Claughreid, Dumfries and Galloway:
Historic Environment Assessment & Survey

Appraisal



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on behalf of EJD Forestry Ltd

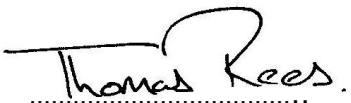
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Executive Summary

1. A historic environment assessment was required by EJD Forestry Ltd to inform a proposed planting scheme at Claughreid, 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. Fourteen historic environment sites were identified within or adjacent to the assessment area and are considered within this report (Table 1). These included a large number of prehistoric monuments - a stone circle **S1** and seven cup and ring marked stones **S2** to **S6**, **S12** & **S13**. Five sites related to postmedieval land use, which included paths **S7**, field boundaries **S8** and **S9**, sheep ree **S11** and shooting butt **S14**. A natural stone, **S10** was also included due to its historical identification as a rock art panel.

4. Of the sites within the assessment area, five had not previously been identified either in part or whole in the archaeological record (i.e. within NRHE or Dumfries & Galloway HER). These are **S7** to **S9**, **S11** and **S14**.

5. One site, Claughreid Stone Circle **S1** is protected by designation as a Scheduled Monument under the terms of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. The northeastern corner of the assessment area lies within the Cambret Moor Archaeologically Sensitive Area, a regional designation defined by Dumfries and Galloway Council.

6. Based on the evidence gathered for this assessment, positive management has been recommended to safeguard nine sites: **S1** to **S6**, **S11**, **S12** and **S14**. In addition, one larger clearing has been recommended (**A**) to safeguard the inter-relationship between individual sites, the setting of significant clusters of sites and a sample of the agricultural remains or other locations with potential within the assessment area.

Introduction

7. A historic environment assessment and survey was required by EJD Forestry Ltd to inform a programme of tree planting at Claughreid, near Creetown, Dumfries and Galloway (centred on NX 51702 55439). 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.

8. 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

9. The assessment area is located approximately 5km to the southeast of Creetown, Dumfries and Galloway, comprising a single irregularly shaped compartment 79.5 ha in extent. It encompasses the peaks of Strife Hill and Cairnholy Hill at 267m and 266m OD respectively, their southern, eastern and northern slopes, as well as the lowest foothills of Cairnharrow to the north. Overall, the assessment area extends between 155m and 267m OD.

10. The principal watercourse of the assessment area is the NW-SE running Kirkdale Burn, which forms the eastern boundary in a narrow ravine. The source of this watercourse is two smaller burns, which originate in the northern part of the assessment area. The only other noted watercourse is a drain cut into the bedrock of the southeastern slope of Cairnholy Hill, which runs along a portion of the southern border.

11. The agricultural regime throughout the assessment area can be characterised as rough grazing and moorland with occasional visible bedrock outcrops. The bedrock geology is almost entirely sedimentary in character, comprising wacke of the Cairnharrow Formation with narrow strips of igneous North Britain Siluro-Devonian Calc-Alkaline Dyke Suite Felsite

over the slopes of Strife Hill and Cairnholy Hill. The superficial geology is primarily glacial till.

Approach to Assessment

12. The works comprised a desk-based assessment supported by a walkover survey. The assessment focused on the area defined by the boundary of the proposal. The extreme north of the assessment area is included in an area defined as archaeologically sensitive by Dumfries and Galloway Council. This Archaeologically Sensitive Area further informed the focus of the walkover survey and the treatment of historic environment sites found within. 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.

13. 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

14. 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

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. 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.

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

19. 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.

20. 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.

21. 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.

22. 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

23. The desk-based assessment identified thirteen sites within or immediately adjacent to the assessment area. Of these, one site, Claughreid Stone Circle **S1**, is protected by designation as a Scheduled Monument under the terms of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

Previous Archaeological Works

24. The assessment area was visited by the Ordnance Survey in 1977. More recently, it was surveyed by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) in 1994 as part of the Creetown Afforestable Land Survey. The prehistoric rock art sites found within the assessment area were also surveyed numerous times throughout the 20th century. Of note, they were included in a survey funded by the Keltic Research Society in 2009 (Naddair *et al* 2009) and a detailed survey for Scotland's Rock Art Project in 2019.

25. There have been Historic Environment Assessments carried out nearby at Glen Farm (Krischer 2020) and Barholm (Kener 2025a) to the northeast and north, at Garrocher (Kener & Cathcart 2025) to the northwest and at Kirkmabreck (Kener 2025b) and Kirkbride (Kener 2025c) to the west by Rathmell Archaeology. Of these, the Barholm assessment area lies the closest at under 1km and is the most relevant also on account of its inclusion within the Cambret Moor Archaeologically Sensitive Area as defined by Dumfries and Galloway Council.

Prehistoric to Roman Land use

26. There are a large number of prehistoric sites in the close vicinity of the assessment area which likely date from the Late Neolithic to the Early Bronze Age. The wider landscape is also rich in monuments of prehistoric date.

27. Claughreid Stone Circle **S1** is the most imposing of the monuments within the assessment area itself, located in its northernmost portion to the northwest of Claughreid farm. It is a circle formed of nine low boulders with a large central stone, similar in style to the larger Cambret Moor stone circle (HES ID: SM1023; NRHE ID: 63688; HER ID: MDG3289) some 2.3km to the northwest. Other stone circles, or stone settings, are also found to the west at Bagbie (HES ID: SM1000; NRHE ID: 63327; HER ID: MDG2958) and to the northeast at the southeast foothills of Cambret Hill by Cauldside Burn (HES ID: SM1012; NRHE ID: 63682; HER ID: MDG3283). These low stone circles are characteristic of Galloway.

28. Each stone circle also forms part of larger clusters of ritual activity with burial cairns and

standing stones located close by. Perhaps the most significant monumental prehistoric site in the area is the Cairnholy Neolithic Chambered Cairn complex (HES ID: SM90049 & SM90050; NRHE ID: 63705 & 63716; HER ID: MDG3306 & MDG3316) located by Cairnholy farm just under 1km from the southern boundary of the assessment area.

29. While the assessment area does not boast a burial cairn, of which there are many more in the wider landscape, it does contain a total of seven recorded cup and ring marked rock art panels. Five of these (**S2** to **S6**) are scattered around stone circle **S1** in the north of the assessment area, with additional examples lying just outwith the assessment boundary to the east (NRHE ID: 77505; HER ID: MDG5195) and southeast (NRHE ID: 304994; HER ID: MDG25422). An additional two (**S12** and **S13**) are recorded along the southern border. Another stone **S10** was historically recorded to bear cupmarks, but has been established to be natural by later surveys. As in the north, more examples of rock art are found just beyond the assessment area boundary to the south (NRHE ID: 63728 & 368427; HER ID: MDG3328), with many more examples located to the east and west, continuing across the landscape to the south of the Cairnholy complex. These markings are probably of Neolithic date and form part of a large group of such carvings in Galloway.

30. The density of funerary and ritual monuments within this fairly restricted area suggests that this locale was regarded as being of some importance during the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age period, and so it may be interpreted as a continuous, ritual landscape.

31. The surrounding area is also rich in other types of monuments signalling land use during the prehistoric period, likely up to the Bronze Age, such as the possible remains of roundhouses (NRHE ID: 90589; HER ID: MDG10261) on the southwestern slopes of Cairnharrow to the east of the assessment area.

