

**Skipper's Bridge, Langholm
Scottish Water Solutions Pipeline**

Walkover Survey Report

Prepared for: Scottish Water Solutions
Watermark
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Livingston
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AOC Archaeology Project No: 20644

National grid reference: NY 3700 8340 – NY 3370 7978

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- 0 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY
- 0.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological walkover survey undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group prior to the development of a new water pipeline between Skipper's Bridge and the Kerr Reservoir, Dumfries and Galloway (Figure 1). The work was commissioned by Scottish Water Solutions.
- 0.2 Dumfries and Galloway Council Archaeology Service requested a walkover survey of the proposed pipeline in order to assess the nature, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area and to identify areas which should be subject to an archaeological watching brief during the construction of the pipeline.
- 0.3 The walkover survey was undertaken in July 2007. A 50 m wide corridor, 25 m either side of the proposed pipelines, was surveyed. Archaeological features, identified by Dumfries and Galloway Council Archaeology Service were inspected and their condition and extent were recorded. Additionally, several previously unrecorded features of archaeological interest were identified during the survey.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Scottish Water Solutions to undertake an archaeological walkover survey prior to the proposed development of a new water pipeline between Skipper's Bridge and Kerr Reservoir, Dumfries and Galloway. The work is in accordance with NPPG 5 (SOEnD 1994) and PAN 42 (SOEnD 1994a) in order to determine the nature, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeological remains along the route of the proposed pipeline.

1.2 Site location

- 1.2.1 The proposed pipeline is located in the vicinity of Skipper's Bridge, Dumfries and Galloway. The pipeline runs for 5.5 km between Skipper's Bridge and Kerr Reservoir (NY 3700 8340 to NY 3370 7978). It largely follows the course of an existing pipeline along the south-east slopes of Middleholm Hill and Burian Hill and across Irvine Moss. The course of this stretch of pipeline runs through improved agricultural land and unimproved land. The route of the pipeline follows the edge of a rough track for the majority of the route although the central portion along Burian Hill and the southern portion along Kerr Height crosses low lying rough pasture and marsh land.

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The proposed pipelines run across an area of dense archaeological settlement remains. Dumfries and Galloway Council Archaeology Service carried out a desk-based assessment (Nicholson 2007) to identify known archaeological features that may be impacted upon by the proposed pipeline. A range of features ranging in date from the prehistoric through to the modern period were identified in the desk-based assessment and are listed below.

Table 1: Archaeology in the vicinity of the Skipper's Bridge Pipeline identified by Nicholson (2007)

Site No	Site Name	Site Type	NGR	Statutory Listing
1	Burrian Hill	Medieval iron-working bloomery	NY 3668 8200	N/A
2	Old Irvine	Later prehistoric settlement Possible cairns, Cultivation Remains	NY 363 817	SAM
3	Docken Beck	Turf-walled enclosures	NY 3633 8124 NY 3635 8122	N/A
4	Docken Beck	Rig-and-furrow cultivation	NY 363 810	N/A
5	Irvine Burn	Settlement remains	NY 3655 8088	N/A
6	Same as 4	-	-	-
7	Langholm to Annan Road	Medieval road 18 th century bridge	NY 3661 8112 – NY 3406 7961	N/A
8	Irvine Moss	Rig and furrow cultivation	NY 357 808	N/A
9	Rowantree Sike	Later medieval/ post-medieval farmstead	NY 349 804	N/A

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the walkover survey were to:

- i)* identify and record the nature and extent of any archaeological remains known to exist along the proposed pipeline;
- ii)* identify and record any hitherto unknown archaeological remains that may be encountered.
- iii)* to recommend, in consultation with Dumfries and Galloway Council Archaeology Service, areas which will require an archaeological watching brief during the construction of the pipeline.

