Land south-east of Salhouse Road, Salhouse Road Growth Scheme, Rackheath

Archaeological Monitoring Report

October 2020

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Land south-east of Salhouse Road, Salhouse Road Growth Scheme, Rackheath

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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With contributions from Carole Fletcher BA ACIfA, Denis Sami PhD and illustrations by David Brown BA.

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Summary

Between 21st and 30th of September 2020 Oxford Archaeology East was commissioned to monitor works along part of the route of a new Anglian Water pipeline following the route of Salhouse Road, Norwich.

During these monitoring works two undated linear features were revealed in the south-western section of the pipeline. A small number of artefacts were recovered from the topsoil; three sherds of 18th-19th century pottery were collected, and metal detecting produced a small assemblage of modern (20th century) material.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Anglian Water for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Steve Hickling who monitored the work on behalf of Norfolk County Council Environmental Service.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Louise Moan. The fieldwork was directed by Malgorzata Kwiatkowska and Kathryn Blackbourn. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the supervision of Natasha Dodwell, and prepared the archive under the supervision of Katherine Hamilton.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Anglian Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief at the site of Salhouse Road, Norwich (between TG 2729 1160 and TG 2762 1179, Fig. 1)

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. WAT-07240). A brief/specification was set by Steve Hickling of the Norfolk County Council Environmental Service (NCCES; Hickling 2019). This brief covered the original scope of works, which required open area excavation alongside monitoring works. However, this was subsequently revised, and the work was restricted to monitoring along part of the pipeline route between TG 2729 1160 and TG 2762 1179. A written scheme of investigation was produced by OA (Moan 2020) detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work. This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site lies to the north-east of Norwich, west of the (A1270). The portion of the pipe route subject to archaeological monitoring is adjacent to Salhouse Road, Rackheath, with the road to the north and arable fields to the south.

1.2.2 The site, which is located at around 33m OD, is situated on a bedrock geology of Crag Group sand and gravel, overlain by superficial deposits of Sheringham Cliffs Formation sand and gravel.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The following background is based on the results of a search of the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) for a study area of 1km radius centered on the site. Selected NHER records are plotted in Fig. 2, alongside mapping of cropmarks and earthworks recorded by the National Mapping Programme.

Prehistoric to Roman

1.3.2 A number of prehistoric worked flints were recovered from the area, and include Neolithic polished axeheads (NHER 8149, NHER 8153; 740m north and 720m east of the site respectively), as well as a larger assemblage of flintwork, including further flint and stone axeheads, from an area 620m south-west of the site along Salhouse Road (NHER 8157). Further Mesolithic and Neolithic flints were recovered in the grounds of a private property 900m south of the site (NHER 14874).

1.3.3 The pipe trench cut through an area where a Roman copper coin of Diocletian was found (NHER 8150). Another Roman coin and a brooch were found during metal detecting survey (NHER 29707) within Great and Little Plumstead parish, to the east of the site.

Medieval and post-medieval

1.3.4 The site is situated within a landscape known as Mousehold Heath (NHER 53082) –an area of heath and woodland recorded on multiple maps throughout the 16th to 19th century, lying to the south of Rackheath Hall (NHER 8172), itself recorded on 16th century mapping. The site is also situated between Ravensgate Way (NHER 8127) and Horning Ferry Way (NHER 8128) – medieval roads running from Norwich to Sprowston and Rackheath. The route of a third medieval road, Ranworth Way (NHER 8166), is situated around 300m to the south of the site and is illustrated on a map dating to 1585. The course of this road forms the parish boundary between Great and Little Plumstead, Rackheath, Sprowston and Thorpe St Andrew.

1.3.5 Fieldwalking and metal detecting survey on land adjacent to the eastern part of the pipeline route recovered a collection of finds including prehistoric worked flint, post-medieval pottery, CBM and clay tobacco pipe together with an assortment of metalwork (NHER 49752), and similar finds have been recovered from fields slightly further to the east and north of the site (NHER 49751, NHER 50502).

