

30th January 2008

DISCOVERY OF BROAD HIGH-GRADE GOLD MINERALISATION AT EXETER FARM PROSPECT, NEW SOUTH WALES

Highlights

- ✦ **Discovery of near surface high-grade gold mineralisation in first drill hole at Exeter Farm prospect, including *19m @ 5.6g/t gold***
 - ✦ **Style of mineralisation similar to Dargues Reef which hosts a 310,000oz gold resource**
 - ✦ **Ongoing diamond and RC drilling program to test 8 targets at Exeter Farm and additional targets at Copper Ridge. Further drilling at Dargues Reef to increase existing gold resource**
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Australian gold exploration company Cortona Resources is delighted to announce the discovery of broad, high-grade gold mineralisation from the first hole drilled at the Exeter Farm prospect in the Company's 100% owned Majors Creek Project, NSW. Assay results are confirmed as follows:

EXEX007: 19m @ 5.6g/t gold from 47m

Also containing: 2m @ 1.3% Cu from 55m

Hole EXEX007 was drilled beneath outcropping mineralised gossan at the *Tory Boy* target, which lies within a 370m x 150m gold-in-soil anomaly (+100ppb Au). The soil anomaly has never been previously drill tested. The nature of mineralisation and style of alteration are very reminiscent of the ore at *Dargues Reef*, 2km to the south, where a 310,000oz gold resource has already been delineated. *Dargues Reef* has a proven strike length of ~120m.

Managing Director Peter van der Borgh said "*This fantastic outcome is testament to the quality of the Majors Creek project and confirms our belief in its prospectivity.*"

“The discovery resulted from the first application of an exploration model we developed from studying Dargues Reef, so to intersect these widths and grades in the very first hole we have drilled outside of Dargues gives us great confidence we can now apply this model to our 700km² ground holding”.

The *Tory Boy* gossan is on a linear demagnetized anomaly coincident with the soil anomaly, both of which extend beyond the *Archer* gossan ~200m to the WNW (Figure 1). Eight targets will be drill-tested at Exeter Farm, where intermittent gold anomalism has been identified over a surface area of ~1km².

“Large geochemical footprints such as the one at Exeter Farm are a common feature of most major ore bodies, so we were quietly confident that we were onto something special”, said Peter van der Borgh.

“We believe there is outstanding potential for strike and depth continuity of mineralisation at Exeter Farm which will be tested by an aggressive drilling program during the next few weeks”,

“Discovery holes of this magnitude are few and far between and I feel very privileged to be involved. On behalf of the Company’s Board of Directors I would like to congratulate all those in Cortona’s technical team on this outstanding success”.

Exeter Farm Drilling Program - update

The Exeter Farm prospect is situated within the Company’s Majors Creek project in NSW. The property was the birthplace of ‘Archer’, the winner of the first Melbourne Cup in 1861. Exploration targets within the prospect are named after runners on that historic day!

Cortona commenced Reverse Circulation (RC) drilling in mid January. The current program is planned to test the depth potential of eight targets at the Exeter Farm prospect, where a large surface geochemical footprint has been identified from intermittent gold, silver, copper and bismuth anomalism over an area measuring ~1km².

Targets typically comprise sparsely outcropping gossan with coincident soil and rock chip mineralisation (Figure 1). The texture and mineralogy of the gossans is strikingly

similar to the ore at Dargues Reef. Some of the targets are also coincident with geophysical anomalies (Figure 1).

Geophysical and geochemical anomalies are typically orientated ENE, E-W, or WNW. Initially all holes are being drilled at -60° towards the north in order to account for these orientations. The model predicts steeply dipping mineralisation akin to Dargues Reef.

Drill hole - EXEX007

This hole was drilled beneath an outcropping mineralised gossan, named Tory Boy, which produced 1.9 g/t gold in a rock chip sample and is within the 370m by 150m plus 0.1ppm gold soil anomaly. High-grade soil sample values peaking at 1.26g/t gold, with anomalous Bismuth, Silver and Copper values were the direct target, adjacent to a historical prospecting pit.

