

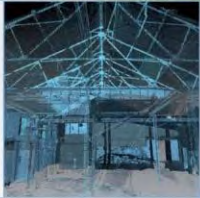
# St Fergus Gas 132/11kv Substation, Aberdeenshire Cultural Heritage Desk Study

*LT000197-ST Fergus Gas Transformers TCA*

*AOC Project No: 24526*

*November 2018*

*Updated August 2019*



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

# St Fergus Gas 132/11kv Substation, Aberdeenshire

## Cultural Heritage Desk Study

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<b>On Behalf of:</b>	<b>ERM</b> 6th Floor 102 West Port Edinburgh EH3 9DN
<b>National Grid Reference (NGR):</b>	<b>NK 08683 53620 (centred)</b>
<b>AOC Project No:</b>	<b>24526</b>
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<b>Date of Report:</b>	<b>November 2018</b> <b>Updated August 2019</b>

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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## 1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 AOC Archaeology Group (AOC) was commissioned by Environmental Resources Management (ERM) on behalf of Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission (SHE Transmission) to undertake a Cultural Heritage Desk Study with regard to the proposed replacement and relocation of 132/11kv 30MVA transformers at St Fergus Gas Terminal (“the Site”). This study will be included as an annex for the Environmental Appraisal for the proposal which is being prepared by ERM.
- 1.2 Potential impacts on known or unknown buried archaeological remains which may survive within the Site relate to the possibility of disturbing, removing or destroying in situ remains and artefacts during demolition and ground-breaking works (including excavation, construction and other works) associated with the proposed development.
- 1.3 The assessment has established that there is a Low potential for archaeology of any date to survive on the Site, notwithstanding agricultural remains. Cartographic evidence indicates that the Site has been located in agricultural land by the Black Water stream since at least the post-medieval period. Extant farmsteads in the area, Essie (Site 12) and Newstead (Site 11) to the west of the Site and Pittenheath (Site 5) to the east, are annotated on historic maps and may have medieval and earlier antecedents. Earthworks associated with deep ploughing were found surrounding the Site, illustrating its agrarian history.
- 1.4 An area of cropmarks (Site 9), potentially pits were observed on aerial photographs taken in 1946 to the vicinity of the Site and crossed by the underground cable (Figure 2). The cropmarks are undated and have not been identified on the ground, nor on later aerial photographs, however these features may still survive. Whilst this assessment has judged there to be a Low potential for archaeological remains to survive and evidence of historic deep ploughing has been observed, it has been noted that archaeological remains have survived beneath deep ploughing in the area and it cannot be discounted that there is the possibility that hitherto unknown remains survive on the Site.
- 1.5 National planning policies and planning guidance, SPP (Scottish Government 2014) and PAN2/2011 (Scottish Government 2011), as well as the local plan policies, outlined in Section 2.3, require a mitigation response that is designed to take cognisance of the potential for archaeological remains within the Site to be impacted upon and hence allow the preservation or recording of any significant remains which may be present. Although the potential for buried archaeological remains to be present is considered to be Low, they cannot be discounted and consequently a programme to mitigate the effects of any direct impacts is recommended; this would be in accordance with national and local planning policies on heritage outlined above. The Archaeology Service, archaeological advisors to Aberdeenshire Council have stated that due to the relatively small scale of the proposed works a watching brief should be undertaken on all ground breaking works. If archaeological remains are uncovered, further archaeological works, including full excavation and a programme of post-excavation works may be required, and would need to be agreed with the Archaeology Service at Aberdeenshire Council.
- 1.6 There are no designated assets within the 500m Study Area and due to the presence of St Fergus Gas Terminal visibility between the Site and the nearest designated assets are prohibited. As such no indirect impacts are expected and no mitigation is considered necessary.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Proposed Development

- 2.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group (AOC) was commissioned by Environmental Resources Management (ERM) on behalf of Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (SHE Transmission) to undertake a Cultural Heritage Desk Study with regard to the proposed replacement and relocation of 132/11kV 30MVA transformers at St Fergus Gas Terminal (the 'Site'-see Figure 1). This study will be included as an annex for the Environmental Appraisal for the proposal which is being prepared by ERM.
- 2.1.2 The location for the proposed new substation is to the west of the A90 in agricultural land to the north of existing 132kV overhead line. A new tension tower and CSE compound will be constructed between existing OHL towers 206 and 207 and a cable will run between the substation and a new tension tower. Temporary wood poles will be erected south of the existing OHL between poles 205 and 207. These will divert the OHL during construction works (see Figures 1 & 2).
- 2.1.3 The proposed development itself will consist of the following key components:
- Replacement of two grid transformers to be housed within a new substation complex;
  - A new control building to house welfare, protection, batteries, LVAC metering and communications;
  - A new terminal overhead line tower, line amendments and downlead changes; and
  - Temporary site compounds and construction of laydown areas.

### 2.2 Topographical & Geological Conditions

- 2.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey GeoIndex (BGS 2018), the Site is underlain by Crinan Subgroup and Tayvallich Sub group, a metamorphic bedrock composed of semipelite, pelite and psammite, which was formed approximately 541 to 1000 million years ago and is a low-grade metamorphic rock which originated as a sedimentary rock.
- 2.2.2. The eastern area of the Site is underlain by superficial deposits of Lacustrine Deposits, composed of clay, silt and sand formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary period in a local environment previously dominated by lakes (BGS, 2018). The superficial deposit in the western area of the Site is recorded as Hatton Till Formation, composed of Diamicton, clay, sand and gravel composed approximately 2 million years ago in the Quaternary period and indicative of ice age conditions (BGS, 2018).
- 2.2.3. The topography of the area slopes steeply SSW to NNE from the unnamed road to the south west of the Site on which the farms of Newstead (Site 11) and South Essie (Site 12) are located (22m AOD) to the Black Water stream (7m AOD). The Site is located on relatively flat land recorded at 10m AOD. A deep burn, the Black Water runs north west to south east to the immediately south east of the proposed tension tower and CSE compound.

### 2.3 Government and local planning policies and guidance

#### 2.3.1 *National Planning Policy Guidelines*

The statutory framework for heritage in Scotland is outlined in the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended in the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 and the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 both of which are modified by the Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2011.

- 2.3.2 The implications of these Acts with regard to local government planning policy are described within Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) (Scottish Government 2014), Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement (Historic Environment Scotland 2016) and Planning Advice Notes (PAN) for Scotland. SPP, HEPS and PAN 2/2011 'Archaeology and Planning' (Scottish Government 2011) deal specifically with planning policy in relation to

heritage. The planning guidance expresses a general presumption in favour of preserving heritage remains in situ. Their ‘*preservation by record*’ (i.e. through excavation and recording, followed by analysis and publication, by qualified archaeologists) is a less desirable alternative. SPP expresses the following policy principles:

*“The planning system should:*

- *promote the care and protection of the designated and non-designated historic environment (including individual assets, related settings and the wider cultural landscape) and its contribution to sense of place, cultural identity, social well-being, economic growth, civic participation and lifelong learning; and*
- *enable positive change in the historic environment which is informed by a clear understanding of the importance of the heritage assets affected and ensure their future use. Change should be sensitively managed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the fabric and setting of the asset, and ensure that its special characteristics are protected, conserved or enhanced’ (Scottish Government 2014, Para 137).*

2.3.3 Historic Environment Scotland (HES) published Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS) in May 2019 to provide non-statutory policy and guidance regarding the Historic Environment. Policy HEP1 provides guidance on the understanding and recognition of the historic environment:

**HEP 1:** *Decisions affecting any part of the historic environment should be informed by an inclusive understanding of its breadth and cultural significance*

2.3.4 The guidance sets out three policies which are relevant to the consideration of cultural heritage during development management:

- **HEP 2:** *Decisions affecting the historic environment should ensure that its understanding and enjoyment as well as its benefits are secured for present and future generations.*
- **HEP 3:** *Plans, programmes, policies and strategies, and the allocation of resources, should be approached in a way that protects and promotes the historic environment. If detrimental impact on the historic environment is unavoidable, it should be minimised. Steps should be taken to demonstrate that alternatives have been explored, and mitigation measures should be put in place.*
- **HEP 4:** *Changes to specific assets and their context should be managed in a way that protects the historic environment. Opportunities for enhancement should be identified where appropriate. If detrimental impact on the historic environment is unavoidable, it should be minimised. Steps should be taken to demonstrate that alternatives have been explored, and mitigation measures should be put in place.*

