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INTRODUCTION

10.1 The cultural heritage of an area comprises archaeological sites, historical buildings, Gardens, and Designed Landscapes, Historic Battlefields and other historic environment features (the heritage assets). It also includes features or places which have the capacity to provide information about past human activity, or which have cultural significance due to associations with literary or artistic work, folklore or historic events. The setting of an asset within the wider landscape may contribute to its cultural heritage significance.

10.2 This Chapter considers the potential effects of the construction and operation of the proposed development on heritage assets within the Site and surrounding area. It is considered that decommissioning would have very similar but lesser effects to those posed during the construction phase, and is therefore not considered further. A full description of the proposed development is given in Chapter 3: Description of the Development, but in summary the development consists of 14 wind turbines, 110m to hub height and 180m to blade tip, plus infrastructure works for access tracks, borrow pits, sub-station and cabling. In addition, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) requires lighting to be installed on turbines of this height, so night-time change to the baseline also needs to be considered. The assessment has included consideration of all known designated and non-designated cultural heritage assets within the Site, and of designated cultural heritage assets within the Outer Study Area (i.e. defined as 5km from the proposed turbines).

10.3 This assessment has been based on a range of data, including known heritage assets recorded by regional and national bodies, readily available secondary works, the results of a walkover survey on the Site and the survey work undertaken on the Site as part of the application for the Clashindarroch Wind Farm (Ref. 10.1).

10.4 The historic development of the Site and study area (defined in paragraph 10.15) are discussed in the context of the wider region in order to predict the direct impacts on any known or as yet undiscovered archaeological remains within the Site, as well as indirect impacts on assets within the Site and study areas. Measures necessary to safeguard or record any assets potentially affected by the proposed development are also put forward.

10.5 For the purposes of this assessment the historic environment is considered to consist of a variety of historic assets. The historic environment resource includes the following types of nationally designated heritage assets:

- World Heritage Sites;
- Scheduled Monuments;
- Listed Buildings;
- Inventoried Battlefields;
- Inventoried Gardens and Designed Landscapes; and
- Conservation Areas.

10.6 These designations are considered to be of national importance, with the caveat that category B Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas are considered to be of regional importance, and category C Listed Buildings are considered to be of local importance (see Table 10-2).

10.7 This report has been undertaken by SLR Consulting Ltd, which is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA).

LEGISLATION, PLANNING POLICY AND GUIDANCE

Legislation

10.8 The principal relevant legislation comprises:

- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979;
- The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997;
- The Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2011; and
- Statutory Instrument No 101 The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.

Planning Policy

10.9 The Scottish Government and Historic Environment Scotland (HES) have issued a number of statements of policy with respect to dealing with the historic environment in the planning system, including:

- Historic Environment Circular 1 May 2016a (Ref. 10.2);
- Historic Environment Policy for Scotland May 2019a (Ref. 10.3); and
- Planning Advice Note 2/2011: Planning and archaeology (Ref. 10.4).

Guidance

10.10 Three relevant pieces of guidance have been published by HES and the professional archaeological body, the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. These publications are:

- Historic Environment Scotland guidance on Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting (Ref. 10.5);
- Scottish National Heritage and Historic Environment Scotland Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook: Guidance for competent authorities, consultation bodies, and others involved in the Environmental Impact Assessment Process in Scotland (Ref. 10.6); and
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment (Ref. 10.7).

SCOPE AND CONSULTATION

10.11 The scope of the assessment has been determined through a combination of professional judgement, reference to relevant guidance documents and consultation with stakeholders.

10.12 Consultation for the proposed development was undertaken with statutory and non-statutory bodies during 2017 to November 2019, as set out in Chapter 6: Scoping and Consultation.

Consultation

10.13 Scoping responses directly addressing cultural heritage matters were received from HES and Aberdeenshire Council during February 2017 to November 2019. These are incorporated in Table 10-1.

Table 10-1
Key Issues Raised During Scoping

Consultee	Summary of Key Issues	Where Addressed in Chapter
Aberdeenshire Council, Scoping	Visual impacts should be assessed on the basis of HES guidance 'Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting'. Huntly Conservation Area should be assessed.	Visual impacts are assessed in paragraphs 10.10, 10.79-10.95. Huntly Conservation Area does not lie within the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) of the proposed development and therefore does not require assessment.
Aberdeenshire Council	The methodology appears comprehensive and acceptable. The Scoping Report gives detail of the acceptable methodology.	The methodology is outlined in Sections 10.15-10.38.
Archaeology Service for Aberdeenshire, Moray and Angus	Agrees proposed study areas, consultees and methodology.	The methodology is outlined in Sections 10.15-10.38.
Historic Environment Scotland	Confirms that heritage assets within the remit of HES are not within the proposed development Site boundary. HES lists designated heritage assets that may require assessment. HES do not consider that the 5km study area is sufficient.	The SLR Response to HES and the HES reply is provided in Appendix 10.3
Historic Environment Scotland, reply to SLR response to scoping	HES are content with approach to Cultural Heritage Assessment as set out in the email from SLR dated 09/07/2017.	The methodology is outlined in paragraphs 10.15-10.38. The SLR Response to HES and the HES reply is provided in Appendix 10.3
Historic Environment Scotland, reply to SLR rescoping report	Confirms that heritage assets within the remit of HES are not within the proposed development Site boundary. HES were concerned about further Heritage Assets such as (**SM11576), (SM51)** and **(SM69)**. Recommendations of ZTV, Photomontages and Wirelines be produced for visualisation. (18/12/2017)	The SLR Response to HES and the HES reply is provided in Appendix 10.3
Historic Environment Scotland, notification of Wirelines, ZTV and Photomontage	Notified HES of photomontage and wirelines for the relevant sites as per the consultation on the (18/12/2017)	SLR notifying HES of Photomontage and Wirelines. (23/10/2019)

Consultee	Summary of Key Issues	Where Addressed in Chapter
Historic Environment Scotland, reply to SLR Notification Letter	Response from HES to SLR concerning (**SM63)** and (**SM3278**). The impact on the setting of the monument (**SM63)** due to height and spread of turbines are of concern and recommend further wirelines from other viewpoints. Concerns are raised over (**SM3278**) and the screening of forestry.	Response from HES to SLR concerning (**SM63)** and (**SM3278**) (06/11/2019)
Historic Environment Scotland, phone call in response to letter from Historic Environment	Phone call at 11.22 on the 07/11/2019 regarding the letter sent on the (06/11/2019). Agreed that the viewpoints of the B9002 and A97 are unnecessary due to the visibility represented on the ZTZ.	Photomontage and wirelines that are recommended by HES for (**SM63**) and (**SM3278**).

Effects Scoped Out

10.14 Effects on setting of heritage assets within the Study Areas shown by the ZTV that are not intervisible with the proposed development have not been assessed. The relevant heritage assets that have been considered are provided in paragraph 10.77.

APPROACH AND METHODS

Study Area

10.15 This assessment employs two study areas:

- the Inner Study Area, corresponding to the boundary of the proposed development;
- the Outer Study Area, corresponding to the area 5km from the locations of the proposed turbines.

10.16 In addition, in response to scoping consultation responses, nationally important designated heritage assets up to 10km from the proposed locations of the turbines have been considered where the asset is of a type where distant views to and from the asset may be important for the understanding and appreciation of the asset.

10.17 This assessment includes a consideration of all known designated and non-designated heritage assets within the Inner Study Area. Within the Outer Study Area only indirect impacts on designated heritage assets have been considered.

Information and Data Sources

10.18 The baseline conditions have been characterised from the following sources:

- data held in the Aberdeenshire Council Historic Environment Record (HER) (Ref 10.8);
- the database of HES, 'Canmore' (Ref.10.9);

- historic mapping on-line at the National Library of Scotland;
- schedules, listings and inventories of designated assets held by HES;
- appropriate published archaeological and historical works; and
- HES Historic Land Use Assessment (Ref. 10.10).

10.19 Heritage assets within the Inner Study Area are numbered in the following text as set out in the gazetteer in Technical Appendix 10.2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets. As this gazetteer is composed of records from a number of sources, these have been combined into a single sequence with each assigned an SLR Number. References to other coding systems, e.g. Aberdeenshire Council HER and Canmore, are also included in this Technical Appendix. The designated assets within the Study Areas are listed separately within this Chapter and are identified by the number by which they are designated on the relevant statutory register or index.

Field Survey

10.20 A walkover survey examining the proposed turbine locations and access tracks, as well as a condition check on those recorded heritage assets where it was considered that there was the potential for impact, was undertaken on 23 June 2017. Due to the dense forestry, not all potential turbine locations or all the recorded assets could be reached. No new assets were identified within the locations that were examined.

10.21 Site visits to designated heritage assets in the Outer Study Area were undertaken on 23 June and 6 September 2017 to assess the character and the contribution that the settings of heritage assets make to the heritage significance of the assets. The outcomes of the site visits are described in the relevant sections for each of the visited assets. The heritage assets visited were those indicated by the ZTV to have theoretical views of the proposed development, and where the nature of the asset made it likely that there would be potential for indirect impacts due to change in the settings of heritage assets.

Assessment Methods

Introduction

10.22 Assessment of effects on heritage assets was undertaken taking cognisance of the guidance and best practice listed in paragraph 10.10.

