

**South Wales Gas Pipeline Project
Site 32.07
Land West of Tynycoed House
Myddfai
Carmarthenshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

for
Rhead Group
on behalf of
National Grid

CA Project: 9150
CA Report: 13312
Event: DAT108828


September 2013

South Wales Gas Pipeline Project

Site 32.07

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 9150
CA Report: 13312
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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 32.07, Land West of Tynycoed House, Myddfai, Carmarthenshire
NGR:	SN 7418 3130
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	11–27 April 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:	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 post-medieval cobbled trackway and an associated ditch were identified, along with a modern land drain.



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 Between 11–27 April 2007 CAP carried out an archaeological watching brief at Site 32.07, Land West of Tynycoed House, Myddfai, Carmarthenshire (centred on NGR: SN 7418 3130; 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 on a north-west facing slope above the Nant Dynfych, a tributary of the River Towy (Fig. 1). It lies at approximately 80m AOD. The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as the Cherwerfri Formation (Mudstone Bedrock) of the Silurian and Ordovician Periods, overlain by superficial deposits of Quaternary Glacial Deposits (BGS 2013).

Archaeological background

- 1.5 No archaeological remains were identified within the site during the preliminary *Archaeology and Heritage Survey* (CA 2006). A Roman road ran 1km north of the site on the far side of the Towy and a series of post-medieval structures, primarily representing dispersed settlement, are recorded within the vicinity of the site (PRNs 7495, 61324, 61333, 61335 and 61336). During the pipeline construction works, two small hearths were found at Site 33.01 (Fig. 1). These were undated by finds but contained cereal assemblages suggestive of early medieval/medieval dating.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.6 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

- 1.7 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).
- 1.8 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.

- 1.9 The archive and artefacts from the watching brief are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. A digital copy of the paper archive will be deposited with Carmarthenshire Museum under accession number CAASG 2008.0282. 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 are to be found in Appendix A. The natural geological substrate (32.07.005), comprising pale silty clay, was overlain by a cobbled trackway and cut by a ditch.
- 2.2 Trackway 32.07.002 ran on a north-east/south-west orientation and was 10m wide and 0.15m thick. It was constructed using cobbles set into silty clay bedding. A number of linear depressions along its length were certainly wheel ruts and a horse shoe and post-medieval pottery (not retrieved) found on its surface suggest that it was used during the post-medieval period. Although the trackway itself was potentially older than the finds suggest, the absence of any repair or resurfacing might suggest that this was not the case.
- 2.3 Ditch 32.07.003 was exposed alongside the trackway and was 2m wide. It was not excavated (and no cut number was assigned) but was probably a drainage ditch flanking the trackway.

