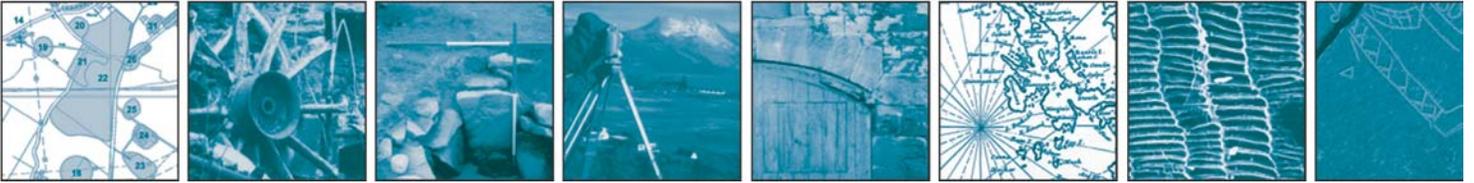


Project Code: CWM07
Client: Borders Forest Trust
Date: November 2007



Marking out survey: Carrifran Wildwood, Dumfries and Galloway

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET (CWM07)

Client	Borders Forest Trust
National Grid Reference	NT 155 110 (site centre)
Project Manager	Simon Stronach
Text	Magnar Dalland
Illustrations	Tom Small
Fieldwork	Magnar Dalland Håkan Ericsson
Schedule	
Fieldwork	9 th October 2007
Report	November 2007

INTRODUCTION

The marking out survey covered a triangular area of some 41 ha on the southeast facing slopes of Peat Hill at Carrifran, Dumfries and Galloway (Figure 1). The survey was carried out in advance of tree planting as part of the Carrifran Wildwood Project. There are in total six known sites or group of sites within the area according to the national and regional monument records. These sites include two farmsteads and three burnt mounds on the lower slopes of the hill, and a group of shielings and enclosures situated on natural shelves half way up the steep hillside.

METHODS

The locations of the known sites were provided by the Dumfries and Galloway SMR. The sites were located on the ground and marked out using bamboo canes with red and white plastic tape tied to the tops to make them more visible. The bamboos were set out at 10 to 20 m distance from the edge of the sites at regular intervals.

A hand-held GPS was used to locate sites and also to record the location of marked out areas during the survey.

Fiona Martynoga of Borders Forest Trust kindly joined us during the fieldwork to point out some of the known sites and also to outline the layout of the proposed planting scheme. Having seen all the sites she would also be able to liaise with the planting crew about the boundaries if some canes were lost before the planting took place.

ACCURACY

The sites situated on the lower slopes along the east side of the area had been surveyed by RCAHMS using an EDM and were therefore very accurately located. Some of the ruins associated with the old farmstead at the north-east corner of the site were also mapped on the current 1:10 000 map. During the marking out of this farmstead it became clear that the accuracy being delivered by the handheld GPS was far less than expected. This is likely to have been caused by lack of satellite cover near the base of the steep sided valley.

As the team moved up the hillside towards the shielings and enclosures above the valley bottom the reported accuracy of the handheld GPS improved significantly.

However, despite the improved reported accuracy of the handheld GPS it became very difficult to reconcile the existing monument record with our observations on the ground. The Royal Commission had recorded seven structures on the hillside above the valley bottom, while ten structures were recorded during the current survey. Out of these only two of the structures appeared to coincide with existing NMR sites. There could be two causes to this discrepancy:

- a) The current survey failed to locate five of the known structures on the hillside, but discovered eight new sites.
- b) The structures seen during the current survey correspond to known structures, with several new additions, but they are mapped at different locations.

The first alternative is by far the less likely explanation. It is unlikely that the Royal Commission had not noted any of the seven sites noted here or that the current survey would miss most of the previously known sites.

It therefore appears that we are dealing with discrepancies in mapped locations. It would appear that an enclosure previously located at NT 1551 1129 (NT11SE 16.04) was located by this survey at NT 1545 1130

(Structure 8) some 60 m to the west and 30 m upslope (Plate 1). A row of two shieling huts and two enclosures (NT11SE 16.01-03) is likely to correspond with Structures 2-7. Most of these were located some 70 m to 100 m down slope from the previously recorded positions. Given the problems during the survey with reported accuracy at the valley bottom it is tempting to blame the discrepancy on the handheld GPS used in this survey. However there was an independent control to test the accuracy of the handheld GPS on the upper slopes, namely a trackway shown on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey (Figure 1). This was mapped using the handheld GPS while climbing the hill and was found to be broadly accurate within the expected error of up to 10 m. It is therefore suggested that the plotting of the handheld GPS was accurate to within ± 10 m and Figure 1 shows the structures mapped accordingly.

