



## CHLEANSAID WINDFARM

*Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment  
and Stage 1 Setting Assessment*

*for ESB Asset Development (UK) Ltd*

*02/03/2022*

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March 2022

Ver 2.0

## PROJECT INFORMATION:

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# ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT AND STAGE 1 SETTING ASSESSMENT

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1. This report was commissioned by ESB Asset Development UK Limited and presents the results of a combined archaeological Desk-based Assessment (DBA) and Stage 1 Setting Assessment which will contribute to the cultural heritage elements of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The EIA Report (EIA-R) will be produced in support of an application for consent under Section 36 of the *Electricity Act 1989 and the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) (EIA) Regulations 2017*. The application is to construct a renewable energy development of 16 wind turbines (the Proposed Development) on a c.511-hectare site located approximately 13km north of Lairg, Sutherland (NGR 261356 917256 (centred)).
- 1.1.2. This report describes and assesses the significance of known heritage assets and potential archaeological remains within the Proposed Development site area (inner study area (ISA)). This will inform a Cultural Heritage EIA-R chapter which aims to identify likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on the significance of heritage assets. A Stage 1 Setting Assessment provides an assessment of the contribution to cultural significance made by the setting of heritage assets in order to identify potential historic environment planning constraints.
- 1.1.3. This report is suitable for submission in support of a planning application, identifies potential heritage constraints for the scheme in accordance with the requirements of national and local planning policies with respect to consideration of the historic environment in the planning process (see Part 2).

### 1.2. SITE DESCRIPTION

- 1.2.1. The 511 ha ISA (Illus 1) is located approximately 13km north of Lairg, northeast of Dalchork Forest and Loch Shin in the southern part of Sutherland (NGR 261356 917256 (centred)). The ISA is mostly within Rogart Parish, although the access track passes through Lairg Parish.
- 1.2.2. The ISA is located within upland grazing to the northeast of Dalchork Forest, an area of commercial forestry. The ISA is defined by the boundary of the forestry to the southwest, but is otherwise undefined. The access track follows an existing estate road south of the Feith Osdail and north of commercial forestry with further forestry to the north of the watercourse before turning north across the Feith Osdail to the proposed wind turbine locations.
- 1.2.3. The topography of the ISA rises from c132m AOD where the access track leaves the A836 to c180m at Dalnessie at the eastern end of the access track before rising more steeply through the ISA to 392m on the summit of Sròn Leathad Chleansaid to the north east of the site. The western edge of the ISA varies from 180m in the south to 230m in the north.
- 1.2.4. A burn (Allt nan Con-uisge) flows southeast through the ISA 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 southwest of the main area of the ISA.
- 1.2.5. The presence of water courses within the ISA and freshwater lochs its environs may have made the ISA an attractive place for settlement in the past. However, given the steep hilly topography, any settlement is more likely to have been focussed on the west and south of the ISA in the lower lying areas in the vicinity of the watercourses.

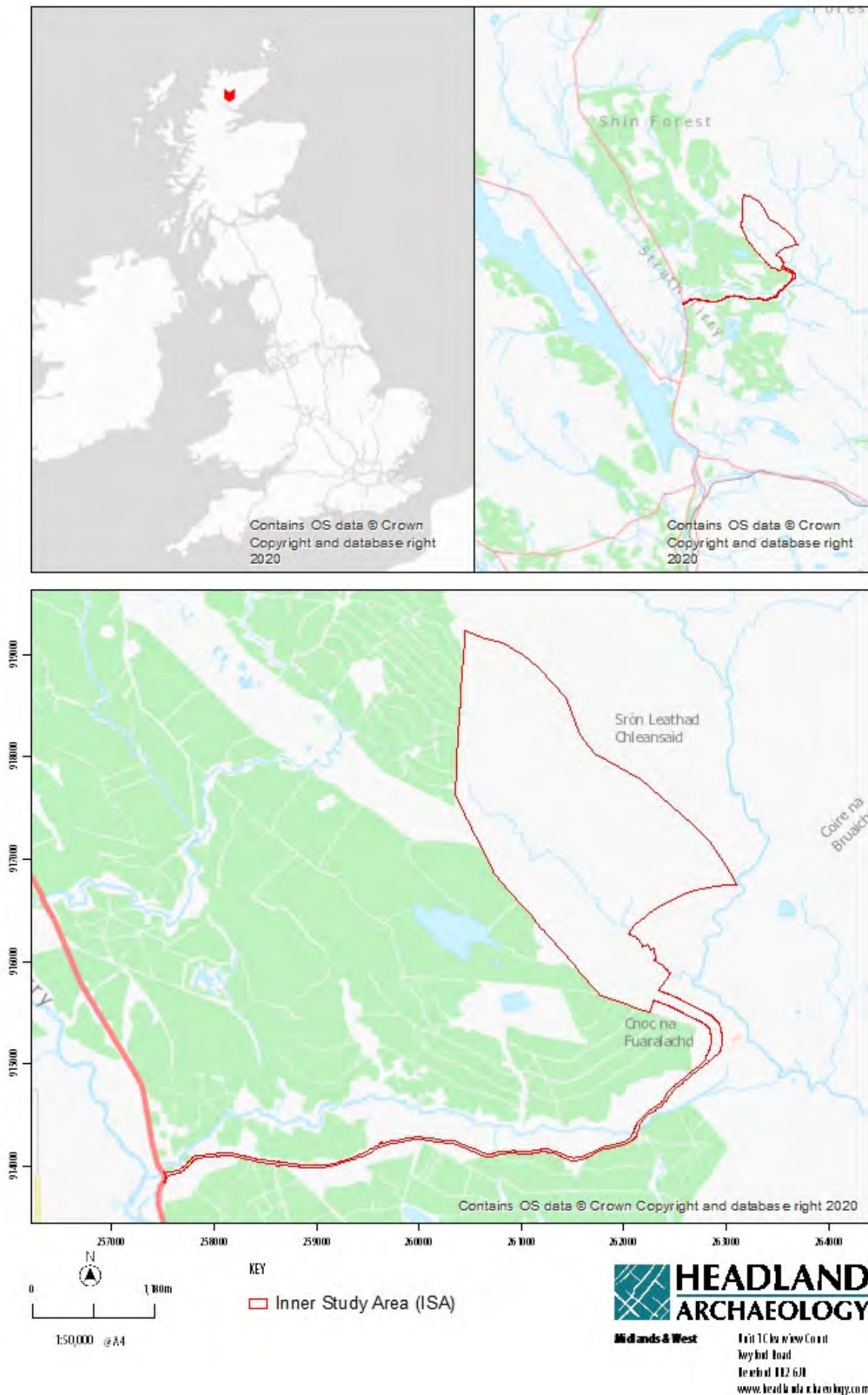
### 1.3. GEOLOGY AND GEOMORPHOLOGY

- 1.3.1. The ISA 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.

- 1.3.2. Superficial deposits of peat with small areas of Till and Moranic deposits within lower lying areas are recorded (NERC 2021).

Illus 1: Location of ISA



## 2. LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE

### 2.1. STATUTORY PROTECTION

2.1.1. Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings are protected by statute.

2.1.2. The relevant heritage legislation in the context of the present site is described in the table below.

*Table 1. Historic Environment Statutory Legislation*

Legislation	Key Issues
Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014	The Act defines the role of the public body, Historic Environment Scotland (HES), and the processes for the designation of heritage assets, consents and rights of appeal.
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979	It is a criminal offence to carry out any works on or near to a Scheduled Monument without Scheduled Monument Consent. Development must preserve in-situ protected archaeological remains and landscapes of acknowledged significance and protect their settings.
The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997	Provides for statutory protection of listed buildings and conservation areas. No physical works can be carried out in relation to a listed building and its curtilage without listed building consent. It introduces a requirement to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting in considering any Development which may affect these. In conservation areas, the designation introduces general controls to conserve character and appearance within the conservation area.
Protection of Military Remains Act (1986)	Outlines the criteria for designating a military crash site. Certain activities are prohibited at protected sites, without the authority of the Ministry of Defence.
Scots Common Law	The movement or disturbance of human remains without lawful authority is illegal. Any human remains should be reported to the local police or Procurator Fiscal's office. Further disturbance must cease until permission to continue has been granted by the legal authorities.

