Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership

Can You Dig It?

Community Archaeology Project

Data Structure Report

Barhill Wood, Kirkcudbright

by Laura Anderson

issued 28th August 2023

GALLOWAY GLENS
Landscape Partnership

RATHMELL
ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

HERITAGE FUND

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND | ÀRAINNEACHD EACHDRAIDHEIL ALBA

Quality Assurance

This report covers works which have been undertaken in keeping with the issued brief as modified by the agreed programme of works. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance of Rathmell Archaeology Limited on the preparation of reports. All works reported on within this document have been undertaken in keeping with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct.

Signed Laura Anderson…….. Date …..28th August 2023……

In keeping with the procedure of Rathmell Archaeology Limited this document and its findings have been reviewed and agreed by an appropriate colleague:

Checked Claire Williamson…….. Date …..28th August 2023……

Quality Assurance Data

Author(s)	Laura Anderson		
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Rathmell Archaeology Code	RA18107	OASIS Ref	rathmell1-518646
Location	United Kingdom: Scotland: Dumfries and Galloway		
NGR	NX 68840 50552	Parish	Kirkcudbright
Designation(s)	None		
Canmore IDs	365662		

Contents

Figures

Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report describes works undertaken for the sub-project in Barhill Wood, Kirkcudbright carried out as part of the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership (GGLP) community archaeology project *Can You Dig It*. This report presents the results from trench works undertaken within an area of features identified by David Devereux through LiDAR imagery and topographic survey; the relict boundaries could relate to a potential oval-shaped enclosure marking the highest area of Barhill Wood (Canmore ID: 365662).

2. The works were carried out by volunteers supported by Rathmell Archaeology staff. The structure of the works was drawn from advice and guidance from officers of GGLP, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) and members of local heritage societies.

Historical & Archaeological Background

3. A previous Historic Woodland Assessment was carried out in 2019 as part of Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership's *Can You Dig It* Project. This Project Design assumes familiarity with this assessment shown below:

> Mills, C. M. & Quelch, P. (2019) *GGLP: CAN YOU DIG IT. Barhill Woods, Kirkcudbright: Historic Woodland Assessment*. Dendrochronicle Unpublished Report.

4. For the purposes of this Project Design, however, a brief background will be given for Barhill Wood with a particular focus on the features investigated by the community archaeology project at Barhill Wood.

5. There is evidence that woodland existed at Barhill Wood since the late medieval period after which there was a period in which there was a noted absence of woodland around the 18th century which was redressed by the replanting of trees as parts of larger plantations created by the Earls of Selkirk (Mills & Quelch 2019). These later plantations retained open areas of better-quality land which were kept for agricultural purposes while more unproductive land, often on higher ground such as Barhill Wood, was planted with trees. The open areas at Barhill Wood were also planted at a later date when the wood was taken over by the Forestry Commission (now Forestry and Land Scotland) in 1953.

6. Several potential cultural heritage sites have been identified within Barhill Wood which include quarries and field boundary walls/banks which are associated with Barhill Wood's use during the creation of the plantations in the 18th century. As well as this there is also the presence of possibly earlier sites such as a section of an old road which survived within the wood and may have its origins in the late medieval period.

7. Recently historic map evidence (Figure 1) and LiDAR data have become available (courtesy of David Devereux) which indicates that a stretch of the relict boundary which was initially thought to be part of the 18th century plantation creation may be earlier. The LiDAR data (Figure 2) shows this stretch of the boundary, but also the slight traces of ditches that have been noted to the south of the boundary as well as to the north and south sides of the highest part of Barhill. On-site inspection, David Devereux (Figure 3b) could discern traces of one ditch in the north and two in the south. Further inspection of these ditches using the LiDAR data (Figure 2) suggests that they may be an oval-shaped enclosure surmounting Barhill which measures approximately 82m from northeast to southwest and 54m transversely.

8. Prior to on-site works starting, a Project Design was created (McKinstry 2023) and a field visit was undertaken on the 3rd of August 2023 by Claire Williamson and David Devereux. The area was investigated and potential locations for trenches were identified. The area is currently surrounded by woodland with two paths running from NE to SW.

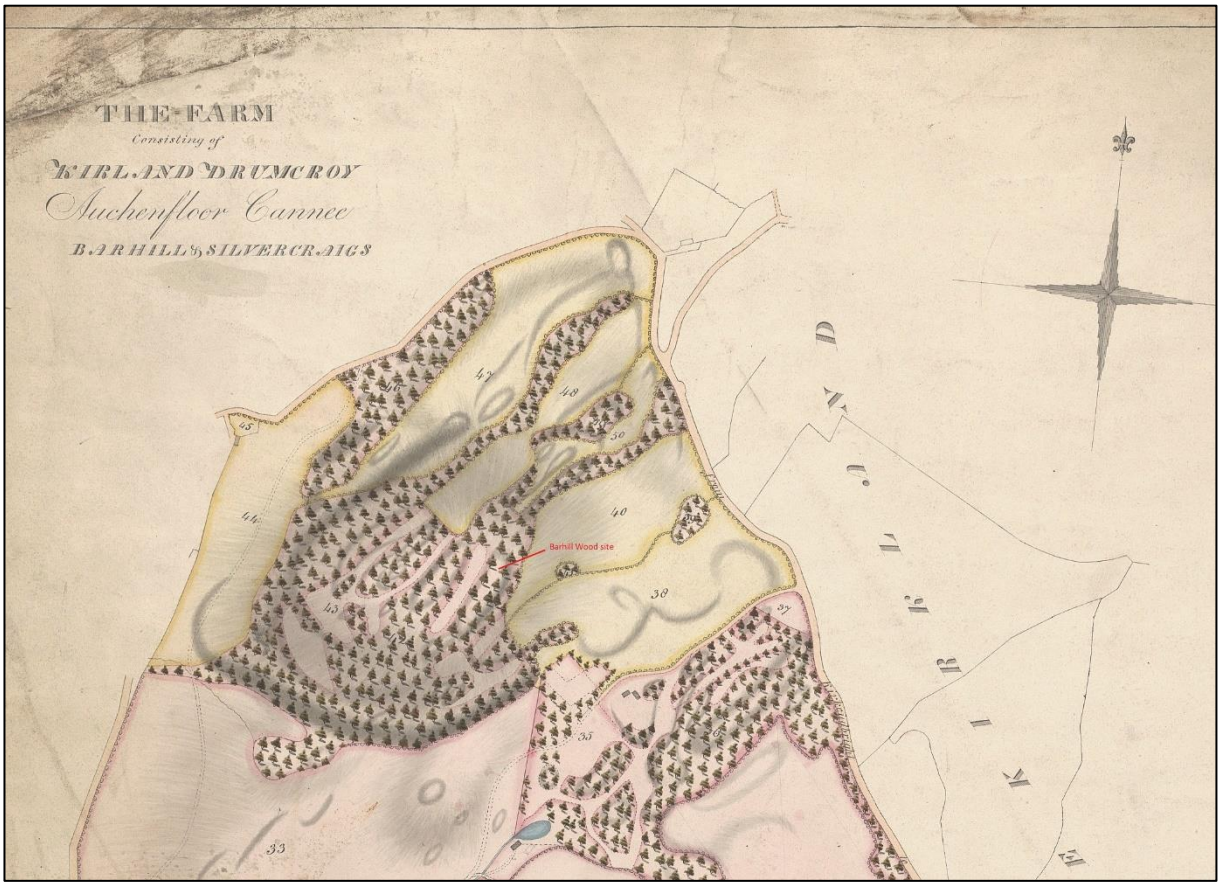


Figure 1: Extract from (1805-1815) map "A Collection of Surveys of Scottish Estates of the Earl of Selkirk…" showing the Barhill Wood Site.

