

**Beauly to Blackhillock to New Deer to
Peterhead 400 kV Project
Environmental Impact Assessment Report
Volume 5 | Appendices**

Appendix 11.3 – Cultural Heritage Assessment



APPENDIX 11.3 – CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

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1 Cultural Heritage Assessment

1.1 Assessment of Likely Effects

- 1.1.1 This Appendix provides assessments of impacts on heritage assets from the construction and operational phases of the Proposed Development where effects of Slight Adverse or below are expected prior to mitigation. Effects of Slight Adverse or below are not considered to be significant and are therefore not required to be reported in the main chapter of the EIA Report. Significant effects of Moderate Adverse or above from the construction and operational phases, as well as all physical impacts to heritage assets during construction, are detailed within **Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage**. Effects of Slight Adverse following a Minor Adverse magnitude of impact on a heritage asset of High cultural significance, are also detailed within **Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage**, with justification provided as to why it is not a Moderate Adverse effect as per the methodology set out within **Appendix 11.1: Cultural Heritage Assessment Methodology**.

1.2 Construction Phase Impacts

- 1.2.1 All ground breaking activities associated with the construction of the Proposed Development have the potential to directly impact upon heritage assets. Such activities include, but are not limited to groundworks, rock breaking, topsoil stripping, ground compaction, access, drainage, stockpiling, and storage.
- 1.2.2 These construction related activities could lead to the following impacts:
- complete or partial loss of a heritage asset as a result of ground excavation;
 - damage to a heritage asset as a result of ground excavation;
 - damage to a heritage asset due to compaction; and
 - damage to a heritage asset as a result of ground vibration caused by construction.
- 1.2.3 Impacts arising from changes within the setting of heritage assets during construction has been scoped out of this assessment as any changes to setting would be temporary.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 1.2.4 There are 14 designated heritage assets within the Limit of Deviation (LoD) for the Proposed Development, 13 of which lie within The Highland Council local authority, one (Burn of Redpath Bridge) lies within the Moray Council local authority. The designate heritage assets comprise:
- Beaufort Castle (GDL00052; G1);
 - Corff House, fort (SM3195; S3);
 - Reelig (Easter Moniak) (GDL00416; G12);
 - Dunain Lodge (LB8047; L70);
 - Dunain House (LB8047; L71);
 - Borlum, ring-ditch (SM5142; S11);
 - Caledonian Canal, Dochgarroch Lock – Muirtown Locks (SM6499; S12);
 - Leys Castle (GDL00264; G4);
 - Mains of Daviot Farm ring cairn and stone circle (SM11876; S20);
 - Easter Rattich, depopulated settlement (SM11876; S31);
 - Old House, Clunas House (LB1737; L87);
 - Office, Clunas House (LB1737, L88);
 - Clunas House (LB1737; L89); and
 - Burn of Redpath Bridge (LB1633; L213).

- 1.2.5 As set out within **Chapter 3: Project Description**, the design of the Proposed Development and all access and ancillary works would avoid any physical impacts to the designated heritage assets listed above, with the exception of Beaufort Castle (GDL00052; G1) where tree felling is required. Therefore, there would be no physical impact to the four scheduled monuments (SM3195; S3, SM6499; S12, SM11876; S31, SM11876; S20), the six listed buildings (LB8047; L70, LB8047; L71, LB1737; L87, LB1737, L88, LB1737; L89, LB1633; L213), or Leys Castle GDL (GDL00264; G4) during construction.

Non-designated Heritage Assets (including the Kellas Alternative Alignment)

- 1.2.6 There are 412 non-designated heritage assets within the LoD of the Proposed Development, with 79 of these contained within the tower compound locations or access tracks. The assessment of the heritage assets within the tower compounds and access tracks is presented in **Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage**. Regardless of their cultural significance, or the resulting significance of effect, mitigation to avoid or reduce the impacts to these heritage assets needs to be provided in accordance with NPF4¹.
- 1.2.7 The remaining 333 heritage assets are located within the LoD for the Proposed Development, but it is not anticipated that they would be impacted based on the proposed design. Therefore, for the purposes of this assessment, and based on the design presented within the EIA Report, the magnitude of impact on these 333 heritage assets during construction would be No Change, resulting in a Neutral significance of effect. Details of the mitigation measure (CH2) to ensure impact avoidance, is set out within **Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage**.

1.3 Operational Phase Impacts

- 1.3.1 Any potential impacts to cultural heritage assets during the operation of the Proposed Development would relate to changes within the setting of heritage assets due to the addition of modern infrastructure within the existing landscape. As part of the assessment of potential impacts, the designated heritage assets are shown alongside a bare earth Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) on **Figure 11.3: Designated Heritage Assets and the Zone of Theoretical Visibility**. The ZTV displays theoretical visibility from each proposed tower including a surrounding 10 km radius and was used in the initial assessment to determine the potential for significant effects. Non-designated heritage assets that derive a part of their cultural significance from their setting are also considered within the assessment where they fall within the LoD and are not expected to be physically impacted upon during construction.
- 1.3.2 The locations of the designated and non-designated heritage assets are shown on **Figure 11.1: Designated heritage assets**, and **Figure 11.2: Heritage Assets and the Limit of Deviation**.

Scheduled Monuments

- 1.3.3 There are 56 scheduled monuments within the baseline for the Proposed Development, four of which are within the LoD. As shown within **Appendix 11.2: Cultural Heritage Background and Gazetteer, Annex A**, 36 of these are located within The Highland Council (S1 to S36), four are located within Moray Council (S37 to S40), and 16 are located within Aberdeenshire Council (S41 to S56). Assessments were undertaken in line with the methodology set out in **Appendix 11.1: Cultural Heritage Assessment Methodology**.

Initial Assessment

- 1.3.4 **Table 1.1** lists the 20 scheduled monuments within the baseline that have had an initial assessment undertaken based on the contribution made to the cultural significance of the heritage asset from its setting, the results of the ZTV, and visual barriers noted on aerial photography. This would result in no impacts due to one of the following reasons:
- no visibility of the Proposed OHL Alignment according to the ZTV;

¹ Scottish Government (2023). Fourth National Planning Framework 2023 – Policy 7 (o)

- wide landscape views from the heritage asset not contributing to the cultural significance of the heritage asset; and
- views of the Proposed OHL Alignment not being possible due to intervening topography or other screening such as woodland or buildings etc.

1.3.5 In conclusion, the magnitude of impact on these 20 scheduled monuments would be No Change to heritage assets of High cultural significance, resulting in **Neutral** significance of effects.

Table 1.1: Scheduled Monuments Not Impacted

Scheduled Monument Name and Reference	Scheduled Monument Name and Reference	Scheduled Monument Name and Reference
Culburnie, ring cairn and stone circle (SM2425; S1)	Belladrum, chambered cairns 250 m NNE of Brockie's Lodge (SM2435; S4)	Balblair Stone, symbol stone, Moniak Castle Wineries (SM932; S7)
Caledonian Canal, Loch Ness - Dochgarroch Lock (SM6498; S8)	Caledonian Canal, Dochgarroch Lock (SM5417; S9)	Crow Wood Cottage, chambered cairn and standing stones 265 m W of (SM11546; S10)
Prehistoric settlement, north and west of Culduthel Mains Circle (SM13754; S17)	Bogbain Wood, hut circle and field system 400 m SSW of Bogbain Farm (SM4698; S18)	Dun Davie, fort (SM3301; S19)
An Bathach, promontory fort 300 m ENE of (SM11879; S21)	Daltullich House, enclosure 245 m NE of (SM11533; S23)	Braeval Farm, cupmarks 260 m NNW of (SM11796; S24)
Culdoich, ring cairn 490 m NW of (SM3091; S25)	Ballaggan, mound 420 m WNW of (SM11900; S26)	Milton of Clava, chapel and standing stone 255 m SSW of (SM13652; S27)
Milton of Clava, cairn 215 m SSW of (SM13650; S28)	Culdoich, chambered cairn and standing stone 620 m S of (SM11851; S29)	Dun Evan, fort (SM2896; S32)
St Barevan's Church and Churchyard, Foxmoss Wood (SM3116; S33)	Easterton of Lenabo, airship station 750 m ESE of (SM13679; S55)	

Simple Assessment

- 1.3.6 There are ten scheduled monuments within the baseline for the Proposed Development that have had a simple assessment undertaken due to the low potential for impacts to result in significant effects. The relevant assessments are discussed in more detail below.
- 1.3.7 Easter Rattich Depopulated Settlement (SM11876; S31) is located 120 m to the northwest of the Proposed OHL Alignment, with the existing 275 kV OHL located between the settlement and the Proposed OHL Alignment, and with an existing tower at the southern corner of the scheduled area. The setting of the scheduled monument is already dominated by electrical infrastructure, and the addition of the Proposed OHL Alignment slightly further south would not change the setting of the monument. The magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a significance of effect of **Neutral**.
- 1.3.8 Levratich, cairn (SM11738; S35) is located 260 m to the northeast of the Proposed OHL Alignment with the existing 275 kV OHL located between the cairn and the Proposed OHL Alignment. The setting of the scheduled monument is already dominated by electrical infrastructure in these directions, and the addition of the Proposed OHL Alignment slightly further southwest and in views to the southeast would not change the setting of the monument in these directions. The magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a significance of effect of **Neutral**.
- 1.3.9 Lochindorb Castle (SM1231; S36) is located 7.7 km to the south of the Proposed OHL Alignment, and due to the distance from it, there would be no impacts due to changes within its setting. The magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a significance of effect of **Neutral**.

- 1.3.10 Upper Manbeen, Butter Well (SM5909; S37) is located 5.4 km to the north of the Proposed OHL Alignment. Due to distances from the well, and with the Proposed OHL Alignment being close paralleled to the existing OHL, there would be no impacts due to changes within its setting. The magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a significance of effect of **Neutral**.
- 1.3.11 Upper Manbeen, symbol stone (SM1224; S38) is located 5.4 km to the north of the Proposed OHL Alignment. Due to distances from the symbol stone, and with the Proposed OHL Alignment being close paralleled to the existing OHL, there would be no impacts due to changes within its setting. The magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a significance of effect of **Neutral**.
- 1.3.12 Bogton, stone circle 250 m NW of (SM1215; S39) is located 3.4 km to the north of the Proposed OHL Alignment. With the Proposed OHL Alignment being close paralleled to the existing OHL, and with intervening buildings to the immediate southeast of the stone circle, there would be no impacts due to changes within its setting. The magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a significance of effect of **Neutral**.
- 1.3.13 Milton Tower, Keith (SM5533; S40) is located 1.7 km to the west of the Proposed OHL Alignment. Wide landscape views are not an important element of its cultural significance, as it is located at the side of a heavily wooded roadside at the northern edge of the town of Keith, therefore there would be no changes within the setting of the tower from the Proposed OHL Alignment. The magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a significance of effect of **Neutral**.
- 1.3.14 Clackriach Castle (SM5534; S52) is located 1.3 km to the northeast of the Proposed OHL Alignment and is surrounded by a rectangular area of woodland with the only open views to the northwest (see **Visualisation 11.29: VP29 Clackriach Castle (SM5534; S52)**). There is no visibility of the Proposed OHL Alignment from the castle location due to a small rise to the immediate southwest (see **Figure 11.3: Designated heritage assets and the Zone of Theoretical Visibility**), therefore there would be no impacts due to changes within the setting of the castle. The magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a significance of effect of **Neutral**.
- 1.3.15 Deer Abbey (SM90093; S54) is located 3.8 km to the southwest of the Proposed OHL Alignment at its closest point. The topography and woodland immediately surrounding the abbey block all views towards the Proposed OHL Alignment. Therefore, there would be no impacts due to changes within the setting of the abbey. The magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a significance of effect of **Neutral**.
- 1.3.16 Cairn Catto, long cairn (SM3276; S56) is located 3.9 km to the south of the Proposed OHL Alignment. Although the Proposed OHL Alignment may be visible from the cairn, the view would include existing electrical infrastructure adjacent to it. In addition, the distance would make the towers almost imperceptible within the context of low rising ground situated behind them. The magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a significance of effect of **Neutral**.

