

**Sites D56 and D58, SWS Grid Connection:
Archaeological Survey**

Report

by Thomas Rees & Claire Williamson

issued 25th May 2016

RATHMELL 
ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Quality Assurance

This report covers works which have been undertaken in keeping with the issued brief as modified by the agreed programme of works. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance of Rathmell Archaeology Limited on the preparation of reports. All works reported on within this document have been undertaken in keeping with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct.

Signed *Claire Williamson* Date ...25th May 2016..

In keeping with the procedure of Rathmell Archaeology Limited this document and its findings have been reviewed and agreed by an appropriate colleague:

Checked *Louise Turner* Date ...25th May 2016..

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Non-Technical Summary

1. An archaeological survey was undertaken of three sites to the south of Dalmellington to inform the South West Scotland Grid Connection project. The survey recorded and characterised the different elements of these sites (Figures 1 and 2) which were shown to be:
 - ❖ Muck Water (D56) - This portion of the D56 site consisted of a pre-improvement settlement (known as Craig) comprising an enclosure (**56.1**) and house (**56.2**) with an area of hand-dug rig (**56.3**). These site elements are in rough pasture at the back of a terrace to the east of Muck Water;
 - ❖ Mosssdale (D56) – This portion of the D56 site was a field system comprising a series of sinuous banks (**56.4 – 56.12**) which sat along the southern slopes of Snabb Hill in a mixture of rough grazing and commercial forestry. Within this field system there was a sub-rectangular structure (**56.14**) and a cairn (**56.13**); and
 - ❖ Trough Burn (D58) - This site consisted of a head dyke (**58.1**) running from Trough Burn to Mosssdale Burn with a small area of rig and furrow (**58.2**). The head dyke was linked to a banked enclosure (**57.1**) within which a later stone sheepfold was set (**57.2**). The area was rough grazing, with significant waterlogged areas.
2. The survey covered in detail those elements of the site that lay under the line of the project, but did not extend into the improved pasture fields around Mosssdale Farm.

Introduction

3. A programme of archaeological mitigation is being delivered by AMEC Foster Wheeler in support of the works they are undertaking as an element of the South West Scotland Grid Connection project. AMEC Foster Wheeler has been contracted to deliver these works by Scottish Power, and they have identified a discrete archaeological survey task that they instructed Rathmell Archaeology Limited to deliver on their behalf.
4. The survey of sites D56 and D58 is required to support the development of a mitigation response to an anticipated impact on two areas of relict field system from the development. The ground was anticipated to include banks, walls, ditches, house stances and potentially upstanding rig & furrow systems. The survey was to establish a baseline record of the features to either act as a record prior to loss or to inform subsequent stages of mitigation.
5. These sites lie within or across the wayleave between Towers 18 (NGR 249013 605236) and 27R (NGR 250135 604246) on Route D.

Methodology

6. A staged programme of works has been undertaken to meet the objectives as detailed above. The sequence followed has been to:
 - ❖ prepare and agree a Risk Assessment & Method Statement (RAMS) to cover the survey tasks;
 - ❖ survey to identify upstanding archaeological remains within the development corridor, defining their characteristics (including condition) and mapping their detail;
 - ❖ production of a report to present the findings of the works to clarify the nature, form and extent of the significant archaeological remains. In addition this report comments on the condition of the monument; and
 - ❖ supply of digital data.
7. All works have complied with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements (2014) and Code of Conduct (2014) and Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statements (2009 and 2015).
8. This document is the report on the survey work. The on-site survey was undertaken on 4th April and the 4th May 2016 in wet conditions, prior to spring growth of bracken but also

prior to tree felling within the development corridor.

Risk Assessment & Method Statement

9. The Risk Assessment & Method Statement (RAMS) was prepared, compliant with the established, overarching working method of AMEC Foster Wheeler for this Project. This RAMS was approved as 188V-1-NM-AMEC-0064 Rev0. Daily Activity Safe Start (DASS) forms were completed prior to each day of survey.
10. During the on-site works no adverse events occurred. This includes injuries to staff, members of the public, stock and adverse environmental incidents.

