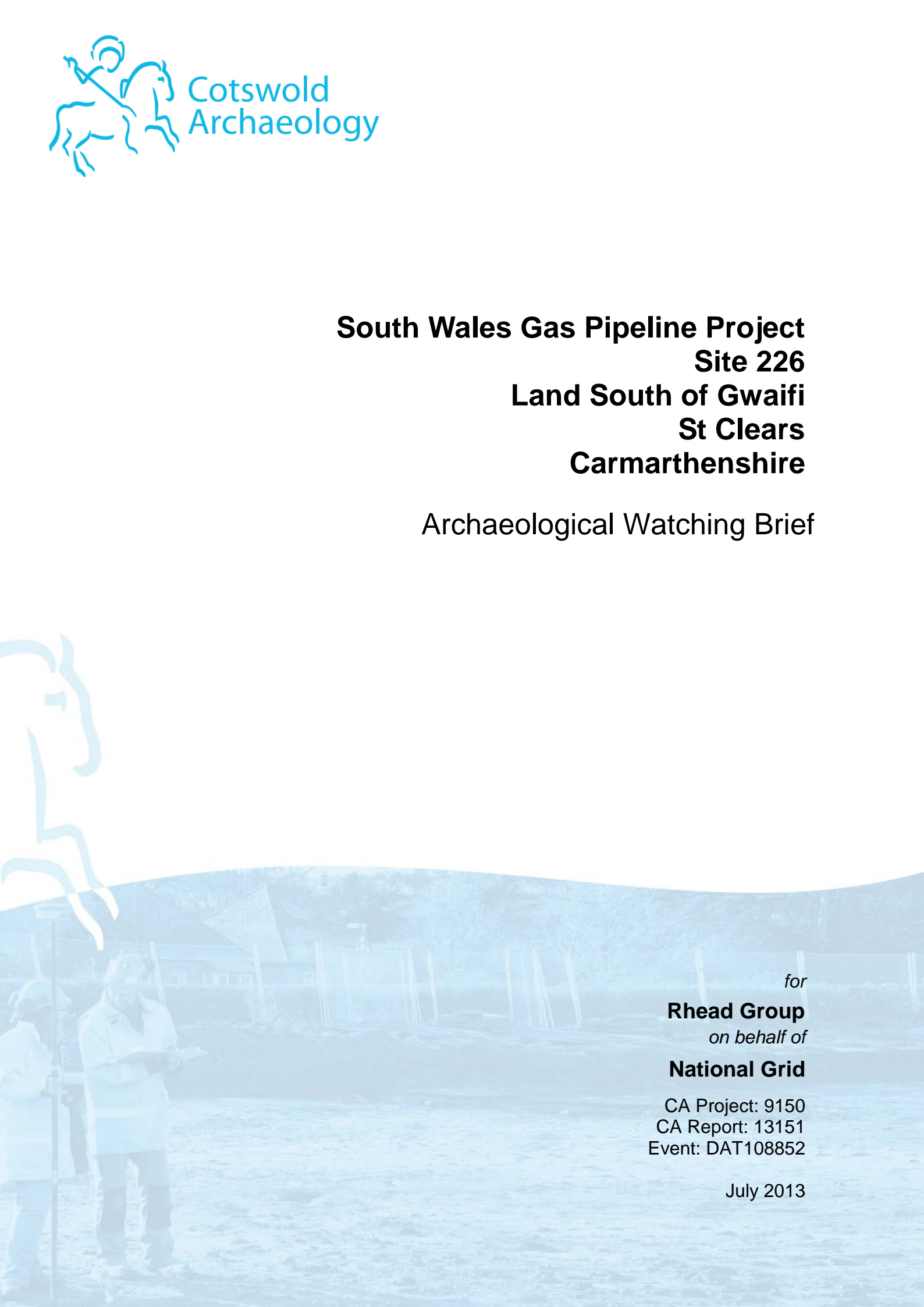


**South Wales Gas Pipeline Project  
Site 26.11  
Land East of Penhill  
Manordeilo and Salem  
Carmarthenshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**



