

# **Proposed Eastern Extension, Rickneys Quarry, near Ware, Hertfordshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Hanson Aggregates**

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code RQW05/80

**December 2006**

## Summary

**Site name:** Proposed Eastern Extension, Rickneys Quarry, Near Ware, Hertfordshire

**Grid reference:** TL 32400 15700

**Site activity:** Field Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 29th November-22nd December 2006

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Sean Wallis

**Site code:** RQW 05/80

**Area of site:** c.10 ha

**Summary of results:** The evaluation has revealed a modest range of occupation deposits mostly of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date. One pit containing iron slag is of Roman or later date. Several undated features were also recorded and a sherd of Late Iron Age pottery also retrieved.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Ware Museum in due course.

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# **Proposed Eastern Extension, Rickneys Quarry, near Ware, Hertfordshire 2006 An Archaeological Evaluation**

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**Report 05/80b**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out Rickneys Quarry, near Ware, Hertfordshire (TL 32400 15700) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr. David Norminton of Hanson Aggregates, White Ladies, Teston Road, Offham, Kent, ME19 5PF.

A planning application (app no 3/\*\*\*\*/06) has been made to Hertfordshire County Council to extend the quarry and extract sand and gravel from the site. The application was supported by an Environmental Statement and included an archaeological desk-based assessment (Preston 2006) which highlighted the archaeological potential of the site. Archaeological evaluation was requested by Hertfordshire County Archaeological Service to provide further information prior to the granting of planning permission. This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the County Council's policies on archaeology. A preliminary phase of evaluation comprised geophysical survey which revealed few anomalies of archaeological interest (Russell and Heard 2006, 7). The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr. Andy Instone archaeological officer of Hertfordshire County Archaeological Service. The fieldwork was undertaken by Sean Wallis, Natasha Bennett, David Platt and Simon Cass and the site code is RQW05/80. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Ware Museum in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site comprise an irregular parcel of land which is currently unused farmland. The proposed extraction area comprises an area of c. 10ha with an additional already extracted area (14ha) occupied by the processing plant and stockpiling area to the west. The site lies on a low ridge between the rivers Beane and Rib and slopes very gently from 73m above Ordnance Datum down from the north east to 65m in the south west. According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 1978), the site comprises glacial gravels including Bunter pebbles.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in the desk-based assessment for the project (Preston 2005) and reiterated in a brief for the project prepared by Mr. Andy Instone of Hertfordshire County Council. In summary, the site lies within an area with a range of sites and finds of various periods recorded from surrounding areas though nothing of interest is recorded for the site itself. The site incorporates the summit of a low ridge of gravel which is a topographic feature which has been previously noted as being a preferred zone for prehistoric and early historic settlement.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of proposed gravel extraction. The work was to be carried out in a manner which would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which warrant preservation in-situ, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

The specific research aims of the project were;

- a) To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site.
- b) To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.
- c) To target a number of the geophysical anomalies.

It was originally planned to excavate 66 trenches, 20m long and a minimum of 1.8m wide, with a contingency for an additional 132m of trenching to clarify the findings from the initial trenching, should this be required. The trenches were to be dug using a 360° type mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Topsoil and any other overburden were to be removed to the expose any archaeologically sensitive levels or the top of the underlying natural geology, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools, and sufficient of the deposits excavated to satisfy the aims of the brief. Spoilheaps were to be searched for finds.

## **Results**

73 trenches were eventually dug which were 2.2m wide, and varied in length between 9.5m and 23.6m. Seven of these trenches were excavated in areas adjacent to those original trenches where discreet features had been recorded. These latter trenches varied in length between 9.5m and 12.1m.

Topsoil varied in depth across the site from c.0.2m to 0.4m, and was removed to reveal an orange/brown sandy silt subsoil. This lay directly above the underlying geology, which consisted of orange/brown sand and gravel in most places. The natural geology did vary, however, with patches of sand, silty sand and clay encountered in some of the trenches. The trenches in the south west part of the site generally had little subsoil, and some large natural clayey patches were observed in the underlying geology.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Of the 73 trenches excavated, only 12 contained archaeological features, and these are detailed below. A small number of other trenches were initially identified as having potentially archaeological deposits which, upon further investigation, were shown to be geological in origin.

### Trench 5

This trench was aligned approximately north east- south west and contained a wide linear feature (10) between 14.3m and 21.7m. A sondage through this feature revealed a layer of dark brownish grey sandy silt (62), lying directly above natural silty sand. The layer, which was also clearly visible in the sections of the trench, contained frequent gravel and clinker inclusions, along with 19th century pottery. The feature appears to be a surface, as opposed to a 'cut' feature, and seems to correspond closely with the road or track shown on the 1841 Tithe map. This road seems to have gone out of use sometime before the First Edition Ordnance map was published in 1898. It seems likely therefore that layer 62 represents various dumps of material used to build up the road surface during its lifetime.

### Trench 6

A large ditch, approximately 2.6m wide, was located between 12m and 16m was aligned north west - south east. A slot (1) through the feature indicated that it was about 1.05m deep, and contained a primary fill of reddish brown sandy silt (55), along with a similar upper fill (50) which had more flint and gravel inclusions. Both fills produced finds of late Bronze Age /early Iron Age pottery (15 sherds) and three flint flakes. This ditch appears to

match closely the strongest anomaly recorded by the geophysical survey as being of possible archaeological origin.

#### Trench 9 (Plate 1)

Trench 9 was aligned approximately north - south, and contained a pit at 16m. This feature (7) measured about 0.8m in diameter, and was 0.2m deep. A large number of iron slag fragments were recovered from its fill of mid greyish brown sandy silt (56), with further fragments being retrieved from a soil sample. Unfortunately, only one small abraded sherd of pottery was found within the fill, and this could not be closely dated other than belonging to the historic period; it could be Roman, Anglo-Saxon or Medieval. This was the only feature, recorded during the evaluation, which contained metalworking debris.

Two additional trenches (67 and 68) were excavated either side of trench 9, to ascertain whether pit 7 was an isolated feature, or part of a small complex. The results from these trenches are discussed in sequence below.

