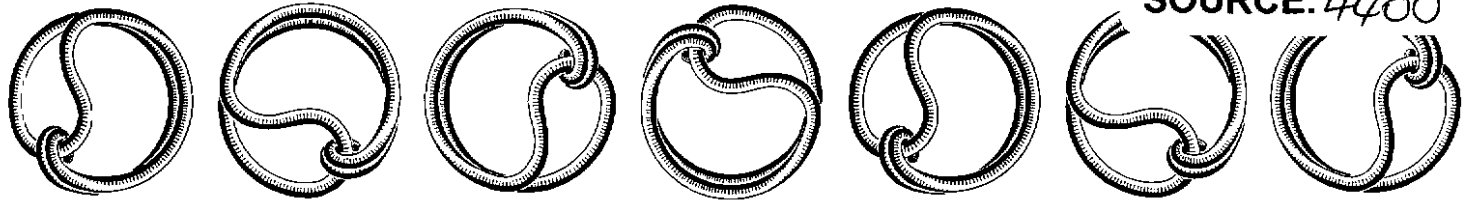


HER: 16071, 16072

EVENT: 1592

SOURCE: 4400



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AT
COLDHARBOUR QUARRY, THORPE, SURREY**

**POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT AND PROJECT DESIGN FOR
PUBLICATION**

(TQ 026 689)

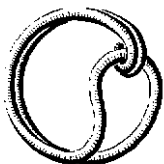
by
Paul Riccoboni BA

*With a contribution by Louise Rayner, Charlotte Thompson, Lucy Allott,
Susan Pringle, Chris Butler & Luke Barber*

Project No. 2238

July 2006

**SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**



ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH-EAST

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AT
COLDHARBOUR QUARRY, THORPE, SURREY**

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July 2006

**Archaeology South-East
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CONTENTS

- 1.0 INTRODUCTION**
 - Introduction*

- 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**
 - Introduction*
 - Site location*
 - Project Background*
 - Site Methodology*

- 3.0 EXCAVATION AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**
 - Introduction*
 - Specific Aims*

- 4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**
 - Introduction*
 - Quantification of Site Archive*
 - The Excavation Results*

- 5.0 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATERIAL:
QUANTIFICATION AND DESCRIPTION**
 - The Pottery* by Charlotte Thompson
 - The Building Material* by Susan Pringle
 - The Burnt Clay* by Charlotte Thompson
 - The Flintwork* by Chris Butler
 - The Geological Material* by Luke Barber
 - The Animal Bone* by Lucy Sibun
 - The Shell* by Charlotte Thompson
 - The Environmental Samples* by Lucy Allott

- 6.0 SIGNIFICANCE AND POTENTIAL OF RESULTS**
 - The Stratigraphic Sequence* by Paul Riccoboni
 - The Pottery* by Charlotte Thompson
 - The Building Material* by Susan Pringle
 - The Burnt Clay* by Charlotte Thompson
 - The Flintwork* by Chris Butler
 - The Geological Material* by Luke Barber
 - The Animal Bone* by Lucy Sibun
 - The Shell* by Charlotte Thompson
 - The Environmental Samples* by Lucy Allott

- 7.0 REVISED RESEARCH AIMS**
 - Revised Research Aims*

- 8.0** **METHODOLOGY FOR FURTHER WORK**
The Stratigraphic Sequence by Paul Riccoboni
The Pottery by Charlotte Thompson
The Building Material by Susan Pringle
The Burnt Clay by Charlotte Thompson
The Flintwork by Chris Butler
The Geological Material by Luke Barber
The Animal Bone by Lucy Sibun
The Shell by Charlotte Thompson
The Environmental Samples by Lucy Allott
- 9.0** **PUBLICATION AND ARCHIVING PROPOSALS**
Publication Synopsis
Artefacts and Archive Deposition
- 10.0** **RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING**
- 11.0** **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Context details

Figures

- Fig. 1 Site Location Plan
Fig. 2 Plan showing Excavation locations
Fig. 3 Plan of Excavation
Fig. 4 Selected Sections
Fig. 5 Plan of 'corn' dryer

Tables

- Table 1 Summary of quantification of site archive
Table 2 The Finds (Count/weight)
Table 3 The Context dates for CBM
Table 4 The Prehistoric Flintwork
Table 5 Flot Results (identification and quantification of charred plant remains).
Table 6 Residue quantification
Table 7 Cereal identifications
Table 8 Project team
Table 9 Resources required for proposed publication

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 This post excavation assessment has been prepared broadly in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Management of Archaeological Projects (2nd Edition, hereafter referred to as *MAP2*). This document seeks to summarise the results of archaeological work at the site and the potential for future analysis, as well as determining future requirements for publication and archiving of these results.

1.1.2 The ultimate aim of the current report is to provide a framework for carrying the report through to publication, including the resources required for post-excavation analysis, publication and archiving.

1.2 Site Location

1.2.1 The site is situated on the outskirts of Thorpe village (NGR TQ 026 689), on an area of flat ground, at heights varying from 13.20m to 13.90m A.O.D (Fig 1; Fig 2). The geology across the site was consistent. It was mainly composed of compact gravels described on the British Geological Survey Sheet 288 (solid & drift edition) as Thames Terrace Gravel (Shepperton Terrace). However, some areas of brickearth were also encountered.

1.2.2 The site comprises a large sealed land fill and large areas left open from previous gravel extraction. It is bounded on all sides by previous gravel extraction, except to the south. To the south, behind the current bund was open land and then housing fronting onto Coldharbour Lane.

1.3 Project Background

1.3.1 Planning permission was granted by Surrey County Council for the gravel extraction. Following consultation between Shepperton Borough Council and The Surrey Conservation Group at Surrey County Council (Shepperton Borough Council's advisors on archaeological issues), a condition was attached to the permission requiring a programme of archaeological work at the site prior to the commencement of gravel extraction.

1.3.2 Archaeology South-East (a division of the University College London Field Archaeology Unit) was commissioned by RMC Ltd to undertake an archaeological excavation (Stage 1) of the site in October 2005. The excavation was carried out according to the *Recommended Standard Conditions for Archaeological Fieldwork*

and a Method Statement was prepared by Archaeology South East prior to the commencement of work (Stevenson 2005).

- 1.3.3 During the (Stage 1) excavation, prehistoric (Later Bronze Age) and Roman remains were found. Such features included four large pits or 'waterholes' ranging in date from the Late Bronze Age to the Roman period. A series of Romano-British ditches and a Roman 'corn' dryer were also excavated.
- 1.3.4 The site had not been subject to any previous archaeological investigation. However, areas immediately adjacent to the site had been. Work carried out by SCAU in 2001 (evaluation and subsequent watching brief and excavation) on the immediately adjacent phase to the east, identified remains and artefacts from Neolithic through to Anglo-Saxon date. The most notable discovery was a large ring ditch, thought to be a Bronze Age barrow. Due to the proximity of such important finds to the site, archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was not thought to be necessary.
- 1.3.5 It was stated in the Method Statement document (Stevenson 2005) that the entire area was to be subject to archaeological monitoring. This was important as the site had previously been used as a topsoil store and it was unsure whether any archaeological remains had been damaged.
- 1.3.6 Archaeology South-East carried out the archaeological excavation between the 18th October 2005 to 11th November 2005 (under the site code: CHQ 05).

1.4 Site Methodology

- 1.4.1 The excavation area (Fig. 2) was 4834m² and encompassed the entire area which was to be reduced for gravel extraction. The ground was reduced by machine with a toothless bucket under archaeological supervision. Excavation stopped when the underlying natural substrate (Thames Terrace Gravel), or archaeological remains, were encountered.
- 1.4.2 Archaeological remains uncovered were half sectioned (pits) and then fully excavated where practicable (One 'waterhole' was 100% excavated). Pits [162] & [192] were quadranted and also excavated in 100mm thick spits. Linear features were sampled by segment with 25% of the exposed area sampled. One ditch was 100% excavated in an attempt to gain more dating evidence.
- 1.4.3 Environmental samples were taken from potentially productive deposits.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological background to the area is summarised in the Method Statement report prepared by ASE (Stevenson, 2005). This report concluded that the site had a very high archaeological potential from the Neolithic through to the Anglo-Saxon periods (briefly summarised in 2.2, below).
- 2.2 A prehistoric ring ditch thought to be a barrow was excavated by SCAU (2001) in the land to the west of the site (shown on Fig 2). Two crouched inhumations were discovered in the ditch of this barrow. Other remains included a field system of Roman date and an area of intercutting pits of Anglo-Saxon origin.
- 2.3 A Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) search of the area also proved that significant remains are known within a 1km radius of the site. A range of finds have been recorded from the Mesolithic through to the Post medieval period. Of particular relevance is the Late Bronze Age pit discovered on Longsides gravel pit in 1945. This pit contained large quantities of daub with wattle impressions, pottery and two loom weights. The SMR detailed another Bronze Age pit discovered during the construction of the Thorpe by-pass. A hearth containing burnt flint and Bronze Age pottery were also discovered on this site.
- 2.4 During the Late Bronze Age on the western edge of the Lower Thames Valley there was an extensive zone of managed farmland. The wealth of evidence collected over the years (mostly completed as a result of developer funded field work) suggests a fully utilised environment with coaxial land divisions, waterholes, driveways and ditched and banked enclosures, with associated settlement.

3. EXCAVATION AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The main aim of the archaeological work was to 'preserve by record' the archaeological remains prior to development. Although no formal research aims were established at the outset of the project, some broad overall objectives were formulated at the beginning of the project.
- 3.2 The main aim of the excavation was to identify, investigate and record any archaeological remains that may be present in advance of the gravel extraction.

3.3 Some specific aims were outlined in the Specification (ASE 2005) and approved by Tony Howe, Archaeological Officer of Surrey County Council. These aims were to establish:

- *Any remains exposed in the context of the previous work adjacent.*
- *Identify any earlier prehistoric remains that may be interrelated with the Bronze Age Barrow excavated during an earlier phase of work.*
- *Investigate whether the Roman field system continues into the present phase.*
- *Investigate whether the Anglo-Saxon pitting continues into this area and clarify its form and function.*

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 No archaeological work had been undertaken on the site prior to excavation. Full details of the excavation are given below (a complete Context list can be found in Appendix 1). All details are housed with the site archive.

4.2 Quantification of the Site Archive

4.2.1 A total of 250 further contexts were encountered during the excavations and each was recorded on a pro-forma context sheet. Five sheets of plans and sections were drawn on plastic drawing film, providing plans at scales of 1:20 and a total of 44 section drawings at a scale of 1:10.

4.2.2 The site was planned using a Global Positioning System (DGPS-1200). The site was also levelled using this machine. The photographic record is listed on pro-forma sheets and consists of approximately 100 black and white exposures, approximately 100 colour transparencies. A digital photographic record was also kept. These are stored on disc and will form part of the site archive.

