



## SETTING ASSESSMENT TABLE

	No Change	Minor	Moderate	Major
Adverse				
Positive				

Group ID and name (if required)		
Mon UID: SM2400	Monument name: Achanarras, cairn 800m NW of	Designation: Scheduled Monument
Designations summary		
<b>Associated Figure</b>	<b>Associated Plates</b>	Distance from Proposed Development: 1241.3 m
Feature Sensitivity: High	Magnitude of Impact: Slight / Low	<b>Projected Effect: Minor</b>
<b>Summary of Asset</b>	This asset consists of a Prehistoric ritual and funerary cairn (type uncertain). It is located on the summit of Achanarras Hill, located approximately 1.2 km southwest of the Proposed Development site.	
<b>Summary of Heritage Significance</b>	The heritage significance of this monuments is derived from its form, function and potential for in situ archaeological remains and setting, which may significantly contribute to our understanding of the wider prehistoric landscape of the area.	

<p><b>Setting Contribution</b></p>	<p>The setting of this asset is defined by its location on the top of Achanarras Hill, with wide expansive views over the comparatively flat surrounding landscape.</p> <p>This surrounding landscape is composed of moorland with occasional areas of forestry plantation to the northeast, south and southwest, punctuated with small modern settlements and agricultural fields. There are several water courses nearby, most notably the River Thurso located to the west and the Burn of Achanarras located to the east.</p> <p>The asset is located in close proximity to other prehistoric assets, Achanarras cairn (SM2401) and Achanarras Hut Circle (SM2402) which are also located on the summit of the hill. As such, the asset is likely part of a wider prehistoric landscape on Achanarras Hill and derives significance from both its setting on the hillside and interconnected views between prehistoric assets. Imposing upon the backdrop of the wider prehistoric area may introduce negative effects beyond those features already present:</p> <p>Due to the proximity between SM2400, SM2401 and SM2402, there is the potential for key views between these assets.</p> <p>Overall, whilst the main contributing value of these assets is their archaeological value, their setting can be seen to contribute to their significance as they have remained in their original location, with the setting allowing an explanation for their purpose and use. Therefore, the setting can be seen to contribute to their heritage significance.</p>
<p><b>Anticipated Change to Setting</b></p>	<p>This asset will have a Slight/Low adverse impact from the introduction of a modern substation development.</p> <p>Visualisation (Volume 4 Appendix 08) CHVP2 shows that the Proposed Development is visible from the asset and is present within an existing modern landscape. Developments within this landscape comprise post-medieval and modern field arrangements, plantation woodland, an existing substation and pylons, farm infrastructure and scattered settlements located on all sides of the hill.</p> <p>The visualisation shows that the introduction of additional modern infrastructure to the north-east of this asset will contribute slightly to the encroachment of modern infrastructure into the landscape, However, the Proposed Development is not anticipated to break the ridge line or intrude upon the horizon and is not expected to be overly prominent in views to or from the asset thus resulting in a Slight/Low impact.</p>
<p><b>Summary of Effect</b></p>	<p>As this asset is a Scheduled Monuments, it is considered to have a high value; however, it is deemed to have a Low sensitivity to changes to its setting that will affect its cultural heritage significance. The introduction of the development will introduce a modern infrastructure into the setting, however it will not detract from the experience or understanding of the asset. Key interconnected views between the asset and nearby prehistoric features will be maintained, with the infrastructure being visible in the background of these views. Therefore, it has been deemed to have a Slight/Low impact on this asset cultural heritage significance resulting in a Minor adverse effect to the asset's cultural heritage.</p>

<b>Statement of Compliance</b>	<p>The Proposed Development will introduce a Slight/Low impact to the setting of this Scheduled Monument, resulting in a Minor adverse effect to the asset's cultural heritage significance. Therefore, in regard to EIA regulations the resulting effect is considered <i>Not Significant</i> for the purpose of this assessment.</p>
--------------------------------	--