Detailed Assessment

- 1.3.17 The remaining 26 scheduled monuments within the baseline had a detailed assessment undertaken due to the potential for impacts to result in a significant effect. These were determined following an initial assessment, or as a recommendation from HES. The results of the detailed assessment concluded that the following 14 scheduled monuments would have a Negligible Adverse impact from the Proposed Development due to very minor changes within their settings. The assessment of the remaining 12 scheduled monuments is provided within **Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage**.

Corff House, fort SW of (SM3195; S3)

- 1.3.18 This scheduled monument is an Iron Age fort comprised of double ditch enclosures surrounding an elevated platform of a natural escarpment. The defences of the fort are visible as a medial and inner rampart, which are incomplete around the platform – owing to its degradation. An outer rampart was illustrated on its original discovery in 1921. The fort is thought to have been reused in the early medieval period as a motte but now sits at the edge of the Balblair Quarry with the Beaully Substation to the immediate west. Modern buildings are present to the southeast and the existing 275 kV OHL and the existing 132 kV OHL from Beaully to Knocknagael substations are visible in views to the southeast, interrupting the views to the River Beaully in this direction. There are still semi-open views across the river to the east, although the fort is covered in, and surrounded by woodland so any views to and from the fort are partially screened.
- 1.3.19 No statement of significance is provided within the listing, but the significance of the fort is derived from its contribution to a wider understanding of Iron Age forts. Its location atop an escarpment suggests its use as a defensive structure and views towards the river to the east are still a key aspect of its cultural significance, despite the screening and modern buildings.
- 1.3.20 The Proposed OHL Alignment would be 420 m to the south of the heritage asset, running east to west and visible to the southeast in more distant views (see **Visualisation 11.32: VP32 3D Model Render from Corff House, fort SW of (SM3195; S3)**). The OHL would be slightly further from the fort than the existing OHLs (the furthest south of which, the 132 kV OHL from Beaully to Knocknagael substations, is to be dismantled as part of the Proposed Development), and it would be close paralleled to the remaining OHL. There would be partial visibility of the towers all year round but with a greater level of screening in the summer months.
- 1.3.21 The magnitude of impact during operation has been assessed as Negligible Adverse due to very minor changes within the views to the south and southeast, with the Proposed OHL Alignment being larger than the existing 132 kV OHL from Beaully to Knocknagael substations to be dismantled, but not adding to the impacts already created by it due to the close paralleling to the remaining OHL and existing vegetative screening around the fort. As a heritage asset of high cultural significance, the resulting significance of effect would be **Slight Adverse**.

Dun Mor, fort, Ballindoun (SM2423; S6)

- 1.3.22 This scheduled monument is an Iron Age fort situated on the northeast slope of Dun Mor. It is comprised of a subcircular area bounded by a single stone wall with entrances at the northeast and southwest ends. There are two structures within the enclosed fort area which are thought to be secondary structures constructed after the initial fort. There is an outer defence consisting of a stone wall crossing the ridge top in a gentle arc. The fort is well preserved for its age, with the majority of its walls and earthworks upstanding and visible. The fort would have been a key defensive structure during the Iron Age and its location atop a prominent hill grants wider views across the Beaully and Aird valley.
- 1.3.23 There is no description or statement of significance for the fort within the scheduled monument listing. The monument is of national importance as a well-preserved example of a prehistoric fort. It has the potential to enhance our understanding of prehistoric settlement and defensive structures. The setting of the fort is an important element in its cultural significance, with a key aspect the relationship with the potentially contemporary settlements at Phoinneas Hill, enclosure (SM4729; S5) to the south, and Castle Spynie Broch (SM4653) to the southeast. The wider landscape views are also important as the fort overlooks the River Beaully valley in views to the west and northwest, with potential views into the interior of Beaufort Castle GDL (GDL00052; G1) to the west, towards the village of Kiltarlity to the southwest, and Kirkhill to the northeast. Longer distance views towards Beaully to the northwest may also be possible.

1.3.24 The Proposed OHL Alignment would be located 1.3 km to the north of the heritage asset, running east to west along its northern views (see **Visualisation 11.11: VP11 Dun Mor, fort, Ballindoun (SM2423; S6)**). The OHL would be on the near side of the two existing OHLs, with the most southerly of these, the 132 kV OHL from Beaully to Knocknagael substations, being removed as part of the Proposed Development. The Proposed OHL Alignment would introduce larger towers in views down into the low-lying valley south of the River Beaully, but would be backdropped by the forestry within Long Wood, and would not change the longer views to the north side of the river.

1.3.25 The magnitude of impact during operation has been assessed as Negligible Adverse due to very minor changes within the views towards the valley, and no impacts to the key aspects to the south and southeast. The removal of the existing 132 kV OHL from Beaully to Knocknagael substations helping to reduce the impacts of the larger towers. As a heritage asset of High cultural significance, the resulting significance of effect would be **Slight Adverse**.

Phoineas Hill enclosure (SM4729; S5)

1.3.26 The scheduled monument consists of the remains of an enclosure measuring 120 m northeast to southwest by 80 m transversely, formed by building a wall across the accessible southwest approach to a promontory. The wall has been constructed from massive boulders forming the outer face and extends for a length of 35 m. An upright stone 1.8 m high lies on the south side of the entrance.

1.3.27 The monument is of national importance as an unusual and distinctive form of enclosure, which has the potential to enhance our understanding of early settlement. The setting of the enclosure is an important element in its cultural significance, with reciprocal views between the potentially contemporary Dun Mor, fort, Ballindoun (SM2423; S6) to the north, and Castle Spynie Broch (SM4653) to the east. The enclosure overlooks the River Beaully valley in views to the northwest, with potential views into the interior of Beaufort Castle GDL (GDL00052; G1) to the west, and towards the village of Kiltarlity to the southwest. Longer distance views towards Beaully to the northwest may also be possible, but commercial forestry currently blocks a lot of the views out from the enclosure except those to the northwest.

1.3.28 The Proposed OHL Alignment would be located 1.7 km to the north of the heritage asset, running east to west along its northern views (see **Visualisation 11.12: VP12 Phoineas Hill, enclosure (SM4729; S5)**). The OHL would be on the near side of the two existing OHLs, with the most southerly of these, the 132 kV OHL from Beaully to Knocknagael substations, being removed as part of the Proposed Development. The Proposed OHL Alignment would introduce larger towers in views down into the low-lying valley south of the River Beaully but would be backdropped by the forestry within Long Wood, and would not change the longer views to the north side of the river.

1.3.29 The magnitude of impact during operation has been assessed as Negligible Adverse due to very minor changes within the views towards the valley, and no impacts to the key aspects to the north and east. The removal of the existing 132 kV OHL from Beaully to Knocknagael substations helping to reduce the impacts of the larger towers. As a heritage asset of High cultural significance, the resulting significance of effect would be **Slight Adverse**.

Caledonian Canal, Dochgarroch Lock – Muirtown Locks (SM6499; S12)

1.3.30 This scheduled monument is a stretch of inland waterway built between 1803 and 1822 known as the Caledonian Canal, and its associated locks at Muirtown, Inverness. The canal stretches the length between Inverness and Fort William as a connection for boats to navigate to and from Fort William from the Moray Firth. The Muirtown Locks are a flight of four locks which facilitate the movement of canal users and protect the canal from flooding caused by fluctuating levels of the River Ness, which flows parallel to the canal. The heritage asset is located parallel to the River Ness and forms the northern section of the Caledonian Canal. The scheduled area begins in Inverness and ends in Dochgarroch, a length of approximately 8 km.

- 1.3.31 The statement of significance for this heritage asset relates to its development as the single largest construction project in the Highlands. Its setting forms part of its cultural significance with the tree lined waterway providing a sense of enclosure along the majority of its length, and views along the canal to the north and south are key aspects.
- 1.3.32 The Proposed Development would introduce towers on either side of the canal at distances of 110 m to the north and 160 m to the south, with the conductors oversailing the canal. One of the existing OHLs, the 132 kV OHL from Beaully to Knocknagael substations that lies approximately 700 m to the northeast of the Proposed OHL Alignment, would be removed. Due to the distances from the canal edge and the screening from the woodland that lines the canal, the towers would not be prominent features for canal users, with visibility from the tow path only introducing the tops of towers in distant views (see **Visualisation 11.13: VP13 Caledonian Canal, Dochgarroch Lock - Muirton Locks (SM6499; S12)**, and **Visualisation 11.14: VP14 Torbreck Stone Circle (SM3098; S13)**). While the oversailing cables would be visible to users of the canal, their height would not impact on views up and down the canal. There may also be an increase in noise during operation, which may affect how the heritage asset is appreciated when underneath the cables, although this is a small section of the overall length of the canal.
- 1.3.33 The magnitude of impact during operation has been assessed as Negligible Adverse due to very slight changes within the setting, with the changes impacting a small section of the canal, and due to the towers being placed far back from the edge of the canal to reduce visibility, and the existing 132 kV OHL from Beaully to Knocknagael substations, that currently crosses the canal, being removed further northwest. As a heritage asset of High cultural significance, the resulting significance of effect would be **Slight Adverse**.
- Borlum, ring ditch 170 m NE of (SM5142; S11)
- 1.3.34 This scheduled monument is a cropmark of a prehistoric ring-ditch feature, measuring approximately 7 m in diameter. This feature is likely related to burial or settlement activity from the mid to late prehistoric period and additional remains are expected to survive within and immediately outside the sub-circular cropmark. Ring-ditches, when excavated, typically reveal themselves as ploughed-out burial mounds or roundhouses. This heritage asset thus offers the potential for existing archaeological remains of below plough level, in an area where this type of asset rarely survives. Additionally, the heritage asset sits within a known prehistoric landscape within proximity of other prehistoric heritage assets, such as Crow Wood Cottage, chambered cairn and standing stones (SM11546; S10).
- 1.3.35 The heritage asset is located in sloping fields 650 m southwest of Laggan farmhouse. Its location as a domestic or ceremonial structure was likely chosen for its prominence over the River Ness to the north and northwest and views along towards Loch Dochfour to the southeast. Several other prehistoric heritage assets, such as Crow Wood Cottage, chambered cairn and standing stones (SM11546; S10) 1.1 km to the south, make up a wider prehistoric setting for this heritage asset, which is an important element of its cultural significance.
- 1.3.36 The Proposed OHL Alignment would be present approximately 990 m to the northeast and to the east of the ring-ditch. To the northeast where it crosses the River Ness, the Proposed OHL Alignment is likely to be visible from the ring-ditch, but buildings to the east would mostly screen views in this direction. The Proposed Development would introduce new electrical infrastructure to the wider views of the heritage asset but would not directly impact the heritage asset's relationship with known nearby prehistoric heritage assets likely to form part of its setting.
- 1.3.37 The magnitude of impact during operation has been assessed as Negligible Adverse due to very minor changes within the setting of a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a **Slight Adverse** significance of effect.