Table 1: Summary of quantification of site archive

Number of Contexts	250
Plan and sections sheets	5 (1: 20, 1: 10)
Bulk Samples	36
Registered finds	

Photographs	4 black and white and 4 colour slide films used
Bulk finds	2 boxes
Environmental flots/residue	1 box

4.3 Archaeological Results

4.3.1 The stratigraphic sequence across the site was:

(100) Topsoil	0.20m
(101) Subsoil	0.20m
(102) Thames Gravel	

In part of the east and centre of the site the stratigraphic sequence was:

(100) Topsoil	0.20-0.30m
(101) Subsoil	0.10m
(102) Thames Gravel and (103) Brickearth	

4.3.2 Although the area had been used as a topsoil store during previous stages of gravel extraction, archaeological features had been preserved well. The identified archaeological features were cut into the natural gravels and brickearth.

4.3.3 The excavation (Fig. 3) revealed a total of 16 features: 4 large pits, 5 smaller pits, one structure and 7 ditches. The earliest identifiable features were dated to Late Bronze Age. Four large pits were excavated and sampled, [162], [192], [217] & [225]. Similar examples from other Bronze Age sites have previously been interpreted as waterholes. All of these waterholes are considered to have originated in the Late Bronze Age. Late Bronze Age dating evidence was retrieved from two waterholes (Features [162] & [192]). Such finds included; pottery sherds, mandibular cattle bones and broken quern stones. Waterhole [217] contained Roman tile and a cattle skull in the uppermost fill. This pit seems to have been re-cut during the Roman period, but was likely to have originated in the Late Bronze Age. Waterhole [225] was undated, but also likely Late Bronze Age in origin. Below is a full stratigraphic description of each pit.

4.3.4 Feature [162] (Fig 3; Fig.4; Section 1) was sub circular in plan with concave undulating sides forming a gently rounded base. This feature was quadranted and then fully excavated. It may have been re-cut (Cut [163]). A total of five fills were identified. Separate context numbers were issued in each separate excavated quadrant. This resulted in duplicate numbers for the same fills. Stratigraphically (latest to earliest) these were:

- (164)/(177) Dark orange grey, silty clay soil with moderate gravel inclusions. Forty two sherds of pottery dating to the Late Bronze Age were recovered weighing a total of 256grams. Two mandibular cattle bones and a fragment of a quern/grain rubber and a large piece (6,500g) from a saddle quern were recovered. Also fire cracked flints were found in this fill.
- (185)/(181) Mid brownish grey fill *c.* 0.20m in depth. It had a clay silt texture with very occasional gravel inclusions. This fill is also of a likely Late Bronze Age date.
- (183) & (189) Mid brownish orange coloured fill *c.* 0.15m in depth. It contained very few gravel inclusions and had a high clay content.
- (182) Mid dark grey clay silt, *c.* 0.20m in thickness. This fill was fairly sterile and had a high water content.
- (247) Dark brownish grey coloured clay silt, *c.* 0.30m thick. This was the primary fill of the original cut of the pit. It consisted of a very firm clay with gravel mix. This fill was interpreted as clay lining probably used to help maintain water in the pit.

4.3.5 Feature [192] (Fig 3; Fig.4; Section 2) was roughly circular. It had curving concave sides forming a flattish shaped base. The south facing section may have a possible step in the side. Similar in profile to pits [162], [217] and [225]. Three fills were identified. Stratigraphically, (latest to earliest), these were:

- (200)/(194) Mid-dark brownish grey coloured clay silt *c.* 0.30m in thickness. with occasional gravel and charcoal flecking. This fill contained 5 sherds (14 grams) of Later Bronze Age pottery.
- (201)/(207) Mid greyish brown clay silt with frequent gravel and rare charcoal flecking. This fill was *c.* 0.30m in thickness. It contained 2 sherds (3 grams) of Later Bronze Age pottery.
- (202)/(208) Dark blue grey clay silt of *c.* 0.18m in thickness. This was the primary fill of the pit and it contained occasional gravels throughout.

4.3.6 Feature [217] was sub circular in shape. It had concave curving sides forming a flattish base (Fig 3; Fig 4; Section 3). It may also contain

evidence of a stepped side (western edge). This feature had six fills and had been re-cut once (Re-cut [218]). This feature was interpreted as a waterhole which may have originated in the Later Bronze Age, but re-used in the 3rd and 4th centuries AD.

4.3.7 Cut [218] contained (latest to earliest):

- (219) Mid brownish grey silty clay of *c.* 0.50m thickness and 2.50m in width. This fill had a friable consistency and contained angular flint nodules (<20-30mm) throughout. This fill contained part of a Roman storage jar (*c.* AD 250-400). Cattle and horse bones were present in this context. The cattle fragments were cranial and mandibular. Horses were represented by longbones, metapodials and teeth. Two pieces of worked flint and fire cracked flint were also obtained. These flints seemed to have been positioned around the cattle skull.
- (222) Dark greyish brown clay silt of *c.* 0.20m thickness and 0.40m in width. This fill had a firm consistency and contained gravel inclusions throughout (10-20%). It contained three fragments of animal bone.
- (231) Mid brownish grey clay silt of *c.* 0.10m thickness and *c.* 0.40m width. This fill contained charcoal flecking throughout (2-5%). No finds were recovered from this fill.

4.3.8 Cut [217] contained (latest to earliest)

- (229) Mid greyish brown clay silt of a firm consistency. This fill was *c.* 0.47m in depth and contained gravel inclusions throughout. This fill was truncated by Cut [218]. No finds were recovered from this fill.
- (232) Light greyish brown clay silt and *c.* 0.40m in depth. This fill was truncated by Cut [218]. It is likely to be the same as fill (229).
- (230) Dark blue grey, silty clay fill of *c.* 0.30m thickness and 2.10m width. It was of a firm consistency and contained angular flint nodules and gravels (<10-20mm) throughout.
- (233) Light brownish orange silty sand of a soft consistency. This deposit was interpreted as the

natural sand which had some gravel inclusions throughout.

4.3.9 Pit [225] was again similar in shape and size to feature [162], [192] and [217]. This feature (Fig 3; Fig 4; Section 4) was also interpreted as a prehistoric waterhole. This pit contained the following contexts from latest to earliest.

(227) Dark orange grey fill of a silty clay texture and firm composition. It contained gravel inclusions throughout (2-3%). A mandible from a large mammal was recovered from this fill.

(242) Mid orange grey clay silt *c.* 0.25 in depth and 0.80m in width. It contained some rare gravel inclusions but no finds.

(236) Dark brownish grey clay silt of *c.* 0.38m in depth and 1.20m in width. It had a firm consistency with occasional small gravel inclusions throughout. This fill was clay based and organic. It had a high water content. No finds were recovered.

(241) Dark grey coloured fill of a silty clay texture and firm consistency. It contained gravel and flint inclusions throughout (50-60%) and was *c.* 0.35m thick and *c.* 0.65m in width.

(233) Light orange brown silty sand. This deposit was interpreted as the natural sand.

4.3.10 The next major phase of activity identified on the site was from the Roman period. Seven linear features, representing the truncated remains of Roman field ditches were recorded and sampled (Feature No's [104], [105], [107], [108], [109], [245] & [246]). Only ditch [109] was dated, by four sherds of pottery, to the Roman period. Most of the field ditches are thought to be associated with the Roman ditches located in the earlier phase of work to the west of the site (SCAU forthcoming; shown on Fig. 2). However, it is possible that ditches [108], [245] & [246] may be of Bronze Age date and associated with the prehistoric pits (*pers. comm.* Dave Yates).

4.3.11 Six slots (Cuts: 110, 123, 125, 137, 139 & 150) were excavated across ditch [104]. Slot 123 was representative of the shape and form of this ditch. (Fig 3; Fig 4; Section 7). This slot was 0.90m in width and 0.34m in depth. It had concave sides and a gently rounded base. It was filled by Context (124). This was a mid orange brown silty

- clay which had a friable consistency. No finds were recovered from this ditch slot.
- 4.3.12 Two slots (165 & 157) were excavated across ditch [105]. Slot 165 was representative of the shape and form of this ditch (Fig 3; Fig 4; Section 9). This slot was 0.82m in width and 0.22m in depth. It had concave sides and a roughly flat base. Slot 165 was filled by Context (166). This was a mid orange brown silty clay, which had a friable consistency. No finds were recovered from this ditch slot.
- 4.3.13 Ditch [109] contained two slots (121 & 116). Slot 116 contained evidence of stratigraphic relationships (Fig 3; Fig 4; Section 10). The earliest feature described here is Context [118]. This was interpreted as a pit with a depth of *c.* 600mm. This feature had concave sides and an irregular base. It was filled by Context (119), a light brownish grey coloured clay silt. Ditch [109] (slot 116) was cutting 118. This slot was *c.* 400mm in width and *c.* 600mm in depth. It had concave sides and a rounded base. This slot was filled by Context (117), a mid yellow brown silty clay with gravel inclusions throughout. Cut [114] was interpreted as the re-cut of [109]. This was *c.* 120mm in width and *c.* 320mm in depth. It was filled by Context (115) a mid yellowish brown silty clay which contained some pottery and bone, mixed with gravels throughout. Cut 112 was seen at the eastern edge of the section. This likely represents the eastern side of feature [118].
- 4.3.14 Ditch [108] was excavated with six slots: cut numbers 170, 174, 178, 195, 203 & 209. Ditch [108] was cut (or re-cut) by a smaller ditch, Feature [245]. Slots 178 and 203 are representative of this ditch. Slot 178 had a depth of 0.32m (Fig 3; Fig 4; Section 5). It had concave sides and an irregular base. This cut was filled by Context (179), a mid orange grey silty clay of a friable consistency. No finds were recovered from this slot.
- 4.3.15 Slot 203 was *c.* 0.42m in depth and had a roughly v-shaped profile (Fig 3; Fig 4; Section 8). It was filled by a mid orange grey silty clay with a friable consistency (Context 204).
- 4.3.16 Three slots were excavated across ditch [245] (cut numbers: 187, 205 & 211). Slots 187 and 205 are representative of this ditch. Slot 187 was 0.45m in width and 0.15m in depth (Fig 3; Fig 4; Section 5). This ditch cut Context (178/179) and is therefore later than or a re-cut of ditch [108] (slot 178). Ditch slot 187 had a concave side on the western edge and a convex side on the eastern edge, forming a rounded base. It was filled by Context (188), a mid orange grey silty clay, which contained small gravels and manganese flecking.
- 4.3.17 [205] was cut through Context (204), and is therefore later than or a re-cut of ditch [108] (Fig 3; Fig 4; Section 8). This slot had steep

sides forming an irregular, almost rounded base. It was 0.45m in width and 0.25m in depth. It was filled by Context (206), a mid orange grey silty clay. This fill contained small flint gravels throughout.