Group ID and name (if required)		
Mon UID: SM2235	Monument name: Achies, broch 800m NE of	Designation: Scheduled Monument
Designations summary		
<b>Associated Figure</b>	<b>Associated Plates</b>	Distance from Proposed Development: 1778.8 m
Feature Sensitivity: High	Magnitude of Impact: Slight/Low	<b>Projected Effect: Minor</b>
<b>Summary of Asset</b>	<p>This asset consists of an Iron Age broch. It is located to the southwest of Achanarras Hill, located approximately 1.7 km southwest of the Proposed Development site. This asset would have functioned as a defensible structure and positioned to both survey the landscape and provide shelter to its inhabitants.</p>	

<b>Summary of Heritage Significance</b>	<p>The heritage significance of this monuments is derived from its form, function and potential for in situ archaeological remains and setting which may significantly contribute to our understanding of the wider prehistoric landscape of the area.</p>
<b>Setting Contribution</b>	<p>The setting of this asset is defined by its location at the foot of Achanarras Hill, near the River Thurso, with wide expansive views over the surrounding landscape.</p> <p>This surrounding landscape is composed of moorland with forestry plantation on all sides, with narrow visual corridors beyond the woodland from the highest point of the monument. The surrounding landscape is punctuated with small modern settlements and agricultural fields. There are several water courses nearby, most notably the River Thurso located to the west and the Burn of Achanarras located to the east.</p> <p>The asset is located in close proximity to other prehistoric assets, Achanarras cairn (SM2400, SM401) and Achanarras Hut Circle (SM402) which are located to the east, on the summit of the Achanarras hill. Another broch (SM509) is located to the southwest. Although these are not visually linked as a result of the plantation, and chronologically disconnected.</p> <p>As such, the asset is likely sits within a wider, temporally deep, prehistoric landscape in the area surrounding Achanarras Hill and derives significance from both its rural setting, though its external prominence is vastly diminished by the plantation. For its function as a broch, views away from the structure are also of importance for defensive purposes. As such, views to the west towards the River Thurso may be key in defence of the landscape.</p> <p>Overall, whilst the main contributing value of these assets is their archaeological value, their setting can be seen to contribute to their significance as they have remained in their original location, with the setting allowing an explanation for their purpose and use. Therefore, the setting can be seen to contribute to their heritage significance.</p>

<p><b>Anticipated Change to Setting</b></p>	<p>This asset will have a Slight/Low impact from the introduction of the modern substation development.</p> <p>Visualisation (Volume 4 Appendix 08) CHVP3 shows that there is a small degree of visibility of the development from the asset and a small degree of infrastructure prominence over the nearby tree line.</p> <p>The Proposed Development, although visible from the asset, is present within an existing modern landscape. Developments within this landscape comprise post-medieval and modern field arrangements, plantation woodland, an existing substation and pylons, farm infrastructure and scattered settlements located on all sides of the hill as well as enclosure by modern private plantation.</p> <p>The introduction of additional modern infrastructure to the east of this asset will contribute slightly to the encroachment of modern infrastructure into the landscape, However, the Proposed Development is not anticipated to break the ridge line or intrude upon the horizon and is not expected to be overly prominent in views from the asset. Additionally, although the development will be visible within views to the east from the asset, it will not be visible in key views west to the River Thurso, thus resulting in a Slight/Low impact.</p>
<p><b>Summary of Effect</b></p>	<p>As this asset is a Scheduled Monuments, it is considered to have a high value; however, it is deemed to have a Low sensitivity to changes to its setting that will affect its cultural heritage significance. The introduction of the development will introduce a modern infrastructure into the setting, however it will not detract from the experience or understanding of the asset. Key interconnected views between the asset and nearby prehistoric features will be maintained, with the infrastructure being visible in the background of these views. The development will not be visible in key views west to the River Thurso. Therefore, it has been deemed to have a Slight/Low impact on this asset cultural heritage significance resulting in a Minor adverse effect to the asset's cultural heritage.</p>
<p><b>Statement of Compliance</b></p>	<p>The Proposed Development will introduce a Slight/Low impact to the setting of this Scheduled Monument, resulting in a Minor adverse effect to the asset's cultural heritage significance. Therefore, in regard to EIA regulations the resulting effect is considered <i>Not Significant</i> for the purpose of this assessment.</p>





Views from SM2235 toward proposed development, affording glimpsed views.