1.3.6 The pipeline passes across the location of a north-west to south-east aligned bank and ditch (NHER 51918) which is visible as a cropmark and thought to be of medieval or post-medieval date. This feature may relate to an 'entrenchment' marked around Gidding Heath on a 1589 map of Mousehold Heath. Slightly further to the east, the pipeline route also crosses the crop/soil mark of a possible former stream known as the 'Black Dyke' (NHER 8152), shown on a map dating to 1585.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were to investigate and record archaeological features or deposits encountered during ground works.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Monitoring was carried out along the section of the pipeline easement indicated in Fig. 1. This entailed the monitoring of the excavation of the 0.5m wide pipe trench along this entire stretch of the pipeline easement and supervision of topsoil stripping in a restricted area of the north eastern part of the monitored section of the pipeline (between chainages 1700 and 1750).

2.2.2 Once on site, a walkover the route of the pipeline was carried out, and metal detecting was carried out prior to excavation. Where topsoil stripping was carried out, soil was stripped across the 6m wide easement to the depth required by the construction works using a toothless ditching bucket. Overburden was excavated in spits not greater than 0.1m thick.

2.2.3 All features identified were investigated and recorded to provide an accurate assessment to preserve by record any archaeological remains revealed during the monitoring.

2.2.4 All features and layers were issued with unique context numbers. Each feature was individually documented on context sheets, and hand-drawn in section. Written descriptions were recorded on pro-forma sheets comprising factual data and interpretative elements.

2.2.5 The photographic record comprised high resolution digital photographs in RAW and jpg format, taken on a camera conforming to the requirements set out in 'Standards for development-led archaeological projects in Norfolk' (Robertson et al. 2018).

2.2.6 Metal detector searches took place at all stages of the monitoring by an experienced metal detector user (the author). Excavated areas were detected immediately before and after mechanical stripping. Both excavated areas and spoil heaps were checked. To prevent losses from night-hawking, features were metal detected immediately after stripping.

2.2.7 Metal detectors were not set to discriminate against iron.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the watching brief are presented below. The full details of all recorded deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds reports are presented in Appendix B. Plans and sections of excavated features are presented in Figs 3 and 4 and selected photographs are provided in Plates 1-4.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence exposed along the pipe trench was fairly uniform. The natural geology of mid reddish yellow clayey sand with gravels was overlain by up to 0.44m of topsoil (1).

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the monitoring were generally good, and the site remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the natural geology.

3.3 Distribution of archaeological remains

3.3.1 The pipe trench was 0.5m wide and was excavated to a depth of between 1.4m and 1.7m through the topsoil and underlying natural gravels (Plate 1). Two features, both ditches, were revealed during monitoring of the excavation of the pipe trench, both of which were located towards the south-western half of the monitored area (Figs 1 and 3). Both ditches were cut through by the pipe trench and were thus exposed and recorded in section. Owing to the restricted width of the pipe trench it was difficult to establish the exact orientation of the ditches, but both appeared to be aligned broadly perpendicular to the pipe trench (north-west to south-east). No finds were recovered from either feature.

3.3.2 The southern-most feature (ditch **3**; Fig. 4, Section 1; Plate 3) measured 1.1m wide and 0.50m deep and had steep sides with a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit of mid brownish grey clayey sand which contained occasional charcoal flecks (4).

3.3.3 The second ditch (ditch **5**; Fig. 4, Section 2; Plate 4), measured 3.8m wide and 1.46m deep and had steep sides with a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit of mid brownish grey clayey sand (6).

3.3.4 Topsoil stripping of an area along the northern part of the monitored part of the pipeline easement no archaeological features or deposits of any kind (Plate 4).

3.4 Finds summary

3.4.1 A small number of artefacts were recovered from the topsoil during metal detecting survey of the pipeline route (Appendix B). Metal objects recovered were all of modern date and included fragments of 20th agricultural machinery. The small assemblage of pottery consists of three sherds of 18th-19th pottery weighing 42g.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Watching brief objectives and results

4.1.1 The objectives of the watching brief were to record any possible archaeological remains identified during the removal of topsoil and the excavation of pipe trench prior to the installation of a new water pipeline.

