

POTTERY OF THE EARLY AND EARLY MIDDLE BRONZE AGE IN SUFFOLK

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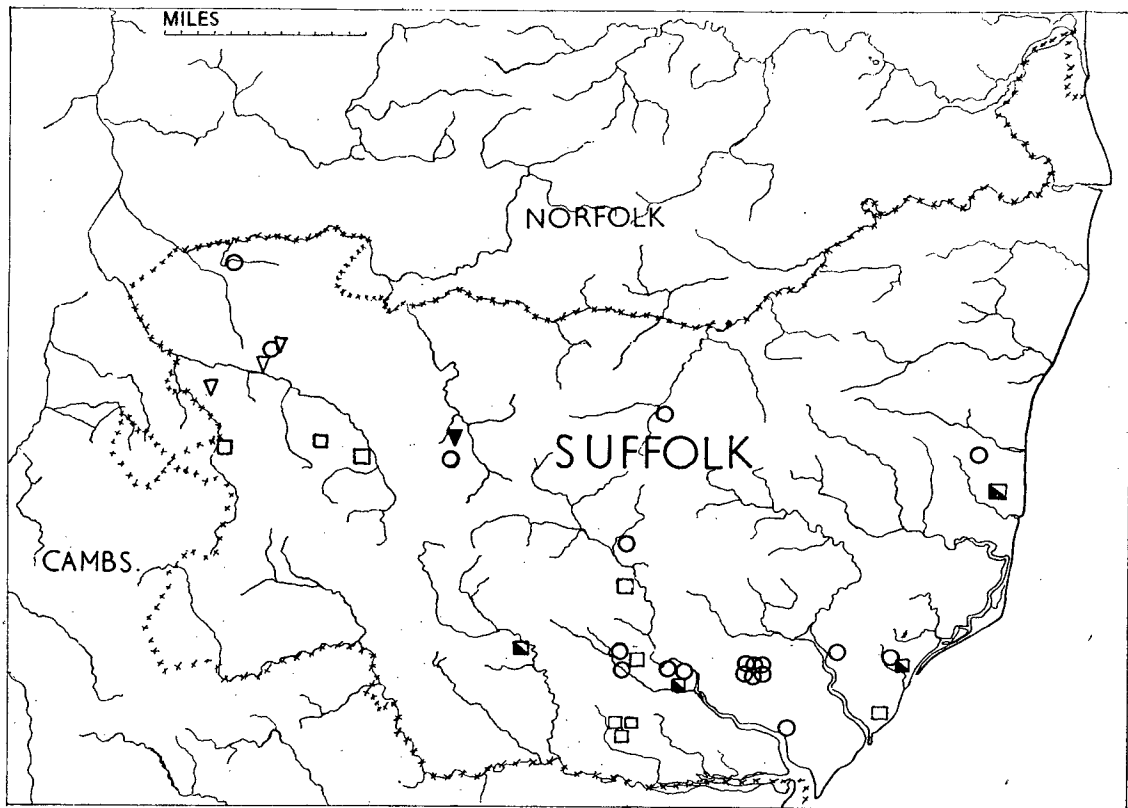
It has long been considered, and recently expressed¹ that relics of the Early Bronze Age are infrequent in Suffolk. (For the purpose of this discussion, the Beaker cultures are not included in this category, but are considered as transitional between the Neolithic period and the true Bronze Age). Experience in recent years of finds relating to the Iron Age and Roman period lead the writers to believe that this apparent scarcity is due to the fact that excavation of probable sites has not yet been carried out. Many of the cremations of this period were associated with barrows; every year more of these are reported, frequently seen for the first time from the air. Most barrows have been ploughed over to such an extent as to be difficult to detect from ground level, and very few have been systematically excavated. Undoubtedly, many pots and cremations have already been completely dispersed as a result of ploughing and other activities, and this applies of course especially to secondary interments.

In compiling the map (Fig. 23), no attempt has been made to include unexcavated barrow sites; naturally, in an area where other barrow-erecting cultures (*e.g.* Beaker, Roman, Anglo-Saxon) are represented, it is impossible to be certain of the dating before excavation, although the proximity of known burials of a particular period may be some guide. One of the earlier finds, now in the Museum of Archaeology & Anthropology at Cambridge, is merely noted as coming from Suffolk, and cannot therefore be indicated.

Where a full account of a vessel has already been published, a reference only is given unless further comment seems called for; similarly, drawings are only included where these do not already exist.

The chronology is that recently suggested at a conference held in London in December, 1960. For elucidation of problems relating to the dating of pottery in the Ipswich Museum collections, the writers are greatly indebted to Mr. I. H. Longworth. Where he has dated a vessel, this is indicated by [L.]. Where it is con-

¹ F. H. Erith and I. H. Longworth, *P.P.S.* (New Series), vol. xxvi (1960), p. 189.



- ▽ Food vessel with inhumation.
- ▼ Food vessel with cremation.
- Early Bronze Age vessel.
- Early Middle Bronze Age collared vessel or accessory cup.
- Biconical vessel.

FIG. 23.—Map showing distribution of pottery of the Early and Early Middle Bronze Age in Suffolk.

tained in his list² the number follows. In all other cases the writers accept responsibility for dating. Where a photograph appears in Abercromby's *A Study of the Bronze Age Pottery of Great Britain and Ireland* (1912) the reference appears as 'A.I or II' (vol.) with Plate and number.

EARLY BRONZE AGE

1650 B.C.—c. 1400 B.C.

FOOD-VESSELS

Food-vessels accompanying burials are far less common in the south of England than in the north, and usually accompany cremations. The Suffolk examples are few indeed.

Icklingham, How Hill (TL/759760 approx.). Sherds of a decorated food-vessel were found in association with fragments of bone.³

Barton Mills, Beacon Hill (O.S. maps 'Chalk Hill'). (TL/709721 approx.). Similar sherds, now in the Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology, would seem to fall into the same category.⁴

Mildenhall, Warren Hill (O.S. maps 'Three Hills'). (TL/745742 approx.). A fine and complete example of a food-vessel, now in the Moyses's Hall Museum at Bury St. Edmunds, was found in 1866 during gravel quarrying operations which disturbed the north side of one of a group of barrows. Prigg, who records the find,⁵ does not specify which of the three tumuli is concerned. The others appear to have been of Anglo-Saxon origin, or to have received secondary deposits of that period. The vessel accompanied the remains of a young woman; a full description by J. Bernard Davis, F.R.S., is included in Prigg's paper.

The food-vessel (Fig. 25, *m*), well fashioned in light reddish-brown clay, is 5 inches in height, 8 inches in outside diameter at the rim, and 3 inches at base, and has six perforated lugs. The concave rim is ornamented with four rows of cord-marking, the body down to the level of the perforations of the lugs with incised herring-bone decoration. Below this is a zone of zig-zag incised markings and beneath this again two rows of herring-bone incisions.

² I. H. Longworth, 'Origins and Development of the Collared Urn in England and Wales', *P.P.S.* (New Series), vol. xxvii (1961), pp. 263-306.