Views from SM2235 toward proposed development from raised area.

Group ID and name (if required)		
Mon UID: SM2401	Monument name: Achanarras,cairn 800m NW of	Designation: Scheduled Monument
Designations summary		
<b>Associated Figure</b>	<b>Associated Plates</b>	Distance from Proposed Development: 1309.5
Feature Sensitivity: High	Magnitude of Impact: Slight/Low	<b>Projected Effect: Minor</b>
<b>Summary of Asset</b>	This asset consists of a Prehistoric ritual and funerary cairn (type uncertain). It is located on the summit of Achanarras Hill, located approximately 1.3 km southwest of the Proposed Development site.	
<b>Summary of Heritage Significance</b>	The heritage significance of this monuments is derived from its form, function and potential for in situ archaeological remains and setting which may significantly contribute to our understanding of the wider prehistoric landscape of the area.	

<p><b>Setting Contribution</b></p>	<p>The setting of this asset is defined by its location on the top of Achanarras Hill, with wide expansive views over the comparatively flat surrounding landscape.</p> <p>This surrounding landscape is composed of moorland with occasional areas of forestry plantation to the northeast, south and southwest, punctuated with small modern settlements and agricultural fields. There are several water courses nearby, most notably the River Thurso located to the west and the Burn of Achanarras located to the east.</p> <p>The asset is located in close proximity to other prehistoric assets, Achanarras cairn (SM2400) and Achanarras Hut Circle (SM2402) which are also located on the summit of the hill. As such, the asset is likely part of a wider prehistoric landscape on Achanarras Hill and derives significance from both its setting on the hillside and interconnected views between prehistoric assets. Imposing upon the backdrop of the wider prehistoric area may introduce negative effects beyond those features already present:</p> <p>Due to the proximity between SM2400, SM2401 and SM2402, there is the potential for key views between these assets.</p> <p>Overall, whilst the main contributing value of these assets is their archaeological value, their setting can be seen to contribute to their significance as they have remained in their original location, with the setting allowing an explanation for their purpose and use. Therefore, the setting can be seen to contribute to their heritage significance.</p>
<p><b>Anticipated Change to Setting</b></p>	<p>Visualisation (Volume 4 Appendix 08) CHVP2 shows that the Proposed Development is visible from the asset and is present within an existing modern landscape. Developments within this landscape comprise post-medieval and modern field arrangements, plantation woodland, an existing substation and pylons, farm infrastructure and scattered settlements located on all sides of the hill.</p> <p>The visualisation shows that the introduction of additional modern infrastructure to the north-east of this asset will contribute slightly to the encroachment of modern infrastructure into the landscape, However, the Proposed Development is not anticipated to break the ridge line or intrude upon the horizon and is not expected to be overly prominent in views from the asset thus resulting in a Slight/Low impact.</p>



<p><b>Summary of Effect</b></p>	<p>As this asset is a Scheduled Monuments, it is considered to have a high value; however, it is deemed to have a Low sensitivity to changes to its setting that will affect its cultural heritage significance. The introduction of the development will introduce a modern infrastructure into the setting, however it will not detract from the experience or understanding of the asset. Key interconnected views between the asset and nearby prehistoric features will be maintained, with the infrastructure being visible in the background of these views. Therefore, it has been deemed to have a Slight/Low impact on this asset cultural heritage significance resulting in a Minor adverse effect to the asset’s cultural heritage.</p>
<p><b>Statement of Compliance</b></p>	<p>The Proposed Development will introduce a Slight/Low impact to the setting of this Scheduled Monument, resulting in a Minor adverse effect to the asset’s cultural heritage significance. Therefore, in regard to EIA regulations the resulting effect is considered Not Significant for the purpose of this assessment.</p>



View from SM2400 and SM2401 east showing nearby OHL and A9 road in direction of proposed development.



View from SM2400 and SM2401 northeast in the direction of proposed development.

