

**Knockburnie, East Ayrshire:  
Historic Environment Assessment & Survey  
Appraisal**



by Liam McKinstry

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on behalf of Mark Hamilton Landscape Services

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## Contents

<b>Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>4</b>
Topographic and Geological Background .....	4
Project Works .....	4
<b>Historic Environment Baseline .....</b>	<b>5</b>
Previous Archaeological Works .....	5
Prehistoric to Early Historic Land use .....	5
Medieval and Later Periods.....	6
Walkover Survey.....	12
Management Guidance .....	21
<b>Conclusion .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>References .....</b>	<b>23</b>
Documentary .....	23
Cartographic .....	24
<b>Contact Details .....</b>	<b>24</b>

## Figures and Tables

Figure 1a: Extract from Blaeu’s map of 1654 .....	8
Figure 1b: Extract from Roy’s Military Survey of 1752-5 .....	8
Figure 2a: Extract from Thomson 1832 (note ‘Limestone Quarry’ <b>S2</b> ) .....	9
Figure 2b: Extract from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1858) showing <b>S2, S3 &amp; S5</b> .....	9
Figure 3a: Extract from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1858) showing <b>S6 to S8</b> .....	10
Figure 3b: Extract from the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1894 .....	10
Table 1: Historic Environment Sites located within the assessment area.....	14
Figure 4: Location Map showing Historic Environment Sites and assessment area .....	20
Table 3: Management Guidance for Historic Environment Sites .....	22

## Executive Summary

1. A historic environment assessment was required by Mark Hamilton Landscape Services to inform a proposed planting scheme at Knockburnie, near New Cumnock, East Ayrshire. 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. Fifteen historic environment sites were identified and are considered within this report (Table 1). These are: six former sheepfolds (**S1**, **S7**, **S9-S11** and **S14**), three 19<sup>th</sup> century (or earlier) farmsteads or cottages (**S3**, **S6** and **S8**), four quarries (**S2**, **S5**, **S12** and **S15**), a mineral line (**S13**) and a linear ditchless bank (**S4**).
3. Based on the evidence gathered for this assessment, positive management has been recommended to safeguard sites **S1-S2**, **S6-S11** and **S14**.

## Introduction

4. A historic environment assessment and survey was required by Mark Hamilton Landscape Services to inform a programme of tree planting in the vicinity of Knockburnie, near New Cumnock, East Ayrshire (centred on NS 557 099). The ground under consideration is bisected by the B741 running from New Cumnock to Dalmellington. These works were designed to inform on the nature, form and extent of any historic environment assets present within the defined areas, based on archival sources and site inspection undertaken 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 Mark Hamilton Landscape Services to address UKFS Historic Environment Guidelines (2011), specifically Good Forestry Practice Requirements 1 to 4.

### *Topographic and Geological Background*

6. The assessment area is located 6km southwest of the town of New Cumnock. It comprises a 225ha area of land on the north-facing slopes of Peat Hill, a part of the northern edge of the Southern Uplands. The area includes sections of the Polmath Burn in the west and the Knockburnie Burn in the east; both drain into the River Nith. In geological terms, the study area is complex in character. North of the B741, the bedrock deposits are predominantly composed of sedimentary rocks of the Upper Limestone Formation, with the eastern edge incorporating a small portion of the Scottish Upper Coal measures. To the south of the B741, the geology is largely igneous in origin, comprising rocks of the Carrick Volcanic Formation with some intrusive volcanic features also present. Once again, rocks associated with the Scottish Coal Measures extend within the study area at the eastern end, near Knockburnie Farm. Where characterised, the superficial deposits comprise Till-Diamicton, laid down during the Quaternary Period. The contrasting geology is reflected in differing land use: the northern portion of the study area has all been enclosed, predominantly by drystone dykes, and is characterised by improved grazing, while the southern hill area is predominantly unimproved rough grazing.

### *Project Works*

7. The programme of works agreed with Mark Hamilton Landscape Services comprised a desk-based assessment and walkover survey.
8. The desk-based assessment consulted resources within:
  - ❖ Historic Environment Scotland (HES) Collections (including Canmore, Scheduled Monuments and other designations & the National Collection of Aerial Photography (NCAP));
  - ❖ West of Scotland Archaeology Service Historic Environment Record (known archaeological sites);
  - ❖ National Library of Scotland (bibliographic records, estate plans, 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:
- ❖ the classification of the archaeological sites and monuments;
  - ❖ the compilation of a written site description (objective measured description; subjective site interpretation; site condition; site evaluation [using FES categorisation guidelines]; and management recommendations if appropriate);
  - ❖ the production of a photographic record (digital) of all sites; and
  - ❖ the location of 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 Historic Environment 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 fourteen sites within the assessment area. None were protected by designation as a Scheduled Monument protected under the terms of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

### *Previous Archaeological Works*

12. No general archaeological survey appears to have been undertaken on the ground previously, though site specific survey was undertaken on the line of a ditchless-bank. This was assessed as part of Graham & Feacham's work on the Deil's Dyke (1956) and is considered to be a later enclosure bank.

### *Prehistoric to Early Historic Land use*

13. There is no evidence of occupation or land use during the Neolithic or Bronze Age within the study area. Evidence throughout the wider area is similarly scarce, with no known monuments identified. Some evidence of occupation or land use during this period has, however, been attested by the discovery of a jet button that was recovered during drainage operations on Marshallmark farm (Canmore ID: 43523; WoSAS ID: 50623). This type of artefact is likely to have originated in the Late Neolithic or Bronze Age, and could have derived from either a funerary deposit or a settlement site. The 4-figure grid reference quoted for this object in the Canmore database places the find as having originated within the study area, but this is not necessarily the case; rather, the cited grid reference reflects historic attempts to place poorly defined findspots on a graphics-based system. Where the findspot in question is located using a 4-figure grid reference, this will be visually depicted on Canmore as a point placed in the southwest corner of the grid square. This 4-figure grid reference can be contrasted with the more detailed grid reference quoted in the WoSAS HER, which locates the findspot further to the east at NS 5700 1066. This more closely associates the object and its finds spot with Marshallmark farm, which lies to the east of Knockburnie.
14. Evidence for activity and occupation during the Iron Age and Roman periods is similarly lacking, both within the study area, and in the wider environs. This may reflect a genuine absence of sites: with relatively low pressure on populations at this time, settlement may have been concentrated within major river valleys, such as that of the nearby River Nith, potentially reflecting favourable locations which in many cases may have remained *foci* of occupation right up to the present (such as around modern Dalmellington and Cumnock). Land use within and around the study area at this time would have been limited instead to non-intensive and occasional use of the landscape for seasonal grazing or hunting, both activities which may have left ephemeral traces which cannot be identified as upstanding remains and which may not have survived in any discernible form to the present.

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### *Medieval and Later Periods*

