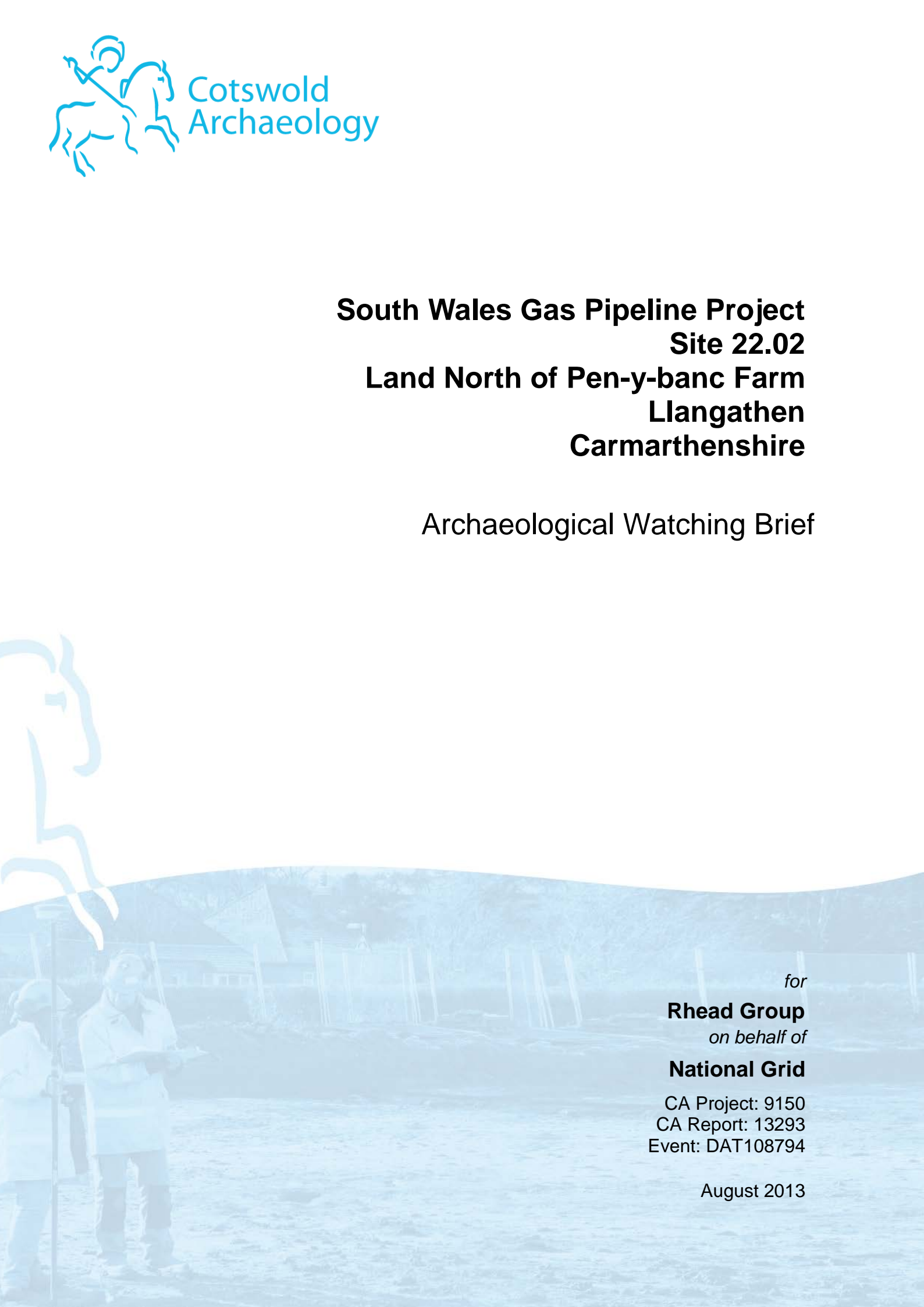


**South Wales Gas Pipeline Project  
Site 20.01  
Land West of Llettyglyd  
Dyffryn Cennen  
Carmarthenshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**