Group ID and name (if required)		
Mon UID: SM2402	Monument name: Achanarras,hut circle	Designation: Scheduled Monument
Designations summary		
Associated Figure	Associated Plates	Distance from Proposed Development: 1032.2 m
Feature Sensitivity: High	Magnitude of Impact: Slight/Low	Projected Effect: Minor
<b>Summary of Asset</b>	This asset consists of a Prehistoric Hut Circle, settlement site. It is located on the summit of Achanarras Hill, located approximately 1 km southwest of the Proposed Development site.	
<b>Summary of Heritage Significance</b>	The primary heritage significance of this monuments is derived from its form, function and potential for in situ archaeological remains and setting which may significantly contribute to our understanding of the wider prehistoric landscape of the area.	

<p><b>Setting Contribution</b></p>	<p>The setting of this asset is defined by its location on the top of Achanarras Hill, with wide expansive views over the comparatively flat surrounding landscape.</p> <p>This surrounding landscape is composed of moorland with occasional areas of forestry plantation to the northeast, south and southwest, punctuated with small modern settlements and agricultural fields. There are several water courses nearby, most notably the River Thurso located to the west and the Burn of Achanarras located to the east.</p> <p>The asset is located in close proximity to other prehistoric assets, Achanarras cairn (SM2400, SM401) which are also located on the summit of the hill. As such, the asset is likely part of a wider prehistoric landscape on Achanarras Hill and derives significance from both its setting on the hillside and interconnected views between prehistoric assets. This is indicative of a prehistoric landscape that combines the occupational and mortuary/ritual aspects of life, with a siting that suits views to the west as the topography slopes off.</p> <p>Due to the proximity between SM2400, SM2401 and SM2402, there is the potential for key views between these assets.</p> <p>Overall, whilst the main contributing value of these assets is their archaeological value, their setting can be seen to contribute to their significance as they have remained in their original location, with the setting allowing an explanation for their purpose and use. Therefore, the setting can be seen to contribute to their heritage significance.</p>
<p><b>Anticipated Change to Setting</b></p>	<p>Visualisation (Volume 4 Appendix 08) CHVP2 shows that the Proposed Development is visible from the asset and is present within an existing modern landscape. Developments within this landscape comprise post-medieval and modern field arrangements, plantation woodland, an existing substation and pylons, farm infrastructure and scattered settlements located on all sides of the hill.</p> <p>The visualisation shows that the introduction of additional modern infrastructure to the north-east of this asset will contribute slightly to the encroachment of modern infrastructure into the landscape, However, the Proposed Development is not anticipated to break the ridge line or intrude upon the horizon and is not expected to be overly prominent in views from the asset thus resulting in a Slight/Low impact.</p>

<p><b>Summary of Effect</b></p>	<p>As this asset is a Scheduled Monuments, it is considered to have a high value; however, it is deemed to have a Low sensitivity to changes to its setting that will affect its cultural heritage significance. The introduction of the development will introduce a modern infrastructure into the setting, however it will not detract from the experience or understanding of the asset. Key interconnected views between the asset and nearby prehistoric features will be maintained, with the infrastructure being visible in the background of these views. Therefore, it has been deemed to have a <b>Slight/Low impact</b> on this asset cultural heritage significance resulting in a Minor adverse effect to the asset’s cultural heritage.</p>
<p><b>Statement of Compliance</b></p>	<p>The Proposed Development will introduce a Slight/Low impact to the setting of this Scheduled Monument, resulting in a Minor adverse effect to the asset’s cultural heritage significance. Therefore, in regard to EIA regulations the resulting effect is considered <i>Not Significant</i> for the purpose of this assessment.</p>





View northeast toward proposed development from SM2402.

Group ID and name (if required)		
Mon UID: SM509	Monument name: Achies, broch 180m E of	Designation: Scheduled Monument
Designations summary		
<b>Associated Figure</b>	<b>Associated Plates</b>	Distance from Proposed Development: 2348 m
Feature Sensitivity: High	Magnitude of Impact: Slight/Low	<b>Projected Effect: Minor</b>
<b>Summary of Asset</b>	This asset is the remains of an Iron Age broch. It is located to the southwest of Achanarras Hill, located approximately 2.3 km southwest of the Proposed Development site. This asset would have functioned as a defensible structure and positioned to both survey the landscape and provide shelter to its inhabitants.	



