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TWO GROUPS OF PREHISTORIC POTTERY FROM KETTLEBURGH

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The purpose of this paper is to publish two groups of prehistoric pottery from Kettleburgh, Suffolk, which are now in Ipswich Museum (I.M. 1947-73 and 1949-145). *Group 1* (Fig. 64) was recovered by Mr. Stanley West from a pit on a sand extraction site (TM/26455979) 0.2 km (1/8 ml) south of Kettleburgh village (Fig. 63,1). The pit was approximately 33 cm (21 in) deep, over 47 cm (30 in) across and filled with black earth. The sherds of pottery are small and worn. *Group 2* (Figs. 65-67) was found on Home Farm (TM/258602) 0.6 km (3/8 ml) west of Kettleburgh village (Fig. 63,2). There are no records of the circumstances of the find.

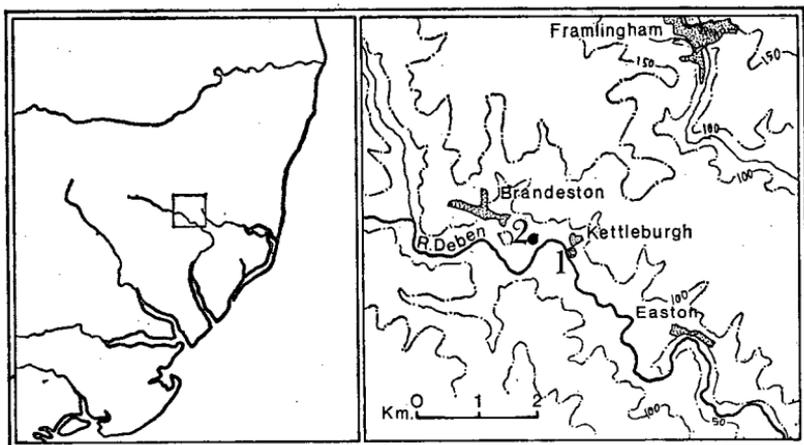


FIG. 63.—Maps showing location of prehistoric pottery from Kettleburgh, Suffolk.

INTRODUCTION

It will be suggested that group 1 belongs to the Late Bronze Age and group 2 to the Early Iron Age. To provide a context, the detailed discussion will be prefaced by some introductory remarks. The origins of the British Bronze Age lie in the later third millennium B.C. (calibrated radiocarbon dates) when metallurgy was introduced into Britain, either from the lower Rhine area, by the users of beaker pottery or from Iberia and France. In the Late Bronze Age, the early first millennium B.C., the inhabitants of

southern Britain were practising a mixed economy of agriculture and stock-raising and were producing artefacts of bronze, clay, stone and organic materials. Many of their settlements were small, both open and enclosed, though larger, defended sites are known. Iron working was introduced into Britain from the continent during the 7th century B.C. but was not widely employed until the 5th century. Some movement of population from the continent took place during this period but probably not on a large scale. Defended settlements (hill-forts) became more common but the livelihood of the population probably changed little.¹

One of the problems of the study of the British Late Bronze Age is the lack of pottery to place beside the large amount of evidence provided by the bronzes. Both unequivocal associations of pottery with bronzes and stratified sequences of pottery, showing development from known Earlier Bronze Age types to known Early Iron Age types, are rare. The chronology of many Earlier Bronze Age pottery types has not been satisfactorily established. Another approach is the comparison of continental types and I have used this in discussing group 1. This method is commonly employed in the study of bronzes but must be used cautiously when applied to less distinctive pottery types. There is a small concentration of bronzes in east Suffolk belonging to the Carp's Tongue complex, the mature Late Bronze Age in south-east England.² The people who used these Carp's Tongue bronzes may have used the Kettleburgh group 1 pottery.

Early Iron Age pottery is known in large quantity and replaces bronze types for the denomination of cultural and chronological divisions. The more groups of pottery there are published, the more accurately these divisions can be made. At present, there is no generally accepted system of terminology for the study of the Early Iron Age and there is little comparable pottery from east Suffolk. The context of the Kettleburgh group 2 pottery is within the Early Iron Age in south-east England.

DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATED POTTERY

Group 1 (Fig. 64)

The angles of all these small sherds are approximate.

1. Rim sherd. Fabric: dark grey core with red zones and smooth worn dark grey surfaces. Temper: flint to *c.* 2 mm., protruding through surfaces. Rim worn.

¹ For the Bronze Age see C. B. Burgess in Colin Renfrew (ed.), *British Prehistory* (London 1974), pp. 165-232; for the Iron Age, B. Cunliffe, *Iron Age Communities in Britain* (London 1974), and D. W. Harding, *The Iron Age in Lowland Britain* (London 1974).

² C. B. Burgess, 'The Later Bronze Age in the British Isles and north-western France', *Arch. Jour.*, cxxv (1968), fig. 14.

2. Rim sherd. Fabric: dark grey core with red zones and smooth dark grey surfaces. Temper: flint to *c.* 1 mm., protruding through surfaces.

3. Rim sherd. Fabric: dark grey core with red zones and smooth worn dark grey surfaces. Temper: flint to *c.* 1 mm., protruding through surfaces. Rim worn.

4. Rim sherd. Fabric: dark grey core with red zones and smooth dark grey surfaces. Temper: flint to *c.* 2 mm., protruding through surfaces.

5. Rim sherd. Fabric: dark grey with rough brown outer surface and dark grey inner surface. Temper: flint to *c.* 3 mm., protruding through surfaces. Finishing marks on inner surface.

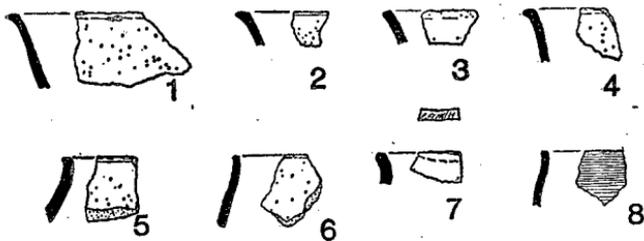


FIG. 64.—Kettleburgh Pottery, Group 1, Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

6. Rim sherd. Fabric: dark grey core with red zones and smooth worn dark grey surfaces. Temper: flint to *c.* 2 mm., protruding through surfaces. Rim worn.

7. Rim sherd. Fabric: dark grey with smooth brown surfaces, worn. Temper: flint to *c.* 5 mm., protruding through surfaces. Finger-nail ornament on rim.

8. Rim sherd. Fabric: dark grey core with red zones and dark grey surfaces, smooth inside, burnished outside. Temper: flint to *c.* 1 mm., protruding through surfaces.

Group 2 (Figs. 65–67)

Fig. 65, 1. Round-shouldered jar. Fabric: dark grey with brown outer zone; rough, dark grey inner surface and rough, brown outer surface. Temper: flint to *c.* 5 mm., protruding through surfaces. Double row of finger-tip ornament on shoulder. Rim smoothed down inside.

2. Base sherd. Fabric: dark grey with rough, dark grey inner surface and rough, brown outer surface. Temper: flint to *c.* 5 mm., protruding through surfaces. Possibly part of same vessel as no. 1.

3. Base sherd. Fabric: dark grey with red outer zone; rough, brown outer surface with irregular grooves, rough, dark grey inner surface. Temper: flint to *c.* 3 mm., protruding through surfaces.

4. Round-shouldered jar. Fabric: dark grey with rough, red-brown surfaces. Temper: flint to *c.* 5 mm., protruding through surfaces. Finger-tip ornament on shoulder, finger-marks below and oblique grooving above. The exact angle of this sherd is uncertain.

