Garrocher, Dumfries and Galloway:
Historic Environment Assessment & Survey

Appraisal



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issued 17th July 2025

revised 28th April 2026

on behalf of EJD Forestry Ltd

RATHMELL ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

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Executive Summary

1. A historic environment assessment was required by EJD Forestry Ltd to inform a proposed planting scheme at Garrocher, 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. Sixteen historic environment sites were identified within or adjacent to the assessment area and are considered within this report (Table 1). These included a number of prehistoric monuments – two stone circles (**S11** and **S12**), two standing stones (**S10** and **S16**) and one cairn **S14**. Other sites within the assessment area include two quarries (**S1** and **S2**), a wall **S3**, a farmstead **S4**, a military road **S5**, a building **S6**, two sheep rees (**S8** and **S9**), a battlefield **S13**, and two hay rees (**S7** and **S15**). Two of these sites were outwith the assessment area, the hay ree **S7** and standing stone **S16**.

4. Of the sites within the assessment area, eight had not previously been identified either in part or whole in the archaeological record (i.e., within NRHE or Dumfries & Galloway HER). These are **S1**, **S2**, **S3**, **S7**, **S8**, **S9**, **S10** and **S15**.

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 the potential for the cairn **S14** 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 five sites: farmstead **S4**, the Old Military Road **S5**, stone circles **S11** and **S12**, and cairn **S14**. In addition, one large clearing has been recommended (Clearing **A**) to safeguard the inter-relationship of the former sites of the stone circle **S11** and **S12** with the significant cluster of prehistoric sites to the south and east, outwith the Assessment Area.

Introduction

7. A historic environment assessment and survey was required by EJD Forestry Ltd to inform a programme of tree planting over four Compartments at Garrocher, near Creetown, Dumfries and Galloway. Compartment A is centred on NX 48647 59159, Compartment B is centred on NX 50165 59023, Compartment C is centred on NX 50559 58387 and Compartment D is centred on NX 51443 58516.

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 four Compartments with the Old Military Road from the Bridge of Sark to Portpatrick running between the Compartments and forming the primary route for access. Compartments B, C and D are also criss-crossed by a number of modern forestry tracks. The ground elevation undulates throughout the assessment area. Compartment A rises from 77mOD to 110mOD from SW-NE, while Compartment B rises from 110mOD in the NW to 154mOD in the E. Compartment C rises minorly from 150mOD to the NW to 160mOD in the centre of the compartment and Compartment D rises from 155mOD in the W to 220mOD to the E towards Shiel Hill.

11. The assessment area is located to the east of Creetown, Dumfries and Galloway. Compartment A covers 23.7ha, Compartment B covers 74.2ha, Compartment C covers

13.9ha and Compartment D covers 47.7ha, which together totals 159.5ha.

12. The bedrock geology is sedimentary in character across all compartments of the assessment area, comprising wacke of the Gala Unit 6 in Compartment A and Gala Unit 7 across all other compartments, both formed between 440.8 and 438.5 million years ago during the Silurian period. A very limited area on the northwest fringes of Compartment B is mudstone of the Moffat Shale Group – a sedimentary bedrock formed between 458.4 and 433.4 million years ago during the Ordovician and Silurian periods. The superficial deposits are almost entirely Devensian till with limited areas of peat and silt and gravel alluvium within Compartment B.

13. Compartments A, C and D are depicted with no named watercourses but are shown with drains flowing NNE-SSW. These compartments are also shown with internal divisions and tracks running throughout. Compartment B is also seen with many unnamed drains and tracks. Englishman's Burn enters and exits the compartment in the north of the assessment area.

Approach to Assessment

14. 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.

15. 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

16. 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

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. 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.

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

21. 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.

22. A walkover survey of the proposed planting area was undertaken on the 9th July 2025 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.

23. 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.

24. 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

25. The desk-based assessment identified sixteen 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

26. The parts of the assessment area have been subject to antiquarian research in the late 19th Century by F. R. Coles (1897), recording prehistoric monuments **S11**, **S12** and **S16**. Antiquarian interest in the assessment area also resulted in the identification of the battlefield **S13** due to the large number of human bones found during cultivation (Chalmers 1887-94) and two bronze battle-axes recovered when making drains (M'Kerlie 1878). More recently the assessment area has been surveyed by Ordnance Survey archaeologists in 1972 and 1977. Latterly the assessment area has been surveyed through the pre-afforestation short notice survey in 1990 as well as inclusion in the RCAHMS First Edition Survey Project.

27. There have been two Historic Environment Assessments carried out in the neighbouring land at Glen Farm and at Barholm to the east by Rathmell Archaeology (Krischer 2020, Kener 2025 respectively).

28. These previous works have largely 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

29. There are four prehistoric sites in the assessment area which likely date from the Late Neolithic to the Early Bronze Age, and one site of this age located outwith the assessment area, which has been included due to its potential impact from the plantation. The wider landscape is also rich in monuments of prehistoric date.

30. Two stone circles (**S11** and **S12**) are known to have stood on Glenquicken Moor within Compartment C of the assessment area which were both recorded through the Ordnance Survey Name Book (1848-51) and 1st edition map of the area (1850). By the 2nd edition map dated 1895 only one of these still stood, while modern mapping no longer depicts either. Another possible prehistoric monument within the assessment area is a standing stone **S10** located some 250m west of the stone circles (**S11** and **S12**) depicted on the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps. Within Compartment D, a cairn **S14** is recorded historically but has not survived as a ground surface feature. A lone standing stone **S16**, is found at Glenquicken Moor located to the NE of Compartment D outwith the assessment area.

31. These monuments are considered part of a larger prehistoric landscape on Cambret Moor. Of the surrounding monuments, Billy Diamond's Bridge Stone Circle (NRHE ID: 63688, HES ID: SM1023, DGHER ID: 5332) is the most notable, both for its excellent preservation and close proximity of some 200m from **S11** and **S12**. Glenquicken Moor Cist (NRHE ID: 63687; HER ID: MDG5331) 160m lies to the south, as well as a large number of other similar monuments still farther south.

32. The density of funerary and ritual monuments within this fairly restricted area suggests that this area 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.

33. There are no known sites within the assessment area which can be positively attributed to the Iron Age. However, 1km to the SE of the assessment area, a possible roundhouse was surveyed by RCAHMS (NRHE ID: 90385; DGHER: MDG10188) on the NW slope of Cambret Hill. Within 700m to the SE another potential two roundhouses sit in a cluster of post medieval shieling huts (NRHE ID: 90629; DGHER: MDG10267). However, these monuments lie on the southern face of Cambret Hill - although closely located to the assessment area they are separated physically by the hill. This may suggest that settlement in the assessment area was less prevalent through this later prehistoric period.

34. There are no Roman sites within the assessment area, however the Old Military Road **S5** abutting the south edges of Compartments A, B and D and the north edge of Compartment C is thought to follow the line of the Roman road leading to Loch Ryan from Glenlochar (NRHE ID: 246983). Evidence of Roman activity is scarce throughout the wider landscape, although a Roman presence is attested by the remains of a fortlet, some 8km to the E of the assessment area to N of Gatehouse of Fleet (NRHE ID: 63631).

Medieval and Later Periods

35. The medieval and post-medieval sites within the assessment area invariably relate to agricultural land use. The overwhelming majority of these monuments likely date from the post-medieval period, though it is possible some of the noted structures have their origins earlier.

36. Roy's *Military Survey of Scotland (Lowlands)*, surveyed in the period 1752-5 (Figure 1a), is the first available historical map that shows the area in sufficient detail to allow comparison with the modern landscape. The assessment area can be identified thanks to its proximity to the ESE-W running road **S5**, which is labelled on Roy's map as 'Road to Dumfries'. Glenquicken is also depicted by Roy, located to the N Compartment D, which is depicted as a small settlement with unenclosed fields surrounding it. The road **S5** appears to have been incorporated into the route of the Old Military Road between Bridge of Sark and Portpatrick, constructed between 1763-7 to allow for an easy transportation route to Ireland. Unlike its counterparts in highland Scotland, much of this route was created through the upgrading of existing routeways, a fact supported by the depiction of an already pre-established road on Roy's map, and as discussed previously, it may indeed have Roman origins. Unfortunately, these markers are the only detail Roy affords of the locale of the assessment area.

