

**Dunsyre Woodland Creation, South Lanarkshire:
Historic Environment Assessment & Survey
Appraisal**



by Sarah Krischer
issued 26th June 2018
on behalf of Scottish Woodlands

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Quality Assurance

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Executive Summary

1. A historic environment assessment was required by Scottish Woodlands to inform a proposed planting scheme at Scottish Woodlands. 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. Two historic environment sites were identified and are considered within this report. These were a possible early medieval defensive bank **S1** and a post-medieval farmstead known as "Loanhead" **S2**.
3. Based on the evidence gathered for this assessment, positive management has been recommended to safeguard site **S1**.

Introduction

4. A historic environment assessment and survey was required by Scottish Woodlands to inform a programme of tree planting across a number of areas in the vicinity of Dunsyre, South Lanarkshire (centred on NT 04989, 47012). 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 Scottish Woodlands to address UKFS Historic Environment Guidelines (2011), specifically Good Forestry Practice Requirements 1 to 4.

Topographic and Geological Background

6. The assessment area comprised seventeen land parcels divided into three areas. The first area, Fir Park, was ten land parcels joined together in a patch of heathland to the north of the Newbrigg to Dunsyre road. The second area, North Deanhead, was four land parcels to the north and south of Easthills farm. The third area, Borland, was three land parcels running east from Borland Farm along Oggscastle road (Figure 6).
7. The upper (superficial) geology of the area consisted of Langholm Till formation-Diamicton. The lower (bedrock) geology of the area consisted of Kinnesswood Formation Group – Sandstone.

Project Works

8. The programme of works agreed with Scottish Woodlands comprised a desk-based assessment and walkover survey.
9. The desk-based assessment consulted resources within:
 - ❖ Historic Environment Scotland (HES) Collections (including Canmore & the National Collection of Aerial Photography (NCAP));
 - ❖ West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS) 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).
10. 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.
11. 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

12. The desk based assessment identified two sites. Neither site was protected by designation as a scheduled monument and were found on the WOSAS Historical Environment Record.

Previous Archaeological Works

13. No previous archaeological work has been carried out within the assessment area though a number of studies have been carried out in surrounding area. In the Fir Park area a fieldwalking survey, with associated excavation and geophysical survey, was carried out by the Biggar Museum Trust at Weston Farm to the immediate south of the assessment area. The field walking survey recovered a number of lithic and pottery artefacts which were dated to between the Mesolithic and later Neolithic periods (Ward, 1999a). A desk based assessment and walkover survey was carried out for a large area to the northwest of the assessment area that identified a number of sites including several prehistoric cairns (Clapperton & Coleman, 2005). A further field survey was carried out to the north of the assessment area at Greens Moor which identified five cairns and an associated cairn field (Marshall, 1995).
14. In the North Deanhead area a field walking survey was carried out in a small field opposite South Tabrax farm to the west of the assessment area. This study recovered a number of prehistoric lithics, including a small assemblage of Early Neolithic material (Archer, 1998). To the east of the assessment area a desk based assessment and walk over survey was carried out over a large area on Anston Farm in 1999. This study found thirteen sites of archaeological and historical interest (Carter, 1999).
15. In the Borland area a systematic reconnaissance survey was carried out on the Black Mount to the south of the assessment area. This study found a number of sites including ring enclosures, a possible closed cremation cemetery, a cairn, and rig and furrow fields (Ward, 1999b).

Prehistoric to Early Historic Land use

16. There are a number of prehistoric sites located in the vicinity of the assessment area. The Fir Park area has a neolithic/bronze age henge at Whitewellbrae Wood (Canmore ID 4891) to the south and extensive field systems associated with the cairns at Greens Moor (Canmore ID 48871) and Kersewell Mains (SM11201). As mentioned above, mesolithic and Neolithic material was found during fieldwork to the immediate south of the assessment area. Likewise, the North Deanhead Woodland Creation areas are located to the southwest of an extensive cairnfield at Horse Law. In addition, a number of prehistoric finds were found during fieldwork at South Tarbex (Archer, 1998).
17. A number of cairns were removed from the area around Boorland Mill, north of land parcel B3, in the 1820s and it is recorded that one cairn contained two jet ornaments and another contained a stone axe (Irving and Murray, 1864). Two ring enclosures were identified on the Black Mount 350m to the south of land parcel B2.
18. An earthwork to the south of Borland farm (**S1**) in the eastern half of land parcel B1 was identified by Trench- Jellicoe in 2004. He believed that this earthwork may be early medieval in date, and form part of a defended site associated with a Pictish silver chain of 7th to 8th century date found at Borland Farm in 1895.

