

7 CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

7.1 Introduction

Chapter Outline

- 7.1.1 This Chapter presents an assessment of the effects of the Proposed Development on the historic environment (archaeology and cultural heritage). The assessment was undertaken by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd, part of the RSK Group.
- 7.1.2 The Proposed Development comprises 16 wind turbines with an installed capacity in the region of 100 megawatts (MW) combined with associated infrastructure. The application boundary, encompassing the proposed wind turbines and associated infrastructure as part of the Proposed Development, is hereafter referred to as the Site or Inner Study Area (ISA). The Site/ISA is located approximately 13 km north east of Lairg, northeast of Dalchork Forest and Loch Shin in the southern part of Sutherland in the Highlands. The Site is upland grazing northeast of an area of commercial forestry. The Site is crossed north-west to south-east by a watercourse (Allt nan Con-uisge) and contains a large number of smaller watercourses that are tributaries of this stream.
- 7.1.3 The topography of the Site rises from c132 m AOD where the access track leaves the A836 to c180 m at Dalnessie at the eastern end of the access track before rising more steeply through the windfarm site to 392 m on the summit of Sròn Leathad Chleansaid to the north east of the Site. The western edge of the Site varies from 180 m in the south to 230 m in the north.
- 7.1.4 A burn (Allt nan Con-uisge) flows southeast through the Site almost parallel with the western edge, it is a tributary of the River Brora which flows to the west of Sròn Leathad Chleansaid. The Feith Osdail is also a tributary of this river. There are two small lochs (Loch na Fuaralachd and Lloch Beag na Fuaralachd) to the south west of the Site.
- 7.1.5 The objectives of this assessment are to:
- Describe the location, nature and extent of any known heritage assets or areas of archaeological potential which may be affected by the Proposed Development;
 - Provide an assessment of the importance of these assets;
 - Assess the likely scale of any impacts on the historic environment posed by the Proposed Development;
 - Outline suitable mitigation measures to avoid, reduce or offset significant adverse effects; and
 - Provide an assessment of any residual effects remaining after mitigation.
- 7.1.6 A heritage asset is any element of the historic environment which has cultural significance. Both discrete features and extensive landscapes defined by a specific historic event, process or theme, can be defined as heritage assets; and assets may overlap or be nested within one another.
- 7.1.7 Designated assets include Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, World Heritage Sites, Conservation Areas, Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Inventory

Historic Battlefields and Historic Marine Protected Areas. Other assets may also be locally designated through policies in the Local Development Plan.

- 7.1.8 The majority of heritage assets are not designated. Some undesignated assets are recorded in Historic Environment Records (HERs) maintained by local authorities and other agencies. However, many heritage assets are currently unrecorded, and the information contained in HERs is not definitive, since they may include features which, for instance, have been entirely removed, or are of uncertain location, dubious identification, or negligible importance. The identification of undesignated heritage assets is therefore, to some extent, a matter of professional judgement.
- 7.1.9 Some heritage assets may coincide with visual receptors or landscape character areas, which are assessed in **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)**, and in such cases, it is important to recognise the difference in approach between these two topics. Historic environment assessment addresses effects on the cultural significance of heritage assets, which may result from, but are not equivalent to, visual impacts. Similarly, an effect on a landscape character area does not equate to an effect on the cultural significance of heritage assets within it.

Statement of Competency

- 7.1.10 Headland Archaeology is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and abides by its standards and codes of conduct. Headland has been independently assessed under the Achilles UVDB Verify audit and assessment service, which focuses on risk critical issues and provides demonstrable compliance to Safety, Health, Environment and Quality (SHEQ) requirements.
- 7.1.11 As part of the RSK Group, Headland Archaeology is formally recognised as an Historic Environment Service Provider (HESPR) with the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC), an externally audited status which confirms our work is carried out in accordance with the highest standards of the profession.
- 7.1.12 Author, Jen Richards BA(Hons) PGDip, MCIfA, has undertaken responsible work in Environmental Impact Assessment and historic environment consultancy since 2008. Prior to this, Jen undertook archaeological fieldwork and surveys throughout England and Wales.
- 7.1.13 Reviewer, Owen Raybould BSc (Hons) MCIfA IHBC, Principal Heritage Consultant at Headland Archaeology, heads up the Scotland Team and has undertaken responsible work in Environmental Impact Assessment and historic environment consultancy since 2007.

7.2 Scope and Methodology

The Assessment Process

- 7.2.1 The cultural heritage assessment has been carried out in the following stages:
- Desk-based study leading to the identification of heritage assets potentially affected by the Proposed Development;
 - Definition of baseline conditions, based on results of the desk-based study and survey;

- Assessment of the importance of heritage assets potentially affected by the Proposed Development;
- Identification of potential impacts on heritage assets, informed by baseline information, site visits, Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping, wireframes and photomontages as necessary;
- Proposal of mitigation measures, to eliminate, reduce or offset adverse effects;
- Assessment of the magnitude of residual effects;
- Assessment of the significance of residual effects, broadly a product of a heritage asset's importance and the magnitude of the impact; and
- Assessment of cumulative effects.

Study Areas

7.2.2 The Inner Study Area (ISA) corresponds to the Site as defined by the application red line boundary. Within this area, all heritage assets are assessed for construction and operational effects.

7.2.3 The Outer Study Area (OSA) extends to 15 km from the proposed turbines, which is taken as the maximum extent of potentially significant effects on the settings of heritage assets. Within the OSA, assets have been included in the assessment based on the level of importance assigned to the asset (see paras 7.2.17 to 7.2.21), so as to ensure that all significant effects are recognised:

- Up to 2 km from proposed turbines: Category C Listed Buildings.
- Up to 10 km from proposed turbines: all assets of national importance, including Scheduled Monuments, Category A and B Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Inventory Historic Battlefields and monuments proposed for scheduling.
- Up to 15 km from proposed turbines: any asset which is considered exceptionally important, and where long-distance views from or towards the asset are thought to be particularly sensitive, in the opinion of the assessor or consultees.

Data Sources

7.2.4 The baseline for the ISA has been informed by a comprehensive desk-based study, based on all readily available documentary sources, following the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) 'Standard and Guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment' (2020). The following sources of information were referred to:

- Designation data downloaded from the Historic Environment Scotland (HES) website in January 2021;
- The National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE), including the Canmore database and associated photographs, prints/drawings and manuscripts held by HES;
- Historic Landscape Assessment data, viewed through the "HLAMap" website;
- The Highland Council Historic Environment Record (HER) provided as a digital data extract on 29th January 2021;
- The National Collection of Aerial Photography (NCAP);
- Geological data available online from the British Geological Survey;
- Historic maps held by the National Library of Scotland;
- Ordnance Survey Name Books;

- Unpublished maps and plans held by the National Records of Scotland and online sources;
- Relevant internet resources, including the Old and New Statistical Accounts of Scotland;
- Readily available published sources and unpublished archaeological reports.

7.2.5 This information was supplemented with a site visit on 9th March 2021 to examine the ISA. Known heritage assets were visited to confirm their location, extent and state of preservation and an extensive walkover was carried out focusing on the proposed turbine locations and access tracks. This walkover sought to identify any previously unrecorded heritage assets.

7.2.6 A further site visit was carried out on 9th June 2021 to investigate the baseline setting of heritage assets in the OSA.

Definition of Baseline Conditions

7.2.7 Designated assets within both the ISA and OSA which have been previously recorded on the NRHE are labelled with the reference number assigned to them by HES (prefixed SM for Scheduled Monuments, and LB for Listed Buildings); undesignated assets are labelled with the reference number in the Highland Council Historic Environment Record (HER).

Known heritage assets within the Inner Study Area

7.2.8 Previously unrecorded heritage assets within the ISA have been assigned an Asset number (prefixed HA for Heritage Asset). A single asset number can refer to a group of related features, which may be recorded separately in the HER and other data sources.

7.2.9 Assets within the ISA are shown in **Figure 7.1**, with detailed descriptions compiled in a gazetteer (**Appendix 7.1**).

Potential for unknown heritage assets within the Inner Study Area

7.2.10 The likelihood that undiscovered heritage assets may be present within the ISA is referred to as archaeological potential. Overall levels of potential can be assigned to different landscape zones, following the criteria in **Table 7.1**, while recognising that the archaeological potential of any zone will relate to particular historical periods and types of evidence. The following factors are considered in assessing archaeological potential:

- The distribution and character of known archaeological remains in the vicinity, based principally on an appraisal of data in the Highland Council HER;
- The history of archaeological fieldwork and research in the surrounding area, which may give an indication of the reliability and completeness of existing records;
- Environmental factors such as geology, topography and soil quality, which would have influenced land-use in the past and can therefore be used to predict the distribution of archaeological remains;
- Land-use factors affecting the survival of archaeological remains, such as ploughing or commercial forestry planting; and
- Factors affecting the visibility of archaeological remains, which may relate to both environment and land-use, such as soils and geology (which may be more or less conducive to formation of cropmarks), arable cultivation (which has potential to show cropmarks and create surface artefact scatters), vegetation, which can

conceal upstanding features, and superficial deposits such as peat and alluvium which can mask archaeological features.

Table 7.1: Archaeological Potential

Potential	Definition
High	Undiscovered heritage assets of high or medium importance are likely to be present.
Medium	Undiscovered heritage assets of low importance are likely to be present; and it is possible, though unlikely, that assets of high or medium importance may also be present.
Low	The study area may contain undiscovered heritage assets, but these are unlikely to be numerous and are highly unlikely to include assets of high or medium importance.
Negligible	The study area is highly unlikely to contain undiscovered heritage assets of any level of importance.
Nil	There is no possibility of undiscovered heritage assets existing within the study area.

Heritage assets in the outer study area

7.2.11 Assets that meet the criteria for detailed setting assessment in this chapter are described briefly in paras 7.5.33 to 7.5.40, listed in **Table 7.6**, and shown in **Figure 7.2**.

Identification of Potential Impacts

7.2.12 Effects on the historic environment can arise through direct physical impacts, impacts on setting or indirect impacts:

- Direct physical impacts describe those development activities that directly cause damage to the fabric of a heritage asset. Typically, these activities are related to construction works and will only occur within the Site.
- An impact on the setting of a heritage asset occurs when the presence of a development changes the surroundings of a heritage asset in such a way that it affects (positively or negatively) an understanding or appreciation of the cultural significance of that asset. Visual impacts are most commonly encountered but other environmental factors such as noise, light or air quality can be relevant in some cases. Impacts may be encountered at all stages in the life cycle of a development from construction to decommissioning but they are only likely to lead to significant effects during the prolonged operational life of the Proposed Development.
- Indirect impacts describe secondary processes, triggered by development, that lead to the degradation or preservation of heritage assets. For example, changes to hydrology may affect archaeological preservation; or changes to the setting of a building may affect the viability of its current use and thus lead to dereliction.

