

**Ballinnie Farm, Dumfries and Galloway:
Historic Environment Assessment & Survey
Appraisal**



by Sarah Krischer

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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 Ballinnie, near Moniaive, Dumfries and Galloway. 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. Five historic environment sites were identified and are considered within this report (Table 1). These are: a series of linear stone sheep shelters (**S1**), two early 19th century field boundaries (**S2** and **S3**), a 20th century trig point (**S4**) and a clearance cairn of unknown date (**S5**).
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 Ballinnie, near Moniaive, Dumfries and Galloway (centred on NX 730, 900). 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 4.5km west of the town of Moniaive. It comprises a single polygonal block of land, measuring approximately 120ha. in extent, which encompasses the summit and north-facing slopes of Big Morton Hill. On its east and west sides, it is bounded by existing coniferous plantations at Yellowcraigs Plantation and Minnygryle Hill respectively, while the northern limit roughly follows the line of the Ballinnie Burn. The southern edge is marked by a modern field boundary which runs roughly southwest-northeast along the summit ridge of Big Morton Hill and the adjacent Little Morton Hill.
7. That portion of Big Morton Hill which is included within the assessment area includes the sources of seven unnamed tributaries of the Ballinnie Burn, which run north down the hillside where they drain into the burn, which in turn flows eastwards to join the Craigdarroch Water just to the north of Ballinnie farmhouse. The assessment area can be characterised geologically as comprising lower (bedrock) geology of Shinnel Formation and Glenlee Formation Wacke combined with superficial deposits of Diamicton Till. The assessment area comprises a single expanse of unenclosed rough pasture, bounded around its perimeter with a combination of post-and-wire fencing and stone walls, with the post-and-wire fence replacing an earlier, now dilapidated stone wall in places.

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 five 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. No previous archaeological works have been carried out within the study area.

Prehistoric to Roman Land use

14. There is no evidence of occupation during the Neolithic, Bronze or Iron Age within the assessment area. Looking further afield, a Neolithic stone axe was found in the vicinity of Calside Hill (Canmore: 97431), 1.3km to the east of the assessment area in 1941, with a possible funerary cairn and flint scatter identified at Lochrinnie (Canmore 64775) 2.9km to the south of the assessment area, potentially attesting a broader range of occupation and use extending into the Bronze Age.

15. Due to the relatively low intensity of the land use evident across the assessment area and much of its surroundings, the limited survival of prehistoric 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 or occupation in a manner that has not resulted in the creation of discrete and identifiable field monuments.

16. Evidence for Roman activity is similarly lacking. No known or suggested Roman sites lie within the assessment area, and there are no known Roman sites in its vicinity. Roman activity in the uplands of SW Scotland is as-yet poorly understood, despite there being a continuous array of military installations and an associated road network evident along the Solway coast. Arguably the nearest concentration of Roman sites occurring near the assessment area comprises the temporary camps on the floodplain of the Nith, which lie some 15km to the northeast of the assessment area, near Drumlanrig Castle.

Medieval and Later Periods

17. No definitive early medieval or medieval features are located within the assessment area. Further afield, two potential examples of motte-and-bailey type castles have been identified at Lochrinnie (SM1125), which lies 2.9km south of the assessment area, and Lower Ingleston (SM695), located 6km to the east.

18. Medieval origins are claimed for Craigdarroch, a nearby country house associated with the Fergussons of Dumfries (Canmore 64854). Occupation may extend back to the 14th century, although the earliest available physical evidence is provided by a carved stone of 15th century date. The house was rebuilt as a modern stately home in the 18th century, obscuring or perhaps even removing any traces of any earlier building which once occupied

the site. This house is located 600m northeast of the assessment area, on low-lying ground to the north of the Craigdarroch Water, adjacent to the line of the modern road.

