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10. CULTURAL HERITAGE

10.1 Executive Summary

- 10.1.1 This Chapter assesses potential effects on heritage assets (historic environment sites and features, archaeology and built heritage) from the construction and operation of the Proposed Development, based on a desk-based assessment and walkover survey, and includes a setting assessment for designated assets occurring within 1.5 km of the Proposed Development (Outer Study Area). Consideration has also been given to designated heritage assets beyond 1.5 km, where these have been identified specifically by statutory consultees. The assessment also takes into account comments provided in EIA Scoping responses by Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and by Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS).
- 10.1.2 Eighteen heritage assets have been identified within the Inner Study Area, most of which relate to medieval or later settlement and agricultural activity. The potential for undiscovered archaeological remains is assessed as low to negligible within areas of modern commercial forestry within the central section of the Proposed Development. In undisturbed areas across the Proposed Development, there is a low to moderate potential for buried archaeology; however, due to the limited land-take required by the separate elements of the Proposed Development, the overall likelihood of encountering unknown remains during construction is considered low.
- 10.1.3 Construction works may directly affect two heritage assets, with a further six located within the micro-siting allowance, also known as the Limit of Deviation (LoD). There is potential for adverse effects of moderate significance on four of these heritage assets, while the remaining impacts are not considered significant. Mitigation measures have been set out to avoid, reduce or offset the predicted effects, with residual construction impacts assessed as no more than minor adverse (not significant).
- 10.1.4 The assessment has considered the effect of the Proposed Development on the settings of heritage assets within the site and in the wider landscape. Two designated heritage assets; Cairn o'Mount cairns scheduled monument (SM4968) and Brawliemuir Farmhouse Category C Listed Building (LB9311) lie within 1.5 km of the Proposed Development. Effects on their setting are assessed as negligible (not significant).
- 10.1.5 There are no predicted significant cumulative impacts on heritage assets in the Inner or Outer Study Areas from the Proposed Development in combination with other cumulative developments.

10.2 Introduction

- 10.2.1 This Chapter assesses the potential effects on archaeology and cultural heritage interests (hereafter referred to as 'heritage assets') associated with the construction and operation of the Proposed Development. It details the results of a desk-based assessment and a walkover field survey covering the Proposed Development and provides an assessment of the potential effects on the setting of designated heritage assets within 1.5 km (Outer Study Area). Consideration has also been given to designated heritage assets beyond 1.5 km, where these have been specifically identified by statutory consultees.
- 10.2.2 The assessment has been carried out by Matt Brooks (BA (Hons) ACIfA of CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA), a Registered Organisation (RO) of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), based in Musselburgh, East Lothian. Matt is a Consultant with CFA and is an Associate of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ACIfA). He has over 7 years' full-time experience of producing Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for industrial and commercial development across the UK and Ireland (see **Appendix 5.1 EIA Team Details**).
- 10.2.3 This Chapter is supported by the following figures and technical appendices:
- Figure 10.1a-c: Cultural Heritage: Inner Study Area;
 - Figure 10.2a-c: Cultural Heritage: Outer Study Area;
 - Figure 10.3a-c: Built Heritage Assets within 1.5 km – 5 km of the Proposed Development; and

- Volume 3: Figure 3.2.1a-b: VL1 - Cairn o' Mount.
- Appendix 10.1: Cultural Heritage Assets in the Inner Study Area;
- Appendix 10.2: Designated Cultural Heritage Assets in the Outer (1.5 km) Study Area; and
- Appendix 10.3: Built Heritage Assets within 1.5 km – 5 km of the Proposed Development.

10.2.4 Figures and Appendices are referenced in the below text where relevant.

10.2.5 Cross reference is made to the visualisation for the Cairn o' Mount cairns Scheduled Monument (SM4968) (see **Volume 3, Figure 3.2.1a-b: VL1 - Cairn o' Mount**), where appropriate.

10.3 Assessment Methodology and Significance Criteria

Scope of the Assessment

10.3.1 This Chapter considers effects of the Proposed Development on Scheduled Monuments (SM) and other archaeological features; and Listed Buildings (LB) and other buildings of historic or architectural importance.

10.3.2 For issues scoped out see **paragraphs 10.3.8 to 10.3.12**.

10.3.3 The Chapter also assesses cumulative effects as arising from the addition of the Proposed Development to other cumulative developments, which are typically the subject of a valid planning application (see **Table 5.1 of Chapter 5: EIA Process and Methodology**). **Figure 5.1** illustrates the Proposed Development along with other cumulative developments recorded as consented (under construction or not yet constructed) and those in planning and in the public domain, deemed reasonably foreseeable.

10.3.4 The assessment is based on the Proposed Development as described in **Chapter 3: The Proposed Development**.

10.3.5 The scope of the assessment has been informed by consultation responses summarised below in **Table 10.1** and the following legislation, policies and guidelines:

- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979¹;
- Planning (listed buildings and conservation areas) (Scotland) Act 1997²;
- Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations')³;
- National Planning Framework for Scotland 4 (NPF4) (Scottish Government)⁴;
- Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS)⁵;
- Planning Advice Note 2/2011: Planning and Archaeology (PAN2/2011)⁶;
- Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan (2023)⁷, specifically:

1 The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (online) Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46> (last accessed 08/10/2025).

2 The planning (listed buildings and conservation areas act (Scotland) 1997(online) Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/9/contents> (last accessed 08/10/2025).

3 Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) 2017 (online) Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2017/101/contents> (last accessed 08/10/2025).

4 National Planning Framework for Scotland 4 (NPF4) (Scottish Government) (online) Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/> (last accessed 08/10/2025).

5 Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS) (online) Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/planning-and-guidance/historic-environment-policy-for-scotland-heps/> (last accessed 08/10/2025).

6 Planning Advice Note 2/2011: Planning and Archaeology (PAN2/2011) (online) Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/pan-2-2011-planning-archaeology/> (last accessed 08/10/2025).

7 Aberdeenshire Council Local Development Plan (2023) (online) Available at: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/ldp-2023> (last accessed 08/10/2025).

- Policy HE1: Protecting Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments and Archaeological Sites (including other historic buildings); and
- Policy HE2: Protecting Historic, Cultural and Conservation Areas.
- Standards and guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment⁸;
- Code of Conduct: professional ethics in archaeology⁹;
- Designation Policy and Selection Guidance¹⁰;
- Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting¹¹;
- Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook¹²;
- Principles of Cultural Heritage Assessment¹³;
- UK Forestry Standard: The Governments Approach to Sustainable Forestry¹⁴;
- UK Forestry Standard Guidelines: Forests and Historic Environment¹⁴;
- Forests and Historic Environment: Information and Advice¹⁴; and
- Scotland's Woodlands and the Historic Environment¹⁵.

