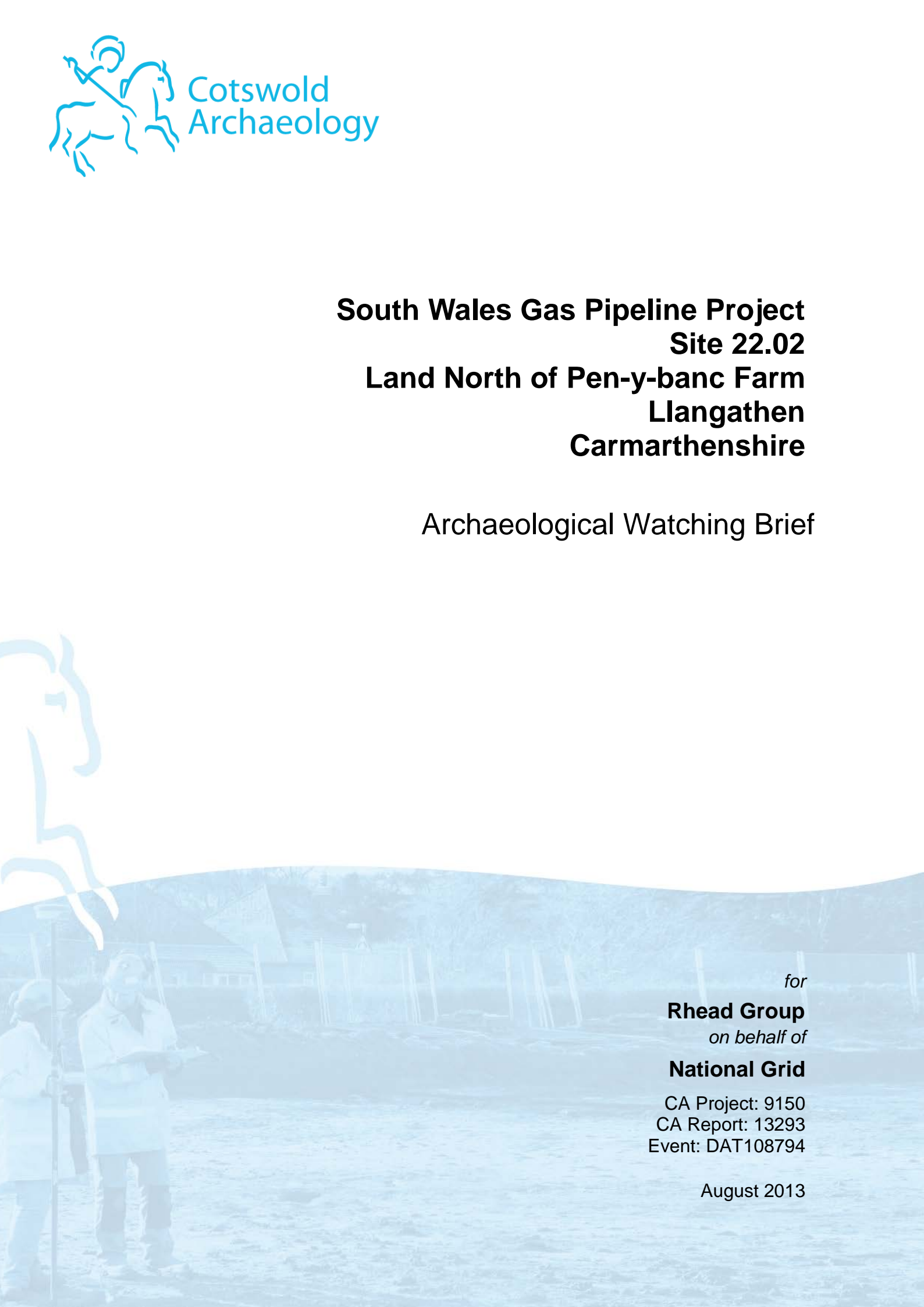


**South Wales Gas Pipeline Project  
Site 24.01  
Land to the South-East of Pen-y-banc  
Manordeilo and Salem  
Carmarthenshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**



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

CA Project: 9150  
CA Report: 13295  
Event: DAT108802


July 2013

# South Wales Gas Pipeline Project

## Site 24.01

### Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 9150  
CA Report: 13295  
Event: DAT102846

prepared by	Peter Busby, Project Supervisor
date	24 July 2013
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date	30 April 2015
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issue	01

