and of high status. These sites would have relied on farming communities scattered around the environs to supply agricultural commodities. (Crummy 1997).

Roman

- 1.3.7 During the Roman period a *mansio* (an imperial post station or inn) was established 5km west of Beaulieu at Moulsham Street. Around this a small market town developed with the surrounding area forming an agricultural hinterland to supply produce to the town.
- 1.3.8 This agricultural landscape would have comprised of large farms and villa complexes, such as those at Great Holts Farm and Bulls Farm Lodge. Smaller domestic sites would also have formed part of the landscape. Evidence for these has been recorded during evaluation work at Greater Beaulieu. Evidence for pottery making, associated with domestic use was also recorded.

Anglo-Saxon

- 1.3.9 In the immediate post-Roman period, the Roman town at Chelmsford was abandoned and much of the surrounding landscape reverted to rough pasture or woodland (Hunter, 2003). No known remains of Anglo-Saxon date are recorded within the application site although this is more likely to reflect the relatively poor archaeological visibility of Anglo-Saxon settlement sites rather than a lack of activity during the period.
- 1.3.10 Two records dating to the Anglo-Saxon period are held by the EHER; both of which are documentary records for Late Saxon manors, Belestedam (Belstead Hall) is recorded in the Domesday survey of AD 1086 (Reaney, 1935).

Medieval

- 1.3.11 The medieval town of Chelmsford was founded at the end of the 12th century, by the Bishop of London, to the north of the earlier Roman settlement at Moulsham. Throughout the medieval period the site was located within the rural hinterland of Chelmsford in a landscape populated by scattered farmsteads and manors.
- 1.3.12 To the south-east lay the manor of New Hall on the site of the current New Hall School. It is first mentioned by name (as 'Nova Aula') in documents dating to AD1301 when the site formed part of the lands owned by the Canons of Waltham Abbey and was used as the summer residence of the Abbott. It was later transferred to the Regular Canons under Henry II (Burgess & Rance, 1988).
- 1.3.13 The first deer park surrounding New Hall was created during the medieval period with the manor at its centre (Tuckwell, 2006). Under Henry VII, New Hall was granted to Thomas Boteler, Earl of Ormond, who received a licence to crenellate (fortify) it in AD1481 (E41/420) and who, in all likelihood, rebuilt or remodelled the original medieval hall in the latest architectural style. The new structure came to the attention of Henry VIII who visited New Hall in 1510 and 1515, shortly before Ormond's death. Subsequently, the property passed to Thomas' daughter and thus into the Boleyn family through her husband Sir Thomas Boleyn, from whom Henry VIII acquired the hall in 1516, changing its name to the 'Palace of Beaulieu'. Shortly after 1518 he rebuilt the Ormond's medieval hall on a quadrangular plan with gatehouse in the south range, great hall in the east and chapel in the west ranges. Mary Tudor took residency at New Hall intermittently between 1532 and her ascendancy to the crown in 1553.
- 1.3.14 Evidence for a further moated manor is recorded at Belstead Hall. This manor was occupied throughout the medieval period. By 1325 it was called Belestede, in 1354 it was recorded as Belestede Hall and by 1504 it was known as Belested Hall. The name is thought to derive from 'the site of the bell house' (P.H Reaney 1935).
- 1.3.15 Analysis of aerial photographs and geophysical survey identified a number of features which, when investigated by trial trench evaluation, were found to comprise a possible enclosure ditch or moat. A cobbled surface (possibly representing a house platform or yard surface), pit and several further ditches were recorded within the enclosure. Pottery recovered from the features suggests an occupation date of the 12-13th century (ECC FAU 2009). These remains have been interpreted as paddocks and an agricultural processing area associated with the manorial site at Belstead Hall c.160m to the north-east of Site 7 within Zone A of the Beaulieu development.

Post-Medieval

- 1.3.16 The development of New Hall and its deer park dominated the landscape of the application site and the surrounding area until the park contracted in size and the fields

were enclosed for agriculture in the early 18th century. As the deer park was reduced in size the former medieval manors or lodges developed into farms, creating an essentially agricultural landscape.

- 1.3.17 Since the medieval period, New Hall had been set within the largest deer park in Essex; once totalling some 1,500 acres. The EHER records that the enclosed area actually comprised four separate parks surrounding New Hall and its gardens. Within the Great or Old Park located to the north of New Hall. The remaining parks were known as the Red Deer Park located to east of New Hall, the Dukes Park (located further east beyond the study area; EHER 47226) and the New or Little Park situated to the south and west of New Hall. The application site is located within this latter area.