7.2.13 Potential impacts on unknown heritage assets are discussed in terms of the risk that a significant effect could occur. The level of risk depends on the level of archaeological potential combined with the nature and scale of disturbance associated with construction activities and may vary between high and negligible for different elements or activities associated with a development, or for the development as a whole.

- 7.2.14 Potential impacts on the settings of heritage assets are identified from an initial desk-based appraisal of data from HES and the Highland Council HER and consideration of current maps and aerial images. Where this initial appraisal has identified the potential for a significant effect, the asset has been visited to define baseline conditions and identify key viewpoints. Visualisations have been prepared to illustrate changes to key views, where potentially significant effects have been identified (**Figure 6.2.5 – Viewpoint 5: The Ord above Ferrycroft Visitors Centre**).

Mitigation Measures and Identification of Residual Effects

- 7.2.15 Proposed mitigation measures are described in paras 7.7.1 to 7.7.6. The preferred mitigation option is always to avoid or reduce impacts through design, or through precautionary measures such as fencing off heritage assets during construction works. Impacts which cannot be eliminated in these ways will lead to residual effects.
- 7.2.16 Adverse direct physical impacts may be mitigated by an appropriate level of survey, excavation, recording, analysis and publication of the results, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (SPP paragraph 150 and PAN2/2011, sections 25-27). Archaeological investigation can have a beneficial effect of increasing knowledge and understanding of the asset, thereby enhancing its archaeological and historical interest and offsetting adverse effects.

Impact Assessment Criteria

Heritage importance and cultural significance

- 7.2.17 Cultural heritage impact assessment is concerned with effects on *cultural significance*, which is a quality that applies to all heritage assets, and as defined by Historic Environment Scotland (Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook, SNH & HES 2018, Appendix 1 page 175⁵⁶) relates to the ways in which a heritage asset is valued both by specialists and the general public; it may derive from factors including the asset's fabric, setting, context and associations. This use of the word 'cultural significance', referring to the range of values we attach to an asset, should not be confused with the unrelated usage in EIA where the significance of an effect reflects the weight that should be attached to it in a planning decision.
- 7.2.18 The *importance* of a heritage asset is the overall value assigned to it based on its cultural significance, reflecting its statutory designation or, in the case of undesignated assets, the professional judgement of the assessor (**Table 7.2**).
- 7.2.19 In accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook (HES, 2018, Appendix 1: Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment), 'Heritage Assets are features, buildings or places that provide physical evidence of past human activity identified as being of sufficient value to this and future generations to merit consideration in the planning system'. Any feature which does not merit consideration in planning decisions due to its cultural significance may be said to have negligible importance. It is the role of the professional judgements made by the assessor to identify any historic remains within the ISA that are considered to be of negligible importance, to justify no further works.

⁵⁶Scottish Natural Heritage & Historic Environment Scotland (2018) Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook. (5th Edition)

Table 7.2: Criteria for Assessing the Importance of Heritage Assets

Importance of the asset	Criteria
Very high	World Heritage Sites and other assets of equal international importance
High	Category A Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Inventory Historic Battlefields, Historic Marine Protected Areas and undesignated assets of national importance
Medium	Category B Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas (unless their particular characteristics merit a higher level of importance), and undesignated assets of regional importance
Low	Category C Listed Buildings (unless their particular characteristics merit a higher level of importance) and undesignated assets of lesser importance

7.2.20 Cultural significance is assessed in relation to the criteria in Designation Policy and Selection Guidance (DPSG) Annexes 1-6⁵⁷, which are intended primarily to inform decisions regarding heritage designations but may also be applied more generally in identifying the ‘special characteristics’ of a heritage asset, which contribute to its cultural significance and should be protected, conserved and enhanced according to SPP paragraph 137. DPSG Annex 1 is widely applicable in assessing the cultural significance of archaeological sites and monuments, for instance, while the criteria in DPSG Annex 2 can be used in defining the architectural or historic interest of buildings, whether listed or not.

7.2.21 The special characteristics which contribute to an asset’s cultural significance may include elements of its setting. Setting is defined in ‘Managing Change in the Historic Environment (MCHE): Setting’ (HES 2016, Section 1)⁵⁸ as *‘the way the surroundings of a historic asset or place contribute to how it is understood, appreciated and experienced’*. The setting of an asset is defined and analysed according to Stage 2 of the three-stage approach promoted in ‘MCHE: Setting’, with reference to factors listed on pages 9-10. The relevance of these factors to the understanding, appreciation and experience of the asset determines how, and to what extent, an asset’s cultural significance derives from its setting. All heritage assets have settings; however, not all assets are equally sensitive to impacts on their settings. In some cases, setting may contribute very little to the asset’s cultural significance, or only certain elements of the setting may be relevant.

Assessment of the magnitude of impacts on cultural significance

7.2.22 The magnitude of an impact is a measure of the degree to which understanding or appreciation of the cultural significance of a heritage asset would be changed by the Proposed Development⁵⁹. This definition of magnitude applies to impacts on the setting, as well as impacts on the physical fabric, of an asset. Impacts on the settings of heritage assets are assessed with reference to the factors listed in ‘MCHE: Setting’ Stage 3 (evaluate the potential impact of the proposed changes, pages 10-11). It is important to

⁵⁷ HES 2020 Designation Policy and Selection Guidance

⁵⁸ HES 2016 Managing Change in the Historic Environment (MCHE): Setting

⁵⁹ SNH & HES 2018, Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook, Appendix 1, para 42

note that the magnitude of an impact resulting from change in an asset’s setting is not a direct measure of the visual prominence, scale, proximity or other attributes of the development itself, or of the extent to which the setting itself is changed. It is also necessary to consider whether, and to what extent, the characteristics of the setting which would be changed contribute to the asset’s cultural significance⁶⁰.

7.2.23 Magnitude is assessed as high/medium/low/negligible, and adverse/beneficial, or ‘no impact’, using the criteria in **Table 7.3** as a guide. In assessing the effects of a development, it is often necessary to take into account various impacts which affect an asset’s cultural significance in different ways, and balance adverse impacts against beneficial impacts. For instance, there may be adverse impacts on an asset’s fabric and on its setting, offset by a beneficial impact resulting from archaeological investigation. There may also be beneficial impacts arising from a development which would not otherwise occur in a ‘do-nothing’ scenario; a heritage asset that might otherwise degrade over time could be preserved or consolidated as a consequence of a development. The residual effect, given in paragraphs 7.8.1 and 7.8.2, is an overall measure of how the asset’s cultural significance is reduced or enhanced.

Table 7.3: Criteria for Assessing the Magnitude of Impacts on Heritage Assets

Magnitude of Impact	Guideline Criteria
High beneficial	Alterations to an asset and/or its setting resulting in considerable enhancement of cultural significance. Or: Preservation of an asset and/or its setting where it would otherwise suffer considerable loss of cultural significance in the do-nothing scenario.
Medium beneficial	Alterations to an asset and/or its setting resulting in moderate enhancement of cultural significance. Or: Preservation of an asset and/or its setting where it would otherwise suffer moderate loss of cultural significance in the do-nothing scenario.
Low beneficial	Alterations to an asset and/or its setting resulting in a slight enhancement of cultural significance. Or: Preservation of an asset and/or its setting where it would otherwise suffer slight loss of cultural significance in the do-nothing scenario.
Negligible beneficial	Alterations to an asset and/or its setting resulting in a very slight enhancement of cultural significance. Or: Preservation of an asset and/or its setting where it would otherwise suffer very slight loss of cultural significance in the do-nothing scenario.
No Impact	The asset’s cultural significance is not altered.

⁶⁰ SNH & HES 2018, Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook, Appendix 1, paras 42 and 43

Magnitude of Impact	Guideline Criteria
Negligible adverse	Alterations to an asset and/or its setting resulting in a very slight loss of cultural significance.
Low adverse	Alterations to an asset and/or its setting resulting in a slight loss of cultural significance.
Medium adverse	Alterations to an asset and/or its setting resulting in a moderate loss of cultural significance.
High adverse	Alterations to an asset and/or its setting resulting in a considerable loss of cultural significance.

Assessment of the significance of effects

7.2.24 The significance of an effect (EIA ‘significance’) on the cultural significance of a heritage asset, resulting from a direct or indirect physical impact, or an impact on its setting, is assessed by combining the magnitude of the impact and the importance of the heritage asset. The matrix in **Table 7.4** provides a guide to decision-making but is not a substitute for professional judgement and interpretation, particularly where the asset importance or impact magnitude levels are not clear or are borderline between categories. EIA significance may be described on a continuous scale from negligible to major; it is also common practice to identify effects as significant or not significant, and in this sense major and moderate effects are regarded as ‘significant’ in EIA terms, while minor and negligible effects are ‘not significant’.

Table 7.4: Criteria for Assessing the Significance of Effects on Heritage Assets

Asset importance	Magnitude of Impact			
	High	Medium	Low	Negligible
Very high	Major	Major	Major or moderate	Negligible
High	Major	Major or moderate	Moderate or minor	Negligible
Medium	Major or moderate	Moderate or minor	Minor	Negligible
Low	Moderate or minor	Minor	Negligible	Negligible

Assessment of Cumulative Effects

7.2.25 Cumulative effects can occur when other operational or proposed developments would also potentially impact upon the cultural significance of a heritage asset. Cumulative effects are considered in cases where an effect of more than negligible significance would occur as a result of the Proposed Development. Where the Proposed Development results in effects of negligible significance there is not considered to be potential for significant cumulative effects. Other proposed wind energy developments are included in the cumulative assessment where they also lie within 5 km of the asset, or within 20 km in cases where an asset’s wider landscape setting is judged to make a substantial contribution to its cultural significance. A cumulative effect is considered to occur where

the magnitude of the combined effect of two or more developments is greater than that of the developments considered separately.

- 7.2.26 Cumulative schemes that are still at the design/scoping stage can only be assessed using the available information which may not include wirelines or ZTV information and may not represent the final design and therefore any assessment of impacts resulting from these schemes are provisional. A likely worst case has been used when considering these schemes for cumulative impacts. Details of operational wind farms and those under construction are listed in **Table 6.6** of the LVIA chapter and a cumulative ZTV is presented in **Figure 6a3.1.1**.

7.3 Consultation undertaken

- 7.3.1 Consultation has been undertaken with the Highland Council Historic Environment Team (HET) and Historic Environment Scotland (HES) regarding the scope and extent of cultural heritage and archaeology assessment as part of the EIA.