*for*  
**Rhead Group**  
*on behalf of*  
**National Grid**

CA Project: 9150  
CA Report: 14237  
Event: DAT108791

July 2014

# South Wales Gas Pipeline Project

## Site 20.01

### Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 9150  
CA Report: 14237  
Event: DAT102846

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## CONTENTS

SUMMARY .....	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
<i>The site</i> .....	3
<i>Archaeological background</i> .....	4
<i>Archaeological objectives</i> .....	4
<i>Methodology</i> .....	4
2. RESULTS .....	5
3. PROJECT TEAM .....	6
4. REFERENCES.....	7

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

## GLOSSARY

CA – Cotswold Archaeology  
CAP – Cambrian Archaeological Projects  
CPAT – Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust  
DAT – Dyfed Archaeological Trust  
GGAT - Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust  
FTP – Felindre to Brecon gas pipeline  
HER – Historic Environment Record  
MHA – Milford Haven to Aberdulais gas pipeline  
NAL – Network Archaeology Ltd  
NLMJV – Nacap Land & Marine Joint Venture  
UPD – Updated Project Design

## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** South Wales Gas Pipeline Project  
**Location:** Site 20.01, Land West of Llettyglyd, Dyffryn Cennen, Carmarthenshire  
**NGR:** SN 6089 2092  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 17 April 2007  
**Location of Archive:** not applicable  
**Site Code:** MHA06

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cambrian Archaeological Projects during groundworks associated with the construction of gas pipelines (part of the South Wales high pressure gas pipeline scheme) between Milford Haven and Aberdulais, and Felindre and Brecon, which were conducted between 2005 and 2007.

A charcoal-rich layer and a rectangular pit with a charcoal-rich fill were found on the floodplain of the River Towy. Both were undated. It is possible that these remains relate to burnt mound-type activity but this is speculation, and other interpretations are possible.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 NACAP Land and Marine Joint Venture (NLMJV), on behalf of National Grid, commissioned RSK Environment (part of the RSK Group) to manage the archaeological works (non-invasive surveys, desk based assessment, evaluation, watching brief, and open area excavation) on a 216km-long section of pipeline from Milford Haven (Pembrokeshire) to Brecon (in Powys). The high pressure gas pipeline (part of the 316km long pipeline route from Milford Haven to Tirley in Gloucestershire) was required to reinforce the gas transmission network. The archaeological work performed in advance of this pipeline was undertaken in a number of sections by a number of archaeological companies. The westernmost section of 122km, from Milford Haven to Aberdulais, was investigated by CA (then Cotswold Archaeological Trust) during 2005–2007 with some additional excavation work carried out by CAP. The section of 89km, from Felindre to Brecon was investigated by CA during 2006–2007 and CAP during 2007. Assessment reports on the works were completed in January 2012 (NLM 2012a, 2012b) and the current reporting stage was commissioned in February 2013.
- 1.2 In April 2007 CAP carried out an archaeological watching brief at Site 20.01, Land West of Llettyglyd, Dyffryn Cennen, Carmarthenshire (centred on NGR: SN 6089 2092; Fig. 1). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed within the site during the pipeline construction.
- 1.3 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with professional codes, standards and guidance documents (EH 1991; IfA 1999a, 1999b, 2001a, 2001b and IfA Wales 2008). The methodologies were laid out in an *Archaeological Framework Document* (AFD) (RSK 2007) and associated *Written Statements of Investigation* (WSIs) and *Method Statements*.
- The site**
- 1.4 The site is located within a field on the floodplain of the River Towy, 2km west of Llandeilo and Ffairfach (Fig. 1). It lies at 30m AOD, 450m south of the current channel of the river, with the ground level rising to the south to an area of high ground between the Rivers Towy and Cennen which join at Llandeilo and Ffairfach.

- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as the Abergwilli Formation (Mudstone) of the Ordovician Period overlain by superficial deposits of Quaternary Devensian Till (BGS 2014). Quaternary alluvium associated with the River Towy is mapped immediately north of the site (ibid.).

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.6 No archaeological remains were identified within the site during the preliminary *Archaeology and Heritage Survey* (CA 2006). Pipeline Site 20.08 was found 800m west of Site 20.01 and included the remains of a Late Iron Age/Early Roman settlement, as well as medieval features and an undated enclosure (CA 2013). A bank visible on LiDAR images was recorded during the 2006 *Survey* 70m east of the site and may be Roman in date (CA 2006, ref. ID 5873).

### ***Archaeological objectives***

- 1.7 The objectives of the archaeological works were:-
- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks; and
  - at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

### ***Methodology***

- 1.8 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the *WSI* (RSK 2007 Appendix B). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising stripping of the pipeline easement to the natural substrate (Fig. 1).
- 1.9 Other than sheets detailing the topsoil, subsoil and natural substrate, the fieldwork records were missing at the time of the current post-excavation work and have not since been located. All information regarding archaeological features and deposits has therefore been drawn from the preliminary report (CAP 2008).
- 1.10 The post-excavation analysis and reporting was undertaken following the production of the UPD (GA 2012). The archaeological background to the site was assessed using the following resources:-

- the *Archaeology and Heritage Survey* which was undertaken in advance of the pipeline construction and which examined a 1km-wide corridor centred on the pipeline centre line, including the then existing HER record (CA 2006);
- Dyfed Archaeological Trust HER data (received July 2014); and
- other online resources, such as Google Earth and Ordnance Survey maps available at <http://www.old-maps.co.uk/index.html>.

All monuments thus identified that were relevant to the site were taken into account when considering the results of the fieldwork.

## 2. RESULTS

- 2.1 The natural geological substrate, comprising grey-brown sandy silt with pebbles, was cut by a rectangular pit centred on NGR SN 6083 2091 and overlain by a charcoal layer centred on NGR SN 6089 2092. Detailed records of these features were not available at the time of writing (see section 1.9, above), and the following descriptions are based on summaries to be found in the *Preliminary Report* (CAP 2008).
- 2.2 The pit was rectangular in plan and approximately 4m long and 1m wide. It was described as having had a charcoal-rich fill. The charcoal layer was a somewhat curvilinear deposit, approximately 10m long and 1m wide, and was described as having been a charcoal-rich silt.
- 2.3 The date and functions of these remains are not known, and their relationship, if any, to one another is also unknown. The preliminary report (CAP 2008) states that both features were post-medieval, but does not provide supporting evidence. Given the absence of finds, these features are both best regarded as undated. In light of the site's location, close to a water course, it is possible that the pit was a trough associated with burnt mound-type activity, and that the charcoal-rich layer was associated with this. However, in the absence of further evidence, this must remain as speculation and these remains could have had quite different origins.

