

**Sites D121 and D122, SWS Grid Connection:  
Archaeological Survey**

Report

by Thomas Rees & Claire Williamson

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Signed *Claire Williamson* ..... Date ...5<sup>th</sup> August 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 ...5<sup>th</sup> August 2016..

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## Quality Assurance Data

Author(s)	Thomas Rees & Claire Williamson		
Date of Issue	5 <sup>th</sup> August 2016	Version	1.0
Commissioning	AMEC Foster Wheeler		
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## Non-Technical Summary

1. An archaeological survey was undertaken of two sites to the north of Carsphairn to inform the South West Scotland Grid Connection project. The survey recorded and characterised the different elements of these sites (Figure 1) which were shown to be:
  - ❖ Site D121 – This site consisted of a field system comprising a series of earth and stone banks (**121.4 – 121.9**) which subdivided the area into at least five sub-rectangular enclosures, four of which contained the remnants of hand-dug rig and furrow (**121.10 – 121.13**). The northern end of the site was marked by the remains of a long wall **121.3**, and two structures (**121.1** and **121.2**) sat at the higher end of the site to the east. The area was rough pasture along the western slopes of Craig of Knockgray.
  - ❖ Site D122 – This site comprised the remains of a wall (**122.1**) which sat slightly outwith the extent of the field system recorded at site D121. The site sits in an area of overgrown vegetation within rough pasture.
2. The survey covered in detail those elements of the sites that lay under the line of the project.

## 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 instructed Rathmell Archaeology Limited to deliver on their behalf.
4. The survey of sites D121 and D122 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 system. 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 78 (NGR 256018 594258) and 79 (NGR 256141 594072) on Route D.

### *Site D121*

6. This site is recorded on the Historic Environment Record (HER) as a structure and field system at Lagwyne (Canmore ID 159681, MDG 13634):

FESP: First edition survey project record - The field boundary banks and rig cultivation of this field system, shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1853, are clearly visible as upstanding features on recent aerial photographs.

7. A further assessment informed the ES for the current development that added to the site description for Lagwyne identifying:

A field-system annotated 'Old Fences' and one unroofed structure annotated 'Old Sheep Ree' are depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the Ordnance Survey 6-inch map (Kirkcudbrightshire 1853, Sheet 5) and may be depicted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition map. A length of wall denoted by a pecked line is shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1980).

8. The origin of the spatial data generated for the site and the procedures for defining it are uncertain. It appears the field inspection did not address this site to inform the ES (though see commentary on D122 below).

### *Site D122*

9. This site of a field boundary 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 section of poorly preserved field boundary (possibly part of site 121). Some very poorly preserved rig and furrow is visible on the slope within the field boundary. The field boundary measures approximately 150m in length, 1m wide and 0.2m in height.

10. The site does not appear on the HER, indicating that it has not been identified prior to this (if a separate site from D121). The lack of clear locational and orientation information means that it is unclear what was identified as D122 and whether this description should be ascribed to an element of D121.
11. Within this report, anthropic features identified to the northwest of D121 are identified as D122. No confident association is made between such features and this preceding description.

## Project Works

12. 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.
13. 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).
14. This document is the report on the survey work. The on-site survey was undertaken on 5<sup>th</sup> April and 5<sup>th</sup> 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*

15. 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.
16. During the on-site works no adverse events occurred. This includes injuries to staff, members of the public, stock and adverse environmental incidents.

## Archaeological Survey

17. The upstanding features that are the component elements of Sites D121 and D122 are depicted on Figure 1. The Gazetteer provides descriptions for each element of these sites and representative images. These details are summarised below.

### *Site D121*

18. The field system was readily identified in rough pasture on the western slopes of Craig of Knockgray to the east of the A713. It consisted of a series of earth and stone banks (**121.4 – 121.9**) which subdivided the area into at least five sub-rectangular enclosures, four of which contained the remnants of hand-dug rig and furrow (**121.10 – 121.13**). The northern end of the area was marked by the remains of a long wall **121.3**, while the remains of a further two walls (**121.14** and **121.15**), alongside three clearance cairns (**121.16**), sat at the southeastern end.

