Chapter 10 Cultural Heritage

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List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
BDOHL	Beauly to Denny Overhead Line
CHVP	Cultural Heritage Viewpoint
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
DPSG	Designation Policy and Selection Guidance
HES	Historic Environment Scotland
HER	Historic Environment Record
HEPS	Historic Environment Policy Scotland
HWLDP	Highland Wide Local Development Plan
ISA	Inner Study Area
MCHE	Managing Change in the Historic Environment
NCAP	The National Collection of Aerial Photography
NRHE	National Record of the Historic Environment
NPF	National Planning Framework

OSA	Outer Study Area
PAN	Planning Advice Note
SM	Scheduled Monument
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record
THC	The Highland Council
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

10. Cultural Heritage

10.1. Executive Summary

10.1.1. A desk-based assessment was undertaken to identify known heritage assets and the potential for currently unrecorded assets within the site and the wider Culachy Estate Boundary which may be impacted by the Proposed Development. In addition a 'stage 1' assessment has identified assets in the wider landscape that may be affected through changes caused to their setting. A final list of receptors was agreed with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and taken forward for assessment as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report.

10.1.2. The assessment of effects has therefore considered potential direct physical impacts related to construction of the Proposed Development on the fabric of heritage assets, indirect impacts that could adversely affect the preservation of heritage assets (as outlined in **paragraph 10.5.23**), and any impacts on the setting of a heritage asset that could affect its cultural significance.

10.1.3. Heritage assets of post-medieval date are present within the Culachy Estate Boundary. A direct physical impact is predicted upon one heritage asset of post-medieval date within the site itself. The asset comprises a bank associated with a farmstead. Effects of no greater than minor significance are predicted on the asset as a result of the direct physical impact.

10.1.4. The site is of up to medium archaeological potential for previously unrecorded remains of post-medieval date.

10.1.5. A programme of archaeological mitigation relating to the asset which would be physically impacted is proposed along with a watching brief over ground-breaking works in areas of archaeological potential. These works will be agreed with The Highland Council (THC).

10.1.6. Four Scheduled Monuments within the Culachy Estate boundary and one outside it comprising five sections of the Corrieyairack Pass Military Road were subject to detailed setting assessment.

10.1.7. No significant cumulative or residual effects arising from the Proposed Development are identified or predicted. In terms of Policy 7 (h) of National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4), the integrity of the setting of the five Scheduled Monuments assessed in this chapter would not be significantly adversely affected as a result of the Proposed Development. In terms of Policy 7 (o) of NPF4, the non-designated heritage assets within the site have been avoided as far as practicable; where direct impacts are predicted, appropriate mitigation has been proposed in line with Policy 7(o) of NPF4.

10.2. Introduction

10.2.1. This chapter provides an assessment of the potential effects of the Proposed Development on Cultural Heritage. The assessment was undertaken by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd and has been carried out in accordance with the standards of professional conduct outlined in the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct: professional ethics in archaeology.

10.2.2. The Proposed Development, described in detail in **Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description**, includes up to eight wind turbines with a maximum tip height of 200 m and associated infrastructure and is located in the parish of Boleskin and Abertarff in The Highland Council region. Access is proposed from Ardachy Road and continues south towards the Proposed Development turbines. The proposed access largely utilises existing tracks although sections of new track area also proposed. The layout is shown on **Figure 10.1**.

10.2.3. A heritage asset is any element of the historic environment which has cultural significance. Both discrete features, and extensive landscapes defined by a specific historic event, process or theme, can be defined as heritage assets; assets may overlap, or be nested within one another. Designated heritage assets include Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, World Heritage Sites, Conservation Areas, Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Inventory Historic Battlefields and Historic Marine Protected Areas. Other assets may also be locally designated by Policies of the Local Plan.

10.2.4. The majority of heritage assets are not designated. Some non-designated assets are recorded in Historic Environment Records (HERs) maintained by local authorities and other agencies. Many heritage assets are currently unrecorded, and the information contained in HERs is not definitive, since they may include features which, for instance, have been entirely removed, or are of uncertain location, dubious identification, or negligible importance. The identification of undesignated heritage assets is therefore to some extent a matter of professional judgement.

10.2.5. Some heritage assets may coincide with visual receptors or landscape character areas, which are assessed in **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment** and in such cases, it is important to recognise the difference in approach between these two topics. Cultural heritage assessment addresses effects on the cultural significance of heritage assets, which may result from, but are not equivalent to, visual impacts. Similarly, an effect on a landscape character area does not equate to an effect on the cultural heritage significance of heritage assets within it.

10.3. Legislation, Policy and Guidelines

10.3.1. The assessment has been undertaken with reference to relevant legislation, policy and guidance relating to the historic environment.

Statutory Protection

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

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

10.3.4. The 1979 Act makes no reference to the settings of Scheduled Monuments. The 1997 Act does, however, place a duty on the planning authority with respect to Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas, and their settings. Section 59 of the 1997 Act states (in part):

"*In considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, a planning authority or the Secretary of State, as the case may be, shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses*."

10.3.5. The Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014 defines the role of the public body, HES, and the processes for the designation of heritage assets, consents and rights of appeal.

Planning Policy

10.3.6. The historic environment is defined in National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) as "*the physical evidence for human activity that connects people with place, linked with the associations we can see, feel and understand" and includes "individual assets, related settings and the wider cultural landscape*" (Annex F Glossary of definitions).

10.3.7. NPF4 Part 1 A National Spatial Strategy for Scotland 2045 describes how the future spatial development of Scotland can contribute to planning outcomes. It shows where there will be

opportunities for growth and regeneration, investment in the low carbon economy, environmental enhancement, and improved connections across the country.

10.3.8. Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS) (HES, 2019b) defines the Historic Environment and Scottish Government Policy. It sets out the vision and key principles on how to care for and protect Scotland's historic environment including designations of ancient monuments, principles for scheduling and listing, contexts for Conservation Areas, marine protected areas, Gardens and Designated Landscapes, historic battlefields and consents and advice. HEPS provides further policy direction to NPF4 and sets out high level policies and core principles for decision-making affecting the historic environment.

NPF4 – Part 2: Historic Assets and Places Policy 7

10.3.9. The Scottish Government's planning policies in relation to the historic environment are set out in NPF4 Part 2 National Planning Policy (The Scottish Government, February 2023) Policy 7: Historic assets and places. NPF4 Policy Principles includes the *Policy Intent: To protect and enhance historic environment assets and places, and to enable positive change as a catalyst for the regeneration of places.* NPF4 Policy 7 applies its principles to designated and non-designated assets. Those relevant to the current assessment are Policies 7 (a), (h), and (o); these are outlined in full in **paragraph 2.2.3** of Cultural Heritage Baseline and Stage 1 Setting Assessment (**Volume 4**, **Appendix 10.1**).

Local Planning Policy

10.3.10. THC adopted the Highland Wide Local Development Plan (HWLDP) in April 2012. Within the HWLDP, Policy 57 Natural, Built and Cultural Heritage and Policy 67 Renewable Energy Developments are of relevance to this assessment.

10.3.11. Policy 57 Natural, Built and Cultural Heritage in part states:

"*All development proposals will be assessed taking into account the level of importance and type of heritage features, the form and scale of the development, and any impact on the feature and its setting*"

"*Council also intends to adopt the Supplementary Guidance on the Highland Historic Environment Strategy. The main principles of this guidance will ensure that*:

- *Future developments take account of the historic environment and that they are of a design and quality to enhance the historic environment bringing both economic and social benefits;*
- *It sets a proactive, consistent approach to the protection of the historic environment*."

10.3.12. Policy 67 Renewable Energy Developments in part states:

"…the Council will support proposals where it is satisfied that they are located, sited and designed such that they will not be significantly detrimental overall, either individually or cumulatively with other developments (see Glossary), having regard in particular to any significant effects on the following:

- *natural, built and cultural heritage features*".

10.3.13. Planning Policy is more fully described and considered in **Chapter 5**: **Planning and Energy Policy** of this EIA Report and the Planning Statement which accompanies the Application.

Guidance

10.3.14. The methodology for cultural heritage impact assessment in this chapter is consistent with the Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook (v5 NatureScot & HES 2018), guidance for competent authorities, consultation bodies, and others involved in the EIA process in Scotland.

10.3.15. HES also provides guidance in a series of documents entitled 'Managing Change in the Historic Environment' (MCHE). These provide guidance to planning authorities and stakeholders regarding key issues relating to development, the planning process, and key issues pertaining to the historic environment. Most relevant to this assessment are the guidance notes covering Setting (HES 2020b). The HES guidance remains relevant as to how to apply NPF4 Policy 7.

10.3.16. HES published Designation Policy and Selection Guidance (DPSG, 2019a) to accompany HEPS. DPSG outlines the policy and selection guidance used by HES when designating sites and places of national importance.

10.3.17. Planning Advice Note (PAN) 2/2011: Planning and Archaeology provides local government officers with technical advice to planning authorities and developers on dealing with archaeological remains. Among other issues it considers the balance in planning decisions between the preservation in situ of archaeological remains and the benefits of development; setting; the circumstances under which developers can be required to provide further information, in the form of a field evaluation to allow planning authorities to reach a decision; and measures that can be taken to mitigate adverse impacts.

10.3.18. Standards and Guidance published by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) have been followed in preparing this assessment, in particular the Code of Conduct (2014, updated 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022), the 'Standard and guidance for commissioning work or providing consultancy advice on archaeology and the historic environment' (2014, updated 2020) and the 'Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment' (2014, updated 2017 & 2020).

10.3.19. This assessment has also been prepared with reference to IEMA, IHBC and CIfA's July 2021 publication 'Principles of Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment in the UK'. This document presents good practice for assessment of the impact of a development proposal on cultural heritage assets which is consistent with the principles.

10.3.20. This assessment has also been prepared with reference to THC's 'Standards for Archaeological Work' (2012).

10.3.21. The cultural heritage visualisations have been produced according to NatureScot's 2017 guidance 'Visual Representations of Wind Farms'.

10.4. Consultation

10.4.1. Throughout the scoping process, and subsequently during the ongoing EIA process, relevant organisations were contacted with regards to the Proposed Development. **Table 10.1** outlines the consultation responses received in relation to Cultural Heritage.