³ G. Briscoe, *Proc. Camb. Ant. Soc.*, vol. XLVIII (1955), p. 8 and Fig. 1, *c*, *d* and *e*.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 9; and C. Fox, *Proc. Camb. Ant. Soc.*, vol. xxvi (1925), p. 54.

⁵ Henry Prigg, Jnr., *Proc. Suff. Inst. Arch.*, vol. iv (1874), pp. 287-299, Fig. 3.

There are close affinities both in form and decoration with many vessels from the East Riding of Yorkshire.⁶

Pakenham, Grimstone End (TL/935692). A food-vessel⁷ of the southern type, coarsely made and lacking decoration, was found in a barrow during the course of excavations in 1953; it accompanied a cremation. Previous to the erection of the barrow, the site had been occupied by Neolithic settlers using Rinyo-Clactonian pottery.

The food-vessel, together with other material from the barrow which had also been used for the deposition of Roman cremations of the 2nd century A.D., and as the site of an Anglo-Saxon occupation, is in the Ipswich Museum.

COLLARED VESSELS

These are the most usual type of cremation urn of this period in Suffolk, and have in general been found in barrows; it is therefore probable that considerable numbers remain to be revealed when excavation of the many barrows becomes possible. As these are most frequently found on land which has come under the plough, and they are only too often ploughed down to the level of the surrounding land, the value of recent air-surveys in locating them cannot be over-estimated.

Suffolk, exact locality unknown. [L.159]. A complete urn (Fig. 24, *a*, and A.ii, Plate LXVI, 60) in the Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology lacks precise data, nor were the cremated remains preserved. The date of the find is given as 20 October 1894 (Reg. No. 95-94).

Its height, measured when it was drawn recently, is $13\frac{3}{4}$ inches (Abercromby gives $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches), with a rim diameter of 11 inches. The collar has a slight concavity and the concave rim bevel is decorated with horizontal zig-zag twisted cord impressions. The exterior of the collar is ornamented with vertical zig-zag twisted cord impressions. The foot protrudes slightly and the interior of the flat base, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter, rises to the centre.

The fabric is yellowish-brown, redder beneath the collar. The surface is somewhat roughly modelled.

Lakenheath, Rabbit Hill (TL/71578425). A large urn [L.154] $19\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height was found inverted over a cremation near a site which had yielded sherds from a large beaker, and rusticated ware of that period.⁸ It is now in the Mildenhall Museum.

⁶ J. R. Mortimer, *Forty Years Researches in British and Saxon Burial Mounds of East Yorkshire* (1905), for description and drawings; J. Abercromby, *A Study of the Bronze Age Pottery of Great Britain and Ireland* (1912), for photographs, especially Plates XXX-XXXVI.

⁷ *Proc. Suff. Inst. Arch.*, vol. xxvi, Part 3 (1954), p. 196, Fig. 25 and Plate XXI.

⁸ G. Briscoe, *Proc. Camb. Ant. Soc.*, vol. LIV (1960), pp. 19-21, Fig. 1.

The cremated remains were examined by D. R. Brothwell, and identified as those of an adult male and a child of under 10 years of age.

Icklingham, How Hill (TL/759760). In January, 1953, during ploughing of a field on the estate of the Earl of Iveagh, the broken sherds of a collared urn [L.152] with an associated accessory vessel were found.⁹ The spot lies to the south of an existing tumulus, and the road now runs between.

No report is available on the cremation, but nearby sites yielded the crouched skeleton of a boy of about 11 years of age, the food-vessel sherds referred to earlier and another inhumation.

The vessel is in the Elveden Estate Office.

Thurston, Skeleton—or Black—Plantation (TL/926663). [L.158] (Fig. 24, *c*). An urn measuring just over 11 inches in height was found at Thurston and presented to the Moyse's Hall Museum, Bury St. Edmunds in 1870 by the Rev. C. W. Jones. It has a short convex collar (1 inch) with decoration of three lines of twisted cord impression. The internal concavity is somewhat deeper, with hurdle decoration of twisted cord interspersed somewhat irregularly with circular impressions. These are found also on the flattened rim and the neck, which is unusually deep ($3\frac{1}{2}$ inches). The rim diameter is 10 inches, at shoulder 11 inches, base $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

The pottery is smooth, yellowish-brown, resembling that of some of the vessels of the Early Middle Bronze Age described below. The circular impressions are also frequent on later vessels.

Thorndon, precise locality unknown. (Fig. 24, *d*). An urn, $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height, is in the Moyse's Hall Museum, Bury St. Edmunds (Reg. No. F.43) [L.157. Longworth inadvertently gives the locality as Thurston].

The collar, little more than 1 inch in height, is convex, and has a zig-zag decoration of twisted cord impression. This is found also on the concave inner side, which is $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in depth. The rim diameter is $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches, the base $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

This urn contained a cremation, on which Dr. Calvin Wells submits the following report:—

Several hundred fragments are present from most parts of the skull, trunk and limb-bones. They range from minute spicules hardly recognisable as bone up to fragments 80 mm. long. A number of diagnostic features such as the mastoid and frontal sinus regions of the skull, long bone

⁹ G. Briscoe, *Proc. Camb. Ant. Soc.*, vol. XLVIII (1955), pp. 6-9, Fig. 1, *a* and *b*.

joint surfaces, overall robustness, etc. make it certain that this is the cremation of a man. Long stretches of cranial suture are present and in a few places very early endocranial fusion has taken place whilst in many other pieces no fusion has begun. This is not a very reliable feature on which to estimate age but in conjunction with a few other characters in this body it seems to indicate that the man died young—probably under the age of thirty-five. Beyond this statement about sex, age and the robustness of his physical development not enough survives of the skeleton to permit any further firm conclusions to be drawn. From separate fragments a continuous length of femoral shaft can be reconstructed which is 175 mm. long. A tentative projection of this suggests that the total length of the femur was not less than 45 cm., corresponding to a stature of 1698 mm. (5 feet 7 inches).

No evidence of more than one body was found and no animal bones were present.

The cremation itself seems to have been done in a somewhat perfunctory manner at a relatively low temperature (probably less than 850° C.) and much soot permeated the bones.

Some minute flakes of what looked like glaze or resin were found. They were almost certainly not elytra.

A few pieces of (artificially?) dried clay were also found but not identified with any confidence.

This is an interesting cremation because it has several curious features about it. That large pieces of bone survived from which substantial lengths of shaft could be rebuilt implies that the firing was not such as to lead to extensive and minute splintering of the material. The appearance of cranial vault fragments confirms this. It seems almost certain therefore that the fragmentation in this case was deliberately done after recovery from the pyre.

Another interesting fact is not how *much* has survived but how *little*. The presence of large pieces of femoral, humeral and tibial shafts makes it highly probable that much else could have been collected because in fact no more than about 25% of the total long bone material is in the specimen. Where is the rest? It may be that the collection of bone after the cremation was done only perfunctorily but with many large pieces easily available this is, perhaps, unlikely. In that case we may wonder whether the missing material was used in some other ritual which

involved its dispersal elsewhere or whether it may merely have been retained as souvenirs.

