

Drumbrae, near Stirling: Historic Environment

Appraisal for the Battle of Sheriffmuir



by Thomas Rees

issued 10th July 2024

on behalf of University of Edinburgh

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Signed Thomas Rees Date ...10th July 2024...

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

Checked Lorna Andersen Date ...10th July 2024...

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Introduction

1. A historic environment assessment (Anderson & Cathcart 2023) was prepared for the University of Edinburgh to inform a proposed planting scheme at Drumbrae, near Stirling (centred on NS 81765 98877).
2. These works established a baseline of historic environment assets present, based on archival sources and site inspection. Management guidelines were presented that sought to protect significant sites in an appropriate setting.
3. This report was prepared to support the University of Edinburgh in addressing UKFS Historic Environment Guidelines (2017), specifically, Good Forestry Practice Requirements 1 to 4.
4. The assessment area lay over the southeastern portion of the Inventory Battlefield for the Battle of Sheriffmuir (BTL17). Based on the evidence gathered for the assessment, mitigation was specified for the impact on the Key Qualities of the battlefield within the planting area.
5. This Battlefield Appraisal expands on the original assessment report to present our understanding of battle in particular the Key Landscape Characteristics and Special Qualities that bear on the significance of the battlefield within the area of the woodland proposal. Further, the nature of that woodland proposal is explored with the consequent impact assessment on the battlefield with consideration of mitigation.
6. This appraisal was prepared to explain the consequence of the proposed design relative to UKFS Historic Environment Guidelines (2017), including the managing change in the historic environment case study on historic battlefields (2013), as well as local policy and statutory historic battlefield guidance (2019) of Stirling Council and Historic Environment Scotland's guidance on Historic Battlefields (2016).

Treatment of the Battlefield in the Assessment

7. The assessment (Anderson & Cathcart 2023) identified

“On November 13th, 1715, a Jacobite rising turned to conflict in an area to the north of the assessment area. The Battle of Sheriffmuir (IB: BTL17) was the only major action in Scotland during the Jacobite rising. The battle was not a traditional battle with the location being of neither side's choosing with both the Jacobite forces and the Government forces being disorganised, nor was its outcome a clear victory for either side.

The Government and Jacobite forces deployed facing north and south respectively within the present-day Sheriff Muir forest. In the early stages of the battle, the Jacobite right charged and overwhelmed the Government left. The Government left fled the field, predominantly fleeing to the southwest towards Dunblane and Stirling, the Jacobite right and centre pursued them. One element of the fleeing Government left attempted to hold at the midden mound at The Linns, 'a farmstead over half a mile to the southwest of their original position'. This was unsuccessful with the Government troops overwhelmed.

The extent of the battlefield protection extends south past The Linns due to records of bodies encountered by 'soldiers digging latrine pits during WWII' (Inventory Battlefield) on the banks of Wharry Burn that runs along the northern edge of the assessment area as illustrated in Figure 5.

The Jacobite army remaining on the field after the departure of their right flank was defeated by the remaining Government forces, and 'made a fighting retreat...back in the direction of their initial advance' (Inventory of Historic Battlefields).

Previous archaeological works have been conducted in the areas to the south of the Battle of Sheriffmuir which include the northern portion of the assessment area. The probability for metal artefact survival is moderate to low, with previous

archaeological metal detecting only recovering lead musket balls of uncertain date and 18th century shoe buckles that may derive from this battle.”

8. Further, when considering the treatment of landscape designations, the assessment recommended:

*“The designated extent of the Inventory Battlefield for the Battle of Sheriffmuir (IB: BTL17) extends across a northern portion of the assessment area as illustrated in Figure 5. There are no significant landscape elements within this area that contribute to the comprehension of the battle, as such **no restriction** on the design of forestry in this area is recommended.*





*However, the rout and pursuit of the Government forces may have crossed the Wharry Burn in this area. As such there is the potential for the discard and loss of personal and military equipment as well as a lesser potential for the burial of fallen soldiers. To mitigate any adverse impact before planting in this area we recommend that a **metal detecting survey** is undertaken of planting blocks. Where cultural material is identified, this should be recovered, catalogued and reported to the appropriate authorities. Should the less likely burials be identified, these should be protected within appropriate clearings without the burials being disturbed.*

The metal detecting survey should be undertaken in keeping with a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed upon with the local authority archaeologist and Scottish Forestry.”

9. It is relevant that the assessment gave management guidance to form Larger Clearing **E** against the west bank of the Wharry Burn to enhance the retention of the former mill/farmstead **S16** whole also requiring the protection with a buffer of the lade **S15** that flanks the Wharry Burn. The assessment was also crafted with awareness of the emerging forestry design.

Consideration of Battlefield in UK Forestry Standard

10. The UKFS when discussing historic landscape character within the Forests and Historic Environment sustainable forest management element identified that many areas have special designations and some may have locally specific policies that apply in addition to those accompanying the designation.
11. Good Forestry Practice Requirements 1 and 2 address the consideration of a battlefield site:

  1	Forests should be designed and managed to take account of the historical character and cultural values of the landscape.
  2	Forests should be designed and managed to take account of policies associated with historic landscapes, battlefield sites, historic parks and gardens, and designed landscapes of historic interest.

12. While battlefields are not explicitly mentioned within the supporting guidelines, those guidelines bearing on the protection of features, the consideration of setting and the provision of interpretation and access all have relevance.
13. Within the broader supporting guidance for the Forests and Historic Environment sustainable forest management element the then Forestry Commission Scotland presented a suite of case studies around Historic Environment Conservation Management in 2013. This included the case study of ‘The Historic Battlefield of Glen Shiel’ which explored the restructuring of existing planting within the battlefield to reflect the positions of combatants. Within the case study, best practice is described as:

Best Practice calls for consideration of a battlefield when managing the land or

proposing change. The underlying landforms will not normally have altered since the day of the battle, even if the land-use has changed dramatically. So immediate questions include: are the deployments of the opposing armies still inter-visible? And can the events of the day be followed on the ground? Indeed, has anything survived that relates to the battle itself? And how can elements be incorporated into proposals for land management?

Best practice should not seek to turn the clock back with attempts to re-create the landscape as it might have been at the time of a battle. Instead, time needs to be taken to gather information, discuss options with non-forestry specialists and other landowners, and develop opportunities for sensitively managing a battlefield landscape. Enhancing public access and enjoyment is a particularly positive outcome, for these places are steeped in history and emotion. These are the issues that are being addressed at Glen Shiel.

Forestry Commission Scotland (2013) The Historic Battlefield of Glen Shiel, p2

14. Historic Environment Guidelines 18, 19, 28 & 29 informed the management guidance provided within the preceding assessment (Anderson & Cathcart 2023) and informal guidance given to the emerging woodland proposal.

Historic Environment Scotland guidance on Historic Battlefields

15. The *Inventory of Historic Battlefields* identifies battlefields of national importance and provides information on them. Each entry within the Inventory incorporates the best available interpretation of the extent of the battlefield, this includes the identification of key landscape characteristics, important features and archaeological potential.
16. The Battle of Sheriffmuir was added to the Inventory in March 2011 with its entry last updated in December 2012. As recognised by Historic Environment Scotland:

The battle of Sheriffmuir is significant as the only major engagement in Scotland during the 1715 Jacobite Rising. The battle was a chaotic affair, with the outcome very much debatable, but it was sufficient to bring an end to the rising. It also involves one of largest Jacobite armies ever fielded in Scotland, with only Falkirk in 1746 exceeding it.

17. The Jacobite army, reckoned to have numbered some 7,000 men, was led by the Earl of Mar and significantly outnumbered the Government army which only had around 3,000 men, led by the Duke of Argyll. The inconclusive engagement was fought as an encounter action, where the two sides met on ground on which neither was fully certain of or had prepared positions.
18. The Inventory boundary, defined on an accompanying map, covers some 2500ha and encompasses all recognised elements of the battlefield (see Figure 1). Within the Inventory description, this area was described through six areas, the fifth of which is: '*Lands to the south and west of The Linns including Waltersmuir Wood and the Wharry Burn. The direction of the rout of the Government left and the Jacobite's pursuit as determined through archaeological fieldwork. This includes the south bank of the Wharry Burn which has high potential to contain graves associated with the battle.*' (HES 2012, p2)
19. Historic Environment Scotland's supporting guidance on managing change on Historic Battlefields (2016) includes an approach for preparing and assessing land-use proposals affecting these battlefields. The inventory information together with the supporting guidance is intended to provide a basis for managing change on battlefields:

"Changes to battlefields should seek to protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance historic battlefields. If a battlefield is to accommodate modern development, its key landscape characteristics and special qualities should be retained."

