

3 Kendra Hall Road  
South Croydon  
**London**



**Archaeological  
Watching Brief Report**



April 2009

**Client: Copithorne Homes**

Issue No:1

OA Job No: 4375

NGR: TQ 3183 6325



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Prepared by: Mike Sims  
Position: SWD Project Supervisor  
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Checked by: Dan Dodds  
Position: Head of Small Works  
Date: 8th April 2009

Approved by: Alan Hardy Signed.....  
Position: Senior Project Manager  
Date: 14th April 2009

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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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**3 Kendra Hall Road,  
South Croydon,  
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***ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT***

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## SUMMARY

*In March and April 2009 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at 3 Woodstock Road, South Croydon, London (NGR: TQ 3183 6325). The work was commissioned by Copithorne Homes in advance of the demolition of an existing building and the construction of a block of three terraced houses, a block of flats and associated parking. The watching brief revealed deposits of worked soil consistent with open fields and domestic gardens, overlying colluvium and chalk. A probable palaeo-channel was observed, but no other significant archaeology was encountered.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Between March 30th and April 2nd 2009 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at 3 Kendra Hall Road, South Croydon, London (NGR: TQ 3183 6325). The work was commissioned by Copithorne Homes in respect of a planning application for the demolition of an existing building and the construction of a block of three terraced houses, a new block of flats, vehicular access and associated parking.
- 1.1.2 A project brief was set by Mark Stevenson, the Archaeological Advisor representing the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS), setting out the standards and requirements for the archaeological work in line with the GLAAS policy and PPG 16 (GLAAS 2005).
- 1.1.3 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief (OA 2005).

#### 1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies on level ground and is bounded to the north by Kendra Hall Road and to the west, east and south by residential properties. The site occupies an area of 1200 m<sup>2</sup> at approximately 77 m above OD. The underlying geology is Upper Chalk (Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet no 270).

#### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The town of Croydon is situated at the head of the River Wandle, just to the north of a significant gap in the North Downs. It lies 10 miles south of London, and the earliest settlement may have been a Roman staging post on the London-Portslade road, although conclusive evidence has not yet been found.
- 1.3.2 It was the Saxons who first inhabited the area in great numbers and named it "Crogdene", thought to mean either 'crooked valley' or 'saffron valley'. The name

changing over time into Croydon. In the fifth to sixth centuries, it was the site of an important pagan Saxon cemetery.

1.3.3 By the later Saxon period, it was at the heart of a huge estate belonging to the archbishops of Canterbury. The main settlement at this time lay around the church and the archbishops' manor house, in the area still known as Old Town.

1.3.4 By the time of the Domesday Book in 1086 it was recorded:

*“Archbishop Lanfranc holds in demesne CROYDON. It was assessed at 80 hides, and now at 16 hides and 1 virgate. There is land for 20 ploughs. In demesne are 4 ploughs; and 48 villans and 25 bordars with 34 ploughs. There is a church, and a mill rendering 5s., and 8 acres of meadow, woodland for 200 pigs. Of the land of this manor, Restold holds 7 hides of the archbishop; Ralph 1 hide; and they have £7.8s. from them for rent. T.R.E., and afterwards, the whole was worth £12; now £27 to the archbishop, £10.10s to his men.”*

1.3.5 During the medieval period Croydon slowly expanded into a market town becoming noted for its charcoal, tanning and brewing industries.

1.3.6 Croydon had always been an significant halt on the road south of London, and its role as a coaching town increased after Brighton developed as a fashionable resort in the 1780s. Soon afterwards, Croydon became the terminus of two important new commercial transport links, stretching southwards from the Thames. The first, opened in 1803, was the horse-drawn Surrey Iron Railway from Wandsworth (extended to Merstham, as the Croydon, Merstham and Godstone Railway, in 1805); and the second, opened in 1809, was the Croydon Canal, which came from Deptford. Neither was a great success: the canal closed in 1836, and the railway in 1846. However, the route of the canal was taken over by the London & Croydon Railway (a steam-powered railway), which opened between London Bridge and West Croydon in 1839.

1.3.7 As the town continued to grow, it became especially popular as a pleasant residential area for members of the respectable middle classes, who could commute to work in the City of London.

