

**South Wales Gas Pipeline Project  
Site 101  
Land East of Ty'r Gate  
St Clears  
Carmarthenshire  
Earthwork Survey**

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

CA Project: 9150  
CA Report: 13268  
Event: DAT108832

December 2013

# South Wales Gas Pipeline Project Site 101

## Earthwork Survey

CA Project: 9150  
CA Report: 13268  
Event: DAT102846

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
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Fig. 2 Earthwork survey results (1:2000)

## 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 101 Land East of Ty'r Gate, St Clears, Carmarthenshire |
| <b>NGR:</b>          | SN 3035 1540  |
| <b>Type:</b>         | Earthwork Survey  |
| <b>Date:</b>         | 26 April–3 May 2006   |
| <b>Site Code:</b>    | MHA06   |

An earthwork survey was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in advance of 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.

Earthworks associated with ridge and furrow agriculture were recorded. These were undated by excavation, although their morphology is suggestive of late post-medieval to modern dating.



## 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 and May 2006 CA carried out an earthwork survey at Site 101, Land East of Ty'r Gate, St Clears, Carmarthenshire (centred on NGR: SN 3035 1540; Fig. 1). The objective of the earthwork survey was to provide further data on the date, character, quality, survival and extent of the archaeological deposits within the pipeline construction working width.
- 1.3 The earthwork survey was carried out in accordance with professional codes, standards and guidance documents (EH 1991; IfA 1999a, 1999b, 2001 and IfA Wales 2008). The methodologies were laid out in an *Archaeological Management Plan* (RSK 2006) and associated *Written Statements of Investigation* (WSIs) and *Method Statements*.
- The site**
- 1.4 The site is located within two fields on the northern slope of a small hill within a triangle of land south of the A40 and between the Rivers Cywyn and Taff (Fig. 1). It lies at 40m AOD and the land falls away northwards towards a small watercourse. The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as *Didymograptus Bifidus*

Mudstone Beds of the Ordovician Period with no overlying superficial deposits (BGS 2013).

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.5 Very straight, short stretches of ridge and furrow earthworks ending at a trackway at the northern end of the site were recorded during the preliminary *Archaeology and Heritage Survey* (CA 2005a, ref. ID 397). The survey noted that the straight morphology of these earthworks suggests that they are most likely of late post-medieval to modern date, rather than medieval. Cropmarks relating to ridge and furrow cultivation are recorded at Lower Court, 650m south of the site and a deserted medieval settlement is recorded at Penyrheol, 600m north-west of the site. A medieval enclosure and post-medieval to modern ditches were excavated during the pipeline construction works 400m west of Site 101 (Site 500; CA 2013).

### ***Archaeological objectives***

- 1.6 The objectives of the archaeological works were:-
- to identify, investigate and record all significant archaeological earthworks revealed on the site; 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 field survey was carried out using a Leica TCR 705 Total Station with onboard data logging and coding. This was supported by manual site sketching and notation where necessary. A series of survey locations were identified at each site that provided sufficient coverage of the area to be surveyed, and were either inter-visible, or offered views to suitable mapped controls. The co-ordinates of control features such as buildings, pylons or other hard topological features were obtained from the digital base maps provided by RSK ENSR Environment Ltd, and the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid locations of the survey stations established using electronic re-section facilities available on the Total Station to log coded points. The site was initially reported on in advance of the pipeline construction (CA 2005b) and this report provides a summary of that report, along with any additional information that has since become available using the resources detailed below.

- 1.8 Once the survey fieldwork was complete, the data was downloaded from the Total Station into a CAD system, and a drawing plan produced. This is a composite of surveyed data, superimposed on detail obtained from the OS base-map, and supported by manually recorded information.
- 1.9 The post-survey work 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 2005a);
  - Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Data (received May 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 (FIG. 2)

- 2.1 An area of ridge and furrow was recorded extending across the two fields. The furrows were straight and measured 8m–10m from crest to crest. The majority were aligned north/south, but east/west furrows were also present. None of these were intercutting, and the differently aligned furrows respected one another, suggesting that all belonged to one phase of activity.

### *Discussion*

- 2.2 The furrows themselves were undated, but their straight morphology is consistent with later post-medieval dating, as noted in the *Archaeology and Heritage Survey* (CA 2005a). Many of the adjacent fields have been ploughed and it is not clear how extensive the agricultural regime to which these furrows belonged originally was. The small fields within which the furrows are located lie within a larger gridded field system extending across much of the area between the Rivers Cywyn and Taff, south of the A40. This grid system is recorded as possibly relating to Parliamentary enclosure (PRN 24427) under the 1809 Llangynog Inclosure Award but *Coflein*, the online database of archaeological monuments in Wales, also notes that these fields

may have had earlier origins as part of a Roman pattern of centuriation west of the Roman Civitas capital of *Moridunum* (Carmarthen) (RCAHMW 2013, NPRN 401997). No further evidence was forthcoming during the survey as to the date of this gridded field system. The furrows themselves appeared to respect one of these grid boundaries, which formed the northern limit of the survey area, but since the fields to the north have been ploughed, obscuring any possible continuation of the furrows, this relationship remains untested.