Historic Environment Scotland (2016) Historic Battlefields p9

The Inventory of Historic Battlefields - Deployments

Sheriffmuir

13 November 1715

Local Authority: Stirling



HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD EACHDRAIDHEIL ALBA

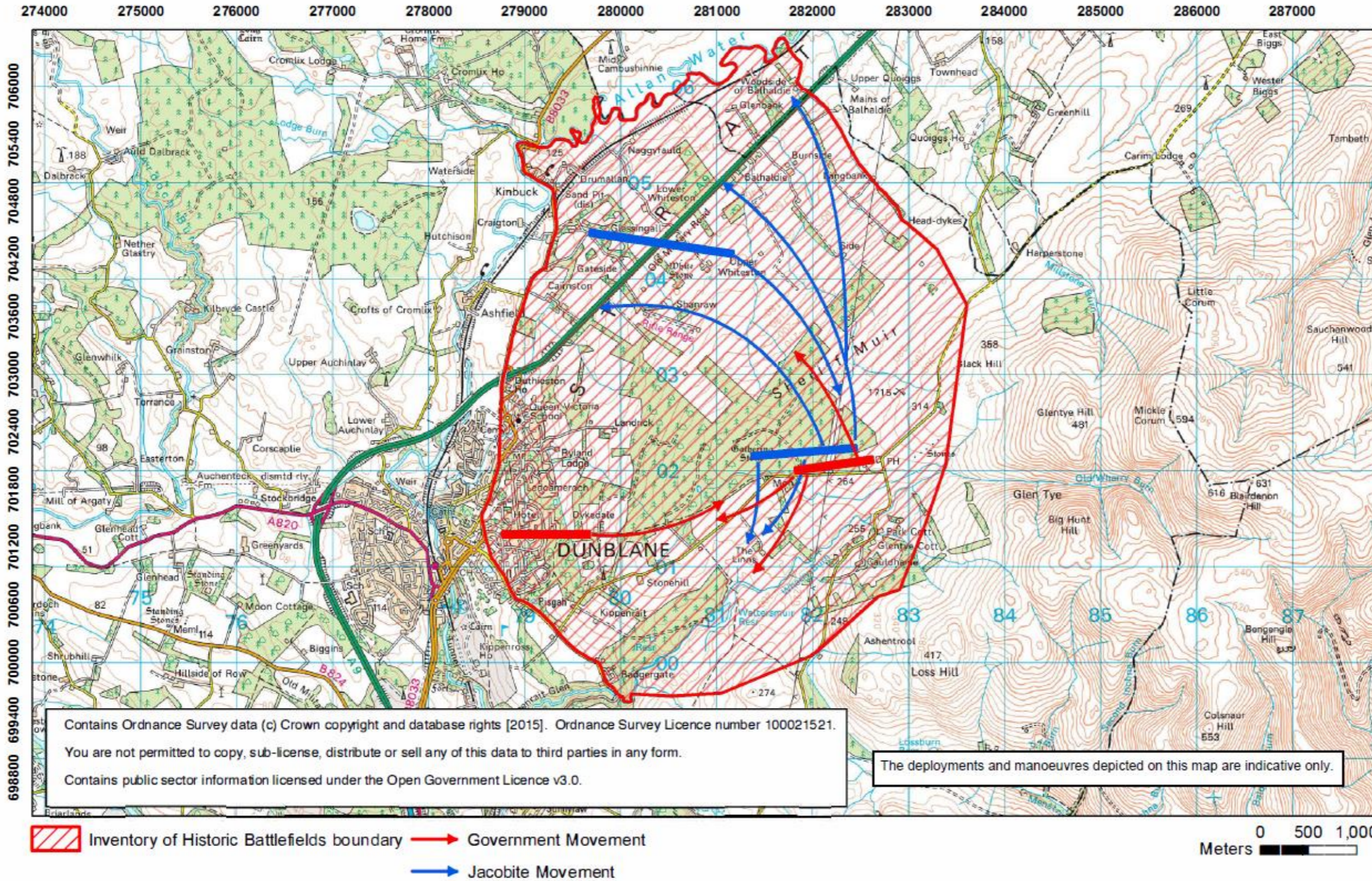


Figure 1: Historic Environment Scotland map of deployments from the Inventory record (2012)

Stirling Council guidance on Historic Battlefields

20. Within their statutory Supplementary Guidance on Historic Battlefields (Stirling Council 2019) the planning authority considers the Sheriffmuir battlefield in the context of the Primary Policy 7: Historic Environment and Policy 7.8 of the Stirling Local Development Plan.

21. Section 5 presents the historical context of the Battle of Sheriffmuir, and its progress before reviewing the surviving features:

“... the point of engagement between the two armies centred on the Gathering Stone and the MacRae Memorial and its immediate environs have been subject to modern forestry plantation. This has both disrupted the views across the battlefield as well as severely impacted any surviving artefacts associated with the battle in the ground. Other modern impacts on the battlefield include a series of pylons, the A9, a railway line, WWI and WWII training infrastructure, as well as the expansion of Dunblane. However, despite these modern developments the nature and progress of the battle can be understood and followed on the ground. In addition, it is evident that given the extent of the fighting a large proportion of the area defined by the Inventory has the potential to contain artefacts or bodies.”

Stirling Council 2019, Para5.10, p36

22. Supporting this presentation of information is a summary graphic of the battle that provides a graduated colour overlay for the intensity of features known or anticipated within the battlefield designation (Figure 2)

23. When considering the relative sensitivity to change within the battlefield, Stirling Council recognise that:

“... it is clear that there are portions of the area defined by the battlefield inventory that are either peripheral to key events or are less sensitive to change given modern development in their vicinity.”

Stirling Council 2019, Para 5.11 p36

further:

“...it is anticipated that those features considered to be key components to the understanding of the battlefield should be excluded from development on archaeological grounds. Those areas that have already built upon or are considered either peripheral to key components, or less sensitive to change, a development proposal should take the battlefield into account in a positive way, including demonstrating how it will conserve or enhance the resource.”

Stirling Council 2019, Para 5.12 p37

24. Within the section titled ‘Areas Potentially Peripheral to Key Components or Less Sensitive to Change’ the Supplementary Guidance identifies areas peripheral to the key components of the battlefield to include (as Area 4, para 5.28) the southern fringe of the Inventory area, between Cauldhome and Kippencross Home Farm.

25. Stirling Council make clear that ‘... the intention behind the Inventory is not to preserve the entirety of the defined area in situ in perpetuity, but rather to identify its key components and to manage change’ (p45)

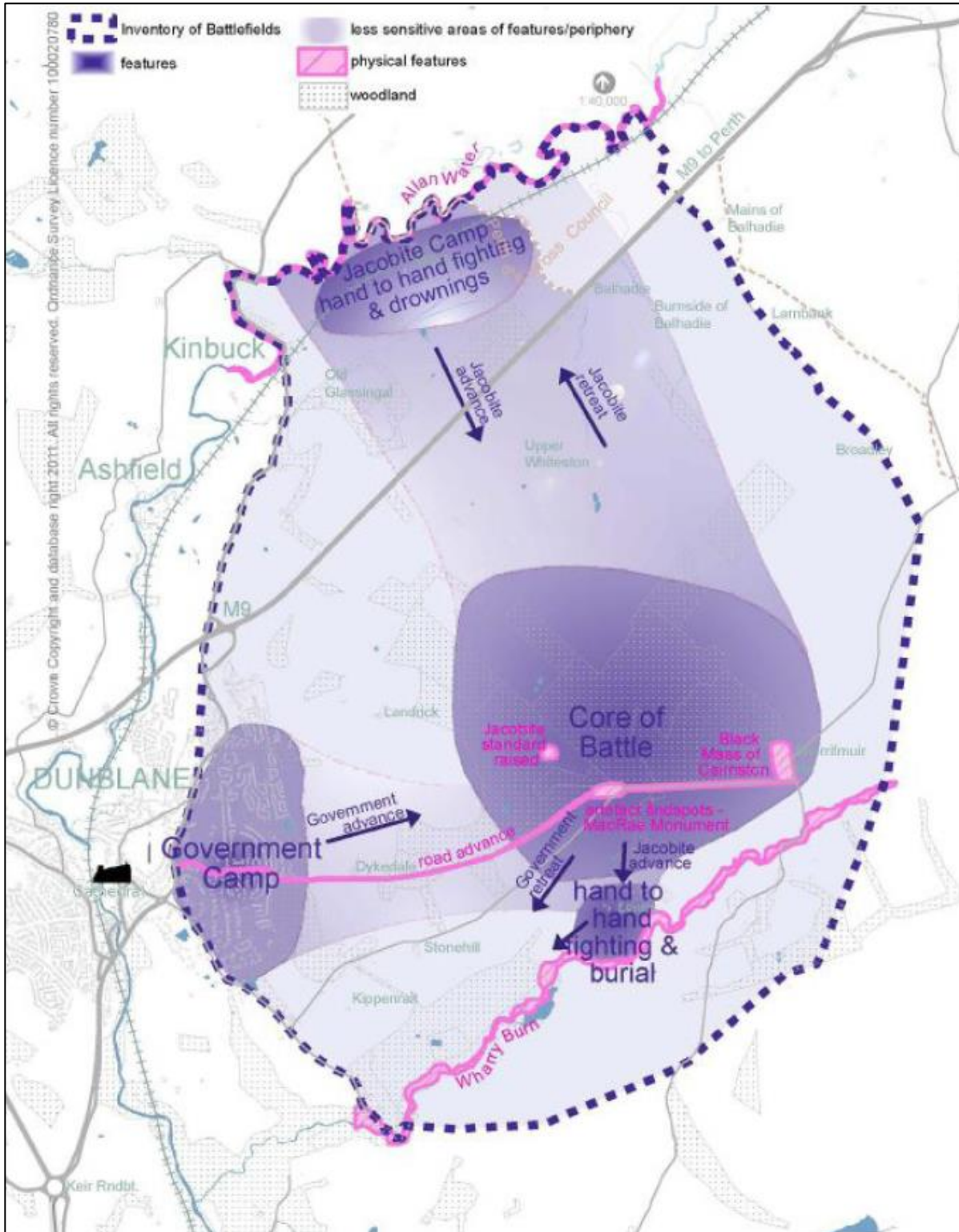


Figure 2: Stirling Council map of deployments from the supplementary guidance (2019)

Approach to the Battlefield Appraisal

26. The battlefield appraisal re-presents the baseline established by the original assessment (Anderson & Cathcart 2023).
27. In keeping with Historic Environment Scotland’s guidance on Battlefields (2016) the assessment is expanded upon to provide the character and context of the battlefield. The nature of other heritage assets within the proposal area is also considered as is the nature of the woodland proposal. The appraisal then moves on to assess the impact of the proposal in three main aspects: direct, contextual and cumulative impacts. Finally, the mitigation embedded within the proposal is considered, including those aspects that seek to enhance the battlefield.
28. All works were conducted in keeping with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists’ Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statements.