1.3.8 There has been no previous archaeological work on the site.

## 2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

2.1.1 To identify and record the presence or absence, extent, condition, quality and date of archaeological remains in the areas affected by the development.

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

2.1.3 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

## 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The watching brief was conducted as a continuous archaeological presence during any works likely to damage, disturb or remove archaeological deposits. These works included the reduction of the ground level within the site and the excavation of the building foundations.
- 2.2.2 All work was carried out using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.5 m wide toothless grading bucket during the ground reduction and a 0.5 m wide toothless bucket during the excavation of the footings.
- 2.2.3 A plan of all excavations was maintained at a scale of 1:100 (Fig. 2) and any sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20 (Fig. 3). The sections and the excavations were photographed using digital photography, colour slide and black and white print film. A general photographic record of the work was also made. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OA Field Manual* (ed D Wilkinson, 1992).

## 3 RESULTS

### 3.1 Description of deposits

- 3.1.1 The northern area of the site had been heavily disturbed during the demolition of the original building. The entire site was subjected to a topsoil strip of approximately 0.25 m depth prior to the excavation of the building foundations.

#### *Plot 1 (Sections 1-3)*

- 3.1.2 The underlying natural, a compact chalk (8) was encountered at a depth of 0.4 m below the original ground level at within the eastern half of the plot (Fig. 3, Sections 2 and 3). The upper 0.1 m – 0.2 m depth of this deposit was disturbed by weathering. The natural was cut by a gently sloped feature (7) running approximately south-west to north-east across the plot (Fig. 2 and Fig. 3, Section 2). This feature could be seen to extend beyond the south-western corner of the plot (Fig. 3, Section 1), where the feature was excavated to a depth of over 1.2 m but the base was not encountered.
- 3.1.3 At the lowest part of section 1, a layer of pale red-brown silt clay (6) containing quantities of chalk flecking was encountered possibly indicating that the section was approaching the base of the feature. Overlying layer 6 was a 0.5 m deep layer of red brown silt clay (5). This deposit could be traced round and appeared in both Sections 1 and 2. This was overlaid by a 0.3 m deep layer of grey-brown clay silt (4), this contained chalk flecking suggesting that it was a silting deposit. Within section 1 this fill was overlaid by a 0.3 m deep layer of grey-brown silt loam (3), possibly a buried soil horizon ? This had been sealed below a 0.25 m deep layer of mixed red-brown clay silt and chalk (2). This deposit only occurred within the western edge of the site and is a probable levelling layer of made ground deposited during construction of the now demolished house.



- 3.1.4 Sealing 2 and overlying layer 8 elsewhere on site was a 0.25 m deep layer of dark grey-brown silt loam (1), a layer of modern worked garden soil.

*Plot 2 (Sections 4–6)*

- 3.1.5 The compact natural chalk (16) was encountered at a depth of between 0.6 m and 1 m below the current ground level (Fig. 3, Sections 4 to 6). In the south-eastern corner of the plot this was cut by a shallow sloping feature (15) running approximately south-west to north-east (Fig. 3, Section 6). This runs approximately parallel to cut 7 and must likely represents the opposite edge of the channel.
- 3.1.6 This was filled by a grey-brown clay silt producing chalk flecking (14). This is very similar to, and a probable continuation of, context 4 exposed in sections 1 and 2.
- 3.1.7 At the northern edge of the plot a 0.18 m deep lens of red-brown clay with chalk flecking (17) was observed overlying the natural chalk (Fig. 3, Section 4). Elsewhere within the plot the natural chalk and the channel was overlaid by a layer of red-brown clay (13) measuring between 0.25 m and 0.4 m in depth (Fig. 3, Sections 4 to 6). This was a very clean deposit and probably represents a layer of colluvium. Overlying this within the area of the channel (Section 6) was a 0.2 m deep layer of grey-brown silt loam (12). This may be the original topsoil similar to layer 3 within Plot 1.
- 3.1.8 Layer 12 and layer 13 elsewhere was sealed by an overall layer of worked grey-brown silt loam topsoil (11) measuring between 0.25 m and 0.4 m. This was a modern worked garden soil identical to layer 1.