Table 10.1 List of Consultee Responses

Consultee	Consultation Response	Applicant Action
The Highland Council (THC) Pre-Application Consultation Feedback – THC Historic Environment Team (1/12/2022)	Stated that there are several historic environment assets within the site boundary and that there is the potential for previously unknown assets to exist. Stated that these should be avoided in the first instance. Advised that the Proposed Development has the potential to impact the setting of the Corrieyairack Pass and that this should be subject to further assessment. Requested the Cultural Heritage EIA Report should include a walkover survey, a consideration of direct	A setting assessment on five sections of the Corrieyairack Pass (SM6140, SM6141, SM6142, SM6143 and SM6128) was carried out and detailed assessment carried out in the EIA Report (**Section 10.7**). Visualisations including wirelines and photomontages (**Volume**

	and indirect impacts (including visualisations). Also advised that where *'impacts are unavoidable, it is expected that proposed methods to mitigate this impact (are) discussed in detail, including both physical (i.e. re-design) and where appropriate, compensatory/off-setting*.	**2**, **Figures 10.6-10.10d**) were produced. A walkover survey of the proposed areas of infrastructure of the Proposed Development within the site was carried out and the locations of all known heritage assets provided to the Applicant to ensure they were avoided by design where practicable.
Historic Environment Scotland (HES) - Pre-Application Consultation Feedback (15/11/2021)	Stated the Proposed Development has the potential to impact the setting of six sections of the Corrieyairack Pass: SM6128, SM6129, SM6140, SM6141, SM6142, SM6143. Also stated sufficient information should be provided which demonstrates that the sections of the Corrieyairack Pass within the site boundary will be avoided. Stated that a wide search area should be used and ZTV analysis employed to identify whether there would be impacts on the setting of additional heritage assets in the wider area of the Proposed Development.	A 'Stage 1' Setting Assessment was carried out which employed study areas up to 10 km from the site boundary and considered any asset beyond this which may be particularly sensitive to visual change. Analysis of the ZTV was carried out to determine which heritage assets within the study areas were likely to require detailed setting assessment in the EIA Report. Detailed setting assessment on five sections of the Corrieyairack Pass (SM6140, SM6141, SM6142, SM6143 and SM6128) was carried out (**Section 10.7**) and visualisations including wirelines and photomontages were produced (**Volume 2**, **Figures 10.6-10.10d**). SM6129 was excluded from the EIA Report as it is located entirely outwith the ZTV. There are no direct impacts on the scheduled sections of the Corrieyairack Pass; any such impacts were avoided as part of the design iteration process.
HES – Scoping Response (12/04/2022)	Re-iterated that the Proposed Development has the potential to impact the setting of the Corrieyairack Pass: SM6128, SM6129, SM6140, SM6141, SM6142, SM6143 and the need for ZTV analysis to determine whether other heritage assets in may require detailed setting assessment.	See above response with regard to the 'Stage 1' Setting Assessment.

	Stated they were broadly content with the proposed study areas out to 10 km from the site boundary but requested consideration was given to assets outwith this distance '…*where long distance views which form part of their cultural significance could be affected*.'	See above response with regard to the 'Stage 1' Setting Assessment.
	Welcomed proposed mitigation measures to avoid direct impacts on these sections of the Corrieyairack Pass. Stated that the EIA Report should demonstrate measures taken to reduce and avoid direct impacts on these Scheduled Monuments.	Measures to reduce and avoid direct impacts are outlined in **Section 10.8**.
	Stated that in addition to the sections of the Corrieyairack Pass listed above, there was also the potential for impacts on:	
	Old Bridge over River Oich (LB1872), Torr Dhuin, fort, Fort Augustus (SM794), Caledonian Canal, Fort Augustus to Loch Ness (SM3614), Caledonian Canal, Cullochy Lock (SM5293), Caledonian Canal, Cullochy Lock to Kyltra Lock (SM6496), Caledonian Canal, Kyltra Lock (SM5291), Caledonian Canal, Kyltra Lock to Fort Augustus Scheduled Monument, SM6497), Caledonian Canal, Loch Oich to Cullochy Lock (Scheduled Monument, SM6495), Invergarry Castle (SM5481), Kilwhimen Barracks, Fort Augustus (SM9903)	These assets were considered as part of the 'Stage 1' Setting Assessment (**Volume 4**, **Appendix 10.1**) with wireline visualisations produced for each asset.
	Stated they would expect the EIA Report to '…*demonstrate a full appreciation of the setting individual heritage assets, recognising that impacts may occur on views from, towards or across them as well as from potential changes to their experience*'	
	Confirmed that the proposed Landscape and Visual viewpoints for the Corrieyairack Pass would be sufficient for the purposes of the EIA Report.	
	Requested that additional visualisations were produced for Old Bridge over River Oich (LB1872) and Torr Dhuin, fort, Fort Augustus (SM794)	
HES – 'Stage 1' Setting Assessment response (05/09/2022)	Stated they were broadly content with the approach set out in the assessment but disagreed with the exclusion of the following assets (which lie outwith the ZTV) from detailed setting assessment in the EIA Report: Cullochy Lock (SM5293) and Invergarry Castle (SM5481).	A meeting with HES took place on 16/11/22 to discuss the scope of the setting assessment. Following the reduction of the number of proposed turbines from ten to eight, comparative wirelines demonstrating the difference in views from and to these assets and those noted in the above consultation, between the Scoping layout and the frozen design were produced. A revised ZTV was also provided to HES. These visualisations and ZTV were shown to HES and sent to them following the meeting in order to demonstrate that
	HES raised concern regarding views to these assets from areas which are within the ZTV. They also noted that a Category A Listed Building (LB1861 Fort Augustus Abbey, Monastery and School) was omitted from the assessment and should be considered in the EIA Report.	

		the revised layout reduced or eliminated visibility of the Proposed Development in views from and to these assets. Cullochy Lock (SM5293), Invergarry Castle (SM5481) and Fort Augustus Abbey, Monastery and School (LB1861) were all considered along with the assets HES listed in their Scoping response (with the exception of the Corrieyairack Pass which was retained for detailed setting assessment in the EIA Report) as part of a follow up document which considered the potential setting impacts on these assets. The document proposed that all assets other than the Corrieyairack Pass should not be retained for detailed assessment due to the negligible impact the Proposed Development would have on the cultural significance of each.
THC Historic Environment Team – 'Stage 1' Setting Assessment response (11/11/2022)	Confirmed that enough detail had been provided in the 'Stage 1' Setting Assessment and that the list of proposed assets retained for detailed assessment was appropriate. No further assets were recommended for inclusion in the EIA Report.	None required
HES – pre-application response (13/01/2023)	Confirmed they were content to scope out the following assets following issue of updated wirelines, ZTV and 'Stage 1 Setting Assessment': • SM794 Torr Dhuin, fort, Fort Augustus • SM3614 Caledonian Canal, Fort Augustus to Loch Ness • SM6496 Caledonian Canal, Cullochy Lock to Kyltra Lock • SM6497 Caledonian Canal, Kyltra Lock to Fort Augustus • SM6495 Caledonian Canal, Loch Oich to Cullochy Lock • SM9903 Kilwhimen Barracks, Fort Augustus • SM5481 Invergarry Castle • SM5293 Cullochy Locks (views towards) • LB1872 Old Bridge over River Oich • LB1861 Fort Augustus Abbey, Monastery and School	

	Confirmed that they were content with the proposed scope of the setting assessment which comprised five sections of the Corrieyairack Pass: • SM6140 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, watershed to Allt Lagan a'Bhainne • SM6141 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, Allt Lagan a'Bhainne to Black Burn • SM6142 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, Black Burn to Connachie Burn • SM6143 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, Connachie Burn to Culachy • SM6128 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, Allt Ruadh to watershed Requested photomontage visualisations for each of the assets retained for setting assessment.	Photomontages for each of the Scheduled sections of the Corrieyairack Pass were produced and sent to HES in May 2023.
HES – pre-application response (16/06/2023)	Following review of the draft photomontages, HES stated that they considered the impact on the setting of the Corrieyairack Pass would be highest in views from CHVP4 (see **Volume 2, Figures 10.9b-10.9d**), highlighting Turbine 8 as being the most prominent; they also stated that Turbine 1 would be most prominent in views from CHVP5 (see **Volume 2**, **Figures 10.10b-10.10d**). HES stated that the turbines would represent a greater impact than the existing Beauly-Denny Overhead Line and that the proposed development would represent a significant alteration to the 'sense of place' associated with the Corrieyairack Pass which would likely result in a 'significant and adverse impact to the integrity' of the monument's setting. They stated they had not yet carried out their site visit and would provide further comment following this.	Headland Archaeology provided relevant information to allow HES to carry out their site visit
HES – pre-application response (07/07/2023)	Following their site visit, HES stated that the visit confirmed their interpretation that the 'sense of place' associated with the Corrieyairack Pass makes a significant contribution to its setting. They re-stated that the impact would be greatest in views from CHVP4, with Turbine 8 identified as being the most prominent in this view. They also highlighted Turbine 1 as being prominent. HES identified an additional viewpoint from where they stated a wireline visualisation would be useful: 238980, 800700. They concluded that deletion of Turbines 1 and 8 and/or significant relocation of the turbines would reduce likely impacts on the setting of the Corrieyairack Pass.	Additional wireline produced and is included in the EIA Report.

10.5. Assessment Methods and Significance Criteria

Framework for Assessment

10.5.1. The approach to assessment outlined in this chapter, described in detail below, is in accordance with relevant guidance on cultural heritage impact assessment provided by: 'Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook' (NatureScot and Historic Environment Scotland, 2018), 'Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting' (Historic Environment Scotland, 2020b), and 'Principles of Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment in the UK' (IEMA, IHBC and CIfA, 2021).

10.5.2. This assessment is concerned with impacts on cultural significance of heritage assets. It identifies assets that may be affected by the Proposed Development by considering cultural significance including the contribution made by its setting. If an asset's setting is found to make a substantive contribution to its cultural significance, and this contribution is likely to be affected as a result of the Proposed Development, the asset is considered to be 'sensitive'. Assets that are found to be sensitive to the predicted changes in their setting may experience a higher magnitude of impact than an asset that is less sensitive to changes in its setting.

10.5.3. The magnitude of an impact is a measure of the degree to which the cultural significance of an asset is diminished or enhanced by a proposed development. This definition of magnitude of impact, and the assessment methodology as a whole, apply to likely effects resulting from changes to the setting of heritage assets as well as likely physical effects. The EIA significance of this effect is determined by comparing the predicted magnitude of impact with the level of importance assigned to the specific asset (reflecting the greater protection in policy afforded to assets of higher importance).

Scope of Assessment

10.5.4. Assessment of potential direct physical effects and effects upon cultural significance through development within the setting of heritage assets is presented separately for the construction, operation and decommissioning stages of the Proposed Development, and potential cumulative effects are also presented separately.

10.5.5. The cultural heritage assessment has been carried out in the following stages:

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

Definition of Baseline Conditions

Desk-based Assessment and Site Visits

Study Areas

10.5.6. The Inner Study Area (ISA) (**Figure 10.1**) corresponds to the Culachy Estate boundary, as set out in the Scoping Report), encompassing the Site Boundary. In order to inform the archaeological potential of the Site Boundary and ensure all relevant heritage assets in the wider area were considered, the Culachy Estate Boundary has been used as the Inner Study Area for this assessment and as the basis for the Outer Study Areas. The ISA has been used to gather baseline data on the known and potential archaeological resource. Within this area, all heritage assets are considered for potential construction and operational phase effects.

10.5.7. The Outer Study Area (OSA) is based on a ZTV of the proposed turbines (**Figures 10.4** and **10.5**). Within the OSA, heritage assets have been included in the assessment based on the level of assigned importance (see **Table 10.2**) to ensure that all potential significant effects are recognised. The OSA reflects the fact that the more important the asset, the more likely

significant effects could be generated over greater distances. Therefore, the following study area boundaries have been applied:

- Up to 2 km from ISA: Category C Listed Buildings and non-designated heritage assets;
- Up to 5 km from ISA: Conservation Areas and Category B Listed Buildings;
- Up to 10 km from ISA: all assets of national importance, including Scheduled Monuments, Category A Listed Buildings, Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes, and Inventory Historic Battlefields.
- Up to 20 km from the ISA: World Heritage Sites and any asset that is considered exceptionally important, and where long-distance views from or towards the asset are thought to be particularly sensitive, in the opinion of the assessor or relevant consultees.