Project Works

9. The archaeological works focused on ground where a number of postulated pre-18th century boundary ditches lay as well as the high ground of Barhill Wood where potential banks and ditches were identified through LiDAR imagery (Figure 3). The works were all located within Barhill Wood (Canmore ID: 365662) straddling the main path that runs through the woodland from NE to SW. Five trenches were excavated and recorded: one to the north of the main path and four straddling a minor path that runs parallel to the main path to the southeast.

10. The on-site works took place over three days from the 7th of August to the 9th of August 2023 and consisted of five hand-excavated trenches. The trenches had varying lengths from 2m to 4m by 0.5m in width (Figure 3). All trenches were hand dug by volunteers and Rathmell Archaeology Staff.

11. All works were carried out using Rathmell Archaeology Ltd standard methods as outlined in the Risk Assessment Method Statement (RAMS) (Anderson 2023). The fieldwork was undertaken in dry and sunny weather. In terms of structure, the core field team of Rathmell Archaeology staff and volunteers were on-site from 10am to 4pm.

Findings – Trenches

12. Fieldwork conducted over the three days comprised five hand-dug trenches (Figure 3). Each of these trenches was excavated and recorded by both volunteers and Rathmell Archaeology staff and will be discussed separately.

Trench 1

13. Trench 1 was located to the north of the main path running through Barhill Wood. The trench measured 0.5m by 4m and was orientated N to S (Figure 4a). The trench was placed

to investigate the pre-18th-century boundary identified on the estate map of Barhill Wood from 1808-15 (Figure 7).

14. The topsoil within Trench 1 was identified as (101): a loosely compacted dark brown silty sand which contains decomposing woodland debris. The deposit had a ranged thickness of between 60mm and 90mm.

15. Two different B horizon deposits, (102) and (103), were identified within Trench 1 underlying topsoil (101). (102) comprised loosely compacted dark mid brown silty sand with frequent small stone inclusions. The deposit had been disturbed by roots. The deposit had a ranged thickness of between 50mm and 100mm and was deeper in the centre of the trench.

16. The second B horizon deposit identified, (103) comprised moderately compacted mid brown clayey silt with inclusions of infrequent small to medium angular stones. The deposit was identified at a ranged depth of between 110mm and 380mm and had an excavated thickness of between 50mm and 120mm. Fragments of the natural bedrock were identified throughout the deposit as well as areas where the natural bedrock intruded into the context.

17. A linear feature was identified underlying (102) and cut through (103). The feature [105] was orientated from E to W, with a width of 1.55m and a depth of between 130mm and 190mm. The feature had a gradual break of slope, sloping gradual sides and a steep break of slope at its base. The base was irregular in shape and the feature had a single fill (104).

18. The feature's fill (104) was identified as a loosely compacted mid brown silty sand with inclusions of frequent large angular stones. The deposit had a thickness of between 130mm and 190mm. The deposit was only identified within the feature [105]

19. No archaeological artefacts were recovered from Trench 1.

Trench 2

20. Trench 2 was located to the southeast of the main path running through Barhill Wood. The trench measured 0.5m by 3m and was orientated NE to SW (Figure 4b). The trench was placed to investigate the pre-18th-century boundary identified on the estate map of Barhill Wood from 1808-15 (Figure 7).

21. The topsoil within Trench 2 was identified as (201): a friable mid brown sandy silt with small subangular stones and frequent root inclusions. The deposit had a thickness of between 50mm and 350mm. The deposit was identified across Trench 2, with the densest concentration of roots and mulch at the northeast end of the trench and very frequent small stones to the southwest end of the trench.

22. Underlying (201), a potential bank comprising redeposited fill (202) was identified. (202) consisted of moderately compacted mid brown silty sand with frequent small angular stones and small root inclusions. The deposit had a thickness of between 50mm and 250mm. The deposit was only identified for a width of 1.05m into the southwest end and continues beyond the trench.

23. Also underlying (201), discrete from the bank, two ditches were identified within Trench 2: [205] and [206].

24. The uppermost of these was smaller ditch [206] identified at the northeast end of the trench. The linear feature was orientated from E to W and had a width of 1.1m and a depth of 460mm. The feature had a gradual break of slope, gradual sloping sides, a gradual break of slope at its base and a V-shaped base. The feature had a single fill of (208) and was cut into (201).

25. The fill of the feature [206] was identified as a friable mid greyish brown sandy silt (208) with frequent small subangular stones and root inclusions. The deposit had a thickness of between 50mm and 200mm and was only identified within feature [206].

26. Feature [206] cut the end of larger ditch [205] which sat to the southwest. Both features [205] and [206] wereorientated from E to W [205]. The feature had a width of 1.2m and a maximum depth of 600mm. The

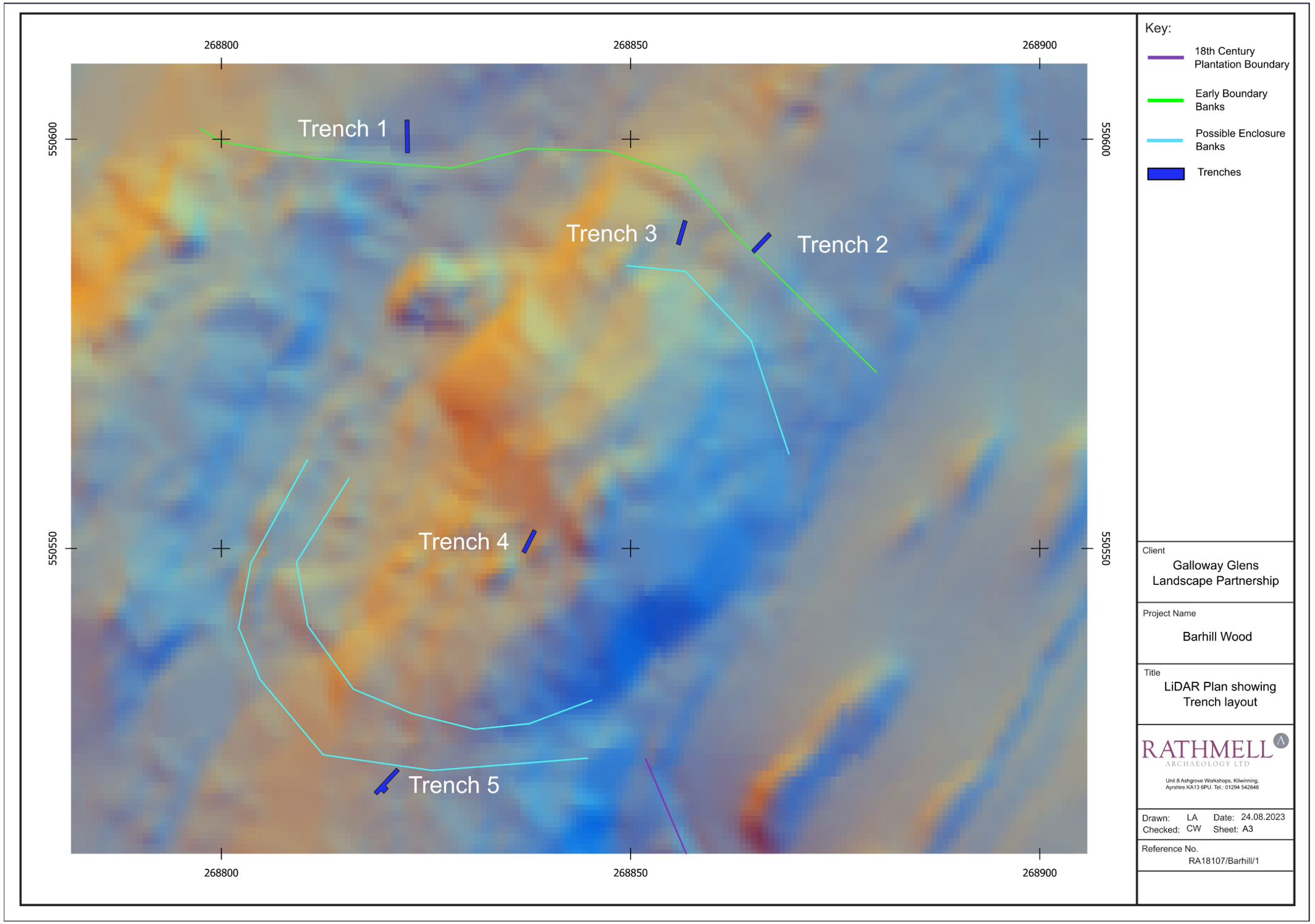


Figure 2: LiDAR plan showing boundary ditches/banks identified and trenches excavated.