The Baseline

29. This appraisal will not rehearse the well-presented overviews of the historical context for the battle at Sheriffmuir in 1715 nor the in-depth discussion on the possible or probable movement of forces on the day based on historical, archaeological and landscape information that has evolved since the 1970s.
30. Five main texts were consulted on these matters and are referenced here for the reader to consider:
 - Battlefield Trust (2005) – see text & map downloads at <https://www.battlefieldstrust.com/resource-centre/stuart-rebellions/battleview.asp?BattleFieldId=70>
 - Historic Environment Scotland (2012) – see text & map downloads at <http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/BTL17>
 - Pollard, T (2015) ‘Mosses, Maps and Musket Balls: Pinpointing the Location of the Sheriffmuir Battlefield’, *Forth Naturalist and Historian*, Volume 38, pp.131-144 – see https://fnh.wordpress.stir.ac.uk/files/2021/10/vol_38_11_-_174.pdf
 - Stirling Council (2019) *Battlefields, Supplementary Guidance: Historic Environment* – see <https://www.stirling.gov.uk/media/mhxfcwo3/sg-battlefields-27-02-2019.pdf>
 - Farquharson, L & Sneddon, D (in prep) *The Battle of Sheriffmuir, 13 November 1715*, Chapter within the Beaulay-Denny 400kV Overhead Line publication
31. The impact of battlefield archaeology (see Pollard (2015) and Farquharson & Sneddon (in prep)) has been to clarify the initial deployment of the opposing forces on Sheriffmuir and reveal the character of the field of conflict.
32. The insights from this work were not available to the Battlefield Trust (2005) which presented competing interpretations of the battle (see Figure 3). By the time of the Inventory, Historic Environment Scotland (2012) had access to the initial phase of the battlefield archaeology studies.
33. Since then much larger bodies of information have emerged from both the work on the Beaulay-Denny overhead route and several forestry and development interventions. These have provided a step change in comprehension of the battlefield, and in particular its Key Landscape Characteristics and Special Qualities. The later, statutory supplementary guidance on battlefield by Stirling Council (2019) takes full account of these later works.

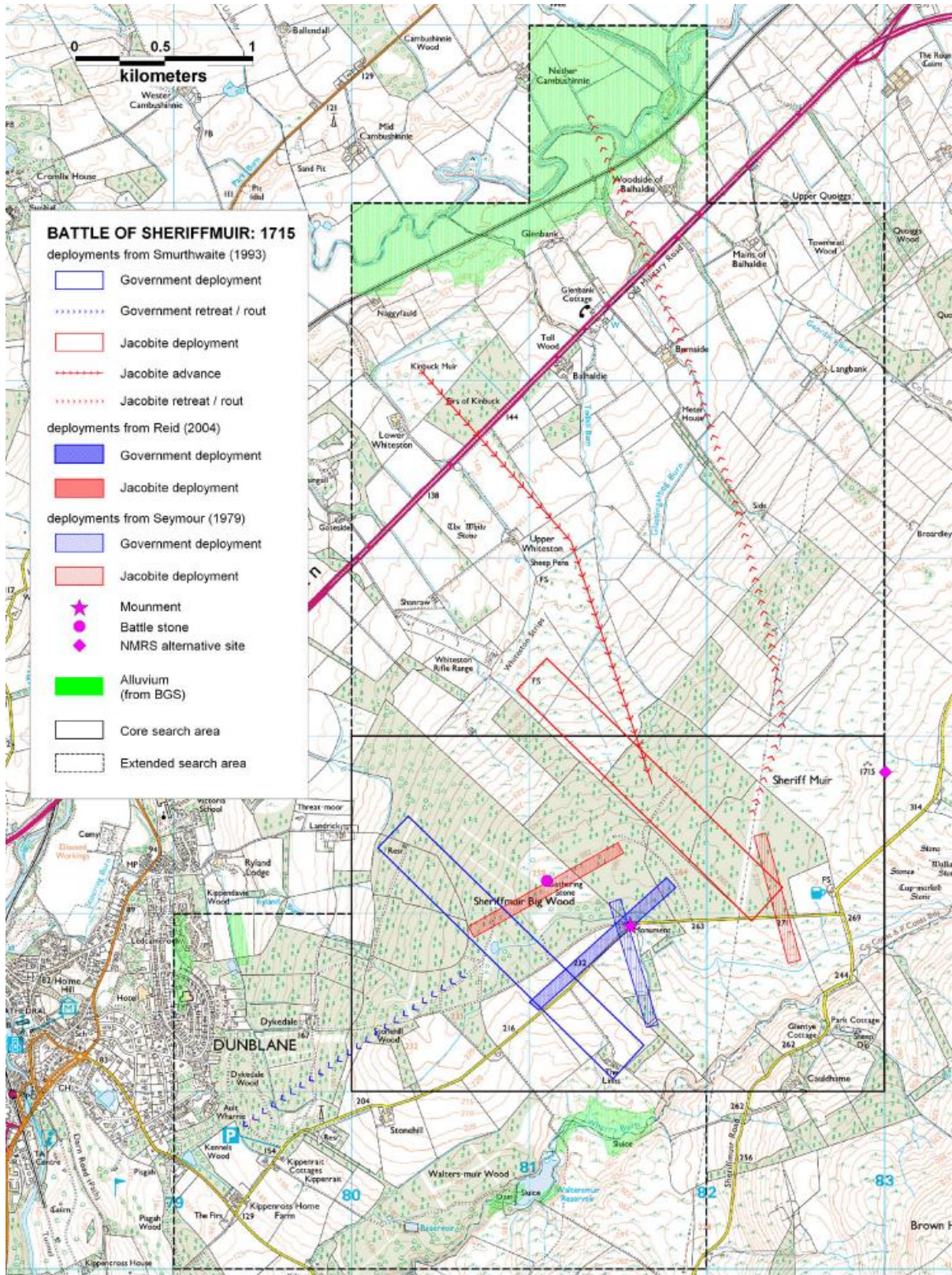


Figure 3: Battlefields Trust map of deployments (2005) before archaeological evidence

Character and context

36. The Battle of Sheriffmuir occurred over a single day, 13th November 1715. This was the only major engagement in Scotland during the 1715 Jacobite Rising. The battle was a chaotic affair with a debatable outcome, though sufficiently adverse in outcome for the Jacobite cause to end the rising.
37. In essence, the Battle of Sheriffmuir comprises six stages that each have the potential to be associated with Special Qualities and inform the recognition of Key Landscape Characteristics:
- ❖ Pre-conflict Camps – The Jacobite army camped overnight to the NE of Kinbuck having arrived from Ardoch, controlling the road north from Dunblane. The Government army camped overnight to the N and E of Dunblane around Dykedale and Kippendavie expecting the conflict to be on the valley floor.
 - ❖ Deployment – The Jacobite army on the morning marched to the high ground of Sheriffmuir near the Gathering Stone and the Macrae Memorial forming an E/W deployment. As deployed, the Jacobite left was constrained due to the presence of a bog. In response to the movement onto the moor, the Government army marched up an existing road, across the front of the Jacobite army, failing to mark the Jacobite right that was obscured in a hollow and started to deploy to face.
 - ❖ The Attack – While the smaller Government army was deploying, the Jacobite army attacked. Their larger army gave them the advantage, especially on the Jacobite right where armies of this time tended to weight their cavalry deployment.
 - ❖ Rout of the Government Left – The Jacobite right outflanked the Government left and put this wing of the Government army to flight. A stand by Government troops was attempted at The Linns (a farmstead) and failed, with the Government left falling back towards Dunblane. The Jacobite right and centre continued the pursuit but did not enter Dunblane, regrouping at Kippendavie.
 - ❖ Rout of the Jacobite Left – The Government army remaining on the field put to flight the Jacobite left. A fighting retreat ensued with the Jacobite left falling back to the Allan Water. The Government right and centre continued the pursuit with heavy fighting at the crossing of the river.
 - ❖ Regrouping and dispersal – the remaining Government army regrouped on lower ground at Kippendavie deploying against the remaining Jacobite army. As the light failed, the respective armies fell back on Dunblane and Ardoch, avoiding further engagement.
38. As described in the Inventory entry in 2012:
- “The battle was fought on the high undulating moorland of Sheriffmuir. Sheriffmuir is located on a high plateau at the western end of the Ochil Hills. The gently sloping land drops down to the banks of the Allan Water to the north and west. Although the landscape of the moor has been altered through the planting of areas of commercial woodland, enclosure and drainage of marshland, key landscape features and views are largely intact and it appears that the overall character of the battlefield survives. The topography of the moorland, which played a key role in the battle, is well preserved in places as open farmland and moor and the approach of the Jacobites up the slopes from the north to the higher ground is clear.*
- The greater part of the location at which both armies faced one another prior to launching their flank attacks is currently covered by coniferous forestry plantations, some of which date back to the 19th century. This forestry masks the topography of the core of the battlefield and prevents key views out across the moorland to be gained. The remainder of the land within the Inventory boundary is generally free from development and the potential for surviving archaeological evidence is high.”*

