

Tesco Extra New Malden Surrey



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



Oxford Archaeology

February 2004

Client: BMD Architects

Issue N^o: 1

OA Job N^o: 2134

Planning Ref N^o: OP/P1671

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SUMMARY

In February 2004 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at the Tesco Extra site at New Malden, Surrey. The work was commissioned by BMD Architects in advance of the erection of an extension and canopy to the existing bulk store. The watching brief revealed that the area had been heavily truncated with any original overburden being removed down to the top of the underlying alluvial clay, probably during the original construction of the Tesco store. No evidence for archaeological remains or activity was encountered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 In February 2004 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at the Tesco Extra, New Malden, Surrey (NGR TQ 225 685) (Fig.1). The work was commissioned by BMD Architects in respect of a planning application for the erection of an extension and canopy to the bulk store (Planning Application No.OP/P1671)

1.1.2 A project brief was set by, and a WSI (OA 2004) agreed with Robert Whitehead of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS).

1.1.3 The site is situated on the east side of the A3 on the eastern side of New Malden approximately 200 m south-east of the junction between the A3 and the A238. The site is bounded to the west and south by existing buildings, to the north by the Phy Brook and by concrete hard standing to the east.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site lies on level ground at approximately 14 m above OD and is roughly 0.05 hectares in area. The site had previously been a loading bay, now demolished. The underlying geology is London clay overlain by Flood Plain Terrace gravels.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 A desk based assessment of the area had previously been undertaken by the Museum of London Archaeological Service (MOLAS) in 1997 (MOLAS, 1997) and is summarised below.

1.3.2 Prehistoric remains such as Neolithic flints and Bronze age pottery have been found in silted up channels, which originated as tributaries of rivers that eventually flowed into the River Thames. Prehistoric vegetation and possibly worked wood was found in a silted up watercourse at Eden Walk, Kingston to the west of the site.

1.3.3 A layer of alluvial clay containing Late Bronze age pottery and struck flint has recently been found in the valley of the Phy Brook at Meadbrook, Grand Drive, Raynes Park, roughly 800 m to the east of the site.

- 1.3.4 Located immediately to the south-west of the development is the medieval moated site of West Barnes Farm. This site once belonging to Merton Priory suggesting the possibility that medieval and post-medieval remains may exist within the development site. In 1996 MOLAS carried out a single trench evaluation of the site, which produced no archaeological remains, although alluvial deposits clearly survived and have the potential to contain significant environmental information about the natural formation processes of land next to the brook.

2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To monitor and record below ground intrusive works that may impact or expose archaeological deposits.
- 2.1.2 To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the development area and to determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality, date, depth below ground and depth of any archaeological remains present.
- 2.1.3 To make available the results of the investigation.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 It was intended that a profile of the stratigraphy and environmental potential be compiled by the initial monitoring and recording of two lines of six post pads: one parallel with and one perpendicular to the brook, with further work undertaken if requested by Mr. Whitehead. The monitoring and recording was undertaken by a OA supervisor undertaking regular visits to the site timed to coincide with the excavation of the post pads.
- 2.2.2 During this time both the base and the sections of the excavations were closely observed for features and the spoil examined for dating evidence.
- 2.2.3 A site plan showing the location of the excavations and the sections was compiled at a scale of 1:100 (Fig.2) together with sample sections of the stratigraphy drawn at a scale of 1:20 (Fig.3). All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers, and context recording was in accordance with established OA Field Manual (OAU 1992).
- 2.2.4 Colour transparency and black-and-white negative photographs were taken during the ground-works to demonstrate the stratigraphy and sections.
- 2.2.5 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with relevant professional standards, including the *IFA's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* 1992 and the *Archaeological Guidance Papers* issued by the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, especially Guidance Paper 3, Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London, and Guidance Paper 4, Archaeological Reports.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