Achvraid, hut circles 1030 m SSE of (SM11561: S14) and Achvraid, hut circles 800 m SE of (SM11786: S15)

- 1.3.38 See below assessment of Carn Glas Chambered Cairn (SM2392: S16), which is immediately adjacent to the hut circles. They would receive the same Negligible Adverse impact and **Slight Adverse** significance of effect as the cairn.

Carn Glas Chambered Cairn (SM2392: S16)

- 1.3.39 The scheduled monument comprises a complex long cairn formed of three linked chambered cairns, visible as a series of stone structures set into a natural saddle-shaped ridge (210 m Above Ordnance Datum) on Essich Moor. The central round cairn is the earliest of the three and measures 12 m in diameter, with the southern heel cairn measuring 42.5 m north to south by 36 m transversely, and the northern cairn measuring 44 m north to south and 36 m transversely. The cairns are Neolithic, dating to the fourth millennium BCE, and form part of the Orkney-Cromarty Group² of chambered cairns.
- 1.3.40 The cultural significance of the cairn relates to the potential to enhance understanding of Neolithic ritual and funerary practice as it is well preserved and the largest of the Orkney-Cromarty chambered cairns. Its setting within a wider pattern of prehistoric activity, including the adjacent Achvraid, hut circles 800 m SE of (SM11786: S15) and Achvraid, hut circles 1030 m SSE of (SM11561: S14) is also an important element of its cultural significance, and the wide-open views from the monument are an unusual characteristic despite not being on the highest point in the moor. However, the wider views to the northeast and east all contain electrical infrastructure within 500 to 600 m of the cairn, reducing the importance of views in these directions.
- 1.3.41 The Proposed OHL Alignment would be located 1.2 km from the cairn and visible when viewed from the cairn towards the northwest and northeast. Views to the northwest would be in the far distance, and the Proposed OHL Alignment visible to the northeast would be close paralleled to the existing OHL in this location heading northeast (see **Visualisation 11.33: VP33 Carn Glas Chambered Cairn (SM2392: S16)**). The views in this direction also include the substation (currently screened by a small forestry plantation), as well as other OHLs running south from the substation and 300 m to the west of the cairn. The addition of the Proposed OHL Alignment would not detract from the current views due to the distance from the cairn and the proximity to the existing electrical infrastructure. Other views towards the other elements of the prehistoric landscape would be left unchanged.
- 1.3.42 The magnitude of impact during operation has been assessed as Negligible Adverse due to very minor changes within the setting of the cairn, and as a heritage asset of High cultural significance, the resulting significance of effect would be **Slight Adverse**.

Clava Cairns (SM90074: S30)

- 1.3.43 The scheduled monument consists of the remains of two chambered cairns, three ring cairns, a barrow, kerb cairn and standing stone, constructed and in use during the Bronze Age (2500 BCE to 800 BCE). The chambered cairns and one of the ring cairns are visible as substantial cairns of exposed stone, open in the centre and surrounded by stone circles, the kerb cairn as a ring of kerbstones and the remaining two ring cairns as rings of low rubble banks with kerbs. The barrow survives as a low earthwork mound surmounted by a 19th century stone wall and the standing stone as an upright monolith, interpreted as the surviving remnant of a stone circle surrounding a further cairn. The monument forms a coherent group of burial monuments, arranged in two rows along a gravel terrace overlooking the floodplain of the River Nairn.

² Orkney-Cromarty Cairns are a regionally distinct class of chambered cairns with rectangular chambers divided into compartments

- 1.3.44 This monument is of national importance because it has inherent potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of the past, in particular the design and construction of burial monuments, and the nature of ritual and burial practices and their significance in Bronze Age society and economy in the northeast of Scotland. The monument forms a coherent group of burial monuments of a regionally distinctive class, which retain their field characteristics and provide the type-site for this class of monument. It can significantly expand our understanding of the nature of Bronze Age belief systems and ceremonial practices, as well as society and economy. The monument's cultural significance is enhanced by its association with a wider cluster of Clava-type cairns in the vicinity, to the southwest. Wide landscape views from the monuments are restricted due to the steep sloping hills to the south.
- 1.3.45 The Proposed OHL Alignment would be located 2.1 km to the south, on slightly higher ground than the existing 275 kV OHL that is visible from the monument in places over the ridgelines to the southeast (see **Visualisation 11.16: VP16 Clava Cairns (SM90074; S30)**). Views of the Proposed OHL Alignment would only be possible from the most southerly of the cairns and the standing stone on the opposite side of the road in views to the southwest. The larger towers of the Proposed OHL Alignment would be more visually prominent in views to the southwest than the existing 275 kV OHL, but would still be in distant views and not detracting from the views out towards the contemporary cairns in fields to the southeast.
- 1.3.46 The magnitude of impact has been assessed as Negligible Adverse due to very minor changes within the setting of the cairns, with towers only visible from the southernmost cairn and only in the background or periphery of views towards the contemporary cairns to the southeast. As a heritage asset of High cultural significance, the resulting significance of effect would be **Slight Adverse**.
- Rehiran Farm House, cairn 1530 m ESE of (SM11797; S34)
- 1.3.47 This scheduled monument is a prehistoric burial cairn measuring 8.5 m in diameter. It is composed of an almost continuous kerb of boulders enclosing an undisturbed interior mound of stones and central slab – presumed to be a burial cist. The heritage asset is thought to date to the early Bronze Age and is situated in an area with other remains from this period, contributing to a larger landscape of prehistoric ceremonial activity. There are a cluster of hut circles approximately 150 m to the northeast and field systems 300 m to the east.
- 1.3.48 The heritage asset is located in north-sloping heather moorland on the west bank of Riereach Burn. The cairn is to the west of Clunas Reservoir, which was a focal point for prehistoric activity indicated by the heritage assets which remain. Its cultural significance relates to its preservation of early Bronze Age funerary activity, and its location amongst other Bronze Age heritage assets, and the relationship between them contributes to its setting. Other key aspects are the views along the Riereach Burn to the north and south, and its rural location with the only modern aspect being the existing 275kV OHL 570 m to the north of the cairn.
- 1.3.49 The Proposed OHL Alignment would introduce a new OHL 510 m to the north, close paralleled with the existing OHL (see **Visualisation 11.17: VP17 3D Model Render from Rehiran Farm House, cairn (SM11797; S34)**). It would be visible in views to the northwest through to the northeast and a tower would be located at the northern end of the Riereach Burn valley, just as the topography begins to flatten out.
- 1.3.50 The Proposed OHL Alignment would be nearer to the heritage asset, and close-parallelising would be employed to reduce visual impacts. The Proposed OHL Alignment would be apparent in the cairn's southern views but would not significantly impact the cairn's relationship with the other Bronze Age heritage assets, which define its immediate setting.
- 1.3.51 The magnitude of impact during operation has been assessed as Negligible Adverse due to very minor changes within the setting, as impacts would be in the background of a key view that already contains similar infrastructure, albeit more prominent. The other key aspects of the cairns setting would not be impacted. As a heritage asset of High cultural significance, the resulting significance of effect would be **Slight Adverse**.

Cairnton stone circle 480 m NE of (SM11; S43)

- 1.3.52 The monument is the remains of a recumbent stone circle constructed and in use during the Bronze Age (2500BC to 800BC). It is visible as a large recumbent stone – a stone set on its side rather than upright – and a single flanking standing stone. The remaining stones of the circle have been removed and would have lain to the north, and the rear of the recumbent has been damaged by blasting in the past and field-gathered stones have been piled around the recumbent and flanker and into the interior of the former stone circle. The monument is located on a slight terrace on the southeast facing slope of Brown Hill. The cultural significance of the stone circle is derived from its regionality, as a class of Bronze Age monument found only in the northeast of Scotland. It has the potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of the design, construction, and use of ceremonial monuments during prehistory.
- 1.3.53 The setting of the stone circle is an important element of its cultural significance, with the placement of the monument on a relatively prominent location overlooking the Burn of Fogue valley a key aspect. There may be potential intervisibility with other stone circles in the wider area, such as Yonder Bognie Stone Circle, 215 m NNE Of Wardend (SM56) located 1.7 km to the northeast, and the Stone Circle, 660 m NW of Hillhead of Frendraught (SM13790; S45) located 3.05 km to the southeast, but the condition of the stone circles and commercial forestry would make this theoretical at best. Views towards the monument from the A97 road would be a key aspect, as would wider views beyond the valley, highlighting the stone circles' rural agricultural landscape setting.
- 1.3.54 The Proposed OHL Alignment would be located 1.6 km to the southwest of the stone circle at its closest point, as it runs southeast towards Frendraught before cutting back up northeast where it would be 3.6 km away from the stone circle (see **Visualisation 11.22: VP22 Cairnton Stone Circle (SM11; S43)** and **Visualisation 11.23: VP23 Cairnton Stone Circle (SM11; S43), recumbent stone in foreground**). From the monument, the Proposed OHL Alignment would be on the edge, and in the background of views down into the valley, but would break the horizon in a few locations in wider views to the southeast.
- 1.3.55 The magnitude of impact has been assessed as Negligible Adverse as there would be very minor changes within the setting of the stone circle, with the key aspects and views only containing the Proposed OHL Alignment in peripheral or distant background views. As a heritage asset of High cultural significance, the resulting significance of effect would be **Slight Adverse**.