The Medieval and Later Periods

19. Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (1752-55) depicts the assessment area as primarily open countryside with occasional patches of forestry and fields. This is in keeping with the

Statistical Account done in 1791 that describes the parish of Dunsyre as primarily unenclosed farmland. Both the first and second edition of the Ordnance Survey maps depict an agricultural landscape with relatively little change.

20. Roy's survey of the Fir Park area shows that the northern half of the area is within a rectangular area of managed woodland running northeast-southwest and the southern half of the area is open fields (Figure 1a). The first edition Ordnance Survey depicts an area of open heathland in the location of the land parcels (Figure 1b). The assessment area is also open land in the second Ordnance Survey, however the T shaped area of woodland to the north of the assessment area is visible in the 1899 map labelled as "The T wood" (Figure 2a).
21. Likewise the North Deanhead Woodland Creation area is shown on Roy's survey as an unenclosed agricultural area (Figure 2b). A tower house stood at the site of the current Easthills farm and its location was pointed out to the Ordnance Survey Name Book compiler by an old person who had a very faint recollection of seeing it about 1810. However, no further information could be obtained about the tower house and no archaeological remains of the structure have been identified. The first edition Ordnance Survey showed that in the period of time since Roy's map the fields within the area had been enclosed (Figure 3a). The still existing farms of Westhills, Easthills and North Deanhead are all depicted. In addition, a farmstead labelled as "Loanhead" (**S2**) is depicted partially within planting area NDH2. The farmstead first appears within Roy's map of 1752-55 where it is named as 'Plouerbank' (Figure 2b) and surrounded by unenclosed farmland. Within the first edition Ordnance Survey the site, now called Loanhead, is depicted as a rectangular shaped, roofed, building (described in the Ordnance Survey name book of 1858-61 as being a one story building in good repair). Adjacent to the building was a rectangular shaped enclosure to the east and a triangular shaped enclosure to the south. The southernmost part of the triangular shaped enclosure was the only part of the site located within the planting area NDH2. By the second edition of the Ordnance Survey in 1899 Loanhead is no longer depicted but apart from this the surrounding landscape appears relatively unchanged from the first edition Ordnance Survey (Figure 3b).
22. Roy's survey shows the Borland area as open hillside to the east of the village of Wallston (Figure 4a). It is not until the first edition Ordnance Survey that Borland farm, listed as New Borland is shown to the immediate north of land parcel B3 (Figure 4b). The farm is listed in the Ordnance Survey name book as "A large farm steading including offices, dwelling house two storeys in height slated and in good repair. Offices partly thatched & slated all one storey in height & all in a first class condition with the exception of one apartment only which is in ruins" (OSB, 1858-61). A possible preaching site at a hollow labelled as 'Auld Kirk Wa's' is also shown to the south of land parcel B2 along the March Burn. However, this identification and its association with the covenanters is based on place name evidence alone. As can be seen from the second edition Ordnance Survey (Figure 5a) there was little change to the area during the 19th century.

Historic Environment Record

23. Two sites were identified within the assessment area within the WoSAS HER database. Neither of the sites was listed within the Canmore database (HES) or subject to any kind of designation.

Walkover Survey

24. The walkover survey took place on the 19th of June 2018 in clear, slightly overcast conditions. The assessment area comprised three distinct areas in the vicinity of Dunsyre, South Lanarkshire (Figure 6). The assessment area was a mixture of rough pasture and improved land with short grass.
25. The Fir Park area comprised of 13 land parcels all grouped together into a single bloc running northwest-southeast against an area of existing forestry (Figure 6). This area consisted for the most part of rough pasture with several small burns running through the area. No archaeological sites were identified within this area.



Figure 1a: Extract from Roy's Military Survey of Scotland showing the Fir Park area (1752-55).

