

## 11. ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

### 11.1 Introduction

- 11.1.1 The following chapter of the Scoping Report sets out the proposed scope of assessment of likely significant effects as a result of the construction, maintenance, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development in relation to Archaeology and Cultural Heritage.
- 11.1.2 This section of the Scoping Report has been produced by AOC Archaeology Group, a Registered Organisation of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA).
- 11.1.3 This chapter of the Scoping Report identifies the Archaeology and Cultural Heritage assets of relevance to the Proposed Development and considers the impacts which have the potential to arise from of the Proposed Development. The aims of this chapter of the Scoping Report are to:
- Set out the overall approach to the Archaeology and Cultural Heritage impact assessment;
  - Describe the Study Area to be used in the assessment;
  - Describe the anticipated baseline environment in relation to Archaeology and Cultural Heritage;
  - Set out the embedded mitigation measures anticipated to be implemented prior to undertaking the Archaeology and Cultural Heritage assessment;
  - Identify the potential impacts at all stages of the Proposed Development in relation to Archaeology and Cultural Heritage;
  - Identify topics not requiring further assessment, which can be scoped out;
  - Describe the assessment methodology proposed to be used for the EIA; and
  - Identify potential cumulative effects.
- 11.1.4 This chapter of the Scoping Report is supported by:
- Appendix 11.1: Gazetteer of Assets and Events;
  - Figure 11.1: Overview of Scoping Boundary;
  - Figure 11.2: Heritage Assets and Events within 500 m Study Area; and
  - Figure 11.3: Designated Heritage Assets and ZTV within 5 km Study Area.

### 11.2 Legislation, Policy and Guidance

- 11.2.1 The proposed scope of assessment in relation to Archaeology and Cultural Heritage has been developed with reference to the legislation, policy and guidance as set out in the following section.

#### Legislation

- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended) (UK Government 1979)<sup>1</sup>;
- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended)<sup>2</sup>;
- Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006<sup>3</sup>;
- Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2011<sup>4</sup>;
- Historic Environment (Scotland) Act 2014<sup>5</sup>;

<sup>1</sup> Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Available at:

[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46/pdfs/ukpga\\_19790046\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46/pdfs/ukpga_19790046_en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/9/contents>

<sup>3</sup> Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2006/17/contents>

<sup>4</sup> Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2011. London: UK Government. Available at:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2011/3/contents>

<sup>5</sup> Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2014/19/resources>

- Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (as amended)<sup>6</sup>; and
- Protection of Military Remains Act 1986<sup>7</sup>.

## Policy

### *National Policy*

- National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)<sup>8</sup>; and
- Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS)<sup>9</sup>, including Designation Policy and Selection Guidance<sup>10</sup>.

### *Local Policy*

- Local Development Plan (LDP) 2023 Section 11: The Historic Environment<sup>11</sup>;
  - Policy HE1 Protecting Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments and Archaeological Sites (including other historic buildings);
  - Policy HE2 Protecting Historic, Cultural and Conservation Area.
- Local Development Plan (LDP) 2023 Appendix 11: Conservation Areas<sup>12</sup>.
- Aberdeenshire Council are currently preparing the next LDP due to be published in early 2029. No draft policies have been published online<sup>13</sup>.

## Guidance

- Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting<sup>14</sup>;
- NatureScot and HES's published guidance contained within Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook v5<sup>15</sup>;
- Our Past, Our Future: The Strategy for Scotland's Historic Environment<sup>16</sup>;
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct: professional ethics in archaeology<sup>17</sup>;
- CIfA Regulations for professional conduct<sup>18</sup>;
- CIfA Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment<sup>19</sup>; and

<sup>6</sup> Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/8/contents>

<sup>7</sup> Protection of Military Remains Act 1986. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1986/35/contents>

<sup>8</sup> Scottish Government (2023). National Planning Framework 4. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/>

<sup>9</sup> HES. (2019). Historic Environment Policy for Scotland. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=1bcfa7b1-28fb-4d4b-b1e6-aa2500f942e7>

<sup>10</sup> HES. (2020). Designation Policy and Selection Guidance. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=8d8bbaeb-ce5a-46c1-a558-aa2500ff7d3b>

<sup>11</sup> Aberdeenshire Council (2023). Local Development Plan 2023. Available at: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/ldp-2023>

<sup>12</sup> Aberdeenshire Council (2023). APPENDIX 11 CONSERVATION AREAS. Available at: <https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/ldpmedia/LDP2021/Appendix11ConservationAreas.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> Aberdeenshire Council. (2026) Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2029. Available at: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/ldp-2028/>

<sup>14</sup> HES. (2020). Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=80b7c0a0-584b-4625-b1fd-a60b009c2549>

<sup>15</sup> HES and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). (2018). Environmental Assessment Handbook. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=6ed33b65-9df1-4a2f-acbb-a8e800a592c0>

<sup>16</sup> HES. (2023). Our Past, Our Future: The Strategy for Scotland's Historic Environment. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=79204155-9eb2-4d29-ab14-aff200ec2801>

<sup>17</sup> CIfA. (2025). Code of Conduct: professional ethics in archaeology. Available at: [https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/2025-10/Code-of-conduct\\_revOct-2025.pdf](https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/2025-10/Code-of-conduct_revOct-2025.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> CIfA. (2025). Regulations for Professional Conduct. Available at: [https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/2025-10/Regulations-for-professional-conduct\\_revOct-2025.pdf](https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/2025-10/Regulations-for-professional-conduct_revOct-2025.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> CIfA. (2020). Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment. Available at: <https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/2023-11/CIfA-SandG-DBA-2020.pdf>

- ClfA Standard and guidance for commissioning work or providing advice on archaeology and the historic environment.<sup>20</sup>.

### 11.3 Consultation

- 11.3.1 Key consultees are Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS).
- 11.3.2 Following receipt of the Scoping Opinion, further consultation with key consultees will take place to discuss the potential direct physical impacts and agree mitigation strategies, if required.

### 11.4 Study Area

- 11.4.1 In order to assess the potential for direct physical impacts on Archaeology and Cultural Heritage resulting from the Proposed Development, the following Study Areas have been identified:
- A core Study Area (the Scoping Boundary, including Substation Site Options A and B), which includes all land within the Scoping Boundary, will be subject to assessment for potential direct physical effects. This assessment will be informed by known heritage assets and known previous archaeological interventions (Events) as well as a detailed walkover survey. Cultural heritage assets which may be directly physically impacted by the Proposed Development will be identified.
  - A 500 m Study Area for the identification of all known heritage assets and known events in order to help predict whether any similar hitherto unknown archaeological remains are likely to survive within the Site and thus be impacted by the Proposed Development.
- 11.4.2 In order to assess the potential for settings effects on designated heritage assets resulting from the Substation at either Substation Site Option A or Substation Site Option B, the following Study Areas have been identified:
- A 5 km Study Area around the Substation Site Option A and Substation Site Option B for the identification of all statutorily designated heritage assets in order to identify any assets where there is the potential for significant settings effects.

### 11.5 Data Sources

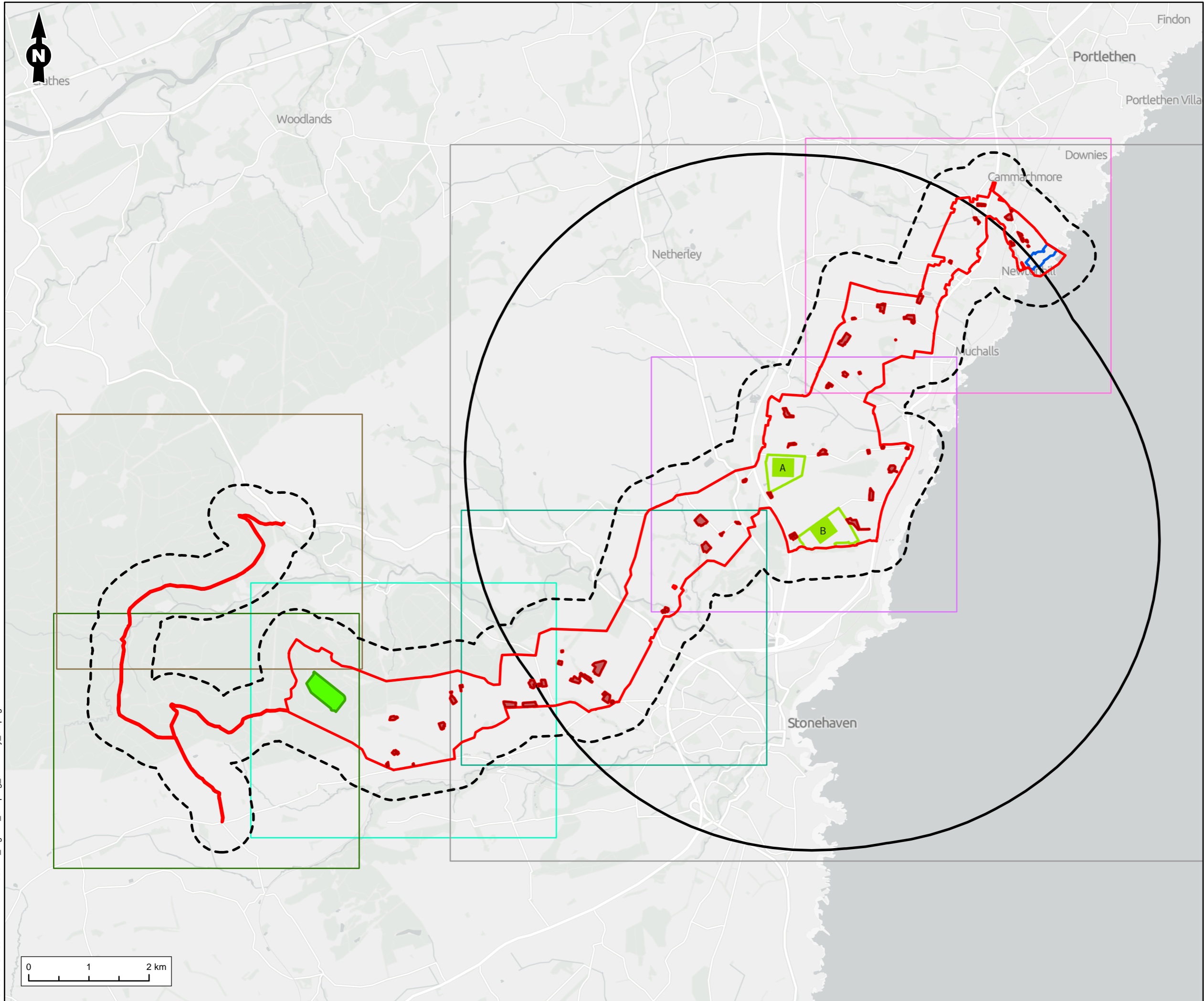
- 11.5.1 The following data sources have been reviewed for this Scoping Report and will be consulted as part of the EIA Report baseline:
- The National Record for the Historic Environment (NRHE) as held by HES;
  - The Historic Environment Record (HER) as supplied by the ACAS, archaeological advisors to Aberdeenshire Council;
  - National Library of Scotland (NLS) for published Roy Military Map of Scotland- Highlands (1747-52) and 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) maps;
  - National Collection of Aerial Photography (NCAP) as held by HES for vertical and oblique aerial photographs available online;
  - Published archival sources (i.e. ADS and Hurlie 400kV Substation Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA));
  - Available client supplied data about the Scoping Boundary; and
  - LiDAR data or imagery for the Scoping Boundary and study areas as currently held by the Scottish Remote Sensing Portal and processed internally by AOC Archaeology Group.

<sup>20</sup> ClfA. (2020). Standard and guidance for Commissioning Work or Providing Consultancy Advice on the Historic Environment. Available at: <https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/2023-11/ClfA-SandG-Archaeological-Consultancy-2020.pdf>

11.5.2 The following data sources will be consulted as part of the EIA Report:

- British Geological Survey (BGS) data;
- NLS for published historic and OS maps;
- Ordered research copies of NCAP as held by HES for vertical and oblique aerial photographs;
- Published archival sources;
- Scottish Palaeoecological Archive Database (SPAD) for information regarding the palaeoecological and paleoenvironmental potential of the Scoping Boundary and surrounding landscape;
- Historic Land-Use Assessment Data for Scotland (HLAMap);
- Available client supplied data about the Scoping Boundary, including peat survey data and Landscape and Visual Assessment (LVIA) visualisations;
- A walkover survey of the Scoping Boundary; and
- Site visits to designated heritage assets within 5 km of the Substation (Substation Site Option A and Substation Site Option B) and within the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) prepared for this assessment.

11.5.3 Each asset or event within the Scoping Boundary and study areas have been assigned an 'Asset/Event No.' unique to this report to ensure legibility of figures, and the gazetteer (Appendix 11.1) includes information regarding the type, period, grid reference, NRHE number, protective designation, and other descriptive information, as derived from the consulted sources. These assets and events are also depicted on **Figure 11.1 – Figure 11.3**.



**Legend**

- Scoping Boundary
- Exclusion Zone (Residential Property)
- 500m Study Area
- 5km Study Area
- Indicative Substation Development Site
- Representative Substation Platform Areas
- Landfall Search Area
- Hurlie 400kV Substation

**Figure Extents**

- Figure 11.2a
- Figure 11.2b
- Figure 11.2c
- Figure 11.2d
- Figure 11.2e
- Figure 11.2f
- Figure 11.3

**Figure Title**  
**Overview of Scoping Boundary**

**Project Name**  
 Aspen Offshore Wind Farm - Onshore Transmission Connection

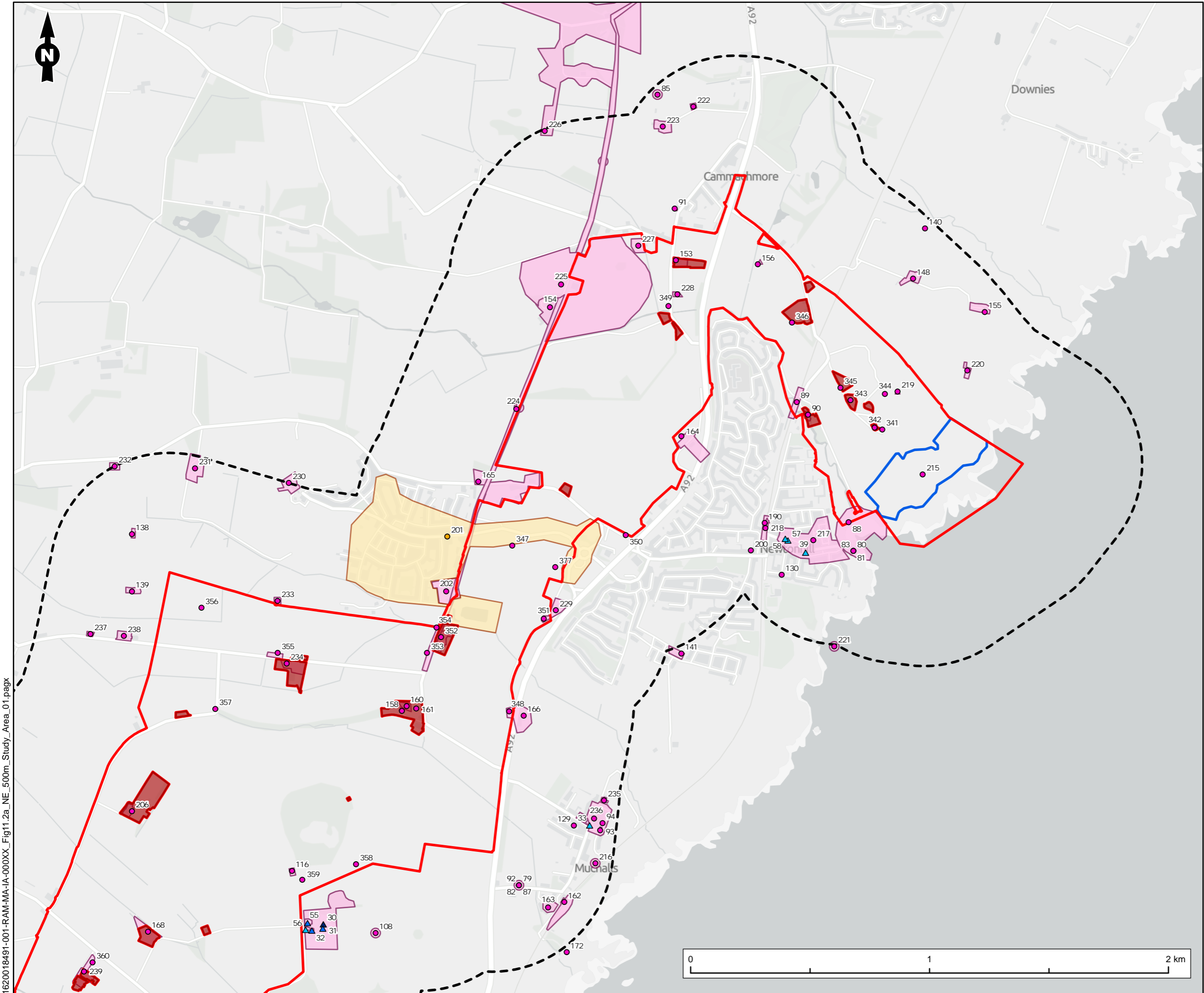
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<b>Date</b>	<b>Figure No.</b>	<b>Revision</b>
May 2026	11.1	2.2

<b>Prepared By</b>	<b>Scale</b>
AOC (AT)	1:60,000 @A3

**Client**  
**Cerulean Winds Aspen Project Limited**

1620018491-001-RAM-MA-1A-000XX\_Fig11.1\_Scoping\_Boundary\_01.pagx



### Legend

**Feature**

- Scoping Boundary
- Exclusion Zone (Residential Property)
- 500m Study Area
- Landfall Search Area
- ▲ Listed Building - Category A
- ▲ Listed Building - Category B
- ▲ Listed Building - Category C
- Non-Designated Heritage Asset
- Event
- Conservation Area Extents
- Non-Designated Heritage Asset Extents
- Event Extents

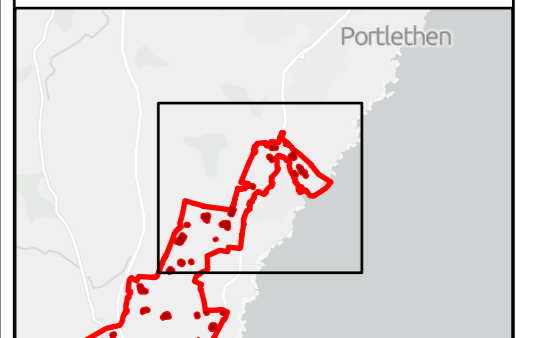


Figure Title  
**Heritage Assets and Events within 500m Study Area**

Project Name  
**Aspen Offshore Wind Farm - Onshore Transmission Connection**

Project No./Filey ID  
**1620018491 / REH2026N02003**

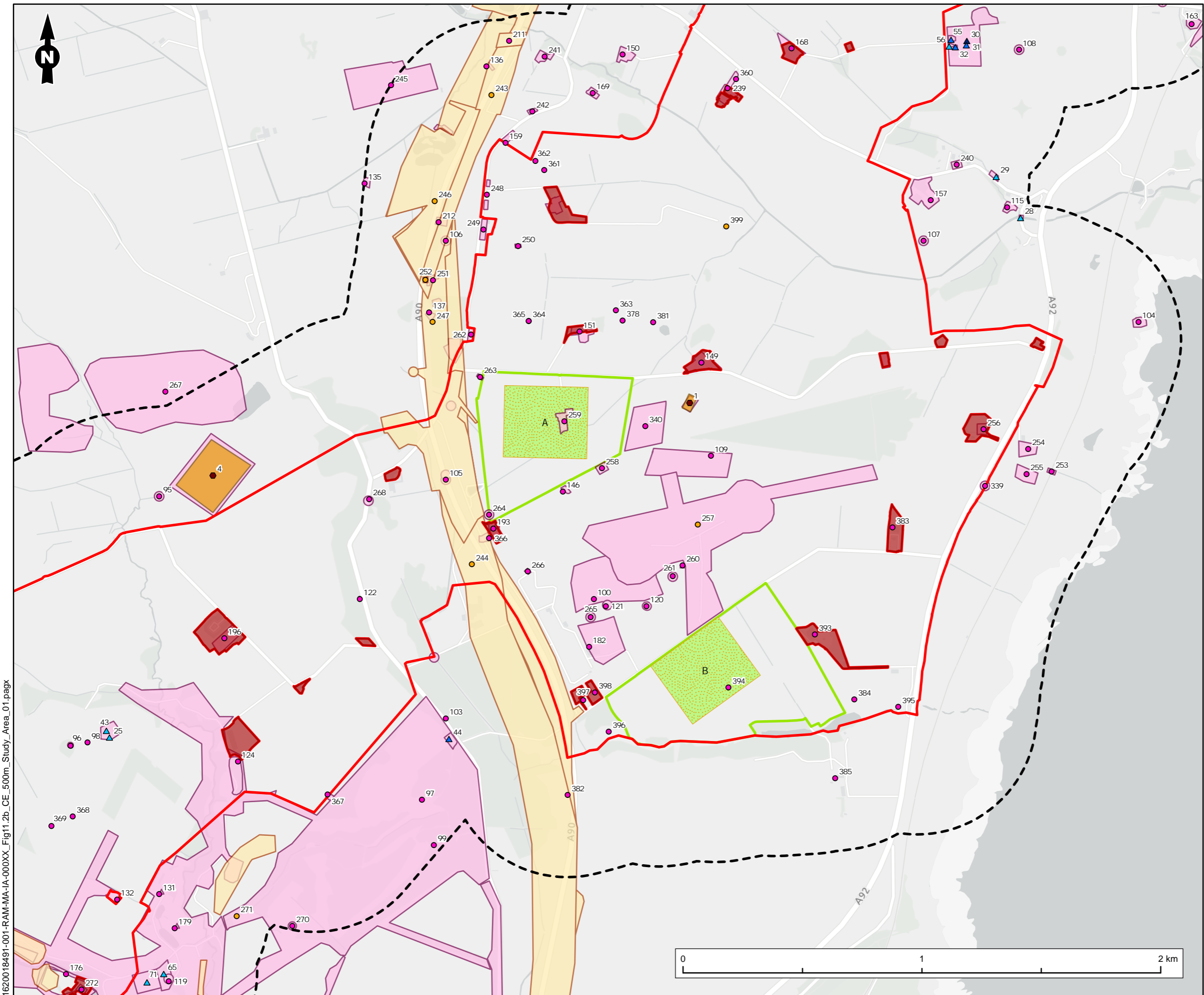
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Prepared By	Scale
AOC (AT)	1:15,000 @A3

Client  
**Cerulean Winds Aspen Project Limited**



1620018491-001-RAI-MA-IA-000XX\_Fig11.2a\_NE\_500m\_Study\_Area\_01.pagx



### Legend

**Feature**

- Scoping Boundary
- Exclusion Zone (Residential Property)
- 5km Study Area
- 500m Study Area
- Representative Substation Platform Areas
- Indicative Substation Development Sites
- Event Extents
- Scheduled Monument Extents
- Non-Designated Heritage Asset Extents
- Scheduled Monument
- + Conservation Area
- ▲ Listed Building - Category A
- ▲ Listed Building - Category B
- ▲ Listed Building - Category C
- Non-Designated Heritage Asset

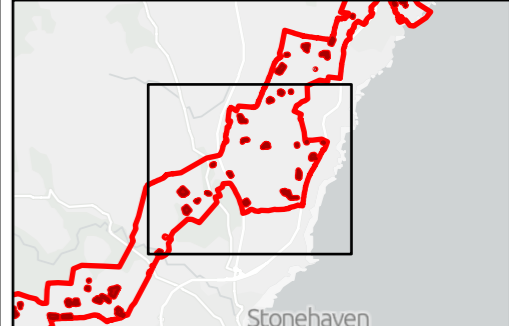


Figure Title  
**Heritage Assets and Events within 500m Study Area**

Project Name  
**Aspen Offshore Wind Farm - Onshore Transmission Connection**

Project No./File ID  
**1620018491 / REH2026N02003**

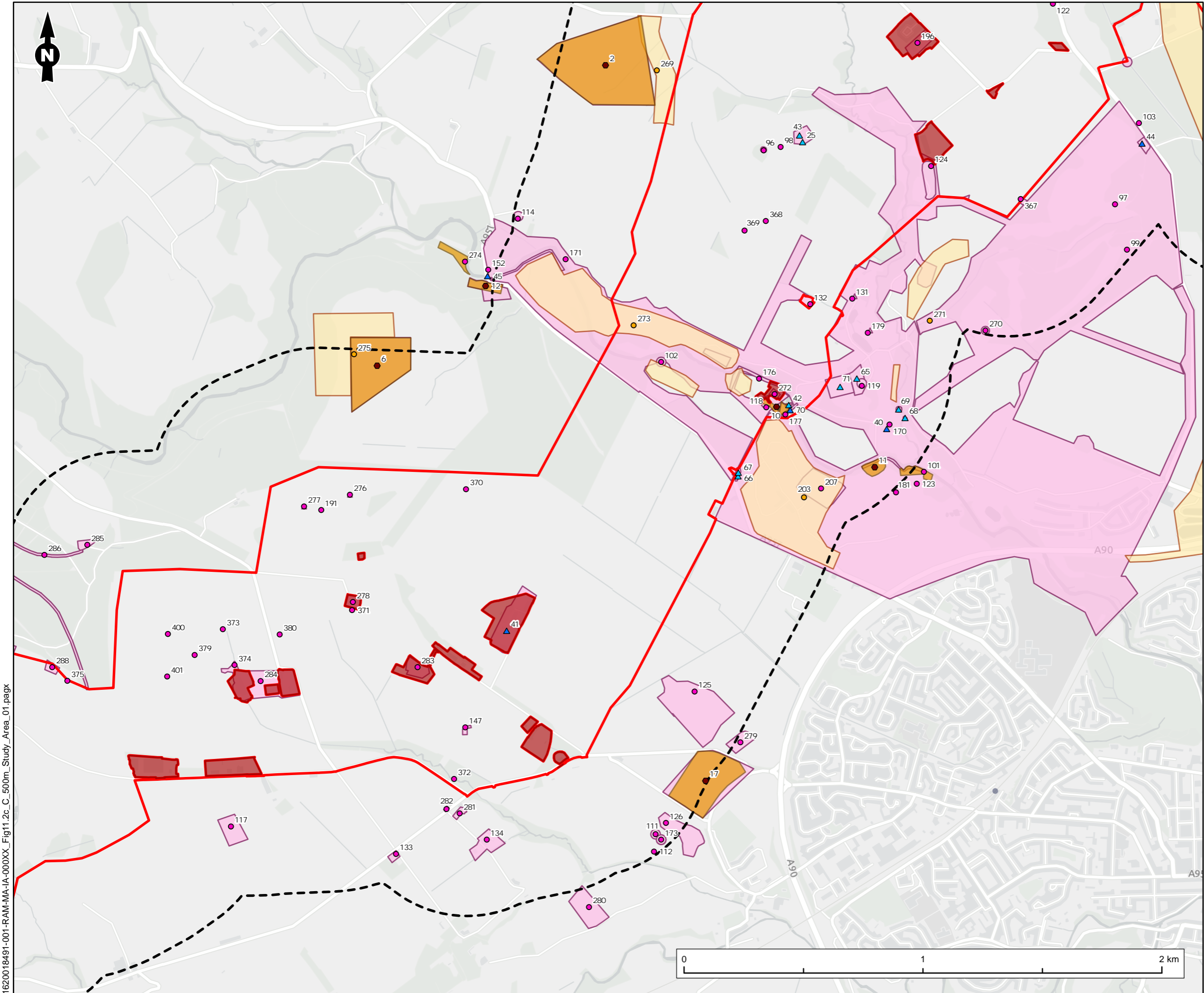
Date	Figure No.	Revision
May 2026	11.2b	2.2

Prepared By	Scale
AOC (AT)	1:15,000 @A3

Client  
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1620018491-001-RAM-MA-1A-000XX\_Fig11.2b\_CE\_500m\_Study\_Area\_01.pagx



**Legend**

**Feature**

- Scoping Boundary
- Exclusion Zone (Residential Property)
- 500m Study Area
- Scheduled Monument
- ▲ Listed Building - Category B
- ▲ Listed Building - Category C
- Non-Designated Heritage Asset
- Event
- Non-Designated Heritage Asset Extents
- Scheduled Monument Extents
- Event Extents

Stonehaven

**Figure Title**  
Heritage Assets and Events within 500m Study Area

**Project Name**  
Aspen Offshore Wind Farm - Onshore Transmission Connection

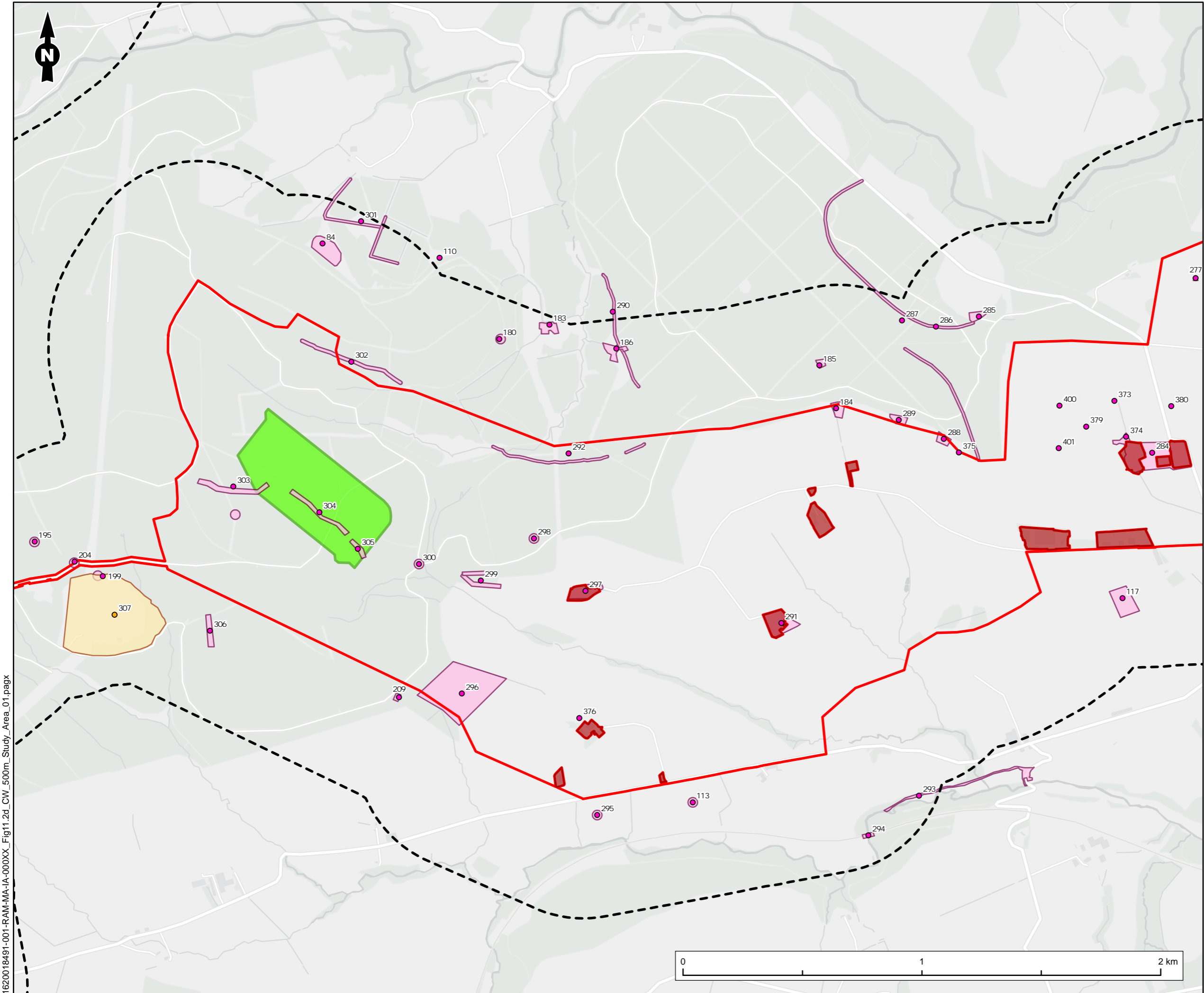
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1620018491 / REH2026N02003

<b>Date</b>	<b>Figure No.</b>	<b>Revision</b>
May 2026	11.2c	2.2

<b>Prepared By</b>	<b>Scale</b>
AOC (AT)	1:15,000 @A3

**Client**  
Cerulean Winds Aspen Project Limited

1620018491-001-RAJ-MA-IA-000XX\_Fig11.2c\_C\_500m\_Study\_Area\_01.pagx



### Legend

**Feature**

- Scoping Boundary
- Exclusion Zone (Residential Property)
- 500m Study Area
- Hurlie 400kV Substation
- Non-Designated Heritage Asset
- Event
- Event Extents
- Non-Designated Heritage Asset Extents

**Figure Title**  
Heritage Assets and Events within 500m Study Area

**Project Name**  
Aspen Offshore Wind Farm - Onshore Transmission Connection

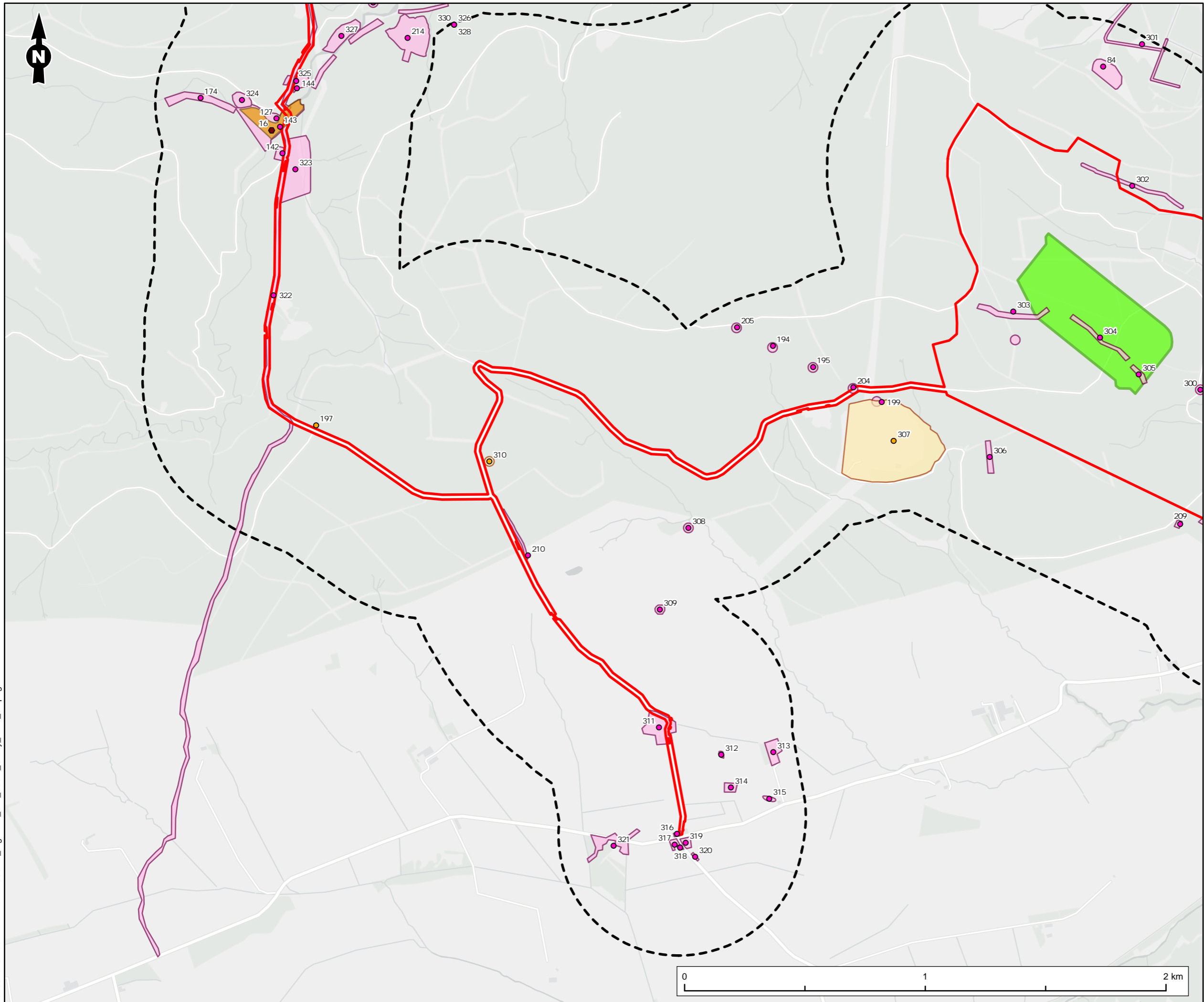
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1620018491 / REH2026N02003

<b>Date</b> May 2026	<b>Figure No.</b> 11.2d	<b>Revision</b> 2.2
<b>Prepared By</b> AOC (AT)	<b>Scale</b> 1:15,000 @A3	

**Client**  
Cerulean Winds Aspen Project Limited

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1620018491-001-RAIM-MA-1A-000XX\_Fig11.2e\_SW\_500m\_Study\_Area\_01.pagx



**Legend**

**Feature**

- Scoping Boundary
- 500m Study Area
- Scheduled Monument
- Non-Designated Heritage Asset
- Event
- Scheduled Monument Extents
- Non-Designated Heritage Asset Extents
- Event Extents
- Hurlie 400kV Substation

**Figure Title**  
Heritage Assets and Events within 500m Study Area

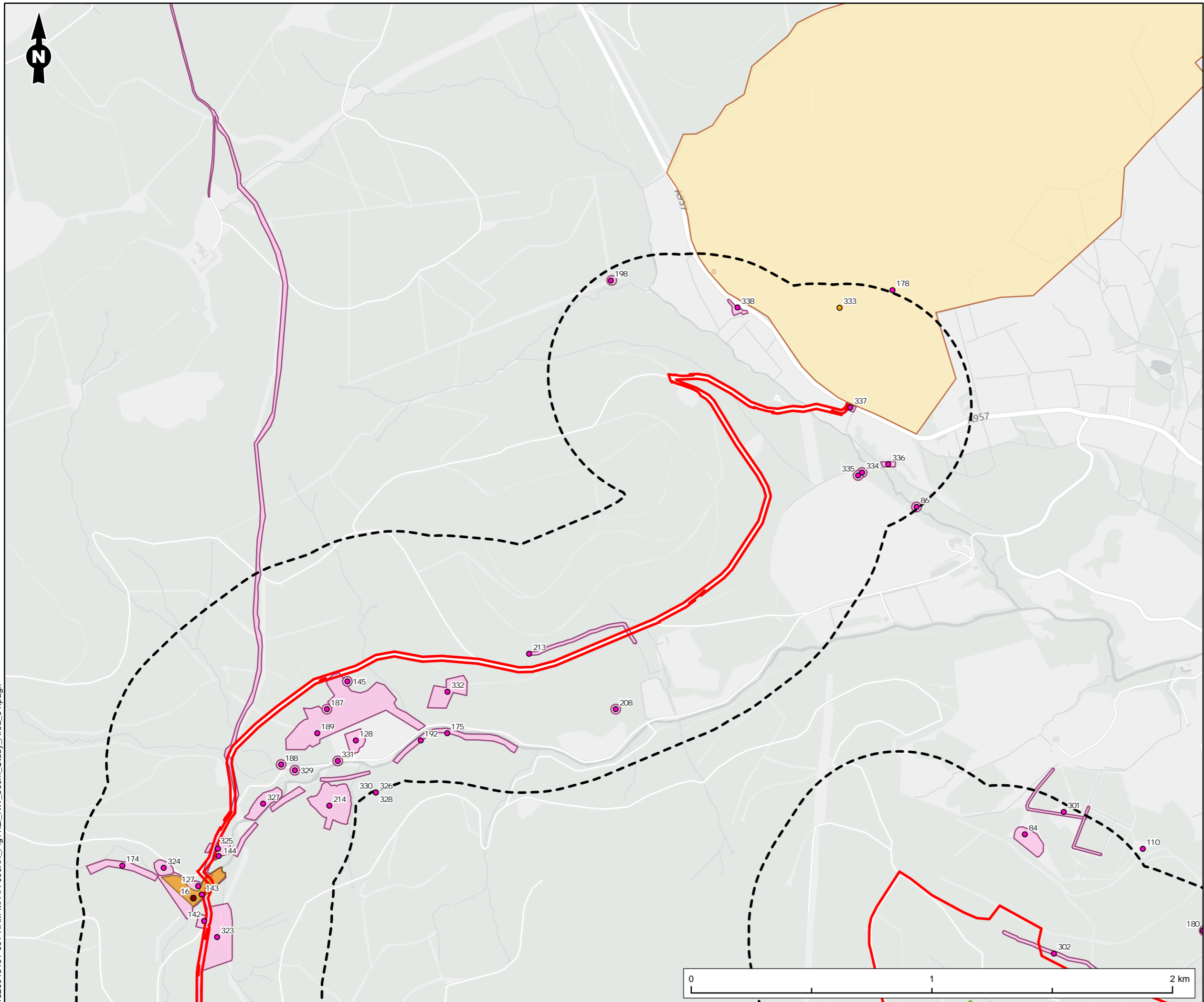
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Aspen Offshore Wind Farm - Onshore Transmission Connection

**Project No./File ID**  
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<b>Date</b> May 2026	<b>Figure No.</b> 11.2e	<b>Revision</b> 2.2
<b>Prepared By</b> AOC (AT)	<b>Scale</b> 1:15,000 @A3	

**Client**  
Cerulean Winds Aspen Project Limited

1620018491-001-RAM-MA-IA-000XX\_Fig11.2f\_NW\_500m\_Study\_Area\_01.pagx



**Legend**

**Feature**

- Scoping Boundary
- 500m Study Area
- Scheduled Monument
- Non-Designated Heritage Asset
- Event
- Scheduled Monument Extents
- Non-Designated Heritage Asset Extents
- Event Extents

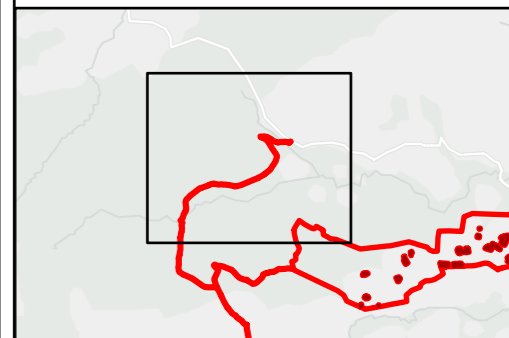


Figure Title  
**Heritage Assets and Events within 500m Study Area**

Project Name  
**Aspen Offshore Wind Farm - Onshore Transmission Connection**

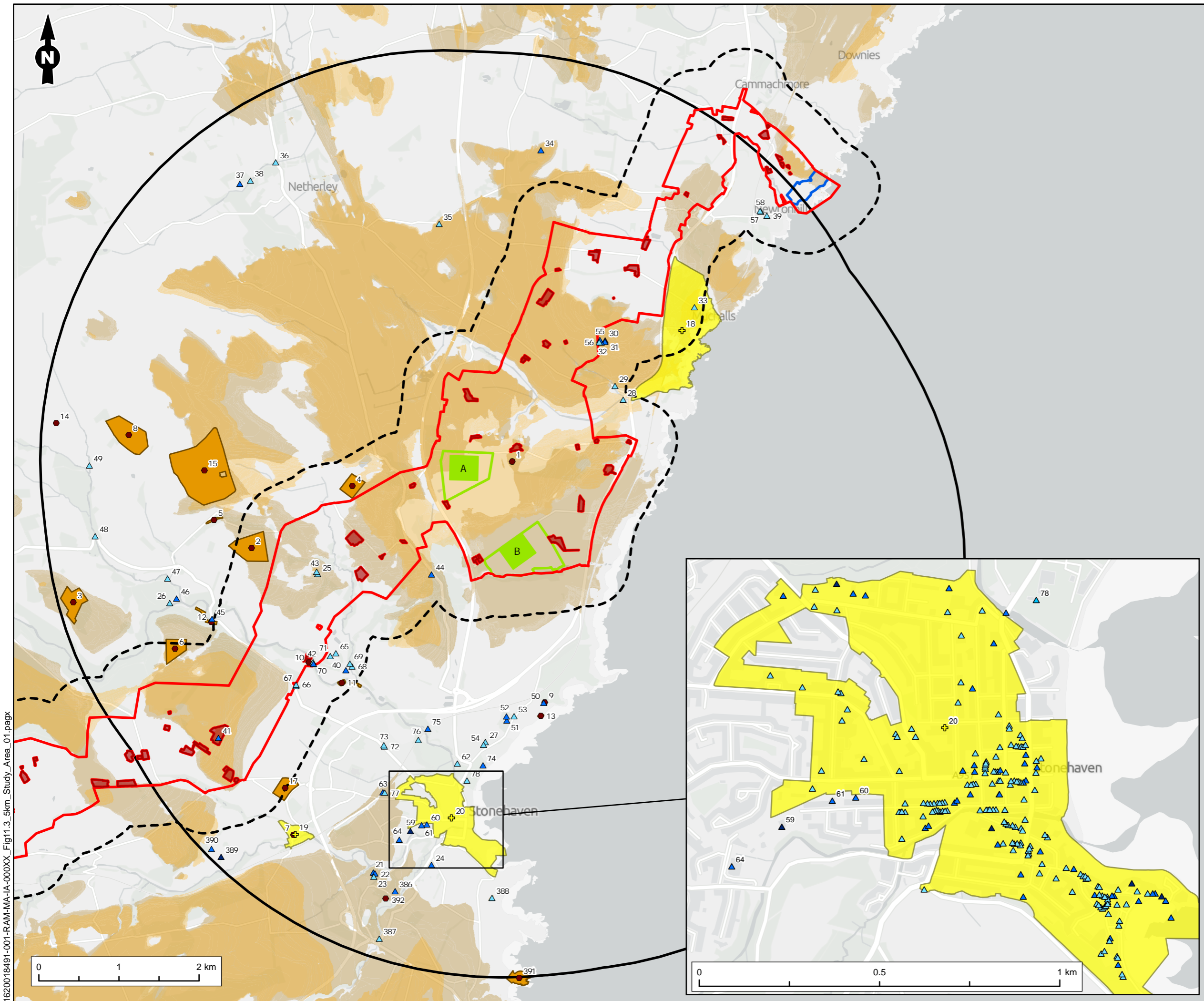
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Date	Figure No.	Revision
May 2026	11.2f	2.2

Prepared By	Scale
AOC (AT)	1:15,000 @A3

Client  
**Cerulean Winds Aspen Project Limited**





### Legend

**Feature**

- Scoping Boundary
- Exclusion Zone (Residential Property)
- 5km Study Area
- 500m Study Area
- Representative Substation Platform Areas
- Indicative Substation Development Sites
- Landfall Search Area
- Scheduled Monument
- + Conservation Area
- ▲ Listed Building - Category A
- ▲ Listed Building - Category B
- ▲ Listed Building - Category C
- Scheduled Monument Extents
- Conservation Area Extents
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility (Option A)
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility (Option B)

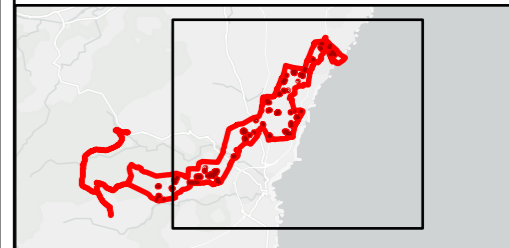


Figure Title  
**Designated Heritage Assets and ZTV within 5km Study Area**

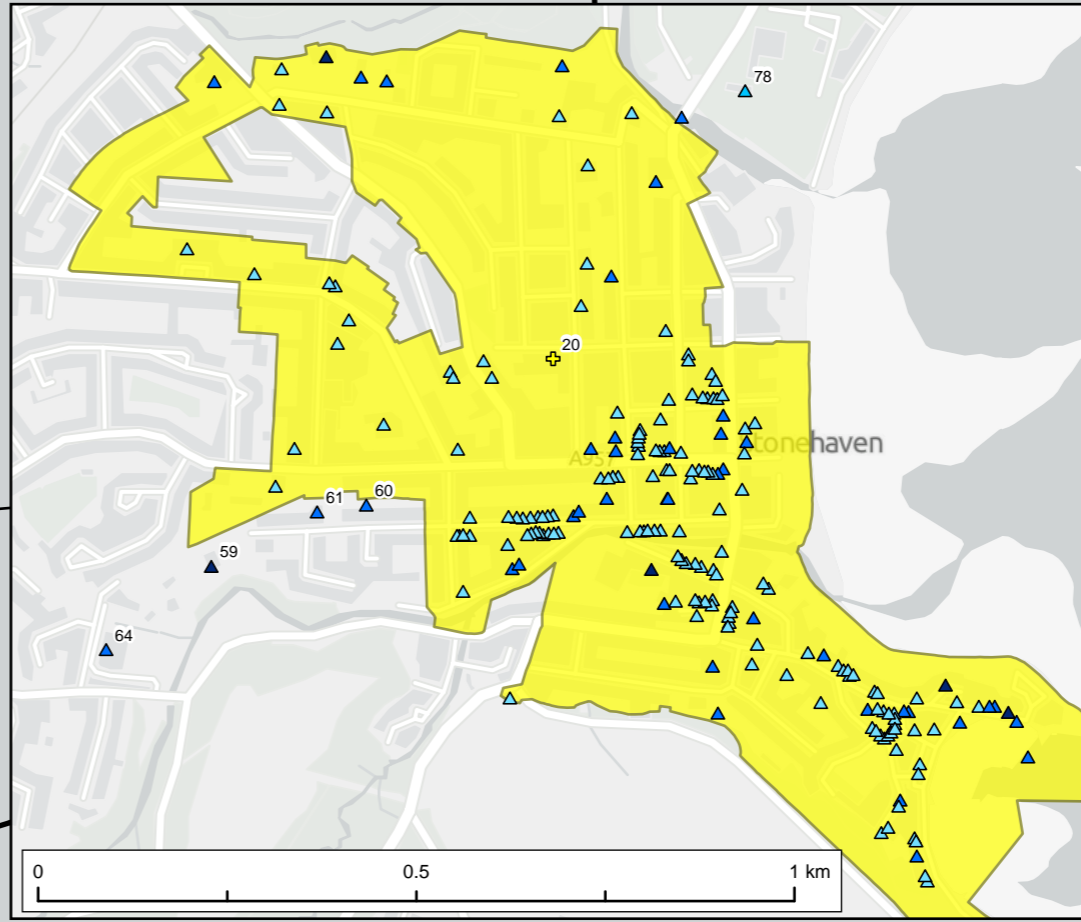
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Project No./Filey ID  
**1620018491 / REH2026N02003**

Date	Figure No.	Revision
May 2026	11.3	2.2

Prepared By	Scale
AOC (AT)	1:45,000 @A3

Client  
**Cerulean Winds Aspen Project Limited**



1620018491-001-RAM-MA-IA-000XX\_Fig11.3\_5km\_Study\_Area\_01.pagx

## 11.6 Baseline Environment

### Existing Baseline Conditions

#### *Designated Heritage Assets*

- 11.6.1 There are three Scheduled Monuments within the Scoping Boundary. Cantleyhills, cairn 150 m SSW of (Asset 1) comprises a long cairn on sloping ground and is aligned north-east to south-west. The cairn as a whole is a substantial monument and clear feature in the landscape. The Scheduled extent of the cairn is located c. 230 m east of Substation Site Option A.
- 11.6.2 There are two Scheduled sections of the Cowie Line within the Scoping Boundary; the two separate Scheduled extents of the Cowie Line, pill box & anti-tank blocks 450 m W of Ury House (centred Asset 10); and Cowie Line, pillbox and earthworks 945 m SW of Stonehouse (Asset 16). These Scheduled Monuments are *"of national importance because it has an inherent potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of the past, in particular the anti-invasion defences of the Second World War, and the logistics, construction methods, strategies and training involved in this war effort"*.<sup>21</sup>.
- 11.6.3 The Cowie stop line was constructed over 5 km as an anti-tank barrier against the threat of German forces landing in Angus and invading south-west during the Second World War. The Cowie Line was composed of anti-tank barriers, pillboxes, anti-tank cubes and other defensive features such as ditches and the realignment of the Cowie Water itself constructed between September 1940 and June 1941. Two extensions to the Cowie Line, Devil's Elbow and Drumochter, were constructed to the west, beyond the 500 m Study Area<sup>22</sup>. Within the Scoping Boundary there are two non-designated assets associated with the Cowie Line; an earthen bank (Asset 176) and two road blocks (Asset 166).
- 11.6.4 There are two further Scheduled sections of the Cowie Line within the 500 m Study Area (Assets 11 & 12). There are an additional seven non-designated heritage assets (Assets 127, 171, 175, 274, 326, 328 & 330) associated with the Cowie Line recorded within the 500 m Study Area.
- 11.6.5 There are a further four prehistoric Scheduled Monuments within the 500 m Study Area; a burial cairn associated with a pre-improvement cairnfield and field system (Asset 2); and three domestic, settlement and agricultural assets (Assets 4, 6 & 17).
- 11.6.6 Within the 5km Study Area there are an additional nine Scheduled Monuments. These are comprised of one prehistoric ritual and funerary asset (Asset 392); two prehistoric domestic, settlement and agricultural assets (Assets 3 & 8), a multi-period defensive earthen bank (Asset 5); an Early Medieval inscribed stone (Asset 14); and three medieval ecclesiastical and defensive assets (Assets 9, 13 & 391).
- 11.6.7 There are four Listed Buildings within the Scoping Boundary associated with the Ury Estate; one Category B Listed Building Viaduct Over Cowie Water, Ury House (Asset 70) and three Category C Listed Buildings; Enclosing Walls, Houff Of Ury, Ury House (Asset 25); Bridge, Cowie Water, Ury Glen (Asset 42); and Houff Of Ury, Ury House (Asset 43). The Ury Estate is thought to have originated in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, whilst the majority of the Listed Buildings within the Estate date from the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 11.6.8 There are a further 20 Listed Buildings within the 500 m Study Area. These include the Category A Listed Muchalls Castle located c. 90 m east of the Scoping Boundary, and its associated group of

<sup>21</sup> HES. (2026). Cowie Line, pillbox and earthworks 945m SW of Stonehouse. Available at: <https://portal.historicenvironment.scot/apex/f?p=1505:300:::::VIEWTYPE,VIEWREF:designation,SM6437>

<sup>22</sup> Barclay, G.J (2005). The Cowie Line: a Second World War 'stop line' west of Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire. Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, 135, 119-161. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.9750/PSAS.135.119.161>

Category B and C Listed Buildings (Assets 31, 32, 55 & 66), as well as the Category B Listed Ury House (Asset 40), c. 335 m east of the Scoping Boundary and its associated Category C Listed estate buildings (Assets 65-69 & 71), two further Category B Listed Buildings (Assets 41 & 44) and six Category C Listed Buildings (Assets 28, 29, 33, 39, 57 & 58).

- 11.6.9 Within the 5 km Study Area there are a further 39 Listed Buildings.
- 11.6.10 There is one Conservation Area located immediately east of the Scoping Boundary, Muchalls (centred Asset 18). Aberdeenshire Council do not hold a Conservation Area Appraisal for Muchalls. The Conservation Area is believed to encompass a post-medieval coastal village with stone-built architecture<sup>23</sup>. Within the Conservation Area there is one Category C Listed Building, 1-7 Monduff Road, Muchalls (Asset 33).
- 11.6.11 There are a further two Conservation Areas within the 5 km Study Area; Kirkton of Fetteresso (centred Asset 19); and Stonehaven (centred Asset 20). Within the Kirkton of Fetteresso (centred Asset 19) Conservation Area there are five Category B Listed Buildings. There are 199 Listed Buildings within the Stonehaven Conservation Area (centred Asset 20). Listed Buildings within the Conservation Areas of Kirkton of Fetteresso and Stonehaven within the 5 km Study Area have not been individually identified within the Gazetteer (Appendix 11.1).
- 11.6.12 There are no World Heritage Sites (WHS), Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDL) or inventoried Battlefields which extend within the Study Areas.
- Assets potentially protected under the Protection of Military Remains Act*
- 11.6.13 Military aircraft crash sites are protected in the Protection of Military Remains Act. It is an offence under the Act to tamper with, damage, move or unearth any remains which come within the scope of the Act<sup>24</sup> unless the Secretary of State has issued a Licence authorising such things to be done, and they are done in accordance with the conditions of the Licence<sup>25</sup>. The location of military aircraft crash sites have not been confirmed within the Scoping Boundary. In the case that debris associated with aircraft crashes are identified the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Aberdeenshire Council would need to be informed immediately.
- 11.6.14 The ACAS HER has identified two Second World War aircraft crashes within the 500 m Study Area. RNAS Seafire aircraft (Asset 295) is recorded as crashing in 1944 and killing two farmworkers. The exact location of the crash is difficult to determine, and the centre point has been recorded 75 m south of the Scoping Boundary. Documentary records indicate that parts of the aircraft were spread over a distance of 450 yards (c. 412 m) which would extend into the Scoping Boundary. Based on the arable location of the crash and the events of the crash it is likely that the majority of remains associated with the crash were recovered following the event. However, based on the documented spread of debris, further debris associated with the crash cannot be wholly discounted from extending into the Scoping Boundary although it is likely any debris would be residual and have been moved during agricultural activities.
- 11.6.15 The crash site of a de Havilland DH.89A Dragon Rapide aircraft (Asset 261) which crashed on 7<sup>th</sup> July 1941 is recorded on Kempstone Hill, c. 420 m south-east of the Scoping Boundary. All six occupants of the plane were killed on impact. The aircraft is recorded as crashing on the high ground and the majority of debris associated with the aircraft was likely limited to that location. Based on the records of the crash, its location and the distance between the crash site and the

<sup>23</sup> Webmaster. (N.d.) Muchalls: A Comprehensive Guide to the Coastal Village and Its Heritage. Available at: <https://www.boogie-woogie.co.uk/muchalls/>

<sup>24</sup> Protection of Military Remains Act 1986. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1986/35/contents>

<sup>25</sup> Service Personnel & Veterans Agency (2011). CRASHED MILITARY AIRCRAFT OF HISTORICAL INTEREST LICENSING OF EXCAVATIONS IN THE UK NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF RECOVERY GROUPS. Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a79af6be5274a684690b57b/POMRACTBOOKLET\\_Jun11.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a79af6be5274a684690b57b/POMRACTBOOKLET_Jun11.pdf)

Scoping Boundary there is unlikely to be any remains associated with the aircraft in the Scoping Boundary.

- 11.6.16 A further seven military aircraft crashes were identified during the data collection for the Hurlie 400kV substation.<sup>26</sup> The locations of the crash sites have not been confirmed and they have not been given asset numbers within the Gazetteer. One, Royal Navy Air Service (RNAS) Swordfish Torpedo Bomber, is recorded as having crashed in 1942 on the Hill of Trusta, to the north of the western extent of the Scoping Boundary. No evidence of the crash site has been recorded by The Forestry Commission during forestry works associated with Fetteresso Forest.<sup>27</sup>
- 11.6.17 A German Bomber is recorded as crashing to the west of Swordfish Torpedo Bomber in 1941. Whilst the exact location of the Bomber crash site cannot be confirmed it is likely located beyond 1km to the west of the Scoping Boundary.
- 11.6.18 Two Anson Aircraft crashes were reported to the north-west of Stonehaven in 1942 and 1943 respectively. The exact locations have not been confirmed however based on the location provided to the north-west of Stonehaven it is likely that the crash sites are beyond the Study Areas.
- 11.6.19 Two RAF Master Trainer crash sites were also identified. One is recorded as crashing in 1940 at "Carmount Hill" or "Carron Wood". Carmount Hill is located c. 1.64 km south of the western extent of the Scoping Boundary. Whilst the exact location of the crash cannot be confirmed based on the distance from the Scoping Boundary there is unlikely any debris which would extend into the Scoping Boundary, although this cannot be wholly discounted.
- 11.6.20 A crash site was recorded through public consultation for the Hurlie 400 Kv substation.<sup>28</sup> near Tannachie, to the south of the western extent of the Scoping Boundary. Very little is known about the crash, nor can the location of the crash site be confirmed. There is the potential for debris to extend into the Scoping Boundary.

#### *Non-designated Heritage Assets*

- 11.6.21 Non-designated heritage assets have been identified via the NRHE, ACAS HER, a review of historic maps and Phase 1 and 2 Digital Terrain Model (DTM) LiDAR imagery.
- 11.6.22 Ninety-two non-designated heritage assets have been identified within the Scoping Boundary. Five of these assets date to the prehistoric period, four are of Bronze Age date and comprise burial and funerary remains (Assets 96, 98 & 118) and a findspot (Asset 105). A potential ring ditch with associated pits (Asset 384), identified via cropmarks, is also thought to date to the prehistoric period. There are two possible medieval assets, a road (Asset 322) and an area of rig and furrow (Asset 215). The majority of assets date from the post-medieval period and reflect the rural and agrarian landscape of that era. There are also a number of undated remains within the Scoping Boundary largely described as cropmarks, soil marks and earthworks.
- 11.6.23 Two non-designated heritage assets have been recorded within Substation Site Option A; Wyndford (Asset 259), a farmstead of least 19<sup>th</sup> century origins which appears to still be in existence; and the site of a now destroyed boundary stone (Asset 264).
- 11.6.24 The location of Westport (Asset 394), is recorded within Substation Site Option B. Westport is an at least 19<sup>th</sup> century collection of buildings.
- 11.6.25 One Category B Listed Building, Cheyne Farmhouse (Asset 41); and twenty-four non-designated heritage assets are located within the Scoping Boundary but have been excluded from the

<sup>26</sup> SSEN. (2024). Hurlie 400kV Substation Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Volume 4 | Appendix 9.2 Summary of Military Aircraft Crash Records

<sup>27</sup> *ibid*

<sup>28</sup> *ibid*

Scoping Boundary extent. These assets are largely composed of post-medieval farmsteads and buildings.

- 11.6.26 This assessment has identified an additional 182 non-designated heritage assets within the 500 m Study Area. Five wreck sites (Assets 79-83) are recorded at the north-eastern extent of the 500 m Study Area, although the wrecks are largely recorded at unverified locations. Prehistoric assets within the 500 m Study Area can be characterised as ritual and funerary as well as domestic and settlement remains. There is one Roman coin (Asset 103) recorded within the 500 m Study Area. The majority of assets can be characterised as post-medieval rural and agricultural.

*Previous Archaeological Interventions (Events)*

- 11.6.27 Stage 1A of an evaluation (Event 201) extended across the Scoping Boundary. Evidence of rig and furrow cultivation remains were identified across the evaluation area. A pit, with no dating evidence was also identified. The excavators concluded that the development area was archaeological sterile and no further archaeological works were undertaken.<sup>29</sup>.
- 11.6.28 A programme of archaeological works was undertaken in association with the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route, also known as the Aberdeen Bypass, A90. These included a watching brief (centred Event 244) on site investigation trial pits, where no significant archaeological remains were identified; a metal detecting survey (centred Event 245), a palaeoenvironmental assessment (centred Event 247) and a geophysical survey (centred Event 243).
- 11.6.29 The metal detecting survey (centred Event 245) targeted an area identified as a possible 17<sup>th</sup> century skirmish between Covenanting and Royalist armies in June 1639, as recorded by Roy on the Military Map of Scotland (1747-52) (centred Asset 381). The surveyors concluded that there was no definitive evidence of a battlefield, however they noted that there was a cluster of 17<sup>th</sup> century finds.<sup>30</sup>.
- 11.6.30 A palaeoenvironmental assessment of Blackburn Moss Wetland (centred Event 247) which extends across the Scoping Boundary recorded a dark brown peaty podzol soil across the surveyed area, with peats documented to a maximum depth of 1.5 m. The assessment concluded that there was potential for palaeoenvironmental deposits, especially pollen records from the Mesolithic onwards to survive.<sup>31</sup>.
- 11.6.31 Archaeological investigations (centred Event 273) at the Ury Estate conditioned under Planning application APP/2015/0541 identified two features within the Scoping Boundary (Area 2); a tree throw with charcoal deposits and a heavily truncated pit containing prehistoric pottery.<sup>32</sup>. Another evaluation conditioned under Planning application APP/2015/0541 (centred Event 273) identified three upstanding small possible cairns within the Scoping Boundary where were excluded from the evaluation area. No archaeological remains were identified in the trenches within the Scoping Boundary as part of this programme of work<sup>33</sup>.

<sup>29</sup> AOC Archaeology Group. 2013. Chapelton of Elsick archaeological evaluation Phase 1A. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.5284/1031937>

<sup>30</sup> Headland Archaeology (2012) ABERDEEN WESTERN PERIPHERAL ROUTE PACKAGE (FASTLINK) Metal-Detector Survey Hill of Muchalls Battlefield (Site 411). Available at: <https://doi.org/10.5284/1021311>

<sup>31</sup> Headland Archaeology (2012). ABERDEEN WESTERN PERIPHERAL ROUTE PACKAGE (FASTLINK) Red Moss Wetland (Site 67) and Blackburn Moss Wetland (Site 119) Palaeoenvironmental Assessment. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.5284/1021554>

<sup>32</sup> GUARD Archaeology Ltd (2021) ARO49: Mesolithic evidence and a middle-Bronze Age settlement at East Lodge, Ury Estate near Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire. Available at <https://www.archaeologyreportsonline.com/reports/2021/ARO49.html>

<sup>33</sup> GUARD Archaeology Ltd (2022) Ury Estate, Aberdeenshire: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report Project 5760. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.5284/1121435>

- 11.6.32 Fetteresso Substation was constructed in 2016<sup>34</sup>. A walkover undertaken prior to tree felling for the substation identified evidence of tree furrow ground disturbance and no archaeological remains were identified (centred Event 307).

