

Ethiebeaton Farm

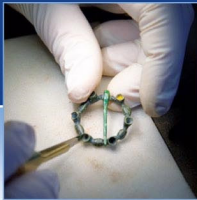
Angus:

Archaeological Watching Brief

Data Structure Report

AOC Project 24169

29th November 2017



**Ethiebeaton Farm, Angus:
Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report**

On Behalf of:	WSP Lanark Court Ellismuir Way Tannochside Glasgow G71 5PW
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NO 47939 34257
AOC Project No:	24140
OASIS Entry No:	1-302758
Prepared by:	Katie Roper
Date of Fieldwork:	28th – 29th November 2017
Date of Report:	24th November 2017

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Approved by: Rob Engl	Date: 1 st December 2017
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Summary

An Archaeological Watching Brief was required by WSP on behalf of their client Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks on proposed underground cable works at Ethiebeaton Farm, Angus.

The excavations exposed sterile subsoil along the length of the route with the exception of an area of previously disturbed ground situated amongst the farm complex to the south-east. This was made of re-deposited and compacted subsoil, and is currently in use as a farm track. The made ground did not extend out-with the boundaries of the current trackway. No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed during the monitoring works.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 An Archaeological Watching Brief was required by WSP on behalf of their client Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks on proposed underground cable works at Ethiebeaton Farm, Angus. The site lies within the administrative area of Angus County Council, who are advised on archaeological matters by Caroline Palmer of Aberdeenshire Council Infrastructure Services. The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principles as set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2014) and *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011* (2011).

1.1.2 The programme of archaeological works adhered to a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2017), and is in keeping with best practice outlined in current planning policy and guidelines: *Scottish Planning Policy* (2014) & *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (2011).

1.2 Location

1.2.1 The proposed works lie to the west and north of Ethiebeaton Farm, Angus and are centred on NGR: NO 47939 34257 (Figure 1). The requirement for the watching brief on the cable trench is from the south terminus of the development area shown, to the point at which it meets the former railway. The works are situated in agricultural land.

1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 The area of the works is situated within a rich archaeological landscape. A castle, traditionally connected with Cardinal Beaton, used to stand at Ethiebeaton (NO 479 342) and a private chapel called 'Chapel Dockie' (NO43SE 2) is said to have been attached to it. An archaeological watching brief (NO 479 342) was carried out on 28 February 2013 (Hall 2014) during the stripping of plough-soil down to natural subsoil on the site of three new wind turbines. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

1.3.2 Chapel Dockie (NO43SE 2) is still the name of a field at Ethiebeaton where a pre-Reformation church was once situated. According to tradition, it was surrounded by a moat. Stone coffins were found a short way from the site, and between 1830-5 a number of coffins containing human remains were found upon a nearby hillock. Chapel Dockie may have been a private chapel attached to the castle ([NO43SE 36](#)).

1.3.3 A number of cropmarks have been identified in the locale. To the north-west of the proposed works lies an extensive area of rig and furrow which has been recorded as cropmarks on oblique aerial photographs (RCAHMSAP 1983, 1998) together with what may be the eastern half of a rectilinear enclosure. A linear cropmark running north-west to south-east from the farmstead may have been the mill lade at Ethiebeaton.

- 1.3.4 A possible enclosure (NO43SE 501) is situated on a gently sloping hillside to the south-west of the farm and has been recorded as a cropmark on oblique aerial photographs (RCAHMSAP 2001). The enclosure is roughly circular on plan and has a diameter of about 50m.
- 1.3.5 To the east of the farm two archaeological evaluations were carried out by Murray Archaeological Services in 2010 prior to an application for the extension of two existing quarries. An area centred on NO 4835 3400 proved negative, however, a second area centred on NO 4903 3399 yielded a small assemblage of pink agate associated with vestigial traces of charcoal, possibly indicating early prehistoric activity. Recording was also undertaken of features on the Ethiebeaton estate (NO 4830 3420) including a walled garden, water system and railway bridges.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objective of the Archaeological Watching Brief was to identify the nature and extent of the archaeological resource which may be present within the proposed development area.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The Watching Brief involved the monitoring of the topsoil strip/ground reduction necessitated by the development. The route was stripped to sterile subsoil along the route, with a 2m ditching bucket for the majority of the route. A 1m ditching bucket on a min-excavator was used for the last section of the route at the south, entering a narrow gate.
- 3.2 Excavation was undertaken in shallow units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural subsoil was encountered. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist and according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures, and as per the methodology within the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2017).