10.5.8. Criteria for the identification of assets that may be affected by the Proposed Development is based on the approach set out in Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting (HES, 2020b) that sets out a range of factors which might form part of the setting of a heritage asset as follows:

- "*Current landscape or townscape context;*
- *Views to, from and across or beyond the historic asset or place;*
- *Key vistas: for instance, a 'frame' of trees, buildings or natural features that give the historic asset or place a context, whether intentional or not);*
- *The prominence of the historic asset or place in views throughout the surrounding area, bearing in mind that sites need not be visually prominent to have a setting;*
- *Aesthetic qualities;*
- *Character of the surrounding landscape;*
- *General and specific views including foregrounds and backdrops;*
- *Views from within an asset outwards over key elements in the surrounding landscape, such as the view from the principal room of a house, or from a roof terrace;*
- *Relationships with other features, both built and natural;*
- *Non-visual factors such as historical, artistic, literary, place name, or scenic associations, intellectual relationships (e.g. to a theory, plan, or design), or sensory factors; and*
- *A 'sense of place': the overall experience of an asset which may combine some of the above factors*."

10.5.9. The above range of factors were taken into consideration when determining which assets are sensitive to change within their setting and thus may be impacted by the Proposed Development.

Data Sources

10.5.10. The baseline for the assessment has been informed by a comprehensive Cultural Heritage Baseline and Stage 1 Setting Assessment (**Volume 4**, **Appendix 10.1**), based on all readily available documentary sources, following the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment. The following sources of information were used:

- Designation data downloaded from the HES website in June 2023;
- The National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE), including the Canmore database and associated photographs, prints/drawings and manuscripts held by HES;
- Historic Environment Record (HER) data, digital extract received from THC in June 2023;
- Historic Landscape Assessment data, viewed through the HLAMap website;
- The National Collection of Aerial Photography (NCAP);
- Geological data available online from the British Geological Survey;
- Historic maps held by the National Library of Scotland;

- Unpublished maps and plans held by the National Records of Scotland;
- Relevant internet resources, including Google Maps, Google Earth, Bing satellite imagery and PastMap;
- Readily available published sources and unpublished archaeological reports; and
- Field visits.

10.5.11. A site visit was undertaken on the 13th and 14th of September 2022 in sunny weather conditions. Notes were made regarding site characteristics, any visible archaeology and geographical/geological features which may have a bearing on previous land use and archaeological survival, as well as those which may constrain subsequent archaeological investigation.

10.5.12. Notes were made regarding extant archaeological features, such as earthworks or structural remains, any negative features, local topography and aspect, exposed geology, soils, watercourses, health and safety considerations, surface finds, and any other relevant information. The Notes taken during the site visit informed the Site Description section of the Cultural Heritage Baseline Desk-based Assessment and Stage 1 Setting Assessment (**Volume 4**, **Appendix 10.1**)

10.5.13. Heritage assets within the ISA and the Outer Study Area (OSA) were visited on the 13th and 14th of September 2022 following 'design chill' to carry out assessment of heritage assets that may be affected by the operation of the Proposed Development i.e., through effects on their settings and the contribution made by setting to their cultural significance. Changes to the proposed access tracks were made following the visit, however, these changes were not substantive and did not result in any change to the conclusions of the assessment presented in the 'Operation' section of **Section 10.7** below.

10.5.14. Designated heritage assets are labelled throughout this assessment with the reference number assigned to them by HES (prefixed SM for Scheduled Monuments, CA for Conservation Area and LB for Listed Buildings etc); non-designated assets are labelled with the reference number in the HER or the NRHE. Any newly discovered or assets not assigned a number on the HER (e.g. the non-designated section of the Corrieyairack Pass) have been assigned a number prefixed HA for 'Heritage Asset'. A single asset number can refer to a group of related features, which may be recorded separately in the HER and other data sources.

10.5.15. Assets within the ISA are shown in **Volume 2**, **Figures 10.1**, **10.2** and **10.3**, with detailed descriptions compiled in the Cultural Heritage Baseline Desk-based Assessment and Stage 1 Setting Assessment (**Volume 4**, **Appendix 10.1**). Cultural Heritage Viewpoints (CHVPs) are shown in **Figure 10.1**. Photomontage and wireline visualisations supporting the Cultural Heritage chapter are presented at **Volume 2**, **Figures 10.6-10.10d**. The selection of the CHVP locations were based on 'worst case' scenarios in terms of visibility for each of the heritage assets retained for detailed assessment.

Potential for Unknown Heritage Assets in the ISA

10.5.16. Archaeological remains can be impossible to identify through desk-based assessment. The likelihood that significant undiscovered heritage assets may be present within the ISA is referred to as archaeological potential. Overall levels of potential can be assigned to different areas of the ISA, while recognising that the archaeological potential of any zone will relate to particular historical periods and types of evidence. The following factors are considered in assessing archaeological potential:

- The distribution and character of known archaeological remains in the vicinity, based principally on an appraisal of data in the HER and other data sources such as HES and Canmore;

- The history of archaeological fieldwork and research in the surrounding area, which may give an indication of the reliability and completeness of existing records;
- Environmental factors such as geology, topography and soil quality, which would have influenced land-use in the past and can therefore be used to predict the distribution of archaeological remains;
- Land-use factors affecting the survival of archaeological remains, such as ploughing or quarrying; and
- Factors affecting the visibility of archaeological remains, which may relate to both environment and land-use, such as soils and geology (which may be more or less conducive to formation of cropmarks), arable cultivation (which has potential to show cropmarks and create surface artefact scatters), vegetation, which can conceal upstanding features, and superficial deposits such as peat and alluvium which can mask archaeological features.

10.5.17. In the Archaeological Potential section of this report, the likelihood that the ISA may contain undiscovered heritage assets, their likely location and potential density, and their likely level of importance is assessed, described, and justified.

Cultural Significance

10.5.18. Cultural heritage impact assessment is concerned with effects on cultural significance, which is a quality that applies to all heritage assets, and as defined by HES (Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook, NatureScot & HES 2018, v5 Appendix 1 page 175), relates to the ways in which a heritage asset is valued both by specialists and the public. The cultural significance of a heritage asset will derive from factors including the asset's fabric, setting, context and associations. This use of the word 'significance', referring to the range of values attached to an asset, should not be confused with the unrelated usage in terms of the conclusions reached on the significance of likely environmental effects in accordance with the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.

10.5.19. Cultural significance is assessed in relation to the criteria in HES's 2019 Designation Policy and Selection Guidance (DPSG) Annexes 1-6, which are intended primarily to inform decisions regarding heritage designations but may also be applied more generally in identifying the characteristics of a heritage asset (as outlined in the below bullet points), which contribute to its significance and should be protected, conserved and enhanced according to the NPF4 Policy Principles. DPSG Annex 1 is widely applicable in assessing the cultural significance of archaeological sites and monuments, for instance, while the criteria in Annex 2 can be used in defining the architectural or historic interest of buildings, whether listed or not. Cultural significance of assets is considered in terms described in DPSG Annex 1:

- Intrinsic Characteristics- those inherent in the monument i.e., "*how the physical remains of a site or place contribute to our knowledge of the past*";
- Contextual Characteristics – those relating to the monument's place in the landscape or in the body of existing knowledge i.e., "*how a site or place relates to its surroundings and/or to our existing knowledge of the past*"; and
- Associative Characteristics – subjective associations, including those with current or past aesthetic preferences i.e., "*how a site or place relates to people, practices, events and/or historic and social movements*".

Contribution of Setting to Cultural Significance

10.5.20. NPF4 defines setting as follows: '*Setting is more than the immediate surroundings of a site or building, and may be related to the function or use of a place, or how it was intended to fit into the landscape or townscape, the view from it or how it is seen from areas round about, or areas that are important to the protection of the place, site or building. 'Setting' is the way the surroundings of a historic asset or place contribute to how it is understood, appreciated and experienced'.*

10.5.21. The special characteristics which contribute to an asset's cultural significance may include elements of its setting. The setting of a heritage asset is defined and analysed according to Stage 2 of the three-stage approach promoted in 'MCHE: Setting', with reference to characteristics listed in **paragraph 10.5.19** above). The relevance of these characteristics to the understanding, appreciation and experience of the asset determines how, and to what extent, an asset's cultural significance derives from its setting. All heritage assets have settings; however, in some cases, setting may contribute very little to the asset's significance, or only certain elements of the setting may be relevant. 'Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting' (HES 2020b, Section 2) also outlines a range of factors which can contribute to the setting of a heritage asset. These are outlined in **paragraph 4.2.6** of the Cultural Heritage Baseline and Stage 1 Setting Assessment (**Volume 4, Appendix 10.1**).

10.5.22. Operational energy developments (and any other existing developments that may also be relevant) are therefore described as part of the existing baseline in the impact assessment section. Cumulative effects are considered separately.

Integrity

10.5.23. In relation to Scheduled Monuments, NPF4 Policy 7 h) refers to '…*integrity of…setting*'. NPF4 does not define 'integrity'. For the purposes of this assessment, building on a shared definition used by HES and the Appellant for the concept of integrity in the Rigghill Wind Farm Public Inquiry (DPEA Reference: PPA-310-2034), the following approach to integrity of setting is used: '*changes to factors of setting that contribute to cultural significance such that the understanding, appreciation and experience of an asset are not adequately retained may affect the integrity of setting*.'

Importance of Heritage Assets

10.5.24. The importance of a heritage asset is the overall value assigned to it based on its cultural significance, reflecting its statutory designation or, in the case of non-designated assets, the professional judgement of the assessor (**Table 10.2**).

10.5.25. The criterion for Listing is that a building is of '*special architectural or historic interest'*; following DPSG Annex 2.19, Category A refers to '*outstanding examples of a particular period, style or building type*', Category B to '*major examples of a particular period, style or building type*', and Category C to '*representative examples of a particular period, style or building type'*.

10.5.26. Heritage Assets are defined as "Features, buildings or places that provide physical evidence of past human activity identified as being of sufficient value to this and future generations to merit consideration in the planning system" (NatureScot & HES 2018, Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook, v5, p.122). Thus, any feature which does not merit consideration in planning decisions due to its cultural significance may be said to have negligible heritage importance; in general, such features are not considered as heritage assets and are excluded from the assessment (see accompanying Cultural Heritage Baseline and Stage 1 Setting Assessment (**Volume 4**, **Appendix 10.1**).