*Potential for Hitherto Unknown Archaeology*

- 11.6.33 Based on the known heritage assets within the Scoping Boundary and 500 m Study Area as well as the results of previous archaeological works there is judged to be the potential for hitherto unknown archaeological remains to survive within the Scoping Boundary.
- 11.6.34 It must be noted that the majority of land within the Scoping Boundary is or has been in agricultural, specifically arable use. Deep ploughing, vehicle movements and other agricultural activities are known to have had an adverse impact on buried archaeological remains<sup>35,36</sup>.
- 11.6.35 There is also the potential for paleoenvironmental remains to survive within the Blackburn Moss Wetland (centred Event 247) and in the vicinity of the Blackburn Moss Wetland and Substation Site Option A.

Future Baseline Conditions

- 11.6.36 The Future Baseline is a baseline condition at 35 years in the future in the absence of the Proposed Development being implemented, for a scenario which considers potential changes.
- 11.6.37 Without the Proposed Development coming forward, the current land use would continue, and the archaeological baseline would be stable and the condition of any buried remains unlikely to substantially change. As the buried heritage baseline is stable and would not change in the absence of the Proposed Development being implemented, a future baseline does not require assessment. It is acknowledged that the potential for other archaeological investigations in the future in and around the Scoping Boundary, not associated with the Proposed Development, may identify buried heritage assets not included in the baseline, however this cannot be accurately predicted or modelled.

**11.7 Embedded Mitigation**

- 11.7.1 The following section outlines the embedded mitigation anticipated to be implemented prior to undertaking the Archaeology and Cultural Heritage assessment.
- 11.7.2 The following embedded mitigation, relevant to Archaeology and Cultural Heritage would be implemented:
- Scheduled Monuments within Scoping Boundary:
  - Avoidance of the Scheduled extent of Cantleyhills, cairn (Asset 1) and the implementation of a suitable buffer;
  - Avoidance of the two Scheduled extents of the Cowie Line, pill box & anti-tank blocks 450 m W of Ury House (Asset 10) and a suitable buffer; and
  - Avoidance of direct physical impacts on the Scheduled Cowie Line, pillbox and earthworks 945m SW of Stonehouse (Asset 16) in line with the Hurlie 400 kV Substation application (Planning reference: APP/20241951):

<sup>34</sup> Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) (2026) Fetteresso 400kV Upgrade. Available at: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/fetteresso-400kv-upgrade/>

<sup>35</sup> Dunwell, A and Ralston, I (2008). The Management of Cropmark Archaeology in Lowland Scotland: A Case Study From the Lunan Valley, Angus Historic Scotland, Edinburgh

<sup>36</sup> Noble, G Lamont, P and Masson-Maclean, E. (2019). Assessing the ploughzone: The impact of cultivation on artefact survival and the cost/benefits of topsoil stripping prior to excavation, Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports, Volume 23, 2019, Pages 549-558, ISSN 2352-409X. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jasrep.2018.11.01>

- There will be no upgrading works on the existing access track where this would encroach on the Scheduled Monument.
- Any upgrading works proposed to the north of the Scheduled Monument will be confined to the opposite side of the Cowie Water.
- A temporary overbridge will be installed over the existing bridge crossing the Cowie Water. The temporary overbridge will be placed on gravel pads laid on the existing ground surface, with no ground-breaking works required.
- Vehicle movements will remain within the footprint of the existing access track where it crosses the Scheduled Monument.
- No tree felling will take place within the Scheduled Monument extent.
- If tree trimming is required within the Scheduled Monument extent, guidance will be sought from HES to determine whether Scheduled Monument Consent is required.
- Listed Buildings within the Scoping Boundary:
- All Listed Buildings within the Scoping Boundary will be avoided and thus there will be no direct physical impacts on Listed Buildings from the Proposed Development.
- Avoid known heritage assets where possible;
- Toolbox talk to be given to all construction staff highlighting the potential for aircraft crash remains. The toolbox talk to include information about the types of remains and the reporting process;
- Ability to microsite elements of the Proposed Development where possible; and
- Provision of a programme of archaeological works which would be undertaken following the confirmation of the cable route and Substation. The programme of archaeological works is likely to be formed of non-invasive (e.g. geophysics) and invasive works (e.g. trial trenching, watching brief). A programme of sampling should also be defined and scoped into any Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI).

## 11.8 Potential Impacts of the Proposed Development

- 11.8.1 Following the implementation of embedded mitigation, a series of potential impacts as a result of the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development have been identified in relation to Archaeology and Cultural Heritage related receptors.

### Direct Physical Impacts

- 11.8.2 Direct physical impacts are limited to the construction phase of development and may occur from the construction of the Proposed Development as well as with any groundworks associated with landscaping and offsetting opportunities. There is unlikely to be any direct physical impacts on heritage assets following construction.
- 11.8.3 There are three Scheduled Monuments (Assets 1, 10 & 16) within the Scoping Boundary. Following the implementation of embedded mitigation there will be no direct physical impacts on the Scheduled Monuments. Any direct physical impact to a Scheduled Monument would require Scheduled Monuments Consent (SMC) from HES.
- 11.8.4 There are four Listed Buildings (Assets 25, 42, 43 & 70) within the Scoping Boundary associated with the Ury Estate. Following the implementation of embedded mitigation, it is unlikely that there would be any direct physical impact on the Listed Buildings. If direct physical impacts are anticipated Listed Building Consent (LBC) from Aberdeenshire Council would be required. In the case of direct physical impacts to Category A Listed Buildings, HES would be consulted.
- 11.8.5 The Scoping assessment has not identified any military aircraft crash sites within the Scoping Boundary, however the presence of residual remains and debris associated with military aircraft crash sites cannot be wholly discounted. Whilst remains and debris associated with military aircraft crash sites are considered to be of high importance, the impact on any residual remains or

debris associated with military aircraft crash sites is unlikely to meet the EIA significance threshold. Any remains or debris encountered should be reported to the MoD as well as to Aberdeenshire Council.

- 11.8.6 Ninety- two non-designated heritage assets have been identified within the Scoping Boundary, the majority of which relate to the post-medieval agricultural remains. Whilst the Proposed Development may be able to avoid the majority of remains there is the potential for direct physical impacts on known heritage assets within the Scoping Boundary. Based on the type of known non-designated heritage assets within the Scoping Boundary, any direct physical impact is unlikely to reach a level of EIA significance. The EIA Assessment will be further informed by a walkover survey.
- 11.8.7 It has been judged that there is the potential for hitherto unknown buried remains and paleoenvironmental remains to survive within the Scoping Boundary. It is difficult to anticipate what remains may survive, and in what condition and thus there is the potential for direct physical impacts to reach a level of EIA significance.

*Substation Site Option A*

- 11.8.8 Two non-designated heritage assets (Asset 259 & 264) have been identified within the extent of Substation Site Option A. One, a stone boundary (Asset 264) has already been removed and thus no direct physical impacts from the Proposed Development are anticipated. The construction of the Substation may require the demolition of Wyndford (Asset 259) and the loss of post-medieval fabric. In the worst case, there is the potential for direct physical impacts from the construction of the Substation to result in a significant effect.
- 11.8.9 There is judged to be the potential for hitherto unknown buried remains to survive with Substation Site Option A. However, based on the current and historic, largely arable land use, any remains are likely to have been adversely impact by agricultural activities. The potential for direct physical impacts on hitherto unknown buried remains from the construction of the Substation is unlikely to reach a level of EIA significance. However, this cannot be confirmed at this stage.
- 11.8.10 Based on the proximity of Substation Site Option A to the Blackburn Moss Wetland and the paleoenvironmental remains identified during invasive assessments<sup>37</sup>, there is considered to be a High potential for paleoenvironmental remains to survive. The potential for direct physical impacts on those remains from the construction of the Substation is unlikely to reach a level of EIA significance.

*Substation Site Option B*

- 11.8.11 One non-designated heritage asset, a building of at least 19<sup>th</sup> century date, known as Westport (Asset 394), has been recorded within the extent of Substation Site Option B. The buildings do not appear to still be in existence, however there is the potential for buried remains and fabric associated with Westport to survive. There is the potential for direct physical impacts on a known heritage asset from the construction of the Substation however the level of impact is unlikely to reach a level of EIA significance.
- 11.8.12 There is judged to be the potential for hitherto unknown buried remains to survive with Substation Site Option B. However, based on the current and historic, largely arable land use, any remains are likely to have been adversely impact by agricultural activities. The potential for direct physical impacts on hitherto unknown buried remains from the construction of the Substation is unlikely to reach a level of EIA significance. However, this cannot be confirmed at this stage.

<sup>37</sup> Headland Archaeology (2012). ABERDEEN WESTERN PERIPHERAL ROUTE PACKAGE (FASTLINK) Red Moss Wetland (Site 67) and Blackburn Moss Wetland (Site 119) Palaeoenvironmental Assessment. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.5284/1021554>

### Setting Effects

- 11.8.13 Settings effects may arise during the construction phase, however, any such effects are often temporary and of short duration. Longer term impacts arise during the operational phase, and during the lifetime of the Proposed Development and as such settings effects are usually considered during the operational phase.

#### *Onshore Transmission Cable Corridor*

- 11.8.14 The works associated with construction within the Onshore Transmission Cable Corridor may have a temporary impact on the setting of designated heritage assets, however as the Onshore Transmission Cables are proposed to be an underground following construction and any land reclamation which may be required in the case of open trenching being used, there is unlikely to be any visible evidence of the Proposed Development when complete. Any effects are unlikely to reach a level of effect considered to be of EIA significance. It is proposed that the assessment of setting effects from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Onshore Transmission Cables can be scoped out.

#### *Substation*

- 11.8.15 Settings effects of the Proposed Development are likely to be limited to those resulting from the Substation at either Substation Site Option A or Substation Site Option B.
- 11.8.16 The Scheduled Cantleyhills, cairn 150 m SSW of (Asset 1) is located c. 230 m east of Substation Site Option A. The long cairn is located on sloping ground and is a substantial monument and clear feature in the landscape. The cairn is aligned north-east to south-west with a horned forecourt in the east, north-east.<sup>38</sup> The cairn is aligned roughly parallel with Green Burn which runs north-east to south-west to the north-west of the cairn. The land drops away to the north-east and given the cairn's alignment this may have once formed a key view to and from the cairn, in the direction of the low ground at the Burn of Muchalls beyond. However, a farm complex now limits views along the exact alignment and would also impeded views of the cairn from this direction except in locations to the south of the farm. Views to the east stretch to the sea and may also have been of some significance.
- 11.8.17 Substation Site Option A would be located c. 230 m west of the cairn, and whilst not in the key north-east, south-west alignment of the cairn, the Proposed Development would be a modern development in close proximity, albeit in a peripheral view to and from the cairn. Any effect is unlikely to reach a level of effect considered to be of EIA significance; however the effect on the setting of the cairn would need to be informed by further site visits and visualisations.
- 11.8.18 The Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) prepared for this assessment indicates that there would be no intervisibility between Substation Site Option A or Substation Site Option B and the other two Scheduled Monuments (Asset 10 & 16) within the Scoping Boundary.
- 11.8.19 The ZTV does indicate intervisibility with the Category C Listed Houff Of Ury, Ury House (Asset 43) within the Scoping Boundary. The Listed Building is an 18<sup>th</sup> century mausoleum which was remodelled in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and relates to the Ury Estate (centred Asset 40). It is considered to be of 18<sup>th</sup> century origin. The mausoleum appears to be currently located in a stand of trees in agricultural land. Whilst there may be predicted intervisibility, the Listed mausoleum's setting relates to the Ury Estate and not to land beyond the Estate including and the Proposed Development. Any effect is unlikely to reach a level of effect considered to be of EIA significance; however, the effect on the setting of the Listed would need to be informed by further site visits and, if necessary, visualisations.

<sup>38</sup> HES. (2026). Cantleyhills, cairn 150m SSW of. Available at:  
<https://portal.historicenvironment.scot/apex/?p=1505:300::::VIEWTYPE,VIEWREF:designation.SM3298>

- 11.8.20 Cheyne Farmhouse (Asset 41) is a Category B Listed 19<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse, located surround by the Scoping Boundary extent but within an area excluded from the Scoping Boundary. When constructed the Farmhouse appears to have been located within a rectangular plot of land aligned roughly north-east, south-west and was located within a rural and agricultural landscape, with woodland to the north and Ury Estate (centred Asset 40) to the east. The Farmhouse appears to currently be located within the extent of a modern farm complex, with large modern agricultural sheds. The ZTVs for the Substation indicates intervisibility with the Farmhouse. Whilst potentially visible, any visibility of the development would be to the north-east in a landscape which includes the modern built extent of Stonehaven and recent residential developments within the former Ury Estate (centred Asset 40) as well as modern infrastructure. The landscape immediately around the Farmhouse would undergo very little change and the ability to appreciate, understand and experience of the historic setting of the Farmhouse would be retained. Any effect is unlikely to reach a level of effect considered to be of EIA significance; however, the effect on the setting of the Listed Building would need to be informed by further site visits.
- 11.8.21 The ZTV indicates that there would be no intervisibility between either Substation Site Option A or Substation Site Option B and 46 designed heritage assets in the 5 km Study Area, including eight Scheduled Monuments (Assets 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17 & 391), Kirkton of Fetteresso Conservation Area (Asset 19), and 37 Listed Buildings (Assets 24, 26- 29, 36-38, 40, 45-49, 50-54, 59-62, 64, 65, 68, 69, 71-76, 78, 388, 389 & 390). As there is anticipated to be no intervisibility with the proposed Substation (either Substation Site Option A or Substation Site Option B) and these designed heritage assets there would be no effect on their setting and thus the Proposed Development is unlikely to reach a level of effect considered to be of EIA significance; however the effect on the setting of these 45 designated heritage assets would need to be checked following the selection of the preferred Substation and following confirmation of design informed, if needed by further site visits and visualisations.
- 11.8.22 The ZTV for both Substation Site Option A and Substation Site Option B indicate intervisibility of the Proposed Development with 16 designed heritage assets in the surrounding 5 km Study Area. These will be discussed below. Where assets are anticipated to have intervisibility with only one Substation option they are discussed under the separate headings below.
- 11.8.23 The Scheduled White Hill, house and field system (centred Asset 4) is a prehistoric domestic asset located on the northern side of the rise known as White Hill, c. 151 m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD). The Scheduled extent includes two roundhouses, banks and cairns. The Burn of Monboys is located to the west of the Scheduled White Hill (Asset 4). Whilst the original setting of the Scheduled White Hill is difficult to determine, it would be supposed that the asset was constructed on relatively higher ground for some form of defence and protection as well as to locate settlement away from the fertile plain. The proximity of a waterway and thus natural resources was likely also important to the original siting of the Scheduled White Hill. The Scheduled White Hill is now located within moorland, to the north of the fertile, agricultural land, in a landscape characterised to the south by modern and post-medieval agricultural field and settlement patterning. The ZTV indicates that the Substation would be visible to the east from the centre and eastern extent of the Scheduled White Hill, with slightly more visibility of any development at Substation Site Option A compared to Substation Site Option B. Whilst visible, any development would be one of several modern developments in the landscape to the south of the Scheduled White Hill and would not alter the topographic location or the ability to understand, appreciate and experience the proximity of the Scheduled White Hill to natural resources and the fertile plain. Any effect is unlikely to reach a level of effect considered to be of EIA significance; however, the effect on the setting of the Scheduled White Hill would need to be informed by further site visits and visualisations.

- 11.8.24 Two circular enclosures, cairns and banks have been designated a Scheduled Monument known as Cheynehill Wood, enclosures & field systems 750 m N of Hillhead (Asset 6). The remains are considered to be prehistoric in date and relate to settlement and agricultural practices of the time. The Scheduled Cheynehill Wood is located south of the Cowie Water on the summit of relatively higher land. This suggests that the local landscape was important to the siting and use of the Scheduled Cheynehill Wood, and forms a key characteristic of its setting. Modern satellite imagery locates the Scheduled Cheynehill Wood within a portion of Cheynehill Wood which is no longer planted with trees, although historic mapping indicates the location was planted in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The ZTVs indicate intervisibility with the Proposed Development, with the ZTV for Substation Site Option A and Substation Site Option B indicating similar proportions of visibility from the majority of the Scheduled extent. In reality, visibility to the north-east would likely be screened, at least, in part by woodland. The proposed Substation may be visible from the Scheduled Cheynehill Wood, however it would be one of many modern developments, including OHLs, pylons, agricultural infrastructure and wind turbines. Any effect is unlikely to reach a level of effect considered to be of EIA significance; however, the effect on the setting of the Scheduled Cheynehill Wood would need to be informed by further site visits and visualisations.
- 11.8.25 Raedykes, Roman camp is a Scheduled Monument (Asset 15) comprising the remains of a probable 1<sup>st</sup> century AD large camp which survives largely as upstanding earthworks. The camp includes the summit of Garrison Hill at c. 192 m AOD and the topographical position of the camp probably relates to the camp's defensive and military function, and thus this location forms a key characteristic of the asset's setting. Raedykes Roman camp appears to be located in an area of semi-improved agricultural land in a landscape characterised by modern field patterning, post-medieval and modern settlement and agricultural infrastructure, modern wind turbines and woodland. The ZTV indicates that the Substation, at either Substation Site Option A or Substation Site Option B would be visible to the east from the majority of the Scheduled extent, barring the north-western corner, with the ZTV for Substation Site Option B indicating a greater area of intervisibility compared to the ZTV for Substation Site Option A. The topographical location of Raedykes Roman camp would be unchanged by the Proposed Development and whilst the ZTVs indicate that the development would be visible, any development would be seen as another modern change to the wider landscape. Any effect is unlikely to reach a level of effect considered to be of EIA significance; however, the effect on the setting of the Scheduled Raedykes, Roman camp would need to be informed by further site visits and visualisations.
- 11.8.26 Muchalls Conservation Area (centred Asset 18) includes one Category C Listed Building (Asset 33). There is currently no Conservation Area appraisal available for Muchalls.<sup>39</sup> The Conservation Area extends from A92 in the west to the North Sea in the east and incorporates a coastal village, dominated by traditional stone-built architecture<sup>40</sup>. The extent of the Conservation Area, based on the first edition OS map, includes the settlements of "*Strathathro*", now Muchalls as well as dispersed settlements with names referring to Muchalls, suggesting that the historic or contemporary landholder was associated with Muchalls Castle (centred Asset 30) to the east. Modern mapping indicates that the Conservation Area is centred on the settlement of Muchalls, formerly "*Strathathro*", along Marine Terrace. The ZTVs for the Substations indicate intervisibility from within the Conservation Area, with relatively more of intervisibility between the Conservation Area and Substation Site Option B than Substation Site Option A. Any intervisibility would also include a major road, the A92. Any effect is unlikely to reach a level of effect considered to be of EIA significance. The effect on the setting of the Conservation Area would need to be informed by further site visits and, if required visualisations from key views within the Conservation Area.

<sup>39</sup> Aberdeenshire Council. (2026). Conservation areas Available at: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/built-heritage/conservation-area/>

<sup>40</sup> Webmasterr. (2025). Muchalls: A Comprehensive Guide to the Coastal Village and Its Heritage. Available at: <https://www.boogie-woogie.co.uk/muchalls/>

- 11.8.27 There are five Listed Buildings at Muchalls Castle including the Category A Listed Muchalls Castle (Asset 30); the Category B Listed The Crypt, Muchalls Castle (Asset 31), Dovecot, Muchalls Castle (Asset 32), and The Stables and Coach house, Muchalls Castle (Asset 55); and the Category C Listed The Cottage, Muchalls Castle (Asset 56). The Castle (Asset 50), Stables and Coach house (Asset 55) and The Cottage (Asset 56) are noted by HES<sup>41</sup> to be a Category A Listed interest group. The key characteristic of the setting of the Listed Buildings relates to one another, as well as the historic landholdings associated with the Category A Listed Muchalls Castle (Asset 30). Historic maps as well as satellite imagery locates the Listed Buildings within a square in plan area occupied by trees and planned gardens. This landholding does not appear to have changed since at least the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- 11.8.28 The ZTVs indicate that there would be intervisibility with the Listed Buildings at Muchalls Castle and the proposed Substation, either Substation Site Option A or Substation Site Option B. Whilst visible the intervisibility within the landholding and association of the Listed Buildings at Muchalls Castle to one another would be unchanged by the Proposed Development. At a distance of c. 2 km at the closest point (Substation Site Option A) any development associated with the Substation would likely be visible as a distant, modern development to the south-east in a landscape which already includes wind turbines, OHLs and modern agricultural sheds. Any effect is unlikely to reach a level of effect considered to be of EIA significance; however, the effect on the setting of the Listed Buildings at Muchalls Castle would need to be informed by further site visits and visualisations.
- 11.8.29 The Category B Listed Newhall (Asset 34) is an early 19<sup>th</sup> century mansion house located c. 3.83 km north of the closest proposed Substation, Substation Site Option A. Newhall, based on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map, appears to have been a mansion house designed within a planned landscape including gardens and trees. The surrounding landscape was dominated by post-medieval agricultural fields. Newhall is now located within a similarly designed plot, immediately east of a collection of modern agricultural sheds annotated on modern mapping as Beechfield, Elsick Development Company Limited. The surrounding landscape can be largely characterised as agricultural, although the urban sprawl of Chapelton of Elsick to the south-west would likely be visible. The Proposed Development may be visible as indicated by the ZTV, however it would likely be one of many modern additions to the landscape. The setting of Newhalls, as a mansion house located within a designed plot of land would be unchanged although the wider landscape has changed. Any effect is unlikely to reach a level of effect considered to be of EIA significance; however, the effect on the setting of Newhall (Asset 34) would need to be informed by further site visits.
- 11.8.30 North Lodge, Ury House (Asset 44) is the Category B Listed remains of a 19<sup>th</sup> century lodge house associated with the 18<sup>th</sup> century Ury Estate (centred Asset 40). The historic setting of the lodge relates to Ury Estate and access into the estate, as well as outward displays of wealth from the Estate owners. The OS maps of the 1860s indicate that the lodge house was located within Slicewells Wood and Megray Wood. The remains of the lodge house are currently located on the western side of the B979, to the south of a modern residential dwelling with trees located to the east and west. Whilst the ZTVs indicate theoretical intervisibility, in reality the historic and modern woodland would limit any visibility. Any effect is unlikely to reach a level of effect considered to be of EIA significance; however, the effect on the setting of North Lodge would need to be informed by further site visits.

<sup>41</sup> HES. (2026) MUCHALLS CASTLE. Available at:  
<https://portal.historicenvironment.scot/apex/?p=1505:300::::VIEWTYPE,VIEWREF:designation.LB9352>

- 11.8.31 Cookney Parish Church (Asset 35) is a Category C Listed Building and late 19<sup>th</sup> century church noted by HES to be a "landmark".<sup>42</sup> The Church appears to have been built for the hamlet of Cookney on a local summit of land enabling the Church to be seen from the local landscape and the surrounding rural, agricultural landscape, with an area of woodland limiting views to the north in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The modern setting of the Church is similar to its historic setting, although modern residential dwellings and agricultural sheds, as well as modern infrastructure which includes electricity pylons and wind turbines are visible in the wider landscape. The Proposed Development is likely to be visible from the Church, however the Church's topographical position and its function as a local landmark, which form key characteristics of its setting, would not be impacted. The Proposed Development would be visible, as indicated by the ZTV, however it is not anticipated that any effect would reach a level of effect considered to be of EIA significance. The effect on the setting of Cookney Parish Church (Asset 35) would need to be informed by further site visits.
- Substation Site Option A*
- 11.8.32 There are no designated heritage assets which are only anticipated to be intervisible with Substation Site Option A.
- Substation Site Option B*
- 11.8.33 The ZTV prepared for Substation Site Option B indicates intervisibility with an additional 16 designated heritage assets.
- 11.8.34 One of those assets is located within the Scoping Boundary, the Category C Listed Enclosing Walls, Houff Of Ury, Ury House (Asset 25). The Listed walls relate to the post-medieval Ury Estate (centred Asset 40) and the nearby Category B Listed mausoleum (Asset 43). Both Listed Buildings (Asset 25 & 43) appear to be located within a stand of trees within agricultural land. The ZTV indicates that there may be intervisibility with Substation Site Option B, c. 2.10 km east, however any intervisibility would likely be seen in conjunction with other modern infrastructure developments. Any effect is unlikely to reach a level of effect considered to be of EIA significance; however the effect on the setting of the Listed would need to be informed by further site visits.
- 11.8.35 The Scheduled Monuments known as Findlayston, cairn, enclosure and field systems 500 m ENE of (Asset 2) comprises the remains of a prehistoric burial cairn, and potential contemporary oval enclosure, a cairn field, and a pre-improvement field system across the summit of a hill c. 150 m AOD, with the burial cairn located c. 143 m AOD on the south-eastern side of the summit. Prehistoric burial cairns are often sited to be seen in the landscape, and the topographical position of the cairn does indicate that this may be the case. Burial cairns are often also located near waterways and Houff Burn and smaller streams are located to the east. The location of the field system relates more to the position of natural resources, including fertile soils and waterways. Findlayston Scheduled Monument appears to be located in agricultural ground to the west of the Ury Estate (centred Asset 40). The modern landscape includes wind turbines to the north, 21<sup>st</sup> century ground works associated with the residential development within the Ury Estate (centred Asset 40) to the east, the post-medieval and modern urban extent of Stonehaven (centred Asset 20) to the south-east as well as modern infrastructure. The development of Substation Site Option B c. 2.69 km east is anticipated to be visible from the majority of Findlayston Scheduled Monument, barring the eastern corner of the Scheduled extent. The Proposed Development may be visible, however it would be visible within the context of the surrounding landscape character which already includes similar modern infrastructure. The topographical location as well the proximity to nature resources associated with the siting of Findlayston Scheduled Monument, and forming key characteristics of its setting, would be unchanged. Any effect is not anticipated to

<sup>42</sup> HES. (2026). COOKNEY CHURCH (OF SCOTLAND). Available:  
<https://portal.historicenvironment.scot/apex/?p=1505:300:::::VIEWTYPE,VIEWREF:designation.LB9358>

reach a level of effect considered to be of EIA significance. The effect on the setting of Findlayston Scheduled Monument (Asset 2) would need to be informed by further site visits.

- 11.8.36 Glenton Hill, house, enclosure and field system (Asset 3) is a Scheduled Monument which comprises the remains of several roundhouses of supposed prehistoric date, one of which is thought to date to the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC and be a typified Perthshire type associated with what appears to be overlapping field systems including clearance cairns, lynchets and field banks. Glenton Hill Scheduled Monument can be characterised as domestic and agricultural and is located on the high ground between Glenton Hill, c. 174 m AOD to the north-west and another summit c. 159 m AOD to the south-east, with steeply sloping ground to the west forming the valley around the Cowie Water. This nearby landscape allows for an appreciation, understanding and experience of Glenton Hill Scheduled Monument as the topographical location and proximity to natural resources can be understood and form key characteristics of its setting. Satellite imagery locates Glenton Hill Scheduled Monument within scrubland bound to the north-east and south-west by tree belts. The Cowie Water to the west also appears to be tree lined and the land to the north appears to be agricultural in character. Substation Site Option B would be located c. 4.96 km to the east and whilst the ZTV suggests intervisibility any development would likely be one of many distant modern infrastructure developments visible from Glenton Hill Scheduled Monument, although in reality the tree belts would likely screen some visibility. Furthermore, whilst visible the Proposed Development is unlikely to alter how Glenton Hill Scheduled Monument is appreciated, experienced and understood in the modern landscape. Any effect is not anticipated to reach a level of effect considered to be of EIA significance. The effect on the setting of Glenton Hill Scheduled Monument (Asset 3) would need to be informed by further site visits.
- 11.8.37 The eastern extent of the Scheduled Newbigging, earthwork 400 m E of (Asset 5) is predicted to have intervisibility with Substation Site Option B. The Scheduled Newbigging, earthwork comprises the bank and ditch which runs to Raedykes Hill, the date of which has been debated and may have originated in the prehistoric period and been used for the military purposes in the Roman period; perhaps being associated with the Scheduled Raedykes, Roman camp (Asset 15) to the north. The topographical position of Newbigging, earthwork, which forms a key characteristic of its setting, cannot be contested and whilst a portion of the earthwork may have intervisibility with the proposed substation at Substation Site Option B Any effect on the setting of Newbigging, earthwork Scheduled Monument (Asset 5) not anticipated to reach a level of effect considered to be of EIA significance and would need to be informed by further site visits.
- 11.8.38 The Scheduled Campstone Hill, ring cairns, cairns and field systems (Asset 8) comprises the remains of prehistoric burial cairn as well as a pre-improvement landscape consisting of ring cairns, a house platforms and parts of several field systems. The burial cairn is located on the summit of Campstone Hill which slopes down steeply to the south, east and north and slopes relatively more gently to the north-west. A number of small streams are located to the east. The historic setting of the remains relates to the topographical prominence of Campstone Hill as well as proximity to natural resources, and these form key characteristics of the asset's setting. Satellite imagery indicates Campstone Hill Scheduled Monument is located in upland moorland, with improved agricultural land to the south and west. Modern wind turbines as well as electricity infrastructure are visible from Campstone Hill Scheduled Monument. The ZTV indicates that Substation Site Option B would be visible from the summit of Campstone Hill, the central portion of the Scheduled extent, although it would be visible within the context of modern infrastructure and the topographical prominence of the asset would be unaltered. Any effect is not anticipated to reach a level of effect considered to be of EIA significance. The effect on the setting of Campstone Hill Scheduled Monument (Asset 8) would need to be informed by further site visits.
- 11.8.39 Gallow Hill, cairn (Asset 392) comprises the remains of a Bronze Age burial cairn located on the summit of a hill c. 57 m AOD. When constructed the burial cairn may have been seen from the

local landscape and may have been visible from the coast. The cairn appears to be currently located in trees. Whilst there is theoretical intervisibility with Substation Site Option B, any visibility would be limited by the surrounding vegetation. Any development associated with Substation Site Option B would also be visible in the context of other energy production infrastructure and the built extent of Stonehaven (centred Asset 20). Any effect is not anticipated to reach a level of effect considered to be of EIA significance. The effect on the setting of Galloow Hill Scheduled Monument (Asset 392) would need to be informed by further site visits.

- 11.8.40 Stonehaven Conservation Area (centred Asset 20) encompasses the Old town and 18<sup>th</sup> century grid-plan New town.<sup>43</sup> Previous references to a Conservation Appraisal are contained within heritage documents available online.<sup>44</sup> however the Conservation Appraisal is currently undergoing review<sup>45</sup> and is thus not available. The ZTV for Substation Site Option B suggested intervisibility from a small area of the north-western portion of the Conservation Area around Arduthie Road and Westfield Road, which was a planned road on the OS maps of the 1860s, however no development was recorded at that time. It is not considered that the area with intervisibility is key to the significance of Stonehaven Conservation Area. Given the limited amount of intervisibility with the Conservation Area as well as the screening provided by the built extent of Stonehaven itself, any effect of the Proposed Development is not anticipated to reach a level of effect considered to be of EIA significance. The effect on the setting of Stonehaven Conservation Area (centred Asset 20) would need to be informed by the Conservation Appraisal, if available, further site visits.
- 11.8.41 There are four Category B (Assets 22, 23, 63 & 386) and three Category C Listed Buildings (Assets 21, 77, 387) west and south of Stonehaven with anticipated intervisibility with Substation Site B based on the ZTV. Two of these Listed Buildings can be characterised as 19<sup>th</sup> century transport related (Asset 63 & 77) assets, whose setting relates to the railway. A collection of four Listed Buildings at Dunotter, consisting of an 18<sup>th</sup> century church (Asset 21), and associated churchyard (Asset 22) and 18<sup>th</sup> century manse (Asset 23) and walled garden (Asset 386). The setting of the collection of Listed Buildings relates to the group value and their historic and modern proximity. The setting of Glaslaw Bridge over Glaslaw Burn (Asset 387) relates to its functionality. As such any effect of the Proposed Development on these Listed Buildings is not anticipated to reach a level of effect considered to be of EIA significance. The effect on the setting would need to be informed further site visits.
- 11.8.42 Topics proposed to be scoped in and scoped out of the EIA are shown in **Table 11.1** and **Table 11.2**, respectively.

<sup>43</sup> FAS Heritage. (2014) HERITAGE ASSESSMENT STONEHAVEN FLOOD PREVENTION SCHEME ABERDEENSHIRE. Available at: [https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/12875/sh-fas-00-00-rp-en-0001\\_heritage\\_assessment1.pdf](https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/12875/sh-fas-00-00-rp-en-0001_heritage_assessment1.pdf)

<sup>44</sup> ibid

<sup>45</sup> Aberdeenshire Council. (2026). Conservation Areas. Available at: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/built-heritage/conservation-area/>

**Table 11.1: Summary of Potential Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Related Impacts Proposed to be Scoped In**

Potential Impact	Phase of Proposed Development *			Justification	Summary of the Proposed Approach to Assessment
	C	O&M	D		
Direct physical impacts on known heritage assets within the Scoping Boundary	✓	✗	✗	There is the potential for direct physical impacts on known heritage assets within the Scoping Boundary and the level of impact, where not mitigatable, should be assessed.	<p>Identify known heritage assets within the Scoping Boundary via various sources (outlined in <b>Section 11.5</b>)</p> <p>Identify the heritage assets likely to be impacted by the Proposed Development, using the indicative cable corridor</p> <p>Use the methodology to conclude on the likely direct physical impact and state whether or not that is significant in EIA terms.</p>
Direct physical impacts on hitherto unknown heritage assets or paleoenvironmental remains within the Scoping Boundary	✓	✗	✗	There is the potential for direct physical impacts on hitherto unknown heritage assets and/or paleoenvironmental remains within the Scoping Boundary and the level of impact, where not mitigatable, should be assessed.	<p>Identify the potential for hitherto unknown heritage assets and paleoenvironmental remains within the Scoping Boundary via various sources (outlined in <b>Section 11.5</b>)</p> <p>Identify the areas where there is likely to be higher potentials for survival within the Scoping Boundary</p> <p>Use the methodology to conclude on the likely direct physical impact and state whether or not that is significant in EIA terms.</p>
Settings impacts on designated heritage assets within the Scoping Boundary	✗	✓	✗	The operation of the Substation is likely to have an impact on the settings of designated heritage assets. The closest of which are located within the Scoping Boundary.	<p>Identify designated heritage assets within the Scoping Boundary</p> <p>Assess the settings of the designated heritage assets, using site visits, ZTVs and where appropriate visualisations</p>

Potential Impact	Phase of Proposed Development*			Justification	Summary of the Proposed Approach to Assessment
	C	O&M	D		
					Use the methodology to conclude on the likely settings effect and state whether or not that is significant in EIA terms.
Settings impacts on designated heritage assets within the 5 km Study Area and ZTV	✗	✓	✗	The operation of the Substation may have an impact on the settings of designated heritage assets within 5 km of the Substation. Based on the size and scale of the Proposed Development a 5 km Study Area is considered sufficient to identify any significant impacts given the type of development, proposed height and the surrounding landscape.	<p>Identify designated heritage assets within the 5 km Study Area and within the ZTV</p> <p>Assess the settings of the designated heritage assets, using site visits, and where available visualisations</p> <p>Use the methodology to conclude on the likely settings effect and state whether or not that is significant in EIA terms.</p>
Cumulative impacts on the settings of designated heritage assets	✗	✓	✗	The cumulative impact of the identified cumulative developments on the setting of designated heritage assets will be assessed.	<p>Identify designated heritage assets within the 5 km Study Area and within the ZTV</p> <p>Identify cumulative developments in line with <b>Chapter 4</b>.</p> <p>Use the methodology to conclude whether the additional of the Proposed Development to the cumulative baseline would have an impact upon the settings of identified designated heritage assets and state whether or not that is significant in EIA terms</p>
*Phase of Proposed Development refers to construction (C), operation and maintenance (O&M), and decommissioning (D).					

**Table 11.2: Summary of Potential Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Related Impacts Proposed to be Scoped Out**

Potential Impact	Justification
Potential direct physical impacts on cultural heritage assets outwith the Scoping Boundary	There will be no direct physical impact on land beyond the Scoping Boundary.
Potential impacts on the settings of non-designated cultural heritage assets and features, with the exception of those considered to potentially be of national importance	These assets are generally considered less sensitive to changes in their settings and are judged to be unlikely to be subject to significant settings effects.
Potential impacts on the setting of assets from the construction, operation and decommissioning arising from the Onshore Transmission Cables	The Onshore Transmission Cables are proposed to be installed underground. Whilst there may be short term settings impacts from the construction of underground cables, which would vary depending on the construction methodology (open cut trenches or trenchless techniques such as Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD)), following construction there would be no long term change to the setting of heritage assets and thus the impact of the Onshore Transmission Cables upon the setting of heritage assets is Scoped Out.
Potential impacts on the settings of designated heritage assets beyond 5 km from the Substation	Given the proposed height of the Substation and the surrounding environment, these assets are considered too distant to have their settings significantly adversely affected by the Proposed Development
Potential impacts on known and hitherto unknown assets during decommissioning	Direct physical impacts are likely during ground disturbance upon construction, however decommissioning works are likely to be smaller in scale and would disturb the same ground. As such it is unlikely that there would be further direct physical impacts on heritage assets during decommissioning.

## 11.9 Proposed Assessment Methodology

- 11.9.1 The assessment methodology distinguishes between the term ‘impact’ and ‘effect’. An impact is defined as a physical change to a heritage asset or its setting, whereas an effect refers to the significance of this impact. The first stage of the assessment involves establishing the importance of the heritage asset and assessing the sensitivity of the asset to change (impact). Using the proposed design for the Proposed Development, an assessment of the impact magnitude is made and a judgement regarding the level and significance of effect is arrived at.

### Criteria for Assessing Sensitivity of Heritage Assets

- 11.9.2 The definition of cultural significance is readily accepted by heritage professionals both in the UK and internationally and was first fully outlined in the Burra Charter, which states in Article One that ‘cultural significance’ or ‘cultural heritage value’ means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations.<sup>46</sup> This definition has since been adopted by heritage organisations around the world, including HES. HEPS notes that to have cultural

<sup>46</sup> International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). (2013). Burra Charter Article 1.2. Available at: <https://australia.icomos.org/publications/burra-charter-practice-notes/>

significance an asset must have a particular “aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present and future generations”.<sup>47</sup> Heritage assets also have value in the sense that they “...create spaces for recreation, leisure, tourism, and education, or places for nature to thrive” and “can be a source of identity, a resource for learning, or a spark for creativity”.<sup>48</sup>

11.9.3 All heritage assets have significance; however, some heritage assets are judged to be more important than others. The level of that importance is, from a cultural resource management perspective, determined by establishing the asset’s capacity to contribute to our understanding or appreciation of the past.<sup>49</sup> In the case of many heritage assets their importance has already been established through the designation (i.e. Scheduling, Listing and Inventory) processes applied by HES.

11.9.4 The rating of importance of heritage assets is first and foremost made in reference to their designation. For non-designated assets importance is assigned based on professional judgement and guided by the criteria presented in **Table 11.3**; which itself relates to the criteria for designations as set out in Designation Policy and Selection Guidance.<sup>50</sup> and Scotland’s Listed Buildings.<sup>51</sup>

**Table 11.3: Criteria for Establishing Importance of Heritage Assets**

Importance	Receptors
Very High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World Heritage Sites (as protected by NPF4.<sup>52</sup>);</li> <li>Other designated or non-designated heritage assets with demonstrable Outstanding Universal Value.</li> </ul>
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scheduled Monuments.<sup>53</sup>;</li> <li>Category A Listed Buildings.<sup>54</sup>;</li> <li>Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes.<sup>55</sup>;</li> <li>Inventory Battlefields.<sup>56,57</sup>;</li> <li>Outstanding examples of some period, style or type;</li> <li>Non-designated assets and/or Locally Listed assets considered to meet the criteria for the designations as set out above (as protected by NPF4.<sup>58</sup>).</li> </ul>

<sup>47</sup> HES, (2019). Historic Environment Policy for Scotland. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=1bcfa7b1-28fb-4d4b-b1e6-aa2500f942e7>

<sup>48</sup> HES, (2023). Our Past, Our Future: The Strategy for Scotland’s Historic Environment. Available at:

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=79204155-9eb2-4d29-ab14-aff200ec2801>

<sup>49</sup> HES, (2019). Historic Environment Policy for Scotland. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=1bcfa7b1-28fb-4d4b-b1e6-aa2500f942e7>

<sup>50</sup> HES, (2020). Designation Policy and Selection Guidance. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=8d8bbaeb-ce5a-46c1-a558-aa2500f7d3b>

<sup>51</sup> HES, (2021). Scotland’s Listed Buildings. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=34c90cb9-5ff3-45c3-8bc3-a58400fcbc44>

<sup>52</sup> Scottish Government, (2023). National Planning Framework 4. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/>

<sup>53</sup> Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Available at: [http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46/pdfs/ukpga\\_19790046\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46/pdfs/ukpga_19790046_en.pdf)

<sup>54</sup> Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/9/contents>

<sup>55</sup> Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2011. London: UK Government. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2011/3/contents>

<sup>56</sup> Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Available at: [http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46/pdfs/ukpga\\_19790046\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46/pdfs/ukpga_19790046_en.pdf)

<sup>57</sup> Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2011. London: UK Government. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2011/3/contents>

<sup>58</sup> Scottish Government, (2023). National Planning Framework 4. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/>

Importance	Receptors
Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Category B and C Listed Buildings.<sup>59, 60</sup>;</li> <li>• Conservation Areas;</li> <li>• Major or representative examples of some period, style or type; or</li> <li>• Non-designated assets and/or Locally Listed assets considered to meet the criteria for the designations as set out above (as protected by NPF4.<sup>61</sup>).</li> </ul>
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locally Listed assets;</li> <li>• Examples of any period, style or type which contribute to our understanding of the historic environment at the local level.</li> </ul>
Negligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relatively numerous types of features;</li> <li>• Findspots of artefacts that have no definite archaeological remains known in their context;</li> <li>• The above non-designated features are protected by Policy 7o of NPF4.<sup>62</sup>.</li> </ul>

11.9.5 Determining cultural heritage significance can be made with reference to the intrinsic, contextual and associative characteristics of an asset as set out in HEPS<sup>63</sup> and its accompanying Designation Policy and Selection Guidance.<sup>64</sup> The Designation Policy and Selection Guidance<sup>65</sup> indicates that the relationship of an asset to its setting or the landscape makes up part of its contextual characteristics. HES's Managing Change Guidance<sup>66</sup>, in defining what factors need to be considered in assessing the impact of a change on the setting of a historic asset or place, states that the magnitude of the proposed change should be considered "*relative to the sensitivity of the setting of an asset*"<sup>67</sup>, thereby making clear that assets vary in their sensitivity to changes in setting and thus have a relative sensitivity. The EIA Handbook suggests that cultural significance aligns with sensitivity but also states that "*the relationship between value and sensitivity should be clearly articulated in the assessment*"<sup>68</sup>. It is therefore recognised that the importance of an asset is not the same as its sensitivity to changes to its setting.<sup>69</sup> Elements of setting may make a positive, neutral, or negative contribution to the significance of an asset. Thus, in determining the nature and level of effects upon assets and their settings by the development, the contribution that setting makes to an asset's significance and thus its sensitivity to changes to setting need to be considered.

11.9.6 This approach recognises the importance of avoiding significant adverse impacts on the integrity of the setting of an asset in the context of the contribution that setting makes to the experience, understanding and appreciation of a given asset. It recognises that setting is a key characteristic

<sup>59</sup> Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/9/contents>

<sup>60</sup> Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/9/contents>

<sup>61</sup> Scottish Government, (2023). National Planning Framework 4. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/>

<sup>62</sup> Scottish Government, (2023). National Planning Framework 4. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/>

<sup>63</sup> HES, (2019). Historic Environment Policy for Scotland. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=1bcfa7b1-28fb-4d4b-b1e6-aa2500f942e7>

<sup>64</sup> HES, (2020). Designation Policy and Selection Guidance. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=8d8bbaeb-ce5a-46c1-a558-aa2500ff7d3b>

<sup>65</sup> HES, (2020). Designation Policy and Selection Guidance. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=8d8bbaeb-ce5a-46c1-a558-aa2500ff7d3b>

<sup>66</sup> HES, (2020). Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=80b7c0a0-584b-4625-b1fd-a60b009c2549>

<sup>67</sup> HES, (2020). Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=80b7c0a0-584b-4625-b1fd-a60b009c2549>

<sup>68</sup> Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), (2018). Environmental Assessment Handbook. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=6ed33b65-9df1-4a2f-acbb-a8e800a592c0>

<sup>69</sup> HES and SNH (2018). Environmental Assessment Handbook. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=6ed33b65-9df1-4a2f-acbb-a8e800a592c0>

in understanding and appreciating some, but by no means all, assets. Indeed, assets of High or Very High importance do not necessarily have high sensitivity to changes to their settings (e.g. do not necessarily have a high relative sensitivity). An asset's relative sensitivity to alterations to its setting refers to its capacity to retain its ability to contribute to an understanding and appreciation of the past in the face of changes to its setting. The ability of an asset's setting to contribute to an understanding, appreciation and experience of it and its significance also has a bearing on the sensitivity of that asset to changes to its setting. While heritage assets of High or Very High importance are likely to be sensitive to physical impacts, not all will have a similar sensitivity to impacts on their setting; this would be true where setting does not appreciably contribute to their significance. HES's guidance on setting makes clear that the level of effect may relate to "*the ability of the setting [of an asset] to absorb new development without eroding its key characteristics*".<sup>70</sup> Assets with Very High or High relative sensitivity to settings impacts may be vulnerable to any changes that affect their settings, and even slight changes may erode their key characteristics or the ability of their settings to contribute to the understanding, appreciation and experience of them. Assets whose relative sensitivity to changes to their setting is lower may be able to accommodate greater changes to their settings without having key characteristics eroded.

11.9.7 The criteria used for establishing an asset's relative sensitivity to changes to its setting is detailed in **Table 11.4**. This table has been developed based on AOC Archaeology Group's professional judgement and experience in assessing setting effects. It has been developed with reference to the policy and guidance noted above including NPF4,<sup>71</sup> HEPS,<sup>72</sup> and its Designation Policy and Selection Guidance,<sup>73</sup> the Xi'an Declaration,<sup>74</sup> the EIA Handbook,<sup>75</sup> and HES's guidance on the setting of heritage assets.<sup>76</sup>

**Table 11.4: Criteria for Establishing Relative Sensitivity of a Heritage Asset to Changes to its Setting**

Relative Sensitivity	Criteria
Very High	An asset, the setting of which is critical to understanding, appreciation and experience of it, should be thought of as having Very High Sensitivity to changes to its setting. This is particularly relevant for assets whose settings, or elements thereof, make an essential direct contribution to their cultural significance.
High	An asset, the setting of which makes a major contribution to understanding, appreciation and experience of it, should be thought of as having High Sensitivity to changes to its setting. This is particularly relevant for assets whose settings, or elements thereof, contribute substantially to their cultural significance.
Medium	An asset, the setting of which makes a moderate contribution to an understanding, appreciation and experience of it, should be thought of as having Medium Sensitivity to changes to its setting. This could be an asset for which setting makes a contribution to significance but whereby its value is derived mainly from its other

<sup>70</sup> HES, (2020). Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=80b7c0a0-584b-4625-b1fd-a60b009c2549>

<sup>71</sup> Scottish Government, (2023). National Planning Framework 4. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/>

<sup>72</sup> HES, (2019). Historic Environment Policy for Scotland. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=1bcfa7b1-28fb-4d4b-b1e6-aa2500f942e7>

<sup>73</sup> HES, (2020). Designation Policy and Selection Guidance. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=8d8bbaeb-ce5a-46c1-a558-aa2500ff7d3b>

<sup>74</sup> ICOMOS, (2005). Xi'An Declaration on the Conservation of the Setting of Heritage Structures, Sites and Areas. Available at: <https://icomosjapan.org/static/homepage/charter/declaration2005.pdf>

<sup>75</sup> HES and SNH (2018). Environmental Assessment Handbook. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=6ed33b65-9df1-4a2f-acbb-a8e800a592c0>

<sup>76</sup> HES, (2020). Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=80b7c0a0-584b-4625-b1fd-a60b009c2549>

Relative Sensitivity	Criteria
Low	An asset, the setting of which makes some contribution to understanding, appreciation and experience of it, should generally be thought of as having Low Sensitivity to changes to its setting. This may be an asset whose value is predominantly derived from its other characteristics
Negligible	An asset whose setting makes minimal contribution to understanding, appreciation and experience of it should generally be thought of as having Negligible Sensitivity to changes to its setting.

11.9.8 The determination of a heritage asset's relative sensitivity to changes to its setting is first and foremost reliant upon the determination of its setting and the key characteristics of setting which contribute to its cultural significance and an understanding and appreciation of that cultural significance. This aligns with Stage 2 of the HES guidance on setting<sup>77</sup>. The criteria set out in **Table 11.4** are intended as a guide. Assessment of individual heritage assets is informed by knowledge of the asset itself; of the asset type (if applicable) and by site visits to establish the current setting of the assets. This allows for the use of professional judgement and each asset is assessed on an individual basis.

#### Criteria for Assessing Magnitude of Impact

- 11.9.9 Potential impacts, that is the physical change to known heritage assets, and unknown buried archaeological remains, or changes to their settings, in the case of the Proposed Development relate to the possibility of disturbing, removing or destroying in situ remains and artefacts during the construction phase or the placement of new features within their setting during the operational phase.
- 11.9.10 The EIA Handbook notes that *"In the context of cultural heritage impact assessment, the receptors are the heritage assets and impacts will be considered in terms of the change in their cultural significance"*<sup>78</sup>. Physical changes to assets during the construction phase will relate to the physical removal or damage (in part or whole) to a heritage asset and will therefore likely be adverse. However, the EIA Handbook states that *"When considering setting impacts, visual change should not be equated directly with adverse impact. Rather the impact should be assessed with reference to the degree that the proposal affects those aspects of setting that contribute to the asset's cultural significance"*<sup>79</sup>. It further indicates that magnitude of impact should largely be regarded in the context of impacts to *"elements of the fabric or setting of the heritage asset that contribute to its cultural significance"*<sup>80</sup>. It is further of note that the EIA handbook states that *"Change in the setting of an asset may be entirely neutral in terms of the resultant change in the asset's cultural significance, but this will rarely be the case where the actual fabric is affected"*<sup>81</sup>.
- 11.9.11 On this basis, the magnitude of the impacts upon heritage assets caused by the Proposed Development is rated using the classifications and criteria outlined in **Table 11.5**. These criteria

<sup>77</sup> HES, (2020). Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=80b7c0a0-584b-4625-b1fd-a60b009c2549>

<sup>78</sup> HES and SNH (2018). Environmental Assessment Handbook. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=6ed33b65-9df1-4a2f-acbb-a8e800a592c0>

<sup>79</sup> HES and SNH (2018). Environmental Assessment Handbook. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=6ed33b65-9df1-4a2f-acbb-a8e800a592c0>

<sup>80</sup> HES and SNH (2018). Environmental Assessment Handbook. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=6ed33b65-9df1-4a2f-acbb-a8e800a592c0>

<sup>81</sup> HES and SNH (2018). Environmental Assessment Handbook. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=6ed33b65-9df1-4a2f-acbb-a8e800a592c0>

consider the extent of change which could be anticipated as a result of the Proposed Development in the context of the significance of the asset, including any contribution made by setting.

**Table 11.5: Criteria for Classifying Magnitude of Impact**

Magnitude of Impact	Criteria
High	Substantial loss of information content resulting from total or large-scale removal of deposits from an asset to the extent that it would result in a substantial loss of cultural significance;  Major alteration of an asset's baseline setting, which materially compromises the ability to understand, appreciate and experience the contribution that setting makes to the significance of the asset and erodes the key characteristics <sup>82</sup> of the setting to the extent that it would result in substantial loss of cultural significance.
Medium	Loss of information content resulting from material alteration of the baseline conditions by removal of part of an asset that would lead to some loss of cultural significance;  Alteration of an asset's baseline setting that affects the ability to understand, appreciate and experience the contribution that setting makes to the significance of the asset to a degree but whereby the cultural significance of the monument in its current setting remains legible. The key characteristics of the setting <sup>83</sup> may be partially eroded; there would be some loss of cultural significance.
Low	Detectable impacts leading to minor alteration to baseline conditions by removal of a small proportion of the asset, that would lead to slight loss of cultural significance;  Alterations to the asset's baseline setting, which do not affect the ability to understand, appreciate and experience the contribution that setting makes to the asset's overall significance and would only lead to slight loss of cultural significance. Key characteristics would not be eroded.
Negligible	Loss of a small percentage of the area of an asset's peripheral deposits/fabric that would leave cultural significance unchanged;  A reversible alteration to the fabric of the asset;  A marginal alteration to the asset's baseline setting that would leave cultural significance of the asset unchanged.
None	No impact predicted

11.9.12 In line with HES guidance on setting<sup>84</sup> factors which will be considered in coming to a judgement regarding magnitude of impact will include, but not be limited to:

- "whether key views to or from the historic asset or place are interrupted;
- whether the proposed change would dominate or detract in a way that affects our ability to understand and appreciate the historic asset;
- the visual impact of the proposed change relative to the scale of the historic asset or place and its setting;
- the visual impact of the proposed change relative to the current place of the historic asset in the landscape;

<sup>82</sup> HES, (2020). Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=80b7c0a0-584b-4625-b1fd-a60b009c2549>

<sup>83</sup> HES, (2020). Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=80b7c0a0-584b-4625-b1fd-a60b009c2549>

<sup>84</sup> HES, (2020). Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=80b7c0a0-584b-4625-b1fd-a60b009c2549>

- the presence, extent, character and scale of the existing built environment within the surroundings of the historic asset or place and how the proposed development compares to this;
- the magnitude of the proposed change relative to the sensitivity of the setting of an asset;
- sometimes relatively small changes, or a series of small changes, can have a major impact on our ability to appreciate and understand a historic asset or place. Points to consider include:
  - the ability of the setting to absorb new development without eroding its key characteristics;
  - the effect of the proposed change on qualities of the existing setting such as sense of remoteness, current noise levels, evocation of the historical past, sense of place, cultural identity, associated spiritual responses; and
  - cumulative impacts: individual developments may not cause significant impacts on their own, but may do so when they are combined.<sup>85</sup>

Criteria for Assessing Significance

11.9.13 The level of effect is judged to be the interaction of the asset’s importance or relative sensitivity (**Tables 11.4** and **11.5**) and the magnitude of the impact (**Table 11.5**). In order to provide a level of consistency, the assessment of importance and relative sensitivity, the prediction of magnitude of impact and the assessment of level of effect will be guided by pre-defined criteria.

11.9.14 The predicted level of effect on each heritage asset is then determined by considering the asset’s importance and/or relative sensitivity in conjunction with the predicted magnitude of the impact. The method of deriving the significance of effect is provided in **Table 11.6**.

**Table 11.6: Significance of Effect based on Inter-Relationship between the Importance and/or Sensitivity of a Heritage Asset and/or its Setting and the Magnitude of Impact**

Magnitude of Impact	Importance and/or Relative Sensitivity to Changes to Setting				
	Negligible	Low	Medium	High	Very High
High	Minor	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Major</b>	<b>Major</b>
Medium	Negligible/ Neutral	Minor	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Major</b>
Low	Negligible/ Neutral	Negligible/ Neutral	Minor	Minor	<b>Moderate</b>
Negligible	Negligible/ Neutral	Negligible/ Neutral	Negligible/ Neutral	Minor	Minor

11.9.15 Whilst the tables are used to ensure a consistent approach, it is noted that the EIA Handbook states that where matrices “are used, care must be taken to ensure that they are not applied in a mechanistic fashion or in a way that obscures the reasoning behind the assessment”<sup>86</sup>. The EIA Handbook further states that “Generally, a narrative approach will allow the assessor to set out their reasoning more clearly than a tabulated approach”<sup>87</sup>. As such a qualitative descriptive narrative is provided for each asset to summarise and explain each of the professional value

<sup>85</sup> HES, (2020). Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=80b7c0a0-584b-4625-b1fd-a60b009c2549>

<sup>86</sup> HES and SNH (2018). Environmental Assessment Handbook. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=6ed33b65-9df1-4a2f-acbb-a8e800a592c0>

<sup>87</sup> HES and SNH (2018). Environmental Assessment Handbook. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=6ed33b65-9df1-4a2f-acbb-a8e800a592c0>

judgements that have been made in establishing sensitivity and magnitude of impact for each individual asset.

- 11.9.16 Where a neutral level of effect is indicated in the table above this primarily relates to potential setting effects where the Proposed Development would be perceptible and thus result in a change to the baseline setting, but whereby the Proposed Development would not result in an adverse effect on the setting of the asset. This is in line with page 181 of the EIA Handbook<sup>88</sup>, quoted above, which indicates that visual changes should not necessarily be considered to have an adverse impact upon setting.
- 11.9.17 Using professional judgment and with reference to the Principles of Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment<sup>89</sup>, and the EIA Handbook<sup>90</sup> the assessment considers moderate and greater effects to be significant (bold in **Table 11.6**), while minor and lesser effects are considered not significant.

#### Integrity of Setting

- 11.9.18 NPF4 indicates that development proposals affecting Scheduled Monuments will only be supported where "*significant adverse impacts on the integrity of setting of a scheduled monument are avoided*" or "*exceptional circumstances have been demonstrated to justify the impact on a scheduled monument and its setting and impacts on the monument or its setting have been minimised*".<sup>91</sup> Significant adverse impacts on integrity of setting are judged here to relate to whether a change would adversely affect the asset's key characteristics or elements of setting which contribute to an asset's significance. It is considered that a significant adverse impact upon the integrity of the setting of an asset will only occur where the degree of change that will be represented by the Proposed Development would adversely alter those factors of the monument's setting that contribute to cultural significance such that the understanding, appreciation and experience of an asset are not adequately retained. In terms of effects upon the setting of heritage assets, it is considered that only those effects identified as 'significant' in EIA terms will have the potential to significantly adversely impact upon integrity of setting. Where no EIA significant effect is found it is considered that there would be no significant impact upon the integrity of an asset's setting. This is because for many assets, setting may make a limited contribution to their significance and as such changes would not significantly impact the integrity of their settings. Additionally, as set out in **Table 11.5**, lower ratings of magnitude of change relate to changes that would not obscure or erode key characteristics of setting which contribute to the significance of the asset.
- 11.9.19 Where EIA significant effects are found, a detailed assessment of adverse impacts upon integrity of setting is made. Whilst non-significant effects are unlikely to significantly impact integrity of setting, the reverse is not always true. That is, the assessment of an effect as being 'significant' in EIA terms does not necessarily mean that the adverse effect to the asset's setting will significantly impact its integrity. The assessment of adverse impact upon the integrity of an asset's setting, where required, is a qualitative one.

#### Requirements for Mitigation

- 11.9.20 National and local planning policies and planning guidance outlined in **Section 11.2** require a mitigation response that is designed to take cognisance of the possible impacts upon heritage assets by a proposed development and avoid, minimise, or offset any such impacts as

<sup>88</sup> HES and SNH (2018). Environmental Assessment Handbook. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=6ed33b65-9df1-4a2f-acbb-a8e800a592c0>

<sup>89</sup> Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA), (2021). Principles of Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment In The UK. Available at: <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/CD-7-19-Principles-of-Cultural-Heritage-Impact-Assessment-2021.pdf>

<sup>90</sup> HES and SNH (2018). Environmental Assessment Handbook. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=6ed33b65-9df1-4a2f-acbb-a8e800a592c0>

<sup>91</sup> Scottish Government, (2023). National Planning Framework 4. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/>

appropriate. The planning policies and guidance express a general presumption in favour of preserving heritage remains in situ wherever possible. Their 'preservation by record' (i.e. through excavation and recording, followed by analysis and publication by qualified archaeologists) is a less desirable alternative, and NPF4 notes that the policy intent is for the protection and enhancement of historic environment assets<sup>92</sup>. Policies related to designated assets (Policies 7a to 7j and 7l<sup>93</sup>) prefer avoidance of impact and where this is not possible require that any impacts are minimised. Policy 7o, relating to non-designated assets, states that these assets and their settings:

"should be protected and preserved in situ wherever feasible [ . . . ] Where impacts cannot be avoided they should be minimised. Where it has been demonstrated that avoidance or retention is not possible, excavation, recording, analysis, archiving, publication and activities to provide public benefit may be required through the use of conditions or legal/planning obligations"<sup>94</sup> .

- 11.9.21 While the UK's EIA Regulations only require the process to seek to apply the mitigation hierarchy, the IEMA recommends going beyond damage avoidance and seeking opportunities for enhancements<sup>95</sup>.

#### Assessment of Residual Effect Significance

- 11.9.22 The residual effect is what remains following the application of mitigation and management measures. The level of residual effect is defined using criteria outlined in **Tables 11.3 to 11.6**. No direct mitigation is possible for setting effects (beyond embedded mitigation by design which may include landscaping or vegetative screening to reduce visual impacts on the setting of heritage assets) and therefore residual operational phase effects on the setting of heritage assets would be the same as potential (pre-mitigation) effects.

### **11.10 Potential Cumulative Effects**

#### Potential Intra-Project Cumulative Effects

- 11.10.1 Potential intra-related cumulative effects will be considered as part of the Archaeology and Cultural Heritage assessment with details presented within the EIA Report. This will include the consideration of both project lifetime effects and receptor-led effects in accordance with the approach set out within **Chapter 4: Approach to Scoping and EIA**. There is considered to be the potential for intra-related cumulative effects to occur in relation to the following other environmental topics:

- Landscape and Visual (Chapter 10):
  - Cross reference will be made to the landscape and visual chapter in considering the potential for impacts upon the setting of designated heritage assets.
- Geology, Soils and Peat (Chapter 12):
  - Consideration will be given to whether significant geology, soil and peat effects could also result in direct physical impacts upon paleoenvironmental remains.
- Noise and Vibration (Chapter 16):
  - Consideration will be given to whether potential significant noise and vibration effects could also impact upon the setting of designated heritage assets.

<sup>92</sup> Scottish Government, (2023). National Planning Framework 4. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/>

<sup>93</sup> Scottish Government, (2023). National Planning Framework 4. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/>

<sup>94</sup> Scottish Government, (2023). National Planning Framework 4. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/>

<sup>95</sup> IEMA, (2024\_). Implementing the Mitigation Hierarchy from Concept to Construction. Available at: <https://www.iema.net/media/oone2qce/iema-mitigation-in-eia-guidance-final.pdf>

- 11.10.2 The potential for project lifetime effects will be considered in relation to those archaeology and cultural heritage related impacts have potential to occur during more than one phase (construction, operation and maintenance, and/or decommissioning phase) of the Proposed Development.

#### Potential Inter-Project Cumulative Effects

- 11.10.3 It is necessary to consider the effects arising from the addition of the Proposed Development to other cumulative developments. Consideration has been given to whether this would result in an additional cumulative change upon heritage assets, beyond the levels predicted for the Proposed Development alone.
- 11.10.4 The cumulative assessment has regard to the guidance on cumulative effects upon heritage assets as set out in EIA Handbook<sup>96</sup> and utilises the criteria used in determining effects from the Proposed Development as outlined in **Tables 11.3 to 11.6** above. The assessment of cumulative effects considers whether there would be an increased impact, either additive or synergistic, upon the setting of heritage assets as a result of adding the Proposed Development to a baseline, which may include operational, under construction, consented or proposed developments. It is necessary to consider whether the effects of other schemes in conjunction with the Proposed Development will result in an additional cumulative change upon heritage assets, beyond the levels predicted for the Proposed Development alone.
- 11.10.5 In determining the degree to which a cumulative effect may occur as a result of the addition of the Proposed Development into the cumulative baseline, a number of factors are taken into consideration including:
- The distance between cumulative developments;
  - The interrelationship between their ZTVs (i.e. theoretical visibility);
  - The overall character of the asset and its sensitivity;
  - The siting, scale and design of the cumulative developments themselves;
  - The way in which the asset is experienced;
  - The placing of the cumulative development(s) in relation to both the Proposed Development being assessed and the heritage asset under consideration; and
  - The contribution of the cumulative baseline schemes to the significance of the effect, excluding the individual proposal being assessed, upon the setting of the heritage asset under consideration.
- 11.10.6 The cumulative assessment will be based upon a list of operational, under construction or consented developments, along with developments where planning permission has been applied for. While all have been considered, only those which contribute to, or have the possibility to contribute to, cumulative effects on specific heritage assets are discussed in detail in the text. Additionally, given the emphasis NatureScot places on significant effects, and the requirements of the EIA Regulations, cumulative effects have been considered in detail for those assets where the Proposed Development has been judged to have an impact on their setting. Where No Impact has been predicted for the Proposed Development, there will be no cumulative effect.
- 11.10.7 The inter-project cumulative effects assessment will follow the approach set out within **Chapter 4: Approach to Scoping and EIA**.