Conzie Castle and Doocot (SM5899; S44)

- 1.3.56 The monument consists of the remains of a late 17th-century residence of plain design known locally as Conzie Castle. The substantial upstanding remains of a gabled, rectangular-plan, single-pile building are situated in a cultivated field on the east side of the A97 road between Huntly and Banff. According to tradition, Conzie Castle was never completed. The building occupies land that was a small separate estate known as Pennyburn, circa 1700. The granite-rubble walls stand four storeys high on the south and east elevations with a fragment of the southwest angle surviving but most of the north and west walls are reduced to footings. The doocot is located 200 m southeast of the castle, and is square shaped measuring 5.8 m square and about 4-5 m high.
- 1.3.57 The cultural significance of the castle and doocot is derived from its seventeenth-century date and its remains and below-ground archaeology offer evidence which has the potential for clarifying its origins, ownership, and history, in addition to shedding further light on our knowledge of late medieval/early modern settlement. Another important element is its presence in the landscape and key views would be views from the monument over the Burn of Fogue valley to the east and south, as well as views towards the monument from the adjacent A96 when driving south and north.
- 1.3.58 The Proposed OHL Alignment would be located 2.3 km to the southwest at its closest point as it runs southeast towards Frendraught, before cutting back up northeast where it would be 3.3 km away from the castle and doocot (see **Visualisation 11.24: VP24 Conzie Castle Doocot (SM5899; S44)**). It would be visible breaking the horizon of the higher ground to the south, but would not be prominent due to the distances from the castle and doocot.

- 1.3.59 The magnitude of impact has been assessed as Negligible Adverse as there would be very minor changes within the setting of the castle and doocot, with the key aspects and views only containing the Proposed OHL Alignment in peripheral or distant background views. As a heritage asset of High cultural significance, the resulting significance of effect would be **Slight Adverse**.

Stone circle, 365 m WSW of Raich Farm (SM42; S46)

- 1.3.60 This scheduled monument is a prehistoric stone circle known as four poster stone circle due to its unique rectangular layout. The heritage asset is comprised of three tall stones at the north, south, and east corners, with the western stone missing. In between these standing stones are large kerbstones. The interior is filled with stones and boulders. The stone circle is located on a southeast facing slope in a cultivated field southeast of Cobairdy Wood. The interior of the monument has been filled with stones from what seems to be post-medieval and modern clearance of the fields nearby. The monument possesses uninterrupted views to the north, east and south.
- 1.3.61 The cultural significance of the monument is derived from its rarity - one of 60 four poster stone circles in Scotland, as well as its surviving structural attributes, and its research potential could increase our understanding of this monument and other similar monuments, as well as prehistoric religious practice, the chronological development of religious monuments, and wider changes in society in Bronze Age communities. The location of the monument within the wider landscape is also an important element in its cultural significance as it would have been part of a wider domestic and ritual landscape. Key views relate to those to the east and north and the Glendronach Burn, as well as reciprocal views from the Mill of Forgue looking south. There is no intervisibility between Stone Circle, 660 m NW of Hillhead of Frenedraught (SM13790; S45), located 1 km to the southwest, due to local topography.
- 1.3.62 The Proposed OHL Alignment would be located 1.2 km to the southeast and would be visible as it runs further northeast before heading southeast and east at Drumblair Wood, approximately 2.2 km from the stone circle (see **Visualisation 11.25: VP25 Raich Farm Stone Circle (SM42; S46)**). It would not be on the periphery of key views to the east from the stone circle, and would be visible in very distant views looking towards the stone circle from the Mill of Forgue.
- 1.3.63 The magnitude of impact has been assessed as Negligible Adverse as there would be very minor changes within the setting of the stone circle, with minimal impact to the key aspects and views to the north and east, and only impacts in peripheral or distant background views to the southeast. As a heritage asset of High cultural significance, the resulting significance of effect would be **Slight Adverse**.

Parkhouse Hill stone circle (SM2; S53)

- 1.3.64 The scheduled monument comprises a stone circle situated on the summit of Parkhouse Hill and is a class of 'recumbent' stone circles, where there is a large recumbent stone between the two tallest upright stones. There are five stones still standing, including the recumbent stone itself, and a further five stones that have fallen. The stones are set on a bank of small stones and earth which is about 1.2 m wide and appears to have had inner and outer stone kerbs. To the southwest of the stone circle there are traces of a small stone-built enclosure, about 5 m by 3.5 m in size, built onto the outside of the bank. The cultural significance of the stone circle derives from being a well-preserved example of a distinctive regional type, which has the potential to contribute significantly to an understanding of prehistoric ritual and religion. The setting of the stone circle is an important element of its cultural significance and the key aspects are the prominent location on the southern edge of the hill, along with the views to the lower ground to the south and east, although the adjacent wood poles at a distance of 25 m from the southeastern edge of the stone circle and 66 m directly south of the recumbent stone detract from these views to some extent.

- 1.3.65 The Proposed OHL Alignment would be located 2.4 km southwest at its closest point, running southeast from this location (see **Visualisation 11.30: VP30 Parkhouse Hill Stone Circle (SM2; S53)**). It would be visible in distant, background views when looking to the lower lying areas to the southwest, but would not be a prominent feature in the landscape.
- 1.3.66 The magnitude of impact during operation would be Negligible Adverse due to minor changes within the setting of the stone circle, as it would only be visible in distant views to the south and southeast (over 3.2 km away). As a heritage asset of High cultural significance, the resulting significance of effect would be **Slight Adverse**.

Listed Buildings

- 1.3.67 There are 346 listed buildings within the baseline for the Proposed Development, including six within the LoD, comprising 35 Category A, 174 Category B, and 137 Category C. As shown within **Appendix 11.2: Cultural Heritage Background and Gazetteer, Annex A**, 106 of these are located within The Highland Council (L1 to L106), 169 are located within Moray Council (L107 to L275), and 71 are located within Aberdeenshire Council (L276 to L346).

Initial Assessment

- 1.3.68 **Table 1.2** sets out a list of the listed buildings that have had an initial assessment undertaken based on the contribution made to the cultural significance of the heritage asset from its setting, the results of the ZTV, and visual barriers noted on aerial photography. This would result in no impacts due to one of the following reasons:
- no visibility according to the ZTV;
 - wide landscape views from the heritage asset not contributing to the cultural significance of the heritage asset; and
 - views of the Proposed OHL Alignment not being possible due to intervening topography or other screening such as woodland or buildings etc.
- 1.3.69 Therefore, the magnitude of impact on these listed buildings would be No Change to heritage assets of High cultural significance, resulting in **Neutral** significance of effects.

Table 1.2: Listed Buildings Not Impacted

Listed Building Name and Reference	Listed Building Name and Reference	Listed Building Name and Reference
Smithy Cottage, Crask Of Aigas (LB49020; L1)	Druim Cottage, Crask Of Aigas (LB7127; L2)	Eileanaigas House (LB7117; L3)
Kilmorack Manse (LB7124; L4)	Kilmorack Steading (LB7124; L5)	Old Burial Ground, Kilmorack (LB7123; L6)
Graveyard, West Parish Church, Kilmorack (LB7122; L7)	Kilmorack Gallery, Kilmorack (LB7122; L8)	West Lodge, Beaufort Castle (LB8070; L9)
Home Farm Steading, Beaufort Castle (LB8073; L11)	Gardener's Cottage, Beaufort Castle (LB8071; L12)	Walled Garden, Beaufort Castle (LB8072; L13)
The Coach House, Beaufort Castle (LB47970; L14)	Kiltarty Free Church Of Scotland (LB8080; L15)	Rivendell, Kiltarlity (LB8082; L17)
Free Church, Balblair (LB7128; L18)	Corffhouse, Lovat Bridge (LB7128; L19)	Lodge, Phoinneas House (LB8098; L21)
East Lodge, Beaufort Castle (LB8069; L22)	Dunballoch (LB7811; L23)	Netherdale, Station Road, Beauly (LB7110; L24)
Gazebo, Belladrum House (LB8074; L25)	Phoinneas House (LB8084; L26)	Stables And Steading, Phoinneas (LB8085; L27-L33)
Beauly Hotel, Beauly (LB7130; L34)	Bank Of Scotland, High Street, Beauly (LB7106; L35)	Westlea, High Street, Beauly (LB7131; L36)
3-4 High Street, Beauly (LB7132; L37)	Culach House, The Square, Beauly (LB7105; L38)	Ardmor House, The Square, Beauly (LB7104; L39)

Listed Building Name and Reference	Listed Building Name and Reference	Listed Building Name and Reference
Matheson's Property, The Square, Beaully (LB7139; L40)	Beaufort House, The Square, Beaully (LB7138; L41)	Commercial Hotel, The Square, Beaully (LB7137; L42)
23-25 Ferry Road, Beaully (LB7107; L43-L44)	Roselea, 27 Ferry Road, Beaully (LB7108; L45)	Cherry Tree Cottage, 29 Ferry Road, Beaully (LB7109; L46)
Balblair House (LB7810; L47)	St Mary's Church and Graveyard, Old Wardlaw Parish Church, Kirkhill (LB7815; L48-L49)	West Lodge, Achnagairn House (LB7809; L50)
Manse, Wardlaw Parish Church Of Scotland, Kirkhill (LB7814; L51)	East Lodge, Achnagairn House (LB7808; L53)	Wardlaw Parish Church Of Scotland, Kirkhill (LB7813; L54)
Moniack Bridge (LB7823; L56)	Gate Lodge, Reelig House (LB7822; L57)	Cruck Cottage, excluding 20th century timber boarded addition to southwest, Fingask Drive, Kirkhill (LB52377; L58)
Dovecot, Newton House (LB7819; L61)	Lentran House (LB7817; L62)	Burial-Ground And Obelisk, Dochfour House (LB8063; L65)
Lodge, East Drive, Dochfour House (LB8061; L66)	Dochgarroch House (LB8067; L67)	Dochgarroch Lock-Keeper's Cottage and Barn, Caledonian Canal (LB8033; L68-L69)
Dunain Lodge, Dochgarroch (LB8044; L70)	Dunain House, near Inverness (LB8047; L71)	Dunain Park, Hotel (LB8048; L72)
Ness castle (LB8056; L73)	Drumdevan House (LB8045; L74)	Lodge, Leys Castle (LB8054; L75)
The Grange, Leys Castle (LB8055; L76)	Bogbain Farmhouse (LB8031; L78)	Daviot Parish Church (Church of Scotland) and Burial Ground, Daviot (LB1700; L79)
Church of Scotland Manse, Daviot (LB1701; L80)	Mains Of Daviot Farm (LB1703; L81)	House Of Daviot (LB1702; L82)
Daltullich House (LB1715; L83)	Barevan Bridge, Wester Barevan (LB1724; L85)	Auchindoune House (LB1723; L86)
Clunas House, Old house and office (LB1737; L87-L89)	Ardclach Parish Church (LB552; L92)	Ardclach Old Manse Steading And Garden Wall (LB553; L93)
Gate Lodge, Glenferness House (LB563; L94)	Ardclach Old Parish Church and burial ground (LB554; L96-L97)	Logie Bridge (LB564; L98)
No.1 to No.6, Ferness (LB5103; L99-L104)	School and schoolhouse, Ferness Village (LB559; L105-L106)	Braemoray Lodge (LB2160; L107)
Bridge Of Knockach (LB2161; L108)	Bridge Of Divie (LB2185; L110)	Edinkillie Parish Church, watch house, and churchyard (LB2187; L111-L113)
Divie Railway Viaduct, Edinkillie (LB2189; L115)	Bridge Of Bantrach, River Divie, Edinkillie (LB2186; L116)	The Lodge, Kellas House (LB2346; L118)
Coleburn Distillery, warehouse, cottage, and managers house (LB8435; L119-L122)	Orbliston Station (LB15644; L125)	St Mary's church, Orton (LB15868; L126)
Orton Mausoleum, Burial Ground And St Mary's Well (LB15867; L127)	Smithy, Crofts Of Dipple (LB19471; L128)	Dipple House (LB46285; L129)
Old Parish Church And Burial Ground, Dipple (LB15639; L130)	Dairy, Laundry, and bothy, Dipple House (LB15640; L131-L132)	Listed buildings within Fochabers, Gordon Castle GDL and the Fochabers conservation area (L133-L210)
Meikle Dramlach Bridge (LB4836; L211)	Duchess Of Gordon's Monument, Whiteash Hill (LB1634; L212)	Burn Of Redpath Bridge (LB1633; L213)
Listed buildings within Keith and the two conservation areas within the town (L215-L273)	War Memorial Clock Tower, Newmill (LB8705; L274)	Mill Of Newmill (LB8704; L275)
Cairnie Parish Church, Cairnie (LB3012; L276)	Churchyard, Cairnie Parish Church, Cairnie (LB3013; L277)	Kirkton House, Cairnie (LB3014; L278)

