

Marches Archaeology

Overton to Chirk gas pipeline Wrexham Borough and Shropshire

Project Proposal for a watching brief

Introduction

A gas pipeline between Overton and Chirk is proposed by Transco. The site runs between NGR: SJ 2955 3850 and SJ 3690 3805, lying partly within Wrexham County Borough and partly within Shropshire.

A desk-based assessment and field walkover of the pipeline route was carried out by Marches Archaeology (Kenney and Stone 2003), together with a similar exercise on a proposed re-route of part of the pipeline (Stone 2003).

The laying of the pipeline is permitted development. RSK ENSR (the client), agents for Transco (the ultimate client), have recommended that a watching brief be carried out on the groundworks and have commissioned Marches Archaeology to provide the archaeological services. It is understood that if the watching brief reveals significant archaeological remains additional works may be required. ENSR's archaeologist will inform the Local Planning Authorities' Archaeology Advisors throughout the project on any archaeological remains encountered during construction works.

No Brief for the work has been provided so this Project Proposal follows standard practice and forms a written scheme of investigation for the archaeological works. Any subsequent alterations to the Project Proposal will be agreed in writing between RSK ENSR, Transco, Marches Archaeology and the Local Planning Authorities' Archaeology Advisors.

Archaeological and historical background

The route of the proposed pipeline does not cross any known prehistoric or Roman sites. The point at which the route crosses Wat's Dyke has been evaluated by a trial trench (Kenney, in progress) and the Local Planning Authority's Archaeological Advisor has confirmed that no further archaeological work is required in this area (letter to Haswell, 12 May 2003, ref: mw/ec).

Later archaeological deposits and features are apparent. The bulk of these are agricultural, some being field systems of the medieval period, but the majority being field systems and ponds of the post-medieval period. In view of the appearance of the landscape as a largely post-medieval construct it is considered possible that earlier archaeological deposits and features survive below ground, but not as visible earthworks or cropmarks.

The route of the pipeline was not surveyed by geophysics as part of the assessment so it is not possible to provide any prediction of the density of the below ground archaeological resource beyond that given in the assessment reports.

Scope and aims of the project

The purpose of an archaeological watching brief is defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists as:

‘to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works’

and:

‘to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard’.

The scope of the watching brief will be:

- ◆ observation of all topsoil stripping, other earthmoving and excavation until natural subsoil is reached
- ◆ the sequence of soil deposits present and all archaeological deposits and features shall be recorded, including a record of the extent and depth of groundworks
- ◆ all artefacts shall be collected, identified and catalogued
- ◆ if significant archaeology is identified which cannot be dealt with in the normal progress of the watching brief the archaeologist on site should inform the main contractor’s site agent (or other representative), RSK ENSR’s archaeologist and the Local Planning Authority's Archaeological Advisor in order that appropriate action may be taken to minimise the damage to such deposits and to record them appropriately, with detailed excavation if necessary. If appropriate, further Project Proposals should be prepared to cover such fieldwork.

Methodology

Documentary research

No documentary research is envisaged as this was carried out during the assessment stage, If significant archaeological remains are encountered, any documentary research required will be covered in separate Project Proposals.

Fieldwork

Before the project commences two full sets of any existing relevant drawings (plans, elevations, sections etc.) including the development site and any structure(s) as existing and as proposed will be provided to Marches Archaeology by the client. Two copies of any

amendments or revisions to such drawings and of any additional drawings will be provided as the project continues. Copies will also be provided to Marches Archaeology of any additional relevant historical, archaeological, structural or other information that is held by the client or their agent. Where available digital copies should also be provided.

The following recommendation for the conduct of the watching brief is based on best practice and provides a systematic approach which should avoid accidental damage to archaeological remains during construction.

The watching brief will consist of archaeological supervision of all soil removal and other ground breaking activity in association with the proposed new pipeline, unless otherwise prior agreement is made between Marches Archaeology, RSK ENSR's archaeologist, Transsco and the Local Planning Authority's Archaeological Advisor.

The strip within the working width will remove material that contains organic matter that that can support plant growth, but may not remove all material covering significant archaeological remains. Accordingly, the watching brief should be carried out on both the strip and the trench excavation for the pipe.

As one of the primary intentions of the watching brief is to safeguard the archaeological resource by identifying archaeological remains and recording them, it is recommended that archaeologists have the power to direct the drivers of any ground breaking or earthmoving machines to stop work if any such remains are encountered, and to have limited amounts of additional fine machine excavation or cleaning carried out in order to more clearly identify the significance of the archaeological remains. It is preferable that the base of the trench should be cleaned by a flat blade or bucket rather than a toothed blade or bucket. Once an area is stripped or excavated the archaeologists should investigate the area, carry out any finer cleaning that is required to identify the archaeological potential of the area and carry out further investigations or recording if necessary. Until this is complete the cleaned area should be under the temporary control of the archaeologists and no traffic should pass over the area.

If any areas, features, structures or deposits of potential archaeological interest are encountered, provision will be made for the archaeologists to suspend excavation work in that area, to fence off the area and to have sufficient time and resources for the investigation, excavation and recording of archaeological remains. RSK ENSR's archaeologist, Transsco and the Local Planning Authority's Archaeological Advisor will be informed in order to discuss and agree with Marches Archaeology an appropriate response, to be implemented by Marches Archaeology.

If remains are encountered which require immediate special treatment (e.g. remedial conservation, archaeomagnetic investigation *in situ*) Marches Archaeology will seek the immediate approval of RSK ENSR's archaeologist for this to be carried out. If for any reason RSK ENSR's archaeologist cannot be contacted Transsco's representative will be contacted to approve this work. If neither is available, Marches Archaeology may instigate the necessary work, ensuring that RSK ENSR's archaeologist and Transsco are informed as soon as possible.

The recording system will include written, drawn and photographic data. The primary written record will be by means of site notes, accompanied by sketches. Context numbers will be allocated and context record sheets completed as appropriate. A running matrix will be maintained as appropriate. Plans (normally 1:20), sections (normally 1:10) and other appropriate drawings of significant data will be made. Plans will normally be multi-context, but certain features may require single context planning. The photographic record will be made using black and white negative and colour transparency film. Samples will be taken of deposits considered to have environmental, technological or scientific dating potential.

Work required on completion of fieldwork

On completion of fieldwork it will be necessary to produce a report on the results of the site investigations. As the extent of site works will be dependent on the density and complexity of the archaeological resource it is not possible to determine the nature of this stage of work. Accordingly, liaison between Marches Archaeology, RSK ENSR's archaeologist and the Local Planning Authorities' Archaeological Advisors will establish the extent of this work. The resources required for off site work are typically between 50% and 100% of the resources for the site work.

The freeholder(s) of the land to which this document relates has title to all objects (unless within the jurisdiction of the Treasure Act 1996) recovered from the land. The freeholder(s) shall agree to donate in perpetuity the archive, together with any artefacts and ecofacts recovered during the fieldwork, to an appropriate repository. Marches Archaeology will arrange for such deposition.

The format for archaeological project management shown in *Management of Archaeological Projects* (2nd Edition, 1991, English Heritage) will be used. Updated Project Proposals will be produced as agreed between Marches Archaeology, RSK ENSR's archaeologist and the Local Planning Authorities' Archaeological Advisors. In principle the following stages of work will be carried out, though they may be conflated if the project reveals limited results:

- completion of site archive (cross referencing, cataloguing, basic identification and spot dating of significant data)
- assessment of potential for analysis
- analysis
- reporting and dissemination

Management of the project

Marches Archaeology recognises the Code of Conduct, Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology, By-Laws, Standards and other documents produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists. The project will be managed by a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

The Safety Policy and General Risk Assessment operated by Marches Archaeology will be implemented. Copies of these documents are available on request. A risk assessment

specific to this project will be carried out before commencement of fieldwork to identify any risks not noted in the General Risk Assessment.

It is assumed that the main contractor will be responsible for Health and Safety on the site. Marches Archaeology will conform to any policy which may be in force. If costs accrue due to Health and Safety issues not made apparent to Marches Archaeology by the time of submission of this Project Proposal these costs will be additional to any costs identified in the estimate. The requirements of Health and Safety legislation are deemed to take precedence over archaeological requirements.

Appropriate insurance cover will be held throughout the project.

The Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor shall at any reasonable time be granted access to the site, with prior notice, for the purpose of monitoring the fieldwork.

Timetable

The timetable has not yet been finalised. This Proposal will be submitted to the Local Planning Authorities' Archaeology Advisors, by RSK ENSR prior to construction. The report will be presented to the client within one month of the completion of the fieldwork, unless significant archaeology is encountered. The results will be reported to the Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor and the local Sites and Monuments Record within one month of presentation, unless otherwise agreed. A summary report will be submitted for publication in an appropriate medium within one year of completion of all fieldwork.

Resources

The project will be managed by Richard Stone, who is a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists with a registered Area of Competence in Archaeological Field Practice. Other field and post-excavation staff will be appropriately experienced. Where trainees are used they will be closely supervised by senior members of the project team. Normal working hours are ten hours Monday - Friday, based around a core 8 hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Additional hours constitute overtime.

Specialist sub-contractors will be used as appropriate. Specialists will normally be people approved by English Heritage Ancient Monuments Laboratory. Those who might be expected to be called upon (dependent upon availability) include:

- Jeremy Evans (Rátkai and Evans PX Partners) Roman ceramics
- Stephanie Rátkai (Rátkai and Evans PX Partners) medieval ceramics
- David Barker (Stoke on Trent Museum) post-medieval ceramics
- Liz Pearson (Worcestershire Archaeological Service) environmental remains
- Ian Baxter (Freelance) animal bone
- Megan Brickley (Birmingham Univ Field Archaeology Unit) human bone

25 June 2003

Marches Archaeology

Overton to Chirk gas pipeline Wrexham Borough and Shropshire

Project Proposal for post-excavation work and publication resulting from a watching brief

Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was maintained by Marches Archaeology on groundworks for a gas pipeline between Overton and Chirk. The site runs between NGR: SJ 2955 3850 and SJ 3690 3805, lying partly within Wrexham County Borough and partly within Shropshire.

A desk-based assessment and field walkover of the pipeline route had previously been carried out by Marches Archaeology (Kenney and Stone 2003), together with a similar exercise on a proposed re-route of part of the pipeline (Stone 2003).

The work was commissioned by RSK ENSR (the client), agents for Transco (the ultimate client) and carried out according to a Project Proposal produced on 25 June 2003 by Marches Archaeology. The Project Proposal formed a written scheme of investigation for the archaeological works.

The Project Proposal included the following method statement for the work required after the site work.

On completion of fieldwork it will be necessary to produce a report on the results of the site investigations. As the extent of site works will be dependent on the density and complexity of the archaeological resource it is not possible to determine the nature of this stage of work. Accordingly, liaison between Marches Archaeology, RSK ENSR's archaeologist and the Local Planning Authorities' Archaeological Advisors will establish the extent of this work. The resources required for off site work are typically between 50% and 100% of the resources for the site work.

The format for archaeological project management shown in Management of Archaeological Projects (2nd Edition, 1991, English Heritage) will be used. Updated Project Proposals will be produced as agreed between Marches Archaeology, RSK ENSR's archaeologist and the Local Planning Authorities' Archaeological Advisors. In principle the following stages of work will be carried out, though they may be conflated if the project reveals limited results:

- completion of site archive (cross referencing, cataloguing, basic identification and spot dating of significant data)*
- assessment of potential for analysis*
- analysis*
- reporting and dissemination*

Summary of results of the watching brief and statement of potential

The watching brief did not locate any archaeological sites sufficiently extensive or complex to warrant any contingency to be invoked on site. There were, however, several finds which add to an understanding of the use of the area from the prehistoric period to the present.

A concentration of post-medieval pottery was found near Pentre-Coed in an area where field names suggest pottery was manufactured.

Several worked flints were recovered from the route, indicating human activity.

A number of iron objects, including several nails, were also recovered from the route.

A ridge and furrow field system identified by the desk based assessment was recorded during the fieldwork.

Other features encountered were small ditches associated with field systems, including both former boundaries and drainage systems.

Finds from the topsoil were not recovered, with the exception of the pottery concentration.

Aims and objectives

The original aims of the project were those defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists:

‘to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works’

and:

‘to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard’.

The updated aims are:

- 1 to assess, analyse and disseminate the results of the watching brief
- 2 to determine the nature of the pottery assemblage from Pentre-Coed
- 3 to put into the public domain the additional information generated about prehistoric and historic land use

Methodology

The methodology will be based on *Management of Archaeological Projects* (2nd Edition, 1991, English Heritage) (henceforth MAP2). This notes five phases: 1 - planning; 2 - fieldwork; 3 - assessment of potential for analysis; 4 - analysis and report preparation; 5 -

dissemination. The preface to MAP2 notes that it is based on ‘a large-scale excavation and its subsequent programme of post-excavation work’ and that ‘precise application of the model will vary from project to project. It will not be necessary in every case to go through each of the five phases identified’.

Phase 1 of MAP2 is complete, as is the bulk of Phase 2, though the fieldwork phase did not include assembling the site archive (MAP2 Appendix 3) as was stipulated in the Project Proposal. Phases 3, 4 and 5 will be conflated and carried out as a single operation. This will minimise resources required at no detriment to the recording and interpretation of the archaeological resource.

Archive preparation

The written, drawn and photographic data will be catalogued and cross-referenced. The artefactual and ecofactual data will be processed, catalogued and cross-referenced and summaries produced.

The archive will comprise the following elements (as required):

Index of contexts, Context record sheets, Levels information, Index of samples, Sample sheets, Index of small finds, Small finds record sheets, Bulk finds record sheets, Site notebooks, Site matrix information, Index of drawings, Drawings (plans, sections, etc.) on drafting film, Photographic information, Black and white photographic negatives, Colour photographic slides, Artefacts, Ecofacts, Samples.

Assessment, analysis and publication

The pottery was submitted to S Rátkai for comments on the extent of work required. She advised that a ware/fabric/form catalogue be established to inform future researchers for use as comparanda. This work will include production of photographs (in house) and illustrations (N Dodds) of selected sherds.

P Parkes was contacted regarding the work required for metalwork. X-rays are advised, to allow for any further identification and cataloguing.

N Appleton-Fox advised on the extent of work for flint, which will consist of a catalogue.

The three categories of material identified above will be analysed/x-rayed/catalogued as appropriate.

The structural/stratigraphic record will be described and discussed.

Illustrations will be prepared to show the locations and extent of the pipeline works and to identify areas where significant archaeological discoveries were made. The extent of the site works was surveyed by an engineer, who will pass on co-ordinate information which will allow an accurate survey drawing to be produced. If a finished drawing can be supplied rather than co-ordinates, 2 days time will be saved.

No further documentary research is required.

