

**Shankston & Keirsmill, East Ayrshire:
Historic Environment Assessment & Survey
Appraisal**



by Sarah Krischer

issued 11th July 2019

on behalf of Mark Hamilton Landscape Services

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Executive Summary

1. A historic environment assessment was required by Mark Hamilton Landscape Services to inform a proposed planting scheme at Shankston and Keirsmill, near Patna, 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. Eight historic environment sites were identified and are considered within this report (Table 1). These are: a 19th century farmstead (**S1**), a pre-19th century quarry (**S2**), two 19th century road sections (**S3** and **S4**), three area of field banks (**S5**, **S7** and **S8**) and a 19th century pond (**S6**).
3. Based on the evidence gathered for this assessment, positive management has been recommended to safeguard sites **S1**, **S3**, and **S4**.

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 Shankston and Keirsmil Farms, near Patna, East Ayrshire (centred on NS 399 113). 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 1km to the west of the town of Patna. It comprises a 172.3 ha. area of land to the immediate west of Patna Hill. The assessment area comprises two blocks of land, separated by the east-west running unnamed minor road which links Patna and Dalveenan. The smaller block, lying south of the road, incorporates an unnamed hill to the north of Carskeoch Hill; the larger, located to the north of the road, incorporates the west and northwest facing slopes of Patna Hill, before terminating, along its northern edge, at the south bank of the river Doon. The elevation varies: the ground is highest in the southern block, where it reaches 230m OD, with the ground lowest at the north end of the north block, where the river Doon sits at a height of approximately 140m OD.
7. The assessment area can be characterised geologically as comprising lower (bedrock) geology of sandstone with areas of Analcime-gabbro combined with superficial deposits of Diamicton Till. Field boundaries across the study area are characterised by a mix of drystone walls, post –and–wire fencing and hedgerows. The land use largely comprises improved pasture, although some of this ground has reverted to rough grazing with patches of bracken and spike-rush.

Project Works

8. The programme of works agreed with Mark Hamilton Landscape Services comprised a desk-based assessment and walkover survey.
9. 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).
10. The walkover survey comprised:
- ❖ classification of the archaeological sites and monuments;
 - ❖ 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);
 - ❖ production of a photographic record (digital) of all sites; and
 - ❖ location of 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 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

12. The desk-based assessment identified eight 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

13. The northern portion of the assessment area was subject to an archaeological desk-based assessment and field inspection (WoSAS Event ID: 5251), carried out by RSK in 2014 in support of the "Yy-Coylton to Mark Hill Overhead Line Upgrade" project. No sites were identified within the study area as a result of the work.

Prehistoric to Roman Land use

14. There is no evidence of occupation during the Neolithic, Bronze or Iron Age within the assessment area. Prehistoric sites and monuments are similarly scarce throughout the wider locale: one of the nearest examples is represented by a hilltop cairn of Bronze Age date at Greenhill, lying to the southeast of Patna some 3.9km from the assessment area (Canmore ID: 42591; WoSAS ID: 7149)
15. No known or suggested Roman sites lie within the assessment area, or its immediate proximity. Roman activity in the uplands of SW Scotland are poorly understood, despite an array of military installations and associated road network flowing along the Solway coast. There is a possible Roman road approximately 2km to the west of the site at Dryock Hill (WoSAS ID: 6209). Another possible Roman road runs to the north of the site, along the line of the modern A713 (WoSAS ID: 4610).
16. Due to the relatively low intensity of the land use across the assessment area and much of its surroundings, the limited survival of prehistoric and Roman field monuments as prominent features in the landscape is notable. The absence of such sites suggests either a consistent pattern of low intensity land use within these periods or occupation in a manner that has not formed discrete and identifiable field monuments.

Medieval and Later Periods

17. No definitively early medieval or medieval features are located within the assessment area. These sites are similarly scarce throughout the wider area: while Dalmellington, some 8.6km to the southeast, has medieval origins, the village of Patna is – by comparison – relatively recent in date. Some late medieval tower-houses survive throughout the wider landscape, but again, none occur in close proximity to the assessment area. Keirs Castle, for example, which represents one of the closest sites, is located 4km to the southeast of the assessment area (Canmore ID: 42580; WoSAS ID: 7138), again suggesting a concentration around Dalmellington.