19. The field system centred on NGR NX 56195 94206 and covered an area approximately 280m (NW-SE) and 290m (NE-SW).
20. At the higher end of the site, two structures were present (**121.1** and **121.2**). Sub-rectangular structure **121.1**, which appeared to be sub-divided into two compartments, sat on the southeastern edge of an enclosure formed by bank **121.4**, while rectangular structure **121.2**, sub-divided into at least two compartments, sat on the northern corner of an enclosure formed by banks **121.7** and **121.8**.
21. Structure **121.2** is depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey (1853) labelled 'Old Sheep Ree', although this might represent the later reuse of a structure which could have originally been a house. Adjacent bank **121.8** and the northeastern half of bank **121.7** are also depicted as dashed lines indicating old fencelines. Walls **121.3**, **121.14** and **121.15**, and the northeastern and southeastern edges of bank **121.4**, are also shown as dashed lines on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey.
22. Wall **121.3** and the eastern end of wall **121.14** are the only features which continue to be depicted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey (1895), shown as solid lines. Both continue to appear as such on the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey (1909), although only the very northern end of **121.3** is depicted.
23. Large portions of the site are currently infested with bracken.
24. Outwith the survey area further to the southeast, beyond walls **121.14** and **121.15**, a previously unidentified site, D801, was discovered. D801 consisted of the low overgrown remains of two possible structures (**801.1** and **801.2**), with an adjacent enclosure (**801.3**) and earth and stone bank (**801.4**). A modern fenceline ran through the centre of the site, and portions of it are infested with bracken. The features of this site are not visible on any of the available mapping.

#### *Site D122*

25. Site **122.1** survived as the remains of a wall which sat slightly outwith the extent of the field system recorded at D121, roughly 48m to the north of the southwestern end of wall **121.3**, in an area of rough pasture at the base of the sloping ground. It centred on NGR NX 55974 94328 and its full extent measured approximately 31m long.
26. The bank is not depicted on the available historical mapping for the area, although as it is only a small segment in an area of overgrown vegetation, it is likely that it was overlooked or not deemed substantial enough to be surveyed.

### Mitigation Measures

27. 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.
28. The mitigation will take the form of a programme of archaeological works agreed with the planning authority and the Dumfries & Galloway Archaeology Service.
29. Where possible, the preferred approach will be to avoid any substantial upstanding remains or to target the route so that it disturbs those areas which have already been previously disturbed.
30. 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. Should any disturbance impact on a known or proposed structure (as opposed to enclosure or other feature) full archaeological excavation should precede such disruption.
31. The appropriateness of further mitigation (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 Dumfries & Galloway Archaeology Service.

## Conclusion

32. 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 (D121 and D122), as well as identifying a previously unknown site which sat in close proximity (D801).