37. 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, such as the assessment area, the land was mainly used to pasture sheep and cattle. The numerous hay (**S7** and **S15**) and sheep rees (**S8** and **S9**) throughout the assessment area attest to this. 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.

38. The Old Statistical Account entry also details the narrative of a purported battle that took place on Glenquicken Moor in 1150 between the English and the Scots, and from where Englishman's Burn supposedly derives its name. The alleged site of this battle **S13** (NRHE ID: 63677; DGHER: MDG3278) lies within Compartment D (MacLean 1795, p552), and as is later recorded in the Ordnance Survey Name Book (1850), others place the date of this battle to 1312. The Ordnance Survey Name Book also mentions a large number of human bones being recovered from the field towards the end of the 18th century and in 1868 two iron spearheads and a bronze battle-axe were reportedly found nearby. The Old Statistical Account also discusses Cairnywanie Cairn **S14** as a large tumulus disassembled 15 years earlier to acquire building material. The author describes the cairn with a stone coffin, or cist, containing a large human skeleton and some ashes (ibid, p552).

39. John Ainslie's map of the *Stewarty of Kirkudbright* of 1797 (Figure 1b) shows a few changes to the vicinity of the assessment area. Road **S5** is labelled 'Military Road from Newton Douglas to Dumfries' and appears to follow a more northernly route NE of the assessment area that corresponds to the line of the modern Corse of Slakes Road, the earlier, more southernly route no longer depicted. Another road is depicted running SW-NE to the SE of 'Chapelton' which can be identified as the road abutting Compartment A of the assessment area. The map depicts a settlement at Garrochar, here named 'Garrocher' with a single building. Glenquicken is also depicted with two buildings, lying to the E is another settlement named 'Craigneuk', also with two buildings. 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. An unnamed watercourse is also depicted flowing NW-SE between Garrochar and Glenquicken, which is likely Englishman's Burn.

40. Thomson's *Kirkcudbright-Shire*, published in 1821, depicts the assessment area in a very similar way, the only change of note being the appearance of a new road leading S from the Old Military Road **S5** and curving towards the coast to the NW of Cambret Farm.

41. 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 had 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. Muir describes the process of 19th century stone quarrying in great detail, and although no quarries are named the quarries located in Compartment A (**S1** and **S2**) may be related to this phase of extraction.

42. The author also again describes the battlefield located on Glenquicken Moor, but here cites the human bones found when removing tumuli on Glenquicken Moor, likely **S14** and Glenquicken Moor Cist (NRHE ID: 63687; HER ID: MDG5331). The Ordnance Survey Name Book discussed the wealth of human bone upturned during agricultural works – it is possible that the human remains anecdotally linked to the battle were in fact originally associated with these funerary cairns.

43. The *1st edition Ordnance Survey* map of 1854 shows much greater detail than any previous mapping and shows the assessment area to be made up of enclosed fields associated with a number of farmsteads such as Burns Park and Drumrake Park to the immediate west of Compartment A, 'Garracher' in Compartment B, Knockeans west of Compartment C and Glenquicken north of Compartment D. The majority of the field divisions survive in some shape to the present day, with a noted exception **S3** found in Compartment A. Other agricultural enclosures such as sheep and hay rees are also first depicted on this map (**S7**, **S8**, **S9**, **S15**), as are the quarries mentioned previously (**S1** and **S2**). The wider area is likewise depicted with an abundance of such monuments. The depiction of the two major

roads, the Old Military Road **S5** and the road bordering Compartment A is significantly more accurate and correspond to their present routes. Garracher **S4** is depicted with three main buildings and two smaller outbuildings as well as enclosed grounds on its SE side, along with a garden noted to boast a sundial and two additional 'Ruins' located south of the enclosed grounds. The contemporary Ordnance Survey Name Book (Parish of Kirkmabreck, vol. 123) describes Garracher as 'a small farm house and outhouses in good repair' with attached land.

44. There is some change to the assessment area shown on the *2nd edition Ordnance Survey* map dating from 1896. The quarry and gravel pit within Compartment A shown on the previous map are no longer depicted along with many of the other quarries in the surrounding area, indicating their disuse by this time. Likewise, none of the previously marked hay and sheep rees are marked (**S7**, **S9**, **S15**), although the outline of sheep ree **S8** is still shown to the N of Garrocher. As previously noted, stone circle **S11** had also disappeared by this time, likely as a result of agricultural activity. There is some change in the settlement structure of the immediate vicinity, for instance the settlement of Drumrake Park is no longer marked while the farm to its south seemingly gained importance and is noted simply as 'Drumrake'. Garracher **S4** is now depicted with enclosed parkland on its SW side, while the structure of the farmstead buildings is also shown to have somewhat changed with an additional building depicted on the east edge of the new parkland.

45. There is virtually no change in the assessment area on early 20th century mapping. The remaining stone circle **S12** is still depicted well into the last century including on the National Grid map published in 1957.



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

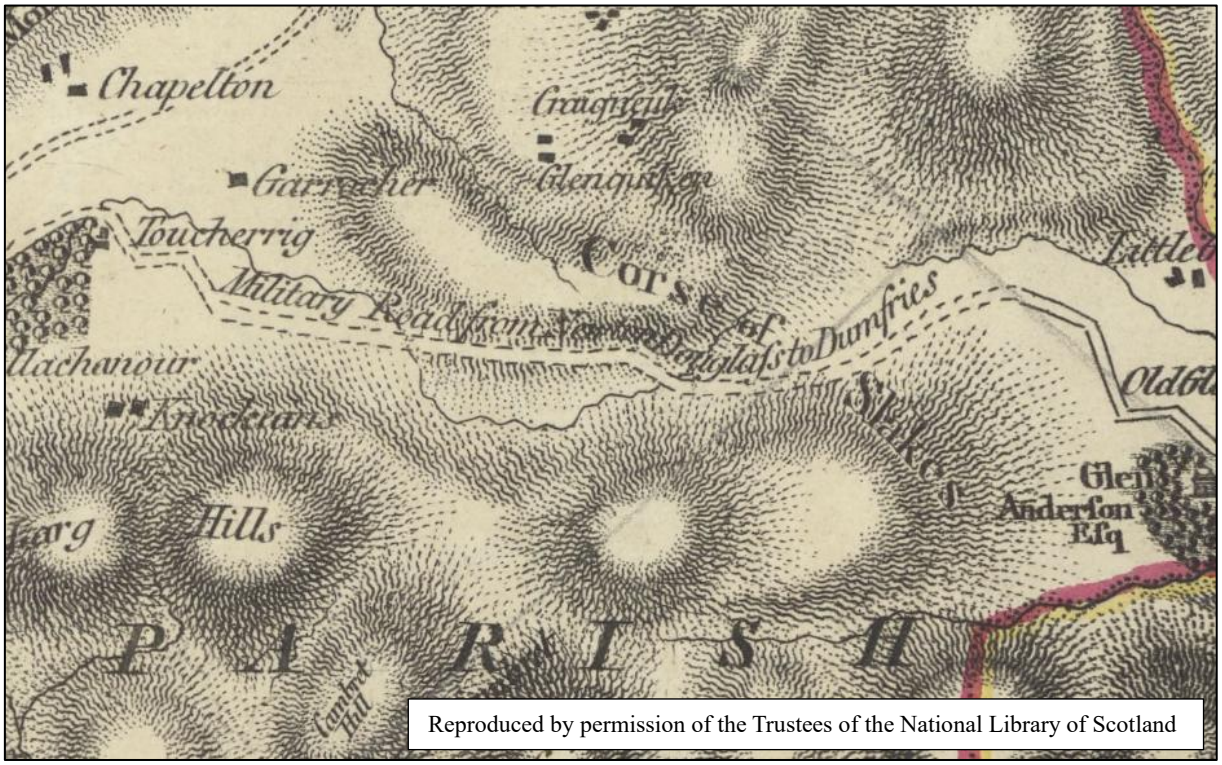


Figure 1b: Extract from Ainslie's map of the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, South West section, 1797