- 7.3.2 A scoping report was submitted in January 2020. The Highland Council responded that the EIA Report should include effects on cultural heritage. Historic Environment Scotland noted that the EIA should include detailed assessment of impacts on cultural heritage including the potential for direct impacts on Scheduled Monuments in the valley of Feith Osdail adjacent to the Site including both visual impacts and physical impacts. The assessment was to give particular attention to the following monuments:

- Dalnессie, Settlement N of Feith Osdail (Scheduled Monument, Index no. 4563);
- Achadh Nan Eun, Shieling 1400 m N of (Scheduled Monument, Index no. 5084);
- Loch Beag Na Fuaralachd, Shielings 1000 m SW of SW End Of (Scheduled Monument, Index no. 5159);
- Loch Beag Na Fuaralachd, Cairn and Shielings 1175 m ESE of SW end (Scheduled Monument, Index no. 5081);
- Loch Beag Na Fuaralachd, Prehistoric Settlement 950 m SW End Of (Scheduled Monument, Index no.5401); and
- Cnoc A' Bhreac-Leathaid, Shielings and Cairnfield 700 m NNE of (Scheduled Monument, Index no. 5300).

- 7.3.3 All of these assets have been included in the assessment.

- 7.3.4 A wireline visualisation from Dalnессie Scheduled Monument was requested because of its proximity to the turbines. HES also requested that the ZTV be extended to 10 km for impacts on the setting of Scheduled Monuments and that the most likely to be affected were:

- Sallachy, Broch 425 m NNE of Fruchan Cottage (Scheduled Monument, Index no. 1883)
- The Ord, Chambered Cairns, Cairns, Settlements and Field Systems (Scheduled Monument, Index no. 1812).

- 7.3.5 Both of these assets have been included in the assessment.

- 7.3.6 HES were consulted on a draft of the impact assessment for the Scheduled Monuments, and comments received have been incorporated into the final assessment. These comments related to more fully explaining the effect of the proposals on the setting of the included Scheduled Monuments and the impact of these effects.

7.4 Statutory and Planning Context

7.4.1 The assessment has been undertaken with reference to relevant legislation, policy and guidance relating to Cultural Heritage.

Legislation

7.4.2 Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings are protected by statute.

7.4.3 Legislation regarding Scheduled Monuments is contained within The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Legislation regarding Listed Buildings is contained in The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997.

7.4.4 The 1979 Act makes no reference to the settings of Scheduled Monuments. The 1997 Act does, however, place a duty on the planning authority with respect to Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas, and their settings. Section 59 of the 1997 Act states (in part): “In considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, a planning authority or the Secretary of State, as the case may be, shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.”

7.4.5 Section 64 states: “In the exercise, with respect to any buildings or other land in a conservation area, of any powers under any of the provisions in subsection (2), special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area.”

7.4.6 The Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014 defines the role of Historic Environment Scotland (HES), and the processes for the designation of heritage assets, consents and rights of appeal.

Planning Policy

7.4.7 The Scottish Government’s planning policies in relation to the historic environment are set out in paragraphs 135-151 of Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) (The Scottish Government, June 2014). The historic environment is defined as “*the physical evidence for human activity that connects people with place, linked with the associations we can see, feel and understand*” and includes “*individual assets, related settings and the wider cultural landscape*”. The policy principles are stated in paragraph 137: “The planning system should:

- promote the care and protection of the designated and non-designated historic environment (including individual assets, related settings and the wider cultural landscape) and its contribution to sense of place, cultural identity, social well-being, economic growth, civic participation and lifelong learning; and
- enable positive change in the historic environment which is informed by a clear understanding of the importance of the heritage assets affected and ensure their future use. Change should be sensitively managed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the fabric and setting of the asset, and ensure that its special characteristics are protected, conserved or enhanced.”

7.4.8 The SPP applies these principles to all designated assets (paragraphs 141-149). In particular, it states that:

- Regarding developments affecting Listed Buildings, *“special regard must be given to the importance of preserving and enhancing the building, its setting and any features of special architectural or historic interest”*;
- Proposals *“which will impact on its appearance, character or setting [of a Conservation Area], should preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the conservation area”*;
- *“Where there is potential for a proposed development to have an adverse effect on a scheduled monument or on the integrity of its setting, permission should only be granted where there are exceptional circumstances”*;
- *“Where a development proposal has the potential to affect a World Heritage Site, or its setting, the planning authority must protect and preserve its Outstanding Universal Value”*;
- *“Planning authorities should protect and, where appropriate, seek to enhance gardens and designed landscapes included in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes and designed landscapes of regional and local importance”*; and
- *“Planning authorities should seek to protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the key landscape characteristics and special qualities of sites in the Inventory of Historic Battlefields”*.

7.4.9 The SPP also requires planning authorities to protect archaeological sites and monuments, preserving them in situ where possible, or otherwise ensure “appropriate excavation, recording, analysis, publication and archiving before and/or during development” (paragraph 150). *“Non-designated historic assets and areas of historical interest, including historic landscapes, other gardens and designed landscapes, woodlands and routes such as drove roads”* should also be preserved in situ wherever feasible (paragraph 151).

7.4.10 ‘Our Place in Time: the Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland’ (2015) presents the Scottish Government’s strategy for the protection and promotion of the historic environment. The Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS, 2019) and the Historic Environment Scotland Circular (2019) complement the SPP and provide further policy direction. In particular, HEPS provides more detailed policy on historic environment designations and consents.

7.4.11 The Highland-wide Local Development Plan (HwLDP) published in 2012 sets out how land within the Highlands (excluding the area covered by the Cairngorms National Park which has its own plan) can be used by developers for the next 20 years (up to 2032). Policy 57 of the HwLDP sets out how the natural, built and cultural heritage of the Highlands will be protected. It states:

7.4.12 All development proposals will be assessed taking into account the level of importance and type of heritage features, the form and scale of the development, and any impact on the feature and its setting, in the context of the policy framework detailed in Appendix 2. The following criteria will also apply:

- *1. For features of local/regional importance we will allow developments if it can be satisfactorily demonstrated that they will not have an unacceptable impact on the natural environment, amenity and heritage resource.*
- *2. For features of national importance we will allow developments that can be shown not to compromise the natural environment, amenity and heritage resource. Where there may be any significant adverse effects, these must be clearly outweighed by social or economic benefits of national importance. It must also be*

shown that the development will support communities in fragile areas who are having difficulties in keeping their population and services.

- *3. For features of international importance developments likely to have a significant effect on a site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, and which are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site for nature conservation will be subject to an appropriate assessment. Where we are unable to ascertain that a proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of a site, we will only allow development if there is no alternative solution and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature. Where a priority habitat or species (as defined in Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive) would be affected, development in such circumstances will only be allowed if the reasons for overriding public interest relate to human health, public safety, beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment, or other reasons subject to the opinion of the European Commission (via Scottish Ministers). Where we are unable to ascertain that a proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of a site, the proposal will not be in accordance with the development plan within the meaning of Section 25(1) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.*

7.4.13 Appendix 2 of the HwLDP defines features of National Importance as including Scheduled Monuments, Category A Listed Buildings and Inventoried Gardens and Designed Landscapes; and defines features of Local/Regional Importance as including Category B and C(S) Listed Buildings, archaeological sites recorded in the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR, now the HER), war memorials, archaeological heritage areas identified by the Council and Conservation Areas.

Guidance

- 7.4.14 Planning Advice Note 2/2011: Planning and Archaeology provides technical advice to planning authorities and developers on dealing with archaeological remains. Among other issues it covers the balance in planning decisions between the preservation of archaeological remains and the benefits of development; the circumstances under which developers can be required to provide further information, in the form of a field evaluation, to allow planning authorities to reach a decision; and measures that can be taken to mitigate adverse impacts.
- 7.4.15 HES published Designation Policy and Selection Guidance (DPSG, 2019) to accompany HEPS. DPSG outlines the policy and selection guidance used by HES when designating sites and places of national importance.
- 7.4.16 HES provides guidance on how to apply the policies set out in the SPP in a series of documents entitled 'Managing Change in the Historic Environment', of which the guidance note on 'Setting' (Historic Scotland 2016) is particularly relevant.
- 7.4.17 Standards and Guidance published by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) have been followed in preparing this assessment, in particular the 'Standard and guidance for commissioning work or providing consultancy advice on archaeology and the historic environment' (2020) and the 'Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment' (2020).

7.5 Existing Environment

Previous Investigations

- 7.5.1 No previous systematic archaeological survey of the Site is known to have taken place. The proposed access track was included within the DBA and walkover survey for the now withdrawn Dalnessie Wind Farm (Mudie 2010 and 2012). Land to the immediate west and southwest formed part of a large-scale walkover survey between 1976 and 1979 prior to afforestation (Mercer and Howell 1980). More recently a desk-based assessment and walkover survey was carried out in 2002 in advance of a proposed woodland grant scheme at Dalnessie to the south-southeast of the Site and an archaeological walkover survey was carried out in November 2010 and January 2011 to enhance and update the Forestry Commission Scotland geodatabase of the historic environment. The former recorded no archaeological features within the planting areas but did identify pre-improvement features and an artificial water channel. The 2010-11 survey assessed the nature and extent of previously recorded archaeological sites and identified previously unrecorded archaeological sites within twenty-four areas in North and South Dalchork Forest – including the Scheduled Monument to the south of the Site (Dalnessie, settlement north of Feith Osdail, SM4563).

Geology and Geomorphology

- 7.5.2 The Site is in an area of Loch Coire Granite - Granite, Foliated and Loch Coire Formation - Migmatitic Psammite with Migmatitic Semipelite. The former is an igneous bedrock formed approximately 444 to 485 million years ago in the Ordovician Period when the local environment was dominated by intrusions of silica-rich magma. These igneous rocks are magmatic (intrusive) in origin. Rich in silica, they form intruded batholiths, plutons, dykes and sills. The latter is a metamorphic bedrock formed approximately 541 to 1000 million years ago in the Period. Originally sedimentary rocks, later altered by low-grade metamorphism.
- 7.5.3 Superficial deposits of peat with small areas of Till and Moranic deposits within lower lying areas are recorded (NERC 2021).

Archaeological and Historical Background

Prehistoric

- 7.5.4 There is archaeological evidence in the study area of prehistoric activity, the earliest is in the form of chambered cairns from the Late Neolithic, three (SM1817 Lairg Muir North, SM1817 Balcharn and SM1818 Lairg Moor South) are located to the south south-west of the Site at 8.5 km to 9.3 km distance. More are located within The Ord prehistoric landscape at 10.6 km to the south-west.
- 7.5.5 The closest prehistoric activity to the Site dates from the Bronze Age and is located 860 m south of the Site at Dalnessie, north of Feith Osdail. This includes a clearance cairn (MHG55491) 3 m x 4 m and 1 m high, associated with a hut circle settlement (MHG12784) and a kerb cairn (MHG43667) which are located within a Scheduled area (SM4563). A survey in 1976 recorded at least 12 hut circles varying from 21ft to 36ft in diameter, in addition it located an open, stone-lined cist which was located within an extensive depopulated site (MHG12505). In 1980 another site visit located only four hut circles in a

poor state of preservation. The cist and kerb cairn were not found. A visit by the RCAHMS in 1989 did not locate the hut circle and noted that the field system had been ploughed and planted with trees.