15. Reflecting the situation described previously, there is once again no evidence for occupation and land use during the medieval period within the study area. One potential feature was, however identified in this location: a portion of the so-called 'Deil's Dyke' (**S4**). The 'Deil's Dyke' comprised a substantial boundary feature of medieval origin known as a 'march dyke:' this was believed by antiquarians to run from the shore of Loch Ryan, through Galloway, to the Solway Firth near Annan, with a possible offshoot into Ayrshire. A field survey was, however, carried out during the late 1940s in order to examine a number of potential stretches of the 'Deil's Dyke', including one which ran through the study area at Knockburnie (Feacham and Feacham 1956, 147). They described linear feature (**S4**) as 'a length of ditchless earthen bank' (Feaham and Feacham 1956, 147), and argued that it was sufficiently different in character to known extant stretches of the 'Deil's Dyke' to allow this section to be entirely discounted. No alternative interpretations were proposed, but it seems likely that **S4** represented instead a much later field boundary feature.
16. With a medieval origin discounted for linear feature **S4**, all evidence for medieval activity within the study area is removed. Once again, we find ourselves with known *foci* of settlement and occupation to the west-southwest and north-northeast at Dalmellington and Cumnock respectively, with a third known medieval site – the site of a castle at Little Rigend/Waterhead (Canmore ID: 43530; WoSAS ID: 8024) – lying some 2km to the north. Known sites closer to hand are, however, sparse, with one notable exception. This is the findspot of a hoard of medieval coins, minted variously during the reigns of Edward I of England and Alexander III of Scots. These were recovered from the farm of Whitehill, to the northeast of the study area (WoSAS ID: 8016). The coins had been placed in a ceramic jar and buried (presumably for safekeeping at a time of upheaval and unrest, in this case, the Scots Wars of Independence), but never recovered: the presence of this find suggests that there was medieval settlement in the vicinity, though the nature and extent of this settlement remains unknown.
17. Reference to the earliest available historic mapping for the area post-dates the medieval period by several hundred years, but it may nonetheless indicate potential sites which may have been occupied during the medieval period. This earliest mapping is represented by a mid-16<sup>th</sup> century map surveyed first of all by Pont (not illustrated), which was later revised in the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century by Blaeu.
18. Several farms are shown on Blaeu's map have equivalents in the modern landscape, including Lanehead ('Leinhead') and Dalleagles ('Dalbeglish'). Of particular interest in our case is, however, a farm or settlement named 'Knockburny,' located just west of the point where two branches of 'Knockburny Burn' converge to form a single watercourse (Canmore ID: 342232). This location, as shown, places the post-medieval site of Knockburny in the same location as that of modern Knockburnie farm. Whether its origins extend further back into the medieval period remains uncertain, with no available documentary sources confirming a medieval origin for the place name.
19. Of particular interest with regards to Blaeu's map is that 'Knockburny' settlement forms part of a much wider integrated landscape. It is often difficult to make comparisons between maps created by Blaeu or Pont and their modern equivalents, as the surveying was undertaken using different methods and to very different standards. In this case, however, common landscape features can be identified, in particular Maneight Hill and the Knockburnie Burn.
20. Blaeu's map shows two further sites - each potentially representing small settlements - lying to the south of 'Knockburny' itself. The first lies adjacent to the western branch of the Knockburnie burn: the place name 'Knockburny b.' (i.e. burn) may apply to the site, or the site may be unnamed with the appellation referring entirely to the watercourse. The site's location, as depicted on the map, places it close to the source of the Knockburnie Burn, close to Maneight Hill, and from this rough location, we can infer that it will probably lie outwith the study area. Even further to the south (or southwest) is another feature named 'Knockburny Schele.' This is likely to refer to shielings, i.e. an upland area where sheep and cattle were taken each year to graze throughout the summer months before returning to

lower ground for the winter. The whereabouts of this site is unknown: often, such areas can be identified by the surviving traces of small bothies known as shieling huts which provided accommodation for family members who accompanied the animals during this period. No comparable features have been identified within the study area, with the shielings themselves probably located in the hilly ground to the southwest and southeast of Blood Moss.

21. Roy's Military Survey of Lowland Scotland (1752-55) is more helpful, as it depicts topographic features more clearly and allows closer comparison with the modern landscape. Although both features are unnamed, we can identify the smaller Maneight Hill to the west, and the larger mass of High Chang Hill and its subsidiary summits to the south. Knockburnie farm sits on the northeast edge of this hilly ground, with the land to its west – which comprises the more level low-lying ground to the north of the B741 - characterised as a marshy expanse. Cultivated ground – denoted by areas of lightly hatched lines – is sparse, with Knockburnie ('Knockburn') shown as five detached rectangular structures. This depiction suggests that at this time, Knockburnie still had the form of a pre-improvement township or settlement, rather than an improved courtyard farm: although the shielings are no longer shown on the map, they may still have been in use at this time.
22. Similar clusters of rectangular structures are shown at 'Minaite' and 'Dalaglas' (Maneigh and Dalleagles), but the start of improvement can be inferred by the presence to the north of a single rectangular structure with a number of smaller subsidiary structures nearby, all set within an arrangement of contiguous rectangular enclosures. Named 'Hillhead,' this 'modern' farm layout is more typical of an improved farming unit, comprising a main (? house) building with subsidiary structures and outbuildings present, but in this particular instance, it is an unusual feature in an area dominated by more traditional methods of agriculture. One final feature of interest depicted on Roy's map are lead mines, located to the north of Chang Hill and Benty Cowan Hill, just outwith the study area.
23. The Statistical Account of 1793 provides us with more detailed information relating to the changes which are occurring throughout the parish of New Cumnock, within which the study area is situated, throughout this period. The evidence for the relatively late retention of traditional farming methods and techniques is supported by fact that rents are still being paid in produce, with tenants paying in kind with quantities of bear (barley), cheese and butter, with oats and potatoes also being grown, presumably for subsistence (Young, 1793, 101). A clearer picture of the lead mining activities are also provided, with Young stating that 'There is now a lead mine working in Afton barony...in which a company of Quakers have entered into a contract. Twenty miners are employed, and more are expected according to the apparent success...' (ibid.).
24. The lead-mining venture near Knockburnie farm was the forerunner of more extensive mineral exploitation encouraged by the Gordons and later the Stewarts, who owned the Baronies of Afton and Stair, which included the lands of Dalleagles, upon which the lead mines were located. Much of the study area was not, however, located within the Barony of Afton, belonging instead to the Cathcart family, who by their absence in contemporary sources do not appear to have taken much interest in the area. Contrasting with this more intensive mineral exploitation undertaken by prospecting individuals are the several coal mines and limestone quarries which had by this time been established throughout the parish, which Young notes were for local use, with the lack of nearby navigable waterways preventing the profitable export of these materials. It is quite possible that limestone quarry **S2**, located in the northwest corner of the study area, had its origins at this time.



Figure 1a: Extract from Blaeu's map of 1654



Figure 1b: Extract from Roy's Military Survey of 1752-5



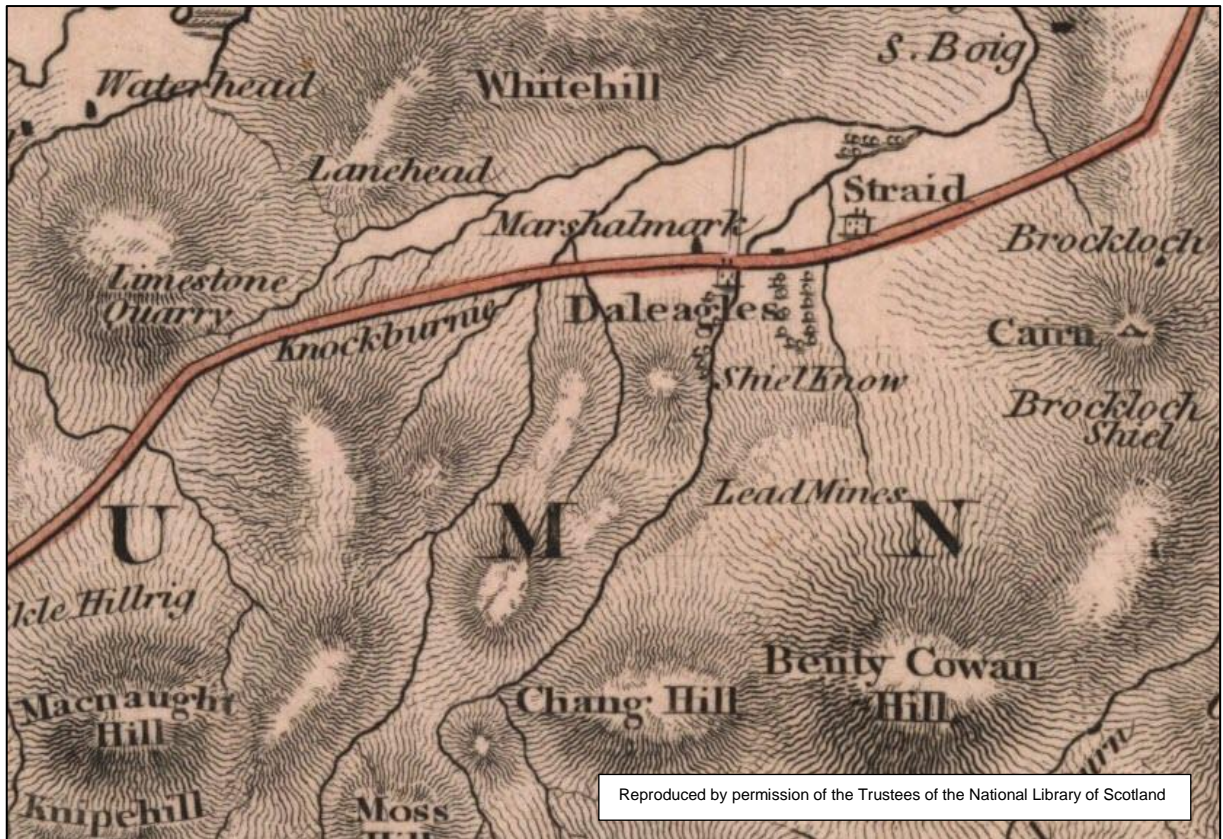


Figure 2a: Extract from Thomson 1832 (note 'Limestone Quarry' **S2**)