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



Figure 1b: Extract from Armstrong 1775



Figure 2a: Extract from Ainslie 1821



Figure 2b: Extract from Thomson 1828

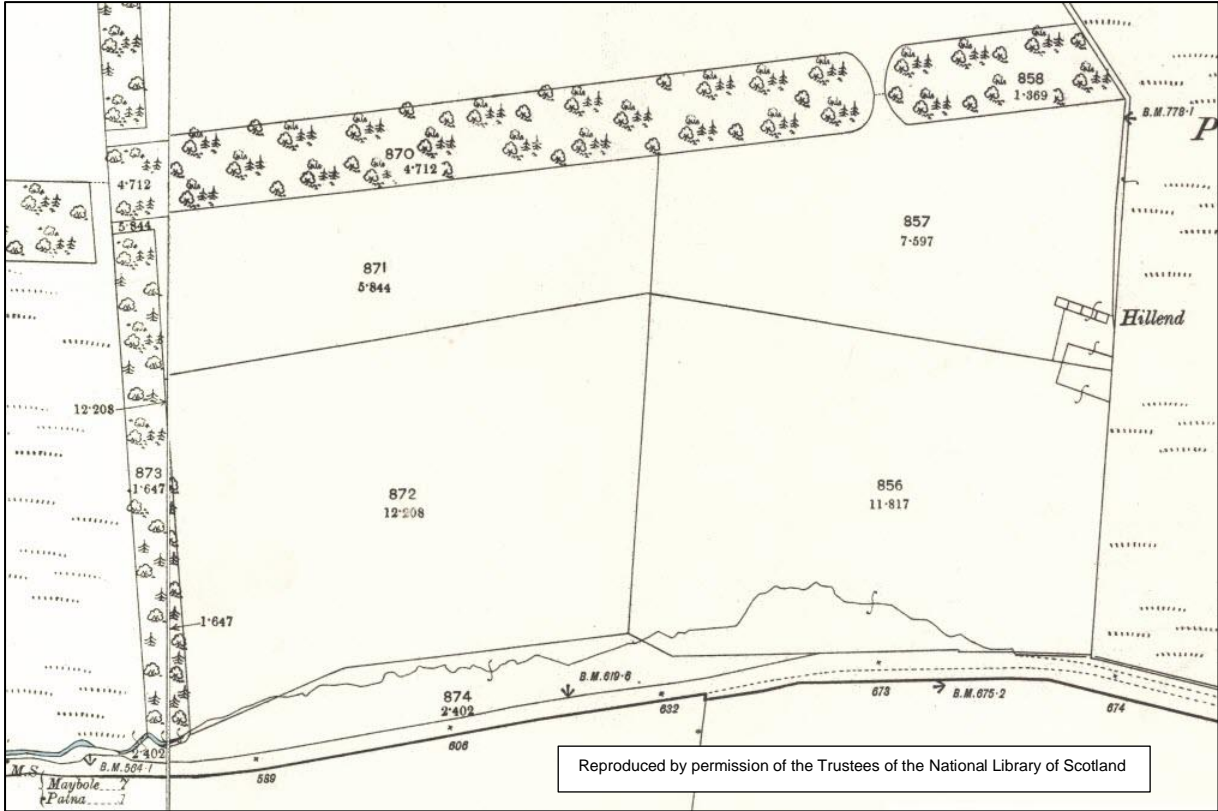


Figure 3a: Extract from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1857) showing **S1 & S3**