- 3.1.1 The stratigraphy exposed within the sections recorded display the same characteristics and a generalization may be made (Fig.3, Sections 1 to 6).
- 3.1.2 Within the deeper pits a layer of a tenacious yellow brown alluvial clay was exposed (12), (33), (43), (52) and (62) in the base. This material was very clean with no coarse inclusions or charcoal flecking. Excavated to a depth in excess of 0.7 m in places this material was not penetrated. Overlying this in sections 3 and 4 was a layer of tenacious greenish grey alluvial clay (32) and (42) of between 0.2 m and 0.35 m in depth, again this material was very clean with no inclusions or charcoal flecking. Within section 2 a layer of stiff blue grey alluvial clay (21) was exposed in the base of the pit, a very clean deposit excavated to a depth of 0.4 m without penetration. All these deposits were alluvial in nature with no evidence for human activity.
- 3.1.3 Within all the pits the upper surface of the clays was very level with no natural undulations visible, suggesting probable truncation, also within 90% of the pits these clays were sealed by a blue plastic membrane again suggesting modern interference with the stratigraphy.
- 3.1.4 Overlying the plastic membrane was a layer of friable very dark grey clay silt material (11), (31), (41), (51) and (61) of between 0.25 m and 0.5 m in depth. Containing many fragments of crushed brick and concrete this is a layer of modern made ground. Sealing the top of all the pits was a layer of reinforced concrete (100) 0.15 m - 0.3 m in depth, the present day hard standing

3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the watching brief. All the finds recovered were of 20th century origin, mostly deep frogged bricks and demolition material. These were evaluated on site but were not retained.

3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

- 3.3.1 No deposits suitable for paleo-environmental sampling were identified during the course of the watching brief.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The watching brief showed that no archaeologically significant stratum originally overlying the alluvial clays have survived within the area of the proposed construction. The presence of the blue plastic membrane within the majority of the pits lying directly on the alluvial clays suggests that this truncation is of recent origin, probably during the construction of the original bulk store and loading area. No features or archaeological remains were observed within the layers of alluvial clay exposed during the period 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>
11	Layer	0.3 m - 0.8 m	Made ground	Brick	C20th
12	Layer	0.8 m - >1.0 m	Alluvial clay	-	-
21	Layer	0.3 m - > 0.7 m	Alluvial clay	-	-
31	Layer	0.15 m - 0.4 m	Made ground	Brick	C20th
32	Layer	0.4 m - 0.75 m	Alluvial clay	-	-
33	Layer	0.75 m - >1.1 m	Alluvial clay	-	-
41	Layer	0.15 m - 0.55 m	Made ground	Brick	C20th
42	Layer	0.55 m - 0.75 m	Alluvial clay	-	-
43	Layer	0.75 m - > 1.1 m	Alluvial clay	-	-
51	Layer	0.15 m - 0.6 m	Made ground	Brick	C20th
52	Layer	0.6 m - >1.25 m	Alluvial clay	-	-
61	Layer	0.15 m - 0.4 m	Made ground	Brick	C20th
62	Layer	0.4 m - > 1.1 m	Alluvial clay	-	-
100	Layer	0.0 m - 0.3 m	Concrete hard standing	-	C20th

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

IFA, 1999 *Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs*

MOL, 1997 *Tesco Superstore, Burlington Road, New Malden, London Borough of Merton* Archaeological Evaluation Report

MOLAS, 1997 *Tesco Superstore, Burlington Road, New Malden, London Borough of Merton* Archaeological Desktop Assessment (ed. N. Rycroft)

OA, 2004 *Tesco Extra, New Malden, Surrey - Written Scheme of Investigation*

OAU, 1992 *Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D. Wilkinson)

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: Merton

Site address: Tesco Extra, New Malden, Surrey

Site Name: Tesco Extra Site Code: BBV 04

Nat. grid Refs: centre of site: TQ 2255 6853

Limits of site: N: TQ 225500 685450 S: TQ 225500 685150

E: TQ 225650 685450 W: TQ 225330 685280

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: Andrew Holmes

Funded by: BMD Architects

4) DURATION

Date fieldwork started 09.02.04 Date finished: 13.02.04

Fieldwork previously notified? NO

Fieldwork will continue? NO

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 All stratigraphy exposed relate to modern C20th building
practice