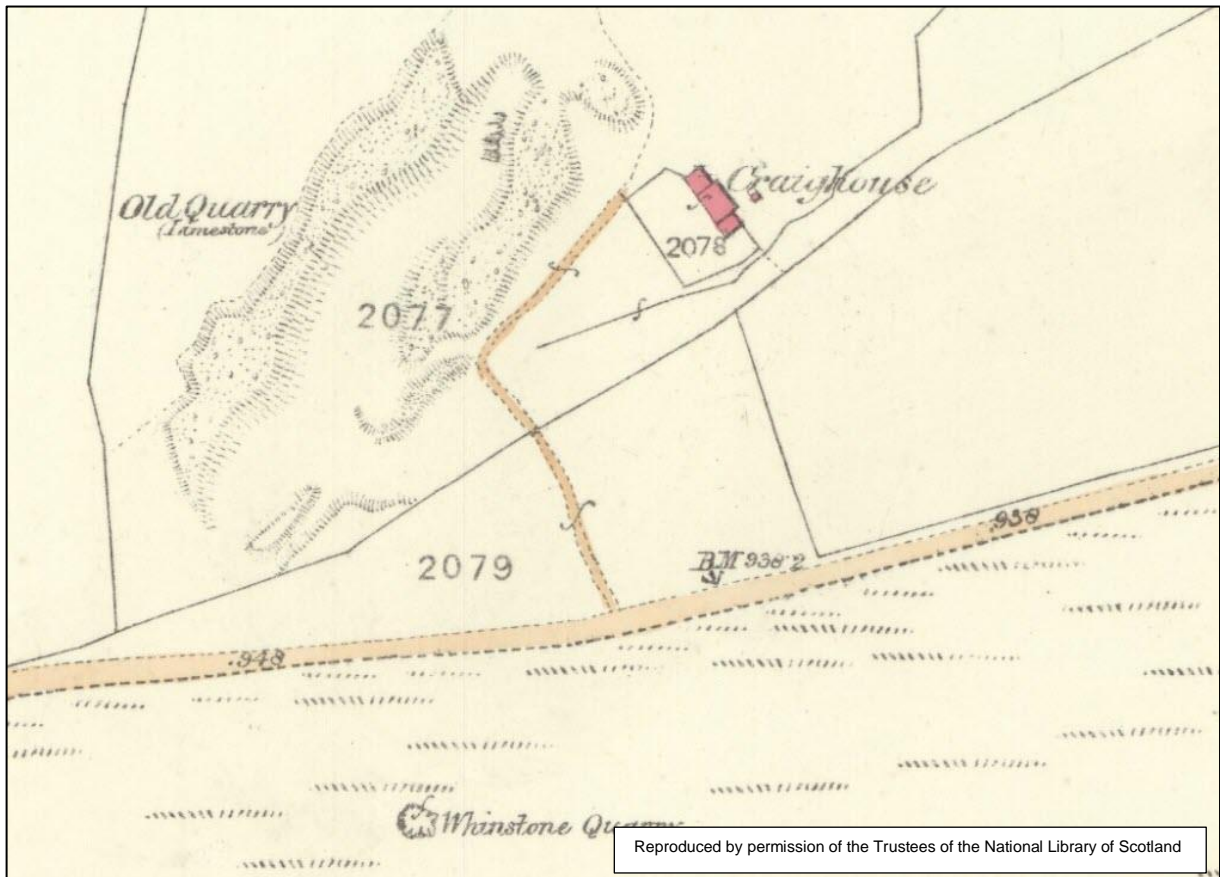


Figure 2b: Extract from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1858) showing **S2**, **S3** & **S5**

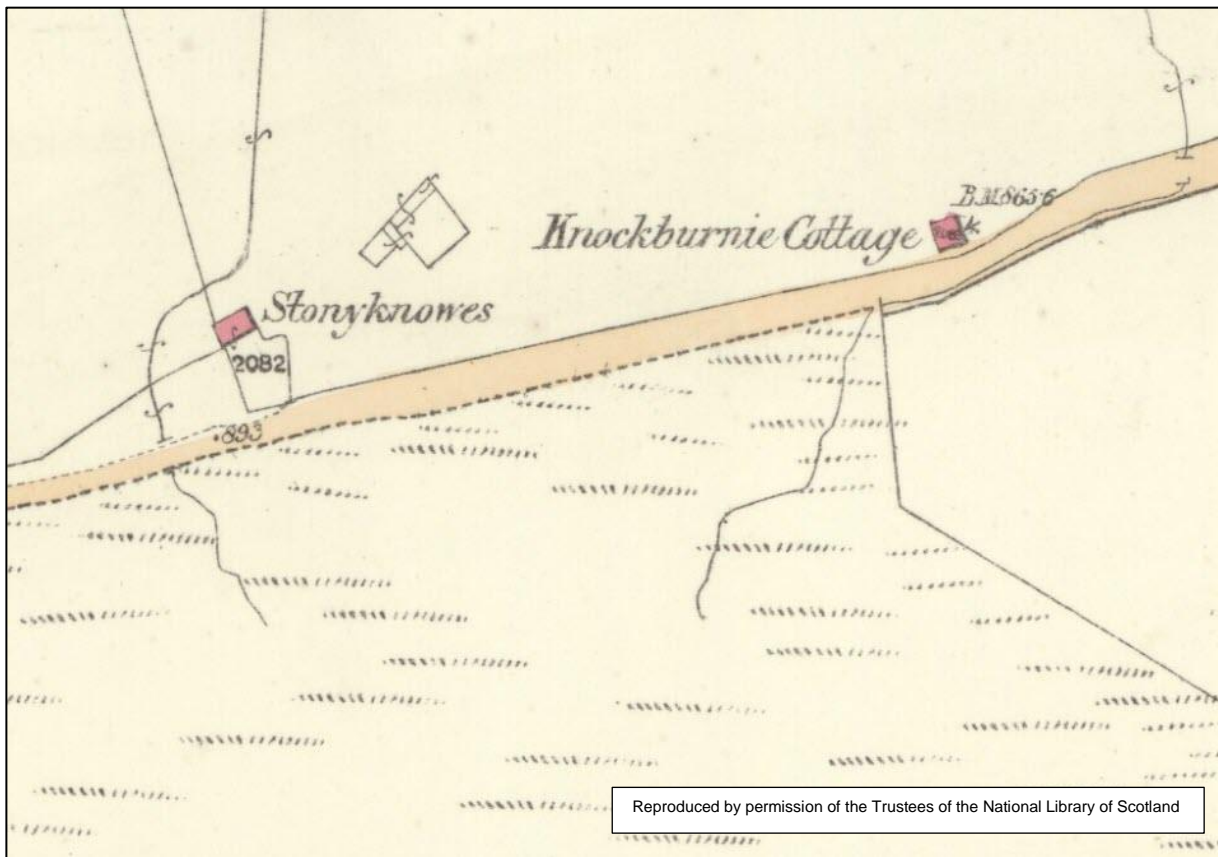


Figure 3a: Extract from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1858) showing **S6** to **S8**