3 METHOD

- 3.1 A 50 m corridor along the proposed pipelines was walked in 25 m transects. Known archaeological and cultural heritage features were visited and their condition and extent, as well as with their relationship to the proposed pipeline was recorded. Archaeological features were photographed and sketched in the field and an accurate grid reference was obtained using a handheld GPS. Any hitherto unknown archaeological features were similarly recorded and information regarding site type and location is recorded in Appendix 1 at the end of this report.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Known Remains

- 4.1.1 All eight of the sites identified by Dumfries and Galloway Council were visited and examined during the walkover survey. **Sites 4** and **6** in Table 1 above were found to refer to the same area and as such are referred to in this report as **Site 4**.
- 4.1.2 The remains of the medieval iron-working bloomery mound are located on the south-east facing slope of Burian Hill (**Site 1**; Plate 1). The mound is turf covered and measures approximately 8 m in diameter and 0.5 m in height. The mound is surrounded by marsh land to the south and bracken vegetation dominates land to the west. No slag deposits were identifiable beneath the turf covered mound and no slag deposits were identified in the wider area which is now overgrown with bracken and grass vegetation.
- 4.1.3 The Scheduled Ancient Monument known as Burian Hill (**Site 2**) is located on the south-east slope of the Hill 100 m NNW of the proposed pipeline route. The settlement is oblong in shape and internally divided by an earthwork and stone bank up to 1 m in height (Plate 2). The monument is associated with field banks, clearance cairns and rig and furrow cultivation to the north-west but this area was not surveyed in any detail as it lies beyond the area of survey. A low stone and turf field bank runs down the hill side from the edge of the Scheduled Ancient Monument for approximately 70 m, beyond which it is no longer traceable in an area of rough vegetation.
- 4.1.4 On the lower slopes of Burian Hill an area of grass grown turf and stone enclosure field banks (**Site 2**; Plates 3 and 4) was identified. The field banks enclose an area of flat and marshy ground and possible internal features and dividing walls were noted around the 130 m OD contour in an area of overgrown bracken. The area enclosed by the earth banks covers is approximately 40 m x 50 m. The enclosing banks are approximately 1 m wide and 0.4 m in height. The route of the pipeline will pass west of the majority of these enclosure banks. A low field bank (Plate 5) identified running at a 90 degree angle to the existing pipeline will be impacted upon by the proposed pipeline route.

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- 4.1.5 The remains of two turf walled enclosures (**Site 3**) are located in an area of marshy ground south of the steep-sided Docken Beck gully. The enclosures consist of low turf walled banks and are joined together by a low grass covered field bank. The enclosures are located west of the proposed pipeline route. The remains of a number of low curved grass covered field banks possibly associated with these enclosures were recorded south-west of Docken Beck. The largest of the field banks identified runs roughly north-west to south-east parallel with the line of Docken Beck and runs for approximately 150 m towards Old Irvine farmhouse (Plate 7). Associated with this field bank and located at NY 3648 8215 are the low grass-grown wall footings of a possible enclosure partially obscured by bracken vegetation.
- 4.1.6 An area of rig-and-furrow cultivation (**Site 4**) has been recorded south-west of Docken Beck (Nicholson 2007). As noted above, this area contains numerous linear remains in the form of low turf and stone wall embankments. The linear field banks appear too large and widely spaced to represent rig-and-furrow cultivation. No rig-and-furrow cultivation was identified in this area of rough pasture and bracken vegetation.
- 4.1.7 The remains of a probable oval settlement (**Site 5**) are located south of Old Irvine Cottage. The remains of this settlement were much overgrown with bracken on the date of visit and only the grass-grown bank was visible south of the oval enclosure (Plate 8). These remains are located behind an electric fence and will not be impacted upon by the proposed pipeline route.
- 4.1.8 The old road between Langholm and Annan (**Site 7**) survives as a track running through rough pasture (Plate 9). The north part of this track survives as a sunken roughly cobbled track bounded by a field bank and drainage ditch on the north-west side. At NY 3657 8142 the track is joined by a modern track and an older track running east from the hillside on the west (see section 4.1.12). The track converges with modern farm tracks at Old Irvine farmstead and continues south through unenclosed moorland. The track south of Old Irvine has recently been upgraded to a non-metalled aggregate track. The proposed pipeline route crosses the line of the old road south-west of Old Irvine and runs parallel to the track on its south side until it reaches Limey Sike where it crosses the road again before heading north-west towards the reservoir.
- 4.1.9 North of the road, around NY 357 808, the remains of rig-and-furrow cultivation have been noted on the gentle south-east slope of Irvine Moss (**Site 8**; Nicholson 2007). The remains of two field banks running NNE – SSW were noted in this area and appear to represent an earlier system of division of the now unenclosed moorland (Plate 10). With the exception of these two banks, no further remains were noted in this area.
- 4.1.10 The remains of three sub-rectangular buildings defined by low turf bank walls were identified either side of the Rowantree Sike at NY 349 804 (**Site 9**). The building remains lie beyond the limit of the survey area and will not be affected by the proposed pipeline route. An area of rig and furrow cultivation and grass covered field banks were identified south of the