10.23 An assessment of the heritage significance of each heritage asset was made on a scale of Negligible to Highest, using professional judgement and criteria derived from established processes of assessment (see Table 10-2).

10.24 The assessment identifies impacts and effects as either direct or indirect. Direct impacts are those which physically alter an asset; indirect impacts are those which affect the heritage significance of an asset by causing change within its setting. As described below, the assessment was undertaken separately for direct effects and indirect effects. The magnitude of the impact was assessed according to scale of impact, from High impact to Negligible impact.

10.25 Direct effects on the heritage significance of assets have been assessed on the basis of a combination of the heritage significance of the affected asset (where known), the probability of

further assets being located within the affected areas and their likely significance, and the magnitude of impact on those assets to be caused by the implementation of the proposed development.

10.26 Indirect effects on the heritage significance of heritage assets have been identified and assessed with reference to guidance from HES (Ref. 10.10). Assessment has been carried out in the following stages:

- initial consideration of intervisibility and other factors leading to the identification of potentially affected assets;
- assessment of the heritage significance of potentially affected assets;
- assessment of the contribution of the setting to the heritage significance of those assets;
- assessment of the magnitude of impact of the proposed development due to causing change within the setting of the assets; and
- prediction of the significance of the effect.

Heritage Significance of Heritage Assets

10.27 The heritage significance of a heritage asset is a measure of the value of a heritage asset based on its inherent qualities, including intrinsic, contextual and associative characteristics, such as age, state of preservation and level of supporting knowledge. These characteristics are independent of the differing potential impacts on the heritage assets.

10.28 The assessment of heritage significance of heritage assets takes account of the relative weight which statute and policy attach to them, principally as published in HES Policy Statement (Ref. 10.11). Table 10-2 summarises the relative ranking of heritage assets and the relationship of heritage significance to statutory designations.

Table 10-2
Heritage Significance of Heritage Assets

Heritage Significance	Explanation
Highest	Sites of national or international importance, including: • World Heritage Sites; • Scheduled Monuments; • Category A Listed Buildings; • Inventoried Gardens and Designed Landscapes included on the national inventory; • Designated Battlefields; and • Non-designated assets of equivalent importance.
High	Sites of regional importance, including: • Category B Listed Buildings; • Conservation Areas; and • Non-designated assets of equivalent importance.
Medium	Sites of local importance, including: • Category C Listed Buildings; and • Non-designated assets of equivalent importance.
Low	Sites of minor importance or with little remaining to justify a higher importance.
Negligible	Negligible or no heritage importance.
Unknown	Further information is required to assess the significance of these assets.

10.29 The criteria for assigning heritage significance include: the archaeological period to which the heritage asset belongs; its rarity; the level of documentation concerning the asset; the value of association with other sites; the preservation condition; and the chronological and typological diversity of the asset.

10.30 The surroundings of each heritage asset or heritage asset group is described, considering aspects such as location and orientation of the heritage asset, obvious views or vistas, additional screening through small scale topographic variation and vegetation, how much change to the historic setting has occurred, integrity of the setting, topography, land-use (including operational wind farms near-by and modern intrusive conifer plantations) and intervisibility to other contemporaneous and related heritage assets. All these aspects are considered in relation to how they affect the understanding, appreciation and experience of the heritage asset.

10.31 Once the setting of each heritage asset or heritage asset group has been defined and assessed, the aspects of the setting which contribute to their heritage significance are identified.

Magnitude of Impact

10.32 Determining the magnitude of any likely impacts requires an assessment against the nature of activities proposed during the construction and operation of the proposed development.

10.33 The changes could potentially include direct change (e.g. ground disturbance), and indirect change (the latter could include visible change, noise, vibration, traffic movements). Impacts may be beneficial or adverse, and may short term, long term or permanent. The scale and mass of the

proposed development would form part of this potential change. The degree of impact is assigned on the criteria shown in Table 10-3.

Table 10-3
Magnitude of Impacts on Heritage Assets

Magnitude of Impact	Explanation
High beneficial	The proposed development would considerably enhance the heritage significance of the affected asset or the ability to appreciate it.
Medium beneficial	The proposed development would enhance to a clearly discernible extent the heritage significance of the affected asset, or the ability to appreciate it.
Low beneficial	The proposed development would enhance to a minor extent the heritage significance of the affected asset, or the ability to appreciate it.
Very low beneficial	The proposed development would enhance to a very minor extent the heritage significance of the affected asset, or the ability to appreciate it.
Neutral/None	The proposed development would not affect, or would have harmful and enhancing effects of equal magnitude, on the heritage significance of the affected asset, or the ability to appreciate it.
Very low adverse	The proposed development would erode to a very minor extent the heritage significance of the affected asset, or the ability to appreciate it.
Low adverse	The proposed development would erode to a minor extent the heritage significance of the affected asset, or the ability to appreciate it.
Medium adverse	The proposed development would erode to a clearly discernible extent the heritage significance of the affected asset, or the ability to appreciate it,
High adverse	The proposed development would severely erode the heritage significance of the affected asset, or the ability to appreciate it.

Significance of Effect

10.34 The significance of an effect (beneficial or adverse) is determined with respect to the heritage significance and contribution of setting of the heritage assets, and the predicted magnitude of impact. This assessment is undertaken separately for direct effects and indirect effects, the latter being principally concerned with effects on setting. The range of significance of effect is provided in Table 10-4.

Table 10-4
Significance of Effects on Heritage Assets

Magnitude of Impact	Heritage Significance (excluding negligible and uncertain)			
	Highest	High	Medium	Low
High beneficial	Substantial	Substantial	Moderate	Slight
Medium beneficial	Substantial	Moderate	Slight	Very slight
Low beneficial	Moderate	Slight	Very slight	Very slight
Very low beneficial	Slight	Very slight	Negligible	Negligible
Neutral/None	Neutral/Nil	Neutral/Nil	Neutral/Nil	Neutral/Nil
Very low adverse	Slight	Very slight	Negligible	Negligible
Low adverse	Moderate	Slight	Very slight	Very slight
Medium adverse	Substantial	Moderate	Slight	Very slight
High adverse	Substantial	Substantial	Moderate	Slight

10.35 Effects that are considered significant in EIA terms are those that are assessed to be moderate or substantial, in accordance with the suggestion contained in current guidance HES and SNH (2018) Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook, Section C, Page 75 (Ref.10.6).

Mitigation

10.36 A statement of the proposed mitigation applicable to the identified impacts follows the assessment. The main mitigation would be through design, e.g. micrositing. Direct impacts may also be mitigated by preservation by record, probably through a watching brief. Screening to avoid impacts on the setting of assets is rarely feasible for wind turbines, but has been considered where other effects from other infrastructure may be mitigated in this way.

Residual Effects

10.37 A statement of the residual effects has been given following consideration of any further Site-specific mitigation measures, where these have been identified.

Statement of Significance

10.38 The cultural heritage assessment concludes with a Statement of Significance associated with the proposed development, summarising the predicted significance of the effects arising from the proposed development. Effects of substantial or moderate significance (shaded in Table 10-4) are considered to be significant within the sense of the EIA Regulations.

Cumulative Effects Assessment

10.39 A cumulative effects assessment is presented in paragraphs 10.122-10.123. Cumulative effects are assessed for those assets that have been assessed as receiving an above negligible impact from the proposed development. The cumulative contributor developments are other wind farm

developments within 10km of the affected heritage asset that have been given planning consent, have an active planning application or are undergoing a planning appeal. Currently operational wind farms are considered as part of the baseline assessment.

10.40 Wind farms that are currently in 10km of the proposed development are set out in Table 10-5.

Table 10-5
Wind Farms within 10km of the Proposed Development

Development	Status	Number of Turbines	Height to blade tip	Distance (Km) from the Proposed Development	Directions from Proposed Development
Upper Wheadlemont Farm	Operational	2	81	7.0km	South
Clashindarroch	Operational	18	110	0.5km	South-East
Cairnmore	Operational	3	81	9.6km	South, South East
Dorenell	Operational	59	126	9.3km	West South West
Midtown of Glass	Operational	1	79	9.3km	North West
Cairnborrow	Operational	5	59	8.9km	North West
Bailiesward Farm	Operational	1	79.6	4.9km	North

Assumptions, Limitations and Confidence

10.41 The assessment is based on the sources given above and therefore shares the same range of limitations in terms of comprehensiveness and completeness of those sources. The densely afforested nature of much of the Site has meant that not all proposed turbine locations or recorded heritage assets within the boundary of the Site could be reached during the site visit, and dense brash also restricted ground visibility.

BASELINE CONDITIONS

Introduction

10.42 The current landscape character of the proposed development consists largely of conifer plantation. This is characteristic of the immediate vicinity of the proposed development. The wider landscape consists of some unimproved moorland, and mixed farming across improved and unimproved pasture with occasional areas of crop raising. To the immediate south west of the proposed development lies the Clashindarroch Wind Farm, with other wind farms forming part of the baseline within the Outer Study Area (see Table 10-5 and wirelines Figure 10.3-9 for further wind farm developments in a 10km radius of the proposed sevelopment). A full description of the proposed development and environs is given in Chapter 1: Introduction, Chapter 2: Site Description and Design Evolution and Chapter 3: Description of the Development.