Archaeological Background

Site D56

11. This site is a conflation of two separate Historic Environment Record (HER) entries: that of Muck Water (Canmore ID 82265, WoSAS 14176) of a small pre-improvement settlement; and Mossdale (Canmore ID 82277, WoSAS 61190) of a field-system. The conflation may have occurred in the preparation of the Environmental Statement (ES) for the Kyle Windfarm in 2004 with the combined description from that ES being recorded against the Mossdale entry:

The NMRS records a sub-rectangular enclosure and associated field-system, (details in Strathclyde Regional Council SMR). The site is shown and named as Mossdale on Annstrong's map. APs show a series of adjoining curvilinear fields on the SW slopes of Snabb hill. Field survey located a complex of turf and stone field banks extending around the SW slopes of Snabb hill from NS 4918 0462 to 4962 0444 and forming at least five separate fields. A substantial linear dyke 1m high on the upslope side and 1.5m high on the downslope and 3-4m wide was found running northwards from the NW corner of a modern field wall from NS 4916 0462 to 4912 0475 with a break 6m wide at NS 4913 0469. At NS 4903 0490 there is a rectangular enclosure 20m N-S by 10m wide internally, defined by turf and stone banks 2m wide and 0.5-1m high. 50m to the N of the enclosure are two adjoining revetted platforms aligned N-S, which appear to be house stances, with traces of stone alignments in heavy bracken cover. The largest of the platforms is at the N end, at NS 4903 0490 and measures 9m N-S by 5m. The smaller, which adjoins to the S, at NS 4903 0491 measures 6m N-S by 4m.

12. For clarity the extract from the HER has been separated between that relating to Mossdale (*italics*) and that relating to Muck Water (*non-italics*).
13. A further field survey informed the ES for the current development that added to the site description for Mossdale identifying:

During the present field survey, a possible hollow way was recorded midway up the hillside (249130 604699 to 249105 604763). It measured approximately 50m in length, 3m in width and up to 1m in depth. The faint traces of possible rig and furrow cultivation, aligned northwest to southeast, was visible running down a slope c. 150m northeast of Mossdale Farm in an area of improved pasture.

14. The origin of the polygon generated for the site and the procedures used to define it are uncertain.

Site D58

15. This site of a hollow way, head dyke and rig and furrow was identified during a field survey carried out to inform the ES for the current development. It was described as:

A single large bank with a depression running along its upslope side may be a hollow way or head dyke. The feature leads to a small ford across a burn and continues on the other side and out of the Study Area. The bank measures 2m in width and is approximately 0.5m

in height. The hollow is also 2m wide. A small area of rig and furrow was recorded to the west of the bank on the north side of the burn.

16. The site does not appear on the HER, indicating that it has not been identified prior to this.

Archaeological Survey

17. The upstanding features that are the component elements of Sites D56 and D58 are depicted on Figures 1 and 2. The Gazetteer provides descriptions for each element of these sites and representative images. These details are summarised below.

Site D56 – Muck Water

18. The pre-improvement settlement was readily identified with a rectangular enclosure (**56.1**) and rectilinear house of at least two compartments (**56.2**) recorded in rough pasture at the back of a terrace to the east of Muck Water. Both elements of the site were built on what appeared to be artificial platforms, cut into the slope. In addition to the two elements previously identified, an area of hand-dug rig was noted (**56.3**) to the immediate west of the house. The full extent of this portion of D56 was surveyed.
19. Contrary to the HER extract, the rectangular enclosure (**56.1**) and the house (**56.2**) were not separated by 50m, rather by 7-8m. The site centred on NGR NS 49026 04914 and covered an area approximately 60m (N-S) by 25m (E-W).
20. As noted in the HER extract, a settlement of two structures at the (approximate) location of this site is depicted on Armstrong's 1775 'A new map of Ayrshire', this was named 'Craig'. An unnamed settlement of three structures and an enclosure are depicted at the same location on Roy's 1752-55 'Military Survey of Scotland' (Lowlands). 'Craig' continued to be depicted on Ainslie's 1821 'Map of the Southern part of Scotland', but was not shown on Thomson's 1832 map of the 'Northern Part of Ayrshire' or on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition (1860).
21. This site is the nucleus of a coherent pre-improvement farmstead known as 'Craig' in the late 18th century and early 19th century, dating from at least the mid-18th century but falling out of use prior to the mid-19th century. It does not seem to be associated with a larger system of enclosure, but additional not-upstanding structures may be present at the site.
22. The site is currently impacted by a quad bike track crossing the rig (**56.3**), as well as being infested with bracken. Four trees are growing on the site, one to the northeast of the house (**56.2**) and three within the rectangular enclosure (**56.1**).