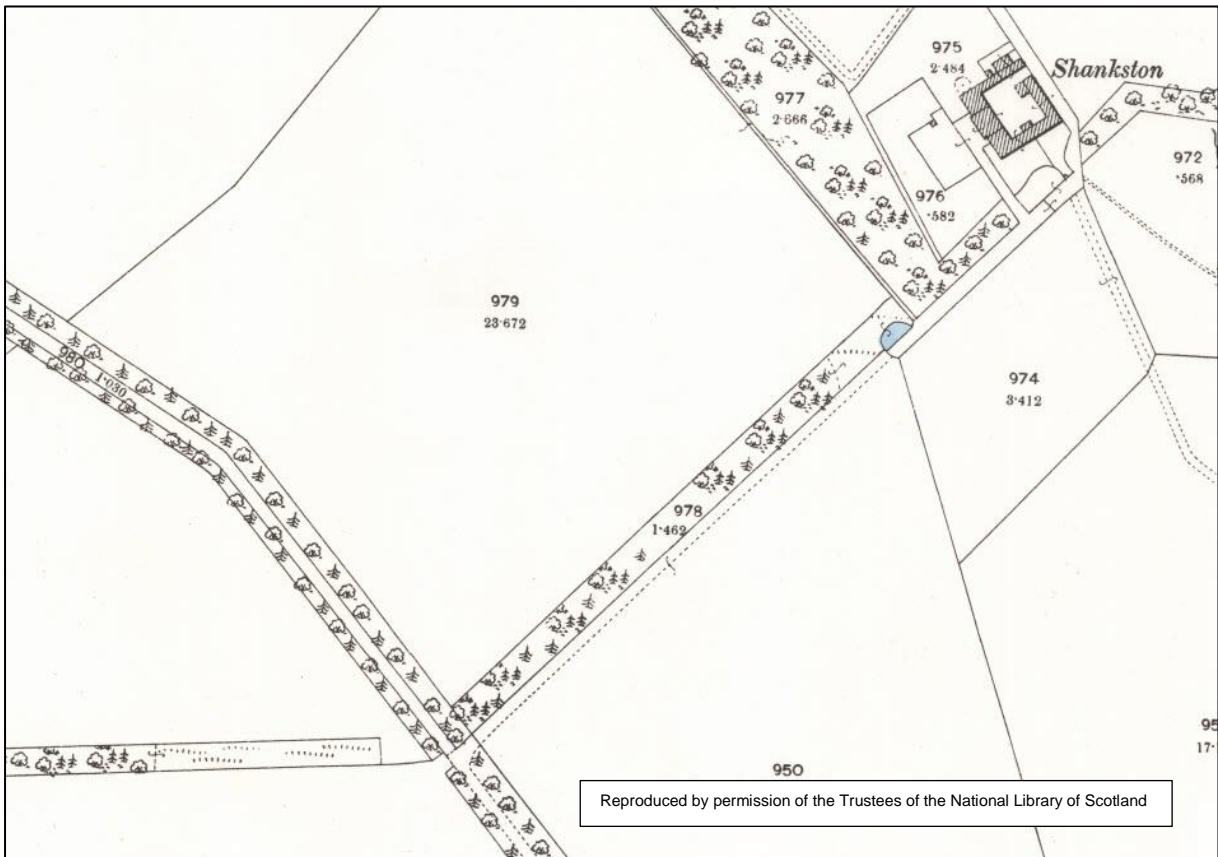


Figure 3b: Extract from the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey (1898) showing **S4 & S6**

19. The earliest historic mapping which provides insights into the assessment area is Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (1752-5), which depicts an agricultural landscape of farms and large enclosed fields (Figure 1a). Amongst the farms depicted are Shankston and Keirsmill, which are at this time surrounded by open countryside with several large enclosures lying to the east. The farmstead of Hillend (**S1**) is not shown on Roy's map: as it lies between two sheets it may simply have been omitted or obscured.
20. The Old Statistical Account of Scotland, compiled in 1792 (Crawford 1792), depicted the Parish of Straiton as an agricultural area undergoing a period of decline. The majority of land was used for raising livestock, primarily cattle, with only a small part devoted to agriculture. The amount of land used to grow corn had declined since the mid-18th century, with the population of the parish also declining to 934 people in 1792.
21. The village of Patna was established in 1802 by the local landowner William Fullerton. Named after the Indian city where Fullerton made his fortune, its role was to provide housing for workers at the newly established coal mines on his estate. The early years of the 19th century saw a period of great change in the area, with an increase in particular in mineral extraction and processing. The majority of sites within the assessment area date to this period, although most represent instead evidence for agricultural activities.
22. Wider changes in the area at around this time are attested by early 19th century maps produced by Ainslie in 1821 (Figure 2a) and Thomson in 1828 (Figure 2b). Thomson's 1828 map, which shows the assessment area in more detail, will be discussed more fully below, but the earlier 1821 map is also worthy of mention as it shows a northwest-southeast running road in a location consistent with the road **S4** which is shown crossing the study area on the later 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1859. An examination of an even earlier map – Armstrong's map of 1775 – suggests that this road has even earlier origins, predating the creation of Patna (Figure 1b). A marked change is, however, evident in the course of the road between 1821 and 1828: here, we see the line straightened at the northwest end to create a straight route running northwest from Keir Hill to Sheldon House (Canmore ID: 169343; WoSAS ID: 47180) at NS 3775 1353, which was then the country house of William Fullerton, the founder of Patna. The planting of trees along the line of the road to create a tree-lined avenue is also first shown on the 1828 map: this, along with the erection of a monument named 'Patna Tower' on the summit of Patna Hill (outwith the assessment area, shown as 'Site of Patna Tower' on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1859), further strengthens the possibility that the assessment area once formed an outlying part of a more extended designed landscape associated with Skeldon House, the core of which has now been ascribed national significance and included in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDL00342).
23. Thomson's 1828 map (Figure 1d) shows the creation of another road, running roughly east to west and branching off from the existing north-south running road towards Dalvinnan (**S3**). The construction of this road appears to have formed part of wider infrastructure improvements throughout the area, with the presence of a toll point at Dalvinnan indicating that it was a toll road. Thomson's map also shows that Fullerton was also encouraging agriculture as well as industry, through the creation of new farms such as Hillend (**S1**), which is first shown here. This implies the farmstead was a short-lived endeavour formed as part of the agricultural improvements of the late 18th and early 19th centuries.
24. The New Statistical Account, compiled in 1845 (Paton 1845), supports this picture of a much-changed landscape. The population of the parish had increased to 1377 persons, with the village of Patna noted as having a population of 218. The increased population was due in part to agricultural improvements, but mainly down to the increase in the coal and lime extraction taking place around Patna.
25. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of the assessment area (1859), shows few changes from the earlier mapping. The hill to the immediate east of the study area has been renamed 'Patna Hill' from its previous name of Keir Hill, while Hillend farmstead (**S1**) has been abandoned (Figure 3a) and is labelled as ruined. Quarry Knowe Quarry (**S2**) is shown, but is already marked as old. Field boundaries **S8** are shown on the map, but banks **S5** and **S7** are not, which may indicate that they pre-date the field divisions of the agricultural