10.43 All recorded heritage assets within the Inner Study Area are listed in the gazetteer that forms Technical Appendix 10.2, and are identified with an SLR Number. Where designated assets are tabulated in this Chapter, they area identified by the index number (Scheduled Monuments) or reference number (Listed Buildings) under which they are registered by HES.

10.44 All heritage assets within the proposed development Site are shown in Figure 10.1. The designated heritage assets within the study areas are shown in relation to the ZTV in Figure 10.2.

Designated Heritage Assets

10.45 There are no World Heritage Sites, Inventory Historic Battlefields, Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes or Conservation Areas within the study areas.

10.46 There are no designated heritage assets within the proposed development.

10.47 There are five designated heritage assets within the Outer Study Area. These are shown in Table 10-5

Table 10-6
Designated Heritage Assets within the Outer Study Area

Name	Type and Category	Index/Reference Number	Period	Distance from Nearest Turbine (km)
Wormy Hillock, henge 690m west north west of Finglenny	Scheduled Monument	SM3278	Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age	1.3
Tap O' Noth fort	Scheduled Monument	SM63	Iron Age	4.5
Beldorney Castle	Listed Building, Category A	LB9164	Post-medieval	3.8
Coynachie Mill	Listed Building, Category B	LB9206	Modern	4.4
Walla' Kirk Graveyard	Listed Building, Category C	LB9163	Modern	3.9

10.48 In response to consultation with HES, designated heritage assets at a distance greater than 5km from the proposed turbine location have been considered where there are such assets whose location and nature indicates that the proposed development would be visible from the asset, and where long-distance views might be of importance to setting of the assets. The designated heritage assets that meet the criteria for assessment are Cnoc Cailliche, fort approximately 360m south west of Upper Wheedlemont, (**SM11681),** Ord Standing Stone **(SM51**), Craw Stane, (**SM69**) and Gallows Hill Cairn (**SM11576**).

Known Heritage Assets within the Inner Study Area

10.49 Within the Inner Study Area, there are 42 known heritage assets. These have been identified from the combined records of Canmore (Ref. 10.9) and the Aberdeenshire HER (Ref. 10.10); see Technical Appendix 10.2.

Prehistoric and Roman

10.50 There is a single record relating to the Prehistoric period, **SLR 3**. This record is of a barbed and tanged flint arrowhead found in association with a piece of calf skin in peat at Corrydown and purchased for the National Museum of Scotland in 1901. This class of arrowhead is generally dated to the Neolithic or Bronze Age. There are no records relating to the Roman period in the Inner Study Area.

Early Medieval and Medieval

10.51 There are no heritage assets dated to the early medieval or medieval periods recorded within the Inner Study Area, although it is possible that some of the undated assets may be medieval in age (see 10.52).

Post-Medieval and Modern

10.52 There are 35 heritage assets dated to the post-medieval and modern periods. The majority of these relate to a dispersed pattern of rural settlement, consisting of farmsteads and cottages that are either isolated or occasionally found in loose pairs (**SLR 7, 11, 15, 18, 19, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 39, 40, 41, 42**). There are also two mills (**SLR 6, 10**) and associated lades (**SLR 4, 14**). There are remains of land divisions and means of stock control in the form of field dykes (**SLR 23, 25**) and sheepfolds (**SLR 13, 20**). The only dated routes across the landscape are a track (**SLR 9**) and hollow way (**SLR 17**), although it is possible that the other hollow ways recorded also date to the post-medieval period (see below). The former location of two lime kilns and associated quarrying is also noted (**SLR 38**) in the lower lying area that the current access track crosses. Another period of land use prior to the afforestation of the area is attested by two records of grouse butts (**SLR 12, 16**). The proposed development is located at the boundary of the historic parishes of Huntly, Gartly and Rhynie, and there are a number of records of cairns marking the boundaries (**SLR 1, 21, 24, 32-37**).

Undated

10.53 There are four records of heritage assets that are undated which are: a possible land boundary (**SLR 30**); a possible quarry (**SLR 22**); and two hollow ways (**SLR 2, 5**). These are all likely to be of medieval or post-medieval date.

Conclusion

10.54 The recorded heritage assets within the Inner Study Area are predominantly of the post-medieval and modern periods, and even these are obscured or damaged by modern forestry. A number of assets are recorded from historic mapping (e.g. the parish boundary markers **SLR 1, 21, 24, 32-37**) and it is unclear if any of these are still extant (see below).

Historic Mapping

10.55 A review of the online historic mapping available at the National Library of Scotland was undertaken as part of the assessment.

10.56 The earliest map examined was General Roy's map (1741-1745). The Site has very little detail. No settlement, cultivation or tracks are shown in the area of the proposed development.

10.57 The John Thomson map of 1832 shows some detail of nearby settlement locations, e.g. Corrylair and Drumfergue, but no settlement is shown within the Site. The map appears to show a road or track that runs past Corrylair south west before swinging west, that would appear to cut through the south eastern part of the proposed development. Assuming this to be an accurate depiction, this road is not seen on the subsequent OS maps nor is it extant on the ground.

10.58 The earliest OS map for the area is Aberdeenshire Sheet XXXIII, Survey date 1866-71, with a publication date of 1874 (Six Inch). The area around Corrydown is depicted as enclosed fields, stretching between Burn of Bedlaithen and the Shank, with a mill lade cutting across two fields. Within this area a collection of buildings is depicted between the Oxter Burn and the Badilauchter Burn seeming to form two farms or steadings.

10.59 In the succeeding edition (Aberdeenshire Sheets XXXIIISW and XXXIIINW, Survey date 1900, publication date 1902), there are relatively few changes, with the main element being a reduction in the size of the building in the northern of the two farms or steadings noted above, and some change in the field boundaries, consisting of a slight area of extension of the enclosed area and a greater degree of reorganisation, particularly by amalgamation of the fields noted above. The majority of the Site continued to be open rough pasture.

10.60 The next detailed map is that of the Land Utilisation Survey (1931-1935, Sheet 39n, Dufftown and Huntly). The hand coloured maps for this survey may not be very accurate in delineating land use, but they do appear to show the beginning of afforestation in the area, mostly in lower lying areas such as Corrydow, and around the lower slopes of Muckleback Hill, Auchindinnie Hill, Raven Hill and just reaching the northern foot of Craigwater Hill. This change of land use is not recorded in the larger scale popular maps produced by the Ordnance Survey and Bartholemews during the 1930's and 1940s. By the time of the survey of the OS 1 Inch 7th Series (1955), conifer plantation forestry was quite extensive, although some parts of the Site, such as Raven Hill, had not been afforested.

10.61 The map evidence shows that the Site has been open, mainly agricultural land, over most of the period for which map evidence is available, with forestry forming an increasingly significant land use from the 1930s.

Historic Landscape Characterisation

10.62 The HES Historic Land Use Assessment (Ref. 10.10) data for the study area was consulted to identify modern and relict land use.

10.63 Modern land use is predominantly mapped as plantation, with small areas of rough grazing and managed woodland in the vicinity of the access road. No relict land use has been identified within the Site.

Potential for Unknown Heritage Assets

10.64 Within the Site, there is the potential for unknown archaeological sites that could be impacted by activities associated with the construction of the proposed development. The known archaeological sites within the Inner Study Area belong almost entirely to the relatively recent historic periods and are mostly associated with agriculture and stock management. This pattern partly reflects information from readily available historic maps.

10.65 The entire Site has formed part of an area of plantation forestry, in some places for over eighty years. This level of disturbance will have reduced the potential for significant archaeological remains to survive within the Site.

10.66 The record of prehistoric activity within the Inner Study Area is extremely sparse, taking the form of a single poorly located isolated find. This find was found in peat of a depth of 1.3-1.4m, which is deeper than any deposits found within the Site (see Chapter 11: Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology). This would suggest that the find actually came from outside of the Site. It is therefore considered that the potential for unrecorded prehistoric heritage assets within the Site is low.

10.67 There are no records of Roman period activity in the Inner Study Area. Taking into account possible native sites, as well as Roman ones, it is considered that the potential for unrecorded Roman period heritage assets is low.

10.68 There are no records of early medieval activity in the Inner Study Area. It is considered that the potential for unrecorded heritage assets of this period is low. Although there are no definite records of medieval activity within the Inner Study Area, some of the undated assets may be of medieval date and it is possible that some of the post-medieval assets may have medieval origins. It is considered that the potential for unrecorded medieval assets to survive within the proposed development area is low to moderate.

10.69 The Inner Study Area has produced a number of assets of post-medieval age. Although a number of such assets have been identified through historic maps and the archaeological implemented mitigation for the Clashindarroch Wind Farm and for forestry operations, it is possible that additional features, particularly in the vicinity of recorded assets, do survive. It is therefore considered that there is a moderate potential for unrecorded heritage assets from this post-medieval period to survive.

FUTURE BASELINE

10.70 In the absence of the proposed development, baseline conditions would continue to evolve. The main factor in change would be the continued impacts of the forestry regime. The precise effects of this land use would depend on the approaches taken, such as varying felling and planting cycles, and possible changes to infrastructure such as re-routing or upgrading forestry tracks. The limited number of upstanding buildings among the heritage assets would also be subject to the normal impacts of long-term weathering.

ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS

Assessment of Assets Heritage Significance

10.71 A total of 42 heritage assets have been recorded within the Site. These heritage assets have been assessed and assigned a heritage significance using the methodology detailed in Table 10-2. The heritage significance of each of the assets within the Inner Study Area is given in Appendix 10.1: Assessment Methodology.

10.72 The assets within the Inner Study Area are in various states of preservation, from below-ground archaeology and low earthworks to standing buildings. The majority of the assets are of post-medieval and modern age. Although some of the assets may have been related as parts of former

working landscapes, the degree of survival is fragmentary and the historic landscape largely disrupted by historically recent forestry. This, combined with the relatively limited level of preservation and the commonness of the heritage asset types, has led to them being assessed as having Low or Negligible heritage significance.

Embedded Mitigation and Good Practice Measures

10.73 The assessment of effects has been based on the proposed development description as outlined in Chapter 3: Description of the Development. The proposed development has undergone a number of design iterations and has evolved in response to all environmental and technical constraints identified as part of the baseline research. The final proposed layout as shown on Figure 10.1 has therefore embedded design-based mitigation in order to avoid heritage assets where ever possible and to reduce the magnitude of direct impacts where heritage assets cannot be completely avoided.

Construction Effects

10.74 It is considered that the construction of the proposed development could have potential direct impacts on below ground archaeology within the Site, and potential indirect impacts on designated assets which are sensitive to change and which could affect their setting. Indirect impacts for the purposes of the proposed development may be characterised as an alteration of the landscape setting of those heritage assets which have an open aspect towards the Site. The contribution of the setting to the asset has been examined with respect to the role it plays in the heritage significance of the asset. Although all these assets themselves are rated as having particular levels of importance, the impacts would affect the setting of the assets, and would therefore affect the contribution that the setting makes to the heritage significance of the asset, rather than to the assets themselves. The settings of the assets may not necessarily be of the same value as the associated asset.

Potential Effects

10.75 Direct impacts would derive from any ground works which form part of the construction phase of the proposed development. Specific components which have the potential to cause impacts in this way include:

- excavation of turbine bases, substation foundations, crane hard standings, borrow pits and cable trenches;
- forestry operations associated with the proposed development, particularly where these entail stump and root removal, and
- construction and upgrading of access tracks, working compounds and laydown areas.

10.76 Where significant ground disturbance takes place, these activities would remove or change any heritage assets within the area of ground disturbance. This damage would be irreversible and permanent. In a number of cases, the potential direct impact would be the result of trenching for new cables. The cables are proposed to run alongside the access track or in places under the track. As the precise route of the cables are not yet known (in terms of which side of the track they would be installed along particular track sections, or which sections would lie within the track), the assessment has assumed the greatest realistic impact magnitude for each potentially impacted

asset.

10.77 A number of heritage assets have been identified that might receive direct impacts. The predicted effect significance is given in Table 10-7. The effects are all assessed of being of negligible or very slight significance, and therefore would not be considered significant under EIA Regulations.

Table 10-7
Predicted Effect Significance of Direct Impacts on Heritage Assets within the Proposed Development

Asset name	SLR Number	Heritage Significance	Impact Source	Impact Magnitude	Significance of Effect
The Shank, hollow way	**2**	Low	Track/Cabling/ Turbine base	Low adverse	Very slight
Corrydown, mill lade	**4**	Low	Track/Cabling	Medium adverse	Very slight
Corrydown, track	**9**	Negligible	Track/Cabling	Very Low adverse	Negligible
Corrydown, cottage and garden	**11**	Low	Track/Cabling	Low adverse	Very slight
Killin Burn, dam and lade	**14**	Low	Track/Cabling	Low adverse	Very slight
Ern's Criv, hollow way	**17**	Low	Track/Cabling	Low adverse	Very slight
Corshalloch, farmstead and lade	**18**	Low	Track/Cabling	Very Low adverse	Negligible
Kye Hill, lime kilns	**38**	Negligible	Track	Very Low adverse	Negligible
Queels, farmstead and enclosures	**40**	Low	Track/Laydown	Low/ Very Low adverse	Very slight /Negligible
Wellheads, remains of farmstead	**41**	Low	Track/Cabling	Medium adverse	Very slight
Wellheads, farmstead	**42**	Low	Track/Cabling	Low adverse	Very slight

Mitigation

10.78 Mitigation in relation to most heritage assets has been embedded into the design of the proposed infrastructure, in order to avoid direct impacts wherever possible.

10.79 For the assets listed in Table 10-7 additional, appropriate mitigation would be undertaken in the form of:

- fencing off assets that might be accidentally damaged during construction works; and
- a watching brief on the elements of the ground works that would have a direct impact on the heritage assets.

10.80 The precise scope of the watching brief would be negotiated with Aberdeenshire Council and the agreed mitigation programme would be documented in a Written Scheme of Investigation.

Residual Effects

10.81 The completion of the archaeological mitigation programme outlined above would minimise the loss of the archaeological resource that could occur as a result of the construction of the proposed development. No significant residual effects are anticipated in relation to direct effects from the construction of the proposed development.

Operational Effects

Potential Effects within the Proposed Development

10.82 The current setting of the heritage assets within the main part of the Inner Study Area is dense areas of conifer plantation. Even in those areas that are currently felled, the current ground forms show clear signs of forestry ploughing and tree stumps and brash form the current visual environment, with unfelled forestry forming effective boundaries to any sight lines. The original landscape around these assets would have been open, with the heritage assets that formed the agricultural landscape probably contributing the main setting element for each other. The change from a landscape that was previously open to the current afforested landscape which masks the historic landscape and blocks sight lines, means that the setting makes no contribution to the heritage significance of these heritage assets.

10.83 The operation of the wind turbines would not therefore make an additional impact on the contribution of the setting to the heritage significance of these heritage assets. The resulting significance of effect is therefore predicted to be Nil and **Not Significant** in relation to the EIA Regulations.

10.84 The ZTV predicts that those heritage assets that are outside of the area of forestry, along the access track and in the area of the sub-station would not be intervisible with the proposed turbines, and therefore there would be no effect due to setting change. Effects would therefore be **Not Significant**.

10.85 The current setting of the heritage assets within the inner and outer study area could be affected by the lighting at the top of the turbines. However due to the screening of forestry the aviation lighting will prove to be N**ot Significant** in EIA terms.

Predicted Effects Outwith the Proposed Development

10.86 When considering the designated heritage assets listed in Table 10-6, the ZTV of the proposed development (see Figure 10.2) indicates that the heritage assets listed in Table 10-8 within the Outer Study Area would be theoretically intervisible with at least the blade tips of one or more turbines. As noted above (see paragraph 10.48), Cnoc Cailliche fort (**SM11681**) has also been considered below. The other assets listed in Table 10-6 that are not within the ZTV have not been assessed further.

Table 10-8
Designated Heritage Assets in Outer Study Area within the ZTV

Name	Type and Category	Index/Reference Number
Wormy Hillock, henge 690m west north west of Finglenny	Scheduled Monument	**SM3278**
Tap O' Noth, fort	Scheduled Monument	**SM63**
Coynachie Mill	Listed Building, Category B	**LB9206**

Coynachie Mill

10.87 Coynachie Mill (**LB9206**) is situated in a small depression, surrounded by other buildings and shelter belt planting which would effectively screen the asset from being intervisible with the proposed development. It has therefore not been considered further.

Tap O' Noth

10.88 Tap O' Noth fort Scheduled Monument (**SM63**) is approximately 4.7km, at its closest, to the nearest proposed turbine. The fort occupies one of the highest hills in the region, and is the second highest hill fort in Scotland. The fort consists of an inner and outer rampart, with a large number of hut platforms recorded between the two. The outer rampart is a single rampart constructed of massive stones, and has been heavily robbed. The inner rampart largely consists of a massive mound of rubble, but areas of vitrified rock survive, where the original timber-laced rampart was fired. It is thought that the vitrified ramparts overlie the remains of earlier ramparts. Although hill forts are conventionally dated to the Iron Age, hill forts are known to have been occupied/reoccupied in the early medieval period.

10.89 Tap O' Noth is currently included in a research programme undertaken by the Universities of Aberdeen and Chester aimed at investigating this possibility and the relationship of the site to other archaeological sites in the area of this period, including Cnoc Cailliche fort (**SM11681**). There is later evidence of use of the site in the form of an Act of Parliament 1455, ordering the use of beacon fires on the hill in the event of invasion.

