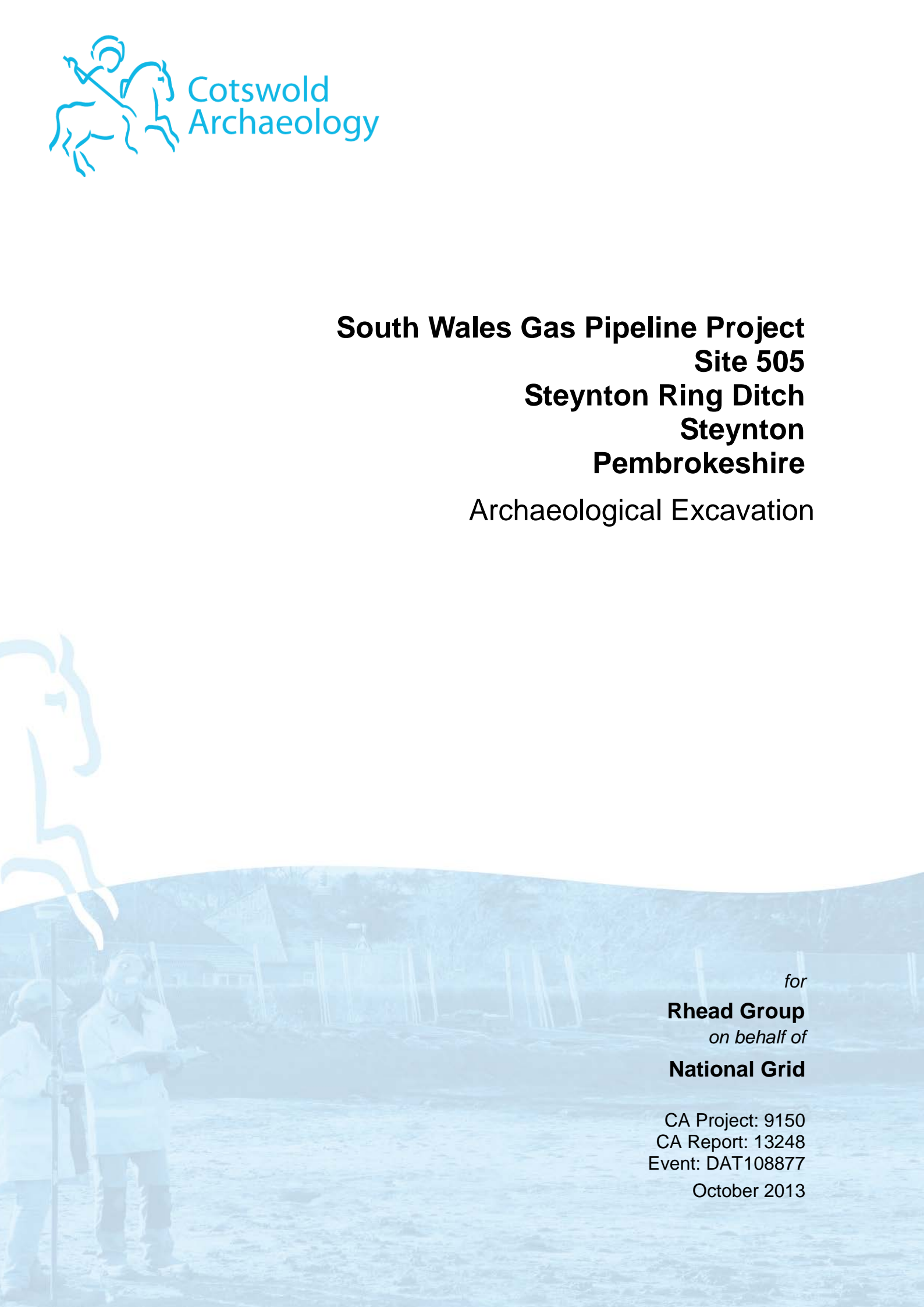


**South Wales Gas Pipeline Project
Site 37.05
Land at Cefn Golau
Myddfai
Carmarthenshire**
Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Rhead Group
on behalf of
National Grid

CA Project: 9150
CA Report: 14236
Event: DAT108830

June 2014

South Wales Gas Pipeline Project Site 37.05

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 9150
CA Report: 14236
Event: DAT102846

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date	5 June 2014
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

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 37.05, Land at Cefn Gollau, Myddfai, Carmarthenshire
NGR:	SN 7921 3042
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	30 April to 1 May 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:	MHA06

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cambrian Archaeological Projects during groundworks associated with the 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 steep-sided cut feature and a layer rich in charcoal and burnt stones were found at an upland location on Cefn Golau. These remains were undated and their functions and relationships to one another are unclear. One interpretation is that they relate to tree clearance, but it is also possible that they were the remains of a trough and burnt mound.



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 April and May 2007 CAP carried out an archaeological watching brief at Site 37.05, Land at Cefn Gollau, Myddfai, Carmarthenshire (centred on NGR: SN 7921 3042; 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* (RSK 2006) and associated *Written Statements of Investigation* (WSIs) and *Method Statements*.
- The site**
- 1.4 The site is located within a field on the western slope of Cefn Golau, a 254m AOD-high prominence on the north-western edge of Mynydd Mydfai (Fig. 1). The site lies towards the top of the hill at 240m AOD and the land falls away to the north and west towards the River Brân.

- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as the Sawdde Sandstone Formation (Sandstone, Siltstone and Mudstone) of the Silurian Period; no superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2014).

Archaeological background

- 1.6 No archaeological remains were identified within the site during the preliminary *Archaeology and Heritage Survey* (CA 2006). Prehistoric remains have been found on Mynydd Myddfai, including several Bronze Age cairns and barrows (PRNs 278–283 and 4148, Scheduled Monuments 349 and 351). Prehistoric flints have also been recorded within 350m to the south and south-east of the site (PRNs 7471 and 7473). Ridge and Furrow earthworks were surveyed in advance of the pipeline construction works at Site 1942, 0.6km south-east of the site (Fig. 1).

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 The site archive contained no site drawings and, therefore, no feature drawings have been included within this report.
- 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 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 Layer 375004 was the earliest deposit exposed and formed the substrate beneath the archaeological remains described below. No description of this deposit was available and although it is interpreted on the fieldwork sheets as subsoil, it could conceivably have been a colluvial deposit. It was cut by a single feature (375002) and overlain by an intermittent layer (375005).

- 2.3 Cut 375002 was oval in plan with variable but generally steep sides and a flattish but somewhat uneven base. It contained a lower clay silt fill with moderate quantities of charcoal and an upper, darker fill with frequent charcoal. No finds were recovered.

- 2.4 Layer 375005 occurred as four patches of dark brown clay silt with frequent charcoal flecks and stones ranging from grit to cobble-sized. Many of the stones were burnt. These patches of material were found across an area measuring 7.8m by 4.75m and were generally thin, although at their deepest they were 0.35m thick where they filled an undulation in the substrate.

Discussion

- 2.5 The nature of the substrate beneath the remains is unknown and both features were undated. These factors, and the absence of site drawings, particularly of any showing the relationship between the remains encountered, restricts the

interpretation which can be offered. The cut feature was interpreted on site as a tree-throw pit, and the layer as the result of tree clearance by burning. Whilst this may be the case, it is also possible that the pit was of anthropogenic origin. Pits near layers containing charcoal and burnt stones can be the remains of troughs associated with burnt mounds. The pit on this site had a morphology consistent with a trough, whilst the charcoal and burnt stones within the layer would be consistent with the remains of a burnt mound, although neither interpretation can be considered secure for this site. Whilst most burnt mounds found along the pipeline have been within river valleys, upland mounds are known, for example at Brendon Common, Exmoor (Wilson-North and Carey 2011), and the prime determining factor in their location seems to have been the availability of water, either running water within streams or ground water supplied by wells/waterholes. If the remains at Site 37.05 were those of a burnt mound, it is possible that the source of water in this instance was either a former spring or simply the water table itself, accessed via a well or waterhole.

3. PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Cambrian Archaeological Projects. 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 CAP by Kevin Blockley and the post-excavation work was managed for CA by Karen Walker.