Extent of the Study Area

10.3.6 Two study areas were employed for the cultural heritage assessment:

- Inner Study Area (the Site): defined as the Limit of Deviation (LoD) for the Proposed Development (**Figure 10.1a-c**). This forms the study area for the identification of cultural heritage assets that could be directly affected by the Proposed Development, including:
 - 50 m area either side of the proposed overhead line (OHL) alignment centre line; and
 - 25 m either side of the centre line for proposed new, permanent, and temporary access tracks.
- Outer Study Area: a wider study area extending 1.5 km either side of the Proposed Development (**Figure 10.2a-c**), aligned with the LVIA study area (see **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual**), was used to identify statutory and non-statutory designated heritage assets that could have their settings affected by the Proposed Development (including cumulative effects). Heritage assets identified as having settings sensitive to change are included in the assessment, even where no visibility is predicted from the asset, as views towards or across such sites may be important aspects of the settings. Consideration has also been given to designated heritage assets beyond 1.5 km, where these have been raised by statutory consultees (see **Table 10.1** below for further details), or where, based on appraisal of the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTVs), long-distance views and intervisibility are considered to be important aspects of an asset's setting.

8 The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: Standards and guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (2014; updated 2020) (online) Available at: <https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/2023-11/CIfA-SandG-DBA-2020.pdf> (last accessed 08/10/2025)

9 The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: Code of Conduct: professional ethics in archaeology (2014; revised 2021) (online) Available at: <https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/2023-11/CIfA-Code-of-Conduct-2022.pdf> (last accessed 08/10/2025)

10 Historic Environment Scotland: Designation Policy and Selection Guidance (2019) (online) Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=8d8bbaeb-ce5a-46c1-a558-aa2500ff7d3b> (last accessed 08/10/2025)

11 Historic Environment Scotland: Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting (online) Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=80b7c0a0-584b-4625-b1fd-a60b009c2549> (last accessed 08/10/2025)

12 Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook (2018) (online) Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/archive/environmental-impact-assessment-handbook-version-5-2018> (last accessed 08/10/2025)

13 ISEP (Formerly IEMA) Principles of cultural heritage assessment (online) Available at: <https://www.isepglobal.org/articles/principles-of-cultural-heritage-impact-assessment> (last accessed 08/10/2025)

14 UK Forestry Standard 5th edition (2023) (online) Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uk-forestry-standard> (last accessed 08/10/2025)

15 Forestry Commission: Scotlands Woodland and the Historic environment (online) Available at: <https://www.forestry.gov.scot/images/corporate/pdf/fcfc123.pdf> (last accessed 08/10/2025)

Consultation Undertaken to Date

10.3.7 A summary of consultation responses received at the time of the writing of relevance to this Chapter are presented below in **Table 10.1**.

10.3.8 Full details on the consultation responses and Scoping Opinion can be reviewed in **Chapter 4: Scope and Consultation**, and associated appendices

Table 10.1: Scoping Responses for Cultural Heritage

Consultee	Response	Comment
Aberdeenshire Council	Advised that they agreed with the issues proposed to be scoped out.	The issues that have been scoped out of the assessment are set out in paragraphs 10.3.8 to 10.3.12 .
	Noted that they have some concerns regarding potential setting impact on the scheduled Cairn o'Mount cairns and advised that they would expect detailed visualisations to be provided.	A visualisation is provided from Cairn o'Mount, cairns (SM4968) (Volume 3: Figure 3.2.1a-b: VL1 - Cairn o'Mount). Assessment of the impact of the Proposed Development on the setting of Cairn o'Mount (SM4968) is set out in Section 10.8 .
	Noted that the criteria for assessing the impact of the Proposed Development on cultural heritage assets should apply to all categories of listed buildings regardless of their designation and advised that a minimum search area of 5 km from the Site should be used for the assessment.	The bare-earth ZTV (Figure 10.3a-c: Built Heritage Assets within 1.5 km - 5 km) indicates that theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development is generally limited in the wider landscape. Appendix 10.3 provides details on the built heritage assets (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) recorded within the wider 5 km area. The majority of these lies within the urban centres of Auchenblae and Drumlithie over 3 km away from the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development comprises steel trident poles with a nominal height of 13 m. Given the scale of the development, at 3 km away the Proposed Development would barely be distinguishable within the wider landscape surrounding the built heritage assets and therefore would not significantly affect their settings. The impact of the Proposed Development on built heritage assets beyond 1.5 km is therefore not discussed further.
	Requested that the assessment should include a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) and photomontage visualisations for any assets identified within the assessment which could be impacted as a result of the proposed works.	The methodology and scope of the assessment are set out in Section 10.5 . The assessment has been informed by a bare-earth ZTV (Figure 10.2a-c) produced for the Proposed Development. A visualisation is provided from Cairn o'Mount, cairns (SM4968) (Volume 3: Figure 3.2.1a-b: VL1 - Cairn o'Mount).
Historic Environment Scotland (HES)	Advised that they were generally, content with the proposed scope of the EIA report and welcomed that the	The methodology and scope of the assessment are set out in Section 10.5 .

Consultee	Response	Comment
	assessment will be undertaken in line with the EIA Handbook and the Managing Change guidance series ¹¹ .	
	Confirmed that there are no assets within HES' remit located on the Proposed Development Site.	Noted.
	Advised that there are three Scheduled Monuments within 1.5 km of the Proposed Development and potential impacts on their settings from the Proposed Development should be considered. These include: • Cairn o'Mount, cairns (SM4968); • Cowie Line, pillbox and earthworks (SM6437); and • Clochanshiels, cairns, houses and field systems (SM4857).	Following finalisation of the Proposed Development design, both Cowie Line, pillbox and earthworks (SM6437) and Clochanshiels, cairns, houses and field systems (SM4857) now lie outwith the 1.5 km Outer Study Area. The bare-earth ZTV (Figure 10.2a-c) indicates that there is no predicted visibility of the Proposed Development from these Scheduled Monuments or their immediate surrounding landscape, and the Proposed Development would have no effect on the Scheduled Monuments or their settings. They are therefore not assessed further. Assessment of the impact of the Proposed Development on the setting of Cairn o'Mount, cairns (SM4968) is set out in Section 10.8.

Effects Scoped Out

10.3.9 Assessment of the effect of the Proposed Development on the settings of World Heritage Sites, Inventory Garden and Design Landscapes, Conservation Areas and Inventory Historic Battlefields have been scoped out. There are no assets with those designations within 1.5 km (Outer Study Area) of the Proposed Development.

10.3.10 Assessment of the effects of existing access tracks where these would not require upgrading for the Proposed Development has been scoped out. These access routes would utilise existing forest tracks and field tracks which would not require upgrading (i.e. widened) and therefore would not result in any effects on heritage assets that lie in close proximity to the existing tracks.