Listed Building Name and Reference	Listed Building Name and Reference	Listed Building Name and Reference
Auchanachie Castle Doocot (LB47; L280)	Old Parish Church And Burial-Ground, Ruthven (LB3015; L281)	Avochie House (LB9052; L282)
Deveron Railway Bridges, Rothiemay (LB3018; L283)	Lessendrum Home Farm (LB50133; L286)	Lessendrum House (LB2938; L288)
Dovecot, Lessendrum (LB2939; L289)	Corse House Farm (LB9451; L290)	Corse House (LB9450; L291)
Gate Piers, Corse House (LB9452; L292)	Boynesmill (LB9463; L294)	Glendronach Distillery (LB46288; L295)
Watermill, Placemill (LB9464; L296)	Dovecot, Drumblair House (LB9466; L298)	Drumblair House (LB9465; L299)
Auchaber Manse (LB9448; L300)	Templeland (LB9446; L301)	Drumblair Lodge (LB9467; L302)
Woodhead House (LB16411; L304)	1-16 And 17-32 The Auld Mill, Station Road, Turriff (LB42183; L305)	Old Toll House, Darra Lodge (LB16404; L307)
North Lodge, Hatton Castle (LB16402; L308)	Mausoleum, Hatton Castle (LB16403; L309)	Estate Houses, Hatton Castle (LB16399; L311)
Coach House, Hatton Castle (LB16398; L312)	Home Farm, Hatton Castle (LB6401; L314)	Garden Walls, Hatton Castle (LB16400; L315)
Sundial, Hatton Castle (LB16397; L316)	Dovecot, Idoch Castle (LB16430; L317)	Auchry Lodge (LB16111; L318)
Monquhitter Manse (LB16107; L319)	William Cumine Of Auchry Monument, Monquhitter Churchyard (LB16123; L320)	Monquhitter Parish Church, Cuminstown (LB16122; L321)
Church Yard, Monquhitter Parish Church (LB16106; L322)	St Kane's Hall, Main Street, New Deer, Turriff (LB52638; L324)	Churchyard Of Deer, New Deer (LB16153; L325)
New Deer Parish Church (LB16152; L326)	10-11 Gladstone Terrace, New Deer (LB16155; L327)	Sundial, St Kane's Manse, New Deer (LB16154; L328)
Mill Of Auchreddie (LB16157; L329)	Rear Wing, Farmhouse, Mains Of Fedderate (LB16159; L330)	Farmhouse, Mains Of Fedderate (LB16159; L331)
West Lodge, Brucklay Castle (LB49993; L333)	Bridge, South Ugie Water, Brucklay Castle (LB16161; L334)	Bridge To South and West, Brucklay Castle (LB49989; L335-L336)
Walled Garden Including Gates And Railings, Brucklay Castle (LB49992; L337)	Maud Hospital and Lodge, Bank Road, Maud (LB19086; L338-L339)	North Windhill Farm (LB16103; L340)
Skelmuir House (LB16056; L341)	House And Garden Walls, Cairngall House (LB9420; L345)	Blackhill House (LB16395; L346)

1.3.70 The following eight Category A listed buildings were requested to be part of the assessment by HES so the details of the assessment undertaken are provided below. Similar to those listed in **Table 1.2**, they would have no visibility of the Proposed OHL Alignment according to the ZTV (see **Figure 11.3: Designated Heritage Assets and the Zone of Theoretical Visibility**) or any visibility is screened by woodland or other visual barriers:

- Aldourie Castle (LB535; L63) is 4.6 km from the Proposed OHL Alignment and is shown on the ZTV as having theoretical visibility. However, it is surrounded by woodland on its northern side that would block any views of the Proposed OHL Alignment. The magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a significance of effect of **Neutral**.
- Dochfour House (LB8028; L64) is 2.5 km from the Proposed OHL Alignment and is shown on the ZTV as having theoretical visibility. However woodland screening to the immediate north of the house would block any views (see **Visualisation 11.2: VP2 Dochfour House (LB8028; L64)**). The magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a significance of effect of **Neutral**.
- Dulsie Bridge (LB557; L90) is 3.6 km from the Proposed OHL Alignment and is shown on the ZTV as having no visibility. The magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a significance of effect of **Neutral**.

- Glenferness House (LB560; L91) is 2.5 km from the Proposed OHL Alignment and is shown on the ZTV as having no visibility. The magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a significance of effect of **Neutral**.
- Dunphail House (LB2171; L109) is 2.6 km from the Proposed OHL Alignment and is shown on the ZTV as having theoretical visibility. However, there are long stretches of woodland between the house and the existing OHL that the Proposed OHL Alignment will be close paralleled with, therefore no impacts are anticipated. The magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a significance of effect of **Neutral**.
- Edinkillie House (LB2188; L114) is 1.1 km from the Proposed OHL Alignment and is shown as having theoretical visibility. However, **Visualisation 11.18: VP18 Edinkillie House (LB2188; L114)** shows abundant screening around the house and gardens. The magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a significance of effect of **Neutral**.
- Frendraught House (LB9449; L293) is 400 m from the Proposed OHL Alignment and is shown as having theoretical visibility. However, abundant woodland screening around the house and gardens to the north, west, and east would reduce any potential impacts, and key views from the house are to the south overlooking the formal gardens. The magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a significance of effect of **Neutral**.
- Old Parish Church of Longside (LB9410; 343) is 1.9 km from the Proposed OHL Alignment and is shown as having theoretical visibility. However, it is located within the village of Longside and surrounded by housing to the south and southeast, therefore there are no wide landscape views between the church or graveyard and the Proposed OHL Alignment. The magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a significance of effect of **Neutral**.

Simple Assessment

- 1.3.71 There are 16 listed buildings within the baseline for the Proposed Development that have had a simple assessment undertaken due to the low potential for impacts to result in significant effects. The relevant assessments are discussed in more detail below.
- 1.3.72 Kiltarlity Old Parish Church Burial Ground (LB8081; L10) is assessed as part of the Kiltarlity Old Parish Church (SM5570; S2) under scheduled monuments due to their close association.
- 1.3.73 Lovat Bridge (LB8083; L20) is located 640 m north of the Proposed OHL Alignment with open views to the south that contain towers of the existing 132 kV OHL between Beauly to Knocknagael substations in this direction. The Proposed OHL Alignment includes removal of the 132 kV OHL from Beauly to Knocknagael substations. The replacement with the larger towers of the Proposed OHL Alignment slightly further to the south, would not change the setting of the bridge. The magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a significance of effect of **Neutral**.
- 1.3.74 Leys Castle and Garden Terraces (LB8053; L77) is located 1.4 km north of the Proposed OHL Alignment and is located within the Leys Castle GDL (GDL00264; G4) which has woodland surrounding the edges. The existing 275 kV OHL present to the south and the Proposed OHL Alignment may be visible in views from the principal rooms of the castle but intervening woodland within the GDL, and at the edge of the GDL would restrict these views. The magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a significance of effect of **Neutral**.
- 1.3.75 Culloden Moor Viaduct (LB1709; L84) is located 2.5 km to the north of the Proposed OHL Alignment and the rising ground to the immediate south and the woodland surrounding the Clava Cairns to the southwest would restrict any views, therefore there would be no impacts due to changes within its setting. The magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a significance of effect of **Neutral**.

- 1.3.76 Kellas House (LB2345; L117) is located 2.1 km to the north of the Proposed OHL Alignment and 860 m north of the Kellas Alternative Alignment, and is surrounded by sparse woodland to the south (see **Visualisation 11.19: VP19 Kellas House (LB2345; L117)**). Given the distance from the Proposed OHL Alignment and the intervening screening, there is limited potential for impacts through changes associated with the setting of the house. The magnitude of impact from the Proposed Development would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a significance of effect of **Neutral**. As the Kellas Alternative Alignment is closer to the house, there would be a greater degree of visibility on the north facing slopes of the opposing hills. The magnitude of impact from the Kellas Alternative Alignment would be Negligible Adverse to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a significance of effect of **Slight Adverse**.
- 1.3.77 Blackhills House (LB8433; L123) is located 1.8 km to the north of the Proposed OHL Alignment. There would be theoretical visibility of the Proposed OHL Alignment from Blackhills House (LB8433; L123) (**Visualisation 11.38: VP38 3D Model Render from Blackhills House (GDL00409; G7)**), but the woodland within the GDL would restrict any views to the south and southwest (not modelled). Therefore, the magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a **Neutral** significance of effect.
- 1.3.78 Pittensair (LB15803; L124) is located 3.3 km to the north of the Proposed OHL Alignment and wide landscape views are not an important element in the cultural significance of the house. Therefore, due to the distance from the house, there would no impacts from the Proposed OHL Alignment. The magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a significance of effect of **Neutral**.
- 1.3.79 Mill of Towie (LB2303; L214) is located 4.1 km to the west of the Proposed OHL Alignment and wide landscape views are not an important element in the cultural significance of the mill. Therefore, due to distance from the mill, there would be no impacts from the Proposed Development. The magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a significance of effect of **Neutral**.
- 1.3.80 Auchanachie Castle (LB3016; L279) is located 760 m to the north of the Proposed OHL Alignment and is surrounded by woodland to the north and south, with modern farm buildings to the southwest. Views in the direction of the Proposed OHL Alignment would be possible, but they would be heavily restricted by the woodland to the south (**Visualisation 11.41: VP41 3D Model Render from Auchanachie Castle (LB3016; L279)**). The magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a significance of effect of **Neutral**.
- 1.3.81 Kirktown of Kinnoir Graveyard (LB13712; L284) contains the Kinnoir Old Church, church 550 m WSW of Corse of Kinnoir (SM5619; S42) and the assessment of impacts will match the assessment conducted for the church within the **Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage (paragraphs 11.4.47 - 11.4.50)**. Therefore, the magnitude of impact during operation has been assessed as Minor Adverse due to slight changes within the setting of the graveyard, with the Proposed OHL Alignment appearing in background views on the approach to the graveyard, and adding modern electrical infrastructure into views to the north where it crosses the river. As a heritage asset of Medium cultural significance, the resulting significance of effect would be **Slight Adverse**.
- 1.3.82 Colonel Shand's Monument Hawk Hill Plantation, Templeland (LB9447; L297) is located 930 m to the south of the Proposed OHL Alignment and is located on the hill overlooking Templeland House to the east and the Burn of Templeland to the north and the Den Burn to the east. The introduction of the Proposed OHL Alignment in distant views to the north would introduce very minor changes within the setting of the monument. The magnitude of impact would be Negligible to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a significance of effect of **Slight Adverse**.
- 1.3.83 Old Parish Church of St. Congan (LB42163; L303) is located on the southwest edge of Turriff and is 2.5 km from the Proposed OHL Alignment at its closest point. The buildings around the church limit wider landscape views in the direction of the Proposed OHL Alignment, therefore there would be no changes within the setting (see **Visualisation 11.43: VP43 3D Model Render from Old Parish Church of St. Congan (LB42163; L303)**). The magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a significance of effect of **Neutral**.