<sup>96</sup> HES and SNH (2018). Environmental Assessment Handbook. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=6ed33b65-9df1-4a2f-acbb-a8e800a592c0>

### **11.11 Limitations and Assumptions**

- 11.11.1 The potential for archaeological remains outlined in this Scoping Report based on the sources outlined in **Section 11.5**. This relies on data obtained from a variety of sources, including secondary information, and it assumes that this data is accurate.
- 11.11.2 Buried archaeological evidence is, by its very nature, an unknown quantity which can never be 100% identified. The assessed potential is based on available baseline evidence but the physical nature and extent of any archaeological resource surviving within the Scoping Boundary cannot be confirmed without detailed information on the below ground deposits or results of on-site fieldwork.
- 11.11.3 All the work carried out in this assessment is based upon AOC Archaeology Group's professional knowledge and understanding of current (May 2026) and relevant United Kingdom standards and codes, technology and legislation. The assessment of the value of currently unknown buried heritage assets has been undertaken using professional judgement taking into account the baseline information and uses a reasonable worst-case scenario.
- 11.11.4 A walkover survey has not been undertaken to inform this Scoping Report. No site visits have been undertaken to inform an assessment of the potential for settings effects.

### **11.12 Summary of Proposed Scope**

- 11.12.1 The assessment will identify all heritage assets and previous archaeological interventions (Events) within the Scoping Boundary and a 500 m Study Area. A number of desk-based sources and a walkover survey will be undertaken to inform the EIA baseline. This will allow for an assessment of direct physical impacts of the Proposed Development as well as the potential for hitherto unknown buried heritage assets and paleoenvironmental remains to survive within the Scoping Boundary.
- 11.12.2 All designated heritage assets within 5 km of the Substation have been identified in order to assess the potential for settings effects on the settings of these designated heritage assets. The assessment of settings effects will be informed by ZTV analysis, site visits and where necessary visualisations.
- 11.12.3 The Scoping Report sets out the proposed methodology for the EIA assessment.
- 11.12.4 Mitigation, embedded as well as additional will be scoped into the EIA assessment and embedded mitigation has been suggested as part of this Scoping Report.
- 11.12.5 There is the potential for cumulative impacts. Cumulative developments as outlined in Chapter 4 will be assessed for the EIA assessment.
- 11.12.6 An assessment of direct physical impacts will be scoped out for assets within the Scoping Boundary during operation and decommissioning; and for assets beyond the Scoping Boundary during construction, operation and decommissioning.
- 11.12.7 An assessment of the impact of the Proposed Development on the setting of non-designated heritage asset has also been scoped out.

## 12. GEOLOGY, SOILS AND PEAT

### 12.1 Introduction

12.1.1 The following chapter of the Scoping Report sets out the proposed scope of assessment of likely significant effects as a result of the construction, maintenance, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development in relation to Geology, Soils and Peat.

12.1.2 The aims of this chapter of the Scoping Report are to:

- Set out the overall approach to the assessment of Geology, Soils and Peat;
- Define the Study Area to be considered in the assessment;
- Describe the baseline environment in relation to Geology, Soils and Peat;
- Set out the embedded mitigation measures, anticipated to be implemented prior to undertaking the Geology, Soils and Peat assessment;
- Identify key potential impacts at all stages of the Proposed Development;
- Identify topics not requiring further assessment, which can be scoped out;
- Describe the proposed assessment methodology; and
- Set out the potential cumulative effects.

12.1.3 This chapter is supported by the following Figures:

- Figure 12.1: Bedrock Geology;
- Figure 12.2: Superficial Geology; and
- Figure 12.3: SNH Carbon and Peatland Map 2016 Extract.

12.1.4 The proposed scope of the Geology, Soils and Peat assessment should be read in conjunction with the following chapters that address related environmental matters:

- **Chapter 8: Terrestrial Ecology;**
- **Chapter 13: Hydrology and Flood Risk;** and
- **Chapter 18: Land Use and Agriculture.**

### 12.2 Legislation, Policy and Guidance

12.2.1 The proposed scope of assessment in relation to Geology, Soils and Peat has been developed with reference to the legislation, policy and guidance as set out in the following section.

#### Legislation

- Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (as amended)<sup>1</sup>;
- The Contaminated Land (Scotland) Regulations 2005<sup>2</sup>

#### Policy

##### *National Policy*

- National Planning Framework 4<sup>3</sup>, including:
- Policy 5 – Soils;
- Policy 9 - Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings; and
- Policy 33 – Minerals.

<sup>1</sup> Environmental Protection Act 1990. Part IIA. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/part/IIA>

<sup>2</sup> The Contaminated Land (Scotland) Regulations 2005. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2005/658/contents/made>

<sup>3</sup> Scottish Government (2023). National Planning Framework 4.

### *Local Policy*

- Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan (LDP) January 2023<sup>4</sup>, including:
  - Policy E1 - Natural Heritage;
  - Policy PR1 - Protecting Important Resources;
  - Policy C3 - Carbon Sinks and Stores; and
  - Appendix 14 - Areas Safeguarded or Identified as Areas of Search for Mineral Development.
- Aberdeenshire Council Contaminated Land Strategy<sup>5</sup>.

### Guidance

- Environment Agency: Land Contamination Risk Management (LCRM)<sup>6</sup>;
- Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA): Contaminated Land<sup>7</sup>;
- SEPA: Technical concepts<sup>8</sup>;
- Environmental Protection Act 1990 - Part IIA Contaminated Land: statutory guidance edition 2, Scottish Government<sup>9</sup>; and
- An Introduction to Land Contamination and Development Management, a Joint Scottish Contaminated Land Regulatory Officers Publication<sup>10</sup>.
- Nature Scot (2023, revised 2026) Advising on peatland habitats and carbon-rich soils in development management<sup>11</sup>; and
- Scottish Government, Scottish Natural Heritage, SEPA. (2017). Peatland Survey. Guidance on Developments on Peatland<sup>12</sup>.

## **12.3 Consultation**

### Summary of Consultation Undertaken to Date

- 12.3.1 No consultation with statutory stakeholders or the public regarding Geology, Soils and Peat has been undertaken prior to Scoping.

### Future Consultation

- 12.3.2 The following consultees will be contacted to confirm their approval of the proposed approach to Geology, Soils and Peat for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):
- SEPA;
  - NatureScot; and
  - Aberdeenshire Council.

<sup>4</sup> Aberdeenshire Council (2023). Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan - January 2023. Available at: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/ldp-2023>

<sup>5</sup> Aberdeenshire Council (2000, revised 2011). Contaminated Land Strategy. Available at: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environment/environmental-health/contaminated-land/>

<sup>6</sup> Environment Agency (2025). Land contamination risk management (LCRM). Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/land-contamination-risk-management-lcrm> [Accessed April 2026].

<sup>7</sup> SEPA. Contaminated Land. Available at: <https://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/land/contaminated-land/> [Accessed April 2026].

<sup>8</sup> SEPA. Technical concepts. Available at: <https://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/land/contaminated-land/technical-concepts/> [Accessed April 2026].

<sup>9</sup> Scottish Government (2006). Environmental Protection Act 1990 - Part IIA Contaminated Land: Statutory Guidance Edition 2.

<sup>10</sup> Joint Scottish Contaminated Land Regulatory Officers Publication (2010). An Introduction to Land Contamination and Development Management. Available at: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/2655/cldevman.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> Nature Scot (2023, revised 2026). Advising on peatland habitats and carbon-rich soils in development management. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/advising-peatland-habitats-and-carbon-rich-soils-development-management> [Accessed April 2026].

<sup>12</sup> Scottish Government, Scottish Natural Heritage, SEPA. (2017). Peatland Survey. Guidance on Developments on Peatland. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/peatland-survey-guidance/>

## 12.4 Study Area

- 12.4.1 The Geology, Soils and Peat study area within this Scoping chapter is defined by the Scoping Boundary. The Study Area will be refined for the EIA Report subject to potential refinement.

## 12.5 Data Sources

- 12.5.1 A desk-based assessment has been undertaken to define the existing baseline conditions in relation to Geology, Soils and Peat for this Scoping Report. The following data sources have been used:
- British Geological Society (BGS) 1:625,000 and 1:50,000 scale geological mapping.<sup>13</sup>;
  - NatureScot register of Geological Conservation Review (GCR) sites.<sup>14</sup>;
  - NatureScot register of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).<sup>15</sup>;
  - Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) (now NatureScot) Carbon and Peatland Map (2016).<sup>16</sup>;
  - The National Soil Map of Scotland.<sup>17</sup>;
  - Mining Remediation Authority Map Viewer.<sup>18</sup>;
  - Zetica unexploded ordnance (UXO) risk maps.<sup>19</sup>;
  - Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).<sup>20</sup> register of landfill sites; and
  - Aberdeenshire Council's Public Register of Contaminated Land.<sup>21</sup>.
- 12.5.2 For the EIA Report, the following further studies will be undertaken:
- Peat surveys in areas of identified peatland to assess the depth and condition of the peat following established guidance<sup>12</sup>;
  - A desk-based assessment including a review of historical mapping and satellite imagery to confirm the presence of historical contamination to inform the design process; and
  - Ground Investigation (GI) to inform on the structural and geophysical properties of the ground to inform the design of the Proposed Development.

## 12.6 Baseline Environment

### Existing Baseline Conditions

#### *Bedrock geology*

- 12.6.1 Analysis of BGS 625k data<sup>13</sup> indicates the underlying bedrock beneath the majority of the Scoping Boundary comprises psammite and semipelite metamorphic rock of the Grampian Group, as shown in **Figure 12.1**. Further analysis using the BGS 50 k data<sup>13</sup> shows the majority of the Scoping Boundary as being underlain by micaceous psammite of the Glen Lethnot Grit Formation,

<sup>13</sup> BGS Geological Online Viewer. Available at: <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/bgs-geology-viewer/>

<sup>14</sup> NatureScot (2024). Geological Conservation Review Sites. Accessed via: <https://map.environment.gov.scot/sewebmap/>

<sup>15</sup> NatureScot (2023). Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Accessed via: <https://map.environment.gov.scot/sewebmap/>

<sup>16</sup> SNH. (2016). Carbon and Peatland 2016 Map ([http://map.environment.gov.scot/soil\\_maps/](http://map.environment.gov.scot/soil_maps/))

<sup>17</sup> The James Hutton Institute (2013). The National Soil Map of Scotland. Available to view at:

[https://map.environment.gov.scot/Soil\\_maps/?layer=1](https://map.environment.gov.scot/Soil_maps/?layer=1)

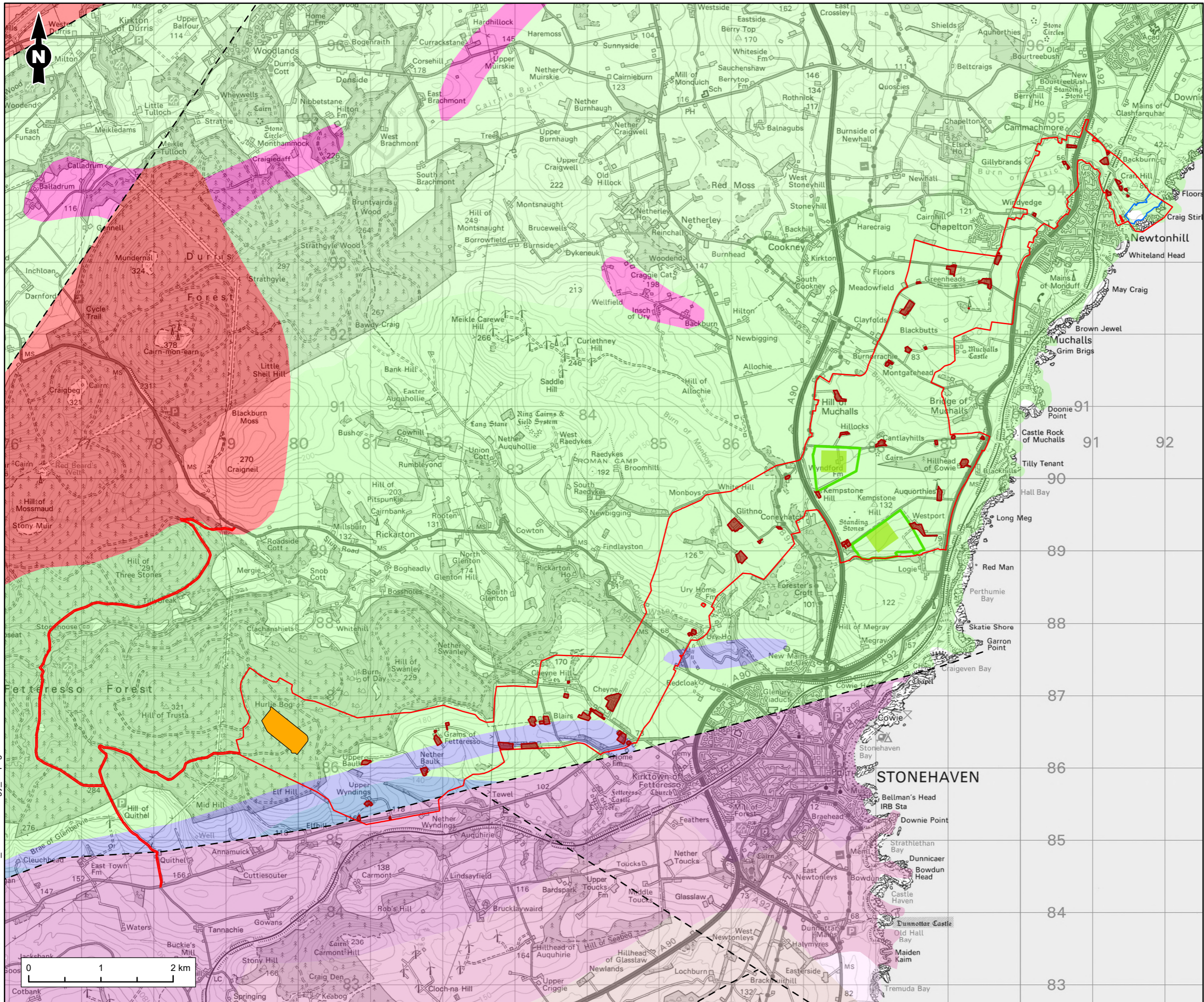
<sup>18</sup> Mining Remediation Authority. Mining Remediation Authority Map Viewer. Available at: <https://datamine-cauk.hub.arcgis.com/> [Accessed April 2026]

<sup>19</sup> Zetica. Zetica UXO risk maps. Available at: <https://zeticauxo.com/guidance/risk-maps/> [Accessed April 2026]

<sup>20</sup> SEPA. Landfill Sites and Capacity. Available at: <https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/waste-sites-and-capacity-tool/> [Accessed April 2026]

<sup>21</sup> Aberdeenshire Council (2011). Public Register of Contaminated Land. Available at:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environment/environmental-health/contaminated-land/>



### Legend

- Scoping Boundary
- Exclusion Zone (Residential Property)
- Landfall Area
- Indicative Substation Development Sites
- Representative Substation Platform Areas
- Grid Connection Point

**Fault Lines (BGS 625k)**

- - - - Fault at rockhead

**Bedrock Geology (BGS 625k)**

- Arbutnott - Garvock Group - Sandstone with Subordinate Conglomerate, Siltstone, and Mudstone
- Dunnottar - Crawton Group - Sandstone and Conglomerate, Interbedded
- Unnamed Igneous Intrusion, Late Silurian to Early Devonian - Felsic Rock
- Stonehaven Group - Sandstone with Subordinate Conglomerate, and Siltstone
- Unnamed Extrusive Rocks, Silurian to Devonian - Mafic Lava and Mafic Tuff
- Unnamed Igneous Intrusion, Ordovician to Silurian - Felsic Rock
- Highland Border Complex - Serpentinite, Metabasalt, Metalimestone#
- Argyll Group - Psammite, Semipelite, and Pelite
- Southern Highland Group - Pelite
- Southern Highland Group - Psammite and Pelite

**Figure Title**  
Bedrock Geology

**Project Name**  
Aspen Offshore Wind Farm - Onshore Transmission Connection

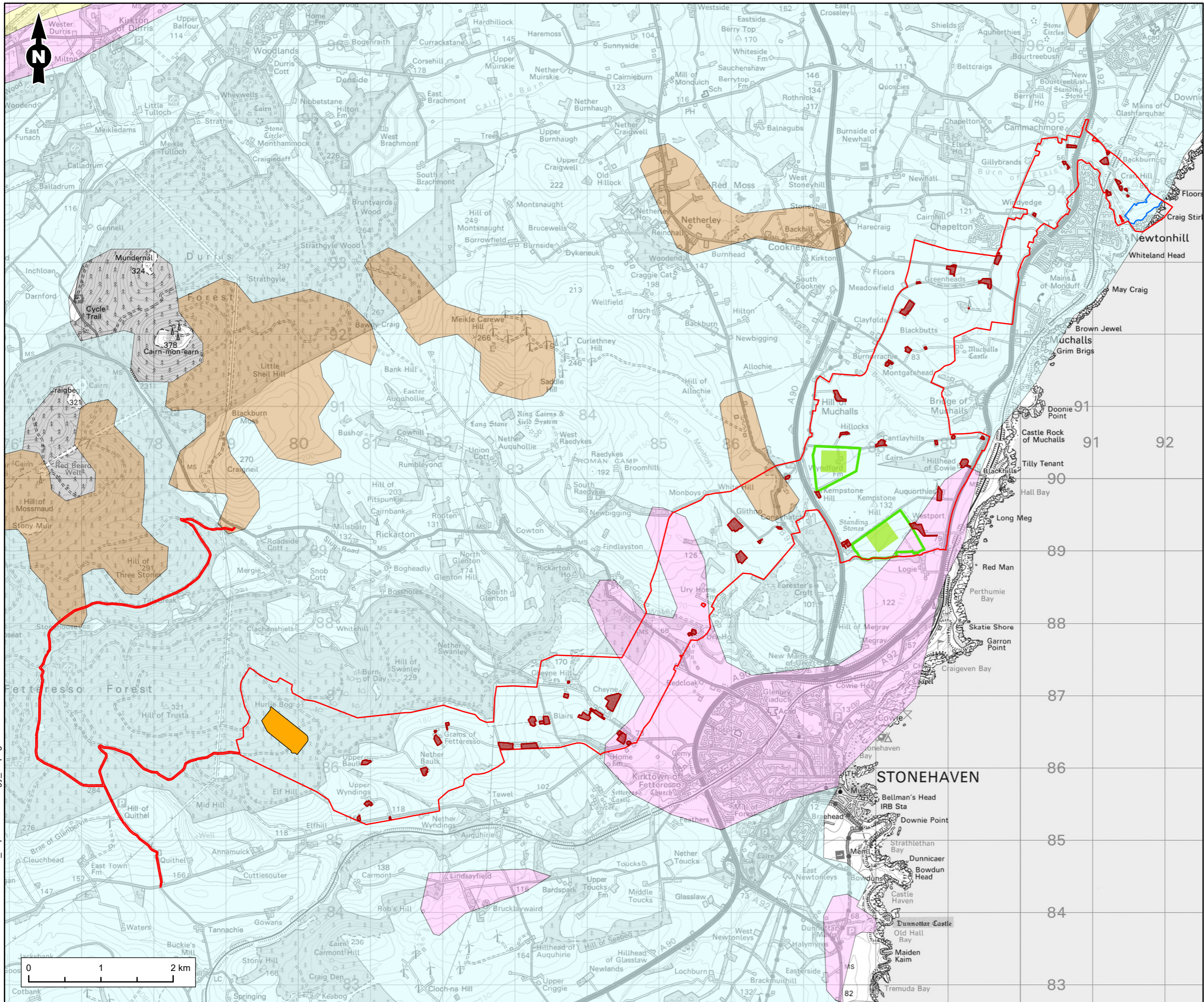
**Project No./Filey ID**  
1620018491 / REH2026N02003

<b>Date</b> May 2026	<b>Figure No.</b> 12.1	<b>Revision</b> 1.0
<b>Prepared By</b> CW	<b>Scale</b> 1:50,000 @A3	

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- 12.6.2 with a smaller area in the south of the Scoping Boundary comprising pelite and semipelite, also of the Glen Lethnot Grit Formation.
- Superficial geology*
- 12.6.3 Glacial till (diamicton) is mapped at the surface across the majority of the Scoping Boundary according to BGS 625k data<sup>13</sup>. Glaciofluvial deposits of sand and gravel are mapped in an area within the central portion of the Scoping Boundary and smaller areas of peat are also mapped as present. This is shown in **Figure 12.2**.
- Geologically Designated Sites*
- 12.6.4 Within the Scoping Boundary, there are no Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) or Geological Conservation Review (GCR) sites.
- 12.6.5 Garron Point, a SSSI partially designated for its geological features and a GCR site, is located at the coast approximately 140 m to the east of the Scoping Boundary at its nearest point.
- Mineral Resources*
- 12.6.6 Within the Scoping Boundary, there are no areas safeguarded, or identified as areas of search, for mineral development in the local plan<sup>4</sup>.
- Peat and carbon-rich soils*
- 12.6.7 A review of the SNH Carbon and Peatland Map (2016)<sup>16</sup> shows the majority of the Scoping Boundary comprises Class 0 mineral soil. However, some of the Scoping Boundary is shown as being underlain by peat and carbon rich soils, as shown in **Figure 12.3**. This includes a small area of Class 1 nationally important carbon-rich soils, located adjacent to the west of Substation Site Option A. Class 1 peatland is defined as '*nationally important carbon-rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitat. Areas likely to be of high conservation value*'. A review of satellite imagery indicates this area is smaller than that shown on the Carbon and Peatland Map as the A90 road and an unnamed access road pass through it, meaning much of the peat within this area would already have been excavated or disturbed. However, the area mapped as Class 1 peatland to the east of the unnamed access road is potentially undisturbed.
- 12.6.8 Other areas mapped as Class 3, Class 4 and Class 5 are also mapped as present within the Scoping Boundary, though these are not classified as nationally important peat soils and peatland habitat. This includes an area mapped as Class 3, which overlaps with Substation Site Option A. Class 3 is described as '*Dominant vegetation cover is not priority peatland habitat but is associated with wet and acidic type. Occasional peatland habitats can be found. Most soils are carbon-rich soils, with some areas of deep peat*'.
- 12.6.9 Areas mapped as Class 5 include areas adjacent to the west of the A90 and to the east of the Grid Connection Point. Class 5 peat is described as '*Soil information takes precedence over vegetation data. No peatland habitat recorded. May also include areas of bare soil. Soils are carbon-rich and deep peat (sic)*'.
- 12.6.10 After Class 0 mineral soil, the largest category mapped as present within the Scoping Boundary is Class 4, which is described as '*Area unlikely to be associated with peatland habitats or wet and acidic type. Area unlikely to include carbon-rich soils*'.
- Other soils*
- 12.6.11 From a review of satellite imagery, the majority of the Scoping Boundary appears to be covered by agricultural land, indicating arable soils. The classification of agricultural soils within the Scoping Boundary is assessed as part of **Chapter 18: Land Use and Agriculture**.



**Legend**

- Scoping Boundary
- Exclusion Zone (Residential Property)
- Landfall Area
- Indicative Substation
- Development Sites
- Representative Substation Platform Areas
- Grid Connection Point

**Superficial Geology (BGS 625k)**

- Alluvium
- Glacial Sand and Gravel
- Peat
- Till

Figure Title  
**Superficial Geology**

Project Name  
**Aspen Offshore Wind Farm - Onshore Transmission Connection**

Project No./Filey ID  
**1620018491 / REH2026N02003**

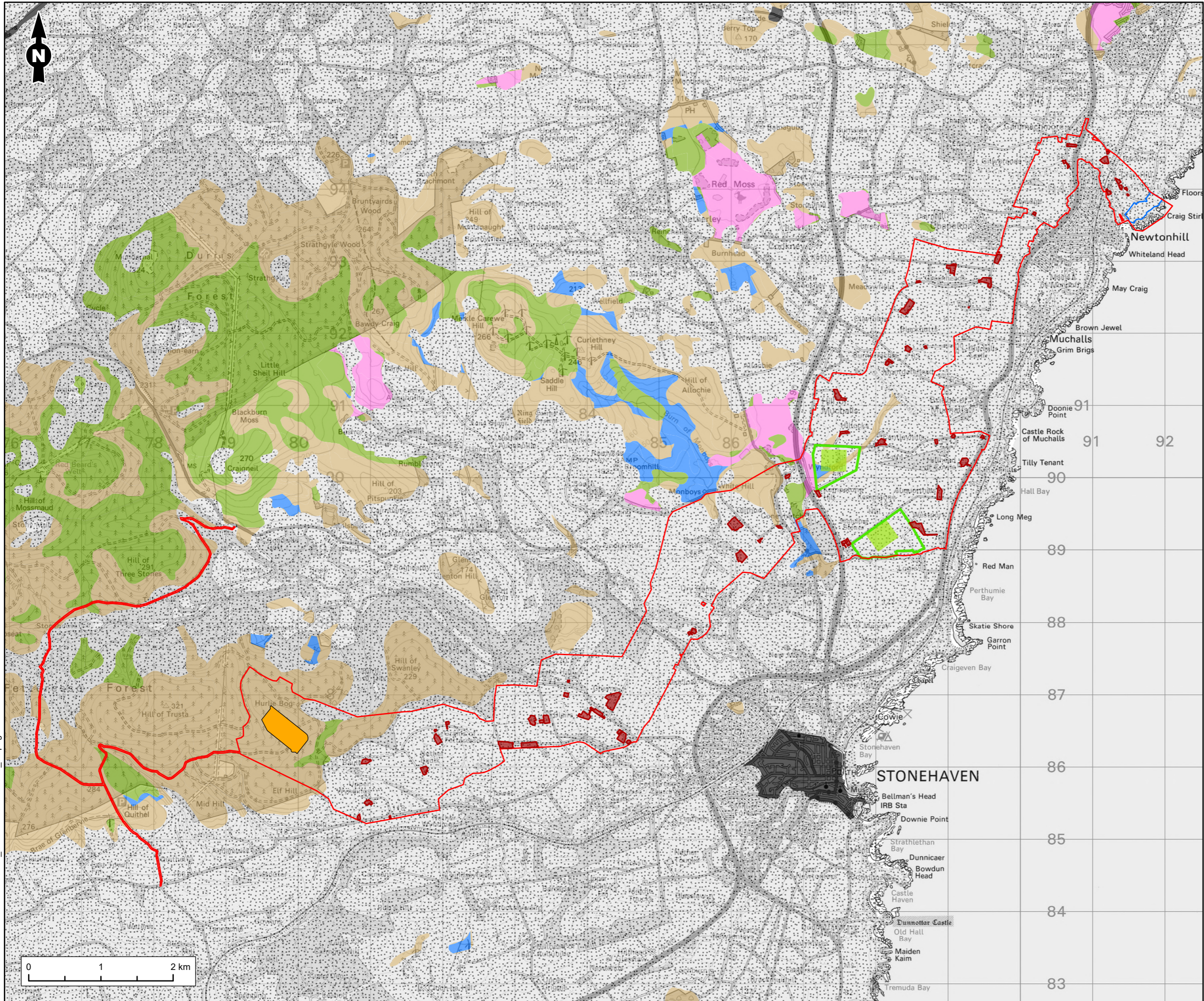
Date <b>May 2026</b>	Figure No. <b>12.2</b>	Revision <b>1.0</b>
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Prepared By  
**CW**

Scale  
**1:50,000 @A3**

Client  
**Cerulean Winds Aspen Project Limited**

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**Legend**

- Scoping Boundary
- Exclusion Zone (Residential Property)
- Landfall Area
- Indicative Substation Development Sites
- Representative Substation Platform Areas
- Grid Connection Point

**Peat Classification**

- Unknown soil type
- Mineral soils
- Class 1
- Class 3
- Class 4
- Class 5

Figure Title  
**Carbon and Peatland Map 2016**

Project Name  
**Aspen Offshore Wind Farm - Onshore Transmission Connection**

Project No./Filey ID  
**1620018491 / REH2026N02003**

Date	Figure No.	Revision
May 2026	12.3	1.0

Prepared By	Scale
CW	1:50,000 @A3

Client  
**Cerulean Winds Aspen Project Limited**

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- 12.6.12 The National Soil Map of Scotland<sup>17</sup> indicates a number of different soil types being present across the Scoping Boundary, comprising humus-iron podzols, peaty gleyed podzols, noncalcareous gleys with humic gleys and a small area of dysotrophic basin peat in the location of Substation Site Option A.

*Contaminated land*

- 12.6.13 No Special Sites (contaminated land meeting the criteria set out in Scottish Government Statutory Guidance<sup>9</sup>) are recorded within the Scoping Boundary<sup>[22]</sup>.
- 12.6.14 No landfill sites have been identified within the Scoping Boundary from a review of Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) records<sup>20</sup>.
- 12.6.15 There are no sites registered on Aberdeenshire Council's Public Register of Contaminated Land<sup>21</sup> within the Scoping Boundary.
- 12.6.16 Potentially contaminated land may be encountered within the Scoping Boundary in the vicinity of urban areas, roads and railways, energy infrastructure, and other developments. It is noted in the council's Contaminated Land Strategy<sup>5</sup> that within Aberdeenshire, typical historical land uses presenting the most significant contamination are from former landfills and gasworks, though none have been identified within the Scoping Boundary at this stage.
- 12.6.17 Contamination may be present in relation to agricultural activities across the Scoping Boundary, however, this is not anticipated to constitute a potential significant impact.

*Mining*

- 12.6.18 The Scoping Boundary is not located in a coal mining area based on the underlying geology and no evidence of coal mining activities have been recorded according to the Mining Remediation Authority's online map viewer<sup>18</sup>.

*UXO*

- 12.6.19 The Zetica online risk maps<sup>19</sup> indicate the area within the Scoping Boundary to be at low risk for unexploded ordnance (UXO) from World War 2.

Future Baseline Conditions

- 12.6.20 In the absence of the Proposed Development, it is assumed that Geology, Soils and Peat resources within the Scoping Boundary would be subject to existing land use factors. It is also assumed that in the absence of the Proposed Development there would be no requirement to excavate or cause disturbance to geology, soils or peat as there would be during the construction phase of the Proposed Development.
- 12.6.21 There is potential for climate change to impact on future baseline conditions. Climate change studies predict a decrease in summer precipitation and an increase in winter precipitation alongside slightly higher average temperatures. Such changes in conditions would likely have an effect on carbon-rich soils including an increased rate of decomposition of organic matter within the soil.
- 12.6.22 The future baseline conditions associated with agricultural soil resource is covered in **Chapter 18: Land Use and Agriculture**.

**12.7 Embedded Mitigation**

- 12.7.1 The following section outlines the embedded mitigation anticipated to be implemented prior to undertaking the Geology, Soils and Peat assessment.
- 12.7.2 The following embedded mitigation, relevant to Geology, Soils and Peat would be implemented:

- Implementation of good practice measures during the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning of the Proposed Development;
- Site selection for the locations of Landfall, Transition Joint Bays (TJBs), Onshore Transmission Cable Corridor and Link Boxes that minimises impacts to Geology, Soils and Peat resources, where possible;
- The presence and nature of contaminated land and potential risks to human health shall be assessed and managed in line with guidance listed in Section 12.2 and which will be set out within the Geology, Soils and Peat Chapter of the EIA Report;
- Cable installation at Landfall would use trenchless techniques, such as HDD, to bring the cables to shore. Associated management plans (such as an outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and management plans that cover soil management and erosion, for example), will be in place such that no adverse geological impacts would be anticipated to the cliffs in this area;
- Soil Management Plans will be used to minimise potential impacts on soils i.e. soil mixing, erosion and leaching;
- Soils will be reused, where practical, to minimise waste. Waste classification will be undertaken following GI to inform materials management and waste; and
- Potential impacts to peat and carbon rich soils during the construction of the Proposed Development will be minimised through adherence to mitigation measures to be included in an Outline Peat Management Plan (PMP).

## **12.8 Potential Impacts of the Proposed Development**

- 12.8.1 Following the implementation of embedded mitigation, a series of potential impacts as a result of the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development have been identified in relation to Geology, Soils and Peat related receptors.
- 12.8.2 Potential impacts proposed to be scoped into the assessment are set out in **Table 12.1**, and issues proposed to be scoped out are set out in **Table 12.2**, with justifications provided.

**Table 12.1: Summary of Potential Geology, Soils and Peat Related Impacts Proposed to be Scoped In**

Potential Impact	Phase of Proposed Development *			Justification	Summary of the Proposed Approach to Assessment
	C	O&M	D		
Human health impacts for construction workers and adjacent site occupiers as a result of works in potentially contaminated land.	✓	✗	✗	A review of historical mapping in the areas selected for the infrastructure associated with the Proposed Development has not been undertaken and there is still the potential to encounter unknown contamination during trenching and excavation works during construction. During operation, no potential impacts are anticipated as no excavation works would be required. During decommissioning some excavation works would be anticipated to remove the substation foundations, however, it is assumed that the presence of any contamination would be tested for prior to decommissioning and appropriate mitigation put in place.	A desk-based review of historical mapping will be used to inform the EIA. Should any indication of ground contamination be identified during GI or at any stage of the Proposed Development, risk assessments would be carried out and appropriate mitigation put in place to prevent human health impacts.
Compaction of peat from vehicles and infrastructure.	✓	✗	✗	Class 1 nationally important peatland, as well as areas mapped as Class 3, Class 4 and Class 5 are present within the Scoping Boundary in areas likely to be affected by the construction of the Proposed Development. Peat is a sensitive receptor and protected under Policy C3 of the Local Plan <sup>4</sup> . No excavation or other works likely to impact areas of peatland are anticipated during operation or decommissioning.	Peat surveys will be carried out in specific areas, including around Substation Site Option A that has been identified as interfacing with likely peatland. Surveys would be used to understand the depth of the peat and its condition.
Increased erosion of peat through disturbance or localised drying, or peat landslide.	✓	✗	✗		An outline PMP, if required, to inform on mitigation measures required to prevent or minimise impacts to the peat during the construction phase.
Loss of peatland habitats and carbon-rich soils through excavations for infrastructure and/or peat landslides.	✓	✗	✗		A Peat Landslide Hazard Risk Assessment (PLHRA), if required, to determine the risk for peat landslides.
*Phase of Proposed Development refers to construction (C), operation and maintenance (O&M), and decommissioning (D).					

**Table 12.2: Summary of Potential Geology, Soils and Peat Related Impacts Proposed to be Scoped Out**

Potential Impact	Justification
Contamination of soils during construction, operation and decommissioning.	This would be unlikely to give rise to a significant effect as good practice measures, including adherence to an appropriate outline CEMP during construction, would be expected and secured as part of planning consent (in the case of the outline CEMP).
Sterilisation of mineral resource through the construction of development at the surface, or the prevention of extraction through the removal of access to mineral resource.	No area within the Scoping Boundary has been identified as a safeguarded mineral resource area, indicating this would be unlikely to give rise to a significant effect during construction.
Erosion of the cliffs at Landfall	Cable installation at Landfall would use trenchless techniques, such as HDD, to bring the cables to shore and it is assumed that management plans (such as an outline CEMP and management plans that cover soil management and erosion, for example), will be in place such that no adverse geological impacts would be anticipated to the cliffs in this area during construction, operation or decommissioning.
Impacts to mineral soil including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compaction of soils from vehicles and infrastructure;</li> <li>• Increased erosion of soils through disturbance; and</li> <li>• Loss of mineral soil through excavations for infrastructure.</li> </ul>	<p>A Soils Management Plan would be implemented during construction to reduce the potential impacts on soils i.e. soil mixing, erosion and leaching.</p> <p>Soils will be reused, where practical, to minimise waste.</p> <p>Potential impacts on the functioning of agricultural soils in terms of biomass production are covered within <b>Chapter 18: Land Use and Agriculture</b>.</p> <p>Activities during operation or decommissioning are not anticipated to give rise to a significant effect on mineral soils.</p>

## 12.9 Proposed Assessment Methodology

### Potential Contamination

- 12.9.1 A desk-based assessment will be undertaken, which will comprise a review of historical mapping, to confirm the presence of historical contamination and inform the design process.

### Potential Impacts to Peat and Carbon-Rich Soils

- 12.9.2 Peat surveys will be carried out in specific areas, including around Substation Site Option A that has been identified as interfacing with likely peatland. Surveys would be used to understand the depth of the peat and its condition. This will be used in the siting of infrastructure associated with the Proposed Development. The results of the peat surveys will determine whether further assessment on the potential impacts on peat will be required, such as an assessment of the volume of peat to be excavated and the required mitigation measures to be incorporated into an outline PMP.

## 12.10 Potential Cumulative Effects

### Inter-Related Effects

- 12.10.1 Potential inter-related effects will be considered as part of the Geology, Soils and Peat assessment with details presented within the EIA Report. This will include the consideration of both project lifetime effects and receptor-led effects in accordance with the approach set out within **Chapter 4: Approach to Scoping and EIA**. There is considered to be the potential for inter-related cumulative effects to occur in relation to the following other environmental topics:
- Terrestrial Ecology (Chapter 8):
    - Potential impacts on the habitats associated with peatland areas that are likely to support sensitive bog habitats from disturbance during construction.
  - Hydrology and Flood Risk (Chapter 13):
    - Potential impacts on hydromorphology and water quality from below ground infrastructure (construction) and above ground infrastructure (construction, operation and decommissioning) could affect the drainage and hydrological regime of soils and peat, and potential pollution and contamination from construction related activities.
  - Land Use and Agriculture (Chapter 18):
    - Potential impacts associated with soils during construction, particularly agricultural soils, that could result in a loss of resource.

### Cumulative Effects Assessment

- 12.10.2 Cumulative effects with the Proposed Offshore Development will be considered, together with cumulative effects with other developments, where relevant.
- 12.10.3 The cumulative effects assessment will follow the approach set out within **Chapter 4: Approach to Scoping and EIA**.

## 12.11 Limitations and Assumptions

- 12.11.1 The information that has informed the proposed scope of the Geology, Soils and Peat assessment is based on the design envelope approach set out in **Chapter 3: The Proposed Development**. The design process for the Proposed Development is iterative and the assessment within the EIA Report will be updated to account for any potential refinement.

## 12.12 Summary of Proposed Scope

- 12.12.1 A desk-based review of historical mapping will be used to inform the next stages of the design process and inform on the potential for contaminated land at the proposed locations for infrastructure associated with the Proposed Development.
- 12.12.2 The assessment of likely significant effects in relation to peat and carbon-rich soils will be undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in **Section 12.9**. This will include an assessment of the potential for inter-related and cumulative effects, as set out in **Section 12.10**.
- 12.12.3 In addition to the measures set out within **Section 12.7**, embedded mitigation will be further developed in response to the iterative design process, consultation and stakeholder engagement, and the results of the Geology, Soils and Peat assessment, as appropriate.

## 13. HYDROLOGY AND FLOOD RISK

### 13.1 Introduction

- 13.1.1 The following chapter sets out the proposed assessment scope of likely significant effects of the Proposed Development in relation to Hydrology and Flood Risk.
- 13.1.2 The scope of the assessment is based on a high-level review of the baseline information and will be confirmed through review of additional data sources, a site visit and consultation with stakeholders.
- 13.1.3 The aims of this chapter of the Scoping Report are to:
- Set out the overall approach to the assessment of Hydrology and Flood Risk;
  - Define the Study Area to be considered in the assessment;
  - Describe the baseline environment in relation to Hydrology and Flood Risk;
  - Set out the embedded mitigation measures, anticipated to be implemented prior to undertaking the Hydrology and Flood Risk assessment;
  - Identify key potential impacts at all stages of the Scoping Boundary;
  - Identify topics not requiring further assessment, which can be scoped out;
  - Describe the proposed assessment methodology; and
  - Set out the potential cumulative effects.
- 13.1.4 The proposed scope of the Hydrology and Flood Risk assessment should be read in conjunction with the following chapter that address related environmental matters:
- **Chapter 12: Geology, Soils and Peat.**

### 13.2 Legislation, Policy and Guidance

- 13.2.1 The proposed scope of assessment in relation to Hydrology and Flood Risk has been developed with reference to the legislation, policy and guidance as set out in the following section.

#### Legislation

- The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act<sup>1</sup>;
- The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations<sup>2</sup>;
- Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act<sup>3</sup>;
- The Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations<sup>4</sup>;
- The Water Environment (Miscellaneous) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2025;
- Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009<sup>5</sup>;
- The Water Intended for Human Consumption (Private Supplies) (Scotland) Regulations 2017<sup>6</sup>;

<sup>1</sup> The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act (1997). Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/8/contents>. [Accessed April 2026].

<sup>2</sup> The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations (2017). Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2017/102/contents>. [Accessed April 2026]

<sup>3</sup> UK Government (2003) *Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2003/3> [Accessed April 2026].

<sup>4</sup> Scottish Government (2025) *The Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2025*, Schedule 23, paragraph 1. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2025/165/schedule/23/paragraph/1> [Accessed April 2026].

<sup>5</sup> Scottish Parliament (2009) *Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2009/6/contents> [Accessed April 2026].

<sup>6</sup> Scottish Government (2017) *The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2017*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2017/282/contents> [Accessed April 2026].

- The Public and Private Water Supplies (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2015<sup>7</sup>;
- The Public Water Supplies (Scotland) Regulations 2014<sup>8</sup>; and
- The Water Environment (Drinking Water Protected Areas) (Scotland) Order 2013<sup>9</sup>.

## Policy

### *National Policy*

- Scottish Government. National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)<sup>10</sup>; and
- Scottish Government NPF4, Policy 22, Flood Risk and Water Management (2025)<sup>11</sup>.

### *Local Policy*

- Flood Risk Management Plan: Local Plan District 6 – North East<sup>12</sup>

## Guidance

- GPP1 1: Understanding your environmental responsibilities - good environmental practices (June 2021)<sup>13</sup>;
- GPP 2: Above ground oil storage tanks (January 2021)<sup>14</sup>;
- GPP 4: Treatment and disposal of wastewater where there is no connection to the public foul sewer (June 2021)<sup>15</sup>;
- GPP 5: Works and maintenance in or near water (February 2018)<sup>16</sup>;
- GPP 6: Working at construction and demolition sites (April 2023)<sup>17</sup>;
- GPP 13: Vehicle washing and cleaning (June 2021)<sup>18</sup>; and
- GPP 21: Pollution incident response planning (June 2021)<sup>19</sup>.

## **13.3 Study Area**

- 13.3.1 The Hydrology and Flood Risk Study Area is defined with reference to the Scoping Boundary and represents the spatial extent used to undertake the environmental assessment within the EIA. It identifies the area within which likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed

<sup>7</sup> Scottish Government (2015) *The Private and Public Water Supplies (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2015*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2015/346> [Accessed April 2026].

<sup>8</sup> Scottish Government (2014) *The Public Water Supplies (Scotland) Regulations 2014*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/sdsi/2014/9780111024782/contents> [Accessed April 2026].

<sup>9</sup> Scottish Government (2013) *The Water Environment (Drinking Water Protected Areas) (Scotland) Order 2013*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2013/29/made> [Accessed April 2026].

<sup>10</sup> Scottish Government (2023) *National Planning Framework 4*. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/> [Accessed April 2026].

<sup>11</sup> Scottish Government (2025) *National Planning Framework 4: Policy 22 (flood risk and water management) – Chief Planner letter – October 2025*. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4-policy-22-flood-risk-and-water-management-chief-planner-letter-october-2025/> [Accessed April 2026].

<sup>12</sup> Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) (2021) *Flood Risk Management Plan: Local Plan District 6 – North East*. Available at: <https://www2.sepa.org.uk/frmp/plans/documents/lpd6-north-east-frmp-2021.docx> [Accessed April 2026].

<sup>13</sup> NetRegs (2022) *Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPP1): Understanding your environmental responsibilities – good environmental practices*. Available at: <https://www.netregs.org.uk/media/1898/guidance-for-pollution-prevention-1-2022-update.pdf> [Accessed April 2026].

<sup>14</sup> NetRegs (2022) *Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPP2): Above ground oil storage tanks*. Available at: <https://www.netregs.org.uk/media/1890/guidance-for-pollution-prevention-2-2022-update.pdf> [Accessed April 2026].

<sup>15</sup> NetRegs (2022) *Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPP4): Treatment and disposal of wastewater where there is no connection to the public foul sewer*. Available at: <https://www.netregs.org.uk/media/1887/guidance-for-pollution-prevention-4-2022-update.pdf> [Accessed April 2026].

<sup>16</sup> NetRegs (2022) *Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPP5): Works and maintenance in or near water*. Available at: <https://www.netregs.org.uk/media/1418/gpp-5-works-and-maintenance-in-or-near-water.pdf> [Accessed April 2026].

<sup>17</sup> NetRegs (n.d.) *Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPP6): Working at construction and demolition sites*. Available at: <https://www.netregs.org.uk/media/tsybv2y3/gpp6-working-on-construction-and-demolition-sites.pdf> [Accessed April 2026].

<sup>18</sup> NetRegs (2022) *Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPP13): Vehicle washing and cleaning*. Available at: <https://www.netregs.org.uk/media/1882/guidance-for-pollution-prevention-13-2022-update-v2.pdf> [Accessed April 2026].

<sup>19</sup> NetRegs (n.d.) *Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPP21): Pollution incident response planning*. Available at: <https://www.netregs.org.uk/media/1436/gpp-21-final.pdf> [Accessed April 2026].

Development may be experienced by relevant Hydrology and Flood Risk receptors. This has been limited at the downstream extent to the Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) mark such that the assessment focuses on hydrologically connected onshore environments. As such the Hydrology and Flood Risk Study Area to be used in the assessment will be defined as:

- The area of land to be temporarily or permanently occupied during construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development; and
- A 2 km radius of the Scoping Boundary representing the primary area within which potential direct and indirect impacts from the Proposed Development may be experienced.

13.3.2 A wider assessment buffer extending up to 5 km downstream of the Scoping Boundary may be used, where relevant, to capture hydrologically connected surface water receptors, reflecting the fact that surface water features are often assessed at a catchment scale.

13.3.3 The Hydrology and Flood Risk Study Area will be reviewed and modified, if necessary, in response to refinements made to Scoping Boundary and/or any additional environmental and/or design constraints identified during the EIA process.

### 13.4 Data Sources

13.4.1 The assessment of Hydrology and Flood Risk will be informed by a combination of desk-based data sources and site-specific survey. The desk-based study will draw upon publicly available datasets and mapping as listed below:

- SEPA Flood Risk Management Maps<sup>20</sup>;
- North East Local Flood Risk Management Plan<sup>21</sup>;
- OS Mapping;
- SEPA Water Classification Hub<sup>22</sup>; and
- Scotland's Environment Map<sup>23</sup>.

13.4.2 In addition to the desk-based review, site specific information will be obtained through survey to verify baseline conditions and identify any features not captured within existing datasets. A hydrology walkover survey is planned for May, which will involve inspection of watercourses, drainage features, and site conditions within the Scoping Boundary. The findings of this survey will be used to inform and refine the baseline understanding and subsequent impact assessment presented within the EIA Report.

### 13.5 Baseline Environment

#### Existing Baseline Conditions

##### *Hydrology*

13.5.1 The entirety of the Scoping Boundary is located within the Kincardine and Angus Coastal catchment. The northern extent of the Scoping Boundary is situated adjacent to the Souter Head to Garron Point coastal waterbody which has an overall status of High. The main river Burn of Elsick, with an overall status of Moderate, flows through the northern extent of the Scoping Boundary, discharging into the Souter Head to Garron Point coastal waterbody in the northeast corner of the Scoping Boundary.

<sup>20</sup> Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) *Flood maps*. Available at: <https://beta.sepa.scot/flooding/flood-maps/> [Accessed April 2026].

<sup>21</sup> Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) (2021) *Flood Risk Management Plan: Local Plan District 6 – North East*. Available at: <https://www2.sepa.org.uk/frmplans/documents/lpd6-north-east-frmp-2021.docx> [Accessed April 2026].

<sup>22</sup> Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) (n.d.) *Water Classification Hub*. Available at: <https://informatics.sepa.org.uk/WaterClassificationHub/> [Accessed April 2026].

<sup>23</sup> Scottish Government (n.d.) *Scotland's Environment Map*. Available at: <https://map.environment.gov.scot/sewebmap/> [Accessed April 2026].

- 13.5.2 Approximately 4.5 km south of the Scoping Boundary northern most point, the main river Burn of Muchalls flows through the Scoping Boundary west to east, discharging into the Souther Head to Garron Point coastal waterbody approximately 1.2 km east of the Scoping Boundary. The Burn of Muchalls is shown as having an overall status of Moderate.
- 13.5.3 In the centre of the Scoping Boundary, Cowie Water flows west to east discharging into the Garron Point to Downie Point coastal water body approximately 2.5 km east of the Scoping Boundary. Cowie Water is classified as having a Good overall status.
- 13.5.4 The Scoping Boundary would intersect with a number of smaller watercourses and drains that are associated with the above mentioned main surface water features. Within the northern extent of the Scoping Boundary, Pheppie Burn is located approximately 1.3 km south of the Burn of Elsick. Flowing west to east through the Scoping Boundary, Pheppie Burn discharges into the Garron Point coastal waterbody approximately 1 km to the south-east.
- 13.5.5 In the centre of the Scoping Boundary, the Burn of Monboys is located approximately 1.1 km north of Cowie Water. Flowing in a southerly direction through the site before discharging into Cowie Water approximately 980 m south of the site.
- 13.5.6 It is noted that a number of smaller watercourses, visible on OS Mapping, are present across the Scoping Boundary. Notably the Green Burn flows through the proposed Substation Site Option A in the centre of the Scoping Boundary in an easterly direction before discharging into the Burn of Muchalls. Limpet Burn is located in the centre of the Scoping Boundary, flowing in an easterly direction to the south of Substation Site Option B.

#### *Flood Risk*

- 13.5.7 SEPA Flood Risk Maps<sup>24</sup> shows that only lower lying land in close proximity to watercourses on the Site is at risk of flooding from rivers, including areas at a high risk of flooding (1 in 10 (10%) annual probability). The majority of the Scoping Boundary is shown to have a very low likelihood (>1 in 1,000 (0.1%) Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP)).
- 13.5.8 SEPA mapping shows that the Scoping Boundary predominantly has a very low likelihood of surface water flooding (less than a 1 in 1,000 (0.1%) annual probability). Areas with a high likelihood of surface water flooding are shown to be present across low lying land adjacent to the burns and drainage channels across the Scoping Boundary.

#### *Water Resources*

- 13.5.9 According to British Geological Society (BGS) 1:625 hydrogeological mapping, the majority of the Scoping Boundary is underlain by an aquifer of Highland Border Complex which are classified as a low productivity aquifer. A very small area along the southern boundary of the Scoping Boundary, is underlain by the Stonehaven Group which is classified as a moderately productive aquifer. BGS 1:50K geological mapping indicates the majority of the Scoping Boundary is underlain by superficial deposits of the Banchory Till Formation. Superficial deposits of Alluvium are located across the Burn of Elsick, Pheppie Burn, Burn of Muchalls and Cowie Water. Peat is recorded either side of the A90 where it intersects the centre of the Scoping Boundary. Additionally, small, isolated areas of Lochton Sand and Gravel Formation and River Terrace Deposits are recorded across the centre of the Scoping Boundary, situated between the Burn of Monboys and Cowie Water.
- 13.5.10 Following a request for information made to Aberdeenshire Council, it is confirmed that there are eight active Private Water Supplies (PWS) within 2 km of the Scoping Boundary.

<sup>24</sup> Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) *SEPA Flood Map Viewer*. Available at: <https://scottishepa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=3098bbef089c4dd79e5344a0e1e7c91c> (Accessed April 2026).

- 13.5.11 The Study Area is not located within a surface water Drinking Water Protected Area (DWPA, Surface) assigned by the Scottish Government. The nearest surface water DWPA is situated approximately 4 km north of the Scoping Boundary. Consultation will be carried out with Scottish Water to confirm the absence of assets under their management within the Study Area.

#### Future Baseline Conditions

- 13.5.12 There is potential for climate change to impact on future baseline conditions. Climate change studies predict a decrease in summer precipitation and an increase in winter precipitation alongside slightly higher average temperatures.
- 13.5.13 This suggests that there may be greater pressures on water resources and rain-fed habitats in summer months in the future. However, summer storms are predicted to be of greater intensity. Therefore, peak fluvial flows associated with extreme storm events may also increase in volume and velocity. These climate change factors have been taken into account when considering the potential for significant effects.

### **13.6 Embedded Mitigation**

- 13.6.1 The following section outlines the embedded mitigation anticipated to be implemented prior to undertaking the Hydrology and Flood Risk assessment.
- 13.6.2 The Proposed Development will undergo design iterations and evolution in response to constraints identified as part of the baseline studies and field studies to avoid and/or minimise potential effects on receptors where possible.
- 13.6.3 The following embedded mitigation, relevant to Hydrology and Flood Risk would be implemented:
- CEMP: Construction of the Proposed Development would be undertaken in accordance with the relevant best practice measures such as those recommended in CIRIA C648 (CIRIA, 2006) – ‘Control of water pollution from linear construction projects’ and other relevant guidance. An Outline CEMP will be included as a Technical Appendix to the EIA Report;
  - Flood Control Measures – High level design principles for the diversion of Green Burn would be developed and implemented in the event that Substation Site Option A is selected;
  - Watercourse Crossings – Prior to construction, a method statement will be prepared for watercourses and drainage ditches to be crossed by open cut and trenchless techniques;
  - Outline Drainage Strategy – An Outline Drainage Strategy will be prepared and submitted with the application. An Onshore Infrastructure Construction Drainage Scheme will be developed prior to commencement of construction for the temporary onshore construction works in accordance with the Outline Onshore Infrastructure Drainage Strategy; and
  - Decommissioning Plan - To be developed prior to decommissioning in a timely manner. The Decommissioning Plan will include provisions for the removal of all onshore above ground infrastructure and the decommissioning of below ground infrastructure and details relevant to flood risk, pollution prevention and avoidance of ground disturbance.

### **13.7 Potential Impacts of the Proposed Development**

- 13.7.1 Following the implementation of embedded mitigation, it is anticipated that a series of potential impacts as a result of the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development in relation to Hydrology and Flood Risk related receptors would be sufficiently mitigated. In the event the potential for likely significant impacts is identified within the EIA Report chapter, the assessment will address additional design or management measures that would be implemented.
- 13.7.2 Considering the baseline water environment described above, it is anticipated that the following potentially significant effects could occur as a result of the Proposed Development, with the

aforementioned inherent and embedded mitigation assumed as implemented, under a worst-case scenario.

#### Construction Phase – Below Ground Infrastructure

- 13.7.3 The following section considers the potential impacts on Hydrology and Flood Risk receptors arising specifically from the construction phase of the below ground infrastructure, namely the installation of the Onshore Transmission Cables. Construction activities associated with the Onshore Transmission Cable Corridor would be predominantly temporary in nature, progressing sequentially along the route, although some activities may occur concurrently at discrete locations (e.g. at Landfall and at the Substation).

##### *Alteration to Hydromorphology*

- 13.7.4 Construction of the below ground infrastructure has the potential to result in temporary alterations to hydromorphological conditions of watercourses and drainage features within the Onshore Transmission Cable Corridor. This may occur where cable installation requires open-cut crossings, trenchless techniques (such as HDD), installation of Joint Bays and Link Boxes, and/or works within proximity to watercourses, ditches, and field drains.
- 13.7.5 Potential impacts may include temporary disturbance to the bed and banks of watercourses during crossing installation, alongside localised changes to flow pathways arising from trenching activities and the stockpiling of excavated materials. There is also potential for increased sediment mobilisation, which could lead to sediment deposition within nearby watercourses. In addition, construction activities may disrupt existing drainage patterns, including agricultural land drainage systems, and could result in localised bank destabilisation or soil compaction adjacent to water features due to plant access and vehicle movements.
- 13.7.6 Given the short-term and sequential nature of the works, any hydromorphological effects are expected to be localised and temporary, with reinstatement measures restoring pre-construction conditions where practicable. The use of trenchless crossing techniques at sensitive locations would further reduce the potential for direct impacts on watercourse morphology.

##### *Impacts on Water Quality*

- 13.7.7 Construction of the below ground infrastructure has the potential to result in temporary impacts on water quality within surface water receptors along the Onshore Transmission Cable Corridor. These impacts may arise from activities such as trench excavation, dewatering, cable installation, and reinstatement works, particularly where works are undertaken in proximity to watercourses, ditches, and field drains.
- 13.7.8 There is potential for increased sediment mobilisation during excavation and earthworks, which could lead to elevated suspended solids concentrations in nearby watercourses. In addition, accidental spillages or leaks of fuels, oils, and other construction materials may pose a risk to water quality if not appropriately managed. Dewatering activities may also mobilise fine sediments if discharge is not suitably controlled. Furthermore, disturbance of soils, including those that may be contaminated, has the potential to release pollutants into the water environment.
- 13.7.9 Given the localised nature of the cable installation works, any impacts on water quality are expected to be temporary and limited in spatial extent. Embedded mitigation measures, including the implementation of an outline CEMP, pollution prevention controls, and appropriate sediment management techniques, would minimise the risk of significant effects on water quality receptors.

#### Construction Phase – Above Ground Infrastructure

- 13.7.10 The following section considers the potential impacts on Hydrology and Flood Risk receptors arising from the construction phase of the above ground infrastructure, specifically the

construction of the Substation. In contrast to the cable works, construction activities associated with the Substation would be largely static and concentrated within a defined footprint, with works undertaken over an extended period within the overall construction programme (anticipated to be up to approximately three years).

#### *Alteration to Hydromorphology*

- 13.7.11 Construction of the Substation has the potential to result in alterations to local hydromorphological conditions, particularly where earthworks modify existing landform, drainage pathways, or interact with nearby watercourses and drainage features.
- 13.7.12 Potential impacts may include the permanent or temporary modification of overland flow paths as a result of changes in topography associated with site levelling, as well as the disturbance or realignment of minor watercourses such as the Green Burn adjacent to the footprint of Substation Site Option A. Earthworks activities may increase the risk of soil erosion and sediment mobilisation, which could lead to the deposition of sediments within nearby water features. In addition, works undertaken in proximity to watercourses may result in localised bank destabilisation or channel modification.
- 13.7.13 Given the fixed location and longer duration of works, there is potential for more sustained effects compared to the works associated with the Onshore Transmission Cable Corridor; however, these effects would remain spatially limited to the footprint of the Substation and its immediate surroundings. Embedded mitigation measures, including appropriate drainage design, erosion and sediment control, and adherence to buffer zones, would reduce the magnitude of these effects. Where practicable, reinstatement and landscape design would seek to integrate the Substation into the surrounding hydrological regime and maintain existing drainage function.

#### *Water Quality*

- 13.7.14 Construction of the above ground infrastructure, specifically the Substation, has the potential to result in impacts on water quality due to the more prolonged and concentrated nature of construction activities within a defined area.
- 13.7.15 Activities such as site clearance, earthworks, and construction of foundations and drainage infrastructure may increase the risk of sediment mobilisation and runoff, particularly during periods of rainfall. This may result in elevated suspended solids entering nearby watercourses or drainage systems. In addition, there is potential for accidental spillages of fuels, oils, concrete, and other construction materials, which could adversely affect surface water quality if not properly controlled. The handling and storage of construction materials, as well as the operation of plant and machinery, may also present a risk of contamination.
- 13.7.16 Due to the longer duration of works at the Substation location, there is potential for more sustained water quality effects compared to what would be associated with the works relating to the Onshore Transmission Cable Corridor; however, these would remain localised to the site and its immediate surroundings. With the implementation of embedded mitigation measures, including pollution prevention practices, controlled drainage systems, and adherence to best practice guidance, the magnitude of potential impacts would be reduced, and significant effects on water quality are not anticipated.

#### Operation and Maintenance Phase – Below Ground Infrastructure

- 13.7.17 During operation, the Onshore Transmission Cables would be installed below ground and, following reinstatement, the land would be returned to its previous use, with limited above ground infrastructure in relation to the Onshore Transmission Cables likely to lead to hydrology and flood risk related impacts.

- 13.7.18 As such, there is limited potential for ongoing interaction with hydrological receptors and no significant impacts are predicted.

#### Operation and Maintenance Phase – Above Ground Infrastructure

- 13.7.19 During operation, the Substation would represent a permanent feature within the landscape, with associated hardstanding, buildings, and drainage infrastructure.
- 13.7.20 The presence of permanent infrastructure has the potential to influence both hydromorphological conditions and water quality within the surrounding area, primarily through changes to runoff characteristics, drainage pathways, and the storage and handling of operational materials.

#### *Alteration to Hydromorphology*

- 13.7.21 During the operational phase, the Substation has the potential to result in permanent alterations to local hydromorphological conditions. The introduction of impermeable surfaces, such as buildings and hardstanding, may modify natural overland flow pathways and increase the rate and volume of surface water runoff if not appropriately managed.
- 13.7.22 Changes to site topography and the installation of permanent drainage infrastructure may alter the way in which water is conveyed across the site, potentially affecting adjacent land and nearby watercourses. In addition, any realignment or modification of existing drainage features undertaken during construction would persist into the operational phase.
- 13.7.23 However, with the implementation of an appropriately designed surface water drainage system, including attenuation and controlled discharge, post-development runoff rates and volumes would be managed to reflect greenfield conditions where practicable. As such, potential impacts on hydromorphology would be controlled and are not anticipated to be significant.

#### *Water Quality*

- 13.7.24 During operation and maintenance, the Substation has the potential to pose a risk to water quality due to the presence and handling of electrical equipment, including transformers and associated oils, as well as routine maintenance activities.
- 13.7.25 There is a potential risk of contamination arising from accidental spillages or leaks of oils, fuels, or other operational substances, which could enter surface water drainage systems if not appropriately contained. Surface water runoff from hardstanding areas may also contain contaminants such as suspended solids or trace hydrocarbons.
- 13.7.26 These risks would be managed through a combination of embedded design measures, including appropriate bunding of transformers and oil-containing equipment, controlled surface water drainage with pollution prevention features, and operational management procedures. Ongoing operational procedures would be put in place to manage spill response and maintenance activities such that, with these measures in place, the risk of significant impacts on water quality during the operational phase would be expected to be low.

#### Decommissioning Phase – Below Ground Infrastructure

- 13.7.27 It is anticipated that the Onshore Transmission Cables would be left in situ following the cessation of operations, thereby avoiding the need for excavation, removal, or ground disturbance along the Onshore Transmission Cable Corridor.

As no intrusive works would be required, there would be no interaction with surface water receptors, and no alteration to existing drainage patterns or landform. On this basis, no significant effects on Hydrology and Flood Risk are anticipated as a result of decommissioning of the below ground infrastructure.

#### Decommissioning Phase – Above Ground Infrastructure

- 13.7.28 Decommissioning activities are expected to primarily involve the dismantling and removal of structures associated with the Substation, including buildings, hardstanding, foundations, and associated drainage infrastructure.
- 13.7.29 These activities would be temporary in nature and broadly comparable to construction activities, although typically of shorter duration and reduced spatial extent. The removal of permanent infrastructure and subsequent reinstatement of the site has the potential to interact with hydrological receptors through ground disturbance, changes to drainage patterns, and the management of demolition materials.

#### *Alteration to Hydromorphology*

- 13.7.30 The removal of above ground infrastructure during decommissioning has the potential to result in temporary alterations to local hydromorphological conditions. Activities such as the breaking up of hardstanding, removal of foundations, and reinstatement of ground levels may temporarily affect overland flow pathways and local drainage patterns.
- 13.7.31 There is also potential for disturbance to any drainage features associated with the Substation, including ditches or engineered drainage systems, during removal works. However, following decommissioning, reinstatement of the site would provide an opportunity to restore more natural drainage patterns and landform, which may result in a beneficial effect on hydromorphological conditions in the longer term.
- 13.7.32 Given the temporary nature of these activities and the potential for restoration, significant effects on hydromorphology are not anticipated.

#### *Water Quality*

- 13.7.33 Decommissioning of the above ground infrastructure has the potential to result in temporary impacts on water quality, primarily associated with demolition and ground disturbance activities. The removal of structures and hardstanding may generate sediment, which could be mobilised and enter nearby watercourses or drainage systems if not appropriately controlled.
- 13.7.34 There is also potential for accidental spillages or leaks of residual materials, including oils or fuels associated with Substation equipment, during dismantling and removal activities. In addition, surface water runoff during decommissioning works may contain suspended solids or other contaminants.
- 13.7.35 These risks would be managed through the implementation of appropriate environmental management measures, including pollution prevention controls and sediment management practices. Given the temporary and localised nature of the works, and with mitigation in place, significant effects on water quality are not anticipated.

**Table 13.1: Summary of Potential Hydrology and Flood Risk Related Impacts Proposed to be Scoped In**

Potential Impact	Phase of Proposed Development*			Justification	Summary of the Proposed Approach to Assessment
	C	O&M	D		
Below ground infrastructure impact on hydromorphology	✓	✗	✗	Temporary disturbance to watercourses and drainage features during trenching and crossings. No impacts are anticipated during operation or decommissioning as the Onshore Transmission Cables are buried and left in situ.	Qualitative assessment of interactions with watercourses and drainage features, considering crossing methods, duration of works, and embedded mitigation to determine residual effects.
Below ground infrastructure impact on water quality	✓	✗	✗	Risk of sediment mobilisation, dewatering discharges, and pollution incidents during construction only. During operation, the buried Onshore Transmission Cables do not present a source of pollution, and no impacts are anticipated during decommissioning as no excavation works are required.	Qualitative assessment of pollution pathways and receptor sensitivity, accounting for standard mitigation (e.g. outline CEMP and pollution prevention measures).
Above ground infrastructure impact on water quality	✓	✓	✓	Risk of sediment runoff and spillages during construction and decommissioning, and potential contamination from operational equipment and runoff from hardstanding.	Qualitative assessment of contamination sources, pathways, and receptors across all phases, considering embedded mitigation such as drainage design and pollution control.
Above ground infrastructure impact on hydromorphology	✓	✓	✓	Temporary changes during construction and decommissioning, and permanent changes to runoff and drainage patterns during operation due to built infrastructure.	Qualitative assessment of changes to drainage and runoff characteristics, accounting for embedded mitigation such as attenuation and controlled discharge.