- 4.3.18 A Roman 'corn' dryer was also recorded and sampled (Structure 1). (Fig 3, Fig 5) This was located in the northern half of the site, between two field ditches [104] & [105]. This 'corn' dryer was of the 'T'-shaped variety sometimes found on rural Roman sites. This structure contained collapsed flues made from roughly dressed chalk and flint blocks with tile inclusions (Contexts [131] & [167]).
- 4.3.19 Context [131] is assumed to be a collapsed flue. It measures 1.4m in length and 0.60m in width (Fig 5). It was composed of a general mix of large flint nodules (<100-300mm), chalk nodules (<100mm), sand stone (<100-200mm) and occasional tile. The main flue chamber was at least 1.5m in length and 0.60m in width (Context [167]). It was composed of a similar makeup to [131], comprising flint nodules (<100-150mm), chalk blocks (<50-100mm), sandstone (<100-150mm) and one pottery sherd from a necked jar of an early Roman date. The trench cut for the flue chamber was concave in shape with a gently rounded base. It may be possible that this flue chamber was dome shaped with a roof constructed from tiles (See finds section 5.4.7). Chipping and scaring on some of the flint nodules may indicate that the structure was dismantled/robbed in a later period (probably in the Saxon period).
- 4.3.20 The stoking pit (Context [155]) seems to have been through a gap between the probable collapsed flue chambers [131] and [167]. This was filled by Context (161) (Fig 4; Section 6). Context (161) was a dark black coloured silty sand. This context contained carbonised grains including high quantities of barley. This may have a bearing on the interpretation of this structure as a 'corn' dryer.
- 4.3.21 A possible gully was recorded at the eastern end of the structure (Fig 5) (Generic Cut [149]), which may have once formed part of the flue system. Five slots were excavated across this gully (134, 141, 143, 145, 147). This gully was *c.* 0.25m in width and averaged *c.* 0.08m in depth.

OD heights are given on the section drawings (Fig 4)

5. THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATERIAL; QUANTIFICATION AND DESCRIPTION

5.1 Introduction

The excavation produced the following categories of artefact, pottery, fired clay, animal bone and struck flint. The assessments for these finds are given below. As far as is possible, given the different specialist report styles, these assessments give an outline of the finds, their potential and any further work recommended.

5.2 A modest assemblage of finds was recovered during archaeological work at this Coldharbour Quarry. The quantification of the assemblages is listed on Table 1.

Table 2: the finds (count/weight (g))

Context	Sample no.	Pottery	CBM	Bone	Stone	Worked flint	FCF	Burnt clay	Shell
[100]						1/<1			
[106]			4/2504		1/564			5/10	
[115]		4/20		252/1362		1/6			
[118]							6/172		
[120]					1/3092	2/6168			
[120]	1005		57/235					2/21	
[120]	1006		4/764						
[122]							5/124		
[131]			1/450		3/6986	6/6390	1/498		
[135]			1/516						
[138]				Frag/16					
[140]		3/<2					3/36		
[142]				Frag/2					
[151]							1/4		
[153]	1012							>100/70	
[154]							8/40		
[156]	1013							66/44	
[161]	1015		10/<2						
[164]		31/212			1/1224				4/70
[164]	1018		10/<2						
[166]							1/22		
[167]					4/5534	7/8018			
[170]		2/24							
[173]			1/16						
[177]		21/586		9/<2			14/636		
[194]				77/676			4/72		
[201]			1/328						
[216]							2/96		
[219]		1/138	1/180	126/1172	9/256	2/56	2/18		
[219]	1032		1/<2						
[222]				3/44					

Archaeology South-East
Coldharbour Quarry, Thorpe, Surrey

[224]				8/70			4/20		
[227]				55/230					
[234]			4/1142						
[234]	1035		14/<2						
[235]			1/136						
[236]							1/18		
[247]								1/106	
[120] Q1		1/8							
[120] Q3			1/408	1/>6000					
[120] Q3		1/10	5/58						
[120] Q4		1/10							
[156] part of 106			6/268						
[158] surface find of 105			1/120						
[162/177] spit 2		2/8							
[162/177] spit 3		6/58							
[164] S\F		1/8							
[164] spit 1							2/44		
[164] spit 1		7/38							
[164] spit 2		3/10					5/190		
[177] spit 1		2/<1							
[177] spit 3				1/>6000					
[177] spit 4		25/14							
[177/162] spit 1				5/54			2/84		
[177/162] spit 2							1/80		
[194] spit 2				19/130					
[200] spit 1		5/4		15/28			1/16		
[201] spit 3		3/4							
[202] spit 4							1/10		
S\F							1/10		

S\F = Surface Find

5.3 The Pottery

Charlotte Thompson

- 5.3.1 A modest assemblage of pottery was recovered from the excavation at Coldharbour Quarry, consisting of 117 sherds, 96 prehistoric weighing 928g and 11 Roman weighing 209g. The prehistoric pottery is in good condition and many of the sherds are of a large size, the Roman pottery is noticeably more abraded.
- 5.3.2 The assemblage was examined with a x20 microscope and recorded by fabric, form and decoration and quantified by sherd count, estimated number of vessels (ENV) and weight. The prehistoric pottery was divided into fabric categories and defined using guidelines drawn up by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1995):
- 5.3.3 FLIN1: hard fabric with a micaceous and granular matrix of fine quartz; rare to sparse medium to coarse ill-sorted crushed calcined flint; rare coarse iron rich inclusions
- 5.3.4 FLIN2: hard fabric with a slightly silty and micaceous matrix; common fine to medium ill-sorted crushed calcined flint; rare coarse quartz; rare fine rounded red inclusions
- 5.3.5 FLIN3: hard fabric with a slightly silty and micaceous matrix; moderate to common ill-sorted coarse to very coarse crushed calcined flint; rare to sparse coarse clay pellets; rare medium quartz; rare elongated burnt organic inclusions
- 5.3.6 Context (177), the fill from a prehistoric water hole, contains 15 large sherds from a single vessel. It is a semi-complete jar c 135mm high with a high narrow and angular shoulder and gently everted rim. The full profile remains and the body is quite rounded; the vessel is in good condition and some of the surfaces remain and indicate that it was deliberately smoothed. The edge of the basal exterior is flint-gritted, although the centre of the basal exterior is not. Flint-gritted bases are common on later Bronze Age vessels, particularly coarse wares: as the vessel in context (177) is a fine ware, the gritting may have been accidental. Coldharbour Quarry is in the lower Thames Valley, and is close to the well-studied lower Late Bronze Age site at Runnymede Bridge. The vessel can be paralleled at Runnymede Bridge (Longley 1980, fig 31 no.271; Longley 1991 fig 101 P539), and the fabric, the flint gritting and the profile are all consistent with a Late Bronze Age date for this vessel.
- 5.3.7 A second vessel from the same water hole, this time in FLIN3, comes from context (164), (164) spit 1 and (164) spit 2. It is a

coarseware round-bodied jar with a tapered and in-turned rim. It has layers of thick soot around the rim, which indicates that it was used prior to deposition. Again, this form can be paralleled at Runnymede Bridge (Longley 1991 fig 78 P26), and the clay paste used as well as the profile indicates a Late Bronze Age date.

- 5.3.8 The body sherds that make up the rest of the assemblage are all likely to date to the Late Bronze Age, even though the more granular FLIN1 could be indicative of a later date, they are from the same contexts or from contexts associated with those containing Late Bronze Age pottery. Previous work at the quarry site revealed a large ring-ditch, thought to have been part of a Bronze Age barrow which would have housed the two crouch burials that were also found (SCAU in prep).
- 5.3.9 The Roman assemblage of twenty-six sherds (fifteen of these are from environmental sample residues) contains two sherds from an Oxfordshire region red-coated ware mortarium (OXRC) in contexts (120) Q1 and (120) Q3, a deposit above the 'corn' dryer (Structure 1). The sherds are very abraded so none of the exterior surface remains, although the characteristic smooth trituration grits on the interior survive. A further three sherds of OXRC, two with trituration grits, were recovered from the environmental samples from the same context. This vessel is dated *c* AD 200–400. A slither of the base of a jar in context (120) Q4 is likely to be Alice Holt Farnham ware (AHFA), a product of the later Alice Holt industry and dated *c* AD 250–400. Part of the base and lower wall of a large storage jar is present in context (219), a water hole. The exterior is worn, but the interior has parallel vertical grooves which were almost certainly produced by fingers dragging on the wet clay. Although the fabric is not typical of AHFA, large storage jars formed part of the industry's repertoire, and an illustrated example from the kiln site has identical dragging on the interior of the jar (Lyne and Jefferies 1979, 10.1). The other context contains some very abraded sherds from a fabric with a very well-sorted granular matrix, which are at present unsourced. In addition to the late Roman sherd, a small sherd from a barbotine dot decorated beaker in context (120) <1005>, as well as a necked jar from context (156) <1013> are evidence of earlier Roman activity on or near to the site. A Roman field system was located in the earlier work on the site undertaken by Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU in prep), and there were Roman settlements close to Thorpe at Pontes (modern-day Staines).

5.4 The Building Material Susan Pringle

- 5.4.1 The assemblage from the site is relatively small, consisting of 42 fragments of Roman ceramic building material weighing 6987g and three pieces of daub weighing 54g. Additionally, 12g of tile crumbs and 88g of daub crumbs were recorded from sieving residues.
- 5.4.2 All the ceramic building material has been recorded on the standard Museum of London (MoL) recording form. Tile has been quantified by fabric or fabric group, form, weight and fragment count. The MoL fabric type series has been used; fabrics were examined with a x10 binocular microscope. The terminology used for form categories is that suggested by Brodribb (Brodribb 1987). The information on the recording sheets has been entered onto an Excel database (Appendix 1). All the material has been retained.
- 5.4.3 Three fired ceramic tile fabrics were noted, of which the most common, accounting for over 90% of the identifiable tile by weight, was the MoL 2815 fabric group. This is a group of red-firing fabrics made from the London Clay at a number of kiln sites in the Lower Thames Valley and around London. The types present on this site are characterised by inclusions of moderate to abundant quartz, either medium grade (fabric 3006) or coarse (fabric 3004), with sparse calcium carbonate and dark red iron oxides. Only two other fabrics are present; a brick in fabric 3028 which has an orange clay matrix with moderate lighter clay and quartz inclusions, source unknown, and a flake in fabric 3019, orange with large angular siltstone inclusions and red iron oxides. This fabric may have been produced at the Little London kilns situated to the south of Silchester (Betts 2003, 108). In London, all these fabrics are early Roman, seemingly going out of production by the late 2nd century; the date ranges have been extended here to take account of possible later production at local kilns.
- 5.4.4 No complete tiles are present. Of the identifiable ceramic types, bricks account for over 50% of the assemblage (18 fragments), followed by imbrices (9), tegulae (6) and tegula mammata (1). Two bricks, 40 and 41mm thick, have slightly bevelled edges; these may have been paving bricks, although the surfaces seem unworn. A number of bricks have reduced surfaces or are vitrified (contexts 106, 120, 234, 235). A tegula mammata 37mm thick with a small, flattened boss was recorded from context 106.
- 5.4.5 Roofing tile is represented by imbrex and tegula fragments. Some of the tegulae have been deflanged, suggesting re-use, and a small flange chipping (context (156)) indicates that some re-working of tile was done on site. Two shallow vertical marks are visible on the upper end of one tegula (Context (120)); these may be tally marks although they are less deeply cut than normal.