### 2.2. NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK

2.2.1. The National Planning Framework 3 (NPF3) describes how the future spatial development of Scotland can contribute to planning outcomes. It shows where there will be opportunities for growth and regeneration, investment in the low carbon economy, environmental enhancement, and improved connections across the country.

2.2.2. Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS) defines the Historic Environment and Scottish Government Policy. It sets out the vision and key principles on how to care for and protect Scotland's historic environment including designations of ancient monuments, principles for scheduling and listing, contexts for conservation areas, marine protected areas, gardens and designated landscapes, historic battlefields and consents and advice.

2.2.3. 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"*.

2.2.4. 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."*

2.2.5. 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".*

2.2.6. 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).

2.2.7. '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.

## 2.3. LOCAL PLANNING POLICY

2.3.1. 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:

*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.*

- 2.3.2. 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), war memorials, archaeological heritage areas identified by the Council and Conservation Areas.

## 2.4. GUIDANCE

- 2.4.1. Planning Advice Note 2/2011: Planning and Archaeology provides local government officers with technical advice to planning authorities and developers on dealing with archaeological remains. Among other issues it considers the balance in planning decisions between the preservation *in situ* of archaeological remains and the benefits of development; setting; 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.
- 2.4.2. PAN 71 Conservation Area Management provides local government and stakeholders with planning advice with regard to conservation areas.
- 2.4.3. 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.
- 2.4.4. 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'. These provide guidance to planning authorities and stakeholders regarding key issues relating to development, the planning process, and key issues pertaining to the historic environment. Most relevant is the guidance note covering *Works on Scheduled Monuments* (November 2016) and *Setting* (June 2016).
- 2.4.5. HES' New Design in Historic Settings provides a guide to ensuring the quality of new-design buildings matches that of their surroundings (May 2010).
- 2.4.6. This DBA has been prepared with reference to the above as well as the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment* (2020) and *Code of Conduct* (2019).

## 2.5. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 2.5.1. Headland Archaeology (UK) is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), an audited status which confirms that all work is carried out in accordance with the highest standards of the profession.

- 2.5.2. Headland Archaeology (UK), as part of the RSK Group, is recognised by the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) under their 'Historic Environment Service Provider Recognition' scheme. This quality assurance standard acknowledges that RSK works to the conservation standards of the IHBC, the UK's lead body for built and historic environment practitioners and specialists.
- 2.5.3. Headland Archaeology (UK) operates a quality management system to help ensure all projects are managed in a professional and transparent manner, which enables it to qualify for ISO 9001.
- 2.5.4. Ordnance Survey data is produced under © Crown copyright and database rights Licence 100014807.

### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1.1. The aim of this DBA is to inform determination of an EIA-R chapter in relation to likely significant impacts upon the historic environment. The assessment aims to identify all known heritage assets potentially affected by the proposed development, and the potential for currently unknown heritage assets to be present within the ISA.
- 3.1.2. The purpose is to gain an understanding of the historic environment resource in order to formulate an assessment of the potential for heritage assets to survive within the ISA, their significance, and strategies for further evaluation, mitigation or management as appropriate.
- 3.1.3. The ClfA's *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment* (2020) defines a DBA as '*...a programme of study of the historic environment within a specified area or site on land, the inter-tidal zone or underwater that addresses agreed research and/or conservation objectives. It consists of an analysis of existing written, graphic, photographic, and electronic information in order to identify the likely heritage assets, their interests and significance and the character of the Study Area, including appropriate consideration of the settings of heritage assets and, in England, the nature, extent and quality of the known or potential archaeological, historic, architectural and artistic interest. Significance is to be judged in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.*'
- 3.1.4. A DBA will determine, as far as is reasonably possible from existing records, the nature, extent, and significance of the historic environment within a specified area, and the impact of the proposed development on the significance of the historic environment or will identify the need for further evaluation to do so.
- 3.1.5. The specific objectives of this DBA are therefore to:
- Collate all available written, graphic, photographic and electronic information relevant to the ISA and relevant study area;
  - Describe the nature, extent and significance and importance of the historic environment within the area potentially affected by the development, identifying any uncertainties in existing knowledge;
  - Determine the potential for previously unknown archaeological remains;
  - Identify any requirements for further investigation that may be necessary to understand the effects of the proposed development on the historic environment.

## 4. METHODOLOGY

### 4.1. TERMINOLOGY – ‘SIGNIFICANCE’ AND ‘IMPORTANCE’

- 4.1.1. Cultural heritage impact assessment is concerned with effects on cultural significance, which is a quality that applies to all heritage assets, and may be artistic, archaeological, architectural, historic, traditional, aesthetic, scientific or social, and may be inherent in the monument itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related monuments and related objects.
- 4.1.2. Impact assessment is concerned with effects on significance, the value or interest that applies to all heritage assets and relating to the ways in which the historic environment is valued both by specialists and the public.
- 4.1.1. Heritage assets are assessed in this report in terms of their cultural significance and importance. Cultural significance is a quality that applies to all heritage assets, and as defined by Historic Environment Scotland (SNH & HES 2018, Appendix 1 page 175) 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. Following ‘Scottish Planning Policy’ paragraph 137, the analysis of a heritage asset’s cultural significance aims to identify its ‘special characteristics’ which should be protected, conserved or enhanced. Such characteristics may include elements of the asset’s setting, which is defined in Historic Environment Scotland’s guidance as “the way in which the surroundings of a historic asset or place contribute to how it is experienced, understood and appreciated” (HES 2016 Section 1).
- 4.1.2. The cultural significance of assets has been considered in terms of the values described in Scottish Historic Environment Policy (Historic [Environment] Scotland, 2011, Para 5):
- Intrinsic - those inherent in the monument;
  - Contextual – those relating to the monument’s place in the landscape or in the body of existing knowledge; and
  - Associative – more subjective assessments of the associations of the monument, including with current or past aesthetic preferences.
- 4.1.3. This use of the word ‘significance’, referring to the range of values or interest attached 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.
- 4.1.4. Relative importance of each identified heritage asset potentially affected by the proposed development has been determined to provide a framework for comparison between different heritage assets and to inform subsequent stages of archaeological assessment and the development of any appropriate mitigation which may be required (See Table 2 below).

### 4.2. IDENTIFICATION OF HERITAGE ASSETS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED

#### *STUDY AREA*

- 4.2.1. Overlapping study areas have been used for this assessment. The inner study area (ISA) corresponds with the Proposed Development site area plus the corridors of the possible grid connection routes or access routes and has been used to gather baseline data on the known and potential archaeological resource of the application site. All heritage assets within 2km of the proposed turbines have been identified and considered to inform the assessment of archaeological potential of the ISA.
- 4.2.2. Outer study areas (OSA) are used for the Stage 1 Setting Assessment which extends to 15km from the proposed turbine locations. This reflects the maximum predicted visibility of turbines based on the ZTV produced for the scoping report. Heritage assets in the OSA are considered within the following maximum distances:
- 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*

- 4.2.3. The assessment has been based on a study of all readily available documentary sources, following the CIfA Standards and Guidance. The following sources of information were referred to:
- Designation data downloaded from the Historic Environment Scotland 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.
- 4.2.4. All heritage assets within the ISA and OSA are compiled in a gazetteer (Appendix 1). Designated heritage assets are referenced in this report by their Historic Environment Scotland list entry number. Undesignated assets are referenced by their respective HER Preferred Reference Number or the National Record of the Historic Environment reference. Any newly discovered assets have been assigned a 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.

## *SITE VISIT*

- 4.2.5. Site visits were undertaken on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021 in cloudy weather conditions. 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. Notes were made regarding site characteristics, any visible archaeology and geographical/geological features which may have a bearing on previous land use and archaeological survival, as well as those which may constrain subsequent archaeological investigation.
- 4.2.6. Records were made regarding extant archaeological features, such as earthworks or structural remains, any negative features, local topography and aspect, exposed geology, soils, watercourses, health and safety considerations, surface finds, and any other relevant information.
- 4.2.7. A further visit to the study area was carried out on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021 to investigate the baseline setting of designated heritage assets in the OSA.