10.3.11 Assessment of the settings of designated heritage assets that fall outside of the ZTV for the Proposed Development have been scoped out. Due to the characteristics of the above-ground infrastructure of the Proposed Development (steel trident pole mounted OHL), where there is no predicted visibility of the Proposed Development from these assets, their settings would not be adversely affected.

10.4 Data Collation

Desk Study

Inner Study Area

10.4.1 A detailed desk-based assessment was conducted for the Inner Study Area using a range of documentary, archival and bibliographic sources. Up-to-date information was obtained on the locations and extents of heritage assets with statutory protection and non-statutory designations within the Inner Study Area. Sources consulted include:

- Aberdeenshire Council Historic Environment Record (HER): a digital database extract for all assets within 1.5 km of the Proposed Development was obtained in September 2024;

- National Record of Historic Environment (NRHE) Scotland online database (Canmore)¹⁶: checked for any information additional to that contained in the HER;
- HES Spatial Data Warehouse¹⁷: provided up-to-date data on the locations and extents of Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes, and Historic Battlefields;
- Historic Land-Use Assessment Data for Scotland¹⁸: for information on the historic land use character of the Inner Study Area;
- National Library of Scotland Map Library¹⁹: for Ordnance Survey maps (principally 1st and 2nd edition) and other historic maps;
- Modern aerial photographic imagery available through Google Earth²⁰ and Bing Maps²¹;
- Relevant bibliographic references and on-line historic resources, consulted to provide background and historic information; and
- Lidar imagery, where available through the Scottish Remote Sensing Portal²².

10.4.2 Details of the sources consulted during the desk-based assessment are provided in **Appendix 10.1**.

Outer Study Area

10.4.3 Up-to-date information was obtained from HES and the Aberdeenshire Council HER on statutory and non-statutory designated heritage assets within the Outer Study Area.

10.4.4 The bare-earth ZTV map generated for the Proposed Development was utilised to identify those designated heritage assets in the Outer Study Area that would have theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development.

Field Survey

10.4.5 A walk-over field survey was carried out for the whole of the Inner Study Area where the Proposed Development crosses areas of open moorland, rough and improved pasture, and woodland. Where access was possible, a targeted field survey was carried out to inspect previously recorded heritage assets identified during the desk-based assessment that are now located in areas of commercial forestry.

10.4.6 The field survey was undertaken between 16-19 December 2024 and 03-05 March 2025 with the following aims:

- Assess the present baseline condition of heritage assets identified through the desk-based assessment;
- Identify any further features of cultural heritage interest not detected from the desk-based assessment; and
- Identify areas with the potential to contain currently unrecorded, buried archaeological remains.

10.4.7 No intrusive archaeological interventions have been carried out as part of this assessment.

¹⁶ HES (2021a) Historic Environment Scotland's National Record of Historic Environment (NRHE) database (Canmore), (online) Available at: <http://pastmap.org.uk> (last accessed 08/10/2025)

¹⁷ HES (2021b) Historic Environment Scotland (HES) GIS downloader, (online) Available at <http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/spatialdownloads> (last accessed 08/10/2025)

¹⁸ HES (2021c) Historic Land-Use Assessment Data for Scotland (HLAmap) (online) Available at: <http://hlapmap.org.uk> (last accessed 08/10/2025)

¹⁹ National Library of Scotland: Ordnance survey maps (online) Available at: <https://maps.nls.uk/os/> (last accessed 08/10/2025)

²⁰ Google Maps (online) Available at: <https://www.google.com/maps> (last accessed 08/10/2025)

²¹ Bing Maps (online) Available at: <https://www.bing.com/maps?cp=52.230743%7E-2.209625&lvl=11.0> (last accessed 08/10/2025)

²² Scottish Remote Sensing Portal (online) Available at: <https://remotesensingdata.gov.scot/> (last accessed 08/10/2025)

10.4.8 The positions of assets (and where appropriate their extents) identified during the field survey were logged using a Global Positioning System (GPS) device with sub-metre accuracy. The baseline condition of identified assets was recorded on pro-forma monument recording sheets and by digital photography.

10.4.9 Site visits to assess the character and sensitivity of the setting of selected heritage assets in the Outer Study Area (**Figure 10.2a-c**) were also undertaken between 16-19 December 2024. The site visits focused on those heritage assets with the most potential to receive significant effects on their setting (i.e. those closest to the Proposed Development and those considered, on preliminary analysis, to potentially be the most sensitive to change within their settings), including those identified by consultees as requiring assessment.

Limitations and Assumptions

10.4.10 The desk-based assessment draws on the records in the Aberdeenshire Council HER, provided in the digital Geographic Information System (GIS) dataset acquired in September 2024. It is assumed that the data provided was accurate and up to date at the time it was acquired.

10.4.11 The field survey did not include areas in current use as commercial forestry plantation. In such areas, forestry management and felling activities are often such that previously unknown sites or features of archaeological and cultural heritage interest are not preserved intact and in undisturbed condition. Where sites or features were identified during the course of the desk-based assessment are now located in such commercial forestry plantations, access was sought to review their baseline condition. It is not considered that the omission of survey within commercial forestry plantation has in any way detracted from the validity of the assessment presented below.

10.4.12 Designated heritage assets within the Outer Study Area (**Figure 10.2a-c**), have been identified from the HES database and downloaded from the HES website²³ in April 2025. This data is assumed to have been up to date at the time of its acquisition.

10.5 Method of Assessment

10.5.1 The effects of the Proposed Development on heritage assets have been assessed on the basis of their type (direct effects, indirect impacts, setting impacts, and cumulative impacts) and nature (adverse or beneficial). Effects can be permanent (lasting for a long time or in perpetuity), temporary (short-term) and / or reversible (can be reverted back to original condition). The assessment will take into account the value/sensitivity of the heritage asset, its setting and the magnitude of the predicted impact.

- Direct (physical) impacts: occur where the physical fabric of the asset is removed or damaged, or where it is preserved or conserved, as a direct result of the Proposed Development. Such impacts are most likely to occur during the construction phase and are most likely to be permanent.
- Indirect (physical) impacts: occur where the fabric of an asset, or buried archaeological remains, is removed or damaged, or where it is preserved or conserved, as an indirect result of the Proposed Development even though the asset may lie some distance away. Such impacts are most likely to occur during the construction phase and are most likely to be permanent.
- Setting impacts: these are generally direct and result from the Proposed Development causing change within the setting of a heritage asset that affects its cultural significance, or the way in which it is understood, appreciated, and experienced. Such impacts are generally, but not exclusively, visual, occurring directly as a result of the appearance of the Proposed Development in the surroundings of the asset. However, they may relate to other senses or factors, such as noise, odour or emissions, or historical relationships that do not relate entirely to intervisibility, such as historic patterns of land-use

²³ Historic Environment Scotland (HES) GIS downloader (online) Available at <http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/spatialdownloads> (last accessed 08/10/2025)

and related historic features. Such impacts may occur at any stage of a development's lifespan and may be permanent, reversible, or temporary.