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

Fig. 2 Plan of archaeological features (1:20)

## 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 24.01, Land to the South-East of Pen-y-banc, Manordeilo and Salem, Carmarthenshire
<b>NGR:</b>	SN 6188 2375
<b>Type:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>Date:</b>	22 February to 5 April 2007
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with RCAHMW (original paper archive) and Carmarthenshire Museum (material archive and digital copy of paper archive; accession number CAASG 2008.0282)
<b>Site Code:</b>	FTB07

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 large, shallow irregularly shaped feature, probably a natural hollow, was identified. It contained two sherds of Early Roman pottery (First to Second century AD) and was partially overlain by an oval patch of scorched clay interpreted as the base of a fire. An undated pit was also revealed.

## 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 Between 22 February and 5 April 2007 CAP carried out an archaeological watching brief at Site 24.01, Land to the South-East of Pen-y-banc, Manordeilo and Salem, Carmarthenshire (centred on NGR: SN 6188 2375; 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 adjoining the southern bank of Nant Gurrey-fach, a tributary of the River Towy (Fig 1). It lies at approximately 50m AOD on land that falls away gently north-eastwards towards the tributary.

- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as the Nantmel Mudstones Formation of the Ordovician Period; 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 2006) and none are recorded in the immediate vicinity by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust HER.

### ***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) 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 and artefacts from the watching brief are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Carmarthenshire Museum under accession number CAASG 2008.0282, along with a digital copy of the paper archive. 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, finds and palaeoenvironmental remains are to be found in Appendices A, B and C. Full, original versions of the specialist reports are contained within the archive.
- 2.2 The natural geological substrate (24.1.008), comprising brown-orange silty clay with patches of gravel, was cut by a large irregular feature and a pit. Feature 24.1.003 was irregular in plan and profile and was 6m long, 2.5m wide, and 0.2m deep. It was filled with clay silt 24.1.004. Its irregular nature would suggest that it was probably a natural feature, such as a hollow. The fill included occasional charcoal flecks and two sherds of Roman pottery (identified as being of Severn Valley ware).
- 2.3 The feature was partially overlain by an oval patch of scorched clay silt (24.1.005), 1.2m by 0.5m in extent, which probably represents the base of a fire. A sample from this material contained only a few fragments of charcoal and a flint flake.
- 2.4 Pit 24.1.000 was found immediately to the east of these features and was circular in plan with shallow sides and a concave base. It was 0.8m in diameter and 0.1m deep and contained two brown silt fills (24.1.002 and 24.1.001) which included occasional charcoal flecks.

### *Discussion*

- 2.5 The material within the hollow included Early Roman (First to Second Century AD) pottery, but the immediate source of this is unknown and the finds could have accumulated within the feature during manuring activities undertaken at some remove from any settlement. Severn Valley wares were generally produced along the middle Severn valley and were distributed across western Britain. Aside from a single flint, which could easily be a residual item, the pit and fire base were both undated and no further interpretation of their functions is possible.

## **3. PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Cambrian Archaeological Projects. This report was written by Peter Busby 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.



#### 4. REFERENCES

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- Timby, J. 2009 'Assessment Report for Roman Pottery', in NLM 2012b

**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

Context No.	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth (m)	Spot date
24.1.000		Pit	Circular in plan, shallow sides and a flat base		0.8	0.1	
24.1.001	24.1.000	Pit fill	Light brown clay silt with occasional charcoal flecks and stones		0.6	0.05	
24.1.002	24.1.000	Pit fill	Grey-brown clay silt with frequent charcoal flecks				
24.1.003		Feature	Irregular with irregular sides and base	6.0	2.5	0.2	
24.1.004	24.1.003	Feature fill	Brown clay silt; occasional stones, and charcoal flecks	6.0	2.5	0.2	C1-C2
24.1.005		Fire base	Red clay silt	1.2	0.5	0.1	
24.1.006		Topsoil	Grey-brown clay silt			0.3	
24.1.007		Subsoil	Light grey-brown clay silt			0.4	
24.1.008		Natural	Brown-orange silty clay				

**APPENDIX B: THE FINDS****The Pottery** (Timby 2009)

Context	Class	Count	Spot-date
24.1.004	Roman pottery, Severn Valley ware (vesicular)	2	C1-C2

**APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE BY JAMES RACKHAM**

One environmental sample was taken at this site from layer 241005. The sample was processed in the manner described in the assessment report (Carruthers 2008). No residue was located for refloating.