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building remains and within the survey area. The remains of rig-and-furrow cultivation and grass covered earth and stone banks oriented NNE-SSW were identified at NY 3485 8035 in an enclosed field north of the proposed pipeline route (Plate 11). The rig is approximately 0.3 m in height and 1.5 m wide and traceable for a length of approximately 40 m before terminating in an area of rough vegetation. Each rig is approximately 5 m apart.

- 4.1.11 In addition to the archaeological features identified in the desk-based assessment, several other features were identified during the walkover survey. Turf field walls and possible clearance cairns in various conditions are frequent throughout the landscape and have been noted either side of the proposed pipeline route especially on lower ground. A possible clearance cairn (**Site 10**; Plate 6) was noted at NY 3655 8158. The cairn is approximately 5 m in diameter and 0.6 m in height and is located on a south-east facing slope south of the prehistoric enclosure at **Site 2**. North of Docken Beck at NY 3634 8135 the remains of two parallel field banks were identified (**Site 11**). The banks are aligned north-west to south-east and stand up to a height of 0.5 m. Both banks are approximately 0.8 m wide and 10 m in length (Plate 12). The banks terminate at the top of the burn gully and appear to sit on a terraced platform.
- 4.1.12 At NY3657 8132 the remains of a sunken track (**Site 12**; Plate 13) running east to west were noted converging with a modern track. The sunken track is roughly cobbled and can be followed for approximately 5 m west before becoming untraceable in rough vegetation. Approximately 150 m south of this track immediately west of the modern track, at NY 3661 8119, a disturbed area containing broken wooden posts was noted (**Site 13**; Plate 14). Seven posts were identified and it is probable that further posts were buried in the wet ground. The posts may represent the remains of a former structure or enclosure but their form and nature would suggest that they are relatively recent in origin. The proposed pipeline route passes west of these two features and as such they will not be impacted upon.
- 4.1.13 At NY 3649 8100, south-east of Old Irvine farmstead, the modern track passes over an unnamed burn. The burn has been culverted under the track by a stone built mortared arched structure (**Site 14**; Plate 15). An additional culvert was identified at **Site 16** directing the Irvine Burn beneath the modern farm track. This culvert has been previously recorded as an 18th century bridge (Nicholson 2007) but has since been replaced by a large plastic pipe during recent upgrading of the track (Plate 16). The majority of the stones around the bridge appear to be modern in origin although it is probable that some of the stones supporting the banks of the burn are part of the original bridge structure.
- 4.1.14 The remains of a low earth field bank (**Site 15**; Plate 17) running north-east to south-west for approximately 15 m was identified at NY 3581 8071. The bank runs parallel to other field divisions in this area and possibly forms the remains of an earlier field division. At NY 3470 8015 the remains of a field bank (**Site 17**; Plate 18) was identified running NNE-SSW parallel with the rig and furrow cultivation identified to the west (**Site 9**). The bank is

traceable for approximately 50 m before terminating in rough wetland vegetation.