32. There are no known sites within the assessment area which can be positively attributed to the Iron Age or to the Roman period. There is some possibility that some of the prehistoric activity in the wider landscape, such as a cairnfield and prehistoric roundhouses to the northeast in the Barholm assessment area (NRHE ID: 63684; HER ID: MDG3285) and to the east of the assessment area (NRHE ID: 90589 & 271425; HER ID: MDG10261) may have endured into or originated in the Iron Age.

33. 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 7km to the east of the assessment area, north of Gatehouse of Fleet (NRHE ID: 63631).

Medieval and Later Periods

34. The medieval and post-medieval sites within the assessment area invariably relate to agricultural land use. These monuments likely date from the post-medieval period, though some of the noted structures may have their origins earlier.

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, though it does not yet name any of the nearby farms. The assessment area can be identified as the mountainous moorland to the west of 'Karn Harry' (Cairnharrow) and immediately west of the unnamed Kirkdale Burn. Kirkdale to the south appears to be the most significant settlement in the immediate vicinity at this time, with a number of enclosed plots of land.

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 before 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. Sheep ree **S11** may 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.

37. John Ainslie's map of the *Stewartry of Kirkcudbright* of 1797 (Figure 2a) shows a few significant changes to the vicinity of the assessment area. 'Clachreid' appears depicted with two structures at the end of a long road leading from Barholm Castle. This likely follows the route of the access track still used to approach the farm. To the south of Claughreid Cairnholy is shown with three structures, and 'Balmacrail' is also marked to its north, delineating the assessment area, which is otherwise still blank moorland. 'California' is also depicted for the first time to the northwest, illustrating the push into the inland areas from the more densely inhabited coastline.

38. There is no change to the area shown on Thomson's *Kirkcudbright-Shire*, published in 1821 (Figure 2b). These maps give no detailed information about land use, but it is very likely that some of the assessment area was already used as farmland by this time.

39. 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.

40. Though Muir lists several of the nearby prehistoric monuments on Cambret Moor and the most significant of the region, Cairnholy chambered cairn, the stone circle and rock art panels of the assessment area were seemingly not noticed by antiquarians. Claughreid, however, seems to have been tied to the legend associated with a battle culminating in the burial of a bishop at Cairnholy (hence the name) in 1150, as attested to by a feature on the environs of Barholm Castle in the *Dumfries and Galloway Standard* dating from 1890. According to this, Claughreid, or 'the Red Cleugh', received its name in reference to this battle, and the article also mentions the many 'memorial stones' occurring nearby (Wednesday 18 June 1890).

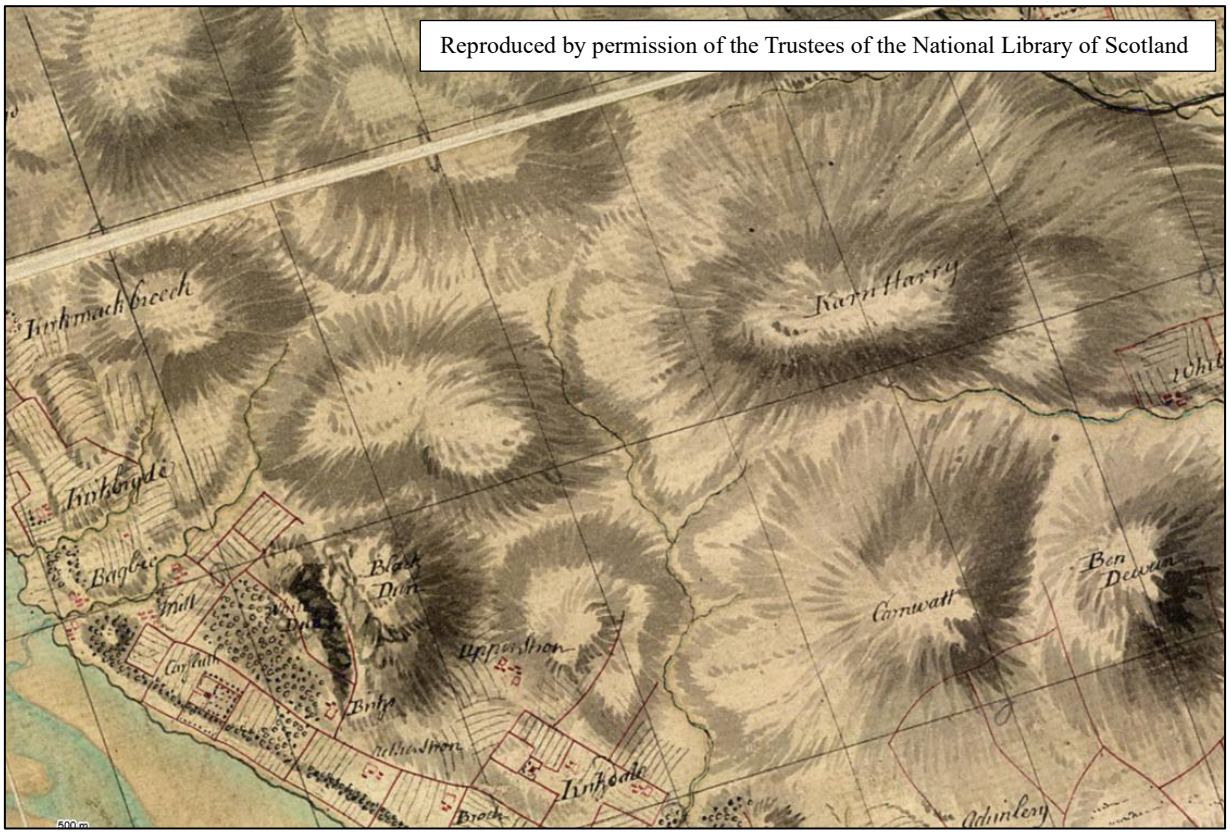


Figure 1: Extract from Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (Lowlands) 1752-55