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken on 28th – 29th November 2017. Weather conditions were fair allowing for good archaeological visibility throughout.
- 4.2 The initial excavation revealed a rich medium brown loam [001] 0.25-0.4m in depth. This topsoil immediately overlaid a natural subsoil [002] of yellow/brown clay sand which was encountered in all areas of the route with the exception of the area between the farm complex buildings. This latter area consisted of a deposit of compacted, re-deposited gravels [003], excavated to a depth of 0.1m. The natural subsoil was not encountered within this area.
- 4.3 A single ceramic field drain was discovered 25m to the south of the point where the route meets the former railway. No significant archaeological features or remains were discovered during the works.



Plate 1: Post Excavation to sterile subsoil, looking northwest towards the former railway line. The route curves to the east, which is the point where it meets the former line.



Plate 2: Working shot to the west of the farm buildings

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The archaeological works revealed no significant archaeology within the route of the cable works. A single ceramic field drain was identified along the route. It is clear the area around the farm buildings had been previously disturbed during the creation and use of the existing farm track.

6 REFERENCES

AOC 2017, *Ethiebeaton Farm, Angus: Archaeological Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished client report

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Scottish Government 2011, *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011*

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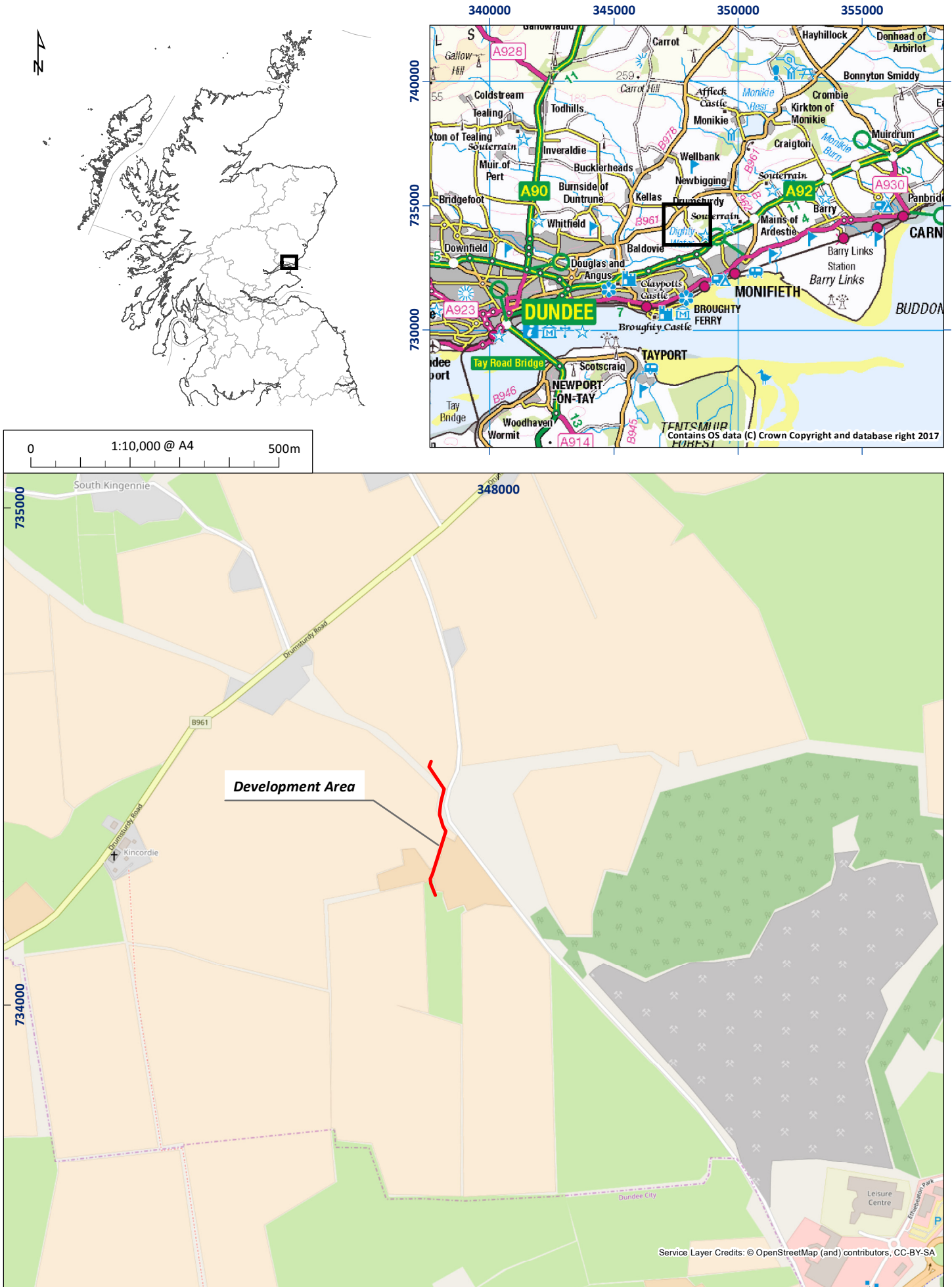