- 5.4.6 All the ceramic tiles are Roman in date and they come predominantly from contexts associated with the ‘corn’ dryer structure [106]. Only three pieces of tile come from other features; ditch [105], and waterholes [192] and [217]. Ceramic crumbs occur in residues from waterhole [162] and daub crumbs from lobate pit [152].
- 5.4.7 On the basis of the fabrics and forms present, the Roman tile assemblage is likely to represent later 1st and 2nd century material. The high proportion of brick in ‘corn’ dryer structure [106] suggests that the tile was brought to the site for re-use in this structure; although clearly not new, it is not in bad condition and may represent primary re-use of tile from a substantial building. The location of the site close to Pontes on the London to Silchester road would have ensured access to supplies of new and second-hand tile. The large pieces and fresh condition of some of the imbrices indicates that the structure may have had a tiled roof, although there are fewer tegulae around the structure than might have been expected from a collapsed roof, and those that are present are generally abraded. One possible explanation of this is that the tegulae from the roof were removed for further recycling when the structure went out of use.

Table 3: *CHQ05 context dates for CBM*

Context	Content	Overall bm date
106	brick, tegula, imbrex, tegula mammata, daub	AD 70–250
120	brick, tegula, imbrex	AD 50–250
120, Q3	tegula, imbrex, daub	AD 50–250
131	Brick	AD 50–250
135	Imbrex	AD 50–250
153	Daub	Undated
156	tegula, imbrex, daub	AD 50–250
158	Brick	AD 50–250
161	tile ‘crumbs’	AD 50–400
164	tile ‘crumbs’	AD 50–400
173	unidentified flat tile (brick or tegula?)	AD 50–250
201	Brick	AD 50–250
219	Imbrex	AD 50–250
234	brick, imbrex	AD 50–250
235	Brick	AD 50–250

5.5 The Burnt Clay

Charlotte Thompson

- 5.5.1 A large piece of burnt clay was recovered from context (247), the fill of a water hole. The piece is rounded and best described as enigmatic as the form and usage are not clear. As it is the only artefact from this context the date is uncertain, however, the water hole also

contained Late Bronze Age pottery, so it is conceivable that this is also dated to this period. Small pieces of burnt clay also occur in contexts [106], (120), (153) and (156), and only the piece in the last context has a small curved area on the surface which could be a wattle imprint.

5.6 The Flintwork

Chris Butler

5.6.1 An assemblage of 267 pieces of worked flint weighing 745g was recovered during the excavations at Coldharbour Quarry (Table 2). These were predominantly very small pieces recovered during the processing of environmental samples. In addition a further 12 large nodules were recovered from wall structures for analysis.

5.6.2 The assessment comprised a visual inspection of each bag, counting the number of pieces of each type of worked flint present, noting details of the range and variety of pieces, general condition, and the potential for further detailed analysis. A hand written archive of the assemblage was produced at this stage. Those pieces of flint that were obviously not worked, or which were not of interest, were discarded during the assessment.

5.6.3 The raw material comprised predominantly nodular flint, originating from the chalk, together with a few pieces of pebble flint.

Table 4: The Flintwork

Hard hammer-struck flakes	15
Soft hammer-struck flakes	1
Fragments	71
Blade/bladelet fragments	5
Chips	73
Shattered pieces	98
Spalls	3
Chunk	1
Total	267

5.6.4 There are a small number of pieces that can be confidently assigned to prehistoric activity. These include a soft hammer-struck flake and two or three of the blade and bladelet fragments. These residual pieces probably represent Mesolithic or early Neolithic activity.

5.6.5 The remainder of the assemblage is completely undiagnostic, and comprises a few small flakes, small chips (flakes less than 10mm in size, and normally much smaller, that have a visible bulb and

platform), small fragments (probably parts of flakes, and here generally smaller than 10mm), and small shattered pieces (unable to determine whether they are humanly struck or natural breakages, and again here normally less than 10mm).

- 5.6.6 These pieces are typical of the small debitage resulting from flint knapping. However, given the absence of any larger prehistoric flintknapping debitage, and the presence of robbed-out flint-constructed walls, together with the fact that the majority of these small pieces are fresh-looking, and rarely patinated, it is likely that this small debitage is not prehistoric. The majority of this small debitage was recovered from contexts (120) (111 pieces) (156) (39 pieces) and (235) (42 pieces).
- 5.6.7 In addition to the worked flint, 12 larger nodules were recovered from wall structures for analysis. Of the two nodules from context (120), one was completely natural, and although one face had some apparent negative scars, these were well-patinated and weathered, and were probably not the result of being shaped. The second nodule was roughly square, with one face having a large and very fresh-looking removal scar. Two nodules recovered from context [131] were both very irregular with no obvious flake scars and patinated exposed surfaces, neither of these looked humanly modified. Three conjoining pieces of a beach pebble were also recovered; this pebble had no obvious utilisation wear and the break looked recent. The seven pieces recovered from context [167] varied in shape and size and none appeared to have been humanly modified, having no obvious flaking scars and with exposed surfaces patinated. Five of these nodules have varying amounts of fire-fracturing/burning damage, which would be expected if this structure was used for 'corn' drying.
- 5.6.8 None of these nodules have any evidence of mortar, cement or plaster adhering to them, although they could have been used in a drystone construction. There is no evidence for the shaping of any of these nodules prior to their use. The use of unmodified irregularly shaped flint nodules in Roman wall construction is well evidenced in South East England. At a number of Roman villa sites in Sussex (eg Butler in prep), there has been no evidence that the flint nodules were shaped prior to their inclusion in walls. However, there is substantial evidence from these sites that the robbing out of those walls in later periods resulted in the removal of flakes and chips through the use of pickaxes and other tools used to dismantle the walls (Butler 2005). The single nodule from context (120) with its fresh flake removal may be evidence of this, although one would expect to also recover a number of the flakes resulting from this activity. It is possible that the numerous chips and fragments may

have resulted from this activity, with most of the larger debitage and nodules being subsequently removed elsewhere.

- 5.6.9 In addition, 64 pieces of fire-cracked flint weighing a total of 2180g, and only two contexts ([131] and [219]) also contained worked flint. The rest of the material is from context (140), (164), (164/177), (177) and (200) was found in association with Late Bronze Age pottery.

5.7 The Geological Material

Luke Barber

- 5.7.1 The excavations at the site produced 24 pieces of stone, weighing just under 31.5kg, from six individual contexts. Of this total two pieces (7724g) are from Late Bronze Age contexts, 18 (18192g) are from Roman contexts and four (5532g) are from an undated deposit (context [167]). The Late Bronze Age material consists of a fragment of quern/grain rubber from context (164) and a large piece (6,500g) from a saddle quern from context (177) spit 3. Both quern fragments are in a firmly cemented grey quartrose Tertiary sandstone (Sarsen). The piece from context (164) shows some evidence of having been burnt while the example from (177) shows it was made from a water-worn boulder. Although Sarsen boulders are relatively common in the Reading Beds, they also occur in the Bagshot series situated a little way to the west of the site and it is likely this was the source of the material originally, though it is possible they were incorporated into the gravels at the site by natural processes and were thus available more locally (Sherlock 1947).
- 5.7.2 The Roman assemblage comes mainly from contexts associated with the corn dryer [106] and is totally dominated by unworked fragments of off-white and grey friable Tertiary sandstone, possibly poorly cemented Sarsen, but notably more friable than the Late Bronze Age pieces. In addition there are a few pieces of unworked ferruginous Tertiary sandstones/conglomerates but the source of all of this material is most probably the Bagshot series. The lack of evidence of water-wear on the pieces and their friable nature suggests they may have been deliberately brought to the site rather than gathered from the on-site river gravels. The only other stone type is represented by a single water-worn chalk boulder (2,505g) from context [131].

5.8 The Animal Bone

Lucy Sibun

- 5.8.1 Approximately 570 fragments of bone were recovered from 14 contexts. The bone assemblage is fragmentary and in a poor state of

preservation. It was evident that a number of fragments counted individually were in fact conjoining, having separated as a result of poor preservation. If conjoining fragments were counted as one the assemblage total would be greatly reduced. Of the 14 contexts producing bone only four were dateable, two to the Later Bronze Age (164, 200), one to the 1st to 4th century AD (115) and one to the 3rd to 4th century AD (219).

- 5.8.2 The two species identified during the assessment were cattle, present in the Later Bronze Age and 3rd to 4th century contexts, and horse represented in the 1st to 4th and 3rd to 4th century contexts. The majority of cattle fragments were cranial or mandibular but vertebral fragments and some longbone fragments were also present. Horses were represented by longbones, metapodials and teeth. No complete elements were present.
- 5.8.3 A quantity of very small fragments was recovered from the environmental samples. This assemblage consisted entirely of small fragments from large mammals. Some fragments (<10) showed signs of burning.

5.9 The Shell

Charlotte Thompson

- 5.9.1 Four pieces of mollusc (snail) shell weighing 70g were recovered from Context (164).

5.10 Environmental Samples

Lucy Allott

- 5.10.1 Bulk samples were taken from a range of features including Bronze Age Waterholes, a Roman 'corn' dryer and Roman ditch fills, to aid the recovery of environmental remains and where possible to establish the functions of these features. Samples taken, context information and available dates for these are given in Table 5.
- 5.10.2 Samples were processed using tank flotation. The residues (heavy fraction) and flots (light fraction) were retained on 500micron and 250micron meshes respectively. The flots from each sample have been passed through graded sieves and further sorted into the categories documented in Table 5. Botanicals have been identified where possible and frequency occurrences are given (Table 7). Residues were air dried and passed through 4mm and 2mm sieves to aid the sorting process. The archaeological and environmental materials from these residues have been classified and quantified (Table 6) and the environmental results are discussed below.

5.10.3 *Results*

The residues contained a large range of artefact material including pottery, CBM, slag and hammerscale, coke/coal, flint, fire-cracked flint, metal, sandstone and glass. These have been quantified and incorporated into the finds report where appropriate. Macro-botanicals, bone and small amounts of charcoal were also recovered. Charcoal fragments, both >4mm and <4mm, were minimal although other charred plant remains were well represented. No further analysis has been undertaken on the charcoal assemblage. The micro bone assemblage, including fish and small mammals is reported on below.

5.10.4 Flots contained moderate quantities of botanical remains. Although several samples contained uncharred seeds which must be considered modern intrusive material, on the whole, the integrity of the samples was good and produced only small quantities of uncharred root vegetation. One exception is sample <1012>, context [153] approximately 70% of which was large root material. A range of charred weed seeds, crop seeds and chaff were recorded. A preliminary assessment of the abundance, diversity and preservation status of these has been made.

5.10.5 The small quantities of charred weed seeds were well preserved and generally identifiable. Weeds include *Brassica* sp. (mustard), *Polygonum/Rumex* sp. (smartweed, knotweed / dock), *Malus* sp. (apple) and one Apiaceae (Parsley family) seed.

5.10.6 Cereal preservation was variable and many seeds that had been damaged during charring were missing morphological characteristics required for identification. Notwithstanding, some cereal seeds could be identified. Cereals were present in 24 of the 37 contexts (Table 5) and were predominantly found in the Roman 'corn' drier and ditch deposits. *Hordeum vulgare* (barley), *Triticum* sp. (wheat species), *Triticum aestivum* (bread wheat) and *Avena* sp. (oats) as well as indeterminate cereals have been documented. Context (156) within the Roman corn drier was particularly rich and approximately 500 seeds were present. Glume bases (including spelt wheat glumes) were noted in contexts (120), (130), (234) and (235) within the 'corn' dryer and context (214) from the roman ditch fill. They are not numerous and this could have a bearing on the interpretation of the 'corn' dryer. Other chaff has not been noted in the flots so far but it may be present in the <2mm charcoal assemblages. A more comprehensive analysis and careful examination of the <2mm fraction will establish their true abundance.

