

**Eastside Farm, Pentlands:
Historic Environment Assessment & Survey
Appraisal**



by Louise Turner
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on behalf of SAC Consulting

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Executive Summary

1. A historic environment assessment was required by SAC Consulting to inform a proposed planting scheme near Penicuik, Midlothian. A desk-based assessment and walkover survey was designed to establish a sound baseline on the historic environment within the landholding and to make recommendations on its management. The findings of the assessment and survey are presented in this report.
2. Three historic environment sites were identified within the assessment area and are considered within this report. These comprise: two circular sheepfolds (**S1** and **S2**) and a complex rectangular sheepfold **S3**. All three of these sites are likely to be of late 18th or 19th century origin. A fourth historic environment site, although lying outwith the assessment area, lay immediately adjacent and is hence included in the study. This was a trackway, **S4**, which is thought to have medieval origins, on account of the early medieval cross-base (Canmore ID: 50169; Midlothian HER: 8689) located in close proximity to the route on Monks Rig.
3. Based on the evidence gathered for this assessment, positive management has been recommended to safeguard elements of sites **S1** to **S4**.

Introduction

4. A historic environment assessment and survey was required by SAC Consulting to inform a programme of tree planting across three compartments of land located within the Pentland Hills, to the NW of Penicuik, Midlothian. These works were designed to inform on the nature, form and extent of any historic environment assets present within the defined area, based on archival sources and site inspection through the walkover survey. From this baseline, management guidelines are presented that seek to protect significant sites in an appropriate setting.
5. This report has been prepared to support SAC Consulting to address UKFS Historic Environment Guidelines (2011), specifically Good Forestry Practice Requirements 1 to 4.

Topographic and Geological Background

6. The assessment area comprised 40.7 hectares of land for planting, divided into three compartments. The first and largest compartment comprised a 38.74 block which followed the line of the Monks Burn, running N- S and incorporating the lowermost slopes of Monks Rig and Scroggy Hill to the E. The second compartment comprised a short stretch of the valley of the Logan Burn, where it flows between the lower slopes of Hare Hill in the N and East Kip in the S, while the third encompasses part of the valley through which an unnamed burn flows S from the ridge which joins East Kip and Scald Law, to its confluence with the Logan Burn at Lover's Loup in the N. The terrain throughout was characterised by steeply sloping valleys with some rocky gorges present; the vegetation dominated by rough grass and bracken. All three compartments occupied on high ground, typically sitting at an elevation of around 375m OD.

Project Works

7. The programme of works comprised a desk-based assessment and walkover survey.
8. The desk-based assessment consulted resources within:
 - ❖ Historic Environment Scotland (HES) Collections (including Canmore & the National Collection of Aerial Photography (NCAP));
 - ❖ Midlothian Council Historic Environment Record (known archaeological sites);
 - ❖ HES records (Scheduled Monuments and other designations);
 - ❖ National Library of Scotland (bibliographic records, historic Ordnance Survey and pre-Ordnance Survey mapping); and
 - ❖ Local museums, libraries and other archives (Old & New Statistical Accounts, local history books).

9. The walkover survey comprised:
- ❖ classification of the archaeological sites and monuments;
 - ❖ written site description (objective measured description; subjective site interpretation; site condition; site evaluation [using FES categorisation guidelines]; and management recommendations if appropriate);
 - ❖ photographic record (digital) of all sites; and
 - ❖ locating all archaeological site limits and elements by DGPS equipment (Leica GS50) allowing real-time correction to Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum.
10. All works complied with the UKFS Standard Guidelines, the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statements.

Historic Environment Baseline

11. The desk based assessment identified three sites within the assessment area, neither of which were protected by historic environment designation. Two are located in Compartment 1 and the third in Compartment 3. A fourth site, which lay immediately adjacent to the eastern boundary of Compartment 1, has also been included in the study for management purposes.

Prehistoric Land use

12. No known prehistoric sites have been identified within the assessment area, or in its immediate vicinity. Further afield, evidence for occupation and land use during this period does occur, but any visible remains seem to be located at a lower elevation in the landscape, typically occurring at 350m OD or lower. Activity during the Bronze Age has been attested by the discovery of a burnt mound at Pillar Knowe (Canmore ID 81157; Midlothian HER: 8688) – these enigmatic sites typically comprise a pile of heat-cracked stones associated with a stone-lined trough – and a possible standing stone, again at Pillar Knowe (Canmore ID 50157; Midlothian HER: 8004). It is likely that during the Bronze Age, those who lived in the wider area used the Pentland Hills for hunting or even seasonal grazing, but no evidence for domestic sites or ritual activities is present. This non-intensive use of the higher ground appears to have continued throughout the Iron Age: here we have evidence of settlement in lower ground closer to modern Penicuik, to the SW of Compartment 1. This takes the form of an enclosed settlement and roundhouse at Braidwood (Canmore ID: 50152; Midlothian HER: 7999).