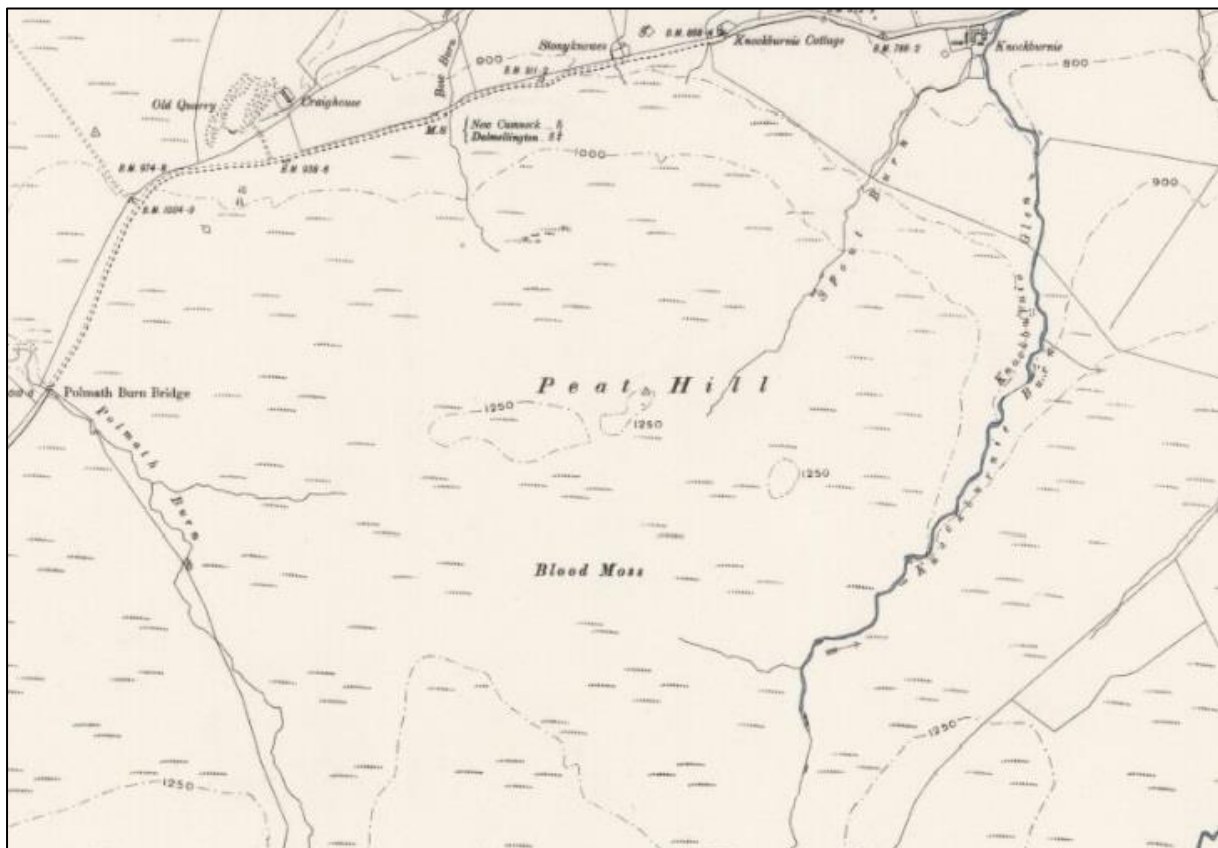


Figure 3b: Extract from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1894

25. Thomson's map of 1832 shows the establishment of two new holdings adjacent to the study area, on the lands of Dalleagles: Straid and Marshalmark. The study area itself, however, remains comparatively unchanged. One new feature is apparent: the first mapped appearance of limestone quarries **S2**. The *New Statistical Account* of 1834-43, like its predecessor of 1793, once again offers insights which helps us understand both these, and other, changes occurring throughout the wider area. Here the author provides us with indications that the agricultural improvements are finally underway within the parish of New Cumnock, but the Cathcarts are not cited amongst the forerunners in this changing approach to agriculture. Rather, they are described as not being resident, which suggests that they took little interest in the day-to-day running of this particular portion of their estate. Nonetheless, the presence of **S2** indicates that some exploitation of mineral resources is taking place here. This was presumably being quarried to serve local needs, its presence potentially indicating that concerted attempts are now being made locally to improve the soils and introduce new farming techniques, although in this particular case these changes may have been instigated by individual tenant farmers rather than by the landowners, and in particular by the tenant/occupier of Knockburnie.
26. The appearance of the limestone quarries, prior to 1832, marks the beginning of more significant changes within the study area. Land use becomes more intensive, with the creation of more landholdings in that portion of the study area which lies to the north of the B741. In particular, we see the construction of three cottages with attached enclosures: Craighouse (**S3**), Stoneyknowes (**S6**) and Knockburnie Cottage (**S8**). To the south of the B741, Knockburnie farm remains the only farm or holding located in or immediately adjacent to the study area. Other changes include the abandonment of the limestone quarries **S2** (now described as 'old quarries') but we also see the appearance of a small whinstone quarry **S5** in the southern portion of the study area, close to its western edge. We can infer from the earlier *Statistical Account* (Young 1793) that these small-scale quarrying operations were established in order to service local needs: bearing this in mind, we could infer that **S2** was abandoned because the available limestone was exhausted, while the whinstone quarry **S5** and quarry **S15** may have been established to provide building material for the various structures and field dykes which are a feature of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century landscape.
27. Further information relating to these structures can be found in the Ordnance Survey *Name Books*, compiled to accompany the 1<sup>st</sup> edition maps. Concise descriptions of all these buildings are included, with accompanying information about occupiers. Knockburnie farm is described as a 'farm house and offices in the occupation of James Laurie - the property of Sir John Cathcart, an entry which gives us both the name of the farmer, and the landowner. Knockburnie Cottage (**S8**) is described as a 'cottage on the public road from New Cumnock to Dalmellington, Occupied by William Gemmel, Gamekeeper,' while Stoneyknowes is described as a 'small cottage house on the west side of Knockburnie Cottage, occupied by Robert Fleming,' and Craighouse as 'a cottage house occupied by William Nisbet' (Ordnance Survey 1855-7, 138-9).
28. As well as providing us with a wealth of details relating to land ownership, the OS Name Books can, in a broader sense, yield insights into ongoing changes throughout the wider landscape. The fact that Knockburnie Cottage is the residence of a 'gamekeeper' indicates that the estate must have had some kind of role as a sporting estate, but the role played by the cottages is more ambiguous. Already, a number of sheepfolds have been established, both north and south of the B741: this suggests that the hilly ground to the south of the road was used as a sheepwalk, with more intensive activities related to stock management (e.g. lambing, shearing) taking place on the lower ground north of the road. In this context, we can perhaps see the cottages as providing accommodation and a little land for estate workers, rather than housing independent smallholders whose plots had been sublet either directly from the Cathcarts' Estate or indirectly from the tenant of Knockburnie farm.
29. The final change evidenced by both the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map and the accompanying Ordnance Survey *Name Book* entries is the increasing importance of large scale mineral exploitation throughout the parish of New Cumnock. The Scottish Upper and

Middle Coal measures, which encroach slightly into the northeast portion of the study area, had by the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century become an important source of both coal and ironstone, with the neighbouring estate of Dalleagles leased to the New Cumnock Iron Works as part of the Afton and Bank estates. The main focus of the mining and quarrying works lay to the north and west of the study area (with Straid, some 1km to the east, forming one such area of exploitation), but some encroachment is evident at the northeast corner of the study area. This takes the form of a short stretch of mineral line, part of a much larger feature which linked the New Cumnock Iron Works (at its east end) with ironstone quarries and brickworks at Auldnew Glen, and coal mines at Chalmerston and Pennyvenie.




30. The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map, surveyed in the mid-1890s, shows little change within the study area. One of the cottages – Stoneyknowes – has been abandoned, but the others remain roofed and occupied. There is evidence that the study area continues to be actively managed for sheepfarming, with new stock management features created, both to the north and the south of the B741. To the north, we have sheepfolds **S9** and **S10** (with the latter constructed close to the site of Stoneyknowes), and to the south sheep shelters **S11** and **S14**. Once again, we see most evidence for livestock management in the portion of the study area which lies to the north of the B741, with the area to the south potentially functioning as a sheepwalk. The other marked change which occurs prior to the publication of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey is the demise of the mineral line, which is now entirely absent. Its loss can be linked with the financial collapse of the New Cumnock Iron Works, which took place in 1852.
31. Later map editions again show little change. Small-scale whinstone quarrying continued within the study area, with the creation of a new whinstone quarry **S12** close to Knockburnie farm. Again, we can see this feature as providing a source of raw material for field dykes and livestock management features. The remaining cottages Craighouse **S1** and Knockburnie Cottage **S8** survive well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with Craighouse apparently surviving as a roofed structure to the present, and only very recent maps and aerial images showing no obvious trace of Knockburnie Cottage surviving as discernible features in the landscape. The complex of stock management features remains extant throughout the study area, which still appears to be dedicated to sheep farming.