## *HISTORIC MAP REGRESSION*

- 4.2.8. The historic Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping sequence corresponding with the ISA was consulted to collect information on former land use and development throughout the later historic periods.

## **4.3. LIMITATIONS OF BASELINE DATA**

- 4.3.1. Information held by public data sources is generally considered to be reliable; however, the following general points are noted:

- There is no LiDAR data available for this region of Scotland;
- Documentary sources are rare before the medieval period;
- Wherever such documentary sources are used in assessing archaeological potential professional judgment is used in their interpretation in that the functionality of the document is considered;
- HER records can be limited because opportunities for research, fieldwork and discovery depend on the situation of commercial development and occasional research projects, rather than the result of a more structured research framework. A lack of data within the HER records does not necessarily equal an absence of archaeology;
- Where archaeological sites have been identified solely from aerial imagery without confirmation from archaeological excavation or supporting evidence in the form of find-spots for example, it is possible the interpretation may be revised in the light of further investigation.
- The significance of sites can be difficult to identify from HER records, depending on the accuracy and reliability of the original source; and
- There can often be a lack of dating evidence for archaeological sites.
- Any archaeological site visit has inherent limitations, primarily because archaeological remains below ground level may have no surface indicators.

#### 4.4. ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE

4.4.1. The importance of a heritage asset is the overall value assigned to it reflecting its statutory designation or, in the case of non-designated assets, the professional judgement of the assessor (Table 2).

4.4.2. 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 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.

Table 2. Criteria for Assessing the Importance of Heritage Assets

Importance of the asset	Criteria
Very High (International)	World Heritage Sites and other assets of equal international importance, that contribute to international research objectives
High (National)	Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Scheduled Monuments, Protected Wreck Sites, Inventory Historic Battlefields, Category A and B Listed Buildings, Historic Marine Protected Areas, and non-designated heritage assets of equivalent importance that contribute to national research objectives
Medium (Regional)	Conservation Areas, Category C Listed Buildings, undesignated assets of regional importance except where their particular characteristics merit a higher level of importance, heritage assets on local lists and non-designated assets that contribute to Regional research objectives
Low (Local)	Locally listed heritage assets, except where their particular characteristics merit a higher level of importance, undesignated heritage assets of Local importance, including assets that may already be partially damaged

Importance of the asset	Criteria
Negligible	Identified historic remains of no importance in planning considerations, or heritage assets and findspots that have already been removed or destroyed (i.e. 'site of')
Unknown / Uncertain	Heritage assets for which a level of importance cannot be defined on current information

- 4.4.3. The importance of heritage assets that may be affected by the proposed Development is identified in the EIA-R.

### POTENTIAL FOR UNKNOWN HERITAGE ASSETS

- 4.4.4. Archaeological features are often impossible to identify through desk-based assessment. The likelihood that significant undiscovered heritage assets may be present within the Proposed Development Area is referred to as *archaeological potential*. Overall levels of potential can be assigned to different landscape zones, following the criteria in Table 3, 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 Highlands HER and other data sources such as HES and Canmore;
- 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 quarrying; 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 3. 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.

## 4.5. STAGE 1 SETTING SCREENING ASSESSMENT

- 4.5.1. In the gazetteer (Appendix 1) the results of a screening exercise is presented in full to consider whether further detailed assessment in the ES chapter is required for heritage assets within the OSA, based on whether it is likely that their cultural significance could be harmed through development within their setting. Summary results are presented in Part 6.2 below.
- 4.5.2. The screening assessment methodology considers each heritage asset in the OSA in turn to identify those assets in the ZTV which have a wider landscape setting that contribute to their cultural significance and whether it is likely that cultural significance would be harmed by the proposed Development. Where heritage assets are located outwith the ZTV, third-party viewpoints within the ZTV which may provide a significant view towards the heritage asset and the proposed Development are considered.



## 5. RESULTS

### 5.1. OVERVIEW OF THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

- 5.1.1. The full list of known heritage assets within the ISA and OSA is presented in the gazetteer (Appendix 1). Assets within the ISA are shown on Illus 2, and designated assets in the OSA are shown on Illus 3-5.
- 5.1.2. The significance of these assets is discussed by period in the Statement of Significance and Importance section below.

#### *INNER STUDY AREA*

- 5.1.3. There are no designated heritage assets within the ISA, however the access track bounds a Scheduled Monument: Dalnessie, settlement north of Feith Osdail, SM4563.
- 5.1.4. There are three non-designated heritage assets recorded by the Highlands HER within the ISA (MHG10403, MHG62230) and one non-designated possible heritage asset was identified through research for this assessment (HA1). These comprise three sheepfolds and the remains of a farmstead.

#### *OUTER STUDY AREA*

- 5.1.5. Within the 2km OSA from the proposed turbine locations there are no Listed Buildings, Inventory Garden and Designed Landscapes, Inventory Battlefields or Conservation Areas. There are two Scheduled Monuments within the 2km OSA.
- 5.1.6. Within the 10km OSA (2-10km from the proposed turbine locations) there are 22 Scheduled Monuments, six Category C Listed Buildings and one Category B Listed Building, no Inventory Garden and Designed Landscapes, no Inventory Battlefields and no Conservation Areas.
- 5.1.7. Within the 15km OSA (10-15km from the proposed turbine locations) there are no Inventory Garden and Designed Landscapes, Inventory Battlefields or Conservation Areas. There are 11 Scheduled Monuments, one Category B Listed Building and no Category A Listed Buildings.

### 5.2. HISTORIC LAND-USE ASSESSMENT (HLA)

- 5.2.1. HLAMap defines the following historic land uses within the ISA:

#### ***Rough Grazing***

*Most of Scotland's hills, mountains and moorlands are used as areas of rough grazing and, in some instances, are managed for sporting activities such as stalking and grouse shooting. They may be heather moorlands or rough grasslands, and they may have been drained in the past. However, this land use type excludes those areas of hill ground that have recently been improved by fertilising, ploughing or direct drilling with clover or grass seed.*

