Kirkbride, Dumfries and Galloway:
Historic Environment Assessment & Survey

Appraisal



by Agnes Kener

issued 28th January 2026

revised 28th April 2026

on behalf of EJD Forestry Ltd

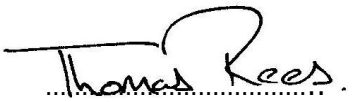
RATHMELL ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

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  Date …28th April 2026…

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

Checked  Date …28th April 2026…

Copyright Rathmell Archaeology Limited. All rights reserved.

No part of this report may be copied or reproduced by any means without prior written permission from Rathmell Archaeology Limited. If you have received this report in error, please destroy all copies in your possession or control and notify Rathmell Archaeology Limited.

This report has been prepared for the exclusive use of the commissioning party and unless otherwise agreed in writing by Rathmell Archaeology Limited, no other party may use, make use of or rely on the contents of the report. No liability is accepted by Rathmell Archaeology Limited for any use of this report, other than the purposes for which it was originally prepared and provided.

Opinions and information provided in the report are on the basis of Rathmell Archaeology Limited using due skill, care and diligence in preparation of the same and no explicit warranty is provided as to their accuracy. It should be noted and it is expressly stated that no independent verification of any of the documents or information supplied to Rathmell Archaeology Limited has been made.

Contents

Executive Summary **4**
Topographic and Geological Background 4
Approach to Assessment **5**
Objectives of the Assessment 5
Scope of work 5
Historic Environment Baseline **6**
Previous Archaeological Works 6
Prehistoric to Roman Land use 6
Medieval and Later Periods 7
Aerial Photography and LiDAR data 8
Walkover Survey 11
Management Guidance **19**
Site Protection 19
Larger Clearings 20
Edge Treatment 21
Clearing Management 21
Access and Interpretation 21
Conclusion **21**
References **22**
Documentary 22
Cartographic 22
Contact Details **22**

Figures and Tables

Figure 1a: Extract from Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (Lowlands) 1752-5 9
Figure 1b: Extract from Ainslie's map of the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, South West section, 1797 9
Figure 2b: Extract from the 6-inch 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1854 10
Figure 3a: Extract from 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1896 10
Figure 4: General shot of the west of the assessment area taken from the NW of Compartment A. Compartments B and C visible in the distance, Kirkbride Farm **S1** in the extreme left. 12
Figure 5: Compartments B and C viewed from Compartment A 12
Figure 6: Modern clearance heaps in the north of Compartment A 12
Table 1: Historic Environment Sites located within or adjacent to the Assessment Area 13
Table 2: Rig Table 17
Figure 7: Location Map showing Historic Environment Sites in the Assessment Area 18

Executive Summary

1. A historic environment assessment was required by EJD Forestry Ltd to inform a proposed planting scheme at Kirkbride, near Creetown, Dumfries and Galloway.

2. The project comprised desk-based assessment (including LiDAR data where available), walkover survey (incl. standardised recording of archaeological sites and defining outer boundaries with GPS) and technical reporting (incl. provision of management guidance compliant with UKFS HE, SF Archaeological Survey Guidelines and provision GIS files of site boundaries) to deliver an archaeological survey in advance of forestry.

3. Twelve historic environment sites were identified within or adjacent to the assessment area and are considered within this report (Table 1). These were all medieval to post-medieval in date and included the site of a former chapel **S5**, a farm **S1**, a bridge **S2**, roads **S3** and **S11**, a path **S9**, a mill dam **S4**, a quarry and a gravel pit **S6** and **S10**, a field boundary **S12** and two enclosures **S7** and **S8**.

4. Of the sites within the assessment area, ten had not previously been identified either in part or whole in the archaeological record (i.e., within NRHE or Dumfries & Galloway HER). These are **S3**, **S4**, **S5.2**, **S6**, **S7**, **S8**, **S9**, **S10**, **S11** and **S12.**

5. There are no sites within or adjacent to the assessment area which are protected by designation as a Scheduled Monument under the terms of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. There is however the potential for the chapel site **S5** to incorporate human burials, the disturbance of which could be a breach of Scots Law.

6. Based on the evidence gathered for this assessment, positive management has been recommended to safeguard three sites: farm **S1**, bridge **S2**, and the site of a chapel **S5**. No larger clearings have been recommended.

Introduction

7. A historic environment assessment and survey was required by EJD Forestry Ltd to inform a programme of tree planting over three Compartments at Kirkbride, near Creetown, Dumfries and Galloway.

8. These works were designed to inform on the nature, form and extent of any historic environment assets present within the defined areas, based on archival sources and site inspection undertaken through the walkover survey. From this baseline, management guidelines are presented that seek to protect significant sites in an appropriate setting.

9. This report has been prepared to support EJD Forestry Ltd to address UKFS Historic Environment Guidelines (2023), specifically Good Forestry Practice Requirements 1 to 4.

Topographic and Geological Background

10. The assessment area is formed by three Compartments located to the south of Creetown, Dumfries and Galloway.

11. Compartment A, centred on NGR NX 48701 55622, covers 56.1ha, Compartment B, centred on NGR NX 48362 55272,covers 4.4ha, Compartment C, centred on NGR NX 48138 55521, covers 6.3ha, which together totals 66.87ha.

12. The A75 Carsluith Diversion runs between Compartments B and C, and a minor road also providing access to Kirkbride Farm runs between Compartments A and B. These roads form the primary routes of access. Compartment A is criss-crossed by a number of farm tracks, while a continuous agricultural field and areas of shoreline form Compartments B and C. The elevation rises from 0m OD in Compartment C to 125m OD in the north of Compartment A, which is situated on the southern slope of Kirkbride Hill.

13. The bedrock geology is sedimentary in character across all compartments of the assessment area, comprising wacke of the Cairnharrow Formation formed between 443.8 and 433.4 million years ago during the Silurian period. The superficial deposits are Devensian till in the higher lying areas of Compartment A and raised marine beach deposits, late Devensian-Gravel, sand and silt nearer to the coastline and in the entirety

of Compartments B and C.

14. Kirkbride Burn is the principal watercourse that forms the eastern boundary of all three compartments, while the high-water line of Wigtown Bay forms the western boundary of Compartment C.

Approach to Assessment

15. The works comprised a desk-based assessment supported by a walkover survey. The assessment focused on the area(s) defined by the boundary of the proposal. For some resources, where insufficient information was available, an adjacent buffer may be included within the assessment area to examine any sites that are close, and which present the potential to inform on the resource within the proposed planting area.