4.1.2 Two discrete features – undated ditches – were revealed during the monitoring works along the narrow pipeline cut (between chainage 1225 and chainage 1600). These features do not correspond to any cropmarks previously recorded in the area, and neither the probable medieval/post-medieval bank and ditch (NHER 51918) or the possible palaeochannel ('Black Dyke'; NHER 8152) mapped as crossing the pipeline route were identified during the monitoring. No archaeological features or deposits were recognised within the area of the topsoil strip at the north-eastern end of the monitored section of pipeline easement.

4.1.3 The small amount of 18th-19th century pottery and the modern metal finds recovered from the topsoil reflect the area's recent history of agricultural use and are of little archaeological significance.

APPENDIX A CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Category	Feature Type	Function	Cut	Filled By	Breadth	Depth	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Profile
1	layer	topsoil		0			0.44	dark grey	clayey sand	some small stones	soft				
2	layer	natural		0				light reddish yellow	sand	frequent gravel and small stones	friable				
3	cut	ditch	uncertain	3	4	1.1	0.5					linear	steep	sharp	U-shaped
4	fill	ditch	disuse	3		1.1	0.5	mid brownish grey	clayey sand	some charcoal flecks	soft				
5	cut	ditch	boundary	5	6	3.8	1.46					linear	steep	moderate	wide V-shape
6	fill	ditch	disuse	5		3.8	1.46	mid brownish grey	clayey sand	some small stones	soft				

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction

B.1.1 Archaeological works produced a small assemblage of 18th-19th century pottery weighing 0.042kg, recovered from the topsoil. The condition of the overall assemblage is moderately abraded, and the average sherd weight is low at 0.014kg.

Methodology

B.1.2 The Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG), Study Group for Roman Pottery (SGRP), The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG), 2016 *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* and the MPRG *A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms* (MPRG 1998) act as standards. Rapid recording was carried out using OA East's in-house system, based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described types, with fabric types assigned from Sue Anderson's unpublished post-Roman fabric series, based on Jennings (1981). All sherds have been counted, classified, weighed on a context-by-context basis, and recorded in the text of this report. The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition or dispersal.

Assemblage and Discussion

B.1.3 Three sherds of pottery were recovered from the topsoil, the largest of which is a moderately abraded body sherd (0.035kg) from a 19th century English Salt-Glazed Stoneware vessel. This would have come from a tankard or mug, and has crudely moulded or sprigged decoration, showing part of a hunting scene, a tree in full leaf with what appears to be a fence and the front half of a running hound.

B.1.4 The two remaining sherds are both rim sherds from flatware vessels, although too small to establish a diameter. One is a simple rim sherd (0.002kg) from a Refined White Earthenware vessel with internal blue and white transfer-printed decoration (willow pattern type). The second rim (0.005kg), from a Pearlware vessel with internal sponged or splattered decoration, is more everted, possibly from a dish.

B.1.5 The assemblage is fragmentary, representing low levels of domestic pottery distribution. The material may have originated from a disturbed rubbish pit or a manuring spread.

Retention, dispersal or display

B.1.6 Should further work be undertaken, additional pottery may be recovered, although the paucity of finds recovered suggest this would only be at low levels. This statement acts as a full record and if no further work is undertaken, the pottery may be dispersed for educational use, or deselected prior to archival deposition.

B.2 Metalwork

By Denis Sami

Introduction

B.2.1 The watching brief produced a total of seven incomplete metal artefacts: three copper-alloy, one aluminium and three lead items, all recovered from the topsoil.

B.2.2 Finds are mostly incomplete and this small assemblage is poorly preserved. All items are 20th century artefacts, including pieces probably from modern agricultural machinery and they have no archaeological relevance. The assemblage can be discarded following the approval of this report.

Methodology

B.2.3 The metalwork was examined in accordance with the Oxford Archaeology East (OAE) metalwork finds standard based on the guidance of the Historical Metallurgy Society (HMS, Datasheets 104 and 108), the *Archaeometallurgy: Guidelines for Best Practice* (Historic England 2015) and the *Guidelines for the Storage and Display of Archaeological Metalwork* (English Heritage/Historic England 2013). A catalogue is included below.