Roman Occupation

13. No physical remains relating to Roman occupation of the area have been identified within the assessment area. Roman activity is, however, attested in the wider locale, but again this is restricted to the lower ground in the S. Here we see the course of an alleged Roman road to the S of Compartments 2 and 3, and a Roman military site – the temporary camp at Carlops (Canmore ID 50170; Midlothian HER 8012) - lies to the SW of Compartment 1. Again, we can envisage non-intensive landuse of our assessment area in this period, perhaps comprising hunting and seasonal grazing, but this has left no identifiable physical remains in an area where land use has been carried out at an extremely low intensity until the present.

Early Historic and Medieval Periods

14. There is no evidence for occupation or agricultural use within the assessment area during either the early historic or medieval periods. There is, however, a medieval cross base (Canmore ID: 50169; Midlothian HER: 8011), known locally as the 'Font Stone,' located next to a trackway which runs roughly N-S on a line which runs almost immediately adjacent to the eastern edge of Compartment 1. This trackway is known as the 'Monk's Road,' and its line runs over the lower eastern slopes of a hill known as 'Monk's Rig' (formerly 'Monk's Ridge.'). Records suggest that in 1808, the carved stone head of a cross – which presumably belonged to the cross-base which still survives on Monk's Rig – was

found at the foot of the hill.

15. A second possible cross base or socket stone, identified at a site named 'Cross Sward' which lies S of Compartments 2 and 3 (Canmore ID: 50373), further suggests a medieval presence in the wider area. The ecclesiastical link supported by the presence of these crosses is further bolstered by the place name 'Spittal Farm,' which suggests that a medieval hostel or hospital once operated in the area. This would have been run by members of a monastic foundation.
16. Documentary sources state that even by the 1840s, the Pentland Hills were useful only for grazing sheep, and it is inferred in the New Statistical Account (Moncrieff 1845, 30) that the hills would have been used for pasturing sheep by monks attached to the Abbey of Holyrood. This is certainly possible, and it is equally plausible that the N-S route **S4** crossing the Pentland Hills which survives to this day as the 'Monk's Road' had been established by the medieval period, if not earlier. The presence of standing stone crosses might infer that the route might have enjoyed some kind of a role as a pilgrims route, but no further information is available which might confirm whether or not this was the case: perhaps instead the crosses were set up as wayside markers on a long-established route which covered extensive tracts monastic lands; the presence of a chapel recorded near the Logan Water on historic mapping would also suggest a need for waymarkers in this location. Local traditions recall (Montcrieff 1845) that even during the 19th century, those crossing the Pentlands via the old Monk's Road could seek accommodation at Spittal Farm if they found themselves in difficulty, which would support the monastic connection implied by the place name. Some doubt is, however, cast on this possibility by the fact that the route is neither shown nor named on Roy's Military Survey of 1752-5, which would suggest it was not a recognised route in regular use at that time.
17. Further support for the monastic connection is, however, provided by a relative absence of medieval secular sites in the vicinity of the assessment area. One site is noted, Bavelaw Castle (Canmore ID: 50375): located some 2km to the NW of Compartments 2 and 3, this 17th century fortified house is reported to have been a hunting lodge used by Mary Queen of Scots and James VI (later James I of Great Britain). The late date of the building, and its accompanying traditions, might for example suggest that the wider area had ceased to be a monastic holding by the post-Reformation period, moving instead into secular control and potentially forming part of the Lordship of Balmerino, which was a title granted to a particular favourite of James VI, James Elphinstone.

