

VOLUME 1: CHAPTER 13: CULTURAL HERITAGE

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Figures (Volume 2 of this EIA Report)

Figure 13.1: ZTV with Cultural Heritage Designations

Appendices (Volume 4 of this EIA Report)

There are no appendices associated with this Chapter.

13. CULTURAL HERITAGE

13.1 Executive Summary

13.1.1 The Proposed Development is located in a landscape of very sparse features of land use, primarily the use of uplands for seasonal shielings and later sporting activities with a small number of features associated with commercial sheep farming. The most significant use of the area has been as an important land route from the Upper Spey through to the Great Glen, with strategic significance for military movements in the 18th century.

13.1.2 Extensive survey work has been completed across the site of the Proposed Development, as part of other archaeological evaluations, including environmental assessment work for Glendoe Hydroelectric scheme, Stronelaig and Cloiche Wind Farms, Stronelaig Wind Farm buried cable grid connection route, Melgarve Substation and the Beaully-Denny 400 kV OHL. These evaluations have indicated that the potential for direct impacts is low to negligible within the vicinity of the Proposed Development, and the potential for further visible archaeological features is considered to be low to negligible. A detailed assessment of direct impacts is therefore scoped out, and the potential for sub-surface features liable to be disturbed during ground works is also considered to be low.

13.1.3 Within the wider area of the upper Strathspey, there are a small number of cultural heritage sites of national importance with statutory protection. Five Designated assets, one Scheduled Monument (SM) and five listed buildings are located within the study area of 5km. For reasons of both the sensitivity of the Designated assets to indirect impact and the reduction of magnitude of this impact through elements such as minimal breaking of the horizon, setting against other modern landscape elements such as forestry blocks, the significance of any visual impact is considered to be low. One Scheduled Monument has been taken forward for more detailed assessment.

13.1.4 The assessment concludes that there would be no potential significant indirect impacts as a result of the Proposed Development, as the sensitivity of this site is already reduced by the presence of modern elements in the landscape, particularly the presence of the Beaully to Denny 400 kV OHL transmission towers, which are located at closer proximity and cross the arc of view to the Proposed Development from this designated site.

13.2 Introduction

13.2.1 This Chapter considers the potential effects, including cumulative effects, of the Proposed Development on cultural heritage during construction and operation as described in **Chapter 3: The Proposed Development**.

13.2.2 The assessment has been prepared by Catherine Dagg, BA, an Associate member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) based in Wester Ross, Scotland. As described in **Appendix 5.1**, Catherine Dagg has over 20 years' experience of producing EIAs for renewable energy and infrastructure developments throughout the Highlands and Islands, including the cultural heritage assessment for Stronelaig Wind Farm grid connection and Melgarve substation. The assessment has been carried out in accordance with the CIfA's code of conduct and relevant standards and guidance, as well as The Highland Council's Standards for Archaeological Work.

13.3 Scope of Assessment

13.3.1 The study area for direct impacts is defined as a broad corridor encompassing the Proposed Development and access via the existing trackway which runs to the east. Within this Corridor only one non-designated asset has been identified during field survey: a late 19th century boundary fence, originally of iron post and wire, which runs approximately east-west.

13.3.2 The study area for potential indirect impacts and impacts on setting of designated assets has been taken as 5km.

Issues Scoped Out of Assessment

- 13.3.3 Assessment of the effects of the Proposed Development on the settings of World Heritage Sites, Inventory Garden and Designed Landscapes, and Marine Resources has been scoped out. There are no assets with these designations within 3km of the Site.
- 13.3.4 Assessment of the settings of designated heritage assets that fall outside of the 5km study area for the Proposed Development has been scoped out. Where there is not predicted to be visibility of the Proposed Development from these assets their settings would not be adversely affected.
- 13.3.5 Assessment of potential direct impacts on non-designated cultural heritage assets has also been scoped out.

