

# HMP East Sutton Park East Sutton Kent



## Archaeological Watching Brief and Evaluation Report



October 2008

**Client: Crispin and Borst Ltd**

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Prepared by: Mike Sims  
Position: SWD Supervisor  
Date: 10th October 2008

Checked by: Dan Dodds  
Position: Head of Small Works  
Date: 16th October 2008

Approved by: Nick Shepherd Signed.....  
Position: Head of Fieldwork  
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Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford OX2 0ES  
t: (0044) 01865 263800  
f: (0044) 01865 793496

e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk  
w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk

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## HMP East Sutton Park East Sutton, Kent

### *ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND WATCHING BRIEF REPORT*

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## SUMMARY

*Between the 6th and 8th October 2008 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a combined field evaluation and watching brief at HMP East Sutton Park, East Sutton, Kent (NGR: TQ 827 493) on behalf of Crispin and Borst Ltd. The evaluation and watching brief revealed post-medieval landscaping and ploughsoil overlying colluvium and bedrock throughout the site, together with evidence of the military occupation of the site during World War II. No earlier archaeology was encountered.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Between the 6th and 8th October 2008, OA carried out a combined field evaluation and watching brief on land at HMP East Sutton Park, East Sutton, Kent (NGR: TQ 827 493) on behalf of Crispin and Borst Ltd in respect of a proposal to construct a new pumping station and associated pipeline. Kent County Council (KCC) after consultation with the Heritage Conservation Group requested that an archaeological investigation including both a watching brief element and a field evaluation be undertaken as part of the groundworks.

1.1.2 A project specification was drawn up by Kent County Council's Heritage Conservation Group indicating the minimum requirements for the work (KCC, 2008) and OA produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) showing how it would meet these requirements (OA, 2008).

#### 1.2 Location, geology and topography

1.2.1 East Sutton Park is located approximately 8 km south-east of the town of Maidstone and approximately 1 km east of the village of Sutton Valence (Fig. 1). The development area is situated in fields immediately south of HMP East Sutton Park. The site is bounded to the east and south by agricultural land, to the west by a public highway and to the north by an access road. The western end of the site is roughly level at a mean height of 106 m AOD, dropping sharply at the eastern end of the site down to 92 m AOD.

1.2.2 The site is currently permanent pasture and measures approximately 1 hectare. The underlying geology is limestone of the Hythe Beds overlying Atherfield Clay (British Geological Survey, Sheet 288).

#### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological background to the evaluation was prepared for the WSI, the results of which are reproduced overleaf.

1.3.2 The eastern end of the route is around 80 m north west of the Scheduled Monument of a moated medieval homestead. The 17th-century mansion that replaced it stands

immediately north of the proposed pipeline and is serving as part of the current prison.

1.3.3 The 14th-century Church of St Peter and St Paul is 180 m north and the Maidstone to Lymyne Roman Road runs 800 m to the south west.

1.3.4 It is known that buildings were commandeered by the War Department in WWII and were used at times by Anti-Aircraft detachments of the Royal Artillery. In 1946 it was turned into a Borstal.

## **2 EVALUATION AND WATCHING BRIEF AIMS**

2.1.1 To establish the presence or absence, extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present within the proposal area.

2.1.2 To establish the exigency for a mitigation strategy.

2.1.3 To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features.

2.1.4 To define any relevant research priorities if additional archaeological investigation proves necessary.

2.1.5 To make available the results of the investigation.

## **3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Scope of fieldwork**

3.1.1 The evaluation consisted of seven trenches totalling 140 m in length forming a 1% sample of the development area (Fig. 2). The trenches were spaced along the proposed route of the new drain, although Trench 5 was moved 10 m to the east of its proposed location to avoid blocking a gateway.

3.1.2 The watching brief element consisted of topsoil stripping within an area measuring 40 m by 25 m at the western end of the site prior to laying geo-textile fabric and hardcore to form a works compound. A small percentage of the underlying subsoil/ploughsoil (<5%) was removed in the centre of the area in order to level the site.

### **3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording**

#### *Evaluation Trenches*

3.2.1 The trenches were excavated under close archaeological supervision by a tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8 m wide toothless grading bucket. Excavation proceeded to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or to the top of the underlying natural geology, whichever was encountered first.

3.2.2 The trenches were cleaned by hand and any revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve dating evidence and environmental

samples if possible. All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers. All the trenches and features were planned a scale of 1:50 with sections of features and sample sections drawn at a scale of 1:20. All features, trenches and sections were photographed using digital photography, colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OA Field Manual* (OAU 1992).