16. All works were conducted in keeping with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statements.

Objectives of the Assessment

17. The objective of the assessment was to assess the known archaeological sites and the potential for currently unlocated sites within the planting area. The assessment was then to determine the potential impact of the development on the archaeological aspects of the resource and hence recommend a design and planting approaches to reduce any adverse impacts.

Scope of work

18. The assessment was undertaken using available resources to:

- identify the known archaeological sites on, or immediately adjacent to, the proposed planting area;
- identify significant demolished structures (architectural, social and historical); and
- identify areas with credible potential for the survival of archaeological strata.

19. For all identified sites, the characterisation process was to establish the nature, form and extent of the site incorporating an assessment of its date, integrity, level of preservation and importance.

20. Archival sources consulted during this assessment included:

- the National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE) (known archaeological sites; aerial photography; Scheduled Monuments and other designations);
- The Dumfries and Galloway Council Historic Environment Record (known archaeological sites; and archived commercial reports);
- National Library of Scotland (bibliographic records, historic Ordnance Survey and pre-Ordnance Survey mapping);
- British Library (historic newspapers);
- local museums, libraries and other archives (Old & New Statistical Accounts, local history books); and
- Scottish Government LiDAR data.

21. Information contained within available published and web-based sources was also consulted.

22. The local Historic Environment Record which is held by Dumfries and Galloway Council Archaeology Service was contacted during the desk-based assessment to acquire further information on the assessment area and the surrounding landscape. This enquiry was also an opportunity for the local Historic Environment Record to raise any concerns over the historic environment sites or highlight areas of particular interest within the assessment area.

23. A walkover survey of the proposed planting area was undertaken on the 20th January 2026 to assist in the characterisation of surviving upstanding archaeological or historic remains and define their key characteristics (including significance). The walkover survey also sought to identify new, previously unrecognised archaeological sites.

24. The walkover survey comprised:

- classification of the archaeological sites and monuments;
- compilation of a written site description (objective measured description; subjective site interpretation; site condition; site evaluation [using FES categorisation guidelines]; and management recommendations if appropriate);
- production of a photographic record (digital) of all sites; and
- location of all archaeological site limits and elements by GPS equipment allowing real-time correction to Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum.

25. All works complied with the UKFS Historic Environment Guidelines, the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statements.

Historic Environment Baseline

26. The desk-based assessment identified twelve sites within or immediately adjacent to the assessment area. There are no sites protected by designation as a Scheduled Monument under the terms of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

Previous Archaeological Works

27. The environs of the assessment area were subject to antiquarian research in the late 19th century by F.R. Coles (1897), and more recently by Ordnance Survey archaeologists in 1970 and by the RCHAMS through the pre-afforestation short notice survey in 1994.

28. There have been four Historic Environment Assessments in advance of forestry carried out nearby at Glen Farm and Barholm to the east and Garrocher and Kirkmabreck to the north by Rathmell Archaeology (Krischer 2020, Kener 2025a, Kener 2025b & Kener 2025c respectively). The assessment area for Kirkmabreck shares a section of its southern border with the present assessment and is therefore the most relevant of these surveys. A fifth Historic Environment Assessment is currently underway at Claughreid, to the east.

29. These previous works have been survey-based and as such did not include intrusive testing of the land, although some antiquarian research was the result of agricultural works.

Prehistoric to Roman Land use

30. There are no known prehistoric sites within the assessment area, though the wider landscape is rich in monuments of prehistoric date

31. The most notable of the prehistoric monuments closest to the assessment area are Bagbie Cairn and Stone Circle (HES ID: SM1000; NRHE ID: 63327; HER ID: MDG2958) and the Standing Stone of Bagbie (HES ID: SM1001; NRHE ID: 63326; HER ID: MDG4628) to the northwest of the assessment area. There are also several noted cup and ring marked stone outcrops to the north near Kirkmabreck Farm (NRHE ID: 63330, 133502 and 88938; HER ID: MDG2961, MDG12834, MDG9845) and noted findspots of prehistoric artefacts, such as an undated polished axehead (NRHE ID: 63310; HER ID: MDG2942) and Mesolithic flints (NRHE ID: 63309; HER ID: MDG2941) found in the vicinity of Kirkmabreck at unspecified locations.

32. The density of funerary and ritual monuments in the wider area suggests that this region was regarded as being of some importance during the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age period, and so it may be interpreted as a ritual landscape, though the present assessment appears to be situated on the outskirts of this activity.

33. There are no known sites within the assessment area which can be attributed to the Iron Age or to the Roman period. The Old Military Road linking Creetown to the Coarse of Slakes Road to the north of the assessment area is purported to follow the route of a Roman road

(NRHE ID: 246983; HER ID: MDG10263). Evidence of Roman activity is scarce throughout the wider landscape, although a Roman presence is attested by the remains of a fortlet, some 10km to the east of the assessment area, north of Gatehouse of Fleet (NRHE ID: 63631). A possible Roman temporary camp was also noted to the north by Harper (1876), though subsequent surveys failed to confirm such a site.

Medieval and Later Periods

34. All of the sites within the assessment area relate to the postmedieval or modern period, though the general patterns of land use may have their origins in the medieval period. These are largely monuments related to agricultural land use.

35. Roy's *Military Survey of Scotland (Lowlands)*, surveyed in the period 1752-5 (Figure 1), is the first available historical map that shows the area in sufficient detail to allow comparison with the modern landscape. This is also the first available map that depicts a settlement at 'Kirkbryde' on the eastern shore of Wigtown Bay. This settlement is shown with three buildings and a rectangular enclosure to their south, surrounded by a treeline boundary and enclosed cultivated fields. The unlabelled Kirkbride Burn runs to the southeast of the settlement and defines the eastern boundary of the assessment area. Kirkmabreck Burn is also depicted to the northwest, defining the northern limit of Compartment A. Virtually the entire extent of the assessment area is depicted as cultivated land associated with the farm at Kirkbride, with some areas on the shore outwith these enclosed fields. Further unenclosed fields extend to the north in the vicinity of Kirkmabreck and to the south surrounding Bagbie. Of these settlements, Kirkbride appears to be the smallest at this time. There is no major road yet depicted to connect the settlements.

36. Written some decades after Roy's survey, the Old Statistical Account of Scotland (MacLean, 1795) describes the parish of Kirkmabreck as mainly rural in nature. In the thirty years prior to its publication, a great deal of land improvement had been carried out, and the amount of grain grown had increased significantly. This was done using lime from shells found on the shores of Wigtown Bay. In the upland areas, the land was mainly used to pasture sheep and cattle. The population of the parish had increased in the previous thirty years, partially due to the new practice of inoculation against smallpox. In addition, agricultural improvements and new manufacturing businesses served to retain people within the parish.