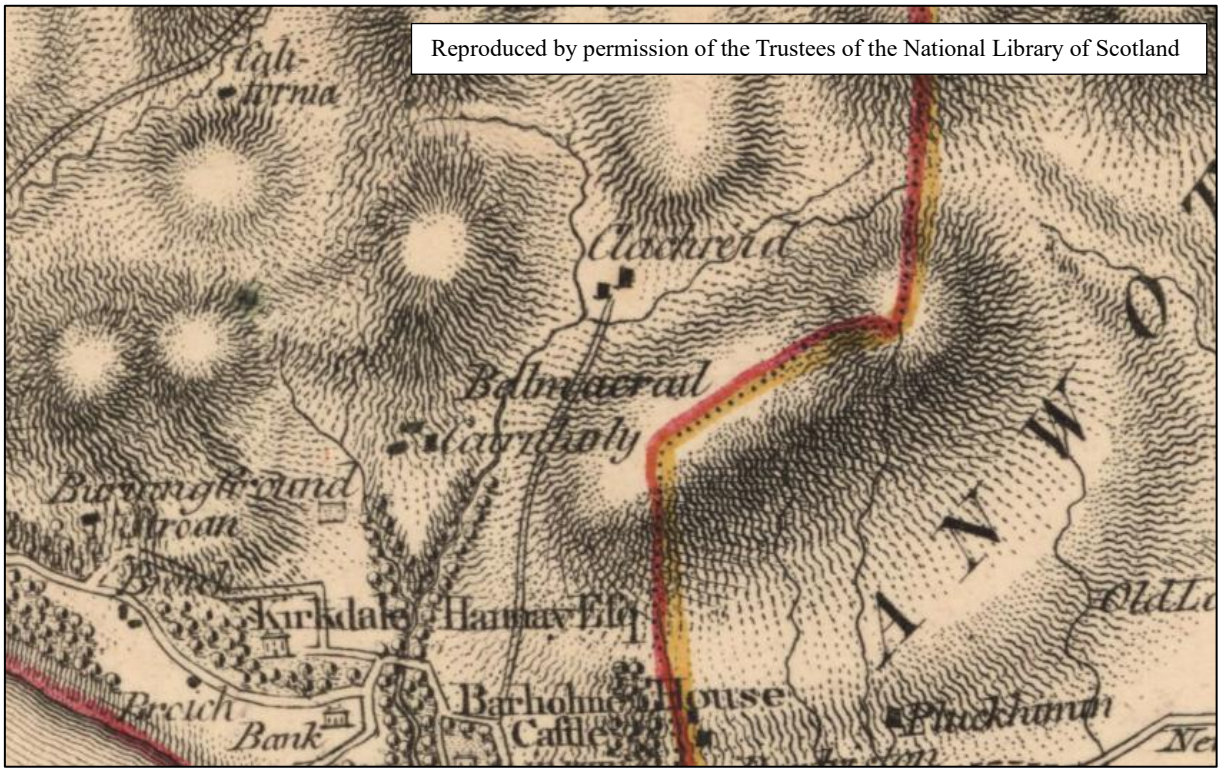


Figure 2a: Extract from Ainslie's map of the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, 1797



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

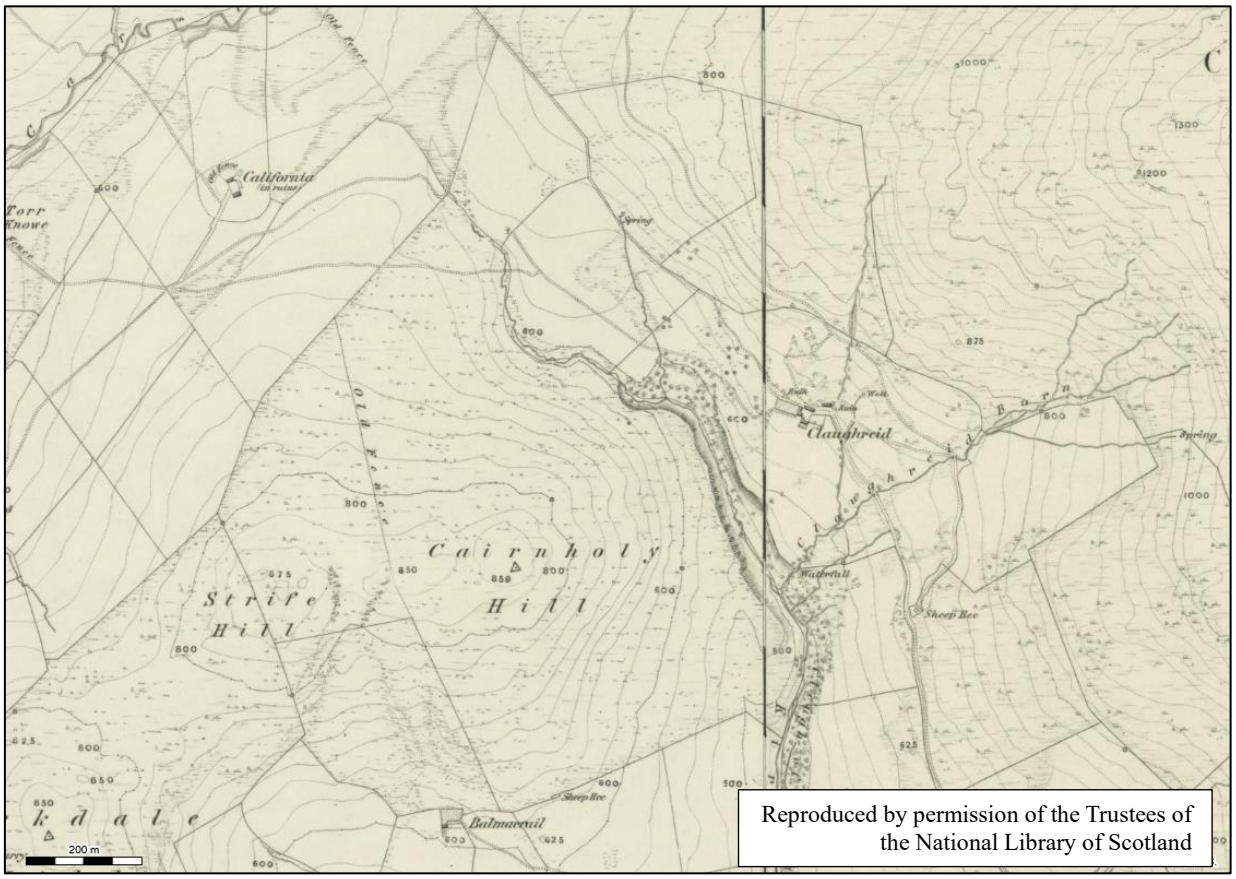


Figure 3a: Extract from the 6-inch 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1854