Site D56 – Mossdale

23. The site consisted of a series of sinuous earth banks (**56.4 – 56.12**) which sat along the southern slopes of Snabb Hill. The profiles of a sample of these banks are shown in Figure 3. The site as surveyed centred on NGR NS 49373 04548 and covered an area approximately 600m (WSW-ENE) by 180m (NNE-SSW) – though note that traces of enclosure dykes and rig were visible within the enclosed, improved fields to the south.
24. The majority of the banks ran upslope, some running into each other in the higher ground. Two banks (**56.10** and **56.12**) appeared to form head dykes which ran along the contour of the hill, making use of the natural sloping ground to create a higher edge on their downslope side.
25. While most of the banks ran through clearings, two (**56.7** and **56.8**) ran into the trees. The banks all stopped at the modern field boundary which defined the fields to the south, and were not identifiable as such marked features in the ground beyond (that ground being beyond the survey area). A later, modern sunken trackway across the eastern end of the area had cut through three of the banks at this end (**56.4**, **56.5** and **56.6**), and at least one of the banks (**56.8**) had been cut by a later drainage gully. Modern quad bike tracks crossed the southern end of bank **56.11**, and large sections of the banks were infested with bracken.
26. A sub-rectangular structure (**56.14**) sat on the line of bank **56.10** about midway along its

length. The structure had no internal divisions. It sat within an unforested area but was infested with bracken.

27. Finally, a very denuded cairn (**56.13**) was recorded in a clearing near to the base of bank **56.8**, with the modern field boundary sitting to the south. It is possible that this could represent field clearance, but the nature of the cairn, which mainly comprises smaller stones with the occasional larger boulder, suggests a potential that it could indicate something more significant.
28. The settlement at Mossdale first appears on Andrew Armstrong's 'A new map of Ayrshire' in 1775, although the associated field system is not shown in detail until the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1853-60). This shows the modern layout as it is still visible today, with the earlier banks never depicted.

Site D58 – Trough Burn

29. The site consisted of one sinuous stone and earth bank, likely a head dyke, (**58.1**) and a small area of rig and furrow (**58.2**) sitting to the west of the bank's southern end. The site sat at the base of the southwestern slopes of Brown Hill, on raised ground between the Mossdale and Trough Burns. It centred on NGR NS 50040 04326 and covered an area approximately 300m (NNW-SSE) by 90m (WSW-ENE).
30. The bank **58.1** had a large break along its length but this appeared to be the result of poor survival due to environmental factors, such as marshy ground, rather than by deliberate design. It appears likely that the bank would have formed a continuous feature running between Mossdale Burn in the north and Trough Burn to the south. The earlier survey recorded that the bank continued on the other side of Trough Burn but this ran outwith the survey area and was not confirmed.
31. The northwestern end of the bank ran behind the location of the sheepfold at Site D57 which was not a part of this survey. A large portion of the sheepfold still survived as upstanding wall remains (**57.2**), although the locations of further divisions demarcated by a post and wire fence (**57.3** – no longer upstanding bar gate posts) is depicted on recent mapping (see Figure 2). The sheepfold sits within a larger enclosure defined by an earth bank (**57.1**) which suggested an earlier feature, although the exact nature of this feature remains uncertain. Possible other banks in the surrounding area appeared to be the upcast from drainage ditches, although the potential for further remains cannot be ruled out.
32. While the sheepfold is visible on mapping from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1853-60) onwards, the enclosure **57.1** and the bank **58.1** are not visible on any of the available mapping.

Mitigation Measures

33. Mitigation is appropriate to recover information from archaeological sites that are anticipated to be lost or damaged, as compensation for their loss or damage, and to consider any currently unknown archaeological sites.
34. The mitigation will take the form of a programme of archaeological works agreed with the planning authority and the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.
35. Where possible, the preferred approach will be to avoid any substantial upstanding remains or to target the route so that it affects only those areas which have already been previously disturbed. Where avoidance is not possible, then archaeological monitoring will be required on all ground breaking works in areas where the route is known to cross the features identified within this survey.
36. The appropriateness of further mitigation (excavation, post-excavation analyses and reporting) would be based on, and proportionate to, the findings from the initial phase of works, and would require agreement with the planning authority and the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

Conclusion

37. An archaeological Survey carried out during April and May 2016 recorded the character of

those elements of two sites that were at risk of impact from the construction stages of the South West Scotland Grid Connection project. These works established a baseline for these sites (D56 and D58) as well as exploring their relationship with immediately adjacent sites (D57).