It is noteworthy that many of the surviving fragments are in very good condition and, as already mentioned, most parts of the body are represented. An exception is the face. Although plenty of cranial vault and base is present only a few tiny splinters of the facial skeleton could be found; no part of the lower jaw was present (and this is a dense bone which usually survives cremation in at least three quarters of its bulk); and no traces of any teeth are present.

The absence of these features, all of which may reasonably be expected in cremated material, suggests that ritual or sentimental use may have been made of them since it is difficult to believe that in a cremation of this kind there would have been any difficulty in recognising and recovering substantial pieces of the face and jaws.

No trace of pathological lesions could be seen.

Creting St. Mary (TM/094560). [L.149] (Fig. 24, *b*). A small vessel, height $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches, rim diameter 6 inches, base 4 inches, in brick-red clay was found in a sand and gravel quarry in 1929, and is in the Ipswich Museum (1929-176). The collar is ornamented with slashed decoration, and the neck is divided from the body by a pronounced carination. The flat base rises internally to the centre.

Unfortunately the cremated remains with which it is said to have been associated were not recovered.

Sproughton (TM/128447). [L.155]. An urn in the Ipswich Museum (1920-52.10, Fig. 24, *e*, and A.ii, Plate LXVIII, 75), with a diameter of $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches, height $14\frac{1}{4}$ inches, has a collar $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in depth, with simple rim and internal moulding. The vessel is devoid of decoration. This vessel, together with the following and a smaller pot (1920-52.8) included in the Early Middle Bronze Age series below, were found together in 1904. It contained the cremated remains of two individuals, on which Dr. Wells reports:—

About a couple of thousand, mostly minute, fragments were present in this cremation.

Parts from all regions of the body were found.

Collection of the remains had been performed efficiently but not as meticulously as in the case of the Semer burial.¹⁰

¹⁰ See p. 192.

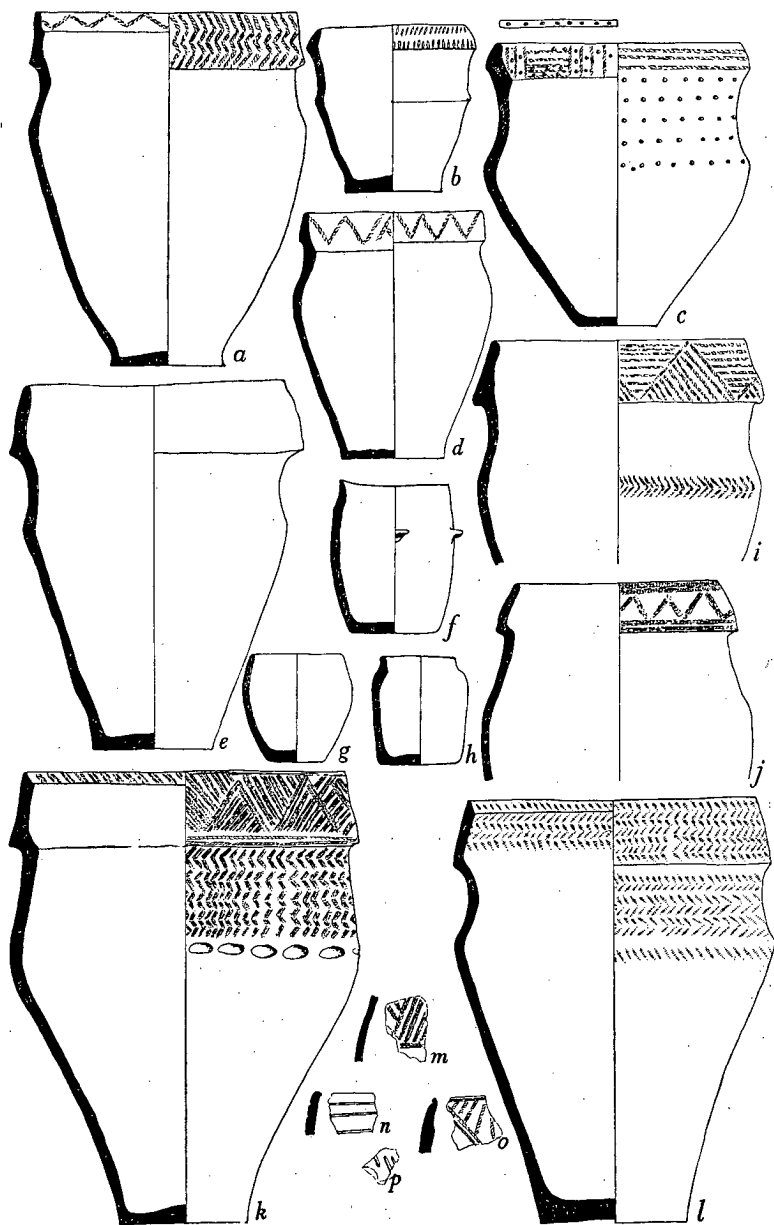


FIG. 24.—Bronze Age pottery from Suffolk. ($\frac{1}{8}$).

a Suffolk.

b Creting St. Mary.

c Thurston.

d Thorndon.

e Sproughton.

f, g, h Ipswich, St. Joseph's College.

i Sproughton.

j Ipswich, London Road.

k Levington.

l Sutton.

m, n, o, p ?Bungay.