### 3. PROJECT TEAM

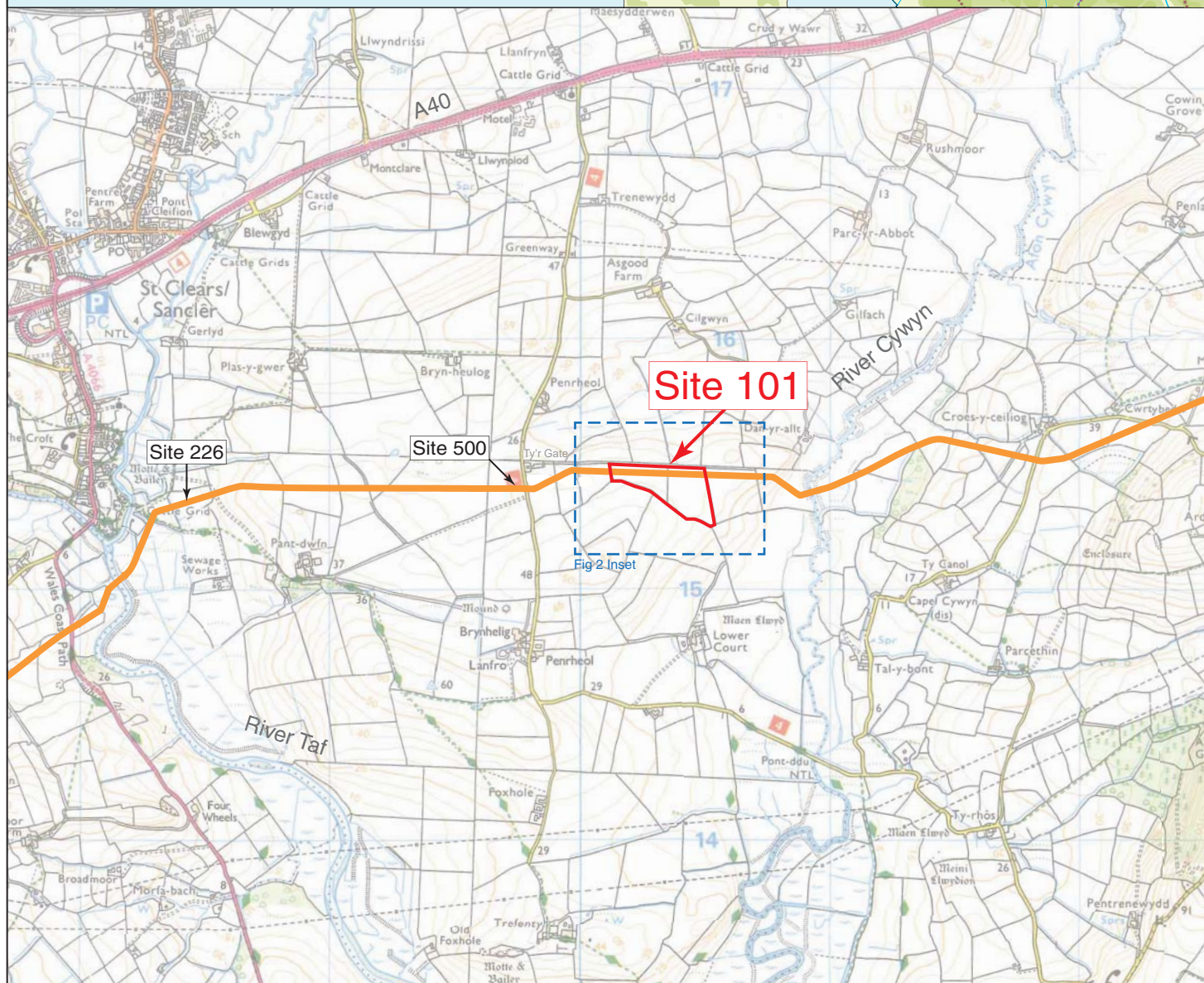
Fieldwork was undertaken by Richard Young and Kate Cullen. This report was written by Christopher Leonard with comments by Jonathan Hart and illustrations prepared by Daniel Bashford. The archive has been compiled by Jonathan Hart and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The fieldwork was managed for CA Mark Collard and the post-excavation work 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



