

**Date: August 2007**  
**Client: Murphy Group**  
**Project Code: HDP07**



## **M80 Gas Pipeline Diversion Archaeological Watching Brief**

## PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

**Client**

Murphy Group

**National Grid Reference**

North of A80

NS709 710

South of A80

NS712714

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**Schedule**

Fieldwork

May-June 2007

Report

August 2007

**M80 GAS PIPELINE DIVERSION  
RESULTS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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***Summary***

*This report presents the findings of an archaeological watching brief during the gas pipeline diversion associated with the M80 Stepps to Higgs Improvements Scheme on ground within the CPO. The fieldwork was undertaken at intervals between the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May and the 6<sup>th</sup> of June and comprised a watching brief during topsoil stripping in advance of the temporary compound and a watching brief during the topsoil stripping of the new pipeline corridor either side of the existing A80.*

*North of the A80, the archaeological watching brief of the compound area revealed no archaeological finds or features. A roughly oval area of burning was identified in the new pipeline strip, close to the compound. No archaeological finds were recovered. South of the A80 no archaeological finds or features were identified.*

## **1.INTRODUCTION**

Headland Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by the Murphy Group to undertake an archaeological watching brief in advance of the gas pipeline diversion associated with the M80 Stepps to Hagsgs Improvements Scheme. The watching brief was carried out along the route of the new pipeline on land within the CPO at various intervals between the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May and 6th of June 2007.

## **2.SITE LOCATION**

Within the CPO the proposed route of the gas pipeline crosses ground either side of the existing A80 in a north-west to south-east direction (Figure 1). The areas along the route of the pipeline were previously evaluated by archaeological trial trench evaluation, the results of which are reported separately (Haston, Robertson & McCalman 2007).

## **3. OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the watching brief were to determine the presence or absence, quality, nature, extent and character of any archaeological remains within the areas of the intrusive groundworks that could be damaged or destroyed by the pipeline diversion.

## **4.METHODS**

A tracked mechanical excavator with a 2m wide flat-bladed ditching bucket was used to excavate the required areas. The compound area was stripped under direct archaeological supervision, while the area of the new pipeline corridor was inspected frequently throughout the course of the works. Colour slide and digital photographs were taken of the general areas. Features identified during the stripping were cleaned before being excavated and recorded.

## **5.RESULTS**

The areas were stripped to the required level and frequently did not go deep enough to expose clean natural subsoil, in most instances just removing the topsoil.

North of the A80 no archaeological finds or features were recovered in the compound area. Close to the compound in the area of the new pipeline corridor a roughly oval area of burning [001] was identified, the location of which is shown in Figure 1. The burnt feature measured approximately 4m by 2m and reached a very shallow depth of 0.09m. This was filled with a compact red-brown clay with occasional pebbles [002].

As part of the watching brief one sample from the burnt feature was collected for palaeoenvironmental assessment (see Sample Register in Appendix 1). The sample was processed in laboratory conditions using a standard floatation method (cf. Kenward *et al*, 1980). Small quantities of charcoal fragments were also recovered from the sample though it did not contain fragments of a size suitable for identification and/or Accelerated Mass Spectrometry (AMS) dating. Coal fragments were present in the sample along with a small amount of metallic waste.

No archaeological finds were recovered from the burnt feature.

South of the existing A80 the area of the new pipeline corridor was stripped of topsoil. The ground at the base of the slope was very wet and boggy. Here the strip did not go deep enough to expose clean natural subsoil. Further uphill to the south, the area was stripped of topsoil to the underlying natural silty clay subsoil. No archaeological finds or features were recovered. West of Scotland Archaeology Service were informed of the watching brief and **copies of this report supplied for their archive.**

## **6.DISCUSSION**

The watching brief identified a single feature indicative of a small, localised burning event. The burnt feature contained no dating evidence, though it did contain small amounts of charcoal, coal, cinders and metallic waste. Two similar features were identified in close proximity to feature [01] during the archaeological trial trench evaluation (Haston, McCalman & Robertson 2007). One of these was found directly on the other side of the woodland (Figure 1).

It seems likely that this burning activity may relate to one of the periods of agriculture during the post-medieval period (17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century) as identified through the finds recovered from this area in the trial trench evaluation.

## **7.BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Haston, SJ, McCalman, L & Robertson, A 2007 *M80 Stepps to Haggs Improvements Results of the Archaeological Works Historic Scotland ref: HS/C/3469* Unpublished client Report, June 2007.

Kenward, H. K., Hall, A. R. and Jones, A. K. G. (1980). A tested set of techniques for the extraction of plant and animal microfossils from waterlogged archaeological deposits. *Science and Archaeology* 22, 3-15.