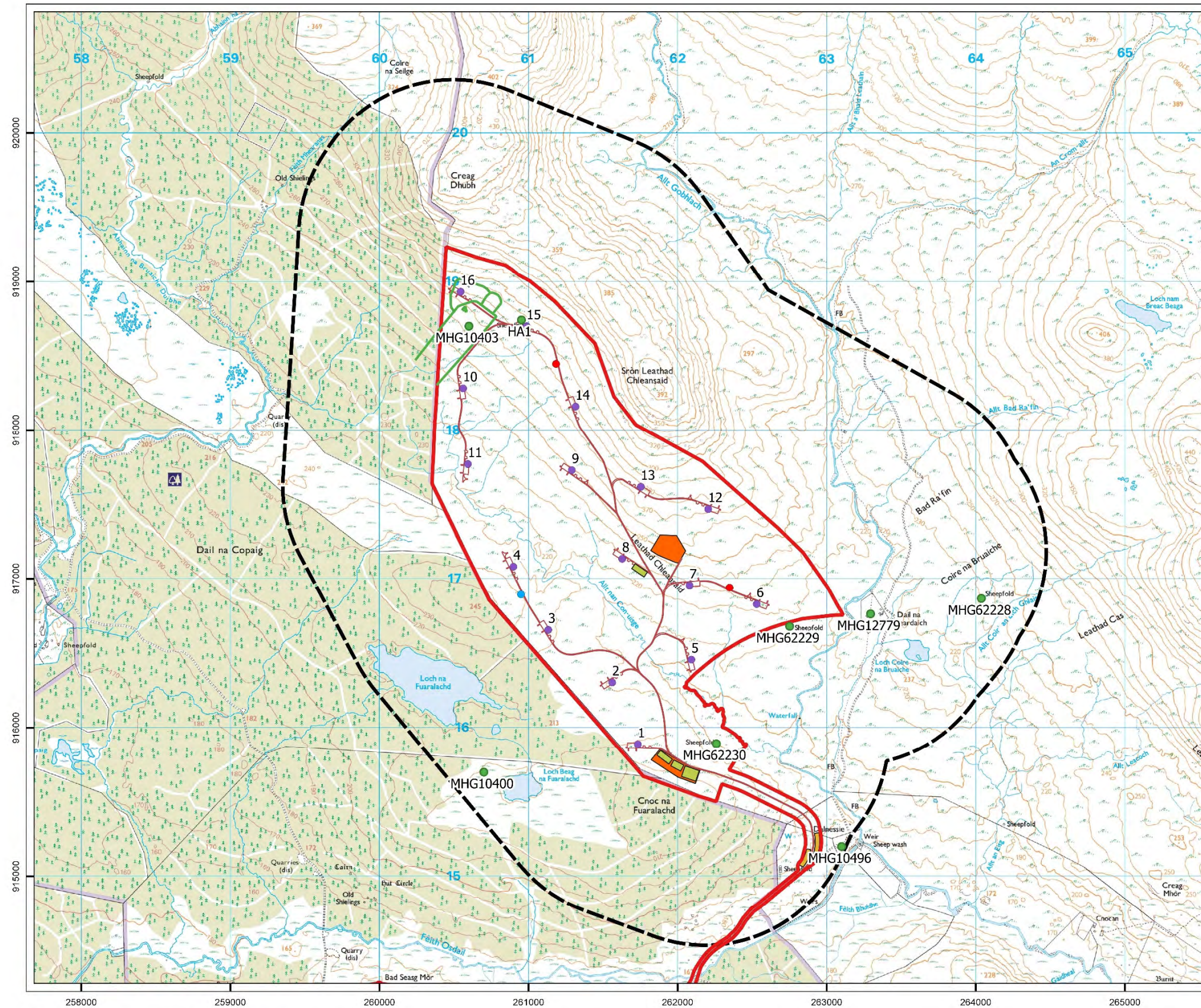
*Rough grazing lands have evolved to their present extent as a result of woodland clearance, grazing and episodes of farming over some 6,000 years. These marginal areas bear witness to pre-19th century agriculture and settlement, and contain other remains that can date back to the prehistoric period.*

- 5.2.2. This historic land use covers the whole of the ISA.
- 5.2.3. The access track passes alongside an area which HLAMap defines as

#### ***Plantation***

*Modern plantations have been a feature of Scotland's landscapes since the establishment of the nation's Forestry Commission in 1919. Some have their origins in private estate plantings of the 18th and 19th centuries, such as those of the Dukes of Atholl who concentrated on the creation of extensive plantations of larch.*

*Densely planted, single age, coniferous species, within clearly defined straight boundaries, with regular, linear firebreaks, are characteristic of commercial forestry. However, some plantations are now being restructured, leaving larger clearings and encouraging the planting of native species. Since 1989 woodland plantings have become increasingly common, with sinuous edges and more open spaces.*



MIDLANDS AND WEST

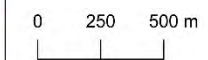
Unit 1  
Clearview Court  
Twyford Road  
Hereford  
HR2 6JR

T 01432 364 901  
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Key

- Inner Study Area
- 1km Outer Study Area
- Non-Designated Heritage Asset
- MHG1043 Site Boundary
- Proposed Development Infrastructure
- Turbine Location
- Access Tracks and Infrastructure
- Borrow Pit
- Mobilisation Compounds
- Mast
- Lidar
- Key Structures

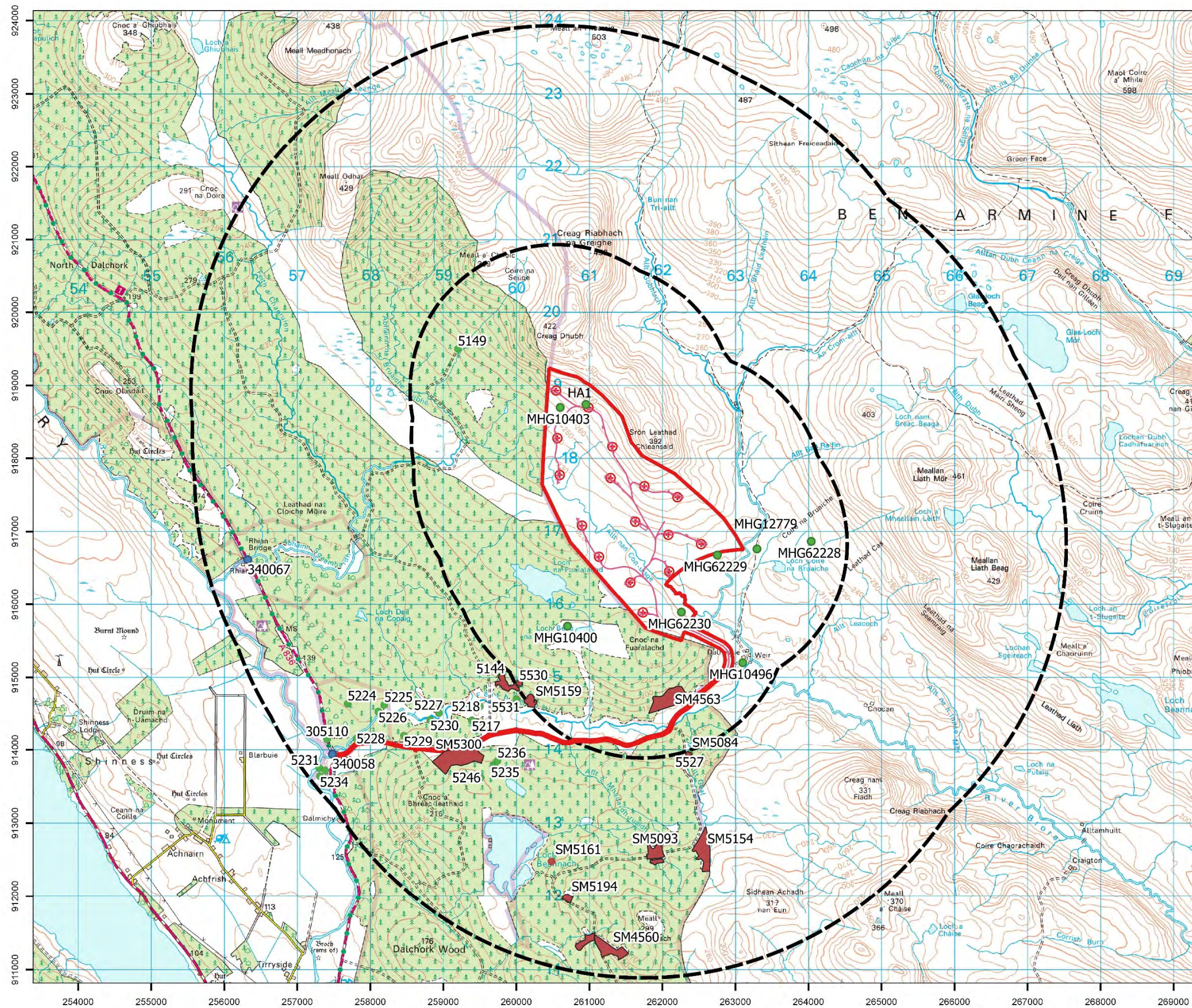
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Illus 2: Non-Designated Heritage Assets within Inner Study Area and 1km Outer Study Area

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Illus 2: Non-designated heritage assets within inner study area and 1km outer study area

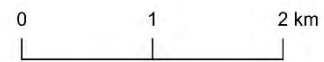


MIDLANDS AND WEST

Unit 1  
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Hereford  
HR2 6JR

- Key
- Inner Study Area and Access Track
  - 2-5km Outer Study Areas
  - + Turbines
  - Access Tracks and Infrastructure
  - Scheduled Monument
  - Category C Listed Building
  - Non-Designated Heritage Asset