\*Phase of Proposed Development refers to construction (C), operation and maintenance (O&M), and decommissioning (D).

**Table 13.2: Summary of Potential Hydrology and Flood Risk Related Impacts Proposed to be Scoped Out**

Potential Impact	Justification
Increase in Flood Risk across the Proposed Development during all phases	Flood risk is proposed to be scoped out of the assessment as, for both potential options, the Substation, irrespective of the preferred Substation Site Option, would be located outside of areas at risk of flooding and would incorporate an appropriately designed surface water drainage system to manage runoff and maintain greenfield conditions. The Onshore Transmission Cables would be installed below ground and, following reinstatement, would not alter topography, floodplain storage, or surface water flow pathways. As such, there is no anticipated increase in flood risk during construction, operation and maintenance, or decommissioning phases.

### 13.8 Proposed Assessment Methodology

- 13.8.1 The Study Area, in respect of potential impacts on Hydrology and Flood Risk, will include the Scoping Boundary extent plus a 2 km buffer. Additionally, the assessment will consider potential hydrological downstream connectivity to areas extending beyond this buffer as required.

#### Method of Assessment

- 13.8.2 The assessment of the significance of Hydrology and Flood Risk impacts will be undertaken by determining the sensitivity of the specific attribute and the magnitude of the impact upon the attribute. Impacts will be assessed for all phases of the Proposed Development. Following the determination of impacts, mitigation measures will be identified, and residual impacts identified.
- 13.8.3 It is anticipated that as the assessment of potential impacts would inform the design of the Proposed Development and best practice measures would be implemented during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, that significant residual effects to the Hydrology and Flood Risk environment would be avoided. However, if potential significant residual effects to the Hydrology and Flood Risk environment are identified through the assessment process, suitable mitigation measures will be set out in the EIA Report.
- 13.8.4 An outline CEMP will be included as a technical appendix to the EIA Report which will include mitigation measures, environmental management requirements, outline method statements and environmental monitoring requirements.

#### Flood Risk Assessment

- 13.8.5 In accordance with NPF4, an FRA will be undertaken for the Proposed Development to determine baseline and future flood risk from all sources of flooding. The FRA will be used to inform the design of the Proposed Development and mitigation measures, including Outline Drainage Strategy and Onshore Infrastructure Operational Drainage Scheme. The conclusions of the FRA will be referred to in the assessment of Hydrology and Flood Risk in the EIA Report where relevant. The FRA will form a Technical Appendix of the EIA Report.

### 13.9 Potential Cumulative Effects

#### Intra-Related Effects

- 13.9.1 Potential inter-related effects will be considered as part of the Hydrology and Flood Risk assessment with details presented within the EIA Report. This will include the consideration of both project lifetime effects and receptor-led effects in accordance with the approach set out

within **Chapter 4: Approach to Scoping and EIA**. There is considered to be the potential for intra-related effects to occur in relation to the following other environmental topics:

- Terrestrial Ecology (Chapter 8):
  - Potential receptor-led effects may arise where changes to hydrological processes, surface water flow pathways, sediment transport and water quality associated with construction activities could affect hydrologically connected habitats and species. Potential effects may include temporary disturbance or alteration of terrestrial and wetland habitats associated with watercourse crossings, trenching activities, dewatering, construction runoff and sediment mobilisation.
- Geology, Soils and Peat (Chapter 12):
  - Potential receptor-led effects may arise from the interaction between construction activities and existing geological, soil and peat conditions, including excavation, trenching, dewatering and soil handling activities. Changes to drainage characteristics, groundwater movement, and peat hydrology could influence erosion potential, sediment generation, peat stability and runoff pathways, with the potential to indirectly affect the hydrological regime and flood risk receptors.

- 13.9.2 Where potential inter-related effects are identified, these will be assessed within the EIA Report. It is anticipated that embedded mitigation measures, including the implementation of appropriate drainage design, pollution prevention measures, sediment and erosion control measures, and adherence to an outline CEMP, will reduce the likelihood of significant inter-related effects.

#### Cumulative Effects Assessment

- 13.9.3 Cumulative effects with the Proposed Offshore Development will be considered, together with cumulative effects with other developments, where relevant.
- 13.9.4 The cumulative effects assessment will follow the approach set out within **Chapter 4: Approach to Scoping and EIA**.

#### **13.10 Limitations and Assumptions**

- 13.10.1 This assessment is based on a range of publicly available information and data sources and is largely desk-based. It has been assumed that these datasets have been reported correctly at the time of reference. Although these data sets are considered robust, there is a degree of uncertainty and assumptions associated with their use in this assessment.

#### **13.11 Summary of Proposed Scope**

- 13.11.1 A scoping assessment has been undertaken for the Proposed Development in relation to Hydrology and Flood Risk. The scoping assessment has assessed waterbodies within the Scoping Boundary and defined the Hydrology and Flood Risk Study Area. A baseline assessment of the hydrological conditions across the Scoping Boundary has been undertaken using publicly available data.
- 13.11.2 Based on the findings of the scoping assessment, it is proposed that flood risk is scoped out of the EIA. This is on the basis that the Substation would be located outside of areas at risk of flooding with either Substation Site Option A or B and would incorporate appropriate surface water drainage design, while the Onshore Transmission Cables would be installed below ground and would not result in changes to topography, floodplain storage, or surface water flow pathways.
- 13.11.3 However, potential impacts on hydromorphology and water quality are proposed to be scoped into the EIA. This reflects the potential for temporary construction-phase effects associated with the

installation of Onshore Transmission Cables and the works associated with the Substation, as well as the potential for ongoing operational and decommissioning phase interactions, particularly in relation to the above ground infrastructure. These topics will therefore be assessed in detail within the Hydrology and Flood Risk chapter of the EIA Report.

## 14. TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

### 14.1 Introduction

- 14.1.1 The following chapter of the Scoping Report sets out the proposed scope of assessment of likely significant effects as a result of the Proposed Development in relation to Traffic and Transport.
- 14.1.2 A Transport Assessment (TA) will be provided to review the impact of transport related matters associated with the Proposed Development. An abnormal loads access study will support the application and will identify the necessary access improvements that will be required to enable the construction of the proposed Substation. These documents will be appended to the EIA Report and will be summarised in a Traffic and Transport chapter of the EIA Report.
- 14.1.3 The aims of this chapter of the Scoping Report are to:
- Set out the overall approach to the Traffic and Transport impact assessment;
  - Describe the Study Area and the receptors that will be considered in the assessment;
  - Describe the anticipated baseline Traffic and Transport environment;
  - Describe the assessment methodology proposed to be used;
  - Identify key potential impacts at all stages of the Proposed Development; and,
  - Identify topics not requiring further assessment, which can be scoped out.

### 14.2 Legislation, Policy, and Guidance

- 14.2.1 The proposed scope of assessment in relation to Traffic and Transport has been developed with reference to key policy and guidance documents as set out in the following section<sup>1</sup>.

#### Policy

##### *National Policy*

- National Planning Framework 4 (2023)<sup>2</sup>.

##### *Local Policy*

- Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan (2023)<sup>3</sup>.

#### Guidance

- Environmental Assessment of Traffic and Movement (Institute of Sustainability & Environmental Professionals (ISEP) formerly Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA), 2023)<sup>4</sup>; and
- Transport Assessment Guidance (Transport Scotland, 2012)<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> There is no legislation which is specific to Traffic and Transport that is required to be considered as part of this assessment.

<sup>2</sup> Scottish Government (2023). National Planning Framework 4. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/>

<sup>3</sup> Aberdeenshire Council (2023). Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan. Available at: <https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/ldpmedia/LDP2021/AberdeenshireLocalDevelopmentPlan2023IntroductionAndPolicies.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> ISEP (2023). Environmental Assessment of Traffic and Movement

<sup>5</sup> Transport Scotland (2012). Transport Assessment Guidance. Available at: [https://www.transport.gov.scot/media/4589/planning\\_reform\\_-\\_dpmtag\\_-\\_development\\_management\\_dpmtag\\_ref\\_17\\_-\\_transport\\_assessment\\_guidance\\_final\\_-\\_june\\_2012.pdf](https://www.transport.gov.scot/media/4589/planning_reform_-_dpmtag_-_development_management_dpmtag_ref_17_-_transport_assessment_guidance_final_-_june_2012.pdf)

### 14.3 Consultation

#### Future Consultation

- 14.3.1 To inform the assessment, consultation will be undertaken with Aberdeenshire Council and Transport Scotland on the following matters: the overarching assessment methodology, the specific sources and collection methods for traffic flow data, and the application of Low National Road Traffic Forecast (NRTF) growth factors. Furthermore, the list of committed developments to be included in the Traffic and Transport cumulative effects assessment will be confirmed through consultation with Aberdeenshire Council.

### 14.4 Study Area

- 14.4.1 The Study Area will be based on the roads to be used to move material and staff during the construction of the Proposed Development. As set out within **Chapter 3: The Proposed Development**, there are currently two Substation Site Options being considered:

- Substation Site Option A; and
- Substation Site Option B.

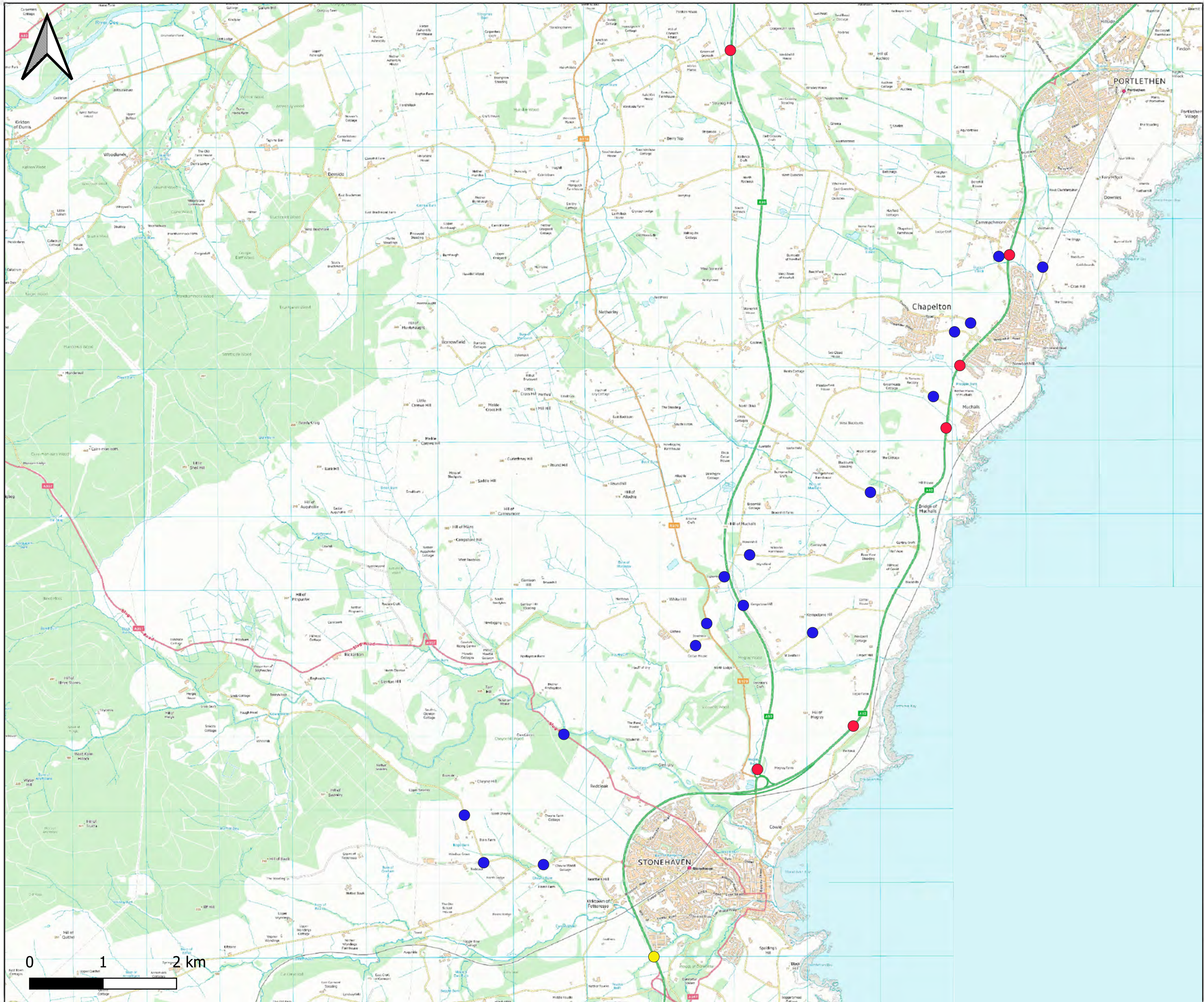
- 14.4.2 The Study Area will ultimately depend on the preferred Substation Site Option taken forward, however, a high-level review of potential road links for use during construction has been completed. The following road links are identified for potential use during construction of the Proposed Development:

- The A92 (between Portlethen Junction and Stonehaven Roundabout);
- The A90 (between the A956 and the A92 at Dunnottar Woods);
- The U86K (between the A92 and Blackburn / Burnside);
- The C87K (between the A92 and Cammachmore);
- Doohills Road (between the A92 and Chapelton of Elsick);
- Greenlaw Road (between the A92 and Chapelton of Elsick);
- The C25K (between the A92 and the C24K);
- The C12K (between the A92 and the A90);
- The U88K (between the C12K and B979);
- The U167K (between the U88K and the A92);
- The B979 (between the C12K and the A90 Stonehaven Roundabout);
- The U94K (between the B979 and The Grange);
- The A957 (Slug Road) (between the A90 and Mill of Mowtie);
- Farrochie Road (between A957 and C1k);
- The C1K (between Farrochie Road and Nether Wyndings);
- Hindwells (between the C1K and Fetteresso Forest);
- Unclassified road at Blairs of Fetteresso (between the Hindwells and Fetteresso Forest); and
- The U89K (between the B979 and A92).

### 14.5 Data Sources

- 14.5.1 The following site-specific surveys will be conducted to inform the assessment:

- Detailed site visits will be undertaken to review the proposed access route and potential constraints; and
- Automatic Traffic Count (ATC) surveys will be undertaken to obtain traffic flows and speed data to establish a baseline on the local road network identified in the proposed Study Area above. The proposed traffic count locations can be viewed on **Figure 14.1**.



**Legend**

- Automatic Traffic Count Locations
- Transport Scotland Traffic Count Locations
- Department for Transport Traffic Count Locations

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**Figure Title**  
Proposed Traffic Count Locations

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**Project Name**  
Aspen Offshore Wind Farm - Onshore Transmission Connection

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**Project No./Filey ID**  
1620018491 / REH2026N02003

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<b>Date</b> May 2026	<b>Figure No.</b> 14.1	<b>Revision</b> 1.0
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<b>Prepared By</b> EM	<b>Scale</b> 1:90,000 @ A3
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**Client**  
Cerulean Winds Aspen Project Limited

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**RAMBOLL**

## 14.6 Baseline Environment

### Existing Baseline Conditions

- 14.6.1 New ATC surveys will be undertaken on local roads within the Study Area where existing Department for Transport (DfT) data is not available (see **Figure 14.1** for proposed traffic count locations). Wider area traffic data will be obtained from Transport Scotland's traffic database and from the DfT road traffic database.
- 14.6.2 In addition to traffic flow data, traffic accident data for a five-year period for roads within the Study Area will be obtained from the public website source ([www.crashmap.co.uk](http://www.crashmap.co.uk)).
- 14.6.3 The Core Paths Plan<sup>6</sup> on the Aberdeenshire Council website will be reviewed to identify Core Paths within the vicinity of the Proposed Development or which cross the roads within the Study Area.
- 14.6.4 Construction access for the Proposed Development will be taken from local material sources (quarries and ready-mix concrete suppliers etc). Temporary access junctions may be required and if necessary, these will be designed in accordance with the appropriate Aberdeenshire Council design standard<sup>7</sup>.
- 14.6.5 Sensitive receptors to be considered as part of the assessment will include communities within the Study Area and users of the road links. All receptors, both communities and users, will be considered in detail.

### Future Baseline Conditions

- 14.6.6 Baseline traffic flows will be subject to Low NRTF growth factors to allow for the future year baseline.

## 14.7 Embedded Mitigation

- 14.7.1 The following section outlines the embedded mitigation anticipated to be implemented prior to undertaking the Traffic and Transport assessment.
- 14.7.2 The following embedded mitigation, relevant to Traffic and Transport would be implemented:
- Production of an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP). The Outline CTMP will include measures to manage construction traffic routing, workforce travel, and heavy goods vehicles (HGVs);
  - Production of an Outline Abnormal Load Transport Management Plan, defining proposed routing of abnormal loads, identifying any constraints along the route; and
  - Design of suitable access arrangements with full consideration given to the road safety of all road users.

## 14.8 Potential Impacts of the Proposed Development

### Potential Significant Effects

- 14.8.1 Following the implementation of embedded mitigation, a series of potential impacts as a result of the Proposed Development will be identified in relation to Traffic and Transport related receptors.

<sup>6</sup> Aberdeenshire Council (2026). Core Paths Plan. Available at: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/outdoor-access-and-countryside/paths/core-paths-plan>

<sup>7</sup> Aberdeenshire Council (2026). Road Construction Consent, Standards and Guidance. Available at: [Roads construction consent - Aberdeenshire Council](#)

- 14.8.2 Potential impacts that may arise may include the following for users of the road and those resident along the delivery routes:
- Severance;
  - Driver delay;
  - Pedestrian delay;
  - Non-motorised user amenity;
  - Fear and intimidation;
  - Road safety;
  - Road safety audits; and
  - Large loads.
- 14.8.3 The impacts on receptors within the Study Area will be reviewed for the construction phase, with a peak construction period assessment undertaken. This will review the maximum impact and present a robust assessment of the effects of construction traffic on the local and trunk road networks.
- 14.8.4 The effects that will be considered will be based upon predicted percentage increases in traffic flow and reviewed against the potential impacts noted above.
- 14.0.2 Potential impacts proposed to be scoped into the assessment are set out in **Table 14.1**, and issues proposed to be scoped out are set out in **Table 14.2**, with justifications provided.

**Table 14.1: Summary of Potential Traffic and Transport Related Impacts Proposed to be Scoped In**

Potential Impact	Phase of Proposed Development*			Justification	Summary of the Proposed Approach to Assessment
	C	O&M	D		
Potential impacts (of changes in traffic flows) on local roads and the users of those roads	✓	✗	✗	In line with ISEP Guidelines.	Detailed assessments will be undertaken on the receptors which exceed ISEP Guidelines <sup>4</sup> Rules 1 and 2 within the Study Area.
Potential impacts (of changes in traffic flows) on land uses and environmental resources fronting these roads, including the relevant occupiers and users	✓	✗	✗	In line with ISEP Guidelines.	Detailed assessments will be undertaken on the receptors which exceed ISEP Guidelines <sup>4</sup> Rules 1 and 2 within the Study Area.
*Phase of Proposed Development refers to construction (C), operation and maintenance (O&M), and decommissioning (D).					

**Table 14.2: Summary of Potential Traffic and Transport Related Impacts Proposed to be Scoped Out**

Potential Impact	Justification
Operational and Maintenance Impacts	Once operational, it is envisaged that the level of traffic associated with the Proposed Development would be minimal. Regular maintenance visits would be made using 4x4 vehicles. It is considered that the effects of operational traffic would be negligible and therefore no detailed assessment of the operational phase of the Proposed Development will be undertaken.
Decommissioning Impacts	The application will be for permission in perpetuity and as such the decommissioning phase will not be included in the EIA. Should the Proposed Development be decommissioned, the associated traffic generation levels are anticipated to be less than those associated with the construction phase as some elements, such as the Onshore Transmission Cables, as well as permanent access roads, would be left in-situ. The construction phase is therefore considered the worst case to review the impact on the Study Area.

## 14.9 Proposed Assessment Methodology

- 14.9.1 The main transport potential impacts are likely to be associated with the movement of general heavy goods vehicles (HGV) traffic travelling to and from site during the construction phase of the Proposed Development.
- 14.9.2 The following rules taken from the ISEP 2023 guidance<sup>4</sup> would be used as a screening process to define the scale and extent of the assessment:
- Rule 1: include highway links where traffic flows are predicted to increase by more than 30% (or where the number of HGVs is predicted to increase by more than 30%); and
  - Rule 2: include any other specifically sensitive areas where traffic flows are predicted to increase by 10% or more.
- 14.9.3 Increases below these thresholds are generally considered to be insignificant given that daily variations in background traffic flow may fluctuate by this amount. Changes in traffic flow below this level predicted as a consequence of the Proposed Development will therefore be assumed to result in no discernible environmental impact and as such no further consideration will be given to the associated environment effects.
- 14.9.4 The estimated traffic generation of the Proposed Development will be compared with baseline traffic flows, obtained from traffic survey data, in order to determine the percentage increase in traffic.
- 14.9.5 Potentially significant environmental effects will then be assessed where the thresholds as defined above are exceeded. Suitable mitigation measures will be proposed, where appropriate.
- 14.9.6 The assessment will consider the impact of construction traffic in a future year.

## 14.10 Potential Cumulative Effects

### Inter-Related Effects

- 14.10.1 The ISEP guidelines also refer to interrelationships with Traffic and Transport effects in relation to amenity including visual effects, air quality, noise, and hazardous loads. Visual effects, air quality, and noise are addressed in **Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual**, **Chapter 15: Air Quality** and **Chapter 16: Noise and Vibration**.

### Cumulative Effects Assessment

- 14.10.2 The potential for cumulative effects with other developments will be considered where relevant.
- 14.10.3 Other developments will be considered as part of the traffic and transport cumulative effects assessment where significant effects are reported on the Study Area road network (i.e. over 30% increase in traffic flows) within respective planning documents. These traffic flows would be included in the baseline flows used within the assessment. Planning proposals that are in scoping but do not have planning consent are not committed development and as such would not be included as part of the assessment.

### **14.11 Limitations and Assumptions**

- 14.11.1 The assessment will be based upon average traffic flows in one-month periods. During the month, activities within the Scoping Boundary are likely to fluctuate between one day and another. It is not possible to fully develop a day-by-day traffic flow estimate as no Principle Contractor(s) have been appointed and external factors can influence day-by-day activities (weather conditions, availability of materials, time of year, etc).
- 14.11.2 Assumptions on the origin points for materials will be made to provide a worst-case assessment scenario. Should these origin points change, the effects on the Study Area may alter to those presented in the assessment.

### **14.12 Summary of Proposed Scope**

- 14.12.1 The Traffic and Transport issues relating to the construction phase of the Proposed Development will be examined in detail. The Traffic and Transport EIA Report chapter will be accompanied by a TA which will review the impact of construction traffic on the Study Area.

## 15. AIR QUALITY

### 15.1 Introduction

- 15.1.1 The following chapter sets out the proposed assessment scope of likely significant effects from the Proposed Development in relation to Air Quality.
- 15.1.2 The aims of this chapter of the Scoping Report are to:
- Set out the overall approach to the assessment of Air Quality;
  - Define the Study Area to be considered in the assessment;
  - Describe the baseline environment in relation to Air Quality;
  - Set out embedded mitigation measures, anticipated to be implemented prior to undertaking the Air Quality assessment;
  - Identify key potential impacts at all stages of the Proposed Development;
  - Identify topics not requiring further assessment, which can be scoped out;
  - Describe the proposed assessment methodology; and
  - Set out potential cumulative effects.
- 15.1.3 The proposed scope of the Air Quality assessment should be read in conjunction with the following chapters that address related environmental matters:
- **Chapter 7: Climate;** and
  - **Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport.**

### 15.2 Legislation, Policy and Guidance

- 15.2.1 The proposed scope of assessment in relation to Air Quality has been developed with reference to the legislation, policy and guidance as set out in the following section.

#### Legislation

- European Union Directive 2008/50/EC (Ambient Air Quality Directive)<sup>1</sup>;
- Environment Act 1995 (Part IV)<sup>2</sup>;
- European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020<sup>3</sup>;
- The Air Quality (Scotland) Regulations 2000<sup>4</sup>, and The Air Quality (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2002<sup>5</sup>;
- Air Quality Standards (Scotland) Regulations' 2010 (SSU 2010 No.204)<sup>6</sup>; and,
- The Air Quality (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2016<sup>7</sup>.

#### Policy

##### *National Policy*

- National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)<sup>8</sup>;

<sup>1</sup> European Union Directive 2008/50/EC (Ambient Air Quality Directive). Available at: [Directive - 2008/50 - EN - EUR-Lex](#)

<sup>2</sup> UK Parliament. (1995). Environment Act 1995 (Part IV). [Environment Act 1995](#)

<sup>3</sup> UK Parliament. (2020). European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020. [European Union \(Withdrawal Agreement\) Act 2020](#)

<sup>4</sup> Scottish Government. (2000). The Air Quality (Scotland) Regulations 2000. Available at [The Air Quality \(Scotland\) Regulations 2000](#)

<sup>5</sup> Scottish Government. (2002). The Air Quality (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2002. Available at: [The Air Quality \(Scotland\) Amendment Regulations 2002](#)

<sup>6</sup> Scottish Government. (2010). Air Quality Standards (Scotland) Regulations' 2010 (SSU 2010 No.204). Available at: [The Air Quality Standards \(Scotland\) Regulations 2010](#)

<sup>7</sup> Scottish Government. (2016). The Air Quality (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2016. Available at: [The Air Quality \(Scotland\) Amendment Regulations 2016](#)

<sup>8</sup> Local Government and Housing Directorate. (2024). National Planning Framework 4 ('NPF4'). Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/>

- The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland<sup>9</sup>;
- Cleaner Air for Scotland 2 strategy ('CAFS2')<sup>10</sup>;
- Clean Air Strategy 2019<sup>11</sup>; and,
- The Environment Strategy for Scotland<sup>12</sup>.

#### *Local Policy*

- Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan<sup>13</sup>; and
- 2025 Air Quality Annual Progress Report (APR)<sup>14</sup>.

#### Guidance

- Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition and construction (Version 2.2)<sup>15</sup>;
- Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) Guidance on the assessment of air quality impacts on designated nature conservation sites (Version 1.1)<sup>16</sup>
- Environmental Protection UK (EPUK) and IAQM Guidance on Land-use Planning & Development Control: Planning for Air Quality (Version 1.2)<sup>17</sup>;
- Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) LA 105 Air Quality (vertical barriers)<sup>18</sup>; and,
- Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance (LAQM.TG22)<sup>19</sup>.

### **15.3 Study Area**

- 15.3.1 The Air Quality Study Area for the assessment of air quality impacts will be based on the relevant EPUK, IAQM and National Highways, Transport Scotland, DMRB guidance<sup>17,18</sup>.
- 15.3.2 Given the nature of the Proposed Development as a large-scale linear infrastructure project, the DMRB guidance is applicable in this instance and as such the assessment of vehicle emissions at ecological sites will be undertaken in accordance with the DMRB guidance<sup>18</sup> as required.
- 15.3.3 The air quality assessment will consider the potential impacts of the Proposed Development on the following sensitive receptors:

#### Dust:

- People and property located within 250 m of the construction work areas for the Proposed Development.
- Ecological receptors sensitive to dust located within 50 m of the construction work area for the Proposed Development.

<sup>9</sup> Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). (2007). The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Available at: [The air quality strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland: Volume 1 - GOV.UK](#)

<sup>10</sup> Environment and Forestry Directorate. (2021). Cleaner Air for Scotland 2 strategy ('CAFS2'). Available at: [Cleaner Air for Scotland 2 - Towards a Better Place for Everyone - gov.scot](#)

<sup>11</sup> Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). (2019). Clean Air Strategy 2019. Available at: [Clean Air Strategy 2019 - GOV.UK](#)

<sup>12</sup> Scottish Government. (2025). The Environment Strategy for Scotland. Available at: [The Environment Strategy for Scotland - gov.scot](#)

<sup>13</sup> Aberdeenshire Council. (2023). Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan. Available at: [Aberdeenshire Local development Plan - January 2023 - Introduction and Policies](#)

<sup>14</sup> Aberdeenshire Council. (2025). 2025 Air Quality Annual Progress Report (APR) for Aberdeenshire Council. Available at: [APR 2025-1.pdf](#)

<sup>15</sup> Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM). (2024). Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition and construction (Version 2.2). Available at: [Construction-Dust-Guidance-Jan-2024.pdf](#)

<sup>16</sup> Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM). (2020). Guidance on the assessment of air quality impacts on designated nature conservation sites (Version 1.1). Available at: [air-quality-impacts-on-nature-sites-2020.pdf](#)

<sup>17</sup> Environmental Protection UK (EPUK) and the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM). (2017). Land-Use Planning & Development Control: Planning For Air Quality. Available at: [air-quality-planning-guidance.pdf](#)

<sup>18</sup> National Highways. (2024). LA105 Air Quality (vertical barriers). Available at: [LA 105 - Air quality](#)

<sup>19</sup> Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). (2022). Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance (LAQM.TG22). Available at: [UK Regions \(exc. London\) Technical Guidance | LAQM](#)

- Ecological receptors, people and property sensitive to dust located within 50 m of roads used by construction vehicles, up to a distance of 250 m of the entrance to the construction work areas for the Proposed Development.

Vehicle Emissions:

- Human and ecological receptors sensitive to vehicle emissions within 200 m of the road network to be used by construction vehicles where either of the following IAQM indicative criteria are satisfied:
  - A change in Light Duty Vehicle (LDV) flows of more than 100 Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) within or adjacent to an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), or more than 500 AADT elsewhere.
  - A change in Heavy Duty Vehicle (HDV) flows of more than 25 AADT within or adjacent to an AQMA, or more than 100 AADT elsewhere.

- 15.3.4 Human receptors will include residential and commercial properties, educational facilities, medical facilities and recreational facilities. Ecological receptors considered in this assessment will include statutory and non-statutory sites designated for nature conservation and protected habitats and species of ecological importance, where these are sensitive to air pollution.
- 15.3.5 With regards to vehicle emissions, the DMRB<sup>18</sup> and EPUK-IAQM guidance<sup>17</sup> state that sensitive receptors located within 200 m of the affected road network (ARN) will be considered in the air quality assessment.
- 15.3.6 The Air Quality Study Area and ARN will be reviewed and modified in response to any refinements to the Proposed Development site boundary and additional environmental/design constraints identified during the EIA process.

## 15.4 Data Sources

- 15.4.1 The data sources used to inform the assessment will primarily comprise published material which is publicly available online. An initial desk based review has identified several data sources which provide baseline data coverage of the Scoping Boundary. These data sources include:
- Defra Interactive AQMA Boundaries Map based on information reported by local authorities for 2026<sup>20</sup>;
  - Defra 2021-based background mapping data for NO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub><sup>21</sup>;
  - Air Quality Annual Progress Reports and Annual Status Reports (ASR) produced by the relevant local planning authorities<sup>22</sup>;
  - Air Pollution Information System (APIS) for Site Relevant Critical Loads and background pollutant concentrations and deposition rates at ecological sites<sup>23</sup>; and,
  - Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website<sup>24</sup>.
- 15.4.2 The data sources identified above will be reviewed and may be updated in response to feedback from relevant statutory and non-statutory consultees during the EIA process, or in response to new sources of information becoming available.

<sup>20</sup> Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). (2026). AQMAs Interactive Map. Available at: [AQMAs interactive map](#)

<sup>21</sup> Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). (2026). Background Mapping data for local authorities. Available at: [Background Mapping data for local authorities - 2021 - DEFRA UK Air - GOV.UK](#)

<sup>22</sup> Aberdeenshire Council. (2025). Annual Progress Report. Available at: [Annual Progress Report](#)

<sup>23</sup> UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology. (2026). APIS - Air Pollution Information System. Available at: [APIS - Air Pollution Information System | APIS](#)

<sup>24</sup> Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). (2026). Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC). Background Mapping data for local authorities. Available at: [MAGIC](#)

## 15.5 Baseline Environment

### Existing Baseline Conditions

#### *Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs)*

- 15.5.1 There are no AQMAs located within the Air Quality Study Area. Aberdeenshire Council have not designated any AQMAs.

#### *Ecological Receptors*

- 15.5.2 A search of the MAGIC website<sup>24</sup> identified several ecological designations within the vicinity of the latest available Scoping Boundary. These include multiple areas of ancient woodland that border and intersect the site, as well as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Garron Point, located approximately 150 m from the latest available Scoping Boundary. The next closest designated site is Red Moss of Netherley, situated approximately 2 km from the latest available Scoping Boundary and also designated as both an SSSI and an SAC. There is potential for sites outside the Scoping Boundary to become impacted by the Proposed Development via dust and vehicle emissions during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases. This will be explored further as the construction areas and ARN are further defined during the EIA process.

#### *Human Receptors*

- 15.5.3 Human receptors located within the Air Quality Study Area include the occupiers of residential properties associated with towns or villages, including Stonehaven and Newtonhill. The occupiers of rural properties situated outside of existing settlements, but within the Air Quality Study Area, will also be considered in the air quality assessment.
- 15.5.4 Other human receptors located within the Air Quality Study Area include commercial properties, education facilities, medical facilities and recreational facilities.

### Future Baseline Conditions

- 15.5.5 The EIA process will consider the future baseline conditions (as far as reasonably practicable) of relevance to the assessment for this topic.

## 15.6 Embedded Mitigation

- 15.6.1 The following section outlines the embedded mitigation anticipated to be implemented prior to undertaking the Air Quality assessment.
- 15.6.2 The following embedded mitigation, relevant to Air Quality would be implemented:
- Construction Transport Management Plan (CTMP) – The movement of construction vehicles entering or exiting construction sites and utilising the local highway network would be controlled as to avoid or reduce potential impacts of air emissions on sensitive receptors (see **Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport**)
  - Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) – Construction of the Proposed Development would be undertaken in accordance with the relevant best practice measures as recommended in the IAQM Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition and construction (2024)<sup>15</sup>. This would include the development of dust management measures as required.
  - Decommissioning Plan – This would set out how dust emissions would be controlled during decommissioning of the Proposed Development as to avoid or reduce potential impacts on sensitive receptors.

- 15.6.3 The embedded mitigation measures will evolve as the EIA progresses. The requirement and feasibility of mitigation measures will be consulted upon with statutory consultees throughout the EIA process.

### **15.7 Potential Impacts of the Proposed Development**

- 15.7.1 Following the implementation of embedded mitigation, a series of potential impacts as a result of the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development have been identified in relation to Air Quality related receptors.
- 15.7.2 The impacts that have been scoped into the assessment are outlined in **Table 15.1**. Potential impacts scoped out of the assessment are presented in **Table 15.2**, with justification provided.

**Table 15.1: Summary of Potential Air Quality Related Impacts Proposed to be Scoped In**

Potential Impact	Phase of Proposed Development*			Justification	Summary of the Proposed Approach to Assessment
	C	O&M	D		
The impact of dust soiling (nuisance) on property arising from dust emissions generated by onsite construction and decommissioning activities.	✓	✗	✓	Activities required for the construction and decommissioning of the Proposed Development (e.g. earthworks, vehicle track-out) have the potential to generate dust emissions which could result in dust soiling effects on human receptors, including people and property.	The impact of deposited dust on property will be assessed qualitatively, utilising a risk-based assessment to assess the potential impacts of dust generated by construction and decommissioning activities and the relative sensitivity of identified receptors. The risk-based assessment of dust will be undertaken in accordance with the IAQM Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition and construction (2024) <sup>15</sup> .
The impact of increases in suspended particulate matter on human and ecological receptors arising from dust emissions generated by onsite construction and decommissioning activities.	✓	✗	✓	Activities required for the construction and decommissioning of the Proposed Development (e.g. earthworks, vehicle track-out) have the potential to generate dust emissions which could result in adverse effects on the health of human and ecological receptors.	The impact of suspended particulate matter on property will be assessed qualitatively, utilising a risk-based assessment to assess the potential impacts of dust generated by construction and decommissioning activities and the relative sensitivity of identified receptors. The risk-based assessment of dust will be undertaken in accordance with the IAQM Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition and construction (2024) <sup>15</sup> .
The impact on human and ecological receptors arising from air emissions generated by vehicles during the construction and decommissioning phase.	✓	✗	✓	Additional vehicle movements required to facilitate construction and decommissioning of the Proposed Development would generate air emissions (i.e. NO <sub>2</sub> , PM <sub>10</sub> and PM <sub>2.5</sub> ) which could result in adverse effects on the health of human receptors.	An initial screening assessment will be undertaken to identify areas which may require more detailed assessment of road traffic emissions. The screening assessment will utilise

Potential Impact	Phase of Proposed Development*			Justification	Summary of the Proposed Approach to Assessment
	C	O&M	D		
					screening criteria set out in the EPUK & IAQM Land-use planning and development control: Planning for air quality (2017) document <sup>17</sup> . The approach to the detailed assessment of road traffic emissions will be consistent with Defra's Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance: LAQM.TG22 (2022) <sup>19</sup> , DMRB LA105 <sup>18</sup> , the EPUK & IAQM Land-Use Planning & Development Control: Planning for Air Quality document <sup>17</sup> , and the IAQM guidance on the assessment of air quality impacts on designated nature conservation sites (2020) <sup>16</sup> .

\*Phase of Proposed Development refers to construction (C), operation and maintenance (O&M), and decommissioning (D).

**Table 15.2: Summary of Potential Air Quality Related Impacts Proposed to be Scoped Out**

Potential Impact	Justification
The impact on human and ecological receptors (dust soiling and human health) arising from fugitive dust emissions generated during operation and maintenance of the Proposed Development.	Activities associated with the operation and maintenance of the Proposed Development are unlikely to generate large quantities of dust. Therefore, the potential impact on human or ecological receptors arising from fugitive dust emissions generated during operation and maintenance of the Proposed Development is unlikely to be significant and is proposed to be scoped out for air quality.
The impact on human and ecological receptors arising from air emissions generated by vehicle traffic during operation and maintenance of the Proposed Development.	As the Proposed Development is expected to be operated remotely, it is anticipated that a small number of additional two-way vehicle movements will be generated as result of staff trips and occasional maintenance activities. However, the additional two-way vehicle movements associated with operation and maintenance of the Proposed Development are unlikely to exceed the EPUK & IAQM indicative criteria for an air quality assessment. Therefore, the potential impact on human or ecological receptors arising from air emissions generated by vehicle traffic during operation and maintenance of the Proposed Development is unlikely to be significant and an air quality assessment is proposed to be scoped out.
The impact on human and ecological receptors arising from air emissions generated by plants or stacks during construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning, of the Proposed Development.	The Proposed Development does not include proposals for combustion plants or stacks which could give rise to air emissions during the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Therefore, the potential impact on human or ecological receptors arising from plant or stack emissions is unlikely to be significant and is proposed to be scoped out of the assessment for air quality.

## 15.8 Proposed Assessment Methodology

### Construction Phase

#### *Construction Dust*

- 15.8.1 A qualitative dust risk assessment for the construction phase of the Proposed Development will be undertaken, in line with the on the assessment of dust from demolition and construction (2024)<sup>15</sup>. This will provide an assessment of the likely impacts of dust from the various stages of construction at selected representative receptor locations within 250 m of the Scoping Boundary and within 50 m of the routes used by construction vehicles on the public highway, and up to 250 m from construction access points. These receptor locations will include, as appropriate, receptors at nearby committed and consented development.

#### *Construction Vehicle Emissions*

- 15.8.2 Construction traffic data for the Proposed Development will be screened against the EPUK and the IAQM screening criteria<sup>17</sup>, as well as the DMRB LA105 guidance<sup>18</sup>.
- 15.8.3 Where in any given year during which construction activities take place, one or both of these thresholds are exceeded, it is proposed to quantify the effects that this additional traffic may have on air quality using the Atmospheric Dispersion Modelling System (ADMS-Roads) dispersion

modelling software<sup>25</sup>. The study area will be determined by the locations breaching the screening criteria and the availability of traffic data.

- 15.8.4 Where the effects of construction traffic on air quality can be screened out, a qualitative assessment detailing findings from the screening exercise will be undertaken. Should the screening exercise indicate that the construction traffic numbers would not exceed criteria the impact from construction of the Proposed Development would be determined as not significant.
- 15.8.5 Should it be determined that the effects of construction traffic on air quality cannot be screened out, potential road traffic effects will be considered at representative locations where people might experience a change in local air quality in the vicinity of roads where the Proposed Development is expected to introduce potentially significant volumes of additional traffic, during the construction phase. This assessment will follow the guidance referenced in the LAQM.TG22 guidance document<sup>19</sup>. Results will be compared against impact descriptors for individual receptors as outlined in the EPUK-IAQM 2017 guidance<sup>17</sup>.

#### Operation and Maintenance Phase

- 15.8.6 It is understood that the Proposed Development is expected to be operated remotely, and as such it is anticipated that a small number of additional two-way vehicle movements will be generated as result of staff trips and occasional maintenance activities. Therefore, the need for the assessment of operational emissions associated with road traffic emissions are expected to be screened out and therefore would not be assessed further.

#### Decommissioning Phase

- 15.8.7 The methodology for the assessment of decommissioning activities is expected to follow that outlined for the construction dust and vehicle emissions. This methodology will be refined to align with the latest available guidance and requirements at the time of decommissioning.

### **15.9 Potential Cumulative Effects**

#### Potential Intra-Project Cumulative Effects

- 15.9.1 Potential intra-related cumulative effects will be considered as part of the Air Quality assessment with details presented within the EIA Report. This will include the consideration of both project lifetime effects and receptor-led effects in accordance with the approach set out within **Chapter 4: Approach to Scoping and EIA**. There is considered to be the potential for intra-related cumulative effects to occur in relation to the following other environmental topics:
- **Climate (Chapter 7):** Hotter and drier summer conditions which are consistent with projected climate trends may increase potential for dust generation from exposed soils, unsealed tracks and construction plant movements. More extreme weather events may disrupt construction activities and affect programme scheduling, potentially extending or intensifying construction traffic and plant activity.
  - **Terrestrial Ecology (Chapter 8):** Dust deposition during construction and decommissioning of the Proposed Development may have an impact on biodiversity and terrestrial ecology due to the presence of any identified sensitive ecological receptors within the Air Quality Study Area. The risk of dust impacts on ecological receptors will be assessed where required.
  - **Traffic and Transport (Chapter 14):** Additional vehicle movements generated during construction and decommissioning of the Proposed Development would be used to identify

<sup>25</sup> CERC. (2026). ADMS-Roads. Available at: [CERC > Environmental software > ADMS-Roads model](#)

areas within the Air Quality Study Area which required further detailed air quality assessments.

- **Tourism and Recreation (Chapter 17):** There may be a reduction in the appeal, enjoyment and accessing of recreational areas as a result of the Proposed Development which relates to air quality impacts.

15.9.2 It is not considered that operation and maintenance of the Proposed Development will result in significant intra-related impacts with respect to air quality. Therefore, it is proposed that the potential intra-related impacts arising from operation of the Proposed Development are scoped out of the assessment for air quality. Similarly, there is the potential for dust and air emissions to have impacts upon ecological receptors, however as per **Table 15.1** these can be scoped out via the successful implementation of embedded mitigation measures.

#### Cumulative Effects Assessment

15.9.3 Cumulative effects with the Proposed Offshore Development will be considered, together with cumulative effects with other developments, where relevant.

15.9.4 It is considered that most of the potential impacts as a result of construction and decommissioning of the Proposed Development are likely to be limited to within the Air Quality Study Area.

15.9.5 It is not considered that operation and maintenance of the Proposed Development will result in significant impacts on air quality either alone or cumulatively with other developments. Therefore, it is proposed that the potential impacts arising from operation of the Proposed Development are scoped out of the cumulative effects assessment for air quality.

15.9.6 Cumulative effects assessment will follow the approach set out within **Chapter 4: Approach to Scoping and EIA**.

#### **15.10 Summary of Proposed Scope**

15.10.1 The impact of deposited dust on property, human health and ecological receptors will be assessed qualitatively, utilising a risk-based assessment to assess the potential impacts of dust generated by construction and decommissioning activities and the relative sensitivity of identified receptors. The risk-based assessment of dust will be undertaken in accordance with the IAQM Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition and construction (2024)<sup>15</sup> and mitigation measures proportionate to the risk will be recommended to ensure the air quality effects are not significant.

15.10.2 The impact of vehicle emissions on human and ecological receptors will be assessed either quantitatively or qualitatively, based on any exceedances of the screening criteria as outlined in the EPUK-IAQM 2017 guidance<sup>17</sup> and the DMRB guidance document<sup>18</sup>.

## 16. NOISE AND VIBRATION

### 16.1 Introduction

- 16.1.1 The following chapter of the Scoping Report sets out the proposed scope of assessment of likely significant effects as a result of the construction, maintenance, operation, and decommissioning of Proposed Development in relation to noise and vibration.
- 16.1.2 The Proposed Development would introduce new noise sources into the Scoping Boundary in the form of construction plant and activities during the construction and decommissioning phase, and fixed plant during the operational phase, such as the transformers, reactors and cooling fans associated with the Substation. This chapter provides a summary of the anticipated noise and vibration related effects and details the proposed assessment work.
- 16.1.3 The aims of this chapter of the Scoping Report are to:
- Set out the overall approach to the noise impact assessment;
  - Describe the Study Area and the receptors that will be considered in the assessment;
  - Describe the anticipated baseline noise environment;
  - Set out the approach to quantifying the baseline noise environment, through site surveys;
  - Describe the assessment methodology to be used;
  - Identify key potential impacts at all stages of the Proposed Onshore Development; and,
  - Identify topics not requiring further assessment, which can be scoped out.

### 16.2 Legislation, Policy and Guidance

- 16.2.1 The proposed scope of assessment in relation to noise and vibration has been developed with reference to relevant legislation and policy, and in accordance with standard guidance and professional best practice.

#### Legislation

- Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017<sup>1</sup>;
- The Control of Pollution Act 1974<sup>2</sup>; and
- The Environmental Protection Act 1990<sup>3</sup>.

#### Policy

##### *National Policy*

- Planning Advice Note (PAN) 1/2011 'Planning and Noise'<sup>4</sup>; and
- Technical Advice Note (TAN) – 'Assessment of Noise'<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Scottish Government. (2017). Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2017/102/contents>

<sup>2</sup> UK Government. (1974). Control of Pollution Act 1974. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1974/40/contents>

<sup>3</sup> UK Government. (1990). Environmental Protection Act. 1990. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/contents>

<sup>4</sup> Scottish Government. (2011). Planning Advice Note 1/2011: Planning and Noise. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/planning-advice-note-1-2011-planning-noise/>

<sup>5</sup> Scottish Government. (2011). Technical Advice Note: Assessment of Noise. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/technical-advice-note-assessment-noise/>

### *Local Policy*

- Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023<sup>6</sup>.

### Guidance

- BS 4142:2014+A1:2019 'Methods for Rating and Assessing Industrial and Commercial Sound'<sup>7</sup>;
- 'BS 4142:2014+A1:2019 Technical Note' (Association of Noise Consultants (ANC), 2020)<sup>8</sup>;
- BS 5228-1:2009+A1:2014 'Code of Practice for Noise and Vibration Control on Construction and Open Sites – Noise'<sup>9</sup>;
- BS 5228-2:2009+A1:2014 'Code of Practice for Noise and Vibration Control on Construction and Open Sites – Vibration'<sup>10</sup>; and
- ISO 9613-2:2024 'Acoustics. Attenuation of Sound During Propagation Outdoors. Part 2: Engineering method for the prediction of sound pressure levels outdoors'<sup>11</sup>.
- Design Manual for Roads and Bridges. LA111 Noise and Vibration<sup>12</sup>.
- Calculation of Road Traffic Noise<sup>13</sup>.

## **16.3 Consultation**

### Summary of Consultation Undertaken to Date

- 16.3.1 To date there has been no consultation carried out in respect of noise.

### Future Consultation

- 16.3.2 The Applicant plans to consult with the Environmental Health Service at Aberdeenshire Council regarding the baseline noise survey and monitoring locations. Further pre-application consultation with the Environmental Health Service at Aberdeenshire Council may be required prior to completion of the EIA Report to confirm the assessment methodology, depending on the response to the Scoping Report.

## **16.4 Study Area**

- 16.4.1 Noise Sensitive Receptors (NSRs) are properties, people or fauna that are sensitive to noise and, therefore, require protection from nearby noise sources. The Study Area for the assessment of environmental noise is usually defined through the identification of the nearest and most sensitive NSRs to the Proposed Development, on the assumption that if sound or vibration levels at these receptors are within the defined limits, then levels at receptors at greater distances and/or with lower sensitivities, should also be within acceptable levels.

<sup>6</sup> Aberdeenshire Council. (2023). Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023. Available at: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/ldp-2023>

<sup>7</sup> British Standards Institute. (2019). Methods for Rating and Assessing Industrial and Commercial Sound. BS 4142:2014+A1:2019.

<sup>8</sup> Association of Noise Consultants (ANC). (2020). BS 4142:2014+A1:2019 Technical Note.

<sup>9</sup> British Standards Institute. (2014). Code of Practice for Noise and Vibration Control on Construction and Open Sites - Noise. BS 5228-1:2009+A1:2014.

<sup>10</sup> British Standards Institute. (2014). Code of Practice for Noise and Vibration Control on Construction and Open Sites - Vibration. BS 5228-2:2009+A1:2014.

<sup>11</sup> International Organisation for Standardisation. (2024). ISO 9613-2:2024 Acoustics. Attenuation of Sound During Propagation Outdoors. Part 2: Engineering method for the prediction of sound pressure levels outdoors.

<sup>12</sup> Highways England (2020) DMRB: Sustainability and Environment LA 111 Revision 2: Noise and vibration (formerly HD 213/11, IAN 185/15). Highways England.

<sup>13</sup> Department of Transport (1988) Calculation of Road Traffic Noise. London: HMSO.

- 16.4.2 The noise assessment Study Area for the Proposed Development can be divided into three general areas; the Landfall Area, the Indicative Substation Development Sites, and along the Onshore Transmission Cable Corridor.
- 16.4.3 Initial desktop studies indicate that the nearest NSRs to both the Landfall Area and the Indicative Substation Development Sites are residential properties, which are considered as High Sensitivity receptors. The Study Area for assessments considering these two elements of the Proposed Development will therefore be defined by the location of the closest residential receptors only.
- 16.4.4 No substantial noise impacts are anticipated along the Onshore Transmission Cable Corridor for the majority of the construction works, however, should specific construction activities be proposed that could generate adverse noise impacts, for example, the use of Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD), then a similar methodology for assessing those impacts would be adopted i.e. the Study Area for any required assessment would consider the nearest, highest sensitivity receptors only.
- 16.4.5 Consideration will also be given to residential receptors located along local roads, to assess the potential noise impacts of construction traffic.
- 16.4.6 The Study Area may be widened if there are other schemes in the area which require cumulative impacts to be assessed.

## **16.5 Data Sources**

- 16.5.1 TNEI will conduct a baseline noise level survey in accordance with BS 4142 for a period of at least one week at, or close to, the nearest NSRs to the Indicative Substation Development Sites and proposed Landfall Area. During site visits for installation and decommissioning of the equipment, TNEI will also take the opportunity to make spot measurements at points within the Scoping Boundary in anticipation of where the Onshore Transmission Cable Corridor could be.

## **16.6 Baseline Environment**

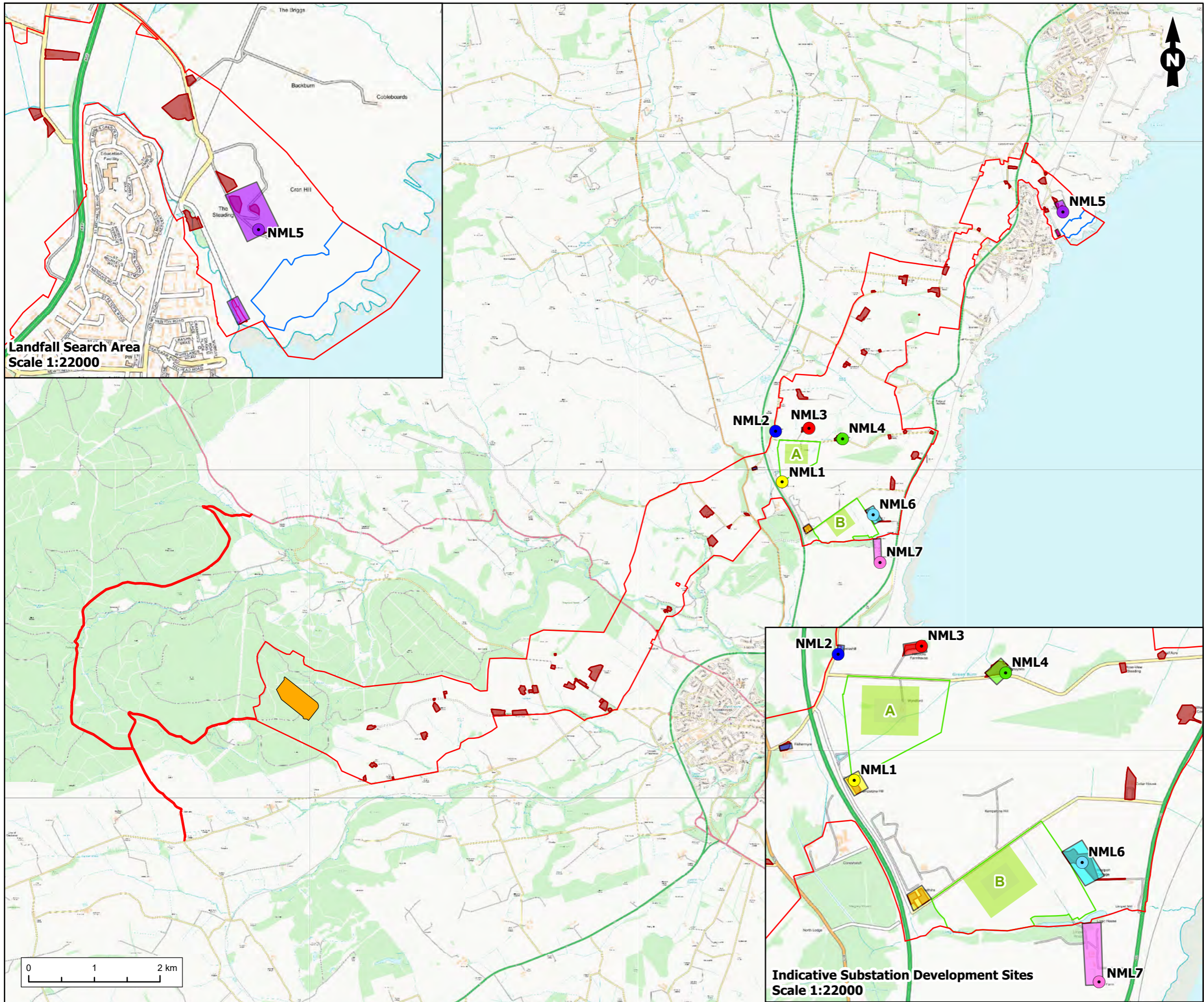
### Existing Baseline Conditions

#### *Baseline Conditions for the construction noise assessment*

- 16.6.1 BS 5228-1 *Code of Practice for Noise and Vibration Control on Construction and Open Sites – Noise* sets out a method to assess the potential for significant effects and compares predicted or measured construction noise to thresholds that have been set based on the existing ambient noise levels in the area. The thresholds are categorised as A, B and C, with category C thresholds used for locations where ambient noise levels have been measured as relatively high, and Category A, where ambient noise levels have been measured as relatively low.
- 16.6.2 It is assumed that all of the NSRs within the Study Area would be located in areas where the Category A thresholds would be most appropriate. This would equate to a potential significant effect where construction noise levels are regularly above 65 dB LAeq(t) during the daytime, 55 dB LAeq(t) during evenings and weekends and 45 dB LAeq(t) during the night-time.
- 16.6.3 Attended short-term noise measurements will be undertaken along the Onshore Transmission Cable Corridor at publicly accessible locations to verify this assumption, however, in the Landfall Area, a longer term unattended baseline measurement will be undertaken at a location representative of the nearest NSRs, where there is a greater potential for noise effects as a result of the proposed landfall construction activities.
- 16.6.4 The baseline used for the assessment of construction noise associated with the Substation will be taken from the same baseline survey as will be undertaken for the operational noise assessment.

*Baseline Conditions for the operational noise assessment*

- 16.6.5 A baseline survey will be carried out at locations representative of the NSRs closest to the Indicative Substation Development Sites. Continuous unattended monitoring will be undertaken for a period of at least 7 days, and the noise levels will be logged in 15-minute intervals. A rain gauge and wind speed monitor will be installed, so that data measured during periods of precipitation or high wind speed can be removed from the dataset.
- 16.6.6 A representative background sound level will be determined for each Noise Monitoring Location (NML) following the guidance presented in both BS 4142 and the Association of Noise Consultants' (ANC) BS 4142 Technical Note. Where background sound levels are determined to be very low, i.e. below 30 dB LA90(t), then it may be more appropriate to undertake an assessment against an absolute limit rather than the background sound level. If required, this approach would be discussed and agreed with the Environmental Health Service at Aberdeenshire Council.
- 16.6.7 The indicative monitoring locations can be seen on **Figure 16.1**.



Landfall Search Area  
Scale 1:22000

Indicative Substation Development Sites  
Scale 1:22000

**Legend**

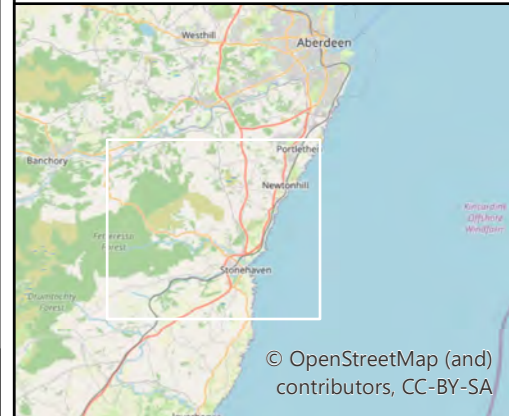
- Scoping Boundary
- Exclusion Zone (Residential Property)
- Landfall Area
- Indicative Substation Development Sites
- Representative Substation Platform Areas
- Grid Connection Point

**Indicative Noise Monitoring Locations (NMLs)**

- NML1
- NML2
- NML3
- NML4
- NML5
- NML6
- NML7

**NSRs Represented by NML**

- NSRs Represented by NML1
- NSRs Represented by NML2
- NSRs Represented by NML3
- NSRs Represented by NML4
- NSRs Represented by NML5
- NSRs Represented by NML6
- NSRs Represented by NML7



**Figure Title**  
Figure 16.1 - Noise Study Area

**Project Name**  
Aspen Offshore Wind Farm - Onshore Transmission Connection

**Project No./Filey ID**  
1620018491 / REH2026N02003

<b>Date</b> May 2026	<b>Figure No.</b> 16.1	<b>Revision</b> 1.0
<b>Prepared By</b> MR	<b>Scale</b> 1:55,000 @A3	

**Client**  
Cerulean Winds Aspen Project Limited

**RAMBOLL**

### Future Baseline Conditions

- 16.6.8 No changes to the existing baseline are anticipated in the future.

### **16.7 Embedded Mitigation**

- 16.7.1 The following section outlines the embedded mitigation (mitigation through design and standard best practice) anticipated to be implemented prior to undertaking the noise and vibration assessment.
- 16.7.2 The number, proximity and density of NSRs was considered during the optioneering process to identify the preferred Landfall Area and Indicative Substation Development Sites (and reduce noise impacts).
- 16.7.3 The following additional embedded mitigation would also be implemented:
- Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) – the movement of construction vehicles would be controlled to reduce noise impacts; and
  - Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) – construction activities would be undertaken following the best practice measures identified by BS 5228 and restricted to core hours of 07:00-19:00 Monday to Friday and 07:00-13:00 on Saturdays to reduce noise impacts.

### **16.8 Potential Impacts of the Proposed Development**

- 16.8.1 Following the implementation of embedded mitigation, a series of potential impacts as a result of the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development have been identified in relation to noise and vibration related receptors.

### Construction Noise

- 16.8.2 For the majority of the time, construction noise along the Onshore Transmission Cable Corridor would be generated from trenching and backfill. These activities would move gradually, but continuously, along the route as the ground is being excavated for the burial of the cable. Accordingly, construction activities would only be close to NSRs for a very short period, typically less than a week, and noise impacts would be very short term and temporary in nature i.e. only when directly passing an NSR.
- 16.8.3 Given that trenching and backfill activities would be continuously moving along the Onshore Transmission Cable Corridor and would not spend a substantial amount of time outside one particular receptor, the assessment of these activities will be scoped out of the EIA.
- 16.8.4 There are likely to be some locations where trenchless installation methods would be required, for example, where the Onshore Transmission Cable Corridor would need to cross linear infrastructure, rivers etc. Trenchless installation methods, such as Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD), would introduce temporary, continuous noise sources at the drill entry and exit compounds in the form of pumps, generators, and mud recycling system, and both the noise levels and the duration of exposure to construction noise would be greater than the other construction activities along the Onshore Transmission Cable Corridor (such as open cut installation methods and backfilling). Accordingly, noise impacts associated with trenchless installation activities will need to be assessed.
- 16.8.5 Construction activities associated with the proposed Substation will also be included within a noise assessment.

#### Construction Vibration

- 16.8.6 No assessment will be undertaken for vibration, as limited vibration inducing construction activities, such as piling or compaction, are anticipated. Whilst some piling may be required for the Substation foundations, any associated levels of vibration are expected to be limited. Where vibration inducing activities may occur, we will seek to maintain an appropriate distance from nearest noise sensitive receptors to minimise vibration impacts and remain below recognised vibration thresholds, such as those presented in BS 5228-2. The nature of impacts and distances will be discussed with Aberdeenshire Council when the detail becomes available.

#### Construction Road Traffic

- 16.8.7 The way in which construction traffic will use local roads to access the Substation location and the locations of trenchless installation method crossings are not yet known, however, road traffic noise at residential receptors along any defined construction traffic routes will be assessed. This will include receptors along local roads and close to any haul routes that may be established. Construction traffic will not be assessed on major roads, such as the A90 and A92, as the increase in overall traffic flows on these roads is anticipated to be negligible.

#### Operational Noise

- 16.8.8 A number of dwellings have been identified within the vicinity of the Indicative Substation Development Sites, and permanent noise impacts could occur as a result of operations. An assessment of operational noise in relation to the Substation have therefore been scoped in.
- 16.8.9 Operational noise from the Onshore Transmission Cable Corridor has been scoped out of the assessment, as no operational noise from the buried cable is anticipated.

#### Operational Vibration

- 16.8.10 Vibration from the operation of the Substation is considered unlikely to result in any significant impacts and there would be no vibration associated with the operation of the Onshore Transmission Cables. As such, an assessment of operational vibration is scoped out.

#### Operational Road Traffic

- 16.8.11 Road traffic noise associated with the operation of the Proposed Development will not be assessed, as traffic associated with this phase is anticipated to be limited.

**Table 16.1: Summary of Potential Noise and Vibration Related Impacts Proposed to be Scoped In**

Potential Impact	Phase of Proposed Development*			Justification	Summary of the Proposed Approach to Assessment
	C	O&M	D		
Construction Noise - Additional construction activities along the cable route beyond trenching and backfill and similar.	✓	✗	✗	Trenchless installation methods would introduce multiple noise sources for extended periods of time.	Predicted construction noise levels due to trenchless cable installation methods (such as HDD) shall be assessed in accordance with BS 5228-1.
Construction Noise – General Activities at the Substation and within the Landfall Area	✓	✗	✗	Multiple noise sources would be active throughout the construction period.	Predicted noise levels due to construction of the Substation shall be assessed in accordance with BS 5228-1.
Construction Traffic Noise	✓	✗	✗	Road traffic flows on local roads will be considered.	Construction traffic noise shall be predicted in accordance with Calculation of Road Traffic Noise (CRTN) and assessed in accordance with Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB).
Operational Noise – Substation	✗	✓	✗	The Substation has a number of pieces of electrical infrastructure which may be noise emitting.	Predicted operational noise from the Substation shall be calculated using ISO 9613-2 and assessed in accordance with BS 4142.
*Phase of Proposed Development refers to construction (C), operation and maintenance (O&M), and decommissioning (D).					

