

# **Hurlie 400kV Substation**

## **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**

### **Volume 4 | Appendix 9.2**

#### **Summary of Military Aircraft Crash Records**

**November 2024**



## APPENDIX 9.2: SUMMARY OF MILITARY AIRCRAFT CRASH SITE RECORDS

### 1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 During public consultation for the Proposed Development the potential for a number of Second World War downed aircraft sites to be located within, or in close proximity, to the Inner Study Area was raised; with seven possible crash sites being identified.
- 1.1.2 This appendix provides details on the research and consultation undertaken to assess the potential for military aircraft crash sites to survive within the Inner Study Area. The appendix should be read in conjunction with **Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology, Section 9.4: Baseline Conditions** and **Section 9.5: Assessment of Likely Significant Effects - Construction**.
- 1.1.3 Military aircraft crash sites are an important part of Britain's military and aviation heritage, predominantly dating from World War II, during which there was a massive expansion in air activity over the UK. They comprise the buried, submerged or surface remains of aircraft, most of which crashed either in combat or training.
- 1.1.4 Military aircraft sites are afforded statutory protection under the Protection of Military Remains Act (1986) and are considered to be of national importance and of high sensitivity. It is an offence under the Act to tamper with, damage, move or unearth any remains which come within the scope of the Act unless the Secretary of State has issued a Licence authorising such things to be done, and they are done in accordance with the conditions of the Licence (Crashed Military Aircraft of Historic Interest Licensing of Excavations in the UK: Notes for Guidance for Recovery Groups (2011)).

### 1.2 Desk-based Study

- 1.2.1 In order to confirm the possibility of downed aircraft remains surviving within the Inner Study Area, and to potentially pinpoint the exact location of the aircraft crash sites detailed desk-based study was carried out using a range of documentary, archival and bibliographic sources. Sources included:
- Aberdeenshire Historic Environment Record (HER);
  - National Records of the Historic Environment (NRHE);
  - Air Britain Online Digital Archive, available at <https://air-britain.com/web/da-military/>;
  - Glasgow Herald and Aberdeenshire Press and Journal online archives, available at <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>; and
  - Relevant bibliographic sources, including Hancock, T (2020) *Aircraft Crashes in the Isles of Man, Northern Ireland and Scotland (1913 – 2019)*,
  - Consultation was also undertaken with the following authorities:
  - Royal Air Force (RAF) Historical Branch, Ministry of Defence (MoD) Heritage Team;
  - Royal Navy Historical Branch, MoD Heritage Team;
  - National Museum of the Royal Navy, Historical Services Team; and
  - Forestry and Land Scotland, Archaeology Team.
- 1.2.2 The results of the desk-based assessment and consultation are summarised in the below table. Each of the seven possible crash sites raised through public consultation is considered in terms of its aircraft type, the date and details of the aircraft crash incident, and the potential for associated remains to be encountered during construction works for the Proposed Development. In all but one case, the potential aircraft crash sites were confirmed to be located outside the Outer Study Area, often at a considerable distance from the Proposed Development.