Catalogue

Context	Preservation	Material	Description
1	incomplete	Al	A folded fragment of an aluminium can
1	complete	CuA	A casted rectangular rod 60.2x17.1x4 mm. On one surface is a line of three large hollow shapes: two circular and one oval at the centre. At the centre of these hollows are casted in relief progressive numbers: 5, 10 and 15.
1	incomplete	CuA	A sub-circular fragment of a metal pipe possibly a component of a modern tractor engine
1	complete	CuA	An ovel loop with oval cross-section. 20.5x20.1x1.9 mm
1	incomplete	PB	Two shapeless lumps of folded lead

APPENDIX C BIBLIOGRAPHY

Anderson, S. unpublished fabric series

Jennings, S., 1981, *Eighteen Centuries of Pottery from Norwich*. East Anglian Archaeology 13

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APPENDIX D OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-396229
Project Name	Land south-east of Salhouse Road, Salhouse Road Growth Scheme, Rackheath

Start of Fieldwork	21/09/2020	End of Fieldwork	30/09/2020
Previous Work	No	Future Work	no

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	ENF149030	Planning App. No.	WAT-07240
HER Number	ENF149030	Related Numbers	NWHCM:2020.145

Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice
Development Type	Pipelines/Cables
Place in Planning Process	Not known/Not recorded

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

☐	Aerial Photography – interpretation	☐	Grab-sampling	☐	Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
☐	Aerial Photography - new	☐	Gravity-core	☐	Sample Trenches
☐	Annotated Sketch	☐	Laser Scanning	☐	Survey/Recording of Fabric/Structure
☐	Augering	☐	Measured Survey	☐	Targeted Trenches
☐	Dendrochonological Survey	☒	Metal Detectors	☐	Test Pits
☐	Documentary Search	☐	Phosphate Survey	☐	Topographic Survey
☐	Environmental Sampling	☐	Photogrammetric Survey	☐	Vibro-core
☐	Fieldwalking	☐	Photographic Survey	☒	Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
☐	Geophysical Survey	☐	Rectified Photography	☒	Watching Brief

Monument	Period
Ditch	Uncertain
	Choose an item.
	Choose an item.

Object	Period
Pottery	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
CuA object	Modern (1901 to present)
Pb object	Modern (1901 to present)
Al object	Modern (1901 to present)

Insert more lines as appropriate.

Project Location

County	Norfolk
District	Broadland
Parish	Rackheath
HER office	Norfolk
Size of Study Area	600m2
National Grid Ref	TG 2729 1160 and TG 2762 1179

Address (including Postcode)

Salhouse Road
Rackheath
Broadland
Norfolk
NR13 6NR

Project Originators

Organisation	Oxford Archaeology East
Project Brief Originator	Steve Hickling
Project Design Originator	Louise Moan
Project Manager	Louise Moan
Project Supervisor	Malgorzata Kwiatkowska

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	Norwich Castle Museum	NWHCM:2020.145
Digital Archive	Norwich Castle Museum	NWHCM:2020.145
Paper Archive	Norwich Castle Museum	NWHCM:2020.145

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones	☐	☐	☐
Ceramics	☒	☒	☐
Environmental	☐	☐	☐
Glass	☐	☐	☐
Human Remains	☐	☐	☐
Industrial	☐	☐	☐
Leather	☐	☐	☐
Metal	☐	☐	☐
Stratigraphic		☐	☐
Survey		☐	☐
Textiles	☐	☐	☐
Wood	☐	☐	☐
Worked Bone	☐	☐	☐
Worked Stone/Lithic	☐	☐	☐
None	☐	☐	☒
Other	☐	☐	☐

Digital Media		Paper Media	
Database	☒	Aerial Photos	☐
GIS	☐	Context Sheets	☒
Geophysics	☐	Correspondence	☐
Images (Digital photos)	☒	Diary	☐
Illustrations (Figures/Plates)	☒	Drawing	☐
Moving Image	☐	Manuscript	☐
Spreadsheets	☐	Map	☐
Survey	☐	Matrices	☐
Text	☒	Microfiche	☐
Virtual Reality	☐	Miscellaneous	☐
		Research/Notes	☐
		Photos (negatives/prints/slides)	☐