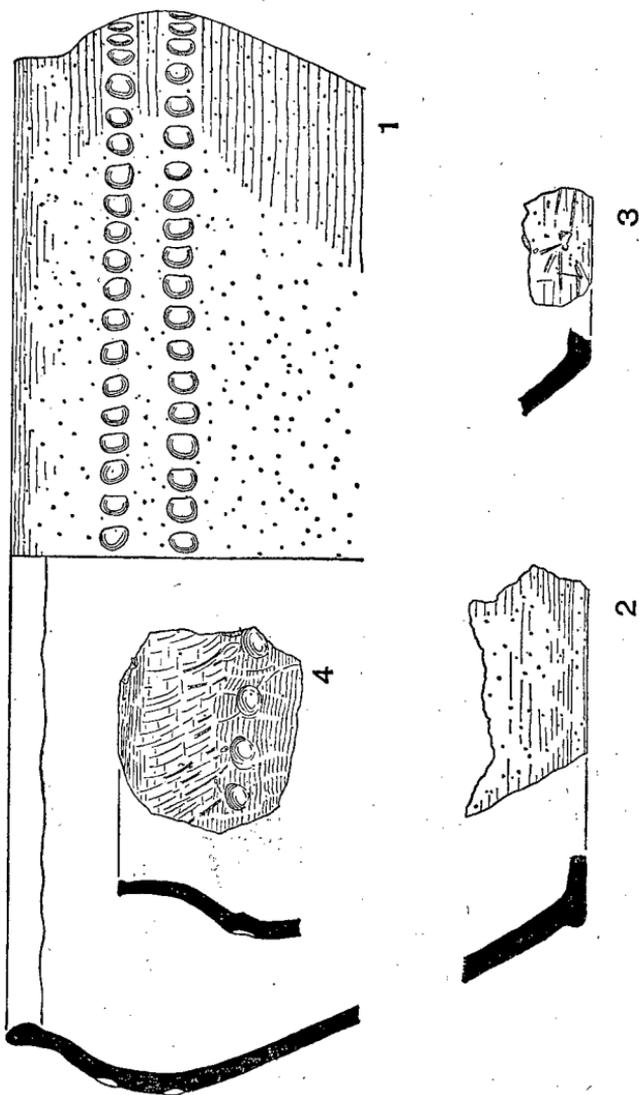


FIG. 65.—Kettleburgh Pottery, Group 2, Scale. $\frac{1}{4}$

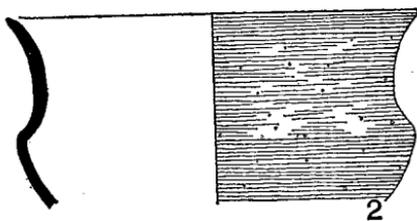
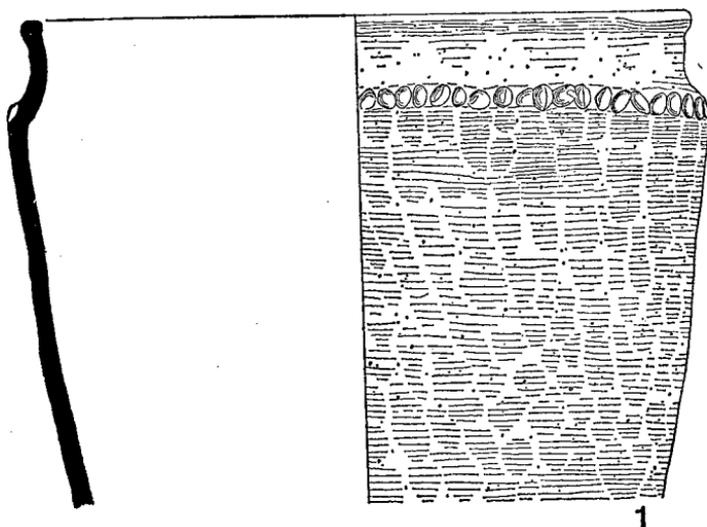


FIG. 66.—Kettleburgh Pottery, Group 2, Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