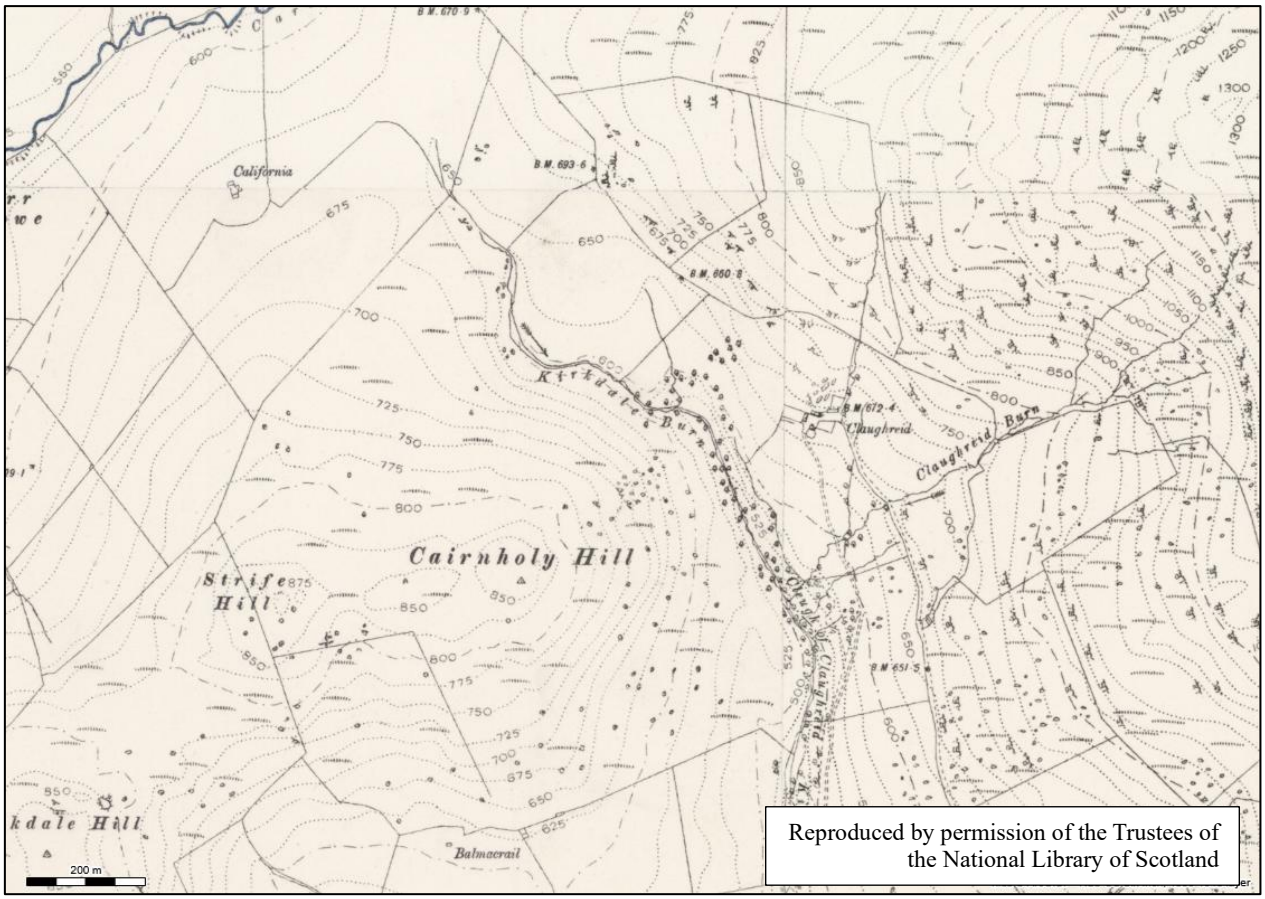


Figure 3b: Extract from 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1895

41. The *1st edition Ordnance Survey* map of 1854 shows much greater detail than any previous mapping and shows the assessment area to be enclosed along its current boundaries (Figure 3a). Neither the prehistoric rock art panels nor the Claughreid Stone Circle **S1** are marked on this map.

42. The vast majority of the assessment area, except for the northern corner, is shown to be unenclosed moorland, with only one larger field boundary delineating a rectangular area along the southwestern border. A NNW-SSE aligned section of the field boundary that continues to the north from this enclosure, reaching the northern boundary, is labelled 'Old Fence' **S8**. The unimproved hillside was likely used for grazing sheep, as evidenced by a sheep ree **S11** along the southern assessment area boundary. The southern enclosed field once likely belonged to the farm of Balmacrail (NRHE ID: 90249; HER ID: MDG10128) to the immediate south of the assessment area. The map depicts a single roofed building with several enclosures, while the Ordnance Survey Name Book entry for the farm clarifies that it is 'a small house in good repair with a garden', which formerly had land attached that had been unified with the farm of Cairnholy (NRHE ID: 113675; HER ID: MDG11780) to the south (Parish of Kirkmabreck, Vol. 144). The entry for Cairnholy Hill further clarifies that the entirety of this hill, and thus nearly the whole assessment area, likewise belonged to the farm at Cairnholy at this time (ibid).

43. The two enclosed fields depicted in the northernmost part of the assessment area are linked via footpaths **S7** to Claughreid farm (NRHE ID: 177022; HER ID: MDG15409) to the immediate east of the assessment area. The southern of these paths leads northwest towards California (NRHE ID: 90577; HER ID: MDG10251), already in ruins by this time, and via connecting paths as far as Kirkmabreck Church (HES ID: LB13142; NRHE ID: 63325; HER ID: MDG9839) and ultimately Creetown, while the northern path connects with the neighbouring farm of Cambret (NRHE ID: 177034; HER ID: MDG15419).

44. The fields themselves would have likely belonged to Claughreid farm, which is depicted with four roofed buildings and enclosures, as well as several structures annotated 'Ruin'. The Ordnance Survey Name Book (Kirkmabreck and Anwoth Parishes, Vol. 127, p50) describes Claughreid as 'a farmhouse and outhouses all slated and in good condition with a farm of land attached', remarking the meaning of the placename to be 'a stony place'. The entry also notes that the farm was occupied by a Mrs Carson and owned by Miss Hannay of Kirkdale House, who was then one of the principal landowners of the parish (Muir 1845, p 323).

45. There is very limited change to the assessment area shown on the *2nd edition Ordnance Survey* map dating from 1894 (Figure 3b). The paths **S7** linking Claughreid to the north and west are no longer shown, while a new path appears to the east of the assessment area boundary leading to the farm of Cairnholy, hinting at its increased importance. Balmacrail is seemingly abandoned by this time, and is only depicted with a single unroofed building. The stretch of NNW-SSE aligned field boundary **S8** is no longer shown, along with a missing section of the its continuation adjacent to the southern assessment boundary.

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

Aerial Photography and LiDAR data

47. 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.

48. These sites included paths **S7**, field boundaries **S8** and **S9**, shooting butt **S14**, as well as four rig blocks A-D (Table 2).

Walkover Survey

49. The walkover survey took place on the 20th January 2026. Weather conditions were overcast and intermittently rainy, with no particular hindrance to the visibility of historic environment sites. The survey area consisted of unimproved moorland on the steeper hillsides and rough, somewhat improved agricultural fields in the lower areas in the north. Field boundaries encountered were drystone dykes reinforced by modern post-and-wire

fences. Bracken was observed throughout the assessment area including in the vicinity of archaeological sites, and the survey greatly benefited from the winter conditions.

50. Throughout the walkover survey, sites that had been identified during the desk-based assessment through the Historic Environment Record and through inspection of historical mapping and aerial imagery were investigated. At the same time, areas with high potential were subject to field inspection, with any new sites encountered recorded.

51. The assessment area was accessed from the track leading north from Barholm Castle towards Claughreid farm and was entered from the direction of the southern path **S7**. These paths were no longer easily identifiable in the landscape, though a section of this southern route is evidently still used by the local farmer and passes through several field gates.

52. Prehistoric rock art panels **S3**, **S4** and **S6** were successfully located in these northern fields, although they were all overgrown, with little or none of the carved motifs visible. Panels **S2** and **S5** were not located, and they probably lie under the soil and turf. Stone Circle **S1** was easily identifiable from a distance due to its substantial central stone, though some of the lower boulders forming the surrounding circle were obscured by tall grass. Bracken was noted throughout this area and would pose a difficulty for the visibility of these monuments when in season. It was noted that the topography obscures views to much of Cambret Moor, though the summit of Cambret Hill was visible from this location, which is of note due to the cluster of prehistoric monuments on its southern slopes. Looking back from a higher elevation, such as Cairnholy Hill (Figure 4) significantly opened up the view, and, likely, the neighbouring Cairnharrow would likewise have sightlines to both of these clusters of prehistoric activity.



Figure 4: North portion of the assessment area viewed from Cairnholy Hill. Locations of S1, S3 and S4 highlighted, Cambret Hill visible to rear

53. Several modest-sized modern clearance cairns were also seen in the vicinity (Figure 5). These were not included in the site table, but their location was recorded. Rig block A in the northernmost tip of the assessment area was not visible on the ground. It was noted that an extensive portion of the lower slopes of Cairnharrow along the northwest assessment area boundary had recently been planted, which will further reduce the intervisibility of areas of prehistoric activity once the trees are mature (Figure 4).