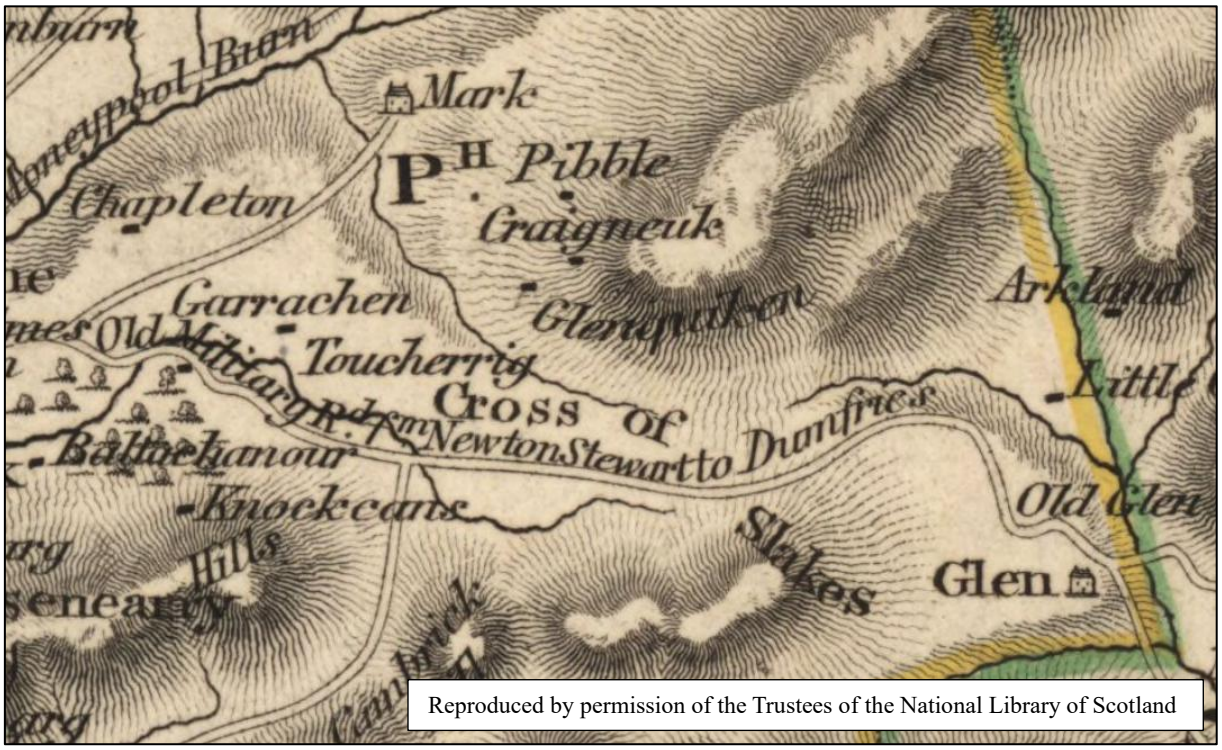


Figure 2a: Extract from Thomson's Kirkcudbright-Shire, Bottom Section, 1821

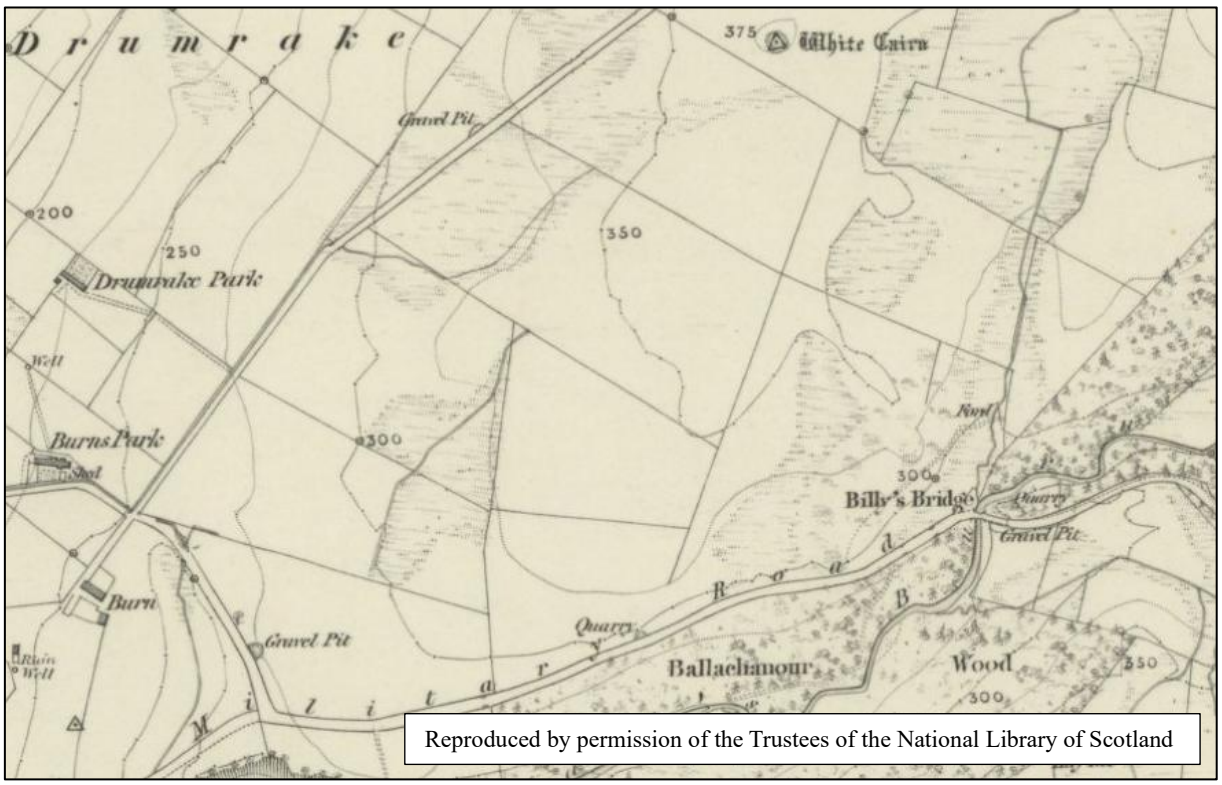


Figure 2b: Extract from the 6-inch 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1854, Compartment A of the assessment area

