

**South Wales Gas Pipeline Project
Site 1942
Land South of Allt Cwmnantybeudy
Myddfai
Carmarthenshire
Earthwork Survey**



for
Rhead Group
on behalf of
National Grid

CA Project: 9150
CA Report: 13275
Event: DAT108881

December 2013

South Wales Gas Pipeline Project Site 1942

Earthwork Survey

CA Project: 9150
CA Report: 13275
Event: DAT102846

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date	
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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	4
1. INTRODUCTION.....	5
<i>The site</i>	5
<i>Archaeological background</i>	6
<i>Archaeological objectives</i>	6
<i>Methodology</i>	6
2. RESULTS (FIG. 2)	7
3. PROJECT TEAM	8
4. REFERENCES.....	9

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

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

Project Name:	South Wales Gas Pipeline Project
Location:	Land South of Cwmnantybeudy, Myddfai, Carmarthenshire
NGR:	SN 7970 3030
Type:	Earthwork Survey
Date:	January–April 2006
Site Code:	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.

Ridge and furrow earthworks were recorded during the survey. The earthworks were undated, but possibly relate to post-medieval cultivation.

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 2006 CA carried out an earthwork survey at Land South of Cwmnantybeudy, Myddfai, Carmarthenshire (centred on NGR: SN 7970 3030; 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 Framework Document* (RSK 2007) and associated *Written Statements of Investigation* (WSIs) and *Method Statements*.

The site

- 1.4 The site is located in a field situated between Cefn Golau to the north-west and Mynydd Myddfai to the south-east (Fig. 1). It lies at approximately 230m AOD. The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as the Cwm Graig Ddu Formation (Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone) of the Silurian 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 2006a). Prehistoric remains have been recorded on Mynydd Myddfai, including several Bronze Age cairns at or near the summit along with numerous barrows (PRNs 278-283 and 4148, Scheduled Monuments 349 and 351). A prehistoric flint tool has been recorded 200m south-west of the site (PRN7471). The line of the Roman road leading between Brecon Gaer and Llandovery is also recorded within the vicinity of the site (PRN6379) and documentary evidence indicates the former presence of post-medieval settlement 200m south-west of the site (PRN7478).
- 1.6 Archaeological remains were identified during the pipeline construction works, including at Site 37.05 where a possible but undated burnt mound and trough were found, and at Site 38.04 where an undated quarry pit was found (Fig., 1).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.7 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

- 1.8 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.
- 1.9 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. The site was initially reported on in advance of the pipeline construction (CA 2006b) and this report provides a summary of that report, along with any additional information that has since become available using the resources detailed below.

1.10 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 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 (FIG. 2)

2.1 The survey recorded ridge and furrow earthworks. These were heavily denuded, only surviving to a maximum height of 0.1m. Four east/west aligned ridges were discernible. All were straight and the distance between their peaks was a maximum of 8m.