improvements. The pond at Shankston (**S6**) is also clearly visible, while roads **S3** and **S4** remain as shown in 1828. There is no change within the assessment area between the first and second editions of the Ordnance Survey (Figure 3b).




Walkover Survey




26. The walkover survey took place in poor weather conditions with frequent heavy rain. Overall the assessment area comprised improved pasture distributed across twenty two fields to the north and south of the Patna to Dalvennan road (Figure 4). The pasture was not being actively grazed at the time of the survey, and hence had become extremely overgrown, with tall grass, bracken and spike-rush evident. Field boundaries comprised a mixture of drystone walls, post-and-wire fencing, and overgrown hedgerows. The latter appeared to be composed mainly of hawthorn.
27. Hillend Farmstead **S1** was located as a rectangular enclosure measuring 50m northeast southwest by 30m transversely. Much of the site was heavily overgrown and obscured but the remains of drystone walls could still be identified along the west and south edges of the enclosure.
28. The Quarry Knowe quarry **S2** was confirmed as a large linear depression on the hillside running northeast-southwest. It was heavily overgrown and contained a number of large trees.
29. The historical line of the Patna to Dalveen Road **S3** was located at its western end as a modern farm track. Its course could be distinguished for a distance of around 70m, after which point it could not be located over the rest of its extent as the area was heavily overgrown with trees. The Patna to Skeldon road **S4** with its tree-lined avenue still survived as a modern farm track over much of its extent, running between two extant lines of mature trees, although where the road was no longer used for this purpose (the south-easternmost 250m or so), its line, though heavily overgrown, was still visible.
30. The enclosure banks **S5** at Dalowie Burn were visible on modern aerial imagery as a series of relict field boundaries. These could not, however, be located during the field survey due to the thick, overgrown nature of the vegetation. Likewise the enclosure banks **S7** at Hillend could also not be located during the field survey. By contrast, the enclosure banks **S8** at White Hill were located as a long linear bank running northwest-southeast for a distance of around 450m.
31. Shankston Pond **S6** is visible on historical mapping to the immediate southwest of Shankston Farm. It was located during field survey as a sub-circular shallow pond, defined around its eastern edge by a stone revetment.
32. Rig blocks A to K were located on modern aerial imagery in the southern half of the study area. None could be located in fields that were overgrown with rank tall grass.



Management Guidance

33. The assessment identified eight historic sites within the Shankston & Keirsmill 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).
34. None of the rig blocks (A-K) could be located during the field survey. Their apparent association with a series of enclosure banks (in particular **S7**, but also, potentially, **S5** and **S8**) suggests that they represent fragments of a rectilinear field system which functioned as a precursor to the modern layout of fields that survives today. All of these rig blocks are judged to be of mid- to late 19th century in origin and their late date – coupled with their poor levels of preservation – has resulted in their being considered as Other significance with no action recommended. The associated enclosure banks – **S5**, **S7** and **S8** – are discussed in more detail below.