**Table 16.2: Summary of Potential Noise and Vibration Related Impacts Proposed to be Scoped Out**

Potential Impact	Justification
Construction noise - General Activities along the Onshore Transmission Cable Corridor	Continuously moving source of noise from trenching and backfill is unlikely to cause significant effect on any receptor due to the low levels of plant involved and short durations of exposure to noise.
Construction related vibration	No activities known to generate potentially adverse vibration effects, such as piling, are proposed along the Onshore Transmission Cable Corridor, however, as the design progresses, we will seek to maintain an appropriate distance from nearest sensitive receptors to ensure no receptor is close enough to the construction activities to result in vibration impacts. The nature of impacts and distances will be discussed with Aberdeenshire Council when additional detail becomes available.
Operation and maintenance related noise from Onshore Transmission Cables	The Onshore Transmission Cables would be buried underground and would not emit noise during operation. Maintenance is anticipated to be limited and would only be undertaken as required.
Operational traffic noise	Traffic numbers would be limited during the operation and maintenance phase with monitoring primarily conducted remotely and only irregular inspection activities undertaken. Maintenance is anticipated to be limited and would only be undertaken as required.
Operation and maintenance related vibration	Levels of vibration from the operation of the Substation and cable are not expected to be significant enough to warrant assessment. Maintenance is anticipated to be limited and would only be undertaken as required.
Decommissioning	Noise impacts from decommissioning activities are typically less than those from construction activities but involve similar activities. Noise control measures adopted for construction can also be applied to decommissioning activities.

## 16.9 Proposed Assessment Methodology

### Construction Noise

- 16.9.1 The construction noise assessment will be undertaken in accordance with BS 5228 1: 2009+A1:2014 'Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites - Noise'.
- 16.9.2 The BS 5228 standard provides useful guidance on practical noise control. Part 1 provides recommendations for basic methods of noise control including sections on community relations, training, occupational noise effects, neighbourhood nuisance and project supervision. The annexes provide information on noise sources, noise calculation procedures, mitigation measures and their effectiveness.
- 16.9.3 Annex C of BS 5228 contains sound power level data for a variety of construction plant. This data was obtained from field measurements of actual plant operating on construction and open sites in the United Kingdom and is therefore appropriate to use as source level data for construction noise predictions. These noise levels will be used alongside measured trenchless cable installation method noise data to inform the noise propagation calculations.
- 16.9.4 A noise propagation model will be produced that will predict noise levels for a series of construction scenarios, which will be determined with reference to a proposed construction

timeline. Each modelled scenario will consider the noise level output of typical construction plant working in activity areas closest to sensitive receptors. The predicted levels will be compared to the threshold levels detailed in BS 5228.

#### Operational Noise

- 16.9.5 The operational noise assessment will be undertaken in line with BS 4142:2014 'Methods for Rating and Assessing Industrial and Commercial Sound.
- 16.9.6 The BS 4142 standard presents a qualitative assessment that considers the context of the Proposed Development and the environment that it sits within.
- 16.9.7 The operational noise assessment will be undertaken as follows;
- The survey will measure existing baseline sound levels at or close to the nearest NSRs to determine a representative background sound level for daytime and night-time periods;
  - A noise propagation model will be produced of the Substation in accordance with ISO 9136-2:2024 *Acoustics — Attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors: Engineering method for the prediction of sound pressure levels outdoors*;
  - Character corrections will be added to the calculated Specific sound levels, if required, to account for the characteristics of the sound source. This will determine a Rating Level;
  - The Rating Level will be compared to the representative background sound level to provide an initial assessment of the impacts. The assessment will then be modified by considering the context of the development to determine the likelihood of adverse impacts, as detailed in BS4142:2014+A1:2019; and
  - If required, appropriate mitigation measures will be determined to reduce the Rating Level to within acceptable levels.

#### Construction Traffic

- 16.9.8 To assess the impact of road traffic noise during the construction period the following approaches will be adopted;
- For construction traffic using local roads to access the Proposed Development, the predicted traffic flows will be compared to the existing traffic flows and a % increase in road traffic flow will be determined for each road segment. This will allow the quantification of any increases in existing noise level to be determined;
  - For construction traffic using temporary haul routes i.e. not using existing roads, the predicted road traffic noise will be calculated (if required) using the prediction methodology detailed in BS 5228 for point sources moving along a specified movement path. The predicted noise levels will then be compared to the BS 5228 threshold levels.

### **16.10 Potential Cumulative Effects**

#### Inter-Related Effects

- 16.10.1 Potential inter-related effects will be considered as part of the noise and vibration assessment. This will include the consideration of both project lifetime effects and receptor-led effects in accordance with the approach set out within **Chapter 4: Approach to Scoping and EIA**. There is considered to be the potential for inter-related effects to occur in relation to the following other environmental topics:
- **Chapter 8: Terrestrial Ecology:** Noise emitted during construction and operation could impact sites designated for nature conservation and protected habitats and species;
  - **Chapter 9: Terrestrial Ornithology:** Noise emitted during construction and operation could have ornithological impacts;

- **Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual:** If noise attenuation measures such as barriers or bunds are required, this could have a bearing on the visual impact of the scheme; and
- **Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport:** The selected delivery route and vehicle numbers impact upon the noise Study Area and resulting noise impacts.

#### Cumulative Effects Assessment

- 16.10.2 Cumulative effects with the Proposed Offshore Development will be considered, together with cumulative effects with other developments, where relevant.
- 16.10.3 The cumulative effects assessment will follow the approach set out within **Chapter 4: Approach to Scoping and EIA**.

#### **16.11 Limitations and Assumptions**

- 16.11.1 Assumptions may need to be made around the locations and numbers of equipment where detailed design has yet to be undertaken. Where the final plant has yet to be selected noise data for representative candidate plant shall be used in any modelling.

#### **16.12 Summary of Proposed Scope**

- 16.12.1 This chapter considers the noise and vibration effects that may arise during the construction and operation of the Proposed Development.
- 16.12.2 A noise assessment has been scoped in for construction activities occurring within the Landfall Area, the construction of the Substation, and for trenchless installation activities along the proposed Onshore Transmission Cable Corridor. This includes assessment of construction activities occurring within the Scoping Boundary and construction traffic outwith the Scoping Boundary e.g. construction vehicles on local roads. The assessment of other construction activities along the Onshore Transmission Cable Corridor (i.e. not trenchless installation methods), such as trenching and backfill, has been scoped out, as noise impacts are anticipated to be limited due to the transient nature of the activity.
- 16.12.3 An assessment of operational noise from the Substation has also been scoped in. Both assessments will consider the noise impacts on the nearest residential receptors. Receptors further afield will generally not need to be considered, on the assumption that if noise levels are acceptable at the closest receptors, then they will also be acceptable at more distant locations.
- 16.12.4 No assessment will be undertaken for operational noise from the Onshore Transmission Cables, which would be buried underground. No assessment will be undertaken for vibration, as limited vibration inducing construction activities, such as piling or compaction, are anticipated. Where vibration inducing activities may occur, potential impacts will be sought to be avoided through maintaining an appropriate distance from the nearest Noise Sensitive Receptors to reduce vibration impacts.
- 16.12.5 Details in relation to specific activities during the decommissioning phase are not known, however, noise impacts from decommissioning activities are anticipated to be similar, if not less, than noise from construction activities. Accordingly, decommissioning noise is expected to be able to be controlled in a similar manner as construction noise and a separate assessment is not required.

## 17. TOURISM AND RECREATION

### 17.1 Introduction

- 17.1.1 The following chapter of the Scoping Report sets out the proposed assessment scope of likely significant effects from the Proposed Development in relation to tourism and recreation.
- 17.1.2 The aims of this chapter of the Scoping Report are to:
- Set out the approach to the tourism and recreation assessment;
  - Describe the tourism and recreation study areas that will be considered;
  - Set out the approach to identifying baseline conditions in relation to tourism and recreation;
  - Describe the assessment methodology proposed to be adopted;
  - Identify key potential impacts for assessment in relation to each phase of the Proposed Development; and,
  - Identify topics not requiring further assessment, which can be scoped out.
- 17.1.3 The proposed scope of the tourism and recreation assessment should be read in conjunction with the following chapters that address related environmental matters:
- **Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual;**
  - **Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport;**
  - **Chapter 15: Air Quality;**
  - **Chapter 16: Noise and Vibration;**
  - **Chapter 18: Land Use and Agriculture;** and
  - **Chapter 19: Forestry.**

### 17.2 Legislation, Policy and Guidance

- 17.2.1 The proposed scope of assessment in relation to tourism and recreation has been developed with reference to the legislation, policy and guidance as set out in the following section.

#### Legislation

- 17.2.2 There is no legislation of direct relevant to the tourism and recreation assessment.

#### Policy

##### *National Policy*

- Scottish Government (2023) National Planning Framework 4<sup>1</sup>, including:
  - Policy 11: Energy.

##### *Local Policy*

- Aberdeenshire Council (2023) Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan<sup>2</sup>, including:
  - Policy C2: Renewable Energy; and
  - Policy PR1: Protecting Important Resources.
- Aberdeenshire Council (2017) Core Paths Plan<sup>3</sup>; and

<sup>1</sup> Scottish Government. (2023). National Planning Framework 4. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/>

<sup>2</sup> Aberdeenshire Council. (2023). Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan. Available at: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/ldp-2023>

<sup>3</sup> Aberdeenshire Council. (2017). Core Paths Plan. Available at: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/outdoor-access-and-countryside/paths/core-paths-plan>

- VisitAberdeenshire (2022) Destination Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire. A Framework for Growth 2022-2030<sup>4</sup>.

#### Guidance

- Transport Scotland et al. (2020) Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) LA 104: Environmental Assessment and Monitoring<sup>5</sup>; and
- Transport Scotland et al. (2020) DMRB LA 112: Population and Human Health<sup>6</sup>.

### 17.3 Study Areas

- 17.3.1 The Study Area for the purposes of the tourism and recreation assessment will be defined as the Scoping Boundary, as this will in all areas extent to include the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning footprint of the Proposed Development.
- 17.3.2 The full extent of tourism and recreation receptors which intersect the Scoping Boundary will be considered to ensure the effects of the Proposed Development on the overall receptor or resource is accounted for. Tourism and recreation receptors enclosed by the Scoping Boundary will also be considered. This approach is consistent with DMRB LA 112 guidance<sup>6</sup>.

### 17.4 Data Sources

- 17.4.1 Initial information in relation to recreation and tourism related baseline conditions have been collated through a desk-based review of existing studies and datasets. Data sources in relation to tourism and recreation are set out within **Table 17.1**.

**Table 17.1: Data Sources in relation to Tourism and Recreation**

Factor to be Considered	Source	Summary
Tourism	Google Earth Pro (2026) <sup>7</sup> .	Various sources to identify baseline conditions in relation to tourism assets.
	OpenStreetMap (2026) <sup>8</sup> .	
	VisitScotland (2026) Explore Scotland Map <sup>9</sup> .	
	VisitAberdeenshire (2026) Stonehaven & the coastal Mearns <sup>10</sup> .	
Recreation	Scottish Government (2026) Core Paths – Scotland <sup>11</sup> .	Various sources to identify baseline conditions in relation to formal and informal
	ScotWays (2026) Heritage Paths Map <sup>12</sup> .	
	Strava (2026) Strava Heat Mapping <sup>13</sup> .	

<sup>4</sup> VisitAberdeenshire. (2022). Destination Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire. A Framework for Growth 2022-2030. Available at: [https://dc-aberdeen-files.svdcn.com/production/misc/Destination-Aberdeen-and-Aberdeenshire-Framework-for-Growth-2022-2030-2-1\\_compressed.pdf?v=1769421770&dm=1769421770](https://dc-aberdeen-files.svdcn.com/production/misc/Destination-Aberdeen-and-Aberdeenshire-Framework-for-Growth-2022-2030-2-1_compressed.pdf?v=1769421770&dm=1769421770)

<sup>5</sup> Transport Scotland et al. (2020). Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) LA 104: Environmental Assessment and Monitoring. Available at: <https://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/search/0f6e0b6a-d08e-4673-8691-cab564d4a60a>

<sup>6</sup> Transport Scotland et al. (2020). DMRB LA 112: Population and Human Health. Available at: <https://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/search/1e13d6ac-755e-4d60-9735-f976bf64580a>

<sup>7</sup> Google Earth Pro. (2026). Google Earth Pro. Available at: <https://www.google.com/earth/about/versions/>

<sup>8</sup> OpenStreetMap. (2026). Open Street Map. Available at: <https://www.openstreetmap.org/>

<sup>9</sup> VisitScotland. (2026). Explore Scotland Map. Available at: <https://www.visitscotland.com/map>

<sup>10</sup> VisitAberdeenshire (2026) Stonehaven & the coastal Mearns. Available at: <https://visitabdn.com/places/stonehaven-the-mearns>

<sup>11</sup> Scottish Government. (2026). Core Paths – Scotland. Available at: <https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/f69babe5-6ac7-4292-92ab-012fe82906b8/core-paths-scotland>

<sup>12</sup> ScotWays. (2026). Heritage Paths Map. Available at: <https://scotways.com/heritage-paths/map/>

<sup>13</sup> Strava. (2026). Strava Heat Mapping. Available at: <https://www.strava.com/maps/>

Factor to be Considered	Source	Summary
	Komoot (2026) Discover Routes <sup>14</sup> .	recreational resources or assets. This includes linear recreational routes and public open spaces.
	TrailForks (2026) Feterresso Mountain Biking Trails <sup>15</sup> .	
	Google Earth Pro (2026) <sup>7</sup> .	
	OpenStreetMap (2026) <sup>8</sup> .	

- 17.4.2 The tourism and recreation related data sources set out within **Table 17.1** will be added as appropriate, and a final list presented within the EIA Report chapter.

## 17.5 Baseline Environment

### Existing Baseline Conditions

#### *Tourism*

- 17.5.1 Tourism receptors identified as part of a high level review of the Study Area are set out within **Table 17.2**. The tourism baseline will be further developed and updated as appropriate within the EIA Report, with consideration given as to whether a receptor is considered as part of the tourism assessment, or considered as a 'business' and assessed as part of the land use and agriculture assessment (the methodology of which is set out in **Chapter 18: Land Use and Agriculture**).

**Table 17.2: Tourism Receptors within the Study Area**

Tourism Receptor	Description	Location
Crag Stirling	Cliff tops popular for rock climbing	Cammachmore, AB39 3NQ
Cran Hill	Scenic viewpoint	
The Bothy at the Steading	Holiday accommodation	
Logie Trout Fishery	Fishery	Stonehaven, AB39 3RH

#### *Recreation*

- 17.5.2 **Table 17.3** sets out the formal linear recreational routes, as informed by the Aberdeenshire Core Paths Plan, which intersect the Study Area.

**Table 17.3: Linear Recreational Routes within the Study Area**

Path ID Reference	Name	Path Type	Extent within Scoping Boundary
520.04	Ury House	Existing Core Path	0.56 km
516.02	Newtonhill: Mill of Elsick Path	Existing Core Path	0.14 km
516.03	Newtonhill: Coastal Path: Backhill Route	Existing Core Path	0.07 km

<sup>14</sup> Komoot. (2026). Discover Routes. Available at: <https://www.komoot.com/discover>

<sup>15</sup> TrailForks. (2026). Feterresso Mountain Biking Trails. Available at: <https://www.trailforks.com/region/feterresso-12614/>

Path ID Reference	Name	Path Type	Extent within Scoping Boundary
516.03	Newtonhill: Coastal Path: Backhill Route (Cycle option)	Existing Core Path	0.48 km
516.03R	Newtonhill: Coastal Path: Backhill Route (Cycle option) Road Link	Road	0.50 km
516.04R	Road link Newtonhill to Causey Mounth	Road	0.49 km
NCN Route 1r	Fishermyre to Stonehaven	Road - NCN	0.93 km
NCN Route 1q	Clayfolds to Fishermyre	Road - NCN	1.19 km
516.01	Newtonhill Beach – Railway Viaduct	Existing Core Path	0.48 km
7LD.01.36	Coastal Path Downies to Newtonhill	Existing Core Path	0.70 km

- 17.5.3 As set out within **Table 17.3**, National Cycle Route (NCR) 1, which runs from Dover in the south east of England, following the east coast of the UK to the north of Scotland, intersects the Scoping Boundary where it runs along the B979 then the U88k (Fishermyre to Clayfolds Road).
- 17.5.4 A series of informal recreational routes, formed by established forestry tracks are noted within Fetteresso Forest. These routes provide informal access across the forest for recreational users including walkers, wheelers, cyclists and equestrian users.

#### Future Baseline Conditions

- 17.5.5 Future baseline conditions will be considered as part of the EIA process, accounting for the future anticipated conditions associated with the period within which the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases are assumed to take place. This will be inclusive of scenarios with the Proposed Development in place and in its absence.
- 17.5.6 A golf course at the Ury Estate, to the north of Stonehaven, is noted to be under development and set to open in 2027 (prior to the earliest anticipated commencement of the construction phase in 2028). The golf course will be considered as part of the tourism and recreation assessment (and/or **Chapter 18: Land Use and Agriculture**) as appropriate.

### **17.6 Embedded Mitigation**

- 17.6.1 The following section outlines the embedded mitigation anticipated to be implemented prior to undertaking the tourism and recreation assessment.
- 17.6.2 The following embedded mitigation, relevant to tourism and recreation would be implemented:
- Avoidance of tourism and recreation related receptors where practicable, including as part of the development of the route for Onshore Transmission Cables, and the siting of temporary construction compounds;
  - Consideration of the Onshore Transmission Cables being installed via trenchless techniques where required to cross National Cycle Route 1, so as to reduce the potential for disruption, if required, and/or access cannot be maintained in an alternative fashion; and
  - An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will be produced and included as a Technical Appendix to the EIA Report. The Outline CTMP will include measures to manage the routing of construction traffic, including in relation to the NCR, where relevant.

## **17.7 Potential Impacts of the Proposed Development**

- 17.7.1 Following the implementation of embedded mitigation, a series of potential impacts as a result of the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development have been identified in relation to tourism and recreation related receptors.
- 17.7.2 Potential impacts proposed to be scoped in to the assessment are set out within **Table 17.4**.

**Table 17.4: Summary of Potential Tourism and Recreation Related Impacts Proposed to be Scoped In**

Potential Impact	Phase of Proposed Development*			Justification	Summary of the Proposed Approach to Assessment
	C	O&M	D		
Change to tourism and recreation related receptors.	✓	✗	✗	There is the potential for change experienced by tourism and recreation receptors or resources to affect their relative ability to perform respective existing (or proposed) functions.	The potential for the alteration of land which relates to tourism and recreation receptors or resources, in turn, changing or restricting associated receptors or resources, will be assessed.
*Phase of Proposed Development refers to construction (C), operation and maintenance (O&M), and decommissioning (D).					

- 17.7.3 Issues proposed to be scoped out in relation to tourism and recreation are set out within **Table 17.5**.

**Table 17.5: Summary of Potential Tourism and Recreation Related Impacts Proposed to be Scoped Out**

Potential Impact	Justification
Potential impacts to tourism and recreation related receptors during the operation and maintenance phase, and decommissioning phase.	<p>Potential impacts to tourism and recreation related receptors, in terms of severance and restriction to function are anticipated to arise primarily during the construction phase.</p> <p>Once operational, the Proposed Development is not anticipated to restrict the ongoing land use function of tourism and recreation related receptors. The footprint of above ground infrastructure, including the Substation, Link Boxes, and Transition Joint Bays, would be sited to avoid direct restriction of land use function for tourism and recreation related receptors. Both Substation Site Options considered are located within agricultural land holdings in arable use and are not used for tourism or recreation related functions.</p> <p>During the decommissioning phase, as the Onshore Transmission Cables would be left in situ once disconnected and sealed, works would be broadly limited to the Substation. Measures applied during construction to manage temporary access restrictions would be reused, where appropriate, in accordance with relevant legislation, guidance and recognised industry practice at the time. These would be secured by a Decommissioning Plan, produced and agreed with the relevant authorities prior to the commencement of decommissioning works.</p>

## 17.8 Proposed Assessment Methodology

### Overview

- 17.8.1 A desk-based review of existing studies and datasets will be completed to identify baseline conditions in relation to tourism and recreation. Information identified during the desk study will be supplemented by data collated as part of other topic specific assessments (including through site survey) where relevant.
- 17.8.2 The significance of tourism and recreation related effects will be defined in accordance with the criteria set out within the following sections.

### Receptor Sensitivity

- 17.8.3 **Error! Not a valid bookmark self-reference.** will be used to define the sensitivity of tourism and recreation related receptors or resources.

**Table 17.6: Receptor Sensitivity Criteria in relation to Tourism and Recreation**

Receptor Sensitivity	Criteria
High	<p>Receptor or resource is of high importance and rarity, the level of use is frequent, with limited alternatives or substitutions available.</p> <p>Long distance routes which are nationally promoted (including National Cycle Routes).</p> <p>Linear recreational routes likely to be used for both recreation and, to a lesser extent, commuting that record frequent (daily) use and have limited potential for substitution.</p>
Medium	<p>Facility or asset is of moderate importance and rarity, the level of use is frequent with a moderate amount of alternatives or substitutions available.</p> <p>Linear recreational routes close to communities which are used for recreational purposes, but for which alternative routes can be taken. These routes are likely to link to a wider network of routes to provide options for longer recreational journeys.</p>
Low	<p>Receptor or resource of low importance and rarity, the level of use is very infrequent, and alternatives or substitutions are available.</p> <p>Linear recreational routes that have fallen into disuse through past severance or which are scarcely used as they do not offer a meaningful route for utility or recreational purposes.</p>
Negligible	<p>Receptor or resource of very low importance and rarity, the level of use is very infrequent, and alternatives or substitutions are available.</p>

### Magnitude of Impact

- 17.8.4 An impact is a change to environmental baseline conditions as a result of the Proposed Development. The general criteria and definitions by which magnitude of impact will be assessed in relation to tourism and recreation are set out within **Table 17.7**.

**Table 17.7: Magnitude of Impact Criteria in relation to Tourism and Recreation**

Magnitude of Impact	Criteria
Major	Severe, irreversible damage to key characteristics, features and/or elements of a receptor or resource, compromising existing (or proposed) function of the receptor or resource.
Moderate	Partial loss or damage to key characteristics, features and/or elements of a receptor or resource, compromising existing (or proposed) function of the receptor or resource.
Minor	A discernible change in attributes, quality or vulnerability, minor loss of, or alteration to one or more key characteristics, features or elements that do not compromise overall existing (or proposed) function of the receptor or resource.
Negligible	Very minor loss or alteration to one or more characteristics, features or elements of a receptor or resource, not directly affecting existing (or proposed) function of the receptor or resource.

### Significance of Effect

- 17.8.5 Once the sensitivity of a tourism and recreation receptor is identified and the magnitude of impact established, the overall significance of resulting effect will be assessed in accordance with the significance matrix set out in **Table 17.8**.

**Table 17.8: Significance Matrix in relation to Tourism and Recreation**

Magnitude of Impact	Sensitivity			
	High	Medium	Low	Negligible
Major	Major	Major or Moderate	Moderate	Moderate or Minor
Moderate	Major or Moderate	Moderate	Moderate or Minor	Minor
Minor	Moderate	Moderate or Minor	Minor	Negligible
Negligible	Moderate or Minor	Minor	Negligible	Negligible

### Limitations and Assumptions

- 17.8.6 The information that has informed the proposed scope of the Tourism and Recreation assessment is based on the Design Envelope approach set out in **Chapter 3: The Proposed Development**. The design process for the Proposed Development is iterative and the assessment within the EIA Report will be updated to account any potential refinement, including the selection of a preferred Substation Site Option.

## **17.9 Potential Cumulative Effects**

### Inter-Related Effects

- 17.9.1 Potential inter-related effects will be considered as an inherent part of the socio-economics assessment. The assessment of potential impacts in relation to changes to the amenity of public and private receptors will consider the conclusions of the following environmental topics which address related matters:
- **Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual**, in terms of changes to visual amenity, landscape character, and views experienced by receptors;
  - **Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport**, in terms of terms of changes in traffic flows, access, severance, and associated effects on amenity;
  - **Chapter 15: Air Quality**, in terms of in terms of changes in pollutant concentrations and dust which may influence amenity;
  - **Chapter 16: Noise and Vibration**, in terms of in noise and vibration levels affecting residential and other sensitive receptors; and
  - **Chapter 18: Land Use and Agriculture**, in terms of changes to the ability of public and private receptors to perform current (or proposed) land use function.

### Cumulative Effects Assessment

- 17.9.2 Cumulative effects with the Proposed Offshore Development will be considered, together with cumulative effects with other developments, where relevant. There is considered to be the potential for cumulative effects on tourism recreation related receptors, notably in relation to other renewable energy and transmission projects in and around the Fetteresso Forest area (which is noted for informal recreational use along established forest trails).

- 17.9.3 The cumulative effects assessment will follow the approach set out within **Chapter 4: Approach to Scoping and EIA**.

#### **17.10 Summary of Proposed Scope**

- 17.10.1 A desk-based study will be completed to identify relevant Land Use and Agriculture related receptors within the Land Use and Agriculture Study Area. The desk-based study will be supplemented by data collated during site surveys led by other topic-specific assessments, information on land ownership areas identified by the project land referencing team, and further consultation, as relevant.
- 17.10.2 The assessment of likely significant effects in relation to tourism and recreation will be undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in **Section 17.8**.
- 17.10.3 In addition to the measures set out within **Section 17.6**, embedded mitigation will be further developed in response to the iterative design process, consultation and stakeholder engagement, and the results of the tourism and recreation assessment, as appropriate. Due to the similarities in approach, to avoid repetition, tourism and recreation may be considered as part of the land use and agriculture chapter of the EIA Report.

## 18. LAND USE AND AGRICULTURE

### 18.1 Introduction

- 18.1.1 The following chapter sets out the proposed assessment scope of likely significant effects from the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development in relation to Land Use and Agriculture.
- 18.1.2 The aims of this chapter of the Scoping Report are to:
- Set out an overall approach to the assessment of Land Use and Agriculture;
  - Define the Study Area to be considered in the assessment;
  - Describe the baseline environment in relation to Land Use and Agriculture;
  - Set out the embedded mitigation measures, anticipated to be implemented prior to undertaking the Land Use and Agriculture assessment;
  - Identify key impacts at all stages of the Proposed Development;
  - Identify topics not requiring further assessment, which can be scoped out;
  - Describe the proposed assessment methodology; and
  - Set out the potential cumulative effects.
- 18.1.3 The proposed scope of the Land Use and Agriculture assessment should be read in conjunction with the following chapters that address related environmental matters:
- **Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual;**
  - **Chapter 12: Geology, Soils and Peat;**
  - **Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport;**
  - **Chapter 15: Air Quality;**
  - **Chapter 16: Noise and Vibration;**
  - **Chapter 17: Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation;** and
  - **Chapter 19: Forestry.**
- 18.1.4 This chapter is supported by:
- Figure 18.1: Land Use and Agriculture Study Area; and
  - Figure 18.2: Land Capability for Agriculture Mapping of the Land Use and Agriculture Study Area.

### 18.2 Legislation, Policy and Guidance

- 18.2.1 The proposed scope of assessment in relation to Land Use and Agriculture has been developed with reference to the legislation, policy and guidance as set out in the following section.

#### Legislation

- Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003<sup>1</sup>;
- Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967<sup>2</sup>;
- The Agriculture and Rural Communities (Scotland) Act 2024<sup>3</sup>; and
- The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2003/2/data.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1967/86/data.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> The Agriculture and Rural Communities (Scotland) Act 2024. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2024/11/data.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2015/6/data.pdf>

## Policy

### *National Policy*

- Scottish Government (2023) National Planning Framework 4<sup>5</sup>, including the following key policies:
  - Policy 5: Soils;
  - Policy 9: Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings; and
  - Policy 11: Energy.
- Scottish Government (2026) Scotland's Fourth Land Use Strategy: 2026-2031<sup>6</sup>.

### *Local Policy*

- Aberdeenshire Council (2023) Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan<sup>7</sup>, including the following key policies:
  - Policy R1: Special Rural Areas;
  - Policy PR1: Protecting Important Resource; and
  - Policy C2: Renewable Energy.

## Guidance

- ISEP (formerly IEMA) (2022) IEMA Guide: A New Perspective on Land and Soil in Environmental Impact Assessment<sup>8</sup>;
- Transport Scotland et al. (2020) Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) LA 104: Environmental Assessment and Monitoring<sup>9</sup>;
- Transport Scotland et al. (2020) DMRB LA 112: Population and Human Health<sup>10</sup>;
- Transport Scotland et al. (2020) DMRB LA 109: Geology and Soils<sup>11</sup>;
- Scottish Natural Heritage (2018) Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook V5<sup>12</sup>; and
- Defra (2009) Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites<sup>13</sup>.

## **18.3 Study Area**

- 18.3.1 The Study Area is defined as the Scoping Boundary as this will in all areas extend to include the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning footprint of the Proposed Development and provide a suitably defined study area, consistent with LA 112 DMRB guidance<sup>10</sup>.
- 18.3.2 For private property and housing, development land and businesses, and agricultural land holdings, the ownership boundaries will be used to inform the associated assessment. This approach reflects the need to consider potential effects on the overall extent of the specific land

<sup>5</sup> Scottish Government. (2023). National Planning Framework 4. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/>

<sup>6</sup> Scottish Government. (2026). Scotland's Fourth Land Use Strategy: 2026-2031. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-fourth-land-use-strategy-2026-2031/>

<sup>7</sup> Aberdeenshire Council. (2023). Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan. Available at: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/ldp-2023>

<sup>8</sup> ISEP (formerly IEMA). (2022). IEMA Guide: A New Perspective on Land and Soil in Environmental Impact Assessment. Available at:

<sup>9</sup> Transport Scotland et al. (2020). Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) LA 104: Environmental Assessment and Monitoring. Available at: <https://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/search/0f6e0b6a-d08e-4673-8691-cab564d4a60a>

<sup>10</sup> Transport Scotland et al. (2020). DMRB LA 112: Population and Human Health. Available at: <https://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/search/1e13d6ac-755e-4d60-9735-f976bf64580a>

<sup>11</sup> Transport Scotland et al. (2020). DMRB LA 109: Geology and Soils. Available at: <https://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/search/adca4c7d-4037-4907-b633-76eaed30b9c0>

<sup>12</sup> Scottish Natural Heritage. (2018). Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook V5. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/archive/environmental-impact-assessment-handbook-version-5-2018>

<sup>13</sup> Defra. (2009). Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-practice-for-the-sustainable-use-of-soils-on-construction-sites>

use receptor, which may extend beyond the Scoping Boundary. Land Use and Agriculture related receptors enclosed by the Scoping Boundary will also be considered.

## 18.4 Data Sources

- 18.4.1 Initial information in relation to Land Use and Agriculture related baseline conditions has been collated through a desk-based review of existing studies and datasets. Data sources in relation to Land Use and Agriculture are set out within **Table 18.1**.

**Table 18.1: Data Sources in relation to Land Use and Agriculture**

Factor to be Considered	Source	Summary
Private Property and Housing; Community Land and Assets; and Businesses.	National Library of Scotland (2026) Scotland – Land Use Viewer <sup>14</sup> .	Various sources to identify land use related baseline conditions and relevant receptors, including in regard to private property and housing; community land and assets; and businesses.
	Ordnance Survey (2026) AddressBase Premium <sup>15</sup> .	
	Google Earth Pro (2026) <sup>16</sup> .	
	OpenStreetMap (2026) <sup>17</sup> .	
Development Land	Aberdeenshire Council (2026) Planning Portal <sup>18</sup> .	To identify planning applications and/or allocations within the Study Area that could be subject to potential severance, access limitation or land use restriction as a result of the Proposed Development.
	Aberdeenshire Council (2026) LDP23 Policy Data <sup>19</sup> .	
Agricultural Land Holdings	ScotLIS (2026) Scottish Land Information Service map search <sup>20</sup> .	To inform the identification of agricultural land holding boundaries, supplemented by information from the project land referencing team.
	Soil Survey of Scotland Staff (1984-87) Land Capability for Agriculture maps of Scotland (partial coverage) <sup>21</sup> .	Agricultural land capability mapping based upon the Macaulay Land Capability for Agriculture (LCA) classification systems.
	Soil Survey of Scotland Staff (1970-87) Soil Maps of Scotland (partial coverage) <sup>22</sup> .	Soil types of agricultural land.

<sup>14</sup> National Library of Scotland. (2026). Scotland – Land Use Viewer. Available at: <https://maps.nls.uk/projects/landuse>

<sup>15</sup> Ordnance Survey. (2026). AddressBase Premium. Available at: <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/products/addressbase-premium>

<sup>16</sup> Google Earth Pro. (2026). Google Earth Pro. Available at: <https://www.google.com/earth/about/versions/>

<sup>17</sup> Open Street Map. (2026). Open Street Map. Available at: <https://www.openstreetmap.org/>

<sup>18</sup> Aberdeenshire Council. (2026). Planning Portal. Available at: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/planning-applications/public-access>

<sup>19</sup> Aberdeenshire Council. (2026). LDP23 Policy Data. Available at: <https://spatialdata-abdnshire.opendata.arcgis.com/maps/d11ee1392d5d4390a90fb0be6a62552e/about>

<sup>20</sup> ScotLIS. (2026). Scottish Land Information Service map search. Available at: <https://scotlis.ros.gov.uk/map-search>

<sup>21</sup> Soil Survey of Scotland Staff. (1984-87). Land Capability for Agriculture maps of Scotland (partial coverage). Available at: <https://soils.environment.gov.scot/maps/capability-maps/land-capability-for-agriculture-partial-cover/>

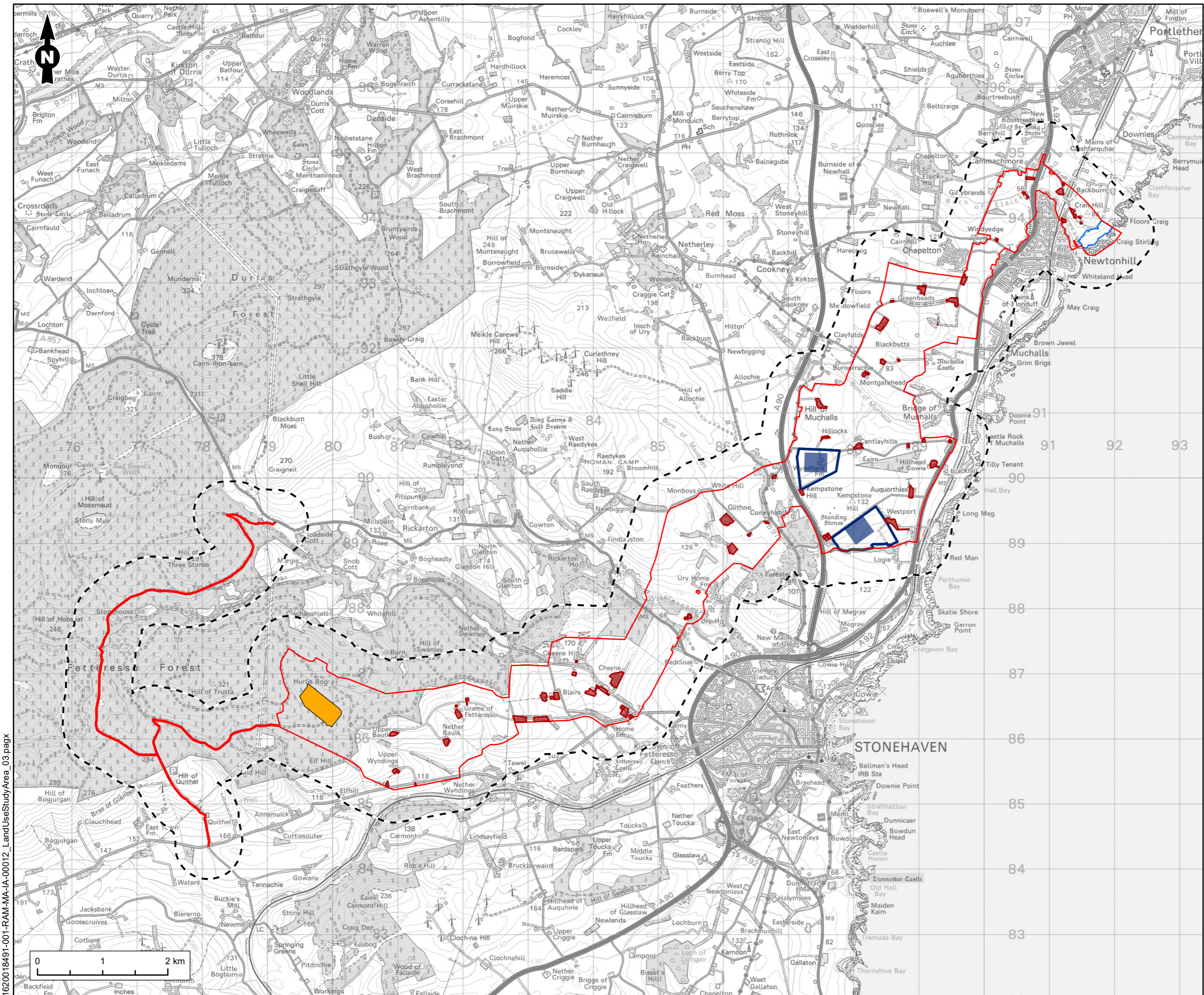
<sup>22</sup> Soil Survey of Scotland Staff. (1970-87). Soil Maps of Scotland (partial coverage). Available at: <https://soils.environment.gov.scot/maps/soil-maps/soil-map-of-scotland-partial-cover/>

- 18.4.2 The baseline in relation to Land Use and Agriculture will continue to be developed as the design of the Proposed Development is further refined. Details will be updated within the EIA Report as appropriate.

## 18.5 Baseline Environment

### Existing Baseline Conditions

- 18.5.1 The Proposed Development would be located from Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS) and Landfall close to Craig Stirling, Newtonhill, with 220 kV underground Onshore Transmission Cables connecting to the Onshore Substation and then 400 kV Onshore Transmission Cables to the Gird Connection Point at the SSEN Transmission proposed Hurlie 400 kV Substation at Fetteresso Forest, Aberdeenshire.
- 18.5.2 As set out in **Figure 18.1** the Study Area includes the settlements of Cammachmore, the majority of Newtonhill, Chapelton of Elsick, Muchalls, and Nether Wyndings.
- 18.5.3 The predominant land use across the Study Area is agricultural, including both arable farming and grassland-based livestock grazing.
- 18.5.4 Land Capability for Agriculture (LCA) (partial cover) mapping<sup>21</sup> (as set out in **Figure 18.2**) indicates the majority of the Study Area comprises Class 3.2 land. The LCA system grades land according to its agricultural capability, ranging from Classes 1 to 7, including a series of sub-classes, with Classes 1 to 3.1 defined as prime agricultural land. Class 3.2 land is considered capable of average production though high yields of barley, oats and grass can be obtained, with grass leys being common. Substation Site Option A predominantly comprises land of Class 3.2.
- 18.5.5 More limited areas of Class 3.1 (prime agricultural land) are also present, representing the highest LCA Class within the Land Use and Agriculture Study Area. This includes the area occupied by Substation Site Option B. Class 3.1 land is considered capable of producing high yields of a narrow range of crops and/or moderate yields of a wider range, including short-term grass leys.
- 18.5.6 Newtonhill OP2: Land to the West of the A92 and Newtonhill OP3: West Monduff, two Local Development Plan Employment Land Allocations, are located within the Scoping Boundary in the area of land between Chapelton of Elsick and Newtonhill.
- 18.5.7 The westernmost section of the Study Area includes Fetteresso Forest, a commercial forest producing conifer logs. The Study Area is otherwise populated by conifer, broadleaved or mixed woodblocks (including areas of Ancient Woodland), primarily located along field boundaries and agricultural parcel edges. Baseline conditions in relation to commercial forestry are set out further as part of **Chapter 19: Forestry**.
- 18.5.8 Fetteresso Forest is also used for informal recreation, including walking, cycling and horse riding across established forest trails. Baseline conditions in relation to recreational resources are set out further as part of **Chapter 17: Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation**.



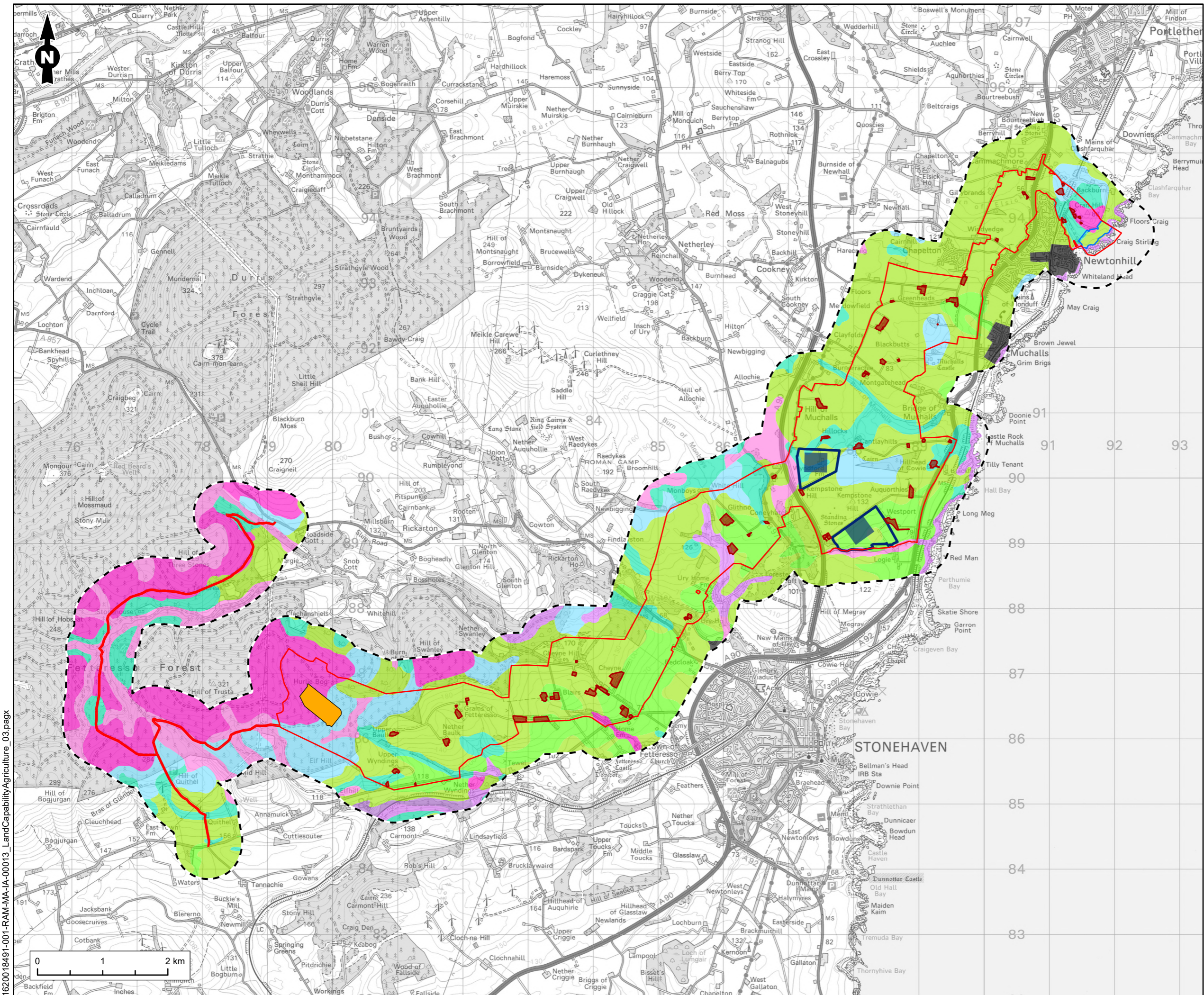
**Legend**

- Scoping Boundary
- Exclusion Zone (Residential Property)
- Land Use and Agriculture Study Area (500 m Buffer from Scoping Boundary)
- Landfall Area
- Indicative Substation Development Sites
- Representative Substation Platform Areas
- Grid Connection Point

Figure Title		
<b>Land Use and Agriculture Study Area</b>		
Project Name		
<b>Aspen Offshore Wind Farm - Onshore Transmission Connection</b>		
Project No./Filey ID		
1620018491 / REH2026N02003		
Date	Figure No.	Revision
May 2026	18.1	1.0
Prepared By	Scale	
CW	1:55,000 @A3	
Client		
<b>Cerulean Winds Aspen Project Limited</b>		



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### Legend

- Scoping Boundary
- Exclusion Zone (Residential Property)
- Land Use and Agriculture Study Area (500 m Buffer from Scoping Boundary)
- Landfall Area
- Indicative Substation Development Sites
- Representative Substation Platform Areas
- Grid Connection Point

#### Land Capability for Agriculture

- Class 3.1 - Land capable of producing consistently high yields of a narrow range of crops and/ or moderate yields of a wider range. Short grass leys are common
- Class 3.2 - Land capable of average production though high yields of barley, oats and grass can be obtained. Grass leys are common
- Class 4.1 - Land capable of producing a narrow range of crops, primarily grassland with short arable breaks of forage crops and cereal
- Class 4.2 - Land capable of producing a narrow range of crops, primarily on grassland with short arable breaks of forage crops
- Class 5.2 - Land capable of use as improved grassland. Few problems with pasture establishment but may be difficult to maintain
- Class 5.3 - Land capable of use as improved grassland. Pasture deteriorates quickly
- Class 6.1 - Land capable of use as rough grazings with a high proportion of palatable plants
- Class 6.2 - Land capable of use as rough grazings with moderate quality plants
- Class 6.3 - Land capable of use as rough grazings with low quality plants
- Urban

<b>Figure Title</b>		
Land Capability for Agriculture Mapping of the Land Use and Agriculture Study Area		
<b>Project Name</b>		
Aspen Offshore Wind Farm - Onshore Transmission Connection		
<b>Project No./Filey ID</b>		
1620018491 / REH2026N02003		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Figure No.</b>	<b>Revision</b>
May 2026	18.2	1.0
<b>Prepared By</b>	<b>Scale</b>	
CW	1:55,000 @A3	
<b>Client</b>		
Cerulean Winds Aspen Project Limited		
		

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### Future Baseline Conditions

- 18.5.9 Future baseline conditions will be considered as part of the EIA process, accounting for the future anticipated conditions associated with the period within which the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases are assumed to take place. This will be inclusive of scenarios with the Proposed Development in place and in its absence.

### **18.6 Embedded Mitigation**

- 18.6.1 The following section outlines the embedded mitigation to be accounted for when undertaking the Land Use and Agriculture assessment.
- 18.6.2 The following embedded mitigation / design commitments, relevant to Land Use and Agriculture would be implemented:
- Land subject to soils stripping and/or excavation works associated with the proposed installation of the Onshore Transmission Cables will be reinstated to its previous condition, as far as reasonably practicable, in accordance with a Soils Management Plan (SMP);
  - The location of above ground components, notably in relation to proposed Joint Bays and Link Boxes associated with the Onshore Transmission Cables, will be designed as far as reasonably practicable to avoid severance of key agricultural infrastructure or fragmentation of fields in agricultural production associated with farm holdings within the Study Area;
  - To be considered, where practicable, the siting of areas required for temporary land take (including in relation to construction compounds) and permanent land take (including in relation to above ground infrastructure) to avoid prime agricultural land, private property and housing, community land and assets, and development land and businesses;
  - Works within the Scoping Boundary would take place within the following core hours unless otherwise agreed with Aberdeenshire Council:
    - 07:00 – 19:00 Monday to Friday;
    - 07:00 – 13:00 Saturdays; and
    - No working on Sundays or Bank Holidays.

### **18.7 Potential Impacts of the Proposed Development**

- 18.7.1 Following the implementation of embedded mitigation / design commitments, a series of potential impacts as a result of the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development have been identified in relation to Land Use and Agriculture related receptors.
- 18.7.2 Potential impacts proposed to be scoped in to the assessment are set out in **Table 18.2** with justification provided.

**Table 18.2: Summary of Potential Land Use and Agriculture Related Impacts Proposed to be Scoped In**

Potential Impact	Phase of Proposed Development*			Justification	Summary of the Proposed Approach to Assessment
	C	O&M	D		
Loss of agricultural land and soils.	✓	✓	✓	There is the potential for the loss of agricultural land (including prime agricultural land) and soils (in terms of biomass function) due to a change to land use introduced by the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development would result in assumed permanent and temporary loss of agricultural land within the Scoping Boundary, including in relation to the Landfall Area, the installation of the Onshore Transmission Cables, and the Substation.  Potential impacts in relation to peat will be assessed as part of the geology, soils and peat assessment, the proposed scope of which is set out within <b>Chapter 12: Geology, Soils and Peat.</b>	The potential (permanent and temporary) loss of agricultural land and soils, as a result of the Proposed Development will be assessed.  Potential impacts in relation to peat will be considered as part of the geology, soils and peat assessment (as set out within <b>Chapter 12: Geology, Soils and Peat</b> ).
Change to the land use function of agricultural farm holdings.	✓	✓	✓	There is the potential for change to land use function as a result of the Proposed Development, in turn, resulting in loss of, introduction of severance and/or restriction to the land use function of agricultural farm holdings. This would include both assumed permanent and temporary alteration of land use function as a result of the Proposed Development.	The potential alteration of land use, resulting in loss of, introduction of severance and/or restriction to the land use function of agricultural farm holdings will be assessed.
Change to the land use function of private properties and housing, community land and assets, and/or development land and businesses.	✓	✓	✓	There is the potential for change to land use function which could change or restrict the ability of the land use receptor or resource to perform respective existing (or proposed) functions.	The potential for the alteration of land use, in turn, changing or restricting the land use function of private properties and housing, community land and assets, and/or development land and businesses will be assessed.
Potential limitations to land use due to wayleave and easement conditions	✗	✓	✗	There is the potential for limitations to land use due to the introduction of wayleave and easement	Potential limitations to land use due to the introduction of wayleave and

<p>in relation to the Onshore Transmission Cables.</p>		<p>conditions in relation to the Onshore Transmission Cables. This may include restrictions in relation to tree and hedgerow planting, building of structures, and deep excavations within land associated with the Onshore Transmission Cables.</p> <p>During the decommissioning phase, it is assumed the Onshore Transmission Cables would be left in situ once disconnected and sealed during the decommissioning phase. Wayleave and easement restrictions associated with the presence of live cabling would then no longer apply.</p>	<p>easement conditions associated with the Onshore Transmission Cables, during the operation and maintenance phase, will be assessed.</p>
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\*Phase of Proposed Development refers to construction (C), operation and maintenance (O&M), and decommissioning (D).

18.7.3 Though relating to similar environmental matters, to avoid duplication, the following potential impacts will be assessed as part of other dedicated topic-specific chapters and not considered as part of the Land Use and Agriculture assessment:

- Potential impacts in relation to the loss (temporary and permanent) of soils (including peat) will be considered as part of the geology, soils and peat assessment as set out in **Chapter 12: Geology, Soils and Peat**.
- Potential impacts in relation to the severance and/or restriction of function of tourism and recreation related receptors will be considered as part of the socio-economics, tourism and recreation assessment as set out in **Chapter 17: Tourism and Recreation**.
- Potential impacts in relation to the loss, severance and/or restriction to the function of commercial forestry land will be considered as part of the forestry assessment as set out in **Chapter 19: Forestry**.

18.7.4 Issues proposed to be scoped out in relation to Land Use and Agriculture are set out in **Table 18.3**.

**Table 18.3: Summary of Potential Land Use and Agriculture Related Impacts Proposed to be Scoped Out**

Potential Impact	Justification
Potential limitations to land use due to wayleave and easement conditions in relation to the Onshore Transmission Cables during the construction and decommissioning phases.	Wayleave and easement conditions would not apply until the Onshore Transmission Cables were operational. The maximum area of potential land take during the construction phase will be accounted for by other Land Use and Agriculture related impacts considered. Operational restrictions associated with wayleaves would cease following decommissioning once cables are disconnected and sealed, and infrastructure is made safe.

## 18.8 Proposed Assessment Methodology

18.8.1 A desk-based review of existing studies and datasets will be completed to identify baseline conditions in relation to Land Use and Agriculture. This will include the identification of relevant receptors within the Land Use and Agriculture Study Area, including:

- Agricultural land (in terms of LCA Class);
- Agricultural farm holdings;
- Private properties and housing;
- Community land and assets; and
- Development land (planning applications and allocations) and businesses.

18.8.2 Information identified during the desk study will be supplemented by data collated as part of other topic specific assessments (including through site survey) where relevant.

18.8.3 The criteria used to define the sensitivity of Land Use and Agriculture related receptors and to assess the magnitude of impact will be informed by relevant elements of DMRB LA 112: Population and Human Health<sup>10</sup> and DMRB LA 109: Geology and Soils<sup>11</sup> guidance, and professional judgement.

18.8.4 The significance of effects will be determined through the consideration of receptor sensitivity and the magnitude of impact, in accordance with the overarching approach set out in **Chapter 4: Approach to Scoping and EIA**.

### Limitations and Assumptions

- 18.8.5 The information that has informed the proposed scope of the Land Use and Agriculture assessment is based on the design envelope approach set out in **Chapter 3: The Proposed Development**. The design process for the Proposed Development is iterative and the assessment within the EIA Report will be updated to account any potential refinement, including the selection of a preferred Substation Site Option.

## **18.9 Potential Cumulative Effects**

### Inter-Project Effects

- 18.9.1 Potential inter-related cumulative effects will be considered as part of the Land Use and Agriculture assessment with details presented within the EIA Report. This will include the consideration of both project lifetime effects and receptor-led effects in accordance with the approach set out within **Chapter 4: Approach to Scoping and EIA**. There is considered to be the potential for inter-related cumulative effects to occur in relation to the following other environmental topics:

- **Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual:**

- Potential visual amenity related impacts to Land Use and Agriculture related receptors within the Land Use and Agriculture Study Area.

- **Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport:**

- Potential non-motorised user delay and amenity related impacts to Land Use and Agriculture related receptors within the Land Use and Agriculture Study Area.

- **Chapter 17: Tourism and Recreation:**

- Potential socio-economics impacts to Land Use and Agriculture related receptors within the Land Use and Agriculture Study Area.

- 18.9.2 The potential for project lifetime effects will be considered in relation to those Land Use and Agriculture related impacts have potential to occur during more than one phase (construction, operation and maintenance, and/or decommissioning phase) of the Proposed Development.

### Cumulative Effects Assessment

- 18.9.3 Cumulative effects with the Proposed Offshore Development will be considered, together with cumulative effects with other developments, where relevant. There is considered to be the potential for cumulative effects on Land Use and Agriculture related receptors, notably in relation to other renewable energy and transmission projects in and around the Fetteresso Forest area.
- 18.9.4 The cumulative effects assessment will follow the approach set out within **Chapter 4: Approach to Scoping and EIA**.

## **18.10 Summary of Proposed Scope**

- 18.10.1 A desk-based study will be completed to identify relevant Land Use and Agriculture related receptors within the Land Use and Agriculture Study Area. The desk-based study will be supplemented by data collated during site surveys led by other topic-specific assessments, information on land ownership areas identified by the project land referencing team, and further consultation, as relevant.
- 18.10.2 The assessment of likely significant effects in relation to Land Use and Agriculture will be undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in **Section 18.8**.

- 18.10.3 In addition to the measures set out within **Section 18.6**, embedded mitigation will be further developed in response to the iterative design process, consultation and stakeholder engagement, and the results of the Land Use and Agriculture assessment, as appropriate.

## 19. FORESTRY

### 19.1 Introduction

19.1.1 The following chapter sets out the proposed assessment scope of likely significant effects from the Proposed Development in relation to Forestry.

19.1.2 The aims of this chapter of the Scoping Report are to:

- Set out the overall approach to the assessment of Forestry;
- Define the Study Area to be considered in the assessment;
- Describe the baseline environment in relation to Forestry;
- Set out the embedded mitigation measures, anticipated to be implemented prior to undertaking the Forestry assessment;
- Identify key potential impacts at all stages of the Proposed Development;
- Identify topics not requiring further assessment, which can be scoped out;
- Describe the proposed assessment methodology; and
- Set out the potential cumulative effects.

### 19.2 Legislation, Policy and Guidance

19.2.1 The proposed scope of assessment in relation to forestry has been developed with reference to the legislation, policy and guidance as set out in the following section.

#### Legislation

- Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018<sup>1</sup>; and
- The Felling (Scotland) Regulations 2019<sup>2</sup>.

#### Policy

##### *National Policy*

- The Scottish Government (2023). Scotland's National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)<sup>3</sup>;
- The UK Forestry Standard: The Government's Approach to Sustainable Forestry, 5th Edition<sup>4</sup>;
- The Scottish Government's Policy on Control of Woodland Removal (CoWRP)<sup>5</sup>; and
- Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029<sup>6</sup>

##### *Local Policy*

- Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2029, Forestry, Woodland and Trees<sup>7</sup>; and
- Aberdeenshire Council Trees and Development Planning advice PA2023-20 2023<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2018/8/contents>

<sup>2</sup> The Felling (Scotland) Regulations 2019. Available at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2019/49/made>

<sup>3</sup> The Scottish Government (2023). Scotland's National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4). Available at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/>

<sup>4</sup> The UK Forestry Standard: The Government's Approach to Sustainable Forestry, 5th Edition. Available at <https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/fthr/uk-forestry-standard/>

<sup>5</sup> The Scottish Government's Policy on Control of Woodland Removal. Available at <https://www.forestry.gov.scot/publications/control-woodland-removal-policy>

<sup>6</sup> Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029. Available at <https://www.forestry.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-forestry-strategy-2019-2029>

<sup>7</sup> Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2029, Evidence Report, Forestry, Woodland and Trees. Available at <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/ldp-2028/>

<sup>8</sup> Aberdeenshire Council Trees and Development Planning advice PA2023-20 2023. Available at <https://aberdeenshirestorage.blob.core.windows.net/acblobstorage/9ca552fd-e5af-40d1-83e5-b7111c5eafbb/pa2023-20---planning-advice---trees-and-development.pdf>

### Guidance

- Scottish Government's policy on control of woodland removal: implementation guidance (updated 2026)<sup>9</sup>;
- UK Forestry Standard Practice Guides<sup>10</sup> (including Managing Forest Operations to Protect the Water Environment and other guidelines in the same series.
- SEPA Guidance on the Management of Forestry Waste (2013)<sup>11</sup> and
- SEPA Guidance Note Use of Trees Cleared to Facilitate Development on Afforested Land (2014)<sup>12</sup>

## **19.3 Consultation**

### Future Consultation

- 19.3.1 Scottish Forestry (SF), the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulations, is the primary consultee for any removal of woodland and replanting requirements.

## **19.4 Study Area**

- 19.4.1 The forestry study area includes all forests and woodlands within the Scoping Boundary.

## **19.5 Data Sources**

- 19.5.1 Scottish Government open data have been/will be referenced for National Forest Inventory (NFI)<sup>13</sup>, Ancient Woodland Inventory (Scotland) (AWI)<sup>14</sup>, Native Woodland Survey of Scotland (NWSS)<sup>15</sup> and the Scottish Forestry Map viewer<sup>16</sup> and Land Information Search<sup>17</sup>.
- 19.5.2 Specifically, Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS), the Scottish Government agency responsible for managing Scotland's national forests and land, open data will be referenced for the relevant forests within the Mearns Land Management Plan<sup>18</sup> area.
- 19.5.3 Other online sources such as aerial imagery will be used to assist the baseline assessment.

<sup>9</sup> Scottish Government's policy on control of woodland removal: implementation guidance. Available at [https://www.forestry.gov.scot/sites/default/files/pub-documents/PDF\\_Guidance\\_Scottish\\_Government%27s\\_Policy\\_on\\_Control\\_of\\_Woodland\\_Removal\\_Implementation\\_Guidance\\_01022019.pdf](https://www.forestry.gov.scot/sites/default/files/pub-documents/PDF_Guidance_Scottish_Government%27s_Policy_on_Control_of_Woodland_Removal_Implementation_Guidance_01022019.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> UK Forestry Standard Guidelines. Available at <https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/publications/>

<sup>11</sup> SEPA Guidance on the Management of Forestry Waste (2013). Available at [https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/28957/forestry\\_waste\\_guidance\\_note.pdf](https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/28957/forestry_waste_guidance_note.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> SEPA Guidance Note Use of Trees Cleared to Facilitate Development on Afforested Land (2014). Available at [https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/143799/use\\_of\\_trees\\_cleared\\_to\\_facilitate\\_development\\_on\\_afforested\\_land\\_sepa\\_snh\\_fcs\\_guidance\\_-\\_april\\_2014.pdf](https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/143799/use_of_trees_cleared_to_facilitate_development_on_afforested_land_sepa_snh_fcs_guidance_-_april_2014.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> National Forest Inventory. Available at <https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/2e3526a4-5393-41ea-8a6f-2ef9e0e00094/national-forest-inventory-scotland-2024>

<sup>14</sup> Ancient Woodland Inventory (Scotland). Available at <https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/c2f57ed9-5601-4864-af5f-a6e73e977f54/ancient-woodland-inventory-scotland1>

<sup>15</sup> Native Woodland Survey of Scotland. Available at <https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/da3f8548-a130-4a0d-8ddd-45019adcf1f3/native-woodland-survey-of-scotland-nwss>

<sup>16</sup> Scottish Forestry Map viewer. Available at <https://www.forestry.gov.scot/scottish-forestry-map-viewer>

<sup>17</sup> Land Information Search. Available at <https://www.forestry.gov.scot/land-information-search>

<sup>18</sup> Mearns Land management plan available at <https://forestryandland.gov.scot/what-we-do/planning/active/mearns>

## 19.6 Baseline Environment

### Existing Baseline Conditions

#### *Scotland's National Forests*

- 19.6.1 Mearns Forest is a mature forest with planting from the 1970s and 80s now reaching maturity. In addition to the areas reaching maturity, the impact of Storm Arwen has led to extensive areas of Mearns being felled. The percentage of crops at establishment during 2026 increases as restocking is undertaken following the felling of previously planned felling and the additional Storm Arwen windblow restocking. Approximately 200 ha of forest land lies within the Scoping Boundary of which approximately 160 ha is described as high forest.

#### *Other woodlands*

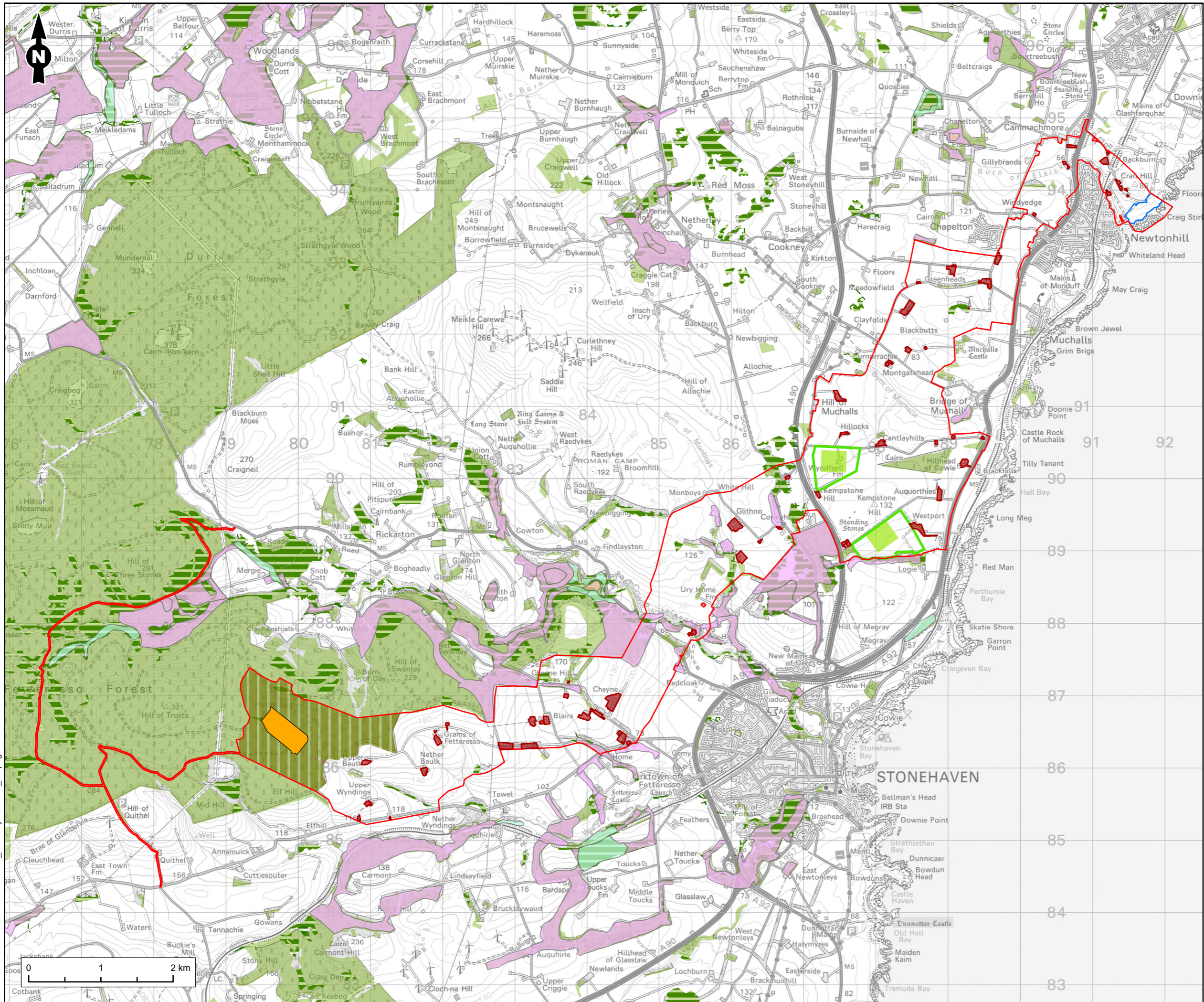
- 19.6.2 From the NFI data, the woodlands outside the national forests amount to approximately 75 ha. These are mainly small areas ranging from less than one hectare to just over twelve hectares. The majority of these woods are shown as broadleaved.