19. An early origin, potentially extending back into the medieval period, is also possible for the farm of Ballinnie, which now survives as a modern courtyard farm of late 18th or early 19th century date. An unnamed tributary of the Cairn Water, pictured on Blaeu's map of 1654 (not illustrated), features a house named 'Kraigdarrach,' located within a loop of the river which corresponds quite closely to its modern location. Just upriver from this, at the confluence between the Craigdarroch Water and a tributary which corresponds to the Ballinnie Burn, there is another structure named 'Ballundny' which appears to be an antecedent to the modern farm. Some difficulties are presented – when attempting to equate the modern and post-medieval sites – by the fact that the hilly ground in proximity to the farm is named 'Hill of Three Rigs,' with 'Mortoun Hill' located further upstream. As a result, the association must remain inconclusive: Big Morton Hill undoubtedly provides a prominent feature in the landscape and so it seems unlikely that it was mistakenly identified by Blaeu.
20. No sites are shown within the study area on Roy's map of 1752-55 (Figure 1a). The farm of Ballinnie is, however, depicted by this time, occupying a location which closely corresponds to that of the modern farm buildings. The farm itself is shown as four rectangular structures, arranged around a central, square enclosure which is itself surrounded by land which – although shown as cultivated – is unenclosed. Roy's map also shows Craigdarroch, denoted here as 'Craig Darroch House,' which suggests an elevation in status. The high status of this property is further indicated by its association with a deigned landscape: the house is approached from the east by a tree-lined avenue, and flanked on its east and west sides by a series of large rectilinear fields, lined by woodland planting which presumably functions as shelter belts.
21. The line of a road is also shown for the first time on Roy's map, running east-west along the same line as that followed by the modern B739. This suggests that the landscape as we see it today had in this area been established by at least the mid-18th century, although it is possible that it was already present in a rudimentary form much earlier, during the post-medieval period.
22. Thomson's 1828 map (Figure 1b) shows a very similar picture to Roy's, with the low-lying ground adjacent to the Craigdarroch Water now occupied by the farms of Ballinnie and Burnhouse which lie, respectively, on the south and north sides of the road.
23. Both the Old and New Statistical Accounts, which span a period extending from the late 18th to the mid-19th century, describe the Parish of Glencairn as primarily rural in nature, with low-lying areas favourable for grain production, and upland areas excellent for raising livestock, in particular sheep. There is very little change evidenced between the completion of the original account in 1792 and the second in 1845, although some of the land, particularly in upland areas, has been improved, mainly through the increased use of drainage. Later enclosure is evidenced by relict walls **S2** and **S3**, both shown on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map, where they form two discrete elements of a field boundary which now forms the northern limit of the assessment area. By the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map (1900), the line changed and **S2** had fallen out of use, but **S3** still formed part of the boundary. It is possible that these fields had their origins in the late 18th century.
24. Two further sites were identified on modern aerial imagery of the assessment area. The first of these post-dates even the 2nd Edition map of 1900: the Big Morton Hill triangulation point **S4**. This was set up in 1954 as part of a project undertaken by the Ordnance Survey between 1935 and 1962 in order to improve the accuracy of maps by carrying out a retriangulation of Britain. Approximately 6500 'trig points' were set up across Great Britain as part of this process, with the Big Morton Hill trig point **S4** established as part of work carried out on the Dumfries section.
25. Sheep shelters **S1** were also identified on modern aerial imagery. They are not shown on historical mapping, but as they are very ephemeral in nature, it is possible they were not included on any of the historic mapping. It is difficult to determine their date of origin, but their form and character is entirely consistent with 19th century structures.



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



Figure 1b: Extract from Thomson 1834.