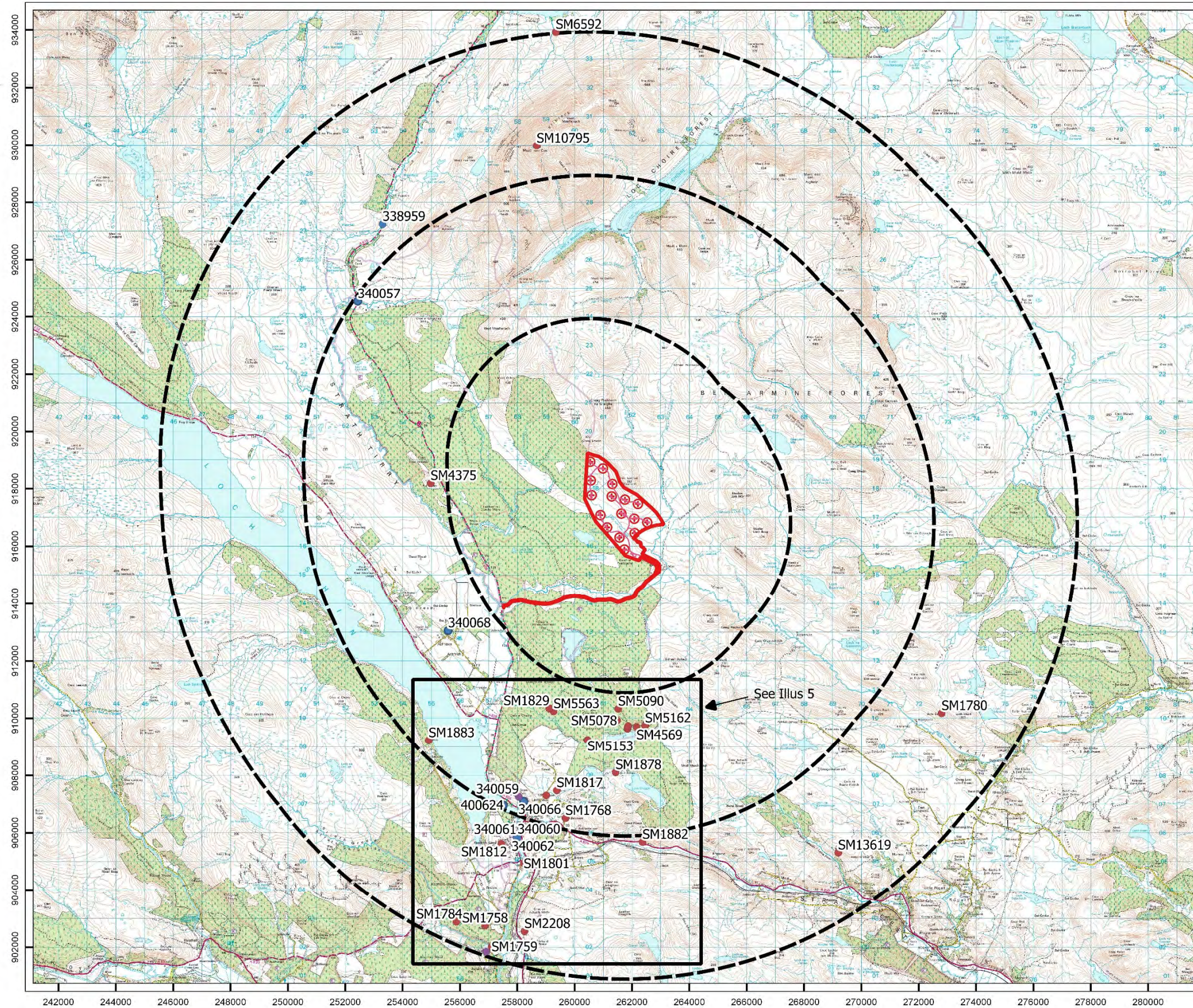
1:51,000 @ A3



Illus 3: Non-Designated Heritage Assets within 1km of Inner Study Area and Access Track and Designated Heritage Assets within 2-5km Outer Study Area

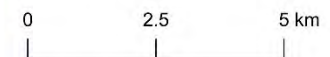
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Illus 3: Non-designated heritage assets within 1km of Inner Study Area and access track and designated heritage assets within 2-5km Outer Study Area



- Key
- Inner Study Area
  - 5-10km and 10-15km Study Areas
  - ⊕ Turbines
  - Access Tracks and Infrastructure
  - Scheduled Monument
  - Category B Listed Building
  - Category C Listed Building

1:130,000 @ A3



Illus 4: Designated Heritage Assets  
5-10km Outer Study Area and  
10-15km Outer Study Areas

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Illus 4: Designated heritage assets 5-10km Outer Study Area and 10-15km Outer Study Areas



### 5.3. PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

- 5.3.1. No previous systematic archaeological survey of the ISA is known to have taken place, however the access track was included within the DBA and walkover survey in advance of the subsequently withdrawn Dalnessie Wind Farm S36 application (Mudie 2010 and 2012).
- 5.3.2. Land to the immediate west and southwest of the ISA 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 ISA 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 - including the Scheduled Monument to the south of the ISA (Dalnessie, settlement north of Feith Osdail, SM4563) and identified previously unrecorded archaeological sites within twenty-four areas in North and South Dalchork Forest.

### 5.4. HISTORIC MAPPING AND AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY REVIEW

- 5.4.1. Roy's Map (1752-55) records the ISA and its surroundings as unforested. Two small settlements are recorded to the west, north of the access track – these are Dalvichy and Penvenichan.

*Illus 6: Extract of Roy's Map.*



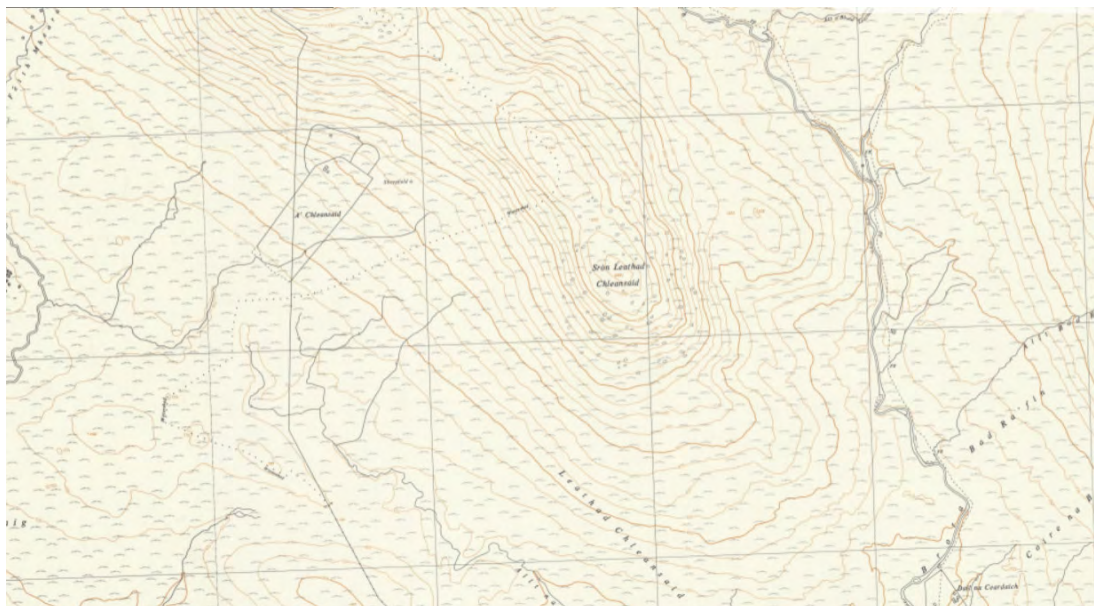
- 5.4.2. James Dorret's Map (1750), Aaron Arrowsmith's Map (1807) and Thomson's (1823) and Burnett and Scott's (1833) maps of Sutherland are not at a scale useful to identify archaeological potential, only naming nearby settlements such as Tolich, Dipachocry and Lairg.
- 5.4.3. No additional features were identified in the ISA on the first edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map (six inch, published 1873) although the placenames *A'Chleanmhnais-aite*, *Leathad a'Chleamhnais-aite* and *Sron Leathad a'Chleamhnais-aite* are recorded on this map, the former within a slight earthwork enclosure (Illus 7).

