

# Archaeological Monitoring and Recording of Reach to Burwell Rising Main Pipeline



**Archaeological Monitoring and  
Recording**



October 2012

**Client: Anglian Water**

OA East Report No: 1413

OASIS No: oxfordar3-135147

NGR: 556634 266490 - 558355 267334

## **Archaeological Monitoring and Recording of Reach to Burwell Rising Main Pipeline**

### *Monitoring and Recording*

*Site Code: BURSTW12*

*CHER No. ECB3760*

*Date of Works: 24/9/2012-3/10/2012*

*Report No: 1413*

*Excavator: Anthony Haskins*

*Client: Anglian Water*

*Report Date: October 2012*

## Table of Contents

<b>Summary.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1 Geology and Topography.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2 Archaeological Background .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3 Methodology.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>4 Results.....</b>	<b>7</b>
4.1 Introduction.....	7
4.2 Drill Pit 750m.....	7
4.3 Drill Pit 925m.....	7
4.4 Finds Summary.....	7
4.5 Environmental Summary.....	8
<b>5 Discussion and Conclusions.....</b>	<b>8</b>
5.1 Drill Pits 750m and 925m.....	8
<b>6 Acknowledgements.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Bibliography .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Appendix A. Drill Pit Descriptions and Context Inventory.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Appendix B. OASIS Report Form .....</b>	<b>14</b>

### List of Figures

- Fig. 1 Site location map
- Fig. 2 Plans and sections of Drill pits 750 and 925.

## **Summary**

*On the 24 September - 3 October 2012, OA East carried out archaeological monitoring between the Reach and Burwell Water treatment works (556634 266490 – 558355 267334). The monitoring was carried out during the construction of a new rising main. A series of drill pits were excavated during the directional drilling of the pipe, and these were subject to constant monitoring.*

*Three undated features, two linear features and a pit, were identified within two of the drill pits (725 and 925).*

*No further archaeological deposits were identified.*



## 1 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 1.1.1 The pipeline is located on relatively flat land that crosses Burwell and Hallards fens. The route crosses open agricultural fields at the western end and along the side of Newham Drove and Weirs Drove to the East before entering Burwell Sewage Treatment works.
- 1.1.2 The development is located at between 6.6m OD, at Reach Sewage works and 4.5m OD at Burwell Sewage works.
- 1.1.3 The bedrock geology of Burwell and Reach is upper Chalk. Both parishes lie in the fenland that covers the counties of Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. The surface of the fen varies between 2m below and 3m above OD and various deposits have accumulated since the last glacial period. In the south of the region there are a series of 'islands' and peninsulas of pre-Flandrian soils rising above the fen surface. Peat grew around the southern edge of the fenland with the 'islands' and peninsulas rising above it (Hall 1987, 2).
- 1.1.4 The northern part of both parishes is occupied by the peat fen which, formed from the Neolithic period, partly burying earlier prehistoric sites. By the late prehistoric period peat had spread over the marl of the chalky slopes, making the skirt land unsuitable for occupation during the Iron Age and Roman period (Hall 1996, 102).
- 1.1.5 The peat fen was drained in the 17th and 18th centuries. This formed a skirt soil around the edge of the fen (Hall 1987,2) and in the area of interest it is composed of marl and drift sands stained by the decomposed peat (Connor 2012).

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 A large amount of prehistoric material has been recovered from Hallard and Burwell fens. This activity has been identified through a number of find spots of Mesolithic and Neolithic flint work, including Tranchet Axes, polished stone axes, pebble mace heads and knapping debitage (HER 06410, 06439, 06413, 06725, 06726, 06732 and 0673).
- 2.1.2 Further Bronze Age finds have also been recovered from the fens (HER 06438 and 06407).
- 2.1.3 Iron age occupation has been identified in both Reach and Burwell, specifically the area near to devils dyke and the higher ground around the fen margin (HER 04436, 06443 and 06437).
- 2.1.4 Medieval earthworks are known around the western end of the development, which relate to the hamlet of East Reach. The hamlet appears to have been deserted during 14th century (HER 06440 and 11381). Further evidence for medieval occupation is located at the eastern end of the pipeline at Burwell (HER 06402).
- 2.1.5 Finally the west end of the route is located adjacent to a post medieval wharf (HER 06898). The wharf along with basins for lighters reflects the status of Reach as a small fenland port in medieval and later times, however, their exact date is unknown.
- 2.1.6 Excavations have occurred at both the Reach and Burwell ends of the pipeline. A single excavation at Church farm, in Reach failed to identify any archaeological deposits. However, a number of excavations at the Burwell end of the pipeline have uncovered Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman activity.