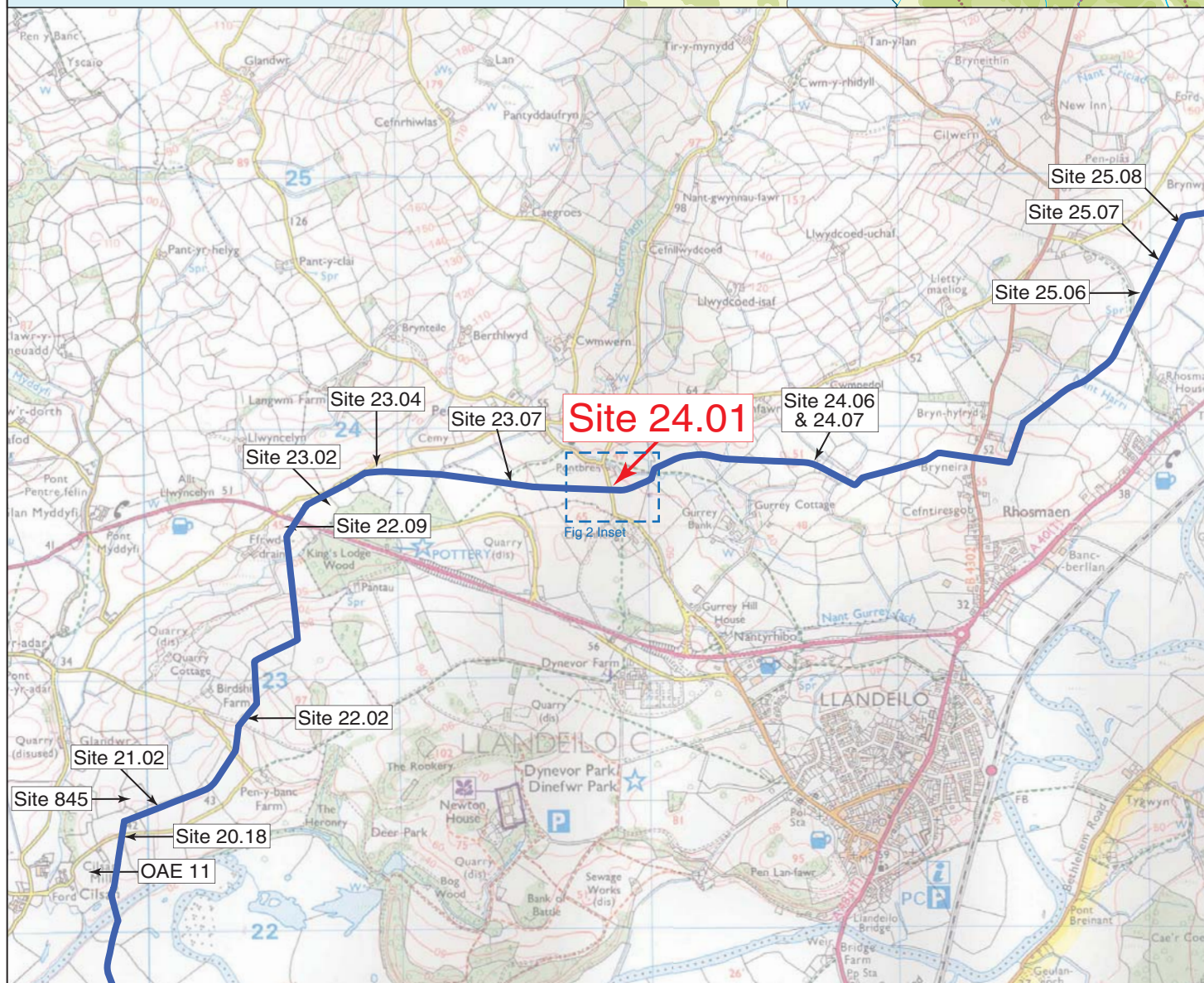
**Table 1.** Data for the environmental sample

site	Sample no	Context no	feature	vol l	Residue wt g.	1st flot vol ml	2nd flot vol ml	Pottery*	Flint*	Burnt bone *	slag*	Magnetic#	Coal*	Fired clay*
24.1	2413000	241005	Layer-bonfire base	2	346	0.3	none	-	1	-	-	-	-	-