7.5.6 Another prehistoric settlement consisting of a hut circle and traces of a field system and cairnfields on a south facing hillside (SM5401) is located 1.8 km to the south-west at Loch Beag na Furalachd. Immediately west of this is another scheduled area including a cairn (SM5081).

7.5.7 There are two brochs dated to the Iron Age within the OSA, Altebreck (SM1829) and Sallachy (SM1883) these are located to the south-west, 6 km and 9.3 km respectively.

Medieval

7.5.8 The remains of agricultural practices and transhumance from the early medieval to early post medieval period can be seen in the landscape. Three shielings are recorded within the OSA, two at Loch Beag na Fuaralachd (SM5159 & SM5081) 1.77 km and 1.9 km to the south-west of the ISA respectively and another at Achadh nan Eun (SM5084) 1.7 km to the south.

Post Medieval

7.5.9 In the Old Statistical Account of the Parish of Lairg (Sinclair 1794) it is reported that within the parish there are few horses and cows, and the only crops of oats, barley and potatoes are “in scanty portions”. The land was let to small tenants and had not been improved. In the New Statistical Account, Reverend Duncan McGillivray refers to ‘Cnoek a chath’ or Cnoc Chath, the hill of the fight, where there are numerous tumuli reported to be graves from a skirmish between the Sutherlands and the MacKays (McGillivray 1845: 62).

7.5.10 Two commissions appointed by parliament in 1803 with Thomas Telford as their engineer set about making new roads and bridges in the Highlands and the construction of the Caledonian Canal (Haldane 1962). The road through Lairg to Tongue was one of the last to be completed, the two Category C listed bridges located west of the site were constructed by Thomas Telford in c.1815 to carry this road over the watercourses.

7.5.11 Evidence from the post medieval period within the OSA is primarily comprised of agricultural activity and depopulated towns from the 18th and 19th centuries.

7.5.12 The footings of buildings (MHG10403) surviving to 0.2 m high are located within the north-west edge of the ISA associated with the remains of a corn drying kiln to the west of the building, which was probably abandoned in the 18th to 19th centuries. The site visit confirmed that this site comprised one large sub-rectangular enclosure defined by a field bank with two smaller ‘annexe’ enclosures which are located at the north of the main enclosure. The main enclosure measured approximately 615 m in length and 240 m in width enclosing an area of approximately 134,740 m². The bank which defined the enclosure varied in height from between 0.2 m and 0.5 m and from between 0.5 m and 1 m in width. The bank was mostly formed of turf although there was evidence of stone in the eastern and western sections of the bank.

7.5.13 The sub-trapezoidal north-western ‘annexe’ measured approximately 215 m in length and 200 m in width enclosing an area of approximately 33,575 m². The north-eastern ‘annexe’ was also trapezoidal in plan and measured approximately 115 m in length and 110 m in

width enclosing an area of approximately 12,400 m². The annexe enclosures were both defined by field banks similar to that of the main enclosure.

- 7.5.14 Located at the north of the main enclosure of MHG10403 were the remains of two stone structures. The larger of the two structures is likely to be the corn drying kiln recorded on the HER. The structure measured approximately 20 m in length and 3 m in width and was split into three chambers. The northern chamber measured approximately 6 m in length and 3 m in width with the southern structure similar in dimensions. Up to two courses of granite stone characterised the walls of the northern chamber, with a combination of turf banks and stone defining the walls of the southern chamber. The central chamber was approximately 8 m in length and 3 m in width and had notably fewer stones present in the bank defining its walls.
- 7.5.15 A second structure was located approximately 5 m east of the corn drying kiln. It measured approximately 6 m in length and 3 m in width. The walls of the structure were up to 0.6 m high and composed of up to 3 courses of granite stones. It had a partition wall in its centre creating two small chambers measuring approximately 1.2 m in length and 1.2 m in width. A sub-circular enclosure extended from the south of the building and continued round to meet its northern extent. The enclosure was defined by stones at its north-western extents and by a turf bank at its south-eastern extents.
- 7.5.16 No new heritage assets were noted within the footprint of MHG10403 during the site visit on 9th March 2021.
- 7.5.17 There is one sheepfold, Cnoc na Fuaralachd (MHG62230) recorded from aerial photos within the southern edge of the ISA, another is adjacent to the south-east boundary of the ISA (MHG62229). The site visit on 9th March 2021 found that the former was circular in plan, approximately 12 m in diameter and was formed of a stone wall up to 1 m in height formed of up to five courses of granite, the latter was slightly large at 15 m diameter, and was also up to 1 m in height, formed of four courses of stone.
- 7.5.18 An additional, previously unrecorded, sheepfold was observed during the site visit on 9th March 2021 (HA1). This was located approximately 160 m west of the north-eastern extent of the main enclosure of MHG10403. The sheepfold is recorded on modern mapping but is not present on HER data. The circular sheepfold measured approximately 10 m in diameter and up to 1.5 m in height with up to five courses of granite stones forming the wall. A small annexe was attached to the sheepfold's north-western extent. The rectangular annexe measured approximately 2 m in length and 2 m in width.
- 7.5.19 Further from the ISA is another sheep fold (MHG62228) lying 680 m to the south-east.
- 7.5.20 Also adjacent to the ISA, 140 m to the south-east is the ruins of a settlement, Dail na Ceardaich (MHG12779). Within this area are the footings of at least nine buildings, the turf covered walls are no more than 0.3 m high and a circular enclosure may also be present. This settlement was depopulated in the 18th to 19th century as part of the "Highland Clearances".
- 7.5.21 Another settlement is recorded at Feith Osdail (MHG12505) which was also subject to 18/19th century depopulation, is located 950 m south of the ISA within a Scheduled area (SM4563). The turf-covered stone footings of at least eight buildings remain ranging from 5 m by 3 m to 14 m by 3 m, accompanied by the ruins of several individual enclosures. There are some traces of walls but overall, no real signs of a comprehensive field system though there are traces of lazybedding. A later sheepfold is on the site (MHG40123).

- 7.5.22 A former farmstead, Dalness (MHG10496) is also recorded c.1 km south of the ISA.
- 7.5.23 The old church and churchyard of Lairg was dedicated to St Maelrubha and on record in the early 13th century, this stood on the northern bank of Loch Shin, half a mile from the village. A replacement church on the same site was built in 1794. In 1843 the Reverend Farquar Matheson became the parish minister, however much of the congregation left the established church and built their own Free Church a mile away. By 1846 the old church was ruinous and a new church and manse had been built in the centre of the town, but the graveyard continued to be used by the remaining congregation.

Modern Period

- 7.5.24 There are no recorded modern features on the Highlands HER within the ISA or within the 1 km OSA.
- 7.5.25 The forestry areas north and south of the access track were planted in the later 20th century.

Undated

- 7.5.26 A possible enclosure (MHG10400) 4 m across with associated wall is indicated at Loch Beag Na Fuaralachd, 790 m to the south-west, the HER records this as undated.

Known heritage assets within the Inner Study Area

- 7.5.27 Four heritage assets are known to be present within the Site, detailed in **Table 7.5**. These are three sheepfolds and the remains of a settlement.
- 7.5.28 The sheepfolds are considered to be of low importance as they are common features of upland landscapes, typically remaining in use for long periods of time.
- 7.5.29 The former settlement remains are considered to be of medium importance, as a settlement abandoned in the late 18th or early 19th century (probably as part of the Highland Clearances) the archaeological and historical interest of these remains are of regional importance. Unlike the scheduled examples of abandoned settlements to the south of the Site, A'Chleansaid appears to be of a single phase of occupation and therefore is unlikely to be considered of national importance.

Table 7.5: Heritage Assets Within the Inner Study Area

Ref.	Name & Description	Period	Importance
MHG62230	Sheepfold – Cnocna Fuaralachd	Post-medieval	Low
MHG81191	Sheepfold , Dalmichy	Post-medieval	Low
MHG10403	A' Chleansaid	Post-medieval	Medium
HA1	Sheepfold	Post-medieval	Low

Potential for Undiscovered Heritage Assets Within the Inner Study Area

- 7.5.30 Evidence from previous walkovers of the surrounding landscape is that there is a generally high potential in this area for currently unrecorded heritage assets, in particular

cairns and other small upstanding structures of potentially prehistoric date but frequently of more recent date.

- 7.5.31 The site walkover carried out for this assessment was targeted on the turbine and infrastructure layout and examined areas visible from these locations, it did not identify any additional upstanding assets. The site is open grazing and upstanding remains would be readily visible even at a distance. It is considered unlikely that there are any unidentified upstanding remains within the ISA.
- 7.5.32 The relatively level ground of the ISA and proximity to watercourses would suggest that it may have been attractive for settlement in the prehistoric and medieval periods, although its altitude and latitude may have made it less attractive. There is a low potential for buried remains of these periods.

Heritage Assets in the Outer Study Area

Scheduled Monuments

- 7.5.33 There are 26 Scheduled Monuments within 10 km of the Site. This includes eleven within 5 km of the site. A full list of the Scheduled Monuments within 10 km of the Site is provided in **Appendix 7.1**. The majority of the Scheduled Monuments within the OSA are in areas with no predicted visibility of the turbines, these are therefore scoped out of the assessment of impacts, the 13 monuments scoped into the assessment are detailed in **Table 7.6** below.
- 7.5.34 The closest Scheduled Monument to the Site (bounding the access track) is Cnoc a'Bhreach-leathaid, shielings and cairn field (SM5300). It comprises a small prehistoric cairn field consisting of a group of peat covered clearance cairns with individual cairns measuring up to 1 m in height. A prehistoric hut circle approximately 8.4 m in diameter, with a likely south-east facing entrance is present, defined by a low wall. A field system formed of clearance cairns covers an area of around 16 hectares surrounding the hut. The site also comprises a group of rectilinear structures, shielings and enclosures likely to date to the medieval/post-medieval periods. The northern edge of the monument is defined by the existing access track.
- 7.5.35 The next closest Scheduled Monument to the Site (c1 km to the south of the proposed turbines and 40 m north of the access track) is the settlement north of Feith Osdail (SM4563). This is the only Scheduled Monument within 1 km of the proposed turbines and consists of a complex of foundations of more than 30 small rectangular houses and subcircular enclosures, including a few larger multiperiod house foundations and a modern sheepfold. The complex stretches over 400 m along the side of the hill. There are patches of lazybedding interspersed with the structures. The monument includes the southern edge of a prehistoric cairnfield and a single roundhouse. The northern boundary of the scheduled area is defined by the edge of the modern forestry plantation.
- 7.5.36 The Scheduled Monuments between 1 km and 10 km from the site that are scoped into the assessment are all former settlement sites of prehistoric to post-medieval date and include a broch. Several of these include associated features such as cairns or field systems.