These tasks will lead to the production of an illustrated report. This will be sent as a draft to RSK ENSR for comments and then edited to produce a final report. A short note will be derived from this for submission as a note for the Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society. Summaries will also be sent to CBA West Midlands and CBA Wales for inclusion in their annual summaries. Further summaries will be sent to the National Monuments Records of England and Wales.

On completion of all other tasks the archive will be deposited with Shropshire Museums Service.

Management of the project

Marches Archaeology recognises the Code of Conduct, Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology, By-Laws, Standards and other documents produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists. The project will be managed by a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

Appropriate insurance cover will be held throughout the project.

Resources

The project will be managed by Richard Stone, who is a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists with a registered Area of Competence in Archaeological Field Practice. Other post-excavation staff will be appropriately experienced. Where trainees are used they will be closely supervised by senior members of the project team. Normal office hours will be worked.

The project team will be led by Sue Fielding, who had responsibility for the site work and carried out the majority of it. She will be assisted by other staff of Marches Archaeology. These are likely to include Adrian Nash (illustration) and Vicky Sears (finds processing and report collation). The flint catalogue will be prepared by Nic Appleton-Fox. The following specialist sub-contractors will be used:

Stephanie Rátkai (Rátkai and Evans PX Partners)	ceramics
Nigel Dodds (Birmingham Archaeology)	drawings of ceramics
Phil Parkes (Cardiff Conservation Services)	metalwork

Timetable

The post-excavation project will commence on commission. The draft report will be presented to RSK ENSR within three months of commission, subject to availability of specialists. Within one month of receipt of any comments by RSK ENSR five copies of the final report will be submitted to RSK ENSR. This will include copies to be forwarded to the Local Planning Authorities' Archaeology Advisors and the local Sites and Monuments Records.

Task breakdown:

Cross referencing and archive completion	3 days	S Fielding
Finds processing	2 days	V Sears
Report text	6 days	S Fielding
Illustrations (need co-ordinate information from engineer)	5 days	A Nash
X rays of nails		*P Parkes
Report on flint	½ day	N Appleton-Fox
Pottery analysis and report, including photos & illustrations		*S Rátkai
Specialist liaison/report integration	1 day	S Fielding
Editing and corrections to RSK ENSR final draft comments	1 day	S Fielding
Report production	1 day	V Sears
Edit to produce note for Shropshire Transactions	1 day	S Fielding

* denotes external specialist sub-contractors

29 October 2003

Marches Archaeology

Overton to Chirk Gas Pipeline, Wrexham Borough and Shropshire

Report on an archaeological watching brief

March 2004

Marches Archaeology Series 320

This report is produced by

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**Overton to Chirk Gas Pipeline
Wrexham Borough and Shropshire**

**A report on an Archaeological Watching Brief
NGR: SJ 2955 3850 to SJ 3628 3696**

**Report by
Susan Fielding**

Contents

1. Introduction.....	2
2. Aims and objectives.....	3
3. Methodology.....	4
4. Archaeological and historical background.....	5
5. Results.....	8
6. Finds.....	15
7. Discussion.....	19
8. References.....	20
9. Appendix I: Summary of plot records (east to west).....	21
10. Appendix II: Catalogue of post-medieval pottery.....	34

March 2004

Marches Archaeology Series 320

List of Illustrations

Figure 1: Route of Pipeline

Figure 2: Pipeline between P207 and P202

Figure 3: Pipeline between P202 and P200

Figure 4: Pipeline between P200 and P105

Figure 5: Pipeline between P105 and P107

Figure 6: Pipeline between P107 and P112

Figure 7: Pipeline between P112 and P116

Figure 8: Pipeline between P116 and P121

Figure 9: Pipeline between P121 and P127

Figure 10: Pipeline between P127 and P132

Figure 11: Pipeline between RDX9 and western connection point

Figure 12a: West facing section and plan of [20703] in Plot 207

Figure 12b: North facing representative section of feature [12703] in Plot 127

List of Plates

Plates 1 & 2: A sample of pottery from (20702)

Plates 3 & 4: A sample of pottery from (20702)

Overton to Chirk Gas Pipeline Wrexham Borough and Shropshire

A report on an Archaeological Watching Brief NGR: SJ 2955 3850 to SJ 3628 3696

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on groundworks for a new gas pipeline between the towns of Dudlestone Heath, Shropshire and Chirk, Clwyd. This involved the stripping of the topsoil over a 12m wide easement, together with the excavation of a pipe trench, approximately 1.2m in depth and 0.50m in width along the 8.5km route.

Six worked flints were found within the topsoil within the western half of the easement. A substantial quantity of post-medieval pottery was retrieved from a spread at the eastern end of the pipeline route, an area in which the presence of a pottery industry had been previously identified through documentary research. While the pottery recovered cannot be clearly defined as pottery wasters, the evidence suggests an industrial rather than a domestic source for the material.

All archaeological features recorded within the area of works related to the medieval or post-medieval agricultural landscape. These included drainage ditches and boundary features, as well as an area of ridge and furrow. None of these features could be securely dated within the medieval/post-medieval time frame.

Acknowledgements

Marches Archaeology were commissioned to undertake the watching brief by RSK ENSR, and the assistance of their archaeological consultant, Sarah Revans, is particularly acknowledged. The work was carried out on behalf of Transco, and we are grateful for the co-operation of Lyndon Vickery, project manager, of this company.

The site contractor was Murphy, and many thanks are given to all the site workers for their extensive help and co-operation during the field work, in particular to Paul Kelly (contracts manager) and John Hanlin (site manager), and to Paul Brady for the provision of survey data regarding the pipeline.

Overton to Chirk Gas Pipeline Wrexham Borough and Shropshire

**A report on an Archaeological Watching Brief
NGR: SJ 2955 3850 to SJ 3628 3696**

1. Introduction

1.1. Project Background

Marches Archaeology was commissioned by RSK ENSR, on behalf of Transco, to carry out an archaeological watching brief along the route of a new gas pipeline. The pipeline runs between the village of Dudlestone Heath, near Overton, Shropshire (SJ 3628 3696) and Chirk, which lies in Wrexham Borough, Clwyd (SJ 2955 3850).

An archaeological desk-based assessment and walkover survey had previously been carried out by Marches Archaeology, commissioned by Charles Haswell and Partners on behalf of Transco, on the advice of Wrexham Archaeology Service (Kenney & Stone 2003), together with a additional assessment on a proposed re-route of part of the pipeline (Stone 2003). This former assessment identified that the route of the pipe crossed the line of a nationally important monument, Wat's Dyke. This led to a subsequent evaluation and excavation of the relevant section of the pipeline route in April and May 2003 (Kenney 2003). The Local Planning Authorities Archaeological Advisors within Wrexham Borough and Shropshire also advised that an archaeological watching brief should be carried out during all groundworks along the remaining length of the pipeline in order to identify and protect the archaeological resource.

A Project Proposal written by Marches Archaeology formed a written scheme of investigation for the works. This was approved by the Wrexham Archaeology Service and the Shropshire Historic Environment Officer.

The watching brief was carried out on the 29th June, and between the 8th July and 22nd September 2003. Murphy was the main civil engineering contractor carrying out the work.

1.2. The Site

The site consisted of a 10-12m wide easement which ran approximately 8.5km from the north side of the B5058 at Dudlestone Heath, Shropshire, *c* 1.25km north to the hamlet of Pentre-Coed and then west-north-west to the east side of the town of Chirk, Wrexham Borough, passing the hamlet of Street Dinas. The easement crossed a total of 11 roads, including the A5 between Oswestry and Wrexham, as well as two rivers, one of which was the Glyn Ceiriog, the national boundary between England and Wales in this area (Fig. 1).

The land through which the pipeline was routed consisted largely of fields laid to pasture for sheep and cattle. A small number of fields (P128, P7600, P9100, P105) were arable

fields used for the growing of corn or potatoes. P122 was heavily covered with mixed deciduous woodland and dense undergrowth.

1.3. Geology and Topography

The landscape along the line of the pipeline route is gently undulating. The south eastern end of the pipeline immediately north of Dudleston Heath lies at an altitude of approximately 100m OD, being c.95m OD at Pentre-Coed. West of Pentre-Coed the land rises to c120m OD at Street Dinas, dropping to 50m OD within the Ceirog Valley before rising again to c.100m OD at Chirk.

The drift geology is recorded as boulder clay of the glacial and post-glacial era (Geological Survey of England and Wales 1972), confirmed by a ground investigation carried out by Geotechnics Ltd for Haswell (Geotechnic 2003) which showed that the bedrock is overlain by drift and fluvio-glacial deposits over 3.5m deep.

The bedrock geology under the eastern end of the route is Bridgnorth dune-bedded sandstone of the Permian era. The majority of the route consists of Triassic lower mottled sandstones overlain by Carboniferous rock of the Westphalian C and D formations. This includes sandstone, sandstone conglomerates, red and grey mudstones, and thin coal seams aligned approximately north-east south-west.

2. Aims and objectives

The aim of an archaeological watching brief is defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists as:

‘to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works’

and:

‘to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard’.

The objectives of the watching brief were:

- The observation of all topsoil stripping
- The observation of all earthmoving and excavations until the desired level or natural deposits are reached
- To record the sequence of soil deposits present, as well as all archaeological deposits and features
- To collect, identify and catalogue all archaeological artefacts
- In the event of identifying significant archaeology that could not be dealt with in the normal course of the watching brief, to inform the Murphy site agent, RSK ENSR’s

archaeologist and the Local Planning Authority's Archaeological Advisor in order that appropriate action may be taken to minimise the damage to such deposits and to record them appropriately, with detailed excavation if necessary.

3. Methodology

Background Research

No documentary research was carried out during this stage of work, as a full desk-based assessment of the route was carried out prior to the groundworks commencing (Kenny & Stone 2003, Stone 2003).

Fieldwork

All works involving soil removal and ground breaking activity were carried out under archaeological supervision. The groundworks commenced with removal across the width of the easement (varying from 10-12m) of the topsoil, i.e. all material that contained organic matter and can support plant growth. It was apparent that the topsoil strip might not remove all material covering archaeological remains, and therefore the watching brief should be carried out on both the strip and the excavation of the pipe trench.

The topsoil strip was carried out using between three and four 360° excavators fitted with toothless buckets. All humic topsoil was stripped down to a working level for the easement, but in some areas the archaeological topsoil was not fully removed down to subsoil due to its depth. Once the easement had been stripped, creating a suitable access road and working area, the excavation of the pipe trench itself was carried out. The majority of the trench was excavated to a depth of 1.20m, and width of approximately 0.50m using a mechanical trencher, with bends and ditches excavated with a 360° excavator using a toothed bucket.

Whenever areas features, structures, or deposits of potential archaeological significance were found, additional fine machine cleaning or hand cleaning was carried out, followed by hand excavation of features and spreads (or fine machine excavation of large features that could not be excavated by hand). All archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Marches Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets, with sections drawn at 1:10 and plans at 1:20. The record sheets also included notes regarding the natural soil sequences, with all other general observations made in site notebooks. A full photographic record of black and white negatives and 35mm colour slides was also made of all archaeological deposits and features. For reference purposes during recording, the site numbering system of plot (P) numbers used by the contractors was adopted (Figs. 2-11).

All finds from deposits other than the topsoil were collected and bagged, although in areas where the topsoil contained significant quantities of a certain artefact these were also retained. Samples were taken from deposits considered to have environmental, technical or dating potential.

Office Work

On the completion of fieldwork the complete site archive was prepared with the written, drawn and photographic data catalogued and cross-referenced. This illustrated client report has been produced detailing the aims, methods and results of the project. A non-technical summary has been included, as well as a full summary of context for each plot (Appendix I). Where reference is made to sites identified in the desk-based assessment, the site number refers to the unique identifying number of the relevant site in the Sites and Monuments Record – where preceded by ‘Shrop’ it refers to the Shropshire SMR and where preceded by ‘CPAT’, refers to the Clwyd Powys SMR.

Illustrations regarding the line of the easement and position of the pipe trench have been produced from survey data provided by Murphy engineers.

4. Archaeological and historical background

The archaeological and historical background in this report is a summary based on ‘Overton to Chirk Gas Pipeline, Wrexham Borough and Shropshire: report on an archaeological desk-based assessment and field walkover survey’ (Kenny and Stone 2003) and ‘Overton to Chirk Gas Pipeline, Wrexham Borough and Shropshire: report on further archaeological desk-based assessment and field walkover survey’ (Stone 2003).

Prehistoric

There is little prehistoric activity recorded in the area. A single flint scraper of probable Neolithic date is recorded as found on the surface of a ploughed field (Shrop. 04616), while a small mound at Pen y Bryn (Shrop. 02859) was identified in the Victoria County History as a possible Bronze Age round barrow. There is now no trace of the mound, and it is impossible to tell if this was a natural feature (as suggested by the SMR) or has been ploughed out subsequently. The position of three ring ditches (CPAT 106067), representing a possible Bronze Age barrow cemetery, are more certainly identified on aerial photographs of Halton Farm, 1km to the north of the route. Again there are no visible traces of earthworks on the ground.

Two enclosures are present in the area north of the pipeline. A univallate enclosure with associated field system is recorded at Halghton Farm (CPAT 101849), while a sub-rectangular enclosure with a double ditch on the west side is present at Rock Farm (Shrop. 03976). These enclosures could date to the Iron Age or Roman period.

Roman

This area was part of the Roman frontier prior to the push to conquer Wales in the 1st century AD. In addition to the two enclosures mentioned above which may be of Roman date, two Roman military camps are recorded 1km to the north of the route, at Rhyn Park (Shrop 00645, SAM Salop 349). This site consists of a legionary base dated to the mid 1st century AD, overlain to the east by a smaller fort which was in use as late as the early 5th century AD. Post-dating both forts, and situated within the 1st century enclosure, is the site of a Romano-British farmstead (Shrop. 04052).

Early medieval

The only site of national importance to exist within the study area is the linear earthwork known as Wat's Dyke, generally believed to be 8th century in date, although recent excavation evidence has suggested an earlier date of the 5th century (Hannaford 1997). Running roughly parallel to Offa's Dyke, it is thought to have performed a similar function in providing a boundary between Mercia and the Welsh, running for c65km from Basingwerk on the Dee estuary to the River Morda at Maesbury.

The earthwork consists of a bank (c7m wide where it survives) with a ditch on its west side. Where the bank has been destroyed, the ditch can generally be found surviving, although completely infilled. The pipeline runs through a 4km gap in the line of Wat's Dyke, where little previous evidence of the earthwork had been located, and where it had been argued that the River Dee was instead used as the boundary. Recent work, however, has suggested that the line was continuous, and this was further strengthened by the results of the evaluation and excavation carried out on the relevant section of pipeline by Marches Archaeology in April and May 2003. This work found the surviving ditch and traces of a bank identified as Wats Dyke, on the upper slope of the eastern side of the Ceiriog river valley (Kenny 2003).