39. The Key Landscape Characteristics are those that shaped the battle. These are recognised as:
- a. Dunblane on the valley floor with arable fields and woodland to the immediate east – the urban backstop for the Government army in the W on the valley floor shaped by the left bank of the Allan Water that was the focus for the camp prior, the retreat during and the dispersal after the battle.
 - b. Sheriffmuir - the high undulating moorland of Sheriffmuir rising to the E of Dunblane encompassing landscape elements that shaped the deployment of the armies (the hollow that masked the Jacobite right, the bog that constrained the Jacobite left, the road that facilitated the deployment of the Government army, The Linns that provided a potential rally point for the Government left).
 - c. The framing watercourses – the arc of Strathallan with the Allan Water to the N (that defined the Jacobite camp before the battle, the destination for the retreat during and dispersal after) and the incised burn valley of the Wharry Burn to the S that framed the moorland of Sheriffmuir and restricted easy movement except where established roads ran.
 - d. The Ochils – the rising hills and mountains to the E and SE (beyond the Wharry Burn) that edge the high moor, limiting lateral movement (note this upland massif is predominantly outwith the designation area).
40. As recognised in the description from the Inventory, the core area of the Battlefield has been overlain by commercial forestry that reaches west, as thick shelterbelts on enclosed fields, towards the eastern expansion of Dunblane. The use of this ground for forestry was established by the mid 19th century with the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1865-6) showing what would be named the 'Sheriffmuir Big Wood' that was in turn an expansion of a large rectangular block of woodland shown by Roy (1747-52, Military Survey of Scotland (Highlands)) on the western edge of the moor. The urban form of Dunblane has impinged on the battlefield covering the area of the Government camp and the late battle faceoff after regrouping. The ground to the N has mainly been enclosed and drained to become a post-improvement agricultural landscape that while broadly undeveloped has lost much of its moorland characteristic. This enclosed ground covers the Jacobite camps as well as their approach, retreat and dispersal routes from the core of the battle.
41. To the SE and E of the core battle there is less enclosure and improvement of the ground, giving a better, though altered, appreciation of the open moorland that would have been present in the 18th century. To the SW the agricultural land has been improved and enclosed, though with few woodland shelterbelts open lines of sight are present. The contemporary built landscape has not survived, the structures that stand at The Linns within a woodland block are not those of the 18th century and although the modern minor road on Sheriffmuir approximates the line of the 18th century road from Dunblane, it lies to the south of the original course. Modern infrastructure, not least the Beaully-Denny overhead line, intrudes within this landscape. Forestry and woodland are also prevalent in the southern margins of the battlefield designation. Waltersmuir Wood on the right, north bank of the Wharry Burn and Commonty Wood on the left, south bank are shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1865-6). The latter wood was subsequently cleared in the 20th century, though has been substantially replanted in the 21st century while the former has endured. The enclosed fields around Cauldhame were defined by woodland shelterbelts since the mid 19th century, with 21st century planting expanding the footprint of this woodland and forestry.
42. The Battle of Sheriffmuir was an encounter action, not an assault on prepared positions. As such there is no potential for the presence of breastworks, earthworks or fortifications. Rather the combatants used existing landscape and structural features (as noted in Key Landscape Characteristic **b**) with historical associations being ascribed to some of these (such as the Gathering Stone) and commemorative monuments later erected (ie the Macrae Memorial). There is an enduring potential for battle debris and graves to be present across the battlefield, indirectly mapping the initial engagement and the myriad of subsequent smaller conflicts.

43. Further, the Inventory identifies some of the Special Qualities that may be relevant to the forestry proposal under consideration:
- “Sheriffmuir is one of relatively few Scottish battle sites to have benefited from archaeological survey. Metal detector survey in 2006 guided by information gleaned from the contemporary accounts and maps revealed a pattern of battle debris, including musket balls, buttons, horseshoes and other material, relating to the retreat from the moor of the left wings of both armies. Unfortunately, however, it seems likely on the basis of this work, that the position of both armies as they faced one another prior to the attacks was planted with conifer trees in the 19th and 20th centuries. Where the tree plantations give way to open fields, archaeological survival is relatively good with scatterings of battle debris located to the east of the Sheriffmuir Inn and to the south and east of the Macrae monument in the vicinity of Linns.”*
44. In summary, the Inventory entry presents a narrative that the area covering the lands south and west of the Linns has Special Qualities of (1) battle debris identified through metal detecting in 2006 and, on the south bank of the Wharry Burn, (2) the ‘high potential’ for graves. The Inventory entry does not evidence this potential for graves nor explore why they would be on the southern bank of the burn.
45. Since the compilation of the Inventory entry, there have been numerous archaeological projects exploring the density and character of battle debris and the potential for graves at Sheriffmuir. The most extensive are those linked to the design and delivery of the 400kV Overhead Line from Beaully to Denny whose route now crosses the battlefield. The earliest stage of these works is that referenced in the Inventory entry (Historic Environment Scotland 2012), fuller explorations of this and later stages of this work are now available (Pollard 2015 and Farquharson & Sneddon *in prep*).
46. The early stages of work that sought to inform the route design included archival studies and metal detector surveys undertaken in early 2006 and late 2007 (Pollard 2015). These works were the first field investigations to locate the remains of the battle. They focused on the open ground to the N of the Linns and the SW of the Sheriffmuir Inn seeking evidence for the conflict, especially linking to the accounts for the stand of the elements of the Government left at the Linns. Additional areas were surveyed around the Gathering Stone and on the left bank of Allan Water close to Kinbuck.
47. The survey around the Linns and to the north of the road recovered battle-related artefacts though ‘... *relatively low concentrations of battlefield material were recovered from this part of the site, and their location and character suggested that they related to the retreat of the government’s left flank.*’ (Pollard 2015, 137). No work at this time was conducted close to or south of the Wharry Burn. Archival work did consider the potential for graves in this area, the study identified a local story of a Territorial soldier in the early 20th century who, while camped just south of the Linns, dug a latrine that exposed skeletal material (Farquharson & Sneddon *in prep*). The inference is that such burials were of Government soldiers killed in the flight of the Government left to the north of the Wharry Burn.
48. With any oral history account significant caution should be used as to its reliability in the absence of any supporting evidence. Despite three centuries of agricultural activity (inc. ploughing, drainage and small-scale rural development) there appears to be no other account of the exposure of human skeletal material.
49. Between 2012 and 2016 the works changed from design to mitigation of impact with the whole footprint for the construction of the overhead line subject to a metal detector survey, with all groundworks then subject to archaeological monitoring (Farquharson & Sneddon *in prep*). In total, these works covered a 6km route as it passed through the battlefield from the Allan Water in the north to the land south of the Wharry Burn. The route travelled through the Jacobite camp area, the deployment route onto Sheriffmuir and through the core of the battle before passing to the east of The Linns and crossing Wharry Burn.
50. To the S of the Wharry Burn, this included three tower foundation pads, a continuous access road running along the route, winch positions and laydown areas. The metal

detector survey from the Wharry Burn to the southern edge of the battlefield recovered only two finds both attributed to the 19th or 20th century – an iron fragment of a bowl and a large horseshoe (Farquharson & Sneddon *in prep*). The extensive monitoring failed to recover any additional artefacts or features linked to the battle nor did it encounter human remains.

51. A 25ha area under consideration for forestry planting at Pendreich, to the SW and W of the current proposal, was subject to a metal detector survey in 2012 (Engl 2012). This location is on the south, left, bank of the Wharry Burn within the battlefield designation. The survey recovered twelve metal finds:

“The finds comprise five copper alloy dress accessories and fittings of 18th to 20th century date, four lead bullets of late 19th to early 20th century date, a 20th century copper jacketed lead bullet and two undated, unidentified, fragmentary iron objects. In addition approximately 20 bullet cartridges of 20th century date were removed from site these were all found close to the Wharry Burn and probably relate to Second World War activity within the area ...”

Engl 2012, p5

52. Of these finds only two, both shoe buckles, have a date range that overlaps or is adjacent to the date of the battle.
53. The Sheriffmuir road corridor, including all the ground within both the forestry proposal and the battlefield designation, has also been subject over many years to reconnaissance surveys for militaria (Smith 2020). The findings from this survey mirror the recovery of 19th and 20th century militaria from Pendreich. Smith identified multiple locations with battle debris, though in every case this was material from the 20th century linked to training during World War II. None of these locations are within the area under consideration here.
54. An archaeological survey and assessment of a 71ha area on the Kippendavie Estate to the south of The Linns and west of Glentye Cottage, within the Inventory Battlefield was carried out in 2014 to inform a forestry proposal (Morrison & Cameron 2014). This covered both sides of the Wharry Burn to the immediate N and NE of the current proposal. The assessment provided a structure for mitigation through a full metal-detecting survey before new planting to recover battle debris with a focus on the risk of encountering human remains along the banks of the burn.
55. The mitigation at Kippendavie has not concluded, with Access Archaeology kindly providing a comment on the outcome of their metal detecting surveys to date. They have confirmed the recovery of ‘... less than a dozen musket balls (which may or may not be related to the battle). There was no definitive clustering in their distribution as in a ‘firing line’ or area of ‘fall of shot’. The tightest group was three balls found within about 1 ha ... maybe a re-grouping point at best? A broken brass fragment from a gun stock was also unearthed.’ Further, they advised that after the modern detritus, there were also coins, dress accessories (buckles & buttons) and tools within the recovered assemblage.
56. The Kippendavie estate survey has extended from the original 71ha to cover around 90ha of ground which is disproportionately to the N of the Wharry Burn. The level of potential battle debris continues to support the inference on density from the early 2006-7 metal detector survey.
57. None of the battlefield archaeology-informed works on the Beaully-Denny overhead line, the Pendreich forestry or the Kippendavie estate forestry have recovered any human skeletal remains.

Other heritage assets

58. The original assessment (Anderson & Cathcart 2023) included a full consideration of the other non-battlefield heritage assets within the boundary of both the forestry proposal and the battlefield designation.
59. The identified undesignated heritage assets were the farmstead of Pendreichmill **S16**, the lade **S15** abstracting water from the Wharry Burn, the known site of the Parsonley

farmstead **S37**, a series of tracks **S24** and a field system **S44** formed by field banks that includes one clearance cairn **S35**. Eighteen quarry scoops were also noted within this same area.

60. Some 23 blocks of post-medieval or modern rig in whole or part were identified within the battlefield designation extending to 20.1ha in extent – or 33.1% of the battlefield within the forestry proposal. The field system in places respected the identified blocks of cultivation rig, at other times the field banks rode over the rig.
61. Some 3.7ha of the forestry proposal within the battlefield designation was covered by woodland in the 19th century, part of the historic Commonly Wood.