#### Trench 10

Two linear features were observed in this trench, which was aligned approximately north - south. A 0.43m wide gully (4) was recorded between 15.4m and 17.2m, which was aligned north west - south east. Its single fill of dark orange brown sandy silt (53) was about 0.13m thick, and yielded one small sherd of Late Bronze Age – early Iron Age pottery and a flint scraper.

A slightly wider (0.75m) gully or ditch, also aligned north west - south east, was located between 9.8m and 11.4m. A slot through this feature (5) revealed a single fill of mid orange brown sandy silt (57), about 0.17m thick, which contained a single flint flake.

#### Trench 17

An east - west aligned ditch was recorded between 12m and the eastern end of the trench. A slot through the feature (6) showed that it was approximately 0.98m wide and 0.27m deep. A single flint flake was recovered from its fill of mid orange brown silty sand (58).

#### Trench 24 (Plate 2)

A large ditch, approximately 2.6m wide and aligned north east - south west, was located between 5.6m and 11.6m. A slot through this ditch (2) revealed a single fill of dark greyish brown sandy silt, about 0.75m thick, which contained 12 sherds of late Bronze Age – early Iron Age pottery and 10 struck flints.

### Trench 37

A possible post-hole (13) was recorded at the northern end of this trench, which was aligned approximately north west - south east. The post-hole was about 0.45m in diameter and 0.12m deep. No finds were recovered from its fill of dark greyish brown sandy silt (65).

Two additional trenches (72 and 73) were excavated adjacent to the northern end of trench 37, to determine whether any other post-holes or related features were present. No features were recorded in these latter trenches.

### Trench 39 (Plate 3)

This trench was aligned approximately north west - south east, and contained two pits between 13m and 14.7m. Pit 14 was about 0.5m in diameter and 0.2m deep. Its single fill of dark greyish brown silty clay (66) yielded fragments of burnt flint and 8 sherds of late Bronze Age – early Iron Age pottery. One small sherd of late Iron Age pottery was also recovered, but is likely to be intrusive. The fill also contained 4 struck flints and a very small piece of burnt bone retrieved from the sieved soil sample which was taken.

Pit 15 was slightly larger, measuring about 0.9m long and 0.65m wide. 29 sherds of late Bronze Age – early Iron Age pottery were recovered from its fill of dark greyish brown silty clay (67), which was up to 0.16m thick. Fragments of burnt stone and 4 struck flints were also found within this fill, along with a small piece of burnt bone, which was recovered from the soil sample.

### Trench 40 (Plate 4)

A pit (11) was located between 4m and 5m, towards the western end of this east - west aligned trench. It was about 1.3m long and 0.8m wide, and filled with up to 0.25m of dark greyish brown sandy silt (63). This fill contained fragments of burnt stone, a single struck flint, and 26 sherds of late Bronze Age – early Iron Age pottery. During the excavation of this pit it became apparent that it truncated an earlier feature, possibly a stake-hole or post-hole (12), which was about 0.25m in diameter. No finds were recovered from its fill of mid reddish brown sandy silt (64).

Due to the presence of discreet features in trenches 39 and 40, three additional trenches (69, 70 and 71) were excavated in the near vicinity, to see if any further pits or other features were present. No features were recorded in these trenches.

### Trench 48

Trench 48 was aligned approximately north east - south west aligned ditch, about 1.1m wide and 0.3m deep, and recorded between 11.9m and 15.6m. A slot through this feature (9) revealed a single fill of dark greyish brown sandy clay (60). The only find from this deposit was a small fragment of a copper alloy object which may part of a pin.

### Trench 67

This trench was excavated to reveal any features which may have been associated with the pit found in trench 9, and was aligned approximately north - south.. A shallow east -west aligned ditch (8) was recorded at 7m, which was about 0.55m wide and 0.15m deep. No finds were recovered from its fill of mid reddish brown sandy silt (59). The feature had been quite disturbed by modern ploughing.

### Trench 68

As with trench 67, this trench was dug to see whether the pit found in trench 9 was an isolated feature, or part of a larger complex. An east- west aligned ditch (3) located between 4m and 5.5m, was approximately 1.0m wide and 0.15m deep. It contained a single fill of mid orange brown sandy silt (52) which yielded no finds. This feature seems to be a continuation of the ditch which was recorded in trench 68 (8), and was similarly disturbed by recent ploughing.

## **Finds**

### *Pottery* by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 96 sherds with a total weight of 1,453g. The bulk of the pottery was of late Bronze Age – early Iron Age date.

### **Fabric**

The following fabric types were noted:

F1: Moderate to dense angular white flint up to 2mm, sparse flecks of silver mica. 92 sherds, 852g.

F2: Moderate to dense shell up to 2mm. 1 sherd, 2g.

F3: Moderate to dense fine sand, burnished outer surface. Late Iron Age? 1 sherd, 2g.

Also present were two sherds of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Stoneware (598g).

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Appendix 3. Generally, the flint-tempered sherds were fairly large and in good condition, and appear to, in the main, have originated from large-sized jars.

## **Discussion**

The Iron Age assemblage comprised sherds with moderate to dense and often quite coarse flint temper. It consisted entirely of bodysherds, other than a single small rimsherd with an upright profile with an external bead, and a large fragment of a base of a sizeable vessel. The lack of diagnostic sherds makes it somewhat difficult to confidently give a close date to this assemblage, although similar pottery was noted at a multi-period late Bronze Age and Iron Age site at Foxholes Farm c 2km to the south-west of this site. In fabric terms, the pottery from this site has the closest affinities with the late Bronze Age – early Iron Age material at Foxholes Farm, where the larger vessels, as at this site, were all densely tempered with burnt flint (Partridge 1989, 160 – 6), with some large vessels having flint encrusted bases (eg *ibid.* Fig. 95 no. 40). Only one base sherd was noted at this site, from context 61. It was from a large vessel, and the outer base pad was encrusted with crushed flint. The rimsherd from this site also has some similarities with those from the later Bronze Age material at Foxholes, having a fairly simple upright profile (*cf ibid.* Fig. 95).