#### *Walkover Survey*



32. The walkover survey took place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 in clear bright conditions. The area was characterised as improved or reverted pasture to the north of the B741 and adjacent to Knockburnie Farm. The hill ground on Peat Hill was unimproved with extensive evidence of open drains.
33. Many of the sites identified within the study area were agricultural in nature such as a series of sheepfolds, **S1**, **S7**, **S9**, **S10**, **S11** and **S14**, located across the study area (Figure 4).
34. **S1** was located in the easternmost part of the study area and consisted of a sub-circular sheepfold of drystone construction and in poor repair with parts of the wall collapsed. No discernible entrance could be identified due to the poor repair of the structure. It survived to a height of 1.42m, was 0.6m thick and had an outer diameter of 13.5m. The sheepfold had two partial walls running off its WNW side (for 8m) and SSE side (for 4.4m). It was located 6.7m-6.8m to the NW of a small NE-SW running burn a tributary of Bow Burn located 480m to the E.
35. In the southern part of the study area two sheepfold sites, **S11** and **S14**, were identified. The partial remains of **S11**, what may have been a circular shaped drystone sheep fold, were located on the eastern bank of the burn running through Knockburnie Glen. The surviving remains measured 14m by 6m suggesting that the sheepfold had had a diameter of 14m-15m. The surviving walling had a thickness of 0.6m and a height of 0.65m-1.5m. Sheepfold **S14**, which was located on the NW bank of Spout Burn, was rectangular shaped in plan and in a poor state of repair. It was of drystone construction and overgrown with vegetation. It measured 10m from N-S, 7.8m from E-W and had a height of 0.3m. The sheepfolds walls were all tumbled and had a width range of 0.6m-0.7m.

36. In the northern part of the study area the partial remains of the sheepfold **S9** were identified at the T junction of drystone field walling. It was semi-circular shaped in plan with a NE-SW length of 17.5m and a NW-SE length of 12.4m. Like the adjoining field walls it was of drystone construction though it had collapsed in places. The sheepfold's wall had a thickness of 0.4m and height of 0.8m-1.4m. There were two openings into the sheepfold, one on either side of the adjoining NNW-SSE field wall.
37. Sheepfolds **S7** and **S10** were located close or adjacent to the grounds of Stoneyknowes Cottage **S6**. Sheepfold **S7** consisted of a main square shaped enclosure divided along its NE-SW axis with two other smaller rectangular enclosures running off the SW side of the main enclosure and another irregular shaped enclosure running off its NW side. Overall the sheepfold occupied an area of 410m<sup>2</sup>. The walls making up the main enclosure were all of drystone construction with a width of 0.4m and a height of 1.4m. The adjacent enclosures running off the SW side of the main enclosure were a mix of wire and post/corrugated sheeting and a modern breeze block wall and the enclosure running off the main enclosure's NW side was enclosed by a similar breeze block wall. All of the gates within the sheepfold were made from modern galvanised steel. Sheepfold **S10** was located to the immediate WSW of Stoneyknowes Cottage and its associated grounds **S6** and NNW of the main B741 road. The sheepfold was square shaped in plan measuring 16.5m from ENE-WSW and 17m from NNW-SSE. The enclosing wall was of drystone construction with the SSE wall being part of a boundary wall running along the main road and the ENE wall being part of a field boundary wall which carried on further to the NNW. The wall was tumbled in places but generally in good repair with a thickness of 0.5m and height of 1.1m.
38. Three domestic cottages and their associated grounds were located within or close to the study area, **S3**, **S6** and **S8**, which due to their proximity to agricultural sites within the study area were most likely farmsteads dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century or earlier (Figure 4).
39. Craighouse Cottage **S3** was a single storey, rectangular shaped stone built structure with the outside of the building having been rendered and painted white. The building measured 25m from NNW-SSE, 7m from ENE-WSW and it had an approximate height of 4m-4.5m. The roofing, windows and doors for the cottage all looked to be recent suggesting that though the overall structure of the building was unchanged the building had been altered in a superficial manner after the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
40. The cottage was situated in a slightly off centre location within sub-rectangular shaped grounds which occupied an area of 1079m<sup>2</sup>. The grounds consisted of grass turf with an area of tarmac to the rear (NE side) of the building. The grounds were enclosed with a mix of tumbled drystone walling, wooden fencing and wire and post fencing. A small gravel farm track ran from the main B741 road to the S and entered the grounds from the SW where it joined the tarmac surface to the rear of the building. No elements relating to the cottage or its grounds were noted within the study area.
41. Stoneyknowes Cottage **S6** was a single storey, rectangular shaped drystone built structure. The structure was a partial ruin that consisted of two rooms. The ENE wall and part of the NNW wall were missing and no roofing survived. The building measured 6m from NNW-SSE, 11m from ENE-WSW and it had an approximate height of 1.5m. The structure's walls had a thickness range of 0.55m-0.65m. Some of the gaps in the NNW wall had been covered by corrugated iron sheets and there was an opening, located in a central position, in the SSE wall which may have been an original entrance. Two other entrances were observed on either side of the current entrance and both of these had been blocked up with drystone walling. A stone lintel still existed over the westernmost of these blocked entrances.
42. Grounds associated with the cottage were situated to the immediate SSE and were sub-rectangular shaped and occupied an area of 296m<sup>2</sup>. The grounds consisted of an area of rough grass turf which were enclosed with a mix of drystone walling (some of which was tumbled) and wire and post fencing.
43. The remains of Knockburnie Cottage **S8** consisted of a rectangular shaped stone built structure which was overgrown with vegetation. It measured 7.4m from NNW-SSE and 5.4m from ENE-WSW. The surviving wall foundations had a width of 0.3m-0.5m and height




Table 1: Historic Environment Sites located within the assessment area




No	Site	HER Ref:	Description	NGR	Image from Site Inspection
S1	Craighouse: Sheepfold	-	<p><b>Desk Based Assessment</b></p> <p>A circular sheepfold is shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map with two spurs, one running to the NW the other to the S. This sheepfold continues to be depicted on the current Ordnance Survey.</p> <p><b>Walk over survey</b></p> <p>The sub-circular sheepfold was of drystone construction and in poor repair at the time of the walkover with parts of the wall collapsed. No discernible entrance could be identified due to the poor repair of the structure. It survived to a height of 1.42m, was 0.6m thick and had an outer diameter of 13.5m. The sheepfold had two partial walls running off its WNW side (for 8m) and SSE side (for 4.4m). It was located 6.7m-6.8m to the NW of a small NE-SW running burn a tributary of Bow Burn located 480m to the E.</p>	NS 5478 1019	
S2	Craighouse: Limestone Quarry	-	<p><b>Desk Based Assessment</b></p> <p>'Limestone Quarry' marked on Thomson 1832. An extensive 'Old Quarry (Limestone)' is depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map to the immediate W of Craighouse S3. Depicted as earthworks the quarry covers a rectangular area in plan some 200m NE/SW by 70m NW/SE. These earthworks continue to be depicted on the current Ordnance Survey.</p> <p><b>Walk over survey</b></p> <p>The remains of the quarry were located to the W and immediate NW of Craighouse Cottage S3. They took the form of a large sub-oval shaped depression which measured 172m-173m from NE-SW, 10m-22m from NW-SE and had a depth of 2m-4m from the existing ground level. Surrounding the sub-oval depression were irregular/linear shaped mounds (presumably bunds relating to the quarry workings) which had a width range of between 10m-25m to the NW and 11m-27m to the SE. These mounds had a height range of between 3m-4m.</p>	NS 5484 1041	
S3	Craighouse: Cottage	-	<p><b>Desk Based Assessment</b></p> <p>A cottage depicted on 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey as a NW/SE aligned building set to the N of the New Cumnock-Dalmellington road named 'Craighouse', accessed by tracks from the S. A small additional structure set to the NE with enclosure to the SW. Described in the Ordnance Survey Name Book as a 'cottage house occupied by William Nisbet'. By 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey the structure appears to have been extended or rebuilt on a common alignment. This structure continues to be depicted on the current Ordnance Survey.</p> <p><b>Walk over survey</b></p> <p>Craighouse Cottage was a single storey, rectangular shaped stone built structure with the outside of the building having been rendered and painted white. The building measured 25m from NNW-SSE, 7m from ENE-WSW and it had an approximate height of 4m-4.5m. The roofing, windows and doors for the cottage all looked to be recent suggesting that though the overall structure of the building was unchanged the building had been altered in a superficial manner since the 19<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>The cottage was situated in a slightly off centre location within sub-rectangular shaped grounds which occupied an area of 1079m<sup>2</sup>. The grounds consisted of grass turf with an area of tarmac to the rear (NE) of the building. The grounds were enclosed with a mix of</p>	NS 5493 1043	