Forestry Proposal

62. The forestry proposal is located approximately 1.9km to the east of Bridge of Allan. It comprises a single land parcel which is polygonal on plan and which measures approximately 423 hectares in extent. The Sheriffmuir Road runs from south-southwest to north through the centre of the Proposal.
63. The southeastern third of the proposal area comprises the western and northwestern slopes of Dumyat (410m AOD) though that summit is outwith the area. The ground rises from around 190m AOD adjacent to the Sherrifmuir Road to 350m AOD with multiple unnamed small summits (>280m AOD) dotted throughout this area. To the immediate south are the steep slopes falling onto the floodplain of the River Forth. The balance of the ground is a mixture of rolling (between 180m and 250m AOD) hillside and moorland, with one single unnamed summit (274m OD) within the northwestern section.
64. Multiple unnamed watercourses drain the eastern central portion of the assessment area into the Lossburn Reservoir which is located to the east. The Cock's Burn rises in the centre of the proposal area and is joined by numerous unnamed watercourses that drain the western side of Dumyat before entering the Cocksburn Reservoir to the west. The Wharry Burn follows the curve of the northern edge of the proposal area before entering the Waltersmuir Reservoir to the west.
65. The forestry proposal will see around 234 ha of planting, roughly two-thirds of which will be of native broadleaves, with most of the remainder being Scots pine. The design will complement existing mature, changing, and young woodlands at Pendreich Farm, the Forestry & Land Scotland managed Pendreich Woods, and the new woods on Dumyat, both in terms of composition and, on the upper slopes of Dumyat Hill, in terms of tree lines.
66. When viewed from the Sheriffmuir C86 road (near the Macraes Monument) the new woodland will occupy a small part of the lower ground, linking the woods on Pendreich farm and Kippendavie on the south (left) bank of the Wharry Burn, accentuating fall from the moorland into that burn valley. Trees will also become visible on the northern slopes of Dumyat, but the higher ground will remain clear. The visual dominance of the Beaully-Denny overhead line will also be reduced (see the visualisation from Viewpoint 6 – reproduced as Figure 7).
67. In total, 189 ha of open ground will be retained within the proposal area, comprising 45% of the ground, and including all of the areas identified as being of significant biodiversity value or requiring larger clearings to protect the setting of archaeological assets. The large majority of the open ground will, in the first instance at least, be permitted to develop naturally. Around 15ha of ground, including the most floristically diverse area, will be subject to conservation grazed, this ground is within the battlefield designation against the Wharry Burn.
68. The planting will both buffer and protect the existing forest habitat network and key local nature conservation sites. The enduring removal of grazing (albeit that grazing has been fairly light in recent years) will facilitate an improvement in the condition of peatland habitats.
69. The proposal at Drumbrae will protect and enhance core paths and other well-used recreational routes helping to provide a range of available routes and reducing the need for visitors to follow the same route. Some of the other identified path routes will be



Figure 4a: View from carpark at Macraes Monument looking S towards Proposal



Figure 4b: View from carpark looking SW towards Macraes Monument and Dunblane



Figure 5a: View to the NW over the Wharry Burn from the bluff above Pendreichmill **S16**



Figure 5b: Pendreichmill **S16** from the SW with the incised Wharry Burn valley to the NE

enclosed within the deer fences protecting the new planting. Where this occurs all-user self-closing gates will be fitted at access points to permit continued access. Mapped paths have been set in open ground corridors, of roughly 15-20m width. Where low-level use informal routes are encountered, planting will be held back on either side of the route, and spacing adjusted elsewhere to ensure that the required stocking densities are attained. Interpretative boards will be erected to provide information on aspects such as access, natural history, and cultural heritage.

70. The northernmost section of the Drumbrae proposal within the Inventory Battlefield for the Battle of Sheriffmuir (see Figure 6). This section of the proposal area extends to 62ha with the planting extending to some 29ha, leaving 33ha (53.2%) unplanted. The unplanted area includes the new 15ha grazing enclosure that encompasses the site of Pendreichmill **S16** with this compartment abutting the southern, left, bank of the Wharry Burn. The planted ground to the E and SE of this grazing compartment will be deer-fenced to prevent damage to juvenile planting. These deer fences will be removed when the trees are fully established, although agricultural stock will continue to be excluded. Access to the area will be available via several rides connecting to the car park and existing tracks, using self-closing gates to allow access into the enclosed ground.
71. The planting will predominantly be different compositions of native broadleaved woodland (Oak, Alder, Ash and Birch - NVC W11, W17 and W9/W7/W4, see key on Figure 6 for composition) and Fir woodland. In the E the planting is disproportionately placed on the areas of post-medieval to modern rig mapped by the original assessment. The planting will include a series of small stands along the margins of the Waltersmuir Reservoir to enable wildlife corridors to be established. On the higher ground to the S of this section, the planting mix will change to Scots Pine woodland. All of this planting is to form a woodland cover that will be retained in the long term as a permanent land-use change.
72. The aims of the woodland creation are not commercial. The University is taking responsibility for unavoidable emissions and tackling climate change and the biodiversity crisis through tree planting that will create habitats and increase biodiversity.
73. The area of the planting in the battlefield has the potential to mitigate 16,000T of carbon equivalent emissions for climate mitigation, deliver on the communities aims of the Forth Climate Forest and flood mitigation, add to the work on restoration of the native elm and other plants with the Royal Botanic Gardens, and make the adjoining woodland SSSI more resilient. The impact of an absence of a woodland connection along the Wharry Burn to the north to Kippendavie exposes species such as red squirrel to increased predation and population loss and reduces the forest habitat network.

Impact Assessment

74. The proposal includes the planting of 29ha of native woodland established within a 62ha area within the southern periphery of the Inventory Battlefield for the Battle of Sheriffmuir. Some 3.7ha of this planting will be in an area covered by woodland in the 19th century, part of the historic Commonly Wood while the majority will be on former tilled ground from the post-medieval to modern period. This ground has been used for grazing stock, though this has been of reducing intensity in recent years. Some 15ha will continue in active grazing as a new agricultural unit.
75. The anticipated impact of this proposal on the Special Qualities and Key Landscape Characteristics of this battlefield is considered below, as is the cumulative impact in the southern portion of the battlefield.

Direct impact on Special Qualities

76. The Character and Context section of the Baseline (see above) has established only two Special Qualities at risk of direct impact that may be present within this portion of the battlefield: graves of fallen soldiers and battle debris.

Graves

77. Despite enduring use and occupation of the landscape, there are no historical records of burials in the southern portion of the battlefield. There is an unattributed oral tale

recounting the exposure of skeletal material to the south of The Linns during the first half of the 20th century. This is inextricably linked to the historical records of a stand by the Government left at The Linns. An inferred link to the easier-to-excavate alluvium deposits in the Wharry Burn valley to the south of The Linns has been made (see Figure 3 map by Battlefields Trust).

78. Archaeological works associated with 115ha of forestry operations (Pendreich and Kippendavie estate) and the construction operations of the Beaully-Denny overhead route in the same portion of the battlefield have failed to locate any human skeletal material. The Kippendavie estate planting on the north, right, bank of the Wharry Burn extensively planted the alluvium deposits considered to have the higher potential for such burials.
79. This proposal will predominantly not plant the alluvium areas adjacent to the Wharry Burn where this ground is within the overall proposal area.
80. The consistent pattern emerging since battlefield archaeology commenced in this portion of the battlefield in 2005 is that despite extensive works including within the areas of highest potential, no graves have been identified.
81. On balance, we assess that this unevidenced Special Quality will not be affected by the proposed woodland.

Battle Debris

82. The whole of the battlefield has the potential for the presence of battle debris – artefacts lost, discarded or used in the course of the engagement. Within the southern portion, such material is interpreted as linked to the rout of the Government left and the limited pursuit by the Jacobite right, with the historically attested temporary stand at The Linns that failed.
83. The evaluation of the Beaully-Denny overhead route in this portion of the battlefield saw the initiation of battlefield archaeology at Sheriffmuir. That work in 2005-6 attested low concentrations of battle debris around the Linns and reaching N to the road – an area where irregular engagements are known from historical accounts. Subsequent mitigation on the Beaully-Denny overhead route covering approximately 7ha to the south of the Wharry Burn failed to locate any battle debris.
84. Archaeological works associated with 25ha forestry proposal at Pendreich located no militaria though two broadly contemporary shoe buckles were found. The emerging archaeological work in support of the Kippendavie estate planting and associated works over some 90ha has recovered at most a dozen musketballs, though this study area is predominantly to the north of the Wharry Burn (ie comparable landscape location to the 2005-6 evaluation works).
85. The pattern emerging since battlefield archaeology commenced in this portion of the battlefield in 2005 is of a low concentration of battle debris to the north of the Wharry Burn with discard focused on landscape features such as The Linns and the road to Dunblane, with very low to no battle debris to the south of the burn.
86. This Special Quality has the potential to be disturbed by forestry operations to the potential scale of 1-5 artefacts that may be linked to the battle being displaced (based on comparable recent operations). The assessment is that this is a minor adverse impact on this Special Quality.

Contextual impact on key landscape characteristics

87. The Character and Context section of the Baseline (see above) has established four Key Landscape Characteristics (a to d) of the battlefield. The proposal interacts with two of these due to its location on the southern periphery of the battlefield and extending S into the Ochils – Framing Watercourses (c) and the Ochils (d). The proposal will not alter any of the gross topography through the planting proposed, rather the maturing woodland has the potential to alter the perception of the land character, distances and the sense of place for those visiting the battlefield.
88. When considering the contextual impact on key landscape characteristics from the Proposal the impact assessment will predominantly focus on the visitor experience at the Macrae