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

CA Project: 9150  
CA Report: 13302  
Event: DAT108813


July 2013

# South Wales Gas Pipeline Project

## Site 26.11

### Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 9150  
CA Report: 13302  
Event: DAT102846

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date	25 July 2013
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 Fig. 2 Section of pits 2611004 and 2611006 (1:50)

## 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 26.11, Land East of Penhill, Manordeilo and Salem, Carmarthenshire  
**NGR:** SN 65 26  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 26 June 2007  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with RCAHMW (original paper archive) and Carmarthenshire Museum (digital copy of paper archive; accession number CAASG 2008.0282)  
**Site Code:** FTP06

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cambrian Archaeological Projects during groundworks associated with 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.

Two small pits were identified near a water course. Both contained burnt stones and charcoal but were undated by finds. Samples from their fills yielded charred hazelnut shell fragments and comparable pits found elsewhere along the pipeline route have returned prehistoric radiocarbon dates or have been associated with prehistoric finds, although whether such dating applies to the current examples is not known.



## 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 Cotswold Archaeology (CA; then Cotswold Archaeological Trust) during 2005–2007 with some additional excavation work carried out by Cambrian Archaeological Projects (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 June 2007 CAP carried out an archaeological watching brief at Site 26.11, Land East of Penhill, Manordeilo and Salem, Carmarthenshire (centred on NGR: SN 65 26; Fig. 1). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed 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 at approximately 80m AOD on a gentle south-east-facing slope overlooking the Towy Valley (Fig. 1). A tributary of the Towy flows along the northern and western boundaries of the field within which the site is located. The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as the Nantmel Mudstone Formation

of the Ordovician Period, overlain by superficial deposits of Quaternary Till (BGS 2013).

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.5 No archaeological remains were identified within the site during the preliminary *Archaeology and Heritage Survey* (CA 2006). Remains within the vicinity primarily comprise post-medieval and modern buildings (PRNs 29423, 18191, 18190, 18188 and 99725) and a park (PRN 25584). A possible medieval or post-medieval bank following the river and a cropmark relating to a possible former trackway were identified during the 2006 *Survey* (CA 2006, ref. IDs 1622 and 6097 respectively). During the pipeline construction works, undated pits were found at Sites 26.08 and 26.10 (Fig. 1), and the latter site also contained ditches associated with a track way depicted on 19th-century Ordnance Survey mapping.

### ***Archaeological objectives***

- 1.6 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***

- 1.7 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).
- 1.8 The archaeological features recorded on this site were not georeferenced and no site plans exist. A nominal location for the site has been indicated on Fig. 1 along the pipeline centre line within the field within which the site was located.
- 1.9 The post-excavation analysis and reporting was undertaken following the production of the UPD (GA 2012) and included re-examination of the original site records. Finds, environmental and radiocarbon-dating evidence was taken from the assessment reports (NLM 2012b) except where the UPD recommended further

work, in which case the updated reports were used. 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.

- 1.10 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. A digital copy of the paper archive will be deposited with Carmarthenshire Museum under accession number CAASG 2008.0282. The original paper archive will be deposited with the RCAHMW.

## 2. RESULTS (FIG. 2)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the watching brief results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and palaeoenvironmental evidence are to be found in Appendices A and B.
- 2.2 The natural geological substrate (2611002), comprising orange silt, was cut by pits 2611004 and 2611006. Both pits were circular in plan, 1m–1.2m in diameter and 0.15m deep with bowl-shaped profiles. They were filled with dark brown-grey silty clay deposits containing burnt and unburnt stones and charcoal. Samples from these deposits yielded a few charred hazelnut shell fragments.

### *Discussion*

- 2.3 The pits were undated and the samples from them gave little information as to the function of the pits. Small pits containing burnt material and hazel nutshells are common along the pipeline and have generally been attributed a prehistoric date based on the few examples for which dating is available (e.g. CA 2014a, 2014b and 2014c) but this cannot be proved for the current examples. The hazel nutshells may

have been associated with the consumption of the nuts, or have been incidental inclusions attached to fuelwood.