The middle Iron Age pottery from Foxholes showed quite a different character to the material from this site. Flint was present, but in small quantities, with many vessels tempered with sand and/or vegetable temper (*ibid.* 166 – 70). None of the pottery from this site had a fabric of this type. Some of the middle Iron Age pottery from Foxholes Farm showed evidence of scoring, and two sherds from this site show similar characteristics. However, some of the late Bronze Age pottery from Foxholes has “scoring” marks on the lower body, probably as a result of wiping the finished vessel (eg *ibid.* Fig. 95 no. 40). Overall, it would appear that the flint tempered pottery from this site is most likely to be of late Bronze Age or early Iron Age date.

The shelly sherd in Fabric 2 could easily be of Roman, Anglo-Saxon or medieval date. It was a small, abraded bodysherd which had all its inclusions leached out, and was impossible to date even to within a historical period. The black-burnished sherd in Fabric 3 appears typical of the late Iron Age tradition in the area. Such pottery was noted in quantity in features of that period at Foxholes Farm.

### *Struck Flint* by Steve Ford

A small collection comprising just 23 struck flints was recovered during the course of the evaluation. All were recovered from cut features. The collection comprises 14 flakes, 4 cores, 3 core fragments, a scraper and a serrated blade. Details of the collection is catalogued in Appendix 4.

The majority of the material is in pristine condition and has presumably lain undisturbed more or less where originally discarded and is therefore mostly likely to be contemporary with the associated pottery where applicable. The material is predominantly broad flake and is not closely datable in itself, but would not be out of context with the associated late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery it was recovered with (Ford et al 1984). The one exception to this statement is the broken serrated blade which is of Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date.

### *Burnt Bone* by Sean Wallis

Soil samples from pits 14 and 15 (both in trench 39) yielded one small fragment of burnt bone apiece. Both pieces weighed less than 1g.

### *Metalwork* by Sean Wallis

A small copper alloy object, weighing 2g, was recovered from ditch 9, in trench 48. It was approximately 45mm long, with a diameter of 3mm, and appears to be part of a pin.

### *Slag* by Sean Wallis

Only one feature, pit 7 in trench 9, produced any metalworking slag. A total of 128 fragments, weighing 1358g, were recovered. Unfortunately, this feature could not be securely dated.

### *Burnt Flint* by Sean Wallis

Sixteen small fragments of burnt flint, weighing 142g, were recovered during the evaluation. All of them came from pit fills, the greatest concentration being from pit 11 in trench 40.

### *Burnt Stone* by Sean Wallis

Nine small pieces of burnt sandstone, weighing 34g, were found in pits 7 (trench 9) and 15 (trench 39).

### *Charred plant remains* by Steve Ford

Four soil samples varying in volume between 10L and 35L were floated and sieved using 5mm (for finds) and 0.2mm mesh (for plant remains). The samples were taken from pit 7, pit 11, gully 14 and gully 15 (Appendix 5). These were rapidly assessed using a hand lens. All four samples produce wood charcoal in very small amounts (<1g) except for pit 7 (that which contained the iron slag) which produced a modest amount of charcoal. Two other samples from Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age deposits produced a few cereal grains (wheat/barley) in addition to weed seeds.

### **Conclusion**

This evaluation has revealed a small number of cut archaeological features, the discovery of which, on what is a relatively large parcel of land, should not now be a particular surprise. Large scale evaluations carried out in recent years routinely discover archaeological deposits. Earlier studies, such as of upland areas, aerial photography and large scale fieldwalking have frequently demonstrated widespread and intensive use of landscapes well back into prehistoric times (Fleming 1978; Ford 1987; Benson and Miles 1974). In areas where these latter forms of survey are inappropriate, it can be considered that large scale evaluations have demonstrated that similar evidence is present in previously 'blank' areas and that this survives as below-ground archaeology.

The best dated of the deposits revealed are of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date. A few features are undated or poorly dated and a single pit containing iron slag and a single pottery sherd is considered to be of the Roman or a later period but cannot be ascribed a closer date. These dated deposits are located in the north eastern portion of the site with many of the trenches located in the south and west of the site devoid of archaeological deposits. In this area just one of the geophysical anomalies was confirmed as being of archaeological origin.

The Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age deposits contain a mixture of feature types comprising pits, postholes and ditches/gullies and presumably represent one or more occupation sites perhaps with defined landscape features (fields, paddocks) in adjacent areas. The dated deposits are located in a part of the site of over two hectares in extent (but which also contains blank trenches) though it seems most unlikely that this reflects a contiguous single phase settlement. Rather, it is more likely to reflect small units of occupation which shift location over time.

The artefactual evidence recovered is typical of the majority of dry land sites of this period. None of the deposits were waterlogged and showed no signs of organic preservation. Finds of bone were virtually absent (a few small flecks of burnt bone were recovered) and points either to a genuine absence or, more likely, poor survival conditions. Sieving for charred plant remains produced a small amount of wood charcoal and a few charred weed and cereal seeds.

To conclude, this evaluation has successfully determined the archaeological potential of the proposal site and characterised, within the necessary limits of a sampling exercise, the range of deposits encountered. It has identified locations with high, low and no archaeological potential sufficient to provide detailed information which can be used to mitigate the effects of development on the archaeological heritage.

## References

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**APPENDIX 1: Trench details**

