

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



by Sarah Krischer

issued 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019

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 Roman Land use.....	5
Medieval and Later Periods.....	5
Walkover Survey .....	6
<b>Management Guidance .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Conclusion .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>References .....</b>	<b>12</b>
Documentary .....	12
Cartographic .....	12
<b>Contact Details .....</b>	<b>13</b>

## Figures and Tables

Figure 1a: Extract from Roy's Military Survey of 1752-5. ....	7
Figure 1b: Extract from Thomson 1832.....	7
Figure 2a: Extract from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1860).....	8
Figure 2b: Extract from the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey (1900).....	8
Figure 3a: Rig block A. Photo taken from the south. ....	9
Figure 3b: Rig block D photographed from the southeast. ....	9
Table 1: Historic Environment Sites located within the assessment area .....	10
Figure 3: Location Map showing Historic Environment Sites and assessment area .....	11
Table 2: Management Guidance for Historic Environment Sites .....	12

## Executive Summary

1. A historic environment assessment was required by Mark Hamilton Landscape Services to inform a proposed planting scheme at Shillingland, 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 blocks of rig and furrow were identified and are considered within this report. No other Historic Environmental Sites have been identified within the assessment area.
3. Based on the evidence gathered for this assessment no management is recommended on this site.

## 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 Shillingland Farm, near Moniaive, Dumfries and Galloway (centred on NX 743 919). 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 3km west of the town of Moniaive. It comprises a single polygonal block of land, measuring approximately 16.36ha in extent. It is located on the north-facing slopes of Woodhead Hill. On its southern, eastern and western sides it is bounded by existing coniferous plantations at Woodhead Hill, while the northern limit roughly follows the line of Motty's Burn (Figure 4).
7. That portion of Woodhead Hill which is included within the assessment area includes several linear field drains which run north down the hillside where they drain into the burn. The assessment area can be characterised geologically as comprising lower (bedrock) geology of Glenlee Formation Wacke combined with superficial deposits of Diamicton Till. The assessment area comprises a single area of pasture bounded around its perimeter with a combination of post-and-wire fencing and stone walls.

### *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 blocks of Rig and Furrow 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), 2 km to the southeast of the assessment area in 1941. A collection of sites including nine platforms, an enclosure and a burnt mound (Canmore 77822) are located at Caitloch 1.5km to the east of the assessment area. Although these sites are undated it attests to a broader range of prehistoric occupation and use.
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 12.5km 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. Rectangular cropmarks suspected to be Medieval in date were observed 500m to the southwest of the assessment area on the western slopes of Woodward Hill (Canmore ID: 64852) in 1953. However, no visible features were located during field survey. Further afield, two potential examples of motte-and-bailey type castles have been identified at Lochrinnie (SM1125), which lies 5.2 km southwest of the assessment area, and Lower Ingleston (SM695), located 5.4km to the southeast.
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 15<sup>th</sup> century date. The house was rebuilt as a modern stately home in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, obscuring or perhaps even removing any traces of any earlier building which once occupied the site. This house is located 800m south of the assessment area, on low-lying ground to the north of the Craigdarroch Water, adjacent to the line of the modern road.
19. The study area is shown on Roy's map of 1752-55 as an area of open hillside on the north

facing slopes of a hill ladled as "Craig Dorroch". A farmstead denoted as 'Maruorsn' is shown to the north of the area. It is shown as two courtyards (Figure 1a). This farmstead is one of a number shown running east-west along a river, each surrounded by unenclosed farmland.