- Cumulative impacts: can relate to the physical fabric or setting of assets. They may arise as a result of impact interactions, either of different impacts of the Proposed Development itself, or additive impacts resulting from incremental changes caused by the Proposed Development together with other projects that are proposed.
- Adverse effects: are those that detract from or reduce cultural significance or special interest of heritage assets or their settings.
- Beneficial effects: are those that preserve, enhance or better reveal the cultural significance or special interest of heritage assets or their settings.

10.5.2 The assessment of significance of effects has been undertaken using two key criteria: the sensitivity of the cultural heritage asset; and the magnitude of the predicted impact. These criteria measure the degree of change to the baseline condition of an asset resulting from the Proposed Development.

Sensitivity of Receptor

10.5.3 Cultural heritage assets are assigned value/importance through the designation process. Designation ensures that sites and places are recognised and protected by law through the planning system and other regulatory processes. The level of protection and how a site or place is managed varies depending on the type of designation and the laws and policies that apply to it (HES, 2019²⁴).

10.5.4 **Table 10.2** below summarises the relative sensitivity of those heritage assets (and their settings) relevant to the Proposed Development, based on the guidance set out in the SNH/HES EIA Handbook (Version 5; 2018)¹².

Table 10.2: Sensitivity of Heritage Assets

Sensitivity of Asset	Definition / Criteria
High	Assets valued at an international or national level, including: • Scheduled Monuments • Category A Listed Buildings • Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes • Non-designated assets that meet the relevant criteria for designation (including sites recorded in HERs as non-statutory register (NSR) sites of presumed national importance)
Medium	Assets valued at a regional level, including: • Archaeological sites and areas that have regional value (contributing to the aims of regional research frameworks) • Category B Listed Buildings (Buildings of special architectural or historic interest which are major examples of a particular period, style or building type) • Conservation Areas
Low	Assets valued at a local level, including: • Archaeological sites that have local heritage value • Category C listed buildings (Buildings of special architectural or historic interest which are representative examples of a period, style or building type)

²⁴ HES (2019) 'Designation Policy and Selection Guidance', Edinburgh.

Sensitivity of Asset	Definition / Criteria
	Unlisted historic buildings and townscapes with local (vernacular) characteristics
Negligible	Assets of little or no intrinsic heritage value, including: - Artefact find-spots (where the artefacts are no longer in situ and where their provenance is uncertain) - Poorly preserved examples of particular types of features (e.g. quarries and gravel pits, dilapidated sheepfolds, etc)

Magnitude of Impact

10.5.5 Criteria for assessing the magnitude of impact (adverse or beneficial) are presented below in **Table 10.3**:
Magnitude of Impact.

Table 10.3: Magnitude of Impact

Magnitude of Impact	Criteria	
	Adverse	Beneficial
High	Changes to the fabric or setting of a heritage asset resulting in the complete or near complete loss of the asset's cultural significance, such that it may no longer be considered a heritage asset.	Preservation of a heritage asset in situ where it would otherwise be completely or almost completely lost in the do nothing scenario.
Medium	Changes to those elements of the fabric or setting of a heritage asset that contribute to its cultural significance such that this quality is significantly altered.	Changes to key elements of a heritage asset's fabric or setting, that result in its cultural significance being preserved where this would otherwise be lost or restored.
Low	Changes to those elements of the fabric or setting of a heritage asset that contribute to its cultural significance, such that this quality is slightly altered. Changes that slightly detract from how a heritage asset is understood, appreciated, and experienced.	Changes that result in elements of a heritage asset's fabric or setting that detract from its cultural significance being removed.
Negligible	Changes to fabric or setting of a heritage asset that leave its cultural significance unchanged.	

Assessing Effects on Setting

10.5.6 The SNH/HES EIA Handbook (2018)¹² Appendix 1, paragraph 42 advises that:

"In the context of cultural heritage impact assessment, the receptors are the heritage assets and impacts will be considered in terms of the change in their cultural significance".

10.5.7 Historic Environment Scotland guidance, 'Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting' (HES, 2016)¹¹, notes that:

"Setting can be important to the way in which historic structures or places are understood, appreciated and experienced. It can often be integral to a historic asset's cultural significance."

"Setting often extends beyond the property boundary or 'curtilage' of an individual historic asset into a broader landscape context".

10.5.8 The guidance also advises that:

“If proposed development is likely to affect the setting of a key historic asset, an objective written assessment should be prepared by the applicant to inform the decision-making process. The conclusions should take into account the significance of the asset and its setting and attempt to quantify the extent of any impact. The methodology and level of information should be tailored to the circumstances of each case”.

10.5.9 The guidance recommends that there are three stages in assessing the impact of a development on the setting of a historic asset or place:

- Stage 1: identify the historic assets that might be affected by the Proposed Development;
- Stage 2: define and analyse the setting by establishing how the surroundings contribute to the ways in which the historic asset or place is understood, appreciated, and experienced; and
- Stage 3: evaluate the potential impact of the proposed changes on the setting, and the extent to which any adverse impacts can be mitigated.

10.5.10 The SNH/HES EIA Handbook (2018)¹² Appendix 1, paragraph 43 advises that:

“When considering setting impacts, visual change should not be equated directly with adverse impact. Rather the impact should be assessed with reference to the degree that the proposal affects those aspects of setting that contribute to the asset’s cultural significance”.

10.5.11 Following these recommendations, the bare-earth ZTV for the Proposed Development has been used to identify those heritage assets from which there would be theoretical visibility of one or more elements of the Proposed Development and to assess the degree of potential visibility. Consideration was also given to heritage assets where there is no predicted visibility from the asset but where views of, or across, the asset are important factors contributing to its cultural significance. In such cases, consideration was given to whether the Proposed Development could appear in the background of views.

Cumulative Effects

10.5.12 The assessment of cumulative effects on heritage assets is based upon consideration of the effects of the Proposed Development on the settings of heritage assets with statutory designation that are located within the Outer Study Area, in addition to the likely effects of cumulative developments (for details on cumulative developments see **Chapter 5: EIA Process and Methodology** and **Figure 5.1: Cumulative Developments**).

10.5.13 The assessment takes into account the relative scales (i.e., size, number of turbines, etc) of the various developments, their distance from the affected asset, and the potential degree of visibility from the assets of the various developments.

Significance Criteria

10.5.14 The sensitivity of the asset (**Table 10.2: Sensitivity of Heritage Assets** above) and the magnitude of the predicted impact (**Table 10.3: Magnitude of Impact** above) are used to inform an assessment of the significance of the effect (physical effect or effect on setting), summarised using the formula set out in the matrix provided below in **Table 10.4: Significance of Effect Criteria**. The matrix employs a graduated scale of significance (from Negligible to Major effects) and where two outcomes are possible through application of the matrix, professional judgement, supported by reasoned justification, has been used to determine the level of significance.

