

7. ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

7.1 Introduction

This Chapter provides an appraisal of the potential effects of the Project on archaeology and cultural heritage receptors. The full baseline including site gazetteer is provided in **Annex Q**. Cultural heritage receptors are illustrated on **Figure 7.1**.

7.2 Appraisal Methodology

The Study Areas proposed below are considered appropriate for this appraisal due to the need to understand the archaeological and landscape context and potential for an area with previous transmission infrastructure in-place.

This desk study was supported by previous experience of similar projects, fieldwork and the production of a zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) and utilises the standard SSEN Transmission impact assessment methodology as outlined in **Chapter 1: Introduction and Scope** of this Environmental Appraisal (EA).

7.2.1 The Proposed Development

For cultural heritage assessment of the Proposed Development (as set out in full in **Chapter 2: Project Description** in section 2.5.1) a 2 km radius Study Area for designated cultural heritage assets and a 250 m radius Study Area for the non-designated cultural heritage assets was established from the Project site boundary inside of which comprised the following:

- A substation platform in the region of 1.3 ha at a height of 176 m AOD;
- A temporary works area (TWA) adjacent to the Proposed Development site;
- Construction of a new access track, approximately 174 m long;
- Turning and parking areas;
- Temporary peat storage area; and
- Drainage.

Additionally, a 50 m radius Area of Interest (AoI) of an existing access track was utilised.

7.2.2 The Associated Development

For cultural heritage assessment of the Associated Development (as set out in full in **Chapter 2: Project Description** in section 2.5.2) a 2 km radius Study Area for designated cultural heritage assets and a 250 m radius Study Area for the non-designated cultural heritage assets was established for the following Associated Development components:

- Six new towers to facilitate the realignment of the existing Inveraray – Crossaig 275kV overhead line with the Proposed Development; and
- Temporary overhead line diversions during construction.

Additionally, a 50 m radius AoI was created for the following Associated Development elements:

- Construction of three new permanent access tracks leading to the three northern most towers:
 - One of approximately 164 m;
 - One of approximately 109 m; and
 - One of approximately 14 m.

7.3 Baseline

7.3.1 Designated Assets

The Proposed Development

There are no designated heritage assets within the Proposed Development area.

There are no World Heritage Sites, Inventoried Historic Battlefields, Inventoried Gardens and Designed Landscapes or Conservation Areas located within 2 km of the Proposed Development.

The number and range of designated assets within 2 km of the red line boundary (RLB) is limited and includes the following:

There are four Category B Listed Buildings:

- Claonairigh, Old Bridge of Douglas - LB11524 *circa (c.)* 1.2 km from the Proposed Development (AS_001 as shown on **Figure 7.1**)
- Claonairigh House - LB12945 *c.* 1.24 km from the from the Proposed Development (AS_002)
- Claonairigh, Old Mill, including nearby Structure at the 'Roman bridge' - LB12946 *c.* 1.2 km from the Proposed Development (AS_003)
- Claonairigh, Old Mill, including nearby Structure at the 'Roman bridge' - LB12946 (nearby structure) *c.* 1.2 km from the Proposed Development (AS_004)

An initial assessment of setting as a potential indirect impact was carried out and field investigation was recommended for the Claonairigh, Old Bridge of Douglas listed building.

The other listed buildings can be seen to derive their significance from their architectural form and historic context and were thus not considered.

The Associated Development

There are no designated heritage assets within the Associated Development area.

There are no World Heritage Sites, Inventoried Historic Battlefields, or Inventoried Gardens and Designed Landscapes located within 2 km of the Associated Development.

The number and range of designated assets within 2 km of the of the Associated Development is limited and includes the following:

There is one Conservation Area:

- Auchindrain Conservation Area, CA459 *c.* 1.92 km from Associated Development (AS_009)

There are four Category B Listed Buildings:

- Claonairigh, Old Bridge of Douglas - LB11524 *c.* 1.1 km from Associated Development (AS_001)
- Claonairigh House - LB12945 *c.* 1.2 km from the Associated Development (AS_002)
- Claonairigh, Old Mill, including nearby Structure at the 'Roman bridge' - LB12946 *c.* 1.2 km from the Associated Development (AS_003)
- Claonairigh, Old Mill, including nearby Structure at the 'Roman bridge' - LB12946 (nearby structure) *c.* 1.2 km from the Associated Development (AS_004)

An initial assessment of setting as a potential indirect impact was carried out and field investigation recommended for the Claonairigh, Old Bridge of Douglas listed building.