Previous Archaeological Investigations

Geophysical Surveys

- 1.3.18 Geophysical magnetic susceptibility and detailed magnetometer surveys were carried out to evaluate the potential for important archaeological remains that may be buried within the Site. The magnetic susceptibility survey provided a rapid assessment of likely areas for previous settlement and industrial activity. The survey identified six areas of high potential, ten areas of medium potential and seven areas of low potential (Scott Wilson 2008). The magnetic susceptibility survey was followed by a detailed magnetometer survey of c.50% of the Beaulieu scheme. This survey provided a greater level of detail and identified individual features such as pits and ditches, field boundaries, buildings and structures, kilns or hearths and buried iron objects. The detailed magnetometer survey identified ten areas of high archaeological potential; six of medium potential and 19 of low potential (Scott Wilson 2008).

Trial trench Evaluation (2008)

- 1.3.19 A limited programme of targeted trial trench evaluation was undertaken between June and August 2008 to support the Environmental Impact Assessment for the Beaulieu development. The purpose of the trial trenching was to confirm the presence/absence and significance of archaeological remains at eight sites identified by an assessment of the combined results of the desk-based studies and non-intrusive surveys (Scott Wilson 2007).
- 1.3.20 The trial trenching confirmed the presence of archaeological remains dating from the late prehistoric to post-medieval periods. This included a Late Iron Age and Early Romano-British settlement (Site 8); an Iron Age ditch (Site 5); medieval rural settlement possibly indicative of a precursor to Belstead Hall (Site 7); a possible medieval/transitional medieval warrener's lodge associated with the former deer park (Site 10); transitional medieval moated enclosure (Site 11); Tudor fishpond and associated earthwork dam (Site 2); a brick making site comprising two scove or clamp kilns of possible Tudor date (Site 3) and evidence for associated quarrying activity (Site 4).

Beaulieu Minerals trial trench evaluation

- 1.3.21 A trial trench evaluation was undertaken in September/October 2011 to inform and support the planning application for the Beaulieu Minerals Extraction scheme. The evaluation identified a concentration of archaeological remains to the north-west of New Hall School. These remains appear to represent a rural settlement and possible metalworking activity dating from the Late Bronze Age through to the end of the Roman

period. Metal detecting of the plough soil revealed several Early Roman coins and fragments of Early Roman brooches within the main area of activity.

Beaulieu 1st Section 278 highways evaluation and excavations 2013

- 1.3.22 Archaeological trial trench evaluation of the proposed Essex Regiment Way roundabout, White Hart Lane junction and connecting access road identified four locations of significant archaeological remains (Stocks-Morgan, 2013).
- 1.3.23 Site 5, located within the footprint of the proposed Essex Regiments Way roundabout, identified part of a Middle Iron Age settlement comprised a single round-house, surviving only as the remains of an eaves-drip gully. Several small pits and postholes were identified outside the roundhouse and were likely to be associated with domestic activity contemporary with the building. This settlement was surrounded by a large oval enclosure.
- 1.3.24 In Area A1 a single east to west aligned field boundary ditch of possibly Late Iron Age date attests to a wider agricultural landscape of field systems. A second, probably medieval, ditch was encountered on a north-west to south-east alignment (Stocks-Morgan, 2013a).
- 1.3.25 In Zone D of the development Site 11 and Area D1 identified evidence of two High Medieval house platforms and their surrounding enclosures. Thought to be a medieval settlement associated with Belstead Manor estate (Stocks-Morgan, 2013b).

Beaulieu Zone A Housing Evaluation and Excavations, 2014

- 1.3.26 Trial trench evaluation and subsequent open area excavation with the Zone A housing area to the south of Belstead Hall Farm revealed remains dating from the Middle Bronze Age to the post-medieval period (Stocks-Morgan 2014a),
- 1.3.27 A Middle Bronze Age boundary ditch, aligned north-east to south-west, evidence for Early Iron Age open settlement comprising ten pits containing a large assemblage of pottery and fired clay, and a medieval, possible retting pit and enclosures were also recorded in Site 7. Sparse domestic activity is suggested from Late Iron Age pits that were revealed in Areas A3 and A4 along the side of a brook to the south of Zone A. In contrast Area A2 revealed the presence of a Late Iron Age/Roman enclosure ditch and later medieval ditch.