## References

### *Documentary*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014 *Code of Conduct*

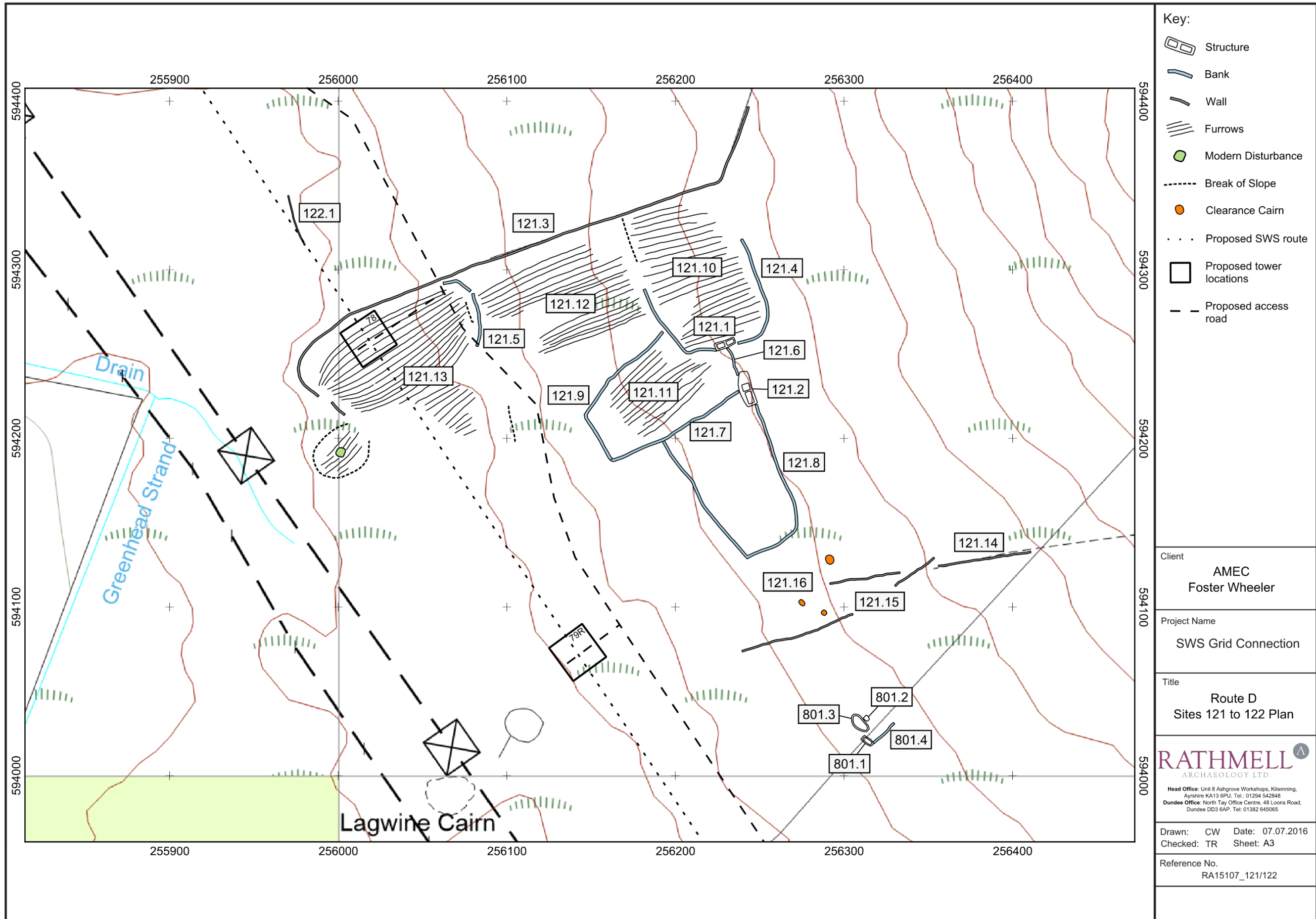
Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

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

Historic Environment Scotland 2015 *Historic Environment Circular 1*

### *Cartographic*

1853	Ordnance Survey	6 Inch 1 <sup>st</sup> edition, Kirkcudbrightshire, Sheet 5
1895	Ordnance Survey	6 Inch 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition, Kirkcudbrightshire, Sheet VII.SE
1909	Ordnance Survey	6 Inch 3 <sup>rd</sup> edition, Kirkcudbrightshire, Sheet VII.SE



**Key:**

- Structure
- Bank
- Wall
- Furrows
- Modern Disturbance
- Break of Slope
- Clearance Cairn
- Proposed SWS route
- Proposed tower locations
- Proposed access road