#### *Ancient Woodland Inventory*

- 19.6.3 NatureScot guidance on understanding the Scottish AWI defines Ancient Woodland as land that is currently wooded and has been continually wooded, at least since 1750. Within the Scoping Boundary, long-established woodlands of plantation origin (LEPO) are present. Approximately 2 ha are classed as antiquity 1b, interpreted as plantation from maps of 1750. Approximately 27 ha are listed as interpreted as plantation from maps of 1860, antiquity 2b.

#### *Native Woodland Survey of Scotland*

- 19.6.4 Native tree species are those which arrived naturally in Scotland without direct human assistance as far as we can tell. Most of our native tree and shrub species colonised Scotland after the end of the last Ice Age with seeds dispersed by wind, water. Surviving native woods have been classified into 6 main habitat types. Within the Scoping Boundary, approximately 37 ha are recorded in NWSS and these are represented by lowland mixed deciduous woodlands and upland birchwood with a small area of wet woodland.
- 19.6.5 Baseline environmental receptors identified here can be seen on **Figure 19.1**.



### Legend


- Scoping Boundary
- Exclusion Zone (Residential Property)
- Landfall Area
- Indicative Substation Development Sites
- Representative Substation Platform Areas
- Grid Connection Point

### Forestry Baseline

- National Forest Inventory (2024)
- Native Woodland Survey of Scotland
- Scotland's National Forest

### Ancient Woodland Inventory

- Ancient (of semi-natural origin)
- Long-Established (of plantation origin)
- Other (on Roy map)

Figure Title <b>Forestry Baseline</b>		
Project Name <b>Aspen Offshore Wind Farm - Onshore Transmission Connection</b>		
Project No./Filey ID <b>1620018491 / REH2026N02003</b>		
Date <b>May 2026</b>	Figure No. <b>19.1</b>	Revision <b>1.0</b>
Prepared By <b>CW</b>	Scale <b>1:50,000 @A3</b>	
Client <b>Cerulean Winds Aspen Project Limited</b>		
		

1620018491-001-RAM-MA-1A-00037\_ForestryBaseline\_01.pagx

### Future Baseline Conditions

- 19.6.6 The actively managed productive conifer plantations, mainly within the Mearns Land Management Plan (LMP) area, would continue to be felled and replanted as rotational forestry. Conifer rotations are typically forty to fifty years indicating that further felling of the current planting or replanting would be outside the lifetime of the Proposed Development.

### **19.7 Embedded Mitigation**

- 19.7.1 The following section outlines the embedded mitigation anticipated to be implemented prior to undertaking the Forestry assessment.
- 19.7.2 The following embedded mitigation / design commitments, relevant to forestry would be implemented:
- Consideration of trenchless techniques to avoid felling AWI areas
  - Reduction of tree felling requirements by design, where possible and appropriate; and
  - Compensating for any permanent woodland loss by appropriate new woodland creation.

### **19.8 Potential Impacts of the Proposed Development**

- 19.8.1 Following the implementation of embedded mitigation, a series of potential impacts as a result of the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development have been identified in relation to Forestry related receptors.

### Permanent Woodland Loss

- 19.8.2 Tree felling is likely to be required for the Proposed Development where the underground transmission cable route, connects into the Grid Connection Point at the proposed SSEN 400kV Hurlie Substation where forest or woodland are encountered. With minimum and the maximum construction corridor of 85 m to 200 m and for a maximum length of 1.6 km of the Mearns Forest within the Scoping Boundary. The worst-case construction felling area of 14 ha to 32 ha within the Mearns Forest.
- 19.8.3 Subsequent tree felling may be required where felling for the Proposed Development would result in potential windblow of the remaining section of woodland. This "management felling" would typically be in association with the landowner through Felling Permissions authorised through SF with replanting conditions
- 19.8.4 There are also likely to be areas of more isolated woodland and tree felling throughout the transmission cable route.

**Table 19.1: Summary of Potential forestry Related Impacts Proposed to be Scoped In**

Potential Impact	Phase of Proposed Development*			Justification	Summary of the Proposed Approach to Assessment
	C	O&M	D		
Permanent woodland loss of productive conifer plantations	✓	✓	✗	Where unavoidable to permit the construction and operation of the Proposed Development	Avoid where possible, assess the area for compensatory planting
Permanent woodland loss broadleaved woodland	✓	✓	✗	Where unavoidable to permit the construction and operation of the Proposed Development	Avoid where possible, assess the area for compensatory planting
Permanent woodland loss of AWI	✓	✓	✗	Where unavoidable to permit the construction and operation of the Proposed Development	Avoid where possible, assess the area for compensatory planting
Permanent woodland loss of NWSS	✓	✓	✗	Where unavoidable to permit the construction and operation of the Proposed Development	Avoid where possible, assess the area for compensatory planting
Management felling to windfirm boundaries	✓	✗	✗	Where windthrow is a likely outcome of felling for the Proposed Development	Assess the likelihood of windblow through DAMs <sup>19</sup> assessment and breaks within the plantation or woodland
*Phase of Proposed Development refers to construction (C), operation and maintenance (O&M), and decommissioning (D).					

<sup>19</sup> Detailed Aspect Method of Scoring (DAMS) The probability of damaging winds occurring at the site is then calculated using information on the wind climate. Available at <https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/fthr/forestgales/>

**Table 19.2: Summary of Potential forestry Related Impacts Proposed to be Scoped Out**

Potential Impact	Justification
Management felling to windfirm boundaries during operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases.	No potential management felling to windfirm boundaries is anticipated beyond that undertaken during the construction phase. The above ground onshore transmission infrastructure of the Proposed Development, once in operation, is not anticipated to be located within areas which would require management felling to windfirm boundaries. Due to the nature and location of activities anticipated to take place during the decommissioning phase (focused to the decommissioning and removal of the Substation), management felling to windfirm boundaries is similarly not anticipated.
Permanent woodland loss during the decommissioning phase	The potential felling of woodland is anticipated to arise as a result of the construction phase due to the installation of the Onshore Transmission Cables. The nature and location of activities anticipated to take place during the decommissioning phase, notably due to the Onshore Transmission Cables being left in situ and works being focused to the decommissioning and removal of the Substation, mean felling of woodland is not anticipated to take place.

## 19.9 Proposed Assessment Methodology

### Forestry Assessment Through Desk Study

#### 19.9.1 Interrogation of open data including:

- Scottish Forestry Map Viewer, exploring forest management plans or felling approvals are in place or have now expired;
- Datasets including the NWSS provide a baseline survey of all native woodlands, nearly native woodlands and Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) sites in Scotland showing type, extent and condition of those woods will be reviewed;
- Datasets for AWI categorise ancient woods recorded as being of semi-natural origin on either the 1750 Roy maps OR the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1860;
- The Land Information Search is a map-based tool that allows search for data such as;
- NFI; and
- Any forest data available by the woodland owners or agents.

### Forestry Site Walkover

19.9.2 A forestry site walkover will be carried out to verify the desk study.

19.9.3 The walkover will assess the forest or woodland condition, health and life stage and will be used to ascertain the potential windblow should partial felling take place of a woodland or forest compartment through visual tree height assessment and rooting potential.

### Criteria

19.9.4 The assessment will describe the felling for the Proposed Development in terms of permanent felling, which will not be replanted throughout the construction and operational phases and

management felling, required to avoid predictable windblow and which may be replanted in situ. Temporary felling may also result from the requirements of temporary infrastructure such as temporary compounds.

- 19.9.5 The assessment will identify the mitigation required through the Scottish Government's Control of Woodland Removal Policy (COWRP) and the area of compensatory planting required.
- 19.9.6 The UK Forestry Standards, the UK Governments' Approach to Sustainable Forestry 5th Edition (2023), will be followed and any forest operations required by the Proposed Development will adhere to the commitments made through the forest certification schemes including the UK Woodland Assurance Standard 5.0 (2024)<sup>20</sup>.
- 19.9.7 The assessment will provide tables and figures showing the baseline species and age classes and baseline felling and replanting proposals (where these exist). Permanent and temporary felling will be described in text, tables and figures.
- 19.9.8 The assessment will clearly identify woodland loss and the requirement for compensatory planting.

#### **19.10 Potential Cumulative Effects**

- 19.10.1 On the basis that the overall forest resource will be maintained across the board in line with CoWRP and UKFS, no cumulative effects are anticipated.

#### **19.11 Limitations and Assumptions**

- 19.11.1 Forests and woodlands are dynamic and are susceptible to natural influences such as catastrophic wind throw, infestation by pests and diseases as well as changes in management or owners' objectives.
- 19.11.2 Baseline digital data may sometimes contradict other open data such as aerial imagery or ordnance survey maps.

#### **19.12 Summary of Proposed Scope**

- 19.12.1 The assessment will record the forest and woodland areas from both desk study and forest walkover. The assessment will record the baseline conditions at the time of reporting including the species, estimated age and overall condition.
- 19.12.2 The assessment will take account of the AWI and NWSS categories with the presumption that any unavoidable felling would be minimised.
- 19.12.3 The assessment will tabulate the areas of proposed permanent felling, any management felling with replanting in situ.
- 19.12.4 Compensatory planting will be calculated in accordance with CoWRP.
- 19.12.5 All the forest felling and replanting will take account of the UKFS and UKWAS and be acceptable for updating Forest Plans or Land Management Plans.

<sup>20</sup> UK Woodland Assurance Standard 5.0 (2024). Available at <https://ukwas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/UKWAS-5.0-2024.pdf>

## 20. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES TO BE SCOPED OUT

### 20.1 Introduction

- 20.1.1 The following chapter sets out the environmental topics which are proposed to be excluded from full detailed assessment as part of the EIA and provides robust reasoning for doing so.

### 20.2 Major Accidents or Disasters

- 20.2.1 This section sets out the potential significant effects of the Proposed Development in relation to major accidents and/or disasters. The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 require the consideration of potential vulnerability of a proposed development to major accidents and/or natural disasters that could cause significant environmental effects.
- 20.2.2 For the purposes of Scoping, 'major accidents' and 'disasters' are defined in accordance with 2020 ISEP (formerly IEMA)<sup>1</sup> guidance as:
- Major accidents are considered to be uncontrolled events that threaten serious environmental effects and require resources beyond the control of the Applicant; and
  - Disasters are considered to be natural or manmade hazards with the potential to cause an event that threatens serious environmental effects.

#### Potential for Significant Effects

- 20.2.3 Potential significant effects that could realistically occur as a result of the Proposed Development in relation to major accidents or disasters that have been considered, broadly include:
- The potential significant effects of the Proposed Development on the environment, deriving from its vulnerability to risk of relevant major accidents and/or disasters;
  - The potential significant effects of the Proposed Development interacting with any likely sources of external hazard; and
  - The potential significant effects of an external major accident and/or disaster and the associated risk posed as a result of the existence of the Proposed Development on an environmental receptor or resource.
- 20.2.4 Due to other legislative provisions in place to manage risk in relation to health and safety, risk in relation to construction workers and employees is not to be considered further. The Proposed Development, as required, would be managed in accordance with:
- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974<sup>2</sup>;
  - The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999<sup>3</sup>;
  - The Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002<sup>4</sup>;
  - The Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992<sup>5</sup>; and
  - The Construction (Design and Management) (CDM) 2015 Regulations<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> ISEP. (2020). Major Accidents and Disasters in EIA: A Primer. Available at:

[https://www.isepglobal.org/media/brbdeib/t/27374\\_iema\\_major\\_accidents\\_disasters\\_final-1.pdf](https://www.isepglobal.org/media/brbdeib/t/27374_iema_major_accidents_disasters_final-1.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1974/37/data.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1999/3242/data.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> The Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1999/3242/data.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> The Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1992/3004/data.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> The Construction (Design and Management) (CDM) 2015 Regulations. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1992/3004/data.pdf>

- 20.2.5 The Onshore Transmission Cables would be required to cross the Dundee to Aberdeen railway line between the Landfall Area and the Substation (irrespective of the preferred Substation Site Option). Ongoing discussions with Network Rail have informed the identification of a suitable crossing location, taking account of engineering, operational and ground condition constraints. Trenchless techniques, such as HDD, would be utilised to install the cables beneath the railway, avoiding direct interaction with the track and reducing the potential for disruption to operations. Risk associated with trenchless installation would be designed out and managed through standard design and construction controls in agreement with Network Rail (to be secured by appropriate planning conditions, as required).
- 20.2.6 There are a number of major utilities, including major gas pipelines, within the Scoping Boundary between the Substation and the Grid Connection Point. The Onshore Transmission Cables would be required to cross multiple pipelines in order to reach the Grid Connection Point from the Substation. Trenchless methods, such as HDD, would be utilised to cross such pipelines, with further engagement with relevant stakeholders to ensure the risk of disasters is reduced and all relevant regulation is followed, and good practice measures are implemented. Working areas associated with the installation of the Onshore Transmission Cables and the Substation would seek to avoid associated areas as far as reasonably practicable.
- Trenchless techniques would similarly be employed where crossings of roads within the Scoping Boundary would be required for the installation of the Onshore Transmission Cables.
- 20.2.7 The potential for significant effects in relation to the risk of Major Accidents and/or Disasters will also be considered as part of a series of topic specific assessments. Coverage will be included across the following environmental topic chapters of the EIA Report:
- Potential impacts in relation to the vulnerability of the Proposed Development to climate change (**Chapter 7: Climate**);
  - Potential impacts in relation to accidental pollution events (**Chapter 8: Terrestrial Ecology** and **Chapter 13: Hydrology and Flood Risk**);
  - Potential impacts associated with peat instability, including peat landslide risk as identified through a Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessment (PLHRA) (if considered to be required) (**Chapter 12: Geology, Soils and Peat**);
  - Potential impacts in relation to hydromorphology, water quality, and increased flood risk (**Chapter 13: Hydrology and Flood Risk**);
  - Potential impacts of construction traffic on accidents and safety (**Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport**); and
  - Potential impacts in relation to Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AILs) on accidents and safety (**Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport**).

#### Summary of Proposed Scope

- 20.2.8 Potential effects in relation to major accidents or disasters will be addressed through relevant topic specific assessments rather than as a standalone EIA Report chapter, in line with a proportionate approach to EIA.
- 20.2.9 The use of trenchless installation techniques and adherence to standard design and construction controls agreed as part of ongoing targeted engagement are expected to reduce the potential for risks in relation to sources of external hazards such that significant effects as a result of the Proposed Development are not anticipated.

#### Scoping Questions

- 20.2.10 Do consultees agree with the proposed approach to scope out a dedicated major accident or disasters chapter from the EIA Report?

## 20.3 Waste

20.3.1 The following section sets out the potential significant effects of the Proposed Development in relation to waste.

### Potential for Significant Effects

20.3.2 Due to the scale and nature of the Proposed Development, there is the potential for adverse effects in relation to the handling and disposal of waste if not managed appropriately, in particular, during the construction phase.

20.3.3 An Outline Construction Environmental Management (CEMP) will be submitted as a technical appendix to the EIA Report. The Outline CEMP will include a series of measures to be implemented during the construction phase to ensure the management and movement of waste is controlled and recorded.

20.3.4 The Outline CEMP will include waste management measures development in accordance with the following relevant legislation, policy, and guidance:

- The Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012<sup>7</sup>;
- The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013<sup>8</sup>;
- The Environmental Protection Act 1990<sup>9</sup>;
- The Environment Act 1995<sup>10</sup>;
- The Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) (Scotland) Regulations 2014<sup>11</sup>;
- Scottish Government (2023) National Planning Framework 4<sup>12</sup>, including:
  - Policy 12: Zero Waste.
- Aberdeenshire Council (2023) Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023<sup>13</sup>, including:
  - Policy R2: Waste Management Requirements for New Development.
- ISEP (2020) The IEMA Guide to Materials and Waste in Environmental Impact Assessment<sup>14</sup>;  
and
- SEPA (2014) SEPA Guidance Note LUPS-GU27: Use of Trees Cleared to Facilitate Development on Afforested Land<sup>15</sup>.

20.3.5 A detailed version of the outline CEMP would be produced by the appointed Principal Contractor(s) in accordance with the outline version and submitted to Aberdeenshire Council for approve prior to the commencement of construction works.

20.3.6 Potential impacts in relation to materials and waste during the operation and maintenance phase are proposed to be scoped out. Waste produced during operation and maintenance activities is anticipated to be limited and would be managed in accordance with the waste hierarchy, implementing produces using licenced contractors.

<sup>7</sup> The Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2012/148/made/data.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/3113/data.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> Environmental Protection Act 1990. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/data.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> Environment Act 1995. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1995/25/data.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> The Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) (Scotland) Regulations 2014. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2014/4/made/data.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> Scottish Government. (2023). National Planning Framework 4. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/>

<sup>13</sup> Aberdeenshire Council. (2023). Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023. Available at: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/ldp-2023>

<sup>14</sup> ISEP. (2020). The IEMA Guide to Materials and Waste in Environmental Impact Assessment. Available at: <https://www.isepglobal.org/content/materials-and-waste-in-environmental-impact-assessment-march-2020/>

<sup>15</sup> SEPA. (2014). SEPA Guidance Note LUPS-GU27: Use of Trees Cleared to Facilitate Development on Afforested Land. Available at: [https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/143799/use\\_of\\_trees\\_cleared\\_to\\_facilitate\\_development\\_on\\_afforested\\_land\\_sepa\\_snh\\_fcs\\_guidance-april\\_2014.pdf](https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/143799/use_of_trees_cleared_to_facilitate_development_on_afforested_land_sepa_snh_fcs_guidance-april_2014.pdf)

- 20.3.7 Measures adopted during construction phase would be applied decommissioning phase, albeit updated as necessary to reflect the legislative, policy and guidance context and industry practice at the time (35 years after the construction phase). Measures implemented during the decommissioning phase would be managed by the Decommissioning Plan, submitted to the relevant authorities for approval prior to the commencement of works.

#### Summary of Proposed Scope

- 20.3.8 Potential effects in relation waste would be managed in accordance with measures set out in an Outline CEMP, to be submitted with the EIA Report, for implementation during the construction phase. A detailed version of the CEMP would be prepared by the appointed Principal Contractor(s) and submitted to Aberdeenshire Council for approval prior to the commencement of construction works.
- 20.3.9 Waste arisings from activities during the operation and maintenance phase is expected to be limited and would be managed in accordance with the waste hierarchy using licensed contractors. on this basis, operational effects are proposed to be scoped out.
- 20.3.10 Construction phase measures would be applied to decommissioning, subject to the legislative and policy context, and industry practice at that time. Decommissioning works would be managed through a Decommissioning Plan agreed with the relevant authorities prior to works.
- 20.3.11 With the implementation of standard good practice measures, significant effects are not anticipated and therefore potential significant effects in relation to waste are not proposed to be assessed as a standalone EIA chapter. An Outline CEMP will be provided as a Technical Appendix to the EIA Report.

#### Scoping Questions

- 20.3.12 Do consultees agree with the proposed approach to scope out a dedicated waste chapter from the EIA Report?

### **20.4 Human Health and Electromagnetic Fields**

- 20.4.1 The following section sets out the potential significant effects of the Proposed Development in relation to human health and electromagnetic fields. The Town and Country Planning ((Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 require consideration of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on population and human health, including those arising from physical factors such as electromagnetic fields.

#### Potential for Significant Effects

- 20.4.2 The Proposed Development would contribute to national energy security and renewable energy provision, supporting wider public health objectives. These beneficial effects on human health are not anticipated to be considered significant in EIA terms and therefore are not to be considered further as part of a Human Health related assessed.
- 20.4.3 In terms of potential adverse effects, a standalone Human Health chapter is not proposed as relevant matters would be addressed through other environmental topic assessments as follows:
- **Chapter 7: Climate**, in relation to climate change resilience as experience by the workforce, including exposure to extreme weather events;
  - **Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual**, in relation to visual amenity and potential effects on residential receptors
  - **Chapter 11: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage**, in relation to effects on the historic environment which may influence community value and amenity;

- **Chapter 12: Geology, Soils and Peat**, in relation to peat instability (including peat landslide risk);
- **Chapter 13: Hydrology and Flood Risk**, in relation to water quality and flood risk affecting human receptors;
- **Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport**, in relation to road safety, severance, driver delay and disruption to road users and communities;
- **Chapter 15: Air Quality**, in relation to potential changes in air pollutant concentrations and dust generation;
- **Chapter 16: Noise and Vibration**, in relation to potential disturbance to residential and other noise and vibration sensitive receptors;
- **Chapter 17: Tourism and Recreation**, in relation to change to tourism and recreation related receptors; and
- **Chapter 18: Land Use and Agriculture**, in relation to change or restriction of the land use function of private property and housing, community land and assets, development land and businesses, and agricultural land holdings.

20.4.4 Electromagnetic fields arise from electric charges and current flow. Exposure guidelines<sup>16</sup> have been developed by the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) to ensure the protection of human health, setting limits for both occupational and public exposure. These measures have been adopted by the UK National Radiological Protection Board (now Public Health England and devolved administration bodies) for application across the United Kingdom.

20.4.5 Electromagnetic fields associated with the operation of the Substation would arise from electrical equipment such as transformers, busbars and switchgear. Regardless of the design configuration of the Substation (AIS, GIS or a hybrid configuration), electromagnetic fields would be either fully enclosed within grounded equipment and buildings or would reduce rapidly with distance from outdoor conductors. Magnetic fields are generated by current flow but diminish sharply with distance from their source, with further attenuation provided by equipment configuration and layout. Public access would be prevented from the Substation and levels beyond this area would be design to comply with ICNIRP public exposure limits. Occupational electromagnetic field exposure would be controlled through design and operation and maintenance health and safety procedures in accordance with ICNIRP occupational exposure limits.

20.4.6 Electromagnetic fields associated with the underground cabling in relation to the Onshore Transmission Cables would be limited and localised, with magnetic fields reducing rapidly with distance and further attenuated by cable configuration and burial, resulting in negligible exposure at ground level and compliance with ICNIRP public exposure limits.

#### Summary of Proposed Scope

20.4.7 Potential effects in relation to Human Health will be addressed through relevant topic specific assessments, rather than as an EIA Report chapter, in line with a proportionate approach to EIA.

20.4.8 Potential effects on human health in relation to electromagnetic field have been considered, with the Proposed Development to be designed to comply with ICNIRP public and occupational exposure limits through design, layout and operational controls. As a result, potential effects on human health in relation to electromagnetic field are not anticipated to be significant in EIA terms and are not proposed to be considered further as part of the EIA.

<sup>16</sup> ICNIRP. (2010). Guidelines for Limiting Exposure to Time-Varying Electric and Magnetic Fields (1 Hz – 100 kHz). Available at: <https://icnirp.org/cms/upload/publications/ICNIRPLFgdl.pdf>

### Scoping Questions

- 20.4.9 Do consultees agree with the proposed approach to scope out a dedicated human health and electromagnetic fields chapter from the EIA Report?

### **20.5 Socio-Economics**

- 20.5.1 The potential effects of the Proposed Development will be considered as part of a standalone report prepared in support of the PPIP application and are therefore not proposed to be considered as part of the EIA.
- 20.5.2 The standalone socio-economics report will consider the potential direct and indirect socio-economic impacts of the Proposed Development in terms of supply chain and employment. This is anticipated to include the consideration of:
- Total investment (construction, development, and operation and maintenance);
  - Estimation of contract value by type;
  - Estimation of contract content by geographical area;
  - Conversion of contracts into the direct employment;
  - Estimation of direct Gross Value Added (GVA) based on direct employment supported;
  - Estimation of supply chain (indirect) impacts on GVA and employment; and
  - Estimation of induced impacts on GVA and employment (spending in the economy of the workforce).
- 20.5.3 Each environmental topic chapter will consider potential inter-related effects in relation to socio-economics, as appropriate.

## 21. SUMMARY OF EIA SCOPING AND NEXT STEPS

### 21.1 Summary of EIA Scoping

- 21.1.1 EIA Scoping is a key stage of the EIA process that seeks to focus the approach of the assessment on issues with the potential to give rise to likely significant environmental effects. This Scoping Report identifies the environmental topics to be subject to detailed assessment and those matters that can be scoped out of further consideration, and to present sufficient information on the Proposed Development to enable stakeholder engagement on the scope of the EIA.

### 21.2 Issues Proposed to be Scoped into the EIA

- 21.2.1 **Table 21.1** presents the topics and associated impacts that are proposed to be scoped into the EIA in relation to specified phase(s) of the Proposed Development.

**Table 21-1: Topics and Associated Impacts Proposed to be Scoped into the EIA**

Topic and Potential Impact	Phase of Proposed Development*		
	C	O&M	D
<b>Climate</b>			
Increased health and safety risk to construction, O&M and decommissioning workers from heat stress, cold stress and extreme weather (high winds, intense rainfall, lightning).	✓	✓	✓
Increased risk of damage and disruption to construction plant, vehicles and temporary works due to extreme weather (storms, intense rainfall, high winds, lightning, surface water flooding).	✓	✗	✗
Reduced ampacity (current carrying capacity) and accelerated ageing of the Onshore Transmission Cables (three circuit 220 kV HVAC and two circuit 400 kV HVAC) due to higher ground temperatures and changes in soil moisture.	✗	✓	✗
Increased corrosion, weather damage and reduced reliability of the Substation, control buildings and ancillary plant due to changes in temperature, humidity, precipitation and wind loading.	✗	✓	✗
Increased risk of fluvial, pluvial and surface water flooding affecting the Substation, Transition Joint Bays, link boxes and the Onshore Transmission Cable Corridor.	✓	✓	✓
Increased risk of coastal erosion, sea level rise and storm-driven coastal flooding affecting the Landfall Area, the Offshore Transmission Cables landward of MLWS and Transition Joint Bays.	✓	✓	✓
Increased risk of ground movement (subsidence, peat instability, shrink-swell on cohesive soils) affecting buried cables, Joint Bays and Substation foundations.	✓	✓	✓
GHG emissions arising from the construction, O&M and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, including embodied emissions from raw materials and manufacturing, transport, installation, operational energy use and end-of-life material handling.	✓	✓	✓

Topic and Potential Impact	Phase of Proposed Development*		
	C	O&M	D
<b>Terrestrial Ecology</b>			
Designated Sites: Direct habitat loss, damage and degradation to habitats within or functionally linked to statutory designated sites, and negative effects on populations of the qualifying species they support (e.g. otter, narrow-mouthed whorl snail, other invertebrates).	✓	✗	✓
Designated Sites: Disturbance, displacement, killing/injury of qualifying interest features and/or species within site citations of the statutory designated sites (noise, light, visual, vibration) – Otters.	✓	✓	✓
Introduction of INNS and disease.	✓	✗	✓
Temporary or permanent disturbance/displacement of protected and noteworthy species.	✓	✓	✓
Temporary or permanent loss or damage to foraging, commuting, sheltering and breeding sites for protected and noteworthy species.	✓	✗	✓
Temporary or permanent loss, damage and degradation of priority habitats.	✓	✗	✓
Mid to long term positive effects of habitat creation and enhancement.	✗	✓	✗
<b>Terrestrial Ornithology</b>			
Designated sites which pertain to birds: Direct habitat loss, damage and degradation to habitats within or functionally linked to statutory designated sites, and negative effects on populations of the qualifying species they support (e.g. breeding or notable wintering birds).	✓	✗	✓
Introduction of INNS and disease.	✓	✗	✓
Temporary or permanent disturbance/displacement of breeding or notable wintering birds.	✓	✓	✓
Temporary or permanent loss or damage to winter foraging or nest sites for protected and noteworthy species as well as all breeding birds	✓	✗	✓
Collision risk with above ground infrastructure with potential to affect qualifying species of nearby designated sites and birds of the wider environment.	✗	✓	✗
Mid to long-term positive effects of habitat creation and enhancement.	✗	✓	✗
<b>Landscape and Visual</b>			
Landscape Fabric Impacts - Substation	✓	✗	✗
Landscape Fabric Impacts – Landfall	✓	✗	✗
Landscape Fabric Impacts – Onshore Transmission Cable Corridor	✓	✗	✗
Landscape Character Impacts - Substation	✓	✓	✓
Landscape Character Impacts - Landfall	✓	✓	✓
Landscape Character Impacts - Onshore Transmission Cable Corridor	✓	✓	✓
Impacts on Visual Amenity (Residential, Transport and recreational routes and Summits) - Substation	✓	✓	✓

Topic and Potential Impact	Phase of Proposed Development*		
	C	O&M	D
Impacts on Visual Amenity (Residential, Transport and recreational routes and Summits) – Landfall	✓	✗	✗
Impacts on Visual Amenity (Residential, Transport and recreational routes and Summits) - Cable Corridor	✓	✗	✗
Impacts on Southeast Aberdeenshire Coast SLA - Substation	✓	✓	✓
Impacts on Southeast Aberdeenshire Coast SLA – Landfall	✓	✗	✗
Impacts on Southeast Aberdeenshire Coast SLA – Cable Corridor	✓	✗	✗
<b>Archaeology and Cultural Heritage</b>			
Direct physical impacts on known heritage assets within the Scoping Boundary	✓	✗	✗
Direct physical impacts on hitherto unknown heritage assets or paleoenvironmental remains within the Scoping Boundary	✓	✗	✗
Settings impacts on designated heritage assets within the Scoping Boundary	✗	✓	✗
Settings impacts on designated heritage assets within the 5 km Study Area and ZTV	✗	✓	✗
Cumulative impacts on the settings of designated heritage assets	✗	✓	✗
<b>Geology, Soils and Peat</b>			
Human health impacts for construction workers and adjacent site occupiers as a result of works in potentially contaminated land.	✓	✗	✗
Compaction of peat from vehicles and infrastructure.	✓	✗	✗
Increased erosion of peat through disturbance or localised drying, or peat landslide.	✓	✗	✗
Loss of peatland habitats and carbon-rich soils through excavations for infrastructure and/or peat landslides.	✓	✗	✗
<b>Hydrology and Flood Risk</b>			
Below ground infrastructure impact on hydromorphology	✓	✗	✗
Below ground infrastructure impact on water quality	✓	✗	✗
Above ground infrastructure impact on water quality	✓	✓	✓
Above ground infrastructure impact on hydromorphology	✓	✓	✓
<b>Traffic and Transport</b>			
Potential impacts (of changes in traffic flows) on local roads and the users of those roads	✓	✗	✗
Potential impacts (of changes in traffic flows) on land uses and environmental resources fronting these roads, including the relevant occupiers and users	✓	✗	✗
<b>Air Quality</b>			
The impact of dust soiling (nuisance) on property arising from dust emissions generated by onsite construction and decommissioning activities.	✓	✗	✓

Topic and Potential Impact	Phase of Proposed Development*		
	C	O&M	D
The impact of increases in suspended particulate matter on human and ecological receptors arising from dust emissions generated by onsite construction and decommissioning activities.	✓	✗	✓
The impact on human and ecological receptors arising from air emissions generated by vehicles during the construction and decommissioning phase.	✓	✗	✓
<b>Noise and Vibration</b>			
Construction Noise - Additional construction activities along the cable route beyond trenching and backfill and similar.	✓	✗	✗
Construction Noise – General Activities at the Substation and within the Landfall Area	✓	✗	✗
Construction Traffic Noise	✓	✗	✗
Operational Noise – Substation	✗	✓	✗
<b>Tourism and Recreation</b>			
Change to tourism and recreation related receptors	✓	✗	✗
<b>Land Use and Agriculture</b>			
Loss of agricultural land and soils.	✓	✓	✓
Change to the land use function of agricultural farm holdings.	✓	✓	✓
Change to the land use function of private properties and housing, community land and assets, and/or development land and businesses.	✓	✓	✓
Potential limitations to land use due to wayleave and easement conditions in relation to the Onshore Transmission Cables.	✗	✓	✗
<b>Forestry</b>			
Permanent woodland loss of productive conifer plantations.	✓	✓	✗
Permanent woodland loss broadleaved woodland.	✓	✓	✗
Permanent woodland loss of AWI.	✓	✓	✗
Permanent woodland loss of NWSS.	✓	✓	✗
Management felling to windfarm boundaries.	✓	✗	✗
*Phase of Proposed Development refers to construction (C), operation and maintenance (O&M), and decommissioning (D).			

### 21.3 Issues Proposed to be Scoped Out of the EIA

- 21.3.1 **Table 21.2** presents the topics and associated impacts that are proposed to be scoped out of the EIA, along with justification for why they are proposed to be scoped out.
- 21.3.2 As set out within **Chapter 20: Other Environmental Issues to be Scoped Out**, dedicated Major Accidents or Disasters, Human Health, or Waste related chapters are not proposed and coverage will be provided as part of the other topic chapters where relevant. This will ensure the EIA remains proportionate.

**Table 21-2: Topics and Associated Impacts Proposed to be Scoped out of the EIA**

Topic and Potential Impact	Justification
<b>Climate</b>	
Direct likely significant effects on regional or global climate from operational GHG emissions assessed at a project level.	Climate change is a global phenomenon driven by aggregated worldwide emissions. The contribution of any individual project cannot be discretely observed in the form of localised climatic change. Lifecycle GHG emissions will, however, be quantified and contextualised against UK and Scottish carbon budgets and net zero targets in the GHG assessment (Chapter 7, Section 7.8.1 of this Onshore EIA Scoping Report) in accordance with ISEP (2026) and NPF4 Policy 2.
Standalone GHG cumulative effects assessment at the project level.	As above, individual project GHG emissions cannot be meaningfully assessed cumulatively against other developments at a level that would yield additional environmental information. The Proposed Development's contribution to global climate is appropriately assessed against national carbon budgets, which already integrate the cumulative effect of all projects within those budget periods.
Effects on offshore receptors (offshore wind farm infrastructure, marine processes, marine ecology) seaward of MLWS.	These effects are addressed in the Offshore EIA Report Volume 2, Chapter 18: Climate, including the CCRA, ICCI and GHG assessment for the offshore components of the Project. Cumulative effects between the onshore and offshore components are addressed in Chapter 7, Section 7.10 of this Onshore EIA Scoping Report.
Effects on indoor climate of operational buildings (e.g. control buildings) on the Substation through unoccupied operational ageing.	Indoor climatic conditions of the substation control buildings are routinely managed through standard building services and design (heating, ventilation, cooling) and are not considered to give rise to LSE. Embedded mitigation (climate-resilient design of buildings, appropriate insulation and HVAC sizing) is considered sufficient.
Climate-related effects on receptors below significance thresholds at scoping (e.g. minor temporary access tracks, fencing, signage).	Such temporary, low-value items will be specified to standard industry practice and are not considered sensitive to projected climate variables to a degree that could give rise to LSE.
<b>Terrestrial Ecology</b>	
Construction/decommissioning disturbance and killing/injury effects on terrestrial ecology related qualifying features of designated sites other than otter (River Dee).	With the exception of otter, it is considered that there is negligible scope for disturbance/displacement or killing/injury of terrestrial ecology related interest features of the statutory designated sites (for example narrow-mouthed whorl snail, Atlantic salmon, freshwater pearl mussel, butterflies) as a result of activities at any stage of the Proposed Development. This is due to the nature of the

Topic and Potential Impact	Justification
	habitats within the Scoping Boundary and their connectivity to designated sites.
Construction/decommissioning related killing/injury of fish and freshwater peal mussel (FWPM)	It is expected that trenchless techniques would be used to cross watercourses and therefore direct effects on fish and FWPM are unlikely. As such surveys are not likely to be required. Should the design evolve to require in water works then the EIA Report would include watercourses that flow into and out of the Scoping Boundary. Each would be assessed for their suitability to support populations of fish and FWPM (Habitat survey and desktop study). Of particular relevance would be connections into specific watercourses such as the River Dee SAC.
Operational impacts from the Onshore Transmission Cables	As the Onshore Transmission Cables would be underground, operational maintenance is expected to be of limited scale (both spatially and temporally), there is not considered to be any potential for significant (population-level) effects on any terrestrial protected species.
Operational impacts on habitats of low ecological value	All habitats which are of low ecological value e.g., amenity grassland/arable are not considered to be significantly affected by the Proposed Development and therefore are scoped out of further assessment.
Operational impacts on statutory designated sites over 20 km	Assessment of statutory designated sites (which have a qualifying ecological feature) that are located outwith 20 km of the Proposed Development are scoped out, due to lack of connectivity between the designated site and between the designated site and the Proposed Development.
<b>Terrestrial Ornithology</b>	
Construction/decommissioning disturbance and killing/injury effects on ornithology related qualifying features of three internationally designated sites within the Study Area (Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA, Loch of Skene SPA, Loch of Skene Ramsar), excluding herring gull, greylag goose and pink-footed goose.	It is considered that there is negligible scope for disturbance/displacement or killing/injury of ornithology related interest features of the internationally designated sites (for example sandwich, common and little tern, greylag goose, goldeneye and goosander) as a result of activities at any stage of the Proposed Development. This is due to the nature of the habitats within the Scoping Boundary and their connectivity to designated sites, as well as the low likelihood of these interest features utilising the site due to their preferred habitat types. Herring gull, greylag goose and pink-footed goose associated with the relevant designated site, shall be scoped into the assessment.
Operational impacts from the Onshore Transmission Cables.	As the Onshore Transmission Cables would be underground, operational maintenance is expected to be of limited scale (both spatially and temporally), there is not considered to be any potential for significant (population-level) effects on any breeding birds or birds with additional protections.
Operational impacts on habitats of low ornithological value.	All habitats which are of low ecological value e.g., amenity grassland are not considered to be significantly affected by the Proposed Development and therefore are scoped out of further assessment.

<b>Topic and Potential Impact</b>	<b>Justification</b>
Operational impacts on statutory designated sites over 20 km	Assessment of statutory designated sites (which have a qualifying ecological feature) that are located outwith 20 km of the Proposed Development are scoped out, due to lack of connectivity between the designated site and between the designated site and the Proposed Development.
<b>Landscape and Visual</b>	
Operational Impacts on Landscape and Visual Receptors - Onshore Transmission Cables	<p>As the Onshore Transmission Cables would be buried, routine operational maintenance is expected to be limited in extent and any vegetation removed during construction will be fully reinstated; consequently, no landscape impacts are anticipated during the operation and maintenance phase.</p> <p>Visual impacts as a result of the Onshore Transmission Cables during the operation and maintenance are not expected: the buried cables, limited maintenance activity and full reinstatement of vegetation mean baseline views would remain substantially unchanged.</p>
Operational Impacts on Southeast Aberdeenshire Coast SLA - Onshore Transmission Cables	<p>Although the SLA is a sensitive receptor, the nature and magnitude of the operational-stage elements associated with the Onshore Transmission Cables are minimal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cables are fully buried and would not alter shoreline landform or long term coastal character;</li> <li>• Routine maintenance activities would likely be infrequent, short in duration and limited in footprint; and</li> <li>• All disturbed areas will be reinstated and subject to a landscape reinstatement and monitoring regime to ensure recovery.</li> </ul> <p>Taken together, these factors mean that any operational effects would be negligible, localised and reversible; therefore operational impacts on the SLA are not considered to merit detailed assessment.</p>
Decommissioning impacts in relation to the Onshore Transmission Cables	The Onshore Transmission Cables are expected to be left in situ to reduce potential environmental disturbance during the decommissioning phase.
<b>Archaeology and Cultural Heritage</b>	
Potential direct physical impacts on cultural heritage assets outwith the Scoping Boundary.	There will be no direct physical impact on land beyond the Scoping Boundary.
Potential impacts on the settings of non-designated cultural heritage assets and features, with the exception of those considered to potentially be of national importance	These assets are generally considered less sensitive to changes in their settings and are judged to be unlikely to be subject to significant settings effects.
Potential impacts on the setting of assets from the construction, operation and	The Onshore Transmission Cables are proposed to be installed underground. Whilst there may be short term settings impacts from the construction of underground cables, which would vary

Topic and Potential Impact	Justification
decommissioning arising from the Onshore Transmission Cables	depending on the construction methodology (open cut trenches or trenchless techniques, such as HDD, following construction there would be no long term change to the setting of heritage assets and thus the impact of the Onshore Transmission Cables upon the setting of heritage assets is Scoped Out.
Potential impacts on the settings of designated heritage assets beyond 5 km from the Substation.	Given the proposed height of the Substation and the surrounding environment, these assets are considered too distant to have their settings significantly adversely affected by the Proposed Development.
Potential impacts on known and hitherto unknown assets during decommissioning.	Direct physical impacts are likely during ground disturbance upon construction, however decommissioning works are likely to be smaller in scale and would disturb the same ground. As such it is unlikely that there would be further direct physical impacts on heritage assets during decommissioning.
<b>Geology, Soils and Peat</b>	
Contamination of soils during construction, operation and decommissioning.	This would be unlikely to give rise to a significant effect as good practice measures, including adherence to an appropriate outline CEMP during construction, would be expected and secured as part of planning consent (in the case of the outline CEMP).
Sterilisation of mineral resource through the construction of development at the surface, or the prevention of extraction through the removal of access to mineral resource.	No area within the Scoping Boundary has been identified as a safeguarded mineral resource area, indicating this would be unlikely to give rise to a significant effect during construction.
Erosion of the cliffs at Landfall	Cable installation at Landfall would use trenchless techniques, such as HDD, to bring the cables to shore and it is assumed that management plans (such as an outline CEMP and management plans that cover soil management and erosion, for example), will be in place such that no adverse geological impacts would be anticipated to the cliffs in this area during construction, operation or decommissioning.
Impacts to mineral soil including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compaction of soils from vehicles and infrastructure;</li> <li>• Increased erosion of soils through disturbance; and</li> <li>• Loss of mineral soil through excavations for infrastructure.</li> </ul>	A Soils Management Plan would be implemented during construction to reduce the potential impacts on soils i.e. soil mixing, erosion and leaching. Soils will be reused, where practical, to reduce waste. Potential impacts on the function of agricultural soils in terms of biomass production are covered within <b>Chapter 18: Land Use and Agriculture</b> . Activities during operation or decommissioning are not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on mineral soils.
<b>Hydrology and Flood Risk</b>	
Increase in Flood Risk across the Proposed Development during all phases	Flood risk is proposed to be scoped out of the assessment as, for both potential options, the Substation, irrespective of the preferred Substation Site Option, would be located outside of areas at risk of

Topic and Potential Impact	Justification
	flooding and would incorporate an appropriately designed surface water drainage system to manage runoff and maintain greenfield conditions. The Onshore Transmission Cables would be installed below ground and, following reinstatement, would not alter topography, floodplain storage, or surface water flow pathways. As such, there is no anticipated increase in flood risk during construction, operation, or decommissioning phases.
<b>Traffic and Transport</b>	
Potential impacts (of changes in traffic flows) on local roads and the users of those roads during Operation and Maintenance and Decommissioning phases.	Once operational, it is envisaged that the level of traffic associated with the Proposed Development would be minimal. Regular maintenance visits would be made using 4x4 vehicles. It is considered that the effects of operational traffic would be negligible and therefore no detailed assessment of the operational phase of the Proposed Development will be undertaken.
Potential impacts (of changes in traffic flows) on land uses and environmental resources fronting these roads, including the relevant occupiers and users during operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases.	The application will be for permission in perpetuity and as such the decommissioning phase will not be included in the EIA. Should the Proposed Development be decommissioned, the associated traffic generation levels will be less than those associated with the construction phase as some elements, such as access roads, would be left in-situ on-site. The construction phase is therefore considered the worst case to review the impact on the Study Area.
<b>Air Quality</b>	
The impact on human and ecological receptors (dust soiling and human health) arising from fugitive dust emissions generated during operation and maintenance of the Proposed Development.	Activities associated with the operation and maintenance of the Proposed Development are unlikely to generate large quantities of dust. Therefore, the potential impact on human or ecological receptors arising from fugitive dust emissions generated during operation and maintenance of the Proposed Development is unlikely to be significant and is proposed to be scoped out for air quality.
The impact on human and ecological receptors arising from air emissions generated by vehicle traffic during operation and maintenance of the Proposed Development.	As the Proposed Development is expected to be operated remotely, it is anticipated that a small number of additional two-way vehicle movements will be generated as result of staff trips and occasional maintenance activities. However, the additional two-way vehicle movements associated with operation and maintenance of the Proposed Development are unlikely to exceed the EPUK & IAQM indicative criteria for an air quality assessment. Therefore, the potential impact on human or ecological receptors arising from air emissions generated by vehicle traffic during operation and maintenance of the Proposed Development is unlikely to be significant and an air quality assessment is proposed to be scoped out.
The impact on human and ecological receptors arising from air emissions generated by plants or stacks during construction, operation and maintenance, and	The Proposed Development does not include proposals for combustion plants or stacks which could give rise to air emissions during the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Therefore, the potential impact on human or ecological receptors arising from plant or stack emissions is unlikely to be significant and is proposed to be scoped out of the assessment for air quality.

Topic and Potential Impact	Justification
decommissioning, of the Proposed Development.	
<b>Noise and Vibration</b>	
Construction phase related noise - General Activities along the Onshore Transmission Cable Corridor	Continuously moving source of noise from trenching and backfill is unlikely to cause significant effect on any receptor due to the low levels of plant involved and short durations of exposure to noise.
Construction phase related vibration	No activities known to generate potentially adverse vibration effects, such as piling, are proposed along the Onshore Transmission Cable Corridor, however, as the design progresses, we will seek to maintain an appropriate distance from nearest sensitive receptors to ensure no receptor is close enough to the construction activities to result in vibration impacts. The nature of impacts and distances will be discussed with Aberdeenshire Council when additional detail becomes available.
Operation and maintenance phase related noise from Onshore Transmission Cables	The Onshore Transmission Cables would be buried underground and would not emit noise during operation. Maintenance is anticipated to be limited and would only be undertaken as required.
Operational traffic noise	Traffic numbers would be limited during the operation and maintenance phase with monitoring primarily conducted remotely and only irregular inspection activities undertaken. Maintenance is anticipated to be limited and would only be undertaken as required.
Operation and maintenance related vibration	Levels of vibration from the operation of the Substation and cable are not expected to be significant enough to warrant assessment. Maintenance is anticipated to be limited and would only be undertaken as required.
Decommissioning	Noise impacts from decommissioning activities are typically less than those from construction activities but involve similar activities. Noise control measures adopted for construction can also be applied to decommissioning activities.
<b>Tourism and Recreation</b>	
Potential impacts to tourism and recreation related receptors during the operation and maintenance phase, and decommissioning phase.	<p>Potential impacts to tourism and recreation related receptors, in terms of severance and restriction to function are anticipated to arise primarily during the construction phase.</p> <p>Once operational, the Proposed Development is not anticipated to restrict the ongoing land use function of tourism and recreation related receptors. The footprint of above ground infrastructure, including the Substation, Link Boxes, and Transition Joint Bays, would be sited to avoid direct restriction of land use function for tourism and recreation related receptors. Both Substation Site Options considered are located within agricultural land holdings in arable use and are not used for tourism or recreation related functions.</p> <p>During the decommissioning phase, as the Onshore Transmission Cables would be left in situ once disconnected and sealed, works would be broadly limited to the Substation. Measures applied during construction to manage temporary access restrictions would be</p>

Topic and Potential Impact	Justification
	<p>reused, where appropriate, in accordance with relevant legislation, guidance and recognised industry practice at the time. These would be secured by a Decommissioning Plan, produced and agreed with the relevant authorities prior to the commencement of decommissioning works.</p>
<b>Land Use and Agriculture</b>	
<p>Potential limitations to land use due to wayleave and easement conditions in relation to the Onshore Transmission Cables during the construction and decommissioning phases.</p>	<p>Wayleave and easement conditions would not apply until the Onshore Transmission Cables were operational. The maximum area of potential land take during the construction phase will be accounted for by other Land Use and Agriculture related impacts considered. Operational restrictions associated with wayleaves would cease following decommissioning once cables are disconnected and sealed, and infrastructure is made safe.</p>
<b>Forestry</b>	
<p>Management felling to windfarm boundaries during operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases.</p>	<p>No potential management felling to windfarm boundaries is anticipated beyond that undertaken during the construction phase. The above ground onshore transmission infrastructure of the Proposed Development, once in operation, is not anticipated to be located within areas which would require management felling to windfarm boundaries. Due to the nature and location of activities anticipated to take place during the decommissioning phase (focused to the decommissioning and removal of the Substation), management felling to windfarm boundaries is similarly not anticipated.</p>
<p>Permanent woodland loss during the decommissioning phase</p>	<p>The potential felling of woodland is anticipated to arise as a result of the construction phase due to the installation of the Onshore Transmission Cables. The nature and location of activities anticipated to take place during the decommissioning phase, notably due to the Onshore Transmission Cables being left in situ and works being focused to the decommissioning and removal of the Substation, mean felling of woodland is not anticipated to take place.</p>
<b>Waste</b>	
<p>Waste generated during construction would be managed through standard good practice measures set out in an outline CEMP. An outline CEMP will be included as a Technical Appendix to the EIA Report which would set the minimum requirements from which a detailed will be produced by the appointed Principle Contractor(s).</p> <p>These measures are expected to be applied during decommissioning, subject to applicable regulatory requirements and industry good practice at the time. Measures will be secured through a Decommissioning Plan, to be submitted for approval to the relevant authorities prior to works commencing.</p> <p>Waste associated with the operation and maintenance phase of the Proposed Development is anticipated to be limited and would be managed in accordance with good practice measures.</p>	
<b>Socio-Economics</b>	

<b>Topic and Potential Impact</b>	<b>Justification</b>
	Potential socio-economic effects will be assessed within a standalone Socio-economics Report prepared in support of the PPIP application and are therefore not proposed to be considered as part of the EIA.

## **21.4 Next Steps**

- 21.4.1 The EIA Scoping Opinion, issued by Aberdeenshire Council in response to this Scoping Report, together with comments received from statutory consultees and other stakeholders, will be used to confirm the final scope of the EIA. The outcomes of the Scoping process will inform the ongoing refinement of the proposed development and the methodologies to be applied within each topic specific assessment. Further baseline surveys, environmental assessments and stakeholder engagement will be undertaken as required to support preparation of the EIA Report, which will accompany the PPIP application.

## 22. PROPOSED STRUCTURE OF THE EIA REPORT

### 22.1 Proposed EIA Report Structure

22.1.1 The proposed structure of the EIA Report is set out within **Table 22-1**.

**Table 22-1: Proposed Structure of the EIA Report**

Chapter	Title	Summary
<b>Volume 1: Non-Technical Summary</b>		
<b>Volume 2: Main Text</b>		
1	Introduction	This chapter introduces the Project, the Proposed Development, the Applicant and the key objectives of the Scoping Report.
2	Legislative and Policy Context	This chapter sets out the need for the Proposed Development and the key legislation and national and local policy relevant to the EIA.
3	The Proposed Development	This chapter describes the Project and the key components and activities that form the Proposed Development, including the Design Envelope. This includes a description of the construction, operation and maintenance (O&M) and decommissioning phases.
4	EIA Approach	This chapters outlines the approach to EIA, its principles and the overarching methodology adopted to identify and assess likely significant environmental effects that could arise as a result of the Proposed Development.
5	Site Selection and Alternatives	This chapter sets out the decisions made to inform the design and layout of the Proposed Development and provides justification for the Proposed Development as identified and assessed for the purposes of the EIA.
6	Consultation and Engagement	This chapter summarises the approach to consultation and engagement for the Proposed Development.
7 to 19	Environmental Topic Chapters	The environmental topics assessed as part of the EIA will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate (Chapter 7);</li> <li>• Terrestrial Ecology (Chapter 8);</li> <li>• Terrestrial Ornithology (Chapter 9);</li> <li>• Landscape and Visual (Chapter 10);</li> <li>• Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (Chapter 11);</li> <li>• Geology, Soils and Peat (Chapter 12);</li> <li>• Hydrology and Flood Risk (Chapter 13);</li> <li>• Traffic and Transport (Chapter 14);</li> <li>• Air Quality (Chapter 15);</li> <li>• Noise and Vibration (Chapter 16);</li> <li>• Tourism and Recreation (Chapter 17);</li> <li>• Land Use and Agriculture (Chapter 18); and</li> <li>• Forestry (Chapter 19).</li> </ul>

<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Summary</b>
20	Inter-Related Effects	This chapter presents the inter-related effects assessment, considering the potential for interactions between effects identified by each technical assessment across construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases, and receptors.
21	Cumulative Effects Assessment	This chapter considers the likely significant effects on a receptor as a result of the Proposed Development in combination with other existing and/or approved projects.
22	Summary of Significant Residual Effects and Conclusions	This chapter summarises the significant residual effects as identified within each technical chapter of the EIA and the overall conclusions.
<b>Volume 3: Figures</b>		
<b>Volume 4: Technical Appendices</b>		
<p>Technical Appendices would include, but not be limited to, the Scoping Report, Scoping Opinion, a Schedule of Environmental Mitigation Measures, a Statement of Expertise, and the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). Environmental topic specific Technical Appendices will be included as required.</p>		

# ASPEN OFFSHORE WIND FARM ONSHORE EIA SCOPING REPORT APPENDICES

# APPENDIX 11.1: GAZETTEER OF ASSETS AND EVENTS

Aspen Onshore EIA Scoping Appendix 11.1: Gazetteer of Assets and Events

doAsset/ Event Number	Asset/Event Name	Status	NRHE/HER Reference	Classification	Period	Easting	Northing	Description
1	Cantleyhills, cairn 150m SSW of	Scheduled Monument	SM3298; 37106; 37122; MAB42717; MAB42341	Prehistoric ritual and funerary: long cairn	Prehistoric	388021	790321	Remains of a cairn. The present remains give the superficial appearance of a horned cairn. A large cairn, presumably this one, was excavated by Aberdeen Educational Trust in 1880 but nothing was found. The cairn incorporates large quantities of field-gathered stones, and the present mound may be the result of modern clearance on the site of the prehistoric cairn.
2	Findlayston,cairn,enclosure and field systems 500m ENE of	Scheduled Monument	SM4596; 36961; 36986	Prehistoric domestic and defensive: enclosure (domestic or defensive); Prehistoric ritual and funerary: cairn (type uncertain); Secular: field system	Prehistoric	384767	789242	Remains of a field-system. It comprises the upper portion of a field-system, a large cairn (NO88NW0007) and a group of about 120 cairns and linear clearance heaps. Further cairns have been recorded outside the Scheduled area to the east (NO88NW0082).
3	Glenton Hill,house,enclosure and field system	Scheduled Monument	SM4873	Prehistoric domestic and defensive: hut circle, roundhouse	Prehistoric	382541	788564	The monument comprises parts of several field systems overlapping one another and includes 85 or more cairns of a local group of 125, 3 out of the 5 round houses known locally, an enclosure, lynchets and numerous field banks. One of the round houses and a cairn are in the corner of a c 30 year old plantation where trees grow sparsely. The structures not included in this proposal are in thickly grown parts of the plantation.
4	White Hill,house and field system	Scheduled Monument	SM4875; 37114; MAB42720	Prehistoric domestic and defensive: house	Prehistoric	386025	790017	Two hut-circles and field-system. The larger of the hut circles is 8m in diameter internally within a bank up to 2.5m wide. The other measures circa 6m in diameter within a bank 1.5m wide. They are sited in an area of stone clearance cairns probably from contemporary cultivation plots. These cairns are up to 4m in diameter and 0.4m high. Amongst them are short lengths of stony bank.
5	Newbigging,earthwork 400m E of	Scheduled Monument	SM4879	Prehistoric domestic and defensive: linear earthwork; Roman: linear earthwork; Secular: linear earthwork, dyke	Prehistoric	384298	789592	The monument consists of a bank and ditch extending 180m ENE/WSW across part of a gentle ridge running up to Raedykes Hill.
6	Cheynehill Wood,enclosures & field systems 750m N of Hillhead	Scheduled Monument	SM4917; 36962; MAB42342	Prehistoric domestic and defensive: enclosure (domestic or defensive)	Prehistoric	383811	787984	Remains of a field-system with a hut-circle and about 55 cairns scattered over the area. The cairns are 2m - 7m in diameter. A detailed survey was carried out along the proposed route of the Aberdeen-Lochside Gas Pipeline in 2003-04 as it passed around the Scheduled area. Fifteen features of archaeological interest were identified: all stone cairns and banks, probably hitherto unrecorded elements of the prehistoric field system and settlement within the Scheduled area on Cheyne Hill. Cairns 8 and 11-14 were evaluated and Cairns 8, 12 and 13 were revealed to be of natural origin. Full excavation of Cairns 11 and 14 was carried out and they were found to be denuded remains of clearance cairns of likely prehistoric date. Twenty two trial trenches were excavated by machine in the apparently blank areas between the cairns, but no features of archaeological interest were found.
7	St Ciaran's Church,old parish church,Fetteresso	Scheduled Monument	SM5555	Ecclesiastical: church	Medieval	385290	785661	The monument consists of the remains of the former parish church of Fetteresso which was dedicated in 1246, and remained in use until the early 19th century. The ruined church is likely to overlie the remains of the church of St Ciaran.
8	Campstone Hill,ring cairns,cairns and field systems	Scheduled Monument	SM4878	Prehistoric domestic and defensive: field or field system; Prehistoric ritual and funerary: cairn (type uncertain)	Prehistoric	383234	790653	The monument comprises 4 ring cairns. One is partially excavated; it is 15m in external and 4m in internal diameter and is surrounded by a low stone circle of which some 9 stones measuring up to 1m tall survive. The other three measure respectively about 8.5, 7.5 and 10.2m in diameter. The latter is complex and multiperiod; it has remains of a fine stone circle round it about 14m in diameter.
9	Cowie Chapel,chapel 180m N of Cowie Castle	Scheduled Monument	SM5584	Ecclesiastical: chapel	Medieval	388427	787314	The monument consists of the remains of the thirteenth-century chapel of Cowie which was originally dedicated to St Nechtan or Nathalan (d.679) but was re-dedicated to the Virgin (St Mary of the Storms) in 1276 by William Wishart, Bishop of St Andrews. Cowie was never a parish church and it was suppressed in the early 1560s.
10	Cowie Line, pill box & anti-tank blocks 450m W of Ury House	Scheduled Monument	SM6438; 114862; MAB42048	20th Century Military and Related: Pillbox	Modern	385483	787812	The monument comprises the remains of a Type-22 pill box and other wartime defensive structures covering the southern end of the viaduct crossing the gorge of the Cowie Water, south of Ury Home Farm, and the older bridge below it.
11	Cowie Line, pill boxes & anti-tank blocks 200m SW-275m SE of Ury House	Scheduled Monument	SM6439; 246699; 114863; 246697; 246698; 273216; MAB45337	20th Century Military and Related: Pillbox	Modern	385894	787559	The monument comprises two Type-22 pill boxes, situated on high ground to the south of the Cowie Water, covering the bridge over the river SE of Ury House, and its approaches.
12	Cowie Line, pill box & anti-tank blocks ESE of Rickarton House	Scheduled Monument	SM6551; 246681; MAB42356; MAB45341	20th Century Military and Related: Pillbox	Modern	384265	788318	World War II pill-box, type 22, six-sided, with stone walls, a concrete roof, brick blast walls, a single door and five loop-holes. To the east are a deep slit trench and a weapon pit. It covers the bridge and approaches and anti-tank blocks. Part of the Cowie Stop Line - see also NO88NW0030. Remains of a World War II anti-tank barrier, part of the Cowie Stop Line. The artificial bank resumes where the natural bank of the Cowie Water is not in itself a natural obstacle. The barrier is a bank up to 2m high, probably using an existing river terrace. Considerable quantities of barbed wire were noted at this western end. This section is complex curving across the haugh and splitting into two arms which enclose a section of haugh, part having a counterscarp and becoming a deep ditch towards the river. The northern of these follows the course of the river and partially fades as the height of the riverbanks form an obstacle. The two arms meet at a ford, which was protected by two lines of anti-tank cubes and a pill-box (see NO88NW0030 and 31) and the steep rise of the river bank. Two slit-

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								trenches survive on high ground overlooking the bridge, one looking along the bridge, the other to the east. To the east of Findlaystone bridge the riverbank, already naturally high, is again artificially raised by up to 1m. The bank is vertical, dropping from 2m high to 1.3m, accompanied by much galvanized wire, to the bend in the river where it disappears and is replaced by a line of 15 concrete anti-tank cubes. To the east of these the barrier resumes with the customary vertical bank until at NO 84597 88378 the river bank is again high enough to be a natural barrier.
13	Castle of Cowie	Scheduled Monument	SM9742	Secular: castle	Medieval	388378	787146	This monument consists of the remains of a medieval castle. The only remains of the castle visible today consist of a length of masonry which formed the plinth of a wall cutting across the promontory.
14	Nether Auquhollie, inscribed stone 400m NW of	Scheduled Monument	SM983	Crosses and carved stones: inscribed stone	Early Medieval	382328	790801	A tall natural pillar bears an ogham inscription running up one edge, without a stem line. And on an adjacent face there is incised a rectangle symbol with circles at three of the corners, above the faint remains of a circle. Date range: sixth or seventh century.
15	Raedykes, Roman camp 600m NE of South Raedykes	Scheduled Monument	SM1016	Roman: camp	Roman	384178	790210	The monument is the remains of a large Roman camp, built probably in the late first century AD during the early Roman occupation of NE Scotland, although construction during a later Roman campaign cannot be ruled out. It is visible as earthworks defining well-preserved sections of the rampart and defensive ditch. The rampart and ditch are visible on all four sides of the camp, except in the NW corner. The camp lies between 155m and 192m above sea level and includes the summit of Garrison Hill, which offers views down Glen Ury to the coast 5km to the SE at Stonehaven.
16	Cowie Line, pillbox and earthworks 945m SW of Stonehouse	Scheduled Monument	SM6437; MAB41217	20th Century Military and Related: Earthwork	Modern	376395	787275	Remains of tank defence, constructed during World War II (circa 1940). It consists of an artificially steepened hillslope base, revetted with five posts tied by wire into the bank. Set some 10m forward between the bottom of the slope and the burn is a low artificial bank. A very well preserved Type 22 pillbox sits on a bluff overlooking a bridge over the Cowie Water. The pillbox is probably the most intact on the line. It is buried up to the level of the gun-loops and has thick soil covering the roof, making it heavily camouflaged. The walls are circa 1 m thick and the roof is concrete over corrugated iron shuttering. There is a rifle loop to the left of the door, single loops on the northwest, northeast and southeast faces and a double loop on the northeast face (looking towards the ford). The letters 'BED' are inscribed on the internal faces of two of the lintels and on the outer and inner surface of one loophole. The bridge is later and the pillbox originally defended a ford.
17	Unenclosed settlement, 250m NW of cemetery, Kirkton of Fetteresso	Scheduled Monument	SM5449; 36919; MAB65058	Prehistoric domestic and defensive: settlement	Prehistoric	385186	786246	Cropmarks of an unenclosed settlement. A double concentric palisaded enclosure is visible with a souterrain lying within the central one. Two other possible souterrains, or sunken huts, lie within the outer one. A third possible circular enclosure appears to underlie the central souterrain, which may indicate reuse of the site. There are up to seven roundhouses, measuring between 10m and 20m in diameter., as well as numerous pits and other cropmarks of enclosures, other dark indeterminate blocs. An archaeological evaluation in 1993 in advance of the realignment of an unclassified road connecting Auchensblae Road and Cemetery Road, impinged on the south-eastern part of the scheduled cropmark complex - see NO88NE0051. It showed that some of the pits may be Mesolithic or Neolithic in date. See also NO88NE0467 for archaeological evaluation in in 2024 on land to the east which also uncovered possible prehistoric features.
18	MUCHALLS	Conservation Area	CA441	Conservation Area	N/A	390141	791955	There is no Conservation Area appraisal for muchalls. Muchalls sits on the eastern edge of Aberdeenshire, a stone's throw from the North Sea and just a short journey from the famous kiln-fired cliffs and dramatic geology of the region. This coastal village, with its quiet lanes and green verges, offers a refreshing counterpoint to more urban Scottish centres. Conservation is a priority in Muchalls, as in many coastal communities around Scotland. Efforts are focused on protecting biodiversity along the coast, maintaining traditional stone-built architecture, and ensuring that development remains compatible with the village's character. <a href="https://www.boogie-woogie.co.uk/muchalls/">https://www.boogie-woogie.co.uk/muchalls/</a>
19	KIRKTON OF FETTERESSO	Conservation Area	CA656	Conservation Area	N/A	385312	785666	The landscape of the area is mildly undulating, with the village grouping nestling down unobtrusively between the banks of the Carron Water and the Cheyne Burn. Only the kirkyard sits slightly elevated on a grassy knoll. As you exit the village in a southerly direction there is a sharp incline up Feathers Brae. Aberdeenshire Council. 2013. <a href="https://abshirepublications.blob.core.windows.net/acblobstorage/96af8665-301e-4ba6-9433-962880f9c079/kirktonoffetteressoconservationareaappraisal.pdf">https://abshirepublications.blob.core.windows.net/acblobstorage/96af8665-301e-4ba6-9433-962880f9c079/kirktonoffetteressoconservationareaappraisal.pdf</a>
20	STONEHAVEN	Conservation Area	CA437	Conservation Area	N/A	387262	785872	Stonehave Conservation Area Appraisal currently undergoing review
21	Dunnottar Church	Listed Building - Category B	LB2914	Church	Post-medieval	386287	785195	Oblong, gothic, with belfry. 1782. Extended 1862 and remodelled to cruciform 1903. G P K Young (of Perth), arch.
22	Churchyard With Marischal Aisle, Dunnottar Church	Listed Building - Category B	LB2915	Churchyard	Post-medieval	386307	785184	Small oblong, gothic, rubble and slate. Dated 1582. Restored 1913.
23	Dunnottar House	Listed Building - Category C	LB2916	House	Post-medieval	386293	785143	Two-storey and attic, ashlar and slate with centre gable. 1786 (inset stone in Kirk). Late 19th century extensions.