7.5.37 The Ord (SM1812) has been included in the detailed setting assessment at the request of HES. This group of chambered cairns, cairns, settlements and field systems lies 10.2 km south of the proposed turbines.

Table 7.6: Scheduled Monuments Included in the assessment

Ref.	Name & Description	Importance
SM1812	The Ord, chambered cairns, cairns, settlements and field systems	High
SM4563	Dalnessie, settlement N of Feith Osdail	High
SM5081	Loch Beag na Furalachd, cairn and shielings 1175 m ESE of SW end	High
SM5159	Loch Beag na Furalachd, shielings 1000 m SW of SW end of	High
SM5401	Loch Beag na Furalachd, prehistoric settlement 950 m SW of SW end of	High
SM4560	Meall Meadhonach, hut circles, field system & shielings 750 m SW of	High
SM5084	Achadh nan Eun, shieling 1400 m N of	High
SM5093	Meall Meadhonach, settlement and shielings 900 m N of	High
SM5154	Achadh nan Eun, shielings	High
SM5194	Meall Meadhonach, hut circle and field system 1200 m WNW of	High
SM5300	Cnoc a' Bhreac-leathaid, shielings and cairnfield 700 m NNE of	High
SM4560	Meall Meadhonach, hut circles, field system & shielings 750 m SW of	High
SM1883	Sallachy broch	High

Listed Buildings

7.5.38 There are seven Listed Buildings within 10 km of the Site, full details are provided in **Appendix 7.1**. There are two Listed Buildings within 5 km of the Site, these are both Category C listed bridges.

7.5.39 There are five Listed Buildings within 5 km to 10 km of the Site. With the exception of the Category B Lairg Burial Ground (LB8019) these are all Category C. They include another bridge, the dam and power station of the Shin hydro-electric scheme, a Manse and a memorial erected to the memory of Kenneth Murray of Geanies (Easter Ross) who “reclaimed the lands of Shinness”.

7.5.40 Following screening (**Appendix 7.1**) no Listed Buildings are considered for further assessment.

7.6 Predicted Impacts

Construction Phase Impacts

- 7.6.1 Construction of the Proposed Development, specifically Turbine T16 and its associated infrastructure, would impact on the remains of the settlement at A'Chleansaid (MHG10403) through the removal of sections of enclosure wall and disturbance of possible buried remains within the enclosure. The upstanding remains of the farmstead and corn dryer would not be impacted as these remains lie outside of the Proposed Development footprint. The removal of sections of boundary wall and disturbance of possible archaeological deposits within the northern enclosures would result in the loss of some of the archaeological interest and an impact of low adverse magnitude on this asset of medium importance. This would result in an effect of minor significance.
- 7.6.2 Construction of Turbine T15 would also impact on the sheepfold located east of A'Chleansaid (HA1). This would result in the loss of archaeological interest an impact of high adverse magnitude on this asset of low importance. This would result in an effect of moderate significance.
- 7.6.3 The proposed access route from the A836 is immediately adjacent to the Scheduled Monument Cnoc a'Bhreach-leathaid, shielings and cairnfield (SM5300). Upgrading of the access track passed the Cnoc a'Breach-leathaid monument and laying of cables would be confined to the north side of the track opposite the Scheduled Monument and there would therefore be no physical impact on this monument. There would be no effect on this asset.
- 7.6.4 The proposed access route passes within 50 m of the Scheduled Monument Dalnessie, settlement N of Feith Osdail (SM4563). Upgrading of the track would not extend within 40 m of the monument and there would therefore be no physical impacts. There would be no effect on this asset.
- 7.6.5 The proposed access route may also impact on a non-designated sheepfold (MHG81191) located near the western end of the route if track widening works or cabling extends into the footprint of this asset. This would result in the loss of some archaeological interest, an impact of medium adverse magnitude on this asset of low importance. This would result in an effect of minor significance.

Operational Phase Impacts

- 7.6.6 As noted above, the majority of the designated heritage assets within 10 km of the ISA will have no visibility of the turbines or are of a type which does not derive significance from the wider setting. The remaining eight Scheduled Monuments within 10 km, plus The Ord, are considered below for potential impacts.

SM4563 Dalnessie, Settlement

- 7.6.7 SM4563 is located approximately 30 m from the access area and 0.5 km south of the southern tip of the ISA. The site stretches over 400 m along the side of a gentle slope north of the access track leading to the Dalnessie estate. It comprises the foundations of more than 30 small rectangular houses and subcircular enclosures, including the foundations of a larger multiperiod house measuring up to 15 m in length. Patches of lazybedding are interspersed between the structures. The southern edge of a prehistoric

cairnfield is present along with a single roundhouse measuring 10 m by 8.5 m internally over a rubble bank spread to 2 m in width and up to 0.3 m in height. A modern sheepfold is present at the west of the site.

- 7.6.8 The cultural significance of SM4563 derives primarily from its intrinsic archaeological interest, with the extant foundations of the various structures providing examples of domestic dwellings from the prehistoric and post-medieval periods. The presence of a cairnfield provides evidence of how the land was improved to allow for cultivation in the prehistoric period, with the lazybedding present between the structures evidence of agricultural practice during the post-medieval period. The sheepfold at the east of the site provides evidence of how the land use changed during the 19th century, with sheep grazing becoming the dominant practice in the area at this time. The archaeological remains which comprise SM4563 would, if subject to excavation, provide further insight into the nature of settlement during the prehistoric and post-medieval periods in Sutherland. Contextually, SM4563 derives its cultural significance from its local setting, with views between the enclosures and structures important in how they are understood and appreciated as well as its relationship with and proximity to Fèith Osdail burn located approximately 250 m to the south-east. The site's location within the Fèith Osdail valley adds to its contextual significance as the valley was an important landscape in both the prehistoric and post-medieval periods due to its suitability for cultivation and as a place for summer shielings.
- 7.6.9 SM4563 is situated on a gentle south-east facing slope in an area of open moorland. To the north, immediate views comprise open moorland with commercial forestry, located upslope approximately 150 m to the north, screening any long range views to the north and north-west. To the east and north-east, views along the slope between the structures is possible, with longer range views afforded of the unforested areas north of Fèith Osdail burn and of the peak of Meallan Liath Mòr located approximately 4 km to the north-east. To the south and south-east, views of the immediate moorland are possible with longer range views of the landscape south of Fèith Osdail burn obscured by commercial forestry. To the west, views along the slope between the structures is possible, with longer range views of the unforested area north of Fèith Osdail burn also possible.
- 7.6.10 The situation of SM4563 on a south-east facing slope towards Fèith Osdail burn suggests that throughout its history, the relationship between the varying settlements which comprise the monument and the burn were key in how it is understood and appreciated. The burn would have been an important natural feature relied on by the inhabitants of the SM4563 throughout its history and would have been key to its continued use. The situation of SM4563 on the lower reaches of the slope would historically have afforded clear views towards the burn and, although currently obscured by forestry, of the landscape to the south. Views along the slope of the extant foundations of the structures and enclosures are possible from the east and west extents of SM4563, allowing for an appreciation of the distribution and situation of the settlement in the landscape as well as views of the Fèith Osdail valley, which was an important landscape in the prehistoric and post-medieval periods. The presence of lazybedding between the structures, instead of in the wider landscape, further highlights how the settlement was contained to its local setting. These localised views between the structures would also have been important in how the settlement, throughout its history, was understood and appreciated as a place with a long history and as an example of how settlement of the landscape changed over

time. These views also contribute towards the sense of abandonment which modern visitors experience when visiting the monument.

- 7.6.11 The Proposed Development would cause a visual change to the setting of SM4563 with views to the north and north-east altered by the presence of the proposed wind turbines. However, views in these directions are not key in how the monument is understood and appreciated as a palimpsest of settlement throughout time and are located at such a distance (over 1 km to the north) that they fall outside the area in which the monument is understood. The key local views to the south towards Fèith Osdail burn as well as the intervisibility between the structures looking from the east and west also taking in the Fèith Osdail valley would be retained despite the construction of wind turbines to the north. The visual screening provided by the forestry means that there would be no change to the setting of this monument as a result of the turbines.
- 7.6.12 The Proposed Development would also cause a visual change to the setting of SM4563 through alterations to the existing track within 50 m of the monument. The upgraded track would use crushed stone consistent with the current track surface but will be widened. The widening of the track is not considered to result in a material change to how the cultural significance of the monument is appreciated.
- 7.6.13 It is concluded that the Proposed Development would have no impact on the cultural significance of SM4563. There would be no effect on this heritage asset.

SM5084 Achadh nan Eun, Sheiling

- 7.6.14 SM5084 is located approximately 1.5 km south of the southernmost point of the ISA. The monument consists of the remains of a post-medieval building sited on a grassy mound, the surviving foundations of which indicate the building measured approximately 9 m in length and 6 m in width on a north-south axis.
- 7.6.15 The cultural significance of SM5084 derives primarily from its intrinsic archaeological interest, with the extant foundations of the shieling structure providing an example of a seasonal dwelling associated with pre-improvement upland pastoral practices in the post-medieval period. Excavation of the remains would provide further insight into the nature of settlement during the post-medieval period and into the fabric of shieling structures in Sutherland. Contextually, SM5084 derives its cultural significance from its local setting, with its relationship with Allt Geal burn at the east key to how the site is understood and appreciated.
- 7.6.16 SM5084 is situated on a broadly flat grassy mound. To the north and west, immediate views are of open grassland, with commercial forestry, located approximately 50 m to the north and west, largely obscuring any long range views in these directions. To the south, Allt Geal burn is present with immediate views of grassland possible for approximately 150 m before being obscured by commercial forestry. Allt Geal burn is present immediately to the east, with commercial forestry present 10 m east of the burn obscuring any views in this direction.
- 7.6.17 The situation of SM5084 on a largely flat grassy area would have allowed easy access to Allt Geal burn to the east and suggests that the site's relationship with the burn was key to how it was understood and appreciated. As well as providing fresh water for the inhabitants of the shieling, the burn defines an area to the west which is broadly flat or gently sloping and would have been a convenient place to graze livestock. Views to these

local areas to the north, west and south are still broadly possible despite the presence of modern forestry and allow for an appreciation of how the shieling would have functioned in the landscape.