### *Watching Brief*

- 3.2.3 The watching brief was conducted as a continuous archaeological presence during the topsoil and subsoil stripping. The extent of the stripped area was added to the site plan.

## **4 RESULTS: GENERAL**

### **4.1 Soils and ground conditions**

- 4.1.1 All the trenches came down onto natural deposits represented by either a layer of bedrock or undisturbed colluvium. All the soil divisions were clearly defined with little or no mixing between the contexts. No ground water was encountered any of the trenches.

## **5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS**

### **5.1 Description of deposits**

#### *Watching brief on area of site compound*

- 5.1.1 An area measuring approximately 40 m east-west by 25 m north-south was stripped immediately adjacent to the entrance to East Sutton Park, at the western limit of the development area (Fig. 2). This was carried out using a tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8 m wide toothless grading bucket. Stripping proceeded in spits down to the required level. In order to roughly level the site the central area was reduced by approximately 0.3 m in depth, with approximately 0.18 m removed over the remainder.
- 5.1.2 In the central area a layer of light grey-brown silt clay (3), was encountered at a depth of 0.18 m below the current ground level. This contained many small abraded limestone fragments, charcoal flecking and occasional sub-angular brick and tile fragments and probably represents a layer of ploughsoil. On the eastern edge of the stripped area this was overlaid by an area of hardstanding/roadway (2), measuring 4 m wide and 11 m long running north-south and appearing to butt up to the current access road to the north of the site.
- 5.1.3 This hardstanding was formed by laying a single layer of frogged yellow and red bricks measuring 0.235 m x 0.115 x 0.68 m on edge. The bricks was laid directly onto the underlying ploughsoil with no bonding agent used.

- 5.1.4 Overlying the ploughsoil to a depth of 0.18 m over the remainder of the site and forming a thin skim (< 0.1 m) over surface 2 was a dark brown clay loam (1), the present day topsoil and turf.

### *Evaluation Trenches*

#### *Trenches 1 and 2*

- 5.1.5 The stratigraphy recorded in trenches 1 and 2 was identical and has therefore been considered together.
- 5.1.6 A compact orange-brown silt sandy clay natural containing numerous sub-angular limestone fragments (13 and 23) was reached at a depth of 0.4 m below ground level (Fig. 3, Sections 10, 20 and 21). This deposit was very clean and represents a layer of colluvium.
- 5.1.7 Overlying this was a layer of light grey-brown silt clay (12 and 22), measuring up to 0.15 m in depth. This contained many small abraded limestone fragments, charcoal flecking and occasional sub-angular brick and tile fragments and probably represents a layer of ploughsoil. This was overlaid by a 0.12 m deep layer of mixed grey-brown and yellow-brown silt clay (11 and 21). This contained numerous angular brick fragments. The mixed nature of this deposit together with the presence of the brick and tile suggests that this may be a layer of made ground.
- 5.1.8 This was sealed by a dark brown clay loam (10 and 20), measuring 0.13 m to 0.15 m, the present day topsoil and turf.

#### *Trenches 3 and 4*

- 5.1.9 As in the previous trenches the stratigraphy recorded in these was similar and will be considered together.
- 5.1.10 The underlying colluvium (32 and 42) was encountered at a depth of between 0.22 m and 0.3 m below the current ground level (Fig. 3, sections 30, 31, 40 and 41). The proportion of stone fragments within this deposit steadily increased towards the east. This was overlaid by a continuation of the grey-brown clay silt ploughsoil (31 and 41), up to 0.25 m in depth. Overlying this deposit was a 0.14 m deep layer of dark brown clay loam (30 and 40), the present day topsoil and turf.

#### *Trenches 5 and 6*

- 5.1.11 Because of the restrictions imposed by the presence of a field gateway, Trench 5 was relocated 10 m to the east and dug contiguous with Trench 6. From the sections it could be seen that the stratigraphy exposed was continuous throughout the length of the 2 trenches and an overall description can be applied.
- 5.1.12 Within Trench 6, bands of the underlying bedrock, a soft limestone of the Hythe Beds (63) were encountered at a depth of 0.22 m below the current ground level (Fig. 4, plan and sections 60). This was overlaid by a continuation of the yellow-brown



clay silt colluvium (52 and 62) (Fig. 4, Sections 50, 51 and 60). Overlying this was a 0.12 m deep layer of grey-brown clay silt (51 and 61), a continuation of the ploughsoil. This was sealed by a 0.12 m deep layer of the current topsoil and turf (50 and 60).