54. In the western half of the assessment area, the line of the field boundary **S8** was noted as a low turf-covered bank. The field system along the southwest boundary **S9** likewise consisted of denuded banks. None of the rig blocks contained within this area of field banks were visible (B to D). Stone **S10** in the eastern parcel of the field system was confirmed as geological in nature.

55. A small C-shaped drystone structure, likely a shooting butt **S14**, was recorded to the immediate north of a sheepfold on the far side of the assessment area boundary to the northeast of Balmacrail farm. A short distance to the east, the outline of sheep ree **S11** was recognisable as a tumbled row of moss-covered stones.

56. Rock art panel **S12** was successfully located and along the drain cut into the bedrock following the line of the southern area boundary. The panel described under **S13** was not found and appears, based on its recorded character and location (but not the low-grade grid reference used in the NRHE) be a duplicate entry of **S12**.

57. An overhead line carried on wooden poles was noted to run in a NE-SW direction across the southeast corner of the assessment area, which was, as most of Cairnholy Hill, rough pasture (Figure 6).



Figure 5: Modern clearance heaps. Outcrops of S3 and S4 are visible in the background



Figure 6: The SE of the assessment area viewed from the Claughreid access track

Table 1: Historic Environment Sites located within the assessment area

No	Site	HER Ref:	Description	NGR	Image from Site Inspection
S1	Claughreid Stone Circle	NHRE ID: 63690 HER ID: MDG3291	**Desk Based Assessment** A stone circle is situated at 205m OD, about 600m NW of Claughreid near the watershed of Carsluith Burn and Kirkdale Burn. It has a diameter of 10m and consists of rounded boulders up to 0.6m high. At the centre is a large boulder 1.6m by 1.2m by 0.6m. It was most recently surveyed by Scotland's Rock Art Project in 2019. Not depicted on historical mapping. **Walkover survey** The stone circle was found as previously described within an area of rough pasture near the edge of a large patch of bracken. Grass obscured some of the lower boulders, though all were easily located. The central stone is the largest and most visible element of the monument. An ephemeral trackway from small all-terrain vehicle cut across the circle to the immediate east of the central boulder.	NX 51777 56007	
S2	Claughreid 3 Cup and Ring Marked Rock	NRHE ID: 368432 HER ID: N/a	**Desk Based Assessment** Approximately 10m SW and downslope of Claughreid Stone Circle **S1** lies a rock art panel normally under heavy bracken cover. There are views downhill to the S across Claughreid Farm and towards Wigtown Bay, and the television mast at Cambret Hill is visible to the NE on the hill behind the stone circle. The panel is part of a low-lying outcrop measuring 2.4m x 1.1m and rising to 0.4m at its highest. The panel surface extends along the bedrock, and bends in a curve over its edge, creating a lower and an upper section to the panel, with the upper area containing the majority of the motifs. Between the upper and the lower section there is an area of deep natural hollows running in a line across the length of the panel's surface. In the upper section, there is a cup-and-three rings, a cup-and-two rings, and a further cup with two partial, or partially-eroded, rings as well as a cup-and-ring and a cup with a possible ring. The area also contains a scatter of 8 single cupmarks and one further possible cupmark. In the lower section, there is a cup-and-ring and close by one single cupmark, and a separate grouping of 8 single cupmarks. Most recently surveyed by Scotland's Rock Art Project in 2019, from where this description is derived. Claughreid 2 **S3** lies approximately 45m to the E of the panel. **Walkover survey** The location of the rock art panel was visited, but the outcrop was entirely covered by turf and vegetation. Bracken was observed in the immediate vicinity.	NX 51765 55991	 Location viewed from the WNW

No	Site	HER Ref:	Description	NGR	Image from Site Inspection
S3	Claughreid 2 Cup and Ring Marked Rock	NRHE ID: 304992 HER ID: MDG25393	**Desk Based Assessment** A cup and ring marked stone is located 600m to the NW of Claughreid Farmstead and approximately 30m to the ESE of Claughreid Stone Circle **S1** on the SE side of a field c. 20m to the N of a SW-NE running fence line. It is a long, roughly rectangular section of outcrop measuring 6.2m by 2.5m and up to 1.2m in height. There are two sections of carving one in the lower area and the other in the upper area. The upper area has been carved with one cupmark with a tail and visible toolmarks inside. The lower has numerous natural hollows and 4 areas of cupmarks with and without rings. Claughreid 1 **S4** is located c. 75m to the NE and Claughreid 3 **S2** c. 50m to the W. The rock art panel was most recently surveyed by Scotland's Rock Art Project in 2019, from where this description is derived. **Walkover Survey** The walkover identified the rock art panel and at least one distinct cupmark with a ring on its southwest face. Some of the outcrop was obscured by vegetation, though it remains easily identifiable in the landscape. Bracken was noted in the vicinity.	NX 51806 55993	
S4	Claughreid 1 Cup and Ring Marked Rock	NRHE ID: 368431 HER ID: MDG24790	**Desk Based Assessment** This large section of outcrop lies under heavy bracken cover positioned on the S side of a low mound, 150m below a prominent boulder on the skyline to the NE, 75m to the E of Claughreid Stone Circle **S1**, 30m to the SW of the higher of the two stone walls to the NE and 20m from the dilapidated stone wall with fence to the SW. Claughreid 2 **S3** lies approximately 45m to the SW of this panel. There are views downhill to the S across Claughreid Farm and towards Wigtown Bay, and the television mast at Cambret Hill is visible to the NE on the hill behind the stone circle. A large rectangular shaped panel measuring 6.1m by 1.8m and up to 0.7m in height, split by numerous fissures into seven natural rows. The panel has been carved with 34 definite and one possible solo cup mark, one cup with a tail, 11 cups with a single complete ring, three cups with multiple complete rings (two with four rings; one with five), one complete ring surrounding two cups, three cups with one partial ring, one cup with a complete inner and a partial possible outer ring, one cup with a complete inner and a definite outer ring, one cup with a complete inner and two definite partial outer rings, one cup with two complete rings and a tail extending from the cup to beyond the outer ring, three cups with a complete ring and a tail extending from the cup to beyond the ring (one of which has a very long meandering tail which extends over 0.5m and terminates in a fissure, one (possibly enhanced natural) triangular feature, a cup with a tail and pennanular single ring and half definite and half possible outer ring, and an intensely interconnected cluster of carvings including five cups with partial or complete rings, tails, grooves and cups on the SE edge in the E half of the exposed area. The cup with five complete rings is quite faded and appears to be overlaid by a later, cruder motif (the cup with a tail and pennanular single ring and half definite and half possible outer ring), which suggests multiple phases of carving by different hands. There is also a zone of random pecking which includes some possible motifs of short lines and dashes, some of which curve, two are parallel, and one is a long meandering groove.	NX 51851 56013	