- 7.6.18 The Proposed Development would cause a visual change to the setting of SM5084, with long range views to the north likely to experience a level of change. However, the key views from SM5084 are to its immediate environs, with long range views not an important factor in how the monument is understood and appreciated. The immediate views to the north, west and south over the area likely to have been used for grazing livestock and the relationship between the structure and the burn will be largely retained, preserving the contextual significance of the monument. The visual screening provided by the forestry means that there would be no change to the setting of this monument as a result of the turbines. It is concluded that the Proposed Development would have no impact on the cultural significance of SM5084. There would be no effect on this heritage asset.

SM5159 Loch Beag na Fuaralachd, Shielings

- 7.6.19 SM5159 is located approximately 2.5 km south-west of the southernmost point of the ISA and 280m north of the access area. The site comprises a settlement consisting of at least five structures preserved in a forestry clearing. Three of the structures are circular or oval, including one well defined circle of stones. One structure is rectangular with the remaining structure irregular in form. The structures vary from 7 m by 4 m to 6 m by 15 m and represent the remains of small medieval/post-medieval shieling huts. The settlement is thought to represent part of a 'cottar town', many of which were destroyed during the Clearances of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.
- 7.6.20 The cultural significance of SM5159 is primarily derived from its intrinsic archaeological interest, with the extant foundations of the various structures providing examples of dwellings from the medieval and post-medieval periods and providing evidence of pre-improvement upland pastoral practices during these time periods. Excavation of the structures would provide further insight into the nature of settlement during the medieval and post-medieval periods and into the fabric of shieling structures in Sutherland. Contextually, SM5159 derives its significance from its local setting, with views between the structures and its relationship with Fèith Osdail burn located to the south important in how it is understood and appreciated. SM5159's location within the Fèith Osdail valley further contributes to its contextual significance as the landscape was important as a place used for summer shielings in the medieval and post-medieval periods.
- 7.6.21 SM5159 is situated on a relatively flat break of slope on a moderate south facing grassy slope; to the north and west, views are obscured by commercial forestry. To the east, views of the immediate grassland are possible for approximately 50 m before being obscured by commercial forestry. Views to the south are largely open, affording clear views of Fèith Osdail burn located approximately 160 m to the south and of open moorland to the south of the burn. Historically, views to the east and west along the Fèith Osdail valley would have been possible.
- 7.6.22 The situation of SM5159 on a moderate slope with clear south-facing views suggests that the relationship between the settlement and Fèith Osdail burn was key in how the settlement was intended to be understood and appreciated. The burn would have been an important resource for the settlement and also perhaps defined the area of low ground which would have been used for grazing animals when the shielings were inhabited

during the summer months. The location of the shielings slightly upslope from the burn would have afforded clear views to the south, east and west and allowed the inhabitants to monitor their livestock which were grazing in the area north of the burn. The intervisibility between the structures is also important in how modern visitors experience the site, adding to the sense of abandonment often associated with pre-improvement structures of the post-medieval period.

- 7.6.23 The Proposed Development would cause a visual change to the setting of SM5159, however, the key views to the south towards Fèith Osdail burn and the intervisibility between the structures will be retained. Views to the north and north-east, towards the proposed wind turbine locations, are not important in how SM5159 is understood and appreciated; the site was not historically intended to encompass long range views, with its local setting, defined by Fèith Osdail burn to the south, and its situation within Fèith Osdail valley, key to the site's contextual significance. The location of the proposed wind turbines approximately 2 km to the north-east are at too great a distance to alter how SM5159 is experienced in its local setting and would be peripheral to the site. The visual screening provided by the forestry means that there would be no change to the setting of this monument as a result of the turbines. It is concluded that the Proposed Development would have no impact on the cultural significance of SM5159. There would be no effect on this heritage asset.

SM5401 Loch Beag na Fuaralachd, Prehistoric Settlement

- 7.6.24 SM5401 is located approximately 2.2 km south-west of the southernmost point of the ISA. The site comprises a hut circle and traces of a field system which are located on a south facing hill side. The hut circle measures 9 m in length and 8 m in width within a wall which consists of a rubble spread 2.5 m wide and up to 0.7 m high. The entrance of the house is on the south-east. The field system consists of 12 or more clearance cairns which surround the house and a linear earthwork along the slope to the north.
- 7.6.25 The cultural significance of SM5401 is primarily derived from its intrinsic archaeological interest, with the well-preserved remains of the hut circle providing an example of a prehistoric dwelling. The field systems, linear earthwork at the north and clearance cairns are also evidence of how the land was improved and cultivated during this time period. Excavation of the remains would provide further insight into the nature of settlement during the prehistoric periods and into the fabric of hut circle structures and field systems in Sutherland. Contextually, the site derives its significance from this local setting, with the hut circle defined by the linear earthwork to the north, and its relationship with the local cultivated area important in how the site is understood and appreciated. The relative proximity of the site to Fèith Osdail burn, 400 m to the south is also important in understanding how the site functioned in the landscape during the prehistoric period. SM5401's location within the Fèith Osdail valley adds to its contextual significance as the landscape was important during the prehistoric period as an area where free draining soils allowed for cultivation to take place.
- 7.6.26 SM5401 is situated on a relatively flat break of slope on a south facing gently sloping grassy slope. It is bound on all sides by commercial forestry, limiting views in all directions to the immediate 100 m of grassland in which the site is situated. Prior to the planting of the forest, it is likely that clear views to the south, east and west would have been possible, with views to the north limited by the rising topography.

- 7.6.27 The situation of SM5401 on a flat area of a south facing slope looking towards Fèith Osdail burn would have provided a suitable area to improve and cultivate and allowed access to the burn. The proximity of the field system and clearance cairns to the hut circle suggests that the settlement did not extend further than its immediate environs, with the hut positioned to easily access the cultivated land. The earthwork to the north of the hut circle also creates a sense of enclosure, defining the hut circle and field system which lie just to the south. Views of the Fèith Osdail valley to the east and west would likely have been possible historically although there is no evidence that long range views in either direction would have been important in how the site was understood and appreciated. The location of SM5401 is likely to have been selected for settlement due to its free draining soils and suitability for cultivation rather than for views along the valley.
- 7.6.28 The Proposed Development would cause a visual change to the setting of SM5401, however, it is likely that SM5401 functioned in a local, instead of wider, landscape context with views of its immediate area and towards Fèith Osdail burn to the south important in how it is understood and appreciated. Views to or from the north and north-east, beyond the earthwork and in the direction of the proposed wind turbines, are not important in understanding the site as part of the prehistoric landscape. Whilst there would be a change in setting caused by the proposed wind turbines, their distance from SM5401 (approximately 1.8 km to the north-west) is such that they would be peripheral and would not impact how the remains are understood in a local landscape setting. The visual screening provided by the forestry means that there would be no change to the setting of this monument as a result of the turbines. It is concluded that the Proposed Development would have no impact on the cultural significance of SM5401. There would be no effect on this heritage asset.

SM5081 Loch Beag na Furalachd, cairn and shielings

- 7.6.29 SM5081 is located approximately 0.5 km north of the access area and 1 km southwest of the southernmost turbine. The site comprises two elements. At the north-west of the site, on a small knoll is a prehistoric cairn composed of rubble stones and partly turf covered. The cairn measures approximately 9.5 m in diameter and 0.4 m in height. There are possible traces of a kerb to the south of the cairn. Two later irregularly shaped enclosures have been added to the north-east and south-west of the cairns. These enclosures may be contemporary with the post-medieval settlement to the south-east, which forms the second element of the site. To the south-east of the cairn, there are at least eight foundations surviving in the forestry clearance. Circular and oval structures predominate on this site and include one well defined circle of stones. Sub-rectangular and irregular structures are also present. The building foundations vary in dimensions from 9 m by 5 m to 33 m by 12 m and are likely to represent the remains of post-medieval shieling structures. As with SM5159, SM5081 represents part of a 'cottar town', many of which were destroyed during the Clearances of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.
- 7.6.30 The cultural significance of SM5081 is primarily derived from its intrinsic archaeological interest with the remains of the cairn and post-medieval shielings providing evidence of a possible prehistoric funerary site and of post-medieval settlement and pastoral practices. If subject to excavation, the cairn and structures would provide knowledge of these types of structures and allow for insight into the nature of settlement in the prehistoric and post-medieval periods in Sutherland. Contextually, SM5081 derives its

cultural significance from its local setting, with the intervisibility between the shielings along with the site's dominant south-facing aspect important in how it is understood and appreciated. The location of the site within the Fèith Osdail valley adds to its contextual significance as the area was an important landscape for settlement during the prehistoric and post-medieval periods.

- 7.6.31 SM5081 is situated in a clearing on a moderate, south-facing grassy slope. From the post-medieval structures, in roughly the centre of the designated area, views to the north, north-east and south are limited to the immediate grassland, with commercial forestry obscuring any long-range views. To the west, from the centre of the site, a gap in the trees allows for partial views along the Fèith Osdail valley. To the east, views of the grassland extend for approximately 200 m before being obscured by commercial forestry. Views between the shielings are possible within the confines of the site, although views to the cairn at the north-west from this area are obscured by commercial forestry. From the cairn, views are largely similar to those observed from the post-medieval settlement, although its location slightly upslope from the shielings does allow for longer range views to the south and south-east to the slopes south of Fèith Osdail burn. Views to the post-medieval structures from the cairn are obscured by commercial forestry. Historically, views between the two would have been possible, with longer range views of the Fèith Osdail valley also likely to have been possible.
- 7.6.32 The cairn of SM5081 is situated on a relatively low-lying slope, only 20 m upslope from the Fèith Osdail burn and not on a summit suggesting it was not intended to dominate a large area or be visible from a long distance. Its dominant southerly aspect towards Fèith Osdail burn and the immediate valley are likely to have been key in how the cairn was intended to be understood and appreciated in its local setting. It is possible the cairn was used to inter the deceased or as a monument to the dead and it is likely that it served the local population who cultivated the land during the prehistoric period instead of functioning as a significant marker with intentional long range views either to or from it.
- 7.6.33 The situation of the shielings of SM5081 on a moderate south facing slope suggests that views in this direction towards Fèith Osdail burn and valley were important to those who built it. The burn would have been an important natural resource for the settlement and also perhaps defined the area of low ground which would have been used for grazing livestock when the shielings were inhabited during the summer months. The location of the shielings upslope from the burn would have afforded clear views to the south, east and west and allowed the inhabitants to monitor their livestock which were grazing in the area north of the burn. It is also likely that the cairn would have been visible from the shielings and would have added to the sense of the landscape having been occupied over a long period of time. The intervisibility between the shielings is important in how modern visitors experience the site, adding to the sense of abandonment often associated with pre-improvement structures of the post-medieval period.
- 7.6.34 The Proposed Development would cause a visual change to the setting of SM5081 with views to the north-east likely to change as a result of the placement of the Proposed Development. However, views in this direction are not significant in how the site is understood and appreciated. Both the shielings and the cairn are understood in their local setting, with south facing views towards the Fèith Osdail burn and valley important in understanding the site as a whole in the landscape. Views to the south, although already largely screened by commercial forestry, will not be altered by the construction of the proposed wind turbines. The intervisibility between the shielings, allowing the modern

visitor to appreciate the nature and scale of the settlement, would also be retained. Whilst the wind turbines may be visible to the north-east, their location approximately 2.5 km away is too far to alter how SM5081 is experienced in its local setting. The visual screening provided by the forestry means that there would be no change to the setting of this monument as a result of the turbines. It is concluded that the Proposed Development would have no impact on the cultural significance of SM5081. There would be no effect on this heritage asset.