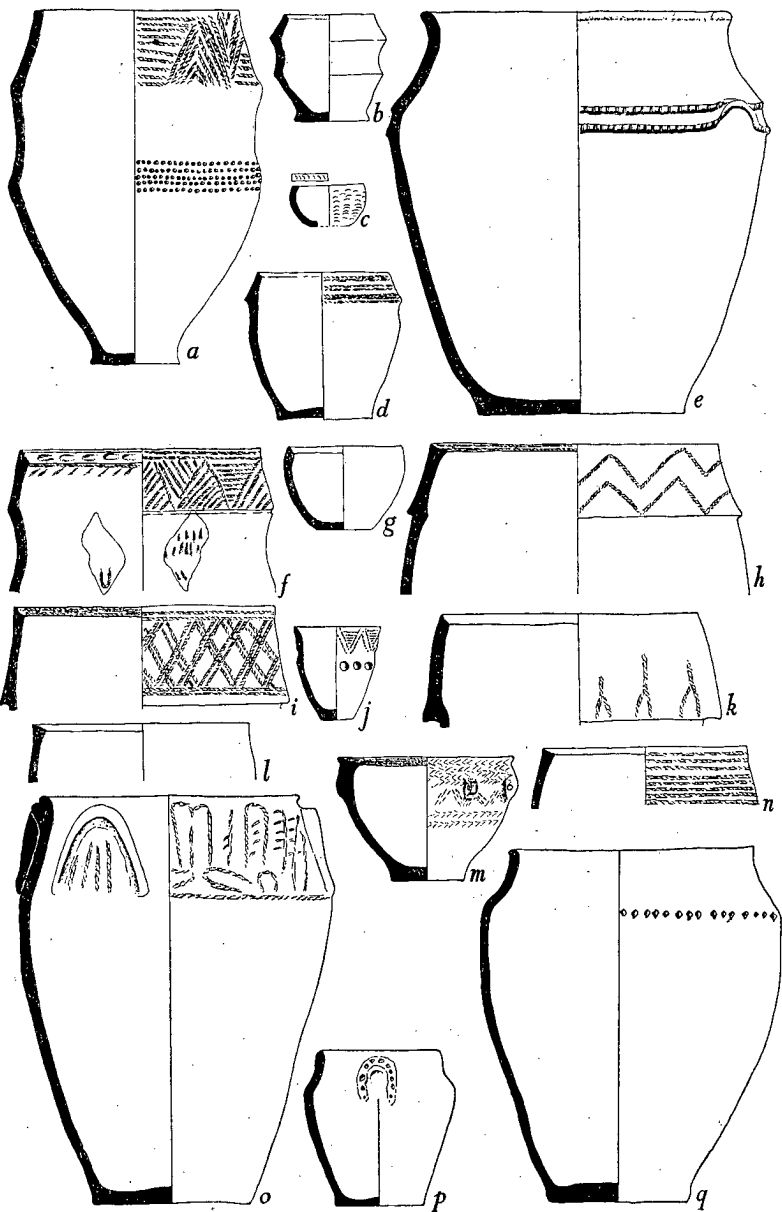


FIG. 25.—Bronze Age pottery from Suffolk. ($\frac{1}{8}$).

- a Hollesley.
- b Ipswich, Hadleigh Road.
- c Darmsden.
- d Sproughton.
- e Hollesley.
- f Theberton.
- g Kentford.

- h Risby.
- i Bury St. Edmunds.
- j Bawdsey.
- k, l, n Capel St. Mary.
- m Mildenhall.
- o, p Leiston.
- q Semer.

Much unevenness of firing is to be observed and this suggests a small pyre, at a low temperature, which was inadequately stoked.

Many fragments of skull, vertebrae, pelvis, long bones and small hand and foot bones survive.

It is quite certain that this cremation contains two individuals. One is almost certainly a female, the other probably female.

It is fortunate that fragments of the ends of long bones, the iliac crest, mandible and teeth survive. From the consideration of these elements, especially several examples of unfused epiphyses, it is possible to say with some precision that the almost certain female was aged 20–21, and the probable female 17–19 years.

There seems little doubt that the larger limb bones were deliberately broken after recovery. No evidence of animal bones was found.

Sproughton (TM/128447). [L.156]. Fragments of a second urn (1920–52.11, Fig. 24, *i*) collected at the same time as the above indicated a vessel of 10 inches diameter, with a collar depth of $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, slightly overhanging the neck, and with simple rim and internal moulding.

Decoration on the collar consists of filled triangles, those with base uppermost having horizontal lines, those base down with oblique lines. There is a row of herring-bone decoration at the shoulder. All the ornament is carried out in twisted cord impression. The cremated remains from this vessel do not appear to have been retrieved.

Ipswich, London Road (TM/145443 approx.). [L.153]. The remains of a vessel (Fig. 24, *j*) recovered in 1925, as recorded in the *East Anglian Daily Times* for 30 March in that year, are in the Ipswich Museum (1925–35). They were found by workmen during the clearing of land for building, and the cremation was not collected. The rim diameter is 8 inches, the collar about 2 inches in depth, convex, with internal moulding.

The ornament of the collar is unusual; it consists of a line of zig-zag decoration in triple-twisted cord, bordered above and below by two bands, also of triple-cord. Several examples occur of the use of double-cord, but this pattern on such a comparatively small vessel, necessarily using a very thin cord, seems to be rare.

Ipswich, Hadleigh Road (TM/143449). A small vessel (Fig. 25, *b*), perhaps an accessory cup, found during extensions to the Bacon Factory in Hadleigh Road, Ipswich, about 1930, is in the Ipswich Museum (959-203). It is $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches in height, diameter at rim $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches. The collar, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in depth, is slightly concave externally and internally, the foot slightly protruding. The vessel is undecorated.

Brightwell (TM/240443). In 1953, a group of tumuli, known as the 'Devil's Ring' group, one of which was surrounded by a double ditch, was threatened with destruction by ploughing. In all, six barrows were excavated for the Ministry of Works by Mr. R. Gilyard-Beer, but as an account of these is in course of preparation for publication, no detailed account of the pottery is included here although the site is indicated on the map.

It is interesting to note, however, that one vessel has a row of finger-tip impressions on the shoulder, a feature noted on vessels of both Early and Early Middle Bronze Age date in Suffolk, and both cord-impressed and incised decoration is represented in the series.

Levington (TM/233388 approx.). [L.150]. A fine urn¹¹ (Fig. 24, *k*) in the British Museum (56-6.27.1) is labelled as coming from Felixstowe, but as it is stated to have been found in the coprolite workings, it is almost certainly from Levington.

It is $18\frac{1}{4}$ inches high, 13 inches in diameter at the rim, and tapers to a $5\frac{1}{4}$ inch base.

The collar, 3 inches in depth, is concave externally and internally, sharply angled at the neck. The concave rim bevel bears a decoration of oblique lines of double-twisted cord. Externally the collar is ornamented with triangles of double-twisted cord decoration, filled with alternating oblique lines of the same and bounded below by a horizontal line of double-twist. The neck carries four and a half bands of herring-bone double-twist, and the shoulder bears a series of oval impressions.

The foot is not projecting, the base flat exteriorly but rising slightly to the centre interiorly.

Sutton (TM/29564649). In October, 1962, during the cutting of a trench for a water-main for irrigation on land belonging to Sir Anthony Quilter, Bart, of Methersgate Hall, a large urn (Fig. 24, *l*, and Plate XXV), inverted over a cremation, was discovered

¹¹ *Horae Ferales*, Plate XXIX, 5.

and has now been presented to the Ipswich Museum by Sir Anthony Quilter (962-115).

The trench was 3 feet 6 inches in depth, and the rim of the urn rested 1 foot below this. The base had of course been demolished by the mechanical digger, but most of the fragments were recovered.

The height is 17 inches, diameter of rim 12 inches. The collar, nearly 3 inches in depth, is slightly convex externally, concave internally and is decorated inside and out, as is the rim bevel, with a herring-bone pattern of whipped cord impression. This appears also on the neck, with one row below the shoulder.

The foot is not expanded, and the base rises slightly to the centre.