### **3. PROJECT TEAM**

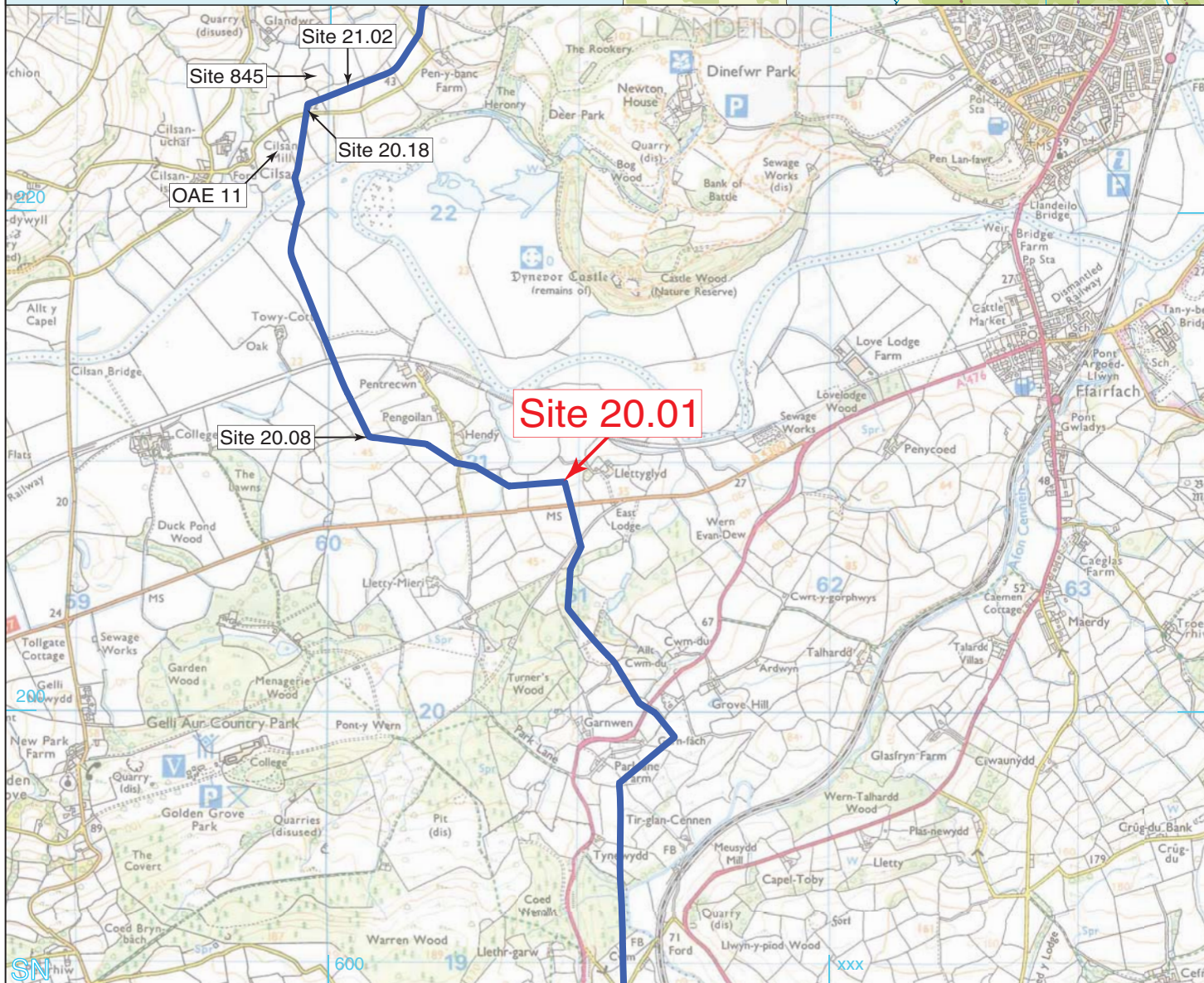
Fieldwork was undertaken by Cambrian Archaeological Projects. This report was written by Jonathan Hart with illustrations prepared by Daniel Bashford. The archive has been compiled by Jonathan Hart and prepared for deposition by Hazel O' Neill. The fieldwork was managed for CAP by Kevin Blockley and the post-excavation was managed for CA by Karen Walker.





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- Milford Haven to Aberdulais pipeline
- Felindre to Brecon pipeline
- 0-75m contour
- 75m contour
- 200m contour
- 400m contour
- 600m contour

0 1km

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**PROJECT TITLE**

South Wales Pipeline. Site 20.01, Land West of Llettyglyd, Dyffryn Cennen, Carmarthenshire

**FIGURE TITLE**

**Site location plan**

PROJECT NO. 9150 DATE 23-06-2014  
 DRAWN BY DJB REVISION 00  
 APPROVED BY LM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

**1**