7) NATURAL

Type: Alluvial Clay

Height above Ordnance datum: 12.5 m

8) LOCATION OF ARCHIVES

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

Notes x20	PLans x1	PHotos x 18	Ngtives x18
SLides x 18	Correspondence x0	MScripts (unpub reports, etc) x0	
BUlk finds x0	SMall finds x0	SOil samples x0	
OTHer x0			

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

10) BIBLIOGRAPHY

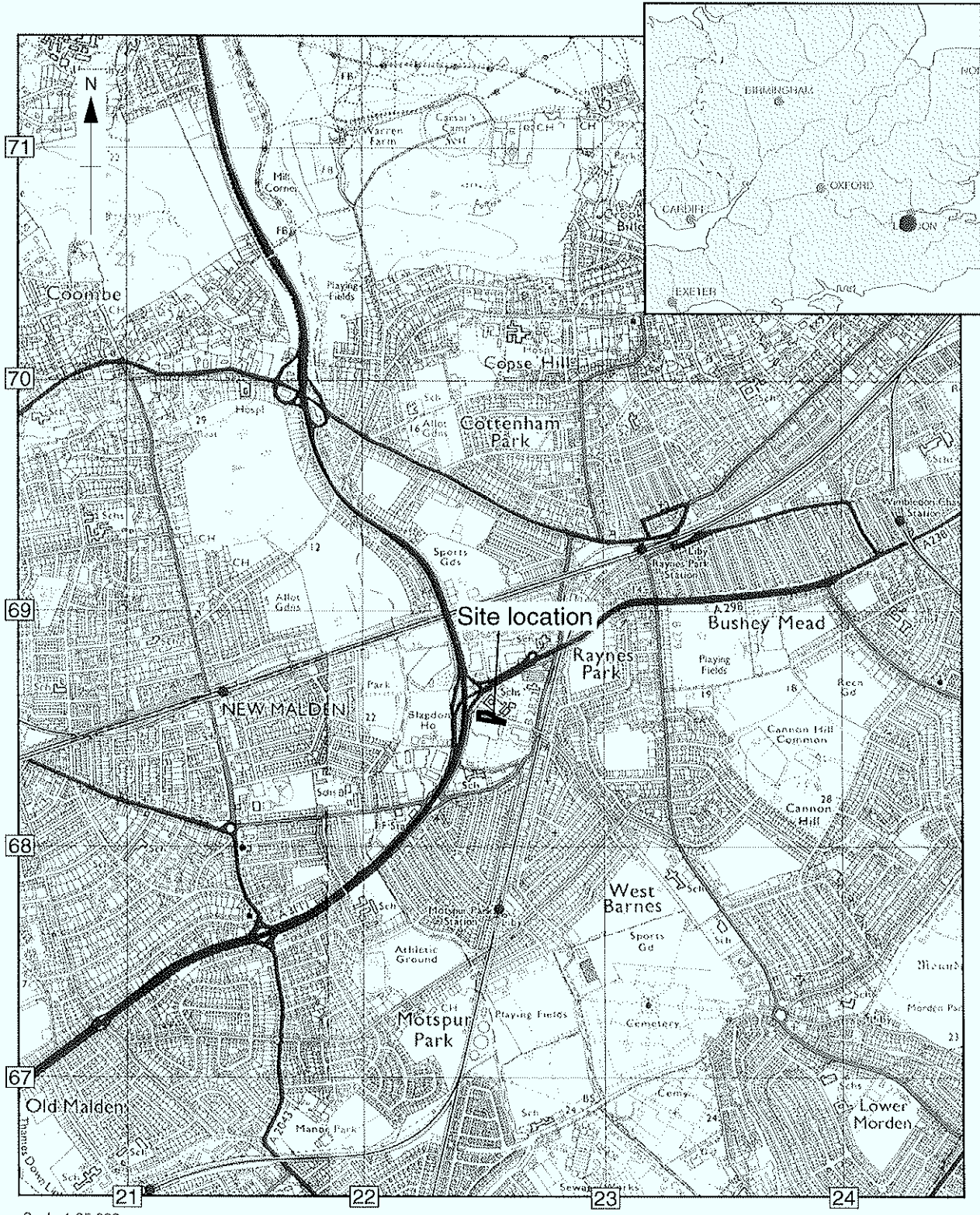
See Appendix 2 Bibliography and references

SIGNED:

DATE: 19.02.04

NAME :

Server 10:\oapmaps\1\AcH*BBVWB*Tesco, New Malden*AH*24.02.04.



