

**South Wales Gas Pipeline Project
Site 26.10**

**Land South-East of Penhill
Manordeilo and Salem
Carmarthenshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

for

Rhead Group

on behalf of

National Grid


CA Project: 9150
CA Report: 13301
Event: DAT108812

August 2013

South Wales Gas Pipeline Project Site 26.10

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 9150
CA Report: 13301
Event: DAT102846

prepared by	Daniel Sausins, Project Supervisor
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checked by	Karen E Walker, Post-Excavation Manager
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approved by	Martin Watts, Project Director, Head of Publications
signed	
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Cirencester Building 11 Kemble Enterprise Park Kemble, Cirencester Gloucestershire, GL7 6BQ t. 01285 771022 f. 01285 771033	Milton Keynes Unit 4 Cromwell Business Centre Howard Way, Newport Pagnell MK16 9QS t. 01908 218320	Andover Office 49 Basepoint Business Centre Caxton Close, Andover Hampshire, SP10 3FG t. 01264 326549
e. enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk		

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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

Project Name:	South Wales Gas Pipeline Project
Location:	Site 26.10, Land South-East of Penhill, Manordeilo and Salem, Carmarthenshire
NGR:	SN 65 25
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	1–21 June 2007
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:	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.

Two parallel ditches, two pits and a tree-throw pit were identified at a stream-side location. Both pits contained charcoal-rich fills but remained undated and their functions are not known. The ditches probably flanked a trackway visible on the late 19th-century 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map, and no longer depicted by the 2nd Edition of 1907.



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 June 2007 CAP carried out an archaeological watching brief at Site 26.10, Land South-East of Penhill, Manordeilo and Salem, Carmarthenshire (centred on NGR: SN 65 25; 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* (RSK 2007) and associated *Written Statements of Investigation* (WSIs) and *Method Statements*.
- The site**
- 1.4 The site is located within a field alongside the western bank of a small tributary of the River Towy, north-east of the confluence of the Rivers Dulais and Towy (Fig. 1). It lies at approximately 80m AOD on land that falls away gently towards the adjacent water course.

- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as the Nantmel Mudstone 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). Remains within the vicinity recorded during the 2006 *Survey* and by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust HER primarily comprise post-medieval and modern buildings (PRNs 29423, 18191, 18190, 18188 and 99725) and a park (PRN 25584).
- 1.7 An evaluation of the pipeline route included a trench within a field adjacent to Site 26.10. This exposed two parallel wall foundations associated with modern material (CA 2009, Evaluation Site 26.11, trench 1). Archaeological remains were also recorded during the pipeline construction works within 500m to the south-west of the current site, including a burnt mound and pits at Site 26.06 and an undated but possibly clay-lined pit at Site 26.08 (CA 2013 a and b). To the north-east of the site, pipeline Site 26.11 contained further undated pits with burnt material (CA 2013c).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.8 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

- 1.9 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).
- 1.10 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 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.

- 1.11 The pits were recorded as being located at NGR grid ref SN 65676 25921 and the ditches at SN 65750 25985; however the site archive contained no site drawings for Site 26.10 and therefore the features reported on below have not been illustrated. Because of this, the site is shown on Fig. 1 at a nominal position along the pipeline centre line in the field within which it was located.
- 1.12 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with the RCAHMW. A digital copy of the paper archive will be deposited with Carmarthenshire Museum (accession number CAASG 2008.0282).

2. RESULTS

- 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.
- 2.2 The natural geological substrate, comprising yellow clay and grey slate, was cut by two parallel ditches, two elongated pits and a tree-throw pit. Parallel ditches 2610/001 and 2610/003 were 2m apart and aligned north-west/south-east and continued outside the easement. They were 0.3m–0.6m wide and 0.15m deep with steep sides and uneven bases and both contained silty clay fills with no finds.
- 2.3 Sub-rectangular pit 2610/005 was 0.7m long, 0.45m wide and 0.3m deep with steep sides and an uneven base. Its lower fill (2610/006) was a charcoal-rich deposit and was overlain by upper clay silt fill 2610/006. Sub-circular pit 2610/016 was 0.35m in diameter and 0.05m deep with a bowl-shaped profile and a charcoal-rich fill (2610/017). No finds were recovered from either pit.

- 2.4 Feature 2610/012 was 0.8m in diameter and 0.1m deep with an irregular profile. It contained a series of silty clay fills and was probably a tree-throw pit.

Discussion

- 2.5 The parallel ditches correspond with a trackway depicted on the late 19th-century 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map and no longer depicted on the 2nd Edition of 1907.
- 2.6 Although pits 2610/012 and 2610/016 contained charcoal-rich fills, no evidence for their dates or functions was forthcoming and further interpretation is not possible.

3. PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by CAP. This report was written by Daniel Sausins 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.