<p><b>Summary of Heritage Significance</b></p>	<p>The heritage significance of this monuments is derived from its form, function and potential for in situ archaeological remains, as well as it's setting, which may significantly contribute to our understanding of the wider prehistoric landscape of the area.</p>
<p><b>Setting Contribution</b></p>	<p>The setting of this asset is defined by its location at the foot of Achanarras Hill, near the River Thurso, with wide expansive views over the surrounding landscape.</p> <p>This surrounding landscape is composed of moorland with forestry plantation on all sides. The surrounding landscape is punctuated with small modern settlements and agricultural fields. There are several water courses nearby, most notably the River Thurso located to the west and the Burn of Achanarras located to the east.</p> <p>The asset is located in close proximity to other prehistoric assets, Achanarras cairn (SM2400, SM401) and Achanarras Hut Circle (SM402) which are located to the northeast, on the summit of the Achanarras hill. Another broch (SM2235) is also located to the northeast Although these are not visually linked as a result of the plantation, and chronologically disconnected.</p> <p>As such, the asset is likely part of a wider prehistoric landscape in the area surrounding Achanarras Hill and derives significance from both its elevated rural setting and interconnected views between prehistoric assets and geographic features. For its function as a broch, views away from the structure are also of importance for defensive purposes. As such, views to the west towards the River Thurso may be key in defence of the landscape.</p> <p>Overall, whilst the main contributing value of these assets is their archaeological value, their setting can be seen to contribute to their significance as they have remained in their original location, with the setting allowing an explanation for their purpose and use. Therefore, the setting can be seen to contribute to their heritage significance.</p>

<p><b>Anticipated Change to Setting</b></p>	<p>Visualisation (Volume 4 Appendix 8) CHVP4 shows that there are glimpsed views of the development from the asset and a small degree of infrastructure prominence over the nearby tree line.</p> <p>The Proposed Development, although visible from the asset, is present within an existing modern landscape. Developments within this landscape comprise post-medieval and modern field arrangements, plantation woodland, an existing substation and pylons, farm infrastructure and scattered settlements as well as bounded in the east by modern private plantation.</p> <p>The introduction of additional modern infrastructure to the northeast of this asset will contribute slightly to the encroachment of modern infrastructure into the landscape, However, the Proposed Development is not anticipated to intrude upon the horizon and is not expected to be overly prominent in views from the asset. Additionally, although the development may be visible within views to the east from the asset, it will not be visible in key views west to the River Thurso and only a glimpsed presence visible in views northeast to prehistoric settlement area thus resulting in a Negligible impact.</p>
<p><b>Summary of Effect</b></p>	<p>As this asset is a Scheduled Monuments, it is considered to have a high value; however, it is deemed to have a Low sensitivity to changes to its setting that will affect its cultural heritage significance. The introduction of the development will introduce a modern infrastructure into the setting, however it will not detract from the experience or understanding of the asset. Key interconnected views between the asset and nearby prehistoric features will be maintained, with the infrastructure being visible in the background of these views. The development will not be visible in key views west to the River Thurso and only glimpsed in views northeast to SM2235. Therefore, it has been deemed to have a Negligible impact on this asset cultural heritage significance resulting in a Negligible effect to the asset’s cultural heritage. However, screening afforded by forestry plantation to the east is not permanent and the effect to setting would be Minor should this be removed.</p>
<p><b>Statement of Compliance</b></p>	<p>The Proposed Development will introduce a Negligible impact to the setting of this Scheduled Monument, resulting in a Negligible effect to the asset’s cultural heritage significance. Therefore, in regard to EIA regulations the resulting effect is considered Not Significant for the purpose of this assessment.</p>



View northeast towards proposed development from SM509.



View northeast towards proposed development from SM509.