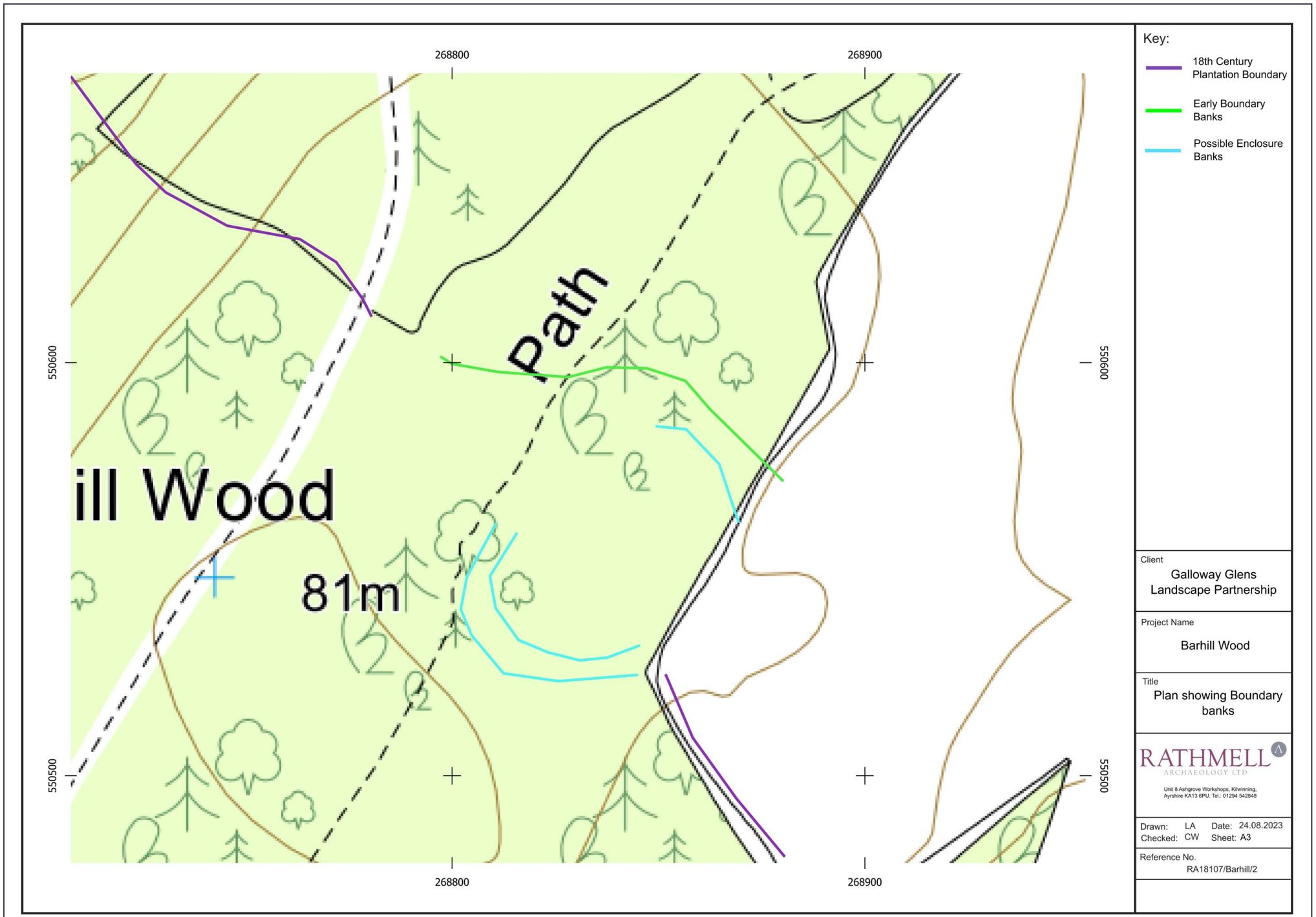


Figure 3: Plan showing boundary ditches on modern mapping.

Figure 4a: E facing section of Trench 1 showing topsoil (101), B Horizons (102) and (103), ditch [105] and its fill (104).

Figure 4b: SE facing section of Trench 2 showing topsoil (201), ditches [205] and [206] and their fills (204) and (208), bank fills (202) and (203) and natural bedrock (207).

Figure 5a: NW facing section of Trench 3 showing topsoil (301), subsoils (302) and (303) and lens (304).

Figure 5b: NW facing section of Trench 4 showing topsoil (401), subsoil (402) and bedrock (403) as well as the natural feature of an animal burrow or tree bowl.

Figure 6: NW facing section of Trench 5 showing topsoil (501), subsoil (502) and bedrock (503).

feature had a gradual break of slope at top, steep sides to the southwest and a gradual side to the northeast. The break of slope at the base was gradual and the base was slightly concave.

27. The fill of the feature [205] was identified as a moderately compacted mid greyish brown silty sand (204) with frequent inclusions of angular medium stones measuring up to 290mm by 140mm by 120mm. The deposit had a thickness of between 30mm and 500mm. The fill had a loose compaction in the base of the cut.

28. Underlying potential bank (202) and truncated at its northeast end by ditch [205], a stone-rich layer (203) was identified. The deposit comprised moderately compacted greyish-brown silty sand with very frequent inclusions of angular medium stones measuring a maximum of 290mm by 140mm by 120mm. The deposit had a thickness of between 10mm and 300mm and a width of 650mm.

29. The natural bedrock of the area was identified at Trench 2 as (207). The deposit comprised natural greyish brown sedimentary rock with orange inclusions and was easily fractured under pressure. The bedrock was identified at a depth of between 100mm to 400mm across the entirety of the trench.

30. No archaeological artefacts were recovered from Trench 2.

Trench 3

31. Trench 3 was located to the southeast of the main path running through Barhill Wood. The trench measured 0.5m by 2.9m and was orientated NE to SW (Figure 5a). The trench was placed to investigate LiDAR features also identified by David Devereux on an earlier field survey (Figure 8).

32. The topsoil within Trench 3 was identified as (301): a loosely compacted dark brown silty sand with frequent inclusions of decomposing woodland debris and roots. The deposit had a thickness of between 100mm and 150mm.

33. Underlying (301), a moderately compacted dark brown sandy clay (302) with occasional inclusions of fragmented bedrock was identified. The deposit had a thickness of between 100mm and 200mm. The remains of a metal shotgun cartridge <1> was identified within the deposit.

34. A firmly compacted white greyish brown clay (304) was identified as a lens within deposit (302). The deposit was identified amongst the larger stones identified within (302) yet the deposit itself had no observable inclusions. The deposit was identified at a depth of between 110mm and 380mm and had an excavated thickness of between 50mm and 120mm.

35. Underlying (302), a firmly compacted orange-brown sandy clay (303) with very frequent inclusions of fragmented bedrock was identified. The deposit was identified at a depth of between 160mm and 280mm and the trench stopped at this point.

36. The only archaeological artefact recovered from Trench 3 was a brass and paper metal shotgun cartridge <1> from context (302). No archaeological features were identified within Trench 3.

Trench 4

37. Trench 4 was located to the southeast of the main path running through Barhill Wood. The trench measured 0.5m by 3m and was orientated NE to SW (Figure 5b). The trench was placed to investigate a potential ditch that David Devereux had identified just to the southwest of the small hill's summit (Figure 8), although still on higher ground at this side of Barhill Wood.

