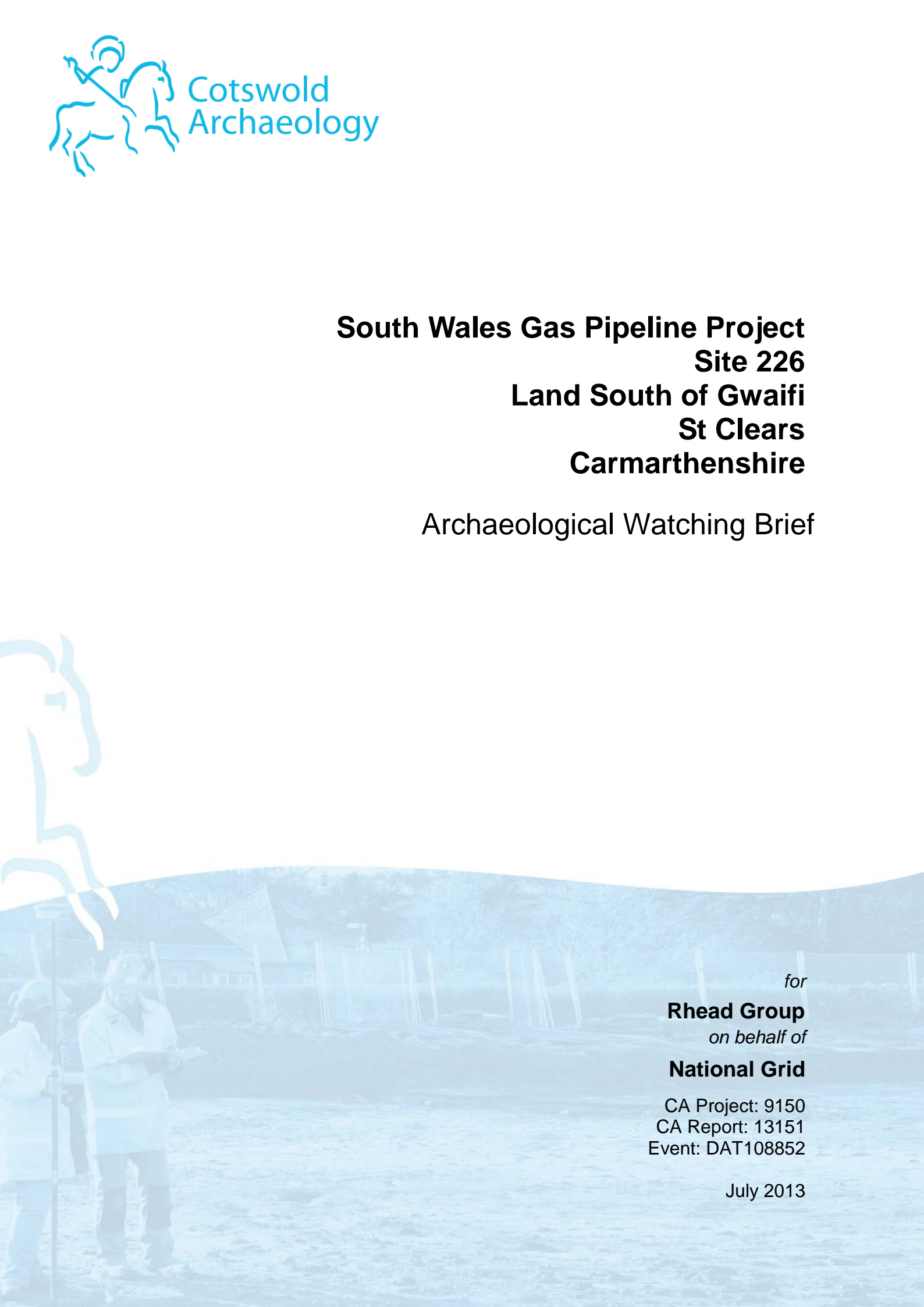


**South Wales Gas Pipeline Project
Site 226
Land South of Gwaifi
St Clears
Carmarthenshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Rhead Group
on behalf of
National Grid