The other listed buildings can be seen to derive their significance from their architectural form and historic context and were thus not considered.

7.3.2 Non-Designated

The Proposed Development

No previously known archaeological features were located within the Proposed Development area.

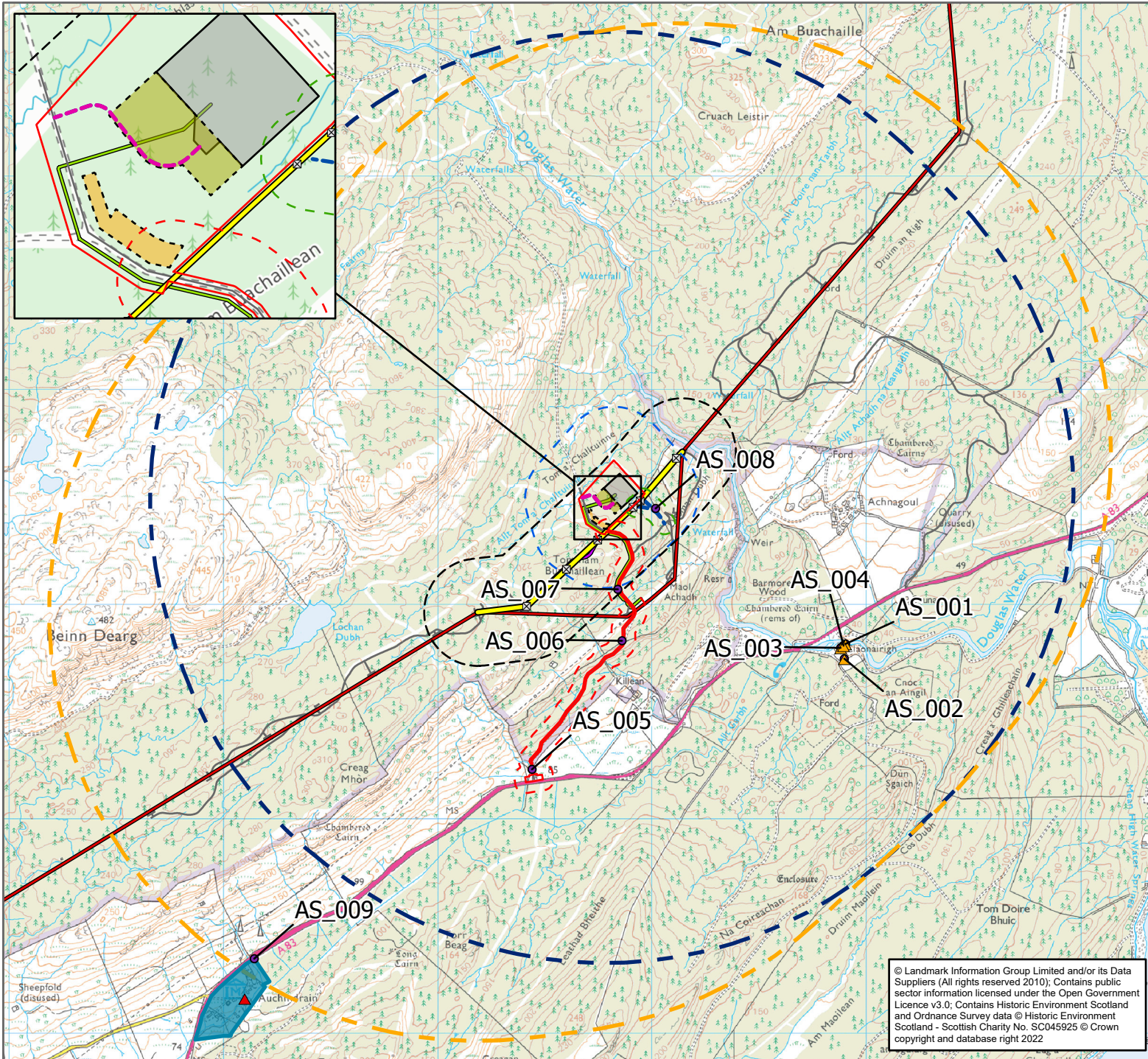
Within 50 m of the existing access track area of the redline boundary there are three known non-designated assets:

- Easan Tuim Riabhaich: Wall within Permanent Access Track c. 1 m from the Proposed Development (AS_005)
- Killean: Wall within the Permanent Access Track c. 1 m from the Proposed Development (AS_006)
- Moal Achadh: Wall within the Permanent Access Track c. 4 m from the Proposed Development (AS_007)

The Associated Development

No previously known archaeological features were located within the Associated Development area.