Table 5; Flot Results (Identification and quantification of charred plant remains incl. Charcoal <4mm, cereals and seeds: * = 0-25, ** = 26-50, *** = 51-75, **** = 76-100, ***** = 101-125; P = Presence)

Sample No.	Context No.	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Uncharred vegetation %	Uncharred seeds	Charred wild seeds	Charred crop seeds P/A	Chaff P/A	Other
1001	115				27 Caryophyllaceae				
1002	122		*		14 Caryophyllaceae		P		
1003	124		**	10%	4 <i>Galium</i> 1 Polygonum/Rumex 1 <i>Chenopodium</i>		P		
1004	126		**	5%	12 <i>Galium</i> 2 <i>S. nigra</i> 1 <i>Rubus</i> sp. & cf. <i>Chenopodium</i>	3 unid, 3 indet	P		1 hammerscale spheroid
1004	126		*		1 <i>Galium</i> sp, 1 Leguminosae	1 <i>Polygonum/Rumex</i> sp., 3 <i>Brassica</i> sp.	P		
1005	120		*	5%	7 <i>Galium</i> 3 <i>Chenopodium</i> 25 Caryophyllaceae	1 <i>Polygonum/Rumex</i> 1 Leguminosae, 2 Unknown	P	P 2 glumes	
1006	120			20%	6 <i>Galium</i> sp. 1 <i>Rubus</i> 1 unid & cf. <i>Chenopodium</i> & cf. Caryophyllaceae	? <i>Polygonum</i> & ? <i>Brassica</i> and 1 unid.	p**		
1007	130		*		7 <i>Galium</i> 4 <i>Chenopodium</i> several (5) unknown			P*	
1008	132				1 <i>Galium</i> sp.				
1009	142			5	<i>Chenopodium</i> sp., Caryophyllaceae	<i>Polygonum/Rumex</i> sp. <i>Brassica</i> sp. <i>Malus</i> sp.	P		
1010	146				3 <i>Galium</i> sp. 1 unid. & cf. <i>Chenopodium</i>		P		
1011	148			<5%		1 indeterminate			
1012	153		*	70% large root veg	1 <i>Galium</i> sp. 5 Caryophyllaceae 2 unid.				

Archaeology South-East
Coldharbour Quarry, Thorpe, Surrey

1013	156				5 <i>Galium</i> sp. 3 <i>S. nigra</i> 1 Unknown	1 <i>Polygonum/Rumex</i> 2 Unid			
1014									
1015	161		*		3 <i>Chenopodium</i> 1 <i>Galium</i> 6 Caryophyllaceae				
1016	164		*	10%	1 <i>S. nigra</i> 21 Caryophyllaceae, 1 <i>Polygonum/Rumex</i> & 1 <i>Galium</i> sp.				
1017	177		*		5 Caryophyllaceae				
1018	164				38 Caryophyllaceae				1 shell
1019	164			10%	7 Caryophyllaceae 2 Apiaceae				1 worked flint
1020	182								
1021	177				16 Caryophyllaceae 2 <i>Chenopodium</i>				
1022	181				1 Caryophyllaceae				
1023	182		*		1 Caryophyllaceae				
1024	190		*		11 Caryophyllaceae 1 <i>S. nigra</i>				
1025	194				4 Caryophyllaceae				
1026	200				2 Caryophyllaceae 2 <i>Galium</i>				
1027	201								
1028	202		*	10%	indet seed frags 1 <i>Chenopodium</i>				
1029	210			50%			P		
1030	214	1	**	<5%	1 <i>Chenopodium</i>	2 indet.	P	P 1 Glume	
1031	216		*	20%	3 <i>S. nigra</i> 2 <i>Galium</i> 1 <i>Rubus</i> several frags indet & 1 unid.				
1032	219		*	5%	102 Caryophyllaceae				
1033	222		***	<5%	11 <i>Chenopodium</i> 1 Caryophyllaceae	1 <i>Brassica</i> sp. 1 Apiaceae			

Archaeology South-East
Coldharbour Quarry, Thorpe, Surrey

1034	227	2	**	10%	28 Caryophyllaceae								
					4 <i>Chenopodium</i> >20 Caryophyllaceae 1 <i>Galium</i> 1 <i>Polygonum</i> 5 <i>Rubus</i>								
1035	234		*			4 Indet.							
					Caryophyllaceae <i>Chenopodium</i> <i>Galium, Brassica,</i> <i>Polygonum/Rumex</i> & unid							p**	
1036	235	6	**	5-10%									
1037	236			<5%	1 Caryophyllaceae								

Table 6; Residue quantification (Charcoal <4mm, cereals and seeds: * = 0-25, ** = 26-50, *** = 51-75, **** = 76-100, ***** = 101-125)

Sample	Context No.	Charcoal	Charcoal <4mm	Cereals and Seeds	Chaff	Bone and Teeth	Pottery	CBM	Slag, Hammerscale	Coke/Coal	Flint	Fire-Cracked Flint	Metal	Sandstone	Glass
1001	115					ca. 100/ 70g					7/156g				
1002	122														
1003	124		*/< 2g			3/<2g			1 sph/ <2g		2/4g	9/28 g	37/ 2g		1/ <2g
1004	126		**/ 2g	*/< g		1/<2g					54/22g	10/ 20g	10/ 4g		
1005	120	1/ <2g	*/< 2g	*/< g		9/4g	7/12g	59/ 256g	2/4g & 7 sph/ <2g	12/ 10g	3/488g & 46/1 4g & 52/2g	29/ 88g	3/2g	3/ 406 g	
1006	120			***/ 4g		1/2g	5/16g	4/ 764g	1/24g		27/22g	2/ 16g	15/ <2g	9/ 912 g	
1007	130														
1008	132		*/< 2g	***/ 4g							3/4g				
1009	142		*/< 2g	***/ 4g		8/6g						4/4g	4/ <2g		1/ <2g
1010	146		*/< 2g	***/ 4g		1/<2	2/4g				1/6g	3/ <2g	7/ <2g		
1011	148														
1012	153		9/ 2g					>100 /70g			2/6g	2/4g			
1013	156	4/ <2g	*/< 2g	*/< g		3/<2g	5/18g	66/ 44g			45/92g				
1014															

Archaeology South-East
Coldharbour Quarry, Thorpe, Surrey

1015	161		*** 1/4g	*/<2 g			1/6g	10/ <2g			19/6g	3/ <2g	30/ <2g
1016	164			*/<2 g					1 sph/ <2g				
1017	177		*/< 2g								5/6g		
1018	164			1/<2 g				10/ <2g			7/10g		
1019	164			*/<2 g									
1020	182					3/4g			1 flk/ <2g		4/4g	2/ 10g	
1021	177												
1022	181												
1023	182	6/ <2g	*/< 2g			8/<2g	2/4g				4/<2g		
1024	190		**/ 2g	*/<2 g		>200/10 8g							1/ <2g
1025	194	3/ 2g	*** 1/2g	*/<2 g		8/2g)					4/4g	3/8g	
1026	200		**/ <2g	*/<2 g		4/4g					3/<2g	1/6g	
1027	201												
1028	202	9/ <2g	*/< 2g			2/<2g					18/10g		
1029	210			*/<2 g							7/6g		
1030	214												
1031	216												
1032	219		*/< 2g	*/<2 g				1/ <2g			12/22g		
1033	222												
1034	227								1 sph/ <2g				
1035	234		*/< 2g	*/<2 g				14/ 2g			6/<2g		
1036	235		*/< 2g	**/ <2g	*/< 2g						47/20g		
1037	236												

Table 7; Cereal Identifications (Indeterminate cereals quantification: * = 0-25, ** = 26-50, * = 51-75, **** = 76-100, ***** = 101-125)**

Sample	Context No.	<i>Triticum</i> sp.	<i>Triticum aestivum</i>	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	<i>Avena</i> sp.	Cereal indeterminate
1001	115			2		
1002	122					*
1003	124	1		1	1	
1004	126	26	17	8		**
1004	126	6		34	7	*****
1005	120	2		10	4	*
1006	120	30		43	7	**

1007	130			1	1	
1008	132	3	9	30		*
1009	142	21	22	86	26	**
1010	146	10	15	49	5	*
1011	148	11	18	36	8	**
1013	156	250	35	108	88	***
1015	161	6	2	8	13	*
1016	164	5	2			*
1018	164		1	1		
1019	164	1				
1028	202	1				
1029	210	1				
1030	214					*
1031	216	1		4		*
1034	227		1			
1035	234	ca 10		8	12	**
1036	235	19		3	19	
1037	236	1				

6. SIGNIFICANCE AND POTENTIAL OF RESULTS

6.1 The Stratigraphic Sequence

Paul Riccoboni

- 6.1.1 There were few stratigraphic relationships on this site, and those that were encountered could not be distinguished in plan. Ditch [108] was shown to be cut by (or re-cut by) ditch [245] in section (Fig 4; Section 5 & 6). Ditch [109] was shown to be cutting an earlier feature (Context 118) (Fig 4; Section 10). Pit [217] was shown to have been re-cut by [218], shown in section (Fig 4; Section 3). The results from this excavation have potential for aiding in the understanding and interpretation of Bronze Age finds within the Coldharbour quarry and surrounding areas. The Later Bronze Age waterholes are of local significance. The features and associated find assemblages are worthy of publication and should be considered in relation to other evidence in the vicinity such as the excavations of the Bronze Age ring ditch to the west of the site (SCAU forthcoming).
- 6.1.2 The waterholes showed evidence of either deliberate or structured deposition within their fills. This could be seen in the Bronze Age waterholes (finds included, pottery, mandibular cattle bones and broken quern stones), and also in the later re-cut Roman waterhole. Finds from this re-cut included Roman tile found near a cattle skull and worked flints. It has been proven that waterholes contain extraordinary finds assemblages from both Bronze Age and Roman contexts. Comparisons to similar sites from the area or region should

be considered, such as The Perry Oaks Sludge Works (Barrett *at al* 2000).

- 6.1.3 The Roman 'corn' dryer proves evidence either of Roman grain drying or storage and/or malting for the production of beer, and is of local significance. This feature should be considered in relation to any other known 'corn' driers in the local area or the south-east of England.
- 6.1.4 The field ditches were undated but were likely to be Roman as they seem to be aligned with dated Roman ditches from the earlier phase of work (SCAU forthcoming). These ditches prove that Roman (or possible Bronze Age) land divisions existed, and are considered to be of local importance.

