

**South Wales Gas Pipeline Project  
Site 28.12  
Land North of Dôlcoed,  
Manordeilo and Salem  
Carmarthenshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

*for*

**Rhead Group**

*on behalf of*

**National Grid**

CA Project: 9150  
CA Report: 13304  
Event: DAT108815

July 2013

# South Wales Gas Pipeline Project Site 28.12

## Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 9150  
CA Report: 13304  
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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

<b>Project Name:</b>	South Wales Gas Pipeline Project
<b>Location:</b>	Site 28.12, Land North of Dôlcoed, Manordeilo and Salem, Carmarthenshire
<b>NGR:</b>	SN 68 28
<b>Type:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>Date:</b>	9 June 2007
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with RCAHMMW (original paper archive) and Carmarthenshire Museum (digital copy of paper archive; accession number CAASG 2008.0282)
<b>Site Code:</b>	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.

A single pit containing burnt stones and charcoal was identified. This pit was undated and its function is not known. Comparable pits found along the pipeline route have, where dated, been prehistoric, although it is not known whether such dating applies in this instance.



## 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 July 2007 CAP carried out an archaeological watching brief at Site 28.12, Land North of Dôlcoed, Manordeilo and Salem, Carmarthenshire (centred on NGR: SN 68 28; 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* (AMP) (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 85m AOD, near the summit of the south-facing edge of a ridge of high ground overlooking the River Towy valley (Fig. 1). The field within which it located is alongside a small tributary of the River Towy.

- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as the Nantmel Mudstone Formation of the Ordovician Period with no overlying superficial deposits (BGS 2013).

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.6 No archaeological remains were identified within the site during the preliminary *Archaeology and Heritage Survey* (CA 2006). In the wider vicinity, archaeological remains include those of a burnt mound at pipeline Site 28.14, 200m east of Site 28.12 (CA 2013a; DAT HER ref. 102846) and burnt mounds and troughs at pipeline Sites 28.08 and 28.08a, 350m south-west of Site 28.12 (CA 2013b; DAT HER ref. 102846). Later remains include the alignment of the Roman road leading from Llandeilo to Llandovery which passes 560m south-east of the site (PRN 33972).

### ***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 The post-excavation analysis and reporting was undertaken following the production of the UPD (GA 2012). 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 Although the site location was recorded (NLM 2012b), the archaeological feature recorded on this site were not georeferenced and therefore a nominal location for the site has been indicated on Fig. 1 within the centre of the field within which the site was located, along the pipeline centre line. No site plans were drawn and the identified features are therefore not illustrated. The site archive contained no context records and the information used in the results section is derived from the *Archaeology Assessment of Potential for Analysis* (NLM 2012b) and from the palaeoenvironmental evidence (Appendix B).
- 1.11 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

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the watching brief results; summaries of the recorded contexts and palaeoenvironmental evidence are to be found in Appendices A and B. The natural geological substrate was cut by pit 2812003. The pit contained fill 2812004 which included burnt stone and charcoal. Samples from the charcoal yielded the remains of fuelwood and a single charred hazelnut shell (Appendix B).

### *Discussion*

- 2.2 The pit remains undated and there was no evidence as to its function. It is possible that the magnetic component within the fill (see Appendix B) indicates that it was an oven/hearth; but there is no record of the substrate having been scorched, although this in itself does not preclude the possibility that the feature was an oven/hearth. Small pits with burnt stones found elsewhere along the pipeline have been found with prehistoric finds, and it is possible, but not certain, that such dating applies in this case.

### 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 for CA by Karen Walker.



#### 4. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2013 *Geology of Britain Viewer*. Online resource at <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> accessed 12 July 2013
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- NLM (Nacap Land and Marine) 2012a *Milford Haven to Aberdulais High Pressure Gas Pipeline: Archaeology Assessment of Potential for Analysis*
- NLM (Nacap Land and Marine) 2012b *Felindre to Brecon High Pressure Gas Pipeline: Archaeology Assessment of Potential for Analysis*
- RSK (RSKENSr) 2007 *Felindre to Tirley Natural Gas Pipeline: Archaeological Framework, v7. Nacap Land and Marine Final*, RSKENSr Environmental Ltd

**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

Context No.	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
2812003		Pit	Sub-circular in plan	
2812004	2182003	Pit fill	Dark fill. Frequent burnt stones and charcoal	

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

Two samples were taken from the upper and lower parts of fill 2812004 of pit 2812003. The samples were processed in the manner described in the assessment report (Carruthers 2008), with the additional refloating of the dried sample residues whose flot volume (second flot) is indicated in Table 1. Sample 2812201 did not produce a second flot. The second flots were then sorted for charred macrofossils and the residues for other finds.