COMMENTS

According to the planting scheme the lower limit of the plantation would be located high up on the slope at the north-east end of the area and then gradually run downhill towards the southern corner of the area leaving a triangular tree-free zone next to the road. This layout means that the farmstead NT11SE 14 at the northeast corner of the area and the two burnt mounds NT11SE 12 and 13 along the road to the south lie well outside the area that will be planted. Still a buffer zone was marked out around all three sites. During the marking out of the farmstead an additional building not recorded on the previous EDM survey was recorded to the south of the complex (Structure 1, Plate 2). The buffer zone was extended southwards to include this structure.

A second farmstead NT11SE 3 is located at the south corner of the site. Immediately to the north of the complex are a burnt mound NT11SE 11 and a well-preserved sheepfold (Plate 3). All these sites were included within a buffer zone covering the southern corner of the site.

The ten structures on the upper slopes were marked out within six different buffer zones. Structures 2, 7, 8 and 10 were marked out individually, while Structures 3 -6 and Structures 8 and 9 were enclosed within two separate areas.

GAZETTER

Structure No: 1 (Part of NMRS No NT11SE 14, SMR No MDG8683)

Grid reference: NT 1579 1122

Location: Carrifran

Class: Building

Description: A rectangular building aligned NNE to SSW. It is defined by stony turf clad banks spread up to 2.5 m wide and up to 0.3 to 0.4 m high. The building measures 6.5 m by 18 m externally.

Condition: The structure is largely covered in tall grass with a few stones poking through the turf along the walls. An area of bracken covers the north-east side.

Structure No: 2 (Part of NMRS No NT11SE 16.0, SMR No MDG10006)

Grid reference: NT 1530 1102

Location: Peat Hill

Class: Shieling-hut

Description: A sub-rectangular shieling hut aligned NNE to SSW is situated near the front edge of a natural shelf in the hillside. It is defined by collapsed stone walls and measures 3.5 by 7 m (Plate 4).

Condition: Low stone walls covered in bracken and rushes.

Structure No: 3 (Part of NMRS No NT11SE 16.0, SMR No MDG10006)

Grid reference: NT 1532 1105

Location: Peat Hill

Class: Shieling-hut

Description: A sub-rectangular shieling hut aligned NNE to SSW is situated upslope some 20 m to the NNE of Structure No 2. It is defined by collapsed moss covered stone walls up to 0.4 m high and measures 4 by 8 m.

Condition: Low stone walls covered in bracken.

Structure No: 4 (Part of NMRS No NT11SE 16.0, SMR No MDG10006)

Grid reference: NT 1532 1107

Location: Peat Hill

Class: Shieling-hut

Description: A sub-rectangular shieling hut aligned NNE to SSW is situated to the NE of Structure No 3. It is defined by collapsed stone walls spread to 1.1 m wide and measures 2 by 5.5 m internally.

Condition: Low stone walls covered in bracken.

Structure No: 5 (Part of NMRS No NT11SE 16.0, SMR No MDG10006)

Grid reference: NT 1534 1108

Location: Peat Hill

Class: Shieling-hut

Description: A sub-rectangular shieling hut aligned NNE to SSW is situated to the NE of Structure No 3. It is defined by collapsed stone walls spread to 1 m wide, 0.3 m high and measures 2 by 7 m internally.

Condition: Low stone walls covered in bracken.

Structure No: 6 (Part of NMRS No NT11SE 16.0, SMR No MDG10006)

Grid reference: NT 1534 1109

Location: Peat Hill

Class: Enclosure

Description: A small rectangular enclosure built up against big boulders upslope to the NW. The wall comprises large stone and is spread to 1.5 m wide. The interior comprises level ground.

Condition: Low discontinuous stone walls covered in bracken.

Structure No: 7 (Part of NMRS No NT11SE 16.0, SMR No MDG10006)

Grid reference: NT 1527 1116

Location: Peat Hill

Class: Shieling-hut

Description: A sub-rectangular shieling hut aligned NE to SW is situated upslope some 100 m to the NE of Structures 2-6 on a grassy slope. It sits on a low platform and is defined by low stony banks 1 m wide and up to 0.2 m high. The structure measures 1.5 by 4 m internally.