References

Documentary

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014 *Code of Conduct*

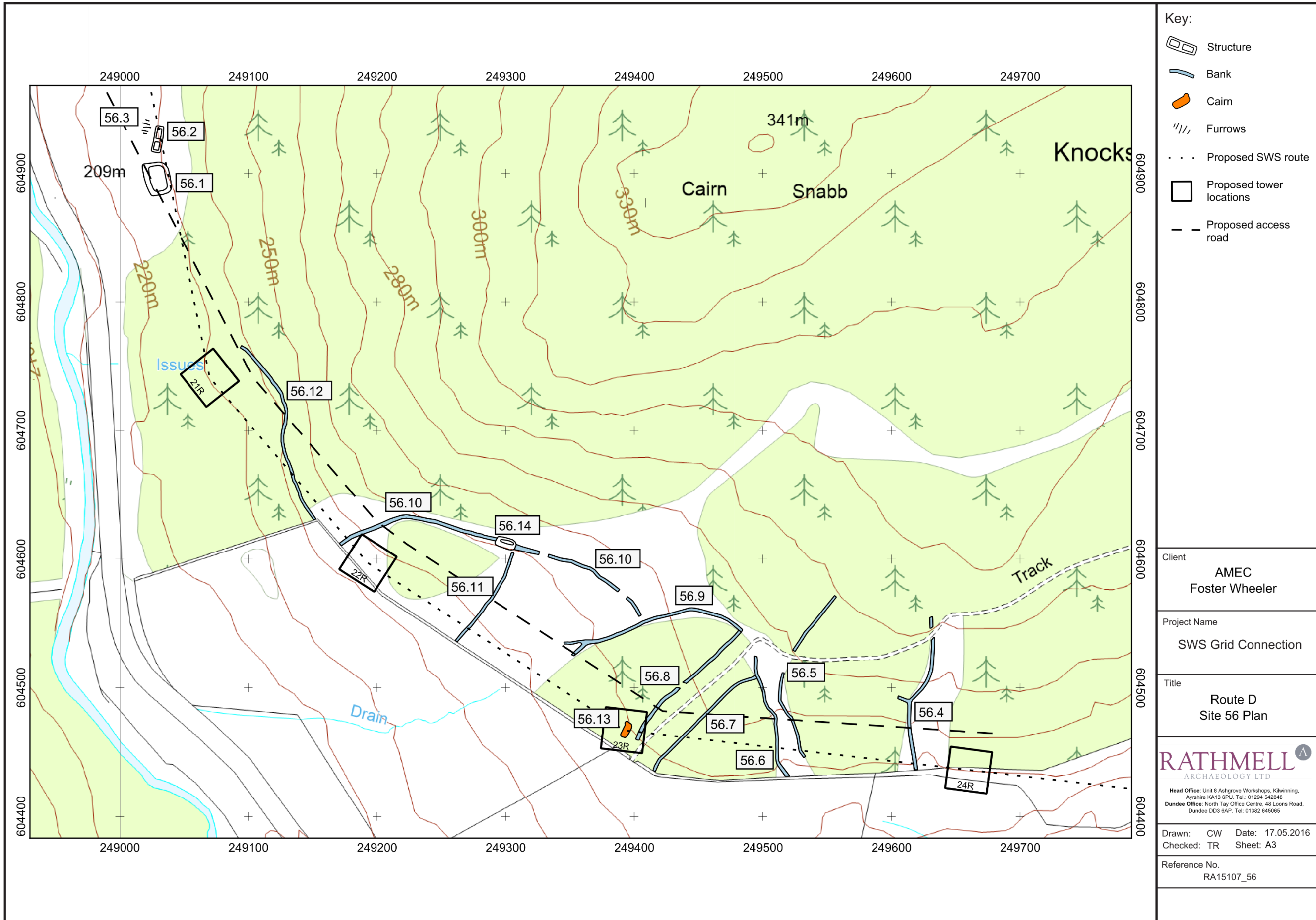
Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

Historic Environment Scotland 2009 *Managing Change in the Historic Environment Series*

Historic Environment Scotland 2015 *Historic Environment Circular 1*

Cartographic

1752-55	Roy, W.	<i>Military Survey of Scotland (Lowlands)</i>
1775	Armstrong, A.	<i>A new map of Ayrshire</i>
1821	Ainslie, J.	<i>Map of the Southern Part of Scotland</i>
1832	Thomson, J.	<i>Atlas of Scotland, Northern Part of Ayrshire, Southern Part</i>
1853-60	Ordnance Survey	6 Inch 1 st edition, Ayrshire, Sheet XLVII