CA Project: 9150
CA Report: 13151
Event: DAT108852

July 2013

South Wales Gas Pipeline Project Site 226

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 9150
CA Report: 13151
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 (FIG. 2)	5
3. PROJECT TEAM	6
4. REFERENCES.....	7
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	8

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

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

Fig. 2 Plan of ditch 226000 (1:100)

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 226, Land South of Gwaifi, St Clears, Carmarthenshire
NGR:	SN 2844 1537
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	11 May 2006
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:	MHA06

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology 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 drainage ditch was identified in a low-lying field south-east of St Clears and, although undated, it was probably related to the medieval or later flood defences of the town or to agricultural drainage of the surrounding hinterland.



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 May 2006 CA carried out an archaeological watching brief at Site 226, Land South of Gwaifi, St Clears, Carmarthenshire (centred on NGR: SN 2844 1537; 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 Management Plan* (AMP) (RSK 2006) and associated *Written Statements of Investigation* (WSIs) and *Method Statements*.

The site

1.4 The site is located at 10m AOD within a field on low-lying marshy ground 300m south-east of St Clears and close to the junction of the Rivers Dewi Fawr and Cynin with the River Taf (Fig. 1).

1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as the Milford Haven Group (Interbedded Argillaceous Rocks and Sandstone and Conglomerates) of the Devonian and Silurian Periods; no superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2013).

Archaeological background

- 1.6 No archaeological remains were identified within the site during the preliminary *Archaeology and Heritage Survey* (CA 2005). St Clears has medieval origins and includes the site of a medieval castle. The tendency of the land around St Clears to flood is reflected by records of a nearby place name of 'Open Wharf', 'wharf' being a medieval term for land beyond a flood defence, as well as by earthworks likely to represent the remains of flood defences (PRNs 13803, 29966 and 29964).

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* (NLM 2006). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising stripping of the pipeline easement to the natural substrate (Fig. 1).
- 1.9 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 1.10 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. 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 2005);
 - Dyfed Archaeological Trust HER 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.

- 1.11 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. The original paper archive will be deposited with the RCAHMS and a digital copy of the paper archive will be sent to Carmarthenshire Museum (accession number CAASG 2008.0282).

2. RESULTS (FIG. 2)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the watching brief results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A. The archaeological remains exposed within the site were found within a compound area immediately north of the pipeline easement and it is not known how far, if at all, beyond the compound area the remains may have extended.
- 2.2 The natural geological substrate (226004), consisting of yellow clay and stone, was sealed by subsoil 226003. The subsoil was cut by north-west/south-east aligned ditch 226000. This ditch had a narrow U-shaped profile and was 0.35m wide and 0.45m deep. It contained a single silty clay fill, 226001. No artefactual evidence was recovered.

Discussion

- 2.3 Ditch 226000 is located approximately centrally within the modern field, and roughly parallel with the eastern field boundary. Given its location, the ditch is most likely to have been either a now defunct subdivision of the field or a drainage feature. The ditch does not appear on historic mapping and therefore had probably gone out of use before the 1889 Ordnance Survey County Series map of Carmarthenshire. Although undated, the ditch was cut through the subsoil and most probably relates to the medieval or later flood defences of St Clears or agricultural drainage of the surrounding farmland.

3. PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Kelly Saunders assisted by Simon Ratty. 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 CA by Clifford Bateman and the post-excavation work was managed for CA by Karen Walker.