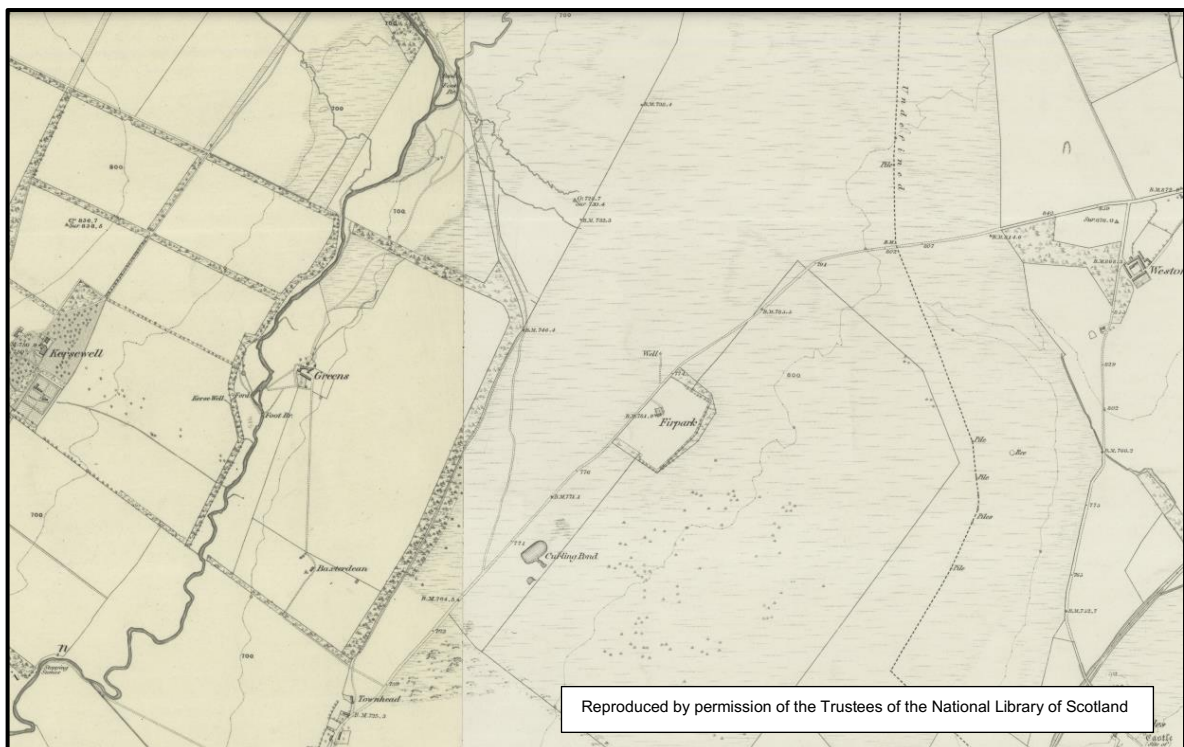


Figure 1b: Extract from 1st edition Ordnance Survey six-inch showing the Fir Park area (1859).