No	Site	HER Ref:	Description	NGR	Image from Site Inspection
			tumbled drystone walling, wooden fencing and wire and post fencing. A small gravel farm track ran from the main B741 road to the S and entered the grounds from the SW where it joined the tarmac surface to the rear of the building. No elements relating to the cottage or its grounds were noted within the study area.		
S4	Peat Hill: Linear Bank	Canmore: 43487, 43528 WoSAS: 7988, 8022	<p><b>Desk Based Assessment</b></p> <p>A ditchless bank was described by Graham &amp; Feacham (1956) as ascending the NE slope of Peat Hill, running over the brow ending at the head of a tributary of the Polmarth Burn. At the time of identification it was judged an old land boundary, not part of Deil's Dyke (the focus of their study). Suggestion of the NE-SW orientated ditchless bank could be observed on some of the most recent aerial imagery for the study area but not all. What may be the bank was noted on the aerial imagery on the SE slope of Peat Hill, between NS 55638 10057 and NS 55706 10143</p> <p><b>Walk over survey</b></p> <p>No trace of the bank was noted during the walkover survey.</p>	NS 5522 0962 to NS 5620 1056	
S5	Craighouse: Whinstone Quarry	-	<p><b>Desk Based Assessment</b></p> <p>A small 'Whinstone Quarry' is depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map to the immediate NE of sheepfold S1. The quarry continues to be mapped, but not described, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey with the suggestion of additional workings to the immediate S. Not depicted on the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey although a much larger depression including the original quarry is depicted on the 1962 Ordnance Survey.</p> <p><b>Survey</b></p> <p>The whinstone quarry was located on a moderate, N-S, slope which was 50m from the main B741 Road and 93m to the NE of Craighouse Sheepfold S1. The quarry was a sub-circular shaped depression which had a diameter of 10m-11m and a depth of 0.5m-1.5m from the existing ground level.</p>	NS 5486 1027	

No	Site	HER Ref:	Description	NGR	Image from Site Inspection
S6	Stonyknowes: Cottage	-	<p><b>Desk Based Assessment</b></p> <p>A Cottage depicted on 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey as a E/W aligned building set to the N of the New Cumnock-Dalmellington road named 'Stonyknowes'. A small enclosure to the S. Described in the Ordnance Survey Name Book as a 'small cottage house ... occupied by Robert Flemming'. By 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey the structure appears to have become ruinous being depicted as an enclosure. At the same time additional enclosures have been formed abutting and to the W (<b>S10</b>). These enclosures continue to be depicted on the current Ordnance Survey.</p> <p><b>Walk over survey</b></p> <p>Stoneyknowes Cottage was a single storey, rectangular shaped drystone built structure. The structure is currently a partial ruin that consisted of two rooms. The ENE wall and part of the NNW wall were missing and no roofing survived. The building measured 6m from NNW-SSE, 11m from ENE-WSW and it had an approximate height of 1.5m. The structures walls had a thickness range of 0.55m-0.65m Some of the gaps in the NNW wall had been covered by corrugated iron sheets. There was an opening, located in a central position, in the SSE wall which may have been an original entrance. Two other entrances were observed on either side of the current entrance and both of these had been blocked up with drystone walling. A stone lintel still existed over the westernmost of these blocked entrances.</p> <p>Grounds associated with the cottage were situated to the immediate SSE. These grounds were sub-rectangular shaped and occupied an area of 296m<sup>2</sup>. The grounds consisted of an area of rough grass turf. The grounds were enclosed with a mix of drystone walling (some of which was tumbled) and wire and post fencing.</p>	NS 5556 1050	
S7	Stonyknowes: Sheepfold	Canmore: 170148 WoSAS: 47342	<p><b>Desk Based Assessment</b></p> <p>A series of rectangular enclosures are depicted on the on 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey. While none are labelled as ruins, it is credible that there are two ruinous structures present. The larger is aligned NE/SW with the smaller appended to the SW gable, running to the SE to overall form an L-shaped structure. A large enclosure lies in the angle between the two proposed ruins, a smaller enclosure is appended to the SW of the complex. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey this complex has been expanded and is labelled 'Sheep Ree'. These enclosures continue to be depicted on the current Ordnance Survey.</p> <p><b>Walk over survey</b></p> <p>The sheepfold was of mainly drystone construction with some areas of corrugated iron sheeting and wire and post fencing. It consisted of a main square shaped enclosure divided along its NE-SW axis with two other smaller rectangular enclosures running off the SW side of the main enclosure and another irregular shaped enclosure running off its NW side. Overall the sheepfold occupied an area of 410m<sup>2</sup>. The walls making up the main enclosure were all of drystone construction with a width of 0.4m and a height of 1.4m. The adjacent enclosures running off the SW side of the main enclosure were a mix of wire and post/corrugated sheeting and a modern breeze block wall and the enclosure running off the main enclosures NW side was enclosed by a similar breeze block wall. All of the gates within the sheepfold were made from modern galvanised steel.</p>	NS 5561 1053	



No	Site	HER Ref:	Description	NGR	Image from Site Inspection
S8	Knockburnie Cottage:	-	<p><b>Desk Based Assessment</b></p> <p>A Cottage depicted on 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey set on the northern edge of the New Cumnock-Dalmellington road named 'Knockburnie Cottage'. Described in the Ordnance Survey Name Book as a 'cottage on the public road ... occupied by William Gemmel, Gamekeeper'. By 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey the structure lies within a larger enclosure, predominately extending to the E, also abutting the road. The cottage is depicted as roofed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey, with the ruin of the structure with larger enclosure depicted on the 1962 Ordnance Survey. The larger enclosure continue to be depicted on the current Ordnance Survey.</p> <p><b>Walk over survey</b></p> <p>The remains of Knockburnie Cottage consisted of a rectangular shaped stone built structure which was overgrown with vegetation. It measured 7.4m from NNW-SSE and 5.4m from ENE-WSW. The surviving wall foundations had a width of 0.3m-0.5m and height of 0.5m. A gap in the WSW wall may possibly have been the entrance into the structure.</p> <p>The cottage was located within sub-rectangular shaped grounds that occupied an area of 514m<sup>2</sup>. The only sign of the boundary which once enclosed the grounds was in the form of a low only just discernible bank on the line of which were a number of mature trees grew.</p>	NS 5575 1052	
S9	Craighouse: Sheepfold	-	<p><b>Desk Based Assessment</b></p> <p>On the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey a Sheep Ree is shown formed by the remodelling of field boundaries at a T junction. This sheepfold continues to be depicted on the current Ordnance Survey.</p> <p><b>Walk over survey</b></p> <p>The partial remains of the sheepfold were identified at the T junction of drystone field walling. It was semi-circular shaped in plan with a NE-SW length of 17.5m and a NW-SE length of 12.4m. Like the adjoining field walls it was of drystone construction though it had collapsed in places. The sheepfolds wall had a thickness of 0.4m and height of 0.8m-1.4m. There were two openings into the sheepfold, one on either side of the adjoining NNW-SSE field wall.</p>	NS 5525 1056	
S10	Stonyknowes: Sheepfold	-	<p><b>Desk Based Assessment</b></p> <p>On the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey a rectangular Sheep Ree is shown formed to the immediate W, and abutting, the enclosures of Stonyknowes S6. This sheepfold continues to be depicted on the current Ordnance Survey.</p> <p><b>Walk over survey</b></p> <p>The Stonyknowes Sheepfold was located to the immediate WSW of Stonyknowes Cottage and its associated grounds S6 and NNW of the main B741 road. The sheepfold was square shaped in plan measuring 16.5m from ENE-WSW and 17m from NNW-SSE. The enclosing wall was of drystone construction with the SSE wall being part of a boundary wall running along the main road and the ENE wall being part of a field boundary wall which carried on further to the NNW. The wall was tumbled in places but generally in good repair with a thickness of 0.5m and height of 1.1m.</p>	NS 5555 1049	