#### **Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan**

2.3.5. The Aberdeenshire City and Shire Strategic Development Plan was adopted in March 2014. The Plan contains high-level strategic plans setting out a long-term vision for the future of the area and how land use will change. The following objective has been highlighted within the Plan:

*“To make sure new development maintains and improves the region’s important built, natural and cultural assets.”* (Aberdeenshire Council, 2014: 34)

#### **Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017**

2.3.6. The Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan was adopted by Aberdeenshire Council in April 2017 and conforms to the Strategic Development Plan, as well as providing more detailed planning policy. Section 16 of the Local Plan addresses the Historic Environment. Policy HE 1 *Protecting historic buildings, sites and monuments* states the policy in regard to designated and non-designated assets. The following section of HE1 is relevant to this assessment:

*“Development on nationally or locally important monuments or archaeological sites, or on their setting, will only be allowed if there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic*

*nature, and there is no alternative site. It is the developer's responsibility to provide information on the nature and location of the archaeological features prior to determination of the planning application and either mitigate impacts or, where preservation of the site in its original location is not possible, arrange for the full excavation and recording of the site in advance of development"* (Aberdeenshire Council, 2017: 59).

#### **Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2021 (emerging)**

- 2.3.7. Aberdeenshire Council intend to develop a new Local Development Plan (LDP) to be published in 2021. The LDP is currently in the early stages of planning.

## **2.4 Planning considerations pertaining to the site**

- 2.4.1 The Local Planning Authority is advised on all archaeological matters by the Archaeology Service at Aberdeenshire Council. Any requirement for archaeological work either preceding or during development will be determined by the Archaeology Service, who advise the Council on archaeological matters.
- 2.4.2. There are no designated assets (World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Inventoried Historic Battlefields, Inventoried Gardens and Designed Landscapes or Conservation Areas) within the Site boundary or within the 500m Study Area.
- 2.4.3. A search of both the National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE) and the Aberdeenshire Historic Environment Record (HER) identified a range of non-designated heritage assets located within 500m of the Site, including St Fergus Gas Terminal itself which is recorded on the NRHE (Site 3).

## **2.5 Limitations of Scope**

- 2.5.1 This assessment is based upon data obtained from publicly accessible archives as described in the *Data Sources* in Section 4.2. Heritage assets within 500m of the Site were identified. Data from the NRHE was obtained in October 2018 and data was obtained from Aberdeenshire Council HER at the same time. The information presented in the gazetteer regarding known heritage assets is current to this date.
- 2.5.2 It should be noted that the report has been prepared under the express instructions and solely for the use of SHE Transmission, ERM and their partners. All the work carried out in this report is based upon AOC Archaeology Group's professional knowledge and understanding of current (November 2018) and relevant United Kingdom standards and codes, technology and legislation.
- 2.5.3 Changes in these areas may occur in the future and cause changes to the conclusions, advice or recommendations given. AOC Archaeology Group does not accept responsibility for advising SHE Transmission or associated parties of the facts or implications of any such changes in the future.

## **3 OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1 The main objective of this assessment is to identify the archaeological and cultural heritage implications of the Site for the proposed transformer relocation at St Fergus Gas Terminal, Aberdeenshire and to identify any direct or indirect impacts which may result as a consequence of the development. The evidence presented, and the conclusions offered will be summarised in the project's Environmental Appraisal (EA) and will provide a comprehensive basis for further discussion and decisions on the proposed development. The objectives will be met by examining a variety of evidence for upstanding and buried remains of heritage interest including any World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and non-designated heritage assets within 500m of the Site.

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Standards**



- 4.1.1 The scope of this assessment meets the requirements of current planning regulations set out in SPP, HEPS and PAN2/2011, and local planning policy.
- 4.1.2 AOC Archaeology Group conforms to the standards of professional conduct outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Code of Conduct (CIfA 2014a), the CIfA Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment (CIfA 2017), the CIfA Standard and Guidance for Commissioning Work or Providing Consultancy Advice on the Historic Environment (CIfA 2014b) and the CIfA Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures (CIfA 2014c).
- 4.1.3 AOC Archaeology Group is a Registered Archaeological Organisation of the CIfA. This status ensures that there is regular monitoring and approval by external peers of our internal systems, standards and skills development.
- 4.1.4 AOC is ISO 9001:2015 accredited, in recognition of the Company's Quality Management System.

## 4.2 Data sources

4.2.1 The following data sources were consulted during preparation of this desk study:

- Canmore:  
For National Record of the Historic Environment data;
- National Record of the Historic Environment Search Room:  
For historic maps, aerial photography and documents relating to; the Site and the surrounding area;
- National Map Library (National Library of Scotland, Causewayside, Edinburgh):  
For old Ordnance Survey maps (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, small- and large-scale) and pre-Ordnance Survey historical maps.
- Historic Environment Scotland:  
For designated asset data.
- Aberdeenshire HER:  
For an extract of the local HER.

## 4.3 Report structure

- 4.3.1 Each heritage asset referred to in the text is listed in the Gazetteer in Appendix 1. Each has been assigned a 'Site No.' unique to this assessment, and the Gazetteer includes information regarding the type, period, grid reference, NRHE number, protective designation, and other descriptive information, as derived from the consulted sources.
- 4.3.2 Each heritage asset referred to in the text is plotted on the Heritage Assets Map (Figure 2) at the end of the report, using the assigned Site Nos. The Site Boundary is shown outlined in red and will be referred to throughout this report as the 'Site'
- 4.3.3 All heritage assets located within a 500m radius of the Site have been included in the assessment. The aim of this is to identify the potential for direct impacts upon known heritage assets and to help predict whether any similar hitherto unknown archaeological remains may survive within the Site. A search was also made for designated heritage assets within 500m of the redline boundary to allow for an assessment of the potential for impacts upon their settings.
- 4.3.4 All sources consulted during the assessment, including publications, archived records, photographic and cartographic evidence, are listed amongst the *References* in Section 7.

## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 5.1 Undated Evidence

5.1.1 Aberdeenshire HER has recorded an area of potential pits on vertical aerial photography to the south of the Site (Site 9), in the vicinity of the underground cable which they believe could represent a prehistoric settlement, however these features may be caused by a range of activities from a variety of dates and until intrusive works are carried out the features cannot be securely dated. An undated cist (Site 4) which contained a cinerary urn which was described as “*roughly made and ornamented*” and contained burnt human remains was recorded to the south west of the Site in 1888. No further information is available for Site 4 and the cinerary urn was not traceable in 1968. It is likely that the cist (Site 4) would have been of prehistoric date, however since no further information is available that date cannot be attributed to the asset (Site 4).

### 5.2 Prehistoric Evidence

5.2.1 No prehistoric assets are recorded within the Site or within the Study Area. As previously stated Site 4 may be of prehistoric date and potential prehistoric pits (Site 9) are recorded in the vicinity of the Site. However, due to the paucity of securely dated prehistoric remains within the Study Area, there is judged to be a Low potential for remains of this date to survive.

### 5.3 Early Historic and Medieval Evidence

5.3.1 The Parish of St Fergus lies in a part of Aberdeenshire known as *Buchan*, which stems from the ownership of the area by the male heirs of the Earls of Buchan (Cragie, 1795:134). No early historic or medieval remains or artefacts are recorded either on the Site or within the 500m Study Area. However, it is possible, indeed likely, that many of the post-medieval settlements recorded within the 500m Study Area had Early Historic and medieval antecedents. The etymology of Essie, a historic and modern farmstead to the south of the Site may be of Early Historic origin as “*Essie*” means a “*pasture*” or “*feeding place*”; and the etymology of Pittenheath (Site 5), an historically documented farmstead, recorded to the north east of the Site, is believed to indicate a landscape dominated by heathland in which pits were dug (Cragie, 1795: 144). These pits may be those seen on aerial photography (Site 9), which would suggest an Early Historic date for those features.