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	21.1	2.2	0.40(S) 0.60(N)	0-0.3m topsoil; 0.3-0.45m subsoil; 0.45m+ natural sand and gravel with clay patches.
2	19.6	2.2	0.69(N) 0.40(S)	0-0.4m topsoil,0.4-0.69m subsoil 0.69m+ natural sand and gravel with clay patches.
3	21.1	2.2	0.40(W) 0.70(E)	0-0.3m topsoil, 0.3-0.60m subsoil 0.60m+ natural sand and gravel with clay patches.
4	20.4	2.2	0.45	0-0.25m topsoil, 0.25-0.4m subsoil 0.40m+ natural sand and gravels with clay patches..
5	22.0	2.2	0.5	0-0.3m topsoil, 0.3-0.5m subsoil 0.50m+ natural sand and gravels. Possible road surface, 10
6	20.0	2.2	0.6	0-0.4m topsoil, 0.4-0.6m subsoil 0.60m+ natural sand and gravels. Ditch 1
7	19.2	2.2	0.7	0-0.35m topsoil, 0.35-0.5m subsoil 0.50m+ natural sand and gravels.
8	21.0	2.2	0.4	0-0.32m topsoil, 0.32-0.4m subsoil 0.40m+ natural sand and gravel.
9	19.4	2.2	0.50(S) 0.40(N)	0-0.3m topsoil, 0.3-0.5m subsoil 0.50m+ natural sand and gravel. Pit 7. <b>[Plate 1]</b>
10	21.3	2.2	0.7	0-0.45m topsoil, 0.45-0.7m subsoil 0.70m+ natural sand and gravel. Gully 4 and ditch 5
11	19.0	2.2	0.45	0-0.3m topsoil, 0.3-0.45m subsoil 0.45m+ natural sand and gravel.
12	20.2	2.2	0.62	0-0.4m topsoil, 0.4-0.62m subsoil 0.62m+ natural sand and gravel.
13	21.8	2.2	0.40	0-0.3m topsoil, 0.3-0.4m subsoil 0.40m+ natural sand and gravel.
14	18.5	2.2	0.40	0-0.32m topsoil, 0.32-0.4m subsoil 0.40m+ natural sand and gravel.
15	20.6	2.2	0.46	0-0.30m topsoil, 0.30-0.46m subsoil 0.46m+ natural sand and gravel.
16	20.2	2.2	0.53	0-0.42m topsoil, 0.42-0.53m subsoil 0.53m+ natural sand and gravel.
17	21.1	2.2	0.45	0-0.35m topsoil, 0.35-0.45m subsoil 0.45m+ natural sand and gravel. Ditch 6
18	19.5	2.2	0.56	0-0.32m topsoil, 0.32-0.52m subsoil 0.52m+ natural sand and gravel with clay patches.
19	20.7	2.2	0.52	0-0.28m topsoil, 0.28-0.45m subsoil 0.45m+ natural sand and gravel.
20	21.5	2.2	0.50	0-0.34m topsoil, 0.34-0.48m subsoil 0.48m+ natural sand and gravel.
21	21.0	2.2	0.47	0-0.28m topsoil, 0.28-0.45m subsoil 0.45m+ natural sand and gravel.
22	21.2	2.2	0.45	0-0.3m topsoil, 0.3-0.41m subsoil 0.41m+ natural sand and gravel with clay patches.
23	18.4	2.2	0.42	0-0.28m topsoil, 0.28-0.4m subsoil 0.40m+ natural sand and gravel.
24	21.4	2.2	0.68	0-0.3m topsoil, 0.3-0.6m subsoil 0.60m+ natural sand and gravel. Ditch 2. <b>[Plate 2]</b>
25	17.0	2.2	0.58	0-0.27m topsoil 0.27-0.52m subsoil 0.52m+ natural sand and gravel.
26	21.8	2.2	0.50	0-0.26m topsoil 0.28-0.47m subsoil 0.47m+ natural sand and gravel with sandy clay patches.
27	20.9	2.2	0.52	0-0.31m topsoil 0.31-0.48m subsoil 0.48m+ natural sand and gravel with sandy clay patches.
28	21.1	2.2	0.50	0-0.28m topsoil, 0.28-0.47m subsoil 0.47m+ natural sand and gravel.

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
29	18.5	2.2	0.43	0-0.24m topsoil, 0.24-0.4m subsoil 0.40m+ natural sand and gravel.
30	20.9	2.2	0.53	0-0.3m topsoil, 0.3-0.49m subsoil 0.49m+ natural sand and gravel.
31	21.0	2.2	0.50	0-0.3m topsoil, 0.3-0.48m subsoil 0.48m+ natural sand and gravel.
32	19.1	2.2	0.42	0-0.24m topsoil, 0.24-0.4m subsoil 0.40m+ natural sand and gravel.
33	21.6	2.2	0.51	0-0.3m topsoil, 0.3-0.48m subsoil 0.48m+ natural sand and gravel.
34	19.5	2.2	0.46	0-0.24m topsoil, 0.24—0.4m subsoil 0.40m+ natural sand and gravel.
35	21.5	2.2	0.52	0-0.29m topsoil, 0.29-0.45m subsoil 0.45m+ natural sand and gravel.
36	19.2	2.2	0.45	0-0.28m topsoil 0.28-0.4m subsoil 0.40m+ natural sand and gravel.
37	21.2	2.2	0.47	0-0.27m topsoil, 0.27-0.4m subsoil 0.40m+ natural sand and gravel and clay patches. Posthole 13
38	18.8	2.2	0.58	0-0.30m topsoil, 0.30-0.45m subsoil 0.45m+ natural sand and gravel and clay patches.
39	20.2	2.2	0.55	0-0.31m topsoil, 0.31-0.50m subsoil 0.50m+ natural sand and gravel. Pits 14 and 15 <b>[Plate 3]</b>
40	21.4	2.2	0.52	0-0.30m topsoil, 0.30-0.48m subsoil 0.48m+ natural sand and gravel with silty patches. Pit 11 and posthole 12 <b>[Plate 4]</b>
41	19.2	2.2	0.55	0-0.32m topsoil, 0.32-0.48m subsoil 0.48m+ natural sand and gravel with silt patches.
42	18.8	2.2	0.45	0-0.24m topsoil, 0.24-0.44m subsoil 0.44m+ natural sand and gravel .
43	20.3	2.2	0.36	0-0.2m topsoil, 0.24-0.36m subsoil 0.36m+ natural sand and gravel with sand patches.
44	20.5	2.2	0.35	0-0.21m topsoil, 0.21-0.33m subsoil 0.33m+ natural sand and gravel with clay patches.
45	21.0	2.2	0.38	0-0.24m topsoil, 0.24-0.36m subsoil 0.36m+ natural sand and gravel with clay patches.
46	20.2	2.2	0.24	0-0.22m topsoil, 0.22-0.24m subsoil 0.24m+ natural sand and gravel.
47	20.3	2.2	0.35	0-0.30m topsoil, 0.30-0.32m subsoil 0.32m+ natural sand and gravel with clay patches.
48	20.8	2.2	0.36	0-0.30m topsoil, 0.30-0.35m subsoil 0.35m+ natural sand and gravel. Ditch 9
49	20.3	2.2	0.35	0-0.24m topsoil, 0.24-0.33m subsoil 0.33m+ natural sand and gravel.
50	19.5	2.2	0.31	0-0.23m topsoil, 0.23-0.30m subsoil 0.30m+ natural sand and gravel with clay patches.
51	23.6	2.2	0.37	0-0.25m topsoil, 0.25-0.35m subsoil 0.35m+ natural sand and gravel with clay patches.
52	19.3	2.2	0.40	0-0.28m topsoil, 0.28-0.38m subsoil 0.38m+ natural sand and gravel with clay patches.
53	21.0	2.2	0.32	0-0.28m topsoil, 0.28-0.30m subsoil 0.30m+ natural sand and gravel with clay patches.
54	20.9	2.2	0.36	0-0.22m topsoil, 0.22-0.34m subsoil 0.34m+ natural sand and gravel with clay patches.
55	20.5	2.2	0.30	0-0.26m topsoil, 0.26-0.29m subsoil 0.29m+ natural sand and gravel with clay patches.
56	20.5	2.2	0.40	0-0.25m topsoil, 0.25-0.38m subsoil 0.38m+ natural sand and gravel with clay patches.