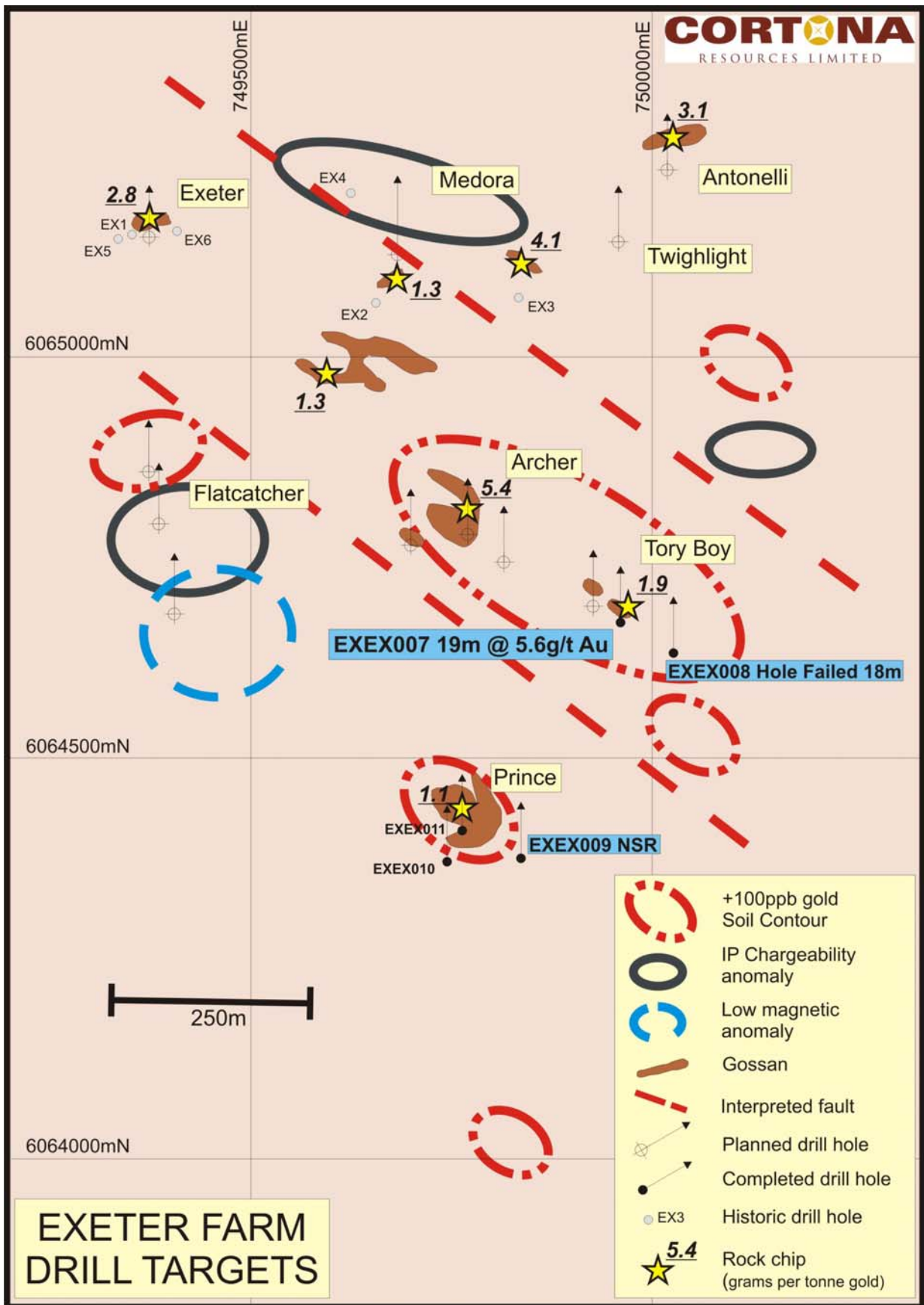


Figure 1: Hand specimen of Exeter Farm gossan

The complete base of oxidation was reached at 14m down hole where altered Granodiorite was intersected. Increasing alteration assemblages identical to those seen at Dargues Reef preceded the mineralisation. A 'lode' comprising silica-carbonate-sericite-pyrite+/-chalcopyrite was intersected at 47m down hole (~35m vertical depth), and returned assay results averaging **19m @ 5.6g/t gold**. A zone of high-grade copper (**2m @ 1.3%**) was intersected at 55m. A second 'lode' measuring **2m @ 5.0g/t** gold was intercepted from 71m. The hole terminated at 126m.