5.3.2 There is the potential for post-medieval farmsteads to have earlier antecedents and as such there is the potential for earlier agricultural remains, however due to consistent land use in the area, it is likely that any earlier agrarian remains would be truncated by or indistinguishable from later remains. As there is a scarcity of Early Historic and medieval remains in the Study Area there is judged to be a Low potential for remains of those to dates to survive.

### 5.4 Post-Medieval Evidence

5.4.1 Although no post-medieval remains are recorded on the Site itself, the NRHE records eight small farmsteads dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century within the 500m Study Area. Newstead (Site 11) is a farmstead to the north west of the Site which is depicted as a courtyard structure on the Ordnance Survey (OS) maps in 1872 (Figure 5) and 1902 (Figure 6). Essie (Site 12) is similarly documented to the south of the Site. To the south east of the Site, Wester Blackwater (Site 13) is drawn on the OS map of 1872 (Figure 5). Within the Study Area there are three smaller structures recorded to the south east (Site 6-8) and one to the north (Site 10) of the Site.

5.4.2 The Old and New Statistical Accounts record the Site within the parish of St Fergus, the foci of which is located approximately 2km to the south west of the Site. Overall there was an increase in the population of the parish from 1755 (population: 1271) to 1831 (population: 1334), although there were several decreases in population which neither author (Cragie, 1795 or Anderson, 1845) could attribute, but may have been caused by disease, lack of employment or changing population demographics. The Accounts generally record an agrarian landscape in which tenant farmers are required to use sea shells and sea weed as fertiliser (Anderson, 1845: 202).

- 5.4.3. Assets recorded by the NRHE and Aberdeenshire HER indicate that the Site lay in a sparsely populated landscape, which was dominated by farms and agriculture in the post-medieval period. As such there is judged to be a High potential for post-medieval agricultural remains to survive and a Low potential for any other archaeology of that period to survive.

## 5.5 Modern Evidence

- 5.5.1 St Fergus Gas Terminal (Site 3) was constructed around 1975, with the extant transformers being installed in 1975. With the exception of the Gas Terminal, there are no recorded modern heritage assets within the Study Area and as such there is judged to be a Low potential for modern remains, notwithstanding agricultural features, to survive.

## 5.6 Cartographic Evidence

- 5.6.1. Early maps of Scotland are often schematic and lack detail although they provide an indication of settlement pattern. Pont's map of Buchan dated 1560-1614 (Not illustrated) annotates *Newseat* (Site 11), to the west of the Site as well as *Middle Essie* and *North Essie* to the north of the Site, as well as *South Essie* (Site 12) to the south of the Site. This indicates that the farm settlements in the area have some antiquity. Blaeu's 1646 map (Figure 3) also annotates these place names, as does Gordon's 1636-52 map (Not illustrated) which also depicts *Pettinheath* (Site 5) to the north east. These maps do not record the land use on the Site
- 5.6.2. Roy's military map of Scotland (1747-52-Figure 4) depicts the Site within ploughed agricultural land and draws the route of the Black Water, which would have crossed to the south of the Site, south west of the tension tower and CSE Compound. Roy also annotates *South Essy* (Site 12), *Middle Essy*, *Pittenheath* (Site 5) and illustrates a collection of buildings at *Newseat* (Site 11). The wider area is depicted as agrarian in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century and a north to south aligned road is depicted following the coast to the east of the Site. The precursor to the modern A90 which runs to the east of the Site is depicted by Taylor and Skinner (Not illustrated) as running north to south between St Fergus and Haddo in 1776. No further information is recorded.
- 5.6.3. By 1858, Keith and Gibb (Not illustrated) record the Site in land bound to the east by the A90 and to the west by a NW to SE aligned road, west of *South Essie* (modern *Essie*-Site 12). The route of the Black Water is depicted in the vicinity of the Site and *Newseat* (Site 11) is annotated to the west of the Site. Whilst this map documents the 19<sup>th</sup> century roads in the area, there is no indication of land use on this map.
- 5.6.4. Detailed Ordnance Survey mapping commenced with the First Edition 25 Inch to the Mile map of 1872 (Figure 5). The Site is illustrated within a field numbered 256 and extends into a field numbered 258. The temporary wooden OHL would extend west into land immediately adjacent to *Newseat* (Site 11). There are no changes recorded on the OS Six Inch map dated 1872 (Not illustrated).
- 5.6.5. No changes are drawn on the OS map of 1902 (Figure 6). The 1971 OS map (Not illustrated) annotates field boundaries as drains or tracks, and depicts the Blackwater as being canalised which may explain the wet nature of the land in the vicinity of the Site.
- 5.6.6. The OHL which runs south west from St Fergus Gas Terminal is depicted as crossing the Site in 1983 and St Fergus Gas Terminal (Site 3) is drawn to the east of the Site. St Fergus Gas Terminal was opened in 1975. Historic and modern mapping indicate very little change to the Site, its boundaries and its land use since the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

## 5.7 Previous Archaeological Investigations

- 5.7.1 Three previous archaeological investigations are recorded as having taken place within the Study Area; Site 5 to the north east of the Site is the centre point of an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) and rapid field survey undertaken in 1997 as part of the proposed pressure reduction scheme to St Fergus Gas Terminal. No further information is held by the NRHE. Site 2, to the south east of the Site is the centre point for another DBA which identified a house or manor at West Blackwater, an enclosure and a trackway, all of which are depicted on

historic maps. To the south east of the Site, in 1998, an excavation in advance of a gas pipeline recorded a truncated spread of orange/dark brown ash measuring approximately 1m x 1m x 0.1m and noted the location of the works within flat agricultural land.

## 5.8 Aerial Photographic Evidence

- 5.8.1 A review of aerial photographs held by the National Collection of Aerial Photographs (NCAP) held by HES was undertaken as part of this assessment. Photographs from 1946 to 1999 were examined and were found to show the Site both prior to and after the construction of the gas terminal. The aerial photographs confirmed that there was very little change in the wider area from the depiction on the OS map dated 1902 until 1999. Aerial photography indicates that the Site were ploughed agricultural fields until the 1970's (CLY/7711/02-Frame 2/004-006); however sometime before 1999 (OS/99/909, Frame 295-301) the area to the south of the Site was fallow and small amounts of vegetation were observed. Similarly, vegetation was seen to line the western edge of the Gas Terminal in 1999 (OS/99/909, Frame 295-301) which may be evidence of screening the Gas terminal either side of the A90.
- 5.8.2 St Fergus Gas terminal was not observed on photography before 1976 and was visible in 1977 (CLY/7711/02-Frame 2/004-006), although the north eastern area seemed to still be in construction and South Blackwater (Site 1) seemed still to be a working farmstead in 1977. By 1999 (OS/99/909) the full extent of St Fergus Gas Terminal was visible.
- 5.8.3 An area of "dark blobs" to the north of the Site was visible on aerial photography dated 1946 (106G/Scot/UK/0110-Frame 4335) which are comparable to the description of Site 9. No form to the cropmarks (Site 9) was visible. Historic plough marks and old field boundaries were visible on infra-red photography from 1977 (CLY/7711/02-Frame 2/024-028) and cropmarks, most likely of a geological origin potentially associated with the movement of the Black Water stream and its effects on the local geology were visible to the south and east in photography from 1970 (OS/90/41-Frame 025). In general, cropmarks associated with the agricultural history of the area were seen on aerial photography from 1946-1999.
- 5.8.4 No archaeological features on the Site could be identified on the aerial photographs. A full list of all the aerial photographs consulted is included in the references (Section 7.3) at the end of this report.

## 5.9 Walkover Survey

- 5.9.1 AOC undertook a walkover survey of the Site on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2018. The weather was overcast and the walkover undertaken in damp underfoot conditions. However, visibility was good and the survey was not compromised. The Site was found to occupy an area of firm, previously deep ploughed land, west of the A90 (Plate 1). An area of grassed over deep ploughed land was observed to the north of the Site (Plate 2). Immediately south of the Site is an area of vegetation in which is located OHL 207 (Plate 2). The new tension tower and CSE compound would be located in wetlands immediately adjacent to the Black Water stream (Plate 3), which, during the Site walkover, was recorded to a depth exceeding 2m. The temporary OHL diversion would be located to the south of the existing OHL on WSW to ENE sloping agricultural land west of Newstead (Site 11-Plate 3 & 4).
- 5.9.2 No significant archaeology was observed during the walkover.