*Illus 7: Extract of OS 6 inch to 1 mile map.*



- 5.4.4. No additional features are recorded on any of the subsequent available OS maps, although A'Chleainsaid is mapped in more detail on the 1:10,560 post-war edition published in 1963 (Illus 8). Three enclosures are shown at A'Chleainsaid (MHG10403) in 1963, the largest is a rectangular enclosure with two smaller enclosures abutting the northern side. A two-bay building and a small enclosure are shown in the north of the largest enclosure, a small building is shown in the north of the north-western enclosure with another abutting the northern boundary, external to the enclosure. A sheepfold is also recorded to the east of the enclosures.
- 5.4.5. The landscape remained open and unforested until the later 20<sup>th</sup> century.

*Illus 8: Extract of 1963 OS map*



- 5.4.6. Four historical aerial images are available on NCAP covering the ISA, these are all from sortie ASS/61889 dating to 19<sup>th</sup> May 1989 – a full list is provided in the References. These show that the ISA is open grazing land with forestry to the west. A further four images from sortie MMC/0617 dating to 10<sup>th</sup> September 2004 have not yet been digitised by NCAP.

## 5.5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

### *PREHISTORIC PERIODS*

- 5.5.1. There is archaeological evidence in the OSA of prehistoric activity, the earliest is in the form of chambered cairns from the Late Neolithic, three (SM1817 Lairg Muir North, SM1817 Balcharn and Lairg Moor South) are located to the south south-west of the PDA at 8.5km to 9.3km distance. More are located within The Ord prehistoric landscape at 10.6km to the south-west.
- 5.5.2. The closest prehistoric activity to the PDA dates from the Bronze Age and is located 860m south at Dalnessie, north of Feith Osdail. This includes a clearance cairn (MHG55491) 3m x 4m and 1m 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.
- 5.5.3. Another prehistoric settlement consisting of a hut circle and traces of a field system and cairnfields on a south facing hillside (SM5401) is located 1.8km to the south-west at Loch Beag na Furalachd. Immediately west of this is another scheduled area including a cairn (SM5081).
- 5.5.4. There are two brochs dated to the Iron Age within the OSA, Altebreck (SM1829) and Sallachy (SM1883) these are located to the south-west, 6km and 9.3km respectively.

### *ROMAN PERIOD*

- 5.5.5. There is no evidence of Roman activity recorded on the Highlands HER within the ISA or within the 2km OSA.

### *HISTORIC PERIODS*

#### MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL PERIODS

- 5.5.6. 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) 1.77km and 1.9km to the south-west of the ISA respectively and another at Achadh nan Eun (SM5084) 1.7km to the south.
- 5.5.7. 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). This hill is located approximately 12km south of the ISA.
- 5.5.8. 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.
- 5.5.9. Evidence from the post medieval period within the OSA is primarily comprised of agricultural activity and depopulated settlements from the 18th and 19th centuries. This was the period known as the Highland Clearances where the principal landowners sought to turn over more of their property to deer and sheep grazing. Some tenants relocated to new purpose built settlements but others emigrated.
- 5.5.10. The Ordnance Survey Name Book for Sutherland records A'Chleamhnais-aite as "*a flat piece of ground covered with rough pasture situated a short distance West of Sròn Leathaid Chleamhnais-aite. It signifies the "Marriage Place."*"<sup>1</sup> It was owned by the Duke of Sutherland. Sròn Leathaid Chleamhnais-aite is recorded as "*the "Promontory of the marriage slope", and applies to a hill situated about a half mile n. [north] of*

<sup>1</sup> <https://scotlandspplaces.gov.uk/digital-volumes/ordnance-survey-name-books/sutherland-os-name-books-1871-1875/sutherland-volume-03/60>



*Leathad a' Chleamhnais-aite*"<sup>2</sup>. These references to "marriage place" suggest that this location was frequently used to celebrate "irregular" weddings (i.e. those which took place without the marriage banns being read in church) which were common in Scotland during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries<sup>3</sup>.

- 5.5.11. The site visit found footings of buildings (MHG10403) surviving to 0.2m 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.
- 5.5.12. 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 615m in length and 240m in width enclosing an area of approximately 134,740m<sup>2</sup>. The bank which defined the enclosure varied in height from between 0.2m and 0.5m and from between 0.5m and 1m in width. The bank was mostly formed of turf although there was evidence of stone in the eastern and western sections of the bank (Illus 8).

*Illus 9: View NE of eastern bank of main enclosure MHG10403 showing exposed stone wall footings*



- 5.5.13. The sub-trapezoidal north-western 'annexe' measured approximately 215m in length and 200m in width enclosing an area of approximately 33,575m<sup>2</sup>. The north-eastern 'annexe' was also trapezoidal in plan and measured approximately 115m in length and 110m in width enclosing an area of approximately 12,400m<sup>2</sup>. The annexe enclosures were both defined by field banks similar to that of the main enclosure.
- 5.5.14. 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 20m in length and 3m in width and was split into three chambers. The northern chamber measured approximately 6m in length and 3m in width with the southern structure similar in dimensions. Up to two courses of granite stone characterised the walls of the northern chamber (Illus 9), with a combination of turf banks and stone defining the walls of the southern chamber (Illus 10). The central chamber was approximately 8m in length and 3m in width and had notably fewer stones present in the bank defining its walls (Illus 11).

<sup>2</sup> <https://scotlandspplaces.gov.uk/digital-volumes/ordnance-survey-name-books/sutherland-os-name-books-1871-1875/sutherland-volume-29/8>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/socialpolitical/research/economicsocialhistory/projects/scottishwayofbirthanddeath/marriage/>

*Illus 10: View south of SE chamber of corn drying kiln*



*Illus 11: View of SW chamber of corn drying kiln*



*Illus 12: View W of central chamber of corn drying kiln*



- 5.5.15. A second structure was located approximately 5m east of the corn drying kiln. It measured approximately 6m in length and 3m in width. The walls of the structure were up to 0.6m 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 1.2m in length and 1.2m in width (Illus12). 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 (Illus 13).

*Illus 13: View SW of partition wall in structure E of corn drying kiln*



*Illus 14: View E of structure E of corn drying kiln*



- 5.5.16. No new heritage assets were noted within the footprint of MHG10403 during the site visit.
- 5.5.17. 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 found that the former was circular in plan, approximately 12m in diameter and was formed of a stone wall up to 1m in height formed of up to five courses of granite, the latter was slightly larger at 15m diameter, and was also up to 1m in height, formed of four courses of stone.
- 5.5.18. An additional, previously unrecorded, sheepfold was observed during the site visit (HA1). This is located approximately 160m 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 10m in diameter and up to 1.5m in height with up to five courses of granite stones forming the wall (Illus 14). A small annexe was attached to the sheepfold's north-western extent (Illus 15). The rectangular annexe measured approximately 2m in length and 2m in width.

*Illus 15: View SW of HA1**Illus 16: View W of annexe attached to sheepfold HA1*

- 5.5.19. Sheep fold (MHG62228) lies 680m to the south-east. Also adjacent to the ISA, 140m 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 0.3m high and a circular enclosure may also be present. This settlement was depopulated in the 18th to 19th century.

- 5.5.20. Another settlement is recorded at Feith Osdail (MHG12505) which was also subject to 18/19th century depopulation, is located 950m south of the ISA within a scheduled area (SM4563). The turf-covered stone footings of at least eight buildings remain ranging from 5m by 3m to 14m by 3m, 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 lazy bedding. A later sheepfold is on the site (MHG40123).
- 5.5.21. A former farmstead, Dalness (MHG10496) is also recorded c.1km south of the ISA.
- 5.5.22. 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

- 5.5.23. There are no recorded modern features on the Highlands HER within the ISA or within the 1km OSA.
- 5.5.24. The forestry areas north and south of the access track were planted by in the later 20<sup>th</sup> century.