Zone B and E Trench Evaluation, 2014

- 1.3.28 Four areas of significant archaeological remains were identified in Zone B and E (Stocks-Morgan 2014b).
- 1.3.29 Two small open area excavations were undertaken to the west of the area, which encountered Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age open settlement, comprising five four-poster structures and several pits. A further one to the north of the site encountered a small undated gully.
- 1.3.30 A large open area excavation (Site 8) was undertaken towards the south-eastern corner of the site, which identified occupation spanning a period from the Late Iron Age into the Early Roman period. These settlement remains consisted of an enclosure surrounding a roundhouse and associated occupation features. In the Early Roman period this enclosure was reconfigured and a replacement roundhouse. This phase of settlement also produced an associated midden deposits and an ancillary roundhouse (Stocks-Morgan, in prep)

Beaulieu Phase 2a Infrastructure mitigation evaluation and excavations 2015

- 1.3.31 A small open area excavation was carried out ahead of the construction of drainage ponds and swales that form part of the Phase 2a infrastructure works. The archaeology encountered comprised a prehistoric trackway and a Late Iron Age nucleated settlement (Stocks-Morgan, 2016a).

CZ1 / Site 10

- 1.3.32 A 14th / 15th century pit was encountered with two associated ditches during excavation of Zone G / Site 10. This pit is thought to be a retting pit, based upon its shape and the recovery of pollen/seeds from the waterlogged deposits. A later medieval ditched enclosure was also recorded. Inside the enclosure were the remains of a 16th century house, represented by the remains of two brick built fireplaces, and a possible brick built staircase. Two further brick built ancillary structures were evident, one being a cellar and the second a probable toilet block (Stocks-Morgan, 2016b).

Beaulieu Gas Diversion

- 1.3.33 A total of six trenches were excavated across two separate fields, within the proposed development area.
- 1.3.34 No significant archaeological finds, features or deposits were present in the evaluation trenches (Stocks-Morgan, 2016c).

Beaulieu Primary and Secondary Schools Site

- 1.3.35 A total of sixty-one trenches were excavated within the proposed development area, across three separate fields.
- 1.3.36 Two phases of medieval field boundaries were present within the southern field, one of which was on a north-west to south-east alignment and the second phase aligned on a north to south axis. One further undated ditch was encountered in the northern part of the development area (Stocks-Morgan, 2016d).

Beaulieu Land parcels CZ 1 and CZ 2 and Zones M and N

- 1.3.37 This evaluation comprised thirty-three trenches across three separate fields, within the proposed development area.
- 1.3.38 A possible prehistoric posthole was recorded to the north of the site and a transitional medieval ditch and two quarry pits were encountered towards the eastern side of the development area. A further undated ditch was present (Stocks-Morgan, 2016e).

Beaulieu LS1, CZ5 and the Primary School site (Zone P)

- 1.3.39 A total of forty-five trenches were excavated across two separate fields, within the proposed development area.
- 1.3.40 Evidence of Early Iron Age open settlement was encountered, comprising a fire pit and two small pits. A Middle Iron Age ditch, thought to be part of either a field system or trackway was seen in the eastern field.
- 1.3.41 Transitional medieval remains comprising several brick filled linear features associated with the deer park were recorded in the eastern field. These are suggested to form part of a deer course. A post-medieval ring ditch was evident in the north-western part of the site along with a field boundary (Stocks-Morgan, 2016f).

Beaulieu CZ 6 and CZ 7

- 1.3.42 Forty-one trenches were excavated across two separate fields, within the proposed development area.
- 1.3.43 This evaluation recorded the remains of prehistoric dispersed settlement in the form of a fire pit and a rectangular pit which contained frequent charcoal. In the northern part of the development area a putative late medieval settlement was encountered, which comprised four potential wall foundations, potentially part of a building and two ditches thought to be part of an enclosure.
- 1.3.44 Two Late Iron Age cremations were encountered within land parcel CZ6 which was subsequently opened as an excavation area, which this report details.
- 1.3.45 Transitional medieval remains comprising several brick filled linear features associated with the deer park were recorded in both fields. These are suggested to form part of a deer course (Stocks-Morgan, 2016g).

Beaulieu land parcel CZ 7

A total of eighteen trenches were excavated, within the proposed development area. The remains of two transitional medieval linear, brick filled features. These were thought to form part of a deer course. A further three post-medieval field boundaries were encountered, along with two undated ditches and an undated posthole (Stocks-Morgan, 2016h).

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like thank Iain Williamson of AECOM and Countryside Zest (Beaulieu Park) LLP who respectively commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer and the illustrators were Charlotte Walton. Thanks are also extended to Matt Brooks, Steven Graham, Kat Hamilton and Ted Levermore who helped with the fieldwork. The project was monitored by Alison Bennett of Essex County Council. The machining was undertaken by Joe Larkin of Danbury Plant Hire.

2 PROJECT SCOPE

- 2.1.1 This assessment deals only with the excavation carried out on areas designated as land parcel CZ6 (Area Q1), within a larger phased development. The earlier evaluation data will be incorporated in to the results where relevant. Further assessments will be produced following any future work required on other parts of the development.

