THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Hyssington SR Disinfection / Ebb and Flow Main

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

CPAT Report No 813

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F Grant

July 2006

Report for Severn Trent Water

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CPAT Report Record

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (henceforward CPAT) was asked by Severn Trent Water in June 2006 to provide a quotation for an archaeological assessment of the route of a proposed pipeline in the neighbourhood of the small village of Hyssington near Churchstoke in eastern Powys. The assessment was required by Mr M Walters of the Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust in his capacity as archaeological advisor to the planning authority for the region.

1.2 The CPAT quotation was accepted by Severn Trent Water in June 2006. The desk-top and field survey elements of the assessment were carried out in July 2006 and this report was written immediately thereafter.

2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The proposed pipeline is 660m in length and runs approximately south from the reservoir at to the north of the village (NGR: SO 31309525) to its southern end, south of the village (NGR: SO 31129391). The area examined consisted of a corridor, 60m in total width, centred on the defined route (Fig. 1).

2.2 Much of the northern end of the route follows the line of the minor road leading from the village. To the south the route passes to the west of the village. The land is generally gently undulating, with a predominant general slope to the south-west and west, drained by tributaries of the river Camlad.

2.3 Land-use in the majority of the archaeological study area is permanent pasture.

2.4 The underlying geology of the pipeline route consists of Ordovician rocks of the Llanfyrn series. To the east extrusive igneous rocks of acid tuff of Cambrian to Precambrian date form the higher ground, whilst Corndon Hill to north consists of Precambrian intrusive fine-grained basic igneous material (British Geological Survey map, 1994). The soils consist generally of typical stagnogley soils, with brown podzolic of the Malvern series to the north and east (Soil Survey of England and Wales map and legend, 1983).

3 METHODS

3.1 The initial phase of the assessment consisted of a desk-based study of the readily available primary and secondary sources relating to the pipeline route. The repositories consulted include: the regional Historic Environment Record (HER), held by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust in Welshpool; the National Monuments Record (NMR), at the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW), in Aberystwyth; and the National Library of Wales (NLW), also in Aberystwyth. The NMR also provided aerial photography for study.

3.2 Following the desk-based study, the route was examined by a walk-over survey. This entailed the systematic examination of the defined corridor at transect intervals of 30m, although this was on occasion modified to fit in with the local field pattern. Any sites that were encountered during the field survey were recorded on standard CPAT site visit forms, the data including: an accurate location using a hand-held global positioning system (GPS) receiver; a written description of character, function, condition, vulnerability, dating etc;

and a sketch survey, where appropriate. Digital photography, to an appropriate resolution, has been taken of selected archaeological sites and locations.

3.3 In the following sections the term *PRN* precedes the primary record number of a site in the regional Historic Environment Record, and the term *SAM* precedes the scheduled ancient monument number given to a site statutorily designated by Cadw.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL and HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The hills to the north and west of Hyssington provide evidence of human activity from the Bronze Age, with Corndon Hill in particular demonstrating several round barrows. Later prehistoric activity can be seen to the west with an Iron Age fort on Roundton and further enclosure systems. No prehistoric evidence has been identified within the immediate vicinity of the proposed pipeline.

4.2 Hyssington is a small settlement with origins which certainly go back at least to the earlier part of the medieval period (*i.e.* after the Norman Conquest in the late 11th century). Indeed the name Hyssington could conceivably derive from an Old English form and have the meaning of 'the place of Hussa's people', but this is speculative and there is no concrete evidence for any pre-Conquest settlement here or in the vicinity, and the earliest version of the place name is as *Husinton* in 1227.

4.3 The primary focus of the village is the church together with the castle, lying to the north of the main area of modern settlement. The former is interesting because its dedication is to St Etheldreda, the daughter of a 7th-century East Anglian king and the only one of its kind in Wales but this must not be taken to strengthen the pre-Norman origins of Hyssington. The church itself undoubtedly had a medieval origin and there may be 13th-century fabric within the present building although this cannot be confirmed, and most of it was rebuilt in 1875. The date at which the castle was constructed and the length of time that it was occupied are also unknown. The earthwork motte supports the remains of what may have been a stone tower and there are building foundations and platforms within the bailey. Whether other elements collected around this focus is difficult to judge. There are vague earthworks in the field to the southwest of the church but it is unclear whether these could be the remnants of a deserted or shrunken settlement.

4.4 The modern settlement lies three to four hundred metres to the south around the conjunction of lanes that run up from Churchstoke, Llanerch and Lydham. As a result of the desk-top assessment (see below) it is now quite clear that the houses here all lie within or on the edge of a tract of common land which in the 19th century was known as Hyssington Green and that with the exception of Hyssington Farm which lay just to the east of the common most of the built up area mirrors the original form of the green.