- 1.3.84 Towie Barclay Castle (LB16405; L306) is located 2.8 km to the southeast of the Proposed OHL Alignment and is surrounded by woodland, with any distant views not impacting upon key aspects of the castle's cultural significance, therefore there would be no impacts from the Proposed Development. The magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a significance of effect of **Neutral**.
- 1.3.85 Delgatie Castle (LB16421; L310) is located 2.1 km to the north of the Proposed OHL Alignment and the towers would be visible in views to the southwest, with the Wood of Delgaty blocking all views in other directions. As it would be a change in distant and background views of the lower lying area to the southwest of the castle and not a key aspect, there would be minimal impacts on changes within its setting. The magnitude of impact would be Negligible Adverse to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a significance of effect of **Slight Adverse**.
- 1.3.86 Quadrant Walls and Gatepiers at West Lodge, Brucklay Castle (LB49991; L332) is located 930 m to the northeast of the Proposed OHL Alignment, and is set at the edge of the woodland surrounding the West Lodge, Brucklay Castle (LB49993; L333). Views from the gate piers when leaving the estate would include the Proposed OHL Alignment in the distance with some intervening buildings providing limited screening. Wide landscape views are not an important element in the gate piers cultural significance, but the presence of the Proposed OHL Alignment in the background of local views when exiting the estate would introduce very minor changes to the setting of the walls and gatepiers. Therefore, the magnitude of impact would be Negligible Adverse to a heritage asset of Medium cultural significance, resulting in a significance of effect of **Slight Adverse**.
- 1.3.87 Brae Of Coynach House (LB16055; L342) is located 540 m northeast of the Proposed OHL Alignment, situated at the southern edge of the Brae of Coynach farm and steading. It is contained by sparse woodland with one open view through the entrance driveway to the southeast. The Proposed OHL Alignment would be visible in views from the house in this direction, at a distance of 730 m from the house, and would constitute very minor changes within the setting of the house. The magnitude of impact would be Negligible Adverse to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a significance of effect of **Slight Adverse**.

Detailed Assessment

Achnagairn House (LB7807; L55)

- 1.3.88 This Category B listed building is a large U-plan house, originally built in 1800 and substantially re-designed in the early 20th century. The house and its gardens function as a hotel and wedding venue. The main axis is northwest to southeast and it overlooks its designed garden to the southeast. Its boundaries beyond the garden are planted with mature trees and it holds a prominent position overlooking the lands to the southeast and south. The house is located approximately 400 m to the southwest of Kirkhill, which is the nearest settlement. No statement of significance is provided within the listing, but the cultural significance of the house derives from its architectural and historic interest. The setting of the house is an important element of its cultural significance, with the woodland and gardens in its immediate surroundings a key aspect, as well as views to the south and southeast over the Moniack Burn.
- 1.3.89 The Proposed OHL Alignment includes removal of one of the existing OHLs, the 132 kV OHL from Beauly to Knocknagael substations, which is located 160 m to the southwest of the house. The new OHL associated with the Proposed OHL Alignment would be located 520 m to the south. The Proposed OHL Alignment would likely be visible from the house despite the woodland surrounding the southern edge of the gardens. The woodland would not be dense enough or high enough to provide full screening of the Proposed OHL Alignment.
- 1.3.90 The magnitude of impact during operation has been assessed as No Change due to minimal changes within the setting of the house. The removal of the existing 132 kV OHL from Beauly to Knocknagael substations would be of benefit to the setting of the house but the larger OHL, although more distant, would negate any benefit achieved. As a heritage asset of High cultural significance, the resulting significance of effect would be **Neutral**.

Reelig House and Walled Garden, Reelig House (LB7821; L59-L60)

- 1.3.91 These Category B listed buildings are an estate house and its associated walled garden, formerly known as Easter Moniack estate. The Reelig Estate originated in 1750 and was formerly the home of Fraser's of Reelig. Since this time, the woodland and garden boundaries appear to have been preserved in their original state. Reelig House also originates in 1750, and features multiple alterations and additions in the subsequent decades. Its main axis is northwest to southeast. The walled garden to the house's northwest was a later addition alongside the gatehouse in the 19th century. The walled garden and the external policies of Reelig House appear to have been kept in good order, with no changes to the boundaries since the Ordnance Survey first edition 6-inch map³. The heritage asset is located in a semi-rural location near the A862 road 1.2 km south of Kirkhill, the nearest settlement.
- 1.3.92 No statement of significance is provided within the listing, but the cultural significance of these buildings derives from their architectural importance and their historical links with the Fraser's of Reelig. The setting of the house and walled garden is an important element of their cultural significance with their spatial relationship and intervisibility a key aspect. Views from the house over the formal lawn and open fields beyond are also a key factor.
- 1.3.93 The Proposed OHL Alignment would be located 430 m to the northeast. It would be screened from views from the lower levels of the house and walled garden due to the woodland surrounding the estate. There is a possibility of views from the upper rooms but this would not be a key view.
- 1.3.94 The magnitude of impact during operation has been assessed as Negligible Adverse due to very minor changes within the setting. As a heritage asset of High cultural significance, the resulting significance of effect would be **Slight Adverse**.

Ardclach Bell Tower (LB551; L95)

- 1.3.95 This Category A listed building is a 17th century watchtower on the historical Brodie estate. The bell tower is in remarkable condition. The yellow painted harled bell tower was built by Covenanter Alexander Brodie in 1655 to fulfil its original purpose to look over the Ardclach Old Parish Church (LB554; L96) in the Findhorn valley below. Alexander's support for the Presbyterian cause had led to several attacks on his estate by Montrose's Royalist forces, not least the battle of Auldearn (1645) nearby. The bell tower's cultural significance is derived from its unusual architectural additions on a rare type of surviving structure and its historical associations with the post-Reformation 17th century Covenanters and Ardclach Old Parish Church (LB554; L96).
- 1.3.96 The setting of the bell tower is also an important aspect of its cultural significance, with views over the surrounding landscape a key aspect owing to its original function as a watchtower. The bell tower can be seen along key routes such as the A939 by Ferness to the east, especially visible by its yellow-painted exterior. The bell tower's primary elevation and entrance face east, but there are open views to the north and south as well, with the key visual aspect the views to the southeast towards the large bend in the river and the church. The views down the slope to the south into the valley are obscured by vegetation on the slopes, but it is more open to the east. There is an existing OHL in the views to the south, approximately 480 m from the bell tower.
- 1.3.97 The Proposed Development would introduce additional electrical infrastructure 550 m to the south of the bell tower, and would be close to the existing OHL to reduce visual impacts (see **Visualisation 11.5: VP5 Ardclach Bell Tower (LB551; L95)**). The additional towers, associated with the Proposed OHL Alignment, would be larger and more prominent when looking out from the bell tower towards the hills in the background, but would not detract from the wide landscape views to the east and north, nor be visible when looking towards the bell tower from the A939 or the church.

³ Ordnance Survey (1876) Inverness-shire (Mainland), Sheet XI

- 1.3.98 The magnitude of impact during operation has been assessed as Negligible Adverse due to slight changes within a key view looking south beyond the valley. The screening from the abundant woodland on the slopes and the proximity to the existing OHLs would reduce the impacts on wider landscape views that are not as key as the other elements that make up the bell towers cultural significance. As a heritage asset of High cultural significance, the resulting significance of effect would be **Slight Adverse**.

West Outbuilding at Corse Croft, Kinnoir, Huntly (LB43681; L285)

- 1.3.99 This Category A listed building is the surviving west outbuilding at Corse Croft. The outbuilding is a long rectangular single-storey building, thought to date from before 1782. It features a pitched roof with some surviving oat straw thatch beneath a corrugated covering, making it one of few surviving thatched buildings in Scotland. The remaining thatch is thought to date from at least the 19th century, which is rare, and the thatch provides valuable detail to what local materials were used for thatched coverings. The building also features a turf gable, which is likely the oldest part of the building, and likely in its original form. The outbuilding is located in a complex of other farm buildings (none listed) 3 km to the northeast of Huntly and surrounded by cultivated land.
- 1.3.100 The survival of authentic built fabric of the building combined with the social historical insight it provides are important elements of this heritage asset's cultural significance. The key aspects of its setting are its immediate setting within the farm complex, and the localised setting of rural agricultural fields that have remained unchanged from at least the 1870s.
- 1.3.101 The Proposed OHL Alignment would be located 480 m to the southwest at its closest point, running northwest and southeast from this location (see **Visualisation 11.42: VP42 3D Model Render from West Outbuilding at Corse Croft, Kinnoir, Huntly (LB43681; L285)**). The other buildings in the farm complex would provide screening to the west and southeast, but there would be visibility in the background of the agricultural fields to the southwest. The sparse woodland would provide some screening but it is anticipated that the Proposed OHL Alignment would be visible in the landscape as it crosses the agricultural fields to the southwest of the building.
- 1.3.102 The magnitude of impact during operation has been assessed as Negligible Adverse due to very minor changes within the setting of the building due to the introduction of the Proposed OHL Alignment in the background of views to the southwest. As a heritage asset of High cultural significance, the resulting significance of effect would be **Slight Adverse**.