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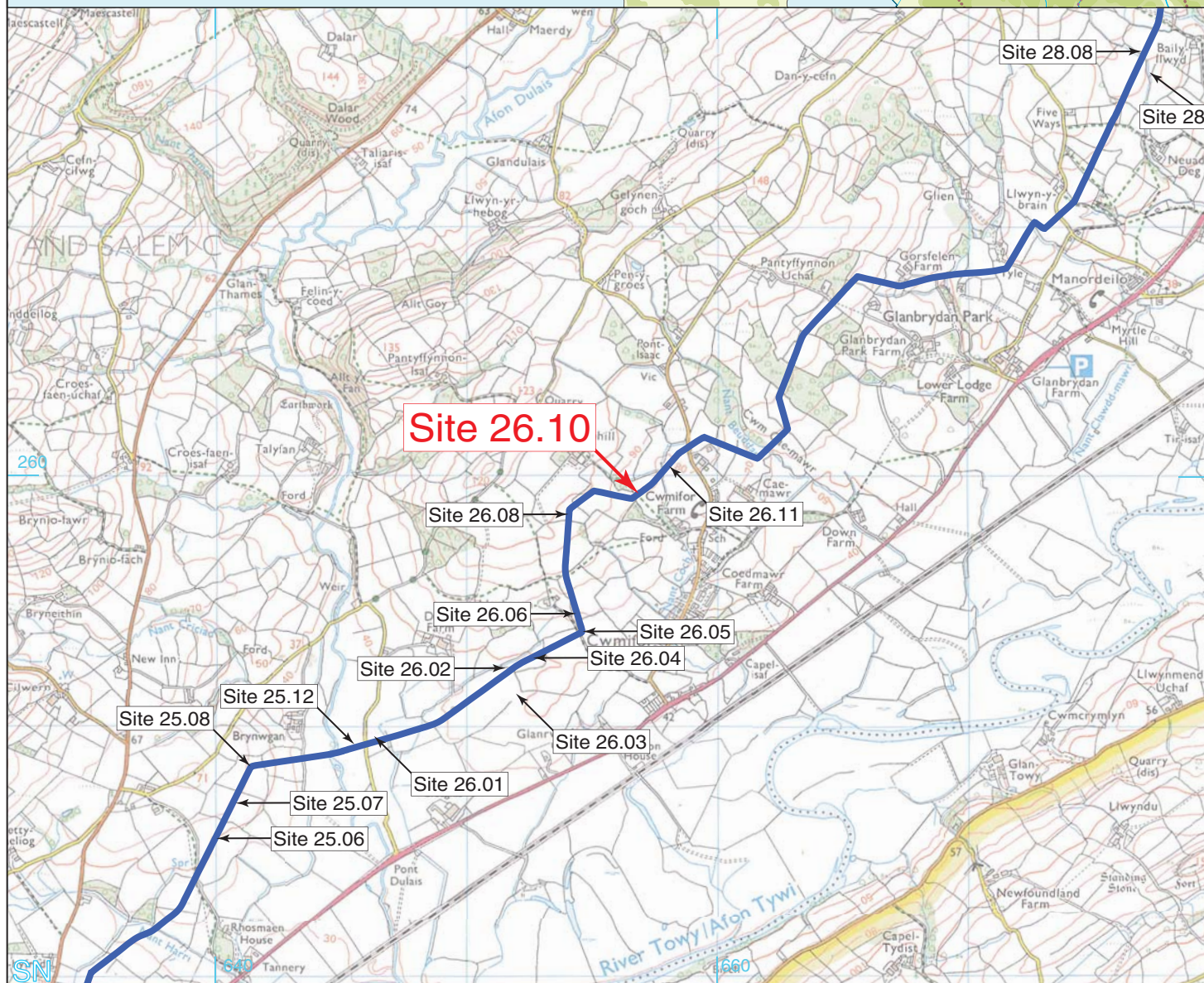
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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context No.	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth (m)
2610/001		Ditch	NW/SE aligned, steep sides, irregular base		0.3	0.15
2610/002	2610/001	Ditch fill	Mid yellow-brown silty clay with shale inclusions		0.3	0.15
2610/003		Ditch	NW/SE aligned, steep sides, irregular base		0.6	0.15
2610/004	2610/003	Ditch fill	Mid yellow-brown silty clay with shale inclusions		0.6	0.15
2610/005		Pit	Sub-rectangular in plan, steep sides, uneven base	0.7	0.45	0.3
2610/006	2610/005	Pit fill	Lower fill; silty clay with charcoal	0.7	0.45	0.15
2610/007	2610/005	Pit fill	Upper fill; mid red-brown clay silt	0.7	0.45	0.15
2610/008		Topsoil	Light brown-grey silt clay with stones			0.2
2610/009		Subsoil	Light red-yellow clay silt			0.1
2610/010		Natural	Light yellow clay			
2610/011		Natural	Solid grey shale			
2610/012		Tree-throw pit	Circular in plan, irregular profile		0.8	0.1
2610/013	2610/012	Tree-throw pit fill	Pink-purple silty clay		0.2	0.05
2610/014	2610/012	Tree-throw pit fill	Mid brown silty clay		0.7	0.05
2610/015	2610/012	Tree-throw pit fill	Pink-orange silty clay		0.7	0.05
2610/016		Pit	Sub-circular in plan, u-shaped profile	0.4	0.3	0.05
2610/017	2610/016	Pit fill	Silty clay with charcoal	0.4	0.3	0.05



- 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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Cirencester 01285 771022
Milton Keynes 01908 218320
Andover 01264 326549
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

South Wales Pipeline. Site 26.10, Land South-East of Penhill, Manordeilo and Salem

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 9150 DATE 14-08-2013
DRAWN BY DJB REVISION 00
APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1