5 MITIGATION

- 5.1 Based on the information outlined above a programme of archaeological works designed to mitigate the impacts of the construction of the pipeline are recommended. The aim of these recommendations is to allow for the identification and recording of archaeological features which may be encountered during ground breaking works associated with pipeline construction; they are designed to comply with NPPG 5 (SOEnD 1994) and PAN 42 (SOEnD 1994a).
- 5.2 The route of the proposed pipeline has been designed to avoid archaeological features identified by the desk-based assessment and the walkover survey has confirmed that the majority of upstanding field banks and cultivation remains identified during the desk based assessment will not be directly impacted upon by the proposed pipeline route. However, there will be a direct impact by the proposed pipeline route on field banks identified as part of **Sites 2, 3 and 15** as well as a portion of the old track identified at **Site 7**.
- 5.3 In addition to the direct impacts noted above, the proposed pipeline route will pass in close proximity to a number of remains that may require fencing off during construction works to avoid unintentional damage by plant on site. The features that are likely to require fencing off will include the bloomery mound at **Site 1** and the Scheduled Ancient Monument and field system remains at **Site 2**. As the upstanding remains identified as part of **Sites 5, 8 and 9** are located on the opposite side of the track to the proposed works they are unlikely to be required to be fenced off during ground breaking works.
- 5.4 The proposed pipeline route passes through extensive areas of unimproved agricultural land which has seen little or no disturbance in recent years. The confirmation of the existence of extensive cultivation remains at Burian Hill (**Site 2**) and Docken Beck (**Site 3**) show that there is potential for the survival of significant archaeology within the unimproved agricultural fields. The amount of past human activity known in the area, ranging in date from prehistoric to post-medieval, indicates that there is the potential for hitherto unknown archaeological features to be encountered during ground breaking works associated with pipeline construction.
- 5.5 Five areas along the pipeline route have been identified as being particularly sensitive and it is recommended that they be subject to watching briefs. These areas include the areas surrounding the cultivation remains on Burian Hill (**Site 2**), Docken Beck (**Site 3**) and Irvine Moss (**Site 15**) and the route of the old road at Old Irvine and Limey Sike (**Site 7**). A watching brief is recommended in these areas as there is high potential for associated subsurface remains to survive in the immediate area. Where possible the known remains of these features should be fenced off to avoid unintentional

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damage by plant on site. The areas where further mitigation has been advised are outlined on Figure 2.

6 REFERENCES

Nicholson, A 2007 *Skipper's Bridge – Proposed Works: Archaeology Report*
Dumfries and Galloway Council Archaeology Service Unpublished
Report

SOEnD 1994 *National Planning Policy Guideline 5, Archaeology and
Planning*. Scottish Office Environment Department.

SOEnD 1994a *Planning Advice Note 42, Archaeology and Planning*.
Scottish Office Environment Department

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APPENDIX 1: Newly Identified Sites (in addition to sites outlined in Table 1)

Site Number	Site Name	Site Type	NGR
10	Burian Hill	Clearance cairn	NY 3655 8158
11	Docken Beck	Field banks	NY 3634 8135
12	Old Irvine	Old Road	NY 3657 8133
13	Old Irvine	Wooden posts	NY 3661 8119
14	Old Irvine	Culvert	NY 3649 8100
15	Irvine Moss	Field bank	NY 3581 8071
16	Irvine Burn	Bridge/culvert	NY 3530 8045
17	Kerbush	Field bank	NY 3470 8015

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Digital Photo Number	Description	Taken from
1-2	A7 Skipper's Bridge	West
3	Entrance to forestry track	East
4	Track over mouldy hills	South
5	Mouldy hills drystone wall	West
6	View towards Middleholm	South
7	Middleholm	South-west
8	Caber Gill	South
9-10	Burian Hill Bloomery mound	East
11-13	Field enclosure banks on Burian Hill	West
14	Field enclosure banks on Burian Hill	East
15	Field enclosure banks on Burian Hill	South-east
16	Scheduled Ancient Monument Burian Hill	East
17	Scheduled Ancient Monument Burian Hill	South-east
18	Scheduled Ancient Monument Burian Hill	West
19	Field enclosure banks on Burian Hill	North
20-21	Field enclosure banks Docken Beck (N side)	South-east
22	Field enclosure banks Docken Beck (N side)	South
23	Field enclosure banks Docken Beck (N side)	North-west
24	Field enclosure banks Docken Beck (N side)	North
25	Docken Beck enclosures	North
26	Docken Beck enclosures	South