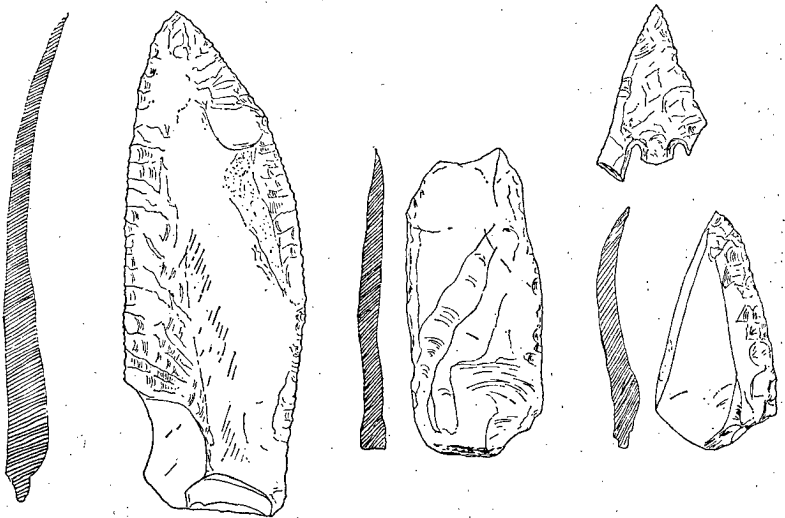


FIG. 26.—Flint knives and arrowhead from Sutton. (3).

In addition to the cremated remains, three flint knives and a barbed and tanged arrowhead were recovered (Fig. 26 and Plate XXV).

Dr. Calvin Wells reports as follows on the cremation:—

The material consisted of many hundreds of fragments, a large number of which were identifiable, but in poor condition. The sexing was based on surviving mastoids, frontal sinuses, articular heads of long bones, and the

general build and muscle attachments. On balance it was felt that this was a male, but the decision was reached by a narrow margin and must not be given too much weight. The mandible shows that he was at least 20 years of age, but the epiphyses indicate that he was probably over 25.

Many fragments from almost all regions of the body are present. Substantial portions of the skull can be built up to give some idea of its original form. It seems to have been lightly built but voluminous. The type of warping suggests that the cremation took place rather rapidly at a high temperature (at least 950° C.). Fragments from most vertebrae survive and abundant remains of all large limb bones can be identified. Pelvic fragments and parts of ribs, scapulae, and clavicles are found.

Many metacarpal and phalangeal elements are present and the small foot bones have also survived.

Jaw fragments indicate that at least 22 teeth were present at death and there is no evidence of any ante-mortem loss. The degree of dental attrition on some surviving premolars is light and suggests that this person was under 35 or even 30 years of age at the time of death. No caries is present.

No pathological condition was observed except for some mild osteophytosis on the margins of the vertebral bodies in the lumbar region.

The cremation has been efficiently done but there was some under-firing of a few vertebrae and also of the right side of the jaw and its temporal joint. It seems as though the body was placed on the ground and the pyre built over it. Several pieces of charred wood are included in this material and might be useful for identifying the fuel which was used.

The cremated remains were collected with exceptional care and scrupulous attention—at least six terminal phalanges of fingers were recovered.

No duplication of parts was found and it seems that this is the remains of a single person.

No animal remains were identified, but many hundreds of minute unidentifiable fragments are present, and it cannot be positively stated that animal fragments are absent, although it seems almost certain that this material consists of the remains of only one individual, aged about 30, well built, well burned and well collected.

Examination of the sections in the trench appeared to indicate the site of a ploughed-out barrow, but this could not be confirmed with certainty.

Hollesley (TM/35234473). [L.151]. In November, 1956, sand-quarrying disclosed the presence of an urn resting upright at a basal depth of 3 feet. The find was made by Mr. G. Stammers, who reported it to the owner of the quarry, Mr. W. J. Mills, who in turn informed the Museum Curator (N.S.) by whom it was removed, together with the contained cremation. The vessel (956-128.B) stood in a pit, neatly cut out to accommodate it and containing much charcoal.

The site was only 10 feet from that of the 'Wessex Biconical' urn (956-128.A) described later in this paper. In neither case could it be determined whether or not a barrow was in question.

The urn (Fig. 25, *a*, and Plate XXVI) possesses a number of interesting features. It is 14 inches in height, with a rim diameter of $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches and a base, slightly expanded, of $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The collar, 3 inches in depth, passes gently into the neck which again merges smoothly with the body at the shoulder which is at almost exactly half the total height.

The collar is concave externally, convex internally and bears an ornamentation of alternate panels of horizontal lines of twisted cord decoration, with triangles of the same. At the shoulder are five rows of circular indentations, probably made with a blunt instrument rather than with the finger-tip.

The form of the vessel, and its situation in close proximity to an urn of later date, combined with the use of indented decoration, may indicate a date towards the end of the Early Bronze Age.

A report on the cremated remains follows:—

This cremation consists of many hundreds of fragments, almost all minute. They are uniformly well fired, but the post-cremation collection seems to have been perfunctory. Deliberate smashing of the bones seems to have occurred.

Identifiable fragments of skull show sufficient endocranial fusion of the sutures to indicate that this was certainly an adult, probably over the age of 30. The small size of some fragments, together with hints of a small frontal sinus and mastoid suggest that this may have been a female, but in view of the deficiency of the material this is extremely speculative.

No pathology was noted. Little can be said about this burial. There was no indication that more than one body was present though a multiple cremation cannot be excluded. Animal remains appear to be absent.

Theberton (TM/435659). Through the kindness of Mr. M. R. Hull, then Curator of Museums, Colchester, sherds from a cinerary urn dug up some years ago in a mound in the garden of the Old Rectory, Theberton, have recently been received by the Ipswich Museum (962-22).

Sufficient fragments were present to show that a vessel of fairly large size was in question (Fig. 25, *f*). The collar, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in depth, was very slightly concave externally, with internal moulding.

The rim bevel had a decoration of loops of twisted cord, which was also found internally on a fragment of the neck, the exterior of which carried rows of short vertical cord impressions. Inside the collar, below the rim bevel, was a row of oblique cord impressions.

The exterior of the collar bore an ornamentation of cord-impressed triangles, filled with alternating oblique and horizontal impressions, with a double line near the rim.

Bungay. An examination of specimens in the newly established Museum at Bungay brought to light four fragments of urns, probably of this period, but the precise localities could not be ascertained, and they have therefore been omitted from the map.

1. Rim sherd (Fig. 24, *n*) in greyish-buff ware, with horizontal grooving. This may be Rinyo-Clactonian (Neolithic) pottery, but in view of its heavy grit content, and blackened interior surface, it is considered likely to be from a cinerary vessel of the Early Bronze Age [*cf.* L.184].

2. Rim sherd (Fig. 24, *o*) of greyish ware, tending to buff at fracture. The inner face is concave but this does not extend to the full width of the collar. The ornamentation of twisted cord decoration shows part of a triangular panel filled with oblique lines of the same, and bounded above by a line of cord-marking.

3. A sherd (Fig. 24, *m*) from the collar of a large urn has decoration in double-twisted cord of a pattern almost exactly like that of the Levington (Felixstowe) vessel recorded above, in the British Museum collection.

4. A small fragment (Fig. 24, *p*) of light red ware, grey interiorly, may belong to this series.

Thanks for permission to examine and record these four specimens are due to Dr. Hugh Cane, the Honorary Curator of the Museum.

EARLY MIDDLE BRONZE AGE

c. 1400 B.C.—900/850 B.C.