### **3. PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Cambrian Archaeological Projects. This report was written by Christopher Leonard with comments by Jonathan Hart and 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 work was managed for CA by Karen Walker.





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- NLM (Nacap Land and Marine) 2012b *Felindre to Brecon High Pressure Gas Pipeline: Archaeology Assessment of Potential for Analysis*
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**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

Context No.	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth (m)
2611000		Topsoil				
2611001		Subsoil				
2611002		Natural				
2611003	2611003	Pit fill	Dark brown-grey silty clay. Common burnt and unburnt stones and occasional charcoal flecks	1.2	1.05	0.15
2611004		Pit	Sub-circular in plan; steep sides, flat base	1.2	1.05	0.15
2611005	2611006	Pit fill	Dark brown-grey silty clay. Frequent small burnt and unburnt stones and occasional charcoal flecks	1.0	0.95	0.15
2611006		Pit	Circular in plan; moderately steep sides, concave base	1.0	0.95	0.15

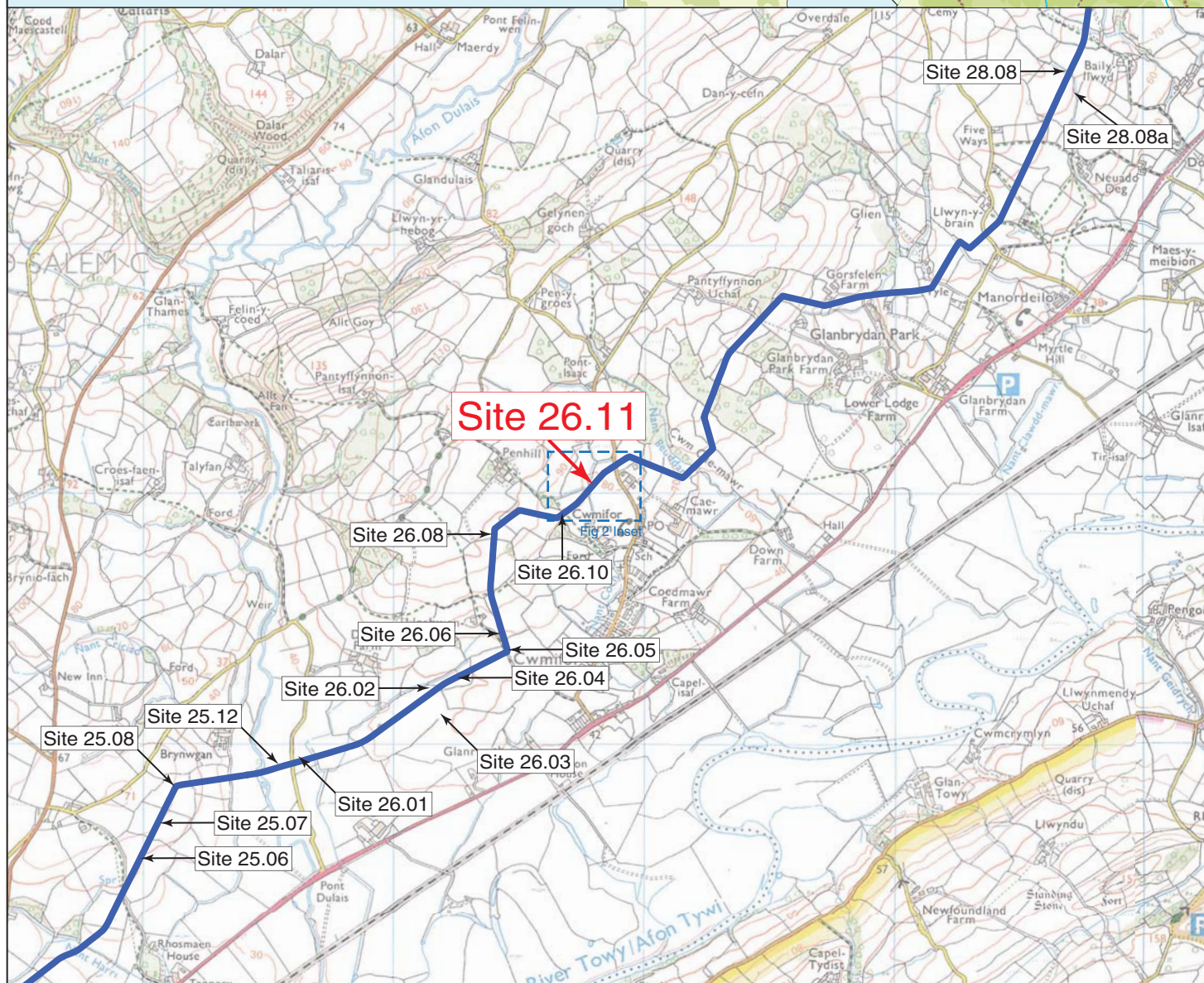
**APPENDIX B: PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE BY JAMES RACKHAM**