3 ORIGINAL RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 The main aim of the excavation was to preserve by record the archaeological remains present within the development area and to reconstruct the history and use of the site.
- 3.1.2 The current project will be incorporated within the wider archaeological investigations at Beaulieu. The research objectives that are applicable to this specific site are detailed below.

3.2 Regional Research Objectives

3.2.1 There are a number of regional research objectives that have been identified by Historic England (Historic England, 1997) which provide a framework for investigation and can be applied to the Iron Age evidence recovered at Beaulieu.

Iron Age (700BC to 43 AD)

- To identify suitable means of dating Iron Age sites chronologically through absolute dating, regional pottery sequences and datable pottery assemblages
- A focus on developing a greater understanding of the development of the agrarian economy; this should include development of knowledge of the increase in agricultural production through the study of the landscape such as trackways, enclosures, drove routes and fields
- A need for site specific excavation to focus on settlement remains
- A further priority is the transition between the Bronze Age and the Iron Age in the region
- There should be further focus on Iron Age settlement chronology and dynamics, social organisation and settlement form and function in the Early and Middle Iron Age
- The processes of social and economic change during the Late Iron Age including the adoption of the Aylesford/ Swarling culture and the development of tribal polities
- The Iron Age / Roman transition
- Further research is required to understand the distribution, density and dynamics of Iron Age settlements.

4 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

4.1 Provisional Site Phasing

4.1.1 For consistency with all previous and forthcoming reports features where dating is available it will be attributed to the following periods (see Table 1). Features have been placed in phases based on stratigraphic and spatial relationships, alongside the use of artefact dating.

Neolithic (3500 – 2000 BC)	Early Neolithic (3500 – 2900 BC)
	Middle Neolithic (2900-2500 BC)
	Later Neolithic (2500 - 2000 BC)
Bronze Age (2000 – 700 BC)	Early Bronze Age (2000 - 1500 BC)
	Middle Bronze Age (1500 - 1000 BC)
	Later Bronze Age (1000 – 700 BC)
Iron Age (700 BC – AD 43)	Early Iron Age (700 – 200 BC)
	Middle Iron Age (200 – 50 BC)
	Later Iron Age (50 BC – AD 43)
Roman (AD 43 - 410)	
Saxon (AD 410 – 1066)	Early Anglo-Saxon (AD 410 – 650)
	Middle Anglo-Saxon (AD 650 – 850)
	Late Anglo-Saxon (AD 850 – 1066)
Medieval (AD 1066 – 1650)	Early Medieval (AD 1066 – 1200)
	High Medieval (AD 1200 – 1450)
	Transitional (AD 1450 - 1650)
Post-Medieval (AD 1650 - 1800)	
Modern (AD 1800 – present)	

Table 1: Chronology used in this report

4.2 Later Iron Age

- 4.2.1 In the southern part of the excavation area four cremations and two undated pits were encountered, no further archaeological remains were recorded within the excavation area.
- 4.2.2 Pit (**4384**) was sub-circular and measured 0.4m wide and 0.08m deep. Within this pit a grog-tempered cordoned jar had been placed deliberately into the pit which contained the cremated remains of an individual. This was overlain by a dark reddish brown silty clay (4385). This pit was severely truncated by modern ploughing and the pottery vessel had been cut through and in part redistributed across the pit fill.
- 4.2.3 Cremation **4813**, which was found in the central western part of the site, belonged to this phase. The original size and shape of this feature could not be determined due to severe plough damage. The fills of this cremation consisted of brownish grey and yellow silty clays which contained 64 sherds (110g) of an everted rim cordoned jar or bowl dating to the late 1st century BC to early 1st century AD. These fills also yielded 0.087kg of cremated human bone.

- 4.2.4 Two pits (**4993** and **4996**) were found to the west of cremation **4813**. The more easterly of these (**4993**) was 0.35m in diameter, 0.15m deep and contained grey and brown silty clays. A total of 186 sherds (375g) of grog-tempered ware dating to the later Iron Age were recovered from these fills. Pit **4996** was 0.35m in diameter and was filled with grey and brown silty clays in which contained 60 sherds (181g) of grog-tempered ware. Whilst neither of these pits contained human bone it may well be the case that their contents represent token deposits associated with the nearby cremations. Both these pits were severely truncated by a plough scar (**4999**).

4.3 Undated

- 4.3.1 In the south-eastern corner of the excavation area a sub-circular pit (**4600**) was encountered which was 0.51m in diameter. It had gradual sides and a slightly irregular base and was 0.07m deep. It was filled by a charcoal rich, dark reddish grey silty clay (4601). This was truncated by a further sub-circular Pit (**4602**) which measured 0.1m in diameter. This pit had gradual sides and a flattish base and was 0.05m deep. The fill comprised a mid greyish brown silty clay (4603).

