

SOUTH HORNCHURCH (Essex)

TQ 5235 8300

The site South Hornchurch lies in South Hornchurch, Essex near the River Ingrebourne in an open landscape over argillic gleys of the Hurst association (Guttmann and Last 2000, 319). The soils are acidic which do not allow ideal bone (unburnt) preservation (Guttmann and Last 2000, 319). Excavations began at the site in 1996 by the Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust in advance of gravel extraction (Guttmann and Last 2000, 319). The excavation covered nearly 2.5 ha and exposed over 1300 prehistoric and historic features (Guttmann and Last 2000, 321). The Late Bronze Age at South Hornchurch witnessed a lot of human activity indicated by a field system and occupation area (Guttmann and Last 2000, 349). Late Bronze Age inhabitants of South Hornchurch practiced a mixed farming regime (Guttmann and Last 2000, 349). Excavations uncovered 15 Late Bronze Age cremation deposits associated with a number of archaeological features. Tony Waldron (2000) conducted the osteological analysis of the cremated bone.

- *There are three phases ('early' Phase 1 and 2; 'late' Phase 3) of the site based on ceramic styles and are all within the Late Bronze Age period (Guttmann and Last 2000, 322).*