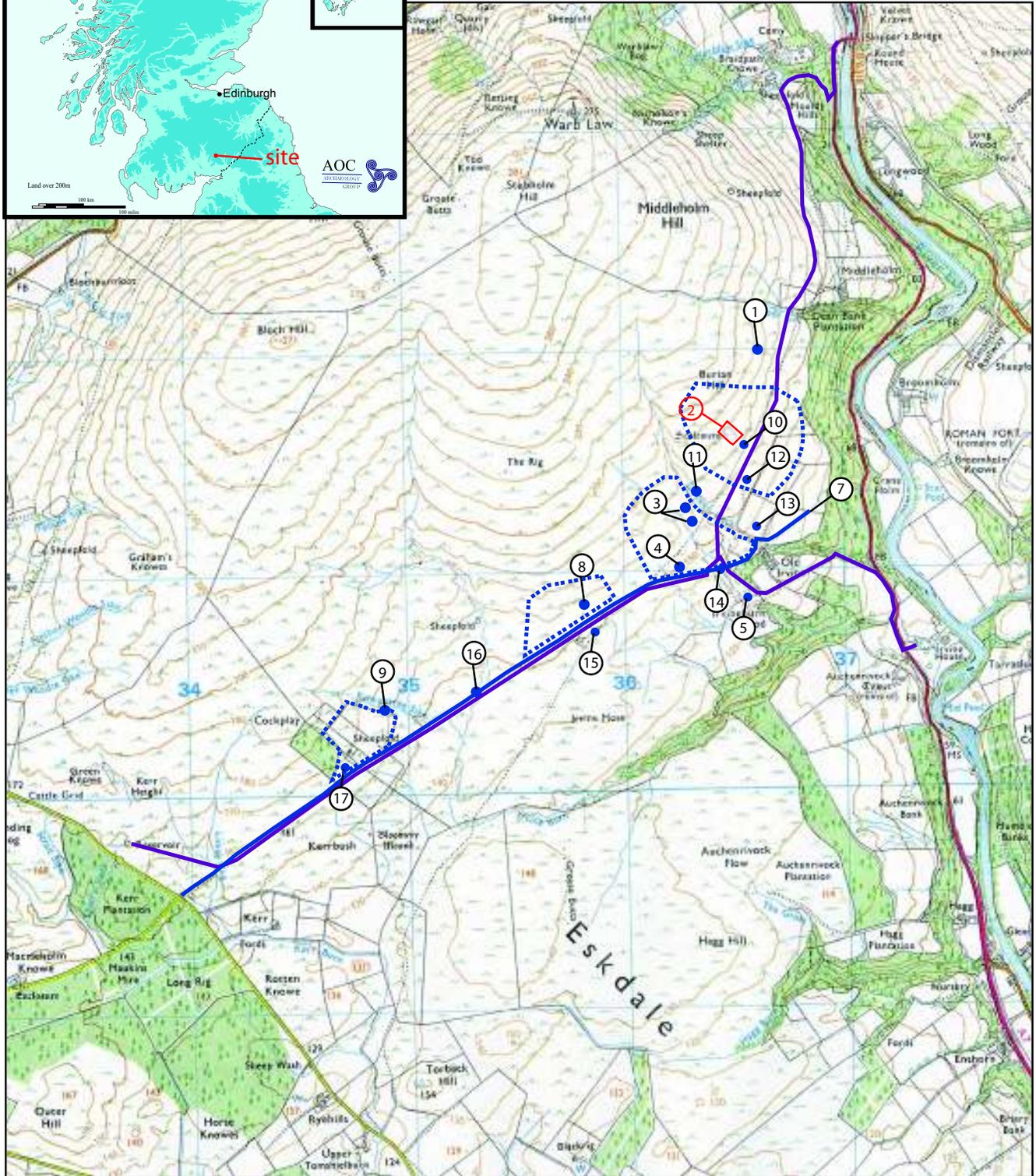
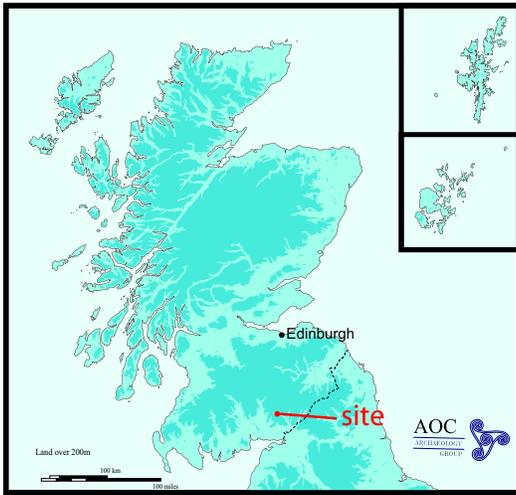
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27	Field enclosure banks Docken Beck (N side)	North-west
28	Field enclosure banks Docken Beck (N side)	West-north-west
29	Culverted Burn	North
30-32	Oval settlement (Site 5)	North
33	Field banks (Site 8)	South
34	Field banks (Site 15)	North
35	Landscape view north	South
36	Landscape view south	North
37	Culverted bridge	North
38	View of sheepfold	South-east
39	Possible buildings Rowantree Sike	South
40-42	Rig and Furrow site 9	South-west
43-45	Field banks south of wood	South-west
47	Linney Sike	East
48-50	Landscape views from Kerr	South-west