Later medieval

The area was extensively farmed in the medieval period, and within Shropshire aerial photographs dating to 1946 show clearly the ridge and furrow, trackways and field boundaries of earlier field systems. The same evidence is not visible within the western part of the route, as early improvement in the Welsh pasture by ploughing had probably already obliterated the remains of such field systems. Aerial photographs of 1986 shown that the same damage had occurred within Shropshire by this date, with the only extensive surviving field system visible north of Kilhendre Farm (Shrop. 03597). Other small areas of earthworks can also be seen on the aerial photographs but the majority are ploughed out and eroded.

The classic type of medieval field system consists of the open field system, where large open fields were cultivated by the village landowners, who held scattered narrow strips of land within them. Within this area however, the field system appears to consist of small enclosures representing a more local system of agriculture, with inclosure in Shropshire recorded as early as the 14th century. Ridge and furrow continued to be used well into the post-medieval period, and can usually be distinguished from medieval examples as being

narrower, straighter and less well formed. Much of the ridge and furrow within the area is extremely straight and is probably produced by steam plough in the 19th century, particularly where the furrows respect current field boundaries.

A number of other medieval features survive within the surrounding landscape. At Dudlestone, the parish church of St Mary's (Shrop. 12211) was originally a chapel founded in the reign of Henry II, although much of the medieval fabric has been obscured by 19th century enlargement. In its graveyard on the southern side of the church stands a stone cross (Shrop. 02860, SAM Salop 27568) probably dating to the 14th or 15th century.

Further to the west, the study area includes a grange documented as belonging to the Cistercian monks of Valle Crucis Abbey. Known as Halghton Manor, the estate included two watermills and possibly a fulling mill. The western boundary of the grange is thought to have been preserved in the township boundary between Brynkinallt and Halton, shown on the tithe map of 1839, while the main farmstead was located at SJ 316 396, some distance to the north of the pipeline. It is unlikely that the boundary of the grange was marked by anything more than ordinary hedgerows.

Post-medieval

The present field system has been in existence since the Enclosure acts of the early 19th century, with the Enclosure act for St Martins recorded to 1806, and the Enclosure map of Dudleston dated to 1810. The majority of the minor roads within the study area were also in existence by this date, with only the straight section north of Pont-y-Blew taking a slightly different route. A number of the farm buildings in the area are of Grade II Listed status, some of the most significant being Vron farmhouse, 15th century in origin (Shrop. 15038) and Brynkinallt Hall (CPAT 72136), the earliest part of which dates to 1612 and which sits within a 19th century park landscape.

There was a considerable quantity of small scale industry taking place within the area at this time. At Pentre-Coed a pottery is recorded on the Tithe map, together with three Kiln Meadows or Fields in the vicinity. A Brick Field (Shrop. 06549) is also shown to the east of Pit Farm, and the pits the farm was named after may have been the clay pits in the field. Further to the west at Bartie Farm (Shrop. 06549) a tannery is marked on the 1st Edition OS Map (Shrop. 06545).

There are a number of ponds along the Bryndaniel Brook, that may have been used as mill ponds (Shrop. 06544 & 06547) but the most significant use of water power was at Pont-y-Blew forge on the River Ceiriog (CPAT 38682). The SMR records this as being in use between 1710 and 1795, using a waterwheel to drive the bellows and tilt hammers, although other sources claim it was in use as early as 1634.

A number of small collieries operated within the western half of the study area, exploiting the narrow coal seams that exist within the Westphalian rock formations. The largest in the area was the Brynkinallt Colliery (CPAT 33175), which opened in c1870. In 1912 this extended eastwards, eventually connecting to the Iftonrhyn Colliery (Shrop. 06540) which had been in production since 1800. The Iftonrhyn Colliery closed in 1913,

with work halted at Brynkinallt in 1928. The Tithe map records a field to the north of the later 'Black Park Colliery' labelled as coal pits, engine, buildings and spoil tips, with the main Black Park Colliery first recorded on the later 1st Edition OS Map. By 1896 a railway line ran from this colliery to the main line past Chirk. An aerial photograph of 1970 shows industry still present in this area. Other smaller workings are also shown on the 1st Edition OS Map, including some in Chirk Green Wood.

5. Results

Dudlestone Heath to RDX 1 (Figures 2 & 3)

This section of the pipeline had been re-routed from its original line running directly to the east from RDX 1. This area had not been numbered up with 'P' numbers, so the fields were numbered up from 200 to 207. All the fields were in use as pasture and the ground was gently undulating. The whole length of this section was stripped of topsoil and trenched with a large connection pit excavated at the south side of the large standing area in 207, and a drill pit dug at the north end of the section, adjacent to RDX 1. Two large drainage ditches in 206 were excavated with a 360° machine.

Within 207 (Road Field) the grey-brown topsoil contained a large number of sherds of post-medieval pottery. These sherds were generally quite large and unabraded, and consisted of a number of different fabrics and patterns of decoration. Immediately below the topsoil, and sometimes difficult to distinguish from it, was a spread of dark silts (20702) which contained a higher concentration of pottery sherds which in type and range were the same as those retrieved from the topsoil, and were also unworn (Plates 1 – 4).

Below this spread a thin layer of very clean, pale grey clays, extending intermittently along the majority of the trench, overlay a silty subsoil which in turn overlay a natural deposit of reddish brown clays. Two linear features were observed cutting the upper clay deposit and the subsoil. The first of these [20703] (Figure 12a), ran east - west across the easement, and was covered by (20702). This consisted of a shallow ditch, filled with a dark brown silty clay that did not appear to contain any pottery, or other artefacts. This does not correspond with any features identified in the desk-based assessment. The second feature was also a small ditch [20705], which ran parallel to, and immediately to the south of hedge forming the north boundary of the field. This was filled with a clean clay, and appears to be an old drainage ditch which has silted up.

Plot 206 showed a similar sequence of deposits to 207, with topsoil overlying a dark spread (present only in the southern half of the field), thin grey clays, a silty subsoil and natural reddish-brown clays. Again substantial amounts of post-medieval pottery were retrieved from the topsoil and dark spread (20602), of a similar range and type as found in P207 and again consisting of reasonably large and unabraded sherds.

Two further silted up ditches were observed, [20603] and [20605]. Both were wide (approx. 2.50m) shallow linears, running roughly east - west across the easement and cutting through the upper clay and subsoil. Both were irregular in profile, [20603] filled

with a grey-brown clay, [20605] filled with a lighter, yellow-brown clay, and both devoid of any finds despite [20603] directly underlying spread (20602).

The remaining plots within this section exhibited simpler soil sequences, consisting of topsoil and subsoil, overlying natural reddish-brown clays. The topsoil within these fields contained varying amounts of post-medieval pottery, although far smaller quantities than found in 207 and 206, and generally consisting of smaller, and more abraded sherds that appear to be residual. Within 204 a large feature was observed on the west side of the easement that was roughly rectangular in plan [20403]. It was filled with dark silts containing large quantities of modern building debris, plastic, glass and fragments of machinery. It is considered that this was a modern rubbish dump and was not excavated, either by hand or by the trencher as it was not on the line of the pipe. Plots P203, 202, P201, and P200 revealed no archaeological features.

RDX 1 to RVX 1 (Figure 4)

This section of the pipeline consisted of P103 and P104, both of which had been used for arable agriculture. Both plots were stripped and trenched, with drill pits excavated at the east end of P103 and the west end of P104.

Both plots had a considerable depth of dark, loamy topsoil, overlying a 'subsoil' of compact silty clay that decreased in depth down the hill within P104. The underlying natural within P103 and the eastern part of P104 was a stiff, mid grey-brown clay containing few visible stones. Within the lower half of the slope in P104, these clays gave way to a deposit of very clean sands that were present down to the river crossing of the Bryndaniel Brook.

There were no archaeological features observed within this section, and the only artefacts seen were small, abraded fragments of residual post-medieval pottery found within the topsoil.

RVX 1 to TRX 1 (Figure 4)

The section of the pipeline between RVX 1 and TRX 1 was recorded as P105, and the fields in this section were also under arable crops. The whole length was stripped and trenched with a drill pit at either end.

The topsoil was particularly deep in this area, being up to 0.42m thick, and overlay a silty subsoil in which the natural pebble inclusions were more numerous immediately to the west of the Bryndaniel Brook. The natural continued to be clean sands similar to those seen on the east side of RVX 1.

Only one archaeological feature was observed within this area. Approximately 600m east of TRX 1 a dark band of compacted silts containing a high concentration of small stones and broken brick fragments was recorded during the easement stripping (10504). This linear feature was orientated north-west south-east across the width of the easement, and corresponds to the line of a possible drovers road plotted from aerial photographs in the

desk-based assessment. The only archaeological artefacts observed were small fragments of abraded post-medieval pottery seen within the topsoil.

TRX 1 to RDX 2 (Figure 5)

The route of the pipeline between TRX 1 and RDX 2 was numbered up as 9100 and 7600, which were utilised as 'P' numbers. The entire section was stripped and trenched, with a drill pit excavated at each end of the spread.

Thick topsoil was again recorded across both plots, and was again an improved, dark, rich loam which was under crop either side of the easement. In P9100, a thin silt subsoil was recorded, below which lay the natural deposits of clean sands as seen in the previous section. In P7600, these sandy deposits were present directly below the topsoil.

There were no archaeological features observed within this section, and the only artefacts seen were small, abraded fragments of residual post-medieval pottery and ceramic building material (CBM) found within the topsoil.

RDX 2 to RDX 3 (Figures 5 & 6)

A number of plots made up this section of the route, consisting of P5200, P3400, P107, P108 and P109. P5200 to P107 were arable fields, while P108 and P109 were rough pasture. The whole length was stripped and trenched, with the ditch at between P108 and P109 excavated to a greater depth and drill pits excavated immediately to the west of RDX 2 and to the east of RDX 3.

All had a grey-brown topsoil varying in depth from 0.25 to 0.40m, overlying a paler, silty-clay subsoil. At the east end of this section, in P5200, the subsoil overlay a thin deposit of very clean, grey clay, containing no inclusions other than some small lenses of a dark brown peat (520003).

At the eastern end of P5200 the natural consisted of sandy deposits (520005), similar to those observed in the previous sections. Approximately 130m west of RDX 2, these sands were replaced by grey-brown clay, which continued to appear as the natural throughout the other plots west to RDX 3, although becoming more reddish-brown in colour.

During topsoil stripping of the easement in P109, the top of a linear feature running approximately north - south across the easement was observed (10903), together with a corresponding depression running in either direction in the fields adjacent to the spread. The fill of this linear could be seen to contain large quantities of semi-decomposed organic material as well as post medieval pottery, and on excavation with the trencher, the feature was revealed to be a wide pipe trench for a modern water main.

No archaeological features were observed within this area, but a sizeable number of iron nails and other small iron objects were retrieved from the topsoil and the upper surface of the subsoil within P109 and the western end of P108, as well as smaller quantities of post-medieval pottery sherds.

RDX 3 to RDX 4 (Figures 6 & 7)

This section of the pipeline consisted of three plots; P110, P111 and P112. All were stripped and trenched, with drill holes at the east end of P110 and west end of P112. Topsoil was also stripped for an access road running from the east end of the easement in P110, to the main compound area to the south. All three plots were under rough pasture, and revealed a sequence of topsoil and soil overlying a dark purplish-brown clay.

Only in P110 was any archaeology observed. This was a linear feature [11003], orientated roughly north-east – south-west across the spread, which on excavation was revealed to be a shallow ditch, which had silted up with fine grey clay indicating it was probably an old drainage ditch. The line of the ditch could be seen to continue both to the north and the south of the spread, visible as a shallow depression within the landscape. This is not marked on the 19th maps or later maps as a field boundary, and may relate to a field system predating the enclosure system.

The only artefacts observed were late post-medieval pottery, glass, and coal fragments within the topsoil.

RDX 4 to RDX 5 (Figure 7)

Plots P113 and P114 were both fully stripped and trenched with a drill pit excavated in the standing area at each end of the section. All the fields in these plots consisted of rough pasture, and again revealed a sequence of topsoil and soil overlying purplish-brown clay.

There were no archaeological features observed in P113, but the plot did show a dense pattern of land drainage in the form of both ceramic and gravel packed land drains running roughly north - south. No sign was found of the north - south linear features (possible trackways) plotted from the aerial photographs within Coalpit Meadow.

A wide linear feature excavated in the north-east – south-west section of P114, was another unmarked water main [11403], immediately adjacent to a ceramic land drain [11405]. The function and date of a small circular feature [11409] located further to the south - west however is less clear. The fill of this shallow cut contained a high concentration of packed stones and moderate quantities of charcoal.

Approximately 35m east of RDX 5, three worked flints were found during the trenching. No archaeological features were observed in this area and they appear to have come from the subsoil. No other artefacts were recovered in these plots.

RDX 5 to RDX 6 (Figure 7 & 8)

Plots P116, P117 and P118 formed a steep sided valley, dropping from 129mOD on the west side of RDX 5 to 115m OD at the base of the valley, and rising again to 134m OD at RDX 6. The plots are all laid to pasture, and trenching revealed the familiar sequence of topsoil, soil, and clay across the majority of the section. At the western end of P118 however, natural bedrock, consisting of mudstones and sandstones were encountered immediately below the thin topsoil.

In P116 a small linear feature [11604] was excavated. This ran north - south across the easement and contained a sherd of post-medieval pottery and charcoal within its fill. Further west down the slope two similar, small linears [11704] and [11706], running parallel to each other and approximately 1m apart were observed in P117, while at the base of the slope a wider linear feature was observed [11708]. This corresponded to the location of a historic hedge boundary plotted from the aerial photographs.

At the base of the valley a linear feature [11709] was excavated. This appears to mark the course of a stream as shown on the Tithe map, and identified in the desk-based assessment. Slight scarps to the east and west of the channel indicated the extent of the water course and its banks, and the line of the old streambed was visible as a depression in the fields to the north and south.

RDX 6 to RVX 2 (Figures 8 & 9)

This section of the pipeline consisted of P119 to P124, all of which were stripped, although P122 was later drilled rather than trenched. Drilling also took place underneath two tracks running north - south across P123 and below the River Ceiriog at RVX 2. Drill pits were excavated at the east end of P119, the west end of P121, the east end of P123, either side of each track in P123 and at both the east and west end of P124.

All the fields within these plots were under pasture, with the exception of P122, which was covered in deciduous woodland with dense undergrowth. The land falls fairly gently from east to west across P119, P120 and P121, decreasing from 134mOD to 105mOD. P122, P123 and P124 form the eastern side of the Ceiriog river valley and P122 drops sharply in a very steep slope to 84mOD which levels out slightly at the base creating an area of raised bog. P123 shows signs of natural terracing, sloping moderately steeply overall, before the land again drops away into a steep slope within the eastern half of P124 to 40mOD. This levels out in a sudden break of slope onto the flat floodplain of the River Ceiriog

The whole of the length of this section was covered in a variable depth of topsoil, from only 0.10m at the east end of P119 to 0.40m at the top of the slope in P122. This was underlain by soil and natural clay throughout the majority of the section, with the exceptions of the eastern end of P119 where the topsoil again directly overlay mudstone bedrock, and the western half of P124 where the topsoil directly overlay thick river deposits within the flat valley base. These deposits consisted of river gravels, well rounded and up to 10-15cm in size, within a matrix of silty alluvium, which in turn overlay natural clays.