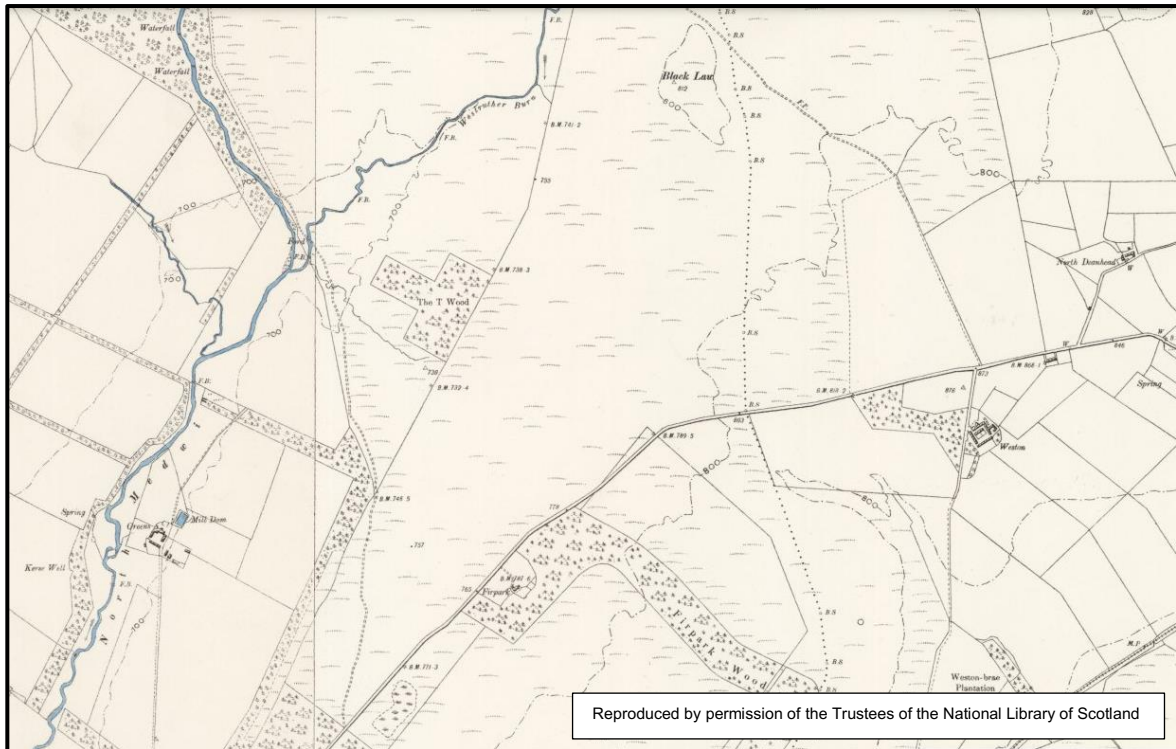


Figure 2a: Extract from 2nd edition Ordnance Survey six-inch showing the Fir Park Area (1899).



Figure 2b: Extract from Roy's Military Survey of Scotland showing the North Deanhead area (1752-55)

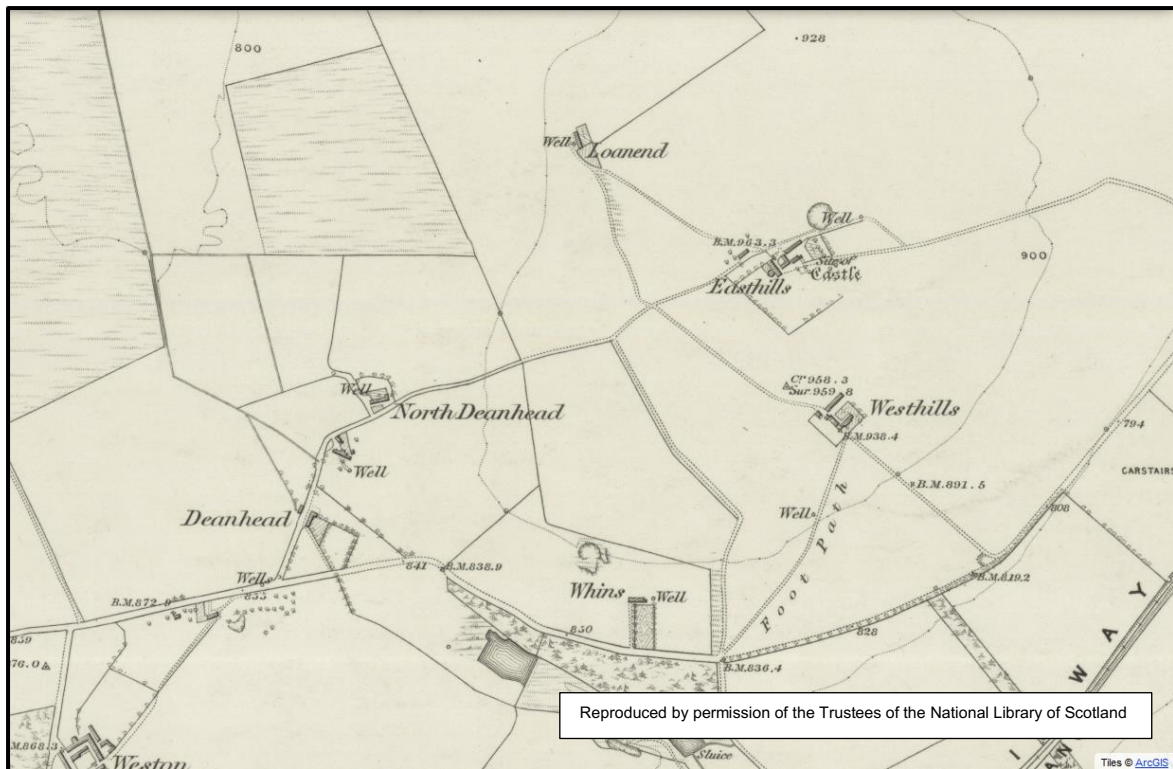


Figure 3a: Extract from 1st edition Ordnance Survey six-inch showing the North Deanhead area (1859).