13.4 Consultation

- 13.4.1 To inform the scope of the assessment for the Proposed Development, consultation was undertaken with statutory and non-statutory bodies. **Table 13.1** summarises the scoping responses relevant to cultural heritage and provides information on where and/or how points raised have been addressed in this assessment.
- 13.4.2 Further details on the consultation responses and scoping opinion can be reviewed in **Chapter 4: Scope and Consultation**, and associated appendices.

Table 13.1: Scoping Responses

Organisation & Date	Summary of Consultation Response	EIA/Design Response to Consultee
Historic Environment Scotland (HES) 20 th November 2024	We consider that the proposal is unlikely to have significant adverse impacts on heritage assets within our remit. We would therefore be content for our historic environment interests to be scoped out of EIA.	At the Highland Council's request, an assessment of the indirect effects on designated cultural heritage assets are included within this chapter.
The Highland Council (THC) 29 th February 2024	<p>The Council's Historic Environment Team has not provided further comments.</p> <p>The closest scheduled monument to the site is SM 6129 Corrieyairack Pass, military road, Melgarve to Allt Ruadh. Additionally, several features of interest are recorded within or close to the proposed route. These mostly consist of the remains of historic land use such as areas of shieling settlement. There remains the potential for further features or remains to be present, however, direct impacts to cultural heritage are not envisaged to be a significant constraint across this landscape.</p> <p>Careful design and siting will allow direct impacts to be avoided, where this is not possible, mitigation will be required. An assessment will be required to consider the potential indirect impacts, particularly to the scheduled Corrieyairick Pass route.</p> <p>The indirect impact assessment must include a study of cumulative impacts and where indirect impacts are predicted, these will be illustrated using photomontages. Where impacts are unavoidable, methods to mitigate this impact shall be considered, including both physical (i.e. re-design) and where appropriate, compensatory/off-setting.</p>	Assessment of the indirect effects on designated cultural heritage assets are included within this chapter.

Organisation & Date	Summary of Consultation Response	EIA/Design Response to Consultee
The Highland Council (Historic Environment Team) 7 th March 2024	I confirm that there is justification in carrying out a Cultural Heritage Assessment to illustrate the impacts on the scheduled pass and perhaps more importantly, the approach to the pass from the east (which will form part of its setting).	An assessment of the indirect effects on designated cultural heritage assets are included within this chapter.

13.5 Methodology

13.5.1 Detailed field survey has already been carried out within the vicinity of the Proposed Development through evaluations for Glendoe Hydro Scheme (C.Dagg 2002 EHG4333), Stronelaig Wind Farm (C.Dagg 2011, ENG4606), Stronelaig Wind Farm Buried Cable Grid Connection Route (C. Dagg 2014 EHG4697) and Glenshero Wind Farm (Headland Archaeology Ltd 2017, EHG5440) as well as additional field survey during the route and alignment stage for the Melgarve Cluster Project in June 2021. All aspects of Cultural Heritage evaluation have indicated that the potential for direct impacts is low to negligible within the vicinity of the Proposed Development. Any archaeological features of Regional significance occupy the lower ground and within the vicinity of the works there is a small scatter of features, namely marker cairns and fence line of local significance and negligible sensitivity.

13.6 Baseline Description

13.6.1 No designated heritage assets are located within the footprint of any element of the Proposed Development. **Table 13.2** summarises the scheduled monument designated sites and **Table 13.3** summarises the Listed Buildings present within a 5km radius of the site boundary (see **Figure 13.1**).

Table 13.2: Schedule Monuments within 5 km

Site Name	Site type	SM Reference	Grid Reference
Corrieyairack Pass military road, Melgarve to Allt Ruadh	Military Road	6129	NN 41700 98600

Table 13.3: Listed Buildings within 5 km

Site Name	Site type	SM Reference	Grid Reference
Corrieyairack Pass, Melgarve, Drummin Bridge over Caochan Riabhach Burn	Bridge	6895	NN 46348 96104
Corrieyairack Pass, Melgarve, Bridge over Allt Feith a' Mhoraire	Bridge	12373	NN 46871 96094
Garvamore, Garva Bridge over River Spey	Bridge	6900	NN 52173 94750
Garvamore 'Barracks'	Building	6899	NN 52803 94305
Glenshero Lodge	Building	6901	NN 54974 93163