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APPENDIX 3: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Dumfries and Galloway
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Skipper's Bridge, Langholm
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 20644
PARISH:	Langholm
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Lynne Fouracre
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Walkover Survey
NMRS NO(S):	n/a
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Various
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	n/a
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NY 3700 8340 to NY 3370 7978
START DATE (this season)	26 th July 2007
END DATE (this season)	27 th July 2007
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	AOC Archaeology Group undertook a walkover survey along the proposed route of the Skipper's Bridge Pipeline. The condition and extent of several previously identified sites was assessed and several new sites were identified and recorded. These included numerous low turf and stone field enclosure banks representing earlier field divisions and settlement, clearance cairns and the remains of two old roads.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Watching Briefs
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Scottish Water Solutions
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	C/o AOC Archaeology Group
EMAIL ADDRESS:	ronant@aocscot.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS.

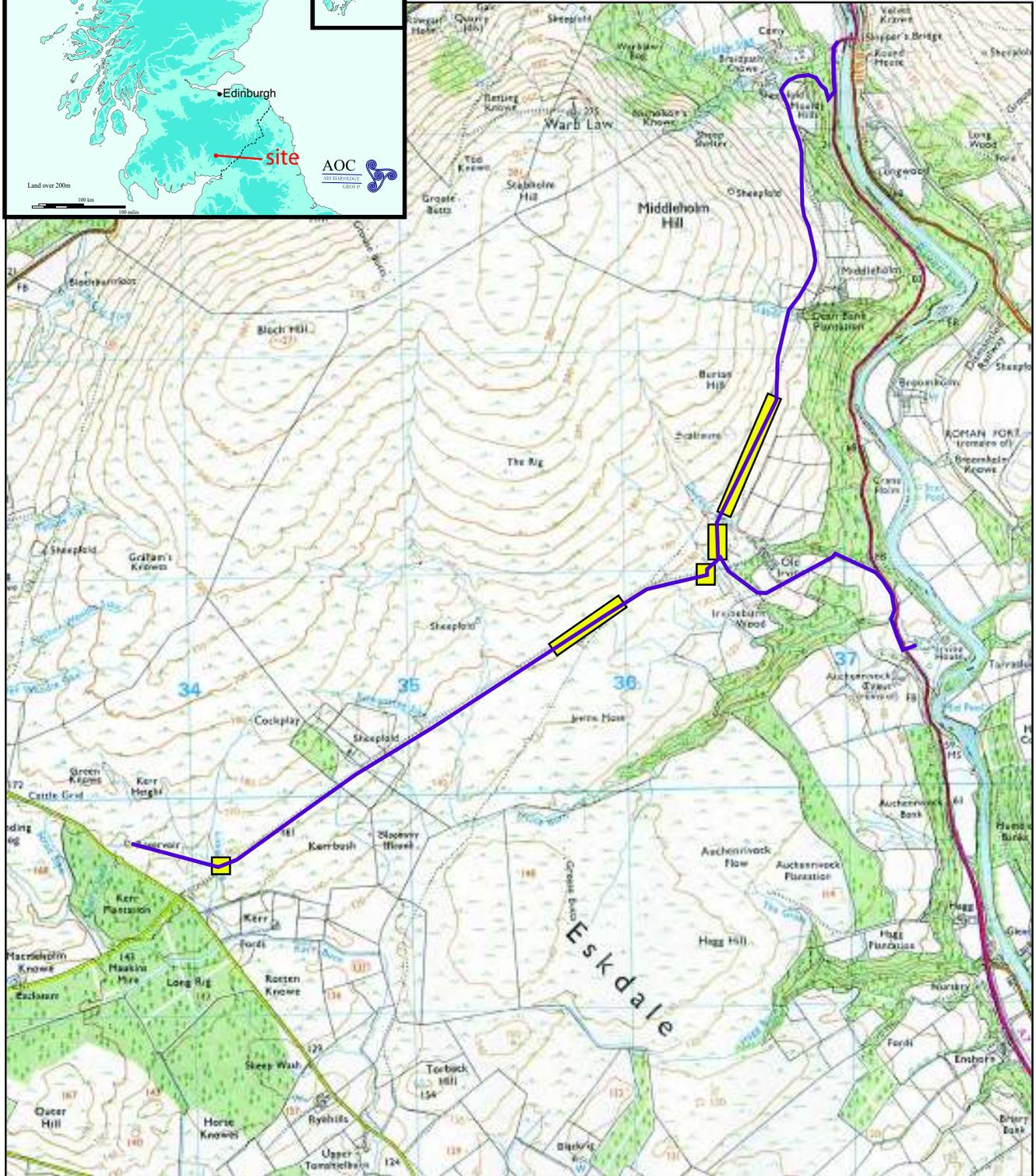
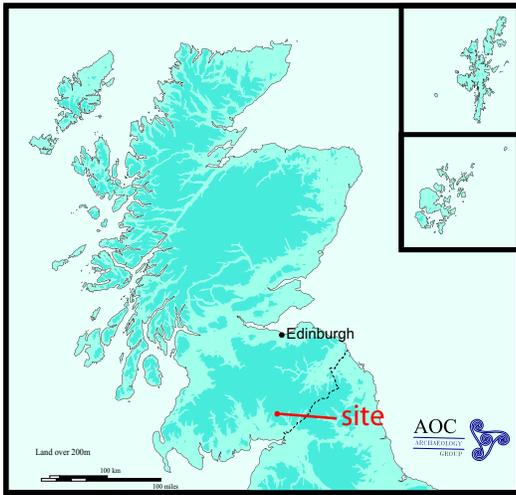


