

Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services

Lochenkit Farm (Auchenhay Track) Castle Douglas, Dumfries & Galloway: Archaeological Works



by Rebecca Shaw 28th October 2019

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Report - Lockenkit Farm (Auchenhay Track)

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1 Introduction

This short report presents the findings of archaeological works undertaken in respect of proposed works at Lockenkit Farm, Castle Douglas, Dumfries & Galloway (NGR: NX 77954 77756) (Figure 1). The proposed works comprise the construction of a 750m agricultural track from Lockenkit Farm to Auchenhay Farm (planning application no. 19/1316/DPA) (Figure 2).

There were archaeological concerns as a section of the proposed track (east of the ford and upto the existing track) will possibly be constructed on, or adjacent to, an early road between Shawhead Village and Balmaclellan Village. This road which is depicted on maps / plans dating to 1700 (Figure 5b) is visible on aerial photographs as an earthworks or a slightly sunken way.

As the proposals will involved ground disturbance which may affect possible archaeological remains Dumfries & Galloway Council Archaeology Service requested an initial walkover survey at the eastern end of the track. The results of the walkover survey would determine if further archaeological monitoring works were required during ground cutting works in the affected area (Figure 3).

2 Findings

The area that was subject to an archaeological walkover survey (Figures 3 & 5a) contained no visible remains of the track visible on 1700 mapping. Although possible earthworks / slightly sunken way were observed on aerial photographs, it is likely that these features represent variations in the rushes & bog myrtle as well as hollows caused by flooding or routes forged by water from the upper slopes.

At the approx location of the ford, a spread of stones on the northern bank probably locates (Figure 4a) where carts / horses crossed. However, the crossing point was less definitive on the southern bank (Figure 4b)

3 Conclusion

The area that was subject to an archaeological walkover survey (Figures 3 & 5a) contained no visible archaeological remains and therefore it is concluded that archaeological monitoring works during down cutting works is not required.

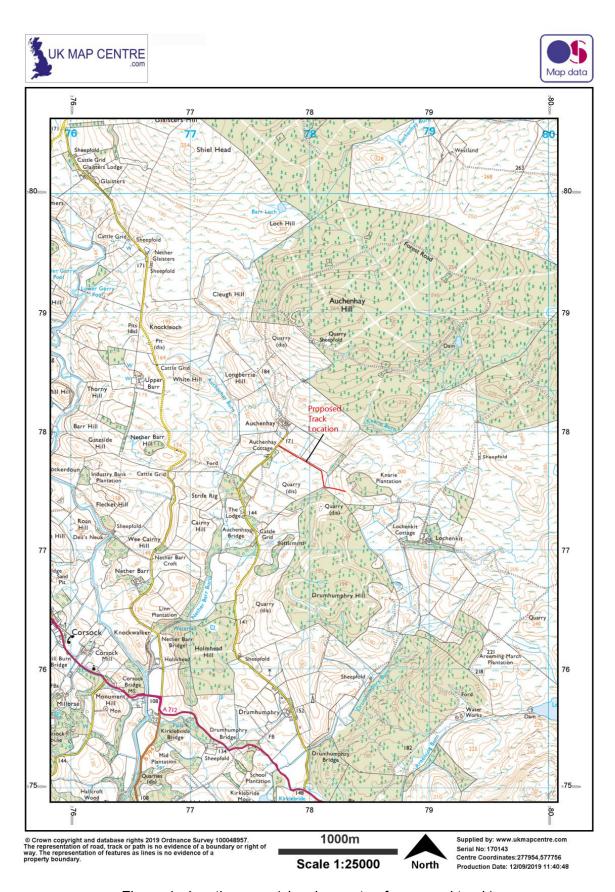


Figure 1 - location map (showing route of proposed track)