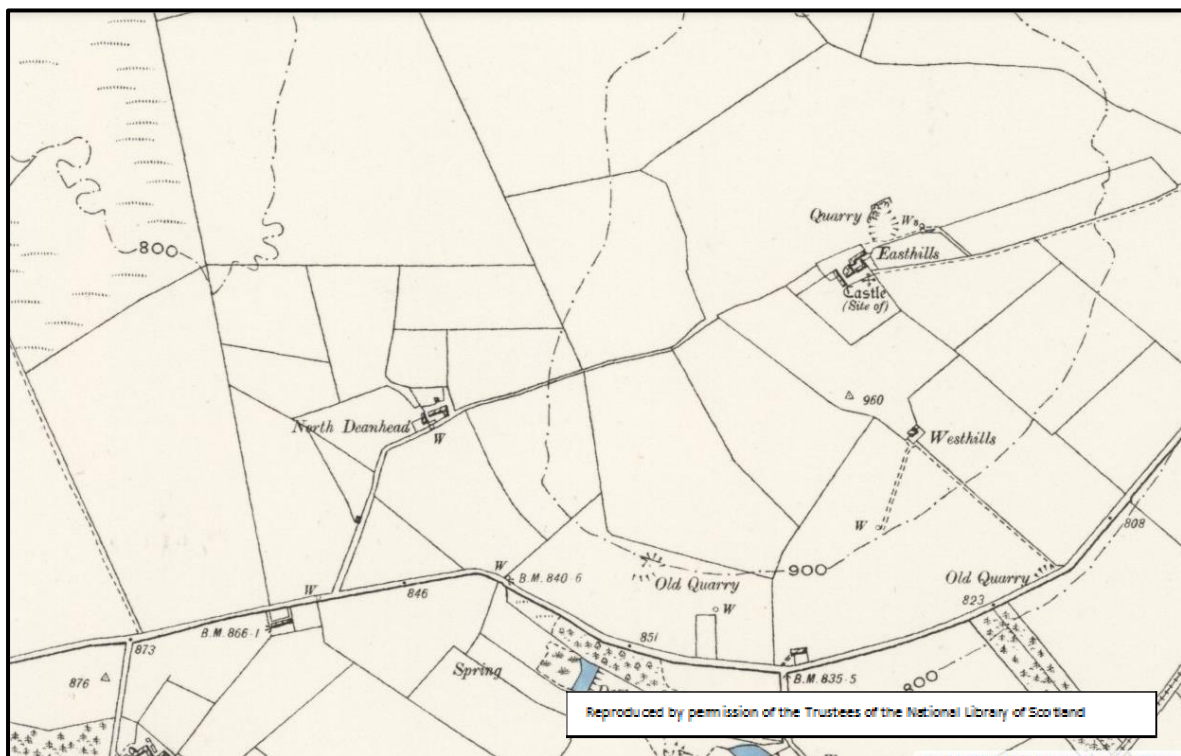


Figure 3b: Extract from 2nd edition Ordnance Survey six-inch showing the North Deanhead area (1899).