The Post-Medieval and Later Periods

18. Lying within the County of Edinburgh, the Pentland Hills are well-served in terms of historic mapping from the 1750s onwards, and this allows us a detailed understanding of how land use changed and the landscape evolved during the modern period. The first of these recognisably modern maps is provided by Roy's Military Survey of 1752-55 (Figure 1a), which shows the assessment area as a tract of uncultivated hilly ground with named hills and depictions of watercourses which allow reasonably close comparison with the modern landscape. At this time, our assessment areas show no evidence for use or occupation: in the wider environs, the settlement pattern in the lower ground, to the S of Compartment 1, is beginning to resemble the distribution of farms that we see today. In the higher ground, however, the line of the Logan Water is still devoid of settlement: only Logan House is present, towards the eastern end and lying well beyond Compartments 2 and 3 of our assessment area. It is also perhaps worthy of note that no routes are depicted crossing the Pentland Hills from S to N in the vicinity of the watercourse we now know as Monk's Burn.
19. The absence of a route on Roy's map cast some doubt as to the medieval origins of the 'Monk's Road,' but it may also be the case that the track was deemed too small and insignificant to be shown as a proper 'road' on Roy's Survey. Certainly, the Statistical Account of the Parish of Penicuik of 1794, makes reference both to the 'Font Stone,' and 'the old track leading over the side of these hills' (McCourty 1794, 420), which suggests that the pathway, and its monastic associations, are long-established local traditions by this time, and hence they must have been known in Roy's time, too.

20. Knox's map of 1812 (Figure 1b) is the first to show a N-S running route over the Pentland Hills in the vicinity of Monk's Rig, but this does not follow a line consistent with the modern path, instead following a route which more closely matches another track which swings eastwards and skirts the summit of 'Broad Law,' now known as Braid Law. Knox's map also shows the first settlement established at the W end of the Logan Water, a small rectangular structure shown on the S bank of the burn near Hare Hill.
21. Neither Knox's map of 1812 nor the later 1828 map surveyed by Sharp, Greenwood and Fowler (Figure 2a) are helpful with regards to locating this settlement more accurately in the modern landscape. The later map now names the structure 'Harehill:' we can assume it represents a small farming venture typical of those which proliferated in the era of improvement, when enterprising landowners and tenant farmers were keen to try and coax money out of even the most challenging landholdings using the new techniques and methods being pioneered by progressive agriculturalists. Harehill is itself shown as connected to the wider network of tracks which head east around Broad Law before heading up into the Pentland Hills. Logan House is shown now as ruinous, and another site is shown on the N bank of the Logan Water, a 'Chapel' which occupies the site of the structure we now know on modern mapping as 'Howlet's House.' The presence of this chapel supports the possibility that there was indeed a medieval routeway linking the chapel on the Logan Water with the valley below. In this scenario, we can envisage that the cross-bases at Cross Sward and the Font Stone represent the remains of wayside crosses which marked out the route for travellers.
22. By 1834, the route of the trackway appears to have changed. It is now shown on Anderson and Hunter's 1834 map (Figure 2b) as following a course aligned more closely to the more N-S route which skirts the eastern edge of Monk's Burn. This map fails to represent the farmstead of 'Harehill,' but this may reflect a more general lack of detail on the part of the mapmaker, particularly in the upland area.
23. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1853 allows a more detailed understanding of the landscape, and this in turn allows closer comparison with our modern map editions. Compartment 1, which extends over much of the upper two-thirds of the Monk's Burn, now shows the two circular sheepfolds within the assessment area for the first time (**S1** is depicted in Figure 3a). Further N, we see a 'Ruin' depicted to the W of the unnamed burn which conjoins the Logan Water just beyond the E limits of Compartment 2. This must correspond to the early 19th century farmstead named 'Harehill,' proving that its location lay outwith the assessment area.
24. Also shown for the first time on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map is a complex of rectangular structures **S3**, located on the N edge of Compartment 3 just E of Lover's Loup. It is annotated as a 'sheepfold:' its layout supports this, comprising a rectangular structure accessed from the S by a long corridor, with another smaller structure (potentially representing a livestock pen) placed between the corridor and the main part of the structure in the SW corner. It contrasts markedly with the others which are characteristic of the area: structures like **S1** and **S2**, which tend to be circular in shape and very simple in character. These circular sheepfolds were regular features on the sheepwalks, providing shelter for the sheep in adverse weather, while the more complex **S3** would have been used for stock management, during activities such as lambing or shearing.
25. Throughout the wider area, as well as within the various compartments which make up the assessment area as a whole, there is a marked emphasis on sheep-farming. This is in keeping with the observation made in the New Statistical Account of 1845, namely that the 'Pentlands are valuable only as excellent sheep walks' (Moncrieff 1845, 32). The attractive and picturesque character of the Logan Water is, however, already being noted by this time, where it is linked with the character of the Good Shepherd in Sir Walter Scott's 'The Lay of the Lost Minstrel,' and described as the 'romantic valley of the Logan Water, which divides the Pentland range, celebrated for its pastoral beauty' (Moncrieff 1845, 30).