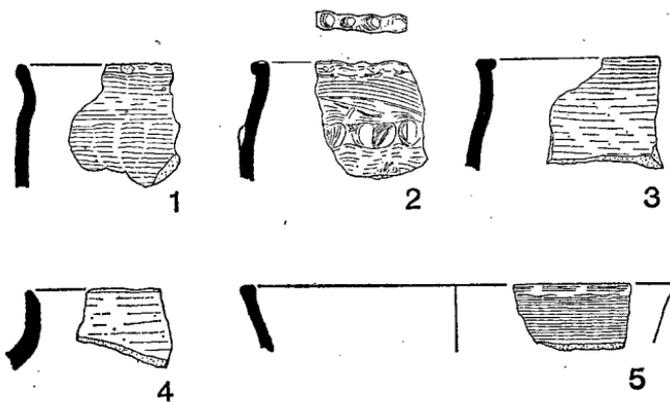


FIG. 67.—Kettleburgh Pottery, Group 2, Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

Fig. 66, 1. Shouldered jar. Fabric: dark grey with smooth brown surfaces. Temper: flint to *c.* 5 mm., protruding through surfaces. Finger-tip ornament on shoulder, finger-marks below.

2. Carinated bowl. Fabric: dark grey with burnished red, brown and grey outer surface and burnished grey-brown inner surface. Temper: flint to *c.* 5 mm., protruding through surfaces.

Fig. 67, 1. Shouldered jar. Fabric: dark grey core with brown zones and rough brown surfaces. Temper: flint to *c.* 2 mm., protruding through surfaces. Finger marks on outer surface below shoulder.

2. Jar. Fabric: brown with rough brown surfaces. Temper: flint to *c.* 5 mm., protruding through surfaces. Finger-tip ornament on shoulder and rim. Oblique finishing marks below rim.

3. Jar. Fabric: dark grey core, red outer zone with slightly burnished grey surfaces. Temper: flint to *c.* 3 mm., protruding through surfaces.

4. Rim sherd. Fabric: dark grey with rough brown surfaces. Temper: flint to *c.* 2 mm., protruding through surfaces. Finishing marks below rim. The angle of this sherd is uncertain.

5. Everted rim sherd. Fabric: dark grey with burnished dark grey surfaces. Temper: flint to *c.* 2 mm.

DISCUSSION

Group 1

This associated pit group contains sherds of two forms: everted sherds with rims tapered outwards (nos. 1-4) and sherds with in-turned profiles, having either slightly expanded (nos. 5, 6, 8) or out-turned (no. 7) rims.

The thin fabric of the everted sherds suggests that they belong to bowls with conical profiles and not to larger jars. The author knows of no published parallels from East Anglia. Hawkes illustrates three sherds from Plumpton Plain, Sussex, site B, which may belong to conical bowls but these sherds lack the tapered rims of the Kettleburgh examples.³ Similar sherds with tapering rims have been found at Washingborough, Lincs., and Maxey, Northants.⁴

On the continent bowls with tapering rims appear in Urnfield contexts. A sherd resembling those from Kettleburgh comes from a pit in the settlement at Niederweis, Kr. Bitburg, in the southern Eifel.⁵ Gollub regards this sherd as an early Hallstatt B develop-

³ C. F. C. Hawkes, 'The pottery from the sites on Plumpton Plain', *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, 1 (1935), fig. 13, B51, B6a, b.

⁴ J. May in *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology* and in G. Simpson's monograph on excavations at Maxey, both forthcoming.

⁵ S. Gollub, 'Neue Funde der Urnenfelderkultur im Bitburger Land', *Trierer Zeitschrift*, xxxii (1969), pp. 12-13, Abb. 4, 2.

ment of the carinated flanged bowls of Hallstatt A. These bowls also occur in the Marne area. A plain example from a cremation within ring-ditch E at Gravon, Seine-et-Marne, covered an urn dated to *Champs d'Urnes II*, or Hallstatt A, by its combed ornament.⁶ Sandars illustrates a contemporary, ornamented bowl from the Chalons-sur-Marne district.⁷ Bowls with tapered rims, some internally bevelled unlike the Kettleburgh examples, persist through Hallstatt B into Hallstatt C at Aulnay-aux-Planches, Marne and Fort-Harrouard, Eure-et-Loir.⁸

Plumpton Plain site B also produced in-turned profile sherds resembling those from Kettleburgh.⁹ A similar sherd was sealed below the Iron Age rampart at Ram's Hill, Berks.¹⁰ A rim sherd from an in-turned profile vessel, which Musson considers in his preliminary report on the site to be part of a Late Bronze Age pottery group, came from the interior of the Breiddin, Montgomeryshire.¹¹ The fine quality of manufacture of Kettleburgh group 1 can be matched by sherds at Corby, Northants.¹²

Group 2

This group contains both fine and coarse wares, though the fabrics of all the sherds are similar. Without recorded stratigraphy the unity of the group is uncertain.