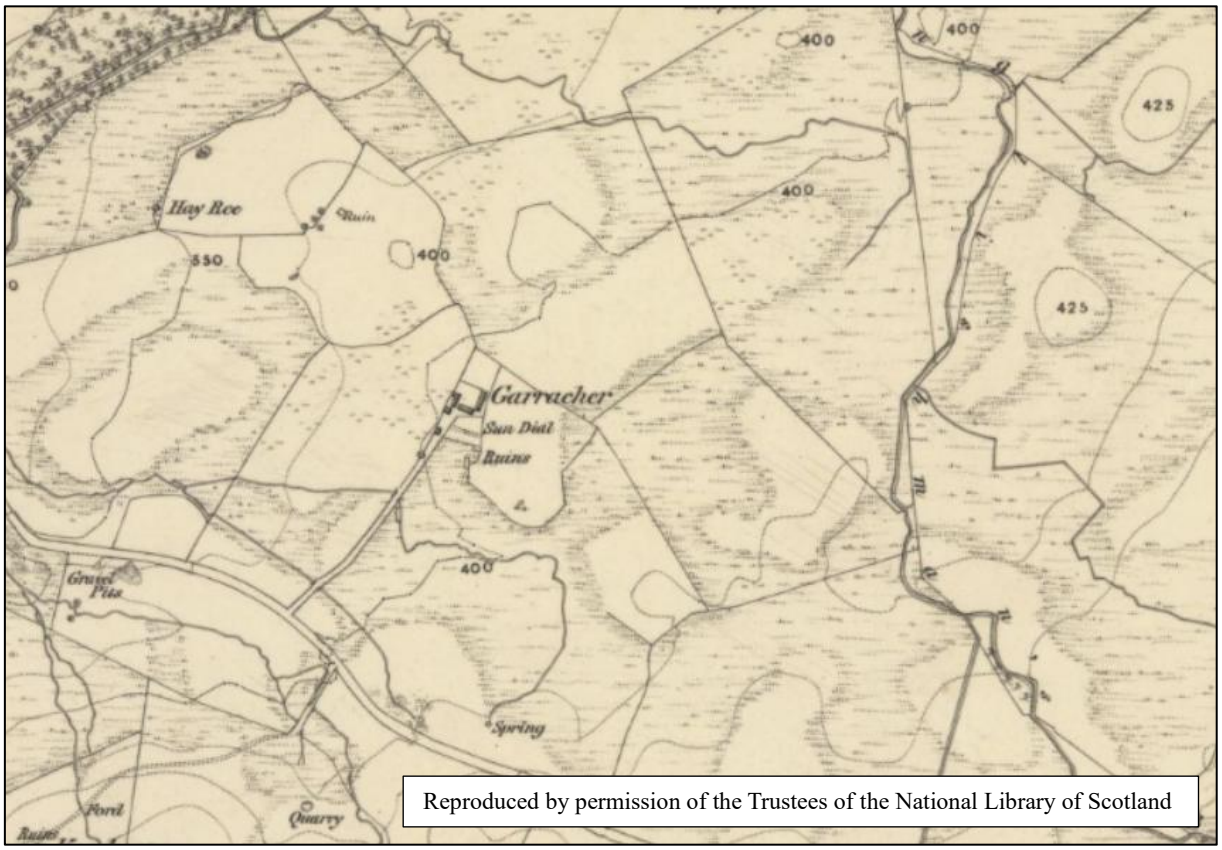


Figure 2c: Extract from the 6-inch 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1854, Compartment B of the assessment area

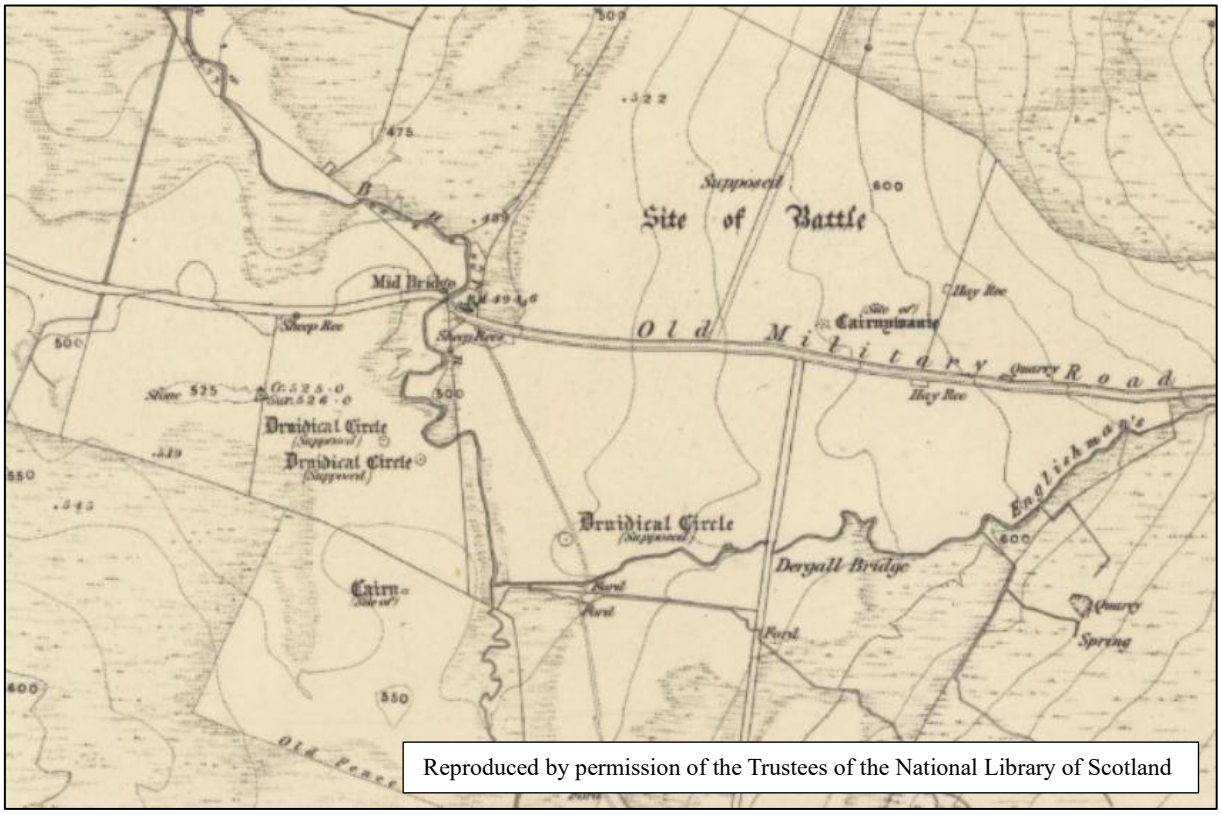


Figure 2d: Extract from 6-inch 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1854, Compartments C and D of the assessment area

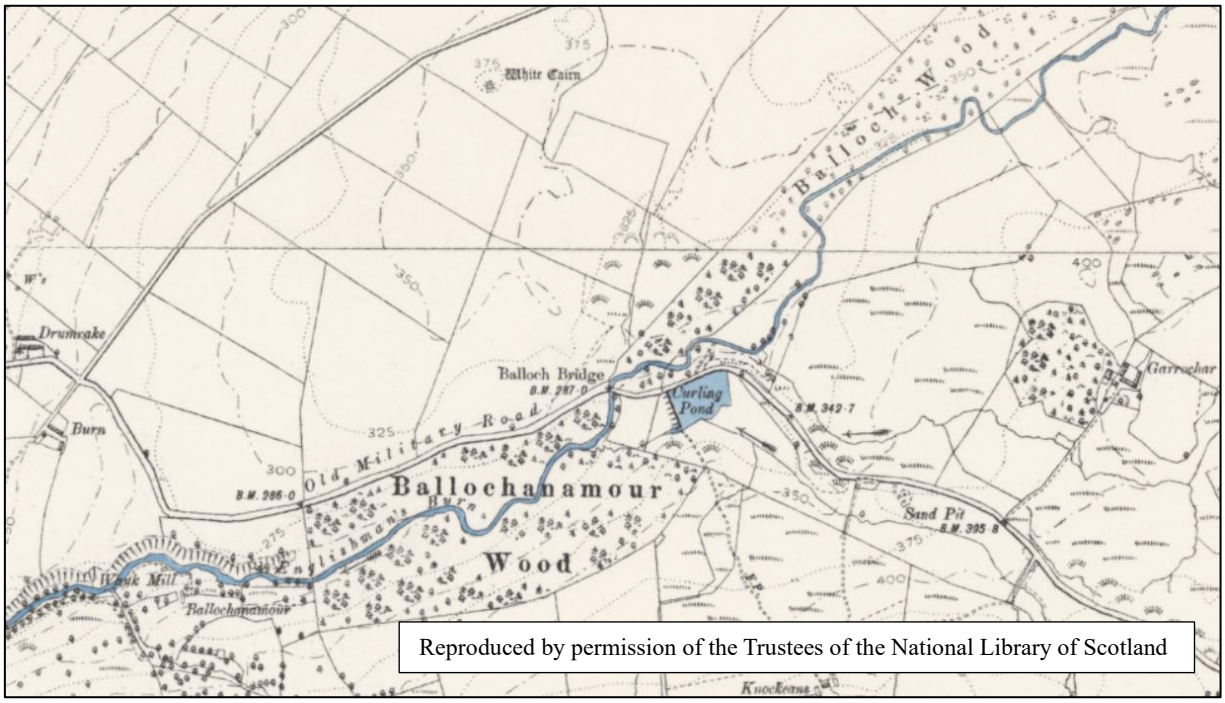


Figure 3a: Extract from 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1894, Compartments A and B of the assessment area

