

**VOLUME 2: CHAPTER 10 – ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE**

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## 10. ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

### 10.1 Introduction

This Chapter assesses the potential for significant effects resulting from the construction and operation of the Proposed Development on archaeology and cultural heritage receptors.

The chapter also provides; the policy context for archaeology and cultural heritage, consultation feedback on the Proposed Development, the assessment methodology and criteria, the current baseline conditions at the Proposed Development and surrounding area, the mitigation measures the Proposed Development is committed to implementing and the significance of the (residual) effects with these measures adopted.

### 10.2 Legislation, Policy and Guidance

The assessment is conducted with reference to the relevant statutory and planning frameworks for cultural heritage, and this includes:

- The Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014<sup>1</sup>;
- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979<sup>2</sup>;
- The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997<sup>3</sup>.
- Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS)<sup>4</sup>;
- Our Place in Time: The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland<sup>5</sup>;
- Highland Wide Local Development Plan<sup>6</sup>;
- Planning Advice Note (PAN) PAN 2/2011: Planning and Archaeology<sup>7</sup>;
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standards and Guidance for Desk-Based Assessments<sup>8</sup>; and
- Historic Environment Scotland (HES) Managing Change in the Historic Environment Series, specifically 'Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting'<sup>9</sup>.

Statutory protection for archaeology is principally described in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979)<sup>10</sup>, as amended by the National Heritage Act (1983)<sup>11</sup>, and nationally important sites are listed in a Schedule of Monuments. Both the 1979 and 1983 Acts make no reference to the settings of Scheduled Monuments. However, setting is now deemed to be integral to the value of a Scheduled Monument.

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1 Scottish Government (2014) Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014. Available at [http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2014/19/pdfs/asp\\_20140019\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2014/19/pdfs/asp_20140019_en.pdf) (Accessed 28/06/2024)

2 UK Government (1979) The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act [Online]. Available at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46> (Accessed 28/06/2024)

3 UK Government (1997) The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 [Online]. Available at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/9/contents> (Accessed 28/06/2024)

4 Historic Environment Scotland (2019) Historic Environment Policy for Scotland [Online]. Available at <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=1bcfa7b1-28fb-4d4b-b1e6-aa2500f942e7> (Accessed 28/06/2023)

5 Scottish Government (2014) Our Place in Time: The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland [Online]. Available at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/place-time-historic-environment-strategy-scotland/> (Accessed 28/06/2024)

6 The Highland Council, Highland-wide Local Development Plan. Available at [https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/178/development\\_plans/199/highland-wide\\_local\\_development\\_plan](https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/178/development_plans/199/highland-wide_local_development_plan) (Accessed 26/08/2024)

7 Scottish Government (2011) Planning Advice Note 2/2011 [Online]. Available at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/pan-2-2011-planning-archaeology/> (Accessed 28/06/2024)

8 Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2020) Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment. Available at [https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfAS%26GDBA\\_4.pdf](https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfAS%26GDBA_4.pdf) (Accessed 28/06/2024)

9 Historic Environment Scotland (2020) Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting [Online]. Available at <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=80b7c0a0-584b-4625-b1fd-a60b009c2549> (Accessed 28/06/2024)

10 UK Government (1979) Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act. Available at [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46) (Accessed 28/06/2024)

11 UK Government (1983) National Heritage Act. Available at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1983/47> (Accessed 28/06/2024)

Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas receive protection under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997<sup>12</sup>, as amended by the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act (2013)<sup>13</sup>.

The Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014<sup>14</sup> defines the role of Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and the processes for the designation of heritage assets, consents and rights of appeal. Specifically, this pertains to Category A Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Inventoried Gardens and Designed Landscape and Inventoried Historic Battlefields which sit within the remit of HES. Similarly, local authorities have remit over non-designated assets and Category B and C Listed Buildings.

### 10.2.1 National Planning Policy

National Planning Framework 4<sup>15</sup> (NPF4) is the national spatial strategy for Scotland. It sets out the Scottish Government's spatial principles, regional priorities, national developments, and national planning policy, which includes consideration of tangible and intangible cultural heritage and historical environments, with an enhanced approach to setting consideration. It also sets out a requirement for the assessment of heritage for Proposed Developments.

### 10.2.2 Regional and Local Planning Policy

Regarding regional and local policy, the Highland-wide Local Development Plan (HwLDP)<sup>16</sup>, was adopted in 2016. It is to be read in conjunction with NPF4 to supplement management of the heritage environment. In particular, Policy 57 details the approach to assets of local and regional importance and associated setting guidelines.

The HwLDP states that regional, local, nationally, and internationally important sites must be given due consideration during planning stages of projects. It states it is essential to address impacts on cultural heritage features when considering and assessing development proposals, and background maps set out the locations of all these different features, in so far as they have been mapped, digitally on their system.

### 10.2.3 Guidance

Planning Advice Note 2/2011: Planning and Archaeology<sup>17</sup> provides advice on dealing with archaeological remains. Whilst it covers a range of issues, of particular relevance is the planning balance associated with the preservation of archaeological remains and the benefits of development; the circumstances under which developers may be required to provide further information or field evaluation to inform decisions; and measures that can be taken to mitigate adverse effects.

Designation Policy and Selection Guidance (DPSG, 2019) accompanies HEPS and details the policy and selection guidance used by Historic Environment Scotland when designating heritage assets of national importance.

Guidance on how to apply the policies set out in the SPP is set out in Historic Environment Scotland's 'Managing Change in the Historic Environment Series'.

Standards and guidance published by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) have been followed, in particular the 'Standard and guidance for commissioning work or providing consultancy advice on archaeology

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12 UK Government (1997) (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997. Available at [http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46/pdfs/ukpga\\_19790046\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46/pdfs/ukpga_19790046_en.pdf) (Accessed 28/06/2024)

13 UK Government (2013) Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013. Available at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2013/24/contents/enacted> (Accessed 28/06/2024)

14 Scottish Government (2014) Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014. Available at [http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2014/19/pdfs/asp\\_20140019\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2014/19/pdfs/asp_20140019_en.pdf) (Accessed 28/06/2024)

15 Scottish Government (2022) Scottish Planning Policy. Available at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4-revised-draft/pages/3/> (Accessed 28/06/2024)

16 Highland-wide Local Development Plan | Highland-wide Local Development Plan | The Highland Council

17 Scottish Government (2011) Planning Advice Note 2/2011 [Online]. Available at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/pan-2-2011-planning-archaeology/> (Accessed 28/06/2024)

and the historic environment<sup>18</sup> and the 'Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment'<sup>19</sup>.

### 10.3 Assessment Methodology and Significance Criteria

#### 10.3.1 Scope of the Assessment

This Cultural Heritage assessment considers the potential to impact designated and non-designated sites. Designated sites include world heritage sites, registered battlefields, registered gardens and designed landscapes, scheduled monuments, listed buildings and conservation areas. Non-designated sites will consist of those listed in the Canmore database<sup>20</sup> and Historic Environment Record (HER).