Client  
**AMEC  
 Foster Wheeler**

Project Name  
**SWS Grid Connection**

Title  
**Route D  
 Sites 121 to 122 Plan**

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 RA15107\_121/122





## The Gazetteer



### Site D121

Element	Type	Coordinate	Description	Image
121.1	Structure	NX 56229 94256	<p>Sub-rectangular structure orientated NE-SW; positioned in a break in Bank 121.4 along its SE edge. Rig system 121.10 sits to the NW. Walls survive as footings which have mainly been turfed over, measuring 1.3m wide and 0.3-0.4m high. Full external dimensions of the structure measure 13.3m by 5.4m. Internal dimensions measure 10.6m by 4.4m. Scooped areas within the ground of the interior suggest it may have been divided into two chambers. Structure is covered by bracken.</p>	
121.2	Structure	NX 56242 94228	<p>Rectangular structure sitting on a NNW-SSE alignment; positioned at the point where the three banks 121.6, 121.7 and 121.8 meet. Structure's full external dimensions measure 13.7m by 7.6m. The walls survive as low footings which have been mainly turfed over, measuring 0.8m wide and 0.3-0.6m high. The interior consists of at least two chambers. The S chamber measures 7.3m by 3.4m while the N chamber measures 4.2m by 4.1m. Spreads of stone extend further to the N but it is unclear whether these represent a third chamber or are just tumble from the collapse of the gable end. Structure is covered by bracken.</p> <p>The structure is visible on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey (1853), with adjacent Banks 121.7 and 121.8 also depicted as old fencelines. The structure is labelled with 'Old Sheep Ree', although it is possible that this may be a later reuse of what could have originally been a house.</p>	



121.3	Wall	NX 56243 94396 to NX 56003 94213	<p>Remains of wall surviving as footings which have been mainly turfed over, measuring 1-1.5m wide and 0.35-0.6m high. Runs mainly in an ENE-WSW direction downslope, curving round to the SE at the bottom. Total length measures approximately 367m. Rig systems 121.10, 121.12 and 121.13 all sit to the SW of this wall.</p> <p>The wall is depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey (1853) as a dashed line indicating the line of an old fence. Still depicted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey (1895) as a solid line.</p>	
121.4	Bank	NX 56239 94318 to NX 56181 94288	<p>Sinuuous stone and earth bank forming a curved 'U' shape around the SW, SE and NE edges at the SE end of rig system 121.10. Has structure 121.1 sitting along its SE side. Bank measures 1.4m wide (although spreads out to 2m in places) and 0.25-0.45m high. NE side covered in bracken. SW side peters out into poorly defined bank. Break of slope visible to NW of this side may mark the location for the continuation of the bank, but the remains are no longer visible in this area. Total length measures approximately 152m.</p> <p>The NE and SE sides of the bank are depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey (1853) as a dashed line indicating the line of an old fence.</p>	

121.5	Bank	NX 56062 94291 to NX 56082 94254	Curving stone and earth bank running roughly NW-SE. Measures 1.4-1.9m wide and 0.3-0.5m high. More pronounced at NW end, quite denuded at SE end. Total length measures approximately 53m. Separates the areas containing rig systems 121.12 and 121.13.	
121.6	Bank	NX 56230 94253 to NX 56237 94237	Linear stone and earth bank running NNW-SSE. Measures 1.2m wide and 0.3m high. Very denuded. Total length measures approximately 18m. Runs between the two structures, 121.1 and 121.2.	


121.7	Bank	NX 56237 94227 to NX 56162 94187	<p>Linear stone and earth bank running NE-SW downslope. Starts at Structure 121.2 at NE end and joins Bank 121.9 at SW end. Both 121.7 and 121.9 enclose area of rig 121.11. Measures 1.4m wide and 0.15-0.4m high. Total length measures approximately 87m.</p> <p>The NE half of the bank is depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey (1853) as a dashed line indicating the line of an old fence.</p>	
121.8	Bank	NX 56247 94219 to NX 56192 94198	<p>Stone and earth bank which encloses a sub-rectangular area to the S of Structure 121.2. Starts at the SSE end of Structure 121.2 running SSE, then curves round to the WSW, before turning back to the NNW and meeting Bank 121.7 midway along its length. Bank measures 1.4m wide and 0.25-0.45m high. Total length measures approximately 198m. Unlike elsewhere, the area it encloses does not contain any surviving remnants of rig and furrow.</p> <p>The bank is depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey (1853) as a dashed line indicating the line of an old fence.</p>	