Of the three fine, burnished vessels, the form of only the carinated bowl (Fig. 66,2) is certain. This occurs in Suffolk at Darmsden;¹³ in Norfolk at West Harling;¹⁴ in the Upper Thames Valley at Long Wittenham¹⁵ and Mount Farm, Dorchester,¹⁶ and in Dorset at Encombe.¹⁷ On the continent the form occurs at Les Jogasses,

⁶ D. Mordant, 'Les enclos funéraires protohistoriques de Gravon (Seine-et-Marne)', *Rev. archéol. de l'est et du centre-est*, xvii (1966), p. 61, figs. 6, 3 and 7, 1.

⁷ N. K. Sandars, *Bronze Age Cultures in France* (Cambridge 1957), fig. 41, 1.

⁸ *Idem*, figs. 56, 6 and 7, and 57, 6; fig. 78, 5.

⁹ Hawkes, *op. cit.* (n. 3), p. 53, fig. 13, B5, b, c, q.

¹⁰ J. Barrett, 'The later pottery; types, affinities, chronology and significance', no. 27, p. 102, fig. 3:5, in R. Bradley and A. Ellison, *Rams Hill*, British Archaeological Reports, 19 (Oxford 1975).

¹¹ C. R. Musson, *The Breiddin 1969-74*, cyclostyled draft report (Shrewsbury 1974), fig. 21, 20.

¹² In the possession of D. A. Jackson; unpublished.

¹³ B. Cunliffe, 'Early pre-Roman Iron Age communities in eastern England', *Ant. Jour.*, xlviii (1968), p. 188, fig. 4, 59.

¹⁴ J. G. D. Clark and C. I. Fell, 'An Early Iron Age site at Mickle Moor Hill, West Harling, Norfolk, and its pottery', *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, xix (1953), fig. 15, 75.

¹⁵ H. N. Savory, 'An Early Iron Age site at Long Wittenham, Berks', *Oxoniensia* II (1937), fig. 2, 7.

¹⁶ J. N. L. Myres, 'A prehistoric and Roman site on Mount Farm, Dorchester', *Oxoniensia* II (1937), fig. 6. D. W. Harding, *The Iron Age in the Upper Thames Basin* (Oxford 1972), pl. 50.

¹⁷ B. Cunliffe, 'Excavations at Eldon's Seat, Encombe, Dorset', *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, xxxiv (1968), fig. 16.

Marne, in the late Hallstatt D cemetery.¹⁸ Marnian La Tène forms occur on Upper Thames sites¹⁹ but Bretz-Mahler's survey of Marnian La Tène culture does not include the Kettleburgh carinated bowl form.²⁰

The expanded rim (Fig. 67,3) can be matched at Darmsden,²¹ and at Scarborough, Yorks,²² the sherds from both sites being burnished, and at Wandlebury, Cambs,²³ unburnished. Other expanded rims occur at Wandlebury.²⁴

The form of the vessel to which the everted rim (Fig. 67,5) belonged is uncertain; it was probably a jar but could have been round or angular in profile.