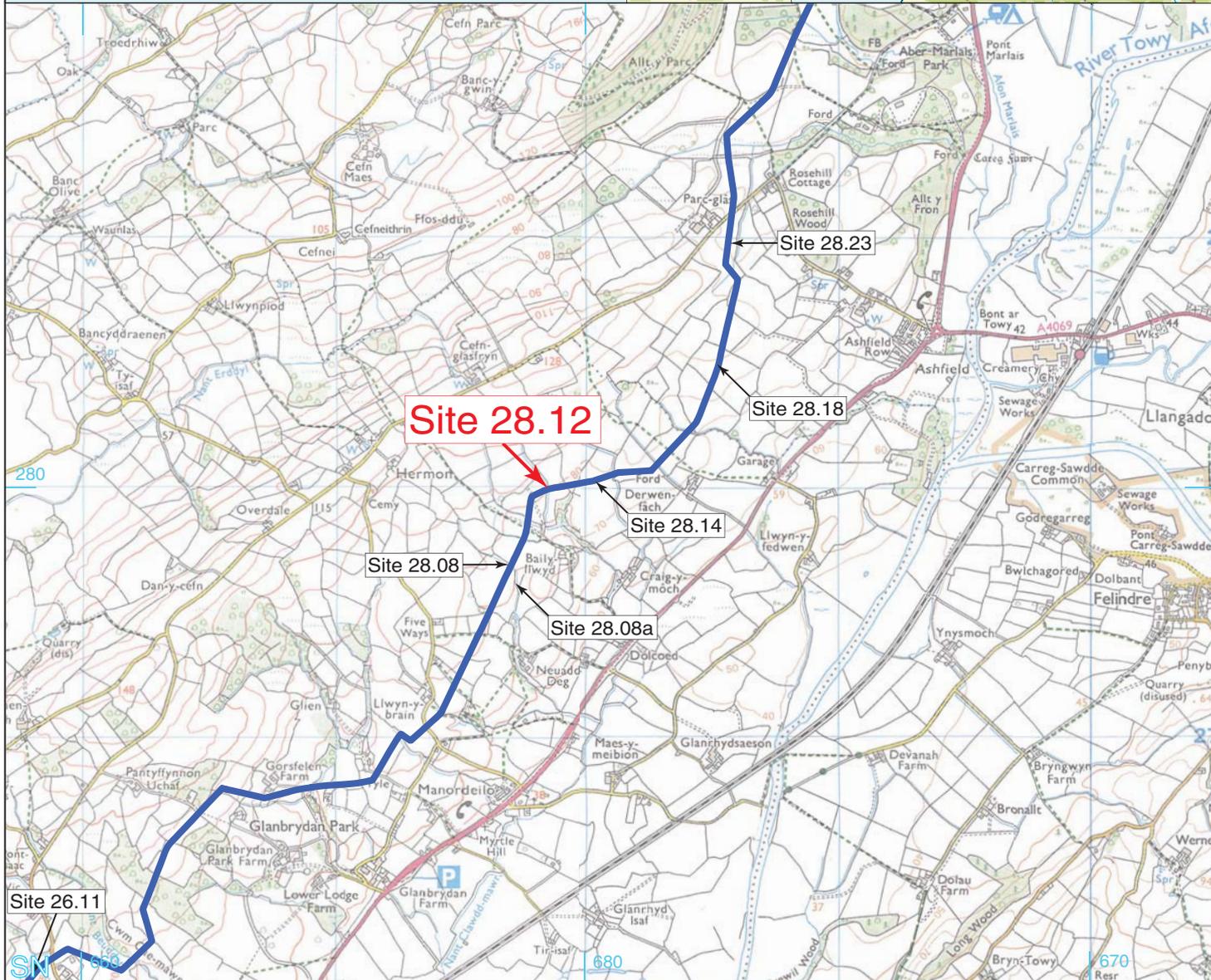
**Table 1** Data for the sample from Site 28.12

Sample	Context	Wt. (kg)	Res. wt. (g)	1st Flot vol. (ml)	2nd Flot vol. (ml)	Burnt clay*	Coal *	Magnetic (g)	Comments
2812201	2812004	14	10408	120	0	10316	+	0	
2812202	2812004	10.5	2714	350	0.5	++		8.4	HNS x1

\*quantities – E=1-10; D=11-50; C=51-100; B=101-200; A=200+ items; nd = no data; + present; HNS – hazel nutshell

The samples produced no archaeological finds other than burnt stone and a single fragment of charred hazel nutshell (Table 1). The concentration of stone and charcoal varied considerably between the two samples. The lower sample had a relatively high charcoal content, a low burnt stone component and a large magnetic component. In contrast the upper sample is dominated by burnt mudstone, has a much smaller charcoal component and no magnetic residue. These differences are of sufficient scale to suggest that they may represent different deposits despite both being recorded as context 2812003. It is possible that the high magnetic mineral element in the lower fill reflects in situ burning within the pit, with the charcoal and charred nutshell representing a hearth deposit. The upper fill could therefore reflect a dump layer of burnt stone within the feature after the hearth went out of use, although it should be noted that no scorching of the pit floor was recorded in the field.

Although undated this feature is fairly typical of prehistoric features identified along the pipeline route. It is possible that it originally functioned as a hearth into which material was later dumped. It has an assemblage not dissimilar to burnt mound deposits, with over 70% of the original upper sample comprised of burnt mudstone. Unfortunately the single fragment of hazel nutshell in the lower sample does not necessarily imply a domestic context, but clearly the site involved the heating of quantities of mudstone either in a context similar to a burnt mound or in a more domestic context.



- 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 28.12, Land North of Dolcoed, Manordeilo and Salem, Carmarthenshire

**FIGURE TITLE**

**Site location plan**

PROJECT NO. 9150 DATE 24-07-2013  
 DRAWN BY DJB REVISION 00  
 APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

**1**