37. John Ainslie's map of the *Stewarty of Kirkcudbright* of 1797 (Figure 2) shows a few changes to the vicinity of the assessment area, though less detail is provided concerning land use. A coastal road is depicted for the first time passing to the immediate southwest of Kirkbride. The vicinity of Kirkbride is depicted as wooded, and the road crosses Kirkbride Burn at what may be Kirkbride Old Bridge **S2**, though it is more likely to be Kirkbride Bridge to the south of the farm, over which the current access road still runs. The road leading inland to the north of Carsluith Burn is also shown for the first time. A mill already shown on Roy is labelled 'Kirkbride Mill', though it is depicted on the bank of Carsluith Burn. Sutter Croft is shown on the western side of the coastal road. Ainslie does not show any field enclosures, which may well have been more widespread by this time, based on the Old Statistical Account entry for the parish. Thomson's *Kirkcudbright-Shire*, published in 1821, depicts the assessment area in a very similar way, with no notable differences.

38. There had been few changes in the parish by the time of writing of the New Statistical Account (Muir, 1845). Concerning the general topography of the parish, Muir highlights that the soil of the uplands tends to be thin and rocky, while the valleys have been considerably improved. The use of shell banks to improve the fields since the Old Statistical Account had resulted in a great depletion of this resource, and the practice was rarely carried out by 1845.

39. Muir describes the process of 19th century stone quarrying in great detail. Although no major quarries are located within the assessment area, the small quarry **S6** and the gravel pit **S10** could date from this period. Concerning the forests of the parish, Muir notes that "there are a few fine old oak trees at Kirkbride" (1845, p323). The proprietor of the land associated with Kirkbride is recorded as Thomas Hughan, Esq, of Airds (ibid, p324). Kirkbride Chapel **S5** is noted to have been located near to the farm at Kirkbride, once

dedicated to Saint Briget, and named Kilbride, though no trace of the chapel remained by this time (ibid, p332).

40. The *1st edition Ordnance Survey* map (Figure 3) surveyed in 1854 shows much greater detail than any previous mapping and shows the assessment area enclosed broadly along its current boundaries. Kirkbride farm **S1** is shown with five roofed buildings, one unroofed building annotated 'Shed' and three enclosures.

41. The contemporary Ordnance Survey Name Book entry for the farm states the buildings are "all slated and in good repair" (Vol. 124, p32). To the northwest of Kirkbride farm, Hollanbank appears on the side of the main road, which the Name Book describes as a small cot house in good repair with a small garden "on the farm of Kirkbride" (ibid). A path **S9** links Kirkbride with the farm at Kirkmabreck to the north, along which a gravel pit **S10** and a small enclosures **S8** and **S7** are depicted in the northern part of the assessment area. A further two quarries are shown to the west of Kirkbride farm, of which **S6** has not been subsumed by later developments near the farm.

42. To the east of the farm, Kirkbride Old Bridge **S2** is shown linked to the farm with a small section of road **S3**, leading across Kirkbride Burn to Thornybrock. The Ordnance Survey Name Book records that this bridge was a former county bridge, stone-built with one arch, located on the old road leading from Creetown to Gatehouse, though the road had already been disused by this time (Vol. 124, p33). The bridge used at this time is Kirkbride Bridge on the southern edge of the assessment area, between Compartments A and B. Mill dam **S4** is shown with an associated pond on the northwestern bank of the burn. The site of 'Kirkbride Chapel (Site of)' **S5** is depicted as a ruined, roofless rectangular structure on the northeastern side of a NW-SE aligned field boundary.

43. Compartments B and the southern half of C are shown as three cultivated fields divided by a NE-SW oriented tree lined road **S11** and field boundary **S12**.

44. There is limited change to the assessment area on the *2nd edition Ordnance Survey map* surveyed in 1894 (Figure 4). Quarry **S6** and gravel pit **S10** are no longer marked, and mill dam **S4** is no longer labelled, though the mill pond is depicted the same way. Some alterations had been made to Kirkbride Farm **S1**, where some of the outbuildings appear to have been demolished, while the eastern main building was extended – there is still continuity with the original structures. The wooded area in the west of Compartment A is labelled 'Souter Croft Wood', and a new cottage, Brideport Cottage, appears to the northwest of Hollanbank. The road **S11** and field boundary **S12** had by this time been demolished and the area making up the present Compartment B and C had been unified into a single field.

45. There is virtually no change in the assessment area on early 20th century mapping.

Aerial Photography and LiDAR data

46. Modern aerial imagery and LiDAR data are available for the assessment area and have been used to clarify the location and form of many of the sites identified as well as the historical field divisions that still exist across the landscape. A total of five blocks of rig and furrow were identified through aerial imagery, which are summarised in Table 2. LiDAR also identified a second possible location for Kirkbride Chapel **S5.2**.

47. The assessment area was also captured as part of the All-Scotland Survey in 1988 (ASS/62488). The assessment area appeared at this time much as it does today, with Kirkbride Farm **S1** surrounded by agricultural fields corresponding with the current conditions within Compartment A, and likewise, no difference was noted in the remaining two coastal compartments.



Figure 1: Extract from Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (Lowlands) 1752-5