Table 10.2 Criteria for Assessing the Importance of Heritage Assets

Importance	Criteria
Very High (International)	World Heritage Sites and other assets of equal international importance, that contribute to international research objectives
High (National)	Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Scheduled Monuments, Protected Wreck Sites, Inventory Historic Battlefields, Category A and B Listed Buildings, Historic Marine Protected Areas, and non-designated heritage assets of equivalent importance that contribute to national research objectives

Medium (Regional)	Conservation Areas, Category C Listed Buildings, non-designated assets of regional importance except where their particular characteristics merit a higher level of importance, and non-designated assets that contribute to regional research objectives
Low (Local)	Locally listed (non-designated) heritage assets, except where their particular characteristics merit a higher level of importance. Non-designated heritage assets of Local importance, including assets that may already be partially damaged

Assessment of the Magnitude of Impacts on the Cultural Significance of a Heritage Asset

Effects of the Proposed Development

10.5.27. Effects of the Proposed Development on the historic environment can arise through direct physical impacts, indirect impacts, or impacts on setting:

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

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

10.5.29. Likely significant effects on the settings of heritage assets are identified from an initial desk-based appraisal of data from HES and the HER, and consideration of current maps and aerial images. Photomontage and wireline visualisations have been prepared to illustrate changes to key views, and to aid assessment where potential setting effects have been identified (**Volume 2**, **Figures 10.6-10.10d**). The visualisations have been produced by the Landscape and Visual team and the methodology for preparing these is described in **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.**

Cumulative Effects

10.5.30. A cumulative effect occurs where the magnitude of the combined effect of two or more developments is greater than that of the Proposed Development considered individually.

10.5.31. The impact assessment for the Proposed Development on its own merits identifies the impact of that development alone upon cultural significance of heritage assets relative to a baseline scenario that includes all operational wind farms. The cumulative impact however, using the same criteria of impact magnitude (as defined in **Table 10.3** below), assesses the impact of the Proposed Development combined with the impact of wind farm developments that are consented but for which construction has not yet commenced, those under construction, and

those that are currently at application stage (for which sufficient detail is known) relative to the baseline scenario.

10.5.32. Developments considered as part of the cumulative assessment are identified from the agreed list presented in **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment**, within a proportionate study area of 60 km appropriate to the heritage asset under consideration.

10.5.33. Cumulative effects are considered in this chapter for heritage assets where an effect of Minor or greater significance (as outlined in **Table 10.4** below) has been identified as a result of the Proposed Development. The purpose of this threshold is to ensure that the assessment remains proportionate and focused on those cases where there is potential for an EIA-significant effect to arise were the Proposed Development to be consented.

10.5.34. Visualisations supporting this chapter from cultural heritage viewpoints (CHVPs) include cumulative developments (**Volume 2**, **Figure 10.9b** and **Figure 10.10b**).

Assessment of the Magnitude of Impact on the Cultural Significance of a Heritage Asset

10.5.35. The magnitude of an impact is a measure of the degree to which the cultural significance of a heritage asset will potentially change as a result of the Proposed Development (NatureScot & HES 2018, Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook, v5 Appendix 1, para 42).

10.5.36. Conclusions on the assessed magnitude of impacts are a product of the consideration of the elements of an asset and its setting that contribute to its cultural significance and the degree to which the Proposed Development would change these contributing elements. The assessment therefore reflects the varying degrees of sensitivity of different assets to change brought about by different types or scale of possible developments. The extent to which a heritage asset is sensitive to change within its setting, and thus the extent to which its cultural significance may be impacted through change to this setting, will be reflected in findings regarding the of magnitude of impact.

10.5.37. This definition of magnitude and assessment methodology applies to likely effects resulting from change in the setting as well as likely physical effects on the fabric of an asset.

10.5.38. The methodology adopted for the identification and assessment of potential effects resulting from change in setting follows the approach set out in Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting (HES, 2016 updated 2020) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook (NatureScot & HES, 2018, v5 Appendix 1). The guidance sets out three stages in assessing the effect of development on the setting of a heritage asset or place as follows:

- *"Stage 1: Identify the historic assets that might be affected by a development;*
- *Stage 2: define and analysis the setting by establishing how the surroundings contribute to the ways in which the historic asset or place is understood, appreciated and experienced; and*
- *Stage 3: evaluate potential effect of the proposed changes on the setting, and the extent to which any negative effects can be mitigated."*

10.5.39. It is important to draw a distinction between Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment and assessment of the setting of a heritage asset. In LVIA, magnitude of impact would be directly related to the level of visual change, whereas cultural heritage assessment is concerned with visual change only where it affects the contribution that setting makes to an asset's cultural significance. As a result, there is no simple relationship between change and impact on setting and this is reflected in the advice given in Stages 2 and 3 in HES's 'Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting' guidance (2020, pages 9-10). It is necessary to understand how setting contributes to significance (Stage 2) before assessing how change would impact on setting (Stage 3). Therefore, the magnitude of an impact resulting from change within setting is not a direct measure of the visual prominence, scale, proximity or other attributes of

the Proposed Development itself, or of the extent to which the setting itself is changed. Moreover, it is necessary to consider whether, and to what extent, the characteristics of the setting which would be changed contribute to the asset's cultural significance (NatureScot & HES 2018, Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook, v5 Appendix 1, paras 42 and 43).

10.5.40. Magnitude of impact is assessed as high/medium/low/negligible, and adverse or beneficial, using the criteria in **Table 10.3** as a guide. In assessing the likely effects of a development, it is often necessary to take into account various impacts which affect an asset's cultural significance in different ways. For instance, there may be adverse effects on an asset's fabric and beneficial effects on cultural significance resulting from change in setting arising from a development which would not otherwise occur in a 'do-nothing' scenario; a heritage asset that might otherwise degrade over time could be preserved or consolidated as a consequence of a development. The impact assessment identifies beneficial and adverse impacts for consideration separately.

Table 10.3 Criteria for Assessing the Magnitude of Impacts on Cultural Significance of Heritage Assets

Magnitude	Criteria
High Beneficial	Preservation of the asset in situ where it would be completely or almost completely lost in the do-nothing scenario
Medium Beneficial	Changes to key elements of the asset's fabric or setting that result in its cultural significance being preserved, where they would otherwise be lost, or restored.
Low Beneficial	Changes that result in elements of the asset's fabric or setting that detract from its cultural significance being removed.
Negligible	Changes to fabric or setting that leave significance unchanged.
Low Adverse	Changes to the elements of the fabric or setting of the heritage asset that contribute to its cultural significance such that this is slightly altered
Medium Adverse	Changes to the elements of the fabric or setting of the heritage asset that contribute to its cultural significance such that this is substantially altered
High Adverse	Changes to the fabric or setting of a heritage asset resulting in the complete or near complete loss of its cultural significance, such that it may no longer be considered a heritage asset

Mitigation

10.5.41. Assessment of impacts is an iterative part of the design process. For any identified effect the preferred mitigation option is always to avoid or reduce effects through design (embedded mitigation), or through precautionary measures such as fencing off heritage assets during construction works to avoid accidental direct effects (additional mitigation).

10.5.42. Effects which cannot be mitigated in these ways may lead to adverse direct or indirect physical effects which may be mitigated by an appropriate level of survey, excavation, recording, analysis and publication of the results, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (additional mitigation).

10.5.43. Mitigation of impacts on the setting of heritage assets may, in some cases, be appropriate and achieved through measures such as planting trees or vegetation to screen visibility of a proposed development, provided such measures do not in themselves result in adverse impacts on a heritage asset's setting. In this case, no appropriate mitigation measures were identified as being viable for screening visibility of the proposed turbines.

Assessment of the Significance of Effects

10.5.44. The significance of an effect ('EIA significance') on the cultural significance of a heritage asset, resulting from a direct or indirect physical effect or an effect on its setting is assessed by combining the magnitude of the impact and the importance of the heritage asset.

10.5.45. The matrix in **Table 10.4** provides a guide to decision-making which informs the exercise of professional judgement and interpretation, particularly where the asset importance or effect magnitude levels are not clear or are borderline between categories. EIA significance may be described on a continuous scale from none to major.

Table 10.4 Criteria for Assessing the Significance of Effects on Heritage Assets

Importance	Magnitude of Change			
	High	**Medium**	**Low**	**Negligible**
Very High	Major	Major	Major or Moderate	Negligible
High	Major	Major or Moderate	Moderate or Minor	Negligible
Medium	Major or Moderate	Moderate or Minor	Minor	Negligible
Low	Moderate or Minor	Minor	Negligible	Negligible

Criteria for Assessing Significance

10.5.46. Following the cultural heritage importance methodology presented above, any feature which does not merit consideration in planning decisions due to its cultural significance (i.e. of Negligible importance) are excluded from the impact assessment as a significant effect in EIA is not possible.

10.5.47. Effect significance conclusions are expressed in the impact assessment as 'Beneficial' or 'Adverse Impacts on the integrity of setting as defined in **paragraphs 10.5.18** and **10.5.19** above are assessed as part of the overall impact on a heritage asset's cultural significance.

10.5.48. In this assessment Major and Moderate effects are regarded as 'significant' in EIA terms, while Minor and Negligible effects are 'not significant'.

10.5.49. In all cases conclusions will also be expressed in terms of the relevant Policy tests, in this case NPF4.

Limitations to Assessment

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

- HER records can be limited because opportunities for research, fieldwork and discovery depend on the volume and frequency of commercial development and occasional research projects, rather than the result of a more structured research framework. A lack of data within the HER records does not necessarily equal an absence of archaeology;
- Documentary sources are rare before the medieval period;
- Wherever such documentary sources are used in assessing archaeological potential professional judgment is used in their interpretation;
- Where archaeological sites have been identified solely from aerial imagery without confirmation from archaeological excavation or supporting evidence in the form of find-

spots for example, it is possible the interpretation may be revised in the light of further investigation;

- The significance of sites can be difficult to identify from HER records, depending on the accuracy and reliability of the original source;
- There can often be a lack of dating evidence for archaeological sites;
- Any archaeological site visit has inherent limitations, primarily because archaeological remains below ground level may have no surface indicators; and
- There is no LiDAR data for the ISA available on the Scottish Remote Sensing Portal.

10.6. Baseline Conditions

10.6.1. The full list of known heritage assets within the Study Areas is presented in the gazetteer (**Volume 4**, **Appendix 10.2**) appended to the Cultural Heritage Baseline and Stage 1 Setting Assessment (**Volume 4**, **Appendix 10.1**), with the significance of these assets discussed by period in Section 6 (Statement of Significance and Importance) of the document.

Geology and Geomorphology

10.6.2. The bedrock geology within the ISA largely comprises Tarff Banded Formation, Metamorphic bedrock, Semipelite and micaceous psammite, with quartzite present in places along the River Tarff. The National Soil Map of Scotland records brown soils at the north-west of the ISA and along Glen Tarff, with blanket peat, peaty gleys and peaty podzols characterising the majority of the ISA. The presence of poorly draining blanket peat bog means that the ISA was unlikely to have been occupied on year round basis in the past.

Overview of the Historic Environment

Heritage Assets within the ISA

10.6.3. There are four designated heritage assets and 37 non-designated heritage assets within the ISA as outlined in the Cultural Heritage Baseline and Stage 1 Setting Assessment (**Volume 4, Appendix 10.1**) and as shown on **Volume 4**, **Figure 10.1**).

Archaeological Potential of the Inner Study Area

10.6.4. The archaeological potential of the ISA is described in **paragraphs 6.1.7-6.1.19** of **Volume 4, Appendix 10.1**. Definitions of 'archaeological potential' are provided in Table 3 of Cultural Heritage Baseline and Stage 1 Setting Assessment (**Volume 4, Appendix 10.1**). Areas of archaeological potential are shown in **Volume 2**, **Figures 10.2** and **10.3**.