One previously unknown non-designated asset was identified within the 50 m of the Associated Development's permanent access track as a result of the archaeological walkover. This was the Droman Dubh: Wall - Remains of dry-stone wall (dyke) under moss stands to c.1.2 m high and 0.6 m wide, c. 9 m from the permanent access track (AS_008).



- Existing Inveraray to Crossaig Overhead Line
- Existing Access Track
- Proposed Development:**
- Proposed Permanent Access Track
- Town & Country Planning Boundary
- Proposed Substation Layout
- Proposed Substation Temporary Works Area
- Temporary Peat Storage Area
- Existing Access Track - 50 m Buffer
- Red Line Boundary - 250 m Buffer
- Red Line Boundary - 2 km Buffer
- Permitted Development:**
- 33kV Interconnector Cable Route
- Associated Development:**
- Proposed Tower Location
- Proposed OHL Alignment
- Proposed Permanent Access Track
- Permanent Access Track - 50m Buffer
- Proposed Overhead Line Alignment - 250 m Buffer
- Proposed Overhead Line Alignment - 2 km Buffer
- Cultural Heritage Receptors:**
- Cultural Heritage Asset
- ▲ Grade A Listed Building
- ▲ Grade B Listed Building
- ▲ Grade C Listed Building
- Scheduled Monuments
- Conservation Area



SCALE: See Scale Bar
 SIZE: A4
 PROJECT: 0607366
 DATE: 19/07/2022

VERSION: A01
 DRAWN: DN
 CHECKED: MW
 APPROVED: SW

**Figure 7-1
 An Suidhe Substation Cultural Heritage Receptors**

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PROJECTION: British National Grid

7.4 Appraisal – Direct Effects

There remains the potential for unknown buried archaeology, however the general ground conditions of the area have low potential for the survival of buried archaeological remains, except possibly along watercourses where the ground has been less disturbed by forestry planting and felling.

7.4.1 The Proposed Development

There is potential for minor direct impacts to other drystone walls (AS_006-7) during access track improvements. With the implementation of avoidance mitigations listed in **Section 7.5**, the significance of effect to these assets will be low.

7.4.2 The Associated Development

There is a high potential for direct impact to the identified dry-stone wall (AS_008) that traverses the plantation area roughly N-S. It is located 9 m from the permanent access track leading to the three northernmost towers. The significance of effect to this asset is assessed as moderate due to the potential for direct impacts and avoidance being unlikely (Discussed further in **Section 7.5**).

7.4.3 Cumulative Assessment

Cumulative assessment will take into account successive, incremental, or combined effects of developments in the area. For this section projects that are underway, planned or reasonably anticipated are considered for cumulative assessment. Existing infrastructure will be considered as part of the existing landscape and therefore has been considered within the impact assessment for the Proposed and Associated Development.

The Proposed Development and the Associated Development

There are no predicted cumulative effects relating to the works from the Proposed Development and the Associated Development as their respective footprints are not coincident on the same cultural heritage assets.

Other Projects

There are a series of additional projects in the wider Argyll area, considered beyond the present An Suidhe Study Area, which are associated with the transmission network. These are not being considered for this cumulative impact assessment. This is due to the separate projects' location being beyond the established Project Study Area. Cultural Heritage assets from the separate projects are not anticipated to be located in multiple Study Areas (for details see **Section 1.5** of this EA).

7.5 Mitigation

National planning policies and planning guidance, SPP (Scottish Government 2014) and PAN2/2011 (Scottish Government 2011) apply. These require a mitigation response that takes account of the potential for archaeological remains within the site to be impacted upon, enabling 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 it cannot be discounted and consequently a programme to mitigate the effects of any direct impacts is recommended in accordance with national and local planning policies on heritage.

An archaeological watching brief is required for all ground-breaking works.

It is also recommended that archaeological exclusion zones are established 15 m each side of watercourses, where the ground has been less disturbed by forestry planting and felling.

7.5.1 The Proposed Development

An archaeological watching brief is required for all ground-breaking works associated with the substation platform location and TWA.

There is potential for minor direct impacts to other drystone walls (AS_005-7) during access track improvements. An exclusion zone of 5 m is recommended if works take place in close proximity and a watching brief will be maintained during ground-breaking works.

Finally, any mitigation strategy developed should involve consultation with the West of Scotland Archaeological Service (WoSAS) as the regulatory authority, while concerns for designated assets necessitates consultation with Historic Environment Scotland (HES).