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#### PROJECT TITLE

South Wales Pipeline. Site 101, Land East of Ty'r Gate, St Clears, Carmarthenshire

#### FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

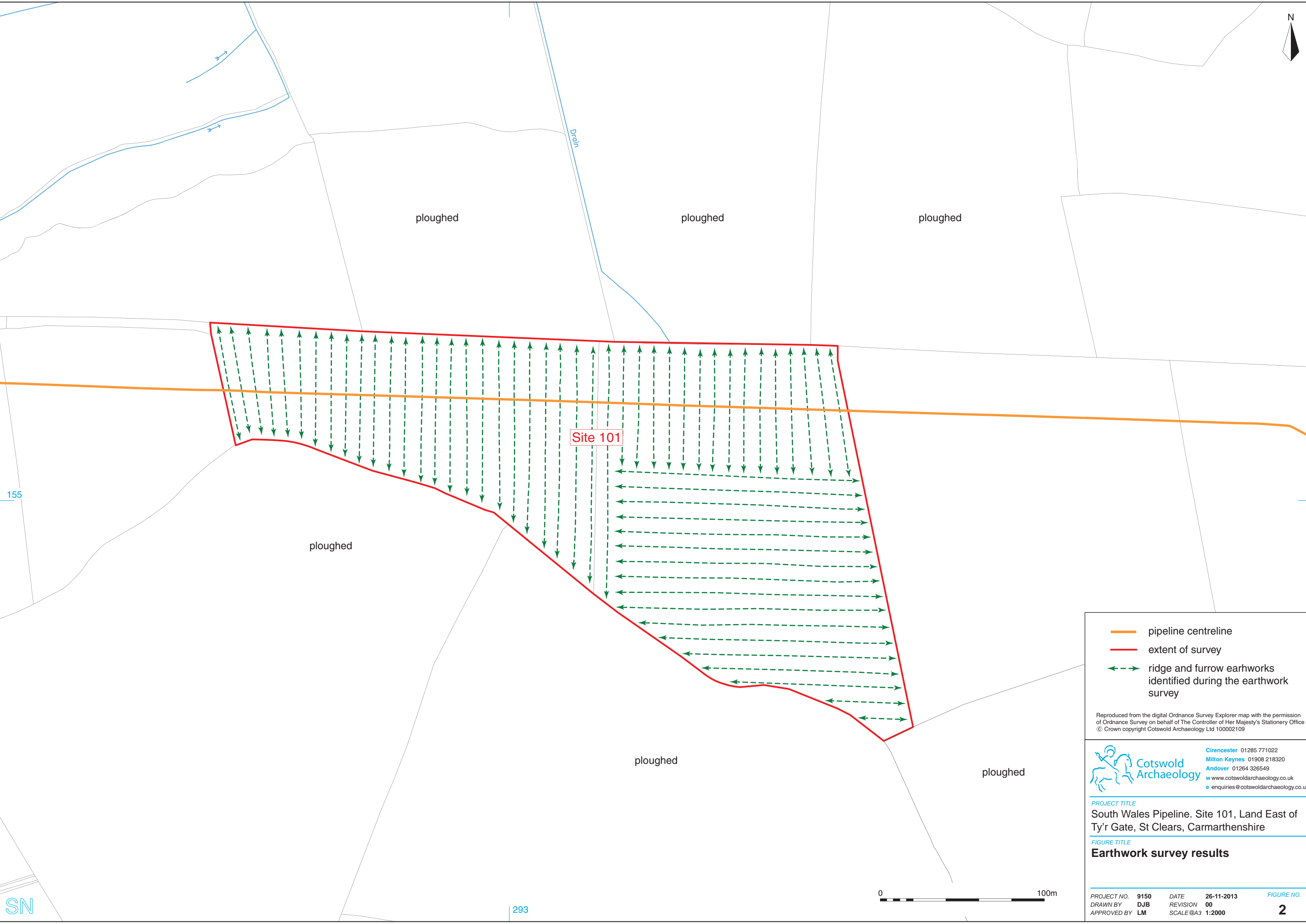
0 1km

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APPROVED BY LM  
DATE 26-11-2013  
REVISION 00  
SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1




pipeline centreline

extent of survey

ridge and furrow earworks  
identified during the earthwork  
survey

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PROJECT TITLE

South Wales Pipeline. Site 101, Land East of  
Ty'r Gate, St Clears, Carmarthenshire

FIGURE TITLE

Earthwork survey results

PROJECT NO. 9150

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APPROVED BY LM

DATE 26-11-2013

REVISION 00

SCALE@A3 1:2000

FIGURE NO.

2