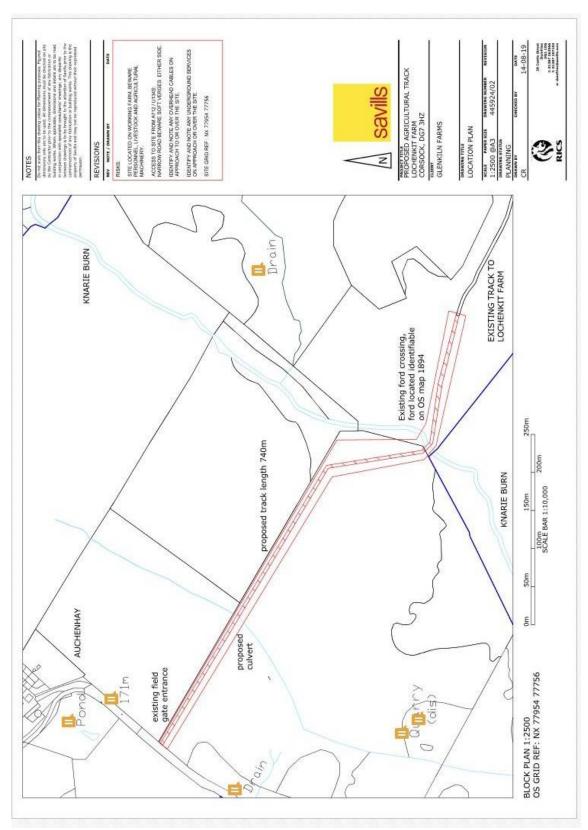


Figure 2 - block plan showing the route of the proposed track (kindly provided by Savills)

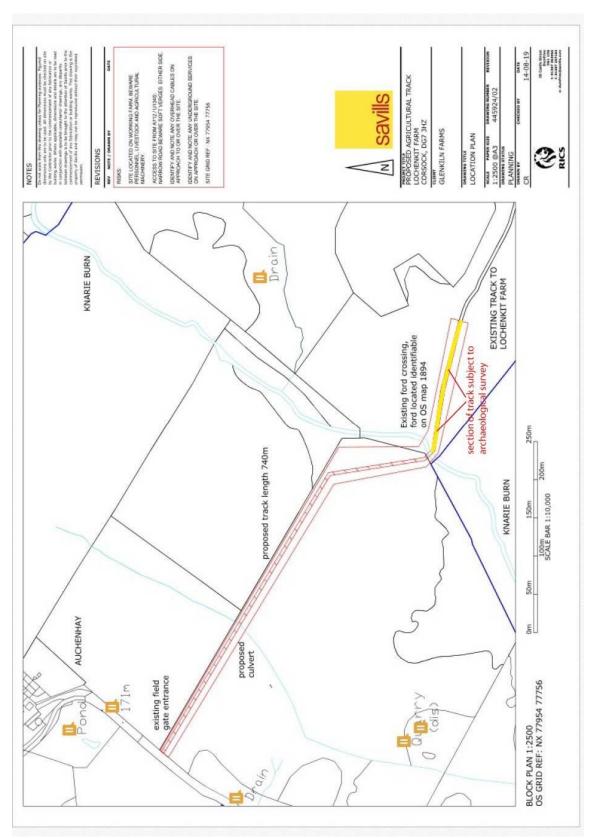


Figure 3 - block plan showing area subject to archaeological survey (highlighted in yellow)



Figure 4a – general at ford (from W)



Figure 4b – general at ford (from NE)



Figure 5a - general of area subject to walkover survey (from E)

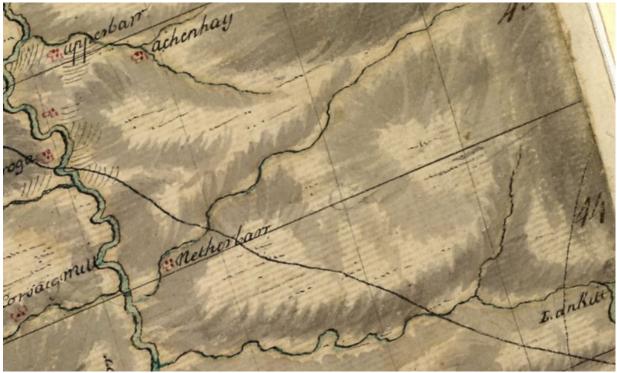


Figure 5b – Roys Military Survey Map of Scotland (1747-55) (c) National Map Library of Scotland

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