#### Summary of Military Aircraft Crash Site Records

Crash No.	Aircraft Type	Aircraft Serial No.	Day of Crash	Date	Crash Site	Sources	Comments	Potential for remains within Inner Study Area
1	Royal Navy Air Service (RNAS) Swordfish Torpedo Bomber	P4031	14 <sup>th</sup> September	1942	Trusta Hill, West of Stonehaven	Hancock, T 2020 <i>Aircraft Crashes in the Isles of Man, Northern Ireland and Scotland (1913 – 2019)</i> . Air-Britain Online Digital Archive (accessible at <a href="https://air-britain.com/web/da-military/">https://air-britain.com/web/da-military/</a> ). Air Britain Online Digital Archive, available at <a href="https://air-britain.com/web/da-military/">https://air-britain.com/web/da-military/</a>	Information provided through public consultation suggested that this aircraft crash site is located at Hill of Tusta or Bog of Trusta. This aircraft is recorded to have flown into the Hill of Trusta during nighttime conditions (Air Britain Online Digital Archive). The Forestry Commission have no records of any downed military aircraft remains being discovered during forestry works at Hill of Trusta or within the surrounding area, and there are no recorded aircraft crash sites at this location in the Aberdeenshire HER. The Royal Navy accident records only start in 1948 after the date of this downed aircraft and The Royal Navy Historical Branch could not provide any further information to clarify either the precise aircraft crash site or whether any remains were recovered.	Negligible Hill of Trusta has been under forestry management since the late 1940s and is currently commercial forestry plantation. Given previous ground disturbance through ploughing and drainage works as well as planting, the potential for any military aircraft crash site to survive within the area is assessed as being negligible.
2	RNAS Seafire	Unknown	11 <sup>th</sup> November	1944	Nether Winding, Stonehaven	Glasgow Herald November 13 <sup>th</sup> 1944 (' <i>Farm Workers Killed: Plane Crash Near Stonehaven</i> ').	Information provided through public consultation suggested that this aircraft crash site is located 1 mile northwest of Upper Windings Farm.	None Crash site lies outside the Proposed Development Site.