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



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Figure 1b: Extract from Knox's Map of the Shire of Edinburgh (1812)



Figure 2a: Extract from Sharp, Greenwood and Fowler's Map of the County of Edinburgh (1816)



Figure 2b: Extract from Anderson and Hunter's Plan of the Environs of Edinburgh (1834)

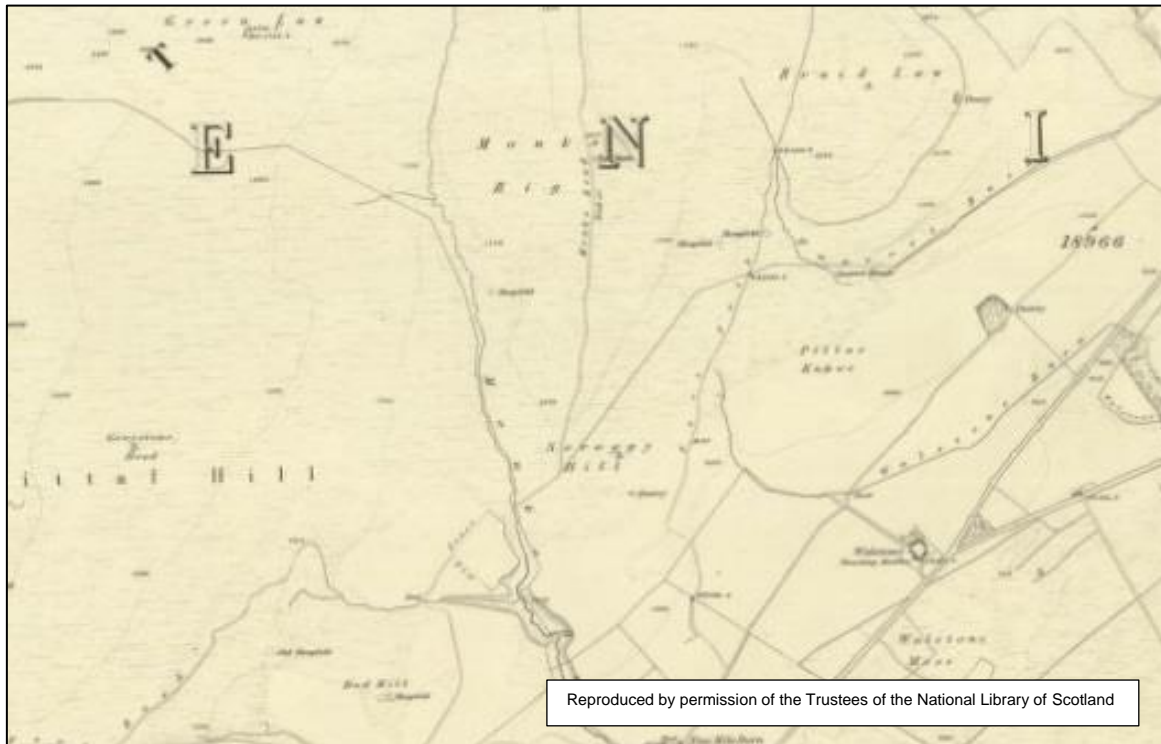


Figure 3a: 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6-inch mapping (1853), showing **S1** at S end of Compartment 1