### *Trench 7*

- 5.1.13 This was located at the base of an east facing bank within a steeply sloping feature suggesting that the area may have been quarried in the past. The proposed drainage run curved at this point round a standing tree before entering the proposed pumping station. To accommodate this the trench was excavated in the form of an “L” with a 15 m leg running east-west up the slope and a 5 m leg running north-south across the slope.
- 5.1.14 The bedrock (73) was encountered at a depth of 0.45 m below the current ground level (Fig. 5, Sections 70 and 72). Overlying this at the western end of the trench was a pale yellow-brown clay silt (76) containing numerous small fragments of abraded limestone (Fig. 5, Section 71), probably a layer of weathered bedrock. This was overlaid by a layer of yellowish grey-brown clay silt (72) measuring between 0.15 m and 0.3 m in depth. This deposit contained many small sub-angular fragments of stone and is a probable continuation of the layer of colluvium observed elsewhere on site. Within the north-south arm of the trench this was overlaid by a lens of grey-brown silt (71) up to 0.3 m in depth containing many large angular stone fragments, fragments of brick and fragments of salt-glazed sewer pipe suggesting that it is a post-medieval layer of made ground.
- 5.1.15 In the eastern end of the east-west arm of the trench layer 72 was cut by a 0.6 m wide by 0.6 m deep parallel-sided trench (74) running north-west to south-east across the site. Built within this trench was a brick culvert (75) using machine made frogged bricks measuring 0.235 m x 0.115 m x 0.068 m bonded with lime mortar (Fig. 5, plan). The size of the bricks and the presence of the frog suggest a date within the first half of the 20th-century. The size and form of the bricks are identical with some of those used in the brick hardstanding 2 suggesting that they are contemporary. Sealing the culvert and the layer of made ground was a layer of dark brown clay loam (70) of between 0.1 m and 0.2 m in depth, the present day topsoil and turf.

## 5.2 Finds

- 5.2.1 A number of clay roofing tile fragments were noted within the ploughsoil, deposits 12, 22, 31, 41, 51 and 61, together with some bone fragments, but no definitive dating evidence. Fragments of post-medieval pottery and a cast iron plough share were recovered from layer 10.

## 5.3 Palaeo-environmental evidence

- 5.3.1 No deposits suitable for paleo-environmental sampling were encountered during the course of the evaluation.

## 6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

### 6.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 6.1.1 The conditions during the evaluation were dry and clear with little intrusion by modern features such as services and land drains.
- 6.1.2 The location of the trenches and the percentage sample of the development area is believed to have given a good reflection of the overall archaeological potential of the site.

### 6.2 Overall interpretation

- 6.2.1 The results suggest that the area of the development site has been consistently used for agriculture, with little evidence to suggest occupation. The presence of the layer of made ground 11 and 21 and the brick hardstanding 2 are probably the result of the military occupation of the site, and the form of the bricks observed would correspond with this date, as would the brick culvert 75. It is possible that the made ground observed within trenches 1 and 2 is the result of re-instatement of the manor grounds after the end of WWII.
- 6.2.2 No dating evidence was recovered to accurately date the ploughsoil (Layer 12, 22, 31, 41, 51 and 61), although the presence of the fragments of clay roofing tile would point to a late medieval/post-medieval date. The absence of plough soil within the area of Trench 7 combined with the presence of a possible quarry face/edge to the west of the trench would suggest that the area had been quarried in the past. It is known that Robert Filmer esq who resided at East Sutton between 1668 and 1675 enclosed the estate with a stone wall, and it is possible that the stone used was quarried from this area. Portions of the stone wall are still visible adjacent to Friday Street and Workhouse Road.
- 6.2.3 No evidence for earlier occupation or activity on the site was observed during the course of the archaeological investigation.

## APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

| <i>Trench</i>  | <i>Ctxt No</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Width (m)</i> | <i>Thick. (m)</i> | <i>Comment</i>                               | <i>Finds</i>                  | <i>Date</i> |
|----------------|----------------|-------------|------------------|-------------------|--|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Watching Brief |                |             |                  |                   |  |                               |             |
|                | 1              | Layer       | -                | 0.25 m            | Topsoil and turf                             | Brick, pottery, iron, plastic | C20th       |
|                | 2              | Surface     | 4 m              | 0.1 m             | Hard standing made using bricks laid on edge | Bricks                        | 1940- 1946  |
|                | 3              | Layer       | -                | > 0.2 m           | Ploughsoil                                   | -                             | -           |
| Trench 1       |                |             |                  |                   |  |                               |             |
|                | 10             | Layer       | -                | 0.15 m            | Topsoil and turf                             | Brick                         | C20th       |
|                | 11             | Layer       | -                | 0.12 m            | Made ground                                  | Brick                         | C20th       |
|                | 12             | Layer       | -                | 0.15 m            | Ploughsoil                                   | Tile                          | -           |
|                | 13             | Layer       | -                | > 0.1 m           | Colluvium                                    | -                             | -           |
| Trench 2       |                |             |                  |                   |  |                               |             |
|                | 20             | Layer       | -                | 0.13 m            | Topsoil and turf                             | Brick                         | C20th       |
|                | 21             | Layer       | -                | 0.12 m            | Made ground                                  | Brick                         | C20th       |
|                | 22             | Layer       | -                | 0.13 m            | Ploughsoil                                   | Tile                          | -           |
|                | 23             | Layer       | -                | > 0.1 m           | Colluvium                                    | -                             | -           |
| Trench 3       |                |             |                  |                   |  |                               |             |
|                | 30             | Layer       | -                | 0.14 m            | Topsoil and turf                             | Brick                         | C20th       |
|                | 31             | Layer       | -                | 0.14 m            | Ploughsoil                                   | Tile                          | -           |
|                | 32             | Layer       | -                | > 0.1 m           | Colluvium                                    | -                             | -           |
| Trench 4       |                |             |                  |                   |  |                               |             |
|                | 40             | Layer       | -                | 0.14 m            | Topsoil and turf                             | Brick                         | C20th       |
|                | 41             | Layer       | -                | 0.14 m            | Ploughsoil                                   | Tile                          | -           |
|                | 42             | Layer       | -                | > 0.1 m           | Colluvium                                    | -                             | -           |
| Trench 5       |                |             |                  |                   |  |                               |             |
|                | 50             | Layer       | -                | 0.1 m             | Topsoil and turf                             | Brick                         | C20th       |
|                | 51             | Layer       | -                | 0.12 m            | Ploughsoil                                   | Tile                          | -           |
|                | 52             | Layer       | -                | > 0.1 m           | Colluvium                                    | -                             | -           |

| <i>Trench</i> | <i>Ctxt No</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Width (m)</i> | <i>Thick. (m)</i> | <i>Comment</i>      | <i>Finds</i>            | <i>Date</i> |
|---------------|----------------|-------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Trench 6      |                |             |                  |                   |                     |                         |             |
|               | 60             | Layer       | -                | 0.14 m            | Topsoil and turf    | Brick                   | C20th       |
|               | 61             | Layer       | -                | 0.14 m            | Ploughsoil          | Tile                    | -           |
|               | 62             | Layer       | -                | > 0.1 m           | Colluvium           | -                       | -           |
|               | 63             | Layer       | -                | > 0.1 m           | Bedrock             | -                       | -           |
| Trench 7      |                |             |                  |                   |                     |                         |             |
|               | 70             | Layer       | -                | 0.14 m            | Topsoil and turf    | Brick                   | C20th       |
|               | 71             | Layer       | -                | 0.3 m             | Made ground         | Brick, salt glazed pipe | C20th       |
|               | 72             | Layer       | -                | > 0.1 m           | Colluvium           | -                       | -           |
|               | 73             | Layer       | -                | > 0.3 m           | Bedrock             | -                       | -           |
|               | 74             | Cut         | 0.6 m            | 0.6 m             | Service trench      | -                       | 1940-1946   |
|               | 75             | Culvert     | 0.5 m            | 0.6 m             | Brick built culvert | Brick                   | 1940-1946   |
|               | 76             | Layer       | -                | > 0.1 m           | Colluvium           | -                       | -           |

**APPENDIX 2 REFERENCES**

- IFA, 2001 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations*
- IFA, 2001 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*
- KCC, 2008 *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at East Sutton Park Young Offenders' Institution and Prison, Church Road, East Sutton, Kent, During the Creation of a Southern Water Pipeline*
- OA, 2008 *HMP East Sutton Park, East Sutton, Kent: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*
- OAU, 1992 *Field Manual* (ed. D. Wilkinson)

**APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS**

**Site name:** HMP East Sutton Park, Church Road, East Sutton, Kent

**Site code:** EASUPA 08

**Grid reference:** TQ 827 493

**Type of evaluation:** 7 machine dug trenches, 20m x 1.8 m each, topsoil strip of approximately 800 m<sup>2</sup>

**Date and duration of project:** 6th to 8th October 2008, 3 working days

**Area of site:** 1 hectare

**Summary of results:** Post-medieval ploughsoils overlying natural, WWII brick built culvert and hard standing. No earlier archaeology was encountered.

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Kent County Museums Service in due course.