3. PROJECT TEAM

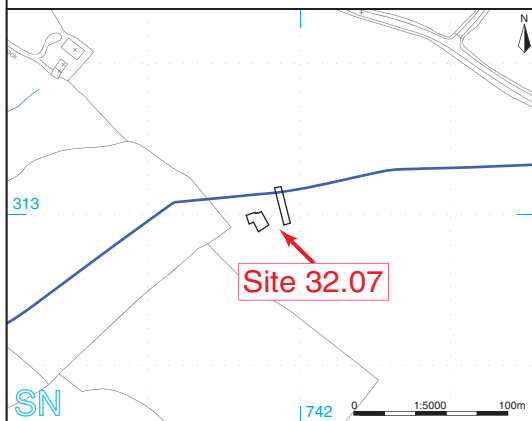
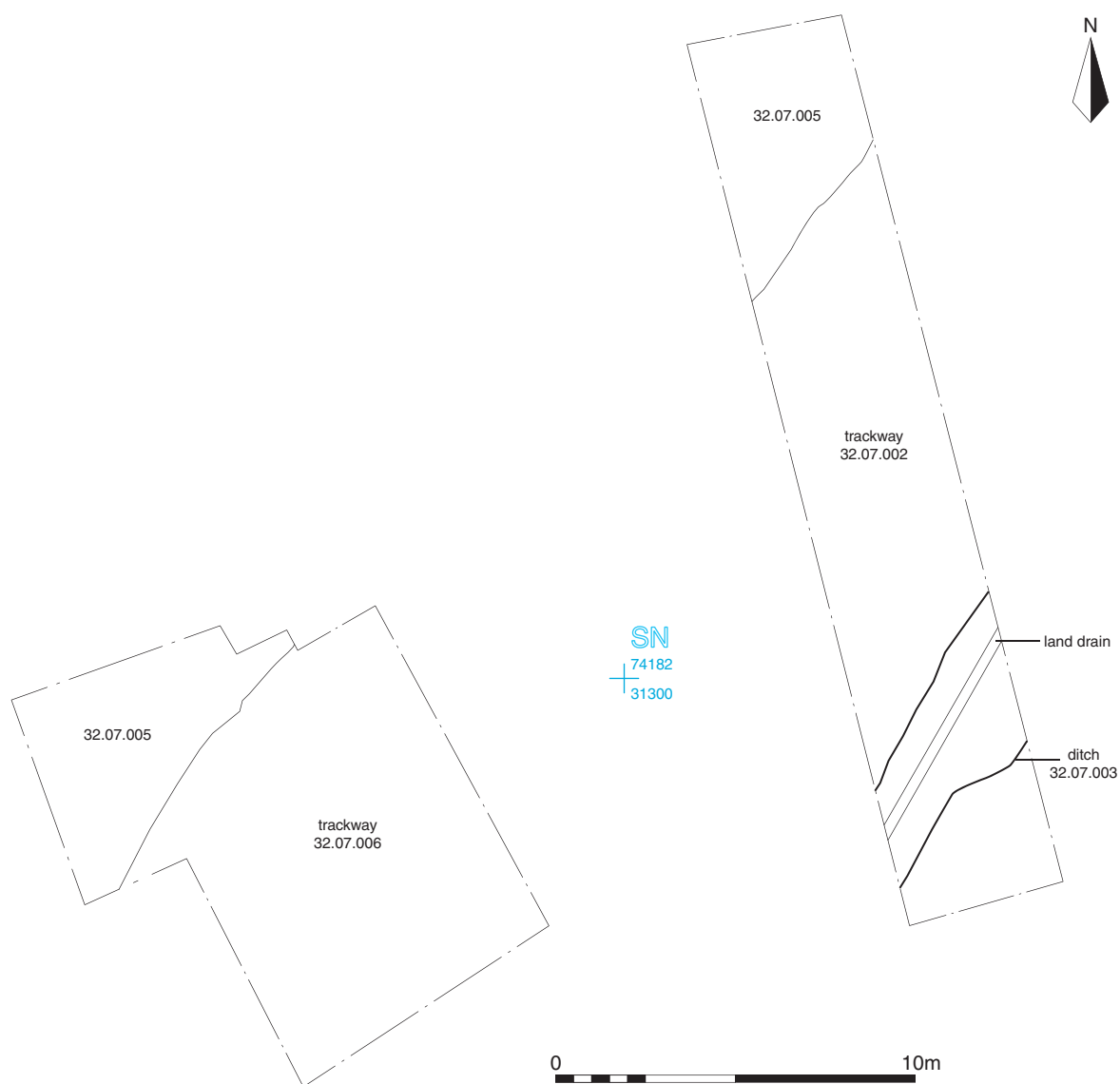
Fieldwork was undertaken by Cambrian Archaeological Projects. This report was written by Peter Busby with comments by Jonathan Hart and illustrations prepared by Daniel Bashford. The archive has been compiled by Jonathan Hart, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The fieldwork was managed for CAP by Kevin Blockley and the post-excavation work was managed for CA by Karen Walker.

4. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context No.	Context interpretation	Description	W (m)	Depth (m)
32.07.001	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty sand with small stones		0.25
32.07.002	NE/SW trackway	Pale grey-yellow silty clay with frequent cobbles	10.0	0.15
32.07.003	Ditch fill	Orange-Brown silty clay with moderate angular cobbles; unexcavated	2.0	
32.07.004	Land drain	Dark brown silty clay with abundant small grey pebbles	0.2	
32.07.005	Natural	Light grey-brown/yellow-brown silty clay		
32.02.006	NE/SW trackway	= 32.07.002		0.15



— pipeline centreline

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PROJECT TITLE

South Wales Pipeline. Site 32.07, Land West of Tynycoed House, Myddfai

FIGURE TITLE

Plan of trackway 32.07.002/006

PROJECT NO. 9150 DATE 14-08-2013
DRAWN BY DJB REVISION 00
APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:200

FIGURE NO.

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