Hatton Castle (LB16431; L313)

- 1.3.103 This Category A listed building consists of a castellated mansion house built in 1814, of which one-third is part of the old Castle of Balquholly. The castle sits within the grounds of the Hatton Castle GDL (GDL00399; L313), and forms an integral part of the GDLs historical and architectural interest. The castle is located on the west-facing slopes of a low hill with the Burn of Balquholly on the lower ground to the west. The cultural significance of the castle is derived from its architectural and historical interest, as well as being a central feature of the GDL within which it sits. The setting of the castle is an important element of its cultural significance, with a sense of enclosure from the surrounding woodland, as well as the open views over the formal lawn to the west, key aspects of its setting. From the upper rooms of the castle, wider landscape views to the west are also possible above the tree lines, with views of the east to west road running through a circular copse of trees, and reciprocal views from the copse of trees, a key aspect.
- 1.3.104 The Proposed OHL Alignment would be located 1.9 km to the northwest at its closest point and 2.3 km to the west. It would be visible in views from the upper rooms of the castle (see **Visualisation 11.10: VP10 Hatton Castle (LB16431; L313)**), sitting behind the ridge line containing the circular copse of trees, but would not detract from the views of the castle from the ridge line and trees.

- 1.3.105 The magnitude of impact during operation has been assessed as Negligible Adverse due to very minor changes within the setting of the castle, with the Proposed OHL Alignment appearing in the background of prominent landscape features in the landscape, in distant views from the upper rooms of the castle. There would be no impact to the elements of the castle's setting within the GDL. As a heritage asset of High cultural significance, the resulting significance of effect would be **Slight Adverse**.

Gardens and Designed Landscapes

- 1.3.106 There are 12 GDLs within the baseline for the Proposed Development, including three within the LoD. As shown within **Annex A, Appendix 11.2: Cultural Heritage Background and Gazetteer**, seven of these are located within The Highland Council (G1-G5, G11-G12), three are located within Moray Council (G6- G8), and two are located within Aberdeenshire Council (G9 and G10).

Simple Assessment

- 1.3.107 There are ten GDLs within the baseline for the Proposed Development that have had a simple assessment undertaken due to the low potential for impacts to result in significant effects. The relevant assessments are discussed in more detail below.
- 1.3.108 Aldourie Castle GDL (GDL00011; G2) is located 4 km from the Proposed OHL Alignment and is shown on the ZTV as having theoretical visibility of the Proposed OHL Alignment but the woodland within the GDL would restrict any distant views to the north, so the magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a **Neutral** significance of effect.
- 1.3.109 Dochfour GDL (GDL00137; G3) is located 1 km to the south of the Proposed OHL Alignment from its northern edge. The setting of the GDL is focussed on views within the interior and concentrated on the river to the southeast. External views are also mainly screened by woodland surrounding it (see **Visualisation 11.2: VP2 Dochfour House (LB8028; L64)**) Therefore, the magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a **Neutral** significance of effect.
- 1.3.110 A small portion of the southern part of Leys Castle GDL (GDL00264; G4) is located within the Proposed Development boundary, to the north of a proposed access track. The GDL is 1.4 km to the north of the Proposed OHL Alignment with woodland surrounding the edges. The existing 275 kV OHL is present to the southwest and the Proposed OHL Alignment, which would be close paralleled to it, may be visible from some locations within the GDL but the sloping ground from southeast to northwest would obstruct any visibility. Views from the principal rooms of the castle may be possible but intervening woodland within the GDL, and at the edge of the GDL would restrict these views (see **Visualisation 11.36: VP36 3D Model Render from Leys Castle and Garden Terraces (LB8053; L77)**). The magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a significance of effect of **Neutral**.
- 1.3.111 Cawdor Castle GDL (GDL00099; G5) is located 1.1 km to the north of the Proposed OHL Alignment. The GDL is filled with woodland apart from its northern extremity which connects to the village of Cawdor, and contains Cawdor Castle (LB1728), at a distance of 3.5 km from the Proposed OHL Alignment. There would be very limited opportunities for unobstructed views towards the Proposed OHL Alignment from within the GDL, and the Proposed OHL Alignment would be close paralleled with the existing OHL in this direction. Therefore, the magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a **Neutral** significance of effect.
- 1.3.112 Relugas GDL (GDL00325; G6) is located 3.3 km to the north of the Proposed OHL Alignment, and due to the woodland surrounding the open areas within the GDL, the visibility of the towers at this distance would be limited. Therefore, the magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a **Neutral** significance of effect.

- 1.3.113 Blackhills House GDL (GDL00409; G7) is located 1.1 km to the north of the Proposed OHL Alignment. There would be theoretical visibility of the Proposed OHL Alignment from the northern end of the GDL where Blackhills House (LB8433; L123) is located, but the woodland within the GDL would restrict any views to the south and southwest (**Visualisation 11.38: VP38 3D Model Render from Blackhills House (GDL00409; G7)**). Therefore, the magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a **Neutral** significance of effect.
- 1.3.114 Gordon Castle GDL (GDL00198; G8) is located 1.6 km to the north of the Proposed OHL Alignment. The open areas of the GDL sit in low-lying ground with the town of Fochabers to the immediate south. Wide landscape views from the GDL are restricted by the town, and the Proposed OHL Alignment would sit low on the higher ground to the south of the town, to reduce potential impacts (see **Visualisation 11.39: VP39 3D Model Render from Gordon Castle (GDL00198; G8)**). There would be potential for wider landscape views from Gordon Castle Tower (LB1596), but these would be restricted by woodland within the GDL and towers associated with the Proposed OHL Alignment would be in distant, background views of the town (see **Visualisation 11.40: VP40 3D Model Render from Gordon Castle Tower (LB1596)**). Therefore, the magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a **Neutral** significance of effect.
- 1.3.115 Forglen GDL (GDL00398; G9) is located 3.4 km to the northwest of the Proposed OHL Alignment. The ZTV shows limited visibility of the Proposed OHL Alignment from within the GDL, and the visibility is focussed on the areas of higher ground rather than the buildings and other areas of interest within the GDL. Therefore, the magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a **Neutral** significance of effect.
- 1.3.116 Belladrum GDL (GDL00415; G11) is located 1.6 km to the southeast of the Proposed OHL Alignment. The ZTV shows that the western half of the GDL has higher visibility of the Proposed OHL Alignment than the eastern half. The GDL contains Phoinneas Hill (SM4729; S5) at the eastern boundary, which has been assessed as having slight adverse significance of effect from the Proposed Development. The greatest impact on the GDL from the Proposed Development would relate to the views from Phoinneas Hill (SM4729; S5). As such, the magnitude of impact on the GDL would be Negligible Adverse to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a **Slight Adverse** significance of effect.
- 1.3.117 Reelig (Easter Moniak) GDL (GDL00416; G12) is located on the southern boundary of the LoD of the Proposed Development, with a very small section within the LoD. The ZTV shows that the majority of the GDL has intervisibility with the Proposed OHL Alignment, with the exception of the southern end which is within a gorge. The GDL has been designated for its horticultural value, so views from the GDL are not an important element of its cultural significance. The GDL contains Reelig House (L59) and (L60), so any impacts to the cultural heritage aspects of the GDL would be the same as the listed buildings. Therefore, the magnitude of impact on the GDL would be Negligible Adverse to a heritage asset of High cultural significance, resulting in a **Slight Adverse** significance of effect.

Detailed Assessment

Beaufort Castle GDL (GDL00052; G1)

- 1.3.118 This Garden and Designed Landscape (GDL) is a designed landscape park and pleasure grounds, which include a series of summer houses, a walled garden, and provides the main setting for Beaufort Castle (LB8068; L16). The grounds were designed in the 19th century having incorporated an earlier designed landscape from an earlier castle. The historical importance of the GDL is the presence of the defensive buildings within the estate and the long association with the Frasers of Lovat. The archaeological interest is outstanding due to the presence of these defensive structures. The GDL is of high horticultural and nature conservation interest, owing to its long-established riverside woodlands. The GDL is of high scenic interest, possessing dominance in the Aird / Beaully Firth region and contributing to the scenic eastern approach to Kiltarlity, along with Belladrum GDL (proposed for designation) to the southeast.

- 1.3.119 The GDL is directly north of Kiltarlity, positioned on a slightly elevated rise on the southern banks of the River Beauly. To the east, the GDL has views of Dounie and Bruiach burn, which feed into the River Beauly downstream. The western boundaries are formed by a B-road and Fanellan Wood, and the eastern boundary is also lined by woodland. Views from the GDL are restricted by the woodland surrounding it, which also impede views towards it. The focus of the scenic components are the location along the River Beauly, with the more open views between the castle and Home Farm making a positive contribution to the cultural significance of the heritage asset, as this would have formed its historical setting, and still forms an important element of the current setting.
- 1.3.120 The heritage asset is oversailed by the Proposed OHL Alignment at its northwest section, requiring some tree felling within the woodland at this section. The Proposed OHL Alignment would introduce additional infrastructure to the north of the GDL, with abundant woodland along the river and around the castle providing screening (see **Visualisation 11.1: VP1 Beaufort Castle (LB8068; L16) and Gardens (GDL00052; G1)**).
- 1.3.121 The magnitude of impact during operation has been assessed as Negligible Adverse as there will be a very minor change within the setting of the GDL that does not affect any key views. As a heritage asset of high cultural significance, this would result in a **Slight Adverse** significance of effect.
- Hatton Castle (GDL00399; G10)
- 1.3.122 This GDL is an 18th to 19th century designed landscape, which includes lakes, estate buildings, a mausoleum, a distinctive walled garden, and the Category A listed Hatton Castle (LB16431; L313). In the 19th century, the gardens were appreciated as a work of art, and have since been maintained – especially the walled garden, which are a central point in the GDL. The GDL is of high artistic, horticultural, scenic, and nature conservation interest, largely owing to the extensive woodland plantations. The GDL is of outstanding historic interest from the surviving documentary sources of the GDL, providing an excellent source of evidence on the structure of the landscape during this time, and is of outstanding architectural value from providing the main setting for Hatton Castle. The heritage asset is 2.5 km southeast of Turriff along the A947 road, which forms its western boundary. The GDL is gently sloping to the west and it encounters the river valley of the Burn of Turriff and Burn of Balquholly, at its northwest corner. The landscape is heavily wooded with perimeter plantations on its boundaries.
- 1.3.123 The cultural significance of the GDL is derived from its historical associations and the artistic importance of the garden designs. The setting of the GDL is an important element of its cultural significance, with internal views at more open locations and the sense of enclosure within the vast woodlands are important elements of its cultural significance. Other key aspects are the more open views of higher ground to the west when viewed from the castle, and reciprocal views from the higher ground from the east towards the castle (where woodland screening allows).
- 1.3.124 The Proposed OHL Alignment would be located 600 m to the northwest of the GDL from its southwest tip and would introduce electrical infrastructure behind the ridgelines that are visible from the upper rooms of the castle when looking west (see **Visualisation 11.10: VP10 Hatton Castle (LB16431; G10)**). It would not impact on the other key views and aspects of the GDLs setting.
- 1.3.125 The magnitude of impact during operation has been assessed as Negligible Adverse due to very minor changes within the setting of the GDL, with impacts in the background of views looking out from the upper rooms of the castle when overlooking the gardens and beyond. As a heritage asset of High cultural significance, the resulting significance of effect would be **Slight Adverse**.