20. 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. 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-18<sup>th</sup> century, although it is possible that it was already present in a rudimentary form much earlier, during the post-medieval period.
21. Thomson's 1828 map (Figure 1b) shows a very similar picture to Roy's, with the low-lying ground adjacent to the Dalwhat water occupied by the farm Marwhirn on the south side. The farms of Dalwhatt and Nether Dalwhatt lie on the north side of the river.
22. Both the Old and New Statistical Accounts, which span a period extending from the late 18<sup>th</sup> to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> 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. It is likely that the Rig Blocks located within the assessment area date from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.
23. Both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey maps (Figures 2a and b) show the study area as an irregular shaped field containing several linear drains. This suggests that the field drains located during walkover survey originally date to the land improvements of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

#### *Walkover Survey*

24. The walkover survey took place in persistent light rain. The assessment area was located approximately 3km west of the town of Moniaive, Dumfries and Galloway: it consisted of a single field of pasture on the steeply sloping northern side of Woodhead Hill. The assessment area is currently used for cattle and was surrounded on all sides by both a stone wall and a post and wire fence.
25. Five areas of Rig and Furrow were identified during walkover survey. All areas were relatively poorly preserved and obscured by tussocks. No definitive boundary features could be observed around the Rig blocks. Rig Blocks B and C were bounded by modern field drains that may follow the same course as an earlier field boundary.





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

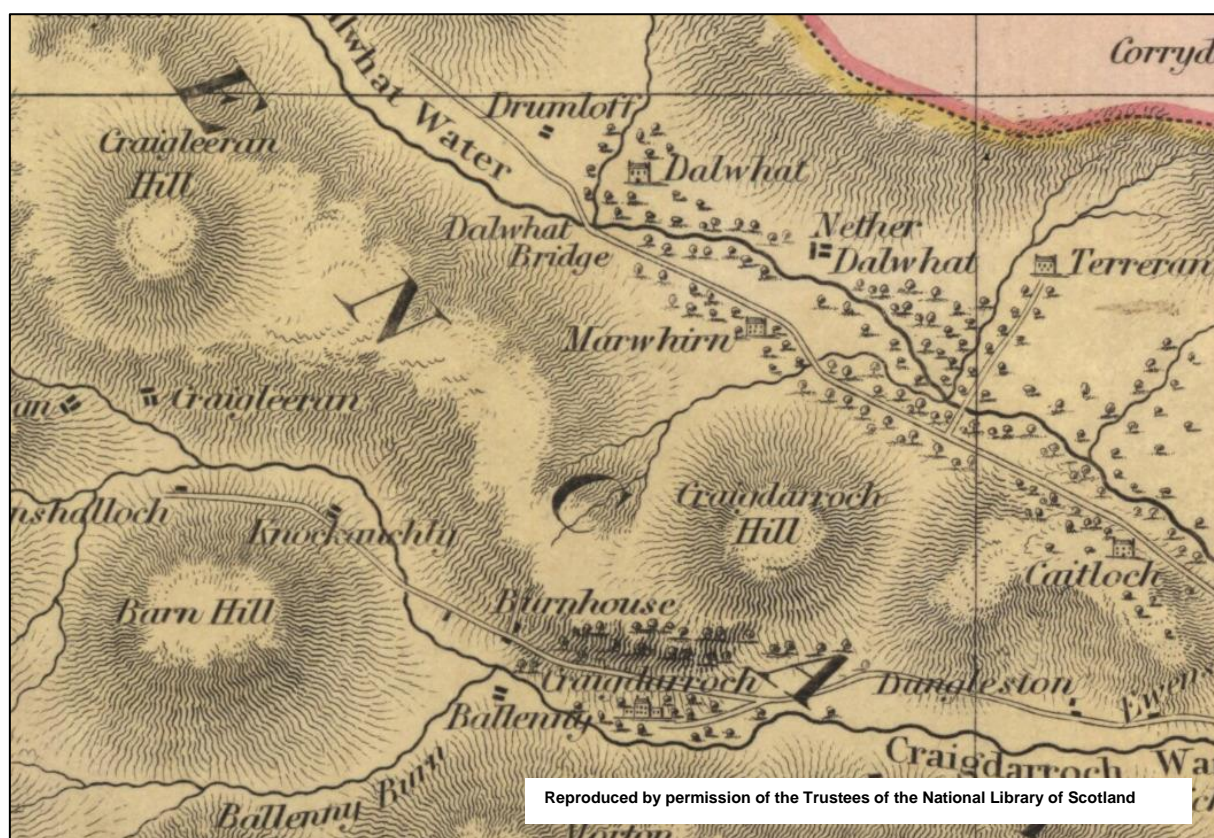


Figure 1b: Extract from Thomson 1832.