Table 10.4: Significance of Effect Criteria

Magnitude of impact	Sensitivity of Asset			
	High	Medium	Low	Negligible
High	Major	Major / Moderate	Moderate / Minor	Minor / Negligible
Medium	Major / Moderate	Moderate	Moderate / Minor	Minor / Negligible

Magnitude of impact	Sensitivity of Asset			
	High	Medium	Low	Negligible
Low	Moderate / Minor	Moderate / Minor	Minor	Negligible
Negligible	Minor / Negligible	Minor / Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

10.5.15 Major and Moderate effects are considered to be significant for the purposes of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (EIA Regulations)³. Minor and Negligible effects are considered to be 'not significant'.

10.6 Baseline Conditions

Inner Study Area

10.6.1 In total, 18 heritage assets and one designated heritage asset have been identified within the Inner Study Area.

10.6.2 Numbers in brackets and in bold in the following text, refer to asset numbers shown on **Figure 10.1a-c: Cultural Heritage: Inner Study Area**.

10.6.3 Full description, and an assessment of their value/sensitivity, are provided in **Appendix 10.1: Cultural Heritage Assets in the Inner Study Area**.

Designated Heritage Assets

10.6.4 There are no Scheduled Monuments within the Inner Study Area, and no part of the Inner Study Area lies within a World Heritage Site, Conservation Area, Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape, or Inventory Historic Battlefield.

10.6.5 There is one Category C Listed Building recorded within the Inner Study Area:

- Brawliemuir Farmhouse (**LB9311/9**): an early-19th century two storey farmhouse, of heritage value at the local level and of low sensitivity.

Non-Designated Heritage Assets

Settlement Remains

10.6.6 The HER records that two farmsteads are shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st (1868) at Corsebould (**6**) and Brawliemuir (**9**). Two additional cottages (**4** and **13**) are shown on the 1st edition map (1868) at Bankhead and Lady's Moss respectively. The farmsteads (**6** and **9**) and the cottage at Bankhead (**4**) continue to be shown on the 2nd edition map (1904), while the cottage at Lady's Moss (**13**) is also depicted but is shown as being unroofed suggesting that it has been abandoned by this date.

10.6.7 Both farmsteads (**6** and **9**) continue to be depicted on subsequent maps and are still currently occupied.

10.6.8 The remains of a cottage, an associated enclosing bank and a possible clearance cairn, were identified by field survey at the previously recorded location of the cottage (**4**) at Bankhead, while the outline of the remains of the cottage and enclosure (**13**) at Lady's Moss are visible in an area of woodland just north of the access to Brawliemuir Farm.

10.6.9 As features of the historic landscape, the farmsteads (**6** and **9**), cottages (**4** and **13**) and building and enclosure (**11**), are all considered to be of local heritage value and of low sensitivity.

Other Agrarian Features

10.6.10 Two sheepfolds (**5** and **7**) are depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1868) at Shoolbraid and Corsebauld respectively. No remains of the sheepfolds now survive in what are areas of dense commercial forestry plantation. As minor historical features that no longer survive, these are assessed as being of little heritage value and of negligible sensitivity.

10.6.11 The Ordnance Survey 1st and 2nd Edition maps (1868 and 1904) depict two enclosures (**8** and **12**) which were likely former plantation enclosures. Field survey recorded that enclosure (**12**) survives immediately north of an existing farm track. The enclosure which measures 160 m by 50 m is defined by a turf bank and ditch. No remains of enclosure (**8**) now survive in an area of dense commercial forestry plantation. As an element of the local historic landscape, enclosure (**12**) is assessed as being of heritage value at the local level and of low sensitivity, while enclosure (**8**), which no longer survives, is of little heritage value and of negligible sensitivity.

Historic Roads

10.6.12 The Cryne Corse Road (**14**) is a medieval road; although a Roman origin has been speculated, this is unproven²⁵. It ran from Fordoun to Durris and was the main road over the Mounth from the north-eastern part of the Mearns during the medieval period. 'Corse' is a Scots variation on the English word 'cross' and it is likely that a stone cross once stood to mark the road, suggesting that it was used as a kirk, or 'coffin', road²⁶ between the Cowie Water and Glenbervie Parish Church. The road was subsequently used as a drove road to get to Auchenblae and Laurencekirk, before being superseded as the main routeway by the Slug Road (now the A957) in the mid-19th century (Ibid). Field survey²⁷ recorded that an existing forest road, providing access to the existing Fetteresso substation, follows the alignment of the former drove road for c. 1.5 km. Archaeological investigations²⁸ carried out during upgrading of the existing forest road, which runs along the alignment of the former Cryne Corse Road, and during topsoil stripping across the route of the former road, recorded that no formal road surface survives, and no other features or finds were discovered. No above ground remains of the drove road were identified during the field survey for this assessment, where the Proposed Development would cross the former route of the drove road at National Grid Reference (NGR) 376038, 784955. As the former alignment of a medieval, and potentially earlier road, it is considered to be of heritage value at the regional level and of medium sensitivity.

10.6.13 Two further historic roads, the Builg Road (**17**) and Cairn o'Mount Road (**18**; Old Military Road, B974) pass through the Inner Study Area. The Builg Road (**17**) is a medieval drove road running from Strachan in Feughside to Paldy Fair as shown on Garden's map²⁹. The HER does not plot the continuation of this road any further south than its current location (just north of the Bervie Water) and does not show the road crossing into the Inner Study Area. The possible outline of a former road (from NGR 372070, 782651 to 372170, 782492) is visible on modern aerial imagery; however, no remains were identified during the field survey. Cairn o'Mount Road (**18**) is potentially prehistoric in date and runs between Strachan and Fettercairn past the Cairn o'Mount, cairns (SM 4968). No above ground remains of the former road were identified during the field survey which potentially lies beneath the modern roadway. As the former alignment of a medieval drove road and potentially prehistoric road, they are both considered to be of heritage value at the regional level and of medium sensitivity.

Miscellaneous

²⁵ Heritage Paths (2018) (online) Available at: <http://www.heritagepaths.co.uk/pathdetails.php?path=125> (last accessed 08/10/2025).

²⁶ Ramsay, N and Pedersen, N (2013) The Mounth Passes: A Heritage Guide to the Old Ways Through the Grampian Mountains, (online) Available at <http://www.amazon.co.uk/kindlestore> (last accessed 08/10/2025).

²⁷ ASH Design & Assessment (2010) Mid Hill Substation and Associated Infrastructure: Environmental Appraisal.