7.5.2 The Associated Development

It is recommended that a watching brief be maintained during ground-breaking activity associated with Associated Development.

For the known non-designated dyke wall (AS_008), avoidance is the preferred mitigation strategy with a 5 m exclusion buffer maintained during works. If not, then a full qualitative, drawn and photographic record shall be made prior to removal under archaeological evaluation or watching brief conditions. It is also recommended that a watching brief be maintained during ground-breaking activity associated with permanent access tracks.

7.6 Appraisal – Indirect Effects

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, most indirect impacts result from changes to the setting of heritage assets, as a consequence of the Proposed Development

7.6.1 The Proposed Development

Claonairigh, Old Bridge of Douglas - LB11524 (Also, Claonairi Roman Bridge) (AS-001)

This Category B Listed Building lies c.1.2 km to the south east of the RLB. The asset comprises the remains of an 18th century bridge on the old road from Inveraray to Tarbert, crossing Douglas Water adjacent to a waterfall. Two tall bridge abutments survive, both of which are heavily overgrown with moss and vegetation.

The bridge span no longer survives. The remains of the old road are visible leading to the bridge through the trees. The asset sits within an area of dense, mixed woodland and visibility of the surrounding area is very limited, with no line of sight to the proposed substation. The main setting of the bridge was its function as part of the road, which would have serviced the transport of goods and people around the area. It may have been of particular importance to the nearby woollen mill (LB12946) and Claonairi Laird's House (LB12945).

As a Category B Listed Building, the bridge has regional importance, however, the importance of its setting is mainly limited to its relationship with the river, the road which it carried and nearby historic buildings.

There is no setting impact anticipated from the Proposed Development due to the extensive tree cover both around the bridge and in the area between the bridge and substation.

7.6.2 The Associated Development

There are no anticipated indirect impacts to cultural heritage assets from elements of the Associated Development.

7.6.3 Cumulative Assessment

Cumulative assessment takes into account successive, incremental, or combined effects of developments in the area. For this section projects that are underway, planned or reasonably anticipated are considered for cumulative assessment. Existing infrastructure was considered as part of the existing landscape and therefore has been considered within the impact assessment for the Proposed and Associated Development.

The Proposed and Associated Developments

There are no predicted cumulative effects relating to the works from to the Proposed Development and the Associated Development as their respective footprints are not coincident on the same cultural heritage assets.

Other Projects

There are a series of additional projects in the wider Argyll area, considered beyond the present An Suidhe Study Area, which are associated with the transmission network. These are not being considered for this cumulative impact assessment. This is due to the separate projects' location being beyond the established Project Study Area. Cultural Heritage assets from the separate projects are not anticipated to be located in multiple Study Areas (for details see Section 1.5 of this EA).

7.7 Summary of Effects

This Chapter has assessed the likely effects of the Proposed Development and the Associated Development on cultural heritage assets. The archaeological character of the area primarily dates to the 17th through the 19th centuries.

With the implementation of the proposed avoidance mitigation key direct impacts relating to AS_005-007 will be low, while the Associated Development impact identified for AS_008 remains moderate. It is assessed as moderate due to the potential for direct impacts and avoidance being unlikely.

The implementation of the proposed 'No Action' mitigation of key indirect impacts on AS_001, is anticipated to result in negligible effects.

As a result of the assessment, the Proposed Development and the Associated Development are not anticipated to have major impacts to known assets.

The potential for unknown buried archaeological remains to be present is low but cannot be discounted. It is considered low potential due to the results of contextual review and field investigation analysis. Thus, a watching brief should be in place for all intrusive ground works.

Table 7.1 Appraisal of Cultural Heritage

Environmental Feature	Development Interaction	Mitigation Measures	Receptor sensitivity	Magnitude of effect	Significance of effect
Dry-Stone Wall: AS_008	Direct during construction	Avoidance. Archaeological exclusion zones are established, 5 m. Recording prior to removal under archaeological evaluation or	Low	High	Moderate

TRANSMISSION

		watching brief conditions.			
Watercourses	Direct during construction	Archaeological exclusion zones are established 15 m each side of watercourses	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Dry-Stone walls: AS_006-7	Direct during construction	Avoidance. Archaeological exclusion zones are established, 5 m.	Low	Low	Low
Potential buried archaeological remains	Direct during construction	A watching brief is required for all ground works.	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Claonairigh, Old Bridge of Douglas - LB11524 AS_001	Indirect upon setting during construction and operation	No Action	High	Negligible	Negligible