Potential impacts of the Proposed Development on Cultural Heritage resources comprise:

- Direct physical damage to the fabric of Cultural Heritage resources, generally resulting from groundworks associated with the construction of the Proposed Development, but also potential secondary impacts from changes to groundwater levels or soil chemistry;
- Indirect adverse impacts on the setting of Cultural Heritage resources, largely as the result of visual impacts;
- Adverse impacts upon the historic landscape; and
- Non-designated Cultural Heritage resources are considered in addition to Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, World Heritage Sites, Conservation Areas, Registered Parks and Gardens and Registered Battlefields.

This assessment also considers effects from both potential direct and indirect impacts (i.e., on settings) on Cultural Heritage resources caused by the different phases of the Proposed Development (see **Table 10.1**).

**Table 10.1: Scope of the Assessment and Proposed Development Study Area** <sup>21</sup>

Project Phase	Activity with Potential Impact	Proposed Development Study Area
Construction	Physical ground disturbance through the construction of earthworks has the potential to partially or wholly remove Cultural Heritage resources.  Introduction of intrusive visual, acoustic and dust elements to the physical environment or 'setting' where a resource draws its value from its surroundings.  Restriction zones associated with the construction phase has the potential to temporarily or permanently restrict access to existing Cultural Heritage resources.	5 km for Designated Cultural Heritage resources.  250 m for non-designated Cultural Heritage resources.
Operation	Introduction of acoustic elements to the physical environment or 'setting' where a resource draws value from its surroundings.  Restriction zones associated with the operation phase has the potential to permanently restrict access to existing Cultural Heritage resources.	5 km for Designated Cultural Heritage resources.  250 m for non-designated Cultural Heritage resources

<sup>18</sup> Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014) Standard and guidance for commissioning work or providing consultancy advice on archaeology and the historic environment. Available at [https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfAS%26GCommissioning\\_2.pdf](https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfAS%26GCommissioning_2.pdf) (Accessed 28/06/2024)

<sup>19</sup> Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2020) Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment. Available at [https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfAS%26GDBA\\_4.pdf](https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfAS%26GDBA_4.pdf) (Accessed 28/06/2024)

<sup>20</sup> Canmore Record of the Historic Environment Available at: <https://canmore.org.uk/> (Accessed 01/06/2024)

<sup>21</sup> Decommissioning phase is scoped out of the assessment as the asset will operate in perpetuity

### *Direct (Physical) Impacts*

The assessment of physical impacts on cultural heritage resources considers direct effects on resources of Cultural Heritage interest where sites or potential sites / buried archaeology are in danger of being disturbed or destroyed. Ground disturbances due to excavations, piling and earthworks are the most likely sources of direct physical impacts on known and unknown cultural heritage resources, with the potential to partially or wholly remove these resources. Direct impacts have the potential to be one off, non-reversible and permanent. Unless the principle of avoidance is adopted in the first instance, mitigation measures will not significantly reduce the predicted residual effect of this impact on the cultural heritage.

### *Indirect (Effect on Setting) Impacts*

Indirect effects can occur during construction, operation and decommissioning. This assessment takes account of the potential for effects on the settings of internationally and nationally important designated cultural heritage resources that are situated within 5 km of the Proposed Development. 'Setting' is considered more than the immediate surroundings of a site or place and extends to include how a site was designed to function, how it was used, or how it was intended to fit within a landscape or townscape, and how it was meant to be seen or to allow areas to be seen. This definition also identifies that setting can include "areas that are important to the protection of the place, site or building". It must be noted that setting is not a fixed standard, instead it evolves over time.

The setting of a nationally important designated monument, building or landscape is defined by the way in which surroundings of a historic asset or place contribute to how it is experienced, understood and appreciated. This can incorporate a range of factors including views to, from and across the historic asset or place, key vistas, relationships between both built and natural features, aesthetic qualities, character of the surrounding landscape and non-visual factors such as sensory, historical or artistic factors.

Setting can be tangible, such as a defined boundary, or intangible, such as atmosphere or ambience. The main concern for visual effects on a cultural heritage setting is the potential for the Proposed Development to fragment the historic landscape, separate connectivity between historic sites and impinge on views to and from sites with important landscape settings.

Prominence and intervisibility may be assessed through the use of a bare-earth ZTV (zone of theoretical visibility) model. This involves the generation of a coverage map based on the project specifications and observer heights at asset locations, projected over a 'bare-earth' terrain model (DTM) without the modelling of trees or buildings etc. leaving the model to reflect visibility as a worst case scenario based only on the digitally presented terrain.

In line with the methodology outlined in **Chapter 5 EIA Process and Methodology**, Moderate and Major effects are classed as significant when reporting resultant effects. Each effect has been assessed taking account of the predicted magnitude of change and the sensitivity of the receptor / receiving environment as shown in **Table 10.2** below.

**Table 10.2: Matrix for Determining the Significance of Effects**

		Sensitivity of Receptor/Receiving Environment to Change/Effect			
		High	Medium	Low	Negligible
Magnitude of Change/Effect	High	Major	Major	Moderate	Negligible
	Medium	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible
	Low	Moderate	Minor	Minor	Negligible
	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

#### 10.3.2 Extent of the Study Area

For the Proposed Development, a 5 km radius Study Area for designated cultural heritage assets (**Volume 3 Figure 10.3**) and a 250 m radius Study Area for the non-designated cultural heritage assets (**Volume 3 Figure 10.4**) was established from the extents of the site boundary. The site boundary comprises the site, with the

extents and location shown on **Volume 3 Figure 10.1** and refers to the area in which direct impacts to archaeology may occur through siting of the Proposed Development infrastructure.

### 10.3.3 Consultation Undertaken to Date

A summary of the consultation undertaken to date, response received and action taken is provided in **Table 10.3**.

**Table 10.3: Cultural Heritage & Archaeology Consultation Summary**

Consultee	Type and date	Summary of consultation response	Response/ Action taken
THC	EIA scoping response	“It would be helpful if, where the assessment finds that significant impacts are likely, appropriate visualisations such as photomontage and wireframe views of the development in relation to the sites and their settings could be provided. Visualisations illustrating views both from the asset towards the proposed development and views towards the asset with the development in the background would be helpful.”	Undertake a cultural heritage viewpoint survey alongside LVIA, to be used in combination with bare earth ZTV.
HES	EIA scoping response	<p>Historic Environment Scotland recommend that a ZTV is used to identify potential setting impacts in the first instance and that consideration should be given to including assets where even though the ZTV indicates that no direct intervisibility would be possible there is the potential for the development to appear in the background of key views towards these assets. HES are largely content with the list of historic environment assets within their remit proposed for further detailed assessment identified in Table 6.1 of the scoping report. However, it is noted that two scheduled monuments within the 5km study area are proposed to be scoped out of further assessment: St Magnus’ church, burial ground and hospital (SM5413) and Chapel of Dunn, chapel, 300m SW of Oldhall House (SM5732).</p> <p>Paragraph 6.4 of the report states that these assets are proposed to be scoped out of assessment because they, “derive their significance solely from their form, material and historic function, not their setting or siting within the wider landscape”. HES disagree with this statement in regard to the two scheduled chapel sites.</p> <p>The setting of both sites and their position within the wider landscape is likely to contribute to their cultural significance and has the potential to be impacted by the proposed development. Chapels were generally located in situations where they were visible to the community’s which they served and have a connection to the surrounding landscape including settlements and routeways. They also tend to have a distinct sense of place and spirituality.</p>	Undertake a cultural heritage viewpoint survey alongside LVIA, to be used in combination with bare earth ZTV.