No	Site	HER Ref:	Description	NGR	Image from Site Inspection
S11	Knockburnie Burn: Sheep Shelter	-	<p><b>Desk Based Assessment</b></p> <p>On the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey an arc of walling, open to the N, is depicted to the immediate E of Knockburnie Glen. This walling was labelled 'Sheep Shelter' and continued to be depicted on the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey. No longer depicted on Ordnance Survey mapping, but visible on aerial imagery.</p> <p><b>Walk over survey</b></p> <p>The partial remains of what may have been a circular shaped drystone sheep fold were located on the eastern bank of the burn running through Knockburnie Glen. The surviving remains measured 14m by 6m suggesting that the sheepfold had had a diameter of 14m-15m. The surviving walling had a thickness of 0.6m and a height of 0.65m-1.5m.</p>	NS 5633 1003	
S12	Knockburnie: Quarry	-	<p><b>Desk Based Assessment</b></p> <p>A small probable quarry is depicted from the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey to the immediate west of Knockburnie farm, enclosed by a circular wall. No longer depicted on Ordnance Survey mapping.</p> <p><b>Walk over survey</b></p> <p>Irregular shaped depression represented the remains of the quarry and were noted almost adjacent to the W facing sides of one of the buildings at Knockburnie Farm. The quarry measured 23m from N-S, 22m from E-W and had a maximum depth of 2.5m-3m. To the E of the quarry were a number of both small and large mounds of spoil, some of which were overgrown.</p>	NS 5617 1046	
S13	Knockburnie Burn: Mineral Line	-	<p><b>Desk Based Assessment</b></p> <p>A section of a mineral line running from New Cumnock Iron Works (at Bank) to Ironstone and Coal Pits (at Beoch) is depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey. It does not appear on subsequent editions.</p> <p><b>Walk over survey</b></p> <p>No definitive trace of the mineral line could be identified. Where it would have entered the study area is now covered with a later 20<sup>th</sup> century farm track. This farm track had no metaling or gravel hard standing within its makeup consisting of just a rough track over plough soil which had been compacted by agricultural machinery over recent years.</p>	NS 5654 1102	

No	Site	HER Ref:	Description	NGR	Image from Site Inspection
S14	Spout Burn Sheepfold	-	<p><b>Desk Based Assessment</b></p> <p>A square shaped enclosure of probable stone construction was identified using modern aerial imagery. The structure, which is most likely a sheepfold or pen, is not shown on any historic mapping.</p> <p><b>Walk over survey</b></p> <p>The sheepfold, which was located on the NW bank of Spout Burn, was rectangular shaped in plan and in a poor state of repair. It was of drystone construction and overgrown with vegetation. It measured 10m from N-S, 7.8m from E-W and had a height of 0.3m. The sheepfolds walls were all tumbled and had a width range of 0.6m-0.7m.</p>	NS 5589 1005	
S15	Craighouse Quarry	-	<p><b>Desk Based Assessment</b></p> <p>The kidney shaped quarry is not shown on any historic mapping was located to the immediate SW of sheepfold <b>S9</b>. It was identified through aerial imagery.</p> <p><b>Walk over survey</b></p> <p>The kidney shaped quarry was 3m-4m SW of <b>S9</b>. It was 22m from NE-SW, 9m-11m from NW-SE and had a depth of 1m-2m. Low mounds of loose boulders were located to the immediate SE and SW of the quarry. These mounds of boulders were not grown over with vegetation suggesting they had been placed there relatively recently possibly stockpiling stone for repairs to nearby stone wall and sheepfolds like <b>S9</b>.</p>	NS 5524 1054	