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

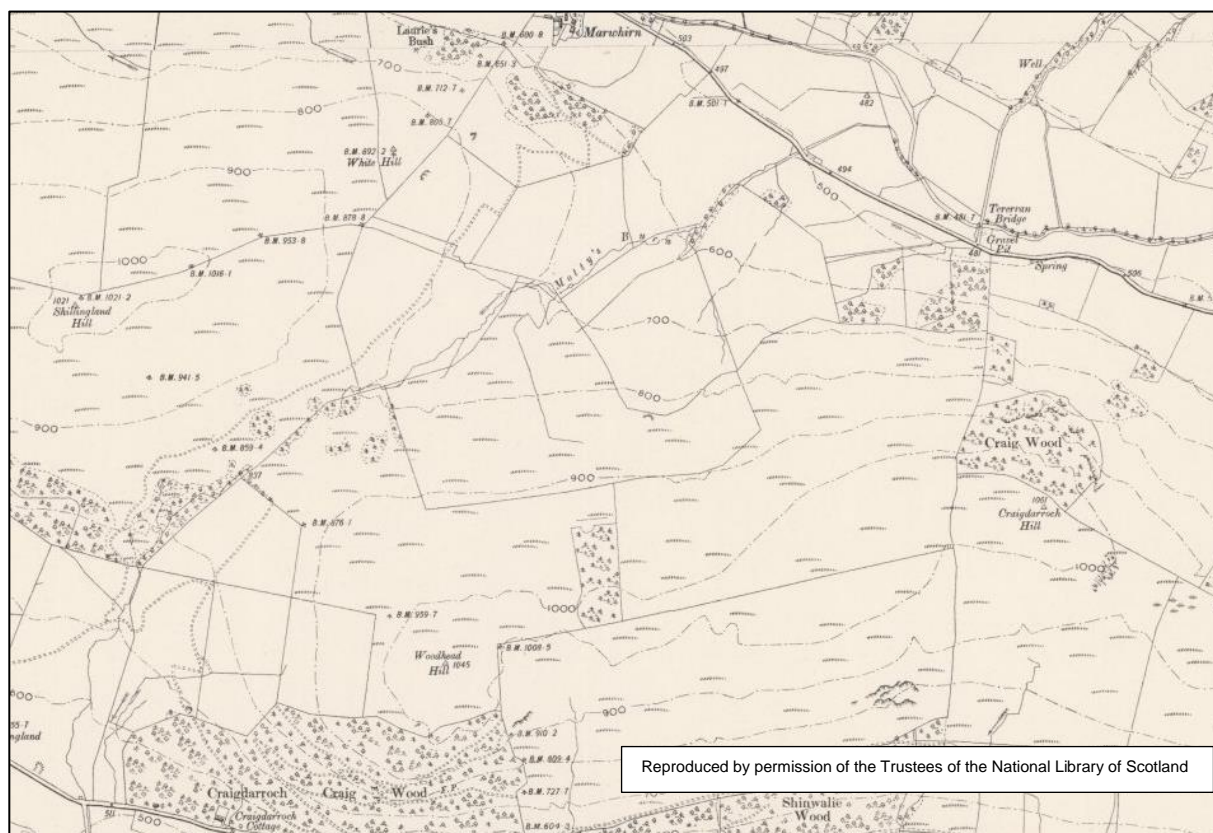


Figure 2b: Extract from the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey (1900).





Figure 3a: Rig block A. Photo taken from the south.



Figure 3b: Rig block D photographed from the southeast.