ACCESSORY CUPS

Kentford, no precise locality. An accessory cup (Fig. 25, *g*, and A.ii, Plate LXXXI, 267), in coarse grey ware, is in the Moyses's

Hall Museum, Bury St. Edmunds (F.33). It is just short of $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height, with an outside rim diameter of $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches increasing to 5 inches about 1 inch below the rim, which is bevelled. Apart from its lack of decoration, it bears some resemblance to the smaller Darmsden pot described below.

Darmsden (TM/096526). In 1946, during the excavation of 'midden pits' in a gravel quarry at Darmsden, Mr. H. E. P. Spencer of the Ipswich Museum staff found the remains of a small cup (Fig. 25, *c*) in buff ware, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height, with an external rim diameter of 3 inches. It is in the Ipswich Museum (1946-206).

The decoration of the body and the flat rim is of finger-nail impressions, and the cup is almost identical in every respect with the one found inverted, near a large urn also inverted, in Barrow No. 202 of the Acklam Wold group, in the East Riding of Yorkshire, by J. R. Mortimer.¹²

The Darmsden cup was found on a site which otherwise yielded pottery of the Early Iron Age.

COLLARED VESSELS

Risby (TL/792685). The rim and upper portion of the body of a vessel (Fig. 25, *h*) of diameter 12 inches is in the Bury Museum. The collar, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in depth, and concave, has an interior moulding, but no neck is present. The decoration is of plain zig-zags of twisted cord, and two rows of cord-marking appear on the concave rim bevel.

Bury St. Edmunds, Golf Course, near No. 5 putting green (TL/837656). Two sherds from this vessel (Fig. 25, *i*) enable a reconstruction of the collar, which has a depth of 4 inches and is concave without and within. The diameter is 11 inches. Sufficient remains of the junction with the body to make it probable that it does not belong to Longworth's Primary Series. The decoration consists of a diagonal trellis-pattern of paired twisted cord, with double lines of cord-marking above and below. The concave rim bevel bears four lines of cord-marked decoration.

Sproughton (TM/128447). Of this small urn (Fig. 25, *d*) Longworth writes:—'The small tripartite Sproughton vessel (1920-52.8) belongs to my Secondary Series and should be Middle Bronze Age (say within the span 1400-1000 B.C.). The technique used to decorate this vessel, however, suggests that it belongs to the earlier part of the Secondary Series, since the majority of vessels possessing it in fact belong to the Primary Series'.

¹² *Burial Mounds of East Yorkshire* (1905), p. 86, Plate XXIII, 194 (cup), and Plate XXIV, 193 (urn).

The vessel is 6 inches in height, with a rim diameter of $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The collar, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in depth, is slightly concave and decorated with three rows of double-twisted cord-marking and one row of single cord. The base rises slightly to the centre, and has a diameter of 4 inches.

The neck is almost non-existent, and this may well represent a transition to the bipartite range, particularly as it was found so closely associated with two vessels of the Primary Series.

Dr. Wells reports on the cremation:—

This consists of a dozen fragments of adult long bone. Also two tooth roots. The sex of this person cannot be determined, and there is little that can profitably be said about these meagre remains.

Capel St. Mary (TM/084384). Portions of the rims of three vessels (1947-4) were recovered in 1947, by a member of the staff of the Ipswich Museum, from the Roman villa site at Capel St. Mary.

1. External rim diameter, 11 inches. The collar is $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches in depth, S-shaped in section, with concave rim bevel. The collar projects sharply over the body and is decorated with vertical loops of twisted cord-marking (Fig. 25, *k*).

2. External rim diameter $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The collar is convex, with slightly concave rim bevel, and is decorated with 8 rows of twisted cord-marking (Fig. 25, *n*).

3. External rim diameter, 9 inches. The collar is slightly S-shaped with expanded rim bevel, and is without decoration (Fig. 25, *l*).

In the absence of definite features relating them to the Primary Series, these vessels are placed in the later category.

Bawdsey, precise locality uncertain. A small vessel in the British Museum (56-6.27.3) appears to fall into the category of Collared Urns, although the everted rim is difficult to parallel. The drawing (Fig. 25, *j*) is a copy, made by his kind permission, of one by Mr. J. W. Brailsford, of the British Museum, and the writers were unable at the time to examine the specimen. The vessel is also illustrated in A. II, Plate LXXXI, 269.

The rim diameter is $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, height $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches (recorded as $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches). The 1 inch deep collar has an ornament of triangles in double-twisted cord, the upper triangles being filled with horizontal lines of cord-marking. Round finger-tip impressions decorate the shoulder.

BICONICAL VESSELS ¹³

Semer, Dairy Farm Gravel Pit (TM/00504659). An urn of the Wessex Biconical type [L.] (Fig. 25, *q* and Plate XXVII) is in the Ipswich Museum (1938-180). It was found by Mr. P. Waller of Dairy Farm, and presented to the Museum through the good offices of Mr. Taylor of Bildeston.

The vessel is $14\frac{1}{4}$ inches in height, with a diameter at the rim of 10 inches. The neck is concave to the shoulder, a depth of 2 inches, at which point the pot had a diameter of $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches, tapering in the lowest 8 inches to a base 6 inches in diameter, flat, increasing in thickness to the centre to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.

The urn is of buff clay, the only decoration being a line of finger-tipping at the shoulder. It was inverted over a cremation, on which the following report is given by Dr. Wells:—

In this cremation there are well over a thousand fragments, mostly extremely small.

The burning, and especially the subsequent collection of the remains has been very thorough—8 terminal phalanges of fingers and over 70 other digital fragments survive.

Almost all parts of the body are represented. Substantial pieces of cranial vault with wholly unfused sutures are present, both petrous temporals, parts of the orbital margins, and both mandibular condyles. A few teeth or tooth roots survive. A recently erupted and unworn third molar is present. Parts of at least 20 vertebrae were found.

Other fragments include a left and right clavicle, the manubrium sterni, a patella, many pelvic and rib fragments, the distal articular surface of a humerus, and many broken lengths of limb bones.

A few fragments of ulna and radius appeared to be bronze-stained and suggested the possibility that a bangle may have been worn.