5 RESULTS OF THE DESK-BASED STUDY

5.1 Hyssington is one of those small villages where there is relatively little in the way of early topographical information and virtually nothing in the way of early maps that pre-date the Tithe survey of the 1840s. The desk-top study was thus not particularly productive.

5.2 At the time of the tithe survey in 1840 an area of common know as Hyssington Green lay between the stream which now forms the boundary of the new housing at Hyssington and Hyssington Farm. Its line can still be detected on the modern maps. Such houses as

Brookfield and Little Cefn Farm (though not named in 1840) were in existence. The picture is amplified but not changed by information provided by early Ordnance Survey mapping.

5.3 Many of the fields through which the pipeline passes were classed as meadows in 1840 or contained the word in their names. One field, two hundred metres to the west of the church, which is clipped by the pipeline contained the Welsh term *maes* in its name which may mean that in the medieval period it formed part of the 'open' fields belonging to Hyssington; there is however nothing to confirm this assumption in the modern form of the field.

5.4 The desk-top study identified several sites within the general area of the pipeline wayleave (see fig ???). Only one however, a linear feature noted as a lane on the 1816 Ordnance Survey surveyors' drawing and now a ditch (PRN???), would be directly affected by the creation of the pipeline.

6 RESULTS OF THE FIELD SURVEY

6.1 The basic methodology of the field survey is briefly described in paragraph 3.2, above. Two further sites were identified during the field survey.

6.2 A series of earthworks were identified centred on NGR SO 31149452, in a field to the west of the road, through which the proposed pipeline would pass. These consisted of a holloway running from the area of the current gateway westwards, with further amorphous earthworks on either side. The holloway took the form of a sunken, slightly winding feature 0.30 – 0.50m deep and 1.00m wide, which could be traced for at least 46m. A low bank or ridge led away from the south side of the holloway towards the drainage ditch to the south-east. The adjacent field to the south also contained some amorphous irregularities, but owing to the nature of the long grass at the time of survey these could not be confidently identified as archaeological features, and may well prove to be of natural origin. It is possible that the earthworks represent the remains of an earlier settlement, probably related to the nearby church and motte-and-bailey castle site. This interpretation is further strengthened by the presence of previously identified earthworks in the field to the east (PRN 7539). In addition patches of nettles were noted which may indicate phosphate-enhanced soils, typical of early settlement sites.

6.3 A large stone of grey sandstone, measuring 0.75m x 0.55m x 0.50m, was identified at SO 31199452, within the same field as the previously mentioned earthworks. The stone was lying recumbently just inside the field gate against the hedge boundary to the north, within a heap of smaller stones which are currently being utilised as an anchor point for a telegraph pole. It is possible that the stone represents the results of clearance activity, and certainly this may be the reason for the heap of smaller stones. However, the proximity of other features of possible medieval origin suggests a possible boundary or marker function.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUMMARY

7.1 Each site of archaeological interest, identified during the assessment, has been classified according to its perceived significance. The categories, with the exception of Category E, are based on those given in the Department of Environment, Transport and Regions' *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges* (DMRB) Volume 11 Section 3 Part 2 (1993). Category E is taken from the draft *Archaeology and the Trunk Road Programme in*

Wales: a Manual of Best Practice prepared by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments (n.d.) which in other respects follows the DMRB volume.

Category A sites are those believed by CPAT to be of primary significance, either potentially of national importance or already designated by CADW as scheduled ancient monuments or listed buildings. It is presumed that sites in this category will be preserved and protected *in situ*.

Category B sites are sites of regional importance. These sites are not of sufficient importance to justify scheduling, but are nevertheless important in aiding the understanding and interpretation of the archaeology of the region. Preservation *in situ* is the preferred option for these sites, but if loss or damage is unavoidable, appropriate detailed recording should be undertaken.

Category C sites are sites of local importance. These sites are of lesser importance, but are nevertheless useful in aiding the understanding and interpretation of the archaeology of the local area. They are not normally of sufficient importance to justify preservation if threatened, but merit adequate recording in advance of loss or damage, or if portable they should be moved.

Category D sites are either sites of minor importance or those which are so badly damaged that too little now remains to justify their inclusion in a higher grade. Rapid recording should be sufficient, but as with Category C sites they should be moved if this is an appropriate strategy.

Category E sites are sites which have been identified, but whose importance cannot be assessed from fieldwork and desk-based study alone. An archaeological evaluation would be required to categorise such a site more accurately if the proposal was likely to affect it in any way.