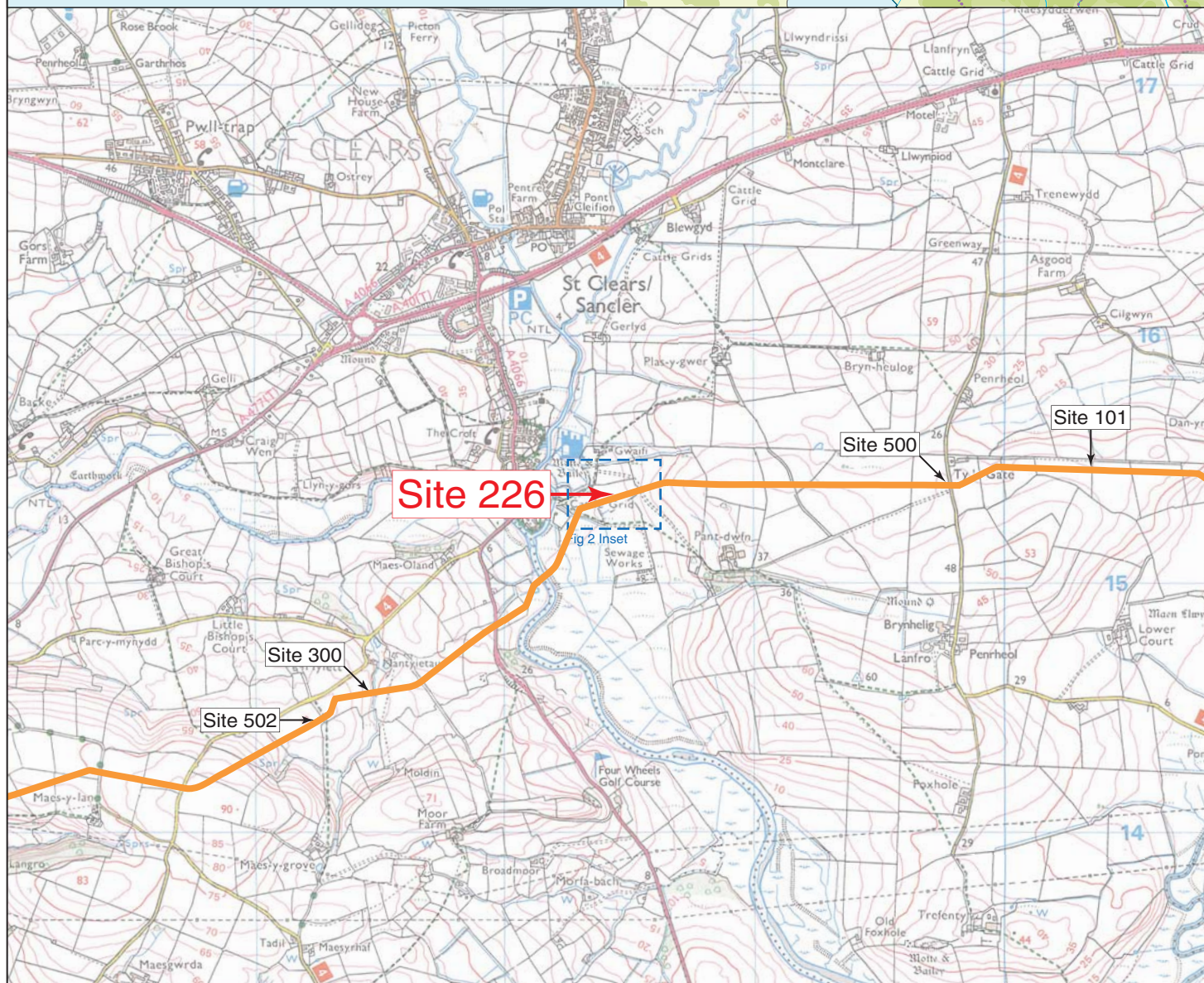


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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context No.	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	W (m)	Depth (m)
226000		Ditch	NW/SE aligned with narrow u-shaped profile	0.35	0.45
226001	226000	Fill	Mid yellow-brown silty clay	0.35	0.45
226002		Topsoil	Brown-grey clay silt		0.05
226003		Subsoil	Brown-grey clay silt		0.1
226004		Natural	Pale brown silty clay		



- 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 226, Land South of Gwaifi, St Clears, Carmarthenshire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