Key:

- Structure
- Bank
- Cairn
- Furrows
- Proposed SWS route
- Proposed tower locations
- Proposed access road

Client	AMEC Foster Wheeler
Project Name	SWS Grid Connection
Title	Route D Site 56 Plan
<small>Head Office: Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU. Tel.: 01294 542848 Dundee Office: North Tay Office Centre, 48 Loons Road, Dundee DD3 6AP. Tel: 01382 646065</small>	
Drawn: CW	Date: 17.05.2016
Checked: TR	Sheet: A3
Reference No.	RA15107_56

Figure 1: Plan of Site D56

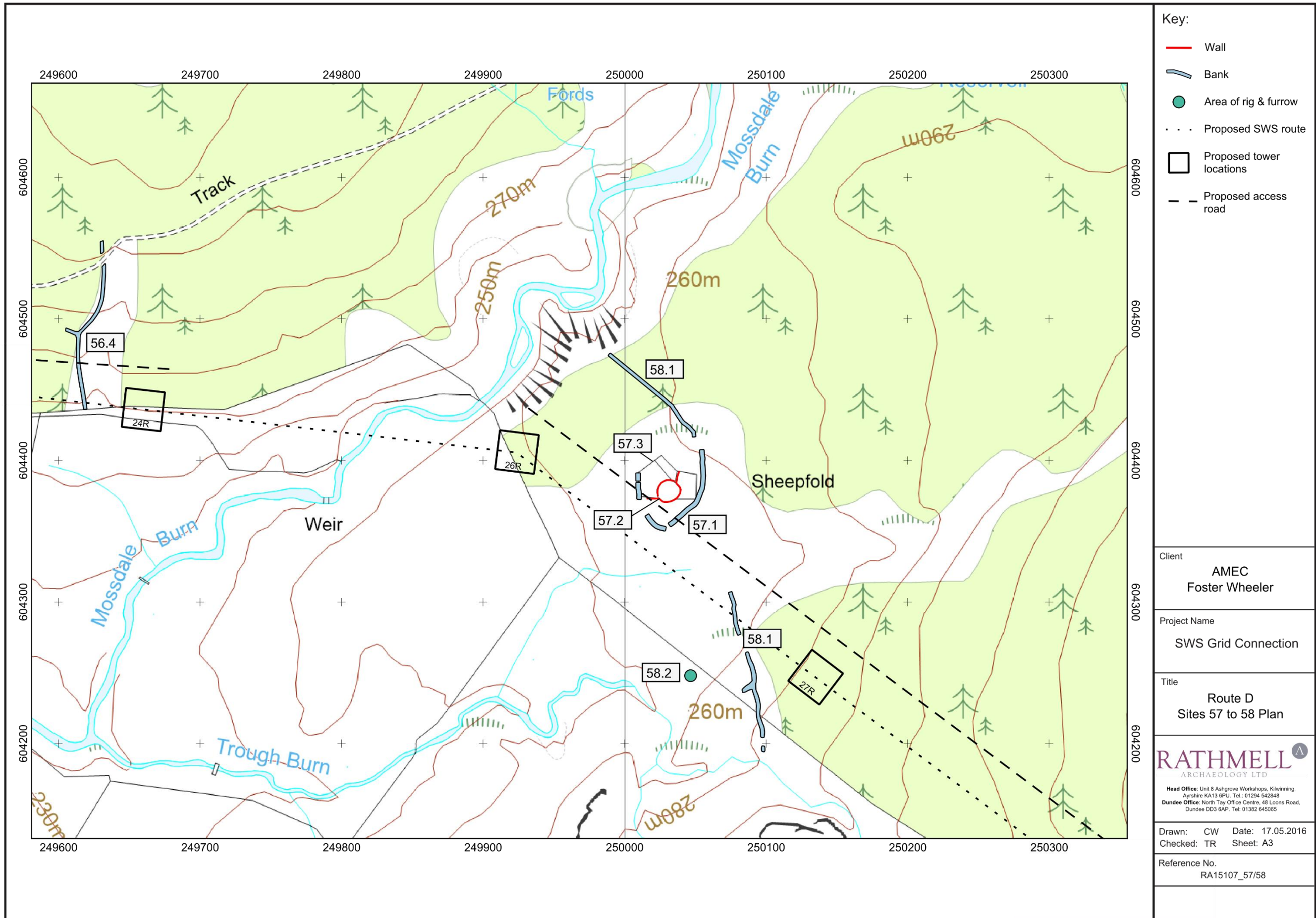