Scale 1:25,000

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Figure 1: Site location

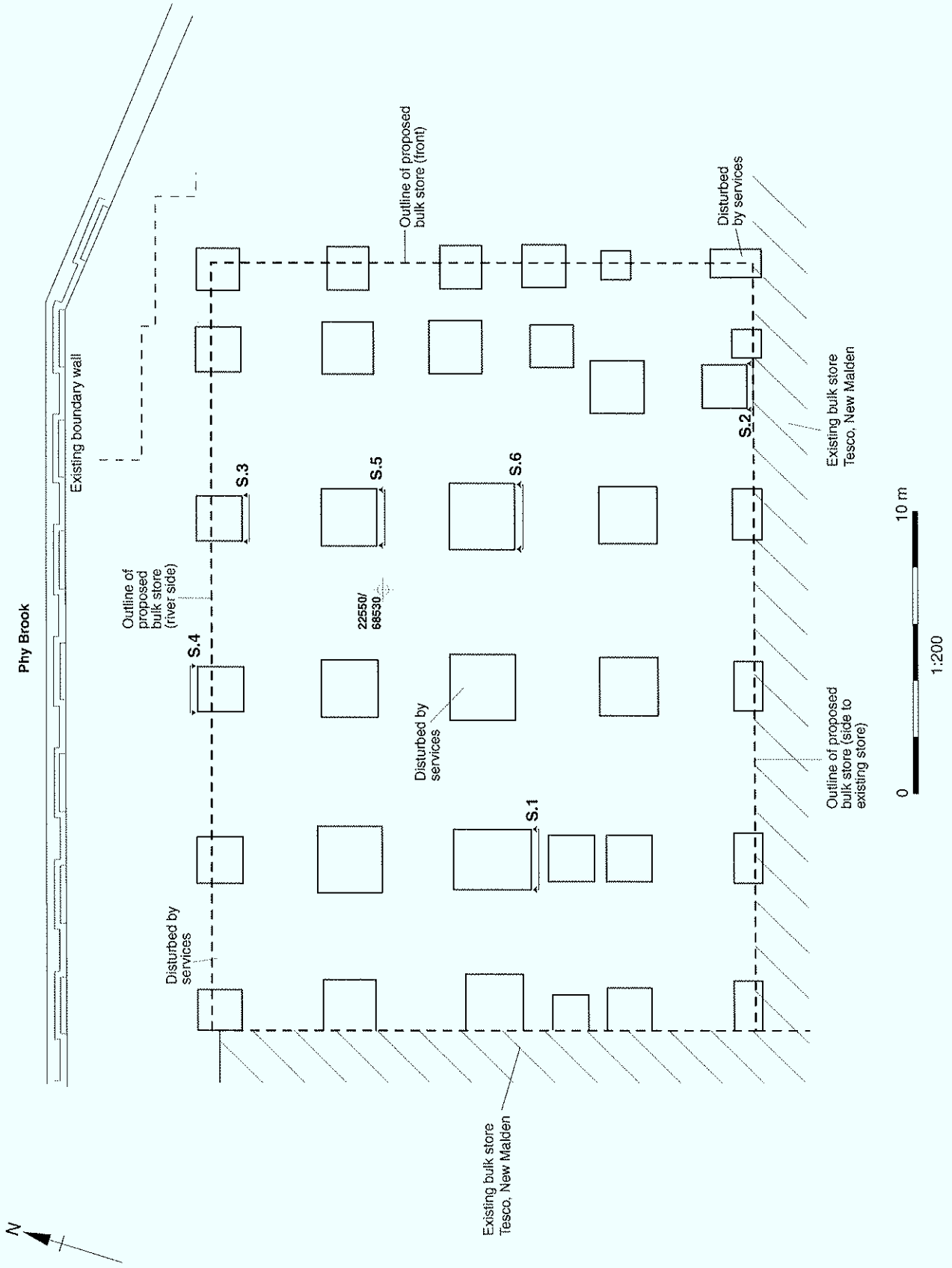


Figure 2: Site plan showing