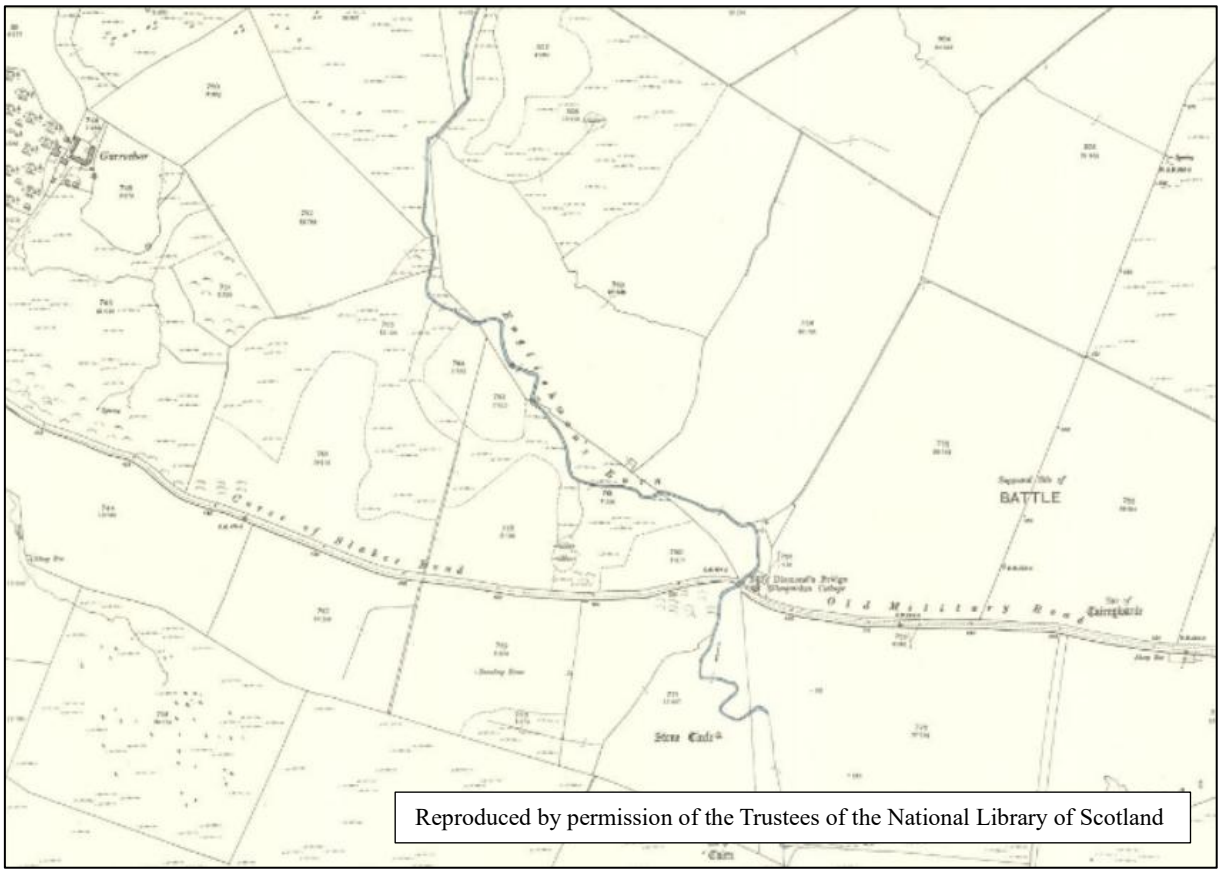


Figure 3b: Extract from 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1894, Compartments B, C and D of the assessment area

Aerial Photography and LiDAR data

46. Modern aerial imagery and LiDAR data is available for the assessment area and has 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.

47. The assessment area was also captured as part of the All Scotland Survey in 1988 (ASS/62588). Garrocher Farm **S4** was seemingly still surrounded by its parkland to the west and enclosed field to the southeast, similarly to what was recorded on the 19th century Ordnance Survey maps. All compartments of the assessment area appear to have been cultivated agricultural fields at this time.

Walkover Survey

48. The walkover survey took place on 9th July 2025. Weather conditions were overcast with good visibility over distances. The survey area consisted primarily of areas of planted woodland in various stages of tree growth with limited parts of improved pasture within Compartment B. Field boundaries encountered were a mix of drystone dykes and modern post-and-wire deer fences. A treeline boundary was also noted in Compartment B. Bracken was observed across the wider area and impacted visibility in localised areas.

49. 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.

50. All compartments of the assessment area were accessed from the Old Military Road **S5**. This road is the only road or pathway of archaeological interest in or adjacent to the assessment area. It is purported to be in line with the Roman road extending between Glenlochar and Loch Ryan and is in use as a modern asphalt covered single track road linking Creetown with the Corse of Slakes Road to the NE. Various modern forestry tracks were also used to access sites within the compartments of the assessment area.

51. Located centrally within Compartment B, Garrocher Farm **S4** is a modern tree farm with an associated farmhouse and grounds. As suggested by modern mapping and aerial photography, the farm structure is much changed from its 19th century depiction and the site visit did not identify features of historical note. Some of the parkland first recorded on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map survives in the form of deciduous woodland, approximately 1ha in extent to the west of the farm. There was no trace of the ruins recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, and the area they occupied is a courtyard used by the farm. Likewise, there were no traces of the garden or sundial.

52. The preservation of other archaeological features within the assessment area proved to be very poor. The area has seen much agricultural use through time, including the present tree plantation, which may explain this. Many of the identified archaeological sites related to the agricultural activity and as suggested by 19th century mapping some may have been removed historically, such as the hay and sheep rees **S7**, **S8**, **S9** and **S15**. No upstanding remains of these features were seen, although in the case of **S7** bracken may have obscured some remaining stone features. Similarly, no upstanding remains of the wall **S3** or the structure **S6** were identified.

53. The quarries **S1** and **S2** also did not survive as identifiable features in the landscape. The area occupied by **S1** does however survive as a small triangular enclosure suggesting the past presence of the quarry, although it was taken up by a large tree and a substantial modern clearance heap.

54. The standing stone **S10** and stone circles **S11** and **S12** likewise have disappeared from the landscape, although their location close to the other notable prehistoric sites in the wider area, such as the well-preserved Billy Diamond's Bridge Stone Circle Billy Diamond's Bridge Stone Circle (NRHE ID: 63688, HES ID: SM1023) in the field to the SE still warrants consideration for protection (Figure 4).

55. As expected, the purported battlefield **S13** on Glenquicken Moor within Compartment D bore no identifiable feature confirming its location (Figure 5). Similarly, Cairnywanie Cairn **S14** was not identified; any surviving stones since its last survey had likely been further

disturbed by the modern plantation. A large, possibly modern clearance cairn was however found approximately 160m NE of its recorded location on a low hill.

56. The walkover survey identified a small number of other clearance cairns, which are likely the result of more modern land use (Figure 6). These were not included in the site list but their location was recorded.



Figure 4: The location of stone circle **S12** looking towards Cambret Hill and Billy Diamond's Bridge Stone Circle (obscured by tree line) to the SE



Figure 5: Compartment D viewed from the NE. The location of cairn **S14** is in the middle ground past the low line of drystone field boundary



Figure 6: Modern clearance heap in Compartment C near the location of stone circles **S11** and **S12**.