38. The topsoil within Trench 4 was identified as (401): a moderately compacted dark brown silty sand with frequent decomposing woodland debris and small subangular stone inclusions. The deposit had a thickness of between 50mmm and 100mm.

39. Underlying (401), a moderately light to mid orange-brown sandy clay (402) with occasional roots and frequent small stone inclusions was identified. The deposit had a thickness of between 100mm and 300mm.

40. The natural bedrock of the area was identified at the base of Trench 4. The deposit comprised natural greyish brown sedimentary rock (403) with orange inclusions, the bedrock very easily fractured under pressure. The bedrock was identified at a depth of between 150mm and 380mm. The natural bedrock was identified underlying (402) and was identified closer to the surface at the northeast end of the trench.

41. A possible animal burrow or tree bowl was identified in the northwest facing section of the trench. The natural feature was filled with topsoil-like material, with a width of 30mm and a depth of 250mm. The feature cut through (401) and (402).

42. No archaeological artefacts or features were identified within Trench 4.

Trench 5

43. Trench 5 was located to the southeast of the main path running through Barhill Wood. The trench measured 0.5m to 1m by 4m and was orientated NE to SW (Figure 6). The trench was placed to investigate features that were identified through LiDAR imagery. An extension of 0.5m by 0.5m to the southeast was conducted to further investigate a dip in the natural bedrock (Figure 9).

44. The topsoil within Trench 5 was identified as (501): a moderately compacted dark brown silty clay with very frequent roots, decomposing woodland debris and small stone inclusions. The deposit had a thickness of between 70mm and 150mm.

45. Underlying (501), sat a moderately compacted mid orange-brown silty clay (502) with frequent fragmented natural bedrock, small stones, and occasional large tree root inclusions. The deposit had a thickness of between 70mm and 170mm.

46. The natural bedrock of the area was identified at the base of Trench 5. The deposit comprised natural greyish brown sedimentary rock with orange inclusions, and the bedrock very easily fractured under pressure. The bedrock was identified at a depth of between

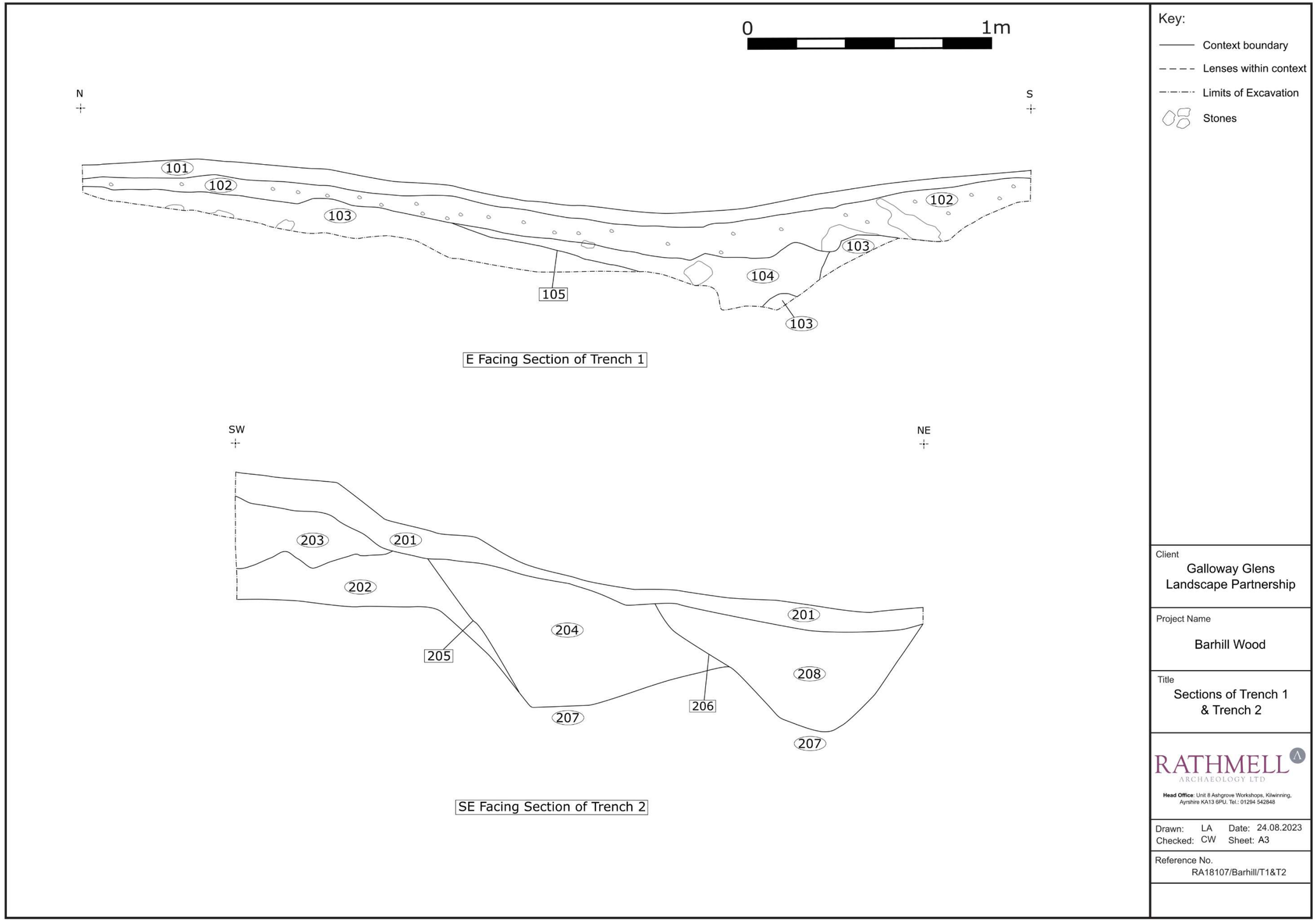


Figure 7: Section drawing showing the E facing Section of Trench 1 and the SE Facing Section of Trench 2 as drawn by volunteers.