²⁸ Suddaby, I (2012) Mid Hill Wind Farm Substation, Aberdeenshire: Archaeological Mitigation, CFA Archaeology Ltd, Report No 2144.

²⁹ William Garden (1776) A map of Kincardineshire. Drawn from a survey taken anno MDCCLXXIV (online) Available at: <https://maps.nls.uk/view/216442602> (last accessed 08/10/2025).

10.6.14 A well with an associated track **(16)** is depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1868³⁰) at Killsnaught Hill. No remains of the well or the track were identified during the field survey, and they are considered to be of little heritage and of negligible sensitivity.

10.6.15 A quarry **(10)** is shown on the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps (1868 and 1904³¹) just northeast of Brawliemuir. Field survey identified the remains of the quarry which survives as a circular hollow 20 m in diameter and 3 m deep. It is assessed as being of little heritage value and of negligible sensitivity.

10.6.16 The HER and Canmore entries record that eight boundary stones **(1)** are shown on the Ordnance Survey maps from the 1st edition (1868³²) onwards, running from the Cairn o'Mount eastwards to the southern summit of Goyle Hill. They mark the boundary between the former parishes of Fordoun to the south and Strachan to the north. Atop the summit of Goyle Hill lies a concrete triangulation pillar **(2)**, confirmed by field survey, with a further boundary stone found at the base of the triangulation pillar **(3)**. These boundary stones **(1 and 3)** and triangulation pillar **(2)** are considered to be of heritage value at the local level and of low sensitivity.

10.6.17 What appears to be a marker cairn **(15)** is depicted on the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps (1868³³; 1907³⁴) at Killsnaught Hill. There is no evidence for the cairn on modern aerial photographs (Google Earth²⁰, Bing Maps²¹) and no remains of the cairn were identified during the field survey. It is assessed as being of little heritage value and of negligible sensitivity.

Archaeological Potential of the Inner Study Area

10.6.18 The Inner Study Area runs between Fetteresso Forest, Drumtochty Forest and the Water of Charr approximately 6.8 km west of Stonehaven on the southern slopes of the Grampian Mountains. The HLA Map¹⁸ records that much of the Inner Study Area comprises rectilinear fields and farms, with areas of 20th century commercial forestry plantation at Drumtochty Forest and Fetteresso Forest and open upland moorland between Rough Bank and Goyle Hill.

10.6.19 No prehistoric remains have been identified within the Inner Study Area. However, evidence for prehistoric settlement and activity, within the landscape surrounding the Inner Study Area, is attested by a number of prehistoric features and artefact findspots recorded in the Aberdeenshire HER³⁵. These include:

- five burial cairns (HER NO78SW0008, NO78SE0009, NO78SE0019, NO78SE0008, NO78SE0022), the closest of which is located around c. 1 km to the south of the Inner Study Area;
- the remains of an unenclosed settlement (HER NO67NW0011), at Longside around c. 2.4 km south of the Inner Study Area;
- two bronze leaf shaped swords of Bronze Age date (HER NO78SE0001) discovered at Jacksbank in the 19th century around c. 1.9 km to the south of the Inner Study Area; and
- the findspots of five barbed and tanged arrowheads (HER NO68SE0001, NO78SW0006, NO78SW0007, NO78SE0005), the closest of which was discovered at Ward of Cairn around c. 460 m to the south of the Inner Study Area.

30 Ordnance Survey (1868) Kincardineshire, Sheet XVII (online) Available at: <https://maps.nls.uk/view/74427603> (last accessed 08/10/2025).

31 Ordnance Survey (1904) Kincardineshire Sheet XIX.NE (online) Available at: <https://maps.nls.uk/view/75632815> (last accessed 08/10/2025).

32 Ordnance Survey (1868) Kincardineshire, Sheet XVIII.SE (online) Available at: <https://maps.nls.uk/view/75632809> (last accessed 08/10/2025)

33 Ordnance Survey (1868) Kincardineshire, Sheet XVI (online) Available at: <https://maps.nls.uk/view/74427602> (last accessed 08/10/2025)

34 Ordnance Survey (1907) Kincardineshire Sheet XIV.SE (online) Available at: <https://maps.nls.uk/view/75632824> (last accessed 08/10/2025)

35 Aberdeenshire Historic Environment Record (HER) (online) Available at:

<https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/smrpub/master/default.aspx?Authority=Aberdeenshirehttps://maps.nls.uk/view/74427602> (last accessed 08/10/2025)

- 10.6.20 Evidence for later medieval settlement in the surrounding landscape is indicated by the remains of former pre-improvement townships at Gauns Hill (HER NO68SW0002) and Glen Dye Moor (HER NO68SW0001), located to the north of the Inner Study Area around the Water of Dye, and the ruins of castles at Glenfarquhar (HER NO78SW0001) and Drumtochty (HER NO68SE0004), present within c. 1 km of the Inner Study Area³⁵. Continuation of settlement throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods is indicated by the presence of several 18th century farmsteads and other associated features recorded within the Inner Study Area.
- 10.6.21 Taking the identified baseline within the Inner Study Area and the archaeological context of the wider landscape, into consideration, together with the historic and current land use, it is assessed that in areas where the Proposed Development crosses areas of modern commercial forestry plantation, the potential for hitherto undiscovered archaeological remains to survive is considered to be **low to negligible**. Forestry management including ploughing and drainage works, as well as subsequent tree root growth, the effects of wind-throw and forestry harvesting, are likely to have disturbed or destroyed the integrity of any surviving buried archaeological deposits in these areas.
- 10.6.22 In those areas that have been undisturbed by modern commercial forestry, particularly in moorland/rough pasture areas at Brae of Glenbervie and Goyle Hill, it is considered that there is a **low to moderate** potential for further buried archaeology to survive. Taking into account the limited land-take required by the separate elements of the Proposed Development, the likelihood of encountering hitherto undiscovered sites of archaeological importance during the course of the construction work is assessed to be low.

Outer Study Area

- 10.6.23 In addition to the Listed Building identified within the Inner Study Area above (Brawliemuir Farmhouse (LB9311/9)), there is one additional statutory designated heritage asset, Cairn o'Mount, cairns Scheduled Monument (**SM4968**), within the Outer Study Area (**Figure 10.2a-c: Cultural Heritage: Outer Study Area**). This Scheduled Monument comprises the remains of two prehistoric burial cairns situated in prominent positions adjacent to the B974 (Old Military Road) and is of national importance and high sensitivity. Full description, and an assessment of their value/sensitivity, are provided in **Appendix 10.2: Designated Heritage Assets in the Outer Study Area**.