5 FACTUAL DATA AND ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

The Excavation Record

- 5.1.1 All hand written records have been collated and checked for internal consistency, and the site records have been transcribed onto an MS Access Database. Contexts will be ascribed to a phase dependant on the evidence found within them. The site plans and all relevant sections have been digitised in AutoCAD, finds will be drawn by hand.

Finds and Environmental Quantification

- 5.1.2 A small assemblage was recovered during the excavation. Pottery, and human remains form the greatest components.
- 5.1.3 The bulk finds have been washed, bagged, marked (in accordance with Essex County Council guidelines) and quantified by material type onto an MS Office Access database to allow integration with the stratigraphic record. These overall totals are summarised in Table 21), which also includes some data obtained from the evaluation reports; more detailed quantification is presented in the finds appendices.

Range and Variety

- 5.1.4 Features on the site consisted of four cremation pits and one pit. The features were of Late Iron Age date.

Condition

- 5.1.5 Survival of the deposits was severely affected by ploughing with all the cremation pits having been truncated.

6 REPORT WRITING, ARCHIVING AND PUBLICATION

6.1 Storage and Curation

- 6.1.1 Excavated material and records will be deposited with, and curated by, Essex County Council in appropriate county stores under the Site Code and county HER code SPBP15. A digital archive will be deposited with OA Library/ADS. ECC requires transfer

of ownership prior to deposition. During analysis and report preparation, OA East will hold all material and reserves the right to send material for specialist analysis.

- 6.1.2 The archive will be prepared in accordance with current OA East guidelines, which are based on current national guidelines

APPENDIX A. CONTEXT SUMMARY WITH PROVISIONAL PHASING

Context	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Description	Phase
4359	4384	Fill	Pit	Fill of cremation vessel 1011	LIA
4360	4384	Fill	Pit	Fill of cremation vessel 1010	LIA
4383	4384	Fill	Pit	Fill of cremation pit 4384	LIA
4384		Cut	Pit	Cut of cremation pit	LIA
4385		Layer		Cleaning layer	LIA
4600		Cut	Pit	Cut of pit	undated
4601	4600	Fill	Pit	Fill of pit 4600	undated
4602		Cut	Pit	Cut of pit	undated
4603	4602	Fill	Pit	Fill of pit 4602	undated
4813		Cut	Pit	Cut of cremation pit	LIA
4814		layer		Cleaning layer	LIA
4815	4813	Fill	Pit	Fill of cremation pit 4813	LIA
4816	4813	Fill	Pit	Fill of cremation vessel 1050	LIA
4993		Cut	Pit	Cut of cremation pit	LIA
4994	4993	Fill	Pit	Fill of cremation vessel 1070	LIA
4995	4993	Fill	Pit	Fill of cremation pit 4993	LIA
4996		Cut	Pit	Cut of cremation pit	LIA
4997	4996	Fill	Pit	Fill of cremation vessel 1071	LIA
4998	4996	Fill	Pit	Fill of cremation pit 4996	LIA
4999		Cut	Plough scar	Cut of plough scar	modern
5000	4999	Fill	Plough scar	Fill of plough scar 4999	modern
5001		Layer		Cleaning layer	LIA

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Sarah Percival

Introduction and Methodology

- B.1.1 A total of 522 sherds weighing 1,435g were collected from seven excavated contexts and from unstratified surface collection. The pottery is fragmentary and no complete vessels were recovered. The sherds are mostly small and poorly preserved and the average sherd weight is 2g.
- 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 macroscopically 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

The Nature of the Assemblage

- B.1.3 The assemblage comprises the highly fragmentary remains of three late Iron Age cremation vessels plus unstratified sherds in the same fabric (Table 2).
- B.1.4 All of the sherds are handmade, of grog-tempered brown/orange fabric containing numerous pale grog inclusions within a silty clay matrix.
- B.1.5 Little remains to indicate vessel form. The assemblage from cremation **4813** contains a bead rim and curvaceous body sherd with shallow incised band suggesting that the vessel was an everted rim cordoned jar or bowl (Thompson form B1-1/ D3-1), similar to examples from Elms Farm (Biddulph *et al.* 2015, form EF28-38). A direct rounded rim from cremation 4996 is too small to identify to form.