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

No	Site	HER Ref:	Description	NGR	Image from Site Inspection
S1	Ballach Burn Quarry	N/a	**Desk Based Assessment** A Gravel Pit is labelled and depicted on the *1st edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey Kirkcudbrightshire, Sheet 42* (1853). Located on the SW side of Compartment A and measuring approximately 15m NE-SW by 11 NW-SE. The gravel pit is not depicted on the *2nd edition 6-inch Ordnance survey Kirkcudbrightshire Sheet XLVII.NW* (1896) or current mapping. **Walkover survey** A small triangular enclosure occupies the location of the quarry suggesting its presence, although the area is covered by a large tree, a substantial modern clearance heap and bracken.	NX 48484 59000	
S2	Ballach Burn Quarry	N/a	**Desk Based Assessment** A quarry is labelled and depicted *1st edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey Kirkcudbrightshire, Sheet 42* (1853). Located on the S edge of Compartment A. The quarry is not depicted on the *2nd edition 6-inch Ordnance survey Kirkcudbrightshire Sheet XLVII.NW* (1896) or current mapping. **Walkover survey** The location of the quarry was visited but no related feature was identifiable within the modern tree plantation.	NX 48865 58991	
S3	Ballach Burn Wall	N/a	**Desk Based Assessment** Field dyke/boundary is depicted on the *1st edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey Kirkcudbrightshire, Sheet 42* (1853) and aligned E-W but not depicted on the *2nd edition 6-inch Ordnance survey Kirkcudbrightshire Sheet XLVII.NW* (1896) or current mapping. **Walkover Survey** No trace of the wall was seen during the field visit, the area was planted with trees much like everywhere else.	From NX 48918 59087 to NX 48727 59114	

No	Site	HER Ref:	Description	NGR	Image from Site Inspection
S4	Garrocher Farmstead	NHRE ID: 177035 HER ID: MDG15420	**Desk Based Assessment** On the *1st edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey Kirkcudbrightshire, Sheet 42* (1853) the farmstead is depicted as five roofed buildings and two unroofed buildings with enclosures to the N, E and the S. Two of the buildings form an 'L-shaped' range with a courtyard to the NW. Enclosed grounds are located on the SE side of the farmstead along with a garden noted with a 'Sundial' and two additional 'Ruins' located on the outside of the enclosure. None of these features are depicted on the 2nd *edition Ordnance Survey* map of 1894, which shows the farm with enclosed parkland on its SW side and the structure of the farmstead buildings somewhat changed with an additional building depicted on the E edge of the new parkland. An entirely new layout of three roofed buildings and three enclosures is shown on the current mapping with no trace of the previous garden or parkland. A further 2 smaller structures are depicted on the NE edge of the grounds. **Walkover survey** The site visit confirmed the layout structure of the farm, with a number of buildings and roofed open plan structures and courtyards associated with the tree farm as well as an occupied farmhouse in the west part of the grounds. Deciduous woodland approximately 1ha in extent to the west of the farm may be a remainder of the parkland noted on 2nd OS. No trace of the ruins or garden with a sundial recorded on the 1st *edition Ordnance Survey* map were found, their area occupied by a farm courtyard and buildings.	NX 49991 59097 (centred)	
S5	Old Military Road Road	NRHE ID: 246990; 142789 HER ID: MDG10263	**Desk Based Assessment** The Old Military Road first appears on Roy's Military Survey of Scotland labelled the 'Road to Dumfries' and is specified on Ainslie's map of 1797 to be a Military Road. The Roman Road from Glenlochar (NX76SW 2) to Loch Ryan via Gatehouse of Fleet is thought to follow the same track as this current road, which runs from the Bridge of Sark to Portpatrick. **Walkover survey** The road was found to be as expected – a modern single track road with no obvious archaeological features, although sub-surface elements of a Roman road may survive.	From NX 48388 59131 to NX 51796 58365	

No	Site	HER Ref:	Description	NGR	Image from Site Inspection
S6	Garrochar Building	NRHE ID: 176449 HER ID: MDG15073	**Desk Based Assessment** A single unroofed building annotated 'Ruin' is depicted on the *1st edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey Kirkcudbrightshire, Sheet 42* (1853) but is not shown on the *2nd edition 6-inch Ordnance survey Kirkcudbrightshire Sheet XLVII.NW* (1896) or current mapping. The building possibly pre-dates the 1st *edition Ordnance Survey* survey. **Walkover survey** The location was visited but no above ground trace of a structure survives. The area was not planted at the time of the visit and was taken up by low grass.	NX 49864 59289	
S7	Garrochar Plantation Hay Ree	N/a	**Desk Based Assessment** A 'Hay Ree' is labelled on the *1st 6-inch Ordnance Survey Kirkcudbrightshire, Sheet 42* (1853). The label is not shown on the 2nd *edition Ordnance Survey* map or on current mapping. **Walkover survey** The area was found to be covered by bracken during the site visit. Any remaining elements of the hay ree were obscured, although the structure is likely have been removed historically.	NX 49668 59298	
S8	Balloch Wood Sheep Ree	N/a	**Desk Based Assessment** A Sheep Ree is depicted and labelled on the *1st edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey Kirkcudbrightshire, Sheet 42* (1853) and formed by a rectangular structure aligned NW-SE with a field boundary/dyke adjoining on the NE and SE sides. Depicted on the *2nd edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey Kirkcudbrightshire Sheet XLVII.NW* (1896) but not on current mapping. **Walkover survey** Situated on the edge of the tree plantation, no trace of the sheep ree was identifiable.	NX 50312 59495	

No	Site	HER Ref:	Description	NGR	Image from Site Inspection
S9	Garrochar Sheep Ree	N/a	**Desk Based Assessment** A Sheep Ree is depicted and labelled on the *1st edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey Kirkcudbrightshire, Sheet 42* (1853). The structure is depicted as an E-W enclosure to the S of the former military road and a dyke/field boundary on the N and W side. The sheep ree is not depicted on the *2nd edition 6-inch Ordnance survey Kirkcudbrightshire Sheet XLVII.NW* (1896) but not on current mapping. **Walkover survey** No upstanding remains of the sheep ree were seen, although some seemingly loose stones were seen lying in the vicinity.	NX 50646 58492	
S10	Garrochar Standing Stone	N/a	**Desk Based Assessment** On the *1st edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey Kirkcudbrightshire, Sheet 42* (1853) there is the label of 'Stone' and then labelled as 'Standing Stone' on the *2nd edition 6-inch Ordnance survey Kirkcudbrightshire Sheet XLVII.NW* (1896), nothing is depicted on current mapping and the area is currently located in a field for growing Christmas trees. **Walkover survey** The walkover visited the location of the standing stone but found no stone or any indication of its exact placement.	NX 50487 58398	
S11	Glenquicken Moor Stone Circle	NRHE ID: 63669 HER ID: MDG3272	**Desk Based Assessment** Labelled as 'Druidical circle (Supposed)' on the *1st edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey Kirkcudbrightshire, Sheet 42* (1853). The circle was described in 1850 as being formed of 8 granite stones, standing 2 yds apart, forming a circle 39.6ft in diameter and another stone in the centre. Does not appear on mapping from the *2nd edition Ordnance Survey* onwards *(6-inch Kirkcudbrightshire Sheet XLVII.NW,* 1896). **Walkover Survey** The survey visited the location of the stone circle and found no surviving evidence of it. A modern clearance heap composed of larger stones was noted 60m to the SW.	NX 50743 58342	

No	Site	HER Ref:	Description	NGR	Image from Site Inspection
S12	Glenquicken Moor Stone Circle	NRHE ID: 63666 HER ID: MDG3269	**Desk Based Assessment** Labelled as 'Druidical circle (Supposed)' on the *1st edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey Kirkcudbrightshire, Sheet 42* (1853) and is also depicted and labelled on the *2nd edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey Kirkcudbrightshire Sheet XLVII.NW* (1896). The site of **S12** is located approximately 40m to the SE of **S11**. When RCAHMS surveyed the area in the early 20th century no trace of the site was recorded. It is described in 1850 as having 7 granite standing stones and in the centre was a large irregular stone. **Walkover Survey** The survey visited the location of the stone circle and found no surviving evidence of it. A modern clearance heap composed of larger stones was noted 100m to the W.	NX 50796 58306	
S13	Glenquicken Moor Battlefield	NRHE ID: 63677 HER ID: MDG5323	**Desk Based Assessment** The purported site of a 14th century battle between the Scottish and English in 1312. In the 1850 Ordnance Survey Name Book, a large number of bones were found when the land was farmed/improved. In 1868 two spearheads and an axe were found when field drains were being dug. The location of the findspots is not known. On both the *1st edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey Kirkcudbrightshire, Sheet 42* (1853) and *2nd edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey Kirkcudbrightshire Sheet XLVII.NW* (1896) the area is labelled. **Walkover survey** There was no indication in the landscape for the presence of a battle site and the area was planted with small trees and covered by high grass.	NX 51443 58516	
S14	Cairnywanie Cairn	NRHE ID: 63686 HER ID: MDG3287	**Desk Based Assessment** Depicted and labelled on both the *1st edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey Kirkcudbrightshire, Sheet 42* (1853) and *2nd edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey Kirkcudbrightshire Sheet XLVII.NW* (1896). The earliest reference of the cairn is from the late 18th century when removing stones from it for building a dyke a cist was found containing a skeleton. By 1897 the cairn was still visible. By the early 1970s all that remained of the cairn was a scatter of stones on top of a low knoll and by 1977 there was no evidence of a cairn, and all that could be seen at this site was a random spread of small boulders. **Walkover survey** The cairn was not identified, any surviving stones since its last survey had likely been further disturbed by the modern plantation. A large, possibly modern clearance cairn was found approximately 160m to NE of its recorded location on a low hill.	NX 51279 58459	