13.7 Legislation, Policy and Guidance

13.7.1 The archaeological and cultural heritage assessment has been carried out with reference to the following legislation, policy and guidance:

Legislation

13.7.2 The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended by Town and Country Planning (Historic Environment Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2015)

Policy

13.7.3 National planning policy relevant to archaeology and cultural heritage that has been considered as part of this assessment includes:

- National Planning Framework for Scotland 4 (NPF4)
- Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS)
- Planning Advice Note 1/2013 (PAN 1): Environmental Impact Assessment
- Planning Advice Note 1/2011 (PAN 2): Planning and Archaeology

13.7.4 Local planning policy relevant to archaeology and cultural heritage that has been considered as part of this assessment includes:

- Highland-wide Local Development Plan (HwLDP)

Guidance

13.7.5 The following best practice guidelines and technical guidance has been considered:

- Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting (HES, 2016)
- Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (ClfA, 2014; updated 2020)
- Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook (Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH (now NatureScot) & HES, 2018)
- Highland Council Standards for Archaeological Work
- Designation Policy and Selection Guidance (HES, published April 2019 and updated December 2020)
- Principles of Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (IEMA, 2021).

13.8 Potential Effects

13.8.1 Of the designated assets listed above, all of the listed buildings are deemed to be either screened from direct views of the Proposed Development or any direct impact on their settings, (Drummin Bridge over Caochan Riabhach, Melgarve Bridge over Allt Feith a'Mhoraire, Garvamore Barracks and Glenshero Lodge) or subject to a small degree of visibility and impact but considered to be of reduced sensitivity to impacts on setting given their functional nature as features of transport and communication (Garva Bridge over River Spey).

13.8.2 Indirect impacts on setting are examined in more detail for one designated asset: Corrieyairack Pass military road, Melgarve to Allt Ruadh.

Sensitivity to Site

13.8.3 While the military road, as a Scheduled Monument, is afforded high sensitivity to visual impact and alterations to its setting, consideration can be given to the original motivation behind the placement of the feature within its

wider landscape and the significance of visual relationships to natural landscape features, other contemporary monuments and lines of communication.

- 13.8.4 The Scheduled Monument consists of a length of military road approximately 4km long, running between Melgarve in the South and the burn Allt Ruadh in the North, being part of the road built between Dalwhinnie and Fort Augustus under the direction of General Wade in 1731. The Statement of National Importance notes: *The monument is of national importance as part of the longest continuous stretch of military road built under the direction of General Wade to survive substantially unaffected by modern alterations. Wade's roads were the first constructed roads of any length in the Scottish Highlands and formed the first post-Roman planned road system in Britain.*
- 13.8.5 The road is understood to have followed approximately the same line as a pre-existing drove route, still in extensive use by drovers until the second half of the 19th century (described as 'Barracks', the Listed building LB6899 is more likely to have been a drovers' inn). While the original road surface of gravel or in places cobbles survives along the scheduled section, the military road east of Melgarve is now metalled and no doubt with improved drainage which would have removed the original uphill ditching. The modern road alignment avoids two of the original bridges (Lb6895 and LB12373) but continues to use the Garva Bridge (LB 6900).
- 13.8.6 The metalled section of the military road between Garvamore and Melgarve is flanked by blocks of mature coniferous planting and the entire length of the military road from Garvamore to Culachy in the Great Glen is accompanied by the Beaully-Denny 400kV line, supported by an access road running west as far as Melgarve. One further modern development adjacent to the non-scheduled section of road is the Melgarve substation.