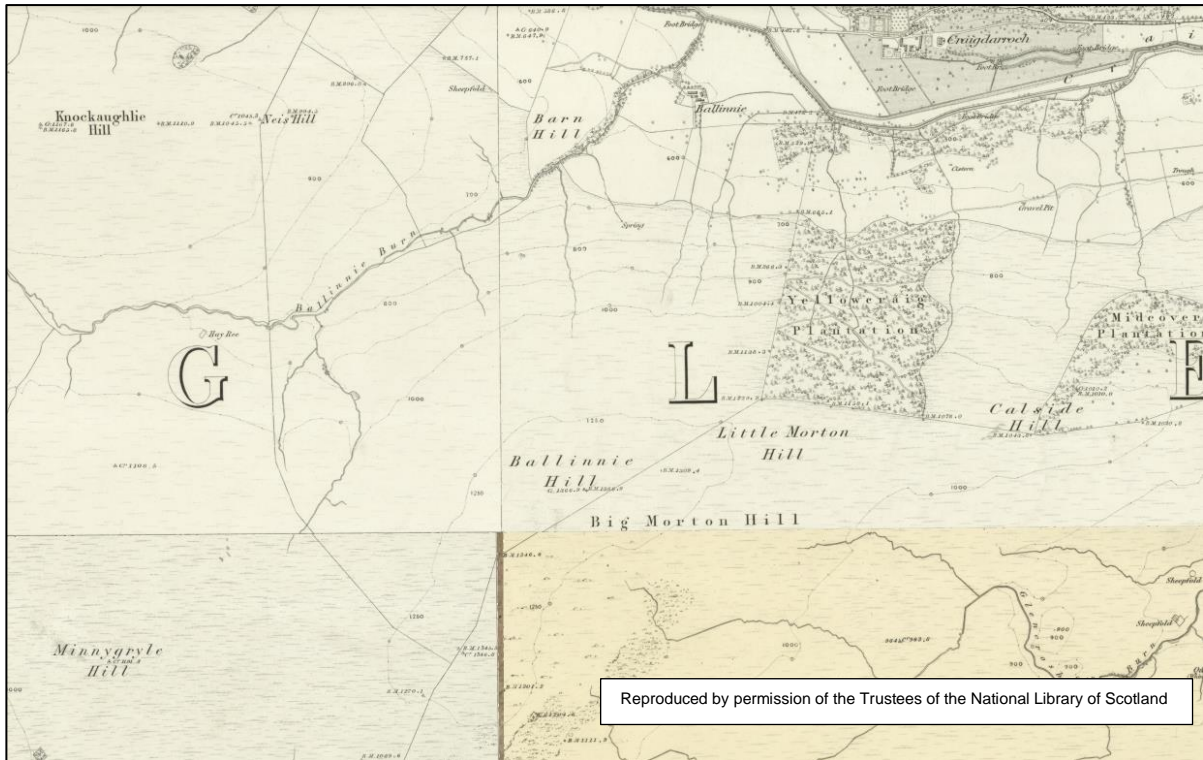


Figure 2a: Extract from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1860).

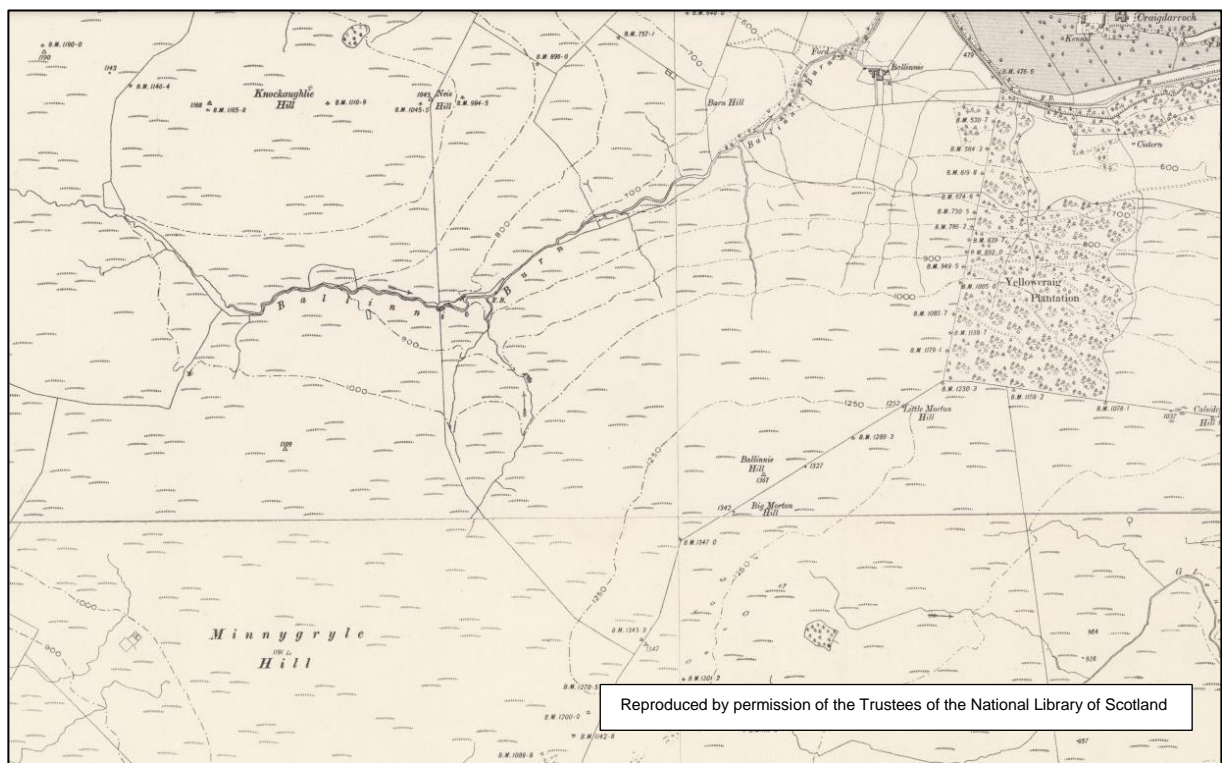


Figure 2b: Extract from the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey (1900)



