



Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services

**Marchfield, Danevale Park, Castle Douglas
Dumfries & Galloway:
Archaeological Monitoring Works**



**by Rebecca Shaw
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1 Introduction

This report presents the findings of archaeological monitoring works required by Mr Alan Wallace, in respect of proposed development works on land at Marchfield, Danevale Park, Castle Douglas, Dumfries & Galloway (centred on NGR: NX 65020 74028) (Figure 1). The proposed works comprise: the formation of an earth banked slurry lagoon and 2m high fence (planning ref. no. 16/1118/FUL) (Figure 2).

Archaeological works were required as the proposed development area lay within the Designed Landscape of Danevale Park (HER ref. MDG25582), just to the north of the major complex of Roman forts & marching camps at Glenlochar (MDG4193) and adjacent to the A713 that some authorities suggest lies on the line of a former Roman road (MDG20979).

Given the potential to uncover sub surface remains that would be destroyed by the proposals, Dumfries & Galloway Council has required a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken as a requirement of the issued planning consent. Dumfries & Galloway Archaeology Service, who advises Dumfries & Galloway Council on archaeological matters have provided guidance on the nature of archaeological works required.

The archaeological works required comprised: monitoring of all down cutting operations associated with the proposed development. Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services was appointed to act with regard to the archaeological condition by Mr Allan Wallace.