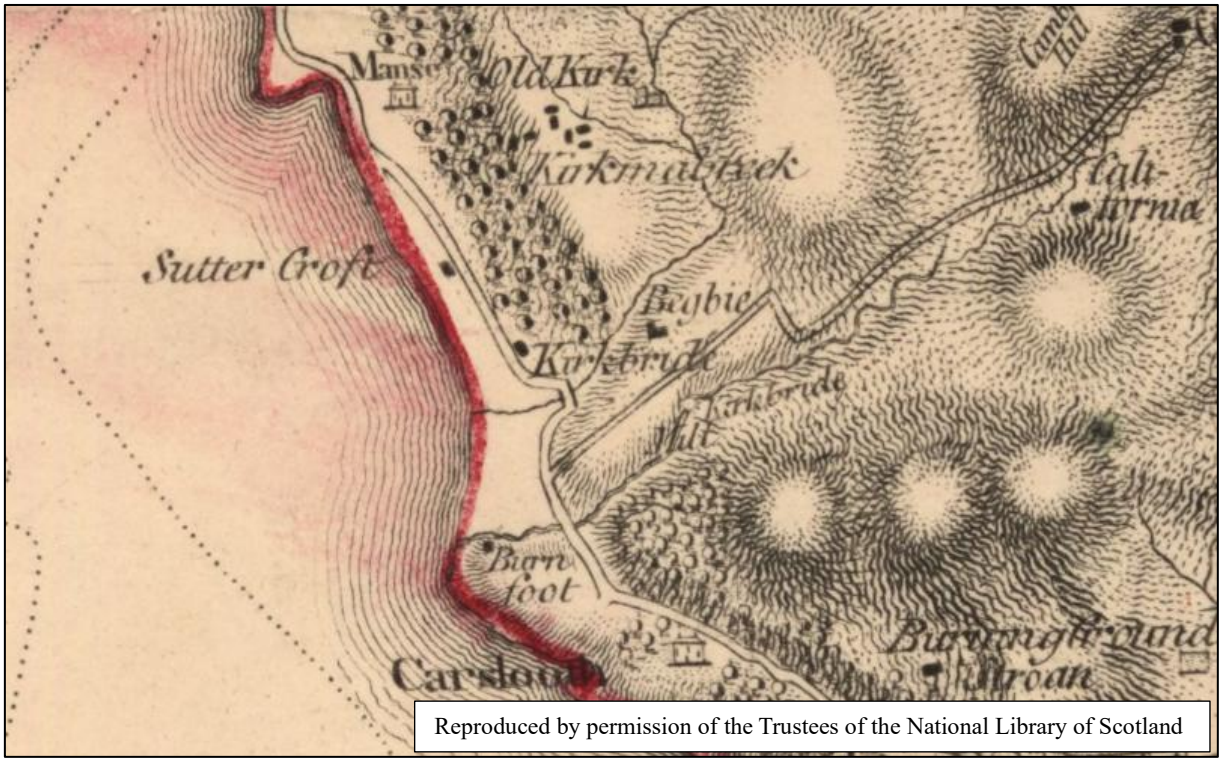


Figure 2: Extract from Ainslie's map of the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, South West section, 1797

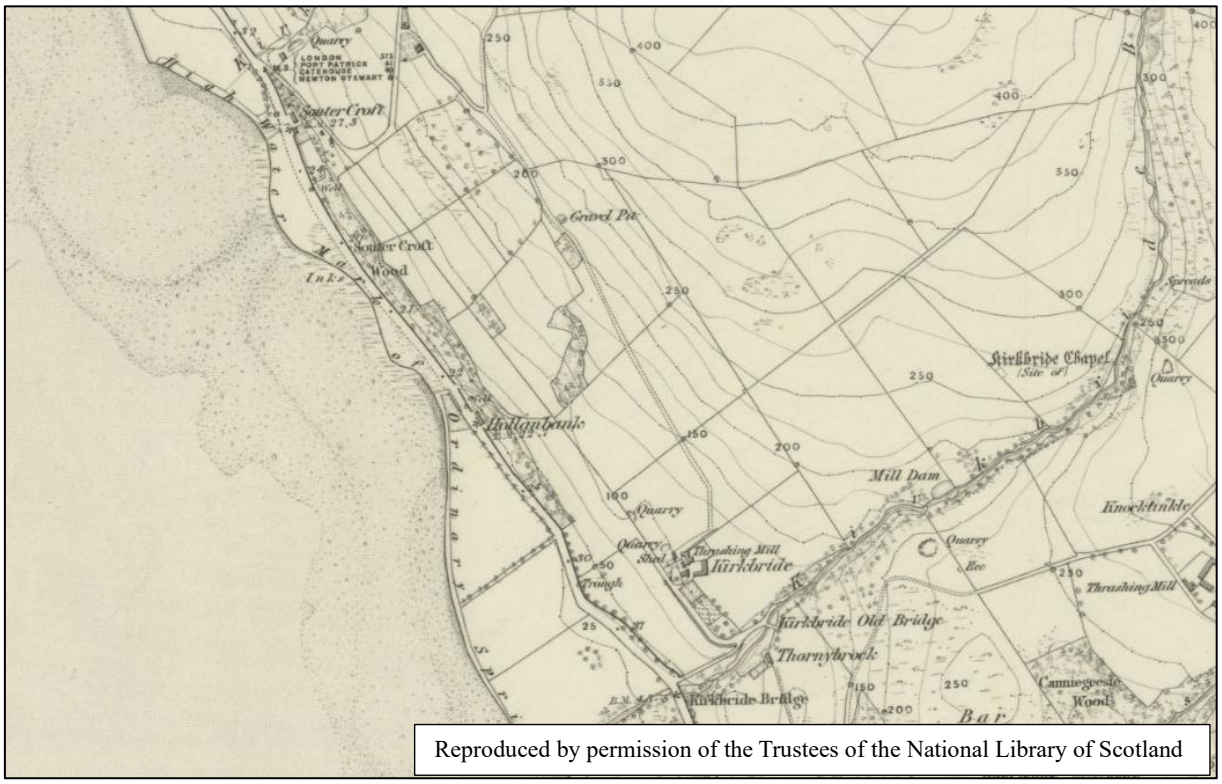


Figure 3: Extract from the 6-inch 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1854