Walkover Survey




26. The walkover survey took place in fine weather. The assessment area was located approximately 4.5km west of the town of Moniaive, Dumfries and Galloway: it consisted of an expanse of rough pasture located within an extensive single field on the steeply sloping northern side of Big Morton Hill.
27. Sites **S1.1** to **1.4** were identified on modern aerial imagery as possible sheep shelters. They were located during field survey as lengths of drystone walls running down the slope of Big Morton Hill. Some were slightly curved in nature, while others incorporated areas of rock outcrop to create shelter for stock. The walls had a maximum height of 1.6m and a maximum width of 0.6m and measured between 12 and 37m in length.
28. **Site 2** was identified on historical mapping as a section of relict wall running northeast-southwest. It was located during field survey as a low overgrown wall 0.2m high and approximately 0.6m wide. It was not possible to measure the length of the wall due to its poor state of preservation.
29. **S3** was a linear relict field boundary visible on both the 1st and 2nd editions of Ordnance Survey mapping. It was identified during the field survey as a drystone wall running northeast-southwest. The wall was 30m long, 0.65m wide and had a maximum height of 0.6m.
30. Big Morton Hill trig point **S4** was located on modern mapping . During field survey it was located as a concrete pillar on an asphalt base.
31. A fifth site was identified during the field survey which had not previously been identified during the desk-based assessment. This was small cairn **S5**, located in the northern portion of the study area and measuring 2.1 x 1.9m in extent and upstanding to a height of 0.3m. The form and dimensions of this cairn suggest that this feature represents a pile of field-cleared stone (as opposed to a formal structure, such as a Bronze Age funerary cairn), and while small cairns of similar character can be associated with later prehistoric or medieval field systems, the isolated character of this particular example – with no known field systems or roundhouse structures identified nearby – suggests a relatively recent date and an association with more recent agricultural activities.

Management Guidance

32. The assessment identified five historic sites within the Ballinnie 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).
33. Sheep shelters **S1.1** to **S1.4** are not shown on historic mapping. However, due to their somewhat ephemeral nature there is a chance that they are relatively early in date, originating perhaps in the 19th century. Though none are listed in Canmore they contribute to the historic character of the landscape and they have therefore 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.
34. Relict field boundaries **S2** and **S3** are both shown on the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey. They are likely to represent a 19th century boundary, although they have the potential to date back to the 18th century. **S2** is very poorly preserved and as such has been ascribed Other significance with **no** action recommended. **S3** is better preserved, but has once again been ascribed Other significance with **no** action recommended. Unnecessary damage to both sites should, however, be avoided if at all possible.

Table 1: Historic Environment Sites located within the assessment area

No	Site	HER Ref:	Description	NGR	Image from Site Inspection
S1	Ballinnie Hill Sheep Shelters	-	<p>Desk Based Assessment</p> <p>Four stone walls are shown running north-south (i.e. downslope) on the lower slopes of Ballinnie Hill on modern Ordnance Survey mapping. They are visible on modern aerial imagery as small stone walls.</p> <p>These sites are not depicted on historical mapping.</p> <p>Walkover survey</p> <p>All four sheep shelters were located as drystone walls running down the slope of Big Morton Hill. The walls had a maximum height of 1.6m and a width of 0.55m and were composed of medium to large sub-angular blocks.</p> <p>S1.1 was located to the far western end of the study area. It was 12m long and aligned northwest-southeast. It was located in a slight dip along the hillside.</p> <p>S1.2 was also aligned northwest-southeast. It was 25m long, terminating at the southeast end in a natural rock outcropping that created a T-shaped sheltered area around the wall.</p> <p>S1.3 was a curved wall 37m in length which ran northwest-southeast along the slope of the hill. As with S1.1 it was located in a natural dip in the hillside.</p> <p>S1.4 was also slightly curved and measured 30m in length. It ran southwest-northeast, abutting a rocky outcrop at its southwest end. An additional rocky outcrop was incorporated into the wall.</p>	<p>S1.1 – N 72454 90086</p> <p>S1.2 – NX 72860 90311</p> <p>S1.3 – NX 73140 90403</p> <p>S1.4 – NX 73256 90348</p>	
S2	Ballinnie Burn Field boundary	-	<p>Desk Based Assessment</p> <p>A relict field boundary is visible on modern aerial imagery running northeast - southwest. It appears to correspond with a field boundary shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. However, by the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1900 this field boundary had fallen out of use. It is not shown on modern mapping.</p> <p>Walkover survey</p> <p>The boundary was located during field survey as a very low, heavily overgrown stone bank. The bank was 0.2m high and approximately 0.6m wide. Due to the poor condition of the site it was impossible to measure the length of the wall or make any observations about its condition.</p>	NX 72916 90445	