Feature	Context	Feature Type	Quantity	Weight (g)
4813	4815	Cremation	64	110
4993	4995	Cremation	186	375
4996	4998	Cremation	60	181
4999	5000	Plough scar	29	42
4384	4383	Cremation	45	248
4384	4385	Cremation	34	64
4384	4360	Cremation	79	360
99999	99999	Unstratified	25	55
<i>Total</i>			522	1435

Table 2: Quantity and weight of pottery by feature showing vessel number

Discussion

- B.1.6 The bead rim cordoned jar in grog-tempered fabric is typical of forms in use in Essex from the late 1st century BC to early 1st century AD (Thompson 1982, 87; Bidulph *et al.*

2015). No drinking or dining wares were deposited with the cremations. This appears typical for the region as Thompson notes that Gallo-Belgic imports are often absent from cemetery assemblages in southern Essex (Thompson 1995, 90).

Statement of Research Potential

- B.1.7 It would be of use for a radiocarbon date to be taken on the cremated bone associated with these vessels.

Further Work and Method Statement

- B.1.8 A short note is required comparing this cemetery assemblage with contemporary domestic pottery found for example on Sites 6 and 8 (Stocks-Morgan 2016j and Tsybaeva, 2016).

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Human Skeletal Remains

By Zoë Uí Choileáin

Introduction

- C.1.1 Four urned cremation burials were recovered during excavations within Beaulieu land parcel CZ6 (Area Q1). The urned burials are dated to the Late Iron Age period and were buried within small pits **4384** and **4359** which were between 0.3m- 0.35m in diameter and between 0.1m – 0.15m deep.

Methodology

- C.1.2 Osteological analysis was undertaken in accordance with guidelines laid out by Brickley and McKinley 2004). Identified human bone was assessed in order to explore the potential of the material to provide information on the cremation rite (as indicated by bone weight, colour and fragmentation), biological anthropology (minimum number of individuals, sex and age) and palaeopathology.
- C.1.3 The cremation burials were excavated on site in spits, each measuring 5cm thick and then passed through flotation using a 2mm mesh. The bone, when dry was then separated into four different fraction sizes when dry using a 10mm 4mm and 2mm sieve. Bone from the >10mm, 5-10mm and 2-5mm fractions was extracted and examined by the osteologist. Bone from the <2mm fraction was visually scanned.

Results

- C.1.4 In each case the bone represents one adult individual. There were no features present with which to estimate sex and there are no features present for estimating age beyond adult. cursory examination did not identify any pathology.
- C.1.5 The colour of the bone in all cremated deposits was primarily oxidised white. Colour reflects the degree of heat used during cremation, with bone that was exposed to the highest temperatures having a buff white appearance (Holck, 2008 110-115). This implies that all of the remains were exposed to a consistent heat.
- C.1.6 All of the cremated bone displayed a mixture of transverse and curved transverse fractures and longitudinal fractures. Fractures like this are the result of bone heating then cracking as soft tissues and muscles shrink (Schmid 2008, 43). These can be used as evidence that the bodies were cremated while there was still flesh and fat attached to the bone as opposed to the bones being defleshed before being placed on the pyre (McKinley 1994a).
- C.1.7 The bone weights recovered were low with the largest deposit totalling only 243g. Studies within modern crematoriums have shown that the average weight of a complete human body generally lies between 1600 to 3000g (McKinley 1989). As all of the burials were truncated it is not possible to make any assumptions regarding bone weights. Context 4999 contains calcined bone from disturbed cremation burial **4384** which was recovered from the spoilheap implying that a great deal of disturbance had taken place in this trench.
- C.1.8 The total bone weights are presented below. The highest percentage of bone was in the > 10mm fraction meaning that there is some limited potential for extracting further

information. Studies have shown that excavation and post-excavation processes before it reaches the osteologist have a substantial effect on bone fragment size (McKinley 1994b, 341-2). As these cremation burials were disturbed no conclusions can be made relating fragment size to any ritual practice.

C.1.9 Deposit (4601) from pit **4600** was originally presumed to be a cremation burial however no calcined bone was recovered during the flotation process and it has therefore been excluded from the table below. The sample yielded a large charcoal content and it is possible that this may represent pyre material.

Cut	Deposit	feature	>10mm frags	Weight (kg)	10-4mm frags	Weight (kg)	4-2mm frags	Weight (kg)
4384	4360	Cremation pit	limb upper and lower	0.052	long bone frags	0.052	unid	0.007
	4385		long bone frags plus foot bone?	0.014	long bone frags	0.007	unid	0.001
	4359		upper and lower limb bone, skull, zygomatic	0.071	upper and lower limb, skull	0.045	unid	0.007
4813	4814	Cremation pit	-	-	unid	0.001	unid	0.001
	4816		skull and long bone frags	0.039	skull and long bone frags	0.039	unid	0.009
	99999	unstrat	Skull, upper and lower limb	0.018	-	-	-	-
4993	4994	Cremation pit	Skull, lower and upper limb, patella, pelvis, axial	0.079	Phalanges, skull and long bone frags. Rib.	0.111	unid	0.010
	4995		Skull	0.003	Unid	0.008	Unid	0.002
4996	4998	Cremation pit	-	-	Unid	0.001	Unid	0.001
4999	5000	Plough scar	Skull, lower and upper limb, tarsals, pelvis, axial	0.064	Skull long bone, tooth	0.153	unid	0.026