No	Site	HER Ref:	Description	NGR	Image from Site Inspection
S15	Glenquicken Moor Hay Ree	N/a	**Desk Based Assessment** The 'Hay Ree' is labelled on the *1st edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey Kirkcudbrightshire, Sheet 42* (1853). The label is not shown on the *2nd edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey Kirkcudbrightshire Sheet XLVII.NW* (1896) or current mapping. **Walkover Survey** No features of the hay ree were found during the walkover, although the drystone field boundary it once abutted does survive in a fairly degraded state.	NX 51432 58489	
S16	Glenquicken Moor Standing Stone	NRHE ID: 63672 HER ID: MDG5322	**Desk Based Assessment** A point labelled 'Standing Stone' is depicted on modern mapping. A standing stone roughly 1m high was first recorded by F.R. Coles who also noted four further stones as possible remains of a cist. The Ordnance Survey visited the site twice during the 1970s and confirmed the presence of the standing stone but described the four other stones as most likely natural. More recently a pre-afforestation survey in 1990 included this site although no additional information was recorded. **Walkover Survey** The recorded location of the standing stone(s) was visited; however, none were confirmed as the area was under heavy bracken cover. The single previously confirmed standing stone, recorded as located 26m from the assessment area boundary, is short enough to have been completely obscured. A single stony outcrop, possibly one of the natural stones previously noted, was visible peeking out of the bracken.	NX 51571 58585	