HES	EIA scoping response	HES request that both chapel sites are included for further assessment at this stage. It may be possible to scope these scheduled monuments out of detailed assessment should it prove that the proposed substation would not have a significant impact on the setting of the monuments once the design of the proposals is more refined.	Undertake a cultural heritage viewpoint survey alongside LVIA, to be used in combination with bare earth ZTV.
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#### 10.3.4 Method of Baseline Data Collation

The baseline has been collated using a combination of national, regional and survey data gathered for the project in combination with a review of relevant publicly available literature:

- Historic Environment Scotland Data Portal – Designated assets<sup>22</sup>;
- Historic Environment Record – THC – Non-designated assets;
- Canmore database – non-designated assets<sup>21</sup>; and
- Archaeological survey data – project generated.

An archaeological walkover survey was also conducted in combination with GI watching brief by AOC Archaeology Group (AOC) in October and November 2023 to inform the baseline. The objectives of the walkover were as follows:

- Establish the presence or absence of known archaeological remains within the Proposed Development and record their condition and extent, input into project baseline;
- Establish the presence or absence of previously unknown archaeological remains within the Proposed Development area and to develop a baseline of heritage constraints and input into project design;
- Assist in the formulation of recommendations for further measures necessary to mitigate any impacts of the Proposed Development on the archaeological resource; and
- Aid the development of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research.

Further information regarding fieldwork can be found in **Volume 4 Appendix 10.1**.

#### 10.3.5 Determining Magnitude of Change and Sensitivity of Receptors

To determine sensitivity of receptors, the assessment will use the methodology as described in **Chapter 5**. In general, designated heritage assets with Grade A Listed Buildings, are considered high sensitivity, Grade's B and C are considered medium sensitivity, meanwhile historical context and professional judgement is used to ascertain the sensitivity of non-designated assets.

Sensitive receptors for this assessment include designated and non-designated cultural heritage resources. Designated heritage assets are cultural heritage resources that are protected nationally under the relevant legislation (listed buildings, scheduled monuments, registered historic parks and gardens and registered battlefields), world heritage sites, which are designated by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation), and conservation areas, which are designated by Local Authorities. Designated assets have more protections than non-designated assets. Non-designated assets are cultural heritage resources that are locally identified buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes that are recognised as having an amount of heritage significance that warrants consideration in planning decisions, but do not meet the criteria for statutory designation<sup>23</sup>.

##### *Sensitivity of Receptors*

<sup>22</sup> Historic Environment Scotland, downloads. Available at <https://portal.historicenvironment.scot/downloads>. (Accessed 28/06/2024)

<sup>23</sup> Lancashire Local List. A Project to identify our local heritage. Available at: What is a Heritage Asset? - Lancashire Local List (local-heritage-list.org.uk). Accessed 06/07/2023



Sensitivities were assessed following the methodology presented in **Chapter 5** and using the definitions provided in **Table 10.4**.

**Table 10.4: Cultural Heritage Sensitivity**

Importance of Receptor	Definition
High	Heritage Assets valued at an international or national level. These may include Scheduled Monuments, Category A Listed Buildings, Registered Battlefields, Gardens and Designed Landscapes, and nationally important archaeological features and conservation areas (as defined in the Council's HER).
Medium	Heritage Assets valued at a regional level. These may include Category B and some Category C Listed Buildings as well as regionally important archaeological features and conservation areas.
Low	Heritage Assets valued at a local level. These may include Category C Listed Buildings, some conservation areas and non-designated assets of local value.
Negligible	Badly preserved and/or damaged or very common archaeological features and buildings of little or no value at local or any other scale.

#### *Magnitude of Change*

To determine magnitude of change, the assessment will use the methodology as outlined in **Chapter 5**. Magnitude is a measure of the nature of the expected effect. It has been classified, for direct and indirect effects on heritage assets, as shown in **Table 10.5**. For the purposes of visual assessment, proximity to the Proposed Development has been taken as one of the determining attributes.

**Table 10.5: Cultural Heritage Magnitude of Change**

Level of Magnitude	Definition
High	Total loss of or major damage to or significant alteration to a site, building or other feature.  Extensive change to the setting of a feature (e.g. blocking or severance of key visual or other relationship, loss of dominance, intrusion on key view or sightline).
Moderate	Damage or alteration to a site, building or other feature. Encroachment on an area considered to have a high archaeological potential for buried remains.  Change in the setting of a feature, e.g. intrusion on designed sightlines and vistas.
Low	Minor damage or alteration to a site, building or other feature. Encroachment on an area where it is considered there is low potential for buried archaeological remains to exist.  Minor change in the setting of a feature (e.g. above historic skylines or in designed vistas).
Negligible	No physical impact.  Slight or no change in setting.



### 10.3.6 Limitations and Assumptions

This assessment has the following limitations and assumptions:

- The information from externally procured databases may contain errors relating to locational accuracy, outdated information, incompleteness and representative reductionism (linear features as points), etc.
- Areas that were inaccessible during the initial site visit may contain previously unidentified archaeology. This may be mitigated by a qualified archaeologist conducting additional site visits as needed / possible or watching briefs during construction.
- Assigning sensitivity is an inherently subjective task and to mitigate potential errors arising from subjectivity, this assessment utilised the prescribed methods as established in this section to support professional judgment.

## 10.4 Baseline Conditions

### 10.4.1 Topographic and Administrative Background

The Proposed Development is located to the southeast of Halkirk and north of Spittal in the Scottish Highlands. The Proposed Development is situated on top of a small rise in the landscape, sloping to the west and rising to the east. The Proposed Development site and surrounding area is predominantly flat with the exception of Spittal Hill rising to the immediate south and Achanarras Hill to the southwest. The Proposed Development area is comprised of coarse grassland including a small, enclosed area of deciduous trees in the northwest and is bounded by enclosures of landscaped woodland.