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24	Green Den	Listed Building - Category B	LB6640	House	Modern	387013	785290	George Gregory, circa 1900. Single storey and attic, irregular-plan villa with Colonial details. Coursed pink rubble granite with pink sandstone ashlar dressings. Mullion and transom windows; swept overhanging eaves.
25	Enclosing Walls, Houff Of Ury, Ury House	Listed Building - Category C	LB6743; 118783	Walls	Post-medieval	385592	788922	Average 5ft high, rubble, built to contours, with ashlar gate piers.
26	Gardener's Cottage, Rickarton House	Listed Building - Category C	LB6745	Cottage	Post-medieval	383745	788559	Circa 1840. One storey and dormerless attic; rubble, whitewashed.
27	Mains Of Cowie Steading	Listed Building - Category C	LB9349	Steading	Post-medieval	387685	786824	Early-mid 19th century. Single storey and loft, rubble built with ashlar dressings, main range has 3 segmentally arched cartsheds
28	Bridge Of Muchalls, Burn Of Muchalls, Bridge Of Muchalls	Listed Building - Category C	LB9350; 37129; MAB42794	Bridge	Post-medieval	389406	791097	BRIDGES
29	Old Schoolhouse, Bridge Of Muchalls	Listed Building - Category C	LB9351; 37128; MAB42816	Schoolhouse	Post-medieval	389304	791269	Former schoolhouse, still in residential use, depicted on the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps. It is a small single-storey, harl and slate building with a Gothic wing. Not to be confused with later school / schoolhouse to the north west NO89SE0108. Photographic recording was carried out in 2022 ahead of proposed alterations.
30	Muchalls Castle	Listed Building - Category A	LB9352; 37138; MAB42716	Mansion House	Post-medieval	389181	791838	Three-storey L-plan, harl and slate with groin vaulted ground floor and Renaissance interiors. Walled Courtyard has date of building, 1649-1627, above gateway.. A Scottish mansion house of early 17th century date incorporating the earlier tower-house of the Frasers. This elongated L-plan was erected by the Burnets in 1619-27. The interior is notable for its plaster ceilings and heraldic overmantels. The roofline was altered in 19th century. The house surrounds a courtyard on the north, south and east sides, the west side of the square being formed by a wall. The later castle is said to be built on the same site as a 13th century castle, the only extant part of which is a vault attached to the south wing of the present castle. The vault has a barrel roof and was originally used as the crypt of a chapel which was burnt to the ground by Duke of Cumberland in 1746. The vault has been extensively repaired since 1864. An underground tunnel, now blocked, connected the castle to the shore. The estate and castle of Muchalls was given to Sir Alexander Fraser, who was High Chamberlain of Scotland, by Robert the Bruce. The remains of a designed landscape surround the castle. There is an associated gardener's cottage (NJ89SE0105), stables (NO89SE0106) and dovecot (NO89SE0107) to the west.
31	The Crypt, Muchalls Castle	Listed Building - Category B	LB9353; 184756	Crypt	Unknown	389179	791820	Small barrel vaulted compartment with altered doorway. Uncertain date.
32	Dovecot, Muchalls Castle	Listed Building - Category B	LB9354; 184754	Dooocot	Post-medieval	389133	791812	Small, square, gabled, harl and slate with vaulted basement. Early 17th century.
33	1-7 Monduff Road, Muchalls	Listed Building - Category C	LB9355; 37229; MAB43039; 37226	Cottage	Post-medieval	390296	792252	Row of fisher cottages, still in residential use, built in the early 19th century. They are single-storey, harl and slate cottages.
34	Newhall	Listed Building - Category B	LB9356	House	Post-medieval	388379	794212	Small two-storey and attic mansion house harl and slate with centre gable. Early 19th century.
35	Cookney Parish Church, Cookney	Listed Building - Category C	LB9358	Church	Post-medieval	387109	793292	Oblong, 1st pointed gothic, Ashlar and slate, with projecting porch and belfry dated 1885. Landmark.
36	Netherley Bridge	Listed Building - Category C	LB9359	Bridge	Post-medieval	385068	794061	Small single segmental arch, rubble with corbelled parapet. Early 19th century.
37	Netherley House	Listed Building - Category B	LB9360	Mansion House	Post-medieval	384620	793792	Two-storey mansion house, ashlar and slate with centre curvilinear gable. Late 18th century with large 19th and early 20th century additions. Addition at side.
38	Bridge, Burn Of Monquich, Netherley House	Listed Building - Category C	LB9361	Bridge	Post-medieval	384752	793832	Small single segmental arch, rubble with alternate raised voussoirs. Late 18th century.
39	Old Smokehouse, 18 Skateraw Road, Newtownhill	Listed Building - Category C	LB9363; 184845	Smokehouse	Post-medieval	391200	793394	Probably late 18th century, originally linked to further buildings. Rubble-built with squared quoins at right gable, heavily painted.
40	Ury House	Listed Building - Category B	LB9364; 36912; MAB42059	House; Landscaped Garden	Post-medieval	385944	787721	Remains of a designed landscape possibly dating back to the 1700s or earlier, associated with Ury House (NO88NE0050). Features within the landscape include a walled garden (NO88NE0164), former coach-house (NO88NE0165), a girder bridge (NO88NE0367), the remains of a lodge (NO88NE0189), icehouse (NO88NE0166), aviaries, kennels, a curling pond, Second World War pill boxes and sections of anti-tank blocks which form part of the Cowie Line (NO88NE0087 and

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								NO88NE0129), a cairnfield site (NO88NE0049), a cairn and enclosure site (NO88NE0057) and an area of three cairns (NO88NE0177). An archaeological evaluation was carried out in 2021 by Guard Archaeology in six areas across Ury Estate prior to proposed development, see Areas 1-3 (NO88NE0185), Area 6 (NO88NE0186) and Areas 4-5 (NO88NE0217). As part of these works, a walkover survey was also carried out in the northeastern extent of the development area in Slicewells Wood covering the cairnfield site (NO88NE0049) and cairn and enclosure (NO88NE0057). An archaeological evaluation was carried out in 2021 by Guard Archaeology adjacent to East Lodge Ury Estate prior to proposed development, see NO88NE0299.
41	Cheyne Farmhouse	Listed Building - Category B	LB9372; 229972; MAB42384	Farmhouse	Post-medieval	384353	786876	Farmstead, still in use, with a B-listed farmhouse built in the 19th century. It is shown on the 1st edition OS map as an L-plan farmhouse with a quadrangular steading to the north and two small buildings to the west. On the 2nd edition OS map the court of the steading has been covered, and three rectangular-plan buildings added to the north. Current OS maps show one of the buildings to the north has been removed, and the rest all have further alterations. The farmhouse is a two-storey, classic harled building with a slate roof and centre bay.
42	Bridge, Cowie Water, Ury Glen	Listed Building - Category C	LB9374; 117641	Bridge	Post-medieval	385534	787821	Single segmental arch, rubble, parapets curved at approaches. Inset panel dated 1821.
43	Houff Of Ury, Ury House	Listed Building - Category C	LB9375; 36927;MAB42033	Mausoleum and Burial Ground	Post-medieval	385579	788950	Mausoleum and burial ground. The private mausoleum, dating from 1741 and remodelled in the mid 19th century, is oblong and in gothic style, with curvilinear gables. The walls enclosing the burial ground are of rubble, built to the contours, with ashlar gate piers. Several urns were found circa 1687 when the foundations for a wall were being dug around the Barclay burial-ground on the Houff of Ury.
44	North Lodge, Ury House	Listed Building - Category B	LB9376; 118784; MAB42113	Lodge	Post-medieval	387013	788916	Remains of a lodge, built in the early 19th century within Ury House designed landscapae (NO88NE0104). It is a small, square, Gothic lodge constructed from ashlar with a corner turret. The slate roof has now gone.
45	Findlayston Bridge, Cowie Water, Slug Road	Listed Building - Category B	LB9377; 183756	Bridge	Post-medieval	384273	788361	Single segmental arch with cut-water and flanking storm water arch 18th and widened 19th century. Picturesque.
46	Rickarton House	Listed Building - Category B	LB9378	House	Post-medieval	383830	788615	Two-storey classic east front, c 1830, superimposed on earlier house. Ashlar and slate with Ionic columned porch.
47	Bridge, Cowton Burn, Rickarton House	Listed Building - Category C	LB9379	Bridge	Post-medieval	383718	788865	Two small segmental arch with cut-water. Ashlar, alternate voussoirs raised. Late 18th century.
48	Cowton Bridge	Listed Building - Category C	LB9380	Bridge	Post-medieval	382814	789393	Single stilted semi-circular arch, rubble, parapets widening at approaches. Early 19th century.
49	Auquhollie Bridge	Listed Building - Category C	LB9381	Bridge	Post-medieval	382742	790276	Small single segmental arch, rubble. Early 19th century.
50	Dead House, Saint Mary's Chapel, Cowie	Listed Building - Category B	LB9383	Dead house	Post-medieval	388414	787314	Vaulted oblong, ashlar, turf covered and part underground c 1830.
51	Cowie House	Listed Building - Category B	LB9384	Mansion House	Post-medieval	387953	787093	Large composite plain vernacular mansion
52	Offices, Cowie House	Listed Building - Category B	LB9385	Offices	Post-medieval	387949	787144	18th century. L-plan single storey and loft stepped in slope
53	Enclosure Walls, Cowie House	Listed Building - Category C	LB9386	Walls	Post-medieval	388044	787146	18th century. Rubble built with 2 pairs of ashlar gatepiers, those at NE circular and banded with cornices with conical coping stones on 2 steps.
54	Mains Of Cowie Farmhouse	Listed Building - Category C	LB9387	Farmhouse	Post-medieval	387663	786789	Dated 1869. Single-storey and attic T-plan
55	The Stables, Muchalls Castle	Listed Building - Category B	LB13477; 184751	Stables	Post-medieval	389115	791843	Walker and Duncan of Aberdeen, 1894, incorporating earlier work. Single storey and attic L-plan coach house and stables set into sloping site. Principal range: coursed pink rubble granite with droved dressings. Lower slate-roofed range to N: harled. Segmental-arched openings.
56	The Cottage, Muchalls Castle	Listed Building - Category C	LB13478; 184756	Cottage	Post-medieval	389107	791815	Late 19th century. Single storey T-plan cottage. Roughcast with sandstone dressings and crowsteps; cement over sandstone quoins.
57	St Margaret's Cottage, 15 Skateraw Road, Newtonhill	Listed Building - Category C	LB13483; 184847	Cottage	Post-medieval	391126	793445	Circa 1800. Single storey and attic, 3-bay cottage in row of 3.

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58	13 Skateraw Road, Newtonhill	Listed Building - Category C	LB13484; 184846	Cottage	Post-medieval	391115	793452	Circa 1800. Single storey and attic, 3-bay cottage with small addition to W gable, the end cottage of a row of 3.
59	Carronbank, 85 Cameron Street, Stonehaven	Listed Building - Category A	LB41593	House	Post-medieval	386750	785714	Probably John Smith of Aberdeen, 1835-6; possibly extended (see Notes). Single storey and raised basement, 3-bay, piend-roofed classical house with later pedimented open porch, elegant bowed window and cupola, set in fine terraced garden and with distinguished glazing pattern.
60	South Church Manse, South Church, 74 Cameron Street, Stonehaven	Listed Building - Category B	LB41603	Manse	Post-medieval	386955	785795	Probably James Henderson, 1844. 2-storey and attic, 3-bay, rectangular-plan, classically-detailed manse with corniced and pilastered doorpiece, on elevated site surrounded by enclosure walls
61	82 Cameron Street, Stonehaven	Listed Building - Category B	LB41604	Cottage	Post-medieval	386890	785786	Probably John Smith of Aberdeen, 1836, roof recast circa 1900. 2-storey, 3-bay, gabled house with pedimental blocking course to consoled doorpiece and bracketed and consoled ground floor windows, on elevated site (falling steeply to S) surrounded by enclosure walls.
62	Cowie Mill, Stonehaven	Listed Building - Category C	LB41614	Mill	Post-medieval	387336	786555	18th and 19th centuries; remodelled 1920 by Duncan Thompson and Son of Craibstone; restored and converted to housing 1993.
63	Stonehaven Station, Station Road, Stonehaven	Listed Building - Category B	LB41672	Station	Post-medieval	386406	786196	Aberdeen Railway Company, 1849; extended late 19th century; altered and restored 2000. 2-platform through railway station with 2-storey
64	Woodcot Hospital, Woodcot Brae, Stonehaven	Listed Building - Category B	LB41673	Hospital	Post-medieval	386611	785604	William Henderson, 1865-6; additions and alterations 1896, 1913, 1928; converted to hospital 1948; converted to residential 2000.
65	Coach House, Ury House	Listed Building - Category C	LB49608; 267355; MAB42091	Coach House	Post-medieval	385819	787932	Former coach house, now in residential use, built in 1855 within the Ury House designed landscape (NO88NE0104), probably by John Baird of Glasgow, and converted to a dwelling in circa 1980. It is a single and two-storey, five-bay, rectangular-plan, Tudor-detailed former coach house with a shaped centre gable, polygonal ogee-roofed turreted buttresses, pedimented stone dormerheads and a centre courtyard. The buildings are of squared and coursed pink granite with contrasting stugged grey ashlar dressings, a moulded eaves course, hoodmoulded pointed-arch, segmental-arch openings, stugged voussoirs, concave-moulded arrises and raked cills. The principal south symmetrical elevation is a two-storey range with substantial three-stage, ogee-roofed and finialled buttresses flanking a slightly advanced centre bay with broad hoodmoulded cart arch. The cart arch has been infilled with a part-glazed timber door and single hoodmoulded window in a stone-finialled gablehead above with kneelers. The flanking bays are regularly fenestrated with glazed arrowslits flanking the centre at the ground and first-floor windows breaking the eaves into dormerheads. This south elevation faces the main entrance of Ury House, and reflects the ogee-roofed polygonal columns at its porte cochere, as well as its pedimented gables heads (NO88NE0050). Plate glass glazing is used in replacement timber sash and case windows. The roof has large grey slates, ashlar stacks with cans, some polygonal, ashlar-coped skews with moulded skewputts and cast-iron downpipes with decorative rainwater hoppers. There is a low flat-coped terrace wall and semicircular-coped coursed rubble boundary wall, both to the west.
66	Gate, Blue Lodge, Ury House	Listed Building - Category C	LB49609; 267356	Gatepiers	Post-medieval	385322	787523	Probably John Baird of Glasgow, 1855. Flat-coped rubble quadrant walls with cushion-coped square-section bull-faced gatepiers.
67	Blue Lodge, Ury House	Listed Building - Category C	LB49610; 118787	Lodge	Post-medieval	385323	787538	Probably John Baird of Glasgow, circa 1855, extended to rear. Single storey, 2-bay gabled lodge.
68	Bridge Over Ury Burn, Ury House	Listed Building - Category C	LB49611; 267357; MAB42238	Bridge	Post-medieval	386021	787767	Bridge, still in use, built in circa 1855 within the Ury House designed landscape (NO88NE0104). It is a single span girder bridge over the Ury Burn, with coursed and squared rubble abutments, that to the west curved, ashlar quoins, a band course and a flat cope, probably formerly with inset railings. The riveted ironwork bridge is constructed with two main longitudinal beams with transverse beams and timber deck overlaid with later concrete. The parapets are of diamond-pattern lattice with circular intersections and vertical struts.
69	Ice-House, Ury House	Listed Building - Category C	LB49612; 267358; MAB42092	Ice House	Post-medieval	385994	787803	Icehouse, built in circa 1800 within the Ury House designed landscape (NO88NE0104). It is sited by the Ury Burn with tunnel access to domed underground chamber, and is constructed from brick and ashlar. The semi-derelict ashlar doorway has been damaged by a tree stump. The shallow vaulted entrance passage has ashlar walls and a brick roof leading to an inner ashlar doorway and chamber.
70	Viaduct Over Cowie Water, Ury House	Listed Building - Category B	LB49613; 267368; MAB42072	Bridge	Post-medieval	385540	787800	Three-arch viaduct carrying a road over the Cowie Water, built circa 1855. Constructed of squared and coursed rubble, bull-faced to piers, parapets and voussoirs, with ashlar band courses and moulded droved coping. The bridge has broad segmental arches springing from piers with rounded outer faces extending into polygonal pilasters and refuges, and curved approaches with polygonal outer piers.
71	Walled Garden, Ury House	Listed Building - Category C	LB49614; 118790; MAB42090	Walled Garden	Post-Medieval	385749	787897	Walled garden, possibly dating from the early 19th century, within Ury House designed landscape (NO88NE0104). It is a rectangular-plan walled garden with flat-coped brick walls. The north wall has a heated raised centre incorporating flues and tall polygonal cans. The south elevation has two lean-to glasshouses, that to the west with a corrugated roof. There are lean-to potting sheds to the north elevation with retaining ashlar margins and some diamond-pattern leaded glazing in casement

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								windows. To the west are two-leaf timber gates and ball-finialled channelled ashlar gatepiers. The south wall entrance retains a single channelled ashlar gatepier. The east wall has a vousoired pedestrian door leading to the former coach house (NO88NE0165). Standing building survey was carried out by Alder Archaeology in 2021 in advance of proposed redevelopment. The garden interior was thickly overgrown, but walls, gardener's bothy, workshop and greenhouses were substantially intact. Graffiti from the early-mid 20th century was noted on the interior walls of the bothy.
72	Boundary Walls And Gate-Piers, New Lodge, Ury House	Listed Building - Category C	LB49615	Walls	Post-medieval	386425	786768	Probably John Baird of Glasgow, 1855. Coped ashlar dwarf quadrant boundary walls (railings missing) and polygonal ashlar gatepiers and terminal piers with faceted conical caps.
73	South Lodge, Ury House	Listed Building - Category C	LB49616	Lodge	Post-medieval	386418	786784	Probably John Baird of Glasgow, 1855, extended to rear and altered internally 2003. Single storey and attic, 3-bay gabled Tudor lodge. Stugged ashlar, squared rubble and cement render. Base and eaves courses. Basket-arched doorway; quatrefoil opening. Hoodmoulds with label stops, stone mullions, moulded arrises and raked cills.
74	Stonehaven Open Air Swimming Pool	Listed Building - Category B	LB50183	Pool	Modern	387656	786533	R Gall of Gregory and Gall, 1934; main contractor William Tawse Ltd, Aberdeen.
75	U/B Ecn5/340, Glenury Viaduct	Listed Building - Category B	LB50258	Viaduct	Post-medieval	386968	786990	Circa 1850; rebuilt 1883-4, Blaikie Brothers, Aberdeen; structure strengthened 1977.
76	St Kieran's Well, Mineralwell Park	Listed Building - Category C	LB50263	Well	Post-medieval	386849	786850	Dated 1860, restored 1982. Rectangular-plan, pedimented structure enclosing mineral well sited beneath the Glenury Railway Viaduct.
77	Goods Sheds, Stonehaven Railway Station	Listed Building - Category C	LB50270	Sheds	Post-medieval	386429	786192	Probably late 19th century. Tall single storey, rectangular-plan, vertically-boarded timber former goods shed now used as motor workshop, and adjoining low single storey, rectangular-plan brick range.
78	Bowling Club Pavilion, Stonehaven Recreation Grounds	Listed Building - Category C	LB50271	Pavillion	Modern	387456	786343	Early 20th century. Single storey and part raised basement, 7-bay, roughly rectangular plan, timber sports pavilion on ground falling to E, with canted, polygonal-roofed bay at centre of S (principal) elevation and open veranda to S and E elevation.
79	TWO SISTERS: MUNDUFF HEAD, NORTH SEA	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	NO99SW 8001.00	KETCH	Modern	390000	792000	(Classified as wooden ketch, with cargo of box wood: date of loss cited as 29 April 1903). Two Sisters: [this vessel] stranded [on] Munduff Head, near Muchalls. Capt. Willson. The location assigned to this record is essentially arbitrary, being derived from the unverified location of loss that is cited by Whittaker.  The location of Munduff Head cannot be established from the available map evidence.
80	KINLOSS: SKATERAW, NEWTONHILL BAY, NORTH SEA	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	NO99SW 8003.00	SCHOONER	19th century	391400	793400	Aberdeen, 22nd Dec. The KINLOSS (schr.), of this place, Robertson, from Sunderland, with coal, was driven ashore, yesterday, on the rocks near . The location assigned to this record is essentially tentative. Neither Skateraw, Scatlaw Creek nor Scatraw Beach can be identified from the available map evidence.
81	ISABELLA: SKATERAW, NEWTONHILL BAY, NORTH SEA	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	NO99SW 8004.00	SCHOONER	19th century	391400	793400	ISABELLA. 24 years of Banff. Wood schooner. 94 ton. 5 men. Master G. Lyall. Owner W. Watson, Banff. Sunderland to Banff. Coal and whiting. Wind SE10. About 6 miles N of Stonehaven. The location assigned to this record is essentially tentative.
82	VIBILIA: NORTH SEA	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	NO99SW 8014.00	CRAFT	19th century	390000	792000	Aberdeen, 13th May. A head-board painted blue, with name 'VIBILIA', in gilt letters, with a gilt star at each end, was picked up last night at Muchalls [Muchalls]. A quantity of wreck, spars, deals, and battens, have been recently picked up on the coast. The map sheet and quasi-administrative area assigned to this record are essentially arbitrary.
83	RODNEY: SKATERAW, NEWTONHILL BAY, NORTH SEA	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	NO99SW 8016.00	CRAFT	18th century	391400	793400	No classification specified: cargo cited as coal, and date of loss as December 1783). Rodney: [this vessel was] wrecked at Skateraw, Aberdeen. Capt. Taylor.
84	CLOCHANSHIELS 1	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	36572	CAIRNFIELD , HOUSE PLATFORM(S)	Prehistoric	379850	787540	There are two house-platforms on a gentle NE-facing slope 420m SSW of Clochanshiels farmhouse. (1) NO 7988 8751: this platform measures 10.5 in diameter and has been dug up to 0.6m into the slope; the frontscarp of the platform is about 0.5m high. (2) 7990 8749: this platform lies 7m SE of (1) and measures 9.5m in diameter; it has been dug up to 0.4m into the slope and the frontscarp is about 0.6m high. Scattered along the hillside to the NW there are several possible cairns and short lengths of stony banks running up and down the slope.
85	HILTON OF CAIRNGRASSIE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	37191; MAB42948	STANDING STONE	Prehistoric	390580	795310	Standing stone, on a low rise. It is plain and unmarked, standing 2.1m high and measuring 1.3m by 0.6m at the base. There are several small stones round its base.
86	MERGIE	Non-Designated	36567; MAB49321	ARROWHEAD(S) (FLINT)	Unknown	379400	788900	Two arrowheads, both of brown flint. One is leaf-shaped measuring 4cm by circa 2cm max breadth. The other is barbed and tanged measuring 2.50cm by circa 2cm max breadth.

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		Heritage Asset						
87	MUCHALLS	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	37218	HAMMER (STONE)	Unknown	390000	792000	There is a stone hammer from Muchalls in Aberdeen Regional Museum.
88	NEWTONHILL, HARBOUR	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	37219; MAB43024	HARBOUR	19th century	391380	793520	Haven dating from the late 19th century to early 20th century. Depicted on the OS 1st and 2nd edition maps, then names Skateraw Harbour. It is a natural harbour, with concrete pier and a number of railed slipways. Site visit in 2023 as part of the SCAPE Coastal Zone Assessment Survey recorded the remains of the rubble and concrete pier. A small concrete landing quay has also been built on the south side of bay. On the north side of the burn which flows into the north side of the bay is a concrete and metal railed slipway leading into a cleared slipway. The Old (1794) and New (1845) Statistical Accounts report that Sketraw had seven boats, each crewed by five men, mostly engaged in white fishing (mostly haddock) with lines from small boats. Fish were supplied fresh, dried (on the rocky beaches) or smoked. The SCAPE visit also recorded a single World War II anti-tank block at NO9141193539. It is almost certainly re-used and not in its original position.
89	MILL OF ELSICK, VIADUCT	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	37220; MAB43062	RAILWAY VIADUCT	19th century	391163	794023	This viaduct carries the Perth-Kannaber Junction- Aberdeen (main) line of the former Caledonian Rly. across the valley of the Burn of Elswick immediately N of Newtonhill. It remains in regular use by passenger traffic, as this portion of the line forms part of the Dundee-Aberdeen extension portion of the East Coast Main Line.
90	MILL OF ELSICK	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	37221; MAB43054	WATERMILL	Post-medieval	391210	793970	Mills. Photography available online
91	CAMMACHMORE, OLD TOLL HOUSE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	37222; MAB43023	TOLL HOUSE	19th century	390652	794833	Tollhouse dating from the early 19th century. It is a single storey, coursed rubble building with a semi-circular bay projecting from one gable.
92	MUCHALLS	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	37224; MAB49710	FLAT AXEHEAD	Prehistoric (Bronze Age)	390000	792000	Early Bronze Age flat bronze axe (type Ba). It is rough-cast, the butt hammered into shape. It measures 138mm long, the butt 33mm, the cutting edge 800mm.
93	MUCHALLS, 1 STRANATHRO TERRACE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	37227; MAB63134	COTTAGE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)	Post-medieval	390340	792230	House depicted on the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps.
94	MUCHALLS, 4 STRANATHRO TERRACE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	37228	COTTAGE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)	Unknown	390350	792260	Photographs available online
95	MONBOYS 3	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	36913; MAB42039	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	385800	789930	Remains of a farmstead. The farmstead of 'Latch' depicted on the maps of Garden and Johnson, is situated 250m northeast of Monboys Cottage. It comprises a rectangular building, with an outshot at the east end, and two kilns. A number of scarps and bands of stone may be the remains of other structures or enclosures. The farmstead is not shown on the OS 1st or 2nd edition OS maps.
96	HOUFF OF URY	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	36914	BURIAL CAIRN	Prehistoric	385429	788886	What is probably a robbed cairn is situated on a prominent knoll 150m WSW of the Houff of Ury. It has been reduced to little more than a ring of cairn material, measuring 14m in diameter over all and 0.4m in height around which at least twelve kerbstones are visible; they are all relatively small boulders, the largest being a stone 0.6m by 0.4m and 0.5m on the E. A large boulder (1m by 0.9m and 0.4m thick) lies on the perimeter of the cairn on the SSW.
97	URY NORTH LODGE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	36915	BURIAL CAIRN , ENCLOSURE	Prehistoric	386900	788660	A probable cairn, measuring 9.5m in diameter by 0.8m in height, is situated 270m SSW of Ury North Lodge. Around the cairn there are several low stony mounds, and 45m to the ENE (NO 8695 8868) there is a circular enclosure measuring 5m in diameter within a wall 0.4m high and spread to a thickness of 1.4m.
98	HOUFF OF URY	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	36916	CINERARY URN(S)	Prehistoric (Bronze Age)	385500	788900	About 1687, when the foundations for a wall around the Barclay burial-ground on the Houff of Ury were being dug, several 'urns' were discovered.
99	URY NORTH LODGE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	36922	CAIRNFIELD	Prehistoric	386950	788470	A group of at least sixty-five small cairns extends over an area of about 4 ha of gorse and scrub trees on the S side of a stream gully 300m S of Ury North Lodge. The cairns measure up to 6m in diameter and 0.5m in height.
100	KEMPSTONE HILL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	36925; MAB42014	CAIRNFIELD, FIELD SYSTEM	Prehistoric	387620	789500	Clearance cairns. At least 33 small cairns. Five of them stand within the remains of an earth and stone bank and near two standing stones.

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doAsset/ Event Number	Asset/Event Name	Status	NRHE/HER Reference	Classification	Period	Easting	Northing	Description
101	URY BRIDGE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	36928	ROAD BRIDGE	Unknown	386100	787540	Photographs available online
102	URY, INK BOTTLE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	36929; MAB42248	LODGE, TOLL HOUSE	Post-medieval	385000	788000	TOLLHOUSES
103	NETHERLEY	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	37105	COIN	Roman	387000	789000	What appeared to be a very badly worn Roman coin was picked up by the author about 1860 on the moor between Kempstone Hill (NO 87 89) and Netherley (NO 84 93), when it was beginning to be brought into cultivation.
104	CASTLE ROCK OF MUCHALLS	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	37107; MAB63015	ENCAMPMENT	Unknown	389900	790660	Possible site of earthwork. The OS Name book (1865) notes that it is 'said to have been in ancient times, used as a camp and it seems to have been protected on the land side by a deep ditch, now partially filled in. There is no trace of a castle or other edifice now existing'. No trace of an earthwork can be seen on a once-cultivated natural promontory, overlooked on the landward side by higher ground.
105	MOSS OF COWIE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	37108	SWORD	Prehistoric (Bronze Age)	387000	790000	A Late Bronze Age leaf-shaped sword 23ins long, with a rivet hole in each wing and on in its hilt plate, was found in 1809 in the Moss of Cowie (NO 870 900). It was presented to the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland (NMAS) (DL27) by George Silver, of Netherley, on May 26th, 1812.
106	HILL OF MUCHALLS	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	37110	BANK (EARTHWORK)(S) , DITCH(S)	Post-medieval	387000	791000	Nothing remains of the 'ditches and embankments' that extended over the Hill of Muchalls before it was enclosed and cultivated (probably in the early 19th century).
107	PITYOT	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	37118; MAB63014	CAIRN , INHUMATION, CINERARY VESSEL	Bronze Age	389000	791000	Site of burial cist found in a cairn in Pityot in 1865. No further information.
108	MUCHALLS CASTLE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	37119; MAB63013	STANDING STONE	Prehistoric	389400	791800	Site of a standing stone. It stood a few hundred yards to the east of Muchalls Castle. Now removed and no trace.
109	CANTLAYHILLS	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	37121; MAB42724	CAIRNFIELD	Prehistoric	388110	790100	A group of circa 25 small cairns extends over 4 ha of moorland.
110	CLOCHANSHIELS 2	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	36963	HOUSE PLATFORM , HUT CIRCLE	Prehistoric	380340	787480	A hut-circle and a house-platform are situated on moorland 530m SE of Clochanshiels farmhouse. The hut-circle (NO 8034 8748) is immediately NW of a forestry plantation fence and measures 8.5m in diameter within a stony bank 1.7m thick and 0.2m high; the platform (NO 8031 8748), which lies 20m to the W, has been levelled up to 0.8m into the slope on the SE and measures 11.3m in diameter; there are four low stony mounds on the edge of the platform on the N, NW, W and SSE respectively.
111	BEATTIES HILL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	36981; MAB62837	CIST(S) , HUMAN REMAINS(S), BEAKER (POTTERY), FOOD VESSEL	Bronze Age	384976.5	786022.7	Site of short cists, destroyed during the removal of a natural gravel hillock. Cist 1 collapsed on discovery, but contained a food vessel and a skeleton oriented north-south. Cist 2 had been previously disturbed. It was kite-shaped, aligned north-south, and consisted of six slabs. It contained some food vessel fragments. The north-south orientation unusual given that east-west as is more typical of Aberdeenshire. Cist 1 has been radiocarbon dated to 2140-1955 BC, towards the end of the Beaker period.
112	BEATTIE'S HILL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	36982; MAB65296	CROPMARK), LINEAR FEATURE , RIG AND FURROW	Unknown; Medieval/Post-medieval	384970	785950	Linear cropmark.
113	NETHER WYNDINGS	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	36983; MAB49388	SPINDLE WHORL	Unknown	381400	785200	Spindle whorl made of mudstone, up to 86mm in diameter and 13mm thick. It has a central hour-glass perforation 25mm in diameter.
114	NETHER FINDLAYSTON	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	36985;MAB62836	CIST	Bronze Age	384400	788600	Site of a short cist found by workmen in 1934 when digging out the foundations for an electric pylon. The cremated remains of an adult and child were found along with a flint implement with the tip broken off. It was 27mm long by 25mm wide, 6mm thick, with secondary flaking along its edge.
115	BRIDGE OF MUCHALLS, COTTAGES	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	37132; MAB42789	COTTAGE(S)	Post-medieval	389350	791140	SMITHIES

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116	MUCHALLS, EPISCOPALIAN CHAPEL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	37139; MAB63010	CHAPEL	Post-medieval	389050	792060	Site of an Episcopalian chapel, thought to have been removed in the early 19th century - the OS Name Book (1864) records was demolished some 50 years previously. James Duthie, Whinbrae, attended the service in his youth and remembered it to have stood east-west and to have been of ancient appearance. The priest's house was at Boudenward, a small cottage a little north of Muchalls Castle.
117	HINDWELLS	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	36987; MAB65304	ENCLOSURE	Unknown	383199	786055	Cropmark of a rectangular enclosure within a ditch. A linear feature leads up to it.
118	URY HOUSE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	36890; MAB49135	BEAKER	Bronze Age	385440	787810	Urn containing a large quantity of charred bone and ashes found in 1844 on the west side of the Cowie Water. It devoid of ornament but may have been a large Beaker. The urn and its contents were reburied but exact position is not known.
119	URY HOUSE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	36891; MAB62777	CIST(S) (BRONZE AGE), HUMAN REMAINS(S) (BRONZE AGE), BEAKER (POTTERY)(BRONZE AGE), FOOD VESSEL (POTTERY)(BRONZE AGE)	Bronze Age	385840	787900	Two short cists found in 1861. Each was floored with pebbles and containing a beaker. One beaker was broken on removal, but the other was preserved at Ury House which is now a ruin. Each urn was said to contain charred bones and ashes. No trace.
120	KEMPSTONE HILL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	36894; MAB42013	BURIAL CAIRN	Prehistoric	387840	789470	The remains of a large cairn are situated amongst dense gorse thickets on the south flank of Kempstone Hill. A late 18th-century sketch map around the hill depicts three large cairns besides the two standing stones. One is probably this cairn and another may have been situated near Blackhills (NO 894 901), but the position of the known cairn and the standing stones cannot be reconciled with the sketch map. In each of the large cairns, however, there were 'several stone coffins about 4ft long, and in the inside small urns, containing a little earth' (Barclay 1792, 566).
121	KEMPSTONE HILL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	36902; MAB42018	CIST, HUMAN REMAINS, STANDING STONE(S)	Prehistoric (Bronze Age)	387670	789470	Standing stone. Dalrymple found a capstone circa 30cm square at the base of the stone, on the south side at a depth of 15cm. Below it was a pit, about 45cm deep, filled with yellow earth and small boulders with some charcoal, which he suggests is a burial deposit. Innes has found human remains, but no urns at the side of the stone. No trace of the capstone or cist was found in 1965 and the area around the base is packed with small stones. A second stone stands circa 73m to the west (NO88NE0077).
122	CONEYHATCH	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	36903	NATURAL FEATURE	Unknown	386640	789500	A sub-circular mound of earth, 0.5m high and c. 9.0m in diameter, flat-topped and apparently artificial, with no stones evident in its construction. Its purpose cannot be ascertained.
123	GLEN URY	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	75011	CLEARANCE CAIRN(S), HUT CIRCLE(S)	Unknown	386070	787490	Photographs available online
124	DEN OF GLITHNO	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	75012; MAB45334	FIELD BOUNDARY	Unknown	386130	788820	Field bank on a low gravel knoll. Found while checking aerial photographs.
125	FARROCHIE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	75014; MAB65298	CROPMARK(S), PIT ALIGNMENT	Unknown	385140	786620	Possible pit alignment, probably associated with settlement NO88NE0038. There are other cropmarks in the same field to the south of the pits. Found while checking vertical aerial photographs.
126	BEATTIES HILL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	74187; MAB65295	FIELD BOUNDARY	Unknown	385020	786070	Various indeterminate cropmarks are visible on the aerial photograph.
127	COWIE WATER, BURN OF FINGLENNIE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	114859	PILLBOX	Modern	376415	787325	This monument comprises the remains of a very well preserved Type-22 pill box situated on a bluff overlooking a bridge over the Cowie Water, and associated earthworks. The pill box retains its camouflage of soil and vegetation and even portions of its timberwork. It has an additional firing loop on the side covering the bridge. Below, on the southern bank of the Cowie water, extensive earthworks have been formed, making the southern bank of the river a substantial obstacle.
128	STONEHOUSE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	114860; MAB41233	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	377070	787930	Farmstead, still in use. The OS 1st edition map shows two rectangular buildings, the western one with an attached enclosure, with a further enclosure to the south. The buildings appear unchanged on the 2nd edition OS map but a second enclosure has been added to the western building. Current OS maps indicate that both buildings remain in use, although the northern enclosures have largely been removed.
129	MUCHALLS	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	118816	VILLAGE	Unknown	390230	792250	Village

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130	NEWTONHILL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	118818	VILLAGE	Unknown	391100	793300	Village
131	URY HOUSE, URY HOME FARM	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	118788; MAB42268	FARMHOUSE , FARMSTEAD , SAW MILL	Post-medieval	385800	788265	FARMSTEADS
132	URY HOUSE, KEEPER'S COTTAGE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	118791	ESTATE COTTAGE	Post-medieval	385624	788242	Photographs available online
133	FETTERESSO CASTLE, NORTH LODGE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	121358; MAB42391	GATE LODGE	Post-medieval	383890	785940	LODGES
134	FETTERESSO CASTLE, HOME FARM	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	121361; MAB42393	FARMHOUSE , FARMSTEAD	Modern	384270	786000	Farmstead, depicted from the 3rd edition OS map onwards.
135	BACK BURN	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	155416	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	386660	791240	farmstead comprising one unroofed building and one roofed long building is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Kincardineshire 1868, sheet xii), but it is not shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1987).
136	BURNSIDE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	155417; MAB63030	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	387170	791730	Unroofed buildings shown on the OS 1st edition map. It is not entirely clear whether this is a single building of three compartments, or two buildings with enclosure between them. They had been removed by the time of the 2nd edition.
137	HOWIESHILL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	155418	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	386930	790700	A farmstead comprising one unroofed building, one roofed building with an outshot and two enclosures is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Kincardineshire 1868, sheet xii). One enclosure, incorporated into a larger field, is shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1987).
138	BENTS	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	155451;MAB63056	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	388380	793470	What may be a farmstead comprising one unroofed long building is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Kincardineshire 1868, sheet vii), but it is not shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1987).
139	BENTS	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	155452; MAB63055	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	388380	793230	A farmstead comprising one unroofed building, one partially roofed building and one roofed long building is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Kincardineshire 1868, sheet vii), but it is not shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1987).
140	BURN OF DAFF	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	155467	ENCLOSURE	Post-medieval	391700	794750	: What may be one small enclosure is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Kincardineshire 1868, sheet viii), but it is not shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1994).
141	NEWTONHILL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	155468; MAB43033	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	390680	792970	Remains of a croft which is shown only on the 1st edition OS map. It is depicted as a disused rectangular building with an attached sub-triangular enclosure. The low denuded remains of a largely turf wall, with a corner angle, can be seen amongst the gorse cover. This may suggest the building predates the 19th century if the wall ties in with the structure shown on the 1st Edition OS map. A watching brief was carried out by Cameron Archaeology in February - March 2020 during groundworks in this area for housing development. The northeast corner of the site was occupied by a large mound of demolition rubble comprising field stones, shaped stones, bricks, modern tile and ferrous vehicle parts but it was unclear whether this material relates to the remains of the croft. No foundations were discernible below the rubbish. A low turf covered bank aligned northeast-southwest ran south from the rubble pile. Removal of the turf revealed foundations of a drystone wall comprising larger boulders interspersed with smaller field stones which could be the remains of the croft house. The wall showed signs of collapse, the base spread. Sherds of pottery, window glass, bottle glass and a clay marble were recovered from the topsoil in the immediate vicinity of the wall, the pottery of probable 19th century date.
142	BURN OF FINGLENNIE; LADY'S LEYS	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	158258; MAB41218	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	376440	787180	Remains of a small farmstead standing circa 125 m to the south-east of confluence of Burn of Finglenne and the Cowie Water, to the west side of the Cryne Corse Road. The 1st edition OS map shows a long range and a cottage with attached garden enclosure. The 2nd edition shows an L-plan range and smaller enclosure. Forestry Commission field visit recorded that one side of the range survives as a stone building, with an adjoining range on the west surviving as earthworks. The enclosure dyke is very denuded in places. Field visit in 2010 as part of an environmental appraisal for a substation recorded the remains of two buildings and a field bank either side of a forest road.

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								Subsequent field survey in 2012 recorded remains of two stone built rectangular buildings, an L-plan steading and a field boundary bank. A watching brief carried out by CFA in 2012 in the vicinity of the site during road upgrading works found no archaeological features. Field survey in 2024 as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment recorded the remains of a stone building measuring circa 16 m by 5 m, the walls standing up to circa 1.4 m. The remains of the enclosure survived as a moss-covered bank, circa 1 m wide by 0.3 m high, topped by the remains of a post and wire fence.
143	COWIE WATER	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	158206; MAB62503	BUILDING	Post-medieval	376430	787290	Site of a cottage depicted as roofless on the OS 1st edition map, but which is not shown on the 2nd edition map. Forestry Commission field visit recorded the building surviving as a row of three stones visible on the ground and a low bank, although possibly more survives beneath the pine litter. During field survey in 2010 no remains of the building could be found in an area of recently felled plantation.
144	COWIE WATER	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	158207; MAB41230	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	376500	787450	Remains of a three-compartment building shown (unroofed) on the 25in OS 1st edition map on the west side of the Cryne Corse Road. On the east side of the track is a large irregular-shaped enclosure. Neither appear on the 2nd edition OS map. Forestry Commission field visit recorded very slight earthen banks which appear to be the remains of the structure depicted on the 1st edition OS map. The present track follows the line of that track depicted to the east of the cottages. The western track shown on the 1st edition map survives as a lynched greenway above the cottages and scarps shown on the map. The enclosure survives but has been marred by the present track on its western side.
145	BADIECLAY	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB41247	STRUCTURE, Pens, BUTTS	Modern	377035	788175.2	Remains of a small three-sided structure, now grass-grown, recorded by Forestry Commission. Possibly a pen or a shooting butt.
146	KEMPSTONE HILL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	158211	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	387490	789950	What may be a farmstead comprising one unroofed long building with an attached short length of wall is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Kincardineshire 1868, sheet xii), but it is not shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1989).
147	BELLWANDERS WOOD; NETHER CHEYNE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	158220;MAB62858	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	384180	786470	Site of a now destroyed croft with attached enclosure which is shown only on the 1st edition OS map. It is depicted as an unroofed longhouse with the interior divided into three compartments.
148	BACKBURN	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	183525; MAB43055	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	391650	794540	NMRS REFERENCE: Cammachmore, Backburn. Architect: Walker and Beattie 1889.
149	CANTLAYHILLS	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	183529; MAB42787	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	388070	790490	FARMSTEADS
150	COOKNEY, BURNORRACHIE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	183553; MAB42786	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	387740	791780	FARMSTEADS
151	HILLOCKS	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	184200	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	387560	790620	ARCHITECT:- Walker and Duncan 1890
152	FINDLAYSTON BRIDGE, TOLLHOUSE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	183763	LODGE, TOLL HOUSE	Post-medieval	384276	788386	Findlayston Bridge 'Lodge' is depicted on the OS 2nd Edition map (Kincardineshire, sheet 15, 1902).
153	CAMMACHMORE HOTEL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	183521	HOTEL	Modern	390657	794617	Cammachmore Hotel. Architect: Walker and Duncan. c.1901.
154	GILLYBRANDS	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	184134	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	390130	794420	ARCHITECTS: Walker & Beattie (of steading and cottar houses) c.1886
155	COBBLEBOARDS	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	184014;MAB43056	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	391950	794400	FARMSTEADS

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156	MAINS OF CAMMACHMORE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	184017; MAB43046	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	391000	794600	NMRS REFERENCE: Mains of Cammachmore. Architect: Walker and Duncan. Alterations to steading, 1901.
157	PITYOT	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	184750; MAB42788	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	389030	791170	FARMSTEADS
158	MUCHALLS COTTAGE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	184757	COTTAGE	Unknown	389510	792730	No further information
159	HILLSIDE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	184759; MAB42785	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	387250	791410	FARMSTEADS
160	MUCHALLS, ST TERNAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	184760; MAB42776	CHURCH	Post-medieval	389530	792750	Episcopal church, built in 1831, and depicted on the OS 1st and 2nd edition maps on which it is named St Ternan's Chapel. The church was enlarged in 1865 with the addition of the present chancel, and has since been extended to the north. The nave and extension are harled, the chancel of coursed sandstone blocks, and the roofs are of slate. There is a large porch on the south side, crowstepped gables with cross finial at the east apex and large bellcote on the west gable. The nave has pointed arch windows. The chancel is narrower than the nave, with fairly small pointed arched windows, with a round window in the east wall with a quatrefoil date panel below.
161	MUCHALLS, ST TERNAN'S CHURCH, PARSONAGE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	184761	RECTORY	Post-medieval	389570	792740	No further information
162	MUCHALLS, STATION	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	184770; MAB43049	RAILWAY STATION (19TH CENTURY) - (20TH CENTURY)	Post-medieval	390190	791930	Remains of a railway station opened in 1850 on the Aberdeen Railway. It was a two-platform station, the main station building on the west side of the line, and goods siding on the east. The 2nd edition OS map also shows a signal box, weighing machine and crane. The station closed in 1950 and the signal box in 1964. The line remains in use but little remains evident of the station.
163	MUCHALLS, MARINE TERRACE, MARINE HOTEL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	184771; MAB43038	HOTEL (PERIOD UNASSIGNED), INN (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)	Post-medieval	390122	791907	Site of a hotel, built in the earlier 19th century, extended in the later 19th century and with a further late 19th/early 20th century baronial extension to the south with various other rear additions.
164	NEWTONHILL FARM	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	184839	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	390680	793880	Farmstead, still in use, depicted on historic OS maps. The 1st edition shows a U-plan steading, open to the southeast, with an attached horse mill on the west side. To the southeast, on the other side of a track, is a rectangular house with smaller buildings to north and southwest and a garden to the southwest. The horse mill had been removed by the time of the 2nd edition map. Current maps indicate that part of the northwest wing of the steading is disused, as is the building north of the house. The site of the garden is now under the A90.
165	WINDYEDGE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	184840; MAB42752	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	389830	793690	Farm town or hamlet, depicted on the 1st edition OS map as a group of 11 buildings, consisting of two small farmsteads at the east and west edges of the settlement plus several cottages. On the 2nd edition map, only 10 of the buildings are shown with one now labelled 'Smithy' and one labelled 'Cairnhill School'. The farmsteads, smithy and school buildings survive along with two of the cottages.
166	NETHER MAINS OF MUCHALLS	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	184658; MAB43047	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	390020	792710	ARCHITECTS: Walker & Duncan - dwelling house 1896
167	CLAYFOLDS	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42808	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	387749.4	792095.2	Farmstead depicted on historic OS maps.
168	BLACKBUTTS	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42800	BUILDING, PUMP, POND, SLUICE, FARMSTEAD, LEAT	Post-medieval	388447.2	791805.5	Farmstead, now in residential use, depicted on historic OS maps. The 1st edition shows a U-plan steading open to the southwest with, to the south, a rectangular house with attached garden enclosure. The 2nd edition shows small addition to the house and two new small buildings and pump southwest of the steading. To the northwest is a mill pond and sluice with a lade running to a small outshot on the northeast side of the steading. The smaller buildings have since been removed and the pond infilled.
169	BURNORRACHIE CROFT	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42802	CROFT	Post-medieval	387615.1	791618.5	Croft depicted on historic OS maps.

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170	URY HOUSE, TERRACE WALLS	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	244128	WALL	Post-medieval	385956	787738	Photographs available online
171	FINDLAYSTON BRIDGE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	246688	ANTI TANK BLOCKS	Modern	384600	788430	A line of anti-tank blocks along the S side of the Cowie Water at a point where a former ford crosses the river.
172	CRAIGNESS VILLA	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	272897	HOUSE PLATFORM , HUT CIRCLE	Unknown	390200	791720	Photographs available online
173	STONEHAVEN	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	273018; MAB49363	SEAL MATRIX	Medieval	385000	786000	Circular cast lead seal matrix bearing the inscription 'Iohannis S ____ N' (John S ____ N) with a letter 'S' at the top of the seal being an abbreviation of sigillum (seal of). The heraldic device is an escutcheon within a shield surmounted by double indented lines. The reverse of the matrix retains the base of the raised rib used for holding the seal, and an incised '+' denotes the correct orientation for use. Both legend and device on this seal matrix are sharp, and although there are signs of lamination there is no evidence of recent damage. Damage may therefore have occurred through natural processes since it was lost, or may have been deliberate and contemporary, as it was the custom during this period to deface a personal seal matrix upon the death of its owner to prevent subsequent misuse. Chance find. Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT 105/03) and allocated to Aberdeenshire Heritage.
174	COWIE WATER	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	273206; MAB45323	BANK (EARTHWORK) , EARTHWORK	Modern	376100	787410	Remains of anti-tank barrier, which forms part of the Cowie stop line from WWII. Utilises a gorge at its western end for natural defence and consists of several sections. The first, from NO 7570 8738 to NO 7582 8736 is flanked on the east by a natural bank. The artificial bank varies, but generally consists of a vertical face, up to 2m high, revetted by vertical poles over 2m high held by loops of galvanized wire. At the western portion a ditch, up to 2m wide is fronted by a counterscarp bank at the north. This broadens to the east into a 5-6m berm between bank and vertical face. The remaining sections begin where the riverbank itself is high enough to form a barrier. There are three right-angled steel post along the top of the scarp. The artificial barrier begins again at NO 7580 8739 with a vertical face held by revetting posts, with the counterscarp appearing where space permits. The height of the vertical barrier in this section varies from 1-4m. This section ends at NO 7635 8731 with a complex zig-zag. These sections were the only part of the Cowie line where the timber revetment survived in any quantity when surveyed in 2004-5.
175	COWIE WATER, STONEHOUSE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	273207; MAB45324	BANK (EARTHWORK) , EARTHWORK	Modern	377450	787960	Remains of World War II anti-tank barrier. It comprises a low counterscarp bank, with 5 m wide berm and a vertical face up to 1.8 m high. Originally probably revetted with timber posts held in place by loops of galvanized wire (which do remain). The section is not continuous as the river bank at points is high enough to form a natural barrier and this is the case for circa 2.25 km eastwards from the terminal point of this section at the Burn of Anaholans. Part of this section was in a heavily afforested area during survey in 2004-5 and has been plotted from 1946 RAF vertical aerial photographs.
176	URY HOUSE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	273213; MAB45336	BANK (EARTHWORK)	Modern	385410	787930	Remains of a World War II anti-tank barrier, part of the Cowie Stop Line. Protected on the west by naturally high river bank, the artificial barrier begins again at NO 85275 87878, closing off the eastern end of a boggy haugh, it runs north to a bend in the river where it turns east and is again has the form of a vertical-faced bank with much galvanized wire suggesting timber revetment. The barrier ran to the two bridge, but recent landscaping has removed it, the natural river bank near the bridges rises and is revetted with stone.
177	URY HOUSE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	273214	ROAD BLOCK	Modern	385520	787780	Two concrete blocks for a road block formerly situated on the S end of the viaduct are found immediately below and to the W of the S end.
178	PITDRICHIE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	277859	CIRCULAR ENCLOSURE	Unknown	379300	789800	Photographs available online
179	URY HOUSE, WORKERS COTTAGES	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	290293; MAB42269	ESTATE COTTAGE	Post-medieval	385865	788122	COTTAGES
180	FETTERESSO FOREST	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	295278; MAB42377	STANDING STONE	Prehistoric	380590	787140	A possible standing stone has been recorded standing in the forest on the east side of the track, circa 200 m to the west of Burn of Day.

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181	GLEN URY, SAND AND GRAVEL PIT	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	292357	SAND AND GRAVEL WORKINGS (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)	Modern	385983	787454	Photographs available online
182	KEMPSTONE HILL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	300620; MAB42032	DITCH	Modern	387600	789300	Remains of and site of a field system. Enclosures, banks and cairns are visible. Around half of the previously recorded area, at the southern end of the site, has since been cleared (without any recording prior to clearance).
183	BURN OF DAY	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	311903; MAB42358	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	380800	787200	Remains of a small farmstead which is depicted on the 1st edition OS map as three buildings grouped together with a pond and sluice to the west. By the time of the OS 2nd edition two of the original buildings had been joined and further buildings added to the group. An enlarged pond and dam are shown to the west. Forestry Commission survey recorded the remains of the farmhouse in 2008. The house, which shown some fine architectural detailing, comprised four main rooms, each with a fireplace. Photographic recording was carried out by FCS in 2013 prior to proposed demolition. Outside are the remains of what appear to be earlier structures. The interior shows some fine architectural details. The house comprised four main rooms, each heated by a small fireplace. The joists supporting the upper floor are visible in the wall sections.
184	COTTONBRAE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	311904	ENCLOSURE, FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	382000	786850	Remains of a small farmstead depicted on the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps. the 1st edition OS map shows a long rectangular steading, oriented east-west, with a smaller rectangular buildings at right angles at the south east end, a dam to the west and a well to the north east. By the 2nd edition map, the long steading building has been shortened by half, new buildings added to the south of this (on the site of the former dam), and a dam is now shown to the north west with sluice and lade. Only part of the later southern building appears to survive today as a roofed structure, with footings of other buildings also visible.
185	COTTONBRAE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	311905; MAB62933	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	381930	787030	Site of a building and enclosure, possibly a small farmstead, depicted on the OS 1st edition map. They do not appear on the 2nd edition map.
186	JENNYS BOG	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	311906; MAB62841	FARMSTEAD , FIELD SYSTEM	Post-medieval	381080	787100	Site of a small farmstead is depicted on the 1st edition OS map as having three buildings, including a long range, with two attached enclosures. The easternmost building had been removed by the time of the OS 2nd edition map. The remains of the other two survive and a new building has been added immediately to the east. Photographic recording of the remains was carried out by FCS in 2013 prior to demolition. The small enclosure or yard to the east of the farmstead, and the track, survive on its western side only as a very slight lynchet. The tracks leaving the farmstead to the southeast and northwest survive as hollow-ways.
187	STONEHOUSE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	311911;MAB41239	BUILDING, ENCLOSURE RIG AND FURROW	Medieval; Post-medieval	376950	788060	BUILDINGS
188	STONEHOUSE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	308000; MAB41238	BUILDING DYKE	Unknown	376760	787830	Footings of a probable building, recorded by Forestry Commission and measuring approximately 10 m by 5 m externally. It stands on the north bank of the burn. To the east is an area of haugh land.
189	STONEHOUSE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	308001; 158208; MAB41223	PEN	Post-medieval	376910	787960	Remains of buildings and enclosures. Several enclosures lie within the wood to the north of Stonehouse. At NO7729 8799 are two buildings, shown unroofed on the OS 1st edition map. Two of the smaller enclosures with attached buildings are depicted as sheepfolds on the 1st edition OS map. They may be re-used buildings. To the southeast of the sheepfolds the OS 1st edition map shows what appear to be two parallel unroofed buildings. Forestry Commission field visit recorded many of these features. These included the stone built house with outshot at its northern end and associated enclosures at NO 7709 8805, noting that it resembles the early 19th century 'colonist's' houses found at Bennachie in manner of construction and proportions. Also recorded was a cottage which might represent the re-use of an earlier long-house lying amongst earth and stone banked enclosures at NO 7689 8810 and which might represent the features annotated 'Badieclay sheepfold' on the 1st edition OS map. The structures to the southeast were also recorded, and a series of earth and stone enclosure dykes which may date from various periods. Forestry Commission also recorded a small 'pen' set against a boundary dyke at NO76918796.
190	NEWTONHILL SIGNAL BOX	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	317763; MAB43061	SIGNAL BOX	19th Century	391029	793517	SIGNAL-BOXES
191	CHEYNE HILL, CHEYNE GOLF CLUB	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	350958	GOLF COURSE	Modern	383577	787380	A Golf Course is depicted on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map. Cleared ground and trees are shown on the current edition of the OS 1:25000 map

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192	WATER HILL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	348636	AGRICULTURAL BUILDING	Post-medieval	377340	787930	A single-celled building, measuring c12 x 4m externally, with c1m high walls, as shown on the 1st Edition OS map. There is a possible drain or culvert at the W end and an entrance in the NE corner of the short side. The W end may have been stone gabled.
193	BACKHILL FARMSTEAD	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	356700	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	387199	789795	CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out an excavation in May 2014 as part of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route/Balmedie-Tipperie, Lot 4 - Fastlink, Invasive Archaeological Investigations. The features identified in Trench FL/008 near Coneyhatch relate to buildings associated with Backhill farmstead in the 19th century, and which were demolished some time before 1902.
194	WEST WHITE RASHES	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	367183; MAB62497	BOUNDARY STONE	Post-medieval	378478	786380	Six stones standing on the boundary between the parishes of Glenbervie and Fetteresso are shown on the OS 1st and 2nd edition maps. They are located at NO7808 8658, NO7832 8645, NO7847 8637, NO7863 8629, NO7882 8619 and NO7890 8614. They are not shown on current OS maps and it is unknown if they still survive. They were not found during site visit in 2024 as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment.
195	WHITE RASHES	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	367184; MAB62497	BOUNDARY STONE	Post-medieval	378645	786292	Six stones standing on the boundary between the parishes of Glenbervie and Fetteresso are shown on the OS 1st and 2nd edition maps. They are located at NO7808 8658, NO7832 8645, NO7847 8637, NO7863 8629, NO7882 8619 and NO7890 8614. They are not shown on current OS maps and it is unknown if they still survive. They were not found during site visit in 2024 as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment.
196	STONEHAVEN, GLITHNO FARM	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	355669; MAB62823	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	386073	789336	Site of a farmstead, still in use, depicted on historic OS maps. It is shown on the 1st edition OS map as a steading with a partially-filled C-plan section to the south-west and a U-plan section to the north-east. There is one L-plan and one T-plan building to the north-east. The 2nd edition OS map shows some additions and alterations to the steading, including an L-plan building being added into the court of the U-plan section, and the removal of the L-plan building to the north-east. Current OS maps show further additions and alterations to the steading, some of which is now unroofed. A Level 1 Standing Building Survey of the steading buildings was carried out in February 2017 by Rathmell Archaeology prior to proposed demolition. A farmstead named 'Ghihno' is depicted in this area on a map from 1822, possibly being this farm, and a datestone from the 1820s was recorded on one of the buildings. Five phases of building were identified.
197	MID HILL	Event	348132	Watching Brief	N/A	376580	786050	A watching brief and walkover survey were carried out, 9 January – 8 May 2012, during work associated with the construction of the Mid Hill Wind Farm Substation. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.
198	LADY'S MOSS	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	367249; MAB41619	BOUNDARY STONE	Post-medieval	378130	789840	Five boundary stones, depicted on the OS 1st edition map along the parish boundary between Durriss and Glenbervie, lie within Fetteresso Forest. The stone at NO7820 9028 is annotated on the 1st edition maps as being marked 'B.D.M.', the D for Durriss Estate, the M probably for Mergie Estate and the B indicating that it was the second in a series of six (A-F) although none marked with an A is shown on the map. The stone at NO 78087 90153 is annotated 'B.D.M.', that at NO7807 9020 is 'C.D.M.', that at NJ 7808 9012 is 'E.D.M.', and that at NO 78087 90153 is 'F.D.M.'. Only B, E and F are shown on the 2nd edition map, and only E and F appear on the current OS map. It is not clear if any of the other the stones survive.
199	EAST WHITE RASHES	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	367195; MAB62497	BOUNDARY STONE	Post-medieval	378930	786147	Six stones standing on the boundary between the parishes of Glenbervie and Fetteresso are shown on the OS 1st and 2nd edition maps. They are located at NO7808 8658, NO7832 8645, NO7847 8637, NO7863 8629, NO7882 8619 and NO7890 8614. They are not shown on current OS maps and it is unknown if they still survive. They were not found during site visit in 2024 as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment.
200	NEWTONHILL, NEWTONHILL ROAD, CHURCH	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	378632	CHURCH, HOUSE, SCHOOL	Post-medieval	390971	793402	An episcopal school is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (1868). The building is not depicted as a school and may have been a house on the 2nd edition of the OS 6-inch map (1904). A church is visible on OS MasterMap (viewed 10 February 2025).
201	NETHER CAIRNHILL COTTAGE	Event	348143; 347814; MAB63046	Two Stage Archaeology Works	N/A	389700	793460	A programme of archaeological evaluation was carried out by AOC Archaeology on Stage 1 of a large scale mixed use development. Evaluation carried out in August 2013 on infrastructure works (Stage 1A) identified limited archaeological remains. A total of 28 trenches were excavated, but only a single feature revealed, a stone filled pit which contained no artefacts to indicate a date. Remains of rig and furrow cultivation were identified in some trenches. Two unstratified lithics were recovered, one a burnt flint chunk, the other a flint split nodule, both of prehistoric date but which cannot be dated more closely. Evaluation of the Stage 1B (residential works), comprising 35 trenches, identified only two, inter-cutting, stone filled pits. Two unstratified lithics were recovered including a well made end scraper of Neolithic date. The area had suffered extensive plough scarring.
202	NETHER CAIRNHILL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42753	FARMSTEAD, DAM, FARMHOUSE, BUILDING	389695.4	793230.5		Farmstead, depicted on the 1st edition OS map as three rectangular buildings in an L-plan, another building to the west, two more to the north and a dam to the northwest. On the 2nd edition, the three buildings have been conjoined to form a single L-plan steading with a small building in the courtyard. A farmhouse has been added to the south while one of the buildings to the north has been removed. The steading survives but has been enlarged and the building in the courtyard removed. The dam has been infilled and the building to the north removed.

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doAsset/ Event Number	Asset/Event Name	Status	NRHE/HER Reference	Classification	Period	Easting	Northing	Description
203	BLUE LODGE	Event	347816; MAB62817	Evaluation	N/A	385598	787433	A trial trenching evaluation was carried out by Cameron Archaeology in November - December 2014 ahead of proposed development. Numerous field drains of indeterminate age were encountered but no significant archaeological features or artefacts observed.
204	EAST WHITE RASHES	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	367191; MAB62497	BOUNDARY STONE	Post-medieval	378812	786208	Six stones standing on the boundary between the parishes of Glenbervie and Fetteresso are shown on the OS 1st and 2nd edition maps. They are located at NO7808 8658, NO7832 8645, NO7847 8637, NO7863 8629, NO7882 8619 and NO7890 8614. They are not shown on current OS maps and it is unknown if they still survive. They were not found during site visit in 2024 as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment.
205	WEST WHITE RASHES	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	367187; MAB62497	BOUNDARY STONE	Post-medieval	378329	786457	Six stones standing on the boundary between the parishes of Glenbervie and Fetteresso are shown on the OS 1st and 2nd edition maps. They are located at NO7808 8658, NO7832 8645, NO7847 8637, NO7863 8629, NO7882 8619 and NO7890 8614. They are not shown on current OS maps and it is unknown if they still survive. They were not found during site visit in 2024 as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment.
206	MUCHALLS, WEST BLACKBUTTS	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	371012; MAB42765	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	388380	792310	Former farmstead, no longer in use as such, depicted on historic OS maps. The 1st edition, at which time it was named Blackbutts Croft, shows a rectangular farmhouse with a small L-plan steading to the north. By the time of the 2nd edition it had been renamed West Blackbutts, both wings of the steading had been extended, a horse-mill added on the north side and there had been small additions to the cottage. Current maps show further alterations and additions, with new buildings to the east, and the horse-mill no longer shown. A Level 1 Standing Building Survey was carried out by Cameron Archaeology in April 2021 prior to proposed demolition. Four phases of construction were recorded.
207	URY HOUSE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB65303	ENCLOSURE, ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURE	Unknown	385669.4	787470.3	Cropmark of a possible rectilinear enclosure.
208	WOOD OF MERGIE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	346871; MAB41253	CAIRN	Post-medieval	378150	788060	Remains of a clearance cairn, 5 m in diameter, recorded by Forestry Commission.
209	ELF HILL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	346872; MAB42359	DYKE, FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	380170	785640	Remains of a farmstead. A long rectangular building is depicted at this location on the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps. Recorded by Forestry Commission. The survey noted that the north compartment appeared to be the main living area, measuring 11 m x 5 m externally. Abutting this on the southern short side is a compartment measuring approximately 3 m long internally and, beyond that, a further compartment measuring approximately 2 m internally. There are the possible remains of an enclosure dyke at the south-west end cut by a drainage gully.
210	HILL OF QUITHEL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	346874; MAB41254	HOLLOW WAY	Post-medieval	377460	785510	Remains of a hollowed track recorded by Forestry Commission and shown on the OS 1st and 2nd edition OS maps.. It measures circa 2 m between banks and examination of a tree-throw holes suggests that the track may have been roughly metalled.
211	BURNSIDE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	349232; MAB63051	DITCH, , PIT, ANIMAL REMAINS, UNIDENTIFIED POTTERY	Prehistoric	387265	791837	Trial trenching evaluation carried out by CFA in 2013 along the proposed Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route recorded two features at this location: a meandering linear feature and a large pit. A single sherd of prehistoric pottery was recovered during the excavation. Excavation by CFA in June 2014 confirmed the linear feature to be a palaeochannel and a second channel was also identified. Seven pits excavated were thought to originate from agricultural stone extraction. Field drains indicate intensive use of the land in the post-medieval period.
212	BROOMHILL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	349234; MAB63033	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	386970	791078	Site of a farmstead depicted on the OS 1st edition map as a rectangular cottage with attached garden and a U-shaped steading open to the south. It was subsequently removed and no buildings are shown on the OS 2nd edition map, by which time the name Broomhills has been transferred to the farm to the east. The farmstead does not appear on Roy's military Map and probably dates from the agricultural improvements of the early 19th century. Trial trenching was carried out by CFA in 2013 ahead of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route. A single archaeological feature was identified, a rough stone area or surface comprising roughly laid stones. No surface evidence of the farmstead survives. Further excavation by CFA in April to June 2014 recorded further features relating to the farmstead, including stone surfaces, a trackway, soakaways, drainage and pits.
213	HILL OF THREE STONES	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	333348; MAB41241	LADE	Post-medieval	377790	788290	Remains of a lade recorded by Forestry Commission. It is part of a lade which is depicted on the OS 2nd edition map but which does not appear on the 1st edition map. The eastern part of this section is shown as a watercourse on current maps.
214	STONEHOUSE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	333352	FIELD SYSTEM , PEN	Post-medieval	376960	787659.1	Remains of a field system depicted on the OS 1st edition map and recorded by Forestry Commission after felling. It probably formed part of the fields of Stonehouse (NO78NE0040). Probable remains of rigs were noted across the site, with a wavelength of circa 8 m. Part of a hollow-way was also recorded. At the northwest corner of the field system, at NO76878768, are the remains of a small stone structure. It measures circa 5 m square externally with a further stone extension to the northwest, with a parallel earthen bank. It is not clear whether the structure as part of a longer building, possibly a farmstead.