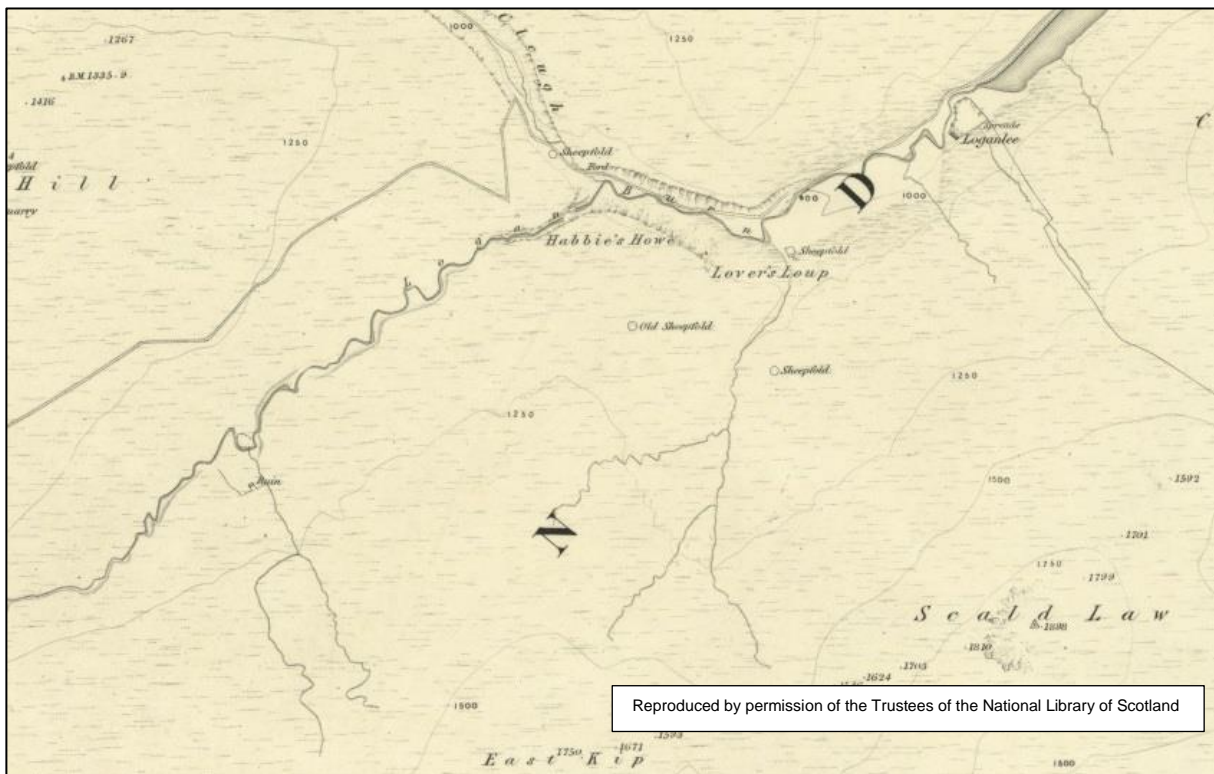


Figure 3b: 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6-inch mapping (1853), showing Compartments 2 & 3, with **S3** depicted as 'sheepfold'

26. Despite this literary association, the valley was being put to more practical use by the mid 19th century through the creation of the Loganlea Reservoir, which lies E of Compartment 3. This reservoir was one of many to be created in the Pentlands at this time: the purpose of these was to regulate the flow of the numerous burns and rivers which were being used to power the machinery for cotton mills and paper mills operating in the lower ground around Penicuik (Moncrieff 1845, 21).
27. The 2nd edition of the Ordnance Survey mapping, published 1895, shows little difference (not illustrated) and the landscape remains unchanged throughout the 20th century. The only difference evident in the wider area is the appearance of rows of grouse butts on Hare Hill and South Black Hill from the 2nd edition map onwards. This indicates that during the late 19th and early 20th century, these tracts of hills were converted into a grouse moor: during this time, the grazing of sheep probably continued in order to create an appropriate habitat for the birds to thrive.

Historic Environment Record

28. None of the sites within the study area were included either in the Midlothian Historic Environment Record (HER) or Canmore, the on-line database detailing information held in the National Record of the Historic Environment and maintained by Historic Environment Scotland. One of the sites was, however, indirectly referenced in both databases: this was the trackway, **S4**, shown on historic and modern mapping and referenced in the site record pertaining to the medieval cross-base known as the 'Font Stone' (Canmore ID: 50169; Midlothian HER: 8689).
29. The remaining three sites were located through historical mapping: these comprised circular sheepfolds **S1** and **S2**, and rectangular sheepfold **S3**.

Walkover Survey

30. The walkover survey took place on the 10th October 2018 in dry and bright conditions. The location of all sites identified by the desk assessment were inspected and a general walkover undertaken. No additional sites were located.
31. The survey of the sheepfold **S1** confirmed the presence of the structure and characterised it as comprising a circular sheepfold composed of a low grass-covered stony bank between 0.5 – 1m wide and 0.15-0.3m high (Figure 4a).
32. Sheepfold **S2** was confirmed as a circular structure surviving in a variable state of repair. In the S and SE quadrants, it remained as an upstanding wall which reached a maximum height of 1.65m in places. In the W, its extent could be traced as a low grass-covered grass 1.1m wide and 0.2m high (maximum), while in the N its line was marked by a modern post-and wire fence (Figure 4b).
33. The rectangular sheepfold, **S3**, was confirmed as a complex of rectangular structures, still extant and upstanding, with the rectangular pen in the SW corner now equipped with a corrugated iron roof supported on modern timber framework.

Management Guidance

34. The assessment identified three historical environment sites which either lay entirely or partly within the Eastside Farm forestry assessment area, and a fourth site which was in close proximity to the boundary of the assessment area over some of its extent. Not all sites are of equal merit or have equal potential to contribute to our 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.
35. 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 2). This is informed by UKFS HE Guidelines, FES Guidance and FCS Guidance – in particular *Managing the historic environment case study: Archaeological survey and woodland establishment on Ulva*. This case study deals with the approaches for forest design within ground rich in relict field systems.