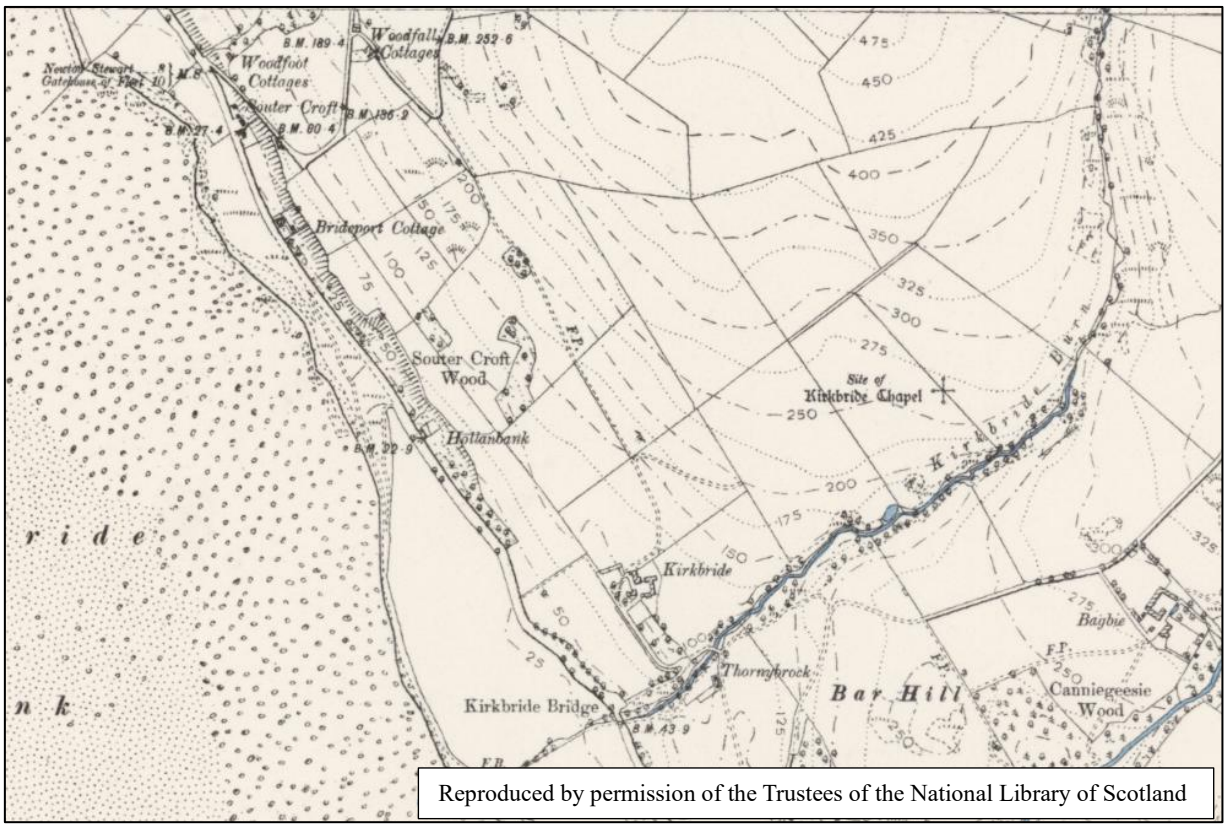


Figure 4: Extract from 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1896

Walkover Survey

49. The walkover survey took place on 20th January 2026. Weather conditions were sunny with good visibility over distances. The survey area consisted primarily of improved agricultural fields, many of which were in active use for grazing sheep and cattle at the time of visit. Field boundaries encountered were a mix of drystone dykes and modern post-and-wire deer fences. Bracken was not noted in the assessment area, and some limited areas of gorse in the northwestern and central part of Compartment A did not interfere with the identification of historic environment assets.

50. Throughout the walkover survey, sites that had been identified during the desk-based assessment were investigated. At the same time, areas with high potential were subject to field inspection, with any new sites encountered recorded. As such, the walkover survey focused on Compartment A and Compartments B and C were inspected from a distance.

51. Compartment A was accessed from the access road to Kirkbride Farm **S1**. Farm tracks and footpaths were used throughout the survey, some of which corresponded to those depicted on 19th century mapping. A continuation of the central track leading from Kirkbride Farm to the northwest **S9** was noted as a slight depression in the hillside.

52. Located in the south corner of Compartment A, Kirkbride Farm **S1** is a modern farm with an associated occupied farmhouse and grounds. As suggested by modern mapping and aerial photography, the farm structures are much changed from their 19th century depiction. The site visit did not identify features of historical note. The location of the three enclosures to the southeast, first recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, survive in the form of wooded parcels, with the southernmost parcel occupied by a modern dwelling.

53. The vicinity of Kirkbride Old Bridge **S2** and its associated road **S3** was heavily overgrown with trees and shrubbery, which made it inaccessible. This crossing over Kirkbride Burn is evidently no longer in use, and the vegetation made it impossible to establish any details about the condition or fabric of the bridge. The vicinity of the mill dam **S4** to the northeast was waterlogged, though seemingly intermittently used to graze sheep. Only the outline of the mill pond was evident.

54. The site of Kirkbride Chapel **S5,** some 500m to the northeast of the farm, was found as described by the RCAHMS survey of 1994. A large clearance heap occupied the site of the chapel as recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, while the location of the rectangular structure identified through LiDAR was featureless, even grassy ground.

55. Quarry **S6** was clearly identifiable to the northwest of the farm, though only a near-indiscernible depression signalled the presence of gravel pit **S10** to the north.

56. The other historic environment assets of the assessment area were all tied to agricultural activity. Enclosures **S7** and **S8** were found in comparable conditions; both had tumbled drystone walls surrounding areas of bedrock and were likely formed to delineate these from the arable land.

57. No trace was seen of the road **S11** and field boundary **S12** stretching across Compartments B and C. These compartments comprised featureless cultivated fields and in the case of Compartment C, stretches of shoreline (Figures 5 and 6).

58. In addition to the one recorded near Kirkbride Chapel **S5**, the walkover survey identified a fairly large number of other modern clearance cairns and heaps, some of which were quite substantial in size (Figure 7). These were often found on or near bedrock outcrops. They were not included in the site list but their location was recorded.

59. None of the five blocks of rig and furrow was visible on the ground.



Figure 5: The west of the assessment area taken from the NW of Compartment A. Compartments B and C visible in the distance, Kirkbride Farm **S1** in the extreme left.



Figure 6: Compartments B and C viewed from Compartment A



Figure 7: Modern clearance heaps in the north of Compartment A

Table 1: Historic Environment Sites located within or adjacent to the Assessment Area

No	Site	HER Ref:	Description	NGR	Image from Site Inspection
S1	Kirkbride Farm	NRHE ID: 63313 HER ID: MDG2945	**Desk Based Assessment** A farmstead, comprising five roofed buildings, one unroofed building annotated 'Shed' and three enclosures, is depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6-inch map. The three enclosures shown along the access road to the southwest of the farm buildings appear to be gardens or small woodland. The 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1894 shows two of the previous buildings still standing with some alterations, while the smaller outbuildings had been demolished. Current mapping shows a larger footprint for the farm with none of the original structures still standing. **Walkover survey** The farm comprised an occupied farmhouse and modern outbuildings actively used for agricultural activity with animals being kept in the surrounding fields. The area of the three enclosures to the south of the farm is wooded, with a secondary dwelling structure occupying the southernmost parcel.	NX 4856 5529	
S2	Kirkbride Old Bridge Bridge	NRHE ID: N/a HER ID: MDG25504	**Desk Based Assessment** 'Kirkbride Old Bridge' is depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map with an associated road **S3** linking Kirkbride to Thornybrock on the east bank of Kirkbride Burn. The Ordnance Survey Name Book records it as a former county bridge, stone-built with one arch, located on the old road leading from Creetown to Gatehouse and already disused by the time of recording (Vol. 124, p33). The bridge appears the same on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1894. Modern mapping shows the two banks connected but a bridge is no longer marked. **Walkover survey** The walkover survey identified the location of the bridge, though it was overgrown by vegetation and inaccessible at the time of visit. Details of construction were also obscured by vegetation, though the bridge evidently still stands.	NX 48671 55215	