#### UNDATED

- 7.5.27 A possible enclosure (MHG10400) 4m across with associated wall is indicated at Loch Beag Na Fuaralachd, 790m to the south-west, the HER records this as undated but it is probably of post-medieval date.

## 6. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPORTANCE

### 6.1. KNOWN AND POTENTIAL HERITAGE ASSETS

#### *KNOWN HERITAGE ASSETS WITHIN THE INNER STUDY AREA*

- 6.1.1. There are no designated heritage assets within the ISA and a total of three previously known heritage assets recorded on the Highlands HER within the ISA, two sheepfolds and a former settlement. Analysis of aerial imagery identified two other possible sheepfolds, one of which is also shown on historic mapping, the site visit confirmed that this was a sheepfold with a rectangular annex (HA1), but no evidence of any structure was visible at the second and it is not considered to be a heritage asset.
- 6.1.2. As well as confirming HA1 as a heritage asset further details of the former settlement site known as A'Chleansaid (MHG10403) were recorded during the site visit. No other heritage assets were noted during the site visit.
- 6.1.3. The sheepfolds (MHG62230, and HA1) are considered to be of low importance as they are common features of upland landscapes, typically remaining in use for long periods of time.
- 6.1.4. 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 ISA, A'Chleansaid appears to be of a single phase of occupation and based on the map evidence is likely to have been in use for only a short time prior to being abandoned. It therefore is unlikely to be considered of national importance.

Table 4: Heritage assets within the Inner Study Area

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

#### *ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OF THE INNER STUDY AREA*

- 6.1.5. 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.
- 6.1.6. 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.
- 6.1.7. 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.

Table 5. Archaeological Potential of the ISA

Period	Archaeological Potential	Importance
Prehistoric	Low potential for settlement.	Medium-High

Period	Archaeological Potential	Importance
Medieval	Low potential for hitherto unknown remains relating to agriculture alongside watercourses.	Medium
Later Historic	Low potential for hitherto unknown remains relating to pastoral activity, alongside watercourses.	Low

## 6.2. SETTING OF HERITAGE ASSETS IN THE STUDY AREA

### *INVENTORY GARDENS AND DESIGNED LANDSCAPES*

6.2.1. There are no Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes (IGDL) within the 15km OSA.

### *INVENTORY HISTORIC BATTLEFIELDS*

6.2.2. There are no Inventory Historic Battlefields within the 15km OSA.

### *SCHEDULED MONUMENTS*

- 6.2.3. There are 26 Scheduled Monuments (SMs) within the 10km OSA comprising a house, a two sheepfolds, five prehistoric settlements (formed of hut circles either individually or in groups, one of which includes a field system), and eight post-medieval settlement sites (including farmsteads, shielings and small settlements) one of which also includes a prehistoric cairn. , a farmstead, shielings, a homestead, a settlement, three chambered cairns, hut circles and clearance cairns, and two brochs.
- 6.2.4. All of the SMs listed above derive cultural significance from their intrinsic value as they have upstanding and buried archaeological remains that provide or have the potential to provide information about the date, construction and the uses of each monument. The settlement sites have further evidential value as they provide physical evidence of the former settlement patterns in this area. The brochs have further evidential value as potential defensive sites. The religious, ritual and funerary sites have associative value for their connection with past peoples.
- 6.2.5. In terms of contextual value, the prehistoric funerary monuments, brochs and settlements and the medieval chapel were likely intentionally placed in the landscape to be prominently visible in their immediate vicinity. The cairns and brochs may also have been intentionally orientated relative to other monuments or natural features. Long range views may contribute to the significance of some of the religious, ritual and funerary sites as well as to the settlement sites (in particular intervisibility with contemporary sites of religious, ritual and funerary function) including the brochs.
- 6.2.6. All of the 11 SMs within the 5km OSA have been included for detailed assessment in the EIA-R due to their proximity and thus for the potential for the landscape of the ISA to contribute to their cultural significance.
- 6.2.7. Of the 15 SMs located within the 10km OSA one, Sallachy broch (SM1883) has been retained for detailed assessment in the EIA-R.
- 6.2.8. Twelve of the 15 SMs within the 10km OSA have been screened out of detailed assessment in the EIA-R as there is no predicted visibility of the turbines from them or the surroundings in which they are appreciated. These are: Lairg Muir North, chambered cairn 500m NW of Culbuie (SM1817), Balcharn, chambered cairn 120m W of (SM1768), Lairg Moor South, chambered cairn 290m N of Sydney House (SM1818), Loch Dola, hut circles & clearance cairns 270m E of (SM1878), Loch Tigh na Creige, settlement 650m W of W end of loch (SM5153), Loch Tign na Crieg, farmstead 600m NNE of NW end of (SM5078), Creagan Tigh na Creige, shielings 600m W of (SM5090), Loch Tigh na Creige, house 200m N of E end of (SM4569), Tighcreag, hut circle 500m WSW of (SM5162), Loch Tigh Na Creige, hut circle 350m N of NE corner (SM5309), Meall Meadhonach, hut circle and field system 1200m WNW of (SM5194) and Meall Meadhonach, hut circles, field system & shielings 750m SW of (SM4560). Two SMs (Loch Tigh na Creige, sheepfold 300m NW of NE corner of (SM5160) and Meall Meadhonach, sheepfold 1550m NW of (SM5161)) have been screened out of detailed assessment as the wider landscape setting does not contribute to their significance.



- 6.2.9. The Altbreck, homestead 1800m ESE of Dalchork Bridge (SM5563) and Altbreck, broch 1650m ESE of Dalchork Bridge (SM1829) are located in an area of forestry and views of and from the wider surroundings do not contribute to how their significance is appreciated, they have been excluded from detailed assessment. Similarly, Cnoc Olasdail, hut circles & field systems (SM4375), Meall Meadhonach, settlement and shielings 900m N of (SM5093), Meall Meadhonach, hut circles, field system & shielings 750m SW of (SM4560) and Achadh nan Eun, shielings (SM5154) are located in forested areas and wider landscape views do not contribute to the significance of these monument, they are also excluded from detailed assessment.
- 6.2.10. The 11 SMs within the 10-15km OSA comprise further abandoned or depopulated settlements and prehistoric cairns, chambered cairns and stone circles as well as a 19th century campsite and survey station. A full list is provided in Appendix 1.
- 6.2.11. The Ord (chambered cairns, cairns, settlement and field systems) which lies 10.2km south of the turbines has been retained for detailed assessment in the EIA-R at the request of HES. In summary a total of eight Scheduled Monuments have been retained for detailed assessment in the EIA-R. These are detailed in Table 7.

### *LISTED BUILDINGS*

- 6.2.12. Following screening, no Listed Buildings (LBs) will be considered for potential effects resulting from change in their setting in the EIA-R. The rationale behind the screening for the LBs is presented by Category type below.

#### CATEGORY A LISTED BUILDINGS

- 6.2.13. There are no Category A Listed Buildings within the 15km OSA.

#### CATEGORY B LISTED BUILDINGS

- 6.2.14. There are no Cat B LB within the 0-5km OSA.
- 6.2.15. There is one Cat B LB within the 5-10km OSA. This is the Lairg Burial Ground, located c.1km northeast of the centre of the village of Lairg on the slopes above Loch Shin. The burial ground derives significance from its historic interest as the site of the former parish church as well as for the association with various local people who are buried there – in particular William Gray (1749), the Mackay family (including Reverend John Mackay and his son Thomas who were ministers of Lairg) and Sir James Matheson. The architectural and artistic interest of the individual monuments within the burial ground also contributes to its overall significance. It has been screened out of further assessment as no visibility of the turbines is predicted from the burial ground or its surroundings.
- 6.2.16. There is one Cat B LB within the 10-15km OSA. This is Achany House, a late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century mansion. Formerly a seat of the Munros, the house and estate were bought in 1840 by Sir James Matheson who extended the house, his nephew and heir raised the height of the house to three storeys in 1878 and added the corner turrets over the bays. The house is surrounded by trees to the north, east and west and has a secluded setting and does not draw significance from long range views of or from the house. It is therefore excluded from further assessment.