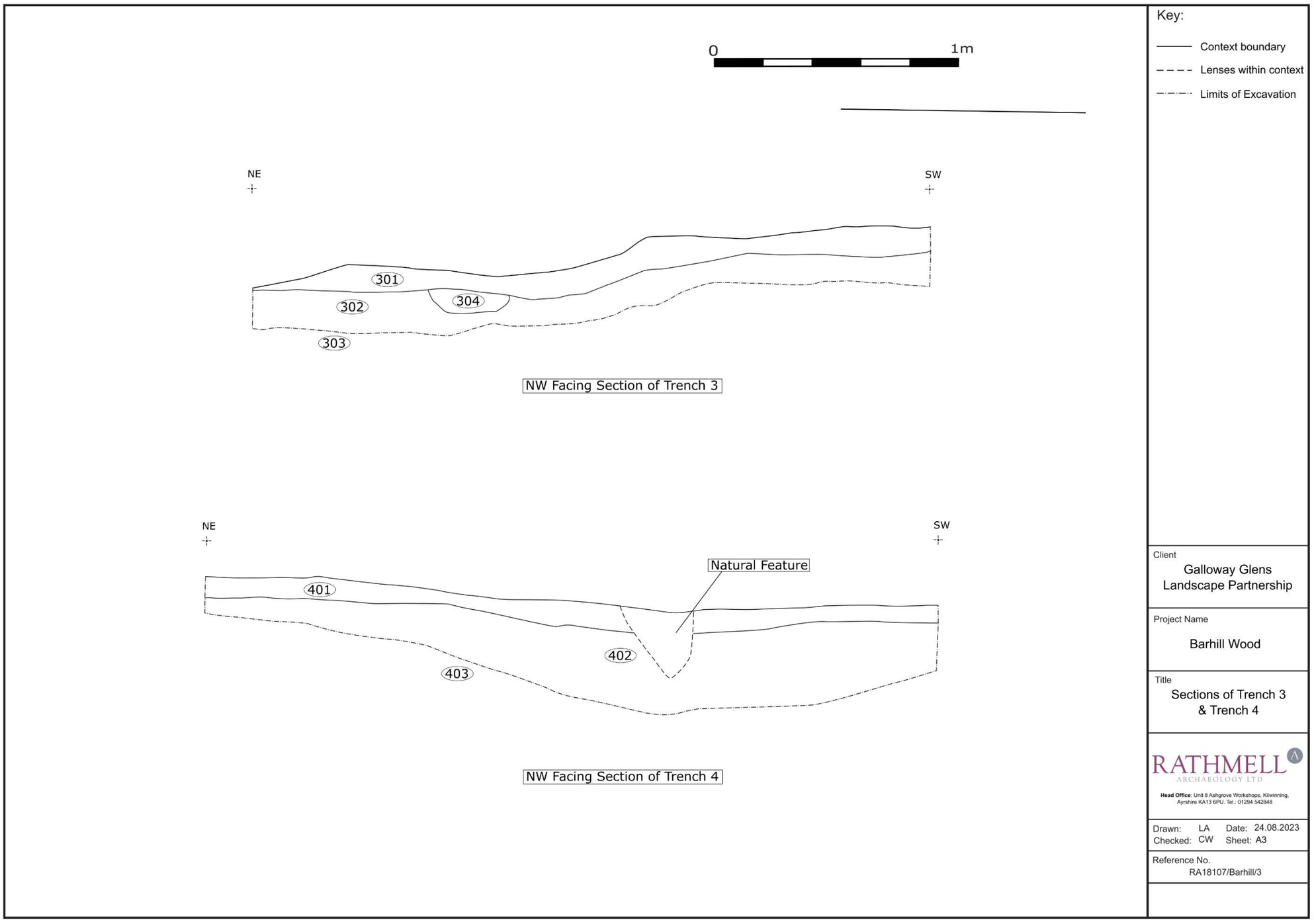
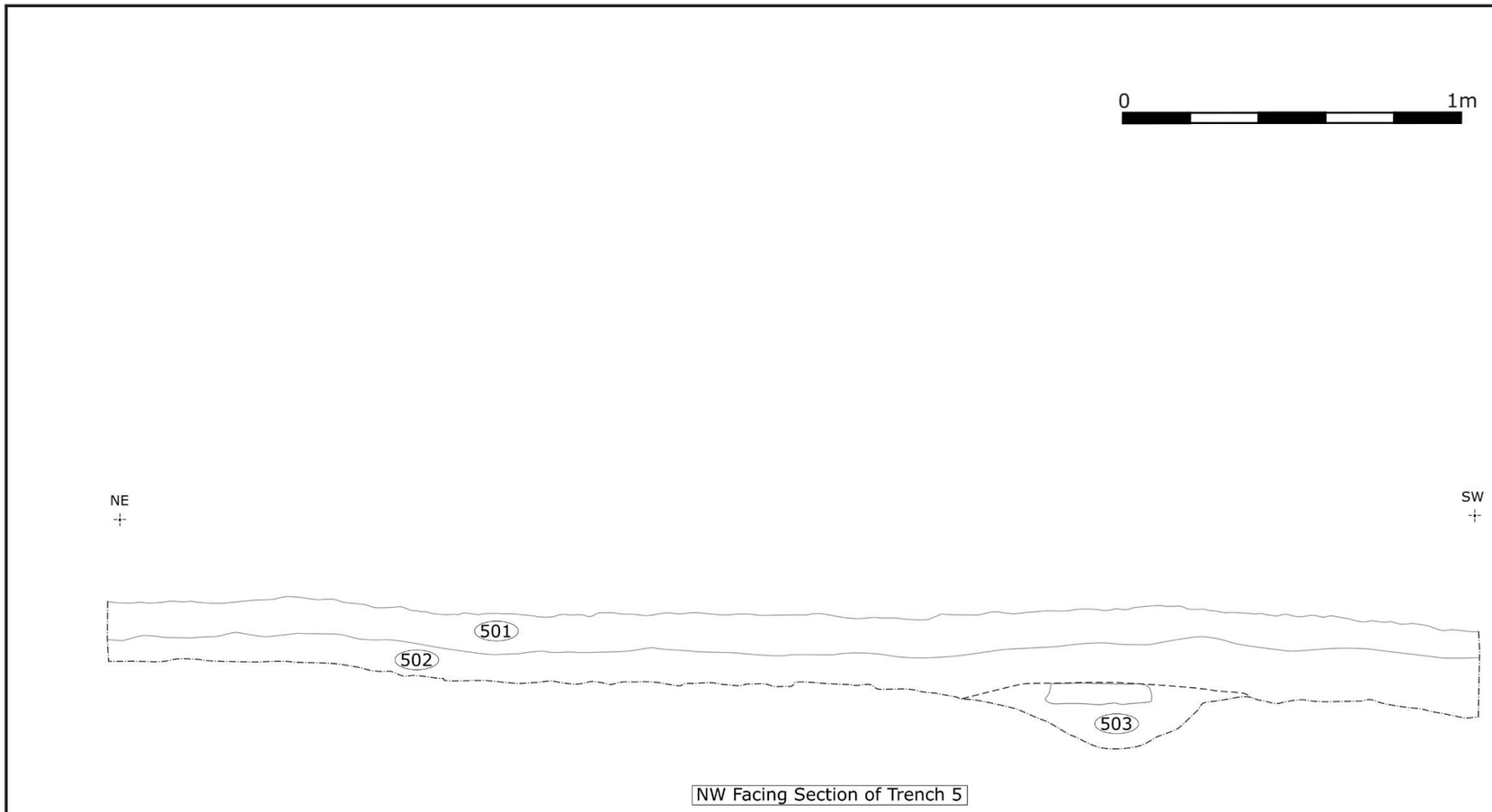


Figure 8: Section drawing showing the NW facing Section of Trench 3 and the NW Facing Section of Trench 4 as drawn by volunteers.



Key:

- Context boundary
- Lenses within context
- Limits of Excavation
- Stones

Client
Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership

Project Name
Barhill Wood

Title
Section of Trench 5

RATHMELL ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
Head Office: Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU. Tel.: 01294 542848

Drawn: LA Date: 24.08.2023
Checked: CW Sheet: A3

Reference No.
RA18107/Barhill/4

Figure 9: Section drawing showing the NW facing Section of Trench 5 as drawn by volunteers.

47. 70mm and 430mm. The natural bedrock was identified underlying (502) and was identified sloping upwards to the northeast from the southwest.

48. No archaeological artefacts or features were identified within Trench 5

Findings - Artefacts

49. A single artefact was recovered from the trench exercises. In Trench 3, the remains of a brass and paper shotgun cartridge <1> was identified within context (302). Shotgun cartridges have been manufactured since 1852 and began with brass cartridges (The Vintage Gun Journal). In the mid-1870s, paper cases became more common and were widely marketed and used alongside brass-case and combination cartridges until the 1930s (The Vintage Gun Journal).

50. There were issues with the earlier paper cases and in 1903, a paper cased 'Grand Prix' was launched which became the benchmark for all British shotgun cartridges until the mid-1980s (The Vintage Gun Journal). In 1974, a plastic cased shotgun cartridge was offered to the public which quickly dwarfed paper cases in sales (The Vintage Gun Journal).

51. Forestry and Land Scotland (formerly the Forestry Commission) acquired Barhill Wood in 1952 from the Hope Dunbar Family of St Mary's Isle (Mils & Quelch, 2019, pp.3). The presence of the shotgun cartridge in deposit (302) indicates that the deposit was at one point the previous forest floor with the degradation of vegetation laying atop the cartridge and in essence, burying it.

52. The cartridge can be tentatively dated to between 1870 and 1970 due to the presence of paper and brass on the base. Unfortunately, any information present on the base of the cartridge is not legible and it cannot be further dated.