No	Site	HER Ref:	Description	NGR	Image from Site Inspection
			The rock art panel was most recently surveyed by Scotland's Rock Art Project in 2019, from where this description is derived. **Walkover survey** The outcrop was successfully identified and the rows of natural grooves noted, though it appeared that the clearest decorated areas were covered by moss and turf. The panel itself remains easily identifiable in the landscape, though bracken was noted in the vicinity.		
S5	Claughreid Cup and Ring Marked Rock	NRHE ID: 304993 HER ID: MDG25394	**Desk Based Assessment** Recorded by Naddair et al. 2009 as a decorated panel bearing two cup marks each enclosed by four rings; nine midget-cups enclosed together by three rings with two cups between the second and third rings; one cup end by three rings; four cups each end by two rings; 28 cups each end, by one ring; and c92 solo cups. ScRAP fieldwork did not manage to locate the panel in 2019 and noted that it was either under deep vegetation or that this record is a duplicate of either Claughreid 1 **S4** or Claughreid 2 **S3**. **Walkover survey** The walkover survey did not locate this panel. There were no visible rocky outcrops in the immediate surroundings and the ground was even and grass and bracken covered.	NX 51850 56070	
S6	Claughreid 4 Cup and Ring Marked Rock	NRHE ID: 304991 HER ID: MDG25378	**Desk Based Assessment** The panel is approximately 40m SE of a prominent clearance cairn lying in a high part of the field, and 65m to the NE of the track leading from Claughreid Farm where it passes a clearance cairn on its W side, at a point where the track is rising after crossing the Kirkdale burn as it travels in a NW direction towards the entrance to the field on the hill above the panel. Claughreid 1 **S4**, 2 **S3** and 3 **S2** and Claughreid Stone Circle **S1** all lie within the field above and to the NW of Claughreid 4. The panel is roughly oval shaped measuring 1.6 x 0.8m and rising to 0.2m at its highest. The panel has a distinctive raised lump at its W end, but although it slopes steeply in parts, is largely flush with the turf. There are two cupmarks - both at the W end of the panel, with one to the W and the other to the S of the raised area. The cupmark to the W is larger with visible toolmarks within it. There are two further possible cupmarks, one on the raised area and one close to the motif to the S. The rock art panel was most recently surveyed by Scotland's Rock Art Project in 2019, from where this description is derived. **Walkover survey** The rock art panel was identified at the recorded location, though it was grass covered and the carved motifs were obscured.	NX 51821 55891	

No	Site	HER Ref:	Description	NGR	Image from Site Inspection
S7	Claughreid Paths	N/a	**Desk Based Assessment** The 1st edition OS map depicts a path leading from Claughreid Farm towards the northwest reaching as far as Kirkmabreck Old Church and beyond. Sections of this path are visible on LiDAR, especially to the east and west of the assessment area boundary and a NW-SE aligned portion appears recently used as farm track on aerial photography. A second path is depicted on the 1st edition OS map running along the full extent of the northern assessment area boundary and connecting to Cambret farm to the north. Neither path is marked on any later mapping, though traces of them are visible on aerial photography and LiDAR. **Walkover survey** The survey identified the route of the southern pathway as an intermittently discernible slight depression in the landscape and a portion of this track is evidently still in use by the local farmer, though this appears to be mainly restricted to the two fields in the extreme north of the assessment area. The arm branching towards the WNW was not discernible.	Centred on NX 51775 55841	 Pathways cut through the fields in the middleground, viewed from Cairnholy hill
S8	Cairnholy Hill Bank	N/a	**Desk Based Assessment** A NNW-SSE aligned section of field boundary is marked 'Old Fence' on the 1st edition OS map stretching from the later rectangular enclosure in the SW of the assessment area to the NW area boundary. Not depicted on later mapping but visible on aerial photography and LiDAR. **Walkover survey** The field boundary was identified as a low turfed over bank no higher than 0.3m and approximately 1m wide.	From NX 51417 55771 to NX 51532 55251	

No	Site	HER Ref:	Description	NGR	Image from Site Inspection
S9	Balmacrail Banks	N/a	**Desk Based Assessment** A series of irregularly shaped field boundaries are visible on LiDAR and aerial photography to the north of Balmacrail Farm in the southwest corner of the assessment area enclosing an area of faint rig and furrow (blocks B-D). The boundaries are not depicted on historical mapping. **Walkover survey** The field boundaries were found to be a curving series of about 1m wide and up to 0.5m tall overgrown banks, quite distinct in the landscape. A few stones were apparent in their makeup near the southern area boundary. The blocks of rig and furrow were not visible on the ground.	Centred on NX 51529 54987	
S10	Cairnholy Stone	NRHE ID: 63736 HER ID: N/a	**Desk Based Assessment** A rock bearing two parallel rows of elongated depressions identified on the south face (1.0m x 0.5m) of a sandstone outcrop about 60m to the NE of Balmacrail farm was first recorded as a cupmarked panel in 1967 by R W B Morris and D C Bailey. Later surveys including by the Ordnance Survey in 1977 and the RCHAMS in 1994 identified them as natural weathering marks. **Walkover survey** The walkover survey identified the stone and confirmed these to be natural weathering marks.	NX 51624 54926	
S11	Balmacrail Sheep Ree	N/a	**Desk Based Assessment** A sheep ree is depicted along the southern assessment area boundary to the northeast of Balmacrail on the 1st edition OS map. The sheep ree is not shown on modern mapping and only a very faint scatter of stones is visible on aerial imagery. **Walkover Survey** The tumbled northern wall of the sheep ree was identified as a clear line of moss-covered stones measuring up to 0.3m high and roughly 1m wide. The whole structure measured approximately 14m x 3.5m.	NX 51767 54925	

No	Site	HER Ref:	Description	NGR	Image from Site Inspection
S12	Cairnholy 6 Cup and Ring Marked Rock	NRHE ID: 63737 HER ID: MDG3337	**Desk Based Assessment** This cup and-ring-marked stone lies on a section of bedrock exposed in the base of a drainage ditch in rough pasture, about 10m N of a field dyke and some 150m ENE of a modern sheepfold and 90 to the ENE of **S11**. The panel lies flat and a portion of it is obscured by vegetation, the visible area was measured as 2.8 x 0.7m. There are two visible cup marks measuring 90mm and 100mm in width; one appears to be pecked, the other roughly pecked. There is also a small cone-shaped cup (45mm) of uncertain origin, which may be natural. There are several deep rock-cut grooves made by a machine across the surface, presumably relating to the drainage ditch. The rock art panel was most recently surveyed by Scotland's Rock Art Project in 2019, from where this description is derived. **Walkover Survey** The survey identified the panel with the two larger cupmarks and one smaller, deep cup as described by ScRAP. This section of the stone remains visible at the bottom of the drainage ditch running along the southern assessment area boundary.	NX 51856 54961	
S13	Cairnholy Cup and Ring Marked Rock	NRHE ID: 63685 HER ID: MDG3286	**Desk Based Assessment** Described by W B McDavid and R W B Morris in 1981 as a 2m x 0.7m x 0.5m stone bearing 2 cups-and-one-ring and 6 cups 108m E of the modern sheepfold on the far side of the assessment area boundary. The panel was not located despite an extensive search in the surrounding area during the 2019 ScRAP survey. **Walkover Survey** The walkover survey noted several large outcrops of stone in the rough area but did not locate another rock art panel. This is likely a duplicate entry for Cairnholy 6 **S12**, supported also by the described dimensions.	NX 52000 55100	
S14	Balmacrail Shooting Butt	N/a	**Desk Based Assessment** A C-shaped feature with an opening on its W side measuring 5.3m x 3m is visible on LiDAR 2.5m to the NW of the assessment area boundary 56m to the SW of sheep ree **S11**. **Walkover Survey** The walkover survey identified this as a shooting butt, likely 19th century or later. The highest part of its wall measures 1m tall and is of drystone construction with mixed size, lightly mossed over unworked stones.	NX 51705 54910	