Both pits were sampled and the samples were processed in the manner described in the assessment report (Carruthers 2008). The residues of both samples were refloats to generate a second flots and then dried and sorted for archaeological finds and checked with a magnet. Appraisal of the residues after refloating indicated burnt stone in both samples with an abundance in sample 2611/002. A little magnetic material was recovered from sample 2611/002 composed of mudstone and mineralised mudstone but no definitely burnt debris. The flots from both samples were small (Table 1) but charred hazelnut shell fragments were recorded from both samples, generally in a worn or eroded condition.

**Table 1** Data for the environmental samples from Site 26.11

Sample	Context	Wt. (kg)	Res. wt. (g)	1st Flot vol. (ml)	2nd Flot vol. (ml)	Burnt stone*	Magnetic (g)	Comments
2611001	2611003	10.5	2328	9	1	+	-	HNS x2
2611002	2611005	13	6900	4	3	abund	1.8	HNS x4

HNS – hazelnut shell



- 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 26.11, Land East of Penhill, Manordeilo and Salem, Carmarthenshire

#### FIGURE TITLE

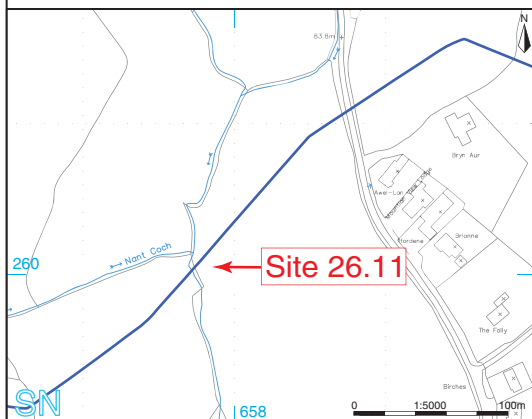
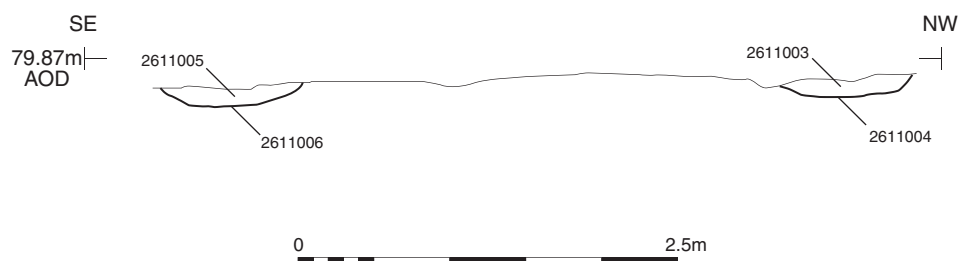
Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 9150 DATE 25-07-2013  
DRAWN BY DJB REVISION 00  
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FIGURE NO.

1





— pipeline centreline

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**PROJECT TITLE**

South Wales Pipeline. Site 26.11, Land East of Penhill, Manordeilo and Salem, Carmarthenshire

**FIGURE TITLE**

**Section of pits 2611004 and 2611006**

PROJECT NO. **9150** DATE **25-07-2013**  
DRAWN BY **DJB** REVISION **00**  
APPROVED BY **PJM** SCALE@A4 **1:50**

FIGURE NO.

**2**