Registered Battlefields

- 1.3.126 There is one registered battlefield within the baseline for the Proposed Development, comprising the Battle of Culloden (BTL6; B1). As shown within **Appendix 11.2: Cultural heritage Background and Gazetteer, Annex A**, the battlefield is located within The Highland Council. The detailed assessment of the impacts on this heritage asset are set out below.

Battle of Culloden (BTL6; B1)

- 1.3.127 The battlefield is the land of the Battle of Culloden, which took place 16 April 1746. The original location was named Drumossie Muir, and the recognisable name of Culloden came from its location near Culloden House. The Battle of Culloden was the last land battle fought on British soil and the last of the Jacobite uprisings, which spanned from 1689 to 1746. With the Jacobite defeat at Culloden the battlefield has become an emotive site, largely owing to the significant ramifications this battle had in terms of Scotland's political, economic and cultural future. The battle was the catalyst for a change in social structure and governance, as the defeat of the Jacobites contributed to the loss of the clan system and impacted on national Gaelic culture. Economic reform, driven by the victorious British Government, subsequently led to the Highland Clearances and the displacement of a significant portion of the Highland population. The site holds a particularly high significance and emotional connection to many within Scotland and to the ancestors of the Scottish diaspora.
- 1.3.128 The heritage asset is located within the conservation area of Culloden Muir (CA667; C2) and contributes to the overall landscape character of the conservation area. Through archaeological and historical investigation, the battlefield is defined as including Culloden House and grounds, the east and west sides of the moor, the Leanach enclosure, Field of the English to the north, lands southwest of Leanach farmstead, land west of Culloden Park, and the Culloden Battlefield, Graves of the Clans, Cairn and Well of the Dead (SM967). Its location on Drumossie Moor was strategically chosen by the Jacobites to block the approach to Inverness to the west. The government forces came from Nairn, approximately 10 miles to the northeast. The open moorland is situated on the crest of a broad sandstone ridge and at the base of the Monadhliath hills to the southwest. The spatial relationships of the site of battle with key landscape features such as the open moor of the battle are intact. Key views looking out over the moor to the south and southwest provide a similar outlook as they would have in the 18th century, excluding the addition of the modern road, electrical infrastructure, and additional buildings, and is still an important element of the heritage asset's cultural significance.
- 1.3.129 The Proposed OHL Alignment would be located 1.7 km to the south of the southern edge of the battlefield, and it would be visible in southern views beyond the moor (see **Visualisation 11.37: VP37 3D Model Render from The Graves of the Clans (SM967) within Culloden Battlefield (BTL6; B1)** and landscape and visual assessment **Visualisation 7.16: VP16 Culloden Battlefield**). There is an existing 132 kV OHL that cuts across the battlefield at its southern edge, and the Proposed OHL Alignment would be close paralleled with the existing 275 kV OHL further south to minimise potential impacts to the battlefield's setting, and the Proposed OHL Alignment runs behind Saddle Hill for this reason as well. The hills and areas of forestry to the south are present in the background for the majority of towers, but there are a few that break above the ridgelines, at similar locations to the existing OHL.
- 1.3.130 The magnitude of impact during operation has been assessed as Negligible Adverse due to very minor changes within the setting of the battlefield. The majority of views between the key aspects of the battlefield are not impacted, with the only impacts in views looking south over the moor due to the addition of the larger towers in the background. As a heritage asset of High cultural significance, the significance of effect would be **Slight Adverse**.

Conservation Areas

- 1.3.131 There are five conservation areas within the baseline for the Proposed Development, all of which fall within the 2 km study area. As shown within **Appendix 11.2: Cultural Heritage Background and Gazetteer, Annex A**, two of the conservation areas are located within The Highland Council (C1 and C2) and three are located within Moray Council (C3 to C5).
- 1.3.132 There will be no changes within the conservation areas from the Proposed OHL Alignment, and the setting of the Beauly Village Square (CON18; C1), Fochabers (CA192; C3), Keith Fife, Keith (CA186; C4), and Keith Mid Street (CA185; C5) would not be impacted by the Proposed OHL Alignment as wide landscape views outside of the conservation areas are not key aspects of their setting.
- 1.3.133 The setting of Culloden Muir (CON32; C2) conservation area, with its associations with the Battle of Culloden (BTL6; B1) does have wider views of the landscape as part of its cultural significance. The Proposed OHL Alignment would be located 850 m to the south of the conservation area. The impacts on the conservation area will match those stated above for the Battle of Culloden (BTL6; B1), resulting in a **Slight Adverse** significance of effect.

Non-designated Heritage Assets

- 1.3.134 There are 387 non-designated heritage assets within the LoD for the cultural heritage assessment. As shown within **Annex A, Appendix 11.2: Cultural Heritage Background and Gazetteer**, 111 of these are located within The Highland Council, 143 are located within Moray Council, and 133 are located within Aberdeenshire Council.
- 1.3.135 It would not be proportionate to provide an assessment of the impacts to all of these heritage assets from changes within their setting, as the vast majority do not derive any cultural significance from their setting. A review of the heritage asset data to select those heritage assets that would have setting form an important part of their cultural significance was conducted. This focussed on cairns and standing stones. These heritage asset types typically derive part of their cultural significance from views to and from the heritage assets, as well as having potential for deriving cultural significance from wider landscape views.

Simple Assessment

- 1.3.136 There were 11 non-designated heritage assets highlighted as having the potential to be impacted by changes within their setting. There is low potential for these impacts to result in significant effects, so the assessment of the operational impacts on these non-designated heritage assets is presented in simple assessments below.

Cairns – Fanellan (ND3)

- 1.3.137 The remains of two grass covered stone cairns are located within woodland at the western extent of the Proposed Development. They are approximately 110 m from the nearest tower. Both cairns are low lying with no definitive views in any direction, which is largely due to the fact they are surrounded by mature woodland. The addition of the Proposed OHL Alignment to the southwest, east and northeast would not change any views to or from the cairns. The magnitude of impact would be No Change to a heritage asset of Low cultural significance, resulting in a significance of effect of **Neutral**.

Chambered Cairn – Balblair Wood (ND9)

- 1.3.138 A possible chambered cairn (ND9) is located approximately 15 m from the nearest proposed access track and approximately 220 m from the nearest proposed tower. The cairn is on the edge of woodland and is adjacent to an operational quarry and is in poor condition as a result of trees growing within the cairn, and damage from fallen trees. An entrance at the northwest of the cairn would have had key views towards a previous course of the River Beauly, but this has been diminished by the presence of the quarry. The addition of the tower to the south would have a magnitude of impact of No Change on a heritage asset of Low cultural significance as key views would remain unaltered from the baseline conditions. This would result in a significance of effect of **Neutral**.

Possible Standing Stone – Cnoc na Moine (ND36)

- 1.3.139 A small standing stone (ND36) is located within commercial forestry, approximately 245 m to the north of a proposed tower. The stone is possibly a local marker stone rather than a prehistoric monument as it stands at 0.45 m in height at the foot of Cnoc na Moine and is not visible as a dominant feature in the landscape. Due to the low height of the heritage asset this would remain unchanged with the removal of the commercial forestry. The addition of the tower to the south would have a magnitude of impact of No Change on a heritage asset of Low cultural significance. This would result in a significance of effect of **Neutral**.

Drummoissie Muir – kerb cairn (ND59)

- 1.3.140 A kerb cairn (ND59) is located on a rise within commercial forestry, approximately 190 m to the northwest of the nearest proposed tower. The cairn survives as a stony mound 0.7 m high and with the centre undisturbed but ploughing and afforestation have affected its condition. There is no indication of an entrance but there are hut circles (ND57 and ND58) within 700 m to the west and southwest therefore it is assumed that intervisibility between these heritage assets would have been key to the cairn's cultural significance. There are also find spots of prehistoric artefacts to the southeast of the cairn (ND61 and ND62) which may indicate further settlement in this area. If the commercial forestry was not present, views between the cairn, hut circles and potential settlement would be maintained but would be dominated by the introduction of the towers, despite the presence of the existing 275 kV OHL. The addition of the Proposed Development would have a magnitude of impact of Minor Adverse due to slight changes within the setting of a non-designated cairn. As a heritage asset of Low cultural significance, the resulting significance of effect would be **Slight Adverse**.

Little Corshellach – robbed cairn or clearance cairn (ND116) and Little Corshellach – cairns (ND117)

- 1.3.141 The remains of two, low, heather covered, potential cairns of prehistoric origin are located immediately to the east of a proposed tower location. The cairns survive to a maximum height of 0.4 m high and are not dominant in the landscape or occupy a prominent position. Key views would likely have been towards the river to the south and southwest where any potential contemporary settlement would likely have been located. Introduction of the Proposed OHL Alignment immediately to the west of the cairns would inhibit views in these directions. The magnitude of impact during operation has been assessed as Moderate Adverse due to considerable changes within the setting of the cairns. As heritage assets of Low cultural significance, the resulting significance of effect would be **Slight Adverse**.

Burn of Bardon – cairn or hut circle (ND153). Burn of Bardon – cairn (ND154). Burn of Bardon – cairn (ND155). Burn of Bardon – cairn (ND158) and Burn of Bardon – cairn (ND159)

- 1.3.142 There are several possible cairns located on the slopes of a hill above Bardon Burn. The majority of the cairns are approximately 5 m in diameter and survive to a maximum of 1 m in height but are largely covered with heather. Cairn (ND154) may be a hut circle as it is 8 m in diameter and has a possible bank on the eastern side. There are no clear entrances to the cairns, but the key views are likely towards the north and northwest towards the glen and the burn, where any potential contemporary settlement is likely to have been located. Intervisibility between the cairns is also likely to contribute to their cultural significance.
- 1.3.143 The heritage assets would be immediately adjacent to or within 100 m of the Proposed Development, to the north. Presently, the heritage assets are not dominant features in the landscape but views towards the cairns from the north would be dominated by the introduction of the Proposed OHL Alignment in the background, on the higher slopes of the hill. Views from the heritage assets towards the burn and lower slopes would be unchanged, as would intervisibility between the cairns. The magnitude of impact during operation would be Negligible Adverse due to very minor changes in views towards the cairns from the lower slopes (if visible). As heritage assets of Low cultural significance, the resulting significance of effect would be **Slight Adverse**.