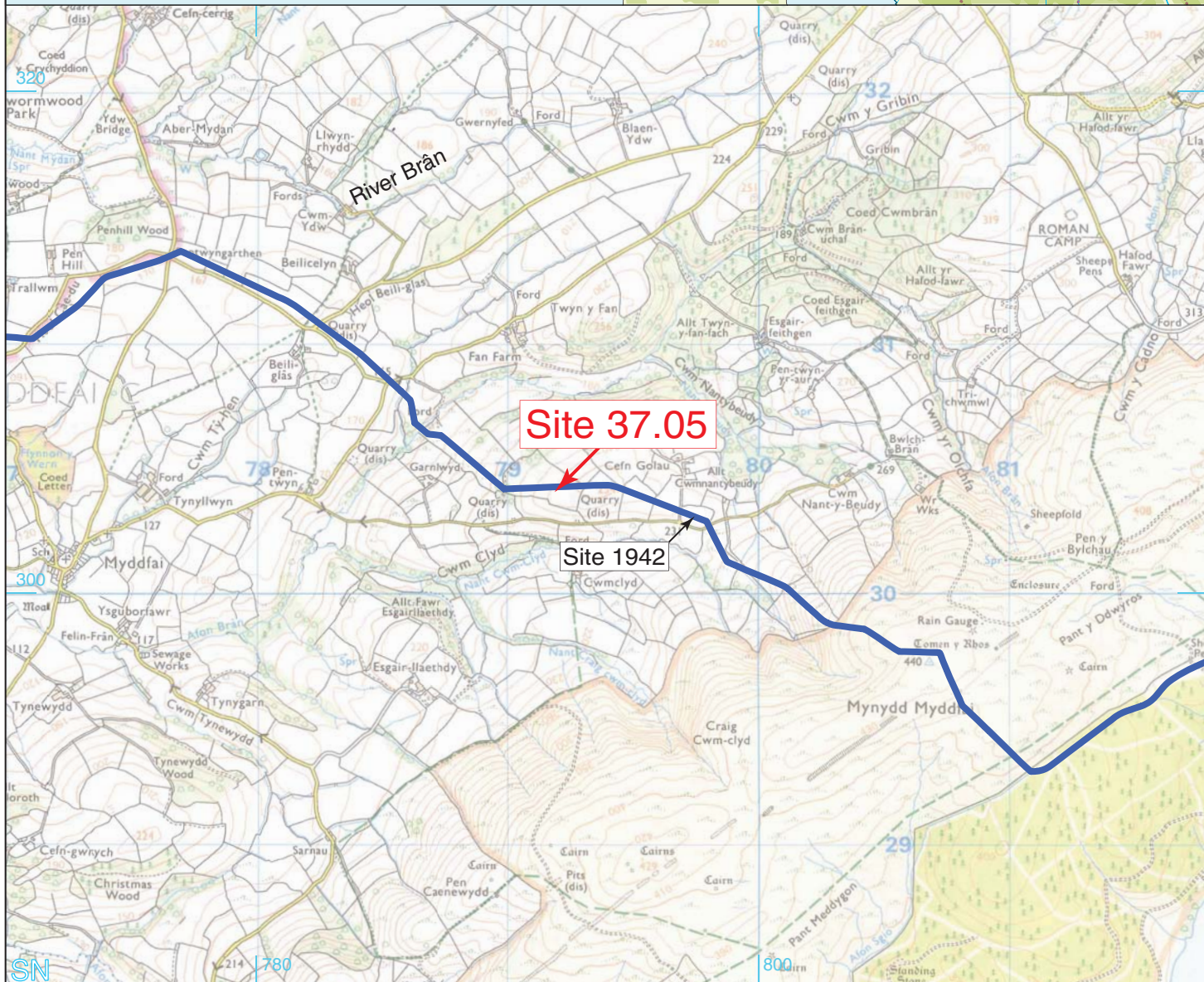
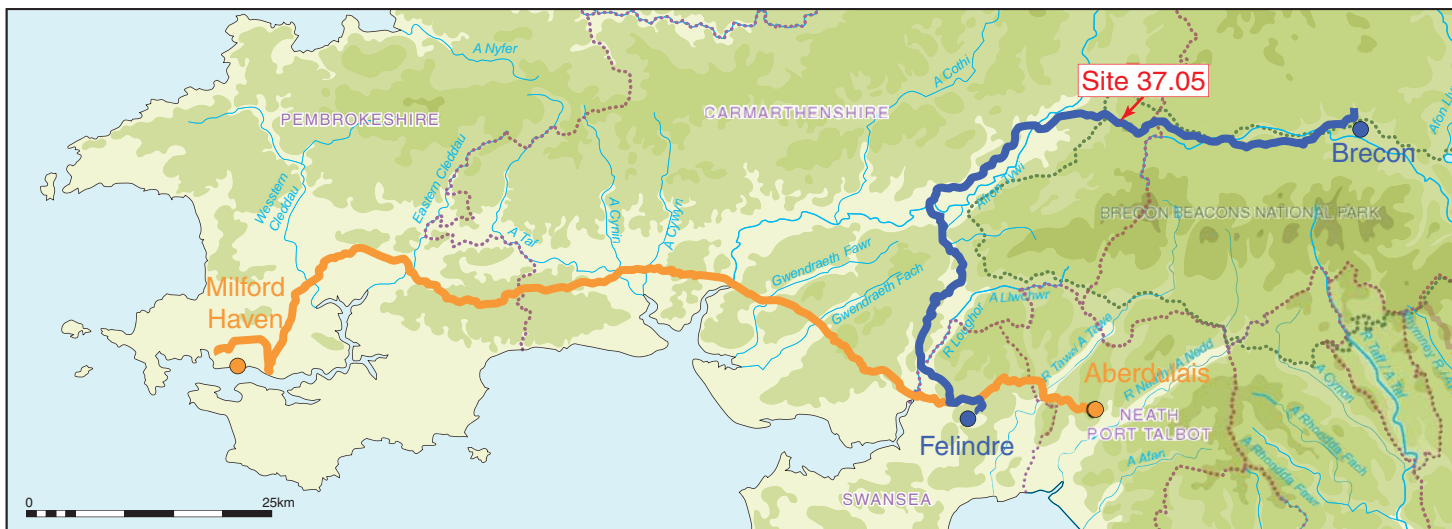


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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context No.	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth (m)
375000		topsoil				
375001	375002	pit fill	upper fill: dark brown silt, frequent charcoal	1.15	0.9	0.35
375002		pit	oval in plan, variable but generally steep edges, generally flat but uneven base	1.9	0.9	0.35
375003	375002	pit fill	lower fill: orange-brown clay silt with occasional charcoal	0.75	0.9	0.35
375004		Subsoil?				
375005		charcoal layer	dark brown clay silt with frequent charcoal and occasional burnt stones, found as four patches of material over the area described under dimensions	7.8	4.75	0.05 (0.35) max.



- 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 37.05, Land at Cefn Golau, Myddfai, Carmarthenshire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 9150 DATE 23-06-2014
DRAWN BY DJB REVISION 00
APPROVED BY LM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1