### 3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 The only finds recovered during the course of the watching brief were post-medieval in date (19th and 20th century) and included fragments of brick and tile and fragments of transfer printed creamware (“Willow Pattern”) and glazed earthenware from within layers 1 and 11. These were evaluated on site but were not retained.

### 3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

- 3.3.1 The deposits observed within the probable channel (7/15) were not deemed suitable for palaeo-environmental sampling during the course of the watching brief.

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The excavations exposed an layer of post-medieval topsoil associated with the now demolished building. Cuts 7 and 15 are the southern and northern edges respectively of a probable palaeo-channel running south-west to north-east across the site (Fig. 2).
- 4.1.2 The buried soil horizons 3 and 12 are the probable result of levelling of the palaeo-channel prior to the construction of No.3, sealing the upper fills of the feature.

- 4.1.3 No evidence for any other significant archaeology pre-dating the construction of the original building was observed during the course of the watching brief.

## APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i> Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
<b><i>Plot 1</i></b>					
1	Layer	0.18 m - 0.25 m	Modern worked garden soil	Brick, tile, pottery	C19th/C20th
2	Layer	0.18 m - 0.25 m	Modern made ground	Brick	C19th/C20th
3	Layer	0.2 m – 0.4 m	Buried soil horizon, possible original topsoil	-	-
4	Fill	0.25 m	Silting deposit	-	-
5	Fill	0.4 m	Silting deposit	-	-
6	Fill	> 0.3 m	Silting deposit	-	-
7	Cut	> 1.5 m	Southern edge of probable palaeo-channel	-	-
8	Layer	> 0.9 m	Natural chalk	-	-
<b><i>Plot 2</i></b>					
11	Layer	0.18 m - 0.25 m	Modern worked garden soil	Brick, tile, pottery	C19th/C20th
12	Layer	0.2 m – 0.4 m	Buried soil horizon, possible original topsoil	-	-
13	Layer	0.45 m	Colluvium	-	-
14	Fill	0.25 m	Silting deposit	-	-
15	Cut	> 1.5 m	Northern edge of probable palaeo-channel	-	-
16	Layer	> 0.65 m	Natural chalk	-	-
17	Layer	0.18 m	Colluvium	-	-

**APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES**

GLSMR 2005 *Brief: Archaeological pro-active Observation and Recording, 1 Woodstock Road, Croydon, London*

IFA 2001 *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

OA, 1992 *Field Manual* (ed. D. Wilkinson)

OA 2005 *No. 1 Woodstock Road, Croydon, London: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief.*

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**APPENDIX 3 GLSMR/RCHME NMR ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM**

## 1) TYPE OF RECORDING

Evaluation, Excavation, **Watching Brief**, Building Recording, Survey,  
Geoarchaeological Evaluation, Fieldwalking, Other

## 2) LOCATION

Borough: Croydon

Site address: 3 Kendra Hall Road, South Croydon

Site Name: 3 Kendra Hall Road Site Code: KHA 09

Nat. grid Refs: centre of site: TQ 3183 6325

Limits of site: N: TQ 3183 6327 S: TQ 3183 6322

E: TQ 3184 6324 W: TQ 3182 6322

## 3) ORGANISATION

Name of archaeological unit/company/society: Oxford Archaeology

Address: Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 OES

Site director/supervisor: Mike Sims Project manager: Dan Dodds

Funded by: Copithorne Homes

## 4) DURATION

Date fieldwork started 30th March 2009 Date finished: 2nd April 2009

Fieldwork previously notified? YES/NO

Fieldwork will continue? YES/NO/NOT KNOWN

## 5) PERIODS REPRESENTED

**Palaeolithic**, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, Saxon (pre-AD 1066),  
Medieval (AD 1066-1485), **Post-Medieval**, Unknown

## 6) PERIOD SUMMARIES Post medieval building, post-medieval worked soils, palaeo-channel

## 7) NATURAL

Type: Upper Chalk

Height above Ordnance datum: 77.3 m

## 8) LOCATION OF ARCHIVES

- a) Please provide an estimate of the quantity of material in your possession for the following categories:

NOtes x3	PLans x2	PHotos	Ngtives x12
SLides x12	COrrrespondence	MScRipts (unpub reports, etc)	
BUlk finds	SMall finds	SOil samples	
OTHer			