Within P122 an evaluation trench towards the top of the slope had already located and excavated a ditch and bank identified as Wat's Dyke (Kenney 2003). The easement stripping extended over a wider area (10m) than the width of the evaluation trench, but as the slope to the south of the evaluation trench had eroded away, no further evidence for the earthwork was observed. No other archaeological features were revealed in this area,

or within the rest of the section, and no archaeological artefacts were found other than in the topsoil.

RVX 2 to RDX 7 (Figure 9)

This was a short section of the route that consisted of P125. It included the western floodplain of the River Ceiriog, and the lower slope of the west side of the Ceiriog valley, which, like the eastern side, sloped very steeply uphill. This slope was drilled rather than trenched although the topsoil was still stripped, and drill pits were excavated at the top and bottom of the slope, as well as on the east and west sides of the river plain. The majority of the area was under rough pasture, with a small amount of deciduous woodland along the base of the slope.

The flat valley base to the west of the river revealed the same sequence of topsoil overlying thick river gravels and alluvium, while the slope to the west revealed the familiar soil below the topsoil. Natural clay was not reached in either area.

Running along the base of the slope in a roughly north east-south west direction was a hollow way as identified in the desk-based assessment. To the east of this, running north-south outside the area of the easement, were two low parallel banks both of which were revetted with well rounded stones similar to those found in the river gravels. Adjacent to these banks, south of the route line a possible building platform was observed, which may be associated with the 'channel' formed by the banks. The topsoil, and surface of the river gravels contained an amount of post-medieval pottery, which itself appeared to be water worn. No archaeological features were observed within the area of the stripped easement however.

RDX 7 to RDX 8 (Figures 9 & 10)

P126, P127 and P128 were all fully stripped of topsoil and trenched, with P126 and P127 consisting of pasture and P128 being given over to wheat. Drill pits were excavated at the east end of P126 and west end of P128. P126 formed the upper slope of the west side of the Ceiriog valley, with the land sloping very steeply upwards from RDX 7, and then levelling off to the west.

The sequence of topsoil, soil and clay existed throughout P126 and P127 and part of P128, with the clays replaced with clean sands in the eastern part of P128. In P127, below the topsoil, and cutting into the top of the soil, were a series of eight parallel linear features 2.50-3m apart (12702). These were gently u-shaped in profile and between 1.70 and 2.10m wide and 0.50-0.65m deep and appeared to be the remains of ridge and furrow system (Figure 12b). These were bounded to the east by a larger ditch [12704]

There were no other archaeological features observed within this section, although a small scatter of post-medieval pottery was found within the topsoil immediately east of the western hedge in P128.

RDX 8 to RDX 9 (Figures 10 & 11)

This dog-legged section of the pipeline route was made up of P129, P130, P131 and P132, all of which were under pasture. The entire section was stripped of topsoil and trenched, with a drill pit excavated at the east end of P129 and the west end of P132. In general the land rose steadily towards the west, with some gentle undulations.

The soil sequence along the whole section is again generally of topsoil, soil and dark grey clay forming the underlying natural. Two areas of peat were found, one within P129 (12903) and the second in P130 (13005). (12903) was a peat deposit approximately 5m wide, extending across the full width of the easement immediately below the topsoil which was also partially waterlogged. Within the peat were substantial waterlogged remains of natural tree trunks and branches, as well as lengths of worked timber. On investigation however, the tool marks on the worked timbers revealed them to be of modern date. This peat deposit was approximately 0.40m thick and appeared to be caused by a natural build up of water within a low lying dip in the landscape. (13005) was a deposit at the east end of P130 and was again in a low lying area at the bottom of a small valley, which is currently drained by a modern ditch. This deposit contained organic material which had decomposed to a greater extent, with only small fragments of wood being recognisable. The rest of P130 to the west had drainage provided in the form of stone filled land drains.

No archaeological features or significant artefacts were observed within this section of the pipeline.

RDX 9 to RDX 10 (Figure 11)

This was a short section of the pipeline consisting of standing area P134 and P137. Only a small section at the west side of P134 was trenched, with a large drill pit excavated for drilling below the A5 to the east, but both areas were fully stripped of topsoil. The land rose to the west quite steeply across both plots, levelling off at the west end of the section next to RDX 10. A second drill pit was excavated adjacent to this road.

P134 revealed the familiar sequence of soils, and on stripping of the topsoil the remains of a small brick structure (13403) were observed on the south side of the standing area. This consisted of a rectangular patch of bricks and quarry tiles with some broken slate, mixed in with more general debris such as broke bottle glass and china. There were no signs of remaining wall footings or footing trenches, but the building is represented on the Ordnance Survey map of 1981, shown as built into the corner of a field boundary. The frogged bricks were of a relatively modern date, and the building was probably constructed in the late 19th century or first half of the 20th century.

Below the silty subsoil in P137, a sequence of red marl and purple clay was recorded overlying the yellow-brown natural clays. One large feature [13704] was seen in plan during the topsoil stripping and was half sectioned to a depth of 2.70m by fine machining. This was rectangular in plan, with perfectly straight and vertical sides, and was infilled with mixture of grey and orange clays which appeared in places to have been burnt but containing no datable artefacts. This appears to be an infilled shaft, possibly

associated with the colliery workings which exist in this area. In the eastern half of the drill pit some 5m to the west of this feature a large dump of coal working debris, (coal fragments and dust, clinker and grey ash) was found immediately below the topsoil.

RDX 10 to Chirk (Figure 11)

This section of the pipeline included P139 and P140, both of which were under pasture and remained fairly level along their length. Both plots were stripped and trenched, with a drill pit excavated in the standing area of P139 and a large connection pit excavated at the southern end of the trench in P140. An access road leading from the Chirk entrance to the east end of the easement in P140 was stripped of topsoil.

In both plots the topsoil overlay a silty clay soil, much stonier than seen in other areas, which in turn overlay a clayey silt rather than the clays present in previous sections. This clayey silt contained large quantities of sandstone fragments, some boulders of which measured up to 0.60m in size.

Within P139 two further deposits of coal debris were found during the trenching, both of which were covered by thin layers of re-deposited silty-clay, indicating they had been buried dumps. Further to the south - west, either side of the hedge separating P139 and P140, the remains of what appeared to be a road surface was discovered. The remains of tarmac overlying a pink stone hardcore was visible underlying the topsoil, creating a road or track that ran in an north-east – south-west direction roughly along the line of the present hedge.

Further to the south a short linear feature was excavated. This was only 5m long, and ran parallel to the hedge forming the west side of the easement in P140. With slightly rounded ends and sloping sides, the feature appears to have been hand dug, but with a fill of loam very similar to the topsoil and containing no artefacts, the date and function of this feature is unclear. Approximately 10m to the south of this ditch the foundations for a small rectangular, brick structure were uncovered during the topsoil strip. This survived to a height of two courses, and also included some building debris of broken slate and brick. This is close to Chirk Green Farm and may be the remains of a small agricultural outbuilding, or again may be associated with the colliery close to the west.

6. Finds

6.1. The pottery

by Stephanie Ratkai

A small amount of post-medieval pottery (222 sherds), was recovered from a eastern stretch of the Overton to Chirk gas pipeline running between Dudlestone Heath and Pentre-Coed (Plots 207 to 206), with a further 27 sherds from an area further to the west (Plot 109) next to Clay Pit Field. Although much of the pottery was from topsoil or a dark spread underlying the topsoil and could not be tied down to specific features, it was of interest for two possibly inter-related reasons. The remainder of the pipeline had produced very little pottery, so these concentrations stood out. In addition the areas of

greatest pottery concentration were those located where there was documentary evidence of pottery production. The pottery was accordingly examined in more detail than would normally be the case for pipeline finds.

The pottery was divided into ware groups e.g. blackware, slip-coated ware, coarseware etc. The pottery was then catalogued and details of fabric, glazing decoration etc... noted. All this information is presented as a catalogue at the end of this report. The data has also been tabulated and quantified by sherd count.

Context	Black-ware	Coarse ware	Cream-ware	Flower-pot	Modern glazed ware	Mottled ware	slip-coated ware	Slip-ware	Stone-ware	Yellow ware	Un-known	Total
10901	6	8				2	3	8				27
20001		6			3							9
20301	1	7					1					9
20401	4	9			2		2	1				18
20501	8	3	1	1		5	5	4	1			28
20502	1	4					1	1	2	2		11
20601	7	5					1	10				23
20701	6	8				1	10	6	1	2		34
20702	9	28				2	7	42		1	1	90
Total	42	78	1	1	5	10	30	72	4	5	1	249

Table 1: Quantification of pottery by sherd count

	moulded dish	pie crust rim dish	thrown bowl or dish	flange rim bowl or dish	drinking vessel	Un-known hollow ware	Un-known	Total
feathered slipware	5	3			1	2		11
trailed slipware		2	8	16	1		2	29
embossed slipware	5	2						7
three colour slipware	6	2						8
jewelled slipware				5			1	6
sgraffito ware			1					1
trailed and feathered slipware	1	2						3
unknown				2			5	7
Total	17	11	9	23	2	2	8	72

Table 2: Slipware vessel forms (quantification by sherd count)

All the pottery groups appeared to date to the 18th century. Two topsoil contexts (20001) and (20401) contained a small amount of 19th century material. However, overall, the absence of any pottery which need pre-date the late 17th century and the paucity of anything which need post-date c1800 is striking and suggests that these are not the usual

ploughsoil scatters, an interpretation which is borne out by the absence of any other obvious ploughsoil scatters along the rest of the pipeline.

The pottery consisted mainly of coarseware, blackware, slipware and slip-coated ware. Coarseware fabrics were very variable, ranging from clean red or red-brown clay to crude streaky iron poor clays. This suggests that both iron-poor and iron-rich clays were available to the potters and that they were often mixed. The difference in clay colour therefore need not indicate different sources of manufacture, just different methods of clay preparation. Both the slip-coated wares and the slip-decorated wares tended to be made of iron-poor clays but there were variations and a small number of slip-decorated wares had deep red fabrics, necessitating the application of a white slip ground as a base for further slip decoration. Blackwares had fairly consistent clean red fabrics.

Coarseware vessel forms consisted of storage jars and bowls, with single examples of a handled jar and a pancheon. Blackware forms comprised cups, mugs and jugs, as far as could be determined. The slip-coated wares were more difficult to assign to form but seemed to be made up of bowl or dish sherds with a few examples of mugs. The slip-decorated wares, formed the second largest group. These could be subdivided into feathered slipware, jewelled slipware, trailed slipware, embossed slipware and 'three-colour slipware', etc. For the manufacture of these, access to both white-firing and red-firing clays is essential. The vessel forms occurring in slipware can be seen in Table 2

The largest collection of slipware was found in (20702), where it formed just under half of the total group. This is a much higher than expected amount, since post-medieval assemblages are normally dominated by coarseware utilitarian vessels, and drinking vessels. There were also several odd aspects to the slipwares from 20702. The jewelled slipwares looked like possible wasters and many of the slipware sherds had evidence of flaking and spalling. This seemed to occur on the interior of the vessels so that the external surfaces were generally unabraded and unmarked apart from the occasional firing or kiln scar. Such consistent and differential wear is unusual. It was also apparent on the slipware sherds occurring in the topsoil above 20702. Some of the sherds had a shiny black carbonaceous deposit on the exterior surface and over the rim. This looked like the sort of sooting derived from the burning of coal. It is not unknown for slipwares to be sooted (indicating that they could have a utilitarian function) but in this case it might just be the result of the vessels being fired in a coal fuelled kiln. This blackening was also seen on some of the slip-coated wares where there were also one or two sherds with the blackening over the break.

The evidence from (20701) and (20702) suggests that they may be part of a waster dump. However, this conclusion is tentative. There were no heavily distorted sherds although some overfired blackware sherds were present. This need not present a problem as such, since at Brierley Hill a large dump of pottery waste associated with a bottle kiln, dating from some time after c 1830, (personal inspection by author) contained little that was obviously wasted. It would be true to say, that in the absence of documentary evidence, the pottery from this section of the pipeline might not have been identified as kiln waste. Neither is it possible to be absolutely certain what range of pottery was being produced

locally. It seems likely that slipwares and slip-coated wares were being produced and probably some or all of the coarsewares and blackwares. Pottery from (10901) and (20602) may also represent kiln waste. If these pottery groups do, in fact, represent kiln waste, then they must be peripheral to the main dumping area, since there was none of the usual kiln waste, kiln structure, spacers, clay bobs and ash or spent fuel, etc which is normally found and which was, for example, well represented at the Brierley Hill dump.

6.2. The flint

by Jane Kenney

There were six pieces of flint/chert recovered from two sites, three from P114 and three from P118. Both assemblages were found within the topsoil. There are no diagnostic tools and some pieces are broken so it is not possible to deduce whether they were flakes or blades. The very narrow blade from (18801) hints at a Mesolithic style technology, but the other pieces would easily fit within flint technologies of any period. Some rather poor chert is being used, suggesting a scarcity of good flint.

Context 11401

1 proximal end of broken flake or blade in fine dark grey flint.

1 proximal end of broken flake or blade in rather coarse dark grey flint.

1 piece of debitage in pale grey chert.

Context 11801

1 piece of debitage in grey banded chert with some cortex at the distal end. Appears to be a platform edge rejuvenation flake.

1 narrow broken blade in pale grey flint. Old patinated surface present on one long side of the blade and some fine retouch down other side. Not actually a backed blade as the patinated side is not a cutting edge.

1 flake in pale grey-brown banded coarse chert.

The presence of these pieces do indicate prehistoric activity in the two locations. This activity involved flint knapping as debitage is present. Other flints are almost certainly to be found in the immediate area, but it is impossible to say whether a temporary camp or a more substantial occupation activity is represented.

6.3. The iron objects

Study of the iron objects from P109 revealed the majority to be iron nails, although part of a knife blade and an iron hook were also identified. There were also a number of miscellaneous fragments that could not be identified as particular objects.

All these objects were found within the topsoil, and the assemblage does not appear to be particularly diagnostic. It is a sizable concentration of objects in relation to the absence of even stray finds of iron objects along the rest of the pipeline route, and must relate to the

presence of a smithy in the village of Dinas Street, as identified in the desk-based assessment (Kenney & Stone 2003)

7. Discussion

The majority of the archaeological features uncovered on the watching brief on the Overton to Chirk Gas pipeline were undated linear features. All of these linears appear to relate to the medieval and post-medieval agricultural landscape, with some corresponding to boundaries shown on maps of 19th and 20th century date. Generally these features were cut through the underlying glacial clays and sealed by a topsoil or ploughsoil.