location of pits and sections

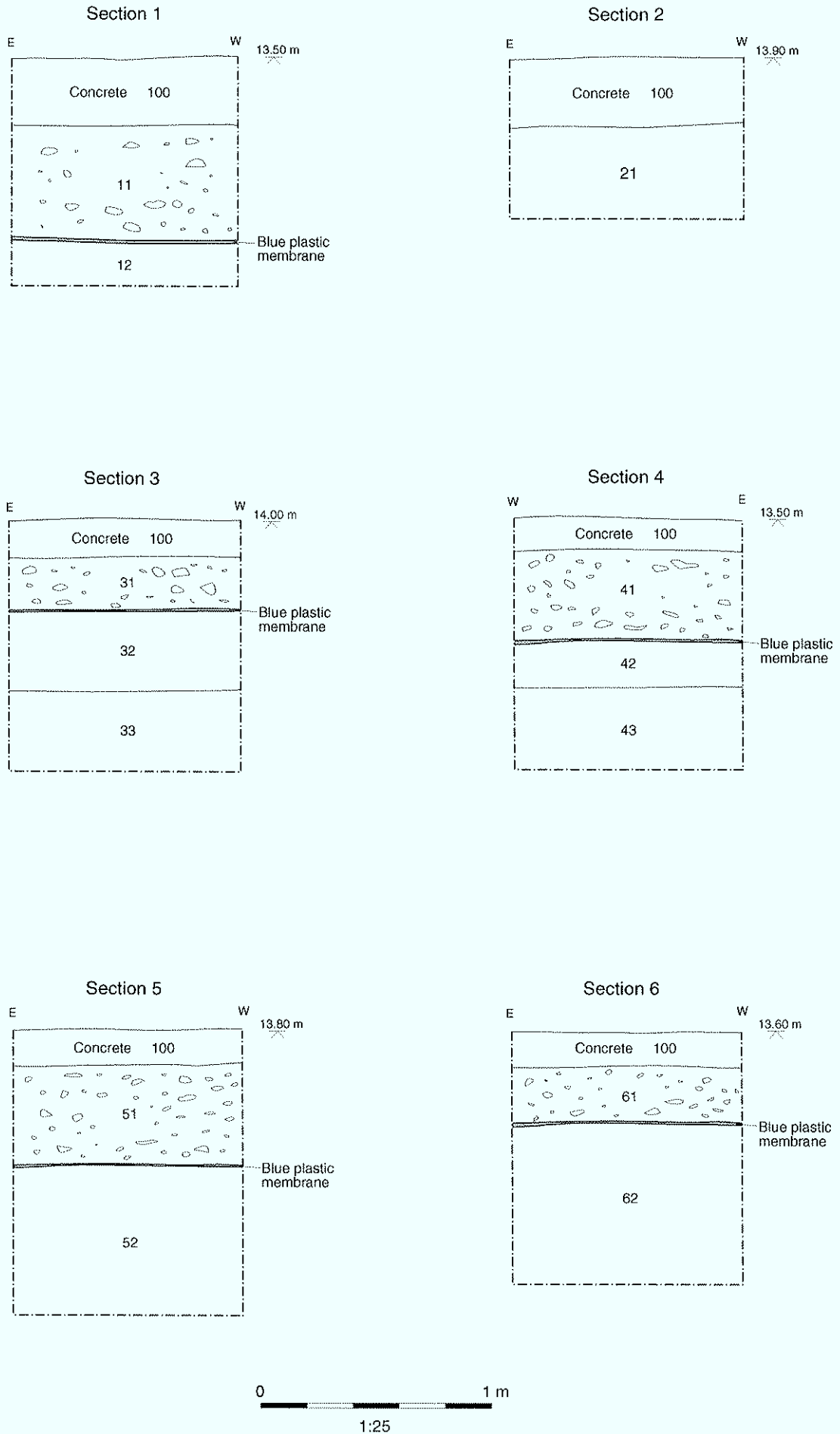


Figure 3: Foundation trenches, sections 1-6



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