No	Site	HER Ref:	Description	NGR	Image from Site Inspection
S3	Ballinnie Burn Relict Wall	-	<p>Desk Based Assessment</p> <p>A stretch of relict field boundary is visible on modern aerial imagery. It matches a field boundary shown on the 1st and 2nd Editions of Ordnance Survey mapping. It is not shown on modern mapping.</p> <p>Walkover survey</p> <p>The site was located as a drystone wall running northeast-southwest. It was 30m long, 0.65m wide and had a maximum height of 0.6m. It was composed of sub-angular blocks with an average size of 0.5m by 0.3m by 0.2m.</p>	NX 72951 90473	
S4	Big Morton Hill Triangulation Point	-	<p>Desk Based Assessment</p> <p>The triangulation point on Big Morton Hill was completed in 1954. It is a pillar type triangulation point with the name NX99/2. It is visible on modern aerial imagery and appears on the current Ordnance Survey map.</p> <p>Walkover survey</p> <p>The triangulation point was located as a rectangular concrete column on an asphalt base. The base measured 0.9m square and was 0.3m in height. The base had been eroded out in places, particularly on the southern side.</p> <p>The concrete column was square in section and measured 0.6m wide at its base. It was 1.2m high.</p>	NX 73111 89665	
S5	Ballinnie Hill Clearance Cairn	-	<p>Desk Based Assessment</p> <p>Identified at a later stage during the field survey, the clearance cairn was not visible on modern aerial photos or mapping. It is also not shown on historic mapping.</p> <p>Walkover Survey</p> <p>The clearance cairn was first identified during field survey. It consisted of a sub-circular collection of stones at the northern side of the study area. It measured 1.9m by 2.1m and was 0.3m high.</p>	NX 72842 90371	