Group ID and name (if required)		
Mon UID: SM5413	Monument name: St Magnus' church, burial ground and hospital	Designation: Scheduled Monument
Designations summary		
Associated Figure	Associated Plates	Distance from Proposed Development: 1254.5 m
Feature Sensitivity: High	Magnitude of Impact: Slight/Low	Projected Effect: Minor
<b>Summary of Asset</b>	<p>This asset 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. The asset is located approximately 1.5 km south of the Proposed Development site.</p>	
<b>Summary of Heritage Significance</b>	<p>The heritage significance of this monuments is derived from its form, function and potential for in situ archaeological remains which may significantly contribute to our understanding of the wider medieval landscape of the area. The asset is ruinous and no longer serves in ecclesiastical use. It's prominence in the landscape and visibility from routes through the landscape is severely lessened by the diminished state of repair and location offset from the primary routeways in the landscape (A9).</p>	

<p><b>Setting Contribution</b></p>	<p>The setting of this asset is defined by its location on two important pilgrimage routes; the route N to St Magnus' in Orkney and that S to St Gilbert's at Dornoch. As such, the asset would have been viewed historically as both a place of congregation and as a hospital and rest stop.</p> <p>The landscape surrounding the asset is predominantly agricultural as it is located on farmland with Spittal farm auxiliary buildings located at a close distance to the north while transmission lines are prominent to the south and west running to the existing Spittal substation. As such, there is an existing modern context to the asset.</p> <p>Historically, key views from the asset would have been to the north and south along the two important pilgrimage routes. However, the asset in its current form is ruinous and no longer serves an ecclesiastical use, additionally it is overgrown with vegetation and not easily accessible to the public. As such, its historic setting has been altered.</p> <p>Overall, although setting may still contribute to the significance of this asset, the existing changes to its environment mean that its setting has already been altered.</p>
<p><b>Anticipated Change to Setting</b></p>	<p>Analysis of both a bare earth and screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) shows that there is limited visibility of the development from the asset. The screened ZTV which takes into account topographic and forestry screening shows that the Proposed Development is not visible. However, the bare earth ZTV shows partial visibility of the development (from the eastern aspect of the asset only) should the existing forestry plantation be removed.</p> <p>The development, located to the northeast is situated partially behind the rise of Spittal Hill and behind existing forestry plantation and as such is partially obscured from view. Visibility is anticipated to be glimpsed in months where foliage is less dense such as in winter, however under normal conditions with forestry screening in place, it is not anticipated to be visible.</p> <p>The asset itself is located within an existing modern context with Spittal farm, an industrial complex located at a close distance to the north. Additional modern features in this landscape include post-medieval and modern field arrangements, plantation woodland, an existing substation and pylons, farm infrastructure and scattered settlements as well as modern private plantation.</p> <p>The introduction of additional modern infrastructure to the northeast of this asset will therefore contribute slightly to the encroachment of infrastructure into the landscape, However, the Proposed Development is not anticipated to intrude upon the key views due and is not anticipated to be overly prominent in views from the asset along its pilgrimage route northeast due to topographic screening in the area.</p> <p>As such, the development is not expected to significantly intrude upon the setting of the asset thus resulting in a Slight/Low impact.</p>

<p><b>Summary of Effect</b></p>	<p>As this asset is a Scheduled Monuments, it is considered to have a high value; however, it is deemed to have a Low sensitivity to changes to its setting that will affect its cultural heritage significance. Although the introduction of the development will introduce further modern infrastructure into the setting, it will not detract from the experience or understanding of the asset. This is due to the existing modern context in which it is located. Therefore, it has been deemed to have a Slight/Low impact on this asset cultural heritage significance resulting in a Minor adverse effect to the asset’s cultural heritage.</p>
<p><b>Statement of Compliance</b></p>	<p>The Proposed Development will introduce a Slight/Low impact to the setting of this Scheduled Monument, resulting in a Minor adverse effect to the asset’s cultural heritage significance. Therefore, in regard to EIA regulations the resulting effect is considered Not Significant for the purpose of this assessment.</p>





Current view northeast from SM5413 towards proposed development showing complete screening from woodland and Spittal Hill.