



CAMBRIAN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECTS

## Marshfield AGI

Archaeological Watching Brief



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Report No. 570

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Archaeological Watching Brief

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On Behalf of: RSK Environment Ltd

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## **Non Technical summary**

*This report documents a watching brief carried out by Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd (CAP) for RSK Environment Ltd, on behalf of their client, Murphy Pipelines Limited.*

*It describes the field observation of the topsoil-stripping at a green-field site immediately south of Ty Mawr Lane, Marshfield, Gwent.*

*No evidence of archaeological activity or of residual archaeological material was unearthed.*

## **1. Background and Introduction**

The Wentlooge Level lies west of Newport, bounded by the river Usk and the river Rumney. Formed of deep marine and perimarine clays, it contains a 'Complex sequence' of peats and clays (Bell *et al*, 2000) representing episodes of marine inundation and recession. Past investigations of these peat layers have revealed preserved archaeological remains ranging in date from the Bronze Age through the Romano-British periods (Yates *et al*, 1999).

Construction of the Marshfield to Uskmouth gas pipeline entailed the building of an associated Above Ground Installation (AGI) during March of 2009.

The area was sited on the Wentlooge Level at ST2670982433, immediately east of Ty Mawr Lane, Marshfield, Gwent.

All machining work was carried out by Murphy Pipelines Limited using a smooth-edged ditching bucket under the archaeological supervision of Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd (CAP).

The work was carried out on behalf of the client Murphy Pipelines Limited, in accordance with the written scheme of investigation (WSI) laid down by RSK Environment Ltd (RSK), archaeological consultants to the client, with Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust acting as curators of the project.

### **1.1 Description and scope of works**

The site comprised a roughly trapezoidal area of fallow ground, widening to the NW, approximately 1400 square metres in size, aligned NW-SE, with its westernmost corner abutting the eastern side of Ty Mawr Lane (fig 2).

No visible features, archaeological or otherwise, were observed prior to excavation and the area was topsoil stripped to a depth of 0.15m.

## **1.2 Conditions**

Conditions during excavation were predominantly cool and dry, with no adverse ground conditions.

## **1.3 Methodology**

Marshfield AGI was subject to a shallow topsoil strip not exceeding 0.15 metres (plate 1). This did not impinge on the natural, blue-white clay horizon that underlies the silty clay topsoil in the area.

This was undertaken using a 360° Slew with a flat edged ditching bucket under full archaeological supervision.

## **1.4 Results**

The minimal depth of the works in this area did not reveal any archaeological activity, nor was any archaeologically significant residual material observed. A considerable amount of early 20<sup>th</sup> Century material, largely bottle glass and ceramics, was noted in the south-east corner of the site. This may be associated with the backfilling of the reën (large drainage ditch) that bordered this site. No evidence of structural material or activity was evident.

## **1.5 Conclusions and mitigation**

Because of the non-intrusive nature of the machine stripping it is highly unlikely that any archaeological strata were compromised here.

It should, however, be noted that because soil stripping did not reveal the underlying natural, the archaeological potential of the area remains unevaluated. Therefore, any future works here should be considered accordingly.

## **1.6 References.**

Bell, M, Caseldine, A and Neumann, H 2000 *Prehistoric Intertidal Archaeology in the West Severn Estuary*. CBA Research Report 120, York.

Yates, A, Roberts, R, and Walker, M J C 2001, The Archaeology of the Wentlooge Level: Investigations Along the Wentlooge Sewers 1998-9, in *Archaeology of the Severn Estuary* 12, (2001), 55-77