Crash No.	Aircraft Type	Aircraft Serial No.	Day of Crash	Date	Crash Site	Sources	Comments	Potential for remains within Inner Study Area
							<p>The Glasgow Herald (November 1944) recorded that this aircraft crashed into a '[potato] field at Nether Winding near Stonehaven', placing the crash outside of the Outer Study Area, to the southeast of the Site. The paper records that the crash resulted in the deaths of two farmworkers, with the aircraft pilot sentenced for culpable homicide.</p> <p>Although the exact location of this crash site is not known, given that the aircraft crashed in arable farmland and resulted in two fatalities it is likely that the remains of the crash site would have been recovered at the time of the crash.</p>	
3a	Anson Aircraft	HM674	17 <sup>th</sup> December	1942	Somewhere between ten and 19 miles Northwest of Stonehaven	<p>Flying Accident Card provided by RAF Air Historical Branch (AHB) on 17/07/2024.</p> <p>Hancock, T 2020 <i>Aircraft Crashes in the Isles of Man, Northern Ireland and Scotland (1913 – 2019)</i>.</p> <p>Air-Britain Online Digital Archive (accessible at <a href="https://air-britain.com/web/da-military/">https://air-britain.com/web/da-military/</a>)</p>	<p>This aircraft is one of two Anson Aircraft candidates identified through public consultation to have been downed to the northwest of Stonehaven (see also 3b below). Information provided through public consultation suggests that this aircraft crashed into a hill six miles northwest of Stonehaven.</p> <p>Hancock (2020) records that this aircraft flew into high ground in bad visibility 19 miles northwest of Stonehaven. Similar information is provided on the Flying Accident Card provided by the RAF Historical Branch however this records that the crash site was downed at 'Styhill Farm', ten miles northwest of Stonehaven, and resulted in a fatality (RAF Air Historical Branch).</p>	<p>None</p> <p>Although there is discrepancy in the exact location of the aircraft crash site, both geographical areas recorded for the aircraft crash site lie outside the Proposed Development Site.</p>
3b	Anson Aircraft	EG584	30 <sup>th</sup> September	1943	Mellock Hill, northeast of Glendoven, Dollar, Kinrosshire	<p>Flying Accident Card provided by RAF Air Historical Branch (AHB) on 17/07/2024.</p> <p>Hancock, T 2020 <i>Aircraft Crashes in the Isles of Man, Northern Ireland and Scotland (1913 – 2019)</i>. Air-Britain Online Digital Archive (accessible at <a href="https://air-britain.com/web/da-military/">https://air-britain.com/web/da-military/</a>).</p>	<p>This aircraft is one of two Anson Aircraft candidates identified through public consultation to have been downed to the northwest of Stonehaven (see also 3a above).</p> <p>Both the Flying Accident Card provided by the RAF Historical Branch and Hancock (2020) record that this aircraft crashed into Mellock Hill, three miles northeast of Glendovan and four miles east of Dollar, Kinrosshire.</p>	<p>None</p> <p>Crash site lies outside the Proposed Development Site.</p>
4	RAF Master Trainer	N7625	14 <sup>th</sup> August	1940	Approx. ten miles west of Stonehaven	<p>Flying Accident Card provided by RAF Air Historical Branch (AHB) on 17/07/2024.</p> <p>Hancock, T 2020 <i>Aircraft Crashes in the Isles of Man, Northern Ireland and Scotland (1913 – 2019)</i>. Air-Britain Online Digital Archive (accessible at <a href="https://air-britain.com/web/da-military/">https://air-britain.com/web/da-military/</a>).</p>	<p>Information provided through public consultation suggests that this aircraft downed ten miles west of Stonehaven. Local research indicates that the crash site is located between Newmill and Tannachie.</p> <p>Both the Flying Accident Card provided by the RAF Historical Branch and Hancock (2020) record that this aircraft downed around ten miles northwest of Stonehaven. No further details on the crash site are available.</p>	<p>None</p> <p>Although only a rough geographical location for the crash site is recorded, the location for the crash site lies outside the Proposed Development Site.</p>
5	RAF Master Trainer	N7702	28 <sup>th</sup> June	1940	Alford, Aberdeen	<p>Flying Accident Card provided by RAF Air Historical Branch (AHB) on 17/07/2024.</p> <p>Hancock, T 2020 <i>Aircraft Crashes in the Isles of Man, Northern Ireland and Scotland (1913 – 2019)</i>.</p> <p>Air-Britain Online Digital Archive (accessible at <a href="https://air-britain.com/web/da-military/">https://air-britain.com/web/da-military/</a>).</p>	<p>Information provided through public consultation suggested that this aircraft crashed into a hillside three miles northeast of Drumlithie and that some material potentially related to this crash was identified a few years ago on a wooded hillside northeast of Drumlithie village. This information suggests that the hillside on which the potential aircraft crash sites remains were discovered is either Carmount Hill or Carron Wood.</p> <p>Both the Flying Accident Card provided by the RAF Historic Branch and Hancock (2020) however recorded that this aircraft downed at Alford, Aberdeenshire, much further north than the remains identified at Drumlithie.</p>	<p>None</p> <p>Crash site lies outside the Proposed Development Site.</p>
6	Junkers 88 Bomber (German Aircraft)	Unknown	5 <sup>th</sup> September	1941	Craiginour Hillside, 10 miles west of Stonehaven	<p>'Crashed Enemy Aircraft Report Serial No. 106' (No. 1 Report 5/92), 1941, London: MoD.</p>	<p>Information provided through public consultation suggested that this aircraft downed a couple of miles to the west of the Swordfish Torpedo Bomber aircraft crash at Hill of Trusta (see 1 above).</p> <p>MoD records indicated that this aircraft downed at Craignor Hillside noted as being around ten miles west of Stonehaven (MoD Aircraft Report).</p>	<p>None</p> <p>Crash site lies outside the Proposed Development Site.</p>
7	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Near Tannachie	N/A	<p>Information provided through public consultation suggested that a possible military aircraft downed near Tannachie. No further details were provided.</p>	<p>None</p> <p>Crash site lies outside the Proposed Development Site.</p>

Crash No.	Aircraft Type	Aircraft Serial No.	Day of Crash	Date	Crash Site	Sources	Comments	Potential for remains within Inner Study Area
							Although scant details of this aircraft crash site have been provided, and the exact location of crash site is unknown, the geographical area identified by the respondent is well outside the Outer Study Area.	