7.2 The locations of the individual archaeological sites are shown on Figure 1. Tables summarising the archaeology of the study area according to its perceived importance are provided below.

7.2.1 **Category A sites**
No sites belonging this category in the pipeline corridor.

7.2.2 **Category B sites**
No sites belonging this category in the pipeline corridor.

7.2.3 **Category C sites**
No sites belonging this category in the pipeline corridor.

7.2.4 **Category D sites**

Site	Name	Type	Period	Condition	NGR
Site 2	Hyssington Stone	Boundary? Stone	Medieval-post Medieval	Damaged	SO31199452

7.2.5 **Category E sites**

Site	Name	Type	Period	Condition	NGR
Site 1	Hyssington Earthworks	Earthworks	Medieval?	Damaged	SO31149452

8 IMPACT AND MITIGATION

8.1 Impacts

The potential impacts of the proposal on the archaeological resource of the corridor are considered in the table below.

Site No	Name	Type	Condition	Potential Impact	Category
Site 1	Hyssington Earthworks	Earthworks	Damaged	Damage to any underlying features during pipe installation	E
Site 2	Hyssington Stone	Boundary? Stone	Damaged	Removal during pipe installation	D

8.2 In addition to the sites recorded above, there is the potential for further unrecorded sites that may be disturbed by the proposed pipeline. These sites consist of those which have not been previously recorded and only remain as sub-surface features, having no extant visible traces.

8.3 Mitigation

Consideration of the potential impact on the known archaeology suggests that the mitigation measures which follow provide an appropriate response to the proposals.

8.3.1 **Terminology**

The following standard archaeological terms are used below as recommended mitigation measures:

i) ***Preservation in situ***: where it is considered to be the most suitable response it may be recommended that the site is preserved in its present form, condition and location, and that the development may need to be modified to ensure this.

ii) ***Preservation by record***: where proposals will inevitably lead to the loss of a site sufficient recording should be undertaken to provide a full, accurate and permanent record of its nature, form, significance and dating. Preservation by record can take a number of forms, depending on the nature of the site in question, and may be achieved with or without excavation and could include any or all of the following: written record; drawn record; photographic record; artefactual record; survey; and environmental sampling.

iii) ***Evaluation***: where insufficient information exists regarding a site for a decision to be made regarding its future management a programme of investigative work may be proposed. Such investigation may include geophysical survey, topographical survey and trial excavation.

iv) ***Watching brief***: a watching brief may be recommended to include archaeological monitoring of all relevant ground works, including topsoiling, in order to identify and record any previously unknown archaeological remains which may be revealed. Sufficient time must be allowed for adequate recording of any remains that are encountered.

8.3.2 **General Mitigation**

It has been noted in paragraph 8.2, above, that there is a potential for unrecorded sites in the proposal area and if any exist, then these may be subject to an impact from the proposal. Sites which fall into this category specifically include those without obvious surface traces or finds scatters associated with prehistoric activity. In order to provide some mitigation for the potential effect of the scheme in this regard, it is suggested that a watching brief be carried out during any significant ground disturbance. This mainly relates to topsoil stripping prior to the commencement of pipeline installation work, and any open trench work.

8.3.3 **Site-specific Mitigation**

The assessment has identified potential impacts on the following recorded sites and mitigation measures are classified below.

Site No	Name	Type	Condition	Impact	Mitigation
Site 1	Hyssington Earthworks	Earthworks	Damaged	Damage to any underlying features during pipe installation	Recording; preservation in situ; watching brief
Site 2	Hyssington Stone	Boundary? Stone	Damaged	Removal during pipe installation	Preservation by record

9 CONCLUSIONS

9.1 Two sites were identified from the field survey which could be affected by the pipeline installation. In the case of the earthworks (Site 1), it is recommended that these be avoided by the careful design and layout of the pipeline infrastructure, and if appropriate and useful, the recording of the earthworks in advance of the commencement of on-site work. It is also recommended that a watching brief be maintained during any ground disturbance in or close to the area under discussion. This would however take its place as part of the more general watching brief on ground disturbance noted in the following paragraph. The stone (Site 2), which may be associated with the current boundary, or indeed with the earthworks, should be preserved by record, and if necessary moved to a place nearby which is not likely to see further disturbance.

9.2 A watching brief is recommended during any topsoil stripping, prior to pipeline installation.

9.3 The remaining archaeological sites in the area lie outside the pipeline corridor and should not be affected by the installation works. However, if any major changes are planned for the route, then further archaeological investigation into the potential effects will be needed.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

10.1 The writer would like to thank the following for their assistance and co-operation: D W Burgess and Matt Dare of Severn Trent Water, Jeff Spencer, Historic Environment Officer, CPAT; the staff of the National Monument Record, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth; and the staff of the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth.