Discussion

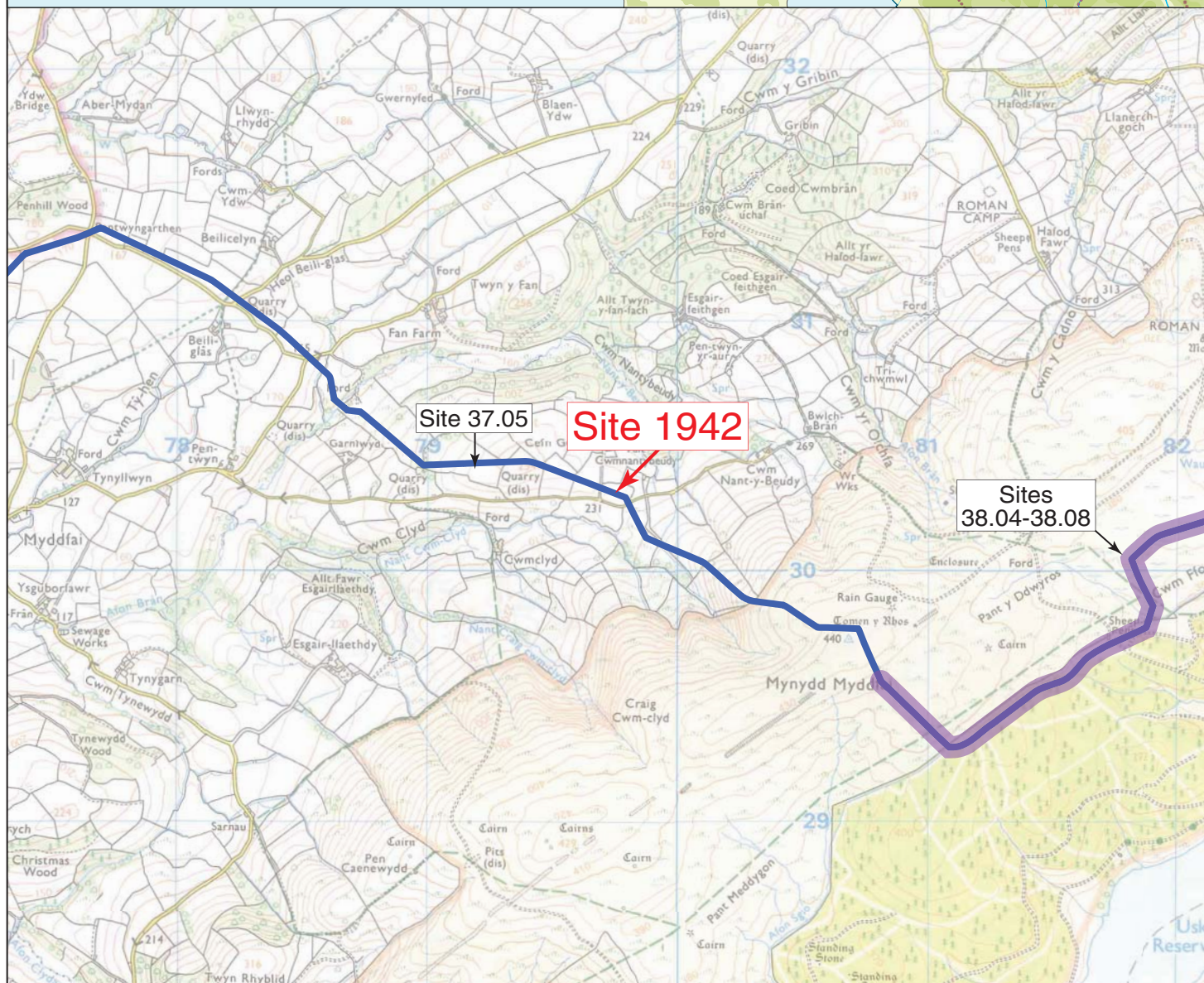
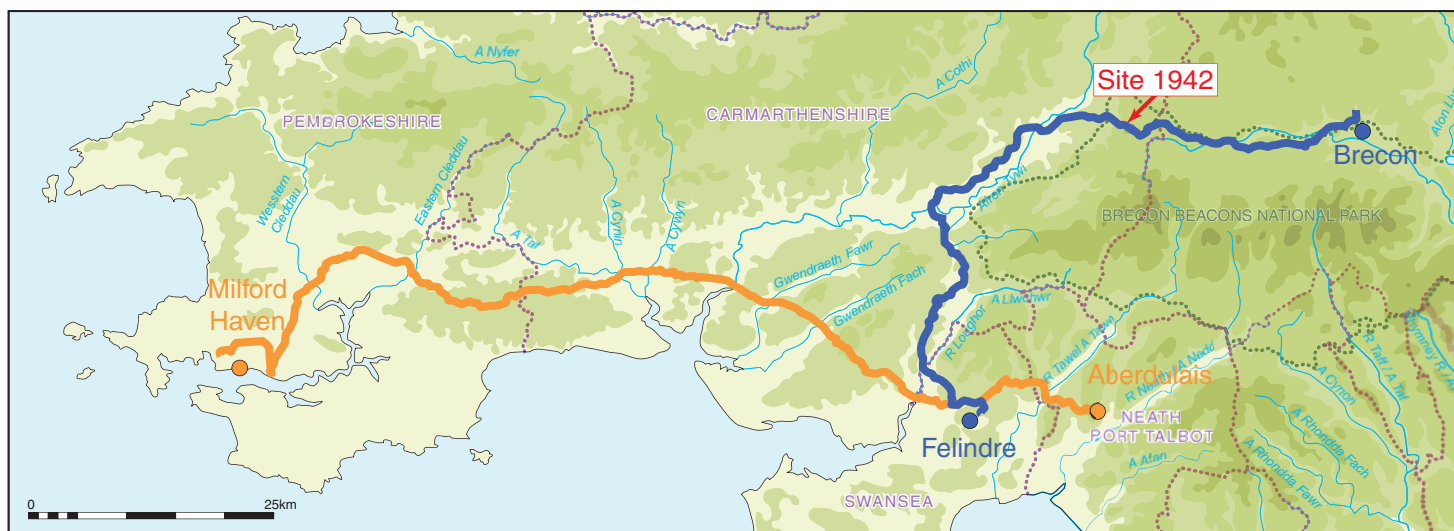
2.2 Examination of satellite imagery available on Google Earth for the period 2006–2013 shows that that few further ridge and furrow earthworks remain in the vicinity, although this might reflect truncation by subsequent agricultural regimes. The earthworks surveyed are currently undated, although the absence of the characteristically medieval reverse ‘S’-shape alignments, and the fact that the earthworks appear to be straight, perhaps indicates post-medieval dating. However, since the remains are ephemeral and undated by finds, this suggestion can only be tentative.

3. PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Richard Young, Kate Cullen, David Kenyon and Emily Knight. 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 by Mark Collard and Richard Young and the post-excavation work was managed for CA by Karen Walker.

4. REFERENCES

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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 1942, Land South of Allt Cwmnantybeudy

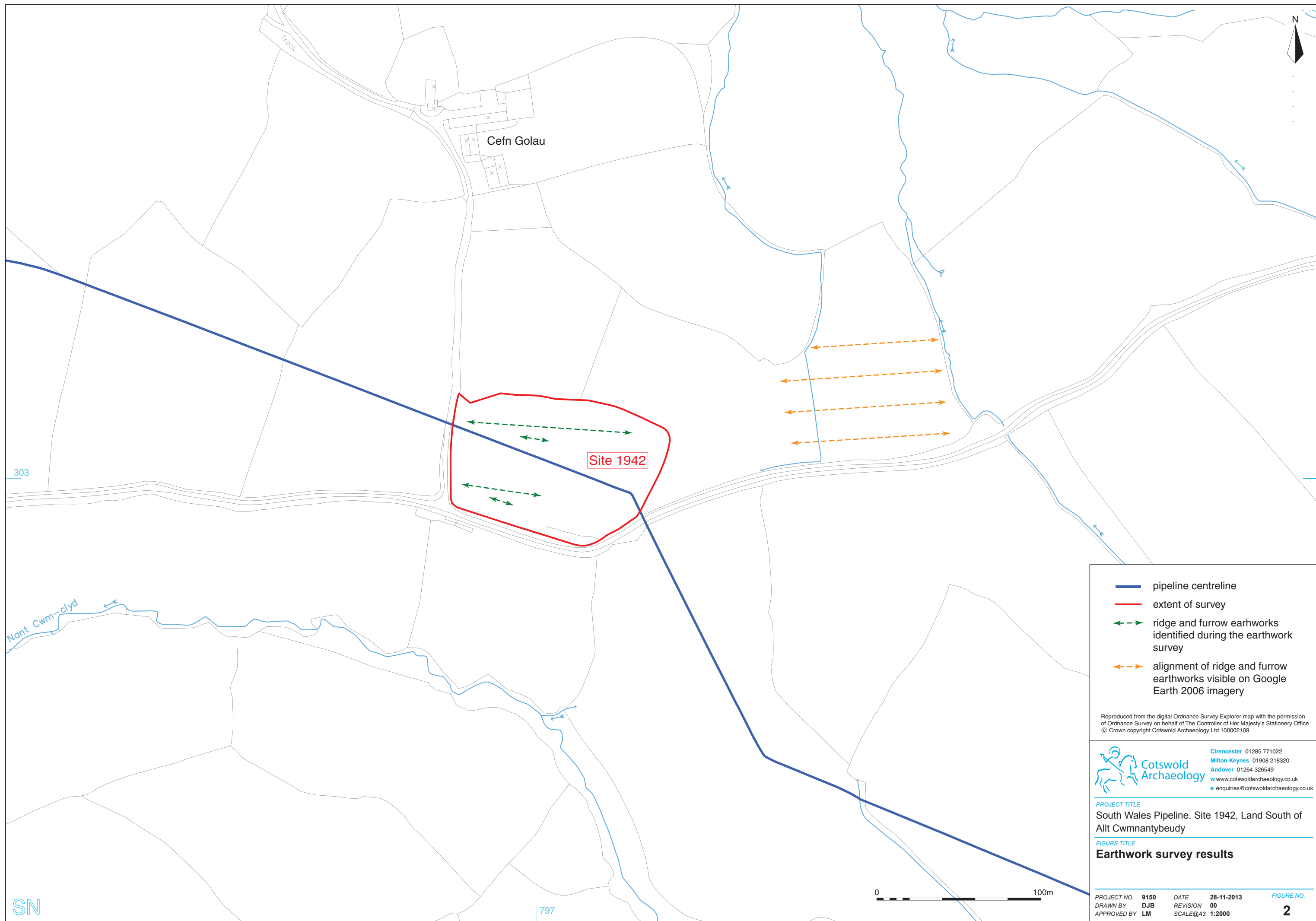
FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 9150 DATE 28-11-2013
DRAWN BY DJB REVISION 00
APPROVED BY LM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



- pipeline centreline
- extent of survey
- ← → ridge and furrow earthworks identified during the earthwork survey
- ← → alignment of ridge and furrow earthworks visible on Google Earth 2006 imagery

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PROJECT TITLE
South Wales Pipeline. Site 1942, Land South of Allt Cwmnantybeudy

FIGURE TITLE
Earthwork survey results

PROJECT NO.	9150	DATE	28-11-2013	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	DJB	REVISION	00	2
APPROVED BY	LM	SCALE@A3	1:2000	