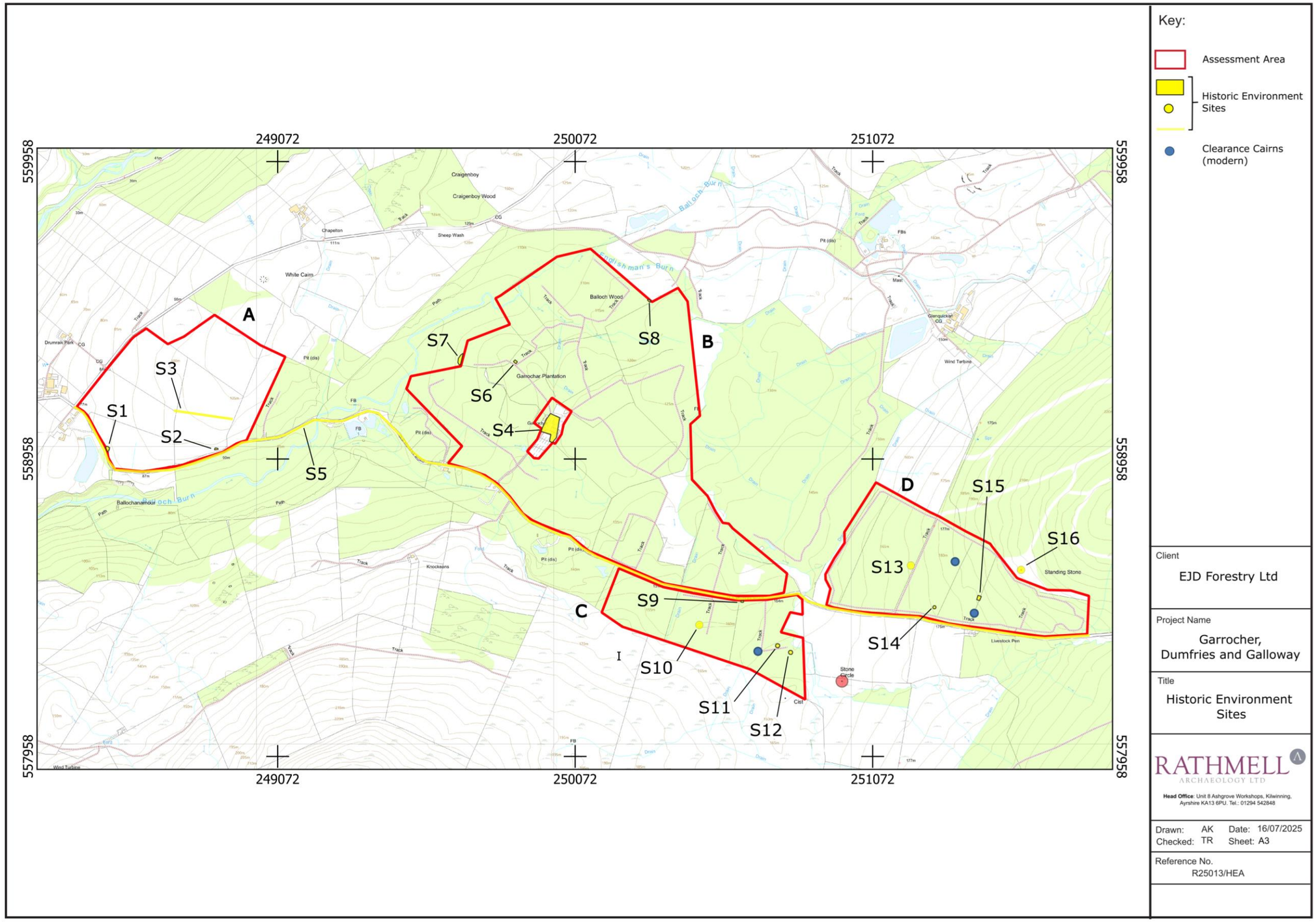


Figure 7: Location Map showing Historic Environment Sites in the Assessment Area

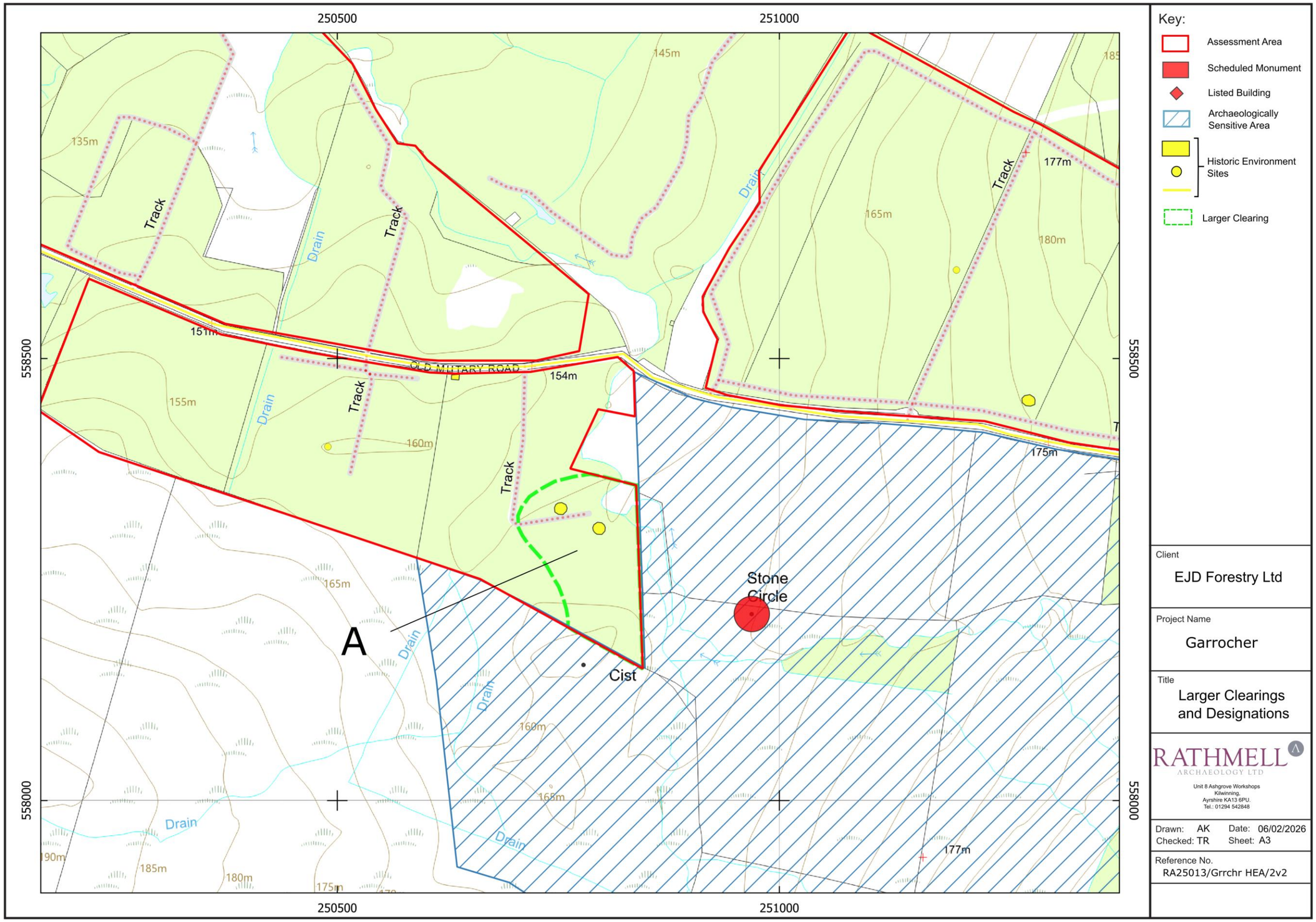


Figure 8: Location Map showing Larger Clearing A in Compartment D of the Assessment Area in relation to the adjacent Larger Clearing within the Barholm Assessment Area

Management Guidance

57. The assessment identified sixteen historic environment sites within or immediately adjacent to the Garrocher assessment area (Figure 7). 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 2).

Site Protection

58. Ballach Burn Quarries **S1** and **S2** inform of 19th century 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.

59. Wall **S3**, structure **S6** and hay and sheep rees **S7**, **S8**, **S9** and **S15** are all monuments related to agricultural activity likely post medieval in 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.

60. Garrocher Farmstead **S4** 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.

61. The Old Military Road **S5** has possible Roman origins and has the potential to embody complex archaeological information. It has been assigned Regional significance and should be **protected** with a 10m buffer.

62. Garrochar Standing Stone **S10** does not survive in the landscape and its archaeological nature was never confirmed. Given the scale of subsequent disturbance, its location is unlikely to contain complex archaeological information and as such, it has been ascribed Other significance and **no** action is recommended.

63. Glenquicken Moor Stone Circles **S11** and **S12** likewise do not survive in the landscape, however they were historically noted stone circles that contribute to the understanding of the wider prehistoric landscape of the area. Their close proximity to the Scheduled Monument Billy Diamond's Bridge Stone Circle (NRHE ID: 63688, HES ID: SM1023) in the field to the SE adds further interest. It is also possible that their location contains below-ground features with complex archaeological information. As such, they have been assigned Local significance and should be **protected** with a 5m buffer.

64. Glenquicken Moor Battlefield **S13** is an unconfirmed battlefield site with no above ground features indicative of such. It has been ascribed Other significance and **no** action is recommended.

65. Cairnywanie Cairn **S14** does not survive as an identifiable feature, however, as a confirmed burial cairn it is possible that its location may contain complex archaeological information and human remains below ground. It has been ascribed Local significance and should be **protected** with a 5m buffer.

66. Glenquicken Moor Standing Stone **S16** was not visible at the time of visit, however it has been reliably recorded in the past. It has been ascribed National Significance and should be **protected** with a 10m buffer, although it is located a sufficient distance from the assessment area boundary to readily afford this without impacting the design of the adjacent compartment.

Table 4: Management Guidance for Historic Environment Sites

No	Site	Significance	Management Guidance	UKFS HE Guidelines
S1	Ballach Burn Quarry	Other	**No** action is recommended.	-
S2	Ballach Burn Quarry	Other	**No** action is recommended.	-
S3	Ballach Burn Wall	Other	**No** action is recommended.	-
S4	Garrocher Farmstead	Local	The grounds of the 19th century farmstead should be **protected** with a 5m buffer.	GFPR 2 SFM11
S5	Old Military Road Road	Regional	The road should be **protected** with a 10m buffer.	GFPR 2 SFM 11
S6	Garrochar Building	Other	**No** action is recommended.	-
S7	Garrochar Plantation Hay Ree	Other	**No** action is recommended.	-
S8	Balloch Wood Sheep Ree	Other	**No** action is recommended.	-
S9	Garrochar Sheep Ree	Other	**No** action is recommended.	-
S10	Garrochar Standing Stone	Other	**No** action is recommended.	-
S11	Glenquicken Moor Stone Circle	Local	The location of the stone circle should be maintained as open space and **protected** with a 5m buffer.	GFPR 2 SFM 11
S12	Glenquicken Moor Stone Circle	Local	The location of the stone circle should be maintained as open space and **protected** with a 5m buffer.	GFPR 2 SFM 11
S13	Glenquicken Moor Battlefield	Other	**No** action is recommended.	-
S14	Cairnywanie Cairn	Local	The location of the cairn should be maintained as open space and **protected** with a 5m buffer.	-
S15	Glenquicken Moor	Other	**No** action is recommended.	-

	Hay Ree			
S16	Glenquicken Moor Standing Stone	National	The standing stone should be **protected** with a 10m buffer.	GFPR 2 SFM 11

LR legal requirement. GFPR good forestry practice requirement SFM sustainable forest management.

Larger Clearings

69. 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.

70. We recommend the following one larger clearing (see Figure 8) for these objectives:

A Clearing **A** comprises the southeast corner of Compartment C and is intended to preserve the location of stone circles **S11** and **S12**, as well as sightlines towards the prehistoric monuments of Cambret Moor to the south and east, most notably of the Scheduled Monument Billy Diamond's Bridge Stone Circle (NRHE ID: 63688, HES ID: SM1023). This clearing is further intended to align with Clearing A of a previous assessment conducted for the adjacent Barholm area (Kener 2025), which included a portion of Englishman's Burn and its small unnamed tributaries to the east to preserve the possible connection the stone circles had to these watercourses. Views to the location of a cist (NRHE ID: 63687, DGHER: MDG3288) to the south outwith the assessment area boundary were also taken into consideration.

It is further recommended that the existing tree-lined boundary on the eastern and southern edge of Clearing **A** be gradually opened up through removal of trees, natural loss and non-restocking to open up the view towards Cambret Moor and the south.

Edge Treatment

71. 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.

72. 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.

73. In addition, note the guidance on opening up the tree-lined eastern and southern edges to Clearing **A** presented above.

Clearing Management

74. 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).

75. 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.

76. 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.

77. 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. Though note the guidance on opening up the tree-lined eastern and southern edges to Clearing **A** presented above.

78. 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.

79. 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

80. The historic environment sites within Larger Clearing **A** sit alongside the adjoining Barholm Assessment Area, which is in turn situated within a large Archaeologically Sensitive Area defined by Dumfries and Galloway Council. This warrants consideration for improved access and interpretation.

81. The gradual loss of the tree line boundary on the eastern and southern edges of Clearing **A** would improve the visual connection with the surrounding prehistoric landscape and any forest design work should also consider providing on-site interpretation and developing public pedestrian access to these combined clearings, preferably in a way that enables crossing the area boundaries between Barholm and Garrocher.

Conclusion

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

83. Our management guidance has covered protection measures for five of these sites (Table 2). These recommendations are compliant with UKFS Historic Environment Guidelines.

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

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