Condition: Low stone walls covered in tall grass and rushes.

Structure No: 8 (Same as NMRS No NT11SE 16.4, SMR No MDG10010)

Grid reference: NT 1545 1130

Location: Peat Hill

Class: Enclosure

Description: A small D-shaped enclosure is situated at the front edge of a natural terrace in the hillside. It is defined by collapsed stone walls that run up to the edge of the terrace. The enclosure measures some 4 m by 6 m (Plate 1).

Condition: Low stone walls covered in tall grass and rushes

Structure No: 9 (Same as NMRS No NT11SE 16.5, SMR No MDG10011)

Grid reference: NT 1545 1107

Location: Peat Hill

Class: Enclosure/building

Description: Located at the back of a terrace, there are the remains of an elongated stone-walled structure. It is aligned NE to SW and measures 3.8 by 10m (Plate 5).

Condition: Collapsed stone walls partly covered in bracken.

Structure No: 10 (Same as NMRS No NT11SE 16.6, SMR No MDG10012)

Grid reference: NT 1545 1104

Location: Peat Hill

Class: Sheepfold

Description: Some 15 m to the S of Structure No 9, there is a well-preserved D-shaped sheepfold with walls up to 1.4m high. The sheepfold measures 7.1 by 7.6 m (Plate 5).

Condition: Partly collapsed stone walls.

Structure No: 11 (Part of NMRS No NT11SE 16.0, SMR No MDG10006)

Grid reference: NT 1542 1100

Location: Peat Hill

Class: Sheepfold

Description: Some 50 m to the SW of Structure 10, there is a second stone-built sheepfold. It is sub-circular in plan and some 8 m in diameter (Plate 6).

Condition: Partly collapsed stone walls covered in bracken.