Table 1: Historic Environment Sites located within the assessment area

No	Site	HER Ref:	Description	NGR	Image from Site Inspection
S1	Hillend Farmstead	Canmore: 170052 WoSAS: 45675	<p>Desk Based Assessment</p> <p>First depicted on Ainslie's map of 1821, this settlement also appears on the later 1st Edition Ordnance Survey of 1860 where it is labelled as 'Ruins'. Here it is depicted as a rectilinear building of four compartments aligned WNE to ESE with a yard and enclosed field to the immediate S. The ruins include enclosures that remain visible on modern aerial imagery while no longer being depicted on modern mapping.</p> <p>Walkover survey</p> <p>The farmstead was located during field survey as a rectangular area of levelled ground measuring 50m NE-SW by 30m transversely. Traces of drystone walls could still be seen on the S and W sides: these were heavily ruinous, with a maximum height of 0.6m and a maximum width of 1.2m. No remains of the farmstead were located, but the unusually high number of stones across the extent of the levelled area may have derived from its structures.</p>	NS 4035 1090	
S2	Quarry Knowe Quarry	-	<p>Desk Based Assessment</p> <p>The 1st edition OS (1860) shows an 'Old Quarry (Whinstone)' to the south of Whitehill farm at Quarry Knowe. The quarry is shown on modern Ordnance Survey mapping and is also visible on modern aerial imagery.</p> <p>Walkover survey</p> <p>The quarry was located during the field survey as a linear depression in the side of Quarry Knowe. Rounded at the SW end, the quarry had a maximum width of 30m and was 95m long from ENE to WSW. It was heavily overgrown with several small areas of outcrop visible.</p>	NS 4066 1053	
S3	Patna to Dalveen Road	-	<p>Desk Based Assessment</p> <p>Comparison between modern and historic Ordnance Survey mapping identifies a relict stretch of the road from Patna to Dalveen running along the S side of the northern tributary of the Dalowie Burn, to which it runs roughly parallel. Realignment has resulted in movement of the modern road to its current, more northerly, course, a change which appears to have occurred in the latter half of the 20th century.</p> <p>Walkover survey</p> <p>The site was located at its western end as a 2.5m wide dirt and stone path near the modern gate. It was heavily overgrown and became indistinct after running east approximately 70m. The site could not be located over its eastern extent.</p>	NS 3963 1066 to NS 4035 1071	

No	Site	HER Ref:	Description	NGR	Image from Site Inspection
S4	Patna to Skeldon Road	-	<p>Desk Based Assessment</p> <p>The first secure appearance of the Patna to Skeldon road occurs on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1859, where it is shown as a tree-lined avenue running NE-SW through the assessment area. It is likely, however, that the same road makes its first appearance on Armstrong's much earlier map of 1775 and that the same road is shown on Thomson's map of 1828. Here, the road shows evidence of realignment at its NW end (beyond the assessment area), creating a driveway which leads to Skeldon House. An avenue of trees is also added at this time, further confirming the site's role as a designed landscape feature. The road is visible as a tree lined farm track on modern aerial photography.</p> <p>Walkover survey</p> <p>S4 was identified as a farm track approximately 20m wide, running NW-SE and lined on either side by mature trees. While the majority of the road survived as a metalled farm track, the south-easternmost 250m is no longer used by the modern farm and is now heavily overgrown.</p>	NS 3988 1190 to NS 4043 1133	
S5	Dallowie Burn Banks	-	<p>Desk Based Assessment</p> <p>A group of linear field boundaries visible on modern aerial imagery but are not recorded on any historic mapping. Together, they create a now-fragmented group of rectilinear fields which are likely to represent an earlier phase of the current rectangular field system. The original dimensions of these fields cannot be established from the levels of information available, and – with the exception of rig block a, there do not appear to be any cultivation remains surviving in association. Whether this is because they were related to stock management rather than arable production or whether they have been eroded by later cultivation practices cannot, however, be ascertained.</p> <p>The field boundaries are visible on aerial photography as three banks at the western end of the study area, north of Dallowie Wood.</p> <p>Walkover survey</p> <p>The site could not be located during the site inspection, in an area which was heavily overgrown with tall grass and other vegetation.</p>	NS 39940 10557	
S6	Shankston Pond	-	<p>Desk Based Assessment</p> <p>A semi-circular pond is visible on the 1st and 2nd editions of the Ordnance Survey mapping. It is located to the immediate SW of Shankston Farm, and does not appear on historic mapping to be associated with any obvious water management features. Modern mapping suggests, however, that the pond may mark the site where a spring issues, as a linear ditch has been cut, running SE-NW to beyond the NW boundary of the assessment area, where it bends to the west and subsequently discharges into Shankston Loch. It is possible that some of the complex of linear features shown to the west of Shankston farm on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1859 represent the line of a ditch (as opposed to a fence-line), perhaps following a similar course to the extant modern ditches, but this cannot be confidently ascertained. The pond is obscured by trees and is not visible on modern aerial imagery.</p> <p>Walkover survey</p> <p>The pond was located during survey as a small sub-circular pond defined along its eastern edge by a stone revetment.. The pond was approximately 1m deep and had measured approximately 7m wide NW-SE by 15m long transversely. The pond was heavily overgrown at the time of the field survey.</p>	NS 4053 1175	