Heritage Assets Considered for Setting Effects

10.6.5. Within 2km from the ISA boundary there are seven Scheduled Monuments, two Category A Listed Buildings (one of which is a Property in Care), 12 Category B Listed Buildings, four Category C Listed Buildings, one Conservation Area, and 97 non-designated heritage assets (**Volume 2**, **Figure 10.4**).

10.6.6. Within 2-5km from the ISA boundary there are three Scheduled Monuments, and 10 Category B Listed Buildings (**Volume 2**, **Figure 10.4**).

10.6.7. Within 5-10km from the ISA boundary there are three Scheduled Monuments, one Category A Listed Building, and one Inventory Battlefield (**Volume 2**, **Figure 10.5**).

10.6.8. Within 10-20km from the ISA boundary there are 13 Category A Listed Buildings (**Volume 2**, **Figure 10.5**).

10.6.9. No heritage assets have been identified within the ZTV beyond 20 km for which setting contributes to cultural significance such that a significant impact is anticipated as a result of the Proposed Development over this distance.

10.6.10. A Stage 1 Setting Assessment has been carried out in order to consider whether further detailed assessment would be required for heritage assets within the OSA, based on whether they may be affected by the Proposed Development (through changes withing their setting). The results of the Stage 1 Setting assessment are presented in Part 6.2 of the Cultural Heritage Baseline and Stage 1 Setting Assessment (**Volume 4**, **Appendix 10.1**).

10.6.11. The Stage 1 Setting Assessment methodology considers each heritage asset in the OSA in turn to identify those assets in the ZTV which have a wider landscape setting that contributes to their cultural significance and whether it is likely that cultural significance could be harmed by the Proposed Development. Where heritage assets are located outwith the ZTV, third-party viewpoints within the ZTV which may provide a culturally significant view towards the heritage asset and the Proposed Development were considered.

10.6.12. Following liaison with consultees, the Stage 1 Setting Assessment found that there may be effects through changes within their setting on the significance of five Scheduled Monuments which comprise sections of the Corrieyairack Pass:

- SM6140 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, watershed to Allt Lagan a'Bhainne
- SM6141 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, Allt Lagan a'Bhainne to Black Burn
- SM6142 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, Black Burn to Connachie Burn
- SM6143 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, Connachie Burn to Culachy
- SM6128 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, Allt Ruadh to watershed

10.7. Potential Effects

Construction

10.7.1. Development activities within the ISA have the potential to truncate or remove buried archaeological remains, resulting in a direct impact on these assets. Direct physical impacts may occur during construction as a result of intrusive groundworks, comprising any areas of cut and fill, bulk excavation and topsoil stripping, site compound establishment, and excavations for turbine and crane footings, access tracks and utilities and landscaping.

10.7.2. Indirect effects are secondary, brought about by knock-on impacts as a result of a proposed development, such as changes to land drainage affecting the preservation of buried archaeological remains due to changes in soil moisture.

10.7.3. Accidental direct physical impacts within the ISA may arise should activities such as, but not limited to, ancillary drainage works, creating of spoil or peat storage areas and uncontrolled plant movement take place in the vicinity of heritage assets.

Direct and Indirect (Physical) Impacts

10.7.4. There are 40 known heritage assets within the ISA which have, with the exception of two heritage assets (see **paragraphs 10.7.5** and **10.7.7** below), been avoided by design (**Volume 2**, **Figures 10.1**, **10.2**, and **10.3**). The heritage assets identified in the Cultural Heritage Baseline and Stage 1 Setting Assessment (Table 5, **Volume 4, Appendix 10.1**) are of low or higher importance and therefore considered heritage assets for planning purposes.

MHG22966 Knollbuck Farmstead

10.7.5. A direct (physical) impact is predicted upon a section of a non-designated enclosure bank which forms part of Knollbuck Farmstead (MHG22966). The proposed access track would truncate approximately 35 m of the length of the bank at its southern extent (**Volume 2**, **Figure 10.2**). The majority of the feature, along with the other features which form Knollbuck Farmstead (MHG22966) would remain unaffected by the proposed access track; a low

magnitude impact is therefore predicted on Knollbuck Farmstead (MHG22966), an asset of low importance, resulting in an adverse effect of **negligible significance** which is **not significant**.

10.7.6. No waterlogged deposits or deposits with palaeoenvironmental potential are identified in the ISA that may be indirectly affected by hydrological changes. The nature of the extant heritage assets (largely comprising earthwork banks, cairns and stone built structures) within the ISA are unlikely to be affected by changes in the surrounding soil chemistry as a result of topsoil stripping activities and no indirect impacts are predicted.

10.7.7. It is proposed that a non-designated section of the Corrieyairack Pass, Military Road (HA9) will be crossed to allow access during the construction phase. Temporary haul road mats will be used to protect the crossing point of HA9. These will be placed over the Military Road to allow for movement over HA9 without causing damage. No earthworks or ground breaking works are proposed on or in the vicinity of The protective mats would be removed following the construction phase.

Micrositing and Accidental Direct (Physical) Impacts

10.7.8. The following heritage assets are located within the 50 m micrositing tolerance of proposed new sections of track, existing tracks to be upgraded or, in the case of MHG62472, a proposed borrow pit for the Proposed Development (**Volume 2**, **Figure 10.2**):

- MHG25625, a bridge
- MHG38102, site of a cottage
- MHG62470, site of an earthwork bank and cairn
- MHG56470, a dyke
- MHG56466, a clearance cairn
- MHG22966, Knollbuck Farmstead
- MHG62472, a sheep wash

10.7.9. It is considered that assets within 50 m of areas of proposed infrastructure could potentially be accidentally directly impacted by construction works as well as by micrositing design. These assets are all of low (local) importance. If impacted due to accidental damage or during micrositing, this may result in a construction-phase physical impact of up to high magnitude. Without mitigation, therefore, any adverse effect resulting from a physical impact during construction-phase may be of up to **minor significance**, which is **not significant**.

Direct Impacts on Archaeological Potential

10.7.10. Direct construction impacts on previously unknown heritage assets in the ISA are possible.

10.7.11. An assessment of effect significance cannot be meaningfully evaluated for unknown heritage assets, as neither the cultural significance of the asset nor the magnitude of the impact can be known. Consequently, the worst-case construction effect is considered.

10.7.12. The proposed access track would run through an improved field where a bank and clearance cairn of possible post-medieval date are recorded (MHG62470); this area is considered to be of medium potential for previously unknown archaeological remains with any such remains likely to relate to the post-medieval period of low importance.

10.7.13. The proposed access track would also pass through a known post-medieval farmstead (Knollbuck, MHG22966); this area is also considered to be of medium potential for remains of post-medieval date of low importance.

10.7.14. Any effect resulting from an impact upon archaeological remains discovered during the construction-phase without application of mitigation is likely to be an adverse effect of no more than **minor adverse significance** which is **not significant** in EIA terms.

10.7.15. The other areas of archaeological potential are outlined in the 'Archaeological Potential of the Inner Study Area' of **Section 10.6** above have been avoided by design and it is considered there would be no construction phase impacts on the archaeological potential of these areas.

10.7.16. Outwith the areas of archaeological potential outlined above, the ISA is considered to be of generally negligible archaeological potential for hitherto unknown archaeological remains of significance.

Construction Phase Setting Effects

10.7.17. The assessment of potential setting effects upon heritage assets within the ISA and OSA as a result of the construction stage of the Proposed Development, through the introduction of increased traffic, construction noise/dust, and the visual intrusion of cranes etc to the landscape, is the same as those assessed under 'operational effects' below. Construction effects would be temporary and, therefore, **not significant** due to their very short duration.

Operation

Corrieyairack Pass, Military Road: SM6140, SM6141, SM6142, SM6143, SM6128

10.7.18. There are four scheduled sections of the Corrieyairack Pass, Military Road present within the ISA as follows:

- SM6140 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, watershed to Allt Lagan a'Bhainne
- SM6141 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, Allt Lagan a'Bhainne to Black Burn
- SM6142 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, Black Burn to Connachie Burn
- SM6143 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, Connachie Burn to Culachy

10.7.19. The easternmost of these sections, SM6140, adjoins SM6128 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, Allt Ruadh to watershed which is located approximately 800 m east of the ISA and lies partially within the ZTV. These assets all form part of the Corrieyairack Pass however each section is assessed separately below with an overall conclusion drawn regarding the Corrieyairack Pass Military Road as whole provided.

10.7.20. The construction of the Military Road was overseen by General Wade and was completed in 1731 in order to link Fort Augustus directly to the military roads from Dunkeld and Inverness and along the Great Glen which had been completed a year earlier in 1730. Prior to its construction, the area was crossed by drovers from northern Scotland and the islands on their way to markets in Crieff and Falkirk. The road was constructed as part of an ongoing strengthening of the Crown's military presence in the Highlands following the Jacobite uprisings in 1715. Ironically the Pass proved equally useful to the Jacobites themselves in the 1745 uprising when it was used by Prince Charles Edward Stuart's army to rapidly march south to Perth and the Lowlands. The road remained the principal route to Fort Augustus through the latter 18th and early 19th century but did not become part of the 19th century road network and was abandoned in 1830 on completion of the Laggan to Spean Bridge road (Headland Archaeology 2014). The Pass reverted to its former use as a drove road after this time and is currently used as a walkers' route and as a track for the Culachy estate.

10.7.21. In their designation description HES note that each section of the Military Road as noted above is:

'…*of national importance as part of the longest continuous stretch of military road built under the direction of General Wade to be substantially unaffected by modern alterations. Wade's roads were the first constructed roads of any length in the Scottish Highlands and formed the first planned post-Roman road system in Britain*.'

10.7.22. The designation description for these sections notes the history of the Military Road and the construction method employed during its creation. For four of the sections examples of

notable features such as the 'zig-zag' alignment of SM6128, extant bridges (SM6140), the location of an adjacent temporary construction camp (SM6141) and an extant original culvert (SM6142) are given.

10.7.23. The Military Road is therefore understood and appreciated for its intrinsic qualities and as an example of a major programme of post-medieval engineering; whilst the original form of the Pass for the most part can no longer be experienced, the original route of the Military Road is preserved in the modern track which characterises much of the five sections noted above. Elements of the original road could potentially survive below the existing gravel track which characterises much of the route, with original culverts or drains potentially present adjacent to the road.

10.7.24. Two important facets of Scotland's history can be understood through the associative qualities of the Military Road these being:

- its original (and subsequent) use as a drovers' route, highlighting the importance of this industry to the Highlands and islands of Scotland; and
- its relationship with the Jacobite uprisings and means by which the Crown sought to exert control over the Highlands.

10.7.25. Contextually, the Military Road is experienced on mapping and from its route through this remote, upland area of the Highlands, demonstrating the challenging nature of the terrain and allowing for an appreciation of the Pass as a feat of post-medieval engineering intended to improve access to the garrison at Fort Augustus and connect to the wider network of military roads in the area. Its route through this remote upland area allows for an understanding of the terrain and the need for the movement of troops that would have traversed the Military Road in the 18th century and by livestock drovers both prior to the Pass's construction and following its abandonment; views to Fort Augustus from the northern extent of SM6142 allow for a relationship to be drawn between the Military Road and the settlement which it ultimately served.