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Figure 1: Site location





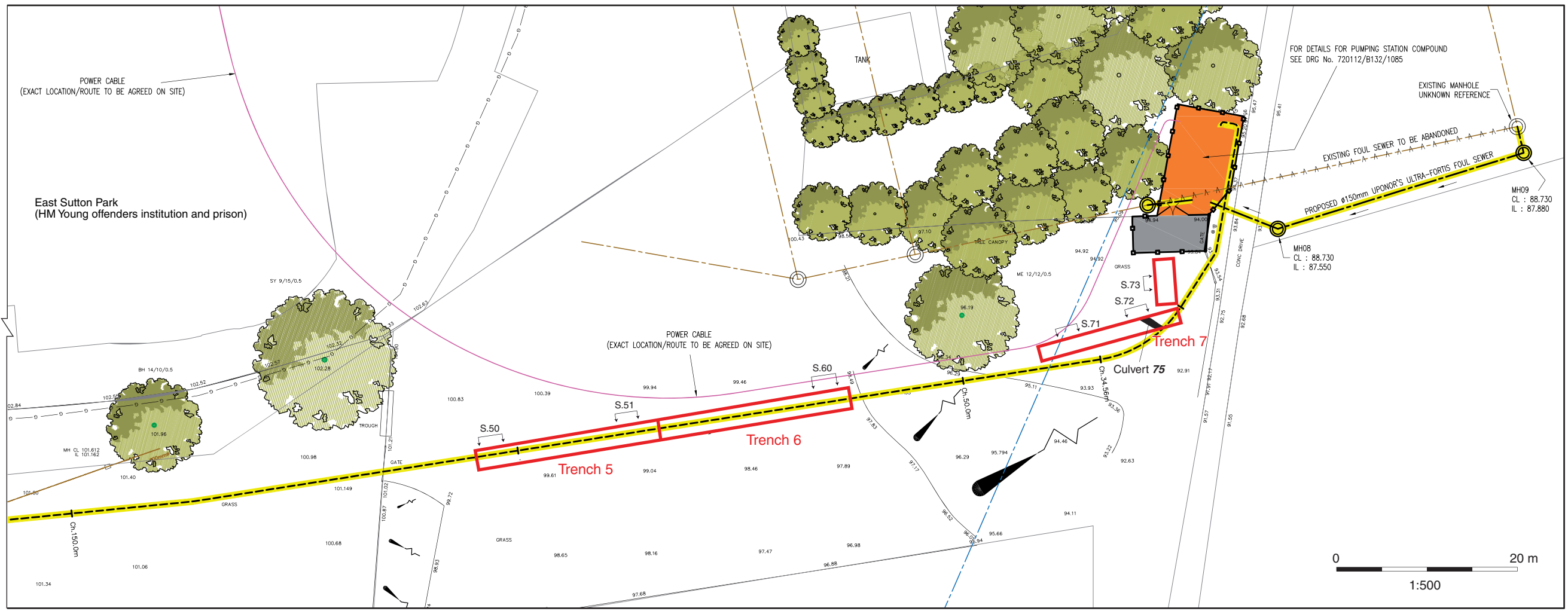
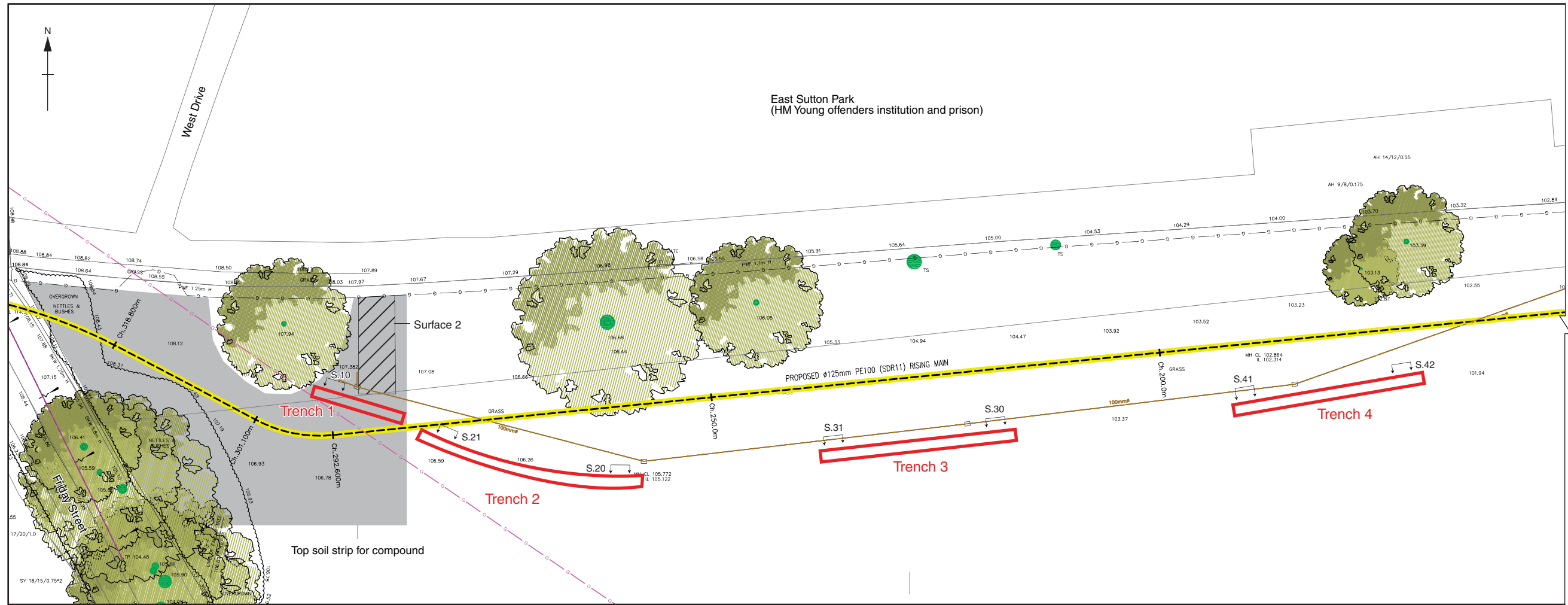