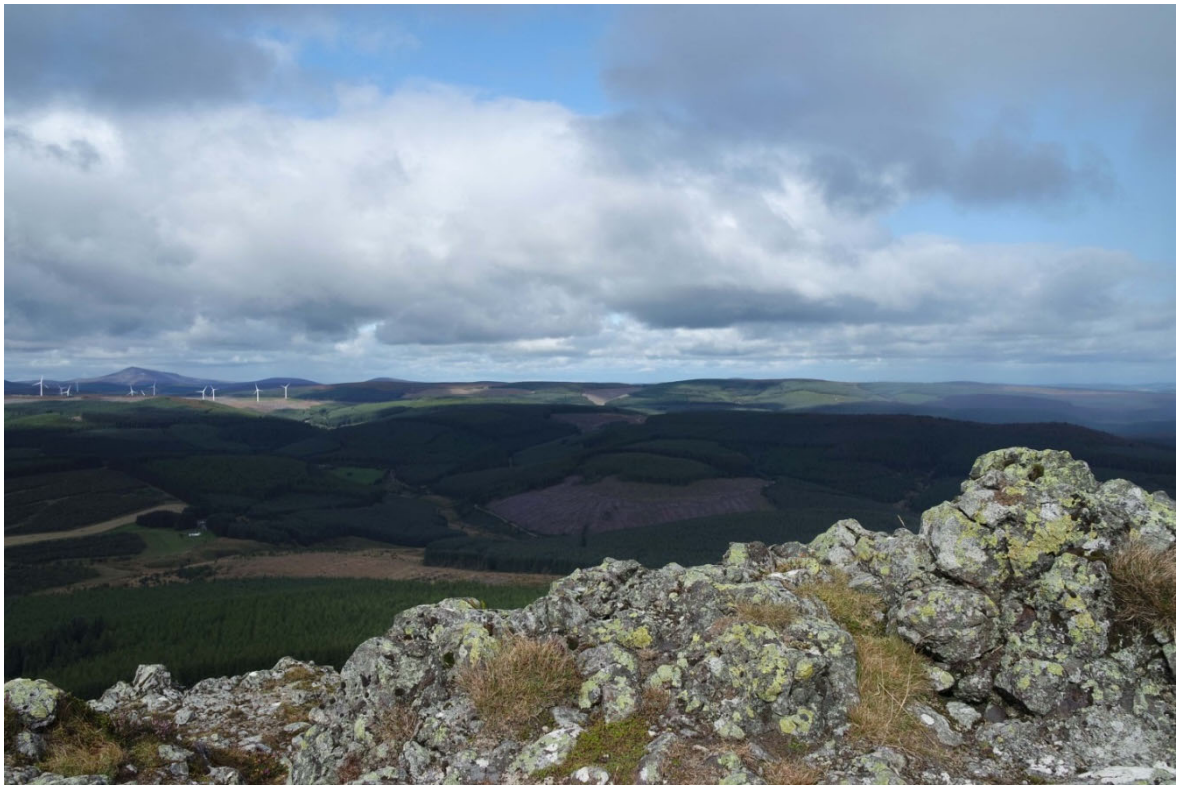

Plate 10.1:
View north west from Tap O' Noth inner ramparts towards the Clashindarroch Wind Farm and the proposed Clashindarroch II Wind Farm

10.90 Tap O' Noth hill forms a dominant presence in the immediate area and can be seen over considerable distances. The views from the hill fort, especially the inner ramparts, extend to great distances, especially towards the south east and east, where the North Sea is visible in clear conditions. To the south views from the inner ramparts do not extend as far, but do have commanding views of the ridge of hills in that direction. To the west the views are more constrained by the series of ridges and hills that lie in that direction. These long distance views and the visual dominance of Tap O' Noth hill are the principal element of the setting of the fort, reflecting both the strategic value of such a location in controlling the surrounding area, and the visual display of status made by those who controlled Tap O' Noth. Clear visibility in the surrounding region is also implied in the Act of Parliament concerning lighting of the beacons.

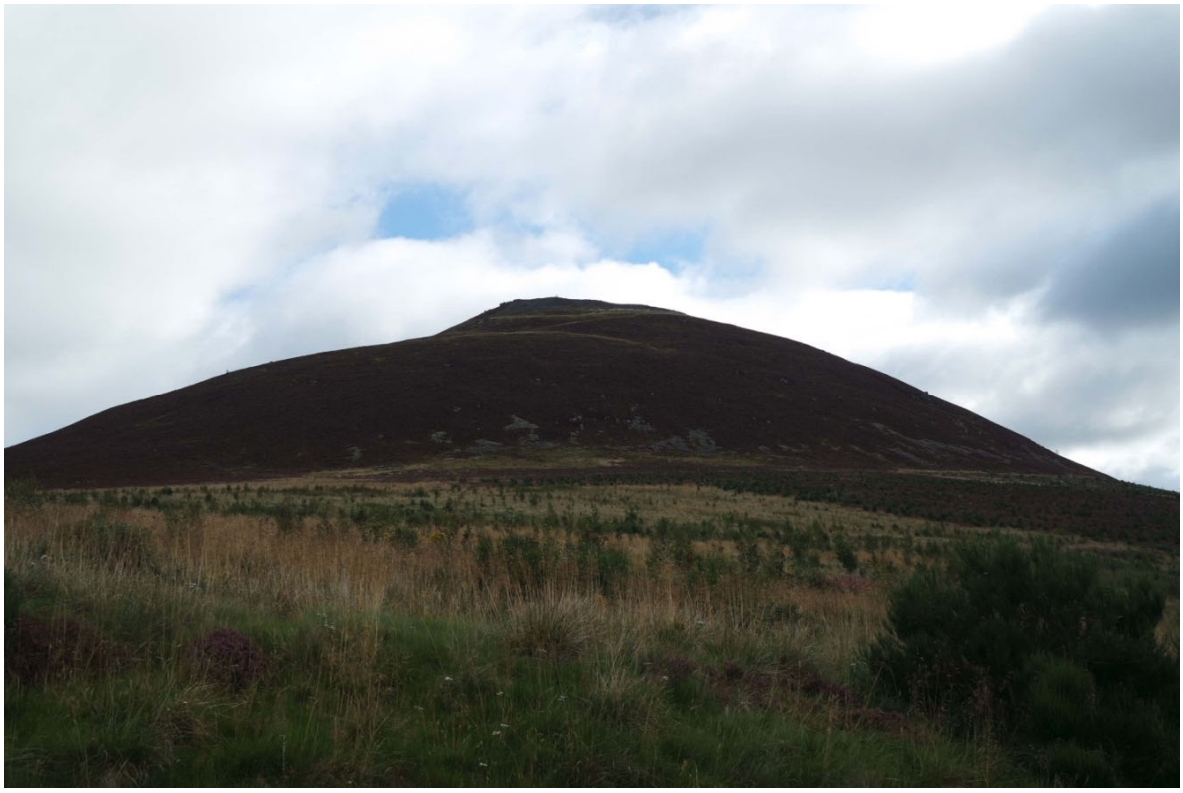

Plate 10.2:
Tap O' Noth from the south west

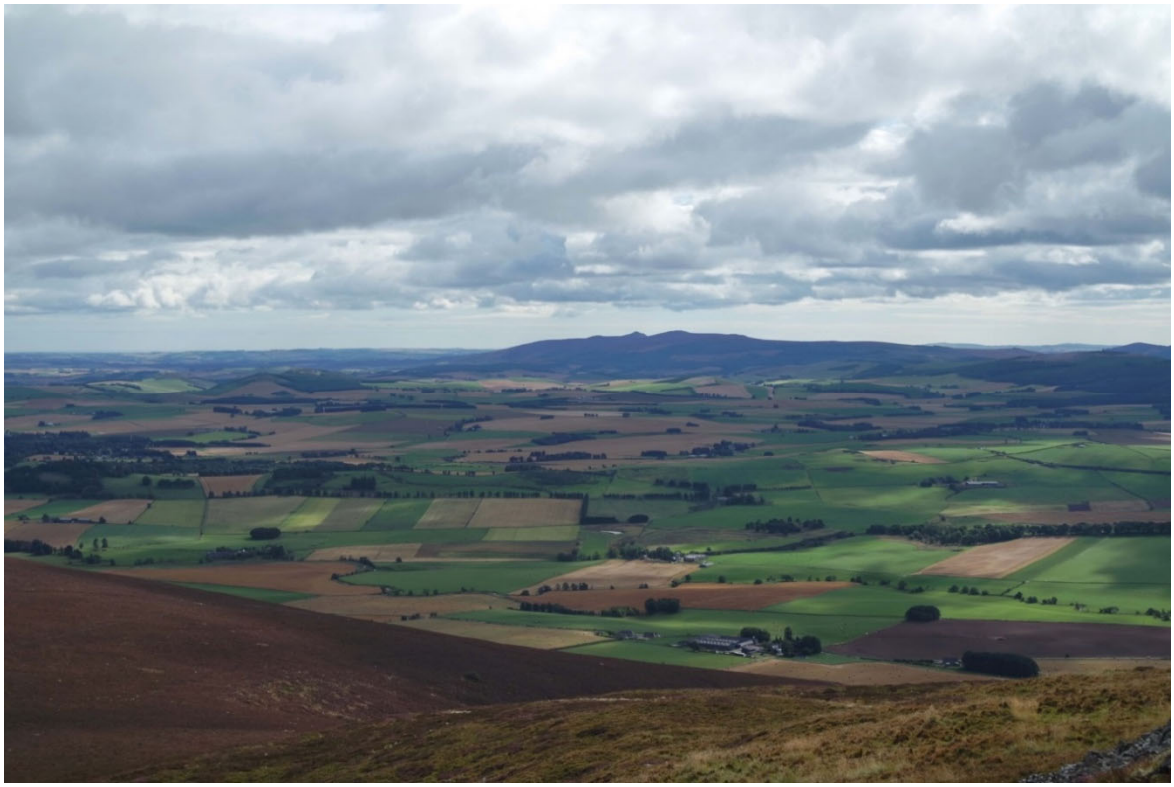

Plate 10.3
Long distance views south east from Tap O' Noth

10.91 A related element of the setting of Tap O' Noth is its visual relationship with other heritage assets that were also centres of power, in particular other hill forts. It has been posited that smaller hill fort sites within the surrounding area would have formed subordinate centres of power to Tap O' Noth. This has been particularly raised with respect to Cnoc Cailliche fort. The direct visual relationship between the sites, including the size differences and the height differences between the forts, implies a regional power hierarchy with Tap O' Noth fort being the paramount of the hierarchy.