10.7.26. Each scheduled section of the Military Road is assessed separately below.

SM6143 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, Connachie Burn to Culachy

10.7.27. The Military Road is accessed from the north via Ardachy Road, where the non-designated section (HA9) is preserved as a hiking trail. From here, the route is followed south, ascending gradually past Culachy House, with SM6143 the first scheduled section of the Military Road which is reached on approach from this direction. This section of the Military Road proceeds between two local ridgelines continuing to the south-west. Views from here east and west are obscured by the ridgelines, with views to the north-east taking in Loch Ness. Views south-west are open and allow for an understanding of the remote, upland terrain through which the Pass is constructed (**Illus 1, Figure 10.5a**) and the engineering challenges this would have presented. The BDOHL is visible to the south-west where it crosses over the southern extent of SM6143 and the northernmost extent of SM6142 (**Illus 1**).

Illus 1. View South-West Showing View from SM6143

10.7.28. This section of the Military Road is outwith the ZTV for the Proposed Development, however, the local ridgeline to the west lies within the ZTV (**Volume 2**, **Figure 10.4**, and **Figure 10.5a**) and views east and south towards the Military Road from this area are possible (**Volume 2**, **Figures 10.6b-d**). Post-medieval heritage assets such as clearance cairns and an enclosure are present on the mid and lower slopes of this ridgeline, allowing for an understanding of how possible contemporaneous or later post-medieval heritage assets functioned in relation to the Military Road albeit these assets are not prominently visible. Whilst the contemporaneity of these assets with the Military Road cannot be determined in the absence of archaeological excavation, it is possible they were positioned in order to be close to the road, which would have provided a convenient route to and from this upland area. The presence of these assets also contribute to the sense of place of this section of the road, and provides insight into how the landscape was used for grazing livestock in the post-medieval period.

10.7.29. The ZTV (**Figure 10.5a**) indicates there would be no visibility of the Proposed Development from SM6143; views to the Military Road from the top of the ridgeline to the west would take in two proposed turbines to hub height and the tips of five of the proposed turbines (CHVP 1, **Figures 10.6b-d**). However, the Military Road was constructed to be provide a functional passage through the uplands and not constructed with the intention of being viewed from elsewhere in the landscape; as such, whilst there would be visibility of the Proposed Development in views to the Military Road from this area, this is not a culturally significant viewpoint and does not contribute to the understanding and appreciation of the monument. Overall, the experience of this section of Military Road would undergo no change and it would remain possible to understand and appreciate its route through upland, remote terrain and its possible relationship with nearby contemporary assets. A substation and battery energy storage location are proposed within the footprint of a proposed borrow pit area to the south-west of SM6143 (**Illus 10.2**); whilst this ancillary infrastructure may be visible from the southern extent of SM6143, it would not detract from an understanding, appreciation or experience of the remote area which this part of the Military Road passes through or prevent

the visitor from being to read the landscape in relation to the road. It is therefore considered there would be a **negligible** impact on the cultural significance of the SM6143 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, Connachie Burn to Culachy resulting in a **negligible** significance of effect, which is not significant in EIA terms.

10.7.30. In terms of NPF4 Policy 7 (h), the understanding, appreciation, and experience of the SM6143 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, Connachie Burn to Culachy would be adequately retained such that the integrity of its setting would not be significantly adversely affected. It would remain possible to understand, appreciate and experience factors of its setting that contribute to its cultural significance.

SM6142 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, Black Burn to Connachie Burn

10.7.31. A bridge over Culachy Burn marks the start of SM6142; this part of the Military Road also marks the beginning of a steep ascent up Creag Dubh, with some sharp turns characterising the footprint of the road as it climbs uphill, allowing for an appreciation of the logistical challenges that would have been faced when it was built. From this northern section views of Fort Augustus to the north are possible (**Illus 2**, **Figure 10.5a**), allowing for an understanding of the relationship between the Military Road and the location of what was an important military base in the 18th century. A well-preserved culvert is located at NGR 238300, 803300 with stone-paved fords at NGR 238200 804500 and at NGR 237400, 805000, contributing to intrinsic significance and giving insight into how the Military Road would once have appeared when it was first constructed. Views in other directions are largely of the north-west facing slope of Creag Dhubh.

Illus 2. View North-East Towards Fort Augustus from SM6142

10.7.32. The Military Road continues to the top of Creag Dhubh, crossing undulating topography (**Illus 3**, **Figure 10.5a**) before skirting the eastern slopes of the hills which form Glen Tarff. Views in all directions from this section take in remote, upland moor, with views of Glen Tarff also possible with the BDOHL coming back into view in views south. Views when travelling along

the road are largely focussed ahead along the road itself, forming a typical element in how the monument is experienced. The landscape at the top of Creag Dhubh allows for an insight into the remote upland terrain that the road is built through; the experience of walking through this terrain allows for an understanding and appreciation of the typical moorland which the troops would have passed through when using the road, as well as how drovers would have used the road after it fell out of use, contributing to the monument's sense of place. The presence of a bothy (MHG38942, **Figure 10.3**) further contributes to this as it may have been used by later drovers when crossing the landscape or perhaps was used when livestock were grazed in this upland area during the summer months.

Illus 3. View South-East of SM6142 from Top of Creag Dhubh

10.7.33. The ZTV (**Figure 10.5a**) indicates that up to two of the proposed turbines would be visible in views from a c.400 m section of the northern extent of SM6142. There would be no visibility of the Proposed Development from two sections of the Military Road located immediately west and east of this section. Up to eight of the proposed turbines would be visible from the central and southern extents of SM6142 (as shown on CHVP 2, **Figures 10.7b-10.7d**).

10.7.34. Whilst up to two of the proposed turbines would be visible from the north-west of SM6142, the orientation of the road roughly WNW-ENE is such that the proposed turbines would be peripheral in views travelling in either direction and would not be a prominent feature. Although eight of the proposed turbines would be visible from CHVP2, which may distract from an understanding of how the remote area through which the road is routed was traversed and used, their presence would not render the perceived remoteness of this upland landscape illegible or lead to a loss of understanding or appreciation of how the road functioned. From this section of SM6142 the proposed turbines would realistically only be visible to visitors who are walking south where they would appear along its route (as shown on CHVP 2, **Figures 10.7b-10.7d**), Views in all other directions from this section would also remain unchanged (**Figure 10.7e-f**). Informative views towards Fort Augustus (**Illus 2**, **Figure 10.5a**) would also remain unaffected. It would remain possible to experience the road and from this draw an

understanding and appreciation of its function, form, relationship to Fort Augustus as well as discern its position within a remote upland area.

10.7.35. It is therefore considered there would be a **low** impact on the cultural significance of SM6142 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, Black Burn to Connachie Burn, resulting in a **minor** adverse significance of effect, which is not significant in EIA terms.

10.7.36. In terms of NPF4 Policy 7 (h), the understanding, appreciation, and experience of the SM6142 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, Black Burn to Connachie Burn would be adequately retained such that the integrity of its setting would not be significantly adversely affected. It would remain possible to understand, appreciate and experience factors of its setting that contribute to its cultural significance.

SM6141 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, Allt Lagan a'Bhainne to Black Burn

10.7.37. The Black Burn marks the northernmost point of SM6141; the Military Road here ascends the northern slopes of Carn Bad na Circe, continuing south-east to skirt the eastern slopes of the hill. Views of the terrain are broadly similar to that from the top of Creag Dhubh, with the BDOHL clearly visible in views north-west, west and south-west from most sections of this part of the Military Road (**Illus 4, Figure 10.5b**). Views south towards Glen Tarff are notable as they highlight the challenging topography in this area which the engineers successfully overcame when designing and constructing the Military Road (**Illus 5**, **Figure 10.5b**).

Illus 4. View North-West from Northern Extent of SM6141 Showing BDOHL (Taken from CHVP3 Location)

Illus 5. View South of Glen Tarff from Southern Extent of SM6141

10.7.38. As with SM6142 and SM6143, the upland remote terrain through which SM6141 passes contributes to its cultural significance as it allows for an understanding, appreciation and experience of the terrain through which troops passed and the engineering challenges faced when building the road. This is particularly evident in views towards the steep slopes of Glen Tarff.

10.7.39. Up to six of the proposed turbines would be visible from the northernmost extent of SM6141 (CHVP 3, **Figures 10.8b-10.8d**), varying between one and six to the south. Whilst this would constitute visual change from this section of SM6141 and may distract from the remote terrain through which it passes, the presence of the proposed turbines would not detract from how the asset is understood and appreciated as a military road nor alter experience of it to the extent that it would no longer be possible to discern its remote upland setting. The south-eastern orientation of SM6141 at its northern extent (from CHVP3) is such that the Proposed Development (located to the south-west, **Figure 10.5b**) would appear offset and would not feature in views along the route itself. This would also be the case as the route turns in a more southerly direction, from where the Proposed Development would appear on the left of those walking north and on the right of those walking south instead of along its route. Views in all other directions would also remain unchanged (**Figure 10.8e-f**), allowing for a continued understanding, appreciation and experience of the remote upland landscape through which the road passes and which contributes to its overall sense of place.

10.7.40. It is therefore considered there would be a **low** impact on the cultural significance of SM6141 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, Allt Lagan a'Bhainne to Black Burn, resulting in a **minor** adverse significance of effect, which is not significant in EIA terms.

10.7.41. In terms of NPF4 Policy 7 (h), the understanding, appreciation, and experience of the SM6141 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, Allt Lagan a'Bhainne to Black Burn would be adequately retained such that the integrity of its setting would not be significantly adversely affected. It

would remain possible to understand, appreciate and experience factors of its setting that contribute to its cultural significance.

10.7.42. SM6140 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, watershed to Allt Lagan a'BhainneA bridge over Allt Lagan a' Bhainne marks the beginning of SM6140; the Military Road continues south-east, crossing Allt Coire Uchdachan, with the original bridge constructed as part of the road still extant in this area (**Illus 6, Figure 10.5b**), allowing for an appreciation of the materials, architecture and form of the original supporting features of the Military Road.

Illus 6. View South of Bridge Over Allt Coire Uchdachan, SM6140

10.7.43. The Military Road then skirts the south-western slopes of Meallan Odhar and Meallan Odhar Meadhon, ascending gradually. The BDOHL becomes a particularly prominent feature in views from this part of the Military Road due to its location (i.e., within 400 m, see **Illus 7**). From roughly the central point of SM6140, on the upper western slopes of Meallan Odhar Meadhon, views to the west and north-west open out, taking in the glen formed by Allt Coire Uchdachan and the surrounding moorland. The BDOHL features in this view, with a modern track also visible (**Illus 7**). Turbines for Beinneun Wind Farm, Beinneun Extension and Millennium Group Wind Farm are faintly visible in views north-west from roughly the centre of this section of the Military Road.