### 10.4.2 Archaeological / Historical Background

The Proposed Development is situated in Sutherland in the Highlands of Scotland which is an area of rich cultural heritage value, comprising of assets dating from the prehistoric period to present day.<sup>24</sup>

#### *Early Prehistoric (c 12,000 – c 2500 BC)*

This part of modern Scotland has been inhabited since the Mesolithic period, though evidence of early prehistoric habitation is scarce<sup>25</sup>. Archaeological remains from the Mesolithic and subsequent Neolithic period may include myriad artefact types, monumentality and occupational behaviours. These may include: stone tools, standing stones, rock-art, and latterly pottery, as there is a transition between seasonal/ temporary encampments toward sedentary occupation and the development of resource use and domestic/agricultural techniques. During the Neolithic period, there was a change in the way of life for the inhabitants of the Highlands with a shift from hunter-gatherer to farming communities, characterised by cultivating cereals and keeping domesticated animals. This change in lifestyle allowed communities to create permanent residences in the Highlands which facilitated the construction of megalithic burial monuments such as chambered cairns<sup>26</sup>. Although there is no evidence for Early Prehistoric archaeology within the Proposed Development site, examples of these structures are still evident in the wider landscape of Caithness, such as Fairy Hillock (SM528) located approximately 5 km from the Proposed Development.

#### *Bronze Age (c 2500 – c 800 BC)*

Evidence of human settlement of the highlands increases during the Bronze Age but is unevenly distributed across the region<sup>27</sup>. Beaker pottery, as well as new metal working technologies appear at this time. The Bronze Age in the Caithness region is characterised by funerary monuments. Bronze Age cairns tend to be smaller than their Neolithic counterparts and often encompasses only a single burial, interred in a cist. Noted examples

<sup>24</sup> Highland Historic Environment Strategy. Available at: [https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/11047/highland\\_historic\\_environment\\_strategy](https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/11047/highland_historic_environment_strategy). Accessed 09/05/2024

<sup>25</sup> Wickham-Jones and Susan Kruse. Palaeolithic and Mesolithic. Scottish Highland Archaeological Research Framework: Palaeolithic and Mesolithic. Available at: 4. Palaeolithic and Mesolithic | The Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (scarf.scot). Accessed 06/03/2024

<sup>26</sup> Wickham-Jones and Susan Kruse. Neolithic. Scottish Highland Archaeological Research Framework: Neolithic. Available at: 5. Neolithic | The Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (scarf.scot). Accessed 07/03/2024

<sup>27</sup> Kruse, Susand, Rod McCullagh and Allison Sheridan. Chalcolithic and Bronze Age Scotland Archaeological Research Framework. Available at: 6. Chalcolithic and Bronze Age | The Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (scarf.scot); Accessed 06/03/2024

in Caithness include those located on the River Thurso and those on the banks of Loch Watten, located approximately 4.7 km from Proposed Development. This area of NE Scotland is also home to a unique type of Bronze Age monument, the multiple stone row. These monuments are made up of small standing stones positioned in parallel rows, often associated with a burial monument. The function or purpose of these monuments is unknown, but they are unique to Caithness and northern Sutherland. The closest known example is located at Hill o' Many Stanes, approximately 20 km from the Proposed Development<sup>28</sup>. There is a wider prehistoric landscape evident in the area surrounding the Proposed Development, most notably to the southwest around Achanarras Hill. This comprises of multiple prehistoric features such as hut circles and cairns that may date back to the Bronze Age. Additionally, one undated but likely Bronze Age cairn is present within the Proposed Development site (AOC 4). As such, there is potential for unknown buried Bronze Age archaeology to be present within the Proposed Development site.

#### *Iron Age (c 800 BC – AD 300)*

During the Iron Age, enclosed settlements became more important and there was an increasing reliance on agriculture to support larger settled communities. Brochs are the most characteristic form of Iron Age enclosure in the highlands, consisting of a large double-walled circular enclosures, interpreted as fortified dwellings<sup>29</sup>. Examples of brochs can be seen in the Caithness region, particularly clustered around the River Thurso. There is no evidence for Iron Age archaeology within the Proposed Development site however, multiple examples of brochs can be found nearby such as Achies broch (SM2235, SM509) located approximately 1.7 km to the southwest of the Proposed Development. As such, there is a wider prehistoric landscape in the area and potential for unknown buried Iron Age archaeology to be present within the Proposed Development site.

#### *Medieval (c AD 300 – c AD 1500)*

The transition from Iron Age to Medieval period in the Highlands is a contested academic period. There is no doubt however that Pictish Kingdom and Norse cultural traditions were very influential during the period. By the 7th century, the Pictish kingdom of Fortriu had emerged as a power in the north, although how far it extended into the Highlands remains unclear. However, it is likely that the Picts dominated Eastern Scotland and the Highlands until the 9th century. Evidence from the Annals of Ulster record Viking raids to Fortriu towards the end of the first millennium AD with settlements likely taking place from the 9th century<sup>30</sup>. During this period, a number of religious sites were established across northern Scotland, including the early Christian site on Chapel Hill, Dunbeath, where the Ballachly Stone was discovered, approximately 24 km from the Proposed Development<sup>31</sup>. Notably, the area of Spittal Hill, roughly 1 km southeast of the Proposed Development is noted as the possible site of the 10th century Battle of Skida Mire, between Liotus Earl of Orkney and his brother, Sculius, for the Earldom of Caithness. As the Medieval period progressed, the political and social influences in the Highlands differed from other areas of Scotland with power transferring from Lordship of the Isles to key families or political sub-units<sup>32</sup>. However, the Spittal region's landscape character and economy primarily based on agricultural and pastoral practices. One Medieval sheepfold is present within the Proposed Development site boundary (MHG33110). The presence of this asset suggests medieval land use in the area for the purpose of farming and as such there is potential for unknown buried Medieval archaeology to be present within the Proposed Development site.

#### *Post-Medieval (c AD 1500 – AD 1900) to Modern (AD 1900 - Present)*

The post-medieval period in the Highlands is characterised by widespread social and political changes such as the Protestant Reformation and the Jacobite uprisings and an influx of new technologies such as the railway. By the end of the Medieval period, the Highlands were largely part of the Scottish Kingdom, although this political relationship was tumultuous, and the clan system remained widespread in the Highlands until the early post-

<sup>28</sup> K Brophy, and Alexander Carnes. MEGALITHIC OVERKILL: MULTIPLE STONE ROWS. University of Glasgow. Available at: <https://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/humanities/research/archaeologyresearch/projectarchive/multiplestonerows/>; accessed 06/03/2024

<sup>29</sup> Caithness Broch Project, 2024. Available at: <https://www.thebrochproject.co.uk/what-is-a-broch> (Accessed 08/04/2024)

<sup>30</sup> Susan Kruse and Gordon Noble. Early Medieval. Scottish Highland Archaeological Research Framework: Early Medieval. Available at: 8. Early Medieval | The Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (scarf.scot). Accessed 07/03/2024

<sup>31</sup> Dunbeath Heritage Centre, <https://highlandpictishtrail.co.uk/project/dunbeath-heritage-centre/>, accessed 06/03/2024

<sup>32</sup> Susan Kruse, Richard Oram. 9. Medieval | The Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (scarf.scot). Accessed 07/03/2024

medieval period. The political upheaval that followed shaped the landscape of the Highlands and continued to do so into the 18th century when clearance and introduction of crofting radically changed Highland society<sup>33</sup>. During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the Highland economy became subordinate to the wider British economy as there was greater push for agricultural efficiency.