10.92 As part of the modern setting of Tap O' Noth, it is a promontory figure in the landscape that dominates the setting. The fort can be seen from the A97 and B9002 concerns were raised in consultation with Historic Environment Scotland however in reference to Figure 10.2 the proposed development shall not be visible in conjunction with Tap O' Noth.

10.93 The current visual environment includes a number of operational wind farms, including the turbines of the Clashindarroch Wind Farm. Because of the altitude of Tap O' Noth and the distances involved, these form minor features in the overall landscape (see Figures 10.6 and 10.7). The closest current turbines are those of the Clashindarroch Wind Farm and Dorenell Wind Farm. These are situated to the north west of Tap O' North in an area with more constrained views than those views to the south east and east (see Figure 10.7).

10.94 The proposed turbines of the Clashindarroch II Wind Farm would be situated to the north west, in the area with more constrained views due to the topography. They would form a horizontal increment to the existing Clashindarroch Turbines and appear of a larger size. They would not form a major element in the landscape in that direction, in most cases with the turbine hubs not breaking the skyline when viewed from the ramparts (Figure 10.6 and 10.7). They would not all be visible from all locations along the inner ramparts, and not at all within most of the interior of the inner ramparts, or the southern third of the scheduled area. The proposed turbines would also not impinge on the visual relationship between Tap O' Noth and the other nearby hill forts, particularly Cnoc Cailliche, as these are situated away from that area, to the south west of Tap O' Noth (the view towards Tap O' Noth from Cnoc Cailliche is dealt with below).

10.95 As the proposed turbines would form a small scale addition to the wider landscape as viewed from Tap O' Noth, and would not impinge on views towards other hill forts or the lower land to the south and south east, it has been assessed that the impacts due to a change in setting caused by the proposed development would have a very low adverse magnitude of impact. This would result in a slight effect on the heritage significance of Tap O' Noth, that would be N**ot Significant** in EIA terms. The historic use of Tap O' Noth for beacons suggests that night-time visibility might be of some heritage significance for this monument, and therefore the lighting proposed for the turbines also needs assessment. The red lights required by the CAA could potentially be visible on some turbines on clear nights, and be recognisable as alien to the setting, but collectively this would comprise a relatively small and discrete change to the existing baseline, and as such is assessed as a very low adverse impact which results in a slight effect, N**ot Significant** in EIA terms.

Wormy Hillock

10.96 Wormy Hillock henge (**SM3278**) is a small henge, approximately 13m across, characteristic of the henges found in north eastern Scotland. It has a small hummock in the centre, and abuts a small but steep hillock immediately to the north. The current setting of the henge gives an impression of confinement, with short distance views. This is emphasised by the dense forestry close to the asset to the east and west. However, this effect is not entirely due to the forestry: the henge is situated

in a narrow valley, as the wireframe model demonstrates (see Figure 10.8). The principal view from the henge is approximately south east, which is the direction that the probable entrance faces. The relatively constrained landscape scale in which the henge is situated appears to be typical of a range of 'ritual' monuments in the north east of Scotland, including some recumbent stone circles, standing stones and cairns. The setting of the henge is therefore a topographically constrained area with a principal view to the south east. The setting makes an important contribution to the heritage significance of the henge, in terms of helping to understand the constrained scale of the site.

Plate 10.4
Wormy Hillock henge, facing south east

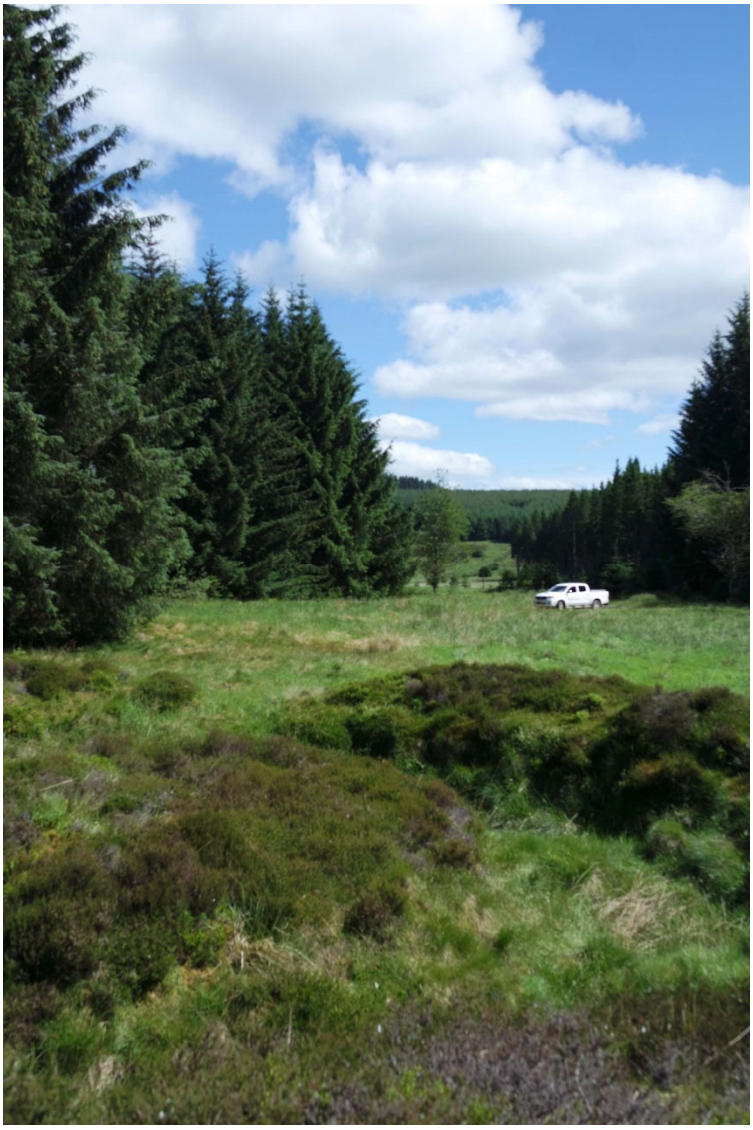

Plate 10.5
View south east from interior of Wormy Hillock henge, probable entrance on left of frame

10.97 Views towards the proposed development would be topographically screened. The wireframe model (Figure 10.8) and ZTV model do not take account of the small hillock immediately to the north of the henge, which would further screen the proposed development from the henge (plate 10.6). The wireline drawing suggests five turbines would be visible from the henge, however the turbines would be screened by the local topography and forestry. The current forestry felling schedule is in place until 2031 (Figure 3.2.4) and indicates that the trees in the immediate area of the henge would be felled in 2031. Those to the north of the henge would be felled between 2041 and 2050, and it is assumed that when the trees are felled they would be replanted. The forestry itself significantly impacts upon the current setting of the monument, and the ability to appreciate the contribution setting makes to the understanding of the henge. The turbines would be positioned in the opposite direction to the principal view from the henge and would not further distract from experiencing the henge and appreciating it within its setting. It is therefore assessed that the proposed development would have no impact on the setting and therefore the heritage significance of Wormy Hillock henge. Effects on setting would therefore be **Not Significant**.