Table 1: Historic Environment Sites located within the assessment area

No	NGR	Block Form	Visibility	Boundaries	Sequence & Relationships	Rig Orientation & Topography	Rig & Furrow Dimensions	Rig Morphology
<b>A</b>	NX 74343 91862	Sub-rectangular, 357m E-W by 207m transversely. 4.76 ha	Visible on aerial imagery. Partially obscured by vegetation.	No visible boundaries	Respects Rig E on the western side.	Aligned North-South. Runs with slope up/downhill.	2.5m mid Rig to mid Rig 0.2m high. Rig 1.6m wide.	Straight rig
<b>B</b>	NX 74229 92030	Sub rounded, 84m NE-SW by 70m transversely. 0.44 ha.	Visible on aerial imagery. Partially obscured by vegetation.	Drainage ditches on all side. Ditch was modern but possibly follows line of older bank.	Respects Rig C on southeast side.	Aligned Northeast- Southwest. Runs with slope up/downhill.	2.1m mid Rig to mid Rig; 0.15m high; Rig width 1.6m.	Straight rig
<b>C</b>	NX 74313 91990	Sub-triangular, 126m NW-SE by 80m transversely. 0.61 ha.	Visible on aerial imagery. Partially obscured by vegetation.	Drainage ditches on all side. Ditch was modern but possibly follows line of older bank.	Respects Rig B on northwest side. Respects Rig D on east side.	Aligned Northwest- Southeast. Runs with slope up/downhill.	1.7m mid Rig to mid Rig; 0.1m high; Rig width 1.0m.	Straight rig
<b>D</b>	NX 74444 92010	Sub-rectangular , 307m NW- SE by 197m transversely. 3.72 ha.	Visible on aerial imagery. Partially obscured by vegetation.	No visible boundaries.	Respects Rig C on western side.	Aligned North Northwest- South Southeast. Runs with slope up/downhill.	2.1m mid Rig to mid Rig; 0.1m high; Rig width 1.5m.	Straight rig
<b>E</b>	NX 74167 91901	Rectangular, 136m ENE – WSW by 104m transversely/ 0.87 ha.	Visible on aerial imagery. Partially obscured by vegetation.	No visible boundaries	Respects Rig A on the eastern side.	Aligned North-South. Runs with slope up/downhill.	2.5m mid Rig to mid Rig 0.2m high. Rig 1.6m wide.	Straight rig