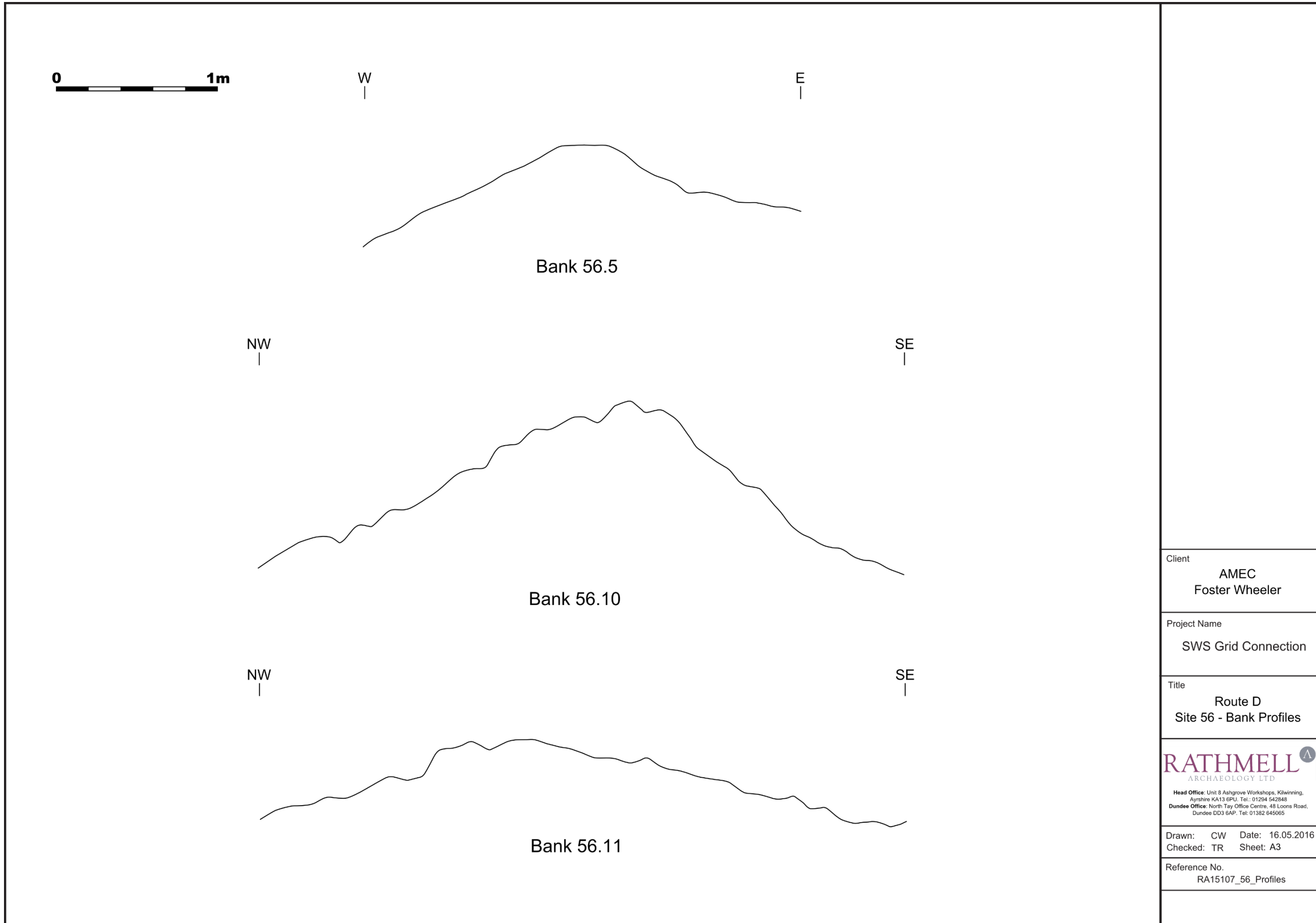


Figure 2: Plan of Sites D57 and D58








Client	AMEC Foster Wheeler
Project Name	SWS Grid Connection
Title	Route D Site 56 - Bank Profiles
 <p>RATHMELL ARCHAEOLOGY LTD</p> <p><small>Head Office: Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU. Tel.: 01294 542848 Dundee Office: North Tay Office Centre, 48 Loons Road, Dundee DD3 6AP. Tel: 01382 645065</small></p>	
Drawn: CW	Date: 16.05.2016
Checked: TR	Sheet: A3
Reference No.	RA15107_56_Profiles