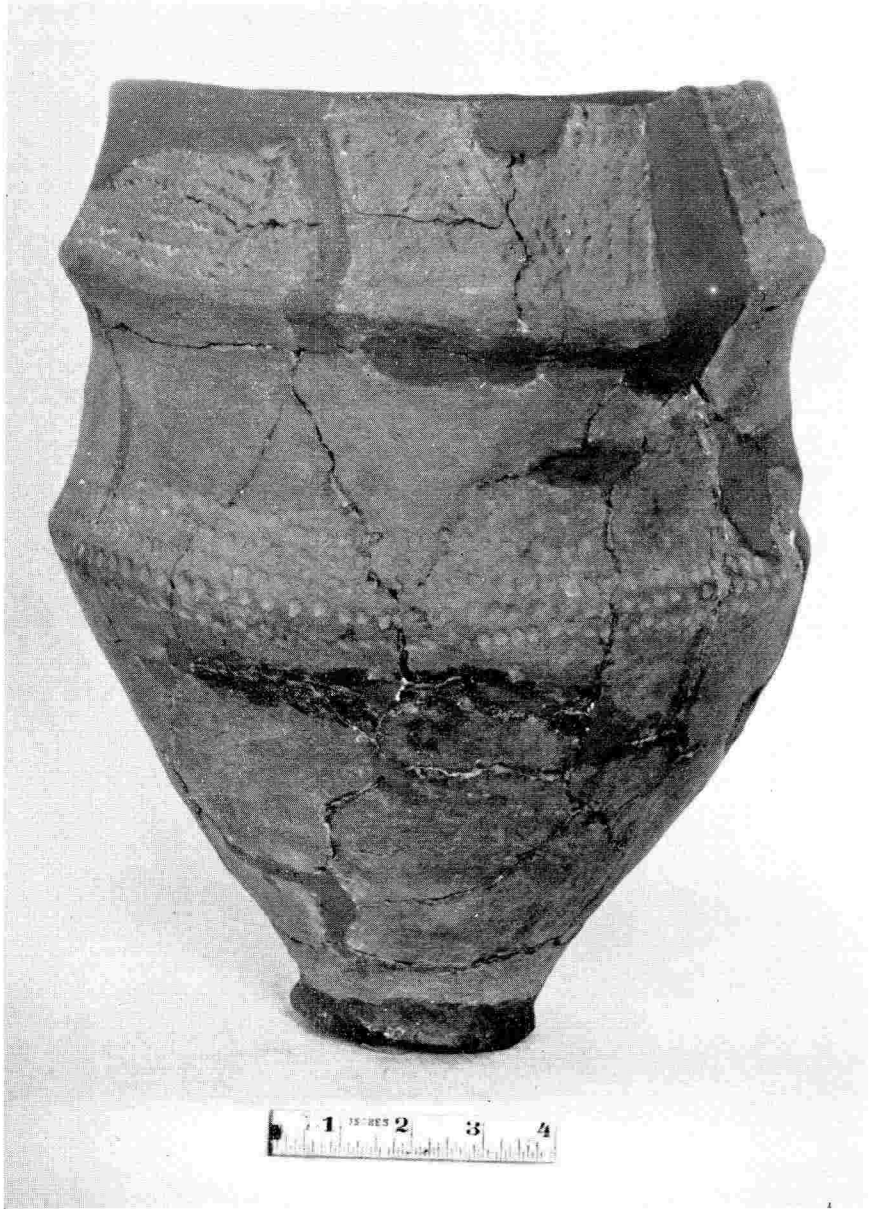
¹³ Mr. Ian Longworth writes:—'*Wessex Biconical urns*: These are defined and described by Dr. Isobel Smith in an article entitled "An Essay towards the Reformation of the British Bronze Age" published in *Helinium I* (1961), 97-118. Into this class then fall the . . . urn from Hollesley (956-128 A.), the two vessels from Leiston (957-82 A. & B.) and the one from *Semer*. This type of vessel according to Dr. Smith (and the Dutch people fully agree with her) developed in Southern England before the end of Wessex II (*e.g.* at Ringwould, Kent, one of these vessels contained faience beads) and some emigrated to Holland giving rise to the "Hilversum Urns" of that country. The Horse-shoe handles are just one of the features which were introduced into Holland by these people'.

PLATE XXV



Early Bronze Age collared urn and flints from Sutton.

PLATE XXVI



Early Bronze Age tripartite urn from Hollesley.

PLATE XXVII



Biconical vessel of the Early Middle Bronze Age from Semer.

PLATE XXVIII

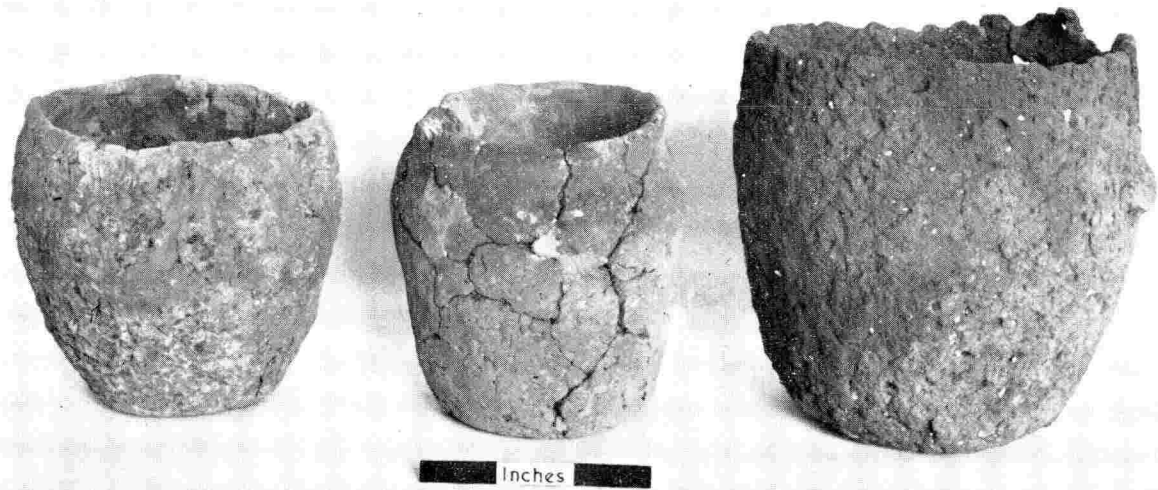


Biconical vessel of the Early Middle Bronze Age from Hollesley.

PLATE XXIX



Biconical vessels of the Early Middle Bronze Age from Leiston.



Bronze Age urns from St. Joseph's College, Birkfield, Ipswich.

Two fused beads and some ?metallic clinker were present, also what appeared to be a ?canine tooth of some unidentified animal. This had been drilled transversely, perhaps to allow threading on a necklace.

Enough survived of this body to make it almost certain that it was a female, aged at least 23 but probably not more than 28-30. In spite of the mass of material only one body was detected, and no animal bones were present apart from the perforated tusk.

The beads and clinker were submitted to the British Museum Research Laboratory through the kindness of Miss Mavis Bimson, and the following report has now been received from Dr. A. E. Werner, Keeper of the Department:—

Envelope A. The contents consist of clinker and other debris from the cremation; they have no connection with molten glass.

Envelope B. On superficial examination, the blue beads appeared to be made of glass since they are translucent and lack the core of sintered quartz which is typical of blue Egyptian faience beads. However, X-ray diffraction showed that crystalline material (α quartz) is present, indicating that the material is only partially vitrified. The beads, therefore, fall into the class of 'glassy faience' as described by A. Lucas and J. R. Harris in *Ancient Egyptian Materials and Industries*, 1962, p. 164.

Hollesley (TM/35234473). Reference has already been made to a vessel of the Early Bronze Age found in October 1956, during quarrying operations on this site. Prior to this discovery, a large urn of the Wessex Biconical type [L.] was recovered by Mr. W. J. Mills, and presented by him to the Ipswich Museum (956-128.A). Facilities were also given to examine the site. The urn was inverted over a cremation and was buried in fine sand, immediately overlaid with a 5 foot layer of gravelly sand.