The angular-shouldered jar with finger-tip ornament (Fig. 66,1) resembles examples from West Harling²⁵ and Staple Howe, Yorks.²⁶ Vessels resembling the Kettleburgh slack-shouldered jar (Fig. 67,1) also occur on these sites²⁷ and at Wandlebury are associated with a bronze penannular brooch.²⁸ Such jar forms are characteristic of the Early Iron Age but are difficult to compare or to date exactly. The same applies to the convex profile jars with finger-tip ornament (Fig. 65,1 and 4; Fig. 67,2). The double row of finger-tip ornament (Fig. 65,1) occurs at Wandlebury on convex profile sherds²⁹ and at West Harling but these are not on convex profile vessels.³⁰ Other convex profile jars with finger-tip ornament occur at Wandlebury associated with part of an iron horse-bit and with an iron ring-headed pin.³¹ The convex profile occurs at Scarborough³² but the dominant ornament is the applied cordon. At Staple Howe a convex profile sherd bears ornament both on shoulder and rim³³ but the latter is cabling not finger-tipping as

¹⁸ M. Babes, *Die relative Chronologie des späthallstattzeitlichen Gräberfeldes von Les Jogasses, Gemeinde Chouilly (Marne)*. Saarbrücker Beiträge zur Altertumskunde, 13 (Bonn 1974), Taf. 7, 4.

¹⁹ Harding, *op. cit.* (n. 16), pp. 86-90.

²⁰ D. Bretz-Mahler, *La civilisation de la Tène I en Champagne*. xxiii^e supplément à *Gallia* (Paris 1971).

²¹ Cunliffe, *op. cit.* (n. 13), fig. 3, 34.

²² R. A. Smith, 'Pre-Roman remains at Scarborough' *Archaeologia*, LXXVII (1927), fig. 46.

²³ B. R. Hartley, 'The Wandlebury Iron Age hill-fort, excavations of 1955-6', *Proc. Camb. Ant. Soc.*, 50 (1957), fig. 8, 65.

²⁴ *Idem*, fig. 7, 11, 12, 25; fig. 8, 41, 42, 47, 64, 76, 79.

²⁵ Clark & Fell, *op. cit.* (n. 14), figs. 10, 11 and 12.

²⁶ T. C. M. Brewster, *The Excavation of Staple Howe* (Malton 1963), fig. 33, 3 and 9; fig. 41, 5; fig. 43, 6; fig. 47, 4.

²⁷ Clark & Fell, *op. cit.*, fig. 13, 36. Brewster, *op. cit.*, (n.26), fig. 54, 3.

²⁸ Hartley, *op. cit.* (n. 23), fig. 7, 14; fig. 9, 2.

²⁹ *Idem*, fig. 8, 37.

³⁰ Clark & Fell, *op. cit.*, fig. 12, 20 and 21.

³¹ Hartley, *op. cit.* (n. 23), fig. 7, 23; fig. 8, 41 with fig. 9, 10; fig. 8, 45 with fig. 9, 1.

³² Smith, *op. cit.* (n. 22), figs. 14, 15, 22, 24, 25, 28, 29.

³³ Brewster, *op. cit.*, fig. 46, 5.

at Kettleburgh (Fig. 67,2). While these vessels are probably Early Iron Age, convex profiles and finger-tip ornament occur on Bronze Age pottery. Only two large Bronze Age groups from southern East Anglia have been published: Mildenhall Fen³⁴ and Ardleigh³⁵ and the pottery from neither of these sites resembles that from Kettleburgh.

The concave neck sherd (Fig. 67,4) is from a vessel of uncertain form.

Despite the uncertainty of their unity as a group all the Kettleburgh group 2 vessels could be contemporary. Cunliffe's distribution maps show few Early Iron Age sites in east Suffolk³⁶ so it is not surprising that Kettleburgh group 2 contains forms previously unknown there. The comparisons cited for the Kettleburgh carinated bowl suggest a 5th-century date. At Wandlebury the metalwork associated with forms compared to Kettleburgh provide debatable dating evidence. Fowler placed the penannular brooch at the head of her typological sequence which she derives from ring-headed pins such as the Wandlebury example and tentatively dates to the 3rd century.³⁷ Stead suggests that ring-headed pins were directly linked to French late Hallstatt or early La Tène examples³⁸ and that penannular brooches were derived from Iberia where they developed during the late 6th and early 5th centuries and became very common.³⁹ The Wandlebury pottery relevant to Kettleburgh could be dated to as early as the 5th century or as late as the 3rd. Two of the Kettleburgh burnished vessels (Figs. 66,2; 67,3) can be matched at Darmsden where shouldered jars with finger-tip ornament also occur.⁴⁰ Cunliffe now dates his Darmsden-Linton group from the 5th century onwards, broadly contemporary with his Chinnor-Wandlebury group.⁴¹

³⁴ J. G. D. Clark, 'Report on a Late Bronze Age site in Mildenhall Fen, West Suffolk', *Ant. Journ.*, xvi (1936), pp. 29-50.