Figure 1: Site location plan

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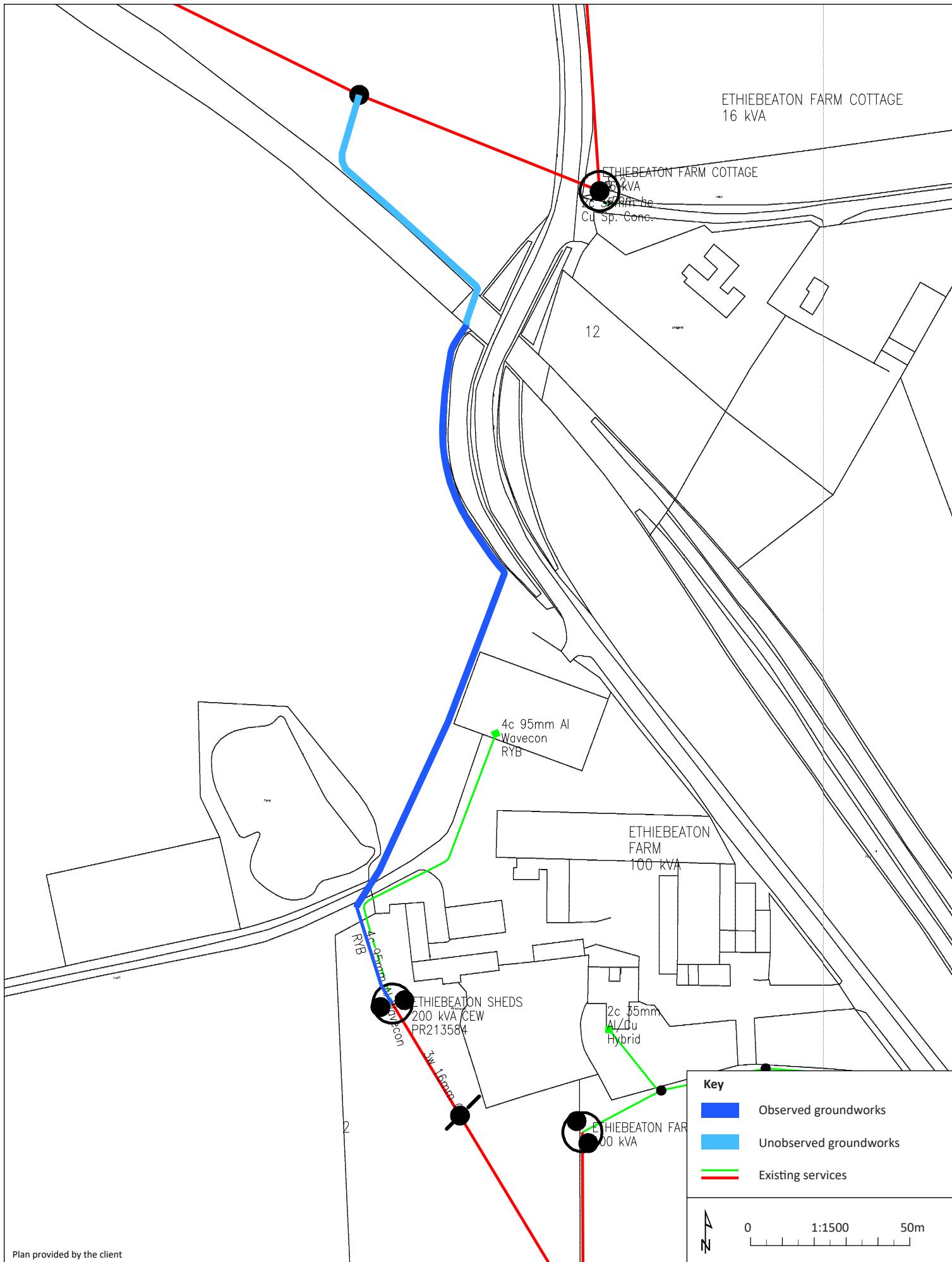


Figure 2: Route of Pipeline

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Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context No.	Description and Interpretation
[001]	Medium brown sandy loam. Measures 0.25 – 0.35m thick. Topsoil
[002]	Yellow brown clayey sand. Natural Subsoil
[003]	Small-medium gravels with a compact mid-brown soil matrix Redeposited gravels use to form the trackway through the farm complex.

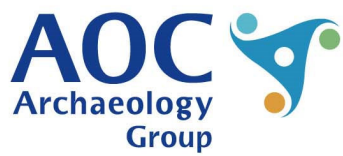
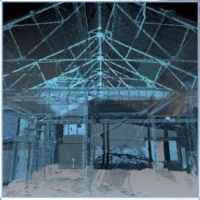
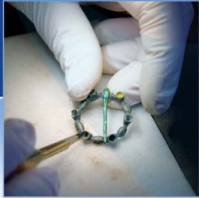
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Digital Photographs

Frame	Description	From	Date
1-2	General working shots, from the former railway line	SW	27/11/17
3	Working shot to the west of most northerly farm building	SW	27/11/17
4-6	Post excavation shot of sterile subsoil	NW	27/11/17

APPENDIX 2: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Angus Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Ethiebeaton Farm
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 24169
PARISH:	Monifieth
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Katie Roper
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S)	SM4368
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	n/a
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NY 29785 92473
START DATE (this season)	28th November 2017
END DATE (this season)	29th November 2017
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An Archaeological Watching Brief was required by WSP on behalf of their client Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks on proposed underground cable works at Ethiebeaton Farm, Angus.</p> <p>The excavations exposed sterile subsoil along the length of the route with the exception of an area of previously disturbed ground situated amongst the farm complex to the south-east. This was made of re-deposited and compacted subsoil, and is currently in use as a farm track. The made ground did not extend out-with the boundaries of the current trackway. No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed during the monitoring works.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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