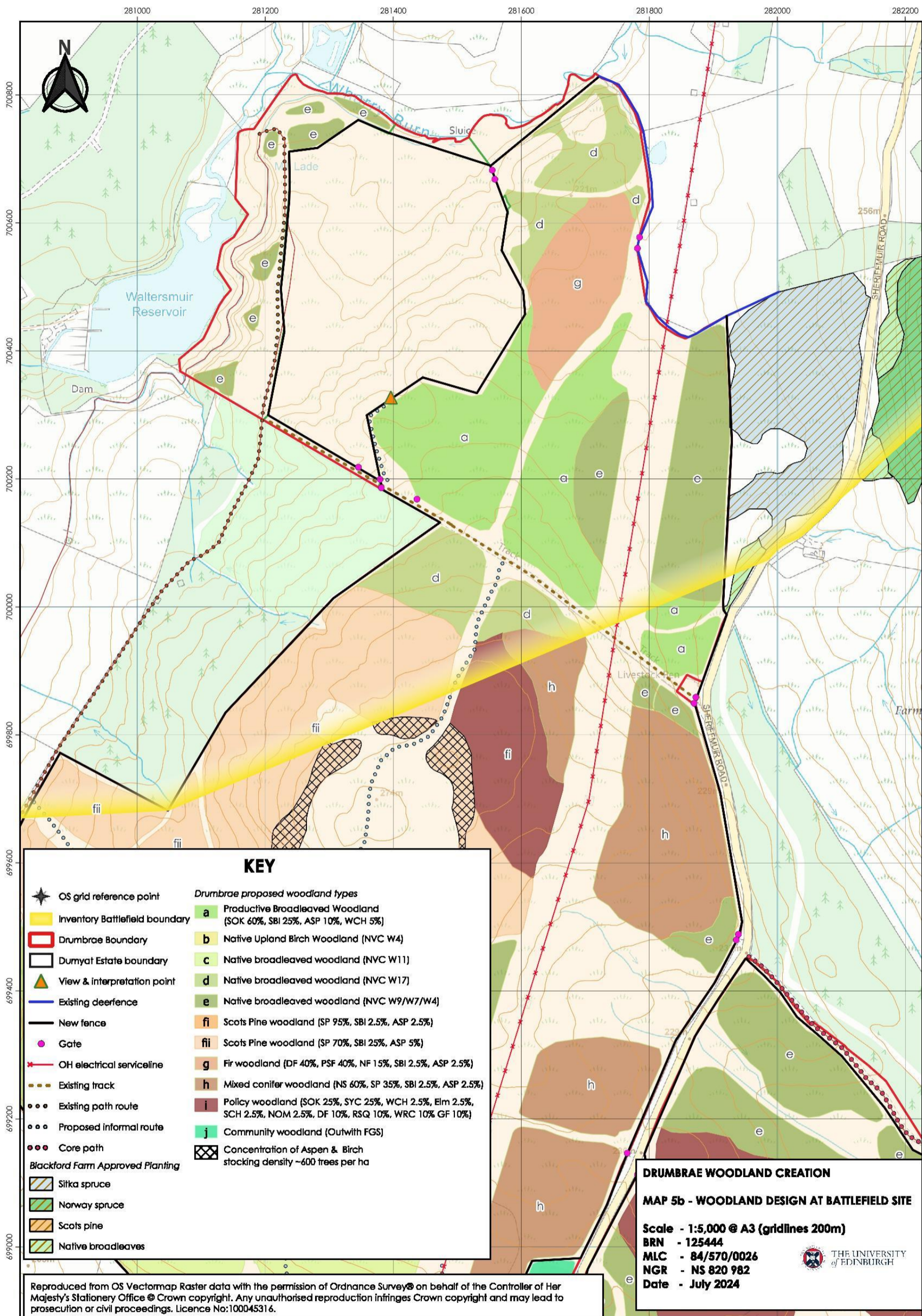


Figure 6: Woodland Design at Larger Clearing D with selected external views discussed in text highlighted

Monument. This memorial, a category B listed building (LB ref: 3926) was erected in 1915, to commemorate the members of the Clan Macrae who were killed during the battle. As a visible roadside memorial with parking, this is the main stopping point for visitors to the battlefield, and through the 21st century battlefield archaeology has been shown to lie within the core battlefield. Lying on the southern edge of current forestry, it is also the most suited location to consider the visual linkage between the key landscape characteristics of the southern portion of the battlefield.

89. It is important to note that the proposal area is peripheral to all known camps, lines of movement, primary and secondary engagements known for the Battle of Sheriffmuir (see Stirling Council 2019). As such the contextual impact on key landscape characteristics orientates to how the proposal could intrude on the perception of the core battlefield area and its interaction with the broader battlefield landscape.

The framing watercourses

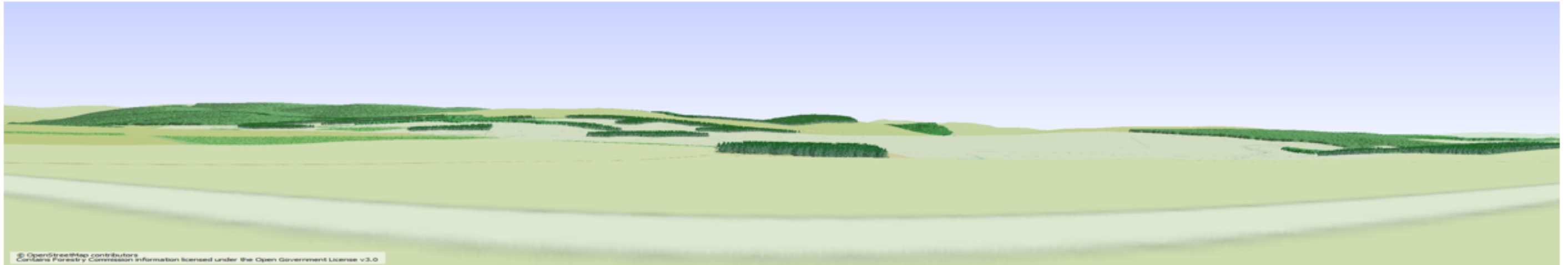
90. The incised burn valley of the Wharry Burn forms the SE edge of the high moor of Sheriffmuir, with a marked softening of the gradients into that valley at Pendreichmill. The valley can currently be perceived from the core battlefield, with the scale and form of the barrier emerging in closer views. This perception of an 'edge' through this landscape form is important to the integrity of the battlefield and informs the significance to the Wharry Burn valley, hence why it is a key landscape characteristic of the battlefield.
91. Viewed from the southern edge of the core battlefield (ie in the locale of Macraes Monument – see Figure 4a) the presence of the valley is recognisable as a horizontal visual break in the views SE towards the Ochils, to the left of the woodland block at The Linns. Neither the watercourse nor the valley floor is visible, though the immediate rise on the southern side of the valley is visible as it climbs above the juvenile forestry planting on the Kippendavie estate in the foreground (note this planting does not obscure the valley floor, which is masked by the topography). Towers of the 400kV Beaully-Denny overhead route straddle the valley to the immediate E of the proposal carrying the conductors across the course of the Wharry Burn.
92. The form of the valley progressively emerges as the viewer moves SE away from the core of the battlefield, becoming a pronounced landscape barrier (see Figures 5a and 5b) that, as noted above, lessens in the section at Pendreichmill. On approach, views into the valley remain relatively open though are increasingly restricted when the juvenile woodland on the Kippendavie estate is in leaf. The maturing of this planting will progressively restrict this view into the valley, obstructing a sightline that has relevance to the significance of The Linns and its use for a stand by the Government left as it was driven from the core battlefield.
93. The proposal will introduce limited areas of broadleaf woodland (NVC W17, see Figure 6) in the incised section of the burn valley to the NE of Pendreichmill **S16** (the slopes visible in the rear of Figure 5b) and in the comparable slopes to the west of the Waltersmuir Reservoir (NVC W9/W7/W4, see Figure 6). All the planting is at locations that mirror existing planting on the northern, right bank of the burn.
94. The valley floor and the southern face of the valley will remain unplanted as an open area, this includes that section of the valley within the proposal area that a viewer would perceive as the low-lying, easier crossing point at Pendreichmill. Retaining this as an enduring open area will ensure that a viewer on the raised ground to the S of the Wharry Burn will be able to recognise the opportunity afforded to any element of the Government left that sought to cross the Wharry Burn at Pendreichmill (see Figure 8). The same viewing location should retain the longer distance view across the ground around The Linns to Macraes Monument and hence the ability to comprehend the actions of the Government left and Jacobite right as the battle unfolded. The comparable ability to perceive this low-lying area is anticipated to be progressively lost by the maturing Kippendavie estate planting.
95. The proposal will not affect the integrity or significance of this key landscape characteristic. There will be a negligible change to the character of the locale through the limited planting proposed while the contribution of the locale to the experience of the battlefield will not substantially change due to this proposal.

96. The proposal in the Wharry Burn valley that forms an element of the Framing Watercourses key landscape characteristic will experience a Negligible impact through small-scale localised planting on the southern face of the incised sections of the valley.