No	Site	HER Ref:	Description	NGR	Image from Site Inspection
S3	Kirkbride Bridge Road	N/a	**Desk Based Assessment** A section of road is shown extending northwest from the main farm road leading to Kirkbride farm on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, adjacent to Kirkbride Old Bridge **S2**. The road appears to have been still in use by the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map. Modern mapping indicates the route, though it depicts it as under vegetation and cut off from the access road to Kirkbride farm. **Walkover Survey** The survey found the area fenced off and heavily overgrown by vegetation, the road evidently disused.	NX 48657 55219	
S4	Kirkbride Mill Dam	N/a	**Desk Based Assessment** A 'Mill Dam' is depicted on the northern bank of Kirkbride Burn, approximately 350m northeast of Kirkbride farm **S1** on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. The 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map from 1894 no longer labels the dam but shows the mill pond. Current mapping shows a narrow channel branching out of Kirkbride Burn at the same location. **Walkover survey** The location of the mill pond was clearly visible as a patch of waterlogged, silted up ground and evidently intermittently used for grazing sheep and possibly as a depositing area of cleared stone from the neighbouring fields. Any structural details corresponding to the mill dam were obscured by vegetation and later alterations to the field boundaries.	NX 48932 55399	
S5	Kirkbride Chapel	NRHE ID: 63329 HER ID: MDG2960	**Desk Based Assessment** The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1853 records the site of Kirkbride Chapel **S5.1,** some 500m to the NE of Kirkbride farm **S1**. The Ordnance Survey Name Book for the parish describes it as an 'old church on the farm of Kirkbride' with no remaining vestige bar for some scattered mortared stone. The New Statistical Account (Muir, 1845) notes that it was once dedicated to Saint Briget and named Kilbride. The RCAHMS survey of 1994 noted a 'kink' in the line of the dyke between two improved fields at NX 4906 5556, against which a mass of cleared stone had been dumped and recorded this location as identified as the site of the chapel by the tenant at Kirkbride farm. A faint outline of a rectangular structure **S5.2** is visible on LiDAR to the immediate NE of this clearance heap, though the same is not apparent on aerial photography. This shape measures approximately 13 x 5m oriented NW-SE.	S5.1 NX 49022 55561 S5.2 NX 49046 55552	

No	Site	HER Ref:	Description	NGR	Image from Site Inspection
			Walkover survey The location of the chapel **S5.1** was found as described by the 1994 survey, with a substantial clearance heap within a field used for grazing sheep. No trace of the shape noted on LiDAR **S5.2** was visible on the ground, which was even and covered by short grass.		
S6	Kirkbride Quarry	N/a	**Desk Based Assessment** A small quarry is depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, approximately 100m northeast of Kirkbride farm **S1** along a NW-SE running field boundary. The quarry scar is visible on LiDAR. **Walkover survey** The quarry was found as a well-defined depression in the side of a small hill with cleared stone heaped along its northeastern edge adjacent to a field gate. The scar was otherwise grassed over and measured 16m by 12.5m with a height of approximately 2m.	NX 48483 55390	
S7	Souter's Croft Wood Enclosure	N/a	**Desk Based Assessment** An enclosed woodland is depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map at the location of Souter's Croft Wood. While current mapping does not indicate an upstanding boundary, the shape of this enclosure is preserved and the line of the old boundary is clearly visible on aerial photography and LiDAR. **Walkover survey** The enclosure was found to survive as a heavily denuded low drystone boundary with unworked boulders of various sizes, no higher than 0.5m. The enclosed area is rocky with scattered stones and groups of trees and gorse.	Centred on NX 48419 55611	

No	Site	HER Ref:	Description	NGR	Image from Site Inspection
S8	Souter's Croft Enclosure	N/a	**Desk Based Assessment** An approximately 45m by 20m rectangular enclosure is depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map 50m to the north of Souter's Croft Wood Enclosure **S7**. The ruined drystone enclosure is visible on aerial photography. **Walkover survey** The enclosure was found in a very similar state to **S7** with low tumbled walls largely only one course high and approximately 1m wide, occasionally very sparse or broken. The walls of the enclosure incorporated large boulders and the interior similarly contained areas of bedrock. Two substantial low subcircular clearance heaps were also noted in the interior, which appeared quite recent.	NX 48419 55762	
S9	Kirkmabreck Path	N/a	**Desk Based Assessment** Extending northwest from the current farm track connecting Kirkbride to De Lury's Place, a section of path is shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map leading towards Kirkbride Farm and passing enclosure S8 and quarry **S10**. The line is clearly visible on LiDAR, though not on aerial photography. **Walkover survey** The route of the path was very faint but just about discernible as a depression in the grassy field neighbouring Kirkmabreck.	From NX 48357 55880 to NX 48463 55668	
S10	Souter Croft Gravel Pit	N/a	**Desk Based Assessment** A gravel pit is shown on the northeast side of path **S9** on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. A slight hollow is visible on LiDAR measuring 13x8m. **Walkover survey** The site of the gravel pit was entirely grass covered with only a very slight hollow indicating its location.	NX 48400 55815	

No	Site	HER Ref:	Description	NGR	Image from Site Inspection
S11	Kirkbride Road	N/a	**Desk Based Assessment** A tree-lined NE-SW aligned road connects the road passing southwest of Kirkbride farm **S1** with the shore on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, extending across Compartments B and C. No longer shown on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map and not marked on modern mapping. Not visible on aerial photography or LiDAR. **Walkover Survey** No trace of this road was visible during the survey.	From NX 48369 55356 to NX 48224 55264	 Location in the field bisected by the A75.
S12	Kirkbride Field Boundary	N/a	**Desk Based Assessment** A NE-SW aligned field boundary is depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map to the southeast of Kirkbride farm **S1,** extending across Compartments B and C. No longer shown on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map. Not visible on aerial imagery and not depicted on current mapping. **Walkover Survey** No trace of this field boundary was visible during the survey.	From NX 48411 55243 to NX 48260 55152	 Location in the field bisected by the A75.