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doAsset/ Event Number	Asset/Event Name	Status	NRHE/HER Reference	Classification	Period	Easting	Northing	Description
215	NEWTONHILL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	350335	RIG AND FURROW	Medieval/ Post-medieval	391690	793720	Visible on aerialpimagery from 2013
216	MUCHALLS, STATION, WAR MEMORIAL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	338635; MAB43029	WAR MEMORIAL	Post-medieval	390320	792092	War memorial
217	SKATERAW	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB43045	Village	Post-medieval	391232.2	793444.7	Former fishing village, depicted on the OS 1st and 2nd edition maps. The name may derive from the Gaelic meaning 'row on a rock'. One of the old smokehouses stands on Skateraw Road.
218	NEWTONHILL STATION	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB43035	Railway station	Post-medieval	391032	793495.4	Railway station, depicted on OS 1st and 2nd edition maps. The 1st edition shows only the station building, the 2nd edition also depicts signal box, signal posts and footbridge. The station closed to passengers in June 1956, but the signal box (CN5) remained in use.
219	CRAN HILL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB43066	Building	Post-medieval	391585	794067	Ordnance Survey trigonometrical survey point (OS trig point) depicted on the 5th edition OS map.
220	WANDERSTACK	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB43036	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	391877	794155.2	Remains of a small farmstead depicted on the OS 1st and 2nd edition maps. The 1st edition shows two rectangular buildings and two enclosures. On the 2nd edition the northern building is shown as unroofed, and the farmstead is named Warder's Tack. Current maps show the remains of the two buildings, that to the north with an additional north-south wing at the east end forming an L-plan.
221	CHRISTINE MARIA, NEWTONHILL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	259112; MAB2105	WRECK, BRIG	Post-medieval	391320	793000	The brig CHRISTINE MARIA (or CHRISTINA MARIA / CHRISTIAN MARIE) under Captain Hadun, was wrecked near Skateraw, Newtonhills (Muchalls) on the 22nd December 1876.
222	HILTON OF CAIRNGRASSIE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB63094	Cottage	Post-medieval	390730.1	795260.1	Site of a small rectangular building, probably a cottage, which is shown only on the 1st edition OS map.
223	HILTON OF CAIRNGRASSIE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42982	FARMSTEAD, HORSE ENGINE	Post-medieval	390602	795176.6	Farmstead, still in use, depicted on OS 1st and 2nd edition maps.
224	CAUSEY MOUNTH ROAD	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB45519	ROAD, TRACKWAY, CAUSEWAY	Medieval; Post-medieval	389989	793994	The most easterly of the mounth passes which originally linked Aberdeen with the vanished coastal village of Cowie just north of Stonehaven. It was in use from at least the medieval period. The mounth passes are some of the oldest trackways in Scotland. Construction on the Causey Mounth may have begun in the 12th century when three sections of the road were banked to form the causeways, or causeys that eventually lent it the name. It appears in historical records in 1384 when an Aberdeen burgher arranged an annual payment for maintenance of the road. Receipts for road maintenance are the main evidence of the Mounth pass in the historical records. It is first shown on Pont's map of Lower Deeside surveyed in the 1590s. In its later years it was extensively used as a drove road. The route fell out of use in the 18th century as more direct and faster routes were built by the growing stagecoach industry. Only about one third remains part of the present road network, one third is paths and the rest may only survive as field boundaries.
225	MAIN ROAD, ABERDEEN	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB43026	ROAD	Post-medieval	390176.4	794515.5	Public road from Aberdeen to Edinburgh, built 1684.
226	BERRYHILL HOUSE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	229965; MAB42966	Designed Landscape	Post-medieval	390108	795158	House and remains of a 17th to 19th century designed landscape. A small 2-storey mansion house, dating from the early 19th century, it is harled, with slate roof and battlemented wings.

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227	CAMMACHMORE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB65427	ENCLOSURE, ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURE	Unknown	390499.7	794677.7	The cropmark of a circular enclosure is visible on a vertical aerial photograph taken in 1977.
228	CAMMACHMORE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB63133	ENCLOSURE, Cottage	Post-medieval	390663.3	794474.1	Site of a cottage which is shown only on the 1st edition OS map as a small rectangular building within a rectangular enclosure. On the 2nd edition OS map only part of the enclosure is shown.
229	WEST MAINS OF MONDUFF	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB43063	FARMSTEAD, FARMHOUSE	Post-medieval	390154.3	793151.6	Former farmstead, now converted to residential use, depicted on historic mapping
230	UPPER CAIRNHILL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42754	FARMSTEAD, FARMHOUSE	Post-medieval	389036.4	793684.5	Farmstead, shown on the 1st edition OS map as two L-plan steadings around a square courtyard. On the later, 2nd edition map, the northernmost stading has been enlarged, while a farmhouse has been added to the south. Only the east wing of the northernmost stading survives of the original buildings. A new building has been added to the north and a new farmhouse has been built to the east.
231	WESTER CAIRNHILL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42755	FARMSTEAD, FARMSTEAD, FARMHOUSE, ENCLOSURE, Horse Mill, PUMP, WELL	Post-medieval	388644	793745.4	Farmstead, shown on the 1st edition OS map as a group of four buildings and a square enclosure. These buildings have been replaced on the 2nd edition map by an L-plan stading and rectangular farmhouse. Only the east wing and the west end of the north wing of the stading are now roofed, with the rest of the stading unroofed. The farmhouse to the west is not shown. Described in the OS Name Books Kincardine Country Volume 10 (Parish of Fetteresso, OS1/19/10) as: 'A small farm stading on the Estate of Cairnhill.'. The tenant at this time is listed as Mr William Valentine.
232	MOSS-SIDE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB63040	BUILDING	Post-medieval	388307.7	793753.8	Site of a rectangular building, probably a cottage, depicted only on the 1st edition OS map.
233	ROCKHEAD	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB63037	Cottage	Post-medieval	388989.4	793190.5	Site of a cottage depicted only on the 1st edition OS map of 1846.
234	GREENHEADS	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42811	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	389027.8	792928.3	Farmstead depicted on historic OS maps.
235	STRANATHRO	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB43034	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	390356.2	792355.4	Farmstead, in use, depicted on the 2nd edition OS map as an L-plan building open to the south with a small square building to the north. Today, the L-plan building has been extended at its north corner and from its south face but the small building to the north is not shown. Photographic surveys of the buildings were undertaken in 2010 and 2011 prior to the proposed conversion of the stading into a dwellinghouse.
236	STRANATHRO	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB43064	VILLAGE	Post-medieval	390314.5	792279.3	Planned village built for fishermen in 1856. Depicted on the OS 1st and 2nd edition maps.
237	BENTS	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB63021	BUILDING, ENCLOSURE	Post-medieval	388206.2	793051.9	Site of a now destroyed small building within a square enclosure which are shown only on the 1st edition OS map. The site is probably that of a small croft or cottage.
238	BENTS	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42772	FARMSTEAD, FARMHOUSE, Horse Mill, BUILDING	Post-medieval	388346.1	793044	Farmstead, depicted on the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps. On the 1st edition OS map it is named 'Bents of Muchals', and is shown as a C-plan stading with an opening in the south-east corner. On the 2nd edition OS map the stading has been mostly removed, with the south range shortened or replaced by a shorter building. It is now named 'Bents', and a U-plan stading has been added to the east, open to the south. It has a horse-mill attached to the west and a small rectangular building to

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doAsset/ Event Number	Asset/Event Name	Status	NRHE/HER Reference	Classification	Period	Easting	Northing	Description
								the east. Current maps show that the north range of the U-plan and the building to the east have been removed, and the horse-mill has been replaced with a rectangular building. The building to the west that is on the site of the earlier steading has some minor alterations, and is now in use as a farmhouse. Photographic recording was carried out in 2018 ahead of proposed development.
239	MONTGATEHEAD	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42801	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	388179.2	791638.8	Farmstead depicted on historic OS maps.
240	OLD SCHOOLHOUSE, BRIDGE OF MUCHALLS	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42771	SCHOOL HOUSE, SCHOOL	Post-medieval	389138.7	791318.7	Former school, now in residential use, probably built in the later 19th century. It is first shown on the 2nd edition OS map as two adjacent buildings forming an L-plan within a divided enclosure. Current OS maps show some minor alterations in plan. Not to be confused with earlier school / schoolhouse to the south east (NO89SE0156)
241	BURNSIDE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42804	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	387413.7	791771.1	Farmstead depicted on historic OS maps.
242	HILLSIDE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB63020	CROFT, ENCLOSURE	Post-medieval	387362.3	791541.5	Site of a now destroyed croft. It is depicted on the 1st edition OS map as a small rectangular building within a sub-rectangular enclosure which also contains a rectangular enclosure. By the 2nd edition OS map the building is marked as disused. None of these features are marked on the 2005 map.
243	ABERDEEN WESTERN PERIPHERAL ROUTE FASTLINK	Event	MAB63050	Geophysical Survey	N/A	387191	791610	Geophysical survey was carried out by Headland Archaeology in 2012 ahead of the proposed Aberdeen Western Peripheral route Fastlink. A number of anomalies were recorded, but most are more likely to be of geological rather than archaeological origin. Linear features at circa NO 87246 92373 may represent open field cultivation of possibly medieval date.
244	ABERDEEN WESTERN PERIPHERAL ROUTE	Event	MAB63045	Watching Brief		387109	789646	Between July and October 2008, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AOC on the excavation of 300 SI trial pits along the proposed 10 mile route of the AWPR Fastlink corridor, Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire (between NO 87181 87466 and NO 86592 98292). No significant artefacts or features were uncovered during this phase of predevelopment works.
245	ALLOCHIE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42723	CAIRN, HOLLOW WAY, RIDGE AND FURROW, BANK (EARTHWORK)	Unknown	386770.8	791651.3	Field-system, comprising a scatter of cairns and short stony banks, and traces of rig and furrow. A series of hollowed trackways lie to the north side of the area. On rough ground to the northwest and west are traces of rig and furrow cultivation and stony banks of more recent date.
246	HILL OF MUCHALLS	Event	332310;MAB63047	Metal Detecting Survey	N/A	386953.3	791165.9	A metal detector survey was carried out by Headland Archaeology in 2012 ahead of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route, in an area identified as the possible site of a Civil War skirmish (NO89SE0027) in 1639. The survey area covered approximately 10 hectares. A total of 204 finds were recovered, the majority of very recent origin, although four were of possible 17th century date, although none of these could be accurately dated due to their condition. One was a musket ball, 20mm in diameter, however, round lead shot continued in use until the mid 19th century, so it cannot be definitively linked to the battle. A triangular piece of solid cast iron may be diced shot, which could be coated in lead to make round shot or used as it was as grape shot. One copper alloy coin is possibly of 17th century date, its appearance and size consistent with 17th century 'Stirling' turners of the reign of Charles I. A possible button may also be 17th century. It is of copper alloy, rounded and hollow, 10mm in diameter. The majority of the other finds are iron, most probably relating to farm machinery, but also including 12 copper alloy buttons of 18th or 19th century date, and a possible ornate buckle fragment, and six coins of 9th and early 20th century date,
247	BACKBURN MOSS	Event	349230; MAB63049	Palaeoenvironmental Assessment	N/A	386944.5	790660.4	A palaeoenvironmental assessment was carried out by Headland Archaeology in 2012 ahead of the proposed AWPR Fastlink corridor. Auger samples were taken over an area circa 1.8 km in length and between 0.3 km and 0.05 km in width. Across much of this area this recorded a dark brown peaty podzol soil, but peats with a maximum depth of 1.5 m were recorded in the central and southern sections. The peats existed as pockets of peatland rather than continuous peat cover.
248	HILL OF MUCHALLS	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB63032	BUILDING, Cottage	Post-medieval	387171.8	791193	Site of two buildings, possibly cottages, shown on the OS 1st edition map, the northern one with an attached garden. The latter does not appear on the 2nd edition map, which also shows that the south building has been reduced in size, or replaced by a smaller building on the same site. Although depicted on the 1987 1:10,000 sheet this too has since been removed.
249	BROOMHILL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42805	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	387157.5	791047	Farmstead depicted on historic OS maps.
250	HILL OF MUCHALS	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42736	CROFT	Post-medieval	387302.5	790977.8	Remains of a croft. On the 1st edition OS map it is depicted as two small buildings. By the 2nd edition OS map only one of these is shown as in use. The 2005 map shows that the structures still exist in disused and ruinous condition.
251	HOWIESHILL	Non-Designated	MAB63034	FARMSTEAD, ENCLOSURE	Post-medieval	386946.3	790834.7	Site of a small farmstead depicted on the OS 1st edition map, comprising a T-shaped arrangement of buildings with a small attached enclosure, and a smaller building to the east. None of these features appear on the 1888 OS 2nd edition map.

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		Heritage Asset						
252	HILL OF MUCHALLS	Event	MAB63054	Excavation	N/A	386914.5	790836.4	Excavation was carried out by CFA in May 2014 as part of the programme of archaeological work ahead of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route. Four small features excavated were interpreted as holes from which stones had been removed.
253	BLACKHILLS RAILWAY BRIDGE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42775	BRIDGE	Post-medieval	389535.9	790034	Bridge carrying a farm track over the railway, depicted on OS 1st and 2nd edition maps. A photographic survey was carried out in 2019 prior to bridge alterations.
254	BLACKHILLS	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42747	CROFT, OUTBUILDING, ENCLOSURE	Post-medieval	389438	790128.3	Croft still in use which is shown on the OS maps from the 1st edition map onwards. On the 1st edition map it is depicted as a long L-shaped building. By the 2nd edition map there is a small rectangular enclosure and an outbuilding to the south. The 2006 map shows that the enclosure has been removed, the outbuilding has is disused and the L-shaped building is still in use in modified condition.
255	BLACKHILLS	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42748	CROFT, POND, DAM	Post-medieval	389431.1	790023.1	Remains of a croft which is shown on the OS maps from the 1st edition map onwards. On the 1st edition map it is depicted as a long rectangular building, with a pond to the west and two smaller buildings to the north. By the 2nd edition map the pond has a dam, the western of the two smaller buildings has been removed, the eastern is shown as disused and the long rectangular building has been reduced in size. The 2006 map shows only the remains of the former long rectangular building. The pond has been drained, but the site has not been redeveloped.
256	HILLHEAD OF COWIE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42799	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	389251.2	790211.2	Farmstead depicted on historic OS maps.
257	KEMPSTONE HILL	Event	MAB45338;	Walkover Survey	N/A	388055	789812	An archaeological walkover survey carried out in June 2011 by MAS recorded a number of clearance cairns. The recorded features indicate a significant spread of small to medium clearance cairns and possible field boundaries likely to be part of a prehistoric, probably Bronze Age, area of settlement. A watching brief was carried out in May 2016 by MAS prior to construction of a track and installation of three turbines. Four possible clearance cairns were recorded, although they may have been natural features, and two prehistoric flints were recovered. A watching brief was then carried out in September 2016 by Cameron Archaeology along the northern extent of the site prior to further works, and also on the site of utility pole replacements to the east and west. There were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance recorded during this watching brief.
258	KEMPSTONE HILL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB63027	ENCLOSURE, Cottage	Post-medieval	387653.7	790048	Site of a cottage which is shown on both the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps. On the 1st edition it is depicted as a rectangular building within a rectangular enclosure. By the 2nd edition map only the building is shown in disused condition. The roofless ruin of the building is visible on vertical aerial photographs taken in 1988.
259	WYNDFORD	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42797	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	387496.3	790244.2	Farmstead depicted on historic OS maps.
260	KEMPSTONE HILL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42327	TRIANGULATION PILLAR	Modern	387991	789641	Ordnance Survey trigonometrical survey point (OS trig point) depicted on the 5th edition OS map. It is in the form of a pillar constructed for the mid-20th century retriangulation of Great Britain. An earlier, 19th century, trig point is depicted on the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps within the vicinity.
261	KEMPSTONE HILL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB62810	AIRCRAFT	Modern	387950	789596	A small military transport biplane crashed at Kempstone Hill. On the 7 July 1941 a de Havilland DH.89A Dragon Rapide aircraft flew into high ground in bad weather at Kempstone Hill, near Cowie, while ferrying personnel from RNAS Hatston, Kirkwall, to RNAS Donibristle. All 6 occupants on board were killed - P/O W. C. Jones (pilot), 1st Officer M. E. J. Dobson (co-pilot/navigator), passengers WRNS Lt F. P. Tennyson, FLt J. L. Day, and 2 civilians - Mr. C. W. Young of Vickers Armstrong and Mr. T. McCabe.
262	HOWIESHILL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42796	FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	387105.7	790607.5	Farmstead depicted on historic OS maps.
263	HOWIESHILL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB63036	BUILDING	Post-medieval	387143.6	790429.6	Site of a building, depicted on the OS 1st edition OS map but which appears as roofless on the 2nd edition. It has since been removed.
264	BACKHILL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB62802	STONE, BOUNDARY STONE	Post-medieval	387181	789853.2	Site of a now destroyed stone, probably a boundary stone, which is shown on both the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps.

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265	KEMPSTONE HILL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42043	STANDING STONE, CAIRN	Prehistoric	387606.3	789424.5	Standing stone which was said to have stood on a low cairn though this is no longer evident. Human remains (but no urns) were reported by the landowner (1977) a little below the surface at the side of the stone.
266	KEMPSTONE HILL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB62804	Cottage	Post-medieval	387343.1	789616.1	House or cottage depicted on the OS 1st edition. It is shown as roofless on the 2nd edition map.
267	HILL OF ALLOCHIE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	37113; MAB42719	FIELD SYSTEM, HUT CIRCLE, CAIRN, SHEEP FOLD, BANK (EARTHWORK)	Unknown	385825.9	790368.5	Settlement and field system comprising hut circles, and stone clearance heaps. OS site visit 1972 recorded the three huts. Hut A has entrance in the south, flanked on the east side by an earthfast stone. Hut B, 7m in diameter, is heavily overgrown with turf and has a bracken-covered southwest entrance. Hut C is attached to the northeast side of Hut B with no trace of an entrance or communicating passage. It was in a poor state of preservation but appeared to be of similar dimensions. RCAHMS site visit in 1983 noted a single possible hut circle (NO 85999036) about 5m in diameter, situated at the east end of a group of cairns and banks extending over 9ha. There are about 70 cairns, up to 6m in diameter and 0.6m high, and at least three stony banks. The other two hut circles recorded in 1972 were concluded to be a two compartment enclosure, probably a sheepfold.
268	CONEYHATCH	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42063	BOUNDARY MARKER	Post-medieval	386679	789918	Boundary Stones still in use. The southernmost stone, to the west of Coneyhatch, is shown on OS maps from the 1st edition onwards. The northernmost stone, to the south of Fishermyle, is shown on OS maps from the 2nd edition map onwards.
269	BALNAGIGHT WOOD	Event	MAB62861	Evaluation	N/A	384981.8	789220.8	Survey, evaluation and, subsequently, excavation carried out by CFA as part of Aberdeen-Lochside Gas Pipeline Project in 2003-04. The pipeline passed the Scheduled area around Findlayston Cairn, enclosure and field systems (NO88NW0012, NO88NW0007). A walkover survey identified features including eight possible clearance cairns, a denuded turf bank and a field wall/bank. Sixteen trenches were excavated by machine. Three of the cairns, a field bank and a field wall or bank were evaluated, and were shown to most likely be of prehistoric origin. Three cairns and a bank of likely prehistoric date were fully excavated. Their construction was determined and they are likely to have been associated with the dense complex of similar remains within the Scheduled area to the West.
270	URY ESTATE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42076	BUILDING	Post-medieval	386357.4	788131.6	The remains of rectangular foundations and three circular features, possibly stack bases, are said to lie within an area of gorse on the southwest side of Slicewells Wood on the Ury Estate. Nothing is visible at this location on either the 1st or 2nd edition OS maps.
271	GLEN URY	Event	MAB62821	Evaluation	N/A	386124.5	788172.6	Trial trenching evaluation carried out over two areas (4-5) between April and September 2021 by Guard Archaeology at Ury House Estate (NO88NE0104), prior to proposed development. In Area 4 (NO 85977 87922) two trenches were excavated with no archaeological artefacts or features recovered. In Area 5 (NO 86126 88387) 20 trenches were excavated, with 11 features of potential archaeological significance encountered across seven trenches, mainly consisting of pits, post-holes, linear drystone structures and/or foundation walls of stone structures. No archaeological artefacts were recovered from any of the features that could assist dating. Most of the pits and postholes are likely to be prehistoric in date suggesting possible evidence of prehistoric settlement. The composition and construction of the stone structures suggest that they were foundations of a construction or building of an unknown period, possibly internally compartmentalized by an intermediate wall. The evaluation work was carried out in six areas across Ury House Estate, see also Areas 1-3 (NO88NE0185) and Area 6 (NO88NE0186).
272	WAULKMILL, URY	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42301	HOUSE	Post-medieval	385475	787865.3	House, still in use, depicted on the OS historic maps as a rectangular building with an outshot from the northeast gable and at the southern end of the northwest elevation. On the 2nd edition map the gable outshot is no longer shown. On the current OS edition map the building is shown with significant alterations and additions forming a large T-plan.
273	GLEN URY	Event	MAB62819	Evaluation	N/A	384884.7	788153.3	Trial trenching evaluation carried out over three areas (1-3) between April and September 2021 by Guard Archaeology at Ury House Estate (NO88NE0104), prior to proposed development. In Area 1 (NO 85040 87951) five trenches were excavated, in Area 2 (NO 85320 87928) four trenches were excavated, and in Area 3 (NO 84789 88196) 53 trenches were excavated, with no archaeological artefacts or features recovered. Three small possible cairns were identified and surveyed (NO88NE0177) within Area 3, north and west of the Cowie Water and northwest of Waulkmill. The evaluation work was carried out in six areas across Ury House Estate, see also Areas 4-5 (NO88NE0217) and Area 6 (NO88NE0186).
274	COWIE LINE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	81265; MAB45341	DEFENCE, TRENCH, DITCH, CUBE, ANTI TANK BANK	Modern	384178.8	788420	Remains of a World War II anti-tank barrier, part of the Cowie Stop Line. The artificial bank resumes where the natural bank of the Cowie Water is not in itself a natural obstacle. The barrier is a bank up to 2m high, probably using an existing river terrace. Considerable quantities of barbed wire were noted at this western end. This section is complex curving across the haugh and splitting into two arms which enclose a section of haugh, part having a counterscarp and becoming a deep ditch towards the river. The northern of these follows the course of the river and partially fades as the height of the riverbanks form an obstacle. The two arms meet at a ford, which was protected by two lines of anti-tank cubes and a pill-box (see NO88NW0030 and 31) and the steep rise of the river

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								bank. Two slit-trenches survive on high ground overlooking the bridge, one looking along the bridge, the other to the east. To the east of Findlaystone bridge the riverbank, already naturally high, is again artificially raised by up to 1m. The bank is vertical, dropping from 2m high to 1.3m, accompanied by much galvanized wire, to the bend in the river where it disappears and is replaced by a line of 15 concrete anti-tank cubes. To the east of these the barrier resumes with the customary vertical bank until at NO 84597 88378 the river bank is again high enough to be a natural barrier.
275	CHEYNE HILL	Event	MAB62862	Evaluation	N/A	383714.2	788032.2	A trial trenching evaluation was carried out at this site in 2003 by CFA in advance of a proposed natural gas pipeline. In total, 22 trenches were excavated. Two cairns were noted, and were subsequently fully recorded and excavated. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were found beneath the cairns. No artefacts were recovered during any of the excavations. The cairns are considered to be denuded remains of clearance cairns of likely prehistoric date.
276	CHEYNE HILL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB62864	TRIANGULATION POINT	Post-medieval	383697	787444	Site of a 19th century Ordnance Survey trigonometrical survey point (OS trig point) depicted on the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps.
277	CHEYNE HILL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42407	TRIANGULATION PILLAR	Modern	383505	787395	Ordnance Survey trigonometrical survey point (OS trig point) depicted on the 5th edition OS map. It is in the form of a pillar constructed for the mid-20th century retriangulation of Great Britain.
278	WEST CHEYNE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42373	ENCLOSURE, FARMSTEAD	Post-medieval	383709.5	786994.8	Remains of a farmstead which is shown on both the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps. The 1st edition shows an L-plan building with an enclosure and second building to the north, and a possible small building to the west. The 2nd edition shows that the L-plan building had been enlarged to a U-plan, and shows only one other building, to the north. Only one building is roofed on vertical aerial photographs taken in 1977 and both are unroofed on photographs taken in 1988. The 2005 map shows that one building is still unroofed and has three compartments. The remaining building is in use and has had extensions to the north and south forming a cross shaped building.
279	FARROCHIE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB65300	RING DITCH, ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURE	Prehistoric	385331.6	786407.5	A faint trace of a ring ditch is showing on an oblique aerial photograph. The faint trace of a second one lies slightly further to the west.
280	FETTERESSO	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB65305; 166209	CURSUS, RING DITCH, ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURE	Prehistoric	384697.9	785717.5	Cropmark of a possible ring ditch which appears to lie between two parallel linear features at the northern end. The linear features run north-west/ south-east and do not appear to continue into other fields. The placing may simply be fortuitous, and these lines may be agricultural rather than archaeological. They appear to run along the top of a low ridge. Slight possibility of these linear features being a cursus.
281	1-2 SMITHY COTTAGES	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42408	Cottage	Post-medieval	384156.5	786110	Cottages, still in use depicted on historic OS maps. The 1st edition OS map shows an L-plan building and a garden. By the 2nd edition OS map, building had been extended into a U-plan comprising two buildings.
282	HINDWELLS, FETTERESSO	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB62865	Smithy	Post-medieval	384101.2	786128	Site of a smithy depicted on historic OS maps. The 1st edition OS map shows the smithy as a T-plan building with a well to the southwest. By the 2nd edition map a rectangular building had been added on the northeast side of the smithy.
283	NETHER CHEYNE, FETTERESSO	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB62859	FARMSTEAD, MILL, POND, Horse Mill	Post-medieval	383980.2	786722.1	Site of a farmstead depicted on historic OS maps. On the 1st edition map it is shown as a U-plan steading with the court open to the southeast and a smaller, rectangular building to the southeast. The steading has an extension to the east range. To the northwest is a small building annotated as a threshing mill, fed by a lade from a pond to the south. By the 2nd edition OS map the steading has an extension across the court and there is an extra building to the northeast. The threshing mill had been removed and pond infilled, but a horse-mill is shown on the northeast side of the steading. Some photographic recording was undertaken in 2023 ahead of demolition.
284	BLAIRS, FETTERESSO	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42398	FARMSTEAD, FARMHOUSE, Steading, Steading, ENCLOSURE, POND, DAM, SLUICE, OUTBUILDING, PUMP, SHEEP FOLD, LEAT	Post-medieval	383323.1	786663.8	Farmstead, in use, depicted on the historic OS maps as Blairs. The 1st edition map shows an L-plan farmhouse with an outshot to the north, set in garden grounds with an adjacent garden enclosure to the east. To the north is a U-plan steading open to the east with a projected north range, a separate rectangular building east of the south range, and a rectangular range to the southeast of it adjacent to the garden enclosure. In the west are two ranges forming an approximate L-plan steading with an enclosed courtyard, connected to a triangular pond to the north by a lade, which runs south to Bogs Burn. By the time of the 2nd edition map the farmhouse has an additional outshot to the west, a pump is shown to the west of the house, and a pump is also shown south of the steading. The earlier separate building to the east and the range to the southeast of the steading are no longer shown, but with an outbuilding shown just to the west of the steading. The western steading has been significantly altered with further additions forming a U-plan open to the southeast with most of the steading court built over with rectangular ranges, and a pump shown to the south. To the north the pond is shown with a dam and sluice with a sheepfold to the southwest of it. The current edition OS map shows significant alterations and additions to the farmstead, with the east steading no longer shown, the farmhouse with additions and alterations, remains of the garden enclosure to the east,

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								and the west steading complex altered, roofed over and added to with later agricultural buildings. The pumps, pond, dam, sluice and sheepfold are no longer shown, but part of the lade remains shown as 'sinks'. A later farmhouse to the southeast of the west steading is shown as Blairs Farm, a later house to the east shown as Blairs View, and the original farmhouse shown as Blairs Of Fetteresso.
285	UPPER SWANLEY	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42399	Cottage	Post-medieval	382597.7	787234.3	Cottages depicted on the OS 1st and 2nd edition maps.
286	UPPER SWANLEY	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42401	LINEAR EARTHWORK	Unknown	382418	787192	Remains of two boundary dykes depicted on the OS 1st and 2nd edition maps and recorded by Forestry Commission.
287	UPPER SWANLEY	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42401	LINEAR EARTHWORK	Unknown	382275.8	787217.7	Remains of two boundary dykes depicted on the OS 1st and 2nd edition maps and recorded by Forestry Commission.
288	COTTONBRAE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB62853	CROFT, PUMP	Post-medieval	382450.8	786722	Site of a now destroyed croft that is depicted on the 1888 2nd edition OS map but not on the 1867 1st edition one. It shows a rectangular building with an attached enclosure and pump.
289	COTTONBRAE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB62852	FARMSTEAD, ENCLOSURE	Post-medieval	382262.3	786801.2	Site of a farmstead that is depicted on historic OS maps. The 1st edition shows three buildings, two of which are on the east side of an enclosure. By the 2nd edition map only part of the largest building remained roofed, and one of the others had been removed.
290	JENNY'S BOG	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB45347	HOLLOW WAY, TRACKWAY	Post-medieval	381065.1	787254.4	Remains of a trackway (depicted on the OS 1st and 2nd edition maps) recorded by Forestry Commission.  The northern part (NO80108744 - NO81008758) survives here as a slight bank and lynchet. Further south it was recorded as a hollow-way.
291	NETHER BAULK	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42368	FARMSTEAD, POND, LEAT	Post-medieval	381771.2	785950.9	The farmstead of Nether Baulk is depicted on the OS 1st edition map as being rectangular in plan with a central open court, with main orientation northeast-southwest. A pond lies to the north with a lade leading towards the northwest corner, where the mill presumably was. To the west of the steading are two small buildings with an attached enclosure, and to the south another building with attached enclosure, probably the house. On the 2nd edition edition part of the courtyard has been built over. The pond and other buildings are still depicted. Today the farm has been added to with several new buildings. The pond has gone and part of the area now built over.
292	HILL OF BAULK	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB45346	FORD, HOLLOW WAY, TRACKWAY	Post-medieval	380880.2	786660.9	Remains of a deep hollow-way recorded by Forestry Commission. Depicted as a trackway on the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps. It crossed the Burn of Day by a ford at circa NO 80576 86684.
293	MILL OF TEWEL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB62851	MILL, LADE, LADE	Post-medieval	382347	785228	The Mill of Tewel is depicted as a cornmill on the OS map of 1867, with an L-shaped building and another building or enclosure to the west and one to the south. A mill lade leads from a weir on the Carron Water to the west, and then rejoins it to the south of the mill. By 1888 the lade appears to have gone and the mill has been altered in shape to a rectangular building. There are two buildings to the west but the original one to the south has gone. Today the mill is not depicted on present maps although it is possible some footings may survive.
294	CARRON WATER	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42387	RAILWAY BRIDGE	Post-medieval	382135.1	785062	Bridge carrying the railway over the Carron Water, depicted on the OS 1st and 2nd edition maps.
295	UPPER WYNDINGS	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB1761	AIRCRAFT CRASH SITE	Modern	380999.8	785147	An RNAS Seafire aircraft is recorded as having crashed in a potato field near Upper Wyndings farm on 11 November 1944. Two farmworkers on the ground (one an Italian prisoner of war) were killed. The exact location is unclear although in one (later) source it has been described as as being south of the Auchenblae Road where the ground slopes. Parts of the aircraft were noted at being scatted over a distance of 450 yards.
296	UPPER WYNDINGS	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB65306	ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURE	Unknown	380433.2	785655.9	A number of linear soilmarks were recorded during aerial reconnaissance in May 2004 in a field to the west of the farm of Upper Wyndings. They lie on a gentle sloping spur. They may all be earlier field boundaries but one is part of a possible larger enclosure. The visible part is L-shaped but with a rounded corner. Attached to the southeast side of it is a part of a smaller rectangular enclosure which may have small rectangular features against its northwest corner. These may represent earlier buildings. Another soil mark cuts across the main enclosures, though this appears to line up with gateways of the field lying diagonally opposite each other. Three other parallel lines join it at right angles and run west from this line.
297	UPPER BAULK	Non-Designated	MAB42378	FARMSTEAD, BUILDING, FARMHOUSE, DAM	Post-medieval	380950.8	786085.3	Farmstead, in use, depicted on the 1st edition OS map as a square plan steading with central open courtyard, mill dam to the west and two buildings to the east. On the 2nd edition OS map, the two

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		Heritage Asset						buildings to the east have been removed and replaced with a rectangular building (probably a farmhouse). Today, the mill pond is not depicted. The steading has been roofed over and extended but the farmhouse does not appear to have been altered.
298	HILL OF BAULK	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB45348	QUARRY, HOLLOW	Unknown	380735.2	786304.9	A rectangular depression, which does not appear to be a natural feature, recorded by Forestry Commission. It measures 6 m by 4 m and is 1 m deep, the southern side cut into rock. A secondary ovoid hollow, measuring 4 m across and circa 1 m deep, lies circa 12 m to the south.
299	UPPER BAULK	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB45342	HOLLOW WAY	Post-medieval	380512.8	786128.7	Remains of hollow-way or lade, recorded by Forestry Commission. This feature follows the line of a trackway noted on the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps, however its depth relative to its width might suggest it as a former lade. The 1st edition OS map seems to show a water course leaving Rough Moss, to the north, and flowing south to join the trackway after which point the water course is no longer depicted. Well-preserved at its east end but poorly defined at its west end.
300	COLONEL'S WELL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB62863	WELL	Post-medieval	380253.7	786197.9	Site of a well, depicted on the 1st edition OS map. Described in the Kincardineshire OS Name Books, 1863 volume 10 (OS1/19/10/213) as: 'A fine spring well situated on the extreme west side of the hill of Baulk.'. No sign of the well was found during field visit in 2024 as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment.
301	HARE BOG	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42400	BOUNDARY	Post-medieval	380011.5	787633	Remains of field boundaries, depicted on the OS 1st and 2nd edition maps, recorded by Forestry Commission.
302	HURLIE BOG	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB45543	HOLLOW WAY, TRACKWAY	Post-medieval	379970.6	787044.7	Remains of a hollow-way recorded by Forestry Commission. It is part of a trackway depicted on the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps.
303	HURLIE BOG	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB45542	HOLLOW WAY, TRACKWAY	Post-medieval	379476.5	786522.5	Remains of a hollow-way or trackway, recorded by Forestry Commission. Depicted on the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps. Linked to NO78NE0056.
304	BURN OF BAULKS	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB45327	TRACKWAY, DITCH	Post-medieval	379837	786414.5	Remains of a two parallel linear ditches and a trackway, recorded by Forestry Commission. The two ditches are approximately 6 m apart. Each ditch is approximately 3 - 4 m wide. At 7983 8640 (running south-east) there is a distinct 'kink' in the line of the feature. The north ditch becomes very deep and approximately 5 - 6 m wide with a 6 m wide bank between that and a shallower ditch measuring approximately 4 m wide. The bank narrows to approximately 3 m wide before both features disappear beneath the modern forestry track. The double-ditched feature appears to continue on the east side of the track before becoming indistinct. Shown as a trackway on the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps, continuing to the northwest and southeast. It is also evident on Lidar coverage (National Library of Scotland).
305	BURN OF BAULKS	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB45345	HOLLOW WAY, TRACKWAY	Post-medieval	379997.7	786261.6	Remains of a hollow-way or trackway, recorded by Forestry Commission. Depicted on the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps. Linked to NO78NE0056.
306	ELF HILL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB45343	HOLLOW WAY, TRACKWAY	Post-medieval	379378.7	785918.7	Remains of hollow-way or trackway, recorded by Forestry Commission. A hollow-way that appears to be part of a trackway depicted at this location on the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps. On the historic mapping, the trackway extends northwest and south from here.
307	MID HILL SUBSTATION	Event	MAB62505	Walkover Survey	N/A	378979.4	785985.5	A post-felling archaeological walkover survey was carried out by CFA in 2012 on the site of a proposed new substation. The felled area was in part covered by brush, mulch, young felled trees, remaining timber stumps and timber stacks, and the ground had been heavily disturbed by tree furrows. No archaeological features were identified in the survey area.
308	HILL OF QUITHEL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB62502	BUILDING	Unknown	378126.6	785624	The probable footings of a building are visible on aerial photographs taken in 1977. Field survey in 2010 in connection with a proposed wind farm found no trace of the building on a steep, bracken covered slope.
309	HILL OF QUITHEL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB45322	QUARRY	Modern	378008.1	785284.9	A disused quarry pit is visible on aerial photographs taken in 1977.
310	MID HILL WIND FARM	Event	MAB62504	Windfarm	N/A	377299.6	785900.3	A windfarm was proposed for this site in 2010. As part of the scoping work in advance of the development, a written scheme of investigation was provided by CFA Archaeology.
311	UPPER QUITHEL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB41312	FARMSTEAD, Steading, BUILDING, Horse Mill, FARMHOUSE, DAM, SLUICE	Post-medieval	378004.4	784795.5	Farmstead, in use, and site of farmstead. On the 1st edition OS map, 'Upper Quithal' is depicted as a long rectangular building aligned north-south with horse mill on the west elevation. To the east of this, is a T-plan building with long axis aligned north-south. To the north is a small building or bothy with attached walled enclosure. Further to the east there is a farmhouse. By the 2nd edition OS map, only the farmhouse is shown from these early buildings, while a large rectangular building and small square building have been added to the south west of the farmhouse. A dam and sluice is

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								shown to the west of the farmhouse and a small rectangular building to the north. The farm is named as 'Upper Quithel' from the 2nd edition map onwards. All of these buildings appear to survive today, although both buildings to the south west have been extended, and the dam has been infilled.
312	NETHER QUITHEL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB62533	QUARRY	Post-medieval	378262.9	784682.2	Site of a now destroyed quarry shown on both 1st and 2nd edition OS maps. The 1st edition shows it in use and the 2nd edition shows it as disused.
313	NETHER QUITHEL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB41291	FARMSTEAD, ENCLOSURE, POND, DAM	Post-medieval	378479.5	784692.9	Farmstead still in use. On the 1st edition OS map of 1867 it is shown as a group of five buildings, one L-shaped, plus an enclosure to the south. By the 1888 2nd edition the northernmost building has been replaced by a mill-pond with a mill-dam. The 2005 map shows that the outbuilding to the south survives and that the buildings to the north may survive, but as part of much larger structures. The mill-pond has been partially built upon.
314	NETHER QUITHEL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB62534	Smithy	Post-medieval	378303.2	784546.1	Site of a now destroyed Smithy shown only on the 1st edition OS map. The building is shown as a rectangular structure with an attached enclosure to the west.
315	NETHER QUITHEL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB62532	QUARRY	Post-medieval	378462.5	784499.1	Site of a now destroyed quarry. It is shown in use on the 1st edition OS map of 1867 and as disused on the 2nd edition OS map of 1888.
316	TANNACHIE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB62531	BUILDING, Cottage	Post-medieval	378079.3	784353.6	Site of a small building, probably a cottage, shown on the 1st edition OS map as a rectangular building with enclosure on the west side. By the 2nd edition map another small building and enclosure had been added on the east. Field visit in 2024 as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment found no remains of the building or the eastern enclosure, in what is now an area of improved pasture, but a line of old trees survey may possibly delineate the original extent of the western enclosure
317	TANNACHIE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB62529	CROFT	Post-medieval	378069.5	784308.6	Site of a now destroyed croft shown on both 1st and 2nd edition OS maps. The croft is shown as two small rectangular buildings at right angles to each other and has an enclosure to the north.
318	TANNACHIE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB62530	Smithy	Post-medieval	378092.4	784296.5	Site of a now destroyed smithy shown on both 1st and 2nd edition OS maps. It is shown as a rectangular building on the 1st edition map of 1867 and as a compact L-shaped building on the 2nd edition of 1888.
319	TANNACHIE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB62528	SCHOOL	Post-medieval	378115.4	784316.4	Site of a school shown on the 1st edition OS map. The building is shown as a small rectangular structure with an attached enclosure to the north. On the 2nd edition map it is not marked as a school and has been extended into a compact L-shaped building. No trace was found during site visit in 2024 as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment.
320	TANNACHIE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB62527	BUILDING	Post-medieval	378154.6	784258.2	Site of a now destroyed building shown only on the 1st edition OS map.
321	TANNACHIE CROFT	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB41337	CROFT, MILL	Post-medieval	377815.9	784304	Croft, in use, and site of mill, depicted on historic OS maps.
322	CRYNE CORSE ROAD	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB41615	ROAD	Medieval	376403	786590	Road. Allegedly a Roman road but more likely a medieval drove road. Field survey in 2003 ahead of track upgrading found no trace of the original route along the modern forest track where upgrading required. Field survey in 2005 noted that at NO 75908385 the track has been upgraded to provide access. Field survey in 2010 ahead of upgrading for substation access noted that this section of road is up an upgraded forest road with no trace of its former character. To the south of Fetteresso Forest the road survives as a waterlogged hollow-way though it may have been modified for use as a modern drainage ditch. Part of the track was upgraded in 2012 in connection with a proposed substation (NO78NE0044). The upgrading required very little groundbreaking works, limited to a new passing place in the vicinity of NO78NE0011. A watching brief recorded no archaeological features or artefacts. A watching brief in 2014 during topsoil stripping across the route of the road found no structure of any road surface with topsoil lying directly over natural.
323	LADY'S LEYS	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB41246	ENCLOSURE	Post-medieval	376493.6	787113.4	Remains of a large enclosure, depicted on the OS 1st and 2nd edition maps, associated with the farmstead of Lady's Leys (NO78NE0011). It is suggested to be one of the enclosures relating to the settlement of Duthies shown on the 1774 map of Kincardineshire.
324	COWIE WATER	Non-Designated	MAB41231	ENCLOSURE	Post-medieval	376271.7	787401.1	An enclosure defined by stone dykes and earthen banks enclosing the waterside area, recorded by Forestry Commission survey. The enclosure is not shown on the OS 1st edition map.

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		Heritage Asset						
325	HOBSEAT	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB41230	BUILDING, ENCLOSURE	Post-medieval	376497.1	787480.2	Remains of a three-compartment building shown (unroofed) on the 25in OS 1st edition map on the west side of the Cryne Corse Road. On the east side of the track is a large irregular-shaped enclosure. Neither appear on the 2nd edition OS map. Forestry Commission field visit recorded very slight earthen banks which appear to be the remains of the structure depicted on the 1st edition OS map. The present track follows the line of that track depicted to the east of the cottages. The western track shown on the 1st edition map survives as a lynched greenway above the cottages and scarps shown on the map. The enclosure survives but has been marred by the present track on its western side
326	COWIE LINE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB45324	DEFENCE, REVETMENT, BERM, ANTI TANK BANK	Modern	377153.2	787714	Remains of World War II anti-tank barrier. It comprises a low counterscarp bank, with 5 m wide berm and a vertical face up to 1.8 m high. Originally probably revetted with timber posts held in place by loops of galvanized wire (which do remain). The section is not continuous as the river bank at points is high enough to form a natural barrier and this is the case for circa 2.25 km eastwards from the terminal point of this section at the Burn of Anaholans. Part of this section was in a heavily afforested area during survey in 2004-5 and has been plotted from 1946 RAF vertical aerial photographs.
327	COWIE WATER	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB41232	ENCLOSURE, Rig, BANK (EARTHWORK)	Unknown	376684.8	787667.4	Enclosure recorded by Forestry Commission survey. An area of haugh is enclosed by stone-faced dyke. It appears to contain remains of rig with a wavelength of circa 12 m, but the area has been impacted by an early modern trackway and forestry ploughing. Near the centre of the enclosure, on the south side of the track is a raised 'platform' which appears to contain stone remains.
328	COWIE LINE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB45324	DEFENCE, REVETMENT, BERM, ANTI TANK BANK	Modern	377153.2	787714	Remains of World War II anti-tank barrier. It comprises a low counterscarp bank, with 5 m wide berm and a vertical face up to 1.8 m high. Originally probably revetted with timber posts held in place by loops of galvanized wire (which do remain). The section is not continuous as the river bank at points is high enough to form a natural barrier and this is the case for circa 2.25 km eastwards from the terminal point of this section at the Burn of Anaholans. Part of this section was in a heavily afforested area during survey in 2004-5 and has been plotted from 1946 RAF vertical aerial photographs.
329	COWIE WATER	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB45326	RIDGE AND FURROW, Rig And Furrow	Medieval/Post-medieval	376816.9	787806.2	Within an area of haugh enclosed by a stone faced dyke there appears to be the remains of a rig, width approximately 12m. However the area has been marred by the construction of an early modern trackway and by forestry ploughing.
330	COWIE LINE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB45324	DEFENCE, REVETMENT, BERM, ANTI TANK BANK	Modern	377153.2	787714	Remains of World War II anti-tank barrier. It comprises a low counterscarp bank, with 5 m wide berm and a vertical face up to 1.8 m high. Originally probably revetted with timber posts held in place by loops of galvanized wire (which do remain). The section is not continuous as the river bank at points is high enough to form a natural barrier and this is the case for circa 2.25 km eastwards from the terminal point of this section at the Burn of Anaholans. Part of this section was in a heavily afforested area during survey in 2004-5 and has been plotted from 1946 RAF vertical aerial photographs.
331	STONEHOUSE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB41250	DRAIN	Modern	376995.1	787845	Artificial drain well faced with stone on its northern side, recorded by Forestry Commission.
332	STONEHOUSE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB41224	ENCLOSURE	Unknown	377450.9	788132.2	Two attached enclosures lie within woodland to the north-east of Stonehouse.
333	CRAIGNEIL	Event	MAB62668	DBA	N/A	379080	789727	A desk based assessment and targeted walkover were carried out by Headland Archaeology in July 2014 in connection with a proposed wind farm. This covered a number of previously known sites: NO89SW0042, NO89SW0049, NO79SE0017, NO78NE0027, NO89SW0045, NO89SW0073, NO89SW0096. Only one new feature was identified - NO89SW0150.
334	MERGIE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB41234	PLATFORM	Unknown	379173.8	789042.5	A possible building platform with associated dyke sits on a slope overlooking the burn below an area of stone clearance. Recorded by Forestry Commission survey.
335	MERGIE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB41235	STRUCTURE, STRUCTURE	Unknown	379157	789030.5	An area of extensive boulder clearance recorded by Forestry Commission stretching north-west along the contour from this point for approximately 50 m with a concentration in the centre. Some suggestions of structural form appear to underlie some bits of the debris. The whole is suggestive of destruction debris from earlier features.
336	WOODSIDE	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB41229	CROFT	Post-medieval	379282	789077.2	Ruin of a croft which is shown on both the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps. On the 1st edition it is shown as having two small rectangular buildings. One of these has been removed by the 2nd edition map and there is the roofless remains of the other shown on the 2005 map.

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doAsset/ Event Number	Asset/Event Name	Status	NRHE/HER Reference	Classification	Period	Easting	Northing	Description
337	CRAIGNEIL	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB62500	CROFT	Post-medieval	379124.9	789313	Site of a croft that is depicted on the 1st edition OS map. It shows two rectangular buildings with an attached rectangular enclosure. By the 2nd edition map these had been altered to a single U-plan steading and another rectangular building added to the west. A forestry access track has been constructed across the area. Field visit in 2024 as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment found no remains, the croft and enclosure likely removed during construction of the bellmouth junction of the Slug Road.
338	BLACKBURN	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB41227	FARMSTEAD, DAM, BUILDING, POND	Post-medieval	378656.1	789728.4	Remains of a farmstead that is depicted on the 1st edition OS map. It shows four three rectangular buildings with a millpond and sluice to the northwest. Another small building has been added by the 2nd edition OS map.
339	BLACKHILLS	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42068	MILESTONE	Post-medieval	389257.4	789973.8	Milestone still in use which is shown on the OS maps from the 1st edition map onwards. It records the distances 'Stonehaven 3' and 'Aberdeen 2'.
340	CANTLAYHILLS 2	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	MAB42725	CAIRN, LINEAR EARTHWORK, BANK (EARTHWORK)	Unknown	387835.2	790223.9	Remains of cairns. Numerous small cairns are visible between dense gorse thickets that cover 6ha. There are also several stony banks, but at least one of them is probably a relatively modern field-dyke.
341	Cranhill	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Farmstead	Post-medieval	391521	793908	<p>*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map</p> <p>*Cranhill annotated on the OS map published 1868. The farmstead appears to be arranged in a U-shaped pattern open to the south</p> <p>*Kincardineshire, Sheet VIII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868</p>
342	Cranhill 2	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Building	Post-medieval	391489	793916	<p>*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map</p> <p>*A roughly NW-SE aligned building recorded NW of Cranhill. Likely an ancillary building</p> <p>*Kincardineshire, Sheet VIII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868</p>
343	Mains of Cammochmore	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Farmstead	Post-medieval	391388	794031	<p>*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map</p> <p>*A U-shaped pattern farmstead, open to the SW and annotated on the OS published in 1868</p> <p>*Kincardineshire, Sheet VIII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868</p>

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doAsset/ Event Number	Asset/Event Name	Status	NRHE/HER Reference	Classification	Period	Easting	Northing	Description
344	Mains of Cammochmore 2	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Building	Post-medieval	391532	794057	*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *A NW-SE aligned building likely associated with the adjacent Mains of Cammochmore *Kincardineshire, Sheet VIII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868
345	Mains of Cammochmore 3	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Building	Post-medieval	391346	794083	*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *A larger NW-SE aligned building likely associated with the adjacent Mains of Cammochmore *Kincardineshire, Sheet VIII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868
346	Well	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Well	Post-medieval	391143	794356	*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *A well annotated to the south of wetland depicted on the OS map published 1868 *Kincardineshire, Sheet VIII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868
347	Well	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Well	Post-medieval	389972	793422	*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *A well annotated on the OS map published 1868 *Kincardineshire, Sheet VIII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868
348	Square Pond	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Pond	Post-medieval	389959	792728	*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *A pond depicted on the OS map published 1868 likely associated with Nether Mains of Muchals *Kincardineshire, Sheet XII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868

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doAsset/ Event Number	Asset/Event Name	Status	NRHE/HER Reference	Classification	Period	Easting	Northing	Description
349	Well	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Well	Post-medieval	390626	794425	<p>*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *A well annotated on the OS map published 1868 *Kincardineshire, Sheet VIII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868</p>
350	Quarry	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Quarry	Post-medieval	390447	793466	<p>*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *A small roadside quarry depicted on the OS map published 1868 *Kincardineshire, Sheet XII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868</p>
351	West Mains of Monduff Building	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Building	Post-medieval	390104	793116	<p>*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *An E-W aligned building within a plot of land depicted on the OS map published 1868 to the south of West Mains of Monduff and likely an ancillary building *Kincardineshire, Sheet XII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868</p>
352	Burn of Pheppie	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Farmstead	Post-medieval	389674	793039	<p>*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *A collection of three buildings located around a courtyard likely a farmstead annotated on the OS map of 1868 *Kincardineshire, Sheet XII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868</p>
353	Burn of Pheppie Building	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Building	Post-medieval	389615	792973	<p>*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *An N-S building located on the western side of a N-S aligned road to the south of the main building of the Burn of Pheppie likely a farmstead annotated on the OS map of 1868 *Kincardineshire, Sheet XII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868</p>

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doAsset/ Event Number	Asset/Event Name	Status	NRHE/HER Reference	Classification	Period	Easting	Northing	Description
354	Burn of Pheppie Well	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Well	Post-medieval	389655	793079	*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *A well annotated on the OS map of 1868 *Kincardineshire, Sheet XII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868
355	Greenheads Building	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Building	Post-medieval	388990	792973	*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *An E-W aligned building north of an E-W aligned road depicted on the OS map of 1868 *Kincardineshire, Sheet XII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868
356	Roughpark	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Farmstead	Post-medieval	388671	793162	*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *A collection of up to 3 buildings annotated Roughpark on the OS map of 1868 *Kincardineshire, Sheet XII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868
357	Well	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Well	Post-medieval	388729	792738	*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *A well annotated on the OS map of 1868 *Kincardineshire, Sheet XII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868
358	Winbrae	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Building	Post-medieval	389318	792088	*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *An L-shaped building annotated on the OS map of 1868 *Kincardineshire, Sheet XII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868

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doAsset/ Event Number	Asset/Event Name	Status	NRHE/HER Reference	Classification	Period	Easting	Northing	Description
359	Building	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Building	Post-medieval	389093	792023	<p>*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *A small N-S aligned building on the eastern side of a N-S aligned track depicted on the OS map of 1868 *Kincardineshire, Sheet XII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868</p>
360	Pond	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Pond	Post-medieval	388215	791677	<p>*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *A N-S aligned pond to the north of a farmstead depicted on the OS map of 1868 *Kincardineshire, Sheet XII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868</p>
361	Greenrees	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Buildings	Post-medieval	387412	791296	<p>*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *Two buildings creatign an L-shaped structure located north and east of a courtyard depicted on the OS map of 1868 *Kincardineshire, Sheet XII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868</p>
362	Well	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Well	Post-medieval	387375	791334	<p>*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *A well north of Greenrees depicted on the OS map of 1868 *Kincardineshire, Sheet XII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868</p>
363	Well	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Well	Post-medieval	387712	790709	<p>*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *A well depicted on the OS map of 1868 *Kincardineshire, Sheet XII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868</p>

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doAsset/ Event Number	Asset/Event Name	Status	NRHE/HER Reference	Classification	Period	Easting	Northing	Description
364	Buildings	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Buildings	Post-medieval	387347	790664	*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *Two buildings within a triangular plot of land depicted on the OS map of 1868 *Kincardineshire, Sheet XII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868
365	Wineford	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Buildings; Pond	Post-medieval	387347	790664	*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *Two adjoining buildings north of an E-W aligned track, with a pond to the south of the track depicted on the OS map of 1868 *Kincardineshire, Sheet XII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868
366	Building	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Building	Post-medieval	387181	789755	*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *An NE-SW aligned building depicted on the OS map of 1868 *Kincardineshire, Sheet XII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868
367	Croft of Glithno	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Croft	Post-medieval	386505	788682	*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *An NW-SE aligned building depicted on the OS map of 1868 *Kincardineshire, Sheet XII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868
368	Springhall	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Building	Post-medieval	385438	788590	*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *A building within what appears to be a garden plot depicted on the OS map of 1868 *Kincardineshire, Sheet XII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868

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doAsset/ Event Number	Asset/Event Name	Status	NRHE/HER Reference	Classification	Period	Easting	Northing	Description
369	Well	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Well	Post-medieval	385349	788550	*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *A well depicted on the OS map of 1868 *Kincardineshire, Sheet XII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868
370	Well	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Well	Post-medieval	384183	787467	*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *A well depicted on the OS map of 1868 *Kincardineshire, Sheet XII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868
371	Well	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Well	Post-medieval	383706	786961	*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *A well depicted on the OS map of 1868 *Kincardineshire, Sheet XII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868
372	Sluice	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Suice	Post-medieval	384133	786254	*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *A sluice depicted on the OS map of 1868 *Kincardineshire, Sheet XII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868
373	Building	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Building	Post-medieval	383165	786881	*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *An L-shaped building depicted on the OS map of 1868 *Kincardineshire, Sheet XII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868
374	Pond	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Pond	Post-medieval	383214	786731	*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *A sub-triangular shaped pond depicted on the OS map of 1868 *Kincardineshire, Sheet XII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868

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doAsset/ Event Number	Asset/Event Name	Status	NRHE/HER Reference	Classification	Period	Easting	Northing	Description
375	Building	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Building	Post-medieval	382514	786665	<p>*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *A N-S aligned building likely associated with Cottonbrae Croft depicted on the OS map of 1868 *Kincardineshire, Sheet XVII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868</p>
376	Pond	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Pond	Post-medieval	380925	785553	<p>*21/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *A sub-square pond depicted on the OS map of 1868 *Kincardineshire, Sheet XVII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868</p>
377	Parallel Linear Features	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Linear Features	Unknown	390152	793332	<p>*21/04/2026 *LB *LiDAR Imagery; Satellite Imagery *Four roughly E-W aligned parallel linear features. Unknown origin or function *NO99 Phase 1 1m DTM Archaeological VAT; SLRM; SVF; Multi-Hillshade; NO78_88_89_99 Phase 2 SLRM</p>
378	Possible Quarry	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Quarry?	Unknown	387740	790666	<p>*21/04/2026 *LB *LiDAR Imagery *Possible irregular negative feature associated with an area of upcoast. Possibly small quarry. *NO78_88_89_99 1m DMT Phase 2 SLRM</p>
379	Linear Feature	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Linear Features	Unknown	383047	786773	<p>*22/04/2026 *LB *LiDAR Imagery *Parallel linear feature extends c. 30m in width and c. 710m in length *Possible former tree belt *Centre point recorded *NO78_88_89_99 1m DMT Phase 2 SLRM; Slope</p>

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doAsset/ Event Number	Asset/Event Name	Status	NRHE/HER Reference	Classification	Period	Easting	Northing	Description
380	Possible Field Boundaries	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Field Patterning	Unknown	383403	786859	*22/04/2026 *LB *LiDAR Imagery *What appears to be three fields, with interior divisions. Potentially pre-OS field boundaries or a garden area *Centre point recorded *NO78_88_89_99 1m DMT Phase 2 SLRM; Hillshad; Arch VAT
381	Possible Battle Site	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Possible Battlefield	Unknown	387868	790659	*22/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *Annotation by Roy "Within Dotten Line is supposed to have a Battle" *Approximate centre point recorded *Roy, W. 1747-52 Military Map of Scotland- Highlands
382	Hill Of Megray	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	36921	Field System,Linear Earthwork	Prehistoric	387510	788680	What may be traces of a prehistoric field-system are visible in rough ground on the NW flank of the Hill of Megray. Most of the area is obscured by dense gorse thickets, but at least two low banks and a small cairn can be identified. The field-system is traversed from NW to SE by a later earthwork comprising double ditches with a medial bank 3m thick and 0.6m high (NO 8737 8874 to 8762 8853). The earthwork continued round towards the SW (to NO 8754 8827), but this section has been levelled by ploughing. The date and purpose of this earthwork is unknown.
383	Auquorthies	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	36948	Farmhouse, Farmstead, Chimney	Post-medieval	388870	789800	Farm chimney, Auquorthies. Mid 19th century. A circular-section brick chimney on a square stone base, serving a small single-storey engine- and boiler-house
384	Limpet Mill	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	361073	<u>Ring Ditch,Pit</u>	Prehistoric	388710	789080	Imagery available online
385	Logie Farm	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	380115	Farmhouse,Farm,Farmstead	Post-medieval	388630	788750	Map regression, survey and photographic recording of a U-plan mid-19th century farmstead with later alterations and buildings.
386	DUNNOTTAR HOUSE (FORMER) WALLED GARDENS AND SHELL HOUSE	Listed Building - Category B	LB6609	Walled Garden and Shell House	Post-medieval	386559	784962	John Paterson, 1809. 2 adjoining rectangular-plan walled gardens, built into sloping site; large garden to N, smaller nursery garden to S. SHELL HOUSE: situated outside S garden to E.
387	GLASLAW BRIDGE OVER GLASLAW BURN	Listed Building - Category C	LB2907	Bridge	Post-medieval	386361	784369	Single segmental arch, rubble with dentilled string course and parapets widening at approaches. Early 19th century.
388	WAR MEMORIAL, BLACK HILL	Listed Building - Category C	LB2918	War Memorial	Modern	387768	784878	Octagonal Greek temple ruin, doric columns supporting entablature. 1914-18 war. Landmark.
389	FETTERESSO CASTLE - DOOCOT	Listed Building - Category A	LB9371	Doocot	Post-medieval	384386	785391	Bee-hive. Harled rubble with three rat lines and top entry. 16th century.
390	FETTERESSO CASTLE	Listed Building - Category B	LB9373	Castle	Post-medieval	384266	785490	John Paterson 1808, substantial additions and alterations, incorporating part of castle rebuilt 1671. Dismantled 1954. Extensive, picturesque towered and turreted, battlemented, 3-storey mansion.
391	Dunnottar Castle	Scheduled Monument	SM986; 36992	Fort; Castle	Multi-period	388108	783875	This castle probably occupies the site of a prehistoric fort; St Ninian established a church here about the beginning of the 5th century and it may also be the 'Dunfoithir' that was besieged in 681. An oval motte was noted on the site in 1970. In the reign of William the Lion (1165-1214) 'Dunnottar' was the place where warrants were returnable for the Mearns, and 'le castiel de Dunostre' is

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doAsset/ Event Number	Asset/Event Name	Status	NRHE/HER Reference	Classification	Period	Easting	Northing	Description
								<p>mentioned at the beginning of the 13th century. The parish church was on the site by the 13th century. Another castle (castle tower) was built at the end of the 14th century, being mentioned in a Papal Bull of 13 July 1394. Charles II lodged here in 1650 and the Scottish Crown Jewels (The Honours of Scotland) were hidden here in 1651 as it was considered one of the strongest places in the kingdom. In 1685, 167 Covenanters were packed into a small vault ('the Whig's vault') where 9 died due to the terrible conditions. In its final form, the castle was forfeited in 1716 and the roofs and floors removed and sold. In 1925 the systematic repair and excavation of the ruins was begun; the monument is now open to the public.</p> <p>In its present form the extensive remains date from various periods. The oldest portion is the early 15th century keep with a range of buildings extending to the E containing stables and storehouses. The gatehouse is approached by a steep path and defended by three tiers of splayed gun-loops. The arched entrance is the only opening in a solid wall of masonry set into a cleft in the rock; a very impressive and dominating entrance. The buildings to the NW include a chapel, are grouped around a courtyard and date from the late 16th or early 17th centuries; a huge water tank lies within the courtyard and there is also a bowling green to the W of this later range.</p> <p>A stone vessel from this site is held in the National Museums of Scotland.</p>
392	Gallow Hill,cairn	Scheduled Monument	SM4849	Cairn	Prehistoric	386441	784866	<p>The monument comprises the remains of a burial cairn of the Bronze Age, situated on the summit of a natural hillock. It measures 15.5m in diameter and 1.8m high. Antiquarian disturbance in the last century revealed human bones. In 1989 a cup marked stone was found a short distance away. The mound will almost certainly cover further burials and a contemporary ground surface.</p>
393	Upper Auchorthies	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Farmstead	Post-medieval	388545	789352	<p>*22/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *A courtyard farmstead open to the SE associated with a wall * Kincardineshire, Sheet XII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868</p>
394	Westport	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Building and Well	Post-medieval	388183	789130	<p>*30/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *A collection of potentially three buildings, one of which is unroofed on the OS map of 1868 associated with a well * Kincardineshire, Sheet XII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868</p>
395	Limpet Mill (Corn)	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Buildings	Post-medieval	388894	789049	<p>*30/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *Two rectangular buildings aligned (E-W) and annotated as a corn mill * Kincardineshire, Sheet XII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868</p>

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396	Well	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Well	Post-medieval	387682	788945	<p>*30/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *A well annotated within woodland on the OS map of 1868 * Kincardineshire, Sheet XII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868</p>
397	Buildings	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Buildings	Post-medieval	387575	789077	<p>*30/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *Three small buildings on the western side of a track on the OS map of 1868. Potentially agricultural buildings * Kincardineshire, Sheet XII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868</p>
398	Building	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	N/A	Building	Post-medieval	387624	789109	<p>*30/04/2026 *LB *Historic Map *A singular rectangular building, aligned roughly NE-SW on the OS map of 1868. * Kincardineshire, Sheet XII Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1868</p>