6.2 The Pottery

Charlotte Thompson

- 6.2.1 The site is located on the Shepperton gravel terrace, in an area of known prehistoric activity. Earlier excavations on the site produced material from the Neolithic period onwards. There is evidence of Early Bronze Age settlement at nearby Muckhatch Farm, Thorpe (Needham 1987, 133) as well as Late Bronze Age activity at Runnymede Bridge. It is therefore recommended that this vessel is illustrated and that the prehistoric assemblage is compared with the material from the earlier phase of work on the site and included in the publication of the site. The Roman assemblage has more limited potential, but comparison with the material from the earlier phase of work by Surrey County Archaeological Unit is recommended.

6.3 The Building Material

Susan Pringle

- 6.3.1 The Roman assemblage demonstrates that a building was erected on the site in the 2nd century AD or later but is otherwise of limited potential.

6.4 The Burnt Clay

Charlotte Thompson

- 6.4.1 The assemblage of burnt clay has limited potential as it is in poor condition and just one piece has possible wattle impression, context (156).

6.5 The Flintwork

Chris Butler

- 6.5.1 The prehistoric assemblage is residual, and is too small for any further meaningful analysis. The remaining debitage and nodules probably result from the robbing out of drystone-constructed walls/flues.

6.6 The Geological Material

Luke Barber

- 6.6.1 The geological material from the site is considered to hold limited potential for further study. This is due to the small size of the assemblage and the limited range of stone types present. Despite this, some material is of interest in it demonstrates the agricultural nature of the Late Bronze Age occupation and the geological source exploited for quernstones. The Roman material, being unworked and also of relatively local origin does not hold any potential for further analysis.

6.7 The Animal Bone

Lucy Sibun

- 6.7.1 The assemblage is small and largely undated. Despite its fragmentary nature it is thought that the majority of fragments would be identifiable to bone type and species. Butchery marks should be identifiable if present but it would not be possible to take measurements. The bone recovered from the residues is insignificant and largely unidentifiable.

6.8 The Shell

Charlotte Thompson

- 6.8.1 The four pieces of mollusc from context (164) have no potential.

6.9 The Environmental Samples

Lucy Allott

- 6.9.1 Functions of corn driers can, to some extent, be distinguished through analysing the composition of the botanical assemblages (van der Veen 1989). Proportions of seeds to glumes and other chaff and the time at which the seeds were charred (for example whether germinated or not) are important indicators of the activities undertaken. Identifiable functions include drying grain prior to

storage or milling and roasting germinated grain as part of the beer brewing process (van der Veen 1989, Hillman 1982). The assemblage documented here does not initially appear to fit neatly into one of the six function categories identified by van der Veen (1989), however further analysis of the botanical remains from these contexts and quantification of chaff against cereals will assist in determining this.

- 6.9.2 Samples from the Roman ditch contained similar botanical material to that found in the 'corn' dryer. Many of the cereal seeds were classed as indeterminate which is not unexpected for such secondary fills. Several charred seeds commonly found in archaeological deposits were recovered and these could have been present in the local vegetation.
- 6.9.3 The Bronze Age waterhole features contained significantly fewer charred botanical remains than the Roman features. Most notably no charred weed seeds were present in these deposits and cereals were present in only 6 contexts. No chaff has been recovered and other than the occasional cereal seed the botanical assemblage from these contexts does not contain evidence for food plants. It is probable that the fill of these features originated from areas where no burning took place or that the deposits accumulated in the waterholes naturally over time. Some of the uncharred seeds may be contemporaneous with the fill deposition. It remains to be determined whether any of these seeds are mineralised. Initial inspection does not support this suggestion.

7. REVISED RESEARCH AIMS

- 7.1 The original research aims (Stevenson 2005) were to establish:
- *Any remains exposed in the context of the previous work adjacent;*
 - *Identify any earlier prehistoric remains that may be interrelated with the Bronze Age Barrow excavated during an earlier phase of work;*
 - *Investigate whether the Roman field system continues into the present phase and;*
 - *Investigate whether the Anglo-Saxon pitting continues into this area and clarify its form and function.*
- 7.2 The results of the fieldwork have helped to answer some the aims set out at the beginning of the project.

7.3 The following research aims should be added to those detailed above.

Bronze Age

- *How the site in its local setting relates to the known pattern of Bronze Age activity in the vicinity and the region. Referencing the earlier excavations west of the site (SCAU forthcoming) and other known Bronze Age sites including: Thorpe bypass, Runnymede Bridge and the Perry Oaks Sludge Works (Heathrow Terminal 5).*
- *The use of the site and finds to provide information regarding Bronze Age land use.*
- *Site use and development; how the potential Bronze Age waterholes may relate to other features on the site. Can artefactual evidence or spatial relationships between features assist the phasing given the lack of stratigraphic relations?*
- *Bronze Age deposition of artefacts (either deliberate or structured) within 'waterhole' features. This has been highlighted as a key research aim within the Surrey Archaeological Research Framework (Bradley 2006).*

Roman

- *The site in its local setting; how it relates to the known pattern of Roman settlement in the vicinity and with particular reference to the earlier excavations to the west of the site (SCAU forthcoming) which revealed a dated Roman field system.*
- *The function and use of the Roman masonry structure. The use of this structure as a 'corn' dryer should be looked at with any other possible functions; such as grain storage or its possible use for malting barley (making beer). In order to understand this structure particular attention should be made to the environmental evidence. Comparisons should be made with other similar structures within the area or region. The Surrey Archaeological Research Framework (Poulton 2006) has highlighted the lack of understanding of non villa Roman sites in the Surrey area.*
- *The Roman deposition of artefacts (either deliberate or structured) within the 'waterhole' features. Burial and cremation has been highlighted as a potential future research aim (Cotton 2006). Particular reference should be made to the Perry Oaks Sludge Works site, Surrey (Barrett et al 2000).*

8. METHODOLOGY FOR FURTHER WORK

8.1 The Stratigraphic Sequence

Paul Riccoboni

- 8.1.1 Given the relative simplicity of the stratigraphic sequence, it is not proposed to prepare a Harris Matrix as part of the stratigraphic analysis. A full report will be prepared based on the information recovered from the varying archaeological features encountered at the site, integrating the reports supplied by the various specialists.

8.2 The Pottery

Charlotte Thompson

- 8.2.1 It is highly recommended that the prehistoric and Roman pottery assemblages from this site are compared with those from the Surrey County Archaeological Unit and illustrated.

8.3 The Building Material

Susan Pringle

- 8.3.1 A contribution to the publication text can be prepared from the assessment data and report. No further analytical work is proposed.

8.4 The Burnt Clay

Charlotte Thompson

- 8.4.1 A contribution to the publication text can be prepared from the assessment data and report. No further analytical work is proposed.

8.5 The Flintwork

Chris Butler

- 8.5.1 No further work is recommended on this assemblage, although the flintwork should be retained for possible further study in the future, although the fire-cracked flint has been discarded. A short summary paragraph should be included in the report and the handwritten assessment summary retained in the archive.

8.6 The Geological Material

Luke Barber

8.6.1 It is proposed the stone be identified and fully listed for the archive by context (number and weight). Notes will also be made on all quern fragments. After this is complete the majority of the material will be discarded with the exception of the two quern fragments. A short report will then be produced for publication. This will outline the size of the assemblage and the stone types present, together with their quantity but will focus on the Late Bronze Age quern fragments only. Parallels will be sought from stone from the earlier work at the site and similar key sites nearby. No pieces are proposed for illustration.

8.7 The Animal Bone

Lucy Sibun

8.7.1 It is proposed that the bone from dated contexts be identified to bone type and species and any additional information such as butchery or pathology be recorded. This information will be listed in the archive and a summary statement will be produced for the report.

8.8 The Shell

Charlotte Thompson

8.8.1 No further work required.

8.9 The Environmental Samples

Lucy Allott

8.9.1 It is suggested that further analysis is undertaken on samples from the Roman 'corn' dryer to help establish the function of this feature. Similar features have been recorded in other sites across Britain and experimental work has been undertaken (Reynolds & Langley 1979) to determine their function. More detailed quantification and identification of cereals (particularly of the wheat species) from these contexts, chaff identifications, and the proportions of chaff to cereal seeds should be undertaken to facilitate this. The analysis should include a survey of recent literature to which the Cold Harbour assemblage can be compared.

8.9.2 It is necessary to determine whether any of the uncharred seeds from the waterhole deposits are mineralised and likely to be of Bronze Age origin or whether they are modern or relatively modern intrusive elements.

9. PUBLICATION AND ARCHIVING PROPOSALS

9.1 *Publication Synopsis*

9.1.1 The report will include results from the whole excavation and be considered closely with the previous phase of excavation by SCAU (forthcoming). Specialist reports will be included as indicated. Where no further work has been recommended for artefactual or environmental material, reference will be made as required in the site narrative using data generated during the assessment. Appropriate maps, plans, sections, table and illustrations will be used to support the report. It is envisaged that the report will be submitted for publication in *The Surrey Archaeological Collections* although a combined publication with the SCAU excavation will also be explored.

9.1.2 It is proposed the article will follow the publication synopsis outlined below, resulting in an illustrated article of c 5000 words.

Title

Archaeological Investigations at Coldharbour quarry, Coldharbour Lane, Thorpe, Surrey.

Introduction

<i>Planning Background</i>	(100)
<i>Site location, Geology and Topography</i>	(250)
<i>Archaeological Background</i>	(200)

Excavation Methodology (100-150)

Excavation Results (2000)

<i>Introduction</i>
<i>Late Bronze Age</i>
<i>Roman</i>

Artefactual Evidence (1500)

<i>Prehistoric Pottery</i>
<i>Roman Pottery</i>
<i>Flintwork</i>
<i>Animal bone</i>
<i>Geological material</i>
<i>Environmental samples</i>

Discussion: Suggested Topics (1500)

<i>The Late Bronze Age Evidence</i>

The Late Bronze Age within its wider setting and topography.
The development of this landscape into the Roman period
(considering the lack of Iron Age evidence?)
Roman land uses and divisions
Roman 'corn' driers and the problems of understanding their
use and function.

Acknowledgements (50)
Bibliography (900)

Figures
Site Location
Area Plan
Selected Sections
Finds Illustrations

9.2 *Artefacts and Archive Deposition*

9.2.1 Following completion of the post-excavation work the artefacts recovered during the archaeological work and associated site records will be offered to a suitable museum to be agreed with the landowner (Cemtex) and the Surrey Conservation Group. It is initially proposed to offer the archive (which will include the retained finds) to Chertsey Museum. The site will be archived under the site code CHQ 05.

10. RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

10.1 Staffing

10.1.1 The project team will be composed as follows:

Table 8: Project Team

Team Member	Initials	Specialism/Tasks
Paul Riccoboni	PR	Site Analysis; Report production; archive collation
Charlotte Thompson	CT	Late Bronze Age and Roman pottery
Lucy Sibun	LS	Animal Bone
Luke Barber	LB	Geological material
Chris Butler	CB	Flintwork

Lucy Allott	LA	Environmental Samples
Justin Russell	JR	Illustrations
Fiona Griffin	FG	Illustrations
Louise Rayner	LR	Post-Excavation Project Management; editing

10.2 Resources

10.2.1 The resources allocated to each task are indicated below. This will enable a publication text as described above to be produced and the site archive deposited.