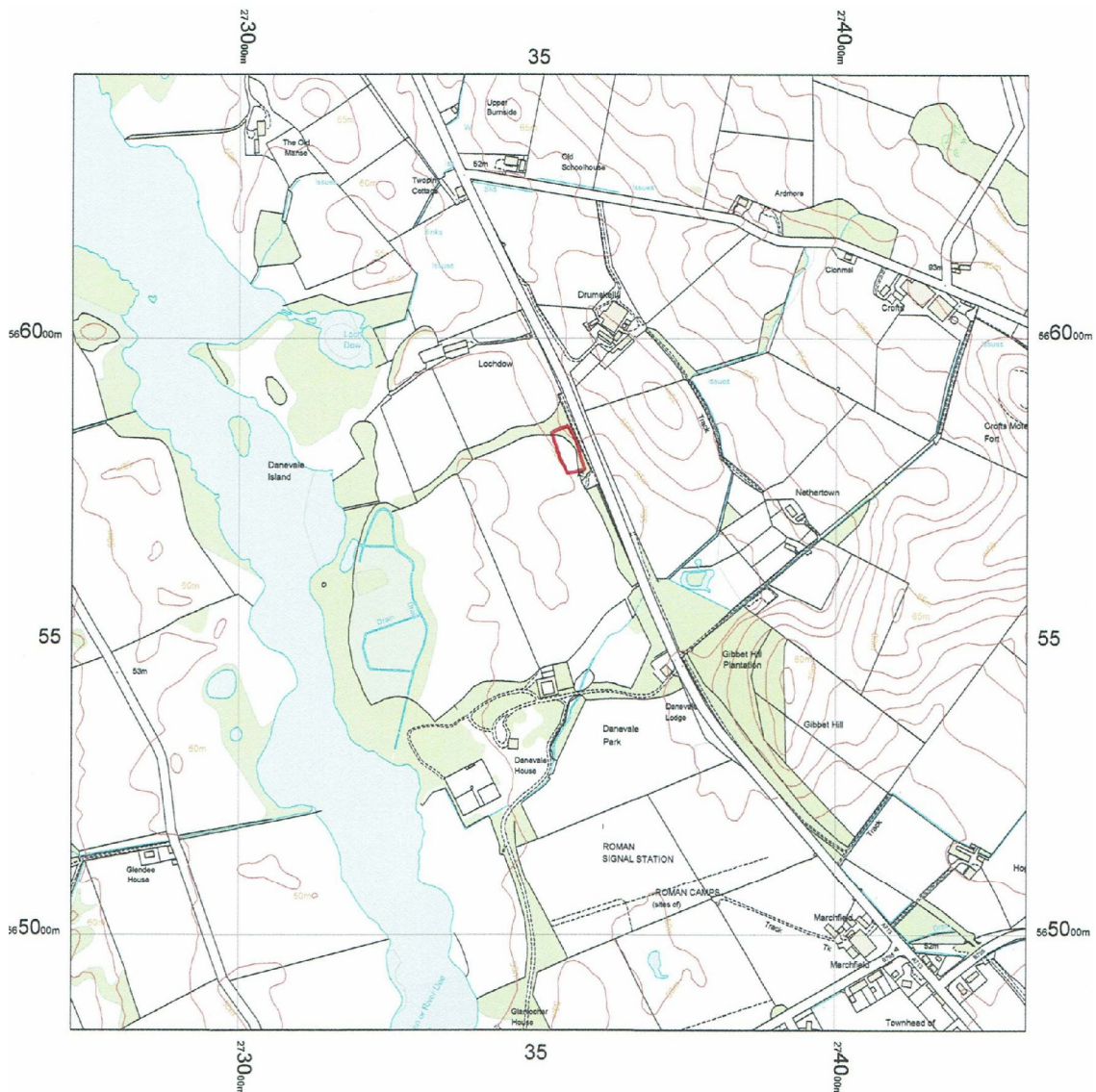


Figure 1 – location map (kindly provided by Davidson Thorburn Consulting Ltd)

2 Project Works

The archaeological monitoring works were undertaken on the 24th & 25th October 2016. The works were undertaken as agreed with Dumfries & Galloway Archaeology Service through the written scheme of investigations (Shaw, October 2016).

All works complied with the Chartered Institute for Archaeology's Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct, and Historic Environment Scotland's Policy Statements.

3 Findings

The main excavation area measured 60m in length by 48m (approx) (Figures 6 & 7a) was excavated to a depth of 300mm (approx). Along the NE edge of the site (top of slope), the topsoil comprised a mid to dark brown stony silt [101], which averaged 300mm in depth. In the SW half the topsoil mainly comprised a yellowy brown fine silt containing occasional to moderate amount of stones – averaged 300mm in depth. Along the NE edge of the site the subsoil varied between an orangey brown gravelly silt with frequent sub-rounded stones [104] and a reddish orange silt containing occasional stones [105] (Figure 4b). The subsoil in the SW half mainly comprised a reddish orange gravelly silt [106] (Figure 4c & 7b) – the central area of the site was very stony (became less stony and more silty as the excavations progressed downslope).

The remains of a turf & stone bank [103] measuring roughly 3.5m in width & 0.60m in height was noted, aligned SE / NW across the site (Figure 5a) – at the SE end of the bank (where there were existing trees) there was a dark brownish black organic-like soil [107].

4 Discussion

Early cartographic sources indicated the proposed development area was on the edge of the grounds of Danevale Park – the parameters of which were defined by tree boundaries (Figure 3b). Assessment of available historical background sources indicated there was potential to uncover remains dating to the Roman period.

The excavations revealed a clean but stony topsoil [101] [102] above an orangey brown [104] / reddish orange [106] gravelly silt or a reddish orange silt [105]. The topsoil was relatively shallow, averaging only 300mm in depth. In general the site was fairly stony only becoming slightly more silty towards the base of the slope.

The stone & turf bank [103] (Figure 4b), visible within the NE half of the site, appears to be the denuded remains of part of one of the tree boundaries depicted on 1st edition mapping (Figure 3b) along the edge of Danevale Park.

5 Conclusion

A programme of archaeological works was undertaken on the 24th & 25th October 2016 in respect of proposed development works on land at Marchfield, Danevale Park, Castle Douglas, Dumfries & Galloway (NGR: NX 65020 74028). The works comprised the formation of an earth banked slurry lagoon and 2m high fence.

In general the archaeological works indicated a fairly clean stony topsoil above a mainly gravelly subsoil. A stone & turf bank representing part of a tree boundary pertaining to Danevale Park was recorded within the NE half of the site. No significant archaeological deposits or remains were identified during the course of the monitoring works.