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	Proposed pipeline route
	Area of archaeological interest
	Archaeological site
	Scheduled Ancient Monument

0 1km

Figure 1: Location of sites of archaeological interest identified during walkover survey



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— Proposed pipeline route
 Area where watching brief may be required

0 1km

Figure 2: Location of areas of pipeline route that may require a watching brief



Plate 1: Burian Hill Bloomery Mound (Site 1) from east



Plate 2: Burian Hill Scheduled Ancient Monument (Site 2) from east



Plate 3: Turf and stone enclosure field banks (Site 2) from south



Plate 4: Turf and stone enclosure field banks (Site 2) from west



Plate 5: Turf and stone enclosure field banks (Site 2) from south



Plate 6: Possible Clearance Cairn (Site 10) from west



Plate 7: Turf and stone enclosure field banks at Docken Beck (Site 3) from north



Plate 8: Oval enclosure (Site 5) from north



Plate 9: Old road from Langholm (Site 7) from south-west



Plate 10: Remains of field banks (Site 8) from south



Plate 11: Rig-and-furrow remains (Site 9) from south-east



Plate 12: Remains of field banks on south edge of Docken Beck (Site 11) from north



Plate 13: Remains of old track (Site 12) from west



Plate 14: Remains of wooden posts (Site 13) from south



Plate 15: Culvert (Site 14) from north



Plate 16: Culvert (Site 16) incorporating remains of 18th century bridge from north



Plate 17: Remains of field bank (Site 15) from north



Plate 18: Remains of field bank (Site 9) from south-east