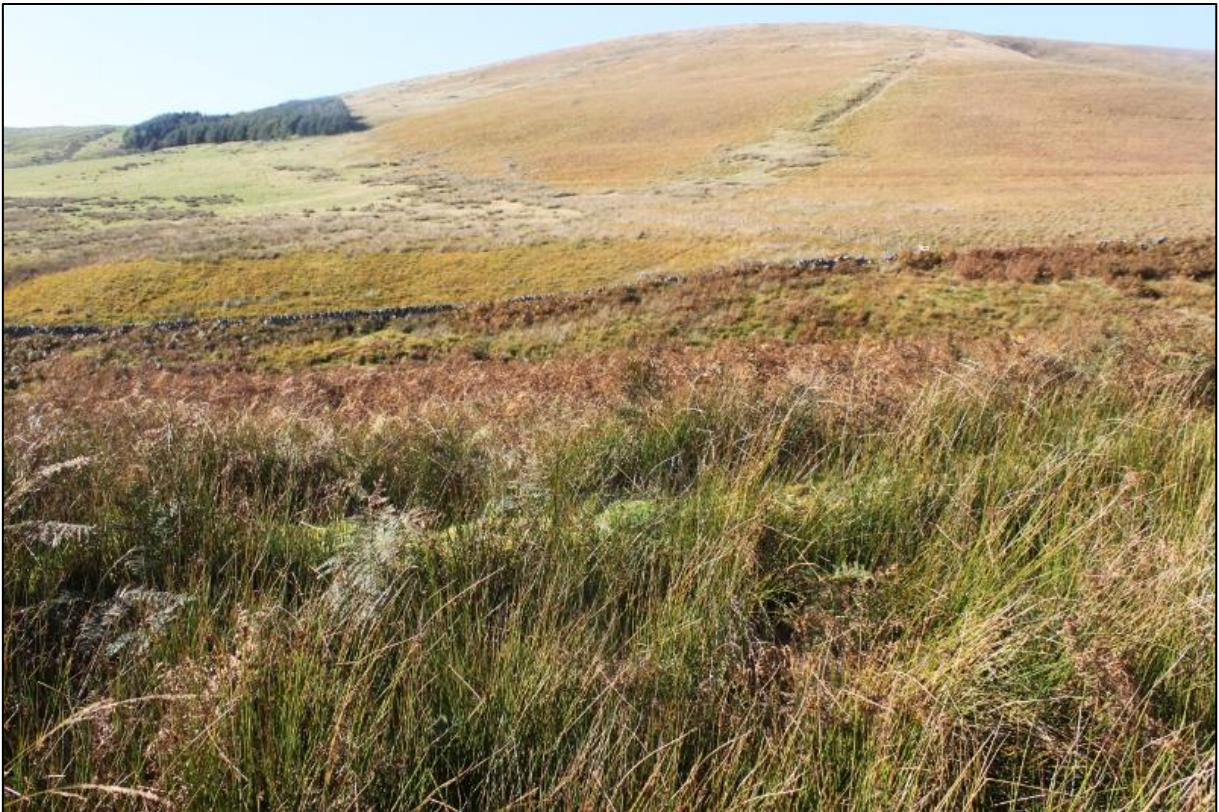





Figure 4a: Sheepfold **S1**, S end of Compartment 1



Table 1: Historic Environment Sites located within the assessment area

No	Site	Compartment	HER Ref:	Description	NGR	Image from Site Inspection
S1	Monks Rig Sheepfold	1	-	<p><i>Desk Assessment:</i> A circular sheepfold is first shown in this location on the Ordnance Survey map of 1853. It is still shown on modern mapping of the area.</p> <p><i>Walkover:</i> The structure was identified in the field as a low circular bank measuring between 0.5 and 1m in width and between 0.15 and 0.3m in height, enclosing an area approximately 20m in diameter. There is an entrance 1.5m wide in the SW quadrant. One small section has a small heap of rubble present, but little evidence of stone can be seen elsewhere. The interior is densely covered with bracken, the structure itself grass-covered.</p>	NT 1731 5886	
S2	Monks Burn Sheepfold	1	-	<p><i>Desk Assessment:</i> The site is first shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1853 as a circular structure marked 'sheepfold.' It is still shown on modern mapping of the area.</p> <p><i>Walkover:</i> The presence of a circular structure was confirmed in this location. This was composed in part of an extant wall, surviving in the S and E quadrants to a maximum height of 1.65m, with a maximum width of 0.3m. On the W quadrant, it survived as a low bank measuring 1.1m wide and 0.2m high (maximum), with the remains of a post-and-wire fence marking its limits in the N quadrant. The structure enclosed an area approximately 20m in extent.</p>	NT 1725 5968	
S3	Lovers Loup Sheepfold	3	-	<p><i>Desk Assessment:</i> First shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1853, the structure comprises a rectangular enclosure accessed by a long corridor from the S. There is a small rectangular unroofed structure located within the SW quarter of the larger enclosure – this is presumably a smaller animal pen, perhaps originally used for lambing or shearing. By 1892, when the 2nd edition map was surveyed, an angled length of wall had been added at the S end of the corridor, abutting the E wall and extending eastwards. The 3rd edition map of 1902 shows the subdivision of the access corridor through the insertion of a further E-W cross-wall across its extent, roughly halfway along its length. Modern satellite imagery shows the original mid-19th century elements still extant amongst a complex arrangement of rectangular pens and enclosures, all abutting the W wall of a much larger polygonal field. The SW rectangular pen is roofed with corrugated iron sheeting.</p> <p><i>Walkover:</i> The extant remains of the sheepfold were identified in the field as an arrangement of upstanding walls and timber fences measuring approximately 60m from NW to SW x 13m transversely. The survey confirmed that these structures were located beyond the limits of the assessment area.</p>	NT 1871 6180	
S4	Monk's Rig	1	Canmore ID:	<p><i>Desk Assessment:</i> The feature is first shown on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey</p>	NT 1753 5898 –	

No	Site	Compartment	HER Ref:	Description	NGR	Image from Site Inspection
	Trackway		50169; Midlothian HER: 8689	<p>map of 1845, where it is annotated as 'Monk's Road.' Earlier historic mapping shows routes passing further to the E, around the summit of Braid Law, but they do not show any indication of a path following the route shown in after the 1840s. However, earlier documentary sources dating to the late 18th century (McCourty 1794) refer to this feature as long-established, with roots in the medieval period.</p> <p><i>Walkover:</i> The line of this trackway is represented by a well worn path, now forming part of the Pentland Way.</p>	NT 1744 6037	