## 6 CONCLUSION

### 6.1 Direct impacts

- 6.1.1 Potential impacts on known or unknown buried archaeological remains which may survive within the Site relate to the possibility of disturbing, removing or destroying *in situ* remains and artefacts during demolition and ground-breaking works (including excavation, construction and other works) associated with the proposed development.
- 6.1.2 The assessment has established a paucity of securely dated prehistoric remains within the 500m Study Area, and as such there is a Low potential for Prehistoric remains to survive. Whilst the surrounding farmsteads may have Early Historic or medieval antecedents there is a scarcity of remains dated to these periods and it is likely that the land use during that period was agricultural, as such it is judged that there is a Low potential for archaeology of the Early Historic and medieval period to survive on the Site. Historic cartography and documentary research indicate that a number of farmsteads (Sites 5, 7, 10, 11 & 12) have been present within 500m of the Site since at least the 17<sup>th</sup> century, several of which are still extant (Sites 11 & 12) along a road to the west of the Site. It is likely that the Site lay in agricultural and wet land to the south of those farmsteads in the post-medieval period. Historic deep ploughing was observed on and in the vicinity of the Site which may have begun in the post-medieval period. Notwithstanding agricultural remains, there is judged to be a Low potential for post-medieval remains to survive. No changes to the Site have been recorded in the modern era. St Fergus Gas Terminal was constructed to the east of the Site in the 1970's. Therefore, there is a Low potential for modern remains to survive.
- 6.1.3 It is highly likely that the Site has been agricultural land since the prehistoric period and as such it is considered a greenfield site. Undated potential pits (Site 9) have been located in the vicinity of the Site on aerial photographs dated 1946, however no evidence of the features has been visible on subsequent aerial photographs and no upstanding features have been identified in the vicinity of Site 9. It is likely that the evidence of deep ploughing around the Site has removed or heavily truncated any features including those at Site 9 if the features had an archaeological origin. However, the Archaeology Service at Aberdeenshire Council (Claire Herbert pers comm) has stated that archaeological remains in this area have survived beneath areas of deep ploughing and as such the possibility of uncovering hitherto unknown remains cannot be wholly discounted.

### 6.2 Indirect impacts

- 6.2.1 In cultural heritage terms, an indirect impact refers to any change in the baseline condition of a heritage asset resulting from a development beyond the boundaries of the asset. Indirect impacts can have a variety of forms for instance if a development affects the water table, it could potentially damage the preservation of organic remains within buried archaeological contexts beyond its boundaries. However, the majority of indirect impacts result from changes to the settings of heritage assets as a consequence of new development.
- 6.2.2 Scottish Planning Policy and HES guidance on setting are clear that the setting of an asset can contribute to its significance. Paragraph 145 of Scottish Planning Policy notes the importance of preserving the settings of Scheduled Monuments, stating that:

*"Where there is potential for a proposed development to have an adverse effect on a scheduled monument or on the integrity of its setting, permission should only be granted where there are exceptional circumstances"* (Scottish Government 2014).

- 6.2.3 There are no designated assets within the Study Area. A line of four Scheduled Second World War pillboxes (SM11315, SM11314, SM11320 & SM11313) are located along the coast to the east to the Site and east of St Fergus Gas Terminal. Due to the coastal nature of the setting of the Scheduled Monuments and the intervening St Fergus Gas Terminal there will be no impact from the proposed development on the settings of the Scheduled Monuments.

### 6.3 Mitigation

- 6.3.1 National planning policies and planning guidance, SPP (Scottish Government 2014), HEPS and PAN2/2011 (Scottish Government 2011), as well as the local plan policies outlined in Section 2.3, require a mitigation response that is designed to take cognisance of the potential for archaeological remains within the Site to be impacted upon and hence allow the preservation or recording of any significant remains which may be present. Although the potential for buried archaeological remains, notwithstanding agricultural remains to be present is considered to be Low, they cannot be discounted and consequently a programme to mitigate the effects of any direct impacts is recommended. This would be in accordance with national and local planning policies on heritage that are outlined above. Advice was sought from the Archaeology Service at Aberdeenshire Council regarding mitigation. The Archaeological Service recommended that due to the relatively small scale of the works proposed, a watching brief should be undertaken on all ground breaking works associated with the proposed development (Claire Herbert, per comms). If archaeological remains are uncovered, further archaeological works, including full excavation and a programme of post-excavation works may be required, and would need to be agreed in advance with the Archaeology Service at Aberdeenshire Council.
- 6.3.2 As there are no designated assets within the 500m Study Area and due to the presence of St Fergus Gas Terminal there is no intervisibility between the Site and the nearest designated assets. As such no indirect impacts are expected and no mitigation is considered necessary.

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Ordnance Survey.1983. OS Plan 1:2500