One exception was linear [20703] which was sealed by a post-medieval deposit. This deposit, layer [20702], contained significant quantities of 18th and 19th century pottery and its extent suggests a localised and well defined activity. This deposit may have formed either through deliberate dumping of waste material from an industrial or domestic centre or through the practise of manuring. The study of the pottery indicates the presence of sherds that were overfired and possibly representing waster material from an pottery kiln, as well as a high concentration of slipwares that would be unusual in a normal domestic assemblage. The desk-based assessment (Stone 2003) identified a number of field and farm names relating to pottery making activities e.g. Pentre-Coed pottery and Kiln Field. All of these lie to the north of this concentration of material, which may suggest the presence of other potteries further to the south which are not similarly recorded. As suggested above, this spread would represent material peripheral to the main centre of dumping due to absence of any kiln waste or kiln furniture. While the deposit's proximity to Dudlestone Heath would support the interpretation that this material represents the visible remains of 18th manuring of fields, the make-up of the assemblage (in particular the disproportionate amount of slipware) and the relatively short timespan of the assemblage makes this explanation less likely.

A small assemblage of worked flint was found which is generally undiagnostic. One blade has been tentatively dated to the Mesolithic period, but the majority of the pieces are of uncertain date and type. Their presence, and the fact that they were found in groups of three, do indicate prehistoric activity taking place within the vicinity of their recovery location. Those found within Plot 118 were also found in close proximity to the possible barrow located at the eastern end of P119, identified in the desk-based assessment (Kenny & Stone 2003).

The concentration of iron finds within the topsoil of P109 is also notable within the context of the route and must relate to iron working activity taking place within the smithy identified by the desk based assessment in Dinas Street, to the south of the pipeline route.

In Plot 127 a series of wide, shallow linear features which were regularly spaced and parallel, were recorded. There were bounded to the east by a more substantial ditch and probably represents the remains of a ridge and furrow system. The lack of any datable evidence from these features makes it impossible to ascertain whether this system was of medieval or post-medieval date. This was the only identified surviving ridge and furrow

system along the whole of the pipeline route, and it is notable that while extensive systems were identified across the landscape during the desk-based assessment, all evidence of these appears to have been removed by deep ploughing.

The only archaeological feature of any significance identified along the route of the pipeline was the bank and ditch proved to be a previously unknown stretch of Wat's Dyke. This was evaluated and excavated prior to the commencement of the pipeline groundworks, and the results of this fieldwork are fully discussed elsewhere (Kenney 2003).

The absence of greater quantities of archaeological finds, deposits and features is perhaps surprising on a project of this scale. This is partially a reflection that the pipeline was designed to skirt the local settlements and any known archaeological sites. It is also a reflection however of the nature of the agricultural landscape, with little evidence of the medieval field systems or ridge and furrow systems surviving the later post-medieval farming methods.

8. References

- Kenney, J & Stone, R. 2003. *Overton to Chirk Gas Pipeline. Report on an archaeological desk based assessment and field walkover survey.* Marches Archaeology Series 271
- Kenney, J. 2003. *Overton to Chirk Gas Pipeline. Report on an archaeological evaluation and excavation on Wat's Dyke.* Marches Archaeology Series 296.
- Stone, R. 2003. *Overton to Chirk Gas Pipeline. Report on further archaeological desk based assessment and filed walkover survey.* Marches Archaeology Series 286.

9. Appendix I: Summary of plot records (east to west)

Plot No.207 'Road Field'	80m x12/25 m	South west - North east	
Context	Description		Thickness (m)
20701	Topsoil- Dark grey-brown, silty-loam containing fragments of late Post Medieval pottery.		0.35
20702	Spread deposit of very dark brown clayey-silts, covering the entire width of the easement within Site 15. Contains considerable quantity of Post Medieval pottery sherds.		0.10-0.30
20703	Cut of linear feature running north west west-south east east across the easement. Has an irregular profile with uneven sides and base. Filled with (20704)		0.30
20704	Fill of linear feature [20703]. Mid grey-brown, friable, clayey-silt containing lenses of redeposited natural clay. Contains sherds of Post Medieval pottery and glass.		0.30
20705	Cut of small linear feature running parallel to, and immediately to the south of, the hedgeline dividing P207 and P206. Well defined cut with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. Filled with (20706)		0.40
20706	Fill of linear feature [20705]. Dark grey-brown silty-clay, homogenous in colour and texture with no visible inclusions.		0.40
20707	Thin deposit of very clean, grey clay. No inclusions.		0.10-0.15
20708	Mid reddish-brown silty-clay with very rare small pebbles.		0.40
20709	Natural clays. Reddish-brown stiff clay with very rare small pebbles.		0.95-1.20 bgs
Note	Large connection pit excavated at the south end of the easement for connection to the mains.		Depth: 2.00

Plot No.206 'Big Field'	245m x 12m	South - North	
Context	Description		Thickness (m)
20601	Topsoil- Dark grey-brown, silty-loam containing fragments of late Post Medieval pottery, CBM and glass.		0.35
20602	Spread deposit of very dark brown clayey-silts, covering the entire width of the easement in the area of Site 13. Contains considerable quantity of Post Medieval pottery sherds as well as common fragments of charcoal.		0.30
20603	Cut of linear feature running east-west across the easement. Irregular in profile: north slope having a sharp break of slope onto a flat plateau, then sloping gently to a concave base while the south slope is gently concave. Filled with (20604).		0.20
20604	Fill of linear feature [20603]. Mid brownish-grey silty-clay. Containing frequent small, well-rounded pebbles which are concentrated towards the base of the fill.		0.20
20605	Cut of linear feature running east-west across easement. Regular in profile with moderately steeply sloping sides and a flat base. Filled with (20607)		0.55
20606	Fill of linear feature [20706]. Yellow-grey clay, stiff in texture and with no apparent inclusions.		0.55
20607	Grey-brown silty-clay with very rare small, sub-angular pebbles.		0.30-0.35
20608	Thin deposit of very clean, grey clay. No inclusions.		0.10-0.15
20609	Natural clays. Reddish-brown stiff clay with very rare small pebbles.		1.05-1.15
Note			Depth: 1.20

Plot No.205 'The Park'	170m x 12m	South-south-west – North-east-east
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
20501	Topsoil- Dark grey-brown, silty-loam containing fragments of late Post Medieval pottery.	0.30
20502	Mid reddish-brown silty-clay with very rare small pebbles.	0.35
20503	Natural clays. Reddish-brown stiff clay with very rare small pebbles.	0.65 bgs
Note		

Plot No.204	135m x 12m	South - North
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
20401	Topsoil- Dark grey-brown, silty-loam containing fragments of late Post Medieval pottery.	0.30
20402	Mid reddish-brown silty-clay with very rare small pebbles.	0.45
20403	Modern rubbish dump.	
20404	Natural clays. Reddish-brown stiff clay with very rare small pebbles.	0.75 bgs
Note		

Plot No.203 'Big Maes Overton' & 'Gutter Field'	325m x 12m	South-south-east – North-north-west turning South-east – North-west
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
20301	Topsoil- Dark grey-brown, silty-loam containing fragments of late Post Medieval pottery.	0.30
20302	Mid reddish-brown silty-clay with very rare small pebbles.	0.45
20303	Cut of linear feature running north east-south west across the easement. Slightly irregular U-shaped ditch with a stepped base, filled with (20305). Probable remains of a historic hedgeline.	0.80
20304	Fill of [20304]. Stiff, grey clay containing a small amount of organic material in the upper half of the deposit.	0.80
20305	Natural clays. Reddish-brown stiff clay with very rare small pebbles.	0.75 bgs
Note		Depth: 1.20

Plot No.202 ,Little Maes Overton'	90m x 12m	South-east – North-west
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
20201	Topsoil- Dark grey-brown, clayey-silt with rare fragments of CBM.	0.25-0.30
20202	Mid reddish-brown silty-clay with very rare small pebbles.	0.50
20203	Natural clay- reddish-brown, clay, stiff clay with very rare small pebbles.	
Note		Depth: 1.20

Plot No.201 'Big Field'	130m x 12m	South-east – North-west
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
20101	Topsoil- Dark grey-brown, clayey-silt with rare fragments of CBM.	0.30-0.35
20102	Mid reddish-brown silty-clay	0.45
20103	Natural clay- reddish-brown, clay, stiff clay with very rare small pebbles.	0.75-0.80 bgs
Note		Depth: 1.20

Plot No.200 'Field facing the Tailors'	165m x 12m standing area widening to 6m	South-east – North-west
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
20001	Topsoil- Dark grey-brown, silty-loam containing fragments of late Post Medieval pottery.	0.35-0.40
20002	Compact yellow-brown silty-clay.	0.45
20003	Natural clay – Reddish-brown, stiff clays with very rare small pebbles.	0.80-0.85 bgs
Note	Drill pit excavated at west end of easement in standing area.	Depth: 1.50

Plot No. 103	180m x 12m standing area widening to 60m	North-east-east – South-west-west
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
10301	Topsoil- Dark grey-brown, silty-loam containing fragments of late Post Medieval pottery.	0.30-0.35
10302	Compact yellow-brown silty-clay.	0.50
10303	Natural clay- mid grey-brown clay with no inclusions.	0.80-0.85 bgs
Note	Drill pit excavated at east end of easement in standing area.	Depth: 1.50

Plot No.104	210m x 12m standing area widening to 40m	North-east-east – South-west-west turning East - West
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
10401	Topsoil- Dark grey-brown, clayey-silt containing fragments of late Post Medieval pottery.	0.35-0.40
10402	Compact yellow-brown silty-clay.	0.10
10403	Natural sands. Very clean, yellow-orange sands that become slightly clayier upslope (towards the east).	0.45-0.50 bgs
Note	Drill pit excavated at west end of easement in standing area.	Depth: 1.50

Plot No.105	600m x 12m standing areas widening to 40m	East - West turning to North-west - South east
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
10501	Topsoil- Dark grey-brown, silty-loam containing fragments of late Post Medieval pottery.	0.40-0.45
10502	Yellow-brown silty-clay. Common small pebbles that increase in frequency towards R VX 1. Small number of plough marks observed in the upper surface of this deposit.	0.40
10503	Natural sand deposits. Yellow-orange, slightly silty-sands which are very clean with no inclusions.	0.80-0.85 bgs
10504	Linear feature of compacted silts containing large quantities of gravel and brick.	
Note	Drill pit excavated at either end of easement in standing areas.	Depth:1.50

Plot No.9100	145m x 12m	North east – South west
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
910001	Topsoil - Very dark brown, loamy silts with very rare small pebbles and small fragments of CBM and Post Medieval pottery.	0.35-0.40
910002	Mid grey-brown silts.	
910003	Natural ?	
Note	Drill pit excavated at east end of easement.	Depth: 1.50

Plot No. 7600	225m x 12m standing area widening to 60m	South-east – North-west turning to East -West
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
760001	Topsoil - Very dark brown, loamy silts with very rare small pebbles and small fragments of CBM.	0.40-0.45
760002	Natural sand. Very clean yellow- orange sands with no inclusions.	0.40-0.45 bgs
Note	Drill pit excavated at west side of standing area.	Depth: 1.50

Plot No.5200	225m x 12m standing area widening to 60m	North-east – South-west
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
520001	Topsoil- mid grey brown silty-loam, containing fragments of late Post Medieval and modern pottery, glass and CBM.	0.25
520002	Mid yellow-brown clayey silts.	0.30
520003	Thin deposit of stiff, clean, grey clay containing lenses of dark brown peat.	0.15
520004	Natural clay- Mid grey-brown stiff clay with very rare small pebbles.	0.70 bgs
520005	Natural sand deposits- clean, yellow-orange sand immediately underlying (52003) at eastern end of trench.	0.70 bgs
520006	Fill of land drains (Group No.) running north-south across trench	
520007	Cut of land drains (Group No) running north-south across trench	
Note	Drill pit excavated at east side of standing area.	Depth: 1.50

Plot No.3400	175m x 12m	East - West
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
34001	Topsoil- mid grey brown silty-loam, containing fragments of late Post Medieval and modern pottery, glass and CBM.	0.25-0.30
34002	Mid yellow-brown clayey silts.	0.30-0.35
34003	Natural clay. Stiff, reddish-brown clays containing occasional sub-angular pebbles.	0.55-0.65 bgs
34004	Fill of land drains (Group No)	
	Cut of land drains (Group No)	
Note		Depth: 1.20

Plot No.107	130m x 12m	East - West
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
10701	Topsoil- mid grey brown silty-loam, containing fragments of late Post Medieval and modern pottery, glass and CBM.	0.40
10702	Mid yellow-brown clayey silts.	0.30-0.40
10703	Natural clay. Stiff, reddish-brown clays containing occasional sub-angular pebbles.	0.70-0.80 bgs
Note		Depth:1.20

Plot No.108 'Clay Pit Field'	380m x 12m	South-east-east – North-west- west
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
10801	Topsoil- mid grey brown silty-loam, containing fragments of late post medieval and modern pottery, glass and CBM.	0.30
10802	Mid yellow-brown clayey silts with large patches of less compact grey-brown silts.	0.45
10803	Natural clay. Reddish-brown clays containing sub-angular pebbles.	0.75 bgs
Note		Depth: 1.20

Plot No.109	215m x 12m standing area widening to 50m	East - west turning to South-east – North-west
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
10901	Topsoil- mid grey brown silty-loam, containing fragments of late Post Medieval and modern pottery, glass and CBM.	0.25-0.30
10902	Light yellow-brown silty-clay appears to have been heavily disturbed by bioturbation. Plough marks visible on surface running north east-south west. Sherds of late Post Medieval pottery and a number of iron nails were retrieved from the upper surface of this deposit.	0.30-0.35
10903	Cut of linear feature, proven to contain large water main	0.75
10904	Fill of pipe trench containing water main. Fill includes large quantities of semi-decomposed organic matter.	0.75
10905	Thin layer of clean, grey clay.	0.10-0.15
10906	Natural clay. Stiff, reddish-brown clays containing occasional sub-angular pebbles.	0.65-80 bgs
Note	Drill pit excavated at west side of standing area.	Depth: 1.50