11 REFERENCES

11.1 Published and Printed Sources

Silvester, R J, 1992 *Montgomeryshire Historic Settlements*, Welshpool: CPAT

Silvester, R J, and Frost, P, 1999 *The Historic Churches of Montgomeryshire*, Welshpool: CPAT

11.2 **Cartographic Sources**

1816 1st edition Ordnance Survey surveyors' drawing no 200

1840 Tithe survey of Hyssington parish.

1884 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Montgomeryshire 38.07; 38.11

(Note there are no relevant pre-20th-century estate maps in the NLW or in the Shropshire Record Office).

1983 Soil Survey of England and Wales map and legend (Sheet 2 – Wales, at 1:250,000 scale)

1994 British Geological Survey map of Wales (Solid edition, at 1:250,000 scale)

11.3 **Aerial Photographic Sources**

1995 NRSC Airphoto Group 23-97-075; 1:25,000; 29 June 1995

Plate 1 Site 1 Holloway and associated earthworks from east

Plate 2 Site 2 Possible boundary stone and stone heap from west

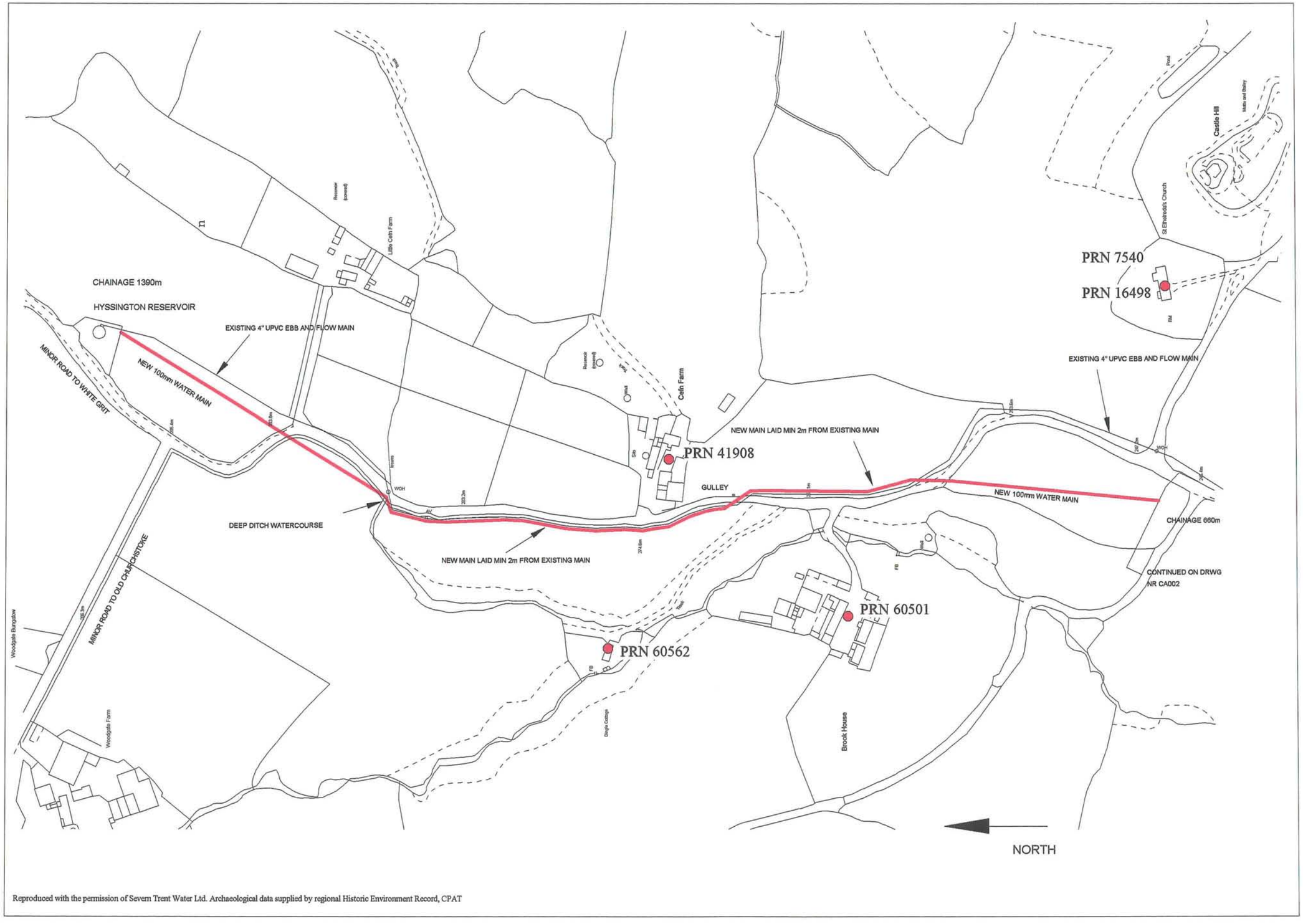

Fig. 1 Pipeline route northern section showing archaeological sites, scale 1:2,500