Table 9: Resources required for proposed publication

Task	Team Member	Person Day
Specialist Analysis & Reporting		
Late Bronze Age and Roman Pottery report	CT	2
Animal bone report	LS	0.5
Geological material report	LB	0.5
Environmental report	LA	3
Illustration and preparation of report text		
Stratigraphic narrative for report (inc. background research & integration of specialist data from assessment reports)	PR	8
Prepare plans and sections for publication	JR	1
Illustration of Late Bronze Age pottery	FG	0.5
Project management	LR	1
Report Edit	LR	1.5
Archive Preparation		
Compilation and deposition of archive	PR/CT	1
Publication Grant		Fee

Appendix 1: Context Index

Context	Cut/Fill	Description	Filled by	Fill of	Comments
100		Deposit			Topsoil
101		Deposit			Subsoil
102		Deposit			Natural gravel
103		Deposit			Brickearth
104	Gen cut	Roman Ditch			Contains [110], [123], [125], [137], [139] & [150]
105	Gen cut	Roman Ditch			Contains [165] & [157]
106	Gen cut	Wall/Flue			Structural/Contains Slots [155], [172] & Wall [167]
107	Gen cut	Roman Ditch			Contains Slots [220] & [223]
108	Gen cut	Roman Ditch			Contains Slots [170], [174], [187], [195], [205] & [211]
109	Gen cut	Roman Ditch			Contains Slots [118] & [121]
110	Cut	Ditch	111		Part of [104]
111	Fill	Ditch		110	Part of [104]
112	Cut	Pit	113		Part of [109]
113	Fill	Pit		112	Part of [109]
114	Cut	Ditch	115		Part of [109]
115	Fill	Ditch		114	Part of [109]
116	Cut	Ditch	117		Part of [109]
117	Fill	Ditch		116	Part of [109]
118	Cut	Pit	119		Cut by [109]
119	Fill	Pit		118	Cut by [109]
120		Deposit			Above [106]
121	Cut	Ditch	122		Part of [109]
122	Fill	Ditch		121	Part of [109]
123	Cut	Ditch	124		Part of [104]
124	Fill	Ditch		123	Part of [104]
125	Cut	Ditch	126		Part of [104]
126	Fill	Ditch		125	Part of [104]
127	Cut	Pit	128		
128	Fill	Pit		127	
129	Cut	Pit	130		
130	Fill	Pit		129	
131		Wall/Collapsed Flue			
132	Fill			134	Part of [149]
133		Structure 1			Contains [131], [106], [149] & [167]
134	Cut		132		Part of [149]
135	Fill	?		136	Part of [133]
136	Cut	?	135		Part of [133]
137	Cut	Ditch	138		Part of [104]
138	Fill	Ditch		137	Part of [104]
139	Cut	Ditch	140		Part of [104]

Archaeology South-East
Coldharbour Quarry, Thorpe, Surrey

Context	Cut/Fill	Description	Filled by	Fill of	Comments
140	Fill	Ditch		139	Part of [104]
141	Cut	Gully?/flue	142		Part of [149]
142	Fill	Gully?/flue		141	Part of [149]
143	Cut	Gully?/flue	144		Part of [149]
144	Fill	Gully?/flue		143	Part of [149]
145	Cut	Gully?/flue	146		Part of [149]
146	Fill	Gully?/flue		147	Part of [149]
147	Cut	Gully?/flue	148		Part of [149]
148	Fill	Gully?/flue		147	Part of [149]
149	Gen cut	Gully?/flue			Contains Slots [141], [143], [145] & [149]
150	Cut	Ditch	151		Part of [104]
151	Fill	Ditch		151	Part of [104]
152	Cut	Pit	153 & 154		
153	Fill	Pit		152	
154	Fill	Pit		152	
155	Cut	Flue/Stoking area	156		Part of [106]
156	Fill	Ditch		155	Part of [106]
157	Cut	Ditch	158		Part of [105]
158	Fill	Ditch		157	Part of [105]
159	Cut	Pit	160		
160	Fill	Pit		159	
161	Fill	Flue/Stoking area		155	Part of [106]
162	Cut	Pit			
163	Cut	Pit			Re-cut of [162]
164	Fill	Pit		163	Same as 177
165	Cut	Ditch	166		Part of [105]
166	Fill	Ditch		165	Part of [105]
167		Wall/Collapsed Flue			Part of [133]
168	Cut	Ditch	169		Part of [105]
169	Fill	Ditch		168	Part of [105]
170	Cut	Ditch	171		Part of [108]
171	Fill	Ditch		170	Part of [108]
172	Cut	Ditch	173		Part of [106]
173	Fill	Ditch		172	Part of [106]
174	Cut	Ditch	175		Part of [108]
175	Fill	Ditch		174	Part of [108]
176	VOID				
177	Fill	Pit		163	Same as 164
178	Cut	Ditch	179		Part of [108]
179	Fill	Ditch		178	Part of [108]
180	Fill	Pit		162	
181	Fill	Pit		163	Same as 185
182	Fill	Pit		163	
183	Fill	Pit		163	

Archaeology South-East
Coldharbour Quarry, Thorpe, Surrey

Context	Cut/Fill	Description	Filled by	Fill of	Comments
184	Fill	Pit		163	
185	Fill	Pit		163	Same as 181
186	Fill	Pit		162	
187	Cut	Ditch	188		Part of [245]
188	Fill	Ditch		187	Part of [245]
189	Fill	Pit		163	
190	Cut	Ditch	191		Part of [108]
191	Fill	Ditch		190	Part of [108]
192	Cut	Pit			
193	VOID				
194	Fill	Pit		192	
195	Cut	Ditch	196		Part of [108]
196	Fill	Ditch		195	Part of [108]
197	Cut	Ditch	198		Part of [108]
198	Fill	Ditch		197	Part of [108]
199	VOID				
200	Fill	Pit		192	
201	Fill	Pit		192	
202	Fill	Pit		192	
203	Cut	Ditch	204		Part of [108]
204	Fill	Ditch		203	Part of [108]
205	Cut	Ditch	206		Part of [245]
206	Fill	Ditch		205	Part of [245]
207	Fill	Pit		192	
208	Fill	Pit		192	
209	Cut	Ditch	210		Part of [108]
210	Fill	Ditch		209	Part of [108]
211	Cut	Ditch	212		Part of [245]
212	Fill	Ditch		211	Part of [245]
213	Cut	Ditch	214		Part of [246]
214	Fill	Ditch		213	Part of [246]
215	Cut	Ditch	216		Part of [246]
216	Fill	Ditch		215	Part of [246]
217	Cut	Pit			
218	Cut	Pit			Part of [217]
219	Fill			218	
220	Cut	Ditch	221		Part of [107]
221	Fill	Ditch		220	Part of [107]
222	Fill	Pit		218	
223	Cut	Ditch	224		Part of [107]
224	Fill	Ditch		223	Part of [107]
225	Cut	Pit			
226	VOID				
227	Fill	Pit		225	
228	VOID				
229	Fill	Pit		217	
230	Fill	Pit		217	
231	Fill	Pit		218	

Context	Cut/Fill	Description	Filled by	Fill of	Comments
232	Fill	Pit		217	
233	Natural	Deposit			
234	Fill	Wall			Part of [167]
235	Fill	Wall			Part of [131]
236	Fill	Pit		225	
237	Cut	Pit	238		
238	Fill	Pit		237	
239	Cut	Post Hole	240		
240	Fill	Post Hole		239	
241	Fill	Pit		225	
242	Fill	Pit		225	
243	VOID				
244	VOID				
245	Gen cut				Contains slots [187], [205] & [211]
246	Gen cut				Contains slots [213] & [215]
247	Fill			162	
248	Cut	Pit	249		
249	Fill	Pit		248	
250	VOID				