Figure 2: Trench location



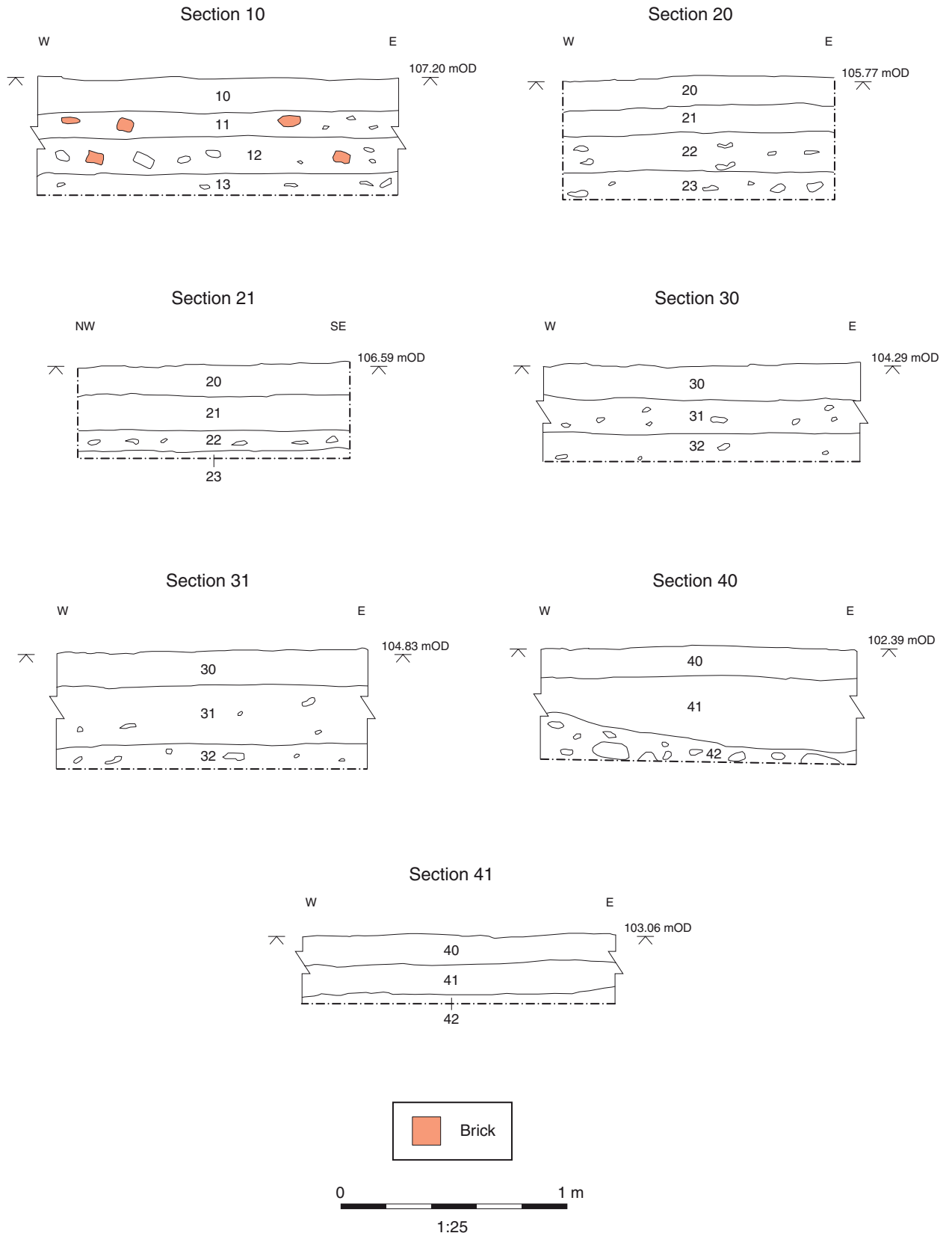


Figure 3: Sections



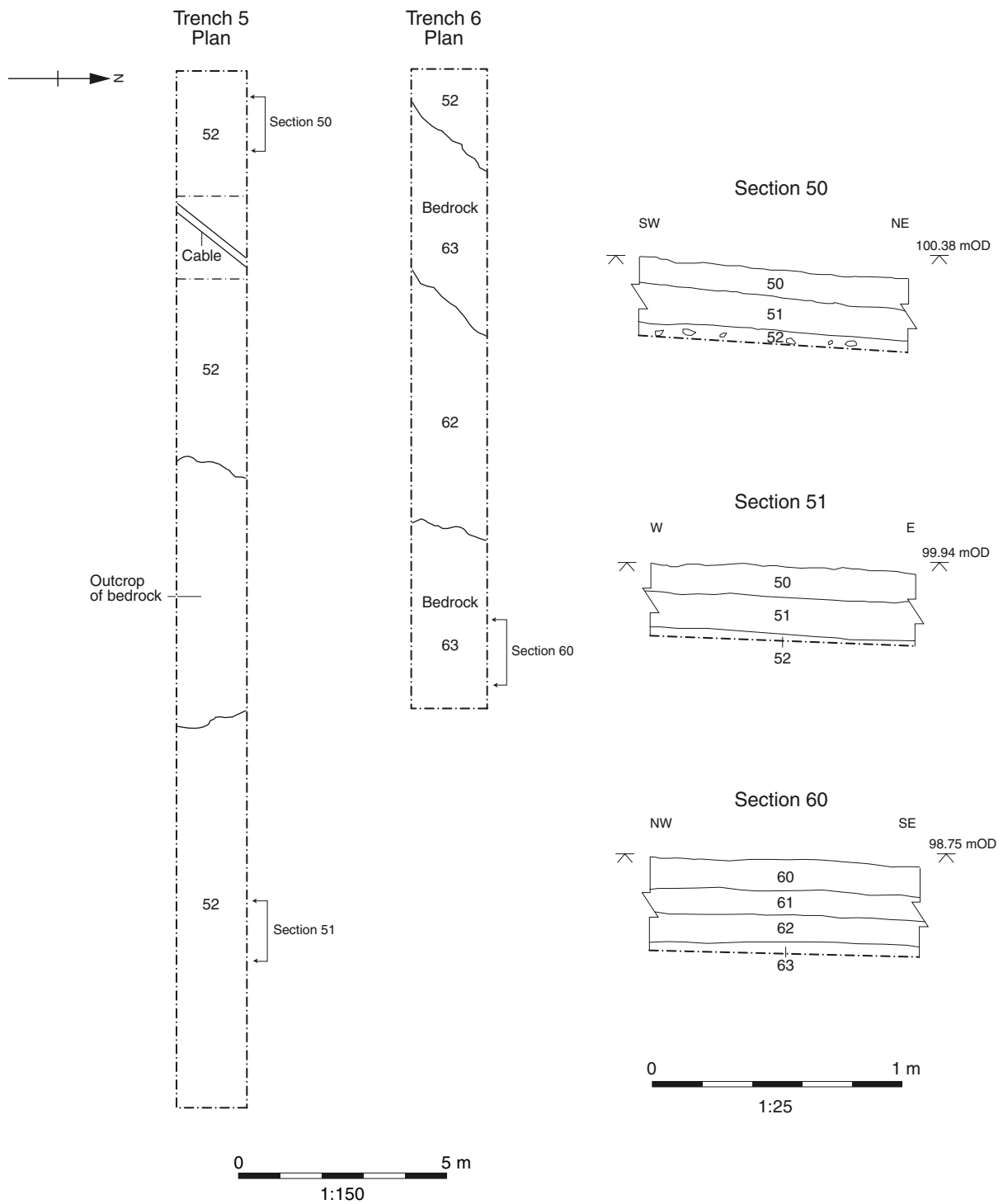


Figure 4: Trenches 5 and 6, plans and sections



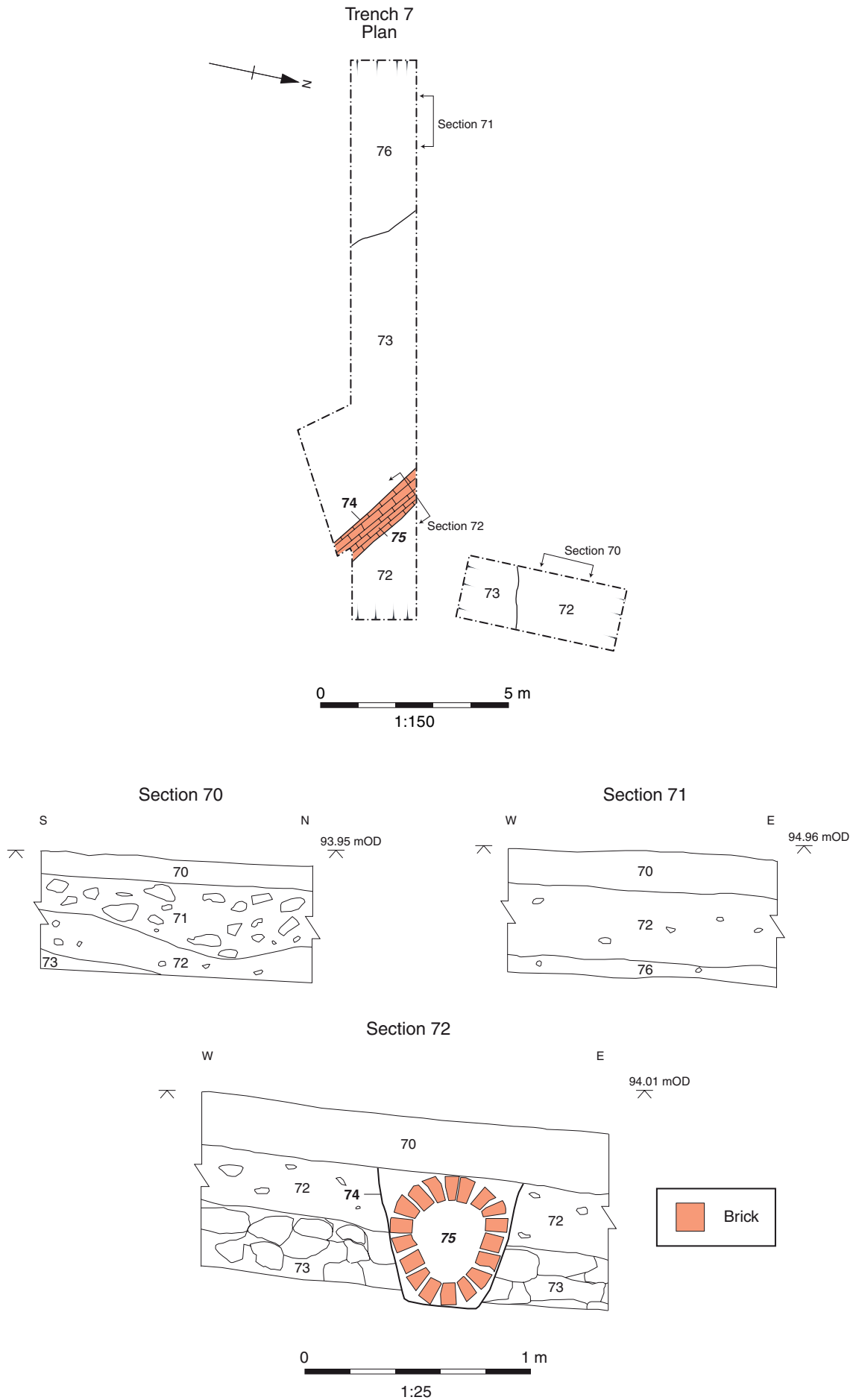


Figure 5: Trench 7, plan and sections









#### **Head Office/Registered Office**

Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800  
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496  
e: [info@thehumanjourney.net](mailto:info@thehumanjourney.net)  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

#### **OA North**

Mill 3  
Moor Lane  
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000  
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606  
e: [oanorth@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oanorth@thehumanjourney.net)  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

#### **OA East**

15 Trafalgar Way  
Bar Hill  
Cambridgeshire  
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500  
f: +44 (0) 1223 850599  
e: [oaeast@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net)  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast>

#### **OA Méditerranée**

115 Rue Merlot  
ZAC La Louvade  
34 130 Maugeio  
France

t: +33 (0) 4.67.57.86.92  
f: +33 (0) 4.67.42.65.93  
e: [oamed@oamed.fr](mailto: oamed@oamed.fr)  
w: <http://oamed.fr/>



**Director:** David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

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