#### CATEGORY C LISTED BUILDINGS

- 6.2.17. There are no Cat L LBs within the 2km OSA. There are two Cat C LBs within the 5km OSA. These are both bridges. They derive significance from their evidential and historical value as examples of the bridges built by Telford. The positive contribution made by setting to their significance is confined to their relationship with the transport network and does not draw on the wider surroundings. They have therefore been screened out of further assessment.
- 6.2.18. There are four further Cat C Listed Buildings within the 5-10km OSA. These are another bridge, a manse, a memorial and the dam and power station of the Shin hydro-electric scheme. The bridge is another of Telford's constructions and is also screened out of further assessment. The manse derives value from its evidential and historical value as an example of this type of structure and has group value with the burial ground both functionally and because former ministers were buried there. The building is experienced within its immediate surroundings of Lairg and no visibility of the turbines is predicted from here, it is therefore screened out for further assessment.

- 6.2.19. The dam and power station derive significance from their architectural and historic interest being part of the North of Scotland Hydro Electric Board (NoSHEB) scheme designed by James Shearer and built by George Wimpey and Co. Ltd in 1960. The architectural interest of the dam is appreciated from the village of Lairg and this was an intentional part of its design. No visibility of the turbines is predicted from the vicinity of the dam and it is screened out of further assessment.
- 6.2.20. The memorial was constructed to the memory of Kenneth Murray of Geanies (Easter Ross) who assisted the Duke of Sutherland with the "reclamation" of the lands of Shinness in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. It has significance for its architectural and historic interest as an example of late 19<sup>th</sup> century commemorative monument and for its association with named individuals who were instrumental in the Highland Clearances. The monument is located east of Loch Shin in a woodland clearing in an area with no predicted visibility of the turbines, it is therefore screened out of further assessment.

### *CONSERVATION AREAS*

- 6.2.21. There are no Conservation Areas within the OSA.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

### *POTENTIAL DIRECT IMPACTS*

- 7.1.1. The Proposed Development has been designed to avoid known heritage assets within the ISA as far as possible and will not impact directly upon any designated heritage assets.
- 7.1.2. There are four known non-designated heritage assets located within the ISA. These heritage assets, identified in Table 6 below, are of Low or higher importance and thus can be considered heritage assets for planning purposes. Potential impacts upon these assets will be considered in the EIA-R.

Table 6: Known heritage assets within the ISA

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

- 7.1.3. The site visit confirmed that the ISA is upland grazing and the potential for unknown upstanding remains following the site visit is considered to be Negligible.
- 7.1.4. The assessment has found that the archaeological potential of the ISA is generally Low. The walkover survey and desk-based research for this assessment will have identified any previously unknown upstanding remains present in the ISA. Below ground remains may survive within the ISA but are more likely to be concentrated close to the main watercourses.
- 7.1.5. Any below ground remains dating to the medieval period or earlier, if present within the ISA would be considered to be of at least Medium importance. Any upstanding remains or below ground remains of post-medieval date are presumed to be of Low importance.

### *POTENTIAL SETTING EFFECTS*

- 7.1.6. The Stage 1 Setting Assessment has found that there may be impacts through changes within setting on the significance up to eight Scheduled Monuments, which will be considered in the EIA-R.

Table 7: Stage 1 Setting Assessment - Results

Ref	Name	Status
0-5km OSA		
SM4563	Dalnessie, settlement N of Feith Osdail	Scheduled Monument
SM5081	Loch Beag na Furalachd, cairn and shielings 1175m ESE of SW end	Scheduled Monument
SM5159	Loch Beag na Furalachd, shielings 1000m SW of SW end of	Scheduled Monument
SM5401	Loch Beag na Furalachd, prehistoric settlement 950m SW of SW end of	Scheduled Monument
SM5084	Achadh nan Eun, shieling 1400m N of	Scheduled Monument
SM5300	Cnoc a' Bhreac-leathaid, shielings and cairnfield 700m NNE of	Scheduled Monument
5-10km OSA		

<b>Ref</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Status</b>
SM1883	Sallachy broch	Scheduled Monument
10-15km OSA		
SM1812	The Ord, chambered cairns, cairns, settlements and field systems	Scheduled Monument

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## APPENDIX 1

### Listed Buildings within 10km of the Site

Ref.	Name	Category	Importance
LB8017	Crask Bridge Over Chraisg Burn	C	Medium
LB8018	Feith Osdail Bridge Over Feith Osdail Burn	C	Medium
LB8019	Lairg Burial Ground With Matheson Memorial	B	High
LB8026	Rhian Bridge Over Abhainn Sgeamhaidh Burn	C	Medium
LB8027	Shinness Murray Memorial	C	Medium
LB51710	Shin Hydro Electric Scheme, Lairg Dam And Power Station	C	Medium
LB8025	Old Church Of Scotland Manse, Excluding Stable Block To The North, Walled Garden, Boundary Walls And Gatepiers, Manse Road, Lairg	C	Medium

### Scheduled Monuments within 10km of the Site

Ref.	Name& Description
SM1768	Balcharn, chambered cairn 120m W of
SM1812	The Ord, chambered cairns, cairns, settlements and field systems
SM1817	Lairg Muir North, chambered cairn 500m NW of Culbuie
SM1818	Lairg Moor South, chambered cairn 290m N of Sydney House
SM1829	Altbreck, broch 1650m ESE of Dalchork Bridge
SM1878	Loch Dola, hut circles & clearance cairns 270m E of
SM1882	CreagInnse Chomhraig, hut circles SSW of
SM1883	Sallachy, broch 425m NNE of Fruchan Cottage
SM4375	Cnoc Olasdail, hut circles & field systems
SM4560	Meall Meadhonach, hut circles, field system & shielings 750m SW of
SM4563	Dalnessie, settlement N of FeithOsdail
SM4569	Loch Tighna Creige, house 200m N of E end of
SM5078	Loch Tignna Crieg, farmstead 600m NNE of NW end of
SM5081	Loch Beagna Furalachd, cairn and shielings 1175m ESE of SW end
SM5084	Achadh nan Eun, shieling 1400m N of

SM5090	Creagan Tighna Creige, shielings 600m W of
SM5093	Meall Meadhonach, settlement and shielings 900m N of
SM5153	Loch Tighna Creige, settlement 650m W of W end of loch
SM5154	Achadh nan Eun, shielings
SM5159	Loch Beagna Fuaralachd, shielings 1000m SW of SW end of
SM5160	Loch Tighna Creige, sheepfold 300m NW of NE corner of
SM5161	Meall Meadhonach, sheepfold 1550m NW of
SM5162	Tighcreag, hut circle 500m WSW of
SM5194	Meall Meadhonach, hut circle and field system 1200m WNW of
SM5300	Cnoc a' Bhreac-leathaid, shielings and cairnfield 700m NNE of
SM4569	Loch Tigh na Creige, house 200m N of E end of
SM4375	Cnoc Olasdail, hut circles & field systems
SM5078	Loch Tigh na Creige, farmstead 600m NNE of NW end of
SM5090	Creagan Tigh na Creige, shielings 600m W of
SM5563	Altbreck, homestead 1800m ESE of Dalchork Bridge
SM5153	Loch Tigh na Creige, settlement 650m W of W end of loch
SM5160	Loch Tigh na Creige, sheepfold 300m NW of NE corner of
SM5162	Tighcreag, hut circle 500m WSW of
SM1817	Lairg Muir North, chambered cairn 500m NW of Culbuie
SM1768	Balcharn, chambered cairn 120m W of
SM1818	Lairg Moor South, chambered cairn 290m N of Sydney House
SM1829	Altbreck, broch 1650m ESE of Dalchork Bridge
SM1878	Loch Dola, hut circles & clearance cairns 270m E of
SM5309	Loch Tigh Na Creige, hut circle 350m N of NE corner
SM1883	Sallachy, broch 425m NNE of Fruchan Cottage