The Highlands have remained relatively unchanged since this period with farming still the dominant land use of the area. Evidence of this can be seen within the Proposed Development site with a number of post-medieval structures and sheepfolds present (e.g. MHG19157, MHG33110 and Canmore 90877). The post-medieval landscape of Caithness is still evident in the area surrounding the Proposed Development today, notably, approximately 1.3 km southwest of the development is St Magnus' church and burial ground, founded in 1476, this was an important stage in two pilgrimage routes, north to St Magnus' in Orkney and south to St Gilbert's in Dornoch. Additionally, an important community meeting place is located approximately 0.9 km southeast of the Proposed Development at Spittal Hill which functioned as a marketplace until the 19th century. This suggests a wider post-medieval landscape in the area including land use within the Proposed Development site for farming activities. As such, there is potential for unknown buried post-medieval archaeology to be present within the Proposed Development site.

#### 10.4.3 Designated Assets

There are no World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Inventoried Gardens and Designed Landscape, Listed Buildings, Inventoried Historic Battlefields or Conservation Areas located within the Proposed Development site.

There are 35 designated assets located within 5 km of the Proposed Development (**Volume 3 Figure 10.3**).

12 listed Buildings:

- Stemster House, Category B (LB589);
- Stemster Dovecote, Category C (LB590);
- Stemster Memorial, Category C (LB590);
- Westerdale Dale House, Category B (LB7793);
- Westerdale Dale House Dovecote, Category B (LB7794);
- Westerdale Dale House Walled Garden, Category B (LB7794);
- Halkirk Village, Bridge Street, Church of Scotland and Gate Piers, Category B (LB7799);
- Halkirk Village, Bridge Street, Ross Institute Gate Piers and Walls, Category C (LB7800);
- Halkirk Village Old Parish Church, Category B (LB7801);
- Halkirk Village Old Parish Burial Ground, Category B (LB7801);
- Skinnet House, Category B (LB10812); and
- Sordale Farm, Category B (LB14956).

23 Scheduled Monuments:

- Chapel of Dunn (SM5732);
- St Magnus' Church, Burial Ground and Hospital (SM5413);
- Achanarras Cairn (SM2400);
- Achanarras Cairn (SM2401);
- Achanarras Hut Circle (SM2402);
- Gallow Hillock, cairn (SM450);
- Tulach an Fhuarain, cairn (SM494);
- Tulach Lochain Bhraseil, cairn (SM496);

<sup>33</sup> Malcolm Bangor-Jones, Susan Kruse and Allan Kilpatrick 10. Post-Medieval | The Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (scarf.scot). Accessed 07/03/2024

- Cnoc Donn Broch (SM541);
- Dale Farm Broch (SM545);
- Ballone Broch (SM521);
- Fairy Hillock chambered cairn (SM528);
- Knockglass Broch (SM561);
- Spittal Farm Broch (SM582);
- Tulloch of Milton, chambered cairn (SM499);
- Achies Broch (SM509);
- The Shean, cairn (SM475);
- Braal Castle (SM619);
- Sordale Hill Cnoc na Ciste chambered cairn (SM442);
- Gallow Hill long cairns and chambered cairn (SM483);
- Sinclair's Sithean, long cairn (SM480);
- Achies Broch (SM2235); and
- Mill of Knockdee chambered cairn (SM468).

There are eight non-designated assets located within the Proposed Development site (**Volume 3 Figure 10.4**):

- Achlone (MHG19143) a building;
- Achalone (MHG19155 [Canmore 90875], [AOC 1], [AOC 2]) a farmstead and corn drying kiln;
- Achalone (MHG19157, [AOC 5]) a farmstead;
- Achalone (MHG19844 [Canmore 94582]) a building;
- Achalone (MHG19898 [Canmore 94692]) a building;
- Knockanruah (MHG33110) a sheep fold;
- Achlone (Canmore 90876) a building; and
- Achalone (Canmore 90877) a farmstead.

There are eight non-designated assets within 250 m of the Proposed Development (**Volume 3 Figure 10.4**):

- Achalone (MHG19170) a farmstead;
- Banniskirk House (MHG19851) a building and enclosure;
- Achalone (MHG19853) a building;
- Achalone (MHG19882) a building;
- Achalone (MHG19899) a mill farm;
- Banniskirk House (MHG30011) a building;
- Banniskirk Quarry (MHG33111) a quarry; and
- Banniskirk House (MHG36872) a building.

A further four non-designated assets were identified within the Proposed Development site as a result of the walkover survey:

- AOC 3 a sheepfold;
- AOC 4 a cairn;
- AOC TP38 a linear feature; and
- AOC TP56 a linear feature.

Full baseline information can be found in **Volume 4 Appendix 10.2**.

## 10.5 Issues Scoped Out

Assets have been scoped out of further assessment where they are located outside the ZTV, and it is not anticipated that a setting impact will be introduced or there will be any active change to their perceivable landscape. Additionally, decommissioning has been scoped out of this assessment.

Designated assets within 5 km that are not located within the bare earth ZTV (as per 10.3.1) (**Volume 3 Figure 10.2**) including:

- All Listed Buildings within 5 km;
- Chapel of Dunn, chapel, 300m SW of Oldhall House (SM5732);
- Gallow Hillock, cairn on Backlass Hill (SM450);
- Tulach an Fhuarain, cairn 310m NW of Bridge of Westerdale (SM494);
- Tulach Lochain Bhraseil, cairn 310m WNW of Bridge of Westerdale (SM496);
- Cnoc Donn, broch 600m ESE of Dale Farm, Halkirk (SM541);
- Dale Farm, broch 800m SE of (SM545);
- Knockglass, broch E of (SM561);
- Spittal Farm, broch 180m E of (SM582);
- Sordale Hill, Cnoc na Ciste, chambered cairn (SM442);
- Gallow Hill, long cairns and chambered cairn (SM483); and
- Sinclair's Sithean, long cairn 1300m NW of Stemster (SM480).

Additionally, the following assets have also been scoped out of this assessment, as there is no anticipated impact resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development:

- All non-designated assets beyond the Proposed Development site boundary;
- Temporary indirect impacts (e.g. dust, noise and vibration) to assets beyond the Proposed Development site boundary.

As a result of field visits and settings impact assessment, the following designated assets have been scoped out for further assessment:

- Mill of Knockdee, chambered cairn (SM468) due to the asset's ruinous state;
- The Shean, cairn (SM475) due to tree screening on three sides with no views towards the Proposed Development;
- Tulloch of Milton, chambered cairn (SM499) due to asset's poor condition and the views towards the Proposed Development being obscured by modern infrastructure;
- Ballone, broch (SM521) due to the asset's poor condition and setting within existing modern infrastructure;
- Fairy Hillock, chambered cairn (SM528) due to the asset's poor condition and screening by trees and topography; and
- Braal Castle (SM619) due to the asset's state of disrepair and complete screening by trees and vegetation.