### 7.3 Aerial Photographic References

Library Reference	Sortie	Date	Frame Run/ Photo Number
B_0078	106G/Scot/UK/0110	23/05/1946	4334-4336
B_0382	540/1418	27/09/1954	F.22 – 0004-0011
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B_0794	CLY/7711/02	06/07/1977	2/004-2/008
SCOT OS_31_09	OS/82/124	14/05/1982	001-008
SCOT FD_L_NK_05_15-03	OS/86/231	22/09/1986	001-008
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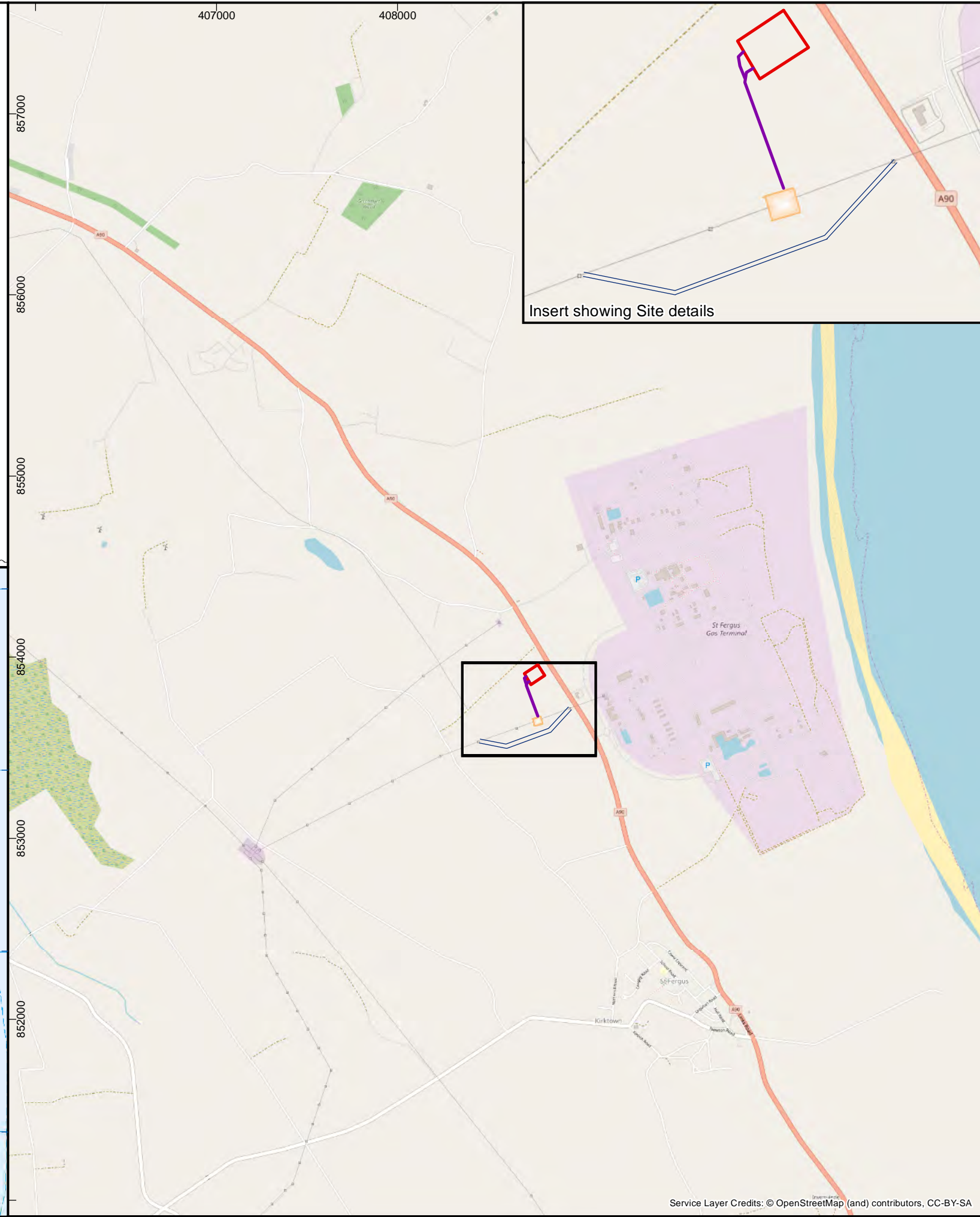
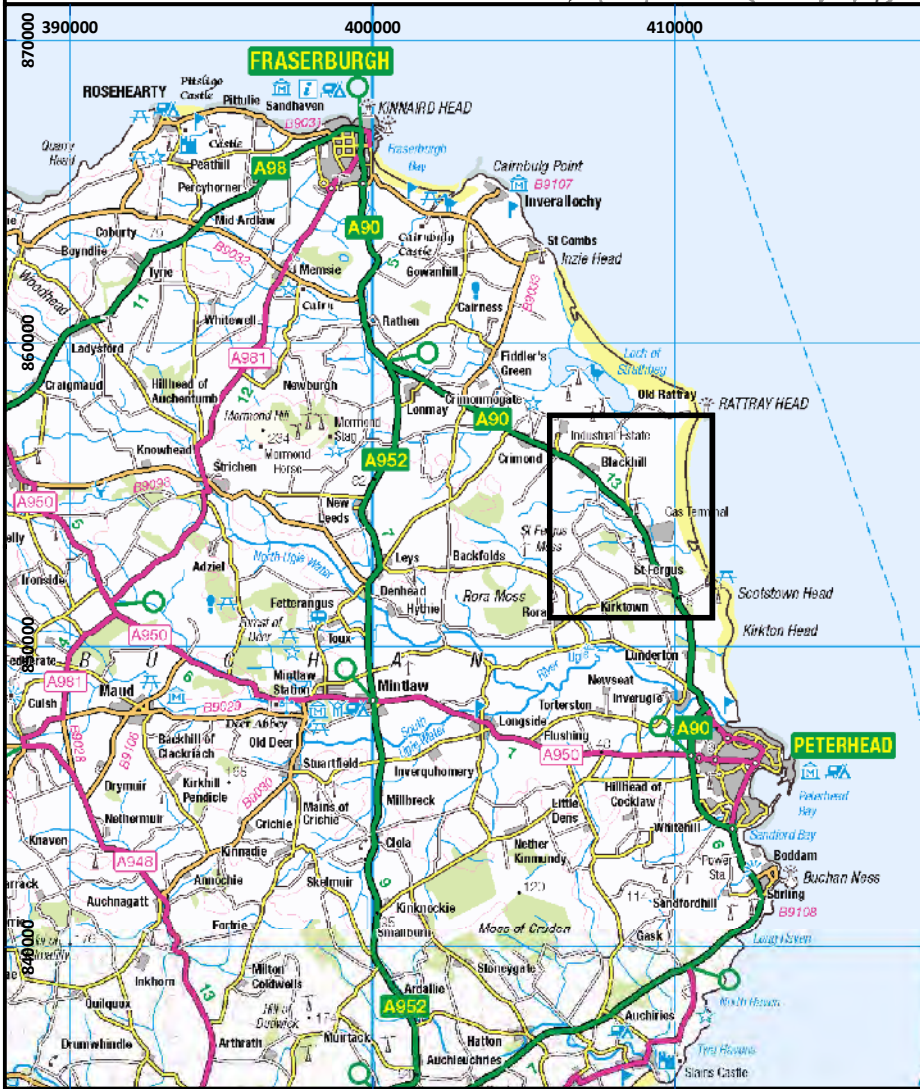
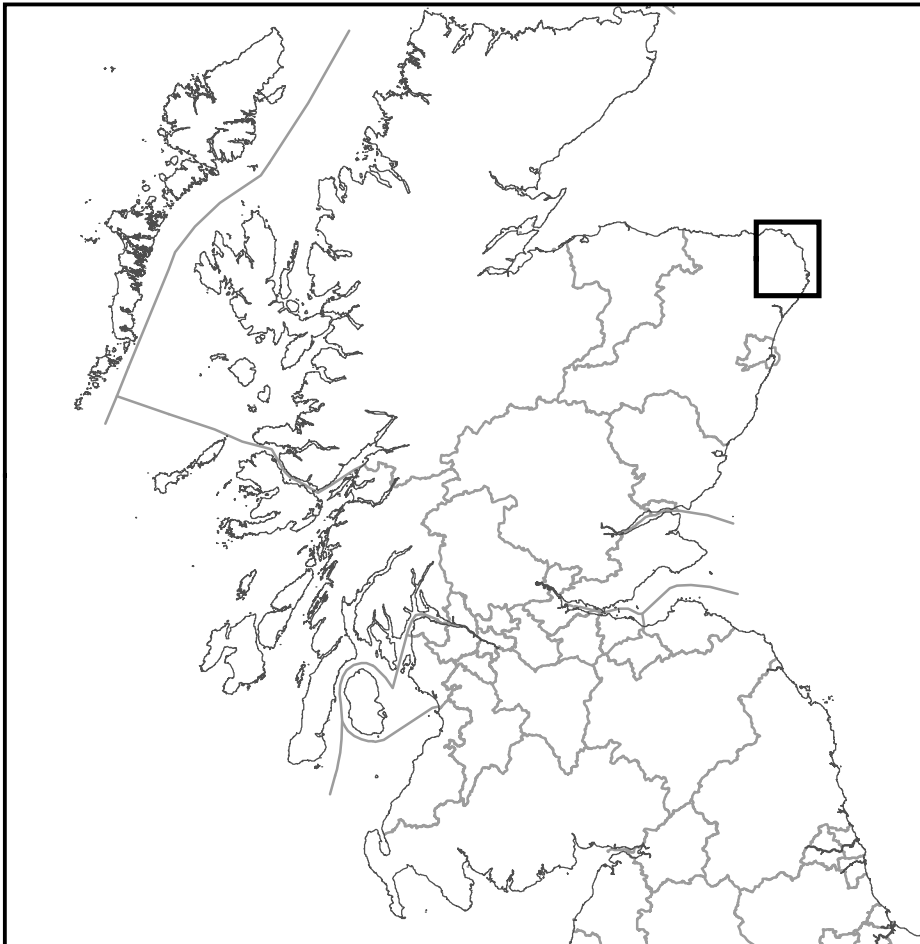