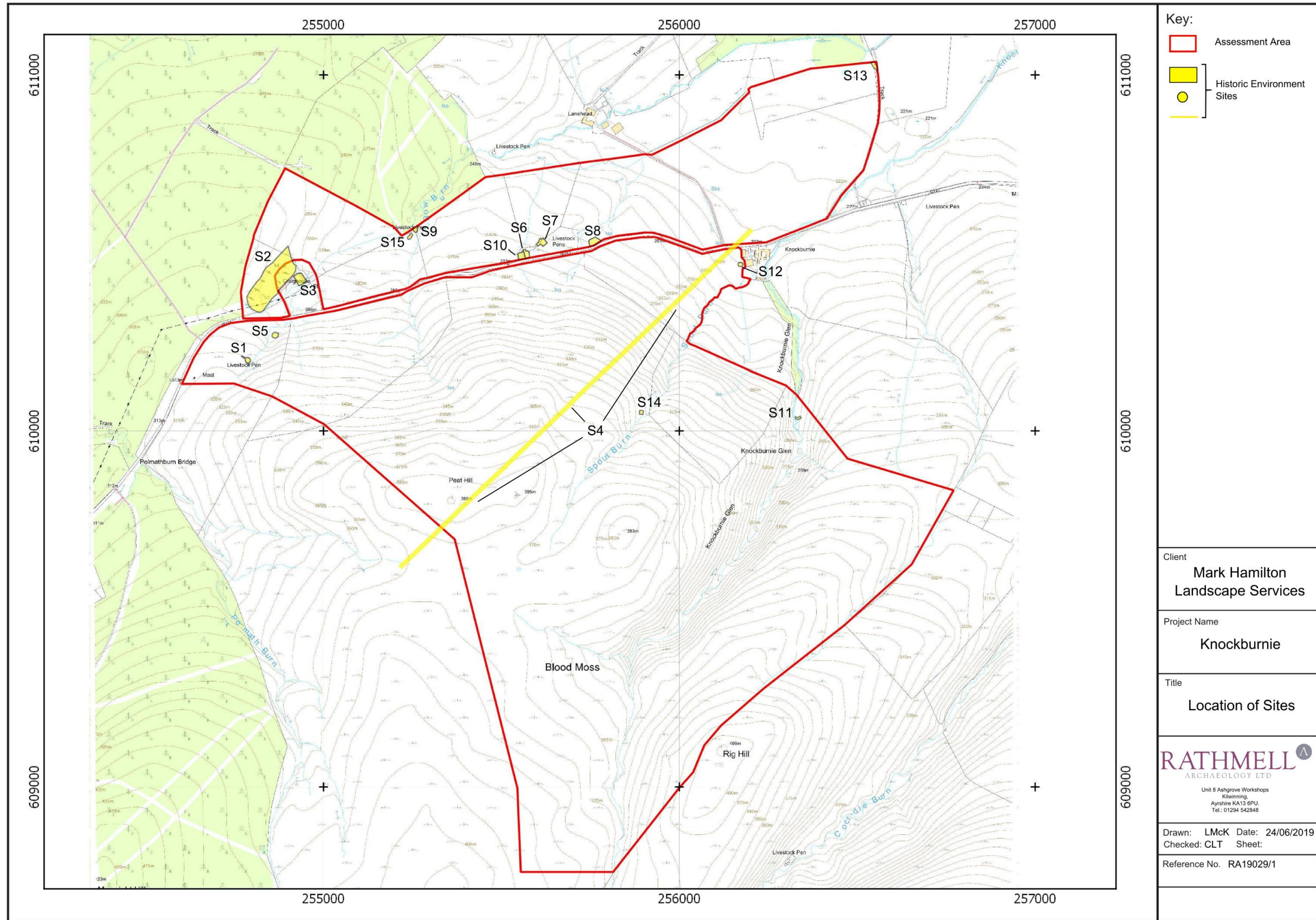


Figure 4: Location Map showing Historic Environment Sites and assessment area

- of 0.5m. A gap in the WSW wall may possibly have been the entrance into the structure.
44. The cottage was located within sub-rectangular shaped grounds that occupied an area of 514m<sup>2</sup>. The only sign of the boundary which once enclosed the grounds was in the form of a low only just discernible bank of overgrown stone on the line of which were a number of mature trees grew.
  45. A few of the sites identified within the study area were industrial in nature such as a series of quarries, **S2**, **S5**, **S12** and **S15**, and remains of a 19th century mineral line **S13** located across the study area (Figure 4).
  46. The remains of Craighouse Limestone Quarry **S2** were located to the W and immediate NW of Craighouse Cottage **S3**. They took the form of a large sub-oval shaped depression which measured 172m-173m from NE-SW, 10m-22m from NW-SE and had a depth of 2m-4m from the existing ground level. Surrounding the sub-oval depression were irregular/linear shaped mounds (presumably bunds relating to the quarry workings) which had a width range of between 10m-25m to the NW and 11m-27m to the SE. These mounds had a height range of between 3m-4m.
  47. Craighouse Whinstone Quarry **S5** was located on a moderate, N-S, slope which was 50m from the main B741 Road and 93m to the NE of Craighouse Sheepfold **S1**. The quarry was a sub-circular shaped depression which had a diameter of 10m-11m and a depth of 0.5m-1.5m from the existing ground level.
  48. Knockburnie Quarry **S12** was an irregular shaped depression noted almost adjacent to the W facing sides of one of the buildings at current Knockburnie Farm. The quarry measured 23m from N-S, 22m from E-W and had a maximum depth of 2.5m-3m. To the E of the quarry were a number of both small and large mounds of spoil, some of which were overgrown.
  49. No definitive trace of the mineral line at Knockburnie Burn **S13** could be identified. Where it would have entered the study area was covered with a later 20th century farm track. This farm track had no metaling or gravel hard standing within its makeup consisting of just a rough track over plough soil which had been compacted by agricultural machinery over recent years.
  50. Kidney shaped quarry **S15** was 3m-4m to the SW of sheepfold **S9**. It was 22m from NE-SW, 9m-11m from NW-SE and had a depth of 1m-2m. Low mounds of loose boulders were located to the immediate SE and SW of the quarry. These mounds of boulders were not grown over with vegetation suggesting they had been placed there relatively recently possibly stockpiling stone for repairs to nearby stone wall and sheepfolds like **S9**.
  51. The final site which was part of the walkover survey was the linear earthen bank at Peat Hill **S4** (Figure 4). Though the suggestion of a small stretch of the bank was visible within modern aerial imagery no trace of it could identified during the walkover survey.

### *Management Guidance*

52. The assessment identified fifteen historic sites within the Knockburnie 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 3).
53. Of the six sheepfolds identified across the study area, three were shown within the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey (**S1**, **S7** and **S10**), one within the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey (**S9**). The other two (**S11** and **S14**) though only identified within aerial imagery from their construction seem to be similar to the other identified sheepfolds which date from the 19<sup>th</sup> century and possibly into the 18<sup>th</sup> century. As such they contribute to the historic character of the land and have been ascribed Local significance and should be protected by a 5m buffer. Each should be retained within a managed clearing that is maintained as an open space.

54. Two cottages with associated grounds, **S6** and **S8**, were identified within the study area (and one which was outwith it **S3**) were all depicted within the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey showing them to be mid-19<sup>th</sup> century date though they may like the sheepfolds have originally have been constructed at an earlier time possibly the 18<sup>th</sup> century. As such they contribute to the historic character of the land and have been ascribed Local significance and should be protected by a 5m buffer. Each should be retained within a managed clearing that is maintained as an open space.
55. The largest of the three quarries identified, **S2**, is marked as an 'old' quarry on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey suggesting an early 19<sup>th</sup> century or even 18<sup>th</sup> century date for the quarry workings. As such it contributes to the historic character of the land and has been ascribed Local significance and should be protected by a 5m buffer. It should be retained within a managed clearing that is maintained as an open space.
56. The other three quarry sites, **S5**, **S12** and **S15**, are less well preserved and in the case of **S12** and **S15** later in date. The remains of the mineral line site, Knockburnie Burn **S13**, were shown in the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey but no surviving traces of it could be detected during the walkover survey. Because of this both quarry and mineral line sites have been ascribed Other significance, with no action required.
57. No traces of the linear bank **S4** crossing Peat Hill was detected during the walkover survey. A suggestion of what might have been the linear bank was noted in the aerial imagery for the study area but so to were other linear drainage features, and with no confirmation of this on the ground it would be difficult to differentiate between the bank feature and nearby field drains. Because of this the linear bank has been ascribed Other significance, with no action required.

Table 3: Management Guidance for Historic Environment Sites

No	Site	Significance	Management Guidance	UKFS HE Guidelines
<b>S1</b>	Craighouse: Sheepfold	Local	Protection with a 5m buffer, managed as clearing and maintained as an open space.	GFPR 2 SFM 11,18
<b>S2</b>	Craighouse: Limestone Quarry	Local	Protection with a 5m buffer, managed as clearing and maintained as an open space.	GFPR 2 SFM 11,18
<b>S3</b>	Craighouse: Cottage	Local	No part of the cottage and its grounds were within the study area. As such <b>No</b> action is recommended.	-
<b>S4</b>	Peat Hill: Linear Bank	Other	No trace of the linear bank was detected during the walkover and suggestion of a small stretch of it on Peat Hill within aerial imagery cannot be convincingly differentiated with other linear features such as field drains in the landscape. As such <b>No</b> action is recommended.	-
<b>S5</b>	Craighouse: Whinstone Quarry	Other	The quarry is poorly preserved and dates to the 19 <sup>th</sup> century. <b>No</b> action is recommended.	-
<b>S6</b>	Stonyknowes: Cottage	Local	Protection with a 5m buffer, managed as clearing and	GFPR 2 SFM 11,18

			maintained as an open space.	
<b>S7</b>	Stonyknowes: Sheepfold	Local	Protection with a 5m buffer, managed as clearing and maintained as an open space.	GFPR 2 SFM 11,18
<b>S8</b>	Knockburnie Cottage:	Local	Protection with a 5m buffer, managed as clearing and maintained as an open space.	GFPR 2 SFM 11,18
<b>S9</b>	Craighouse: Sheepfold	Local	Protection with a 5m buffer, managed as clearing and maintained as an open space.	GFPR 2 SFM 11,18
<b>S10</b>	Stonyknowes: Sheepfold	Local	Protection with a 5m buffer, managed as clearing and maintained as an open space.	GFPR 2 SFM 11,18
<b>S11</b>	Knockburnie Burn: Sheep Shelter	Local	Protection with a 5m buffer, managed as clearing and maintained as an open space.	GFPR 2 SFM 11,18
<b>S12</b>	Knockburnie: Quarry	Other	The quarry dates to the 20 <sup>th</sup> century. <b>No</b> action is recommended.	-
<b>S13</b>	Knockburnie Burn: Mineral Line	Other	No trace of the mineral line survives within the study area. <b>No</b> action is recommended.	-
<b>S14</b>	Spout Burn Sheepfold	Local	Protection with a 5m buffer, managed as clearing and maintained as an open space.	GFPR 2 SFM 11,18
<b>S15</b>	Craighouse Quarry	Other	The quarry dates to the 20 <sup>th</sup> century. <b>No</b> action is recommended.	-

SFM sustainable forest management. LR legal requirement. GFPR good forestry practice requirement

## Conclusion

69. A historic environment assessment was required by Mark Hamilton Landscape Services to inform a programme of tree-planting near Knockburnie, East Ayrshire. This process identified fourteen historic environment sites relating to the assessment area (Table 1).
70. Our management guidance has covered protection measures for nine of these sites. These recommendations are compliant with UKFS Historic Environment Guidelines

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