## APPENDIX 1: Site Registers

### Context Register

Context No.	Description
01	Irregular cut of burnt feature
02	Fill of burnt feature [01]

### Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Scale	Description
01	1:20	NE and SW facing sections of burnt feature [01]
02	1:20	SE and NW facing sections of burnt feature [01]
03	1:20	Mid-ex plan of burnt feature [01]

### Sample Register

Sample No.	Description
01	Red-brown clay fill of burnt feature [01]

### Photographic Register

Photo No.	Digital/ Colour Slide	Direction Facing	Description
1	CS	SE	Pre-ex view of burnt feature [01]
2	CS	SE	Mid-ex view of burnt feature [01]
3	D	W	View of area of stripped ground
4	D	W	View of area of stripped ground



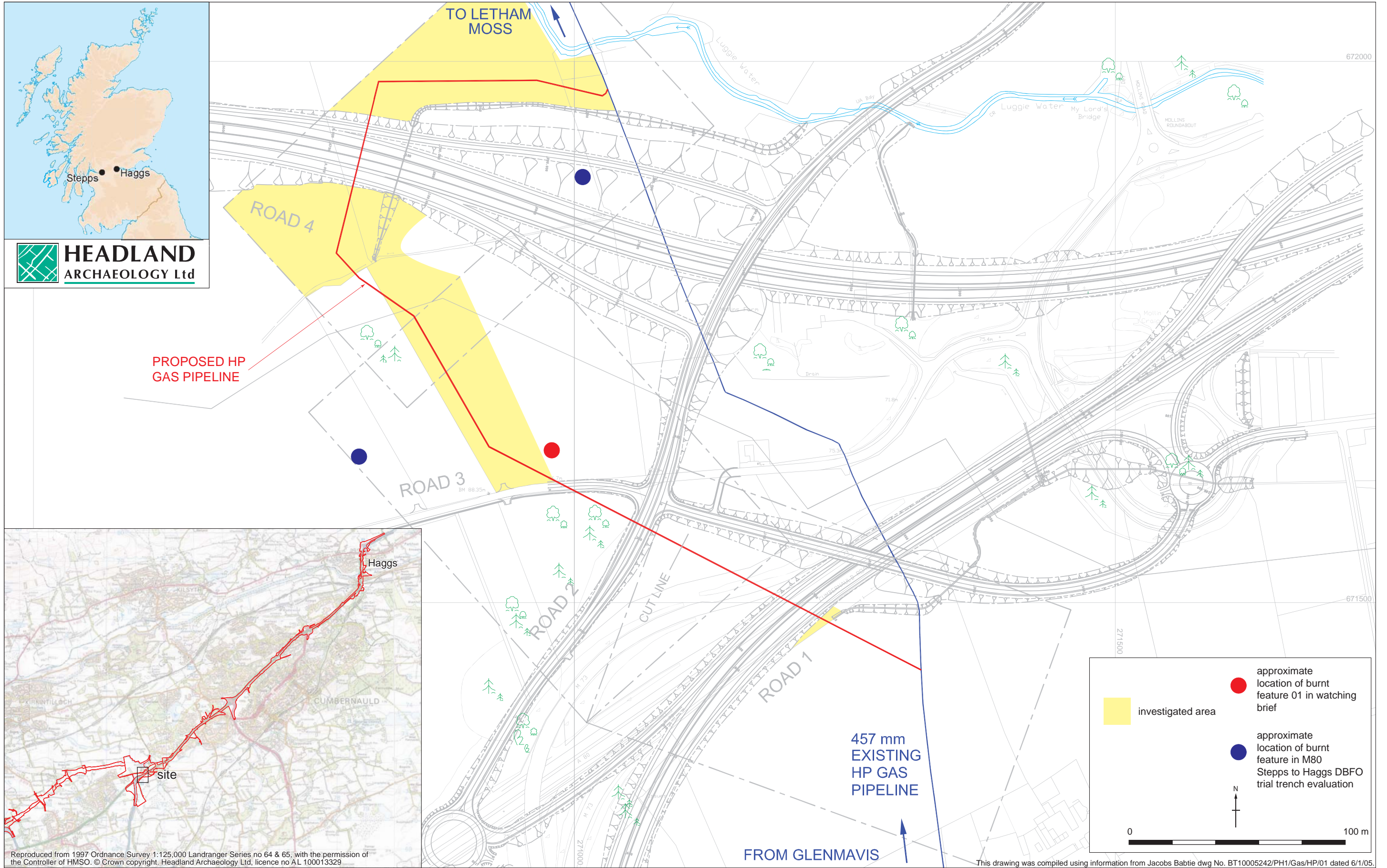


Figure 1 - HDP07, M-80 Pipeline diversion - Site location.