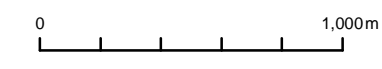
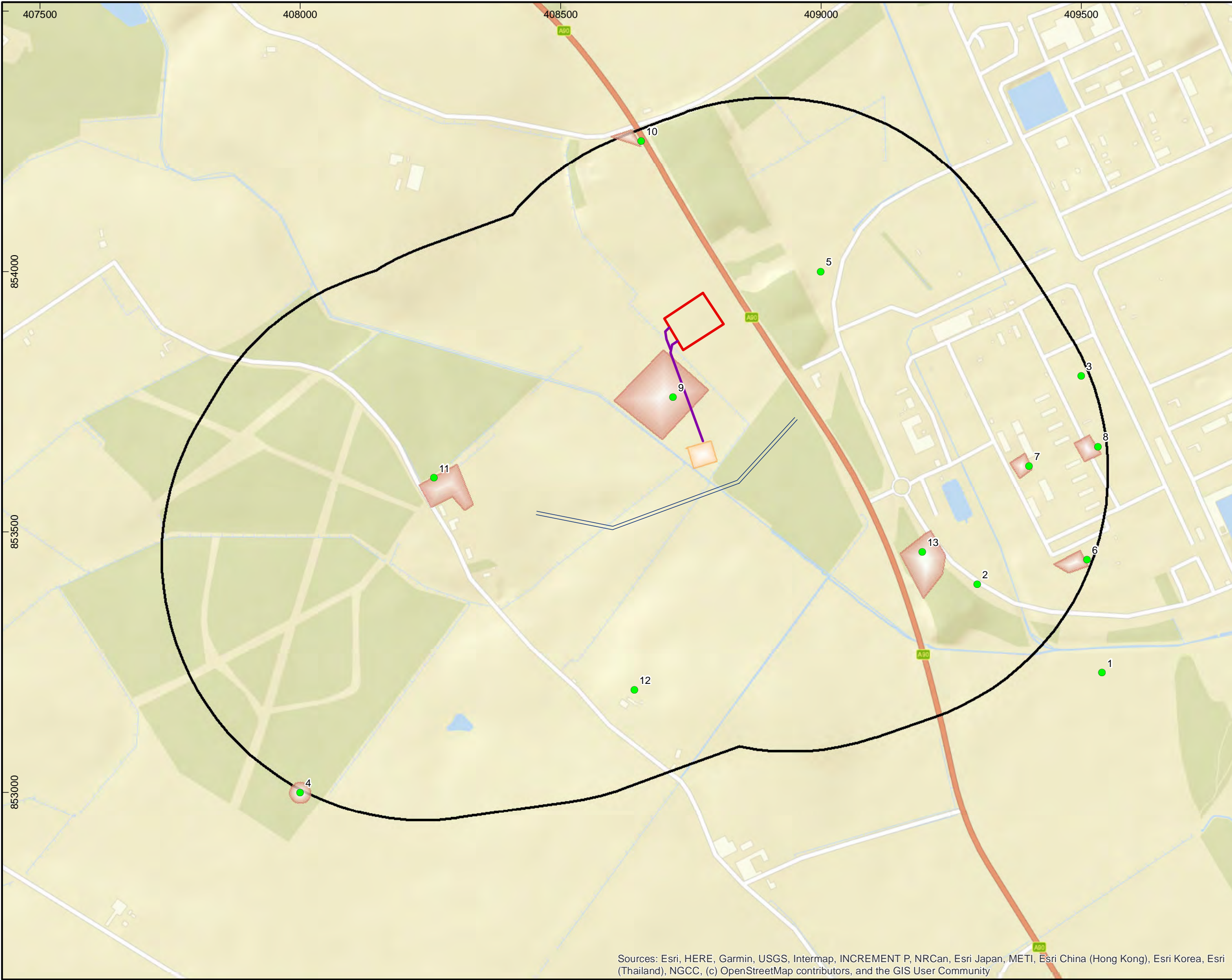


Figure	1
Site Location Plan	
<p>Legend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: red;">□</span> Site Boundary</li> <li><span style="color: purple;">—</span> Cable route</li> <li><span style="color: orange;">□</span> Tension Tower and CSE Compound</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">—</span> Temporary OHL</li> </ul>	
FOR	
ERM 6th Floor 102 West Port Edinburgh EH3 9DN	
Drawn/checked:	LB/SO
DWG no:	01/24526/DBA/01/01
AOC Project No.:	24526
 (C) AOC Archaeology Group 2019	
	
SYSTEM	
Coordinate System: British National Grid Projection: Transverse Mercator Datum: OSGB 1936	
SCALE	
1:25,000 @ A3	
SCALE	
	
Service Layer Credits: © OpenStreetMap (and) contributors, CC-BY-SA	



Heritage Assets within the 500m Study Area

- Legend
- Site Boundary
  - Cable route
  - Tension Tower and CSE Compound
  - Temporary OHL
  - 500m Study Area
  - Non-designated assets
  - ▭ Aberdeenshire HER Polygons

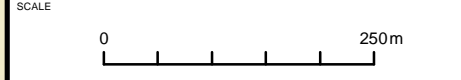
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ERM  
6th Floor  
102 West Port  
Edinburgh  
EH3 9DN

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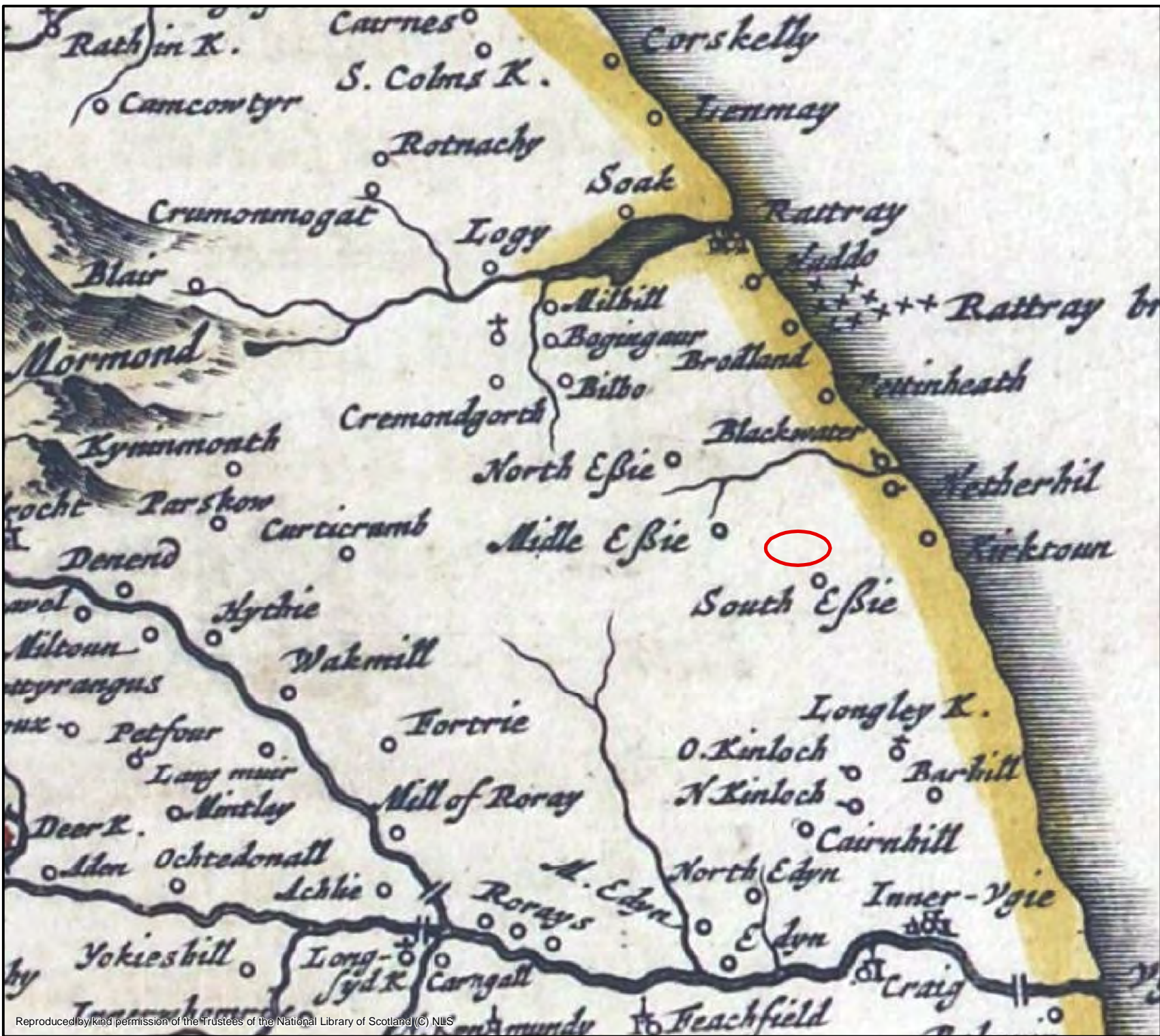


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Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