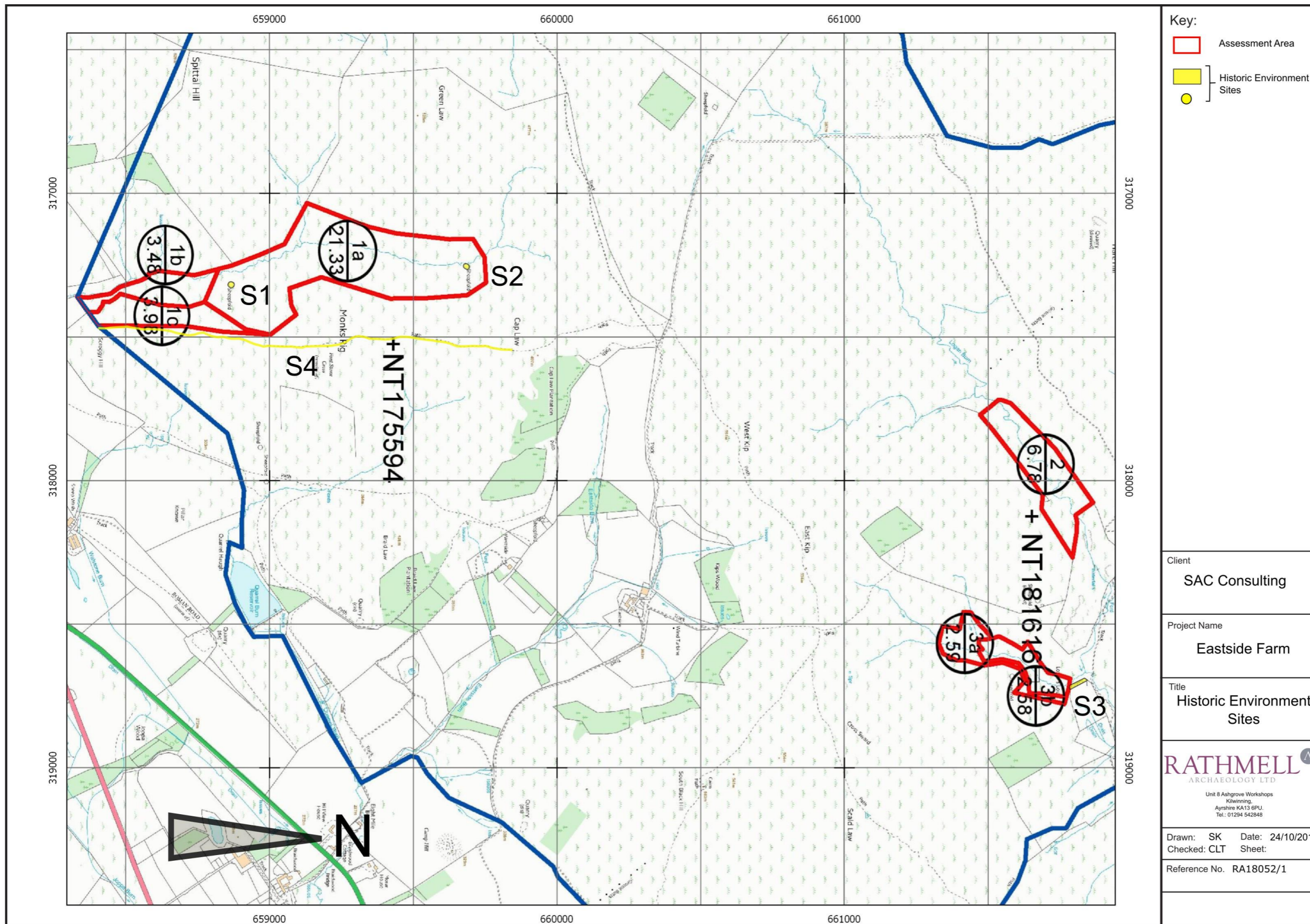


Figure 5: Plan of Assessment Area Showing Location of Sites

36. Circular sheepfold **S1** has been assigned Local significance. It should be protected in a clearing to be managed as an open space with a minimum 5m buffer for planting and forestry operations from the edge of the site.
37. Circular sheepfold **S2** has been assigned Local significance. It should be protected in a clearing to be managed as an open space with a minimum 5m buffer for planting and forestry operations from the edge of the site.
38. Rectangular sheepfold **S3** has been assigned Local significance. Those elements which lie within the assessment area and those which lie in its immediate vicinity should be protected in a clearing to be managed as an open space with a minimum 5m buffer for planting and forestry operations from the edge of the site.
39. The Trackway **S4** has been assigned Local significance. Those elements which lie within the assessment area and those which lie in its immediate vicinity should be protected in a clearing to be managed as an open space with a minimum 5m buffer for planting and forestry operations from the edge of the site.

Table 2: Summary of Historic Environment Sites and Accompanying Management Guidance.

No	Site	Significance	Management Guidance	UKFS HE Guidelines
S1	Monks Rig Sheepfold	Local	The site should be protected in a clearing to be managed as an open space with a minimum 5m buffer for planting and forestry operations from the edge of the site.	GFPR 4 SFM 11
S2	Monks Burn Sheepfold	Local	The site should be protected in a clearing to be managed as an open space with a minimum 5m buffer for planting and forestry operations from the edge of the site.	GFPR 4 SFM 11