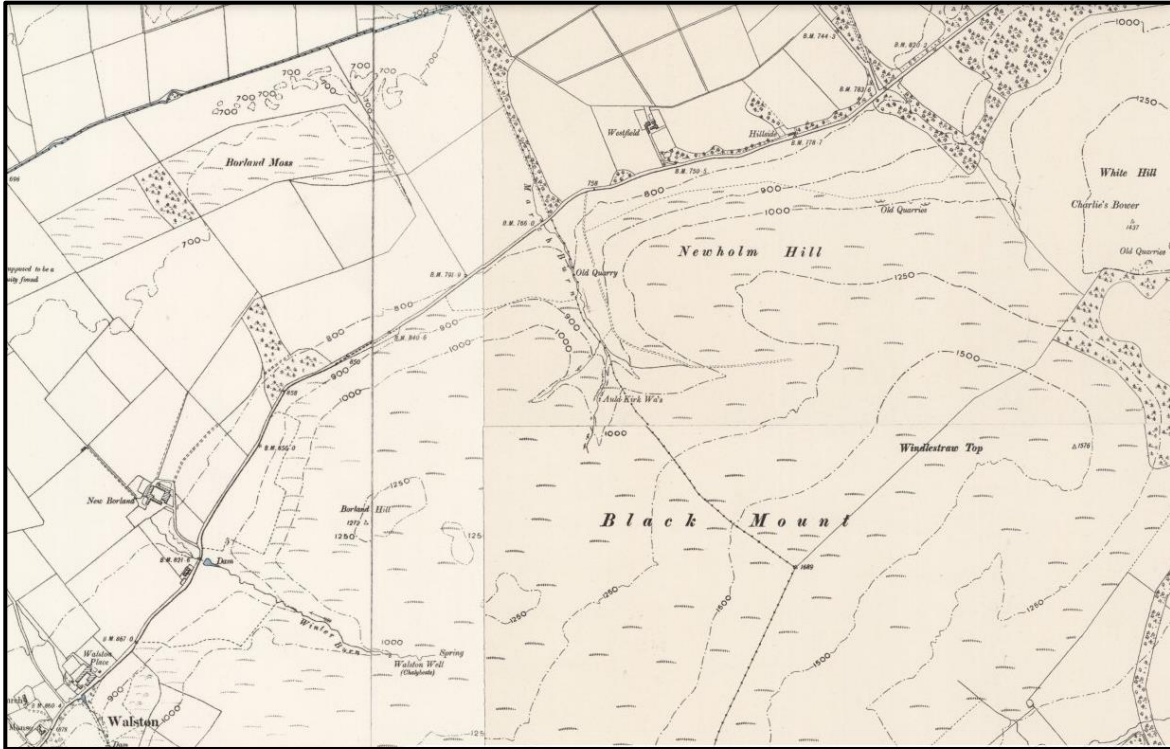




Figure 5a: Extract from 2nd edition Ordnance Survey six-inch showing the Borland area (1899).

27. The North Deanhead area consisted of four land parcels. Land Parcels NDH1 and 2 were located in the fields to the immediate north of Easthills farm (Figure 7). NDH1 was a triangular area in the southern corner of an improved field. The area sloped gently downhill from a small rise in the southern corner of the land parcel. NDH2 ran along the western edge of a large field to the north of the farm road and consisted of improved land with short grass that sloped gently downhill to the northwest. Farmstead **S2** was located to the west of NDH1 and the north of NDH2. However, no trace of the site could be identified in either land parcel or in the field between them (Table 1).
28. Land parcels NDH 3 and 4 were located in the fields to the south of Westhills farm to the south of areas NDH 1 and 2. HDH3 consisted of a sub-triangular area that took in parts of two separate fields. Both fields consisted of improved agricultural land which sloped downhill to the south. A small hollow at the eastern side of the area contained a concentration of large stones which formed a rudimentary clearance cairn. The loose vacuous nature of the stone concentration and lack of any vegetation covering it strongly suggested that it was modern in date. NDH4 was situated to the east of NDH3 and ran in a northwest-southeast direction along a wire and post fence. The area sloped downhill to the southeast and consisted of improved agricultural land. No significant archaeologically remains were identified within either of the land parcels.
29. The three land parcels of the Borlands area were located along a road running east from the hamlet of Walston (Figure 8). Area B1 consisted of a large area of rough pasture to the north of the Black Mount with the land parcel sloping gently uphill to the southeast. Area B2 was located on the side of a ravine on the western side of March Burn. The land parcel consisted of rough pasture which sloped uphill to the southeast as well as downhill into the burn. No archaeological remains were found in either of these land parcels.
30. Area B3 was located on both sides of Winter Burn which ran between the Oggscastle Road to the southeast and Borlands farm to the northwest. At the south eastern part of the burn both banks were steeply sloping forming a ravine which became more moderately sloping to the northwest. Both the northern and southern upper banks, which constituted the majority of the area, were relatively flat and sloped moderately towards the burn. The bank on the northern side of the area **S1** was well defined at its south eastern end and became less pronounced at its north western end. The bank curved slightly in line with the burn and was heavily overgrown with tall vegetation (Table 1).