Figure

3

Extract from map by  
Blaeu, 1646

Legend

Approximate Site Location

FOR

ERM  
6th Floor  
102 West Port  
Edinburgh  
EH3 9DN

Drawn/checked:	LB/SO
DWG no:	01/24526/DBA/03/01
AOC Project No.:	24526



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SCALE Not to Scale



Extract from map by  
Roy, 1747-52

Legend  
■ Approximate Site Location

FOR  
 ERM  
 6th Floor  
 102 West Port  
 Edinburgh  
 EH3 9DN

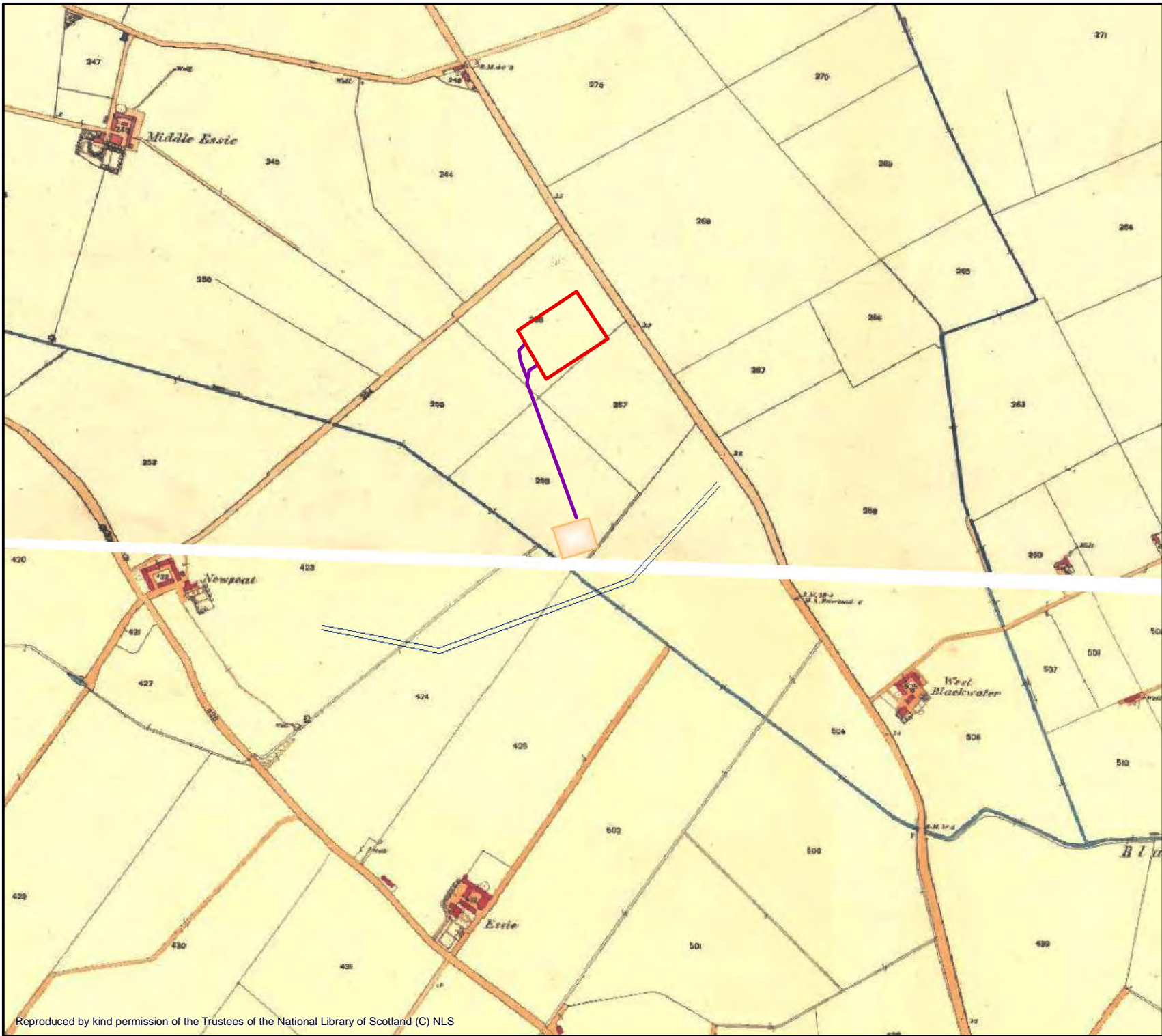
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DWG no:	01/24526/DBA/04/01
AOC Project No.:	24526



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SCALE  
 Not to Scale



Figure

5

Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1869

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Cable route
- Tension Tower and CSE Compound
- Temporary OHL

FOR

ERM  
6th Floor  
102 West Port  
Edinburgh  
EH3 9DN

Drawn/checked:	LB/SO
DWG no:	01/24526/DBA/05/01
AOC Project No.:	24526

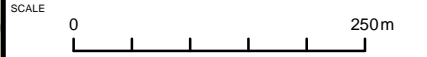


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SYSTEM  
Coordinate System: British National Grid  
Projection: Transverse Mercator  
Datum: OSGB 1936

SCALE  
1:6,500 @ A4





Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1902

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Cable route
- Tension Tower and CSE Compound
- Temporary OHL

FOR

ERM  
6th Floor  
102 West Port  
Edinburgh  
EH3 9DN

Drawn/checked:	LB/SO
DWG no:	01/24526/DBA/06/01
AOC Project No.:	24526



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SYSTEM  
Coordinate System: British National Grid  
Projection: Transverse Mercator  
Datum: OSGB 1936

SCALE  
1:10,000 @ A4





Plate 1- South west view of the Site from adjacent field boundary



Plate 2- South east facing view towards the Site across an area of grassed over deep ploughing





Plate 3- East facing view along the existing OHL to the wet land either side of the Black Water Street and the temporary tension tower and CSE compound



Plate 4- West facing view of existing OHL towards Newstead (Site 11)

# **St Fergus Gas Transformers, Aberdeenshire**

## **Appendix 1: Site Gazetteer**

---

<b>Site Number</b>	1
<b>Site Name</b>	South Blackwater
<b>Type of Site</b>	Site (Period Unassigned)
<b>NMRS Number</b>	NK05SE 33
<b>HER Number</b>	NK05SE0015
<b>Status</b>	Non-designated
<b>Easting</b>	409540
<b>Northing</b>	853230
<b>Parish</b>	St Fergus
<b>Council</b>	Aberdeenshire
<b>Description</b>	

NK05SE 33 0954 5323

In August 1998 excavation by CFA (in advance of gas pipeline construction) investigated a truncated spread of orange/dark brown ash in flat agricultural land at an altitude of about 5m OD. It was found to measure 1 by 1m, and 0.1m in depth.

NMRS, MS/712/38.

---

<b>Site Number</b>	2
<b>Site Name</b>	Blackwater
<b>Type of Site</b>	St Fergus Gas Terminal
<b>NMRS Number</b>	NK05SE 8
<b>HER Number</b>	NK05SE0005
<b>Status</b>	Non-designated
<b>Easting</b>	409300
<b>Northing</b>	853400
<b>Parish</b>	St Fergus
<b>Council</b>	Aberdeenshire
<b>Description</b>	

An archaeological desk-based assessment and rapid field survey was undertaken in March 1997 on the proposed route of a pipeline running from St Fergus Offtake Station to the proposed pressure reducing station at Peterhead Power Station. Five sites situated within the corridor examined were listed in the NMRS. The following are amongst the sites identified in the assessment:

NK 093 534 (centre) St Fergus Gas Terminal (NK05SE 8); ?West Blackwater? house/manor, enclosure and trackway (sites of).

Several other enclosures, wells, tracks, field boundaries and dykes were also recorded. Fuller report in the NMRS.

A medieval manor is said to have stood within the vicinity of West Blackwater. The farmstead of the same name is depicted on the OS map of 1867 and 1888 as U-shaped with open court to the SE. Two other buildings lie to the south. Nothing is now visible and the site lies on the west

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side of the St Fergus gas terminal.

Sponsor: Penspen Ltd.

R Strachan 1997.