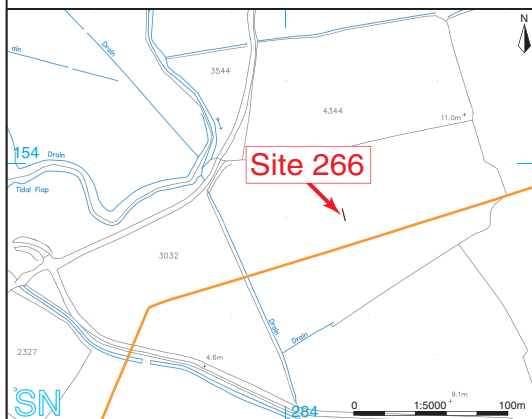
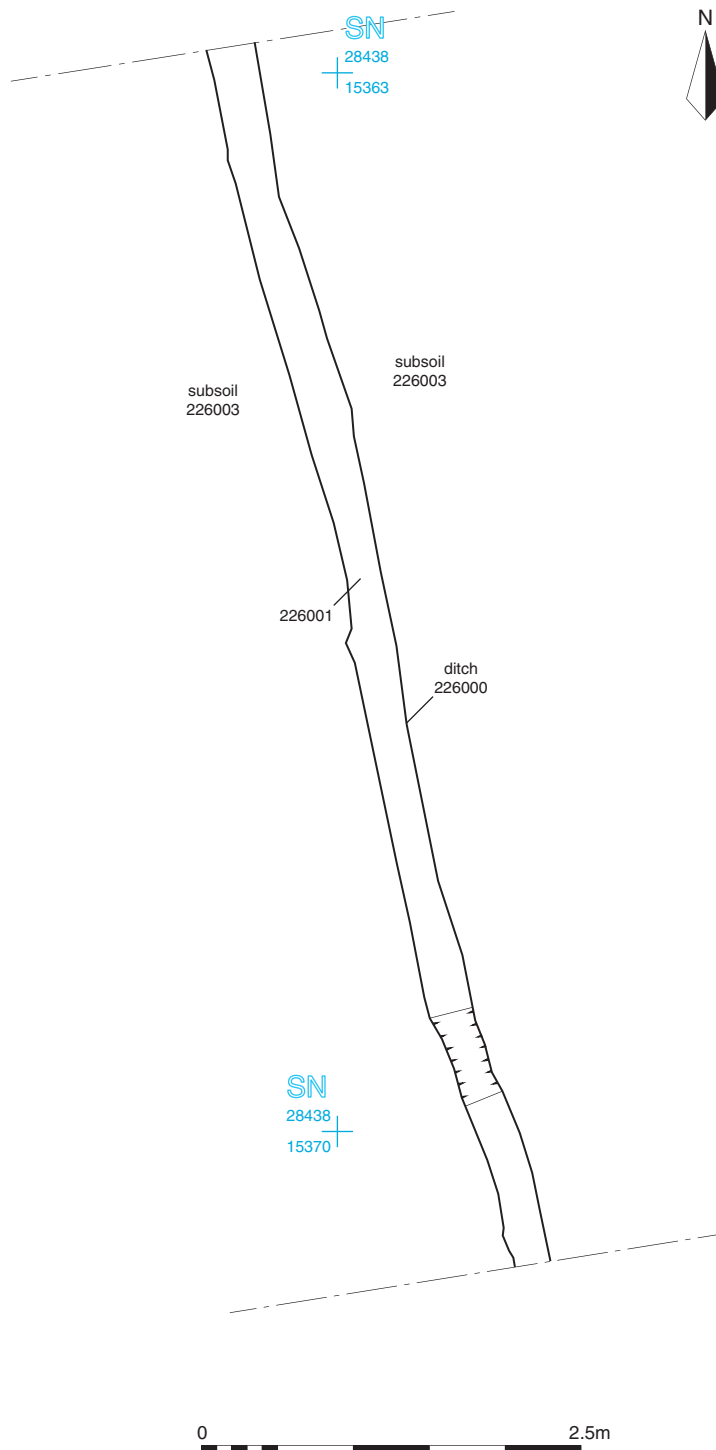
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PROJECT NO. 9150
DRAWN BY DJB
APPROVED BY PJM
DATE 11-07-2013
REVISION 00
SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Plan of ditch 226000

PROJECT NO. 9150 DATE 11-07-2013
DRAWN BY DJB REVISION 00
APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:100

FIGURE NO.

2