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
57	20.1	2.2	0.30	0-0.22m topsoil, 0.22-0.29m subsoil 0.29m+ natural sand and gravel with clay patches.
58	20.9	2.2	0.30	0-0.27m topsoil, 0.27-0.29m subsoil 0.29m+ natural sand and gravel with clay patches.
59	20.4	2.2	0.54	0-0.32m topsoil, 0.32-0.54m subsoil 0.54m+ natural sand and gravel with clay patches.
60	21.1	2.2	0.45	0-0.30m topsoil, 0.30-0.45m subsoil 0.45m+ natural sand and gravel.
61	21.0	2.2	0.62	0-0.38m topsoil, 0.38-0.52m subsoil 0.52m+ natural sand and gravel with clay patches.
62	21.9	2.2	0.50	0-0.40m topsoil, 0.40-0.50m subsoil 0.50m+ natural sand and gravel with clay patches.
63	19.8	2.2	0.55	0-0.36m topsoil, 0.36-0.50m subsoil 0.50m+ natural sand and gravel with clay patches.
64	19.7	2.2	0.50	0-0.30m topsoil, 0.30-0.50m subsoil 0.50m+ natural sand and gravel.
65	20.0	2.2	0.49	0-0.33m topsoil, 0.33-0.49m subsoil 0.49m+ natural sand and gravel.
66	21.0	2.2	0.68	0-0.40m topsoil, 0.40-0.68m subsoil 0.58m+ natural sand and gravel with clay patches. Test pit at SE end to 1m depth
67	9.5	2.2	0.45	0-0.30m topsoil, 0.30-0.43m subsoil 0.43m+ natural sand and gravel. Gully 8
68	11.1	2.2	0.41	0-0.30m topsoil, 0.30-0.40m subsoil 0.40m+ natural sand and gravel. Ditch 3
69	10.0	2.2	0.49	0-0.32m topsoil, 0.32-0.45m subsoil 0.45m+ natural sand and gravel.
70	12.1	2.2	0.58	0-0.37m topsoil, 0.37-0.50m subsoil 0.50m+ natural sand and gravel.
71	10.1	2.2	0.48	0-0.29m topsoil, 0.29-0.46m subsoil 0.46m+ natural sand and gravel.
72	10.5	2.2	0.46	0-0.27m topsoil, 0.27-0.44m subsoil 0.44m+ natural sand and gravel with clay patches.
73	10.7	2.2	0.41	0-0.24m topsoil, 0.24-0.37m subsoil 0.37m+ natural sand and gravel.

**APPENDIX 2: Feature details**

Trench	Cut	Fill (s)	Type	Date	Dating evidence
6	1	50,54,55	Ditch	LBA/EIA	Pottery
24	2	51	Ditch	LBA/EIA	Pottery
68	3	52	Ditch (same as 8?)	Undated	
10	4	53	Gully	LBA/EIA	Pottery
10	5	57	Ditch	Undated	
17	6	58	Ditch	Undated	
9	7	56	Pit	Roman or later	Pottery, iron slag
67	8	59	Ditch (same as 3?)	Undated	
48	9	60	Ditch	Post-Neolithic	Bronze pin
5	10	62	Trackway	Post-medieval	Pottery
40	11	63	Pit	LBA/EIA	Pottery
40	12	64	Posthole	LBA/EIA?	Stratigraphy
37	13	65	Posthole	Undated	
39	14	66	Pit	LBA/EIA	Pottery
39	15	67	Pit	LBA/EIA	Pottery

**APPENDIX 3:** Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

F	Cntxt	F1		F2		F3		19thC	
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
1	50	14	55						
1	55	2	7						
2	51	12	61						
4	53	1	5						
7	56			1	1				
10	62							2	598
11	63	26	385						
14	66	8	165			1	2		
15	67	29	174						
	Total	92	852	1	1	1	2	2	598

**APPENDIX 4:** Catalogue of struck flint

<b>Cut</b>	<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Trench</b>	<b>Intact Flake</b>	<b>Broken Flake</b>	<b>Core</b>	<b>Other</b>
1	50	6		1		
2	51	24	4		3	serrated blade; 2 core fragments
4	53	10				Scraper
1	55	6	2			
5	57	10		1		
6	58	17	1			
11	63	40	1		1	
11	63	40	1			
15	67	39	3			core fragment