Table 3: The cremated remains

Statement of Potential

C.1.1 There is moderate potential for obtaining further information from burials **4384** and **4993** about possible pathology and the funerary rites followed. Similarly there is moderate potential for obtaining further information on pyre technology and age at death from the material found in the plough scar which most probably belongs to burial **4996**. Burial **4813** yields very little potential for further information.

Recommendations for Further Work

C.1.2 Funerary rites should be explored further with comparisons to similar cremation burials such as those at Clay Farm in Cambridgeshire (Loe 2012) or Vale cemetery in Bedford (Ui Choileain 2013)

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APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

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Project Reference Codes

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Prompt

Please select all techniques used:

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<input type="checkbox"/> Full Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Recorded Observation	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Metal Detector Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pit Survey
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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".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
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Project Originators

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Project Design Originator	<input type="text"/>
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Supervisor	<input type="text"/>

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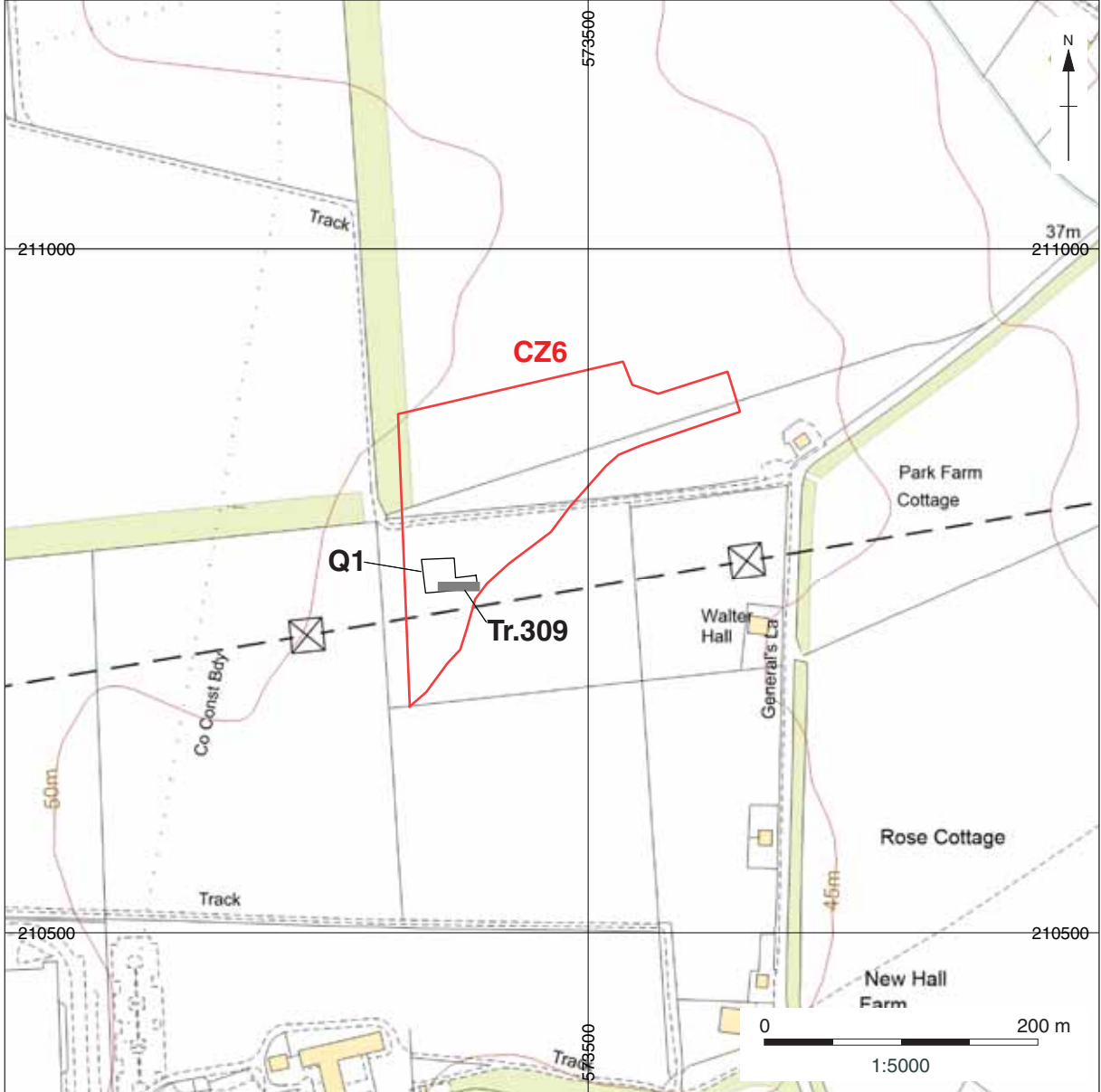
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Figure 1: Site location