Plans	☐
Report	☒
Sections	☒
Survey	☐

Further Comments

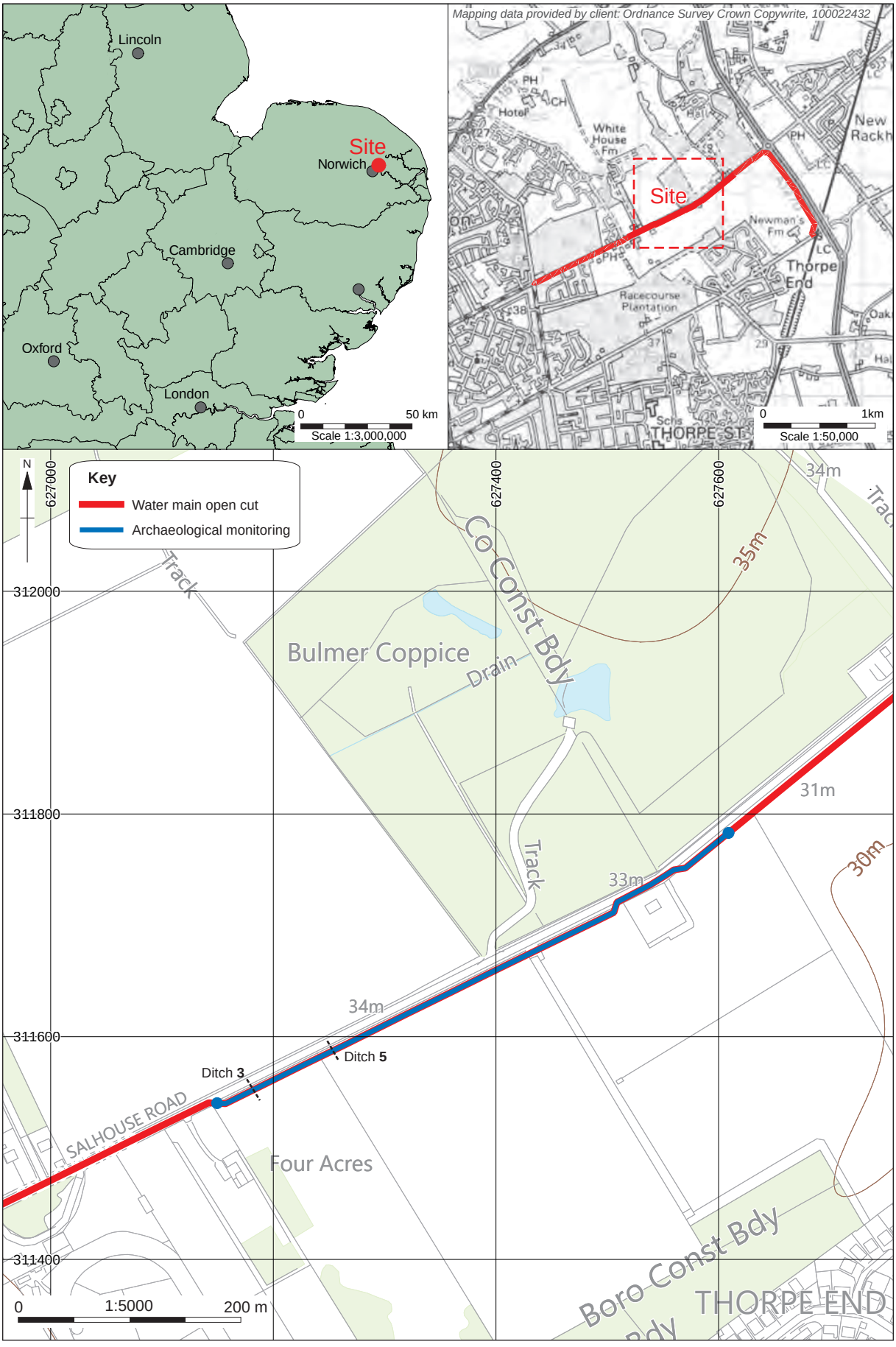

Figure 1: Site location