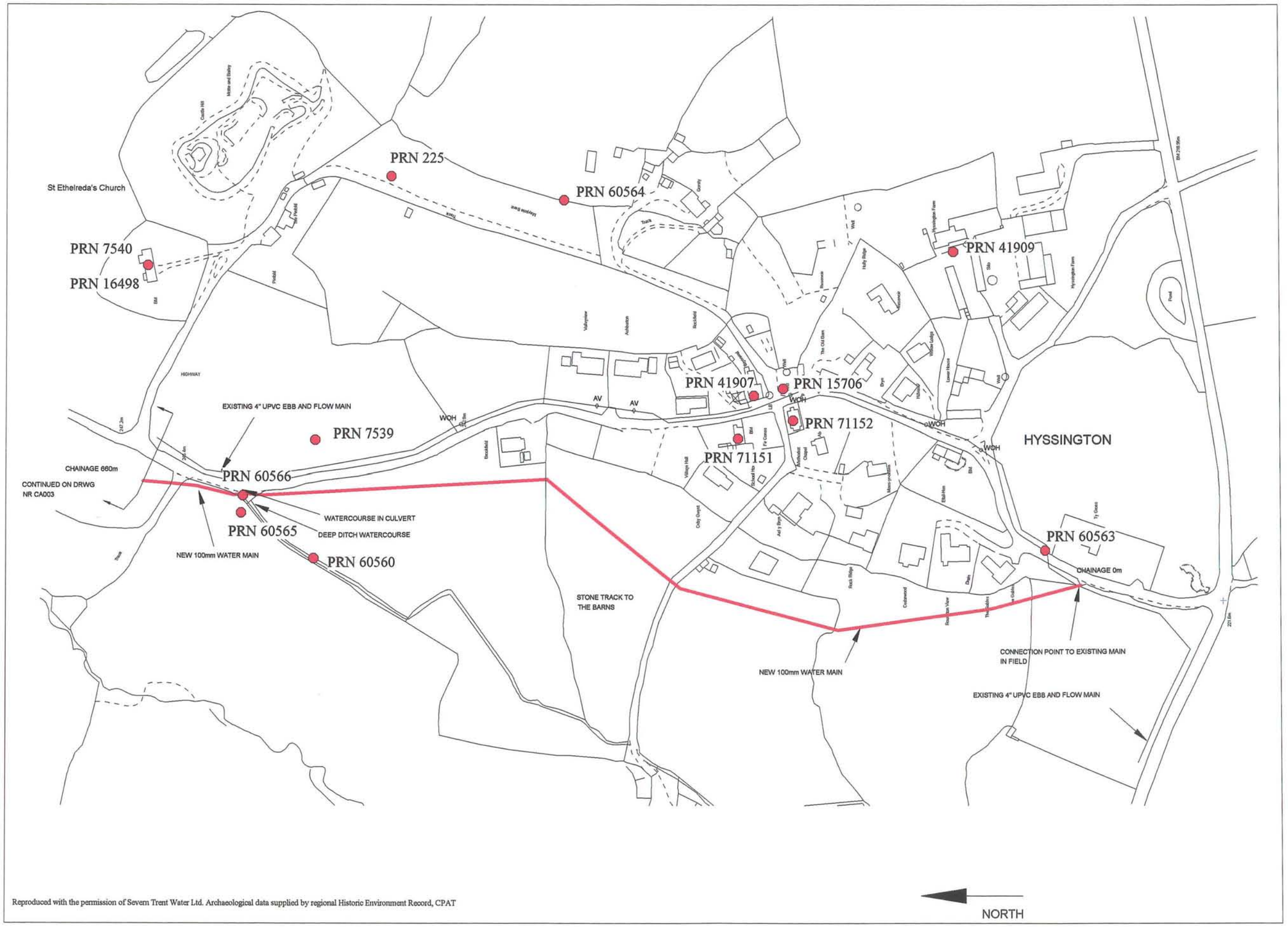

Fig. 2 Pipeline route southern section showing archaeological sites, scale 1:2,500