SM5300 Cnoc a' Bhreac-leathaid, shielings and cairnfield

- 7.6.35 SM5300 is located immediately south of the access area and approximately 3.7 km south-west of the southernmost point of the ISA. It comprises a small prehistoric cairnfield consisting of a group of peat covered clearance cairns with individual cairns measuring up to 1 m in height. A prehistoric hut circle approximately 8.4 m in diameter, with a likely south-east facing entrance is present, defined by a low wall. A field system formed of clearance cairns covers an area of around 16 hectares surrounding the hut. The site also comprises a group of rectilinear structures, shielings and enclosures likely to date to the medieval/post-medieval periods.
- 7.6.36 SM5300 derives its cultural significance primarily from its intrinsic archaeological value, with the prehistoric hut circle and clearance cairns particularly well preserved, albeit obscured, by peat coverage. If subject to excavation, the remains comprising SM5300 would further inform the nature of settlement and agricultural practices in Sutherland during the prehistoric and post-medieval periods. Contextually, the site derives its significance from its local setting, with its relationship to Fèith Osdail burn to the north and the intervisibility between the prehistoric and post-medieval remains important in how it is understood and appreciated. The site's location within the Fèith Osdail valley also contributes to its contextual significance, as the area was an important landscape used for cultivation and settlement in both the prehistoric and post-medieval periods.
- 7.6.37 SM5300 is situated on a relatively flat area of a gentle, north facing moorland slope. To the north, views are largely open, with the immediate moorland visible as well as longer range views towards Ben Klibreck approximately 15 km to the north possible. Mid-range views north of Fèith Osdail burn are obscured by commercial forestry. To the west and east, views are open, with clear views of Fèith Osdail valley possible. To the south and south-east, views are largely restricted to the immediate moorland, with commercial forestry, located approximately 120 m south, obscuring any longer range views in this direction. Views between the structures from the east and west of the site are possible and contribute to how the site is experienced as a place with a long history of occupation.
- 7.6.38 It is likely that the location of SM5300 was selected due to its well draining soils and suitability for cultivation and settlement. The extent of the prehistoric settlement is defined by the cairnfield and field system in the area surrounding the hut circle; this allows for the prehistoric element of SM5300 to be understood within its local, instead of wider, landscape setting. The situation of SM5300 on a north-facing slope looking towards Fèith Osdail burn also suggests that throughout its history, the relationship between the varying settlements which comprise the site and the burn were important in how it is understood and appreciated. The burn would have been an important natural feature relied on by the inhabitants of the SM5300 throughout its history and would have been key to its continued use. The situation of SM5300 on the lower reaches of a slope would historically have

afforded views towards the burn and allowed for the inhabitants of the shielings to monitor any livestock which may have been grazing in this area.

- 7.6.39 The intervisibility between the post-medieval structures and prehistoric remains allow for an appreciation of the distribution and situation of the settlement in the landscape. These localised views between the structures are important in how the site is understood and appreciated as a place with a long history of settlement and as an example of how settlement of the landscape changed over time. These views also contribute towards the sense of abandonment which modern visitors experience when visiting the monument.
- 7.6.40 The Proposed Development would cause a visual change to the setting of SM5300 with views to the north-east likely to change as a result of the placement of the proposed wind turbines. However, long range views to the north-east do not influence how the site is understood and appreciated. The structures which comprise SM5300 were not intended to have long range views of the surrounding landscape, with any outward looking views from either the prehistoric or post-medieval settlements likely to have been limited to the Fèith Osdail burn approximately 400 m to the north or, in the case of the prehistoric settlement, the extent of the field system around the hut circle. The site can be understood and appreciated in its local setting as somewhere suitable for cultivation, grazing and settlement. Whilst the proposed wind turbines would be visible to the north-east, they would be located at too far a distance to impact an experience of the asset's cultural significance. The visual screening provided by the forestry means that there would be no change to the setting of this monument as a result of the turbines. The intervisibility between the different structures will be retained despite the construction of the proposed wind turbines to the north-east.
- 7.6.41 The Proposed Development would also cause a visual change to the setting of SM5300 through alterations to the existing track immediately north of the monument. The upgraded track would use crushed stone consistent with the current track surface but widened to the north. The widening of the track is not considered to result in a material change to how the monument is appreciated.
- 7.6.42 It is concluded that the Proposed Development would have no impact on the cultural significance of SM5300. There would be no effect on this heritage asset.

SM1812 The Ord, chambered cairns, cairns, settlements and field systems

- 7.6.43 SM1812 is located approximately 11 km south-west of the southernmost point of the ISA. It comprises a landscape of prehistoric sites including two chambered cairns, cairns, a homestead, several hut circles and accompanying field systems including clearance cairns. Two large, chambered tombs are situated on the summit of the Ord hill at around 150 m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD). The Ord North is a well-preserved circular chambered tomb edged by dry walling and upright stones. It measures approximately 25 m in diameter with an entrance to the south-east. The Ord South is the remains of an Orkney-Cromarty type round cairn with a polygonal chamber situated on a rocky knoll. The cairn material has largely been removed but the chamber itself is likely to have measured approximately 14 m with an east south-east facing entrance.
- 7.6.44 Two further round cairns exist nearby to the east south-east, one measuring approximately 10 m in diameter, the other approximately 7 m in diameter. A well-built round cairn measuring about 9 m in diameter lies near the summit. A burnt mound is situated on the north-east slope of The Ord close to a burn. It measures 14.5 m south-

east to north-west by 11.5 m and stands to a height of 1.6 m. Settlement remains consist primarily of scattered hut circles accompanied by a system of plots, which are made up of low lynchets and banks on which clearance cairns are present. The hut circles fall into two broad categories, one measuring between 5.5 m and 10 m in internal diameter, the second, more substantially built and measuring between 9 m to 14.5 m by 12 m internally. At least 20 hut circles are well preserved, and there are traces of several others. A more substantial banked enclosure situated on the south-east slope of the Ord has been classified as a homestead and may represent a later phase of occupation than the hut circles. It is circular with an internal diameter of 13 m surrounded by a wall of turf and boulders 2 m across, surrounded by an outer ditch with an entrance at the south south-west. A modern path, created as part of the Ord Archaeological Trail, leads from the north-east, going south before continuing north to the summit of the hill.

- 7.6.45 SM1812's cultural significance derives primarily from its intrinsic archaeological interest, with substantial remains of prehistoric houses, agricultural systems and funerary structures comprising the site. The remains, if subject to excavation, would provide substantial insight into the multi-faceted nature of prehistoric life in Sutherland and further elucidate the nature of these particular site types. Contextually, the site derives its significance from both its local situation on the Ord hill and its relationship with the surrounding landscape, particularly to the north and south. The domestic and agricultural remains are appreciated in their local context with the relationship between them and the chambered cairns at the summit of the Ord important in how they are understood. The chambered cairns at the summit of the Ord derive their contextual cultural significance from their prominent position, with views both to and from the wider landscape important in how they are understood.
- 7.6.46 SM1812 is situated on the Ord hill located immediately south-west of the village of Lairg. The hill itself slopes steeply from the east to the summit, with gentler slopes characterising the north, west and south slopes. To the south, the landscape is characterised by open grassland, with occasionally boggy moorland characterising roughly the northern half of the hill. The hut circles, field systems, burnt mound and clearance cairns are all largely located either mid slope or on the lower slopes of the Ord at the north-east, east and south. These sites are largely experienced from the Ord Archaeological Trail footpath which runs from the Ord visitor centre to the summit of the hill. Views from these sites are largely focused on the north, east and south, with long range views towards Cnoc an Achaidh Mhoir approximately 2.7 km south-east possible. There is no clear intervisibility between these sites whilst walking along the lower foothills of the Ord due to the differential topography and the nature of the moorland which characterises much of the northern half of the hill. Views to the summit of the Ord are possible from all directions and it is likely that the chambered cairns present at the summit would have been formed an important reference in local views from the different settlement sites on the lower reaches of the Ord. At the summit of the Ord, views from the chambered cairns extend across the landscape in all directions although views are partially obscured to the north and north-east by the presence of a modern telecommunications mast. To the north views across the low-lying landscape immediately north of the Ord are possible with long range views across Loch Shin and as far as Ben Hee approximately 30 km to the north. Views to the north-east, east and south-east are slightly obscured by the close lying topography, but still afford views to hills such as Cnoc na h-Inghinn 3 km to the east and to Cnoc nan Cuilean located 40 km to the north-east.

The settlement and agricultural sites along the eastern slope of the Ord are largely obscured from view by the topography at the summit. To the south are open views of the low lying landscape west of Little Loch Shin with long range views of distant hills such as Meall Doir'a'Chuilinn located 21 km to the south possible. To the west, the views are largely focused on the lower slopes of Cnoc na h-Iolaire, with long range views obscured by the topography.