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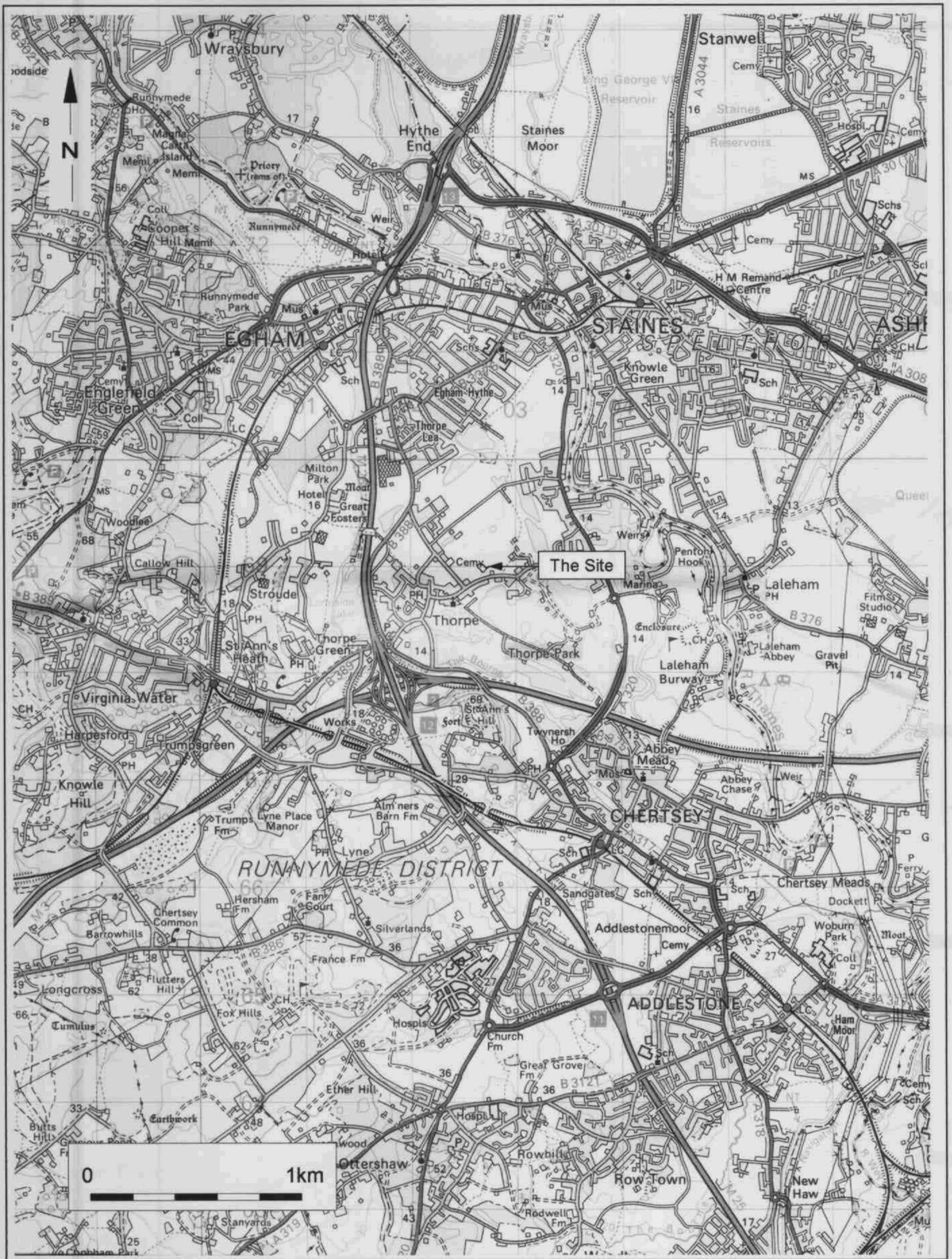
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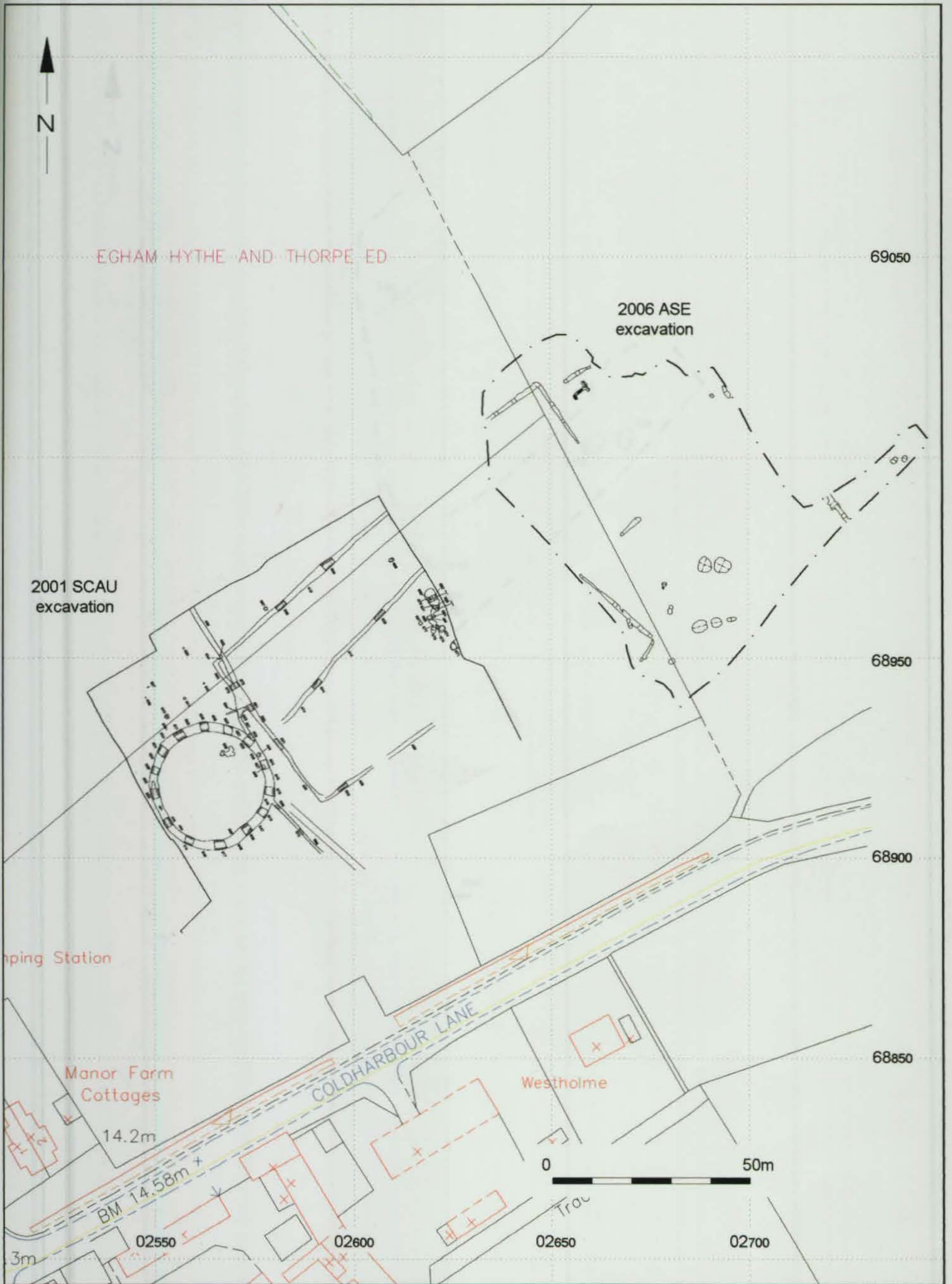
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03

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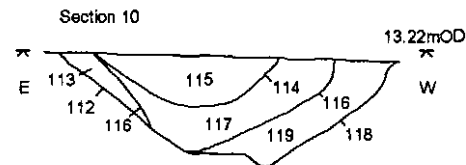
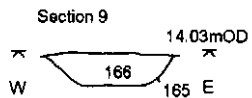
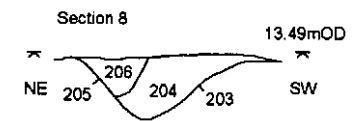
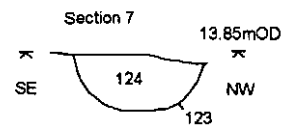
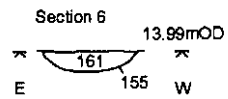
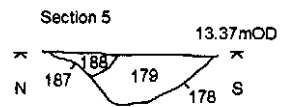
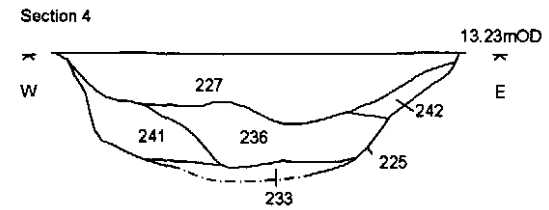
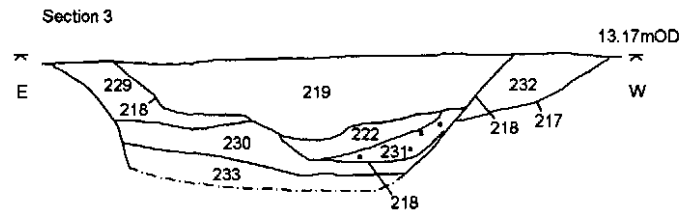
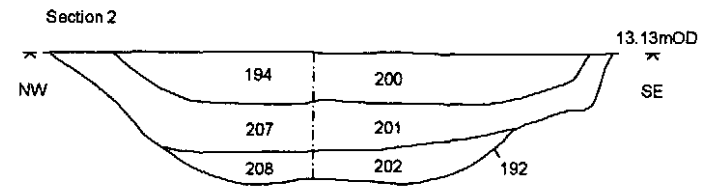
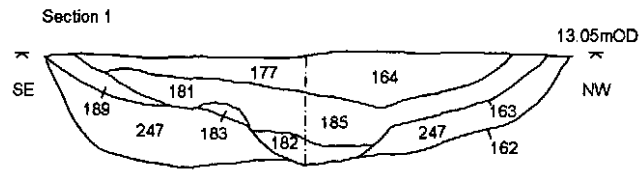
© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST			Coldharbour Quarry	Fig. 1
Ref: 2238	June 2006	Drawn by: JLR	Site Location Plan	

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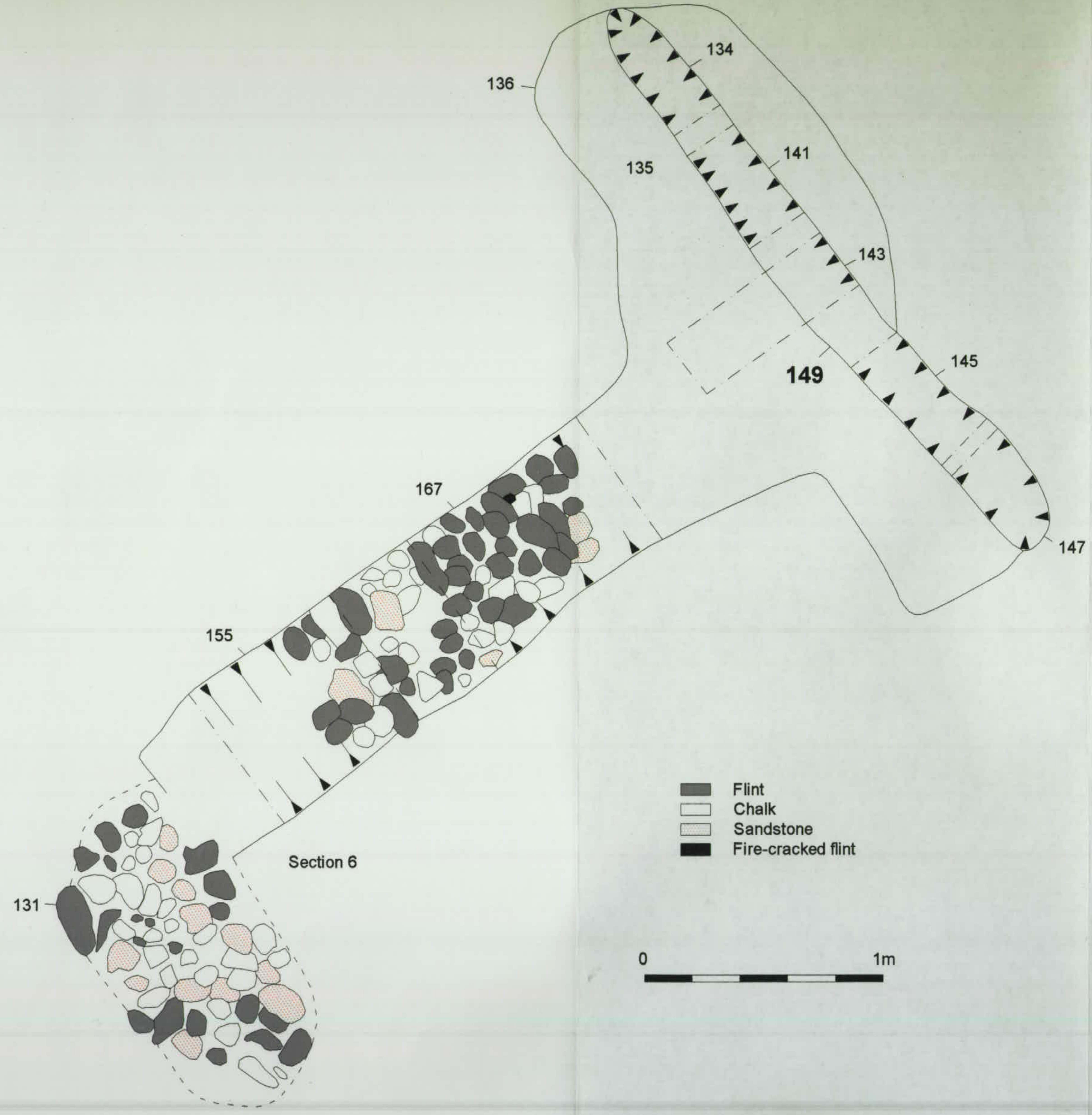
© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST			Coldharbour Quarry		Fig. 2
Ref: 2238	June 2006	Drawn by: JLR/FEG	Excavation Location Plan		





• Charcoal

© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST			Coldharbour Quarry		Fig. 4
Ref: 2238	June 2006	Drawn by: FEG	Sections		



- Flint
- Chalk
- Sandstone
- Fire-cracked flint