Illus 7. View West from Roughly Central Area of SM6140 (Taken from CHVP4 Location)

10.7.44. As with SM6142 and SM6143 and SM6141 the upland remote terrain through which SM6140 passes, and the ability to experience this, contributes to its cultural significance as it allows for an understanding, appreciation and experience of the terrain through which troops passed and the engineering challenges faced when building the road. This is particularly evident in views of the bridge which spans Allt Coire Uchdachan, which demonstrates how watercourses were negotiated. Eight of the proposed turbines would be visible from the majority of SM6140 (as shown on CHVP4, **Figures 10.9b-10.9d**), dropping to between one and three turbines in the low lying valleys close to water courses (**Figure 10.5c**). Views from CHVP4 would also take in access tracks of the Proposed Development which would run between the proposed turbines which along with the proposed turbines themselves, could distract from views along the route of the Military Road itself, as it is experienced by a hiker. However, the Proposed Development would appear largely offset from the route of the Military Road, appearing to the north-west in an area currently occupied by the BDOHL (which in itself does not distract from views along the route of the Military Road or from the wider upland landscape) . The proposed access tracks would be located at sufficient distance that they would not lead to any confusion with the route of the Military Road. The introduction of additional modern infrastructure in the form of the proposed turbines and access tracks into this area of the landscape would therefore not fundamentally alter the ability of the visitor to understand and appreciate this section of the Military Road and views could readily remain focussed along the route of the road itself. The presence of a proposed borrow pit between Turbines 3 and 5 would also not in itself distract from views along the route of the Military Road and it is considered that visibility of it along with the proposed turbines and access tracks would not result in a loss of ability to understand, appreciate and experience the remote upland area through which the Military Road passes and which contributes to its sense of place.

10.7.45. CHVP6 (**Figure 10.11b-c**) indicates that two of the proposed turbines would be visible to hub height in views south (**Figure 10.11b**) with four visible to hub height and the tips of one

proposed turbine visible in views west from this location (**Figure 10.11c**). None of the proposed access tracks or the proposed borrow pit would be visible from this location. As with CHVP4, the proposed turbines may distract from views along the route of the Military Road itself, but would not detract from an overall understanding, appreciation or experience of the remote upland setting which the road passes through; the contribution made to the cultural significance of the asset by this factor of its setting would remain discernible.

10.7.46. The south-eastern orientation of SM6140 is such that, with the exception of a short section of its northern extent (at the location of CHVP6), the Proposed Development (located to the west, **Figure 10.5c**) would appear offset and would not feature in views along the route itself, appearing instead to the left of visitors walking north-west and on the right of visitors walking south-east. Views to the rest of the landscape (as demonstrated in **Figure 10.9e-f**) would remain unaltered and it would remain possible to discern the remote upland setting of SM6140 which contributes to its sense of place. The ability to understand how the engineers negotiated this remote setting when constructing the road would also remain appreciable as would the ability of the visitor to experience the infrastructure of this section of the Military Road, such as the bridge which spans Allt Coire Uchdachan.

10.7.47. It is therefore considered there would be a **low** impact on the cultural significance of SM6140 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, watershed to Allt Lagan a'Bhainne, resulting in a **minor** adverse significance of effect, which is not significant in EIA terms.

10.7.48. In terms of NPF4 Policy 7 (h), the understanding, appreciation, and experience of the SM6140 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, watershed to Allt Lagan a'Bhainnewould be adequately retained such that the integrity of its setting would not be significantly adversely affected. It would remain possible to understand, appreciate and experience factors of its setting that contribute to its cultural significance.

SM6128 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, Allt Ruadh to watershed

10.7.49. SM6140 continues east, meeting SM6128 at NGR 241983, 798635. This section passes through the glen defined by Allt Yairack, with the steep slopes of Corrie Yairack to the north and Sron a Bhuirich to the south focussing views to the east and west along the Military Road itself. Turbines for Beinneun Wind Farm, Beinneun Extension and Millennium Group Wind Farm are faintly visible in views north-west from the westernmost section of SM6128. As with other sections of the Military Road, this section exemplifies the topographic challenges faced by the engineers who constructed the Pass and by the troops which traversed it. The ‘zig zag’ section of the Military Road demonstrates how these topographic challenges were overcome and allows for an appreciation of the skill of the surveyors, engineers and ground workers who built the road.

10.7.50. Between three and four of the proposed turbines would be visible in views from the westernmost 80 m of SM6128 (CHVP 5, **Figures 10.10b-10.10d**). The rest of this section of the Military Road is outwith the ZTV (**Figure 10.5c**). From CHVP5, the hub of one proposed turbine and the tips of three would be visible in views north-west. Whilst this would constitute visual change, the proposed turbines would not detract from an understanding, appreciation or experience of the challenging, remote terrain which this section of the road passes through nor render this remote setting illegible. Views in all other directions from this location would undergo no change (**Figure 10.10e-f**). Walkers travelling north-west along SM6128 would have views of the Proposed Development from its north-westernmost extent; the proposed turbines would, however, be to the back of walkers travelling south-east. The rest of SM6128 is outwith the ZTV and would undergo no change.

10.7.51. It is therefore considered there would be a **negligible** impact on the cultural significance of SM6140 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, watershed to Allt Lagan a'Bhainne, resulting in a **minor** adverse significance of effect, which is not significant in EIA terms.

10.7.52. In terms of NPF4 Policy 7 (h), the understanding, appreciation, and experience of the SM6128 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, Allt Ruadh to watershed would be adequately retained such that the integrity of its setting would not be significantly adversely affected. It would remain possible to understand, appreciate and experience factors of its setting that contribute to its cultural significance.

Conclusion

10.7.53. The key characteristics of the Corrieyairack Pass, Military Road's setting is primarily related to an experience of the route itself which, although now almost entirely characterised by a modern estate track, has remained essentially unchanged since the 18th century. The remote, mountainous terrain through which it is constructed provides the setting in which the Military Road is experienced. Views of the terrain allow for an understanding of the engineering challenges faced by those who constructed the road as well as an understanding of the terrain through which troops would have marched in the 18th century; experiencing this terrain also allows for an understanding of how drovers would have used this landscape both before and after the construction of the Military Road. Occasional views of Fort Augustus from northern sections of SM6142 allow for an appreciation of the relationship between the road and the settlement it served, allowing for an understanding of the road's primary function serving what was an important military base. The few extant remains of the Military Road, such as the culvert and fords at SM6142 and the bridge crossing Allt Coire Uchdachan allow for an appreciation of the form and construction style of the route, whilst post-medieval settlement, such as that to the west of SM6143, allow for an understanding of how possible contemporaneous or later settlements related to it.

- Whilst the remote, mountainous terrain in which the monument is located contributes to the sense of place associated with the Military Road it was ultimately a functional asset designed to transport troops through the landscape to Fort Augustus via the fastest available route which in this case was the route which had been used by drovers prior to the road's construction. The ability to experience the remote setting of the road is ultimately the means through which an understanding and appreciation of this is gained. The landscape has also not remained unaltered since the post-medieval period. There is substantial existing modern infrastructure in the form of the BDOHL which follows much the same alignment as the Military Road and is visible from all sections of it, particularly in views from SM6140. The presence of the BDOHL, however, has not rendered the remote upland terrain through which the Military Road passes illegible; it remains possible to understand, appreciate and experience this upland, remote terrain and how this was overcome by the engineers who constructed the Military Road.

10.7.54. Although there would be visual change in views from each of the scheduled sections of the Corrieyairack Pass, Military Road which may distract the visitor's views for short periods along its route, it would remain possible to appreciate its wider setting and the remote and mountainous character of the area through which all five scheduled sections of the Corrieyairack Pass, Military Road assessed above run through. The Proposed Development would not alter the landscape through which the Military Road passes to the extent that it would no longer be discernible as a remote, upland area which was overcome by the engineers who constructed the road. The receiving environment of this landscape is currently partially occupied by the BDOHL, which has introduced a modern element into the surroundings of the Military Road but has not detracted from the understanding, appreciation or experience of the asset as outlined above. The appreciation and understanding of the Military Road (as well as its earlier and later use as a drove road) is not dependant on the wider landscape being free from modern development. Whilst the introduction of additional modern infrastructure would change the appearance of the wider landscape around the Military Road, this would not render the remote, upland landscape illegible, nor detract from the culturally significant qualities of the Military Road. The topographic situation of the Military

Road which informs interpretation of its function, construction and associative historical qualities along with the extant features which provide insight into its form would remain readily appreciable. Elements of the Military Road's setting that contribute to cultural significance would not be removed from the landscape. It is considered that visual change to wider views which will be experienced while moving along the Military Road in either direction will not substantially affect the cultural significance of any of the sections the Military Road.

10.7.55. Taken as one continuous heritage asset (comprising the scheduled sections as assessed above), it is therefore considered there would be a **low** impact on the overall cultural significance of the Corrieyairack Pass, Military Road resulting in a **minor adverse significance** of effect, which is **not significant** in EIA terms.

10.7.56. In terms of NPF4 Policy 7 (h), the understanding, appreciation, and experience of the Corrieyairack Pass, Military Road would be adequately retained such that the integrity of their settings would not be significantly adversely affected. It would remain possible to understand, appreciate and experience factors of their setting that contribute to their cultural significance.

HA9, Non-Designated Section of Corrieyairack Pass, Military Road

10.7.57. As outlined in section 4.9 of **Appendix 3.2**, signage and a chicane for cyclists are proposed to mark the crossing of the permanent access track over HA9 (a non-designated section of the Corrieyairack Pass, Military Road, during the operational phase of the Proposed Development. It is anticipated that localised excavations would be required for the installation of these features which, should these excavations take place on HA9 itself, would lead to a negligible impact given their localised nature and the low potential for any intact remains of HA9 to exist below the modern track which current characterises it. This would result in an adverse effect of **negligible significance** which is **not significant** in EIA terms.

Decommissioning

Direct Impacts

10.7.58. Decommissioning of the Proposed Development would not directly impact upon any known cultural heritage assets, assuming that all land-take for the decommissioning works, including access, lies within the same footprint as the construction works and thus previously mitigated with no remaining archaeological potential.

Operational Effects

10.7.59. The visual impact of the Proposed Development would be removed or reduced following decommissioning.

10.8. Mitigation

10.8.1. The mitigation hierarchy is to avoid, prevent, reduce or offset impacts. This has been addressed through the design iteration process described in **Chapter 2: Site Selection and Design Iteration** of this EIA Report and through precautionary measures to be implemented such as fencing off heritage assets during construction works. Impacts which cannot be eliminated in these ways will lead to residual effects.

10.8.2. The evaluation of archaeological resource within the ISA indicates that potential adverse effects may be mitigated by an appropriate level of survey, excavation, recording, analysis and publication of the results, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation.

Mitigation Measures Prior to and During Construction

10.8.3. The scope and nature of the programme of cultural heritage mitigation will be outlined in a written scheme of investigation (WSI) and agreed with THC in advance of construction. Proposals for the scope of works are made below.

Direct (Physical) Impacts

10.8.4. Adverse direct (physical) effects of **negligible significance** are predicted on MHG22966, Knollbuck Farmstead. It is proposed that the asset is subject to a programme of pre-construction photographic recording and topographic survey of any upstanding features which may relate to the asset. A watching brief of ground breaking works in this area is also proposed.

10.8.5. No direct (physical) effects are predicted on HA9, a non-designated section of the Corrieyairack Pass, Military Road during the construction phase.