### 3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The objective of this archaeological monitoring was to determine and record as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.
- 3.1.2 The Brief required that all drill pits were subject to constant monitoring during the construction of the pipeline (Thomas 2011).
- 3.1.3 The area of investigation was located between national grid references 556634 266490 and 558355 267334.
- 3.1.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 3.1.5 Site conditions were generally dry and sunny, with occasional showers and cloud.

### 4 RESULTS

#### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 A series of 14 drill pits were excavated during the construction of the pipeline. Of these only two contained archaeological deposits and will be discussed separately. The remaining drill pits were excavated through topsoil and in some instances subsoil and peat into the natural chalk (See Appendix A).

#### 4.2 Drill Pit 750m

- 4.2.1 This drill pit was 8m long and 4m wide excavated through the 0.43m of topsoil, which was primarily peat, onto natural chalk marl. A single linear ditch (**2**) was located within the pit on a north-east to south-west alignment. The ditch was 0.5m wide and 0.2m deep, with steep sides and a sharp break of slope into a flat base. It contained a single fill of mid grey silty clay, which contained residual Late Mesolithic/Neolithic flints (**1**). The ditch is largely parallel to the modern boundary and may well be an earlier phase of this boundary. It is also likely to be the same linear feature in the Drill pit at 925m (**4**).

#### 4.3 Drill Pit 925m

- 4.3.1 This drill pit was excavated through 0.46m of topsoil onto natural chalk deposits. The drill pit contained a small undated pit (**6**) truncated by a linear feature (**4**). The pit was sub-circular in plan with vertical sides, 1.25m wide and 2.5m long. It was 0.3m deep and contained a single mixed fill of dark brown sandy silt and mid brownish-grey silty clay. The fill contained a single fragment of animal bone.
- 4.3.2 **4** was a linear feature similar in form and on the same alignment as that exposed in the drill pit at 925m. The Ditch was 0.75m wide and 0.2m deep with steep sides and a sharp break of slope into a flat base. It contained a single fill of mid grey silty clay. No finds were recovered.

#### 4.4 Finds Summary

- 4.4.1 Three struck flints were recovered from ditch **2**. They were all heavily patinated flint with highly abraded edges and therefore probably residual. The cortex, where present,



was generally a smooth light brownish-white. All three flints are parts of broken blades showing structured platform preparation and were removed by soft hammer, suggesting they are of Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic date.

#### **4.5 Environmental Summary**

- 4.5.1 A single fragment of animal bone was recovered from **6**. The bone is highly degraded and heavily damaged, however, it is identifiable as a tibia of a medium sized mammal such as a sheep. The state of preservation of the bone would suggest that the feature was unlikely to be older than the medieval period and potentially more recent.

### **5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

#### **5.1 Drill Pits 750m and 925m**

- 5.1.1 The ditch found in both the drill pits (**2** and **4**) is likely to be an earlier phase of the existing field boundary with which it is largely parallel. Evidence of crop-marks visible on Google earth (Google), suggest that the ditch may be part of a system of fields or enclosures possibly associated with medieval strip farming, however, the ditch remains undated due to a sparsity of finds.
- 5.1.2 The single pit **6** although older than the ditch is again undated.

### **6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 6.1.1 The author would like to thank Anglia Water who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by Aileen Connor.
- 6.1.2 The brief for archaeological works was written by Andy Thomas, who monitored the watching brief.

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Thomas, A. 2011 Brief for Archaeological Evaluation; Reach STW Pipeline. Unpublished

## APPENDIX A. DRILL PIT DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Drill Pit 170m						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	E-W	
Drill pit devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a layer of peat and natural chalk.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	1.7	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	4	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	8	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-
	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
	Layer	-	0.2	Peat	-	-
	Layer	-	1.2	Natural - Chalk	-	-
Drill Pit 337.8m						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	E-W	
Drill pit devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil overlying natural chalk. A single modern driven fence post was recovered from this drill pit.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	1.8	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	4	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	8	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
	Layer	-	0.45	Topsoil	-	-
	Layer	-	1.35	Natural - Chalk	-	-
Drill Pit 525m						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW	
Drill pit devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil overlying natural chalk. A single frost crack in the natural; chalk filled with peat was visible in the sections of this pit.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	1.7	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	4	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	8	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
	Layer	-	0.46	Topsoil	-	-
	Layer	-	1.24	Natural - Chalk	-	-
Drill Pit 600m						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW	
Drill pit devoid of archaeology. Consists of peaty soil overlying natural Chalk				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	2	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	4	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	8	
Contexts						