---

<b>Site Number</b>	3
<b>Site Name</b>	St Fergus, Gas Terminal
<b>Type of Site</b>	Gas Terminal (Modern)
<b>NMRS Number</b>	NK05SE 16
<b>HER Number</b>	
<b>Status</b>	Non-designated
<b>Easting</b>	409500
<b>Northing</b>	853800
<b>Parish</b>	St Fergus
<b>Council</b>	Aberdeenshire
<b>Description</b>	NK05SE 16 centred 0950 5380  Gas Terminal [NAT]  OS 1:10,000 map, 1987.  For Rattray Line WW2 defences (which apparently impinge on this facility), see NK15SW 6.00, notably NK15SW 6.02.  Air photograph: AAS/97/12/G25/9.  NMRS. MS/712/29.

---

<b>Site Number</b>	4
<b>Site Name</b>	Newseat
<b>Type of Site</b>	Cist (Period Unassigned), Cinerary Urn
<b>NMRS Number</b>	NK05SE 2
<b>HER Number</b>	NK05SE0002
<b>Status</b>	Non-designated
<b>Easting</b>	408000
<b>Northing</b>	853000
<b>Parish</b>	St Fergus
<b>Council</b>	Aberdeenshire
<b>Description</b>	NK05SE 2 c. 08 53.  In Arbutnot Museum, Peterhead, there are fragments or a nearly complete cinerary urn, roughly made and ornamented. It was found in a cist at Newseat (Newseat - NK 08 53) in 1840 (Anderson and Black 1888), and contained burnt human bones (Information from - Arbutnot Museum accession register).

---

J Anderson and G F Black 1888;

No further information. Urn not traced in Arbuthnot Museum.

Visited by OS (NKB) 20 December 1968.

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<b>Site Number</b>	5
<b>Site Name</b>	Pittenheath
<b>Type of Site</b>	Farmstead(S) (Period Unassigned)
<b>NMRS Number</b>	NK05SE 6
<b>HER Number</b>	NK05SE0020
<b>Status</b>	Non-designated
<b>Easting</b>	409000
<b>Northing</b>	854000
<b>Parish</b>	St Fergus
<b>Council</b>	Aberdeenshire
<b>Description</b>	NK05SE 6 09 54.

Site recorded during an archaeological desk-based assessment and rapid field survey undertaken in March 1997 on the proposed route of a pipeline running from St Fergus Offtake Station to the proposed pressure reducing station at Peterhead Power Station.

NK 0999 5475 Structures, trackway and field boundary (sites of), part of 'Pittenheath farmsteads' track and well.

Fuller report in the NMRS.

Sponsor: Penspen Ltd.

R Strachan 1997

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<b>Site Number</b>	6
<b>Site Name</b>	WEST BLACKWATER
<b>Type of Site</b>	Building
<b>NMRS Number</b>	NK05SE16
<b>HER Number</b>	NK05SE0073
<b>Status</b>	Non-designated
<b>Easting</b>	409511
<b>Northing</b>	853447
<b>Parish</b>	St Fergus
<b>Council</b>	Aberdeenshire
<b>Description</b>	Site of a small building within a garden enclosure depicted on the 2nd edition OS map of 1888. The area is now under the St Fergus gas terminal.

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<b>Site Number</b>	7
<b>Site Name</b>	WEST BLACKWATER
<b>Type of Site</b>	Building
<b>NMRS Number</b>	NK05SE16
<b>HER Number</b>	NK05SE0071
<b>Status</b>	Non-designated
<b>Easting</b>	409400
<b>Northing</b>	853627
<b>Parish</b>	St Fergus
<b>Council</b>	Aberdeenshire
<b>Description</b>	Site of a small building with attached enclosure depicted at this location on the 1st edition OS map of 1867. By the 1888 edition it had gone. The area is now under the St Fergus gas terminal.

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<b>Site Number</b>	8
<b>Site Name</b>	WEST BLACKWATER
<b>Type of Site</b>	Building
<b>NMRS Number</b>	NK05SE16
<b>HER Number</b>	NK05SE0072
<b>Status</b>	Non-designated
<b>Easting</b>	409532
<b>Northing</b>	853664
<b>Parish</b>	St Fergus
<b>Council</b>	Aberdeenshire
<b>Description</b>	Site of a small building within an enclosure depicted on the 1st edition OS map of 1867 and 1888. The area is now under the St Fergus gas terminal.

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<b>Site Number</b>	9
<b>Site Name</b>	BLACK WATER
<b>Type of Site</b>	Crop Mark (Includes Soil Mark)
<b>NMRS Number</b>	
<b>HER Number</b>	NK05SE0031
<b>Status</b>	Non-designated
<b>Easting</b>	408716
<b>Northing</b>	853759
<b>Parish</b>	St Fergus
<b>Council</b>	Aberdeenshire
<b>Description</b>	An area of pits, showing as dark 'blobs', are visible on a vertical aerial photograph. These could represent evidence of settlement of prehistoric origin.

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<b>Site Number</b>	10
<b>Site Name</b>	MIDDLE ESSIE
<b>Type of Site</b>	Building
<b>NMRS Number</b>	NK05SE20
<b>HER Number</b>	NK05SE0022
<b>Status</b>	Non-designated
<b>Easting</b>	408655
<b>Northing</b>	854251
<b>Parish</b>	St Fergus
<b>Council</b>	Aberdeenshire
<b>Description</b>	Site of buildings shown on the OS 1st and 2nd edition maps. The 1st edition shows two rectangular buildings and a smaller structure within a triangular enclosure. ,Only one building appears on the 2nd edition map.

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<b>Site Number</b>	11
<b>Site Name</b>	Newstead
<b>Type of Site</b>	Farm
<b>NMRS Number</b>	
<b>HER Number</b>	
<b>Status</b>	Non-designated
<b>Easting</b>	408257
<b>Northing</b>	853604
<b>Parish</b>	St Fergus
<b>Council</b>	Aberdeenshire
<b>Description</b>	Newstead Farm depicted as a courtyard structure in 1872 and 1902

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<b>Site Number</b>	12
<b>Site Name</b>	Essie
<b>Type of Site</b>	Farm
<b>NMRS Number</b>	
<b>HER Number</b>	
<b>Status</b>	Non-designated
<b>Easting</b>	408642
<b>Northing</b>	853197
<b>Parish</b>	St Fergus
<b>Council</b>	Aberdeenshire

---

# Site Gazetteer



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**Description** A courtyard farm depicted on OS maps from 1872

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**Site Number** 13

**Site Name** Wester Balckwater

**Type of Site** Farm

**NMRS Number**

**HER Number**

**Status** Non-designated

**Easting** 409195

**Northing** 853462

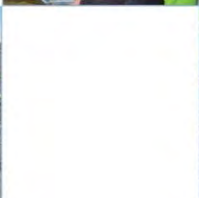
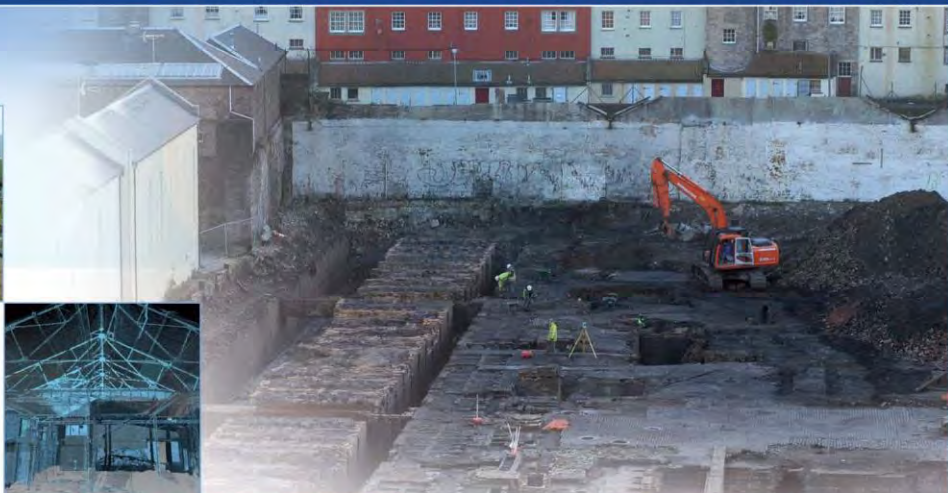
**Parish** St Fergus

**Council** Aberdeenshire

**Description** Wester Blackwater depicted on OS maps from 1872 and 1902

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