The urn (Fig. 25, *e* and Plate XXVIII), in pinkish-buff clay, has the smooth matted surface found in some urns of this type, at least in Suffolk (*cf.* those from Semer, and in a lesser degree Leiston), and which probably indicates a sandy clay in which the silica has fused on firing. The vessel stands 16 inches high, with a rim diameter of 13 inches and a diameter at the shoulder of 16 inches. The rim is everted (*cf.* an urn from Bere Regis Down, Dorset, A.ii, Plate LXXXVI, 374) and curves gracefully to the shoulder, 4 inches below; the foot is 8½ inches in diameter. At the

shoulder are two applied bands, an inch apart, decorated with vertical slashes at half-inch intervals, and interrupted with four false handles.

Dr. Wells reports as follows on the cremation:—

This consists of many dozen fragments of human bone. All are well fired but collection has been less efficient and only a small part of the total skeleton survives.

This is undoubtedly a female and at least 25 years old on epiphyseal evidence, iliac crests, etc. In fact, it seems probable that she was at least 10 years older than this. Osteo-arthritis is well marked at the sacro-iliac joints. Evidence of periodontal disease can be seen on surviving tooth roots, and a paradontal abscess seems to have been present round the maxillary right 1st molar.

No evidence of more than one body is found here, and no animal remains were identified.

The body seems to have lain on the ground with the cremation pyre built over it.

Bronze staining of fragments of clavicle and cervical vertebrae suggest that she may have been wearing a necklace when she was cremated.

Leiston, Carr Road (TM/446629). In July 1957, Mr. C. R. Fowler, Manager of the Leiston Branch of the Eastern Gas Board, reported the discovery, during the laying of a gas main, of two cinerary urns (Fig. 25, *o*, *p* and Plate XXIX). These were presented to the Ipswich Museum (957-82.A. & B.) by the finders, Messrs. E. H. Bailey, J. Clark and P. Godden.

The small vessel, which contained cremated remains, is $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches in height, with a rim diameter of 5 inches. The neck descends almost vertically for 1 inch, the vessel then expanding for another half-inch to an external diameter of $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches, at the shoulder. The base is $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter, flat and rising slightly internally to the centre. The fabric is reddish-buff, and the neck is ornamented with an applied 'handle' in the form of a perfect horse-shoe, extending from near the rim to below the shoulder, and with 11 nail-holes. There is no corresponding handle on the other side, and if this was originally applied it was lost before firing was completed.

Over this vessel was inverted a large urn, $16\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height, $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter at the rim, which is slightly everted, 13 inches at the shoulder, which is 4 inches below the rim, and $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches at the base which, as in the smaller urn, is flat externally, rising slightly internally.

The fabric is reddish-buff, redder than the urn from Hollesley. There are four handles of horse-shoe pattern, somewhat resembling those on urns from Bere Regis, Dorset, and Nether Swell, Gloucestershire (A.ii, Plate LXXXVI, 374 and 376), but extending from just below the rim to the level of the shoulder. Between rim and shoulder are looped markings of twisted cord, interspersed with finger-nail decoration. There is a line of twisted cord-marking at shoulder level, and vertical cord impressions inside the horse-shoes.

Regrettably, the cremated remains had been thrown away before a member of the Museum staff could reach the site.

Ipswich, St. Joseph's College, Birkfield (TM/15054295). During operations for the laying out of playing-fields, bull-dozing by Mr. E. S. Clark exposed three small urns (Plate XXX), with blackened earth and charcoal. It seems probable that cremated remains were present, but nothing was recovered.

The coarse fabric and the form of these vessels relate them, though uncertainly, to the small urn from Leiston, and they are therefore included here although according to Longworth they may possibly be later in date.

1. A vessel (Fig. 24, *f*) 6 inches in height and $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter has a sharp, slightly everted rim and flat base. Two lugs at shoulder level project horizontally, and there may have been two more.

2. A smaller urn (Fig. 24, *h*) $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches high, with rim diameter of 3 inches expanding to 4 inches at the shoulder has a rounded rim and more pronounced neck.

3. The third vessel (Fig. 24, *g*) also $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches in height has a rim diameter of $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches and is biconical, with greatest diameter $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and flat base.

These vessels are in the Ipswich Museum (960-95).

CONTINENTAL PARALLELS

It was not until this paper was completed that the writers obtained a copy of the account of the excavations carried out by Dr. W. Glasbergen, of the University of Amsterdam, in a Bronze Age cemetery between Toterfout and Halve Mijl, North Brabant, Netherlands.¹⁴ Certain points of similarity between the Suffolk biconical vessels and those from the Netherlands are apparent.

¹⁴ W. Glasbergen, *Barrow Excavations in the Eight Beatitudes* (1954).

Tumulus I B, excavated in 1950, produced a primary vessel¹⁵ similar in general form to that from Hollesley, with a cordon ornamented with vertical cuts possibly carried out with the finger-nail rather than with the tip of the finger.

Two secondaries¹⁶ had a row of finger-tipping at the shoulder, and there were other points of resemblance to the Semer vessel.

Twisted cord-marking is found both in the Dutch primary and the Leiston vessel.

The Dutch urns, too, would appear to share with their Suffolk counterparts the smooth, cracked, ochreous exterior which seems to be a characteristic of the type.

SUMMARY

Recent additions to the collections in the Ipswich Museum led the writers to the conclusion that an attempt should be made to locate all Suffolk pottery of the Early and Early Middle Bronze Age, as defined at the London Conference of the Prehistoric Society in 1960.

From this study two points emerge:—The apparent scarcity of vessels of the Early Bronze Age, and possibly of the following period too, is almost certainly bound up with the infrequent organised excavation of the many barrows in the County. This is borne out by the results of the excavation, in 1953, of the 'Devil's Ring' complex at Brightwell, details of which await publication. The other factor, which might be expected, is the presence of vessels of the Biconical Urn type, with strong affinities with Wessex types and with those found in the Hilversum area of the Netherlands. The presence of faience beads in the urn from Semer is noteworthy.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Discussion of some points, particularly relating to the dating of material, with Mr. Ian Longworth leaves the writers greatly in his debt, without committing him to all the views here expressed. The writers also wish to thank the following who have allowed them to examine and draw material in their charge. Dr. Geoffrey Bushnell and Miss Mary Cra'ster of the Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology; Mr. A. R. Edwardson of the Moyse's Hall Museum, Bury St. Edmunds; and Mr. J. W. Brailsford of the Department of British and Medieval Antiquities of the British Museum.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, Plate VI, 1, 2.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, Plate VII, 1, 2.

Other members of the Ipswich Museum staff have also found themselves involved; the photographs were taken by Mr. F. W. Simpson, the Sutton urn restored by Mr. R. M. Alcock, and Mrs. H. B. Miller has once again made available her experience of the preparation of typescript for the printer. Not least, the patience of the Editor has been greatly taxed, due to delays occasioned by circumstances beyond the control of the authors.