Operational activities have been scoped out of further assessment, as routine maintenance is not anticipated to introduce new or different effects, however, any ground-breaking activities from e.g. emergency works may require cultural heritage assessment. It is also anticipated that indirect impacts to setting during construction are maintained through the operation phase.

## 10.6 Assessment of Effects, Mitigation and Residual Effects

### 10.6.1 Mitigation by Design

Following the identification and assessment of baseline heritage assets within the Proposed Development study area, there are anticipated to be direct and setting impacts. Given the nature of the Proposed Development and

locational constraints, avoidance of these impacts is not possible through design amendments, and thus require embedded mitigation protocols.

Any mitigation strategy or management plan developed should involve consultation with The Highland Council (THC) as the regulatory authority, while concerns for designated assets necessitates consultation with HES.

#### *Direct impact*

Known features within the Proposed Development ground works area will be wholly removed, and thus require pre-commencement archaeological works to conserve by record or through avoidance of interaction where possible, including using barricades.

Within the Proposed Development area, the potential for buried archaeological remains to be present is considered to be low/moderate. These are likely to be agricultural in nature and of low archaeological interest. However, due to the presence of prehistoric archaeology in the area, potential discoveries of higher archaeological value within the Proposed Development site are also possible. Consequently, a programme to mitigate the effects of any direct impacts to unknown buried archaeology is recommended in accordance with national and local planning policies on heritage.

#### *Setting*

This assessment has screened out setting impacts that extend beyond 5 km due to the Proposed Development Design. As a result of the height of the development, impacts to the setting of any designated assets beyond 5 km are not anticipated.

### 10.6.2 Construction Phase

**Table 10.6** presents the impact assessment for cultural heritage assets. Where impact has been scoped out or no impact is identified to baseline assets, they are not included.

**Table 10.6: Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Table**

Gazetteer ID	Des Ref	Name	Designation	Description	Distance from project element (m)	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Impact type
SPI_001	SM2235	Achies, broch	Scheduled Monument	Prehistoric domestic and defensive: broch	1,778.8	High	Low	Setting
SPI_002	SM2400	Achanarras, cairn	Scheduled Monument	Prehistoric ritual and funerary: cairn (type uncertain)	1,241.3	High	Low	Setting
SPI_003	SM2401	Achanarras, cairn	Scheduled Monument	Prehistoric ritual and funerary: cairn (type uncertain)	1,309.5	High	Low	Setting
SPI_004	SM2402	Achanarras, hut circle	Scheduled Monument	Prehistoric domestic and defensive: hut circle, roundhouse	1,032.2	High	Low	Setting
SPI_005	SM509	Achies, broch	Scheduled Monument	Prehistoric domestic and defensive: broch	2,347.9	High	Low	Setting
SPI_006	SM5413	St Magnus' church, burial ground and hospital	Scheduled Monument	The monument consists of the remains of St Magnus' church, hospital and graveyard, situated on the farm of Spittal Mains. The monument is of national importance because it contains upstanding medieval ecclesiastical remains which can be documented, by a Charter of James III to William Sinclair, son of William Earl of Caithness, from 1476. The monument's importance is enhanced because it is the site of a hospital which was an important stage on two pilgrimage routes; the route N to St Magnus' in Orkney and that S to St Gilbert's at Dornoch.	1,254.5	High	Low	Setting
SPI_007	MHG19143	Achalone-unroofed building	Non-designated Heritage Asset	An unroofed long building.	0	Low	High	Direct
SPI_008	MHG19844, Canmore 94582	Achalone-unroofed building	Non-designated Heritage Asset	One unroofed building.	0	Low	High	Direct



Gazetteer ID	Des Ref	Name	Designation	Description	Distance from project element (m)	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Impact type
SPI_009	MHG19853, Canmore 94567	Achalone – roofed building	Non-designated Heritage Asset	One roofed building with enclosure. Abuts site boundary, may extend within.	1.4	Low	Medium	Direct
SPI_010	MHG19898, Canmore 94692	Achalone – unroofed building	Non-designated Heritage Asset	One unroofed building.	0	Low	High	Direct
SPI_011	MHG19157, AOC 5	Achalone- partially roofed building	Non-designated Heritage Asset	A farmstead comprising one partially roofed long building and one unroofed building attached to an enclosure.	0	Low	High	Direct
SPI_012	MHG19155/A OC 1/AOC 2, Canmore 90875	Achalone - longhouse	Non-designated Heritage Asset	Longhouse farm, rectangular structure divided into four units with a circular kiln at S end.	0	Low	High	Direct
SPI_013	MHG19851	Banniskirk House	Non-designated Heritage Asset	A roofed building and an enclosure. Abuts site boundary, may extend within.	5.1	Low	Low	Direct
SPI_014	MHG33110/A OC 3	Knockanruah - sheepfold	Non-designated Heritage Asset	Medieval sheep fold.	0	Low	High	Direct
SPI_015	Canmore 90876	Achalone – unroofed building	Non-designated Heritage Asset	An unroofed long building, not present on current maps.	0	Low	High	Direct
SPI_016	Canmore 90877	Achalone – unroofed building	Non-designated Heritage Asset	One unroofed building and an enclosure.	0	Low	High	Direct
SPI_017	AOC 4	Cairn	Walkover Survey Asset	Under moss and grass is a stone cairn measuring 4 m by 3 m and up to 0.3 m high. It appears to have been here for quite a while and it's unclear if this is of any particular date or type of cairn.	0	Low	High	Direct

Gazetteer ID	Des Ref	Name	Designation	Description	Distance from project element (m)	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Impact type
SPI_018	AOC TP38	Linear Feature	Walkover Survey Asset	Linear feature identified in TP38, aligned N-S located towards west edge. Measured 0.64m wide. Possible drainage channel.	0	Negligible	High	Direct

### *Indirect (Effect on Setting) Impacts*

Five assets are predicted to experience a minor adverse effect to setting as a result of the Proposed Development (for detailed review see **Volume 4 Appendix 10.3**):

- Achies Broch (SM2235);
- Achanarras cairn (SM2400);
- Achanarras cairn (SM2401);
- Achanarras hut circle (SM2402); and
- St Magnus Church and Burial Ground (SM5413).

One asset is predicted to experience a negligible effect to setting as a result of the Proposed Development, Achies broch (SM509).

Five of these Scheduled monuments (SM2235, SM2400, SM2401, SM2402, SM509) derive value from their setting within a wider prehistoric landscape located approximately 1 km to the southwest of the Proposed Development on/ near Achanarras hill. As such, these assets derive value from interconnected views between assets as well as views over their immediate surroundings. As the Proposed Development is located to the east, it will be visible from these assets. However, is not anticipated to interrupt key views or be overly prominent in the horizon and therefore exerts a minor adverse effect to setting of four assets. One asset, Achies broch (SM509) will experience a negligible effect to setting due to its location at a distance from the development and the presence of screening in the landscape.