Future Baseline

- 10.6.24 If the Proposed Development was not to proceed, there will likely be no change to the baseline condition of the various heritage assets that presently exist within the Inner and Outer Study Areas. Current agricultural land-use will most likely continue and there will be no change to the character of the heritage assets, other than the erosion of features through natural processes and agricultural/silvicultural activities. The current rough pasture and moorland land-use (on higher ground) will also likely continue, limiting the potential for disturbance to heritage assets, and only natural decay (weathering and erosion) will affect the surviving upstanding remains.
- 10.6.25 Commercial forestry land-use will also be likely to continue on a cyclical felling and replanting basis, with some potential for the extension of areas covered by forestry and for new areas of woodland planting to be identified. The forestry land-use regime will be subject to the normal requirements of UK Forestry Standards¹⁴ and will result in limited potential for disturbance to identified historic assets, potentially resulting in new heritage assets being brought to light and added to the archaeological record. It is probable that only natural decay through erosion or arising from tree planting will occur to surviving remains within forested areas.

10.7 Embedded Mitigation

- 10.7.1 The Proposed Development has been subject to a routeing process that has sought to minimise potential impacts on cultural heritage assets where possible (see **Chapter 2: The Routeing Process and Alternatives**).

- 10.7.2 During the EIA stage, the results of the desk-based assessment and field survey were digitised as GIS data, showing the locations (and where relevant, the extent) of heritage assets. The layout of the Proposed Development, including the positioning of proposed poles and the siting of other infrastructure, has subsequently been designed to avoid or minimise direct effects and to minimise effects on the settings of heritage assets as far as possible. The layout shown on **Figure 10.1a-c** therefore embeds design mitigation into the siting of the proposed poles and the ancillary infrastructure.
- 10.7.3 A professional qualified Archaeological Contractor will be appointed to act as an Archaeological Clerk of Works (ACoW) for the duration of the construction phase. The ACoW will advise on all archaeological mitigation measures and ensure compliance with planning conditions. The activities of the ACoW will be carried out according to the scope of work and terms specified under the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) approved by ACAS on behalf of Aberdeenshire Council.
- 10.7.4 A WSI would be included in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) laying out the scope of archaeological works, the content of which will be prepared in consultation with the ACAS.
- 10.7.5 Construction phase archaeological guidelines will be provided to the Principal Contractor for dissemination to all construction contractors, outlining the need to avoid causing unnecessary damage to known heritage assets, advising on the need to avoid adverse effects on buried archaeological remains, and to inform the ACoW if any suspected archaeological remains are uncovered. The guidelines will make clear the legal responsibilities placed upon those who disturb artefacts or human remains.
- 10.7.6 Heritage assets would be excluded from construction working areas, with ground-breaking works at proposed pole positions and proposed access tracks located as far away from known heritage assets as reasonably practicable and as advised by an ACoW. Should micro-siting of the Proposed Development be required, poles and associated infrastructure would be located, where possible, away from heritage assets. Known heritage assets and archaeologically sensitive areas would not be used for storage of material or as parking areas for vehicles or machinery.

10.8 Potential Effects

Potential Construction Effects

Assumptions for Potential Construction Effects

- 10.8.1 Any ground-breaking activities or ground disturbance associated with construction of the Proposed Development have the potential to disturb or destroy features of cultural heritage interest. Other construction activities, such as vehicle movements, storage of construction materials, and soil and overburden storage, also have the potential to cause permanent and irreversible impact on heritage assets. Direct effects on heritage assets are normally adverse, permanent, and irreversible.
- 10.8.2 The potential direct impacts identified below would result primarily from ground disturbance associated with erection of the OHL poles and construction and/or upgrading of existing access tracks close to the recorded heritage assets shown on **Figure 10.1a-c**.
- 10.8.3 The layout of the Proposed Development, including the positioning of poles and the siting of other infrastructure, has been designed to avoid or minimise direct effects on known cultural heritage assets as far as possible (see **Section 10.7: Embedded Mitigation**, above).
- 10.8.4 It is considered that there is potential for direct impacts on heritage assets in the following circumstances:
- Where heritage assets lie within 50 m of proposed pole locations;

- Where heritage assets lie alongside, or are close to, proposed new permanent or temporary tracks, or existing access tracks requiring upgrading, including where the proposed access track routes run along the line of the Proposed OHL Alignment.

Micrositing / Limit of Deviation (LoD)

10.8.5 It is the intention that the Proposed Development would be subject to a horizontal Limit of Deviation (LoD) of 50 m measured either side of the centre line of the OHL, and 25 m either side of the centre line of the new permanent and temporary access tracks. This allows for micrositing of poles and access tracks in the event that changes are needed post-consent (see **Chapter 3: The Proposed Development**). No micrositing of infrastructure would be undertaken where this could potentially affect cultural heritage interests without consultation with an appointed ACoW, who would advise on the acceptability of any proposed realignments, in consultation with the Council Archaeologist, to agree appropriate mitigation where there may be potential impacts on heritage assets as a result. As a precautionary approach all heritage assets identified within the LoD (Inner Study Area) have been considered in regards of potential direct impacts from micrositing of the Proposed Development.

Potential Construction (Direct) Effects: Inner Study Area

10.8.6 Eighteen non-designated heritage assets have been identified within the Inner Study Area (**Figure 10.1a-c**).

10.8.7 Detailed descriptions of these are provided in **Appendix 10.1** along with an assessment of their sensitivity and a summary of predicted direct impacts on a site-by-site basis. Where effects are predicted on heritage assets taking account of embedded mitigation (see **Section 10.7** above), the requirement for further additional mitigation has been considered, and the predicted significance of the residual effect is assessed.

10.8.8 It is assessed that there is potential, in the absence of additional mitigation, for construction works of the Proposed Development to result in direct impacts on two heritage assets:

- An enclosure (**12**) of low sensitivity would be intersected by the proposed temporary trackway panels to pole 36. Construction works along the proposed temporary trackway panels could disturb a small section of the enclosure. It is assessed that, without additional mitigation, the direct effect on an asset of low sensitivity would be of low magnitude, resulting in an adverse effect of **minor** significance (not significant). Additional mitigation measures to avoid or reduce the predicted effect are set out in **Section 10.9**.
- The remains of a former croft (**13**) of low sensitivity survive immediately north of an existing access track to pole 45. The existing access track is proposed for upgrading; therefore construction works along this track could potentially disturb or destroy remains of the former croft. Only a small section of the southern edge of the croft remains could be affected. It is assessed that without additional mitigation, the direct effect, on an asset of low sensitivity, would be of low magnitude, resulting in an adverse effect of **minor** significance (not significant). Additional mitigation measures to avoid or reduce the predicted effect are set out in **Section 10.9**.