³⁵ F. H. Erith and I. Longworth, 'A Bronze Age urnfield on Vincas Farm, Ardleigh', *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, xxvi (1960), pp. 178-192. F. H. Erith 'Ardleigh Ring Three', *Colchester Archaeological Group Quarterly Bulletin*, iv, No. 3 (1961), pp. 33-53.

³⁶ Cunliffe, *op. cit.* (n. 1), figs. 3:2, 3:4.

³⁷ E. Fowler, 'The origins and development of the penannular brooch in Europe', *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, xxvi (1960), pp. 155-156; Appendix 1, Type A. Cf. F. C. Stewart, 'Marnian light on Iberian penannular brooches', *Antiquity*, xlvi (1972), pp. 216-218, showing that penannular brooches were present in the Marne during the 5th century and denying a British origin.

³⁸ I. M. Stead, *The La Tène Cultures of eastern Yorkshire* (York 1965), p. 58. Cf. the cautionary remarks of M. G. Spratling, 'The dating of the Iron Age swan's neck sunflower pin from Fengate, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire', *Ant. Journ.*, lrv (1974), pp. 268-269.

³⁹ *Idem.* (n. 38), p. 49. W. Schüle, *Die Meseta-Kulturen der Iberischen Halbinsel*, Madrider Forschungen, 3 (Berlin 1969), pp. 152-153.

⁴⁰ Cunliffe, *op. cit.* (n. 13), fig. 3, 36 and 37.

⁴¹ Cunliffe, *op. cit.* (n. 1), p. 39.

Pending further finds from east Suffolk, a 5th-century or slightly later date is suggested for Kettleburgh group 2.

CONCLUSIONS

The comparative material for Kettleburgh *Group 1* is scattered in space and time and, of the British sites, only Plumpton Plain has other pottery with continental relations. Hawkes dated that site to c. 750–500 B.C.; Cunliffe has adjusted it to c. 700–650.⁴² The iron staining on the whetstones⁴³ may have been caused by natural iron in the subsoil and may be irrelevant to the dating of the site. The bowl with low, convex profile is a form probably not earlier than Hallstatt C⁴⁴ but the conical neck with incised lines should be Hallstatt A and, in the Marne, probably not later.⁴⁵ It is tentatively suggested that Kettleburgh group 1 is of Late Bronze Age date and may be related to continental Urnfield pottery but further finds are needed to confirm this. The Early Iron Age date of Kettleburgh *Group 2* is fairly certain. The contrast between the two groups, found so close together, probably indicates a difference in chronology. The comparisons for group 1 are earlier than those for group 2; how much earlier is a matter for speculation.

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⁴² Hawkes, *op. cit.* (n. 3), p. 57. Cunliffe, *op. cit.* (n. 1), p. 30.

⁴³ G. A. Holleyman and E. C. Curwen, 'Late Bronze Age lynchet-settlements on Plumpton Plain, Sussex', *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, 1 (1935), p. 36.

⁴⁴ Hawkes, *op. cit.*, fig. 11a, cf. A. Brisson and J. J. Hatt, 'Fonds de cabanes de l'Age du Bronze Final et du premier Age du Fer en Champagne (Première partie)', *Revu. archéol. de l'est et du centre-est*, xvii (1966), fig. 23, 5.

⁴⁵ Hawkes, *op. cit.*, fig. 11b, cf. Brisson & Hatt *op. cit.*, (n. 44), p. 174, fig. 4, 1.