Management Guidance

31. The assessment identified a total of 2 historic environment sites within the Dunsyre Woodland assessment area. Not all sites are of equal merit or have equal potential to contribute to the 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. 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).
32. No physical remains relating to the 18th century farmstead **S1** were identified during the field survey or could be observed through studying aerial imagery of the area. There were no clear remains of a farmstead at **S1**, this is most likely due to the building and its associated enclosures being demolished during the mid to late 19th century and the area it occupied subsequently being ploughed and used as agricultural land. As a result the core of this site (the building and any associated yards) has been given a precautionary Local significance, though due to the fact that the 19th century demolition of the site and subsequent ploughing has left no traces of it and only a small portion of the southern enclosure is within the planting area no action has been recommended.
33. Traces of the bank at **S2** were identified during field survey. It was suggested by Ross Trench-Jellicoe (2004) that the bank was part of a larger defensive earthwork dating to the early medieval period. On a precautionary basis the site has been ascribed a Regional significance and until further information is available on the site it is recommended that the area within Land Parcel B3 to the north of the small burn running through the land parcel should be excluded from planting and other forestry impacts (Figure 6).

Table 1: Historic Environment Sites located within or immediately adjacent to the assessment area

No	Site	HER Ref:	Description	NGR	Image from Site Inspection
S1	Winter Burn	WoSAS PIN: 51222	<p>Desk Based Assessment</p> <p>A possible earthwork dating to the early medieval period was recorded on the north side of a ravine running along a modern road to the south of Borland Farm by R. Trench-Jellicoe in 2004. This earthwork was a visible raised bank in a naturally defended position. Trench-Jellicoe speculated that the earthwork was connected to the Pictish silver chain found at Borland in 1895. Entered by WoSAS (PR) 21/05/2004.</p> <p>Walkover Assessment</p> <p>The bank observed during the field survey cut into the northern side of the ravine formed by Winter Burn. The best preserved part of the bank ran in a northwest-southeast direction for a distance of 46m though traces of it could be identified in the northwest part of land parcel B3 giving and overall length of 170m. The bank curved slightly in places as it ran from the southeast to the northwest most likely following the natural contours of the area. In the better preserved southeast stretch of the bank it had a base width of 8.4m and a top width of 4.5m. Its maximum height in this area was 1.2m which became almost unperceivable in the northwest. Traces of an associated northwest-southeast running ditch were identified to the immediate northeast of the bank which could be traced for approximately 30m. The ditch had a maximum width of 3.4m and a depth of 0.53m. The entire area was heavily overgrown with bracken, gorse and tall grass.</p>	NT 06281 46052	
S2	Loanend	WoSAS pin 17524	<p>Desk Based Assessment</p> <p>The site was first identified in Roy's map of 1752-55 as 'Plouerbank'. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 3a) identifies a roofed building, enclosure and well, as "Loanend". The accompanying Name Book describes the farmstead as a one story building in good repair. The farmstead is not shown on the second edition Ordnance Survey, surveyed in 1894, or on any later edition.</p> <p>Walkover Assessment</p> <p>The site was not observed during field survey and the entire area consisted of improved agricultural land currently in use as pasture land.</p>	NT 04640 48220	