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-
	Layer	-	1.6	Natural - Chalk	-	-
<b>Drill Pit 750m</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
Drill pit contained a single undated linear feature sealed by a peaty topsoil. Topsoil overlies chalk natural.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	2
					<b>Width (m)</b>	8
					<b>Length (m)</b>	4
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Deposit	0.5	0.2	Fill of ditch cut 2	Lithic Implement	-
2	Cut	0.5	0.2	Cut of ditch	-	-
	Layer	-	0.43	Topsoil	-	-
	Layer	-	1.57	Natural - Chalk	-	-
<b>Drill Pit 925m</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
Drill pit contained a single undated linear feature sealed by a peaty topsoil that cut an undated pit. Topsoil overlies chalk natural.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	2
					<b>Width (m)</b>	8
					<b>Length (m)</b>	4
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
3	Deposit	0.75	0.2	Fill of ditch cut 2	-	-
4	Cut	0.75	0.2	Cut of ditch	-	-
5	Deposit	1.25	0.3	Fill of Pit 6	Animal Bone	-
6	Cut	1.25	0.3	Cut of pit	-	-
	Layer	-	0.46	Topsoil	-	-
	Layer	-	1.54	Natural - Chalk	-	-
<b>Drill Pit 1125m</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
Drill pit devoid of archaeology. Consists of peaty soil overlying natural Chalk					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	2
					<b>Width (m)</b>	4
					<b>Length (m)</b>	8
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
	Layer	-	0.45	Topsoil	-	-

	Layer	-	1.55	Natural - Chalk	-	-
<b>Drill Pit 1300m</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
Drill pit devoid of archaeology. Consists of peaty topsoil overlying natural chalk.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	2
					<b>Width (m)</b>	4
					<b>Length (m)</b>	8
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
	Layer	-	0.38	Topsoil	-	-
	Layer	-	1.65	Natural - Chalk	-	-
<b>Drill Pit 1510m</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
Drill pit devoid of archaeology. Consists of peaty topsoil overlying natural chalk.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	2
					<b>Width (m)</b>	4
					<b>Length (m)</b>	8
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
	Layer	-	1.65	Natural - Chalk	-	-
<b>Drill Pit 1708m</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
Drill pit devoid of archaeology. Consists of peaty topsoil overlying natural chalk.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	2
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	3
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-
	Layer	-	1.6	Natural	-	-
<b>Drill Pit 1920m</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	SE-NW
Drill pit devoid of archaeology. Consists of made ground overlying peaty topsoil, which in turn seals natural natural chalk.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	1.5
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	3
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
	Layer	-	0.3	Modern Build-up	-	Modern

	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
	Layer	-	0.9	Natural - Chalk	-	-
<b>Drill Pit 2120m</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	SE-NW
Drill pit devoid of archaeology. Consists of peaty topsoil overlying natural chalk.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	1.5
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	3
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-
	Layer	-	1.1	Natural - Chalk	-	-
<b>Drill Pit 2340m</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	SE-NW
Drill pit devoid of archaeology. Consists of modern hardcore sealing made ground overlying peaty topsoil, which, overlies natural chalk.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	1.5
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	3
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
	Layer	-	0.2	Hardcore	-	-
	Layer	-	0.2	Made ground	-	-
	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
	Layer	-	0.8	Natural - Chalk	-	-
<b>Drill Pit 2550m</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
Drill pit devoid of archaeology. Consists of modern hardcore sealing made ground overlying peaty topsoil, which, overlies natural chalk.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	1.7
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	3
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
	Layer	-	0.3	Hardcore	-	-
	Layer	-	0.2	Made ground	-	-
	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
	Layer	-	0.9	Natural - Chalk	-	-

## APPENDIX B. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	<input type="text" value="oxfordar3-135147"/>			
Project Name	<input type="text" value="Watching brief of Reach Burwell rising main pipeline"/>			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	<input type="text" value="24-09-2012"/>	Finish	<input type="text" value="03-10-2012"/>
Previous Work (by OA East)	<input type="text" value="No"/>	Future Work	<input type="text" value="No"/>	