St Magnus Church and Burial Ground (SM5413) is located approximately 2.3 km to the southwest of the Proposed Development. This asset derives value from its setting within the environment and its views to the north and south as a prominent stop on a historic pilgrimage route. As such, the asset derives some value from its views northward towards the Proposed Development. However, topographic and plantation screening limits views of the development to the northeast resulting in a minor adverse effect to setting. No listed buildings would experience an adverse effect to setting.

Adverse effects to the setting of scheduled monuments can be mitigated through strategic planting within the Proposed Development site to limit the extent that it is visible from its surroundings. Strategic planting may slightly reduce the effect to setting of nearby designated assets however, due to the height of the development (rising higher than planting), the overall effect to setting is likely to remain as minor to negligible.

See **Volume 4 Appendix 10.3** and **Volume 3 Figure 10.5** for detailed setting assessment tables and further information on setting.

### *Direct (Physical) Impacts*

Of the 12 non-designated assets within the Proposed Development site boundary, eight assets would be moderately impacted as a result of the construction phase, despite mitigation measures. These are:

- Achalone (SPI\_007), one un-roofed long building;
- Achalone (SPI\_010), one roofed building with enclosure;
- Achalone (SPI\_011), one partially-roofed building;
- Achalone (SPI\_012), longhouse farm, rectangular structure divided into four units with a circular kiln;
- Knockanruah (SPI\_014), medieval sheep fold;
- Achalone (SPI\_015), one un-roofed building;
- Achalone (SPI\_016), one unroofed building and an enclosure; and
- Cairn (SPI\_017), cairn under grass and moss.

The required mitigation involves disruption to the fabric of these assets. In order to mitigate, a targeted schedule of recording and excavation is recommended. Although this mitigation does allow for the creation of a

cultural heritage record, the assets will be wholly or partially removed and therefore, the effect to the asset as a result of the development cannot be reduced.

As part of this mitigation, three areas of pre-commencement excavation would be required:

- Buildings and cairn, to the south of the site to investigate SPI\_007, SPI\_015 and SPI\_017;
- Buildings with enclosure and sheepfold, to the east of the site to investigate SPI\_011, SPI\_014, and SPI\_016; and
- Buildings with associated features, to the west of the site to investigate SPI\_010 and SPI\_012.

For two non-designated assets located within the site boundary (SPI\_008, 009) mitigation has the potential to lower the impact from moderate and minor respectively to no impact if avoidance of the asset is successful. Mitigation should include assessment of extent of the asset during a watching brief as well as barricading to be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist.

One non-designated asset abuts the site boundary and as such, may experience a minor adverse effect (SPI\_013) as a result of the Construction Phase of the Proposed Development. Although the resulting effect is not significant, mitigation should still be implemented to reduce the risk of direct impact to this asset. As such, the extent of the asset should be investigated during the watching brief and a barricade of at least 5 m should be used to create exclusion zones to prevent machinery, people, or debris from harming the asset.

Additionally, one asset SPI\_018 will experience a negligible effect as a result of the Construction Phase of the Proposed Development. This requires no embedded mitigation.

There is a potential for unknown archaeology to be present during the construction phase of the Proposed Development. The area in which the majority of the infrastructure of the Proposed Development is situated has a low/moderate potential for currently unknown buried archaeology to be encountered during groundworks, as evidenced through previous surveys. The survey conducted by AOC notably identified a cairn (SPI\_017) within the site boundary of the Proposed Development. This is a likely prehistoric structure and as such, may have associated unknown buried archaeology nearby.

All groundbreaking activities in areas which have not been previously disturbed should be subject to a watching brief and be supervised by a suitably qualified archaeologist. Where pre-commencement mitigation is required for certain assets, it is described.

An area to the west of the site has been identified as land which has been previously disturbed (a quarry), this area will not require a watching brief as the likelihood of identifying buried remains here are low. A watching brief will also not be required in any areas where additive groundworks are implemented, this is due to the low disturbance of the ground in these areas and low chance of impact to buried assets.

Construction Phase effects and mitigation methods are presented below in **Table 10.7**.

**Table 10.7 Construction Phase Effects**

Gazetter ID	Name	Type of Impact	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Effect	Mitigation	Effect Post Mitigation (residual)
SPI_001	Achie's, broch	Setting	High	Low	Minor	Additional screening by planting of trees around the periphery of the development, particularly on the SW and W sides to reduce settings impact.	Minor
SPI_002	Achanarras, cairn	Setting	High	Low	Minor	Additional screening by planting of trees around the periphery of the development, particularly on the SW and W sides to reduce settings impact.	Minor
SPI_003	Achanarras, cairn	Setting	High	Low	Minor	Additional screening by planting of trees around the periphery of the development, particularly on the SW and W sides to reduce settings impact.	Minor
SPI_004	Achanarras, hut circle	Setting	High	Low	Minor	Additional screening by planting of trees around the periphery of the development, particularly on the SW and W sides to reduce settings impact.	Minor
SPI_005	Achie's, broch	Setting	High	Negligible	Negligible	Additional screening by planting of trees around the periphery of the development, particularly on the SW and W sides to reduce settings impact.	Negligible
SPI_006	St Magnus' church, burial ground and hospital	Setting	High	Low	Minor	Additional screening by planting of trees specifically on the southern - southwest edge of the development to reduce settings impact.	Minor
SPI_007	Achalone - unroofed building	Direct	Low	High	Moderate	This asset will experience direct impact (located under substation platform), as such a targeted programme of recording and excavation is required to be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist before construction.	Moderate
SPI_008	Achalone- unroofed building	Direct	Low	High	Moderate	Avoidance of asset should be implemented via identification and barricading to reduce the risk of direct impact. This should be implemented by a suitably qualified archaeologist as part of the watching brief for areas which have not been previously disturbed.	No impact
SPI_009	Achalone – roofed building	Direct	Low	Low	Minor	Avoidance of asset should be implemented via identification and barricading to reduce the risk of direct impact. This should be implemented by a suitably qualified archaeologist as part of the watching brief for areas which have not been previously disturbed.	No impact
SPI_010	Achalone – unroofed building	Direct	Low	High	Moderate	This asset will experience direct impact (located under temporary compound), as such a targeted programme of recording and excavation is required to be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist before construction.	Moderate