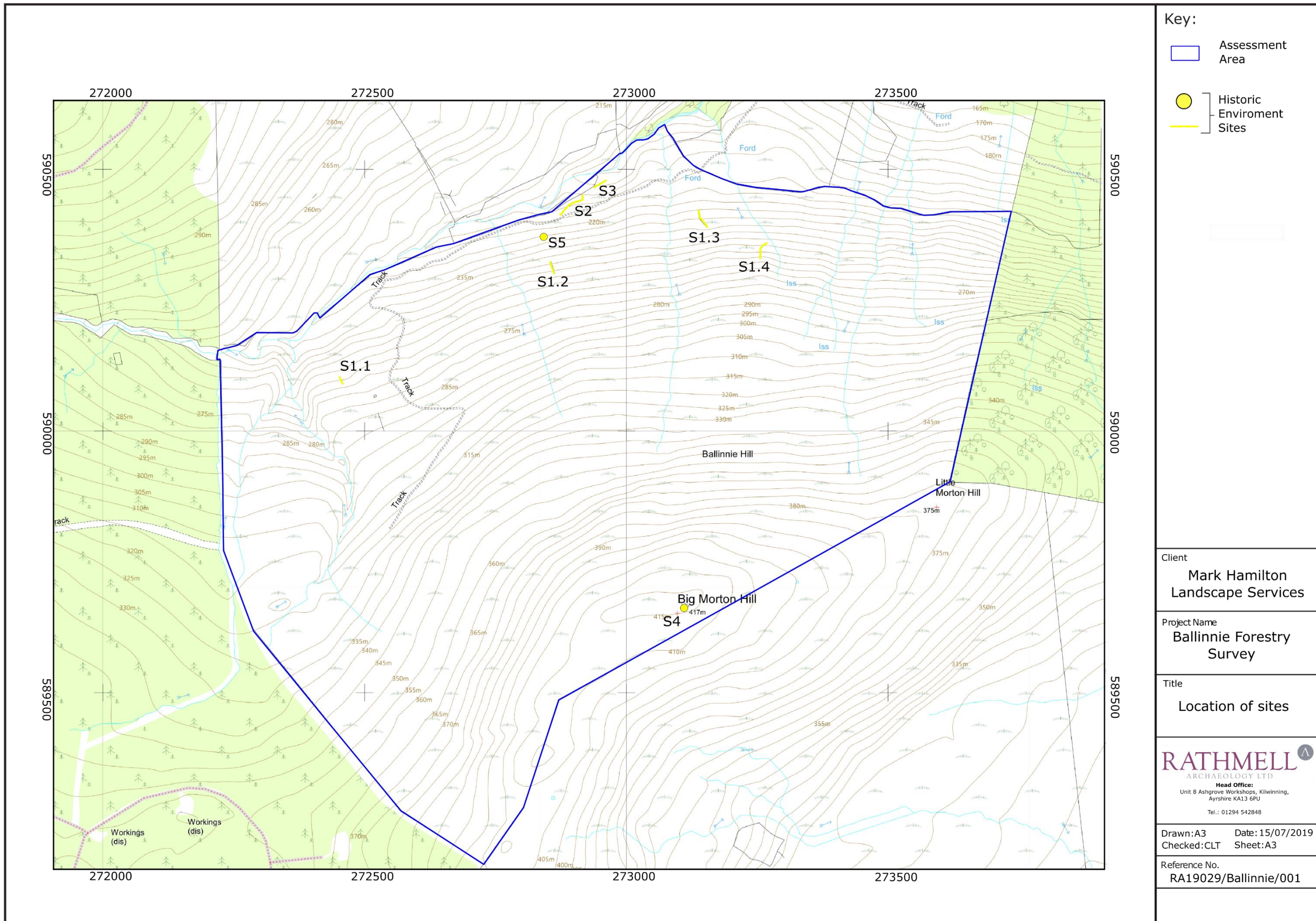


Figure 3: Location Map showing Historic Environment Sites and assessment area

35. The Big Morton Hill triangulation point **S4** dates to 1954 and forms part of a wider network of trig points distributed throughout the United Kingdom. It therefore contributes to the historic character of the landscape and has hence been ascribed Local significance. It should be protected with a 5m buffer and should be retained within a managed clearing that is maintained as an open space. It would, however, be beneficial in this particular instance if the buffer could be extended to allow wider views across the landscape to be retained from this particular monument.
36. Clearance cairn **S5** was located during field survey. It is not shown on any historic mapping, is likely to be relatively recent in date and does not contribute to the historical character of the landscape. Therefore it has been ascribed Other significance and **no** action is recommended.

Table 2: Management Guidance for Historic Environment Sites

No	Site	Significance	Management Guidance	UKFS HE Guidelines
S1	Ballinnie Hill Sheep Shelters	Local	The stone sheep shelters still survive as discernible archaeological sites. Protection with a 5m buffer, managed as clearing and maintained as an open space.	GFPR 2 SFM 11,18
S2	Ballinnie Burn Relict Wall	Other	The 19 th century wall is collapsed in places and in an extremely poor state of preservation. No action is recommended although care should be taken not to unnecessarily disturb the site.	-
S3	Ballinnie Burn Relict Wall	Other	The 19 th century wall though collapsed in places an in poor repair still survives as discernible archaeological site. No action is recommended although care should be taken not to unnecessarily disturb the site.	GFPR 2 SFM 11,18
S4	Big Morton Hill Triangulation Point	Local	The triangulation point is part of an extensive network of trig points built between 1935 and 1962 and therefore forms part of the historic character of the landscape. It has been ascribed Local significance. Protection with a 5m buffer, managed as clearing and maintained as an open space. If possible, extend clearing to allow wider views across the landscape from this site.	GFPR 2 SFM 11,18
S5	Ballinnie Hill Clearance	Other	The clearance cairn is a small and isolated feature that does not tie into a wider historic	-

	Cairn		landscape. As such it has been ascribed Other significance. No action is recommended.	
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SFM sustainable forest management. LR legal requirement. GFPR good forestry practice requirement

Conclusion

49. A historic environment assessment was required by Mark Hamilton Landscape Services to inform a programme of tree-planting near Ballinnie, Dumfries and Galloway. This process identified five historic environment sites relating to the assessment area (Table 1).
50. Our management guidance has covered protection measures for three of these sites. These recommendations are compliant with UKFS Historic Environment Guidelines

References

Documentary

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Ordnance Survey 1900 *Dumfriesshire Sheet XXXIX.NW*

Ordnance Survey 1957 1:2,500 Plan

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