Plot No.110	185m x 12m standing area widening to 60m	South-east – North-west
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
11001	Topsoil- mid grey brown silty-loam, containing fragments of late Post Medieval and modern pottery, glass and CBM with occasional fragments of coal and clinker.	0.25
11002	Mid yellow-brown clayey silts with large patches of less compact grey-brown silts which are heavily flecked with manganese. Late Post Medieval pottery, clinker and iron nails found in upper surface of deposit.	0.20
11003	Cut of linear feature running north east-south west across the easement. Shallow ditch with moderately sloping sides and a gently concave base. Slight depression marks course of feature in fields to north and south of easement.	0.50
11004	Upper fill of [11003]. Dark grey-brown clayey silt, containing a small quantity of charcoal, and very small fragments of CBM.	0.10
11005	Lower fill of [11003]. Light blue-grey silty clay with frequent flecks of manganese and common small flecks of organic material. Rare small fragments of CBM.	0.40
11006	Natural clay. Stiff, purple-brown clays mottled with grey and containing occasional sub-angular pebbles.	0.45 bgs
Note	Drill pit excavated at east side of standing area.	Depth: 1.50

Plot No.111	110m x 12m	North-east-east – south-west-west
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
11101	Topsoil- mid grey brown silty-loam, containing fragments of late Post Medieval and modern pottery, glass and CBM with occasional fragments of coal and clinker.	0.25-0.30
11102	Mid orange-brown silty-clay with grey mottling. Fragments of late Post Medieval pottery, coal and clinker found on upper surface.	0.25
11103	Natural clay. Stiff, purple-brown clays mottled with grey and containing occasional sub-angular pebbles.	0.50-0.55 bgs
Note		Depth: 1.20

Plot No.112	130m x 12m standing area widening to 60m	East - West
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
11201	Topsoil- mid grey brown silty-loam, containing fragments of late Post Medieval and modern pottery, glass and CBM with occasional fragments of coal and clinker.	0.25-0.30
11201	Mid orange-brown silty-clay becoming greyer to the west. Fragments of late Post Medieval pottery, coal and clinker found on upper surface.	0.30
11202	Natural clay. Stiff, purple-brown clays mottled with grey and containing occasional sub-angular pebbles.	0.55-0.60 bgs
Note	Drill pit excavated at west side of standing area.	Depth: 1.50

Plot No.113 'Coalpit Meadow'	285m x 12m standing area widening to 60m	East - west
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
11301	Topsoil- mid grey brown silty-loam, containing fragments of late Post Medieval and modern pottery, glass and CBM with occasional fragments of coal.	0.25-0.30
11302	Mid orange-grey clayey-silt at east end becoming a paler yellow-brown towards the west. Numerous plough marks visible in the top surface of this deposit.	0.15-0.25
11303	Fill of land drains (Group No.)	
11304	Cut of land drains (Group No.)	
11305	Natural clay. Stiff, purple-brown clays mottled with grey and containing occasional sub-angular pebbles.	0.40-0.55 bgs
Note	Drill pit excavated on western side of standing area.	Depth 1.50

Plot No.114	345m x 12m	North-east – south-west turning to east - west
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
11401	Topsoil- mid grey brown silty-loam, containing fragments of late Post Medieval and modern pottery, glass and CBM with occasional fragments of coal.	0.25-0.30
11402	Mid yellow-brown clayey-silts with frequent manganese flecking. Large patches of loose gravel within a darker brown silt matrix.	0.30-0.35
11403	Cut of pipe trench carrying copper water pipe. Runs north west-south east across easement.	
11404	Fill of [11403]. Redeposited (11402)	
11405	Fill of land drains. (Group No.)	
11406	Cut of land drains. (Group No.)	
11407	Cut of small sub-circular feature. Moderate to steep sloping sides and concave base.	

11408	Fill of [11407]. Packed stones and large quantities of charcoal in a grey-brown silt matrix.	
11409	Natural clay. Stiff, purple-brown clay with occasional sub-angular pebbles.	
Note		Depth: 1.20

Plot No.116	165m x 12m standing area widening to 60m	South-east – North-west
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
11601	Topsoil- mid grey brown silty-loam, containing fragments of late Post Medieval and modern pottery, glass and CBM with occasional fragments of coal.	0.25-0.30
11602	Mid yellow-brown clayey-silts with frequent manganese flecking. Large patches of loose gravel within a darker brown silt matrix.	0.30
11603	Fill of [11604]. Darker grey-brown clayey-silt with rare flecks of charcoal and one sherd of late Post Medieval pottery.	0.09
11604	Cut of shallow linear feature running north east- south west across the trench. Gently sloping sides and a concave base.	0.09
11605	Natural clay.	0.55-0.60 bgs
Note	Drill pit excavated at east side of standing area.	Depth: 1.50

Plot No.117	170m x 12m	South-east – North-west
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
11701	Topsoil- mid grey brown silty-loam, containing fragments of late Post Medieval and modern pottery, glass and CBM with occasional fragments of coal.	0.25-0.30
11702	Mid yellow-brown clayey-silts with frequent manganese flecking. Large patches of loose gravel within a darker brown silt matrix.	0.30
11703	Fill of [11704]. Dark brown silts with flecks of charcoal and CBM	0.07
11704	Cut of shallow linear running north-south across the easement. Parallel to, and approximately 1m east of, [11706].	0.07
11705	Fill of [11706]. Dark brown silts with flecks of charcoal and CBM	0.05
11706	Cut of shallow linear running north-south across the easement. Parallel to, and approximately 1m west of, [11704].	0.05
11707	Fill of linear feature running north- south across easement. Light grey-brown clayey-silt.	N/E
11708	Cut of linear feature filled with (11708).	N/E
11709	Cut of linear feature running north- south across the trench. Moderate to gently sloping sides with a gently concave base.	
11710	Fill of [11710]. Soft, mid grey-brown silt. Contained one fragment of CBM.	
11711	Natural clay	0.55-0.60 bgs
Note		Depth: 1.20

Plot No.118	175m x 12m standing area widening to 45m	South-east – North-west
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
11801	Topsoil- mid grey brown silty-loam, containing fragments of late Post Medieval and modern pottery, glass and CBM.	0.10-0.30
11802	Mid yellow-brown clayey-silts with grey mottling. Common small, sub-angular pebbles. Three flint blades found within the trencher spoil from this deposit.	0.10-0.40
11803	Natural sandstone exposed immediately below the subsoil at the top of the hill.	0.20-? bgs
11804	Natural clays?	
Note	Drill pit excavated at west side of standing area.	Depth: 1.50

Plot No.119	170m x 12m standing area widening to 60m	South-east-east – North-west-west
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
11901	Topsoil- mid grey brown silty-loam, containing fragments of late Post Medieval and modern pottery, glass and CBM.	0.10-0.30
11902	Mid yellow-brown clayey-silts with grey mottling. Common small, sub-angular pebbles.	0.10-0.35
11903	Natural sandstone exposed immediately below the subsoil at the top of the hill.	0.20-
11904	Natural clays?	
Note	Drill pit excavated at east end of easement.	Depth: 1.50

Plot No.120	155m x 12m	South-east-east – North-west-west
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
12001	Topsoil- mid grey brown silty-loam, containing fragments of late Post Medieval and modern pottery, glass and CBM.	0.25-0.30
12002	Mid yellow-brown clayey-silts with grey mottling. Contains large patches of well-rounded gravels within a darker grey-brown silty matrix. Common small, sub-angular pebbles.	0.35-0.40
12003	Natural clays. Reddish-brown stiff clay with occasional small, sub-angular pebbles.	0.60-0.70 bgs
Note		Depth: 1.20

Plot No.121	185m x 12m standing area widening to 50m	South-east – North-west
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
12101	Topsoil- mid grey brown silty-loam, containing fragments of late Post Medieval and modern pottery, glass and CBM.	0.35
12102	Mid yellow-brown clayey silts at top of slope becoming much sandier towards the base of the slope. Large patches of loose gravels within a darker silt matrix.	0.35-0.40
12103	Cut of gravel lined linear feature. Steeply sloping/vertical sides with a flat base.	0.15
12104	Fill of linear feature [12103]. Dark grey-brown silty loam, containing concentration of gravel at base and sides.	0.15
12105	Cut of linear feature running north-south across standing area. Gently sloping east edge, steeply sloping west edge with a gently concave base.	0.10
12106	Fill of linear feature [12105]. Dark grey-brown silty-loam with occasional small pebbles.	0.10

12107	Natural clays. Reddish-brown stiff clay with occasional sub-angular pebbles.	0.70-0.75bgs
Note	Drill pit excavated at west side of standing area for drilled pipe under P122.	Depth: 1.50

Plot No.122	65m x 12m	South-east – North-west
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
12201	Topsoil- mid grey brown silty-loam, containing fragments of late Post Medieval and modern pottery, glass and CBM. Decreasing in depth downslope	0.35-0.20
12202	Mid yellow-brown clayey-silts with frequent grey mottling and patches of orange clay. Heavy root disturbance from sizable trees which had covered the slope.	
12203	Fill of [12204]. Mid grey-brown clayey silts with occasional small pebbles. Some iron oxide mottling that increased in density towards base of fill.	1.10
12204	V-shaped cut of ditch that formed part of the earthwork known as Wat's Dyke. Seen in section of earlier evaluation trench.	1.10
12205	Natural clay- Reddish purple, stiff clay with common sub-angular chert pebbles.	
Note	This slope was not trenched due to steepness. Easement stripping took c2.7 M off top of slope, decreasing to 0.50m at base., where there was a heavily waterlogged area of bog.	Depth: 0.50-2.00

Plot No.123	140m x 12m	South-east – North-west
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
12301	Topsoil- mid grey brown silty-loam, containing fragments of late Post Medieval and modern pottery, glass and CBM. Increases in depth towards base of slope.	0.40-0.45
12302	Mid yellow-brown clayey-silts with grey mottling. Contains large patches of well-rounded gravels within a darker grey-brown silty matrix.	0.40
Note	Drill pit on east side of track dividing P123 from P124. No natural clays reached at this depth.	Depth: 1.30

Plot No.124	100m x 12m standing area widening to 60m	East - West
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
12401	Topsoil- mid grey brown silty-loam, containing fragments of late Post Medieval and modern pottery, glass and CBM	0.15-0.20
12401	Very loose, mixed river gravels and alluvium. Gravels are well-rounded and measure 20-300mm in size.	1.5-1.75
12403	Natural clay – very clean, yellow-brown, stiff clay.	1.80-2.00 bgs
Note	Large drill pit excavated within east side of standing area, with a second immediately west of track dividing P124 from P123.	Depth: 2.00

Plot No.125	165m x 35m widening to 65m	South-east - North-west
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
12501	Topsoil- mid grey brown clayey loam, containing fragments of late Post Medieval and modern pottery, glass and CBM. Increases in depth within hollow way.	0.10-0.30
12502	Orange-brown clayey-silts with very occasional small, well-rounded pebbles.	N/E
12503	Very loose, mixed river gravels and alluvium. Gravels are well-rounded and measure 20-300mm in size.	1.5-1.75
12504	Natural clay – very clean, yellow-brown, stiff clay.	1.80-2.00 bgs
Note	Two drill pits excavated within the river gravels of the valley bottom	Depth: 2.00

Plot No.126	155m x 12m standing area widening to 45m	South-east – North-west turning to North-east – South-west
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
12601	Topsoil- mid grey brown clayey loam, containing fragments of late Post Medieval and modern pottery, glass and CBM. Increases in depth towards base of slope.	0.25-0.35
12602	Orange-brown clayey-silts with very occasional small, well-rounded pebbles.	0.40
12603	Natural- Reddish-brown stiff clay with common, sub-angular chert pebbles.	0.65-0.75 bgs
Note	Drill pit excavated to depth of 1.50m within east side of standing area.	Depth: 1.50

Plot No.127	280m x 12m	North-east – South-west
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
12701	Topsoil- mid grey brown clayey loam, containing fragments of late Post Medieval and modern pottery, glass and CBM.	0.20
12702	Loose silts containing common, small, well-rounded gravels. Undulating lower horizon-possible ridge and furrow?	0.50-0.65
12703	Fill of [12704]. Clean grey- brown silts, with only very occasional small pebbles.	0.75
12704	Cut of small ditch filled with (12703). Runs north west- south east across the trench, and is 0.75m deep.	0.75
12705	Orange-brown clayey-silts with very occasional small, well-rounded pebbles.	0.15
12706	Natural- Reddish-brown stiff clay with common, sub-angular chert pebbles.	0.85-1.00 bgs
Note		Depth: 1.20

Plot No.128	110m x 11m standing area widening to 50m	North-east – South-west
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
12801	Dark brown, loose humic topsoil with arable crop. Scatter of 19 th century pottery.	0.20-0.30
12802	Grey-brown sandy-silt, containing rare, well rounded, chert pebbles.	0.40
12803	Natural silty-sands with very occasional small, well-rounded pebbles.	0.6-0.7 bgs
Note	Drill pit excavated at east side of standing area to depth of approximately 1.50m.	Depth: 1.50

Plot No.129	185m x 10.5m standing area widening to 40m	North-east-east – South-west-west
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
12901	Topsoil- mid grey brown clayey loam, containing fragments of late Post Medieval and modern pottery, glass and CBM.	0.20-0.30
12902	Orange-brown silty-clay, containing rare, well rounded, chert pebbles.	0.40
12903	Heavily waterlogged peat, present at surface within the eastern standing area of P129. Contained a number of preserved natural tree trunks and branches as well as upright posts seen to be modern from their working.	0.40+
12904	Mid yellow-brown silty-clay mottled with grey. Contains large patches of loose gravels and silts.	0.6-0.7 bgs
Note	Drill pit excavated at western side of standing area.	Depth: 1.50

Plot No.130	240m x 10.5m	South-east – North-west
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
13001	Topsoil- mid grey brown clayey loam, containing fragments of late Post Medieval and modern pottery, glass and CBM.	0.20-0.30
13002	Yellow brown silty clay containing rare, well rounded, chert pebbles.	0.50
13003	Group No. for fill of stone packed land drains running North east-south west across trench.	
13004	Group No. for cut of stone packed land drains running North east-south west across trench.	
13005	Layer of peat, containing large quantities of semi-decomposed tree material. Lies at bottom of small valley with P130.	0.60
13006	Natural clay – dark grey-brown, stiff clay containing small, sub-angular chert pebbles.	0.70-1.40 bgs
Note	Trench excavated to depth of 1.80m across ditch at bottom of valley	Depth: 1.80

Plot No.131	120m x 10.5m	South-east-east – North-west-west
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
13101	Topsoil- mid grey brown clayey loam, containing fragments of late Post Medieval and modern pottery, glass and CBM.	0.30
13102	Yellow brown silty clay containing rare, well rounded, chert pebbles.	0.40
13103	Natural clay – dark grey-brown, stiff clay containing small, sub-angular chert pebbles and larger sandstone pebbles.	0.70 bgs
Note		Depth: 1.20

Plot No.132	180m x 10.5m, standing area widening to 45m	South-east-east – North-west-west
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
13201	Topsoil- mid grey brown clayey loam, containing fragments of late Post Medieval and modern pottery, glass and CBM.	0.35
13202	Yellow brown silty clay containing common, well rounded, chert pebbles.	0.20-0.50
13203	Natural clay – dark grey-brown, stiff clay containing fragments of shale, small, sub-angular chert pebbles and larger sandstone pebbles.	0.55-0.75 bgs
13204	Group No. for fill of land drains running north-south across trench.	
13205	Group No. for cut of land drains	
Note		Depth: 1.20