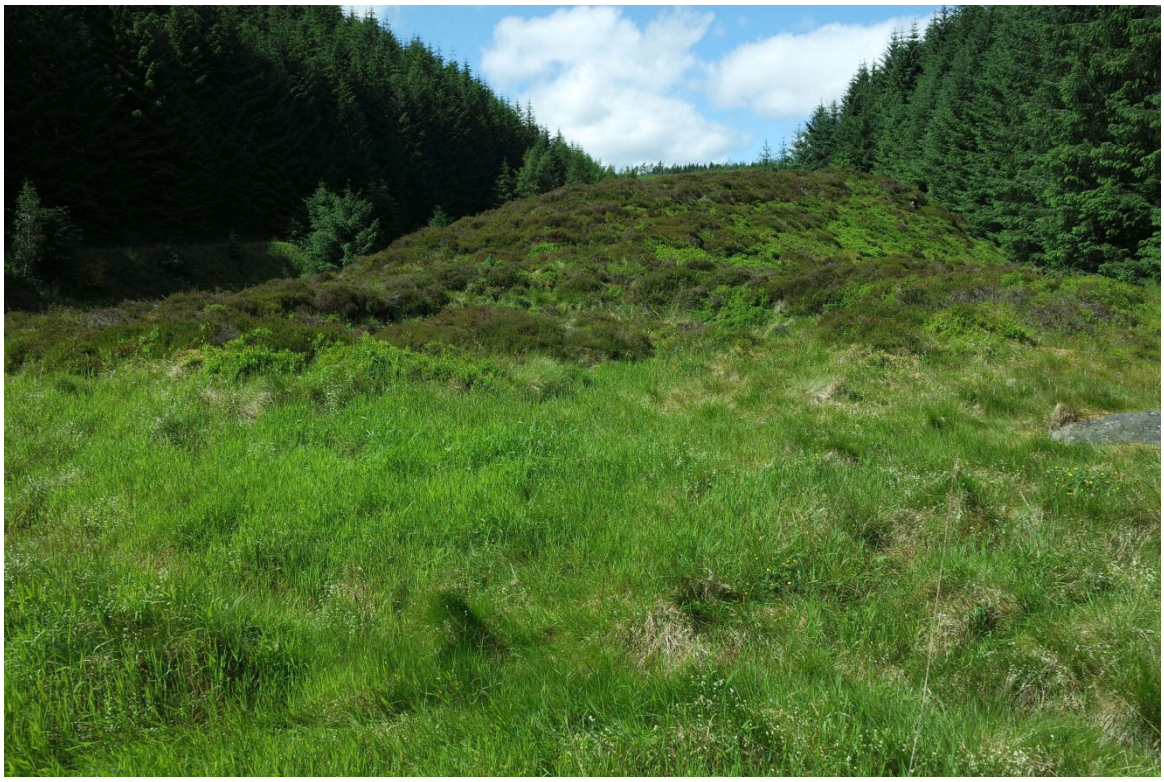

Plate 10.6
View north west across henge towards the proposed development. Wormy Hillock in upper centre of frame

Cnoc Cailliche Fort

10.98 Cnoc Cailliche fort (**SM11681**) is a relatively small fort, the rampart being a single ditch, with main inner bank and slight counterscarp bank. The probable entrance is to the north east. Although this type of site is conventionally dated to the Iron Age, it has been posited that some of these monuments were used and possibly remodelled in the early medieval period. Cnoc Cailliche has been subject to recent archaeological investigation, partly in order to test this hypothesis

10.99 The main element of the setting of the fort is the relatively wide-ranging views from it. Although the views are not as extensive as those from the inner rampart of Tap O' Noth, the fort has relatively long range views over the lower lying rolling ground, particularly to the east and south east. The fort also commands views of the shallow dry valleys to the west and north west, although these views are constrained to a distance of 2-3km. As a hill fort, wide ranging views from the fort reflect the strategic role of forts in controlling areas of landscape. The visual prominence of the fort over the local landscape reflects the function of the fort as a means of displaying status.

10.100 Another element in the setting of the fort is the visual relationship with the hillfort on Tap O' Noth, which dominates the local skyline. It has been argued that local hillforts, especially Cnoc Cailliche were occupied at the same time as the fort at Tap O' Noth. The direct visual relationship between the sites, including the size differences and the height differences between the forts, implies a regional power hierarchy with Cnoc Cailliche being subordinate to Tap O' Noth fort in that hierarchy.

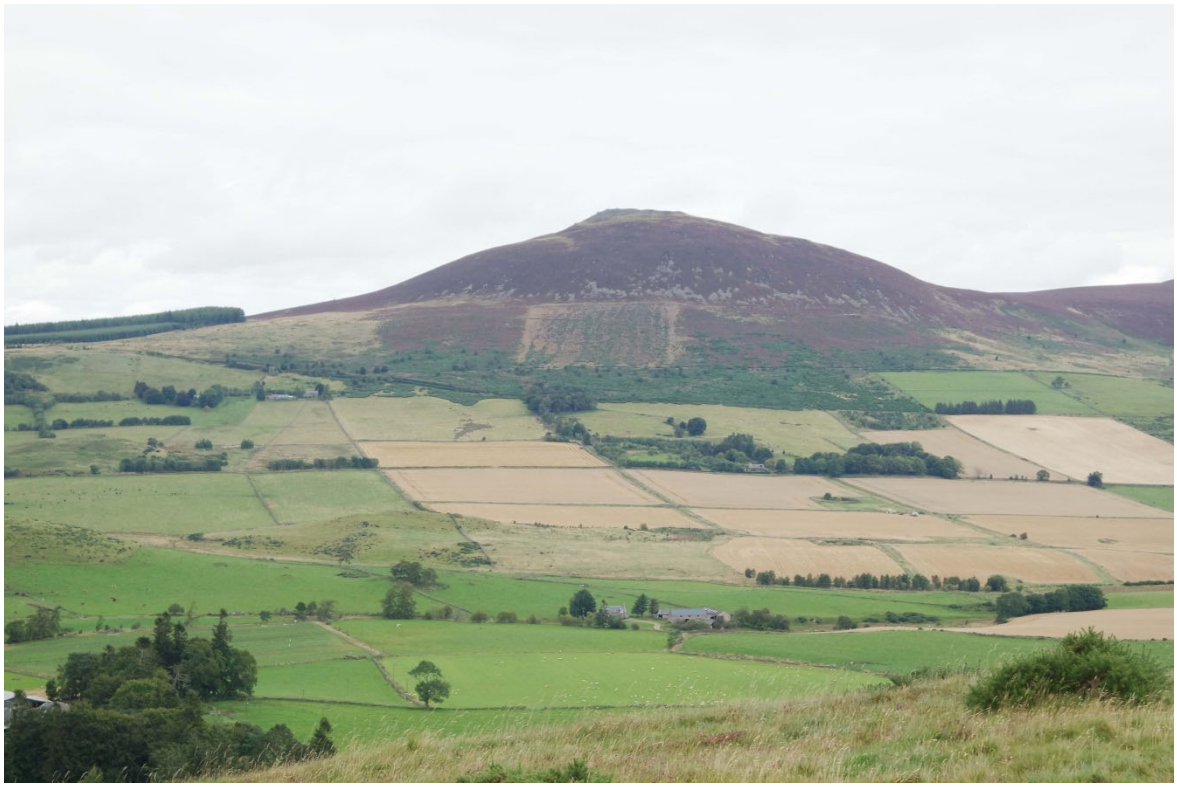

Plate 10.7
View north east from Cnoc Cailliche to Tap O' Noth, with inner rampart of Tap O' Noth visible on pinnacle

10.101 The current visual environment includes a number of wind turbines, particularly the two turbines close by at Upper Wheedlemont (see No. 58 on Figure 7.7a), as well as more distant views, including those of the Clashindarroch Wind Farm and Dorenell Wind Farm to the North West and Kildrummy to the south south west (see Figure 10.9). Although the turbines at the Clashindarroch Wind Farm appear above the skyline, they are not within the main long distance views to the east and south east, or within the view between Cnoc Cailliche and Tap O' Noth.

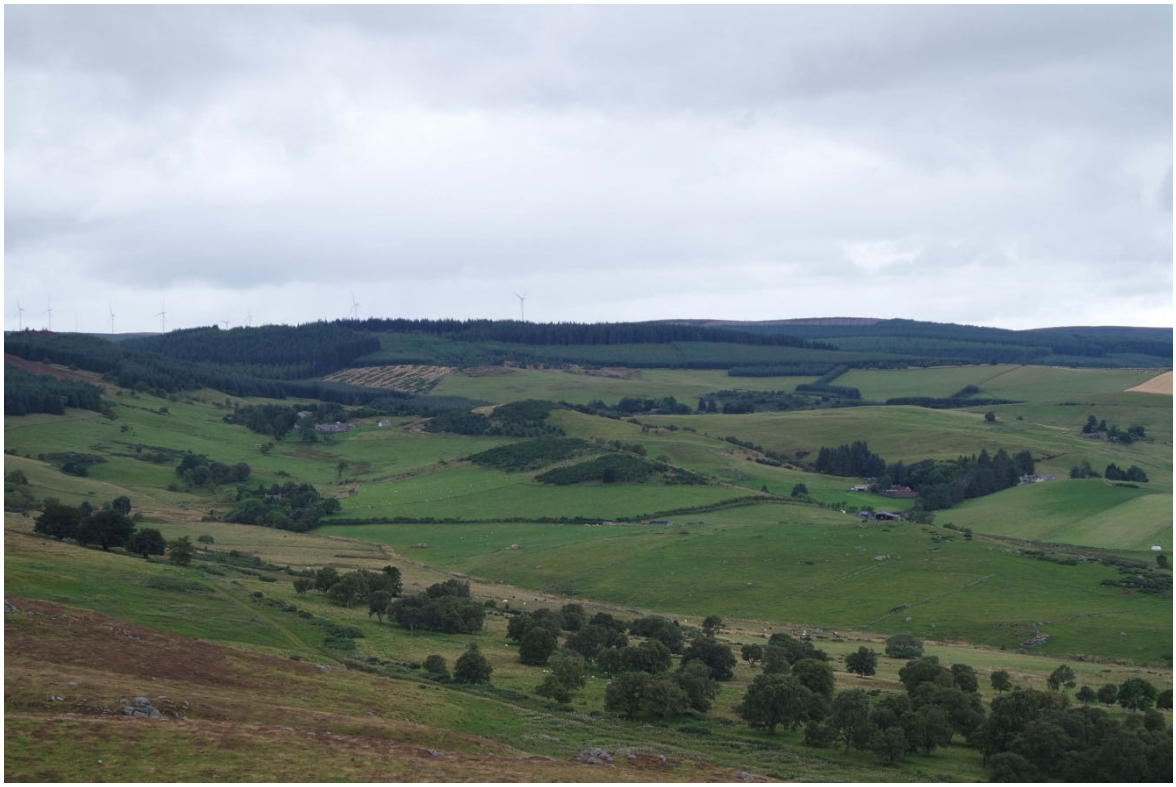

Plate 10.8
View north west from Cnoc Cailliche to the Clashindarroch Wind Farm (left of frame) and the proposed location of the Clashindarroch II Wind Farm (right of frame)

