

pits demonstrating that material from the same source was utilised to backfill them. The material used in the final backfilling of the features should not be dismissed as the straightforward disposal of domestic rubbish, as the assemblage of artefacts and ecofacts recovered from these fills points to the deliberate selection of certain types of refuse. The locations chosen for the deposition of classes of material may have had symbolic significance; raw materials and tools used for the preparation of food and objects were selected for basal deposits, whilst finished and broken products such as pottery, flint tools and grain, were selected as suitable material to be used to seal the basal deposits. As discussed above the same source of material was utilised and this is most likely to have originated from a midden. The preservation of bone on this sandy site suggests that the material which filled these features had a high organic content, this again points to a midden as the source of material. The utilisation of refuse rich material in the upper fills may have been invoking a concept of fertility and regeneration; "Refuse has links with fertility where the value of green midden as fertiliser was recognised, and more generally to the cycle of death and renewal"¹⁹.

Although only a small area was excavated, the results from Westcroft Road have provided a fascinating insight into LBA ritual activity and

future investigations in Carshalton may provide evidence of the domestic settlement which must surely be somewhere nearby

19. S Needham & T Spence 'Refuse and the formation of middens' *Antiquity* 71 (1997) 85.

Excavations and post-excavation work

City of London. Museum of London Archaeology Service, Walker House, 87 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4AB (0171-410 2200).

Croydon & District, processing and cataloguing of excavated and museum collections every Tuesday throughout the year. Archaeological reference collection of fabric types, domestic animal bones, clay tobacco pipes and glass ware also available for comparative work. Enquiries to Jim Davison, 28 Blenheim Park Road, South Croydon, CR2 6BB.

Greater London (except north-east and south-east London), by Museum of London Archaeology Service. Excavations and processing in all areas. General enquiries to MOLAS, Walker House, 87 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4AB (0171-410 2200).

Borough of Greenwich. Cataloguing of excavated and other archaeological material, the majority from sites in the borough. For further information contact Greenwich Borough Museum, 232 Plumstead High Street, London SE18 1JT (0181-855 3240).

Hammersmith & Fulham, by Fulham Archaeological Rescue

Group. Processing of material from Fulham Palace. Tuesdays, 7.45 p.m.-10 p.m. at Fulham Palace, Bishop's Avenue, Fulham Palace Road, SW6. Contact Keith Whitehouse, 86 Clancarty Road, SW6 (0171-731 4498).

Kingston, by Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society (KUTAS). Processing and cataloguing of excavated and museum collections every Thursday (10 a.m.) at the North Kingston Centre, Richmond Road, Kingston upon Thames KT2 5PE. Enquiries 0181-546 5386.

Surrey, by Surrey County Archaeological Unit. Enquiries to Rob Poulton, Archaeological Unit Manager, Old Library Headquarters, 25 West Street, Dorking, RH4 1DE (01306-886 466).

Individual membership of the Council for British Archaeology includes 10 issues a year of British Archaeology, as well as the supplement CBA Briefing, which gives details of conferences, extra-mural courses, summer schools, training excavations and sites where volunteers are needed. The individual subscription rate of £20 p.a. includes postage; payment should be sent to C.B.A., Bowes Morrell House, 111 Walmgate, York, YO1 2UA (01904 671417).