Table 2: Rig Table

No	NGR	Block Form	Visibility	Boundaries	Sequence & Relationships	Rig Orientation & Topography	Rig Character
A	NX 49110 55793	Irregular shape. 1.7 ha.	Identified through LiDAR	By modern field boundaries to W and S	E of rig block B	Aligned NW-SE	Narrow low rig
B	NX 48932 55826	Sub-rectangular shape. 1.2 ha.	Identified through LiDAR	By modern field boundaries to W, S and E	W of rig block A	Aligned NW-SE	Narrow low rig
C	NX 48795 55479	Sub-oval shape. 2.4 ha.	Identified through LiDAR	None visible.	None	Aligned NW-SE	Narrow low rig
D	NX 48478 55766	Sub-rectangular shape. 1.9 ha.	Identified through LiDAR	By modern field boundaries to the N and E, by S9 to the W.	Possibly truncated by S10.	Aligned NE-SW	Narrow low rig
E	NX 48417 55399	Sub-rectangular shape. 1.1 ha.	Identified through LiDAR	By modern field boundaries to the N and SE.	None	Aligned NW-SE	Narrow low rig

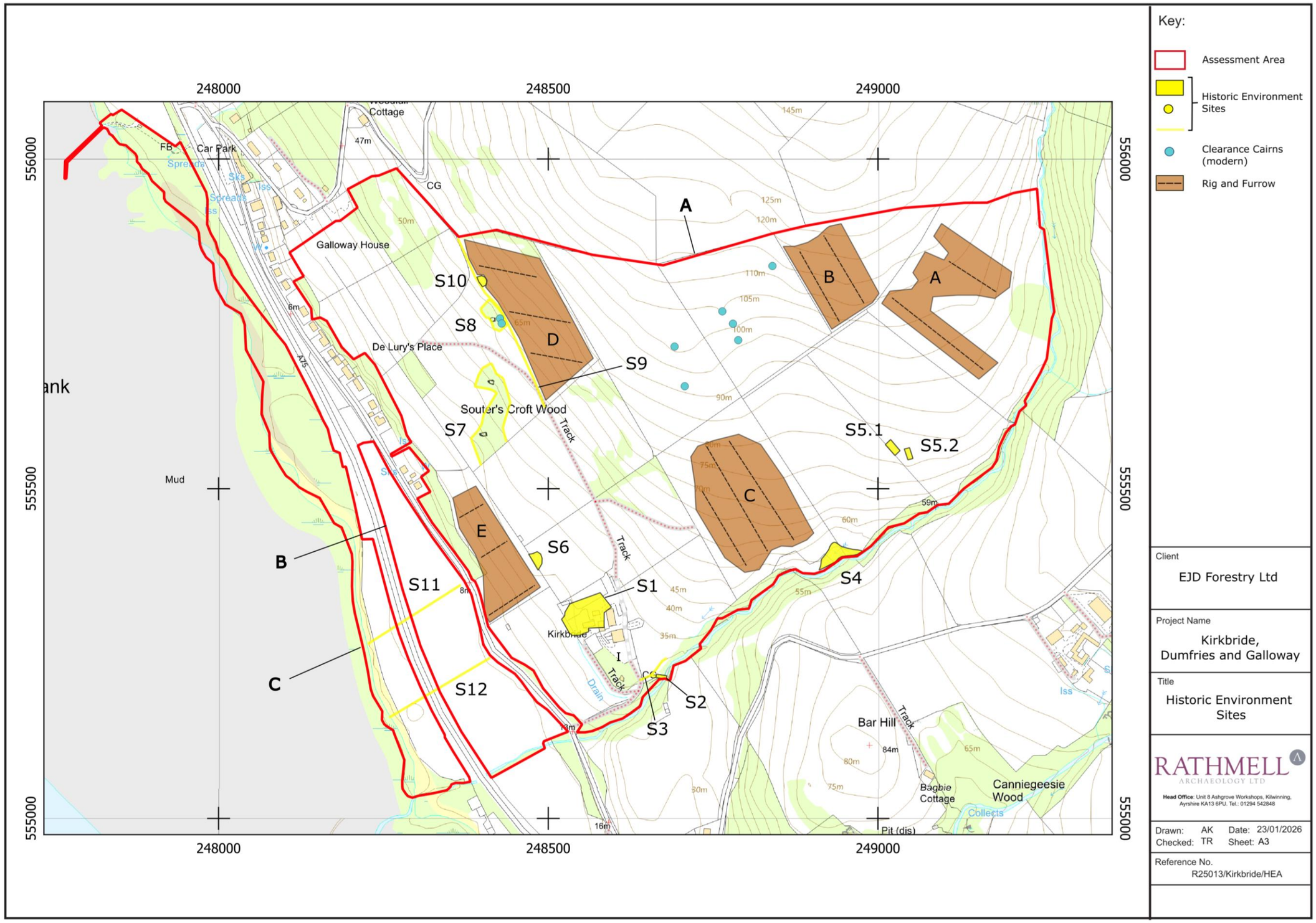


Figure 8: Location Map showing Historic Environment Sites in the Assessment Area

Management Guidance

60. The assessment identified twelve historic environment sites within or immediately adjacent to the Kirkbride assessment area (Figure 8). Not all sites are of equal merit or have equal potential to contribute to the understanding of the Historic Environment. A fourfold significance is used to reflect the scale of contribution running, from high to low, as National, Regional, Local and Other, where Other denotes a minimal significance. Presented below is our guidance on how we recommend the known historic environment sites should be treated within any Forest Design Plan (summarised in Table 3).

Site Protection

61. Kirkbride farm **S1** is an occupied farm with likely post-medieval origins. Some elements of 19th century and earlier structures may survive on its grounds. It has been ascribed Local significance and should be **protected** with a 5m buffer.

62. Kirkbride Old Bridge **S2** is a monument of likely postmedieval date that indicates historical routes for traversing the landscape and connecting neighbouring settlements. As such, it has the potential to contribute to the historical landscape character and has been ascribed Local significance and should be **protected** with a 5m buffer. No structural features were noted in relation to the associated road **S3** and it has been ascribed Other significance. **No action** is recommended, although forestry operations should avoid unnecessary impact.

63. Kirkbride Mill Dam **S4** is not preserved to a level which can significantly contribute to the historic character of the landscape, nor is it likely to embody complex archaeological information. It has been ascribed Other significance and **no action** is recommended, although forestry operations should avoid unnecessary impact.

64. Kirkbride Chapel **S5.1** and **S5.2** do not survive on the surface as identifiable features so do not make a contribution to the character of the historic landscape; however, as the site of a chapel it is credible that their location will contain complex archaeological information below ground, which could include human remains within any associated graveyard. Both potential structure locations have been ascribed Regional significance and both should be **protected** with a 20m buffer.

65. Souter's Croft Wood Enclosure **S7** and Souter's Croft Enclosure **S8** are fragmentarily surviving drystone enclosures of uncertain, likely postmedieval date. They are not preserved to a level which can significantly contribute to the historic character of the landscape, nor are they likely to embody complex archaeological information. The enclosures have been ascribed Other significance and **no action** is recommended, although forestry operations should avoid unnecessary impact on the features.

66. Kirkbride Quarry **S6** and Souter Croft Gravel Pit **S10** inform of 19th century or earlier small-scale quarrying in the area. Due to the nature of the features as a means of extraction without deposition, it is unlikely these would embody complex archaeological information., nor do these quarries make a significant contribution to the historic landscape character. They have been ascribed Other significance. **No action** is recommended.