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	<input type="text" value="BURSTW12"/>	Planning App. No.	<input type="text"/>
HER No.	<input type="text" value="ECB3760"/>	Related HER/OASIS No.	<input type="text"/>

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt

### Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Field Observation (periodic visits)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Record
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Excavation (100%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Field Walking
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Recorded Observation	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Metal Detector Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pit Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Open-Area Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Excavation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Watching Brief

### Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
<input type="text" value="Ditch"/>	<input type="text" value="Uncertain"/>	<input type="text" value="Lithic Implement"/>	<input type="text" value="Neolithic -4k to -2k"/>
<input type="text" value="Pit"/>	<input type="text" value="Uncertain"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>

### Project Location

County	<input type="text" value="Cambridgeshire"/>	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	<input type="text" value="East Cambridgeshire"/>	<input type="text" value="Reach Sewage Treatment Works&lt;br/&gt;The Hythe&lt;br/&gt;Cambridgeshire CB25 0JQ"/>
Parish	<input type="text" value="Burwell"/>	
HER	<input type="text" value="Shire Hall Cambridgeshire"/>	
Study Area	<input type="text" value="70000 sq. m."/>	National Grid Reference <input type="text" value="556634 266490"/>

### Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Andy Thomas
Project Design Originator	Aileen Connor
Project Manager	Aileen Connor
Supervisor	Anthony Haskins

### Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
CCC Stores, Land beach	CCC Stores, LandBeach	CCC Stores, Landbeach
BURSTW12	BURSTW12	BURSTW12

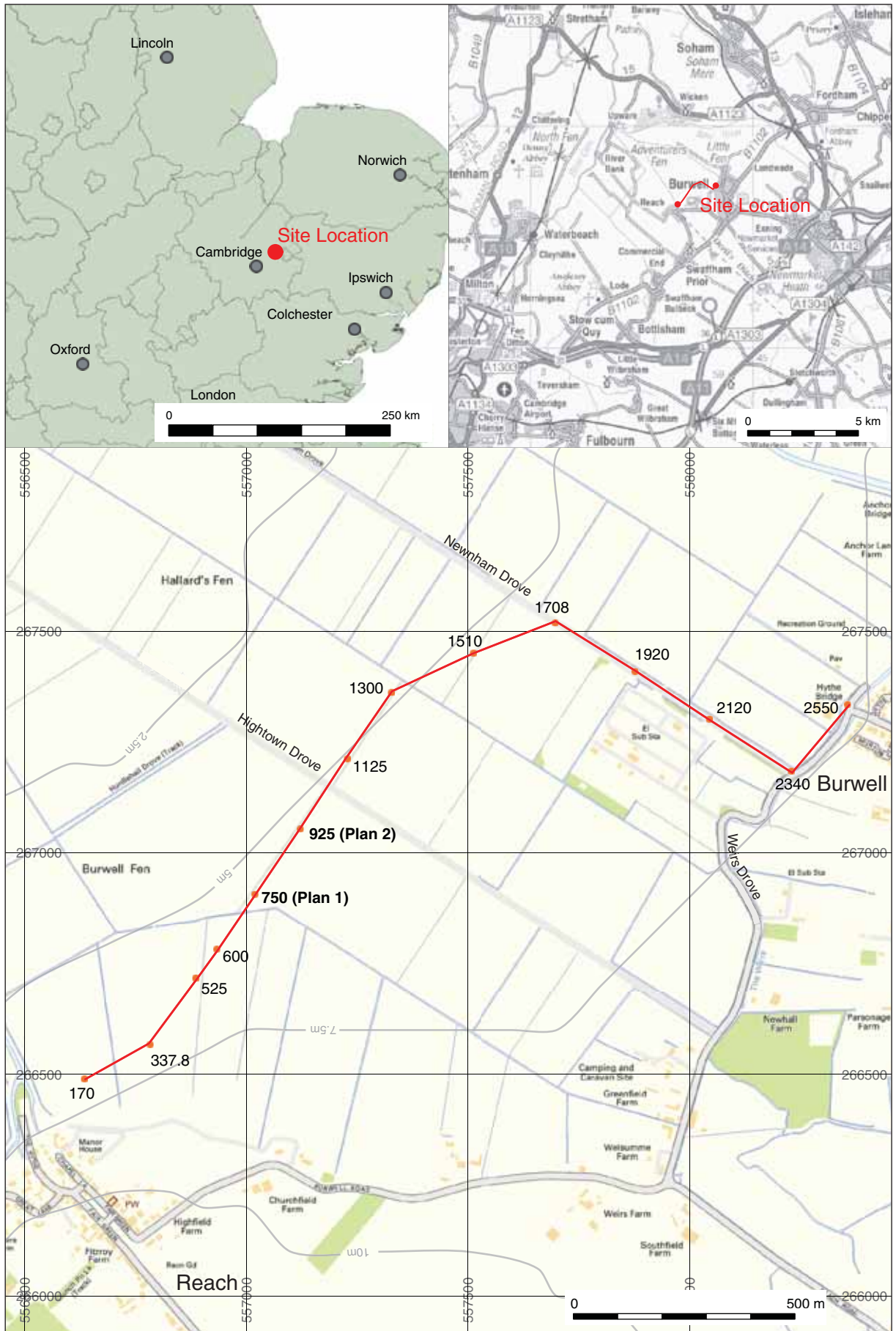
### Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
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Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/> Map
<input type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