Plot No.134	50m x 60m	East - West
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
13401	Topsoil- mid grey brown clayey loam, containing fragments of late Post Medieval and modern pottery, glass and CBM.	0.20-0.30
13402	Yellow brown silty clay containing common, well rounded, chert pebbles.	0.20-0.30m bgs
13403	Sub-rectangular patch of building debris, indicating the remains of a demolished building. Late Post Medieval and Modern brick, mixed with floor tiles and modern glass bottles, china etc... No cut for footing trenches visible.	N/E
13404	Natural - Very clean yellow-brown, stiff clay with no inclusions.	0.40-0.60 bgs
Note	Drill pit excavated to 1.50m at west end of standing area.	Depth: 1.50

Plot No.137	190m x 12m	South-east-east – North-west-west
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
13701	Topsoil- mid grey brown clayey loam, containing fragments of late Post Medieval and modern pottery, glass and CBM.	0.20-0.30
13702	Orange-brown clayey-silt.	0.20
13703	Fill of [13704]. Mixed orange and grey clays, patches of which are brittle and crumbly, as well as being discoloured as though burnt.	2.7
13704	Large sub-circular cut filled with (13703). Perfectly vertical and straight sides indicate the feature has been machine cut and is modern. Excavated to a depth of 2.7m	2.7
13705	Deposit of red marl with yellow mottling, underlying (13702).	0.70
13706	Thin layer of purplish-brown clay containing a small number of flat stones???	0.20
13707	Natural - Very clean yellow-brown, stiff clay with no inclusions.	1.30 bgs
13708	Dump deposits of coal fragments, coal dust and ash immediately under thin topsoil. Visible to full depth of trench.	1.05
Note		Depth: 1.30

Plot No.139	220m x 12m	North-east-east – South-west-west
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
13901	Topsoil- mid grey brown clayey loam, containing fragments of late Post Medieval and modern pottery, glass and CBM.	0.23
13902	Orange-brown silty-clay containing frequent small, well-rounded chert pebbles.	0.30
13903	Natural - grey-brown clay containing frequent small, well-rounded chert pebbles.	
13904	Deposit/dump of coal fragments, coal dust and ash, visible the full depth of the pipe trench.	
13905	Deposit/dump of coal fragments, coal dust and ash.	0.45
Note		Depth: 1.20

Plot No.140	430m x 12m	North – South
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
14001	Topsoil- mid grey brown clayey loam, containing fragments of late Post Medieval and modern pottery, glass and CBM.	0.20 –0.30
14002	Orange-brown sandy clay.	
14003	Foundations of small, rectangular, brick built structure consisting of a length of wall running north-south with a return to the east at either end. The wall is constructed of a double thickness of bricks laid in <i>stretcher?</i> Bond, to a height of two course.	
14004	Cut for footings of wall (14003). Cut is the width of the wall, with no footing trench visible.	
14005	Fill of [14006]. Dark brown, friable, humic loam, with rare small pebbles.	
14006	Cut of linear feature running approximately north-south, and approximately 5m in length.	
14007	Fill of [14008]. Fill of stone filled land drains consisting of angular pebbles <0.05m, loosely packed.	0.30
14008	Cut of land drains	0.30
14009	Mixed deposits of grey ash and broken brick which are compacted to a firm surface. Some patchy remains of tarmac indicated that this is the remains of hardcore forming a disused track or road.	
Note	Connection pit excavated to depth of 1.20m at south end of easement.	Depth: 1.20

10. Appendix II: Catalogue of post-medieval pottery

Context 10901

4 x blackware sherds (one vessel), dark red-brown fabric. Jar or jug with internal and external dark brown glaze.

1 x blackware. Red-brown fabric, internal and external dark brown glaze

1 x blackware cup rim. Grey-brown fabric, internal and external, slightly metallic black glaze.

2 (joining) x coarseware handled jar. Thick cordoned rim, internal and external dark brown glaze. Streaky orange-brown fabric.

1 x coarseware jar base sherd, Streaky orange-brown fabric, internal dark brown glaze, external red-brown slip. Some external flaking

1 x orange-brown streaky coarseware. External red-brown wash, some external dark brown glaze. Internal surface missing, with some spalling. One small patch of dark brown glaze remains.

1 x coarseware. Orange-brown fabric. Internal red-brown slip, trace of internal dark brown glaze. Some spalling on inner surface, kiln scar on rim

2 x coarseware. Brown fabric. Internal and external black glaze

1 x coarseware, orange-brown streaky fabric, internal brown glaze, some external abrasion, some flaking of internal surface

1 x mottled ware mug base, buff fabric

1 x mottled ware mug rim, buff fabric, slightly burnt.

1 x slip-coated ware. Orange fabric, internal and external glaze

1 x slip-coated ware, cream fabric, internal and external black glaze

1 x slip-coated ware. Fine pale brown fabric, internal and external brown glaze.

1 x slipware pie-crust edge dish. Pale orange-brown fabric. Yellow slip trails on mid-brown ground

1 x slipware, crude pie-crust edge dish. The edging is formed of a row of narrow vertical grooves, squashed in places. Red-brown fabric, cream inclusions and streaks. Yellow trailed and feathered slip on a dark brown ground. The exterior and part of rim is covered with a carbonaceous deposit.

1 x slipware pie-crust rim dish. Pale brown streaky fabric. White slip trails over a dark brown ground

1 x embossed slipware, pale brown fabric, trace of dark brown slip

1 x slipware, speckled buff fabric, dark brown and tan slip trails on a yellow ground.

1 x yellow ware/slipware rim sherd, buff fabric. Exterior spalled, internal yellow glaze

1 x slipware, pale pinkish-orange fabric. Heavily abraded. Trace of yellow slip decoration on a mid-brown ground but most of internal surface missing.

1 x slipware sherd (probably early 19th century industrial slipware). Clean cream fabric internal and external yellow glaze, external dark brown slip band.

1 x clay pipe stem

Context 20001

1 x coarseware bowl rim sherd. Fine red fabric. Internal mid-brown glaze
1 x coarseware jar rim-body sherd. Red fabric some cream streaks. Internal brown glaze speckles.
3 x coarseware sherds. Fine red fabric. Internal black glaze.
1 x coarseware sherd. Crude, pale pinkish-brown streaky fabric. Internal and external black glaze. Internal and external abrasion.

1 x modern (19th c) yellow ware
2 x modern (19th c) glazed ware sherds

Context 20301

1 x blackware everted rim. Red fabric. Internal and external black glaze.

2 x coarseware pancheon rim-body sherds. Fine red fabric. Internal black glaze
2 x coarseware rim-body sherds from bead rim bowl. Fine red fabric. Internal brown glaze.
2 x coarseware sherds. Fine red fabric. Heavy internal abrasion. Internal black glaze on one sherd.
1 x coarseware sherd. Pinkish-buff fabric, some lighter streaks. Internal brown glaze. Some internal abrasion.

1 x slip-coated ware. Clean buff fabric. Internal and external black glaze. Impressed, applied white clay pad on exterior, appearing green under the glaze.

Context 20401

4 x blackware sherds. Clean red fabric. Internal and external glaze

1 x coarseware bowl rim sherd. Clean red fabric. Internal brown glaze.
3 x coarseware sherds. Pale orange-brown fabric. Internal dark brown glaze
1 x coarseware sherd. Clean weak red fabric. Internal brown glaze
1 x coarseware sherd. Purplish-red fabric. Internal dark brown glaze.
1 x coarseware fabric. Clean purplish-brown fabric. Internal pimply purplish-brown glaze.
2 x coarseware sherds. Clean orange-brown fabric. Heavy internal and external abrasion. Traces of dark brown glaze

1 x modern (19th c) yellow ware sherd

1 x slip-coated ware. Clean orange fabric. Heavy internal abrasion
1 x slip-coated ware handle. Heavy abrasion.

1 x slipware bowl rim sherd. Weak red, streaky fabric. Internal purplish red slip, trace of yellow slip trail.

1 x 19th c utilitarian whiteware base sherd

Context 20501

2 x blackware cup base sherds (one vessel) Clean red fabric

2 x blackware mug sherds (one vessel)

1 x blackware base sherd, external purplish wash

1 x blackware ?jug rim-shoulder sherd

1 x blackware sherd purple-red fabric. Internal and external glaze

1 x blackware sherd. Weak red fabric, very laminar in places. Internal and external glaze

1 x coarseware. Streaky orange-brown fabric. Internal and external black glaze

1 x streaky buff coarseware. Heavy internal abrasion. Some internal brown glaze.

1 x streaky buff earthenware bowl rim. Heavily spalled so no inner surface remains.

Could be slip-decorated ware or slip-coated ware.

1 x creamware sherd (looks as if it might have been shaped)

1 x flowerpot rim

4 x mottled ware sherds (one vessel). Buff fabric. Straight sided bowl.

1 x mottled ware sherd. Straight-sided bowl. Buff fabric. Slightly pale and patchy glaze.

1 x slip-coated ware. Pale orange fabric. Internal dark brown glaze. Heavy internal flaking, some external flaking

1 x slip-coated ware bowl base. Pale orange fabric. Internal dark brown glaze. Some internal spalling or wear.

2 (joining) x slip-coated ware. Pale pinkish buff fabric. Internal black glaze. Heavily abraded or spalled internally and externally. Post breakage burning on exterior.

1 x slip-coated ware. Light orange fabric, internal and external glaze

1 x slipware rim sherd. Fine brown fabric. Marbled/agate ware effect on exterior. Three concentric scratched or sgraffito bands of white slip on interior mid-brown ground.

1 x slipware bowl rim. Fine, weak red fabric. Narrow white slip band on partially brown-glazed interior. Small clay adhesion and kiln scar on interior.

1 x slipware bowl sherd. Fine red-brown fabric. Three concentric bands of yellow slip on brown ground on interior. Interior only glazed

1 x slipware sherd. Pale brown fabric. External red-brown slip. Internal white slip ?circles on toffee brown ground

1 x pale grey stoneware mug base

Context 20502

1 x blackware sherd. Hard-fired, reduced, grey fabric. Internal and external glaze

3 x coarseware sherds. Clean, orange fabric. Abraded, traces of dark brown glaze

1 x coarseware sherd. Streaky, pale brown fabric. Internal and external dark brown glaze.

1 x slip-coated ware base sherd. Clean buff fabric. Internal black glaze

1 x slipware cup or bowl sherd. Clean buff fabric. Internal yellow glaze, external feathered slip decoration.

1 x cream stoneware sherd, bands of iron wash on exterior

1 x grey stoneware sherd

2 x yellow ware sherds (buff fabric) one rim sherd

Context 20601

7 x blackware sherds. Weak red fabric. One rim sherd from a bowl, base sherd from a cup, base sherd from large mug or jug (clay bobs adhering to the base) Five vessels represented

5 x coarseware. Colour varies from pale pink to orange. Fabric streaky. Two bowls represented with brown glaze over reddish slip, Glaze has flaked away from surface. Five vessels represented

3 x feathered slipware. Pale, pinkish-buff fabric. Probably three separate vessels. Rim sherd from a subrectangular dish or rim is distorted. Trace of pie crust edge, rim very worn, slip and glaze flaked away at this point

1 x light-on-dark flange-rim, slipware dish sherd, pale pinkish-buff fabric

1 x embossed slipware dish sherd, buff fabric. Dark brown and tan slip on a yellow ground

1 x slipware dish, buff fabric. Tan and dark brown lattice on yellow ground

1 x slipware dish sherd, coarse red fabric with cream streaks and inclusions. Yellow and tan trailed and feathered slip on a dark brown ground.

1 x slipware bowl/dish sherd, weak red fabric with cream streaks. Yellow slip trails on mid-brown ground. External purplish-red slip

1 x slipware flange-rim bowl or dish sherd. Streaky red fabric. Internal and external glaze. The exterior resembles "agate ware". The interior has a red slip overlaid with horizontal white slip bands

1 x slipware cup sherd. Weak red fabric Yellow slip trails on exterior on dark brown ground. Glaze has not completely covered internal and external surfaces around rim

Context 20701

1 x blackware jug or jar base. Internal and external glaze. Sherd burnt, exterior glaze crawled

1 x blackware sherd, burnt. Internal and external glaze

1 x blackware sherd. Internal and external glaze, spalled on exterior

1 x blackware cup base sherd

1 x blackware base sherd. Possible traces of blow out or bubbling

1 x blackware. Trace of interior glaze, burnt on interior.

7 x coarseware sherds. Pale brown streaky fabric. Mainly dark brown internal glazes. Unglazed areas slipped, one sherd has external spalling.

1 x coarseware bowl rim sherd. Streaky pale orange fabric. Internal and external iron-rich slip, internal dark brown glaze.

1 x manganese mottled ware. Buff fabric, internal glaze. Possibly base of a porringer.

4 x slip-coated ware sherds, internal glaze. Buff fabric with frequent ferruginous inclusions, giving the fabric a speckled appearance. Glaze has flaked away from the slip and the slip away from the body.

1 x slip-coated ware dish with pie-crust rim. External surface unslipped. Wear along external edge of the rim. Shiny black patchy deposition external surface and partly over rim – possibly carbon derived from coal

1 x slip-coated ware mug rim sherd, speckled buff fabric, internal and external dark brown glaze.

1 x slip-coated ware, speckled buff fabric. Internal glaze. Black carbonaceous deposit over one of the breaks

1 x slip-coated ware, flange-rim bowl. Clean pale orange-brown fabric, internal dark brown glaze, external glaze streak. Exterior spalled.

4 x slip-coated ware body sherds, Internal brown glaze

1 x slip-coated ware body sherd. Internal dark brown glaze mainly flaked away.

1 x slipware dish, flanged crude, ill-formed pie-crust rim. Pale brown fabric. Trace of white slip decoration on mid brown ground. Most of the glaze and slip has flaked away from the surface.

1 x slipware, flange rim bowl. Pale orange fabric. Orange wash over external surface, brown slip on interior and exterior of rim. Uneven horizontal white slip band along rim. Glaze and slip has flaked away from much of the rim

1 x slipware bowl sherd. Speckled buff fabric. Orange-brown internal and external slip, white slip trails on interior, some flaking of glaze from body

1 x slipware bowl sherd. Pale orange fabric. Purplish red external slip, external kiln scar. Trace of white slip decoration on a toffee coloured ground.

1 x ?slipware flange rim bowl sherd. Pale brown fabric. Internal toffee coloured glaze, external red-brown slip

1 x ?slipware sherd pale brown fabric internal and external tan glaze.

