

THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Stokesay Castle, Shropshire:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CPAT Report No 201

CPAT Report Record

Report and status

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Stokesay Castle, Shropshire:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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October 1996

Report for Shearer & Morris, Machynlleth

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On the 31st May 1996, the Contracts Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (hereafter CPAT Contracts) were invited by Shearer & Morris, Machynlleth, acting as land agents for British Gas, to undertake a watching brief to the west of Stokesay Castle (SO434815) (fig 1) during the replacement of an existing gas main.
- 1.2 The development crossed the area of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SA8) (fig. 2) and the watching brief was a condition of the Scheduled Monument Consent (HSD/9/2/3663 pt 1, condition 3).
- 1.3 In response this invitation by Shearer & Morris and after approval by English Heritage, CPAT Contracts prepared a specification (Appendix 1) and quotation for the watching brief. This was accepted by English Heritage on 5th July 1996 with the groundworks due to commence on 2nd september 1996.
- 1.4 At the time of visiting, the area affected within the scheduled area was being used as rough pasture.

2 THE WATCHING BRIEF

- 2.1 The pipe trench through the scheduled area was excavated by mechanical excavator on 9th September 1996. The trench measured 0.3m wide and averaged 1.3m deep below the present ground surface.
- 2.2 The excavation was monitored by the writer for a total length of 10m from where it entered the scheduled area. The spoil was examined for finds and the sides of the trench inspected for cut features.
- 2.3 The eastern section was drawn at a scale of 1:20 (reproduced at 1:50 in fig. 3).

3 THE RESULTS

- 3.1 All results were negative. No finds were recovered nor were any features recorded.
- 3.2 The area did not seem to have been ploughed for a considerable period and the turf and topsoil measured only 0.2m deep on average. Below this was a sterile and undisturbed fine-fractioned yellow-brown sandy clay.

4 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The excavation of the pipe trench does not appear to have damaged any archaeological features.

APPENDIX 1

GAS PIPELINE, STOKESAY CROSSING COTTAGE, CRAVEN ARMS, SHROPSHIRE

SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF BY CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

1 Introduction

1.1 The proposal by British Gas to divert the course of the gas main at Stokesay Crossing Cottage, Craven Arms, Shropshire, involves excavations within the Scheduled Area of Stokesay Castle. Accordingly, English Heritage have requested details of appropriate archaeological supervision which should be included as part of the application for Scheduled Monument Consent.

1.2 The proposed pipeline will be located adjacent to the existing gas main in an area at least partly disturbed during the previous installation.

2 Objectives

2.1 The objectives of the watching brief are:

- 2.1.1 to maintain archaeological supervision during all groundworks;
- 2.1.2 to record any archaeology revealed during the excavations;
- 2.1.3 to prepare a report outlining the results of the watching brief;
- 2.1.4 to prepare an archive and possible publication of the results.

3 Methods

3.1 The watching brief will be undertaken by an experienced member of CPAT's staff, and will be maintained throughout all groundworks within the Scheduled Area.

3.2 Prior notice of the works will be given to the Director of Archaeology, Shropshire County Council.

3.3 All archaeological contexts will be recorded using the standard numbered context system employed by CPAT. All significant contexts to be planned and/or drawn in section at appropriate scales, and photographed in monochrome and colour. All drawn records will be related to control points depicted on modern Ordnance Survey maps and levels related to Ordnance Datum. A long section of the pipe trench will be drawn at a scale of at least 1:100.

3.4 Archaeological features or contexts identified will be sampled as appropriate to determine their likely dating and function.

3.5 All archaeological artefacts and environmental samples will be recorded and processed in a manner appropriate to the material involved. Those requiring conservation or other specialist treatment will be stored in a stable environment until such times as they can be examined by a specialist. A contingency has been set aside to allow for specialist fees as required. All finds,

except those deemed to be Treasure Trove, are the property of the landowner. It is anticipated that any artefacts recovered will be donated to the appropriate local or regional museum, subject to agreement being reached with the landowner and the museum curator (see 3.7).