**Notes:**





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Figure 1: Site location showing pipelines route, pit locations and contours (m OD)

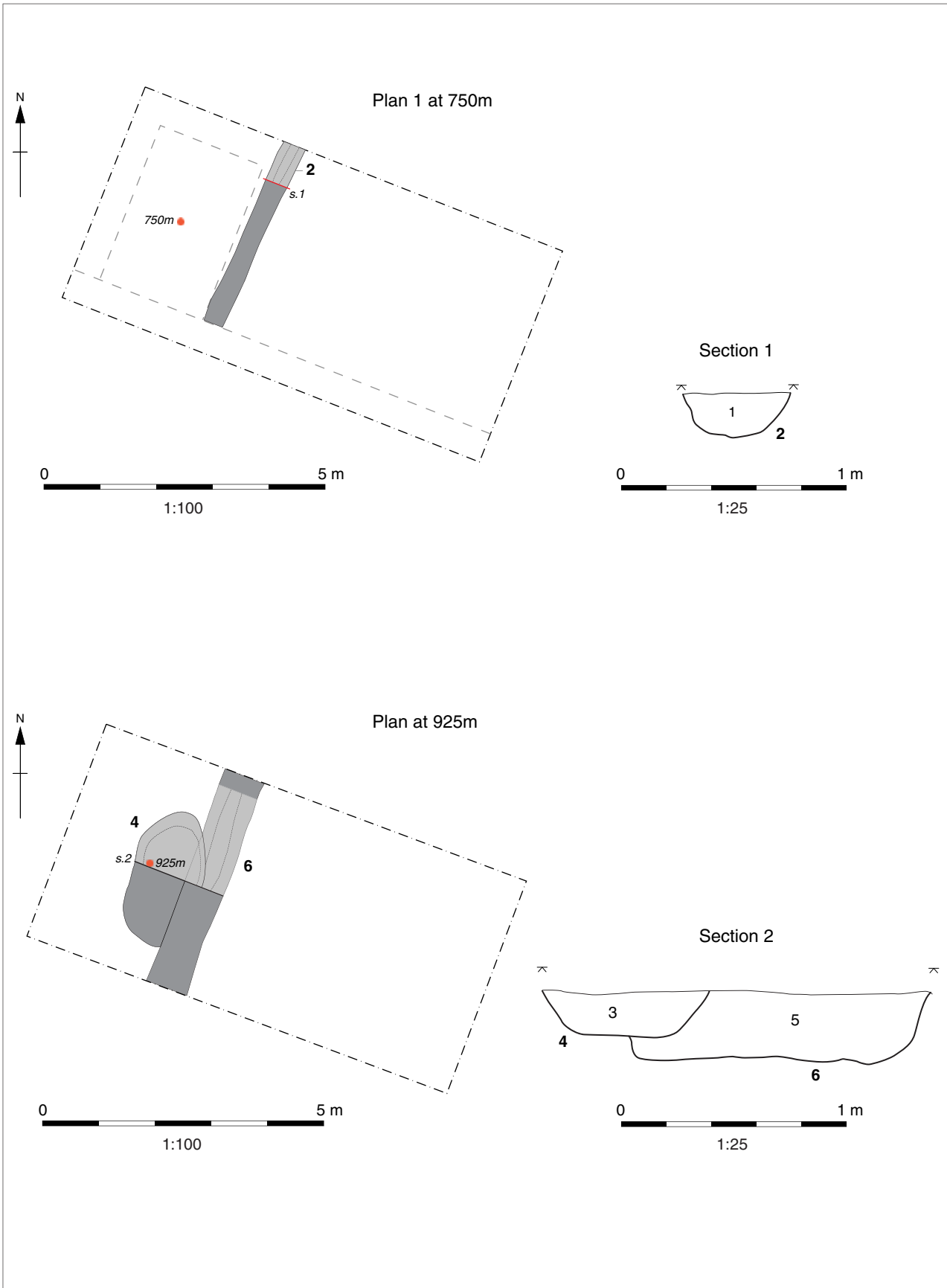


Figure 2: Plans and sections of drill pit 750 and 925.