53. The cartridge can be dated to prior to the change in ownership of Barhill Wood, with the act of hunting likely being limited by Forestry and Land Scotland when they planted the area in the 1950s. However, the act of illegal poaching cannot be ruled out. Therefore, the shotgun cartridge indicates a practice of game hunting pre-1952 or in the mid-20th century within the area.

Discussion

54. Over the course of three days, volunteers opened five trenches within Barhill Wood, Kirkcudbright. The aim was to investigate the presence of pre-18th century boundaries and LiDAR features identified by David Devereux.

55. The topsoils throughout the assessment area, on either side of the path running through Barhill Wood, were similar in composition. Every deposit appeared predominately covered in decomposing natural vegetation from the trees and bracken covered areas. The deposits (101), (201), (301), (401) and (501) correspond to Barhill Wood's current use as a woodland area which is naturally filled with trees, bracken and other vegetation.

56. The natural bedrock in the area was identified within Trenches 2, 4 and 5. Greywacke in (207), (403) and (503) was identified at varying depths of between 70mm and 430mm. Trenches 4 and 5 had sloped bedrock, higher in the northeast end before sloping to the southwest. The sloping was first tentatively identified as a possible indication of a gentle ditch; however, this was not distinct and rather corresponds with the natural sloping of the land as the mound on Barhill Wood slopes down towards the southwest.

57. Underlying the topsoil (101) within Trench 1, a natural built-up deposit that comprises decomposing vegetation (102) was identified. This deposit was identified as being once open to the elements that were gradually added to by the surrounding vegetation and trees to create the silty sand deposit that lies under the current topsoil of the area.

58. Within Trench 3, (302) was identified as dark brown sandy clay with occasional inclusions of fragmented bedrock. The presence of a brass and paper shotgun cartridge <1> within the deposit indicates that the subsoil was at one time the previous forest floor. The shotgun cartridge indicates that the area was utilised in game hunting prior to Forestry and Land Scotland taking ownership of the land in 1952.

59. Five natural subsoils were identified throughout the assessment area: (103) (303), (304), (402) and (502). The deposits varied in colouration and compaction with the majority being a variation of clay. The variation in the deposits is explained by their placement in the different areas within the wood, with Trench 1 being to the northeast of the main path in Barhill Wood and in an area of a gentle slope, Trench 3 being on a very slightly sloped area to the northwest of the mound, Trench 4 being near to the highest point of the mound and Trench 5 being on a more defined slope to the southeast of the mound.

60. The lens of (304) within Trench 3 was identified within deposit (303). The white greyish brown colouration of the lens in indicative of waterlogged soil in the area which is expected as the area for Trench 3 was relatively flat and heavily covered in low lying vegetation.

61. Multiple linear features were identified during the excavations: three ditches and one bank. A ditch [105] running from E to W was identified in Trench 1 with a width of 1.55m and a depth of between 130mm and 190mm. The ditch had a single fill (104) and was partly cut into natural subsoil (103). The ditch was identified on the northeast side of the main path that runs through Barhill Wood. As this ditch is not marked on any of the available mapping, including the 1808-1815 estate map, it is very possible that it represents an earlier property boundary or 'march' prior to the 18th century and the consolidation of the land under the Earl of Selkirk's ownership. The weaving nature of the boundary could also suggest a property line that followed a natural feature like a burn or a ridge within the topography.

62. A bank was identified in the southwest end of Trench 2, comprising two deposits (202) and (203). The lowest deposit (203) appears to be a naturally occurring stone rich layer that was utilised as a base for the bank whereas the upper deposit (202) was identified as a redeposited fill taken from the creation of ditch [205] and employed in the creation of the corresponding bank. A band of angular medium stones measuring up to 290mm by 140mm by 120mm was identified within deposit (203), potentially representing a 'berm' created for the bank to limit tumble from the bank to the ditch.

63. The bank is partly covered by topsoil (201) and utilises the natural slope of the landscape using a higher ridge to create a bank to the southwest of the two ditches identified within Trench 2.

64. Two ditches were identified within Trench 2: [205] and [206]. Ditch [205] was identified partly truncated by [206] which indicates that [205] was the earlier cut with [206] being a later addition or recut of the ditch. The ditch [205] was identified with a width of 1.2m and a depth of 600mm. The fill of the ditch, (204), had frequent inclusions of angular medium stones of a similar size to the stones identified within deposit (203); this similarity may represent tumble of the potential 'edge' of the bank into the ditch. The fill of the cut (204) had a loose compaction at the base of the cut, indicating that the ditch naturally refilled rather than through deliberate backfilling.

65. The recut of the original ditch, [206], had a width of 1.1m and a depth of 460mm. The fill was (208) which contained frequent small subangular stone inclusions and was similar to the topsoil (201) covering the trench. The recut ditch was identified further to the northeast of the bank and its northeast edge was cut into the top of the underlying bedrock layer.

66. This re-cutting of an earlier ditch represents the continued use of the land. The original bank and ditch enclosure could represent a continuation of the earlier boundary marked by ditch [105] in Trench 1, created before the 18th-century plantation in the area. The recut ditch could be an 18th-century adaption by the Earls of Selkirk of an earlier feature, although it also does not appear as a boundary on the 1808-1815 estate map.

67. It is also possible that the earlier ditch and associated bank could suggest a possible larger bank and ditch enclosure surrounding the mound in Barhill Wood. This placement surrounding the highest point within Barhill Wood could suggest prehistoric activity, though a lack of archaeological material within the ditches hinders their dating.

Conclusion

68. The trenching exercises undertaken in Barhill Wood investigated a number of archaeological features which could contribute to our understanding of the use of the area. The ditches inform us of pre-18th century boundaries and a potential earlier enclosure atop the highest point within Barhill Wood. The two ditches within Trench 2 show a continued use of the land with the recutting of a ditch, potentially for land demarcation or in the creation of an enclosure.

69. The sole archaeological find identified within the exercise was identified as a modern shotgun cartridge which shows the changing nature of the woodland from an area where hunting was permitted to the present use of the land as a Forestry and Land Scotland property. The works also allowed volunteers to further their knowledge of the history of these important sites, and gain experience in the different techniques involved during an archaeological investigation.

Acknowledgements

70. This project is part of a wider Community Archaeology project, 'Can You Dig It', run by the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme from February 2019 to August 2023. See www.gallowayglens.org.uk/Resources for their published outputs. The community archaeology project was offered free to volunteers thanks to funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Historic Environment Scotland.

71. The land is owned by Forestry and Land Scotland who kindly allowed us access and gave support for the works, with specific thanks going to Lyndy Renwick and Matt Ritchie. Guidance was also given by Dumfries and Galloway Council Archaeology Service and members of local heritage societies. Special thanks goes to David Devereux who suggested the site, shared his time and expertise and worked with Rathmell Archaeology Ltd in plotting the trench locations.

72. The author would like to thank all the hardworking volunteers who took part in the excavation: Jennifer Roberts, John Allison, Pete Machell, Cath Monk, Joan Sutherland, Alasdair Philips, Hayden Lamburn, Geoffrey Monk, Lorraine Clay, Wendy Milliken, Janet Quinn, Abbey Bradbury, Michaela Bradbury, John Brewer, Emma Hair, Nickie Newsum and Alastair and Thomas Ansbro.

73. The support and guidance provided by Rathmell Archaeology staff member Claire Williamson on site was much appreciated by everyone involved. Further thanks should go to Thomas Rees for his guidance throughout the initial organisation of the project. Final thanks goes to Claire Williamson and Liam McKinstry for editing this report.