- b) The archive has been prepared and stored in accordance with MGC standards and will be deposited in the following location:
- c) Has a security copy of the archive been made?: NO

## 10) BIBLIOGRAPHY

**SEE**

Appendix 2 Bibliography and references

SIGNED:

DATE:

NAME :



Scale 1:50,000

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Figure 1: Site location





Kendra Hall Road

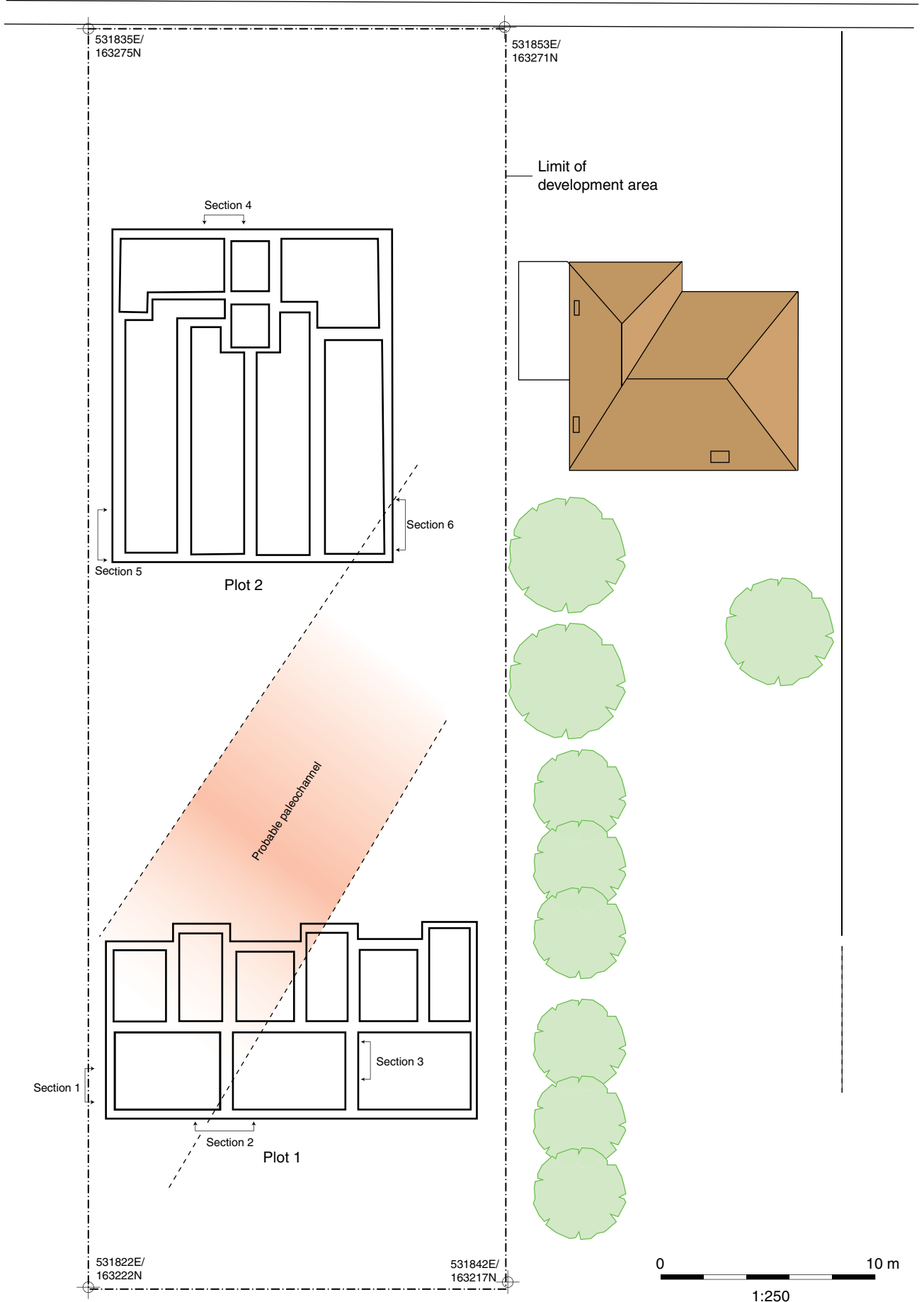


Figure 2: Site plan



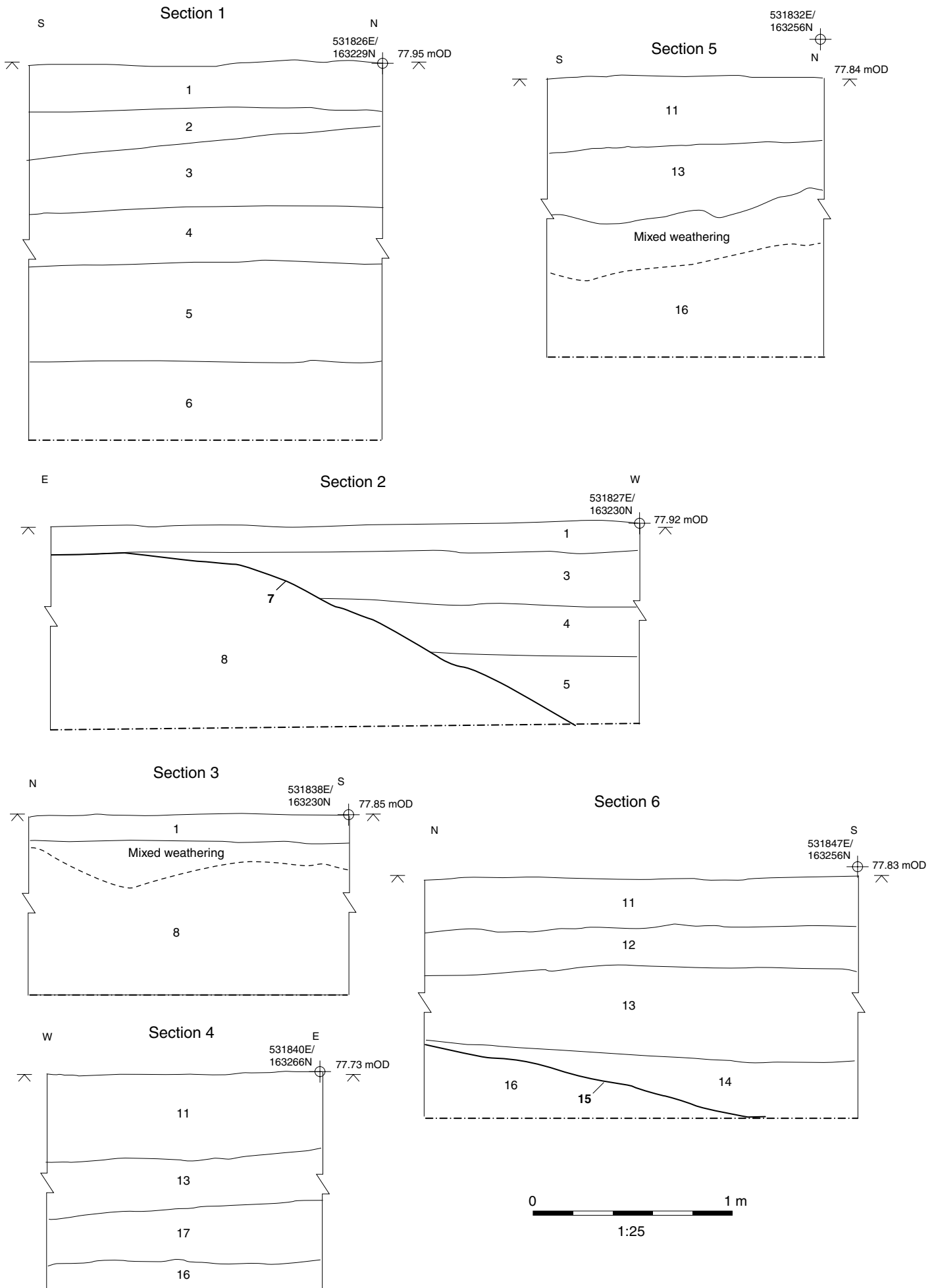


Figure 3: Sections



#### **OA South**

Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford OX2 0ES

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

#### **OA North**

Mill 3  
Moor Lane Mills  
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>

#### **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@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oamed@thehumanjourney.net)  
w: <http://oamed.fr/>

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



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