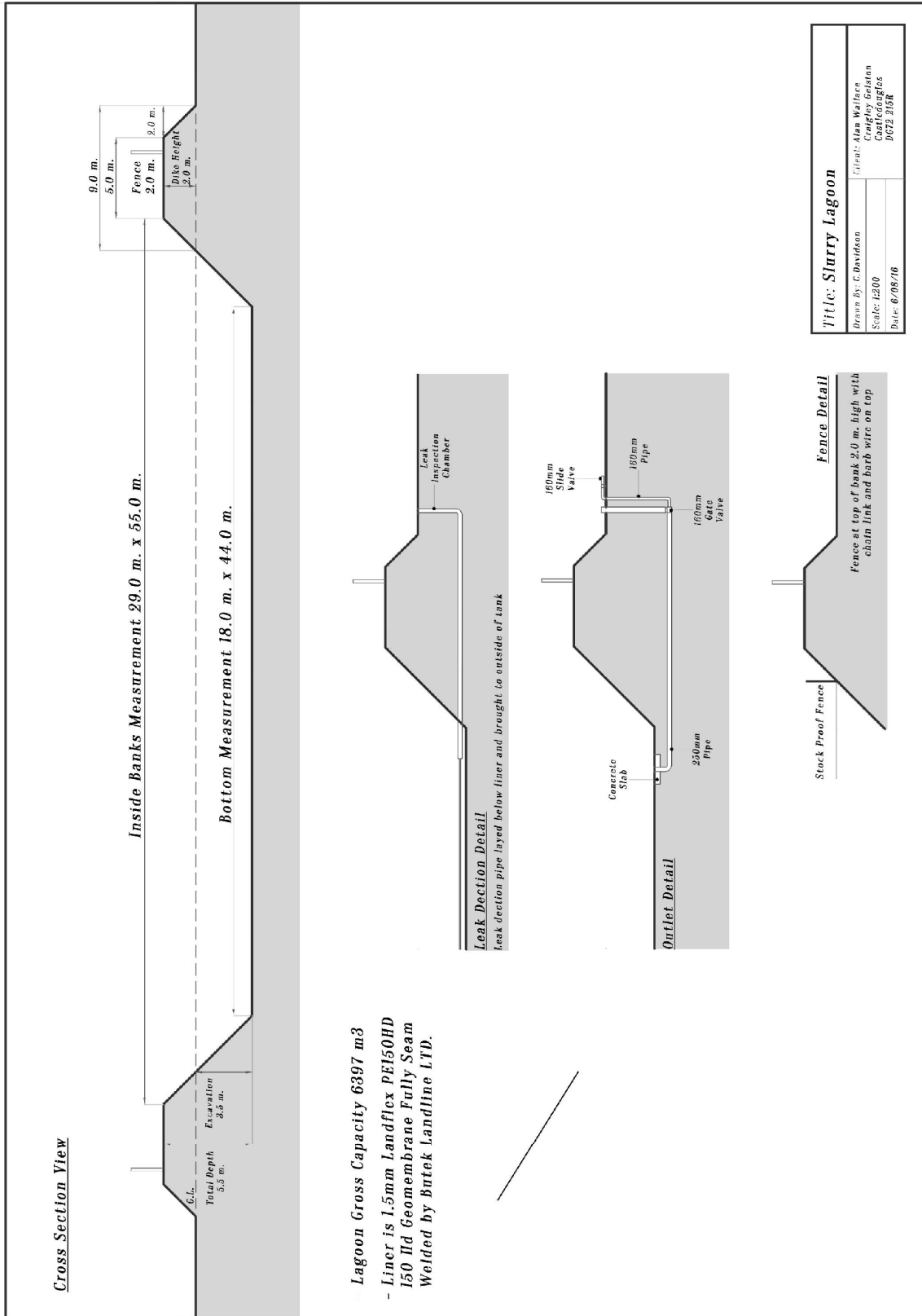


Figure 2 – cross section through proposed slurry lagoon (kindly provided by Davidson Thorburn Consulting Ltd)



Figure 3a – Military Survey of Scotland (Roy) (1747-55) © National Map Library of Scotland