3.6 Following the on-site work an illustrated and bound report will be produced immediately thereafter, the timing of which may depend on the need for specialist reports. This will be in A4 format and contain conventional sections on: Site location, Topography and Geology; Historic Background; Watching Brief/Excavation; Conclusions and References, together with appropriate appendices on archives and finds.

3.7 The site archive will be prepared to specifications laid out in Appendix 3 in the Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991) and arrangements will be made with Shropshire County Council Museums Service for the deposition of the archive and finds. Written confirmation of their acceptance will be sought prior to the commencement of the project.

3.8 Depending on the results of the watching brief it may be deemed appropriate for a full report to be produced for publication in a suitable national or local journal and a contingency has been allowed to account for this eventuality.

4 Resources and Programming

4.1 The watching brief will be undertaken by a small team of one or two skilled and experienced archaeologists under the direct supervision Dr A Gibson, a senior member of CPAT's staff who is also a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

4.2 All report preparation will be completed by the same field archaeologist who conducted the watching brief.

4.3 The duration of the watching brief is not known at this time and a daily rate has therefore been quoted both for the on-site work and the production of the report. However, it is anticipated that the on-site works might reasonably be completed within 5 days. The date of commencement, at the time of writing, has yet to be agreed with the client. The archaeological curator will be informed of the detailed timetable and staffing levels when agreement has been reached with the client.

4.4 Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.

4.5 CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance as well as Professional Indemnity insurance.

Dr A.Gibson
20th June 1996

APPENDIX 2

SITE ARCHIVE

BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Format	35mm
Film No	515
Frame Nos	10-11

COLOUR SLIDES

Format	35mm
Film No	CS96/41
Slide Nos	10-13

SECTION DRAWINGS

A1 sheets	1
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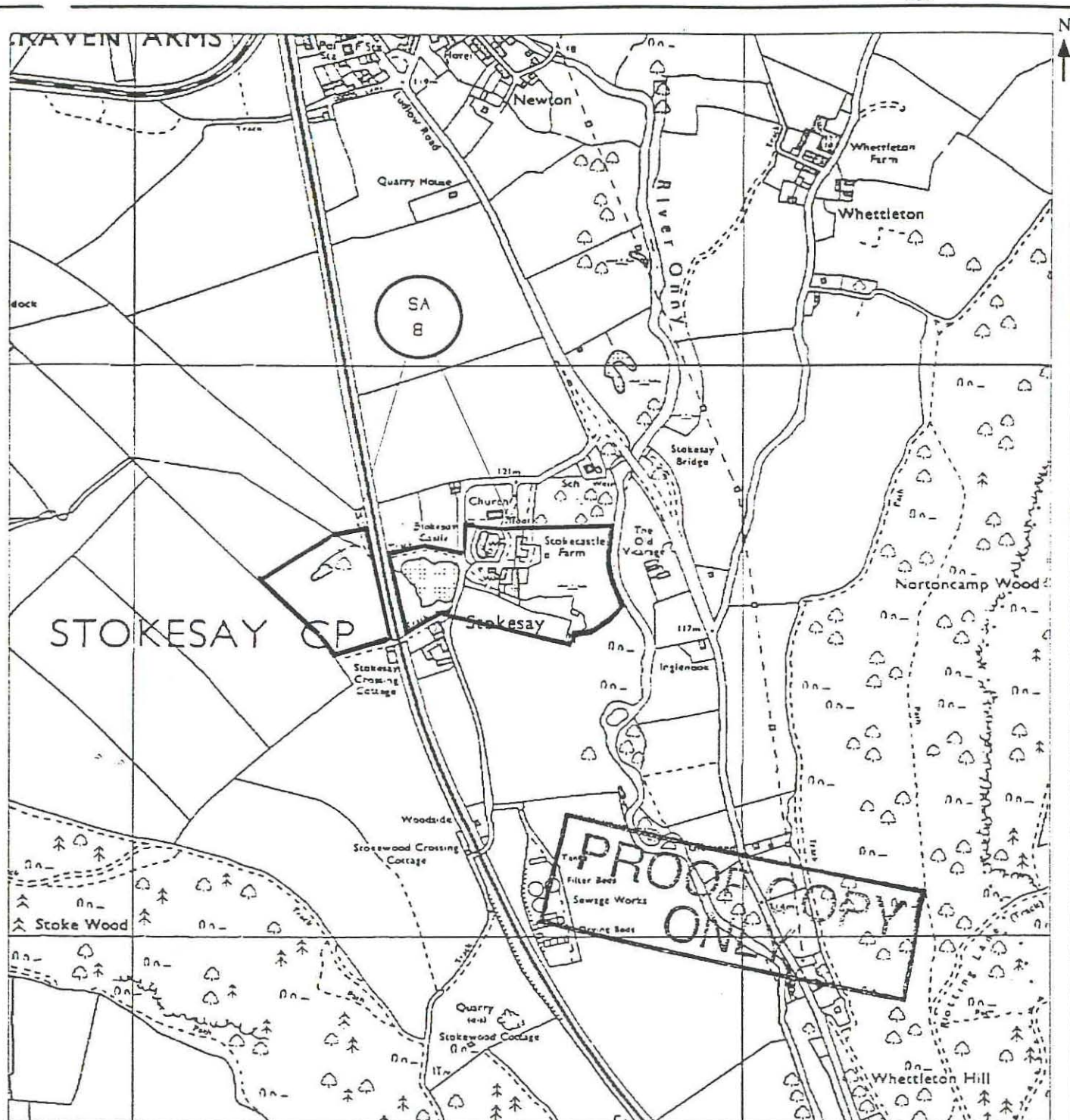
OTHER