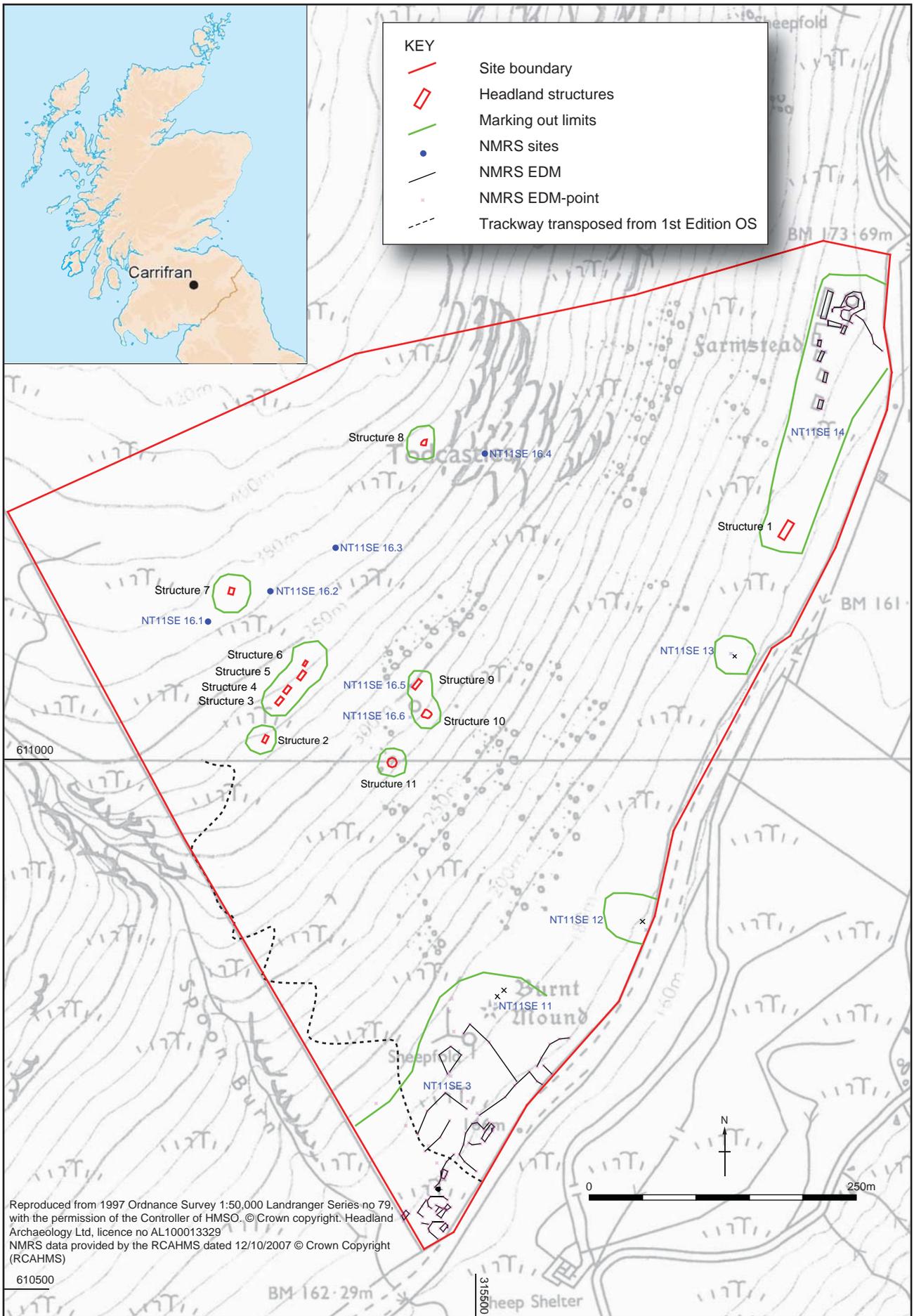


Figure 1: CWM07 - Carrifran Wildwood marking out survey.



Plate 1. Carrifran Wildwood, Structure 8: D-shaped enclosure on front edge of terrace. From NW



Plate 2. Carrifran Wildwood, Structure 1: Rectangular building. From W



Plate 3. Carrifran Wildwood, NMRS sites NT11SE 3 and 11. Farmstead, burnt mound and sheepfold. From NW



Plate 4. Carrifran Wildwood, Structure 2: Shieling hut. From W



Plate 5. Carrifran Wildwood, Structures 9 and 10: Building and sheepfold. From N



Plate 6. Carrifran Wildwood, Structure 11: Sheepfold. From NW

APPENDIX 1 – Photo register

Photo no.	File name	From	Details
1	CWM07-Plate 1.JPG	NW	Structure 8: D-shaped enclosure on front edge of terrace
2	CWM07-Plate 2.JPG	W	Structure 1: Rectangular building
3	CWM07-Plate 3.JPG	NW	NMRS sites NT11SE 3 and 11. Farmstead, burnt mound and sheepfold
4	CWM07-Plate 4.JPG	W	Structure 2: Shieling hut
5	CWM07-Plate 5.JPG	N	Structures 9 and 10: Building and sheepfold
6	CWM07-Plate 6.JPG	NW	Structure 11: Sheepfold

APPENDIX 2 – DES entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Dumfries and Galloway
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Carrifran Wildwood, Dumfries and Galloway
PROJECT CODE:	CWM07
PARISH:	Moffat
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Magnar Dalland
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Marking out survey
NMRS NO(S):	NT11SE 3, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Farmstead, enclosures, shieling huts, burnt mounds, sheepfolds
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 1550 1100 (site centre)
START DATE (this season)	9th October 2007
END DATE (this season)	9th October 2007
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Halliday S 1999 Carrifran Valley, Moffatdale DES 1999 p24
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>A marking out survey was carried out over a triangular area of some 41 ha on the south-east facing slopes of Peat Hill at Carrifran, Dumfries and Galloway. The survey was carried out in advance of tree planting as part of the Carrifran Wildwood Project. The first phase of the project comprised approximately 8 km² within the Carrifran Valley to the north. This area had already been planted following a pre-afforestation survey (Halliday 1999).</p> <p>There are in total six known sites or groups of sites within the current area according to the national and regional monument records. These sites include two farmsteads (NT11SE 3 and 14) and three burnt mounds (NT11SE 11, 12, 13) on the lower slopes of the hill, and a group of shielings and enclosures situated on natural shelves half way up the steep hillside (NT11SE 16).</p> <p>During the marking out survey a few structures not previously known were recorded. These include a rectangular building at the south end of the farmstead NT11SE 14 at NT 1579 1122 and a few shieling huts and enclosures within the area of NT11SE 16.</p> <p>There were indications that some of the structures within the group NT11SE 16 had been previously mapped in the wrong place.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS. Report lodged with Dumfries and Galloway SMR and NMRS.
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Borders Forest Trust
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Headland Archaeology Ltd, 13 Jane St, Edinburgh. EH6 5HE
EMAIL ADDRESS:	magnar@headlandarchaeology.com