121.9	Bank	NX 56192 94263 to NX 56162 94187	Roughly 'L' shaped stretch of stone and earth bank which runs SW downslope from midway along Bank 121.4, and then runs SE to meet the bottom end of Bank 121.7. Quite denuded in its survival. Measures 1.6m wide and 0.3m high. Total length measures approximately 99m. Separates Rig systems 121.11 and 121.12.	
121.10	Rig	NX 56212 94300	Area of rig and furrow which sits within area enclosed by Bank 121.4 with Structure 121.1 at the SE end. Runs downslope in an ENE-WSW direction. Quite denuded, although appears to be hand dug. Distance between the centrelines of the furrows measures approximately 2.8m. Furrows are approximately 0.1m deep. Full extent of the area measures approximately 56m ENE-WSW by 85m NNW-SSE.	

121.11	Rig	NX 56187 94227	<p>Area of rig and furrow which sits within area enclosed by Banks 121.7 and 121.9. Runs downslope in an NE-SW direction. Appears to be hand dug, some boulders present throughout. Covered by bracken. Distance between the centrelines of the furrows measures approximately 3.3m. Furrows are approximately 0.1m deep. Full extent of the area measures approximately 56m NE-SW by 35m NW-SE.</p>	
121.12	Rig	NX 56134 94276	<p>Area of rig and furrow which sits with Bank 121.1 to the E, Bank 121.5 to the NW and Wall 121.3 to the N (open to the SW). Runs downslope in an ENE-WSW direction. Quite denuded, although appears to be hand dug. Quite a few boulders present throughout. Distance between the centrelines of the furrows measures approximately 1.6-1.8m. Furrows are approximately 0.1m deep. Full extent of the area measures approximately 86m ENE-WSW by 53m NNW-SSE.</p>	

121.13	Rig	NX 56037 94252	<p>Area of rig and furrow which sits with Bank 121.5 to the NE and Wall 121.3 to the NW and SW (open to the SE). Runs downslope in an NE-SW direction. The outer furrows curve inwards at either end. Appears to be hand dug with occasional boulders present throughout. The best defined out of all the rig systems in this area. Appears to continue into small section of land to the SW. Distance between the centrelines of the furrows measures approximately 2.5-2.9m. Furrows are approximately 0.15-0.25m deep. Full extent of the area measures approximately 96m NE-SW by 86m NW-SE.</p>	
121.14	Wall	NX 56291 94113 to NX 56410 94132	<p>Remains of wall surviving as footings which have been mainly turfed over, measuring 1-1.5m wide and 0.3-0.5m high. Runs in an ENE-WSW direction downslope. Wall spans a total length of 121m but has a break of 23m in the centre where Wall 121.15 runs through to the SW. This wall and Wall 121.15 are both depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey (1853) as dashed lines labelled as 'Old Fences'. The line of the eastern portion of 121.14 continues to be depicted on the mapping right up until the current version although it is no longer labelled.</p>	
121.15	Wall	NX 56353 94129 to NX 56239 94073	<p>Remains of wall surviving as footings which have been mainly turfed over, measuring 1-1.5m wide and 0.3-0.5m high. Slightly curved, the wall runs in an NE-SW direction downslope, passing through a gap in the middle of Wall 121.14. The wall spans a total length of 128m but has a break of 30m in the centre. This wall and Wall 121.14 are both depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey (1853) as dashed lines labelled as 'Old Fences'. While 121.14 continues to be depicted on the later mapping, 121.15 doesn't appear again after the 1<sup>st</sup> edition.</p>	
121.16	Clearance Cairns	NX 56291 94127; NX 56274 94102; NX 56288 94096	<p>Three clearance cairns positioned near to each other, measuring 2.8-5.5m in diameter and up to 400mm high. The cairns have been mostly turfed over.</p>	

## Site D122

<i>Element</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Coordinate</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Image</i>
122.1	Wall	NX 55980 94314 to NX 55970 94344	Remains of wall running NNW-SSE. Only basal course of large boulders surviving. Boulders individually measure $\leq 40\text{cm}$ by $80\text{cm}$ by $35\text{cm}$ in size. Full extent measures $0.6\text{m}$ wide, $31\text{m}$ long and $0.3\text{--}0.4\text{m}$ high.	

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