67. Kirkbride Road **S11** and Field Boundary **S12** are features related to agricultural activity of post-medieval date, of which no above ground elements survive. As such, they are not preserved to a level which can contribute to the historic character of the landscape and their locations are unlikely to contain complex archaeological information. They have been ascribed Other significance and **no** action is recommended.

Table 3: Management Guidance for Historic Environment Sites

No	Site	Significance	Management Guidance	UKFS HE Guidelines
S1	Kirkbride Farm	Local	The extent of the farm should be maintained as open space and **protected** with a 5m buffer.	GFPR 1 HEG 11
S2	Kirkbride Old Bridge	Local	The location of the bridge should be maintained as open space and **protected** with a 5m buffer.	GFPR 1 HEG 11
S3	Kirkbride Bridge Road	Other	**No action** is recommended, though forestry operations should avoid unnecessary impact.	-
S4	Kirkbride Mill Dam	Other	**No action** is recommended, though forestry operations should avoid unnecessary impact.	-
S5	Kirkbride Chapel	Regional	The two possible locations of the chapel should both be maintained as open space and **protected** with a 20m buffer.	GFPR 1 HEG 11
S6	Kirkbride Quarry	Other	**No action** is recommended.	-
S7	Souter's Croft Wood Enclosure	Other	**No action** is recommended. Forestry operations should avoid unnecessary impact.	-
S8	Souter's Croft Enclosure	Other	**No action** is recommended. Forestry operations should avoid unnecessary impact.	-
S9	Kirkmabreck Path	Other	**No action** is recommended.	-
S10	Souter Croft Gravel Pit	Other	**No action** is recommended.	-
S11	Kirkbride Road	Other	**No action** is recommended.	-
S12	Kirkbride Field Boundary	Other	**No action** is recommended.	-

LR legal requirement. GFPR good forestry practice requirement. HEG Historic Environment Guidelines.

Larger Clearings

68. Larger clearings should be used to retain improved settings for significant sites, enable related sites that are within the same immediate landscape to be protected within a shared clearing (enabling their interpretation as a group), protect short-distance significant sightlines and retain a representative sample of the medieval and post-medieval agricultural field systems.

69. In the context of the present survey, the location and character of the historic environment assets do not warrant the creation of a larger clearing.

Edge Treatment

70. Where reasonable woodland bounding clearings for historic environment sites should be broadleaf at a lower density than commercial forestry. Such broadleaf edges should preferentially be provided to:

- ❖ sites of regional significance not within Larger Clearings; then
- ❖ those edges of Larger Clearings in proximity (50m or less) to sites of national significance.

71. Such broadleaf woodland provides both a more sympathetic boundary effect for the setting of the historic environment site and reduces the risk of inadvertent impact from forestry operations during thinning, harvesting and restocking.

Clearing Management

72. Clearings (for site protection) and Larger Clearings (to capture a representative sample of the agricultural systems and retain the setting of sites) should be managed as open ground (either through grazing or episodic mowing, cutting or flailing as appropriate).

73. Stocking levels should not promote poaching or the initiation of erosion. Supplementary feeding should not be undertaken on sites of Regional or National significance although it is appropriate outwith the protection areas for these sites in Larger Clearings.

74. Where clearings are isolated in forestry, an access route should be maintained and a management regime should be implemented that is proportionate to the risk of the incursion of deleterious woody or invasive species. In essence, the long-term sustainable retention of the site should be sought.

75. Established, mature individual trees should not be removed as they may be linked to historic planting, especially at sites related to medieval or later rural settlements.

76. We further recommend consideration of proactive suppression of bracken for historic environment sites of Regional or National significance where stands extend over sites or are approaching the protection buffer of these sites.

77. Any management should be in keeping with HES Technical Guidance and, for Scheduled Monuments, secure Scheduled Monument Consent except where the activities are not subject to control under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 or is permitted through Class Consents.

Access and Interpretation

78. Any forest design work should consider developing public pedestrian access and providing on-site interpretation for historic environment sites that allow insight into the historical landscape. Proposed for consideration are Kirkbride Old Bridge **S2** and the site of Kirkbride Chapel **S5**.

Conclusion

79. A historic environment assessment was required by EJD Forestry Ltd to inform a programme of tree-planting at Kirkbride, near Creetown, Dumfries and Galloway. This process identified twelve historic environment sites relating to the assessment area (Table 1).

80. Our management guidance has covered protection measures for three of these sites (Table 3). These recommendations are compliant with UKFS Historic Environment Guidelines.

References

Documentary

Kener, A. 2025a *Barholm, Dumfries and Galloway:Historic Environment Assessment & Survey*, unpublished commercial report by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd

Kener, A. 2025b *Garrocher, Dumfries and Galloway:Historic Environment Assessment & Survey*, unpublished commercial report by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd

Kener, A. 2025c *Kirkmabreck, Dumfries and Galloway:Historic Environment Assessment & Survey*, unpublished commercial report by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd

Krischer, S. 2020 *Glen Farm, Dumfries and Galloway:Historic Environment Assessment & Survey*, unpublished commercial report by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd

Harper, M M. 1876 *Rambles in Galloway: topographical, historical, traditional and biographical*, Edinburgh

MacLean, Alex. Esq. 1795 *Kirkmabreck, County of Kirkcudbright*, Statistical Account of Scotland, Vol. XV

Muir, John Rev. 1845 *Kirkmabreck, County of Kirkcudbright,* New Statistical Account of Scotland, Vol. IV

Ordnance Survey 1848-51 *Ordnance Survey Name Book,* Kirkcudbrightshire Vol. 124

RCAHMS 1994 *Afforestable Land Survey, Creetown*

Photographic

All Scotland Survey 1988, Sortie ASS/62488, frame 56. Accessed through NCAP.

Cartographic

Ainslie, J 1797 The Stewartry of Kirkcudbright

Roy, W 1752-5 *Military Survey of Scotland (Lowland)*

Thomson, J 1821 *Kirkcudbright-shire*

Ordnance Survey 1853 (1850) Kirkcudbrightshire, Sheet 42, 6 inches to 1 mile

Ordnance Survey 1896 (1894) Kirkcudbrightshire, XLVII.SW, 6 inches to 1 mile

Contact Details

81. Rathmell Archaeology can be contacted at our Registered Office or through the web:

Rathmell Archaeology Ltd
Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops
Kilwinning
Ayrshire
KA13 6PU

www.rathmell-arch.co.uk

t.: 01294 542848
f.: 01294 542849
e.: contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk

End of Document