\* abundance rating – 1= 1-10 items; 2=11-50, 3=51-100, 4=101-200, 5=>200

# weight in grammes

A single flint flake was recovered from the residue weighing 2 grammes. The flot is extremely small with just four small unidentifiable fragments of charcoal. The original sample size was small but nevertheless the almost complete lack of charcoal in the deposit suggests that the sample was taken from the 'fired' earth floor of the bonfire and included none of the fill or deposits that relate to the fire itself. The loss of the residue means that a magnetic component could not be extracted which might have confirmed that the deposit had been fired.



- 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 24.01, Land to the South-East of Pen-y-banc

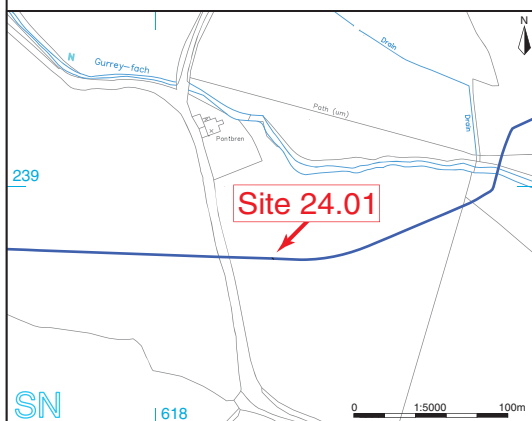
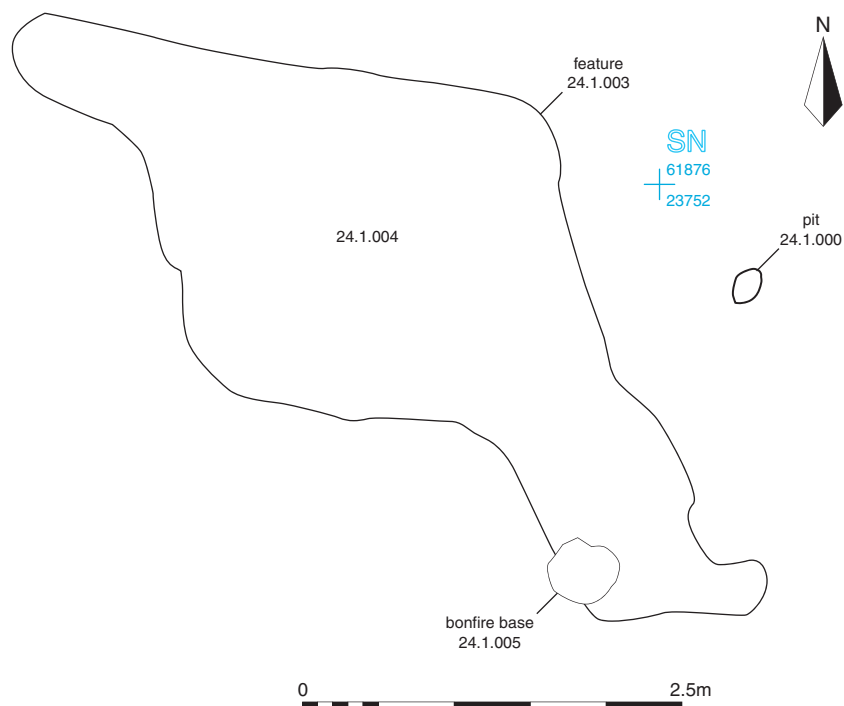
#### FIGURE TITLE

**Site location plan**

PROJECT NO. 9150 DATE 26-06-2013  
DRAWN BY DJB REVISION 00  
APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

**1**



— pipeline centreline

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**PROJECT TITLE**

South Wales Pipeline. Site 24.01, Land to the South-East of Pen-y-banc

**FIGURE TITLE**

**Plan of archaeological features**

PROJECT NO. **9150** DATE **24-07-2013**  
DRAWN BY **DJB** REVISION **00**  
APPROVED BY **PJM** SCALE@A4 **1:20**

FIGURE NO.

**2**