No	Site	HER Ref:	Description	NGR	Image from Site Inspection
S7	Hillend Enclosure banks	-	<p>Desk Based Assessment</p> <p>A series of linear field boundaries are visible on modern aerial imagery but are not shown on historic mapping</p> <p>These enclosure banks form a 'T'-shape in the central portion of the study area, to the immediate west of Patna Hill, and appear to have been associated with rig blocks f, g and h. Together, the site and its associated feature appear to form the fragmentary remains of a rectilinear field system, of relatively recent (i.e. post-improvement) date which preceded the modern extent field system which still survives today.</p> <p>Walkover survey</p> <p>The site could be not identified during the field survey in an area which was characterised by a thick dense growth of overgrown grass.</p>	NS 39932 11168	
S8	White Hill Enclosure banks	-	<p>Desk Based Assessment</p> <p>A group of linear field boundaries are visible on modern aerial photography in the SE corner of the assessment area, running parallel to modern field boundaries in an ENE-WSW alignment. These banks are not recorded on any historic mapping. They represent the fragmentary remains of a rectilinear field system and may represent a precursor of the modern, extant rectangular field system. No traces of rig and furrow cultivation were found in association: it is not possible to establish whether this is because these enclosures were originally used for stock management, with no cultivation undertaken in association, or whether any originally-existing evidence for rig-and-furrow cultivation has now been removed by later agricultural activities.</p> <p>Walkover survey</p> <p>The main NW-SE bank was located as a low earthen bank with a maximum height of 0.5m. The bank was 0.6m wide and ran for approximately 450m.</p>	NS 40403 10290	