Figure 3: Profiles of banks 56.5, 56.10 and 56.11

The Gazetteer



Site D56

Element	Type	Coordinate	Description	Image
56.1	Enclosure	NS 49029 04896	<p>Sub-rectangular shaped structure sitting on a NE-SW alignment, with total external dimensions of 25.3m by 19.8m, and internal dimensions of 20.7m by 12m. The external edge is defined by a stone and earth bank which measures approximately 2.6m wide and 0.6-1.2m high on its internal edge. There are no internal divisions. The structure is covered by bracken, with one tree growing on its SW bank, and two close to the bank on the interior at the NE side.</p> <p>This, 56.2 and 56.3, appear to represent the remains of a settlement. A settlement of two structures at this approximate location is depicted on Armstrong's <i>A new map of Ayrshire</i> in 1775 named 'Craig'. An unnamed settlement of three structures and an enclosure are depicted at the same location on Roy's 1752-55 Military Survey of Scotland (Lowlands). 'Craig' continued to be depicted on Ainslie's 1821 <i>Map of the Southern part of Scotland</i>, but was not shown on Thomson's 1832 map of the <i>'Northern Part of Ayrshire'</i> or on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition (1860).</p>	
56.2	House	NS 49029 04926	<p>Rectangular structure sitting on a roughly N-S alignment, with total external dimensions of 19.3m by 6.8m. The walls survive as footings which are completely overgrown by turf. They measure up to 1.8m wide and up to 0.4m high. The interior is sub-divided into two chambers by a roughly central crosswall. The north chamber measures 7.5m by 3.5m, and the southern, 6m by 3.7m. The structure is covered in bracken with one tree growing outwith the structure to the NE.</p>	

56.3	Rig	NS 49020 04936	<p>Small area of rig and furrow sitting adjacent to 56.2 to the NW. Runs on a WNW-ESE alignment. Distance between the centrelines of the furrows measures approximately 2.5-3m. Furrows measure approximately 0.1m deep. Full extent of the area measures approximately 10.5m NNE-SSW by 6.5m WNW-ESE.</p>	
56.4	Bank	NS 49618 04436 to NS 49630 04555	<p>Sinuous earth bank running roughly N-S upslope. Measures up to 2.3m wide and 0.4-0.8m high. Sits within a break in the trees with a burn running adjacent to the east. Covered by bracken with evidence of animal burrowing at points along its length. Has been cut by sunken trackway at its northern end. Southern end stops at fenceline bounding the field to the south. Total length measures approximately 125m.</p>	

56.5	Bank	NS 49532 04446 to NS 49556 04571	Sinuous earth bank running mainly SW-NE upslope. Measures 1.8-2.3m wide and 0.4-0.8m high. Sits within a break in the trees with evidence of animal burrowing at points along its length. Has been cut by sunken trackway at its centre. Total length measures approximately 144m.	
56.6	Bank	NS 49519 04431 to NS 49494 04524	Sinuous earth bank running SSE-NNW upslope. Measures 1.5-2m wide and 0.4-0.8m high. Sits within a break in the trees with its eastern edge running directly into gorge on this side. Quite fragmentary in its survival particularly along this eastern side. Evidence of animal burrowing at points along its length. Southern end stops at fenceline bounding the field to the south. Total length measures approximately 99m. Bank 56.7 runs into its western side at the higher end. Appears likely to have originally joined with the eastern end of Bank 56.9 but has been cut by sunken trackway at its northern end.	


56.7	Bank	NS 49415 04435 to NS 49494 04508	Sinuous earth bank running SW-NE upslope. Measures 1.4-1.7m wide and 0.4-0.7m high. Sits within the trees with planting furrows running up either side. Northern end runs into western side of bank 56.6. Southern end stops at fenceline bounding the field to the south. Total length measures approximately 110m.	
56.8	Bank	NS 49402 04459 to NS 49482 04544	Sinuous earth bank running SW-NE upslope. Measures 1.6-2.2m wide and 0.5-0.9m high. Sits within the trees, although SW end runs into clearing. Has been cut by a diagonal drain/gully roughly midway along its length. Northern end runs into the eastern end of Bank 56.9. Total length measures approximately 117m.	