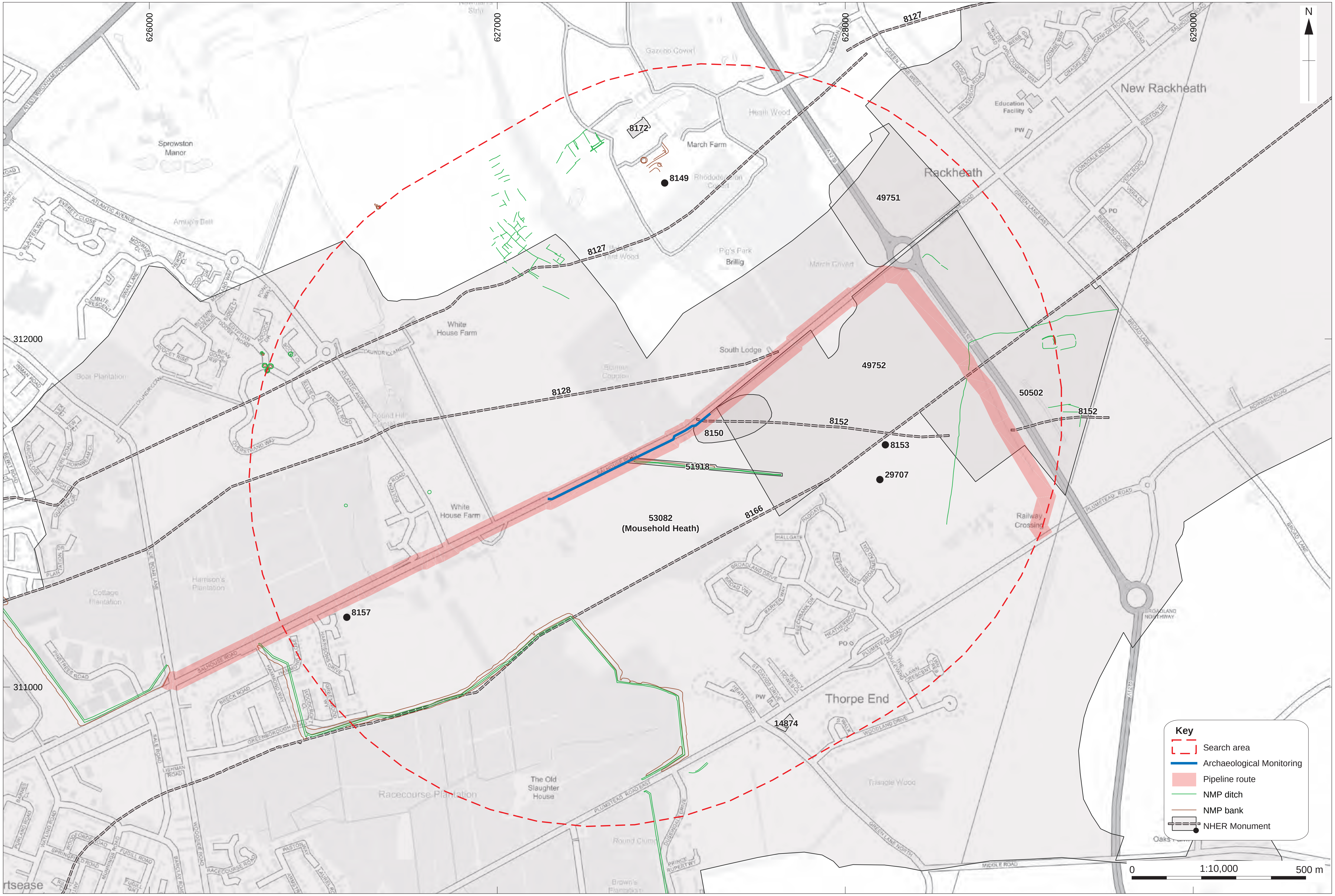

Figure 2: NHER data mentioned in the text, with National Mapping Programme (NMP) cropmarks