Micrositing and Accidental Direct (Physical) Impacts

10.8.6. Adverse effects of up to **minor significance** are possible on the following assets:

- MHG25625, a bridge
- MHG38102, site of a cottage
- MHG62470, site of an earthwork bank and cairn
- MHG56470, a dyke
- MHG56466, a clearance cairn
- MHG22966, Knollbuck Farmstead
- MHG62472, a sheep wash

10.8.7. With the exception of MHG62470, which does not survive as an above ground feature, it is proposed the heritage assets will in the first instance be fenced off or physically demarcated prior to construction works commencing in order to avoid any accidental impacts. The location of all assets, including MHG62470, will be shown on a map and communicated to the on site contractors as part of a Cultural Heritage toolbox talk with the requirement to avoid uncontrolled plant movements or spoil storage etc in the area during construction.

10.8.8. Should micrositing design result in direct impacts on any of the above heritage assets, programmes of pre-construction photographic recording, topographic survey and archaeological excavation as appropriate will be carried out prior to construction commencing. Following the implementation of pre-construction mitigation, a watching brief of any ground breaking works in the relevant micrositing areas which would directly impact any of the above heritage assets is proposed.

10.8.9. Further guidance on appropriate mitigation can be found at Part 6 (Historic Environment/Archaeology) of NatureScot's Good Practice During Wind Farm Construction (NatureScot, 2019). This will be adhered to during the construction phase.

Direct Impacts on Archaeological Potential

10.8.10. The ISA is considered to be of generally negligible archaeological potential with exceptions as outlined in the **Archaeological Potential of the Inner Study Area** section of **Section 10.6** above. Impacts on currently undiscovered archaeological remains within the areas of archaeological potential in the ISA may therefore occur during the construction phase. Archaeological monitoring of any ground breaking works is proposed within these areas during the construction phase of the Proposed Development.

Construction Phase Setting Effects

10.8.11. No significant construction phase setting effects have been identified and no mitigation is proposed.

Mitigation Measures During Operation

10.8.12. Adverse effects of minor significance on five Scheduled sections of the Corrieyairack Pass are minimised as far as reasonably possible through measures embedded in the design of the Proposed Development. No further mitigation is proposed.

10.8.13. Adverse direct (physical) effects of **negligible significance** are predicted on HA9 during the operational phase. It is proposed that the signage and chicanes are installed adjacent to HA9 instead of on the road itself.

Mitigation Measures During Decommissioning

10.8.14. No decommissioning effects are predicted for any cultural heritage assets and no mitigation is proposed.

10.9. Residual Effects

Residual Construction Phase Effects

Residual Construction Phase Direct (Physical) Effects

10.9.1. **No residual effects** are predicted on HA9, non-designated section of the Corrieyairack Pass, Military Road as a result of the construction phase.

10.9.2. Following mitigation, **no residual effects** are predicted on MHG22966, Knollbuck Farmstead.

10.9.3. Following mitigation, **no residual effects** are predicted on:

- MHG25625, a bridge
- MHG38102, site of a cottage
- MHG62470, site of an earthwork bank and cairn
- MHG56470, a dyke
- MHG56466, a clearance cairn
- MHG22966, Knollbuck Farmstead
- MHG62472, a sheep wash

10.9.4. Following mitigation, **no residual effects** are predicted on previously unknown archaeological remains.

Residual Construction Phase Setting Effects

10.9.5. Construction phase setting effects would be temporary and are **not significant** due to their very short duration. **No residual effects** are predicted.

Residual Operational Effects

10.9.6. Residual adverse operational effects of **negligible significance** are predicted upon two Scheduled Monuments:

- SM6143 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, Connachie Burn to Culachy
- SM6128 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, Allt Ruadh to watershed

10.9.7. Residual adverse operational effects of **minor significance** are predicted upon three Scheduled Monuments:

- SM6140 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, watershed to Allt Lagan a'Bhainne
- SM6141 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, Allt Lagan a'Bhainne to Black Burn
- SM6142 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, Black Burn to Connachie Burn

10.9.8. Taking the scheduled sections of the Corrieyairack Pass, Military Road as assessed in this chapter together as one asset, an overall residual adverse operational effect of **minor significance** is predicted on the Corrieyairack Pass, Military road.

10.9.9. Following mitigation **no residual effects** are predicted on HA9, non-designated section of the Corrieyairack Pass, Military Road.

10.9.10. These identified residual effects are **not significant**.

10.10. Cumulative Effects

10.10.1. Cumulative operational effects can occur when the contribution made to the cultural significance of a heritage asset by its setting is directly altered by the Proposed Development in combination with other consented or proposed developments. The assessment of cumulative effects uses the same methodology applied in considering the likely effects of Proposed Development alone. All analysis of asset significance and the contribution made by setting remains unchanged. All that is altered is the nature of change predicted for the one or more scenarios under consideration.

10.10.2. In terms of direct physical effects, it is considered that there is no potential for cumulative construction effects on any known or unknown and previously unrecorded cultural heritage assets. Any effects will be contained within the ISA, and none will be further directly impacted by any other developments outside this area.

10.10.3. Cumulative operational effects are considered in cases where an effect of minor or greater significance has been predicted on the setting of a heritage asset as a result of the Proposed Development. In this assessment an effect of **minor** significance has been predicted on three Scheduled Monuments:

- SM6140 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, watershed to Allt Lagan a'Bhainne
- SM6141 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, Allt Lagan a'Bhainne to Black Burn
- SM6142 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, Black Burn to Connachie Burn

10.10.4. For the cumulative assessment, other consented or proposed developments are considered where they also feature prominently within views of or towards this asset, as demonstrated by visualisations. In this case, two sections of the Corrieyairack Pass have views of other proposed or consented developments as outlined below.

10.10.5. Cumulative impacts have been considered for the following sections of the Corrieyairack Pass from where one consented and one proposed wind farm developments would be visible should they be constructed:

- SM6140 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, watershed to Allt Lagan a'Bhainne (CHVP 4, **Figure 10.9b**)
- SM6128 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, Allt Ruadh to watershed (CHVP5, **Figure 10.10b**)

10.10.6. The consented Millennium South Wind Farm, once constructed, and the proposed Bunloinn Wind Farm, should it be consented, will be located within the same area of the landscape as the operational wind farms described in the '**Operation**' section of **Section 10.7** and would have no impact on the cultural significance of the Pass, given their locations considerably outwith the area in which the Pass functioned/functions. The setting which contributes to the Pass's cultural significance would be adequately retained; it is therefore considered that the visibility of these other developments' turbines along with the Proposed Development would not constitute an increase in impact magnitude in relation to either SM6140 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, watershed to Allt Lagan a'Bhainne or SM6128 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, Allt Ruadh to watershed as compared with the Proposed Development in isolation. **No significant cumulative effects** are predicted.

10.11. Summary

10.11.1. The Cultural Heritage chapter has considered the likely significant effects on cultural heritage associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development.

10.11.2. There are 40 known heritage assets within the ISA, including four Scheduled sections of the Corrieyairack Pass, a military road, and 36 non-designated heritage assets recorded by the HER, most of which date to the post-medieval period.

10.11.3. Heritage assets up to 20 km from the ISA have been considered in order to identify any assets whose cultural significance may be impacted by the Proposed Development through development within their setting. Five scheduled sections of the Corrieyairack Pass have been subject to detailed setting assessment in this chapter.

10.11.4. A direct (physical) effect of **negligible significance** is predicted on two heritage assets: MHG22966, Knollbuck Farmstead and HA9, non-designated section of the Corrieyairack Pass, Military Road. Following implementation of mitigation, **no residual effects** are predicted for these assets.

10.11.5. Micrositing and accidental direct (physical) effects of up to **minor adverse significance** are possible on seven non-designated heritage assets:

- MHG25625, a bridge
- MHG38102, site of a cottage
- MHG62470, site of an earthwork bank and cairn
- MHG56470, a dyke
- MHG56466, a clearance cairn
- MHG22966, Knollbuck Farmstead
- MHG62472, a sheep wash

10.11.6. These assets will be demarcated and fenced off prior to construction to prevent accidental impact and potential impacts arising from micrositing. **No residual effects** are predicted for these assets.

10.11.7. The ISA is considered to be of generally negligible archaeological potential with exceptions as outlined in the **Archaeological Potential of the Inner Study Area** section of **Section 10.6** above. Any effect resulting from an impact upon previously unknown archaeological remains discovered during the construction-phase without application of mitigation is likely to be an adverse effect of no more than **minor adverse significance**; following implementation of mitigation **no residual effects** are predicted on previously unknown archaeological remains.

10.11.8. Residual operational effects of **minor adverse significance** are predicted on three sections of the Corrieyairack Pass, Military Road: SM6140, SM6141, and SM6142which is **not significant** in EIA terms.

10.11.9. Residual operational phase effects of **negligible adverse significance** are predicted on the setting of SM6143 and SM6128 which is **not significant** in EIA terms.

10.11.10. Cumulative impact assessment, considering all wind farms that are consented but not yet built, those under construction, and those that are currently at application stage (for which sufficient detail is known) in the study area has identified **no significant effects**.

10.11.11. No direct residual decommissioning effects have been identified. On decommissioning the operational effects of **minor adverse significance** on the three sections of the Corrieyairack Pass, Military Road outlined above would be reversed.

Table 10.5 Summary of Effects

Description of Effect	Significance of Potential Effect		Mitigation Measure	Significance of Residual Effect	
	Significance	Beneficial/ Adverse		Significance	Beneficial/ Adverse
Direct (physical) construction phase impact: MHG22966, Knollbuck Farmstead	Negligible	Adverse	The asset will be subject to a programme of pre-construction photographic recording and topographic survey of any upstanding features which may relate to the asset. A watching brief of ground breaking works in this area is also proposed. The scope and nature of the works will be outlined in a WSI and agreed with THC in advance of construction.	None	N/A
Direct (physical) operational phase impact: HA 9 (non-designated section of the Corrieyairack Pass, Military Road)	Negligible	Adverse	Signage and chicane will be located adjacent to HA9 and not on the asset itself.	None	N/A
Micrositing/accidental direct (physical) construction phase impacts: • MHG25625, a bridge • MHG38102, site of a cottage • MHG62470, site of an earthwork bank and cairn • MHG56470, a dyke • MHG56466, a clearance cairn • MHG22966, Knollbuck Farmstead	Minor	Adverse	All assets (with the exception of MHG62470) will be demarcated and fenced off prior to the commencement of the Construction Phase. The location of all assets, including MHG62470, will be shown on a map and communicated to the on site contractors as part of a Cultural Heritage toolbox talk with the requirement to avoid uncontrolled plant movements or spoil storage etc in the area during construction.	None	N/A

- MHG62472, a sheep wash

Direct (physical) construction phase impact on archaeological potential	Minor	Adverse	Archaeological monitoring of ground breaking works within areas of archaeological potential will be carried out. The scope and nature of the works will be outlined in a WSI and agreed with THC in advance of construction.	None	N/A
Operational phase impacts on the setting of SM6140, SM6141 and SM6142,	Minor	Adverse	None	Minor	Adverse
Operational phase impacts on the overall setting of Corrieyairack Pass (comprising all five scheduled sections)	Minor	Adverse	None	Minor	Adverse
Operational phase impacts on the setting of SM6143 and SM6128	Negligible	Adverse	None	Negligible	Adverse

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