SPI_011	Achalone - partially roofed building	Direct	Low	High	Moderate	This asset may experience direct impact (may be located under substation infrastructure and earthwork), as such the extent of the asset should be identified by a suitably qualified archaeologist and a targeted programme of recording and excavation is required to be undertaken before construction.	Moderate
SPI_012	Achalone - longhouse	Direct	Low	High	Moderate	This asset is sited partially under infrastructure (watercourse diversion and verge) and will experience direct impact to at least part of its fabric. As such a targeted programme of recording and excavation is required to be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist before construction. For aspects of the asset which will not be directly impacted, these should be recorded during watching brief by a suitably qualified archaeologist and barricaded to avoid direct impact.	Moderate
SPI_013	Banniskirk House	Direct	Low	Low	Minor	Asset may be directly impacted during groundworks and as such, should be investigated by a suitably qualified archaeologist as part of the watching brief for areas which have not been previously disturbed. Watching brief should implement a 5 m buffer if possible or a suitable barricade to the asset to avoid machine interaction.	Minor
SPI_014	Knockanruah - sheepfold	Direct	Low	High	Moderate	This asset will experience direct impact (located under substation platform), as such a targeted programme of recording and excavation is required to be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist before construction.	Moderate
SPI_015	Achalone – unroofed building	Direct	Low	High	Moderate	This asset will experience direct impact (located under substation platform), as such a targeted programme of recording and excavation is required to be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist before construction.	Moderate
SPI_016	Achalone – unroofed building	Direct	Low	High	Moderate	This asset will experience direct impact (located under substation platform), as such a targeted programme of recording and excavation is required to be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist before construction.	Moderate
SPI_017	Cairn	Direct	Low	High	Moderate	This asset will experience direct impact (located under substation platform), as such a targeted programme of recording and excavation is required to be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist before construction.	Moderate
SPI_018	Linear Feature	Direct	Negligible	High	Negligible	This asset, although directly impacted has already been excavated in Ground Investigation work and no further impact is expected.	Negligible

### 10.6.3 Operational Phase

Setting effects Identified during the construction phase are maintained during operation.

### 10.6.4 Cumulative Effects

This assessment assesses the impacts of the Proposed Development upon the heritage assets significance in conjunction within the wider context of six concurrent construction schemes that are present within the area. These schemes and their cumulative impact are discussed in **Table 10.8**.



**Table 10.8: Cumulative Impacts Assessment**

Ref.	Development	Direction from Proposed Development	Potential for cumulative impacts with the proposed development	ID of potential assets impacted	Likely effect	Rationale
23/05353/PIP	West of Orkney Windfarm Grid Connection	West	Indirect effects to cultural heritage assets as a result of changes to setting	SM5314, SM2400, SM2401, SM509, SM2235	Moderate	There is potential for the further limited infrastructure to be within the visual setting of SM5314, SM2400, SM2401, SM509 and SM2235. This introduction of infrastructure is anticipated to intrude upon the setting of the designated assets, resulting in a moderate effect.
24/00243/SCOP	Ayre Windfarm Grid Connection	East	Indirect effects to cultural heritage assets as a result of changes to setting	SM5314, SM2400, SM2401, SM509, SM2235	Minor	There is potential for the further limited infrastructure to be within the visual setting of SM5314, SM2400, SM2401, SM509 and SM2235. Although this development will increase the potential infrastructure in the landscape, it is likely sufficiently screened by topography and forestry and as such is unlikely to significantly impact the setting of nearby designated assets, resulting in a minor effect.
ECU00004509/23/04113/S36	Watten Wind Farm	Southeast	None	N/A	Negligible	This development may have a Minor impact to the setting of nearby designated assets (such as to SM5732) however, it is not anticipated to sufficiently impact the setting of any nearby assets as a result of cumulative impacts.
Pre-app (intended to submit this year)	Spittal to Peterhead HVDC underground cable joining into Banniskirk)	Northeast	Direct effects resulting from ground disturbance.	N/A	High	UCG is not expected to introduce any impact to setting of nearby designated assets however, it may have a direct impact on cultural heritage assets as a result of ground disturbance.
n/a	Cable connecting Banniskirk to existing Spittal Substation	South	Direct effects resulting from ground disturbance.	N/A	High	UCG is not expected to introduce any impact to setting of nearby designated assets however, it may have a direct impact on cultural heritage assets as a result of ground disturbance.
n/a	Spittal to Beauly OHL	East	Indirect effects to cultural heritage assets as a result	SM5314, SM2400, SM2401, SM509,	Minor - Moderate	There is potential for the further limited infrastructure to be within the visual setting of SM5314, SM2400, SM2401, SM509, SM2235. The OHL development will break the ridge line within the setting of these assets however, as it is

Ref.	Development	Direction from Proposed Development	Potential for cumulative impacts with the proposed development	ID of potential assets impacted	Likely effect	Rationale
			of changes to setting	SM2235, SM5732		<p>present within an already modern landscape the cumulative effect to these assets is likely Minor.</p> <p>The OHL passes at a closer distance to SM5732 than the other designated assets in the landscape. As such, the cumulative impact between the OHL and the proposed development on this asset is likely to be Moderate.</p>

Although some of the developments listed above have been deemed as no impact or Negligible – Minor when compared to the Proposed Development, when considered as a whole, the cumulative impacts of all proposed developments in this area is significant. As such the overall presence of these developments in the landscape when completed may result in Major overall effect to the setting of nearby designated cultural heritage assets.

## 10.7 Summary

For the construction phase, there are 12 assets located within the site boundary that may experience direct effects. Of these, eight assets will experience a moderate effect after mitigation (SPI\_007, 010, 011, 012, 014, 015, 016, 017). This is deemed as Significant in the context of the EIA Regulations (see Section 11.2 above). Mitigation for these assets includes targeted programmes of recording, and excavation, implementing exclusion zones, monitoring plant movements and a watching brief.

One asset located within the site boundary will experience a minor effect as a result of the construction phase of the Proposed Development (SPI\_013). Mitigation measures for this asset include the use of investigation during watching brief and avoidance via barricade/ buffer zone to minimise interaction. This is deemed as Not Significant in the context of the EIA Regulations.

One asset within the site boundary will experience a negligible effect as a result of the construction phase of the Proposed Development (SPI\_018). This is deemed as Not Significant in the context of the EIA Regulations.

Successful mitigation for two assets, (SPI\_008, 009) will reduce the resulting effect from moderate and minor respectively to no impact. Mitigation for these assets include avoidance via barricading and implementation of buffer zones to minimise machine interaction with the assets. This is deemed as Not Significant.

There are five designated assets with setting effects (SPI\_001, 002, 003, 004, 006) and these will be temporary during the Construction Phase. However, the impact will become permanent during the operational phase. The effect to these assets has been deemed as minor. Additionally, one asset, SPI\_005 has been deemed to experience a negligible effect to setting as a result of the Proposed Development. This is assessed as Not Significant in the context of the EIA Regulations.

Due to the possibility of unidentified sub-surface archaeological remains a watching brief should be conducted during all groundbreaking activities in areas which have not been previously disturbed in conjunction with the mitigation methods defined in **Table 10.7**. Watching briefs will allow for the monitoring for potential unknown archaeology during the construction phase.