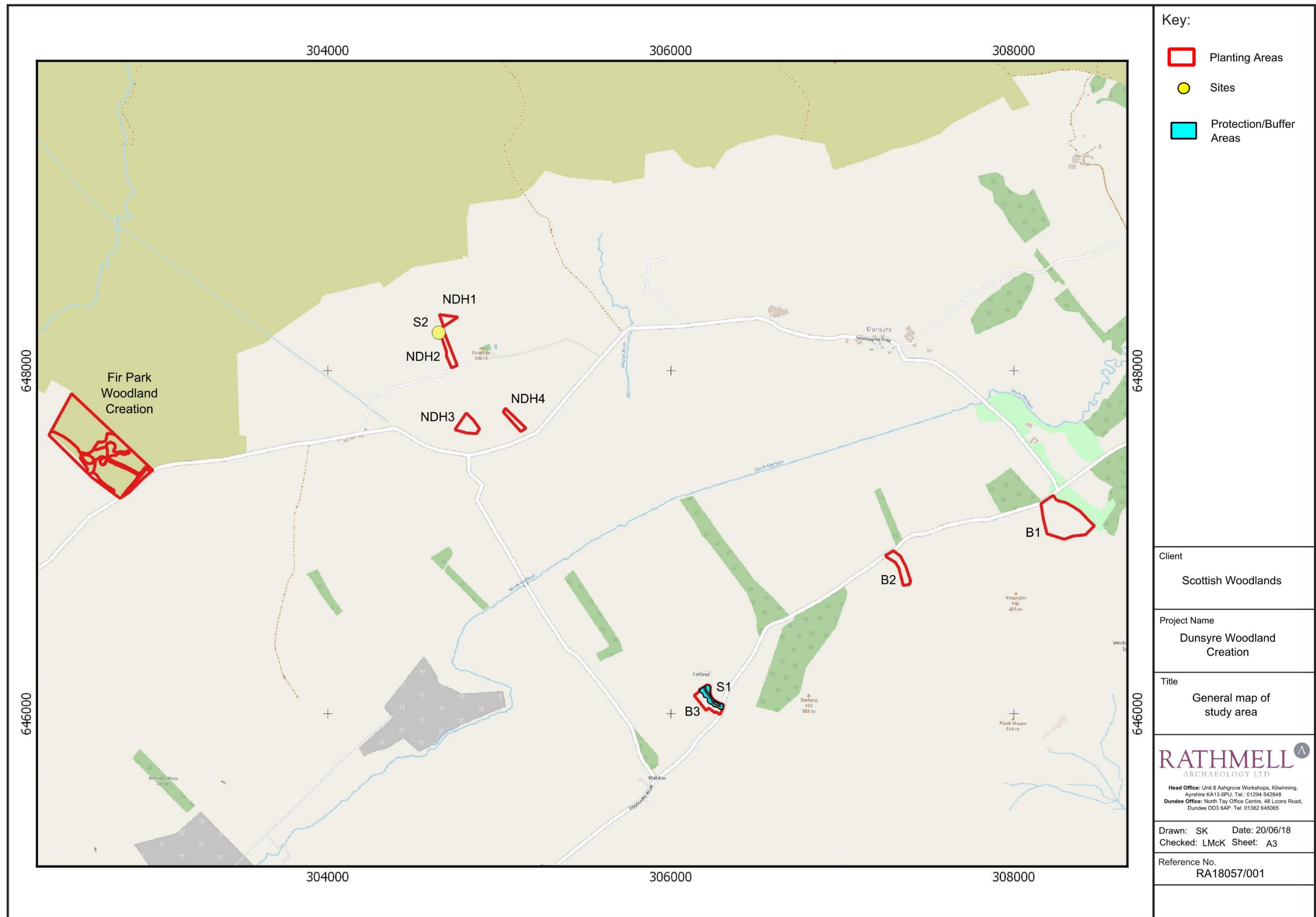


Figure 6: Location Map showing Historic Environment Sites and all planting areas.



Key:

- Planting areas
- Sites

Client

Scottish Woodlands

Project Name

Dunsyre Woodland Creation

Title

North Deanhead Woodland Creation

RATHMELL
ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Head Office: Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU. Tel.: 01294 542848
Dundee Office: North Tay Office Centre, 48 Loons Road, Dundee DD3 6AP. Tel: 01382 645065

Drawn: SK Date: 21/06/18

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Figure 7: North Deanhead Woodland Creation area with Historic Environment Sites



Figure 8: Borland Woodland Creation area with Historic Environment Sites

Table 2: Management Guidance for Historic Environment Sites

No	Site	Significance	Management Guidance	UKFS HE Guidelines
S1	Possible Earthwork (early medieval)	Regional	Protection of S1 earthwork through excluding planting within the area north of the small burn running through Land Parcel B3 (Figure 6).	SFM* 11,18
S2	Farmstead (Period Unassigned)	Local	Due to the fact the site was completely demolished in the mid to late 19 th century and only a small portion of the farmsteads southern enclosure is within the planting area (the core part of the site being out with it) no action is recommended for S2	

SFM* sustainable forest management. LR* legal requirement.

Conclusion

34. A historic environment assessment was required by Scottish Woodlands to inform a programme of tree-planting near Dunsyre, South Lanarkshire. This process identified two environment sites relating the assessment area.
35. Our management guidance has covered protection measures for one of these sites. These recommendations are compliant with UKFS Historic Environment Guidelines.

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Contact Details

36. Rathmell Archaeology can be contacted at our Registered Office or through the web:

Ayrshire Office:

Rathmell Archaeology Ltd www.rathmell-arch.co.uk

Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops

Kilwinning t.:01294 542848

Ayrshire f.:01294 542849

KA13 6PU e.:contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk

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