Figure 3: Watching brief plan

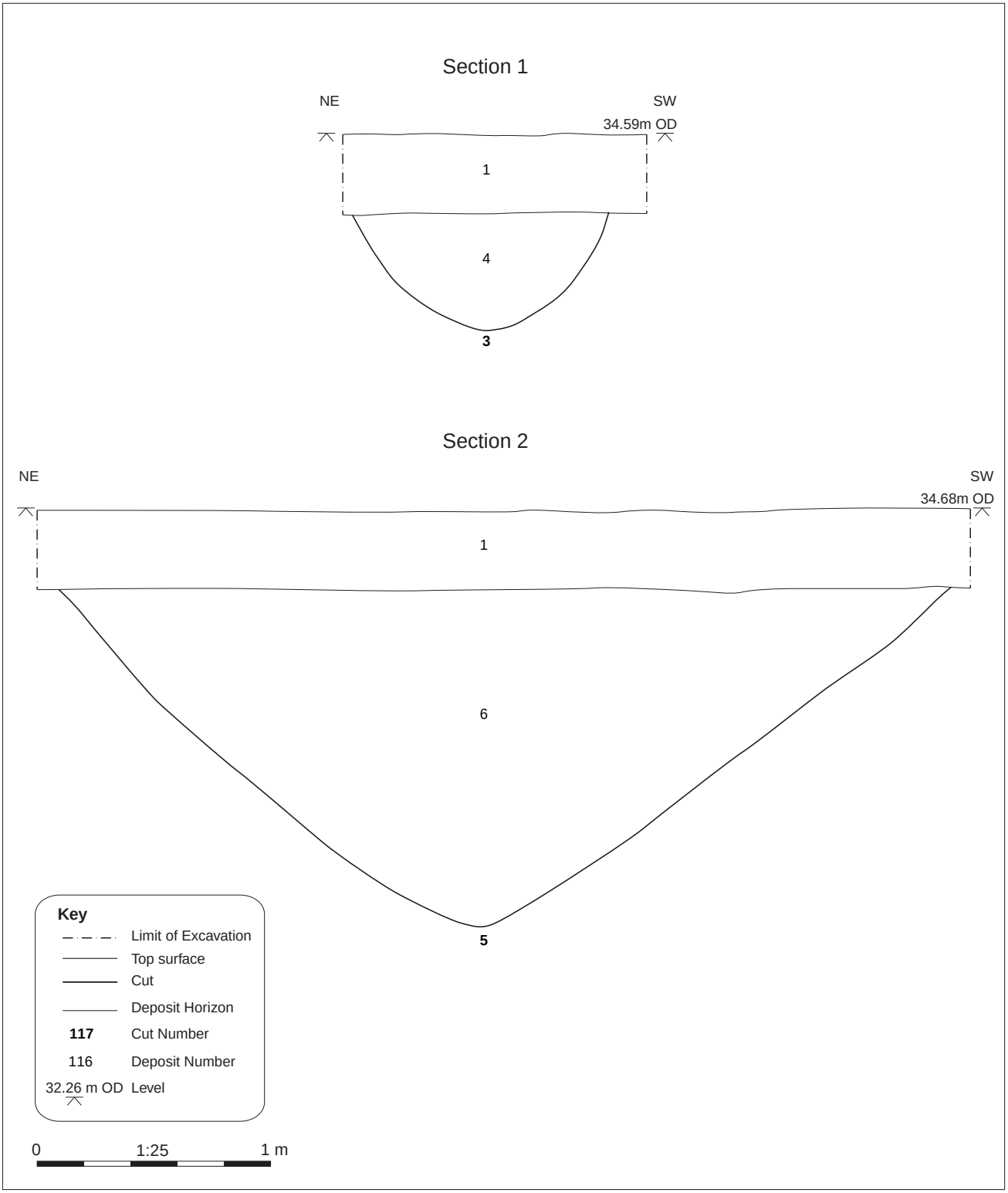

Figure 4: Selected sections

Plate 1: Pipe trench, chainage 1320, looking south-west

Plate 2: Ditch **3**, looking south-east

Plate 3: Ditch **5**, looking south-east

Plate 4: North-eastern extent of the monitored area, chainage 1700, looking north-east

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