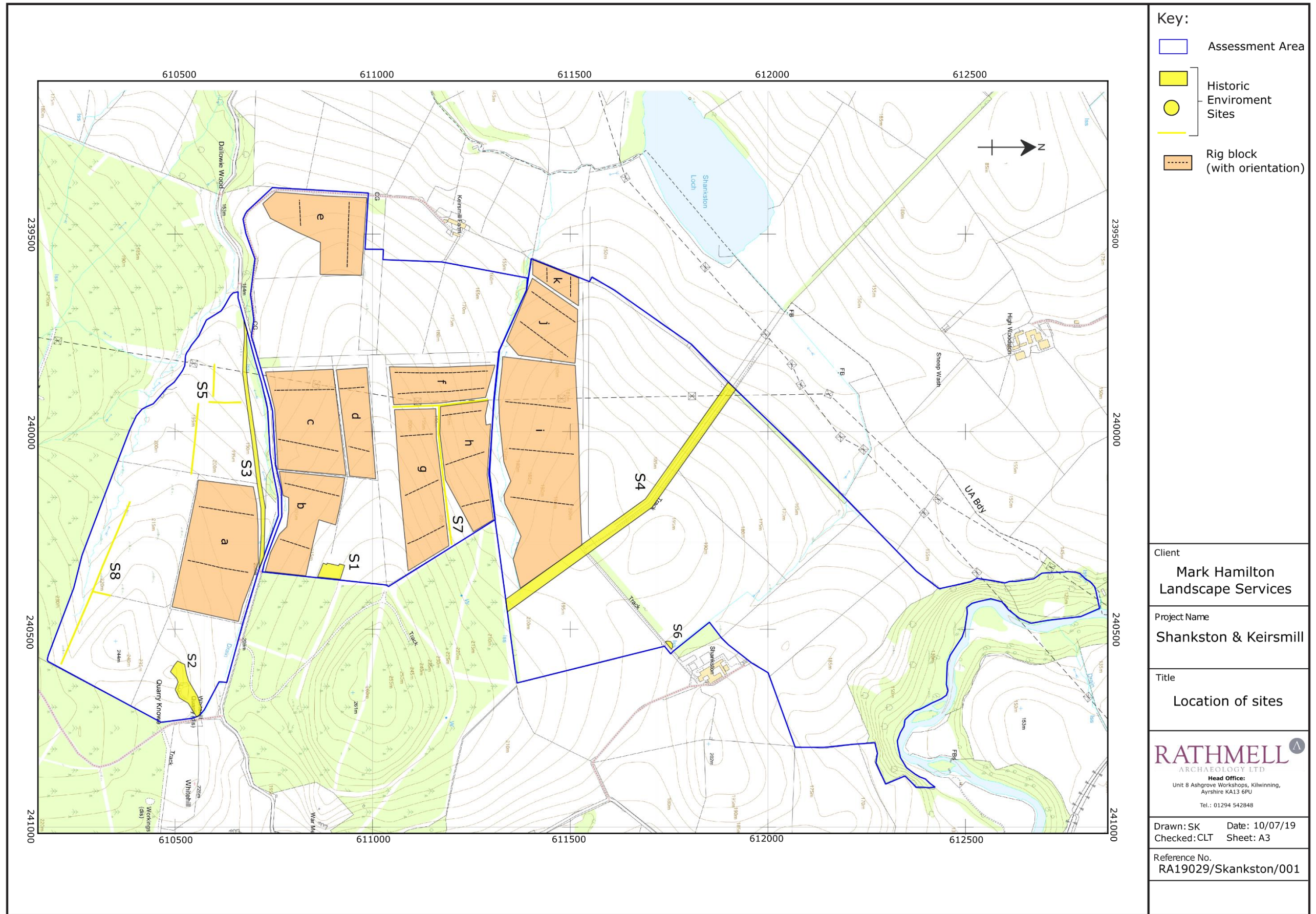


Figure 4: Location Map showing Historic Environment Sites and assessment area

Table 2: Rig and Furrow Blocks located within Assessment Area.

No	NGR	Block Form	Visibility	Boundaries	Sequence & Relationships	Rig Orientation & Topography	Rig & Furrow Dimensions	Rig Morphology
A	NS 40291 10623	Sub-rectangular. 180m NE-SW by 330m transversely. 5.7 ha.	Visible on aerial imagery but obscured by vegetation.	Modern field boundaries on all sides.	Truncated by road S3 .	Aligned N-S. Running down slope of hill towards old line of road S3.	-	Straight rig
B	NS 40214 10836	Irregular. Maximum of 160m NE-SW by 260m transversely. 2.9 ha.	Visible on aerial imagery but obscured by vegetation.	Modern road to south. Modern field boundaries on all other sides.	Respects farmstead S1 to north. Respects rig block C to the west.	Aligned NE-SW. Running with slope up/down hill.	-	Straight rig
C	NS 39967 10830	Sub-rectangular. 170m NE-SW by 260m transversely. 4.1 ha.	Visible on aerial imagery but obscured by vegetation.	Modern road to south. Modern field boundaries on all other sides.	Respects rig block B to east and C to north.	Aligned NE-SW. Running with slope up/down hill.	-	Straight rig
D	NS 39975 1963	Sub-rectangular. 75 m NE-SW by 280m transversely. 1.9ha.	Visible on aerial imagery but obscured by vegetation.	Modern field boundaries on all sides.	Respects rig block C to south.	Aligned NE-SW. Running with slope up/down hill.	-	Straight rig
E	NS 39478 10892	Irregular. Maximum 258m N-S by 116m transversely. 3.4. ha.	Visible on aerial imagery but obscured by vegetation.	Modern field boundaries on north, east and west sides.	None	Aligned E-W. Running with slope up/down hill.	-	Straight rig
F	NS 39878 11172	Sub-rectangular. 260m N-S by 95m transversely. 2.2 ha.	Visible on aerial imagery but obscured by vegetation.	Bank S7 to east. Modern field boundaries on all other sides.	Respects rig blocks H and G to the east.	Aligned N-S. Running with slope up/down hill.	-	Straight rig
G	NS 40138 11104	Sub-rectangular. 360m NW-SE by 116m transversely. 3.8 ha.	Visible on aerial imagery but obscured by vegetation.	Bank S7 to west and north.	Respects rig block F to west and H to north.	Aligned NW-SE. Running with slope up/down hill.	-	Straight rig
H	NS 40065 11242	Irregular. Maximum 130m N-S by 313m E-W transversely. 1.15ha.	Visible on aerial imagery but obscured by vegetation.	Bank S7 to west and south.	Respects rig block F to west and G to south.	Aligned NW-SE. Running with slope up/down hill.	-	Straight rig
I	NS 40051 11431	Sub-rectangular, 190m N-S by 570m transversely. 9.5 ha.	Visible on aerial imagery but obscured by vegetation.	Modern field boundary to north.	Abuts stream to south. Respects rig block J to east. .	Aligned N-S. Running with slope up/down hill.	-	Straight rig
J	NS 39733 11448	Irregular. Maximum 230m NE-SW by 192m transversely. 2.5 ha.	Visible on aerial imagery but obscured by vegetation.	Modern field boundary to north.	Respects rig block I to east and K to west.	Aligned NE-SW. Running with slope up/down hill.	-	Straight rig
K	NS 39616 11479	Sub-triangular. 122m NE-SW by 70m transversely. 0.62 ha.	Visible on aerial imagery but obscured by vegetation.	Modern field boundary to north and west.	Respects rig block J to east.	Aligned E-W. Running with slope up/down hill.	-	Straight rig