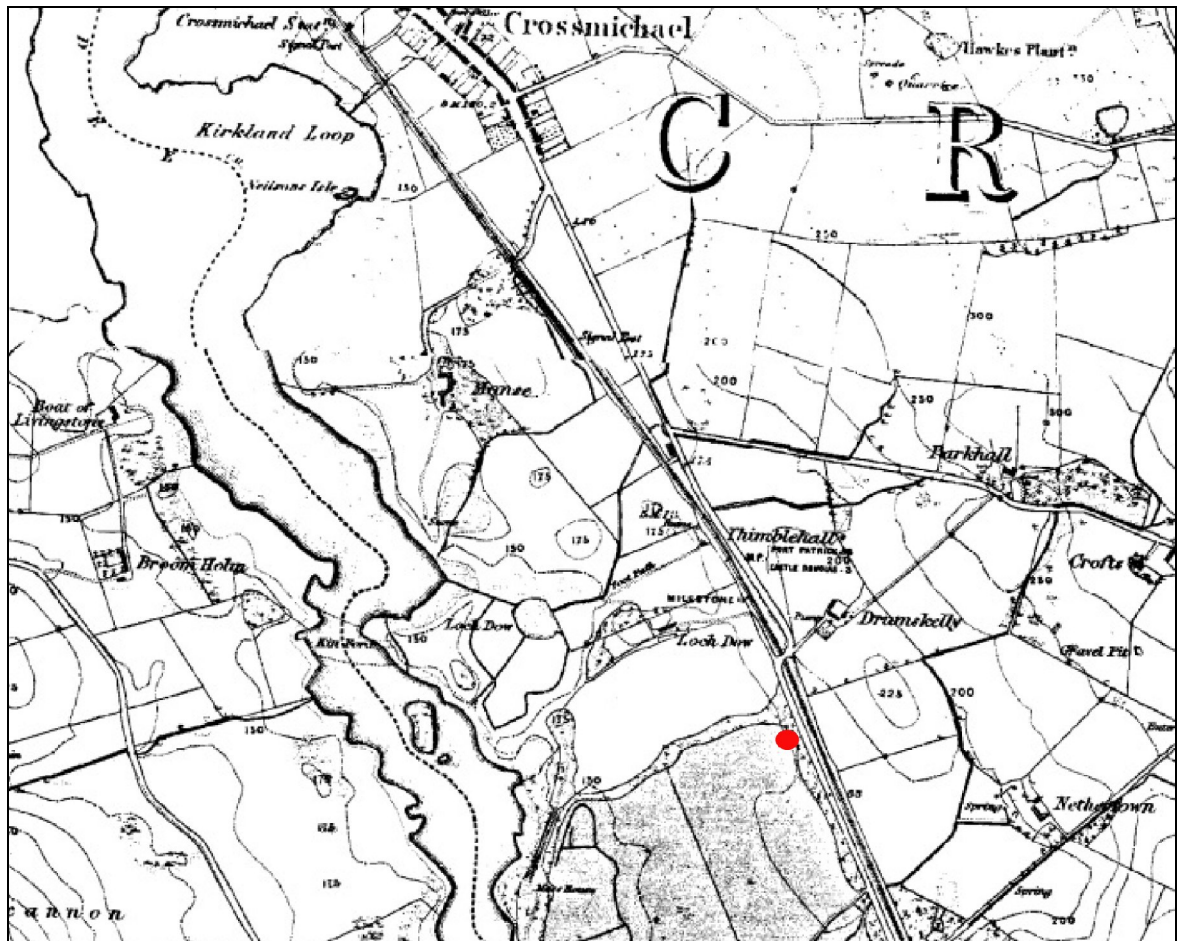


Figure 3b – 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1852-54) (1:10,560) © Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group – not to be reproduced without permission - 721945343



Figure 4a – general pre-ex image of site



Figure 4b – general post-ex of site (from N)



Figure 4c – general post-ex (from W)