56.9	Bank	NS 49352 04525 to NS 49483 04544	Sinuous earth bank running roughly SW-NE upslope. Measures 1.7-2.2m wide and 0.4-0.7m high. Sits within a clearing in the trees. Splits into two at its western end for a short distance before petering out. Total length measures approximately 145m. Eastern end runs into northern end of Bank 56.8. Bank 56.10 runs out to W from midway along its length.	
56.10	Bank	NS 49404 04556 to NS 49171 04611	Sinuous earth bank running roughly ESE-WNW before curving round to the SW at its western end to meet the fenceline bounding the field to the south. Measures up to 1.3-2m wide and 0.4-0.7m high. Sits running along the contour of the hill to make use of this position, allowing the southern edge to run into the natural slope below, creating a higher bank on this side. Sits within a break in the trees, although is covered by bracken across most of its length. Eastern end runs towards western side of Bank 56.9. Total length measures approximately 260m. Has structure 56.14 sitting midway along its length, and Bank 56.11 runs out to the SW from the same area.	

56.11	Bank	NS 49261 04536 to NS 49305 04605	Sinuous earth bank running SW-NE upslope. Measures 2m wide and 0.6m high. More denuded at northern end, southern end more pronounced. Sits within an unforested area. Partially covered by bracken. Southern end stops at fenceline bounding the field to the south. Quad bike tracks cross it at southern end. Total length measures approximately 82m. Northern end runs into Bank 56.10 at the eastern end of Structure 56.14.	
56.12	Bank	NS 49151 04630 to NS 49094 04765	Sinuous earth bank running roughly SSE-NNW. Measures 2-2.3m wide and 0.4-0.85m high. Sits within a break in the trees. Covered by bracken. Southern end stops at fenceline bounding the field to the south. May have originally met the western end of Bank 56.12 but has been cut by the later field boundaries. Total length measures approximately 153m.	

56.13	Cairn	NS 49393 04466	<p>Very denuded cairn which sits in clearing. Extends across an oval shaped area measuring 12.5m NNE-SSW by 6.1m WNW-ESE. Measures up to 0.4m high. Consists mainly of smaller stones each measuring $\leq 17\text{cm}$ by 13cm by 9cm in size, with occasional larger stones measuring $\leq 64\text{cm}$ by 42cm by 20cm in size. Occasional fragments of animal bone present. Portion in NW corner runs into trees which sit close to the west. Yellow survey peg sits in the middle of the feature.</p>	
56.14	Structure	NS 49300 04613	<p>Sub-rectangular shaped structure orientated WNW-ESE, sitting midway along length of Bank 56.10. Total external dimensions measure 15m by 8.6m (although narrows down to 6.8m at western end), and internal dimensions measure 10.3m by 2.5m (narrowing down to 1.6m at western end). The external edge is defined by an earth bank which measures 1.7m wide and 0.7m high on its internal edge. There are no internal divisions. The structure sits within an unforested area, but is covered in bracken. Bank 56.11 runs to the SW near to its eastern end.</p>	

Site D58

Element	Type	Coordinate	Description	Image
58.1	Bank	NS 50097 04194 to NS 50074 04307 (southern section); NS 50049 04416 to NS 49989 04475 (northern section)	Sinuous stone and earth bank surviving in two sections: the southern running SSE-NNW while the northern ran SE-NW behind the elements which comprised Site 57. S end of the bank stops at top of steep drop down to Trough Burn, while N end stops at top of steep drop down to Mossdale Burn. Bank measures up to 2.7m wide and 600mm high. Has a shallow ditch running along its E side which measures approximately 1m wide. Small spur off to the WSW approximately 45m from its southern end. This measures approximately 8m long by 3.5m wide, with an internal hollowed area measuring approximately 5m long by 1m wide. Measures approximately 400mm high. Unclear what the nature of this spur is, it is possible it could be a section of the bank which is widespread or that it may be a small structure or enclosure. Possible continuation of the spur in the field to the W but this could be a natural feature. Total length of southern bank measured approximately 115m, while the northern bank measured approximately 85m long. The intervening gap between the two measured approximately 113m. This gap and some smaller breaks along its length appear to be the result of erosion from environmental factors, such as marshy ground, rather than from deliberate design.	
58.2	Rig	NS 50046 04248	Small area of rig and furrow sitting to the W of the S end of Bank 58.1. Runs on a NW-SE alignment. Full extent of the area covered approximately 60m NW-SE by 20m SW-NE.	