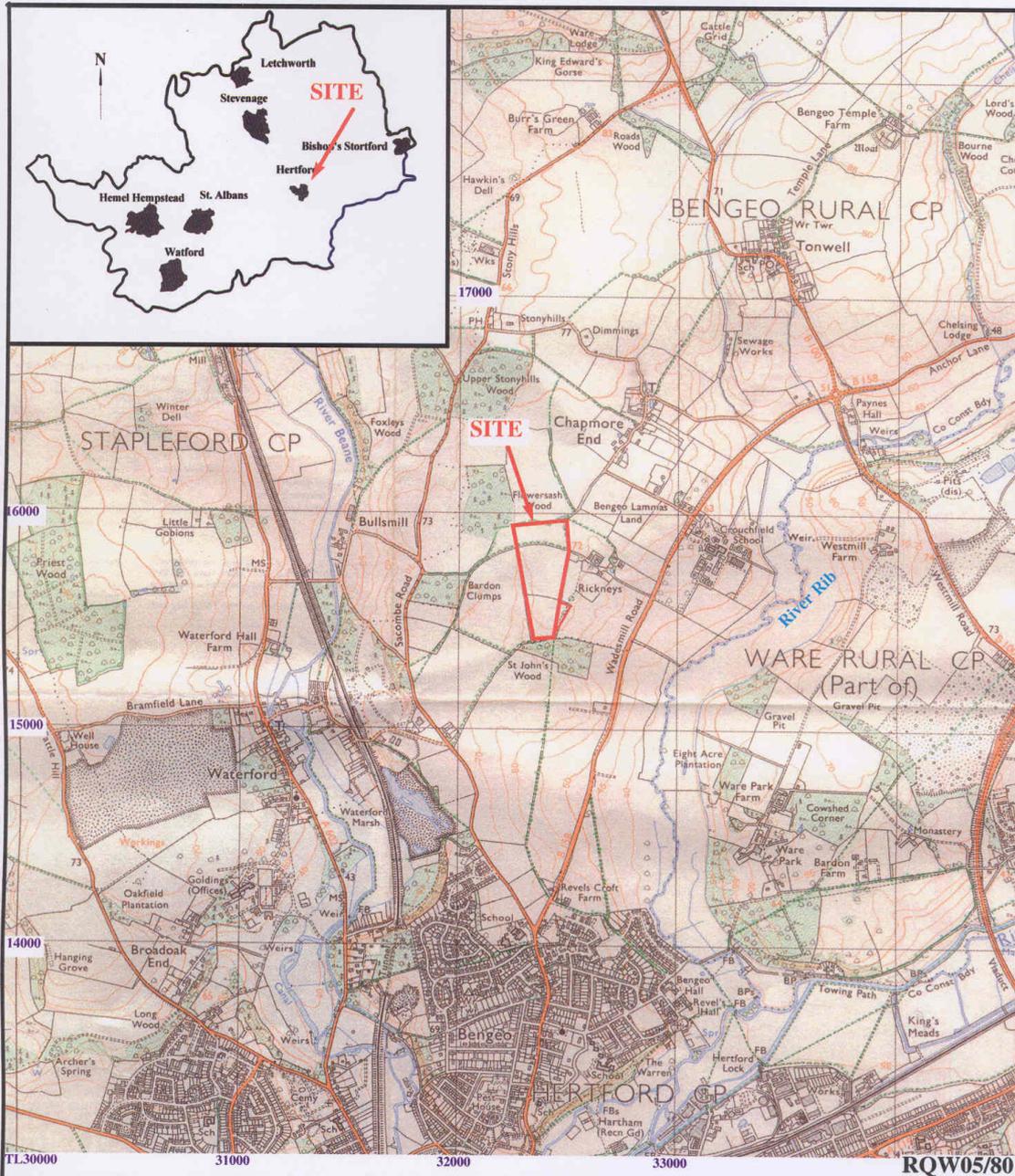
**APPENDIX 5:** Sieved samples

<b>Cut</b>	<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Trench</b>	<b>Sample no</b>	<b>Volume(L)</b>	<b>Wood charcoal</b>	<b>Other</b>
7	56	9	1	35	xx	Weed seeds
11	63	40	2	30	x	Cereal grains; weed seeds
15	67	39	3	10	x	Cereal grains
14	66	39	4	10	x	-

X present; XX some

**APPENDIX 6: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Site name and address:</b> Proposed Eastern Extension, Rickneys Quarry, Near Ware, Hertfordshire		
<b>County:</b> Hertfordshire		<b>District:</b> Ware
<b>Village/Town:</b>		<b>Parish:</b> Ware
<b>Planning application reference:</b> app no 3/****/06		
<b>Client name, address, and tel. no.:</b> Hanson Aggregates, White Ladies, Teston Road, Offham, Kent, ME19 5PF.		
<b>Nature of application:</b> Mineral extraction		
<b>Present land use:</b> Set aside		
<b>Size of application area:</b> 14ha		<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 10ha
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 3240 1570		
Site code (if applicable): RQW05/80		
Site director/Organization: Sean Wallis, TVAS		
Type of work: Evaluation		
Date of work:	Start: 29/11/06	Finish: 22/12/06
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: TVAS and Ware		
Related HER Nos:		Periods represented:  Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age Late Iron Age Roman or later
Relevant previous summaries/reports Preston, S, 2005, Proposed Eastern Extension, Rickneys Quarry, near Ware, Hertfordshire, an archaeological desk-based assessment, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 05/80, Reading Russell, S and Heard, H 2006, Rickneys Quarry, Near Ware, Hertfordshire, Geophysical Survey, Stratascan report J2247, Upton upon Severn		
Summary of fieldwork results: The evaluation has revealed a modest range of occupation deposits mostly of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date. One pit containing iron slag is of Roman or later date. Several undated features were also recorded and a sherd of Late Iron Age pottery also retrieved.		
Author of summary: Sean Wallis		Date of summary: 22/12/06



**Eastern Extension, Rickneys Quarry, near Ware,  
Hertfordshire, 2006  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Hertfordshire and Ware.