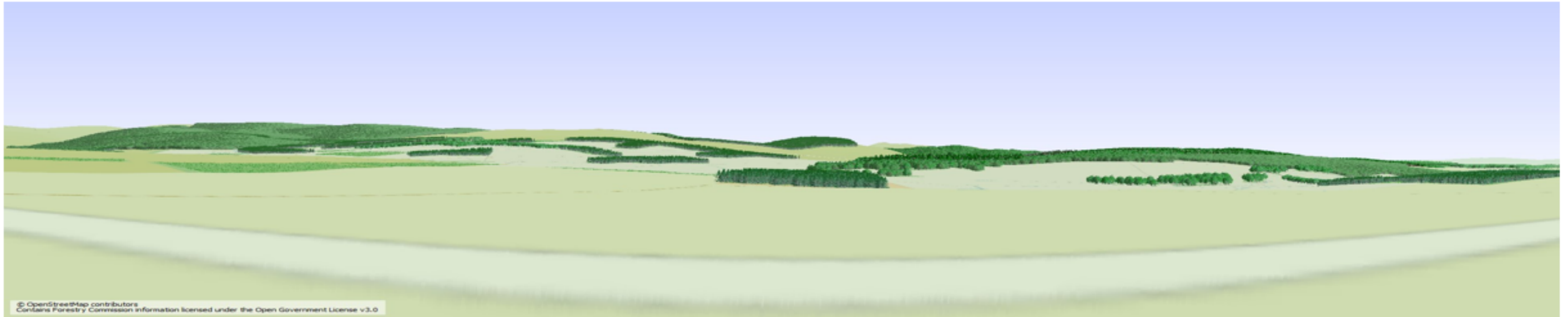
The Ochils

97. The upland massif of the Ochils beyond the Wharry Burn presents a visible barrier to the SE of the battlefield. This strongly contrasts with the open route SW from the core battlefield towards Bridge of Allan following the right bank of the Wharry Burn (contrast views embedded in Figure 4a with 4b), although this latter route presents a narrow channel that The Linns could be considered to block. This contrast is important to the integrity and significance of the battlefield, informing the choices and actions of the combatants as evaluated options available to them as the engagement progressed.
98. Viewed from the southern edge of the core battlefield (ie in the locale of Macraes Monument – see Figure 4a) the lower slopes of the Ochils around Cauldhame are now visible as a mixture of improved, green fields bounded by blocks of mature woodland and shelter belts. Loss Hill and Brown Hill (417-419m OD) climb above this woodland and are perceived as the highest ground adjacent to the battlefield. To the right of these, the lower Ashentrool Hill (334m OD) is clad in mature commercial forestry from the same viewpoint, with Dumyat appearing to the rear with its ridge falling to the west (right) of this distant summit. The lower, but rising, ground to the south of the Wharry Burn appears as a mixture of juvenile planting (Pendreich) and open grazing ground below this skyline.
99. The mass and height of the hills progressively increase in the perception of the viewer as they move SE away from the core of the battle. This is accentuated as Sheriffmuir gradually falls towards the Wharry Burn valley (see above). Through this landscape marches the towers of the 400kV Beaully-Denny overhead route that climb the slopes, with the skyline breached by both the towers and the conductors. As with the mass of the hills, the scale of the towers increases as the viewer moves SE, with their intrusion into the landscape becoming more evident. This increase in scale accentuates the character of the route constructed that does not follow a topographically defined route, rather climbing the lower hills of the Ochils as the overhead route travels towards Denny.
100. The existing woods of Cauldhame, Kippendavie, Ashentrool, Pendreich and Waltersmuir enclose the proposal area on all sides except to the SE, away from the battlefield. The slopes falling NW from the unnamed rise surmounted by the Pendreich Standing Stone **S4** are prominent, lying on the southern extremity of the Sheriffmuir battlefield, with the northern slopes of Dumyat visible beyond.
101. The proposal will introduce areas of broadleaved woodland (productive and native - NVC W17/W9/W7/W4, see Figure 6) to the SE of Pendreichmill above the initial slope of the Wharry Burn valley (see above). To the rear, SE, of this planting and the Pendreich forestry will be both Scots pine and Fir woodland. The summit of the low hill, to the immediate SE of the battlefield designation, will remain unplanted as part of Larger Clearing D designed to protect the setting of the historic environment assets present there (see Anderson & Cathcart 2023 and Rees 2024). Trees will also become visible on the northern slopes of Dumyat, while the higher ground will remain clear (see Figure 7).
102. The proposed planting will visually connect the existing woodlands on these lower slopes, leaving the elements of the skyline clear. As identified above, standing off from the edge of the Wharry Burn valley will ensure that as the planting matures it will accentuate the presence of the Wharry Burn on the vista SE from the core battlefield. As is evident by the existing mature woodland around Cauldhame and Ashentrool, the upland character and mass of the hills remain obvious after afforestation. Indeed, the more consistent land cover afforded by the planting of the slopes will contrast with the unimproved moorland character of the southern portion of Sheriffmuir to the immediate N of The Linns. This will accentuate the perception of the height of the immediate slopes and hills, this in turn may communicate the isolated upland location of the core battlefield with the poor lines of retreat afforded the Government forces, especially their left, as they were forced back by the Jacobite right.
103. With the modern intrusion of the towers and conductors of the Beaully-Denny overhead

Drumbrae Landscape Visualisations View 6 – NN 814017 Panorama 2023 & 2064



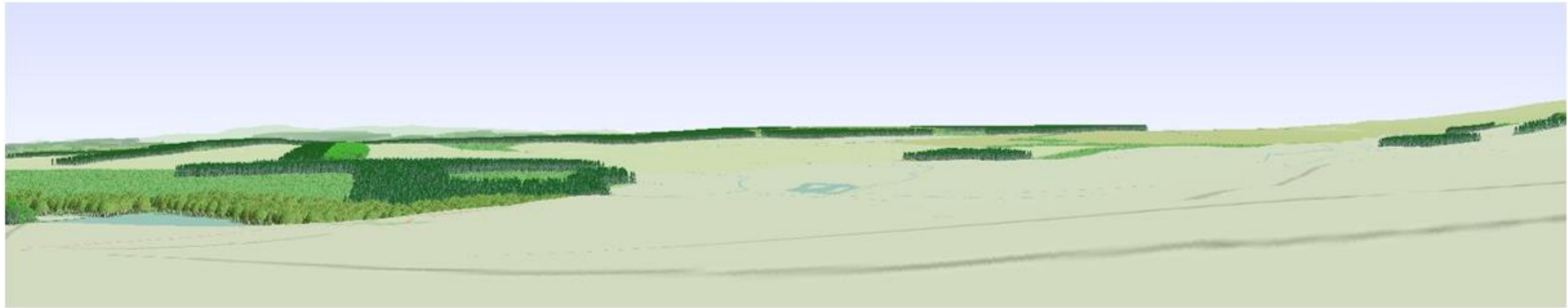
Year 2023 - Views onto the northern parts of Drumbrae, including the Wharry Burn valley, are readily available from the road to Sherrifmuir. The existing woods on Ashentrool and Pendriech enclose the site. The slopes below the Standing Stone are prominent, lying on the southern extremity of the Sherrifmuir battlefield, with the northern slopes of Dumyat visible beyond. The pylon line, which isn't shown on the image above, forms a major visual detractor.



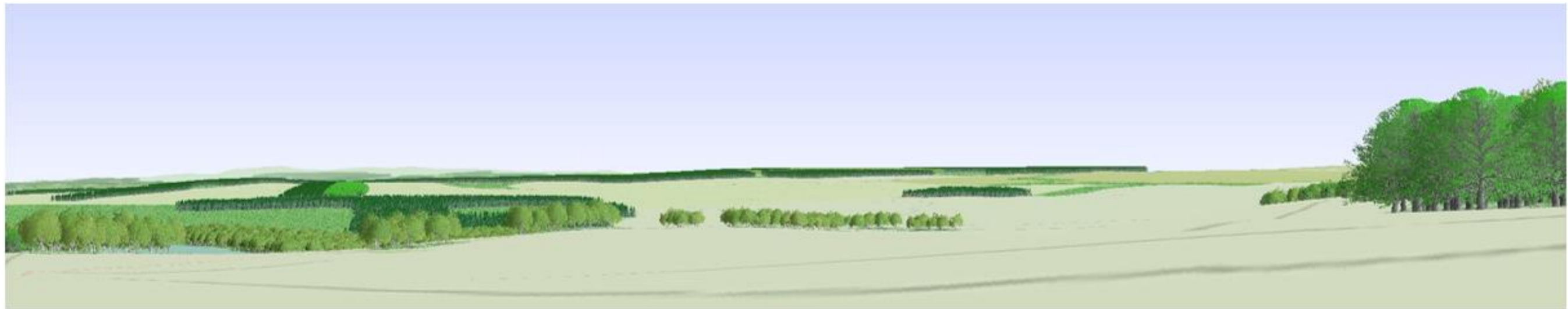
Year 2064 – The new woodland will occupy a small part of the lower ground, linking the woods on Pendriech farm and Kippendavie, and accentuating the presence of the Wharry Burn. Trees will also become visible on the northern slopes of Dumyat, but the higher ground will remain clear. Note that the trees shown as appearing by the Wharry Burn will be obscured by recently planted trees on the river's north banks.

Figure 7: Landscape Visualisation from the road on Sheriffmuir centred to the SE (The Linns in foreground)

Drumbrae Landscape Visualisations View 9 – NS 815002 Panorama 2023 & 2064



Year 2023 – Panoramic views over the Wharry Burn and into the core of the Battlefield site can be gained from the track that bisects the northern end of Cocksburn Hill. The eastern edge of the forest visible on the horizon marks the easternmost extent of the battle. The valley itself now support developing broadleaved woodland not shown here. The high voltage powerline which follows Sherriffmuir Road is also not represented, but it does impinge on the view. While the track is accessible, there is no significant use made of it currently.



Year 2064 – The visual impact of the planting on the Battlefield site will be very limited. The sporadic riparian planting will have no greater impact than does the existing trees on the north bank of the Wharry Burn, while the planting to the west will screen the high voltage powerline from view. The proposed Sitka spruce plantation on Ashentrool will also be obscured.

Figure 8: Landscape Visualisation from new interpretation panel centred to the NNE (on core battlefield; The Linns are mid-distance))

route, the proposal will also mask and/or soften this intrusion within this key landscape characteristic.

104. The proposal will not affect the integrity or significance of this key landscape characteristic. There will be a negligible change to the character of the locale through the planting proposed while the contribution of the locale to the experience of the battlefield will not substantially change due to this proposal.
105. The proposal within the Ochils key landscape characteristic will generate a Negligible impact through planting on the southern lower slopes.

Cumulative impacts

106. During the initial decades of the 21st century there has been a series of woodland proposals agreed along the southern periphery of the Inventory Battlefield for the Battle of Sheriffmuir. The two main woodland creation schemes which have been planted largely or wholly on the battlefield in the last 10 years are Pendreich (2014 – 21ha of woodland) and Kippendaie estate (2017 – 56ha of new planting and 7.5ha compensatory planting).
107. There are three other woodland creation schemes, which either only impacted on the battlefield’s periphery to a minor extent – Jerah (2015) and Ashentool (2023); or were immediately outside the inventory boundary, Harperstone (2021), beyond the eastern boundary of the battlefield.
108. An analysis of woodland cover within the Inventory Battlefield designation has been undertaken. The proposal will result in an increase in woodland cover within the Battlefield site from 27.8% to 29.0%. Due to the preponderance of broadleaved woodland within the proposal, the proportion of conifers within the Battlefield site’s woodlands will reduce from 81.4% to 79.5%.
109. The cumulative impact of these schemes has been:
 - ❖ the re-establishment of the Commonly Wood to the S of the Wharry Burn (Pendreich);
 - ❖ the forming of a continuous woodland corridor along the north, right bank of the Wharry Burn joining the Waltersmuir Wood to a new coherent block of woodland flanking the Beaully-Denny overhead line on the W side of Cauldhame; and
 - ❖ the more general afforestation of the lower and mid slopes of the western Ochils both within and outwith the battlefield designation as far NE as Carim Lodge and Greenhill and to the SE in the Menstrie Glen. This has transformed the woodland around Caulhame from an isolated area of woodland into part of a coherent afforestation of this landscape segment.
110. All of these schemes have either been delivered or are consented. They now represent the new, enduring dominant landuse of the western Ochils that extends down the Wharry Burn valley. Within this context, the current Proposal infills a minor section of the southern periphery of the battlefield within this remodelled landscape character area. As such it is adopting a common landuse with the surrounding ground. This offers, in this context, clear benefits. The use of a predominantly broadleaved woodland with extensive open areas will offer a lower-density interface from the open landscape of Sheriffmuir to the afforested upland landscape. The use of native species will also clad or mask those plantings that are commercial crops, such as Blackford Farm.
111. The process of the sequential planting proposals in this area has also afforded improvements for the core areas of the battlefield. The proposal for Kippendavie estate in particular saw the removal of a series of woodland shelter belts that extended south from the Macrae Monuments towards The Linns. This woodland was removed (hence the compensatory planting within the Kippendavie estate scheme) to enable the more open aspect of the ground between the monument and The Linns to be realised. This has enriched the experience of the battlefield landscape and the ability to recognise the significance of this ground for the deployment of the Government army and the rout of their left wing.