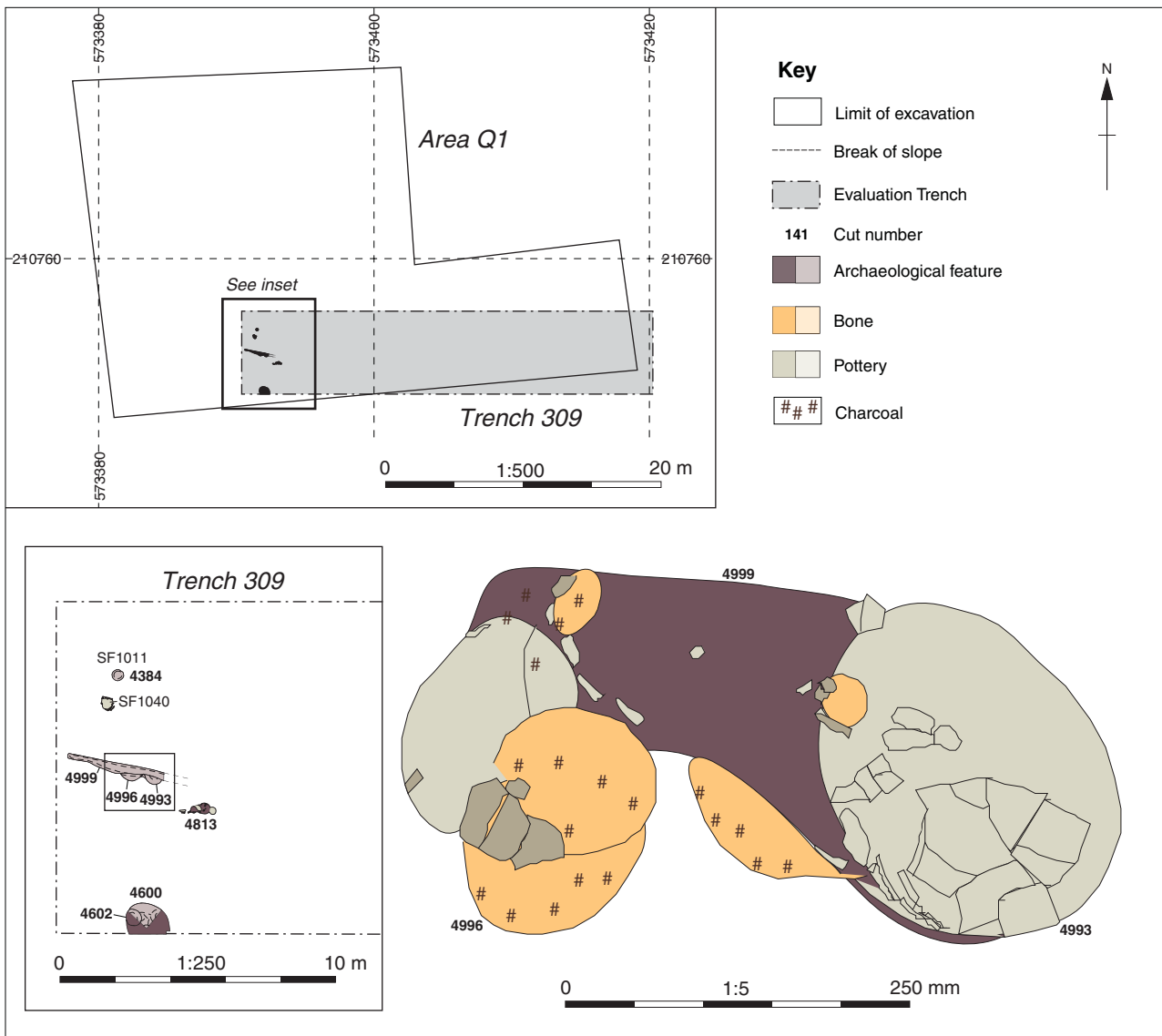


Figure 2: Plan of archaeological remains



Plate 1: Cremation **4384**, pottery vessel 1011



Plate 2: Cremation **4384**, pottery vessel 1040



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