Correspondence file

Check Print

COPY

(a)



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For identification purposes only

Site Name: Stokesay Castle

County: Shropshire

District: South Shropshire

Parish: Stokesay

Notes: 2 land parcels: Other NGR is SO 43328610
Guardianship

Key: Monument No. Location/extent of site



Scale: 1:10000

Derived from: 1:10000

Centred on NGR: SO43658162

Extract from OS sheet: SO48SW

Date: 10.8.93

Monument No: SA8

English Heritage

Fortress House 23 Savile Row London W1X 1AB Telephone 071-973 3000 Fax 071-973 3001

Fig 1 Stokesay Castle, Shropshire: Location map

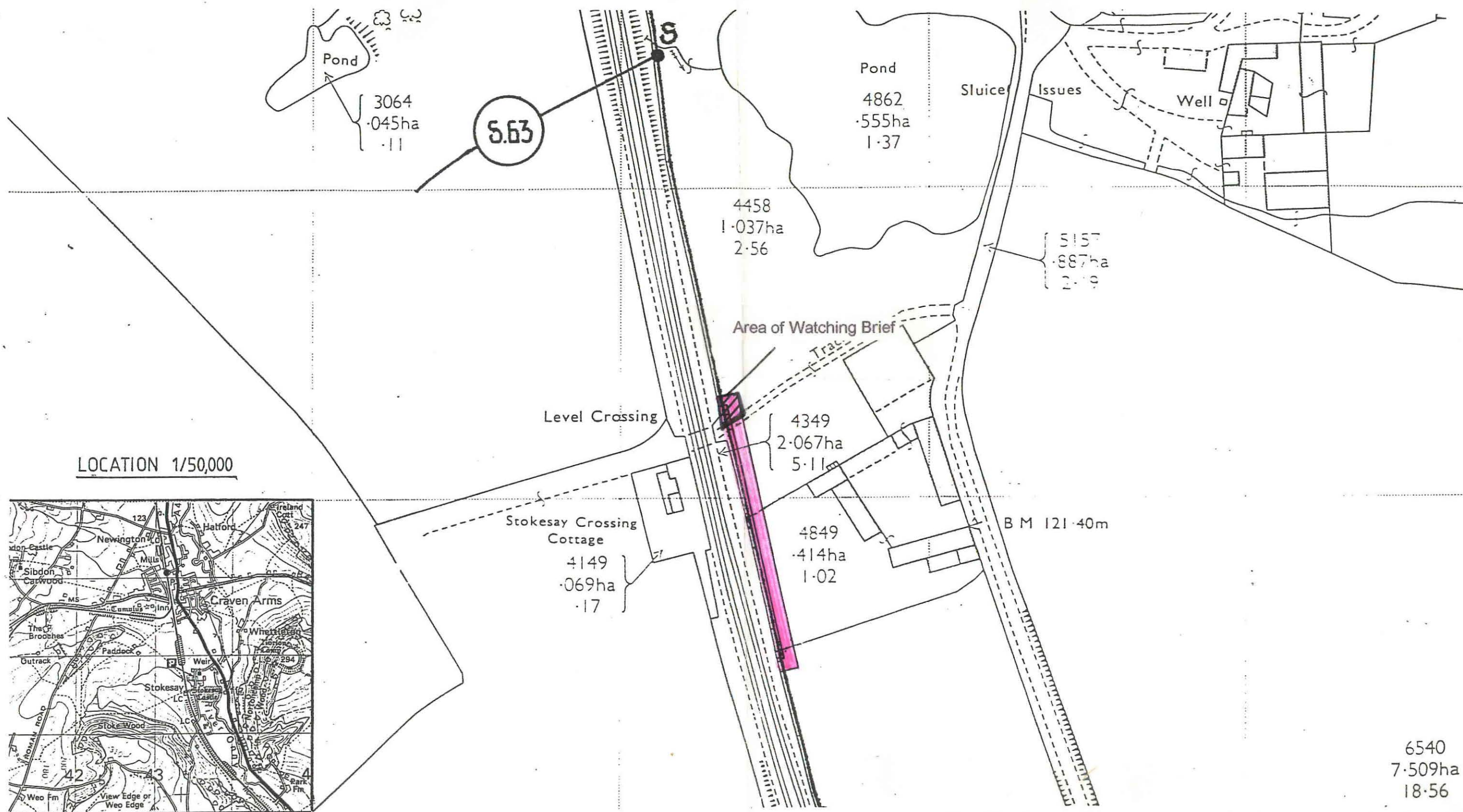


Fig 2 Stokesay Castle, Shropshire: Location of the watching brief

British Gas
TransCo



TITLE
DIVERSION OF MP MAIN
AT STOKESAY CROSSING

LOCATION SHROPSHIRE

DISTRICT
W1

OWNER
H.J. MARSH & SON
STOKESAY CASTLE FARM
CRAVEN ARMS SHROPSHIRE

TENANT

Existing Proposed

O.S.S. Ref. S04381

Scale 1/1250 Drg. No.

Date 6/96 NAWD 931/R1.

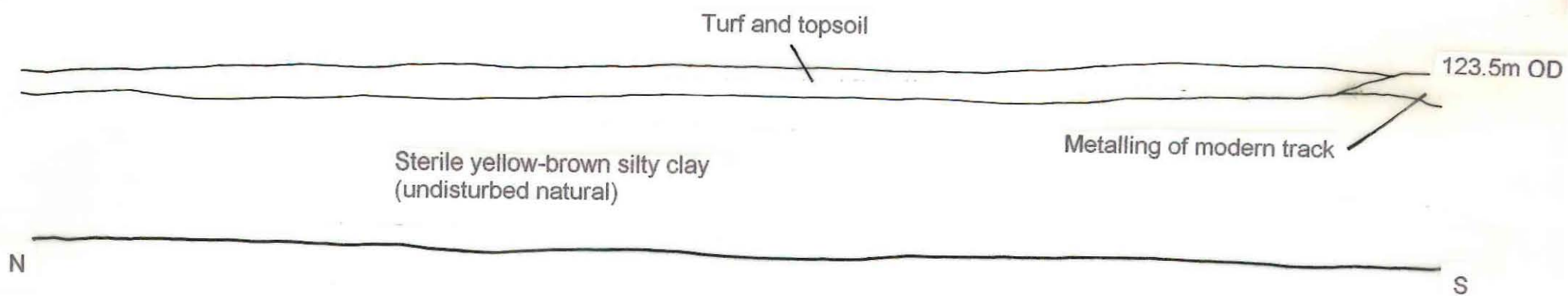


Fig 3 Stokesay Castle, Shropshire: Eastern section of pipe trench. Scale 1:50