Table 2: Rig & Furrow Blocks located within the assessment area

No	NGR	Block Form	Visibility	Boundaries	Sequence & Relationships	Rig Orientation & Topography	Rig Morphology
A	NX 51742 56064	Sub-rectangular shape. 4ha.	Identified through Aerial Photography.	Bounded by modern field boundaries including the assessment area boundary to the N.	None.	Aligned NE-SW.	Narrow low rig
B	NX 51440 55018	Irregular shape. 1.62ha.	Identified through LiDAR.	Bounded by the assessment area boundary to the S and **S9** to the N.	Seems to overlie a curving NW-SE oriented section of field boundary **S9**. Likely contemporary with block C.	Aligned NW-SE.	Narrow low rig
C	NX 51581 54975	Irregular shape. 1.22ha.	Identified through LiDAR.	Bounded by the assessment area boundary to the S and **S9** to the N and E.	Seems to overlie a NE-SW oriented section of field boundary **S9**. Likely contemporary with block B.	Aligned NW-SE.	Narrow low rig
D	NX 51564 54938	Rectangular shape. 0.13ha.	Identified through LiDAR.	Bounded by the assessment area boundary to the S.	Appears to pre-date rig block C.	Aligned ENE-WSW.	Narrow low rig

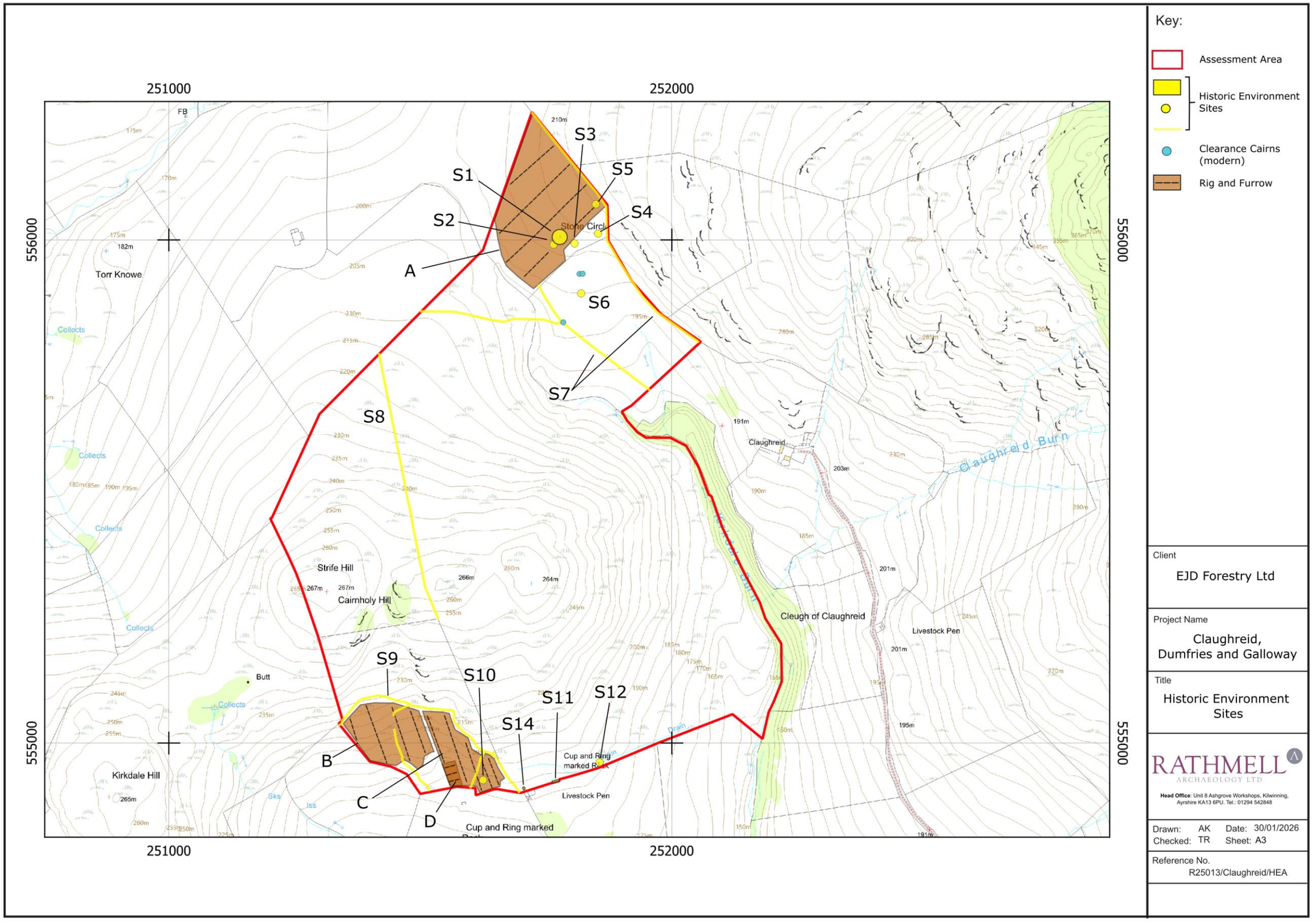


Figure 7: Location Map showing Historic Environment Sites in the assessment area

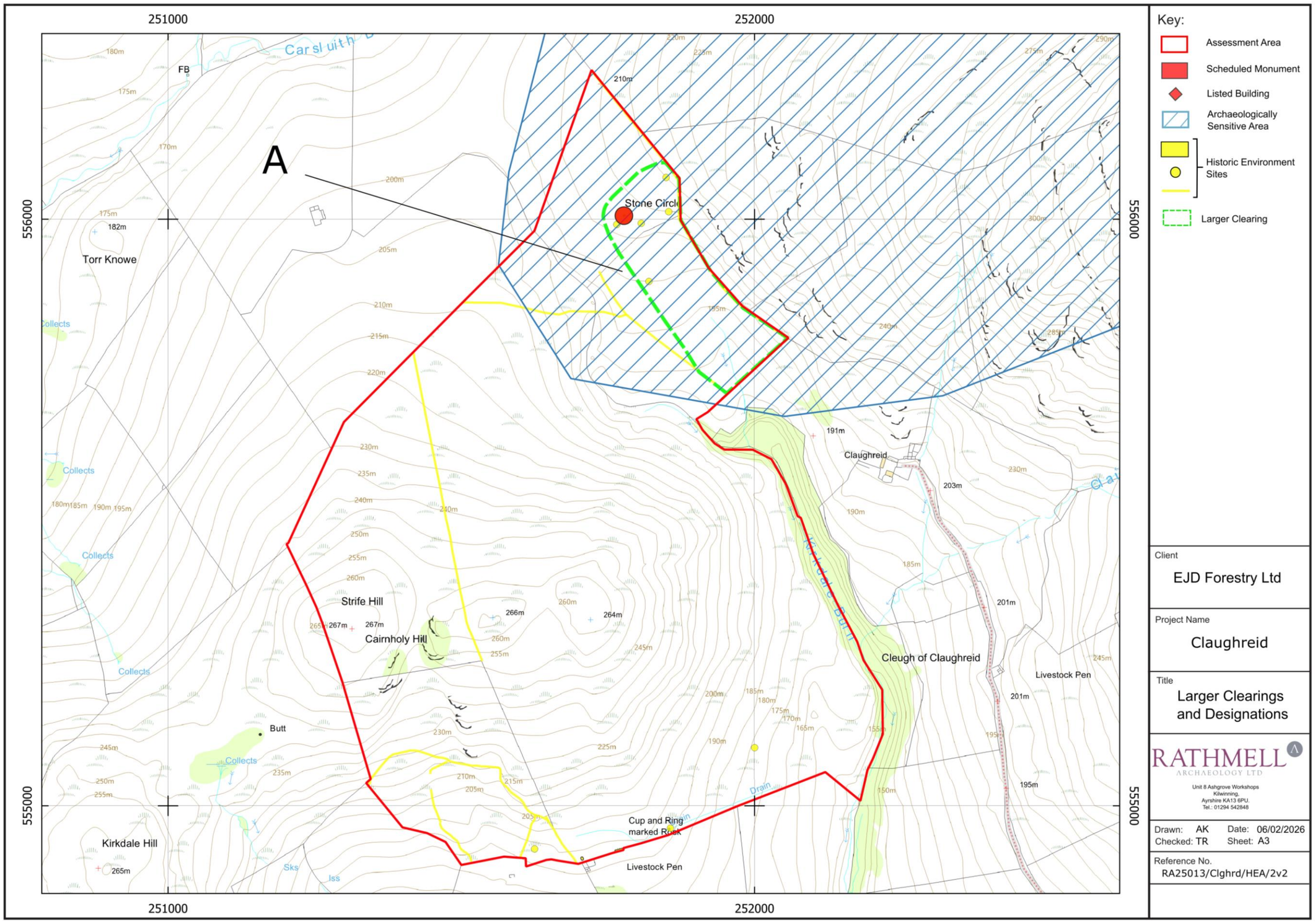


Figure 8: Location Map showing Larger Clearings in the assessment area

Management Guidance

58. The assessment identified fourteen historic environment sites within the Claughreid assessment area. Not all sites are of equal merit or have equal potential to contribute to the comprehension 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

59. Claughreid Stone Circle **S1** is a Scheduled Monument and an important example of the low stone circles of Galloway. It makes a major contribution to the historic landscape character and is expected to embody complex archaeological information. The stone circle is of National significance and should be **protected** with a 20m buffer, managed as a clearing and maintained as an open space.

60. Cup and ring marked stones **S2**, **S3**, **S4**, **S5** and **S6** are fine examples of prehistoric rock art, and they contribute significantly to the understanding of the prehistoric landscape character. Their proximity to each other and to the Claughreid Stone Circle **S1** adds further complexity. They have been ascribed Regional significance, and as such each stone should be **protected** with a 10m buffer, managed as a clearing and maintained as an open space.

61. The paths **S7** linking Claughreid farm with the surrounding post-medieval landscape do not survive to a tangible enough degree to be able to contribute to the historic landscape character. They have been ascribed Other significance and **no action** is recommended.

62. The field boundaries **S8** and **S9** are denuded banks of uncertain, likely post-medieval 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.

63. It has been established that stone **S10** is a natural feature, and as such, it has been ascribed Other significance and **no action** is recommended.

64. The sheep ree **S11** and shooting butt **S14** are monuments related to post-medieval land use, and as upstanding monuments, make a minor contribution to the historic landscape character. They are unlikely to embody complex archaeological information. They have been ascribed Local significance and should be **protected** with a 5m buffer, managed as a clearing and maintained as an open space.

65. The cup and ring marked rock **S13** was not located by two successive surveys, and it is assessed to be a duplicate entry for Cairnholy 6 **S12**. As such, it has been ascribed Other significance and **no action** is recommended.

Larger Clearings

66. 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.

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

A Clearing **A** was created to preserve the prehistoric sites and their setting in the northern tip of the assessment area, falling within the Cambret Moor Archaeologically Sensitive Area.