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Cartographic

1805-1815 Unknown Artist *A Collection of Surveys of Scottish Estates of the Earl of Selkirk: The Farm Consisting of Kirkland Drumcroy, Auchenfloor, Cannee, Barhill and Silvercraigs (formerly Nuntons).*

Appendix 1: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Dumfries & Galloway
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Barhill Wood, Kirkcudbright
PROJECT CODE:	RA18107
PARISH:	Kirkcudbright
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Laura Anderson
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Trenching
NMRS NO(S):	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Woodland (Canmore ID:365662)
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NX 68840 50552
START DATE (this season)	7th August 2023
END DATE (this season)	9th August 2023
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. *DES* ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	The trenching exercises undertaken in Barhill Wood investigated a number of archaeological features which could contribute to our understanding of the use of the area. The ditches inform us of pre-18th century boundaries and a potential earlier enclosure atop the highest point within Barhill Wood. The two ditches within Trench 2 show a continued use of the land with the recutting of a ditch, potentially for land demarcation or in the creation of an enclosure. The sole archaeological find identified within the exercise was identified as a modern shotgun cartridge which shows the changing nature of the woodland from an area where hunting was permitted to the present use of the land as a Forestry and Land Scotland property. The works also allowed volunteers to further their knowledge of the history of these important sites, and gain experience in the different techniques involved during an archaeological investigation.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	The Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme (part of Dumfries & Galloway Council), externally funded by Historic Environment Scotland and the National Lottery Heritage Fund
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to Dumfries & Galloway Archaeology Service and archive to National Record of the Historic Environment.

Appendix 2: Trench Details

Within this appendix, a standardised set of data pertaining to the evaluation trenches is presented.

All measurement distances quoted along the trench are measured based on the quoted orientation of the trench.

Trench Summary

Trench	Orientation	Size	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern/ Agricultural Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
1	N-S	0.5m by 3m	60 to 90mm	Mid brown clayey silt with inclusions of infrequent small to medium angular stones (103)	None	Ditch [105]	None
2	NE-SW	0.5m by 3m	50 to 350mm	Mid brown silty sand with frequent small angular stones and small root inclusions (202) Greyish brown silty sand with very frequent inclusions of angular medium stones measuring under 290mm by 140mm with a thickness of 120mm. (203)	None	[205] Ditch [206] Narrow ditch	None
3	NE-SW	0.5m by 2.9m	100 to 150mm	Orange-brown sandy clay with very frequent inclusions of fragmented bedrock. (303)	None	None	<1> - Brass and paper shotgun cartridge (302)
4	NE-SW	0.5m by 3m	50 to 100mm	Light to mid orange-brown sandy clay with occasional roots and frequent small stone inclusions. (402)	None	None	None
5	NE-SW	0.5m by 4m	70 to 150mm	Mid orange-brown silty clay with frequent fragmented natural bedrock, small stones, and occasional large tree root inclusion. (502)	None	None	None

Appendix 3: Registers

Appendix 3, which contains all registers pertaining to the works on site during the excavation.

Context Register

Context No.	Area	Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
101		1	Deposit	Loosely compacted dark brown silty sand which contains decomposing woodland debris. The deposit had a ranged thickness of between 60mm to 90mm. The deposit was found across Trench 1 and overlay (102).	Topsoil predominately covered in decomposing natural vegetation.
102		1	Deposit	Loosely compacted dark mid brown silty sand with frequent small stones (<1cm) inclusions. The deposit had been disturbed by roots. The deposit had a ranged thickness of between 50mm to 100mm and was deeper in the centre of the trench. The deposit was only identified within Trench 1 and was identified underlying (101) and underlying (103).	Naturally occurring subsoil, greatly disturbed by natural roots.
103		1	Deposit	Moderately compacted mid brown clayey silt with inclusions of infrequent small to medium angular stones. The deposit was identified at a ranged depth of between 110mm and 380mm and had an excavated thickness of between 50mm to 120mm. Fragments of the natural bedrock was identified throughout the deposit as well as areas where the natural bedrock intruded into the context. The deposit underlay (102) and (104) and was not fully excavated.	Naturally occurring subsoil.
104		1	Deposit	Loosely compacted mid brown silty sand with inclusions of frequent large angular stones. The deposit had a thickness of between 130mm and 190mm.The deposit was identified as the fill of the linear feature [105]. The deposit underlay (102) and overlay (103).	Fill of ditch [105]
105		1	Cut	Linear feature orientated from E to W identified in section. The feature had a width of 1.55m and a depth between 130mm and 190mm. The feature had a gradual break of slope, sloping gradual sides and a steep break of slope at the base. The base was irregular in shape. The feature had a single fill (104) and was cut into the (103). The feature was identified underlying (102).	Cut of Ditch

201		2	Deposit	Friable mid brown sandy silt with small subangular stones and frequent root inclusions. The deposit had a thickness of between 50mm and 350mm.The deposit was identified across trench 2, with the densest concentration of roots and much in the NE end of the trench and very frequent small stones to the SW end of the trench. The deposit overlay (202) to (207). The deposit was identified as the single fill of feature [206].	Topsoil predominately covered in decomposing natural vegetation.
202		2	Deposit	Moderately compacted mid brown silty sand with frequent small angular stones and small root inclusions. The deposit had a thickness of between 50mm to 250mm. The deposit was only identified the final quarter of the trench to the SW end. The deposited was identified underlying (201) and (203) and was overlying (204).	Redeposited fill to create a corresponding bank.
203		2	Deposit	Moderately compacted greyish-brown silty sand with very frequent inclusions of angular medium stones measuring under 290mm by 140mm with a thickness of 120mm. The deposit had a thickness of between 10mm and 300mm. The deposit was only identified overlying (202) in the SW end of the trench.	Stone rich layer on a bank, potentially used to give structure to the bank.
204		2	Fill	Moderately compacted mid greyish brown silty sand with frequent inclusions of angular medium stones measuring under 290mm by 140mm with a thickness of 120mm. The deposit had a thickness of between 30mm to 500mm. The deposit was the fill of ditch [205] and underlay (201) and overlay (207). The fill had a loose compaction in the base of the cut.	Fill of ditch [205]
205		2	Cut	Linear feature orientated from E to W identified in section. The feature had a width of 1.2m and a depth of 600mm. The feature had a gradual break of slope at top, steep sides to the SW and a gradual side to the NE. The break of slope at the base was gradual and the base was slightly concave. The feature had a single fill (204) and was cut into deposit (201). The feature was identified partly underlying feature [206] at its NE end.	Cut of ditch
206		2	Cut	Linear feature orientated from E to W identified in section. The feature had a width of 1.1m and a depth of 460mm. The feature had a gradual break of slope, gradual sides, a gradual break of slope at base and a V-shaped base. The feature had a single fill of (208) and was cut into (201). The feature was identified partly overlying feature [205] at its SW end.	Cut of smaller ditch
207		2	Deposit	Natural greyish brown sedimentary rock with orange inclusions, the	Natural bedrock, greywacke

				bedrock very easily fractured under pressure. The bedrock was identified at a depth of between 100mm to 260mm and had an excavated thickness of between 380mm to 400mm.The natural bedrock was identified underlying (201), (202), (204) and underlay features [205] and [206].	
208			Deposit	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent small subangular stones and root inclusions. The deposit had a thickness of between 50mm and 200mm.The deposit was identified within feature [206]. The deposit underlay (201) and overlay (207).	Fill of smaller ditch [206]
301		3	Deposit	Loosely compacted dark brown silty sand with frequent inclusions of decomposing woodland debris and roots. The deposit had a thickness of between 100mm to 150mm and was identified throughout Trench 3. The deposit overlay (302) and (304).	Topsoil predominately covered in decomposing natural vegetation.
302		3	Deposit	Moderately compacted dark brown sandy clay with occasional inclusions of fragmented bedrock. The deposit had a thickness of between 100mm to 200mm. The deposit underlay (301) and overlay (303). A metal shotgun cartridge <1> was identified within the deposit. The deposit was only identified within Trench 3.	Disturbed subsoil. Potentially the previous forest floor.
303		3	Deposit	Firmly compacted orange-brown sandy clay with very frequent inclusions of fragmented bedrock. The deposit was identified at a depth of between 160mm to 280mm and was not fully excavated. The deposit was identified underlying (302) and (304) and was only identified within Trench 3.	Naturally occurring subsoil.
304		3	Deposit	Firmly compacted white greyish brown clay with no observable inclusions. The deposit was identified at a depth of between 50mm to 80mm and had an excavated thickness of between 30mm to 100mm. The deposit was identified within (302) and overlay (303). The deposit was identified only in Trench 3.	Naturally occurring subsoil
401		4	Deposit	Moderately compacted dark brown silty sand with frequent decomposing woodland debris and small subangular stone inclusions. The deposit had a thickness of between 50mmm to 100mm. The deposit overlay (402) and was only identified within Trench 4.	Topsoil predominately covered in decomposing natural vegetation
402		4	Deposit	Moderately light to mid orange-brown sandy clay with occasional roots and frequent small stone inclusions. The deposit had a thickness of between 100mm to 300mm. The deposit was only identified within Trench 4. The deposit underlay (401) and overlay	Naturally occurring subsoil