112. While the cumulative impact of the afforestation to the S and E of the battlefield has continued a 19th and 20th century trend in the use of the landscape, a significant break has come with the construction of the Beaully-Denny overhead route. This overhead line carried on steel lattice framed high towers with conductors suspended between them has disrupted the perception of the natural landscape form as well as the lines of travel afforded by that topography. This modern industrial intrusion is in places masked by the forestry, but this can only soften the foreground to the base of the towers and the hillscape behind.
113. The direct cumulative impacts have, in effect, been explored above when considering the battlefield archaeology evidence from the archaeological works undertaken to the south of the Wharry Burn for both forestry and construction. The scale of artefacts that could be interpreted as battle debris in the landscape identified to date south of the burn is very minor while no evidence of graves has emerged. As such there is no change in the significance of the direct impacts on Special Qualities in this southern periphery of the battlefield, remaining a Minor adverse impact.
114. The cumulative contextual impacts are greater than the individual contribution of the proposal for Drumbrae.
115. For the Ochils key landscape characteristic, the spread of woodland across this landscape form has changed the visual appearance of the Ochils. However, this has not changed the contribution the Ochils make to the comprehension of the battlefield – that there is to the E and SE of the core battlefield an upland massif that limits the extent of Sheriffmuir in this direction, defining the corridor between the Allan Water and this massif that the Jacobite army sought to advance through.
116. As a consequence, we consider the cumulative contextual impact on the key landscape characteristic of the Ochils as a Negligible impact.
117. However, the situation for the Wharry Burn valley as a framing watercourse is strikingly different. The effective extension of the Waltersmuir Wood to the NE along the right bank of the Wharry Burn to join with expanded planting to the N of the Wharry Burn at Cauldhame will, as it matures, isolate the valley from the core battlefield. While the woodland will provide a distinctive visual barrier to the south of the core battlefield, that could be used to explain the landscape obstacle at this location, this is a lesser alternative to the form of the valley being visible from the NW.
118. Hence we would assess that the visual and physical disruption of the sightlines and ability to readily move into the Wharry Burn valley from the core battlefield, an element of the Framing Watercourses key landscape characteristic, from the N has generated a Moderate adverse impact.
119. In the context of the Drumbrae Proposal, it is important to recognise that this adverse impact is a consequence of the progressive afforestation of the north, right bank of the Wharry Burn. The removal of the current proposal from this cumulative assessment of impact would not change or lessen this scale of impact – in effect, it is now integral to the agreed and delivered schemes of forestry.
120. When considering the consequence of the Kippendavie estate planting to the Wharry Burn valley, the compromises embodied in the package of forestry agreed upon cannot be ignored. This scheme enabled the removal of a series of woodland blocks from between the Macraes Monument and The Linns, one of the most sensitive portions of the battlefield. This is the most visited and visible portion of the battlefield that now has recovered an open moorland character with long-distance views towards Dunblane, the Ochils and indeed the Wharry Burn valley. The removal of these woodland blocks has also once again enabled The Linns to be seen as an isolated location within an otherwise open landscape.
121. Though beyond the immediate scope of this cumulative assessment, our provisional view is that this adjustment to the Sheriffmuir key landscape characteristic could reasonably have been assessed in isolation as a Major beneficial impact on this critical location. There would also have been benefits to multiple Special Qualities of the core battlefield as well as the enhancement of access through car parking as well as path access. However, this is the same location where the Beaully-Denny overhead route has created a visual intrusive

barrier to the E and NE of the core battlefield which, in terms of cumulative impact from the 21st century changes to the battlefield has lessened the overall beneficial improvement to this key landscape characteristic.

Mitigation and Enhancement

122. The proposal lies within a portion of the battlefield that Stirling Council (2019) has recognised as a peripheral area without a substantive role in the course of the battle.

Design and mitigating impacts

123. The impact assessment (above) has explored the consequence of the proposal's forestry design after it has already integrated improvements to its design that have changed its potential impact on the battlefield. Most of these iterative improvements were already known at the time of drafting the original assessment, informing the nature of the residual guidance offered at that time. These are in summary:

- a. ensuring a relatively open planting scheme with extensive open areas;
- b. exclusion of planting from the low-lying valley floor of the Wharry Burn and southern slopes of the valley partly through natural heritage conservation initiatives and partly the larger clearing **E** for Pendreichmill **S16**; and
- c. the planting is of native broadleaf mixes, Fir and Scots Pine with a mosaic of planting giving a more naturalistic form compared to commercial planting.

124. The only aspect that continues to constitute an impact that should be mitigated is the likely minor direct adverse impact on the special quality of battle debris being present within the area of planting. While there has been no emerging evidence for graves, and the proposal through design avoids the notional at risk location, this must still be considered given the significant impact should this reasonable assessment be in error. As presented by the original assessment:

*“... there is the potential for the discard and loss of personal and military equipment as well as a lesser potential for the burial of fallen soldiers. To mitigate any adverse impact before planting in this area we recommend that a **metal detecting survey** is undertaken of planting blocks. Where cultural material is identified, this should be recovered, catalogued and reported to the appropriate authorities. Should the less likely burials be identified, these should be protected within appropriate clearings without the burials being disturbed.*

The metal detecting survey should be undertaken in keeping with a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed upon with the local authority archaeologist and Scottish Forestry.”

125. This remains the appropriate mitigation response for direct adverse impact and, through the consistency of approach with the surrounding delivered packages of archaeological work, will ensure the distribution of battle debris is consistently assessed and collated.
126. The ongoing use of battlefield archaeology has enabled the refinement embodied in the Stirling Council supplementary guidance and this work will continue this process of improving the understanding of the events during the Battle of Sheriffmuir. Through the public dissemination of any discoveries made, it will also continue to highlight the importance of battlefield archaeology in this refinement process as well as the importance of the battlefield as a whole.

Identifying Opportunities for Enhancement

127. The UKFS HE Guidelines, the case study on Historic Environment Conservation Management, Stirling Council supplementary guidance on Battlefields and Historic Environment Scotland's managing change in the historic environment for Battlefields all stress the importance of enhancing the battlefield, especially should there be negative impacts from a proposal. Enhancing public access, enjoyment and education is accepted by all parties as a particularly positive outcome that should be integral to proposals within battlefields.

128. The Proposal (as laid out above) will maintain, improve and promote access to the SE portion of the battlefield designation area through their recognition of path and track networks (see Figure 6). This will be all-ability access and will integrate with the access improvements that are being generally delivered to the W of the Sheriffmuir road. These larger access improvements include those within Larger Clearing D on the low summit to the S of the battlefield (see Rees 2024) including the provision of car parking.
129. The establishment of a Ranger Service will also promote the active use of this access network to facilitate greater public use of this portion of the battlefield.
130. Further, a series of interpretation sites have been proposed across the proposal including one within the battlefield (see Figure 6). An interpretation panel at this location will inform those using or moving through the land about the events of the Battle of Sheriffmuir and the relationship with the Wharry Burn. The location has been selected as it affords a view across the broader, shallower section of the Wharry Burn valley and onto the southern edge of the Sheriffmuir Big Wood, including The Linns and the core battlefield area around the monument (see Figure 8). While this viewpoint does not have significance as one that was used in the deployment or movement of the troops on the day, it does afford the best location within the Proposal from where the battle landscape can be explored.
131. These access improvement and interpretation provision, through panels and the Ranger Service, will significantly offset the minor adverse impact of the proposal to the Wharry Burn valley.

Conclusion

132. This document has provided an appraisal of the consequence of the Drumbrae woodland proposal for the Inventory Battlefield for the Battle of Sheriffmuir.
133. This appraisal has presented a baseline for the battle within the southern portion of its extent that is overlain by the woodland proposal. The appraisal was prepared relative to UKFS Historic Environment Guidelines (2017) as supported by their case studies and is informed by Historic Environment Scotland's guidance on Battlefields (2016) and Stirling Council's supplementary guidance on Battlefields (2019).
134. The appraisal has found that the key landscape characteristics of battlefield will experience negligible impact from the proposal. A minor adverse impact has been recognised against the special quality for the presence of battle debris while we have failed to establish any substantive evidence for graves to be present in the southern battlefield. Mitigation through a programme of archaeological works commensurate with the impact and comparable to that deployed for adjacent forestry proposals has been defined.
135. The consideration of cumulative impacts showed that this Proposal has not aggravated or worsened any cumulative impact. Indeed, through masking commercial forestry and sections of the Beauldy-Denny overhead line, the Proposal will lessen the visual impact of some less desirable changes in the landscape.
136. Interpretation, access and a Ranger service are integral to the woodland proposal. These will enhance the visitor experience to this southern portion of the battlefield, offsetting the identified minor adverse impact.
137. This position is compatible with the UK Forestry Standard and the relevant guidance from Historic Environment Scotland and Stirling Council.

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Contact Details

138. Rathmell Archaeology can be contacted at our Registered Office or through the web:

Rathmell Archaeology Ltd	www.rathmell-arch.co.uk
Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops	
Kilwinning	t.:01294 542848
Ayrshire	f.:01294 542849
KA13 6PU	e.:contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk

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