10.102 The proposed development would extend the distance over which turbines would be visible. The wireframe model (Figure 10.9) indicates that they would appear to have a similar scale to the Clashindarroch Wind Farm when viewed from Cnoc Cailliche, and fewer of the turbines would break the skyline. At the distance involved, approximately 6.8km, the proposed turbines would not form a dominant element in the views, and blade movement would be barely discernible, meaning distraction due to movement would be negligible. The extension of the view of turbines by the proposed development would be a relatively small incremental increase and would form a very small part of total views around the fort. The proposed turbines would not be positioned within the key elements of the setting noted above, that is long distance views to the east and south east, or towards Tap O' Noth. It is therefore assessed that the level of change in the setting that contributes to experiencing and appreciating Cnoc Cailliche fort would have a Neutral impact on the heritage significance of the asset, and therefore would have an effect of no significance, that would be **Not Significant.**

Heritage Assets Outwith the Outer Study with Potential Impact on Setting

Craw Stane

10.103 The Craw Stane (**SM69**) is a class 1 Pictish symbol stone. The Craw Stane is a rectangular block of grey granite. Its SW face bears the incised figure of a fish and, immediately below it, a Pictish beast. The Craw Stane also includes a crop mark enclosure that encircles the stone. Current research on the enclosure was carried out by the University of Aberdeen in 2017.

10.104 The Landscape in which the Craw Stane (**SM69**) site sits within comprises low lying rolling hills, with

Tap O' Noth, (**SM63**) to the north west of the site. The site has large agricultural farming in the surrounding fields.

10.105 The Proposed Development would theoretically have eight predicted blade tips visible 8km to the north west, however modern ground cover will hinder the visibility of the proposed development due to trees lining the A97 that runs adjacent on the western side of Craw Stane. Other wind farms are currently visible to the south of Craw Stane (**SM69).** Such wind farms are Upper Wheedlemont wind farm that lies 2.4km to the south west of Craw Stane as well as Cairnmore wind farm that lies 1.6km to the south east of the Craw Stane.

10.106 The proposed development does not directly impact the Craw Stane (**SM69**) due to its main landscape associations being with other standing stones in the vicinity of Rhynie village 1km to the north, Standing Stones such as the Rhynie Man (**SM11869**) as well as Mill of the North (**SM33**). Intervisibility between these monuments is not in the direction of the proposed development, and any glimpse of the blades would be peripheral and far off in the distance (Figure 10.3).

10.107 It is therefore assessed that the level of change in the setting that contributes to experiencing and appreciating Craw Stane would have a Neutral impact on the heritage significance of the asset, and therefore would have a Neutral effect, which would be **Not Significant** in EIA terms**.**

Ord Stone Circle and Nether Wheedlemont Stone Circle

10.108 Ord Stone Circle (**SM51**) is a monument in which only two stones, or monoliths, remain. The monument comprises the remains of a stone circle dating to the Bronze Age. A survey in 1902 records there being an additional three monoliths arranged in a circular fashion.

10.109 Nether Wheedlemont Stone Circle located approximately 450m to the south west of the Ord Stone Circle. Similarly, only two stones survive of this asset. Prehistoric stone circles are conventionally dated to the Neolithic or early Bronze Age periods, and Nether Wheedlemount is potentially contemporaneous with the Ord Stone Circle.

10.110 The two monuments are situated upon a low shoulder of land at the base of Tap O' Noth, between Tap O' Noth and Cnoc Cailliche (**SM11681**), on sloping ground overlooking Den Burn and Ord Burn located 200m to 400m to the south east of the assets. The Ord Stone Circle lies at the base of a small hillock within a pastural field. It lies 80m from a small farm track and minor road. Nether Wheedlemont Stone Circle is currently situated with another field with minor road and plantation trees approximately 50m to the north of the asset. These plantation trees are situated between the two assets. Nether Wheedlemont Farm is located approximately 80m to the south west of the Nether Wheedlemont Stone Circle.

10.111 Two turbines of the Upper Wheedlemont Wind Farm are located approximately 1km to 1.5km to the south west of the two assets. Two of the three turbines of Kildrummy Wind Farm are visible approximately 3km to the south east of Ord Stone Circle, but are not visible from Nether Wheedlemont Stone Circle.

10.112 Two turbines of the Upper Wheedlemont Wind Farm are located approximately 1km to 1.5km to the south west of these assets. Two of the three turbines of Kildrummy Wind Farm are visible approximately 3km to the south east of the asset.

10.113 The focus of the setting which allows us to understand and appreciate these assets is the

relationship between them, with the two burns, and the lower land to the east of the monuments. Views to the west are restricted by the local topography, and do not significantly contribute to our understanding or appreciation of these assets.

10.114 The wireline drawings (Figures 10.4 and 10.5) indicate 10 turbines of the proposed development would be visible to the north of each asset. Of these turbines only four hubs would be theoretically visible, with the remainder would be viewed as turning blades only. From Whether Needlemont Stone Circle, in its current setting the plantation trees would screen most of all these turbines from view.

10.115 The magnitude of the impact on the appreciation of the stone circles by the proposed development would be neutral. There would be Neutral effect that would be **Not Significant** in EIA terms.

Gallows Hill Cairn

10.116 The monument comprises a cairn that is believed to be a Bronze Age burial mound due to its size and shape. The name indicates that is was later used as a site for gallows.

10.117 The site lies at the base of Tap O' Noth (**SM63**), the Proposed Development is theoretically visible at 5km distance, with two to three turbine blade tips being visible. However, this would not affect the overall landscape and relationship with other assets in the vicinity as the principal other historic monuments which would form part of the important intervisibility of the area (Tap O' Noth fort 2km to the north east, or Cnoc Cailliche fort c.2km to the south, or the standing stones to the east around Rhynie), all lie in the opposite direction from that of the proposed development.

10.118 It is therefore assessed that the level of change in the setting that contributes to experiencing and appreciating Gallows Hill Cairn would have a Neutral impact on the heritage significance of the asset, and therefore would have an effect of Neutral significance, that would be **Not Significant.**

Mitigation

10.119 For assets in the Outer Study Area the potential for mitigating impact on setting is limited, particularly as the historic landscape in the region is relatively open, and most forms of screening, such as tree planting, might also impact negatively on the understanding and appreciation of the setting of the cultural heritage assets. As the predicted significance of effect for setting impacts would be Negligible, no additional mitigation has been suggested.

Residual Effects

10.120 The significance of effects on setting for all of the cultural heritage assets in the study areas is considered to be Negligible. As noted above, mitigation of setting impacts is limited and may be detrimental in its own right and therefore no mitigation of indirect impacts has been suggested. Therefore, the residual effects of the operation of the proposed development would also be Negligible, and **Not Significant** in EIA terms.

Further Survey Requirements and Monitoring

10.121 No further survey or monitoring is required to inform this impact assessment.

SUMMARY OF PREDICTED EFFECTS

10.122 Table 10-9 summarises the predicted effects of the proposed development on cultural heritage assets.

Table 10-9
Summary of Predicted Effects

Predicted Effect	Significance	Proposed Mitigation	Residual Effects
Direct effect on known heritage assets within the Site.	Negligible	Watching brief and fencing off of the assets.	Nil
Indirect effect on setting of heritage assets within the proposed development.	Negligible	None	Negligible
Indirect effect on setting of designated heritage assets.	Negligible	None	Negligible

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS ASSESSMENT

10.123 Operational wind farms have been included as part of the baseline assessment. Cumulative effects have been considered with regard to any wind farm developments that are:

- consented;
- in the planning process as an original submission or in appeal; and
- up to 10km of designated heritage assets.

10.124 The impact assessments identified negligible effects on one heritage asset, Tap O' Noth (SM63). There are no consented wind farm developments or proposed developments within the planning process as original submissions or in appeal within 10km of the Tap O' Noth. There are, therefore, no contributing developments to be considered as part of a cumulative assessment or further cumulative impacts from the proposed development.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

10.125 In summary, the landscape of the Site contains a range of post-medieval and modern agricultural heritage assets, set within a modern conifer plantation. This assessment has considered data from a diverse range of sources in order to determine the presence of cultural heritage assets which may be affected by the proposed development. The potential effects on the identified assets, mitigation measures for protecting known assets during construction, and the recording of currently unknown features which could be lost, and the residual effect of the proposed development have all been considered and no significant effects have been identified.

10.126 Considered alongside data from the Outer Study Area, it is apparent that the Site lies within a landscape which has been farmed and settled over a long period, with assets dating from the later

prehistoric to the present day. The potential for unknown assets dating from these periods to be found within the proposed development location is considered to be low, and the potential indirect impacts through development within the setting of designated heritage assets within the Outer Study Area has been found to be not significant in EIA terms, and the integrity of the setting for the scheduled monuments would remain intact.

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