The nature of mineralisation and style of alteration are very reminiscent of the ore at *Dargues Reef*, 2km to the south, where a 310,000oz gold resource has already been delineated, and resource definition diamond drilling is ongoing. *Dargues Reef* has a proven strike length of ~120m compared to the 370m by 150m dimensions of the Exeter Farm soil anomaly.

Figure 1: Plan of the Exeter Farm prospect highlighting targets and recent RC drilling results



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Another significant feature of the assay results is the consistent grades of mineralisation across the zone as shown below:

Start m	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65
Au g/t	5.4	9.3	10.9	4.4	3.6	2.8	7.4	1.3	4.0	7.9	5.3	6.9	7.5	7.2	4.0	6.5	8.2	3.0	1.3

At this stage the orientation of mineralisation is unknown, although rapid changes in the alteration mineralogy and mineralisation suggest that the hole was more likely to have been drilled across, rather than down, a mineralised structure.

The trend of the soil anomaly combined with the orientation of mapped outcrops and structures, as well as linear demagnetized zones suggest the mineralisation could strike West North West to the “Archer” target. Archer represents another mineralised gossan outcrop and historical working which has produced rock chip values up to 5.4g/t Au and soil samples up to 0.77ppm Gold. Archer is approximately 200m to the WNW of Tory Boy, and is currently being drilled.

Hole EXEX008 failed in unconsolidated material at 18m and will be re-drilled. Hole EXEX009 was located ~50m west of the ‘Prince’ Gossan, and intersected considerable alteration but no significant mineralisation. Two further holes have since been completed at Prince for which results are pending.

Looking Ahead

Despite being very early days at Exeter Farm, the discovery of broad Dargues Reef style lode so close to the surface is highly significant and very encouraging. Cortona now intends to increase its level of activity at Majors Creek to facilitate further discoveries at Exeter Farm and other regional targets such as Copper Ridge, and continue resource growth through in-fill diamond and RC drilling at Dargues Reef.

Yours Faithfully

Peter van der Borgh
Managing Director

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ABOUT CORTONA RESOURCES LTD (CRC)

Cortona Resources is a Perth based gold explorer with projects in Western Australia and New South Wales hosting a resource inventory of ~390,000 ounces of gold. The Company has a dynamic exploration team based in offices in Orange (NSW) and Kalgoorlie (WA). Cortona has ~76M fully paid shares on issue, and a fully diluted position of ~106M shares.

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Competent Persons: *The contents of this report that relate to geology and historical exploration are based on information compiled by Mr Peter van der Borgh, who is a Professional Geologist and Fellow of the Geological Society of London. He has sufficient experience relevant to the style of mineralisation and types of deposit under consideration and to the activity being undertaken to qualify as a 'Competent Person' as defined in the 2004 Edition of the Australasian Code for Reporting Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves. Peter van der Borgh consents to the inclusion in this report of the matters compiled by him in the form and context in which they appear.*

RC Collars

Hole ID	AMGE	AMGN	Dip	Azimuth	Depth (m)	Target
EXEX007	749950	6064665	-60	360	126	Tory Boy
EXEX008	750050	6064595	-60	360	18	Tory Boy
EXEX009	749795	6064380	-60	360	120	Prince

Sampling and Assay Procedures

A bulk sample from each metre was collected from the drill rig into plastic bags, which were laid out in rows on the ground. The chips were geologically logged and the assay interval determined depending on the degree of alteration and/or mineralisation. Sample intervals were either a 2m composite or 1m intervals in mineralisation or strong alteration. The field assistant would collect a representative sample using a PVC spear, by spearing each plastic bag several times. The combined sample weight is approx 3kg. Standard samples of known gold concentration are inserted every 25 samples. These are used to monitor the accuracy of the lab. A blank sample is inserted at the start of each hole to test for contamination from previous samples in the lab. A blank can also be inserted following visually high-grade mineralisation to test for contamination in the lab from the previous high-grade samples.

The samples were despatched to ALS in Orange for analysis. The entire sample is pulverised in a LM5 mill to 85% passing 75 microns. A sub-sample is taken for analysis. Gold is analysed by a 50g fire assay with AAS finish with a detection limit of 0.01ppm. Silver (0.2ppm), Arsenic (2ppm), Bismuth (2ppm), Copper (1ppm), Lead (2ppm), Molybdenum (1ppm), Sulphur (0.01%) and Zinc (2ppm) are analysed by Aqua Regia digest and ICPAES finish.