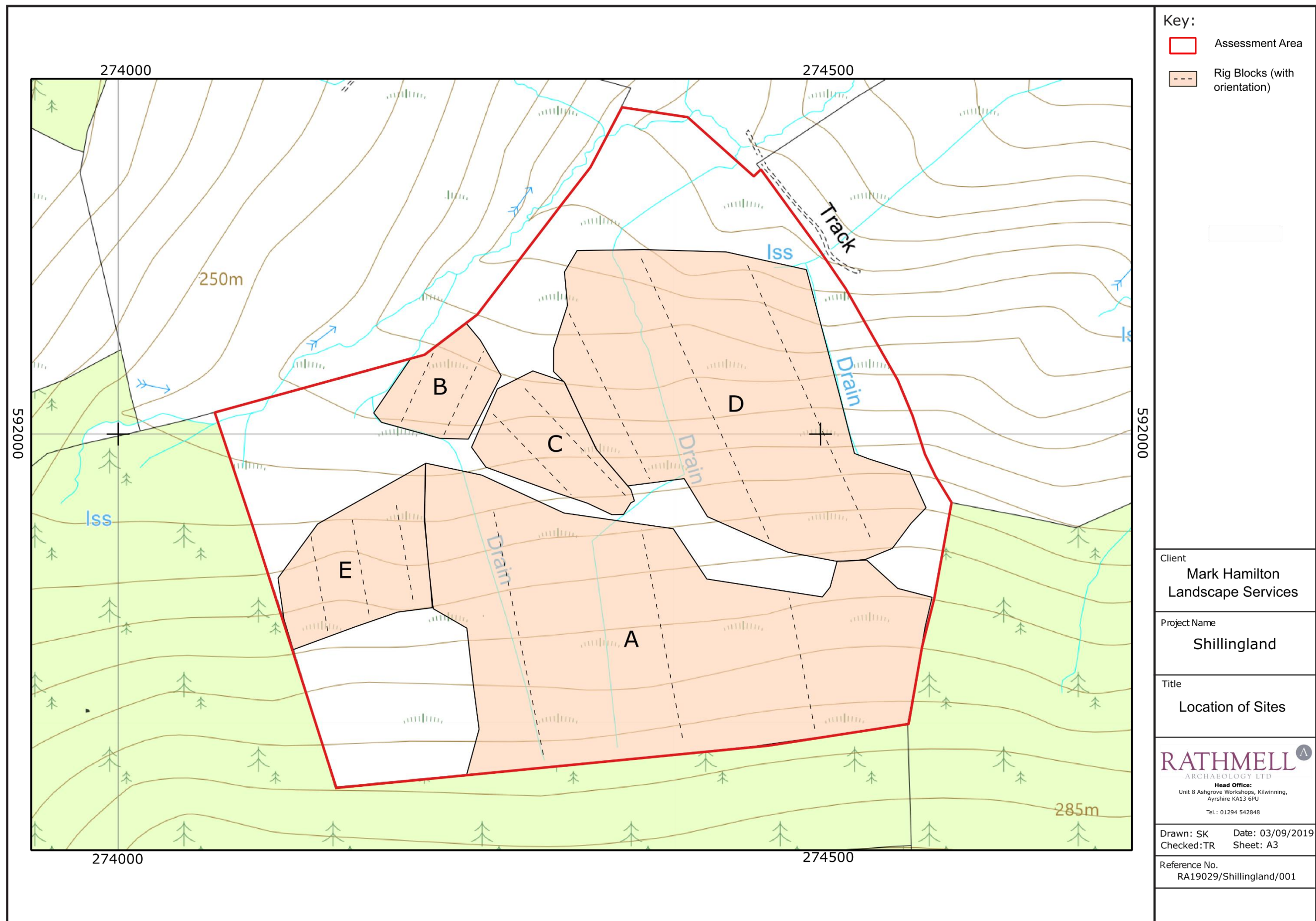


Figure 3: Location Map showing Historic Environment Sites and assessment area

## Management Guidance

26. The assessment identified five historic sites within the Shillingland 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).
27. All rig blocks survive in very poor condition with no visible boundary features. As a result Rig Blocks A – E have all been given Other significance with no action recommended

Table 2: Management Guidance for Historic Environment Sites

No	Site	Significance	Management Guidance	UKFS HE Guidelines
A	Rig Block	Other	<b>No</b> action is recommended	-
B	Rig Block	Other	<b>No</b> action is recommended	-
C	Rig Block	Other	<b>No</b> action is recommended	-
D	Rig Block	Other	<b>No</b> action is recommended	-
E	Rig Block	Other	<b>No</b> action is recommended	-

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

## Conclusion

28. A historic environment assessment was required by Mark Hamilton Landscape Services to inform a programme of tree-planting near Shillingland, Dumfries and Galloway. This process identified five blocks of Rig and Furrow relating to the assessment area (Table 1).
29. Our management guidance has given protective measures to none of the sites. These recommendations are compliant with UKFS Historic Environment Guidelines.

## References

### *Documentary*

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

Grierson, William Rev. Mr. 1792 *Glencairn, County of Dumfries, OSA, Vol. II*

Brown, John Rev. 1845 *Glencairn, County of Dumfries, NSA, Vol. IV,*

### *Cartographic*

Roy, W 1752-5 *Military Survey of Scotland (Lowland)*

Thomson, J 1828 *Dumfriesshire*

Ordnance Survey, 1860 *Dumfriesshire, Sheet XXX (includes: Glencairn; Tynron)*

Ordnance Survey 1900 *Dumfriesshire Sheet XXXIX.NW*

Ordnance Survey 1957 1:2,500 Plan



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