				(403).	
403		4	Deposit	Natural greyish brown sedimentary rock with orange inclusions, the bedrock very easily fractured under pressure. The bedrock was identified at a depth of between 150mm to 380mm.The natural bedrock was identified underlying (402) and was identified at closer to the surface at the NE end of the trench. The bedrock was similar to the natural bedrock identified within Trenches 2 and 5.	Natural bedrock, greywacke
501		5	Deposit	Moderately compacted dark brown silty clay with very frequent roots, decomposing woodland debris and small stone inclusions. The deposit had a thickness of between 70mm to 150mm. The deposit overlay (502) and was only identified within Trench 5.	Topsoil predominately covered in decomposing natural vegetation
502		5	Deposit	Moderately compacted mid orange-brown silty clay with frequent fragmented natural bedrock, small stones, and occasional large tree root inclusions. The deposit had a thickness of between 70mm to 170mm. The deposit was identified underlying (501) and overlay (503). The deposit was only identified within Trench 5.	Naturally occurring subsoil
503		5	Deposit	Natural greyish brown sedimentary rock with orange inclusions, the bedrock very easily fractured under pressure. The bedrock was identified at a depth of between 70mm to 430mm.The natural bedrock was identified underlying (502) and was identified sloping upwards to the NE from the SW. The bedrock was similar to the natural bedrock identified within Trenches 2 and 4.	Natural bedrock, greywacke

Photographic Register

Image	Digital	Description	From	Date
1	3295	Working shot of Trench1	W	07/08/2023
2	3296	Working shot of Trench 4	N	07/08/2023
3	3297	Working shot of Trench 4	NNE	07/08/2023
4	3298	Working shot of Trench 3	NW	07/08/2023
5	3299	Working shot of Trench 2	NE	07/08/2023
6	3300	Post-excavation shot of Trench 2	NE	08/08/2023

Image	Digital	Description	From	Date
7	3301	Post-excavation shot of Trench 2	NE	08/08/2023
8	3302	Post-excavation shot of Trench 2 – Oblique	E	08/08/2023
9	3303	Post-excavation shot of Trench 2 – Oblique	NNE	08/08/2023
10	3304	Post-excavation shot of Trench 2 – SE Facing Section	SE	08/08/2023
11	3305	Post-excavation shot of Trench 2 – Oblique	E	08/08/2023
12	3306	Post-excavation shot of Trench 2 – Oblique	SW	08/08/2023
13	3307	Post-excavation shot of Trench 2 – Oblique	SW	08/08/2023
14	3308	Post-excavation shot of Trench 1	N	09/08/2023
15	3309	Post-excavation shot of Trench 1	S	09/08/2023
16	3310	Post-excavation shot of Trench 1 – W Facing Section	NW	09/08/2023
17	3311	Post-excavation shot of Trench 1 – W Facing Section – N end	W	09/08/2023
18	3312	Post-excavation shot of Trench 1 – W Facing Section – Centre	W	09/08/2023
19	3313	Post-excavation shot of Trench 1 – W Facing Section – S end	W	09/08/2023
20	3314	Post-excavation shot of Trench 1 – E Facing Section	E	09/08/2023
21	3315	Post-excavation shot of Trench 1 – E Facing Section – S end	E	09/08/2023
22	3316	Post-excavation shot of Trench 1 – E Facing Section – Centre	E	09/08/2023
23	3317	Post-excavation shot of Trench 1 – E Facing Section – N end	E	09/08/2023
24	3318	Post-excavation shot of Trench 1	NE	09/08/2023
25	3319	Post-excavation shot of Trench 5	S	09/08/2023
26	3320	Post-excavation shot of Trench 5	SW	09/08/2023
27	3321	Post-excavation shot of Trench 5	NE	09/08/2023
28	3322	Post-excavation shot of Trench 5 – SE Facing Section – SW end	SE	09/08/2023

Image	Digital	Description	From	Date
29	3323	Post-excavation shot of Trench 5 – SE Facing Section – Centre	SE	09/08/2023
30	3324	Post-excavation shot of Trench 5 – SE Facing Section – NE end	SE	09/08/2023
31	3325	Post-excavation shot of Trench 5 – NW Facing Section	N	09/08/2023
32	3326	Post-excavation shot of Trench 5 – NW Facing Section – NE end	NW	09/08/2023
33	3327	Post-excavation shot of Trench 5 – NW Facing Section – Centre	NW	09/08/2023
34	3328	Post-excavation shot of Trench 5 – NW Facing Section – SW end	NW	09/08/2023
35	3329	Post-excavation shot of Trench 5	WSW	09/08/2023
36	3330	Post-excavation shot of Trench 3	NE	09/08/2023
37	3331	Post-excavation shot of Trench 3	SW	09/08/2023
38	3332	Post-excavation shot of Trench 3 – NW Facing Section	N	09/08/2023
39	3333	Post-excavation shot of Trench 3 – NW Facing Section – NE end	NW	09/08/2023
40	3334	Post-excavation shot of Trench 3 – NW Facing Section – SW end	NW	09/08/2023
41	3335	Post-excavation shot of Trench 3 – SE Facing Section	SSE	09/08/2023
42	3336	Post-excavation shot of Trench 3 – SE Facing Section – NE end	SE	09/08/2023
43	3337	Post-excavation shot of Trench 3 – SE Facing Section – SW end	SE	09/08/2023
44	3338	Post-excavation shot of Trench 3	NE	09/08/2023
45	3339	Post-excavation shot of Trench 3	ENE	09/08/2023
46	3340	Post-excavation shot of Trench 3	ENE	09/08/2023
47	3341	Post-excavation shot of Trench 4	NE	09/08/2023
48	3342	Post-excavation shot of Trench 4	SW	09/08/2023
49	3343	Post-excavation shot of Trench 4 – NW Facing Section	NW	09/08/2023
50	3344	Post-excavation shot of Trench 4 – NW Facing Section – SW end	NW	09/08/2023

Image	Digital	Description	From	Date
51	3345	Post-excavation shot of Trench 4 – NW Facing Section – NE end	NW	09/08/2023
52	3346	Post-excavation shot of Trench 4 – SE Facing Section	SE	09/08/2023
53	3347	Post-excavation shot of Trench 4 – SE Facing Section – SW end	SE	09/08/2023
54	3348	Post-excavation shot of Trench 4 – SE Facing Section – NE end	SE	09/08/2023
55	3349	Post-excavation shot of Trench 4	NW	09/08/2023
56	3350	Trench 1 after backfilling	S	09/08/2023
57	3351	Trench 1 after backfilling	E	09/08/2023
58	3352	Trench 5 after backfilling	NW	09/08/2023
59	3353	Trench 4 after backfilling	SW	09/08/2023
60	3354	Trench 3 after backfilling	SSE	09/08/2023
61	3355	Trench 2 after backfilling	NE	09/08/2023
62	3356	Trench 2 after backfilling	NW	09/08/2023

Finds Register

Find No.	Test Pit	Context	Material Type	Description	Excavator	Date
1	Trench 3	(302)	Metal	1 x Brass and paper Cartridge Casing	AB/MB/LC	08/08/2023

Contact Details

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