1 x stoneware bead rim bowl sherd. External iron wash beneath glaze

1 x yellow ware base sherd. Buff fabric

1 x yellow ware dish or bowl sherd.. Internal glaze. Stamped floral motif. Heavy ware on internal surface. External surface worn or spalled.

3 x clay pipe stems.

Context 20702

5 x blackware sherds, Clean red-brown fabric. Internal and external glaze

1 x overfired blackware sherd. Internal and external (crawled) glaze

1 x overfired blackware sherd, Internal and external glaze

1 x overfired blackware sherd , internal glaze

1 x overfired blackware cup handle

3 x coarseware jar rim sherds (one vessel). Streaky salmon pink fabric Reddish surfaces, thick purplish slip on the interior, trace of purple-brown glaze. Rim badly spalled in places.

1 x coarseware jar rim-body sherd. Clean orange-brown fabric. Internal purplish-brown glaze.

1 x coarseware jar rim-body sherd. Clean red fabric. Trace of burnt off interior glaze

1 x coarseware jar rim-shoulder sherd. Clean orange-brown fabric. Red brown surfaces. Internal purple-brown slip, runs of black glaze on interior.

1 x coarseware rim sherd. Clean orange-brown fabric, some internal surface flaking

2 (joining) x coarseware bowl rim-body sherd. Clean orange fabric. Internal dark brown glaze. External purplish slip. Some external abrasion.

5 x coarseware body sherds. Clean orange fabric, internal dark brown glaze

1 x coarseware. Clean orange-brown fabric, internal brown glaze. External black carbonaceous deposit on external surface and over one break.

1 x coarseware sherd. Weak red streaky fabric, internal and external glaze.

1 x coarseware sherd. Weak red streaky fabric, internal glaze, purplish external slip

1 x coarseware sherd. Crude streaky pale pinkish-orange fabric, internal and external dark brown glaze.

1 x coarseware sherd. Crude streaky pale pinkish-orange fabric, internal dark brown glaze, external red slip. Heavy external abrasion.

1 x coarseware sherd. Light brown streaky fabric. Internal and external brown glaze.

1 x coarseware jar base sherd. Crude streaky pale brown fabric. External purplish slip, internal black glaze.

2 (joining) x coarseware base sherds. Clean pale orange fabric. Internal mid-brown glaze. External soot and abrasion on external base.

3 x coarseware bowl base sherds (one vessel). Clean weak red fabric. Internal and black glaze. External abrasion

1 x coarseware jar base sherd. Clean weak red fabric. Purplish external surface, internal black glaze. Some wear on base edge

1 x coarseware base sherd. Weak red fabric, some cream streaks. Internal and external black glaze.

1 x mottled ware base sherd. Clean buff fabric. Internal and external glaze

1 x mottled ware sherd. Clean buff fabric. Internal glaze, some internal flaking

1x slip-coated ware base. Clean buff fabric. Internal black glaze.

1 x slip-coated ware mug sherd. Speckled buff fabric. Internal and external dark brown glaze.

3 x slip-coated ware. Clean pale orange fabric. Heavy external abrasion or flaking of surfaces

2 x slip-coated ware bowl sherds (one vessel). Internal brown glaze

2 x slipware mug or bowl. Buff fabric. External yellow glaze, internal feathered and trailed slip

2 x feathered slipware dish sherds. Pinkish-buff fabric. Heavy external abrasion on one sherd.

1 x feathered slipware dish sherd with pie-crust rim. Buff fabric External black shiny carbonaceous deposit.

1 x feathered slipware dish. Clean buff fabric. Burnt, black deposit along two breaks and external surface.

3 x slipware flange-rim bowl. Crude streaky pinkish-buff fabric. Internal and external brown slip. Trailed white wavy line on rim. Wavy slip trail on body. Kiln scars on exterior. Some flaking on interior at junction of rim and body.

1 x slipware flange-rim bowl sherd. Crude red streaky fabric. External purplish slip. Yellow wavy line on rim on toffee coloured ground. Small patch of internal spalling

1 x jewelled slipware flange rim dish. Pale pinkish-orange fabric. Overall internal white slip. Tan and dark brown slip trellis on rim. Two bands of dark brown slip with white slip dots on either above and below a band of writing of which three letters survive LOR (presumably part of legend bearing the word LORD). Patches of internal flaking.

1 x ?jewelled slipware flange-rim (possibly the same vessel as above). Pale pinkish orange fabric. Overall internal white slip, tan and dark brown trellis. Some internal flaking. Trace of soot or burning around rim.

1 x jewelled slipware sherd. Pale pinkish orange fabric, overall interior white slip, external orange slip or wash. Internal flaking

1 x jewelled slipware flange rim. Pale pinkish buff fabric, overall white internal slip. Part of rim tip missing and small gouge in interior surface. Interlaced tan and dark brown "jewelled" arcs.

1 x slipware flange-rim external flaking

1 x jewelled slipware flange rim. Pale pinkish buff fabric, overall white internal slip. Part of rim tip missing

1 x embossed ware pie-crust rim overall white internal slip. Dark brown slip blob.

Overall surface cracking on the interior

5 x trailed slipware sherds from a flange rim dish (one vessel). Pale pinkish buff fabric.

Yellow wavy line on rim. Horizontal slip trail above yellow slip dots. Tan internal ground

1 x trailed slipware bowl. Crude red and white streaky fabric.. External purplish red slip. Internal decoration consists of yellow slip dots on a red-brown ground

2 (joining) x trailed slipware bowl sherds. Pale pinkish orange fabric. Pale yellow slip on tan ground. Some internal flaking

1 x trailed slipware dish/bowl sherd Pale pinkish orange fabric. Yellow slip on red-brown ground. Some internal flaking

2 x slipware sherds from pie-crust rim dish. Crude buff fabric with numerous red streaks throughout. Interior red slip. White trailed and feathered slip decoration. Patches of external soot or burning.

1 x slipware pie-crust rim dish. Streaky pale pinkish brown fabric. Overall interior red slip giving a red brown ground, pale yellow and tan slip trails over. Some external wear or flaking.

1 x pie-crust rim dish. Clean buff fabric. Overall internal red slip giving a dark brown ground, tan and yellow slip trails over. Black carbonaceous deposit around rim and partly over one of the breaks

2 (joining) x embossed slipware dish sherds. Cream fabric. Dark brown slip on yellow ground.

1 x embossed slipware. Buff fabric. Mid brown and dark brown slip decoration on a yellow ground.

1 x embossed slipware. Pale brown fabric. Overall thin white internal slip. Dark brown slip decoration

5 x slipware dish sherds. Crude streaky pinkish brown fabric. Yellow tan and dark brown slip decoration. Heavy abrasion on the exterior of one sherd.

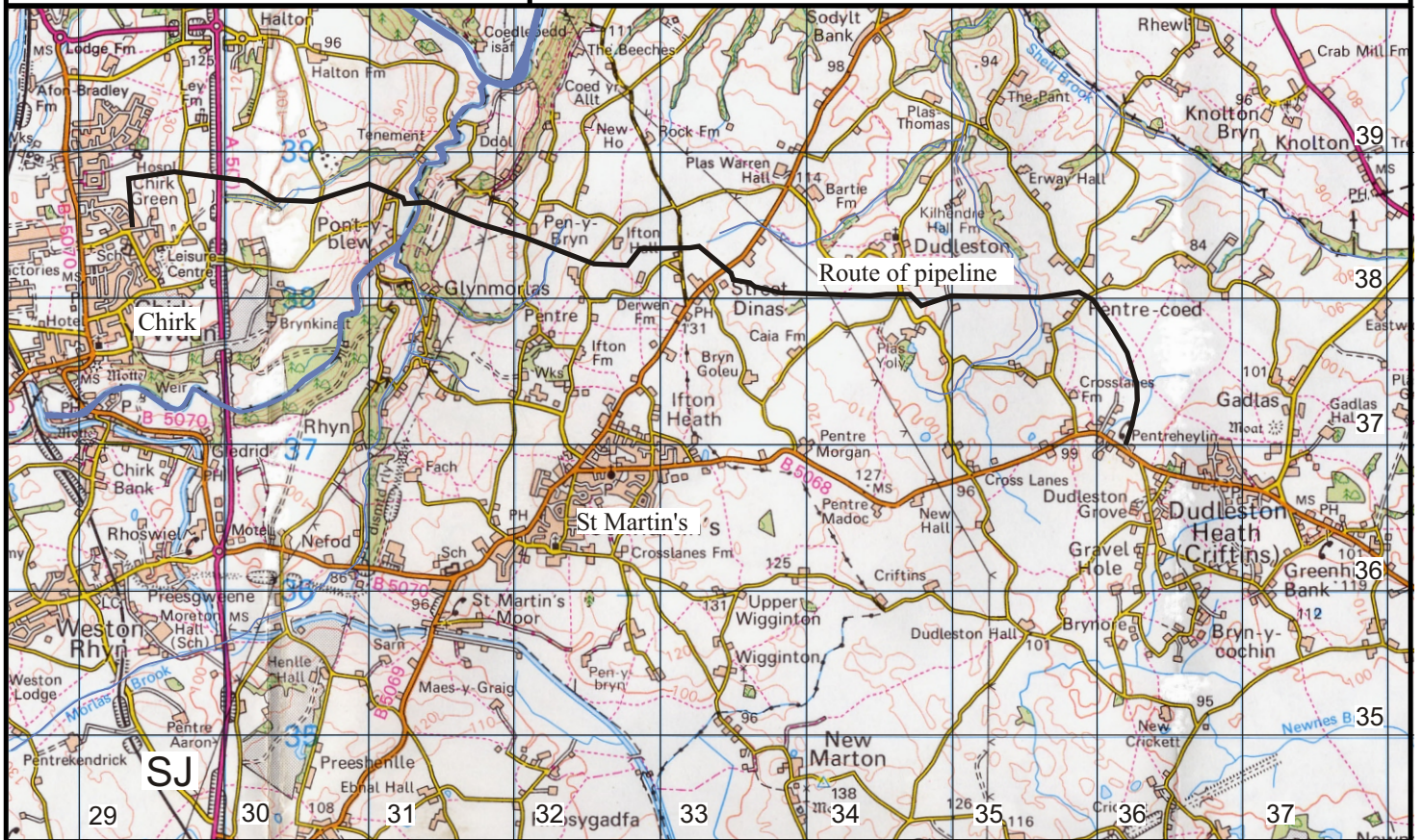
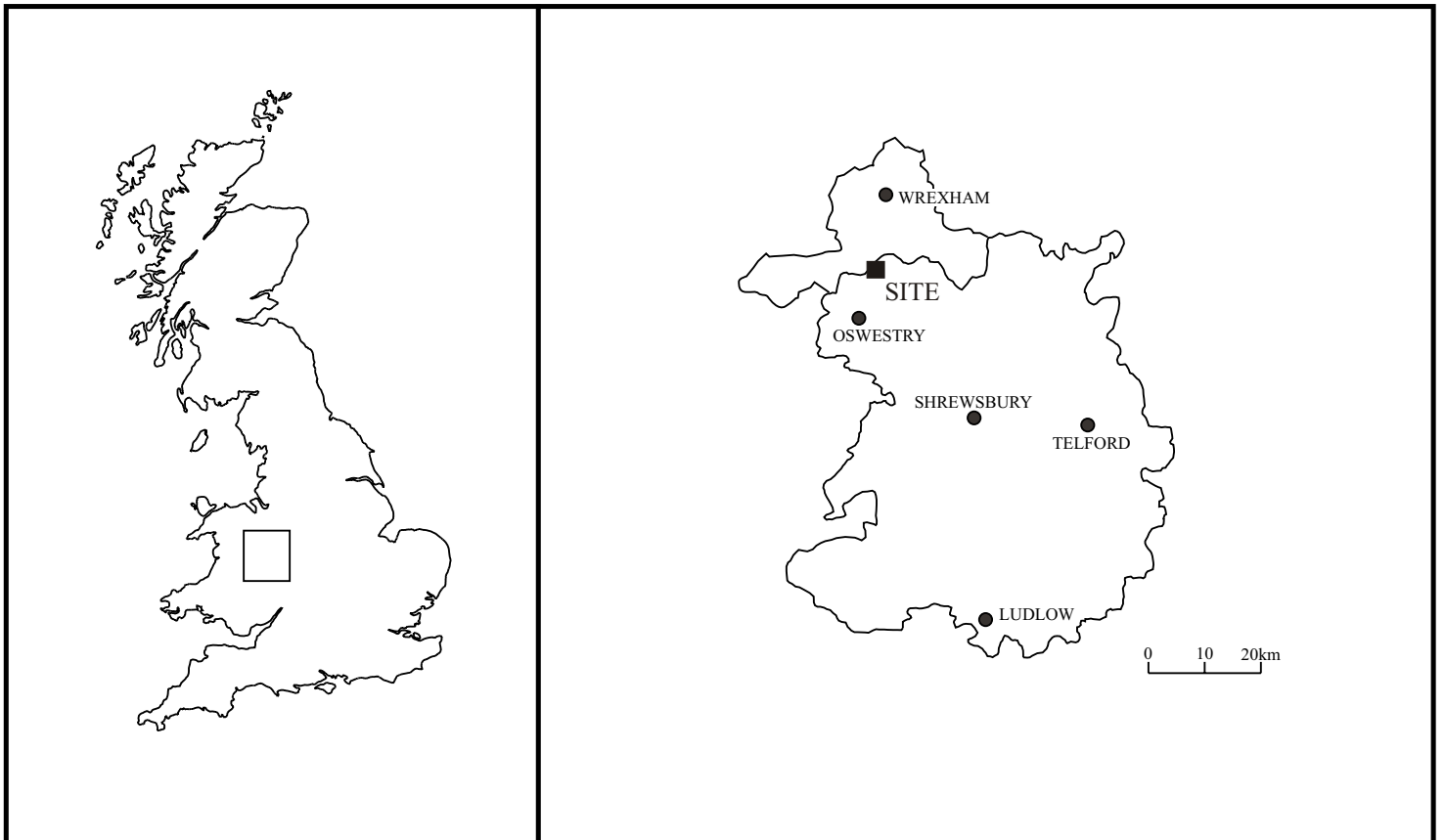
1 x slipware flange-rim bowl or dish sherd. Buff fabric. Internal flaking and chipping on rim. Black deposit on outer edge of rim

1 x slipware ?dish rim sherd. Clean buff fabric Overall internal white slip. Trace of dark brown slip decoration. Some internal flaking

1 x slipware flange rim sherd. Streaky orange fabric. External red-brown surface. Thicker purplish slip over rim, some external splashes of white slip. No internal surface, possibly spalled.

1 x buff ware sherd. Some blow out on exterior surface. Pale cream interior surface, may be the remains of a slip coat. Unglazed

1 x yellow ware sherd. Buff fabric. Internal and external glaze.



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Fig. 1: Route of pipeline



Plates 1 & 2: A sample of pottery recovered from (20702)



Plates 3 & 4: A sample of pottery from (20702)