35. Farmstead **S1** is shown as “ruined” on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1859 but appears to be occupied on Thomson’s map of 1828. This suggests that it was established and occupied over a relatively short period in the early 1800s. It has been ascribed Local significance and should be protected by a 5m buffer, within a managed clearing which is maintained as open space.
36. Quarry **S2** is likely to be 18th or early 19th century in date as it is marked as “old” on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1859. It has been ascribed Other significance with no action recommended.
37. Roads **S3** and **S4** are roughly contemporary with the foundation of Patna in the early 19th century, with **S4** in particular having demonstrable associations with the Skeldon estate which was owned by the Fullertons who founded Patna and encouraged the proliferation of extractive and other industries throughout the local area. Road **S3** contributes to the historic character of the landscape and has been ascribed Local significance; it should be protected by a 5m buffer and retained within a managed clearing that is maintained as an open space. Road **S4**, with its associated avenue of mature trees, represents an outlying element of an extensive designed landscape, the core of which is centred upon Skeldon House (which lies to the NE near Dalrymple) and which is of national significance (as recognised by its inclusion in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDL00342)). Road **S4** is ascribed Regional significance on account of this association: it should be protected with a 10m buffer, and while no unsympathetic planting should be undertaken within the extent of the site or its buffer, restocking the avenue or replacing individual trees as required would be positive management (McGowan with Dingwall 2011).
38. The pond at Shankston **S6** first appears on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1859, although it may be earlier. Its origins are modern and hence it has been ascribed Other significance and no action is recommended.
39. The three field boundary banks identified in the southern part of the study area (**S5**, **S7** and **S8**) are now in such a degraded state that only **S7** is still (barely) visible on the ground. All may have origins which pre-date the 19th century (only **S7** is depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1859) but their character and form suggests a modern origin post-dating the agricultural improvements, which would in turn suggest that they represent a precursor to the modern extant field system that still survives in the modern landscape. On account of their modern date and poor condition, all three field boundaries have been ascribed Other significance and as such **no** action is recommended. Where the physical remains of **S8** have survived as visible features, unnecessary damage should, however, be avoided if possible.

Table 3: Management Guidance for Historic Environment Sites

No	Site	Significance	Management Guidance	UKFS HE Guidelines
S1	Hillend Farmstead	Local	The 19 th century farmstead is now represented only by footings but still survives as an archaeological site. Protection with a 5m buffer, managed as clearing and maintained as an open space.	GFPR 2 SFM 11,18
S2	Quarry Knowe Quarry	Local	No action is recommended.	-
S3	Patna to Dalveen Road	Local	The 19 th century line of the Patna to Dalveen road, though heavily overgrown in places, still survives as a discernible feature over much	GFPR 2 SFM 11,18

			of its extent. Protection with a 5m buffer, managed as clearing and maintained as an open space.	
S4	Patna to Skeldon Road	Local	The 19 th century line of the Patna to Skeldon road still survives as a discernible feature in the landscape, associated over much its length with mature trees which represent an associated woodland avenue. Protection with a 10m buffer, managed as clearing and maintained as an open space. Maintain veteran trees and replace as necessary.	GFPR 2 SFM 7, 11, 16, 18
S5	Dalowie Burn Banks	Other	The field boundary is no longer visible on the ground and can only be seen using aerial imagery. No action is recommended.	-
S6	Shankston Pond	Other	No action is recommended.	-
S7	Hillend Enclosure banks	Other	The field boundary is no longer visible on the ground and can only be seen using aerial imagery. No action is recommended.	-
S8	White Hill Enclosure banks	Other	The field boundary is visible on the ground as an upstanding feature over much of its extent. No action is recommended but if at all possible no unnecessary damage should be caused to the site.	-
A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K,	Rig Blocks	Other	No action is recommended.	-

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

Conclusion

52. A historic environment assessment was required by Mark Hamilton Landscape Services to inform a programme of tree-planting near Shankston & Keirsmill Farms, East Ayrshire. This process identified eight historic environment sites relating to the assessment area (Table 1).
53. Our management guidance has covered protection measures for three of these sites. These

recommendations are compliant with UKFS Historic Environment Guidelines

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