S3	Lovers Loup Sheepfold	Local	Those elements of the site which fall within the assessment area or immediately abut it should be protected in a clearing to be managed as an open space with a minimum 5m buffer for planting and forestry operations from the edge of the site.	GFPR 4 SFM 11
S4	Monks Rig Trackway	Local	Those elements of the site which fall within the assessment area or immediately abut it should be protected in a clearing to be managed as an open space with a minimum 5m buffer for planting and forestry operations from the edge of the site.	GFPR 4 SFM 11

SFM sustainable forest management. GFPR good forestry practice requirement

Conclusion

40. A historic environment assessment was required by SAC Consulting to inform a programme of forest design on ground at Eastside Farm, Pentlands. Some four heritage sites were identified within the assessment area.
41. Our management guidance has covered protection measures for two sites within, and a further two sites which sit either partly within, or in close proximity to, the assessment area. These recommendations are compliant with UKFS Historic Environment Guidelines.

References

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Knox, J 1812 Map of the Shire of Edinburgh, South West Section

Anderson, J and Hunter W 1834 Plan of the Environs of Edinburgh

Sharp, T, Greenwood, C & Fowler, W 1828 Map of the County of Edinburgh

Ordnance Survey 1853 6-inch 1st edition, Edinburghshire Sheets 11 and 17

Ordnance Survey 1895 6-inch 2nd edition, Edinburghshire Sheet XIII.NW

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