Existing and Potential Visual Impacts

Corrieyairack Pass Key Vista 1: from West

- 13.8.7 Descending from the high section of the military road, the landscape is dominated by the tall towers of the Beaully to Denny OHL and its accompanying access road. The vista eastwards descending to the strath is marked by a patchwork of mature coniferous blocks and the scars of recently felled areas. Only in short sections is there an uninterrupted view to the wild open ground that would have been the norm at the time of construction and use of the military road. These views are north east up the steep flanks of the Leachdann Chorrach and, further east, south west towards Meallan Odhar.
- 13.8.8 From the Scheduled section of the military road, looking down the strath, any visibility of the Proposed Development is blocked by the intervening high ground. Where the ground drops towards the south, the OHL may briefly be visible but partially screened by coniferous planting before becoming underground on the last short section north of the substation. This is at a distance of 2km from the eastern end of the scheduled section of the military road.

Corrieyairack Pass Key Vista 2: from East

- 13.8.9 The approach to the Scheduled section of the military road is still along the original road line, now surfaced and maintained as a public road. Although it has lost some of its character through being surfaced, this section maintains its historical interest as a link between the contemporary and Listed Garva Bridge and the Scheduled section of the military road. As with the scheduled section, this section is flanked to the north by the pre-existing Beaully to Denny OHL and on both sides by dense blocks of coniferous planting. Only to the west of Melgarve substation are there brief opportunities to view the landscape as it would have been at the time of construction and use of the military road. On the approach from Garva Bridge, the scheduled section does not come into view until the crossing of the Allt Feith a'Mhoraire, some 600m from the start of the scheduled section and over 3km from the Proposed Development.

13.8.10 On the approach to the scheduled monument from the east, the Proposed Development would be intermittently visible from the non-scheduled section of road as the development descends to the substation, for a distance along the road of about 5km. Along this section the scheduled military road would not be visible. Visibility of both the Proposed Development and the scheduled monument from the same location along the road would be at a mid-point between the two and would require a rotation of view of 180°.

13.9 Cumulative Effects

13.9.1 Cumulative indirect effects are considered in relation to the predicted impacts of the consented Cloiche wind farm and the proposed Dell 2 wind farm. The Environmental Impact Assessment for the Cloiche wind farm concluded that the indirect setting effects of the Proposed Development would be neutral, negligible or minor adverse, depending on individual designated heritage assets, and therefore not significant in EIA terms. Consequently, cumulative impacts are likely to be non-significant. The Environmental Impact Assessment for Dell 2 wind farm did not consider there to be any potential impacts on any of the Designated assets included in this evaluation.

13.10 Mitigation

13.10.1 No mitigation is considered necessary for the protection of cultural heritage assets as a result of construction of the Proposed Development.

13.10.2 Only one non-designated cultural heritage asset is predicted to be directly impacted by the Proposed Development: the long boundary fence running west for about 10km from Meall na h-Aisre. This feature is considered to be of local significance and low sensitivity to direct impacts. Only a small section would potentially be damaged and this is considered to not require any form of mitigation.

13.10.3 Whilst an assessment of direct impacts on cultural heritage assets has been scoped out of this assessment, if required under the terms of a planning condition, the scope of any required archaeological watching brief(s) would be agreed in advance through consultation with THC HET in advance of development works commencing and would be set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI).

13.10.4 Formal arrangements would be put in place for any unforeseen archaeological discoveries made by the construction contractor to be reported to a retained professional archaeological organisation. These arrangements would require any unexpected discoveries to be assessed by a retained, professional archaeological advisor and dealt with appropriately, and would make clear the legal responsibilities placed upon those who make unexpected discoveries of archaeological significance. These arrangements would be included as part of the CEMP.

13.11 Residual Effects

13.11.1 Residual indirect impacts on all designated sites with statutory protection are considered to be of a non-significant level.

13.12 Summary and Conclusions

13.12.1 One designated site, the Corrieyairack Pass military road Scheduled Monument, is predicted to receive a low degree of theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development and was taken forward for further assessment. The assessment considers that the monument would likely experience a very low level of visual impact, and that impact on the overall setting of the monument and on appreciation of the monument in its setting would also be considered very low.

13.12.2 This evaluation concludes that there would be no significant direct impacts on archaeological recorded or unrecorded sites, or indirect, visual impacts on sites with statutory protection, as a result of the Proposed Development.