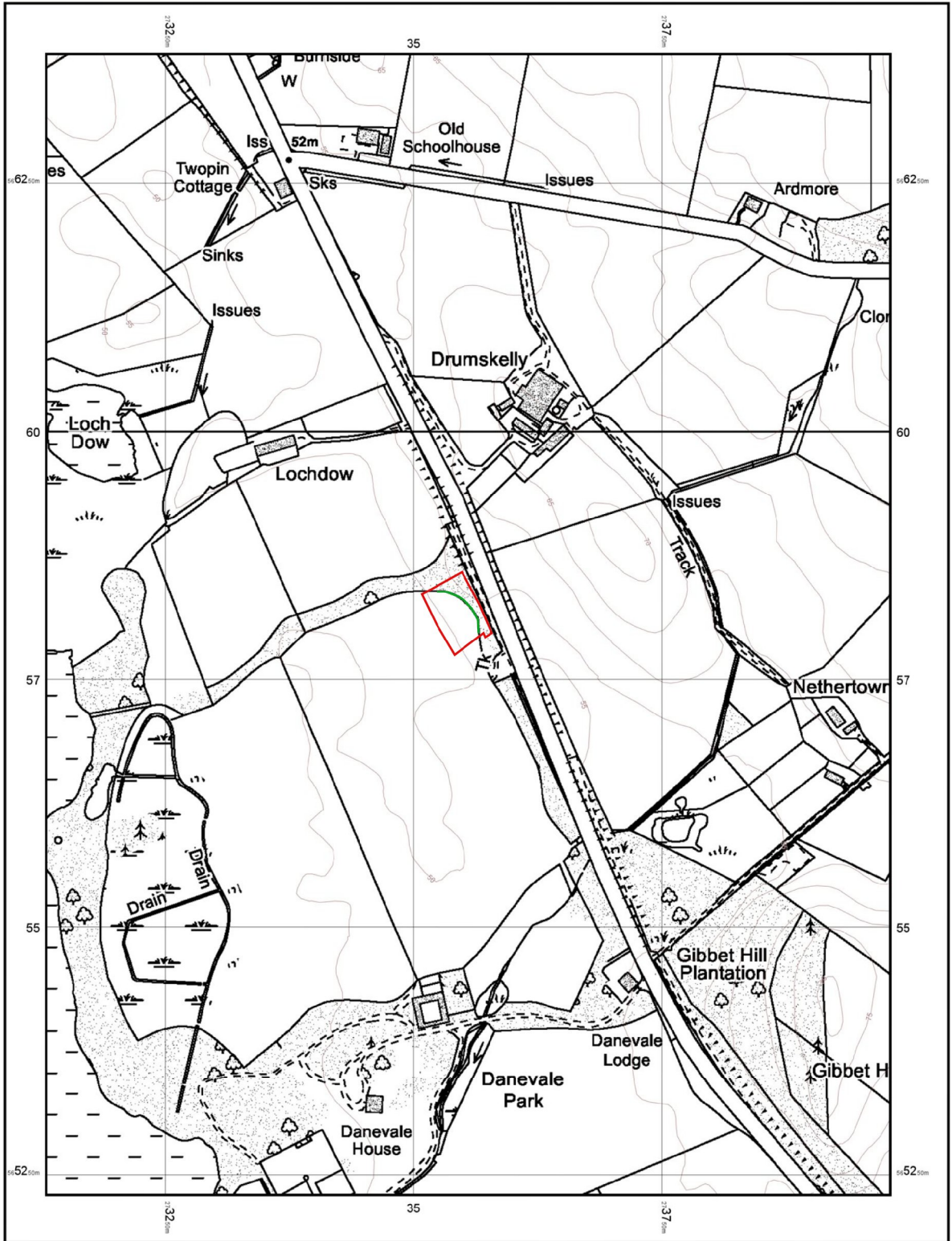
Figure 5a – remains of turf & stone bank [103]



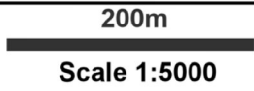
Figure 5b – in-situ bank [103] at SE end



Marchfield



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Figure 6 – map showing post-ex plan of site