Clearing **A** includes the stone circle **S1** and rock art panels **S2**, **S3**, **S4** and **S5**. The shape of the clearing was designed to preserve sightlines towards clusters of prehistoric activity in the surrounding landscape. Ensuring these long stretches of open ground remain unobstructed to the southeast also enables a general

Table 3: Management Guidance for Historic Environment Sites

No	Site	Significance	Management Guidance	UKFS HE Guidelines
S1	Claughreid Stone Circle	National	The monument should be maintained as open space and **protected** with a 20m buffer.	LR 1 GFPR 1 HEG 11
S2	Claughreid 3 Cup and Ring Marked Rock	Regional	The cupmarked stone should be **protected** with a 10m buffer.	GFPR 1 HEG 11
S3	Claughreid 2 Cup and Ring Marked Rock	Regional	The cupmarked stone should be **protected** with a 10m buffer.	GFPR 1 HEG 11
S4	Claughreid 1 Cup and Ring Marked Rock	Regional	The cupmarked stone should be **protected** with a 10m buffer.	GFPR 1 HEG 11
S5	Claughreid Cup and Ring Marked Rock	Regional	The cupmarked stone should be **protected** with a 10m buffer.	GFPR 1 HEG 11
S6	Claughreid 4 Cup and Ring Marked Rock	Regional	The cupmarked stone should be **protected** with a 10m buf0fer.	GFPR 1 HEG 11
S7	Claughreid Paths	Other	**No action** is recommended.	-
S8	Cairnholy Hill Bank	Other	**No action** is recommended, forestry operations should avoid unnecessary impact.	-
S9	Balmacrail Banks	Other	**No action** is recommended, forestry operations should avoid unnecessary impact.	-
S10	Cairnholy Stone	Other	**No action** is recommended.	-
S11	Balmacrail Sheep Ree	Local	The sheep ree should be **protected** with a 5m buffer.	GFPR 1 HEG 11
S12	Cairnholy 6 Cup and Ring Marked Rock	Regional	The cupmarked stone should be **protected** with a 10m buffer.	GFPR 1 HEG 11
S13	Cairnholy Cup and Ring Marked Rock	Other	**No action** is recommended.	-
S14	Balmacrail Shooting Butt	Local	The shooting butt should be **protected** with a 5m buffer.	GFPR 1 HEG 11

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

understanding of the local topography and coincidentally preserves a view to the farmstead of Claughreid and the upper reaches of the Kirkdale Burn. Though the location of the monuments of Cambret Moor will largely be obscured by the general topography, ensuring that the summit of Cambret Hill remains visible will provide an anchor point in the landscape and facilitate the understanding of the relationships between these foci of activity from other vantage points, such as the summit of Cairnharrow to the east or Cairnholy to the southwest. The clearing also preserves a portion of rig block A and pathways **S7**.

The creation of this clearing does **not** exclude the construction of the forestry haul road through this larger clearing. However, any route should seek to maintain as much practicable distance from the protected assets as reasonably possible and **must** not enter or conflict with the defined protection buffers.

Edge Treatment

78. 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.

79. 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

80. 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).

81. 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.

82. 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.

83. 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.

84. 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.

85. 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

86. Considering the historic environment sites within the Assessment Area, this meets the reasonable threshold where any forest design work should consider developing public pedestrian access to these sites and providing on-site interpretation.

87. Most importantly, a public access path is advocated for the prehistoric sites of the north portion of the assessment area, especially for those within Larger Clearing **A**. This could be done following the route of the historical paths **S7** connecting this area with Claughreid farm.

Conclusion

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

89. Our management guidance has covered protection measures for nine of these sites as well as one larger clearing. These recommendations are compliant with UKFS Historic Environment Guidelines.

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