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THAMES VALLEY  
  
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
 SERVICES



# Proposed Eastern Extension, Rickneys Quarry, near Ware, Hertfordshire, 2006

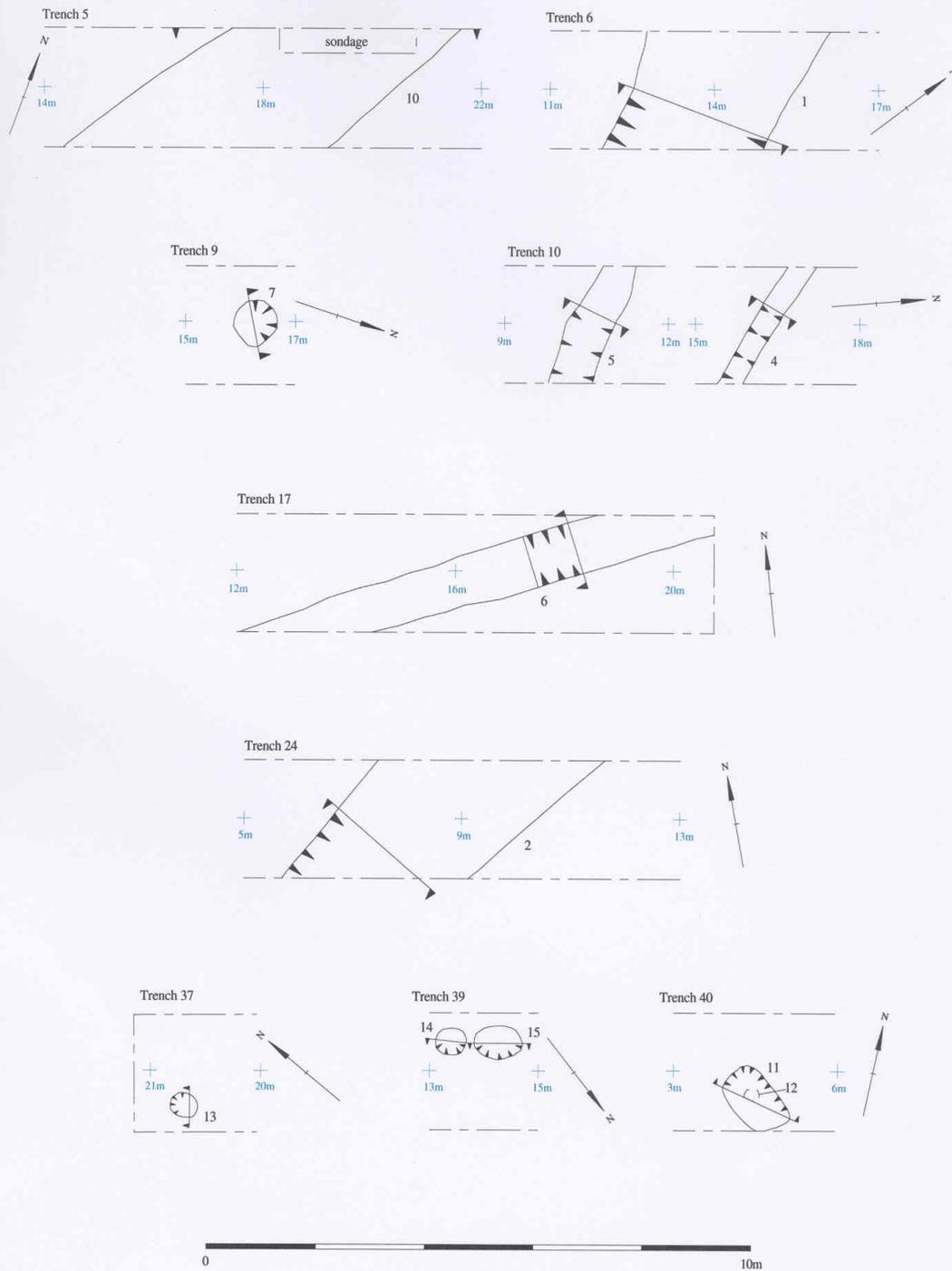


Figure 3: Trench Plans

RQW 05/80

# Proposed Eastern Extension, Rickneys Quarry, near Ware, Hertfordshire, 2006

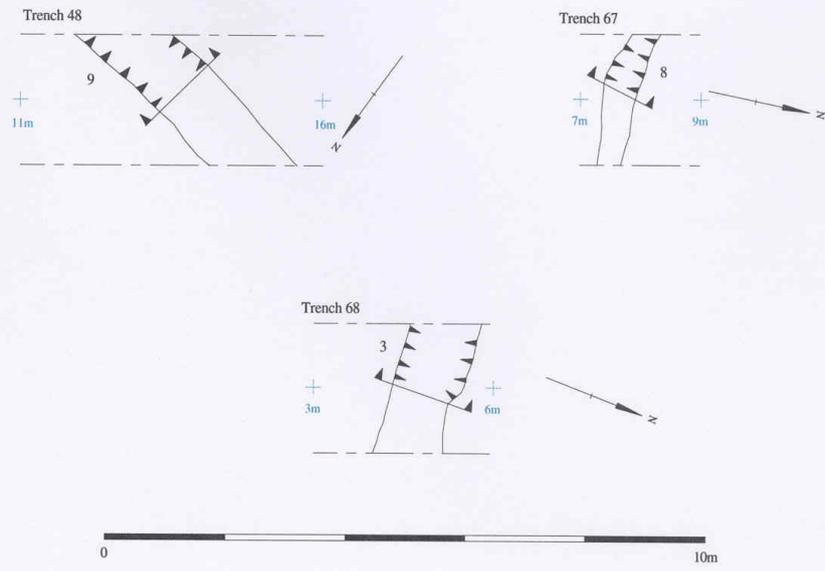


Figure 4: Trench Plans (continued)