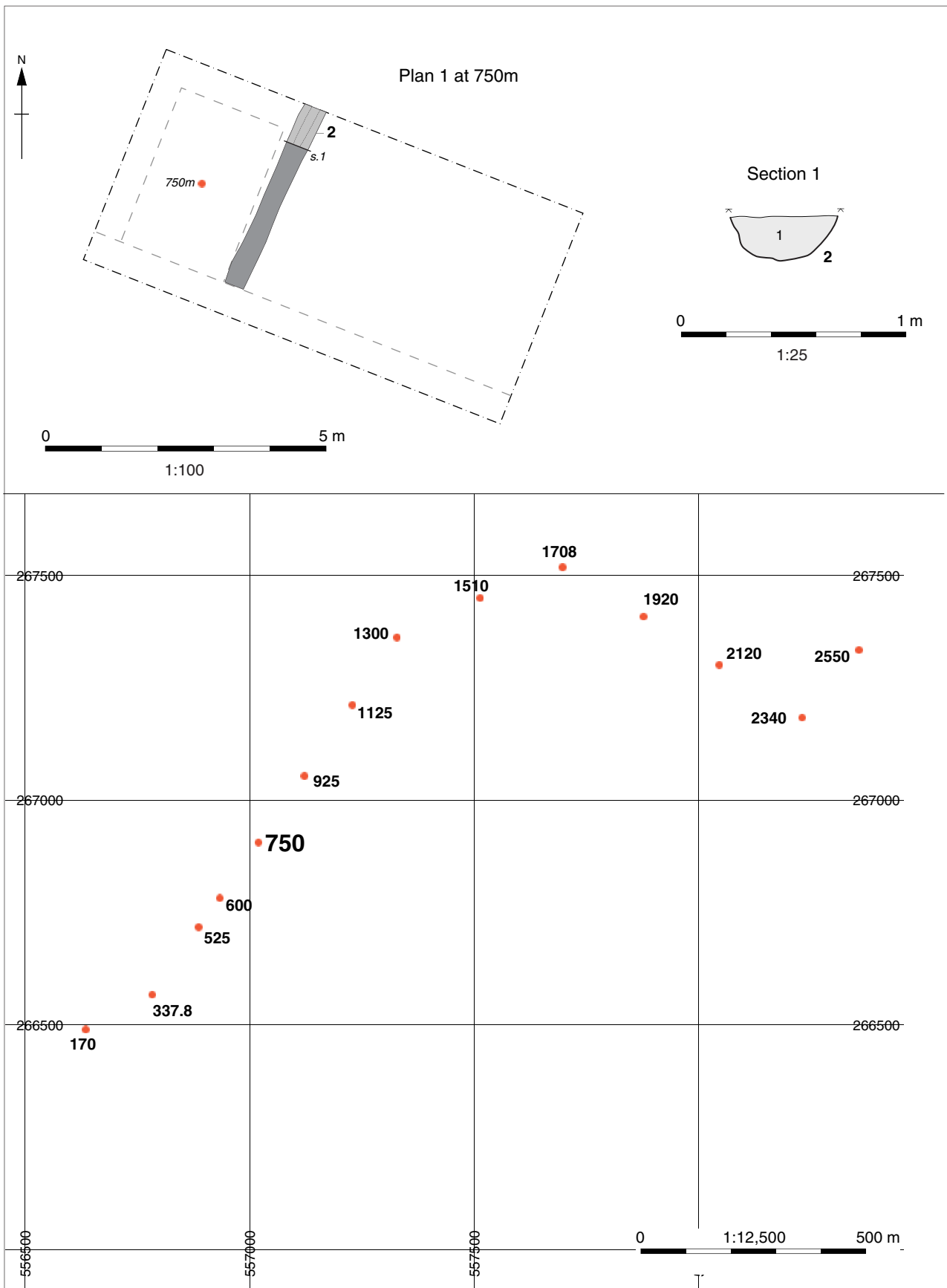


Figure 3: Plan of Drill pit 750. Scale 1:100 and map scale 1:12500

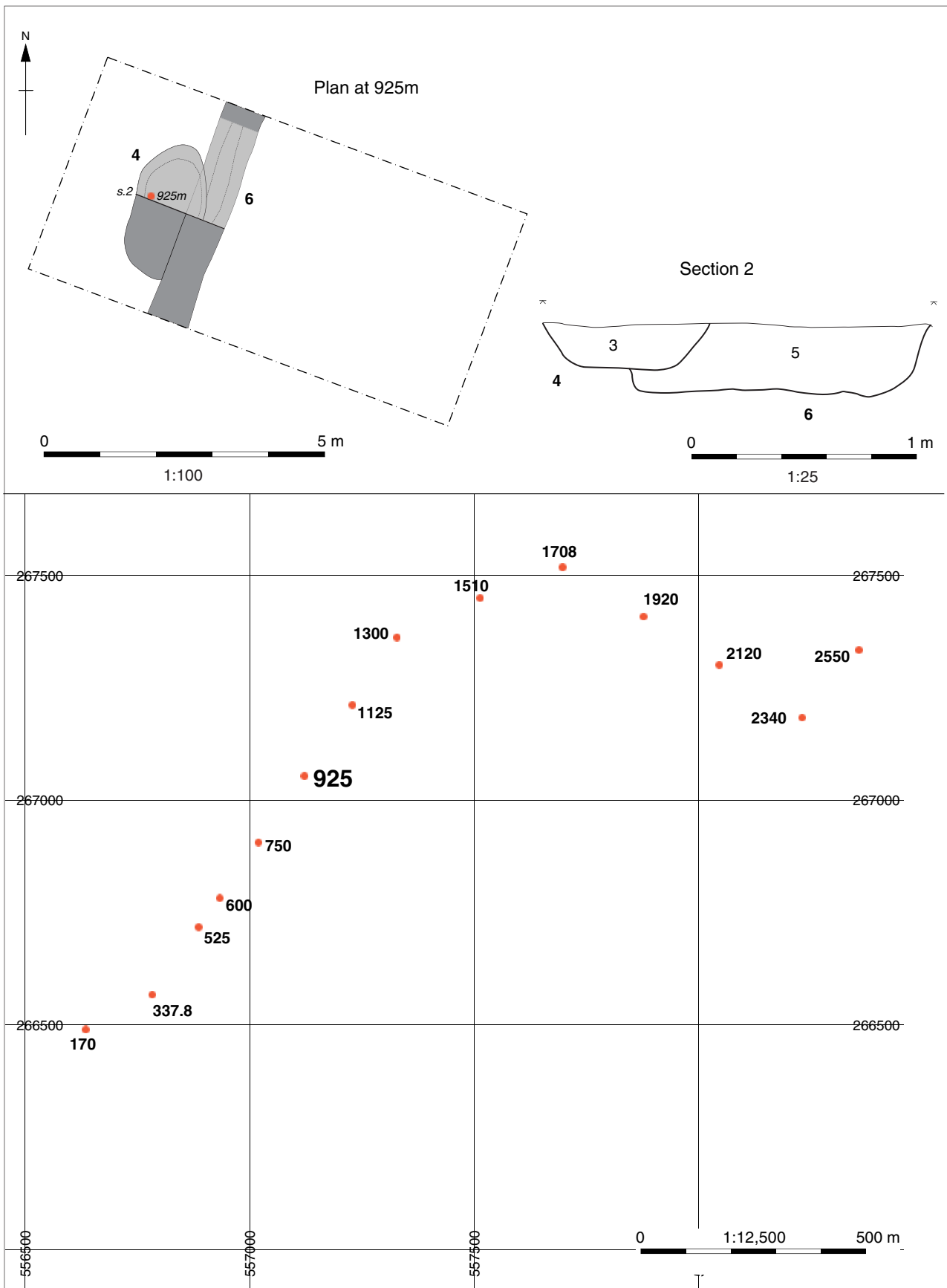


Figure 4: Plan and section of drill pit 925. Scale 1:100 and map scale 1:12500



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