Figure 1: Marshfield AGI ST26738244

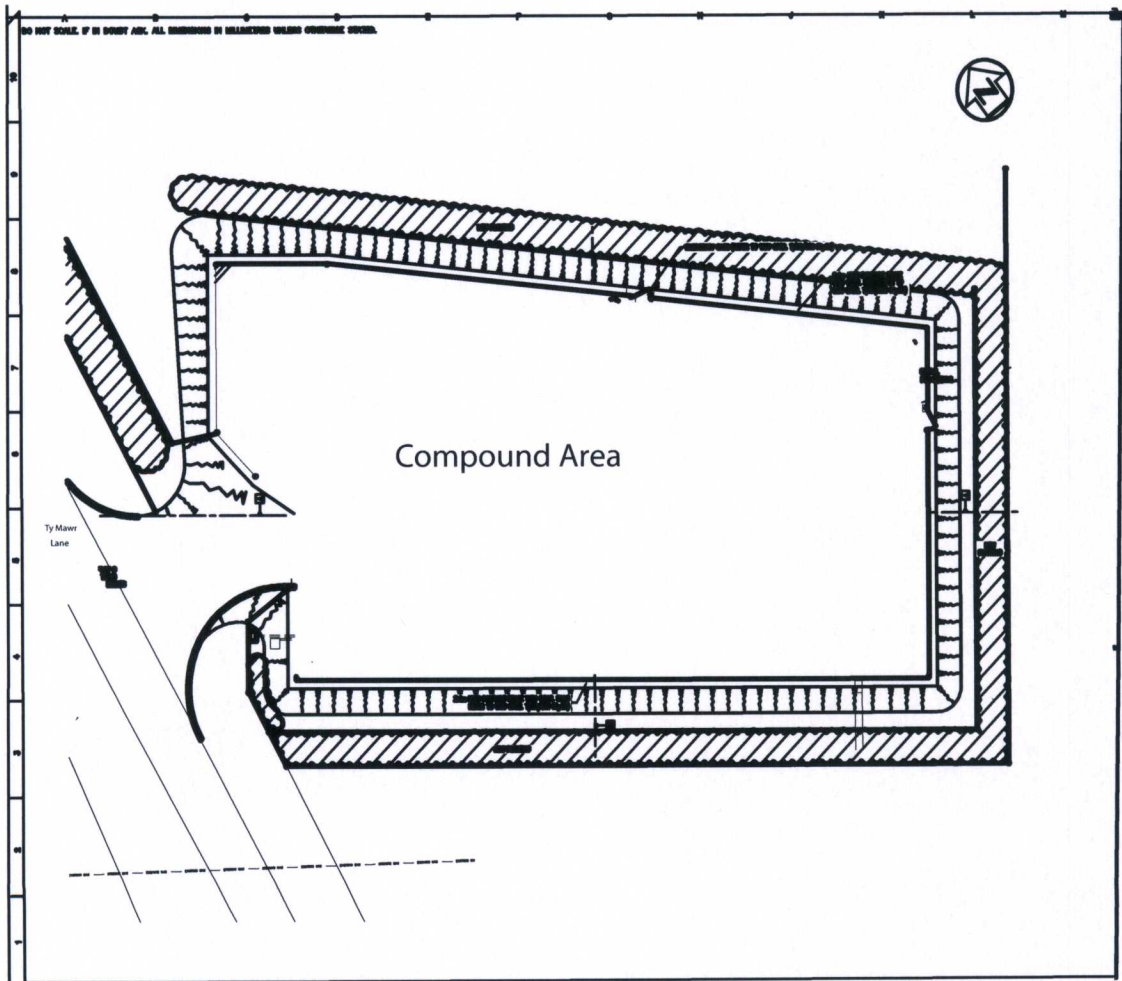


Figure 2: Marshfield AGI Compound Not to scale

## ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Site Name:	<b>Marshfield Above Ground Installation</b>
Site Code:	<b>CPD/09/EV</b>
PRN:	<b>N/A</b>
NPRN :	<b>N/A</b>
SAM:	<b>N/A</b>
Other Ref No:	<b>CAP project FOF1</b>
NGR:	<b>ST265738244</b>
Site Type:	<b>Rural</b>
Project Type:	<b>Archaeological evaluation</b>
Project Officer:	<b>Key Collins</b>
Project Dates:	<b>March 2009</b>
CAP report number:	<b>570</b>
Categories Present:	<b>N/A</b>
Location of Original Archive:	<b>N/A</b>
Location of duplicate Archives:	<b>N/A</b>
Number of Finds Boxes:	<b>N/A</b>
Location of Finds:	<b>N/A</b>
Museum Reference:	<b>Not assigned</b>
Copyright:	<b>CAP Ltd</b>
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