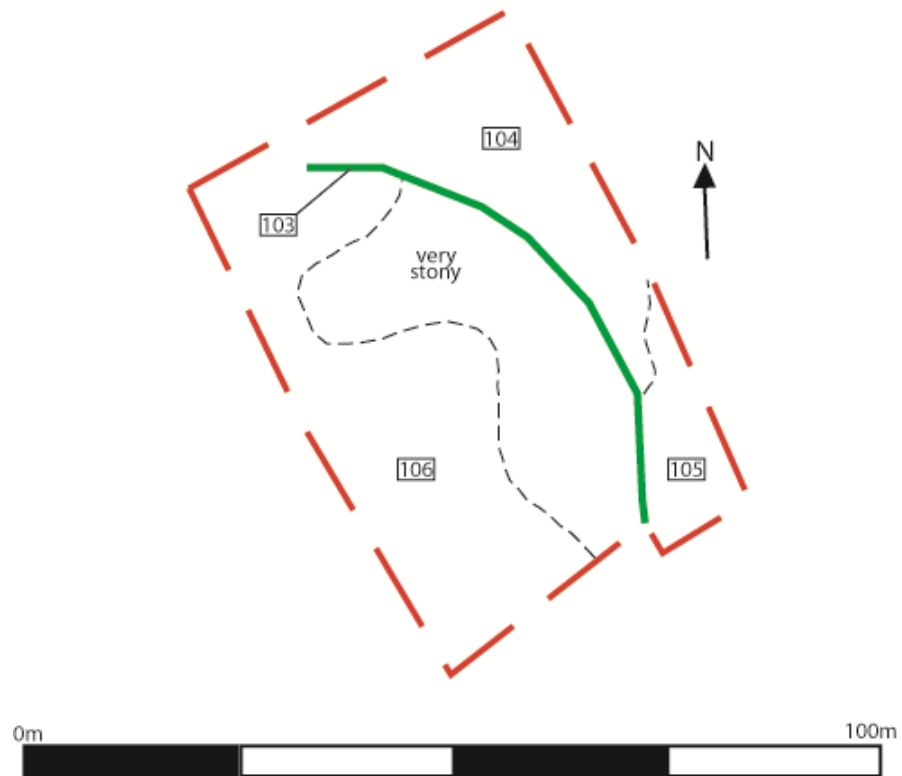


Figure 7a – detail of post-ex plan of site



Figure 7b – post-ex image of site (from S)

References

<i>Documentary</i> SOEn	2010	Scottish Planning Policy (SPP). <i>Archaeology</i> , Scottish Office Environmental Department.
SOEn	2011	<i>PAN 2/2011</i> , Planning & Archaeology Scottish Office Environmental Department.
HES	2016	Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement June 2016
Shaw R	2016	Marchfield, Danevale Park, Castle Douglas Dumfries & Galloway. <i>Unpublished Written Scheme of Investigation</i>
<i>Cartographic</i> Roy	1747-55	Military Survey Map of Scotland
Ordnance Survey	1852-54	1 st Edition Ordnance Survey Map Kirkcudbrightshire (1: 10,560)

Appendix 1: Record Summaries

Context Summaries

No.	Interpretation	Description
101	Topsoil	Mid to dark brown stony silt, averages 300mm in depth
102	Topsoil	Yellowy brown fine silt containing occasional to moderate amount of stones, averages 300mm in depth
103	Bank / boundary	Stone & turf bank measuring upto 3.5m in width and 0.60m in height – trees still in-situ either end of the bank
104	Subsoil	Orangey brown stony / gravelly silt with frequent stones (mostly sub-rounded)
105	Subsoil	Reddish orange silt containing occasional to moderate amount of small stones
106	Subsoil	Reddish orange gravelly silt
107	Topsoil	Brownish black organic-like soil

Photographic Record

No.	Disc No.	Image No.	Description	From	Date
1	1	1	General pre-ex	SSE	24.10.16
2	1	2	General post-ex	S	25.10.16
3	1	3	General post-ex	S	25.10.16
4	1	4	General post-ex	N	25.10.16
5	1	5	General post-ex	N	25.10.16
6	1	6	Remains of stony bank [103]	W	25.10.16
7	1	7	General post-ex	W	25.10.16
8	1	8	Stone bank	WSW	25.10.16

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Dumfries & Galloway Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Marchfield, Danevale Park, Castle Douglas
PARISH:	Crossmichael
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Rebecca
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological monitoring works
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None

Data Structure Report - Marchfield, Danevale Park, Castle Douglas

SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR:	NX 65020 74028
START DATE (this season)	24 th October 2016
END DATE (this season)	25 th October 2016
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
DESCRIPTION:	<p>A programme of archaeological works was undertaken on the 24th & 25th October 2016 in respect of proposed development works on land at Marchfield, Danevale Park, Castle Douglas, Dumfries & Galloway (NGR: NX 65020 74028). The works comprised the formation of an earth banked slurry lagoon and 2m high fence.</p> <p>In general the archaeological works indicated a fairly clean stony topsoil above a mainly gravelly subsoil. A stone & turf bank representing part of a tree boundary pertaining to Danevale Park was recorded within the NE half of the site. No significant archaeological deposits or remains were identified during the course of the monitoring works.</p>
PROJECT CODE:	016034
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr Allan Wallace
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	1780 Great Western Road Anniesland Glasgow G13 2TL
E MAIL:	rebeccashaw@archaeologist.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended)	Report to Dumfries & Galloway Archaeology Service Historic Environment Record and archive to Historic Environment Scotland Archives.

Contact Details

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