# Proposed Eastern Extension, Rickneys Quarry, near Ware, Hertfordshire, 2006

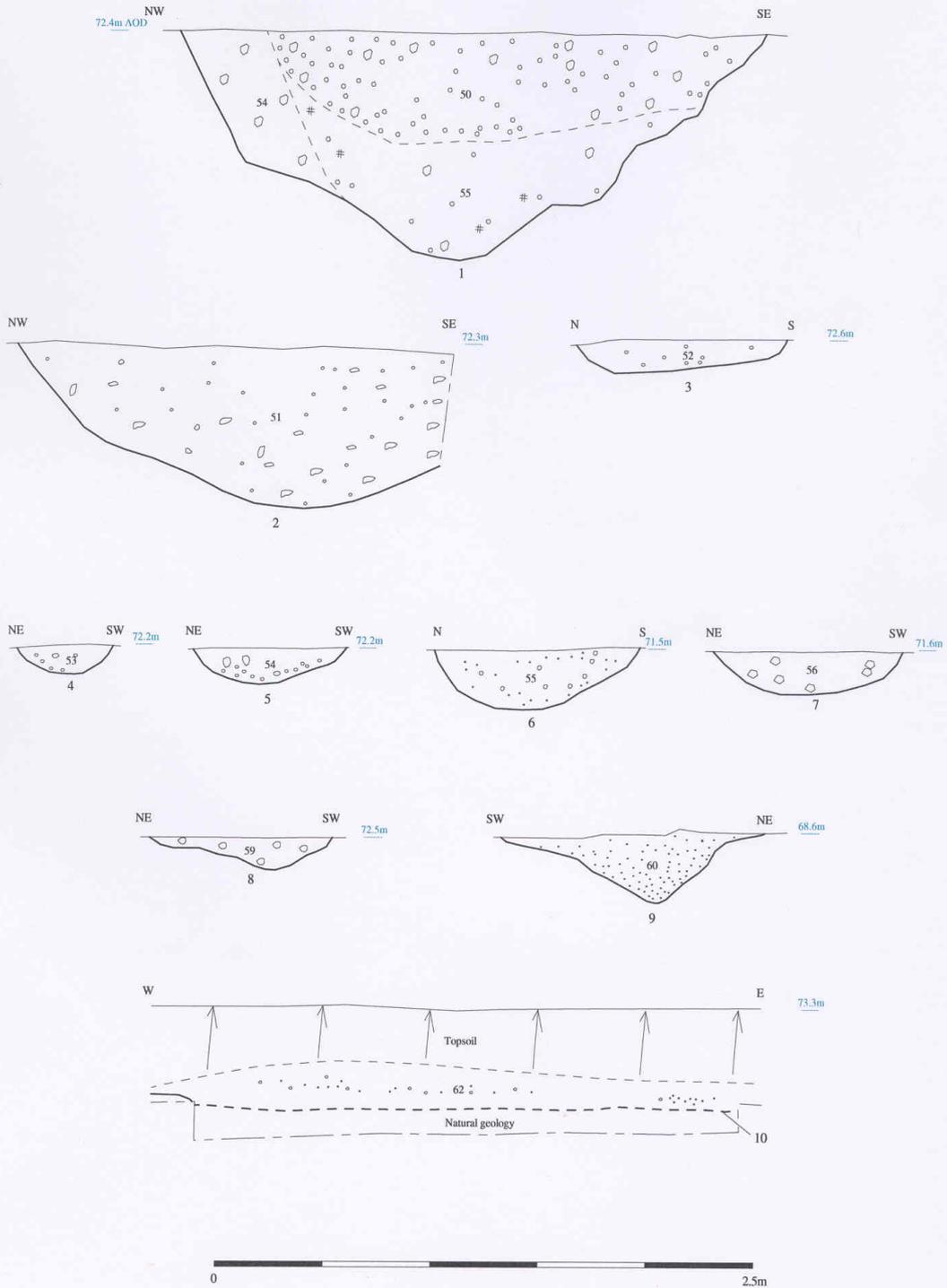


Figure 5: Sections

RQW 05/80

# Proposed Eastern Extension, Rickneys Quarry, near Ware, Hertfordshire, 2006

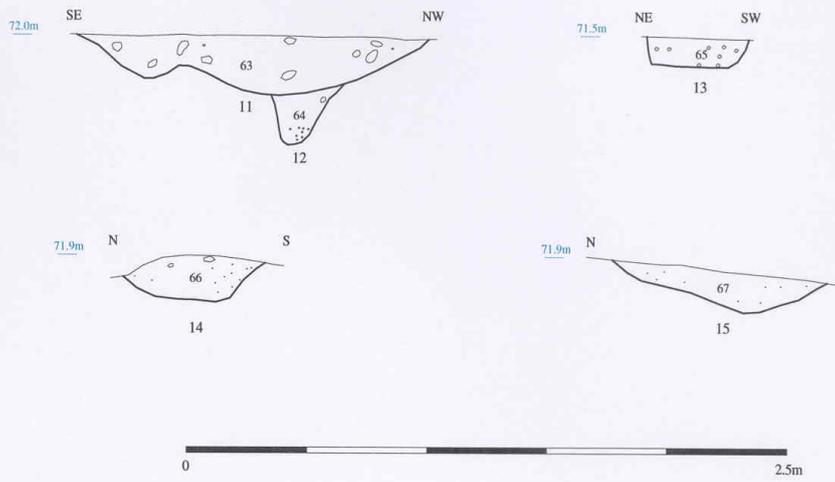


Figure 6: Sections (continued)



Plate 1. Trench 9 looking south, Pit 7. Scales 1m and 2m.

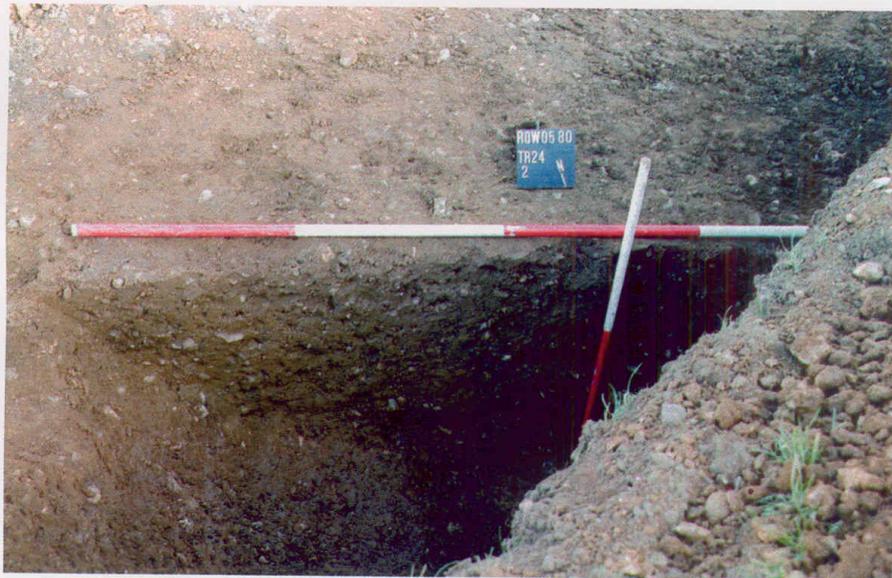


Plate 2. Trench 24 looking north, Ditch 2, Scales 1m and 2m.



Plate 3. Trench 39 looking north east, Pit 14. Scales 0.1m and 0.3m.



Plate 4. Trench 40 looking south west, Pit 11 and posthole 12, Scales 0.3m and 1m.