- 7.6.47 The settlement and agricultural sites of SM1812 can be understood in their local, rather than their wider landscape setting. The free draining soils of the area, making it suitable for cultivation, and the proximity to Loch Shin are likely to have been determining factors in the selection of this area for settlement instead of any long-range views of the surrounding landscape. The chambered cairns at the summit of the Ord are likely to have been consistently prominent in views from these sites, with local views to the summit of the hill important in highlighting the connection between the living and the dead during the prehistoric period. The immediate environs of the Ord hill itself can therefore be seen as the extent to which the hut circles, burnt mound, clearance cairns and field systems are understood and appreciated.
- 7.6.48 The chambered cairns at the summit of the Ord were intended to be seen and appreciated from the surrounding local landscape and would likely have been at least partially visible from all directions, particularly from the bottom of the Ord itself, the low-lying land to the south and from neighbouring hills to the west and east. Their prominent position would, particularly in the case of the larger Ord North cairn, have made them focal points in the local landscape, highlighting the presence of the Ord settlement. Views from the cairns to the south, over low-lying land, and to the north, over Loch Shin, particularly contribute to the sense of the Ord being a focal point for the local area. Views to the south-east from the chambered cairns are largely obscured by the immediate rise in the topography and are noticeably less striking than the views to the south and north. Both chambered cairns at the summit of the Ord are typical of many chambered cairns in Scotland in that both have roughly south-east oriented entrances. It has been suggested that the orientation of chambered cairns is no more than a 'broad preference' (Henshall and Ritchie 2001, 119) and archaeological research has, to date, been unable to determine whether the orientation of Orkney-Cromarty type cairns contributes to their significance or not. The chambered cairns of the Ord are not aligned with any clear focal point, either natural or man-made, in the near or far distance. It is therefore likely that the south-easterly orientations of the cairns followed the 'broad preference' for orientation of similar monuments found elsewhere in Scotland.
- 7.6.49 The Proposed Development would cause a visual change to the setting of SM1812, with the proposed wind turbines, located 11.5 km to the north-east visible. However, the distance at which the proposed wind turbines would be located is too great to affect the prominence of the cairns at the summit of the Ord or impact the setting of the settlement sites within the scheduled area. The settlement sites were not intended to be visible over great distances, with their locations likely to be due to the free draining soils in the area. Views to the summit of the Ord towards the chambered cairns from the settlement sites would be retained, thus preserving the visual relationship between the settled area along the lower slopes of the Ord and the funerary area at the summit. It is not certain that the south-easterly orientations of the chambered cairns was significant, and if it was, the meaning has been lost as there is no evident feature on this alignment with which intervisibility was obviously intended. Nevertheless, the proposed wind turbines would be

located to the north-east and positioned such that they would not interfere with the south-eastern orientations of the cairns. The more striking views to the south would not be impacted by the proposed wind turbines, whilst the views to the north, already altered by the presence of a telecommunications mast, would only experience peripheral change with the proposed wind turbines located at too great a distance to impact how the cairns are experienced as a focal point in the landscape.

- 7.6.50 The appreciation and understanding of the Ord as a place for settlement and a place for interring the dead would not alter as a result of the placement of the proposed wind turbines. It is therefore considered that the Proposed Development would have no impact on the cultural significance of SM1812. There would be no effect on this heritage asset.

SM1883 Sallachy Broch

- 7.6.51 SM1883 is located approximately 9.7 km south-west of the southernmost point of the ISA. It comprises the remains of a well preserved solid-based broch standing on a small shallow rock knoll on the west bank of Loch Shin at the foot of a long slope down to the loch. The broch measures approximately 9.5 m in diameter and stands up to 1.2 m in height. The interior of the broch was cleared out some time before 1909, with overgrown mounds of stony debris present outside and on either side of the main entrance. It is likely this was originally debris cleared from the inside of the broch. Large piles of rubble are still present in the central area of the broch, suggesting it may not have been cleared down to floor level. Much of the outer face of the broch is concealed by debris, although a good view of the stump of the tower is possible from the top of the nearby slope to the west. The upper part of both outer faces has been rebuilt to a maximum height of approximately 1.2 m. The entrance passage, measuring approximately 4.5 m in length, at the south-east has been largely cleared. There are two opposed doorways each with a sill 0.5 m above the passage floor immediately on each side of the entrance into the interior of the broch. The doorway to the north has been crudely re-built, as has the entrance passage, presumably by the excavators who cleared out the interior of the broch prior to 1909. The southern doorway leads to a corbelled chamber which is still largely intact. A stair-foot guard cell has also been exposed and is located to the south.
- 7.6.52 SM1883 derives its cultural significance primarily from its intrinsic archaeological interest, with the fabric of the remains providing insight into the architectural, defensive, domestic and social motives behind the construction of such imposing and dominant structures during the Iron Age. The imposing nature of these structures suggests that defence was a priority, although projections of power and the avoidance of conflict is also a potentially significant factor. Contextually, the cultural significance of brochs comes from their relationship with the surrounding landscape, as structures intended to be prominently visible in the landscape. Brochs are commonly sited on mounds with views over the surrounding area, along valleys or over the coastal plain. Brochs are also often located close to areas of cultivatable land, in areas of free draining soil, suggesting that the suitability of an area for agriculture was also determining factor in their siting.
- 7.6.53 SM1883 is situated towards the bottom of a moderate slope characterised by rough pasture currently used by deer, with Loch Shin located approximately 130 m to the east. To the north and north-east, views are largely of the immediate environs of the broch, with views of the Loch Shin shore and a significant portion of Loch Shin itself, obscured by forestry. Longer range views towards Ben Kilbreck approximately 20 km to the north are also afforded. To the east and south-east, views are more open, with clear views of

Loch Shin and the land east of the loch possible. To the south and south-west, views are largely focussed on the immediate area of the broch, with long range views obscured by forestry located approximately 70 m to the south. To the west and north-west, views are of the slope leading east to the broch with the local forestry and the topography obscuring any long range views in these directions.

- 7.6.54 SM1883 can be understood in its local as well as wider landscape setting. In its local context, the immediate land in which the broch is situated is important in understanding the rationale behind where it is located in the landscape. The cultivatable land in the environs of the broch would have been important for its continued use and is likely to have been an important factor in determining where it was sited. The relationship between the broch and this area is also important in emphasising the more prosaic, instead of defensive, factors associated with broch settlement. In the wider landscape, the broch is positioned such that it would have been visible in the wider landscape, acting as a symbol of power, with visibility from the east side of Loch Shin likely to have been important in how it was understood and appreciated. The location of the broch, downslope close to the shore of Loch Shin instead of at the peak of the slope to the west, suggests that the broch was sited close to the loch so as to be visible from the east side. The broch would have marked out the area west of Loch Shin as being within its sphere of influence and possibly acted as a deterrent to any neighbouring populations who may have considered invasion. The views from the broch, although now obscured to the north and east by forestry, would likely have allowed for defensive views over the loch and a means to monitor any passing traffic. Views to the west side of the broch are limited, suggesting that this area was under the control of the broch inhabitants and less important in terms of there being a requirement to monitor the area and project power over it. The presence of three other brochs (Dalchork Broch Canmore ID 5254, Alltbreac broch Canmore ID 5211 and Ferry Wood broch Canmore ID 5013) within 4.5 km of SM1883 suggests this type of structure was a popular means of exerting influence in the wider area, and that they were intended to exert relatively local control, with large areas of the landscape not likely to have been a key factor in their function.
- 7.6.55 The Proposed Development would cause a change in the visual setting of SM1883, with the proposed wind turbines present to the north-east. However, the distance at which the proposed turbines would be located, approximately 9.7 km away, would not result in any change to how the broch is understood and appreciated as a defensive structure with associated cultivatable land in the environs of Loch Shin. Views to the western side of the broch over the cultivatable land will not be altered by the presence of the proposed wind turbines to the north-east; the local relationship between the broch and the land which would have likely sustained the population during its occupation would therefore be retained. The views from the broch to the north and north-east, likely to have been important in monitoring activity on the loch, have already been partially lost due to the plantation of forestry. Only the east facing view, affording a clear view of Loch Shin and its eastern side, is retained. Whilst longer range views to and from the eastern side of Loch Shin are important in how the broch is understood and appreciated, the broch was not intended to dominate vast areas of the landscape, with cultivatable land in its surrounding area likely to be the extent of the area the broch was intended to control. The much-diminished form of the broch, which in any case is largely a later 19th/early 20th century reconstruction, further reduces the sphere of influence it exerts when experienced by modern visitors.

- 7.6.56 The location of the proposed wind turbines would be at too far a distance to impact upon how SM1883 is understood and appreciated as a structure intended to exert influence over the western extent of Loch Shin. It is therefore considered that the Proposed Development would have no impact on the cultural significance of Sallach Broch SM1883. There would be no effect on this heritage asset.

Cumulative Impacts

- 7.6.57 No cumulative impacts are predicted as no impacts resulting from change in the setting of heritage assets is predicted.
- 7.6.58 The closest wind farm that was scoped into the cumulative assessment is the proposed Strath Tirry Wind Farm 4.63 km northwest of the Site. This over 5 km from the nearest assets included in the study area (Ben Klibreck campsite and survey station (SM10795) and Cnoc Olasdail hut circles (SM4375)) neither of which are predicted to experience adverse effects as a result of the Proposed Development. The next closest schemes included in the cumulative assessment are: Creag Riabhach (in construction, 13.86km northwest of the Site) which is also over 5 km from these assets), Lairg (operational, 13.86 km south of the Site) and Lairg II (consented, 15.15 km south of the Site are c.2.5 km east of The Ord (SM1812), as no effects are predicted on this monument as a result of the Proposed Development, there is no potential for cumulative effects. All other cumulative schemes are sufficiently distant from the assessed assets that significant effects are not predicted.

7.7 Mitigation

- 7.7.1 Appropriate mitigation would be undertaken during construction on elements of the ground works that have potential to have direct impacts on unrecorded buried archaeological remains.
- 7.7.2 These will include the identified impact upon the enclosure walls at A'Chleansaid and on two sheepfolds, as well as potential unknown archaeological remains. An archaeological record (photographic survey) of the sheepfolds will be carried out in advance of works to record these features. There will be archaeological monitoring and recording of groundworks for Turbine T16 to identify and record any archaeological remains associated with the former settlement.
- 7.7.3 All works to the access track adjacent to SM5300 will take place on the north side of the track away from the scheduled area to avoid physical impacts to this monument.
- 7.7.4 The scheduled monuments adjacent to the access route from the A836 (Scheduled Monument (SM5300 – Cnoc a'Bhreach-leathaid, shielings and cairnfield)) will be demarcated with fencing in advance of construction and their presence will be included in site induction materials for all staff and site visitors so as to avoid accidental impacts.
- 7.7.5 The scope of the mitigation works would be negotiated with the Highland Council Historic Environment Team and the agreed programme would be documented in an agreed Written Scheme of Investigation.
- 7.7.6 No significant operational effects are predicted on the setting of cultural heritage assets from the operation of the Proposed Development. No mitigation for setting effects is recommended.

7.8 Summary of Effects

- 7.8.1 Following application of an agreed mitigation strategy, as outlined above, there would be a residual direct impact of minor significance on the settlement remains at A'Chleansaid (MHG10403) and the two sheepfolds (MHG81191 and HA1). The identified effect would be off-set by a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording, however the effect will remain as assessed. No other heritage assets would be directly impacted by the construction of the Proposed Development. Following mitigation, the risk of accidental impacts to the Scheduled Monument (SM5300 – Cnoc a'Bhreac-leathaid, shielings and cairnfield) south of the access route is considered to be negligible.
- 7.8.2 No impacts are predicted to any heritage assets in the surrounding area as a result of the operation of the Proposed Development.

7.9 References

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