10.8.9 If the final siting of individual poles and access tracks were relocated within the LoD, there are six heritage assets that could potentially fall within working areas around proposed pole positions, with potential to be directly affected by construction operations. These are:

- A boundary stone (**1h**) could potentially be affected if the proposed temporary access track between poles 127 and 128 was moved north. The possible impact is assessed as potentially being of high magnitude on an asset of low sensitivity, resulting in an adverse impact of **moderate** significance (significant).
- The remains of a triangulation marker and boundary stone (**2** and **3**) at Goyle Hill could potentially be affected if pole 115 was moved east southeast. The possible impact is assessed as potentially of high

magnitude on assets of low sensitivity, resulting in an adverse effect of **moderate** significance (significant).

- The remains of a cottage (4) could potentially be affected if pole 77 was moved north or the proposed temporary trackway panels between poles 76 and 77 was moved northwest. The possible impact is assessed as being of medium magnitude on an asset of low sensitivity, resulting in an adverse effect of **moderate** significance (significant).
- A quarry (10) could potentially be affected if pole 41 was moved southwest or the proposed ATV route between poles 41 and 42 was moved south. The possible impact is assessed as being of medium magnitude on an asset of negligible sensitivity, resulting in an adverse effect of **minor** significance (not significant).
- The remains of a building and enclosure (11) could potentially be affected if pole 40 was moved southeast. The possible impact is assessed as being of medium magnitude on an asset of low sensitivity, resulting in an adverse effect of **moderate** significance (significant).

10.8.10 In each case, it is unlikely that micro-siting would result in the Proposed Development impinging on these recorded remains. Nevertheless, additional mitigation measures are set out in **Section 10.9** to ensure that, where practical, the recorded heritage assets are avoided. Where direct impacts are unavoidable, measures will be put in place to either minimise direct effects or to record any assets lost as a result of construction work, where appropriate.

10.8.11 In addition to the impacts identified above, there is the possibility that any ground disturbance works in areas required for construction of the Proposed Development could disturb or destroy hitherto unrecorded buried archaeological remains present in unaffected areas.

10.8.12 Considering the present historic environment record, both within the Inner Study Area and the immediate landscape surrounding the site, it has been assessed that there is a low to moderate potential of encountering buried remains where the Proposed Development crosses moorland/pasture areas and a low to negligible potential in areas of modern commercial forestry plantation. Taking into account the limited land-take required by the separate elements of the Proposed Development it is assessed that there is a low likelihood that construction of the Proposed Development could have a high magnitude direct adverse effect on hitherto undiscovered remains. However, if such an impact were to arise, the remains would be likely to be of no more than medium sensitivity, resulting in a potential for **moderate** adverse effects prior to adoption of any additional mitigation. Measures are proposed in **Section 10.9** to ensure that any discoveries are appropriately addressed.

Setting Effects during Construction

10.8.13 Construction activity such as pull-through / machine positions, erection of scaffolding and creation of temporary access tracks and working areas, have the potential to indirectly affect the setting of heritage assets both within the Inner Study Area (LoD) and the Outer Study Area. These construction activities would be temporary, resulting in short-term, low magnitude impacts and would have no permanent effect on the settings of heritage assets within the Inner and Outer Study Areas. Therefore, indirect temporary impacts have not been assessed on a site-by-site basis.

Potential Operational Effects

10.8.14 As discussed in **paragraph 10.8.5**, it is the intention that the Proposed Development, would be subject to a horizontal LoD of 50 m in either direction along the centre line of the OHL to allow for micro-siting.

10.8.15 Two types of potential operational effects are considered below: (i) direct construction effects arising from the operation of the Proposed Development, for instance during maintenance or replacement works; and (ii) operational effects on the setting of an asset arising from the presence of the Proposed Development.

Direct Operational Effects

10.8.16 There are no heritage assets likely to encounter a direct effect during operation of the Proposed Development. Any required maintenance or replacement works would use the as-built tracks and infrastructure to facilitate these works and no ground-breaking works would be required.

Setting Effects during Operation

10.8.17 The Proposed Development has potential to result in adverse effects on the setting of cultural heritage assets, both within the Inner Study Area and in the Outer Study Area, although such effects would diminish with increasing distance from the Site. At distances greater than 1.5 km, it is considered that the Proposed Development would not appreciably alter features of the setting of the heritage assets that contribute to their cultural significance, neither would it appreciably alter how a heritage asset is understood, appreciated, and experienced.

10.8.18 Based on the bare-earth ZTV (**Figure 10.2a-c**), it is assessed that there is potential for the Proposed Development to result in effects on two designated heritage assets, Scheduled Monument Cairn o'Mount, cairns (SM4968) and Category C Listed Brawliemuir Farmhouse (LB9311) within 1.5km of the Proposed Development. A summary assessment of these is provided, in tabulated form, in **Appendix 10.2**.

10.8.19 The potential impact of the Proposed Development on the setting of Cairn o'Mount cairns (SM4968) was raised as a specific concern by HES and ACAS (see **Table 10.1** for details) and this is assessed in detail below (**Paragraphs 10.8.21-10.8.25**). Visibility of the Proposed Development from Brawliemuir Farmhouse (LB9311) would be largely screened by intervening buildings and mature woodland. The localised farmland setting of the Listed Building would not be compromised, and the character, special architectural and historic interest of the farmhouse would remain intact and undiminished. Therefore, the Listed Building is not assessed in detail below. It is instead included in the tabulate assessment within **Appendix 10.2**.

10.8.20 Cairn o'Mount, cairns Scheduled Monument (SM4968) (**Volume 3: Figure 3.2.1a-b: VL1 - Cairn o'Mount**)

10.8.21 This Scheduled Monument comprises the remains of two burial cairns of the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age. The better-preserved cairn measures 15.5 m in diameter and 3 m in height. A second cairn, approximately 50 m to the east south-east, is 10 m in diameter and 0.3 m in height but has been damaged by quarrying. The cairn is a Scheduled Monument, of heritage value at the national level and is assessed as being of high sensitivity.

10.8.22 The cairns are located in a prominent topographic position on high ground alongside the B974 (Old Military Road), Fettercairn to Banchory road. From the cairns, there are wide views in all directions and in particular there are long range views to the south and south-east, looking down onto the Howe of Mearns. The larger cairn can also be seen from the lower ground and is a well-known local landmark. The setting makes a high contribution to appreciation of the character of the monument and to understanding its function; it was evidently sited deliberately to command views over the Howe of Mearns and to be seen from that lower landscape.

10.8.23 The Proposed Development will be seen passing the monument on its north side, visible running from the west to the northeast. The bare-earth ZTV (**Figure 10.2a-c**) indicates that from the cairns and their immediate vicinity, there would be theoretical visibility of 15 poles: the nearest proposed pole being around 800 m to the northeast of the monument.

10.8.24 A visualisation of the view of the Proposed Development from the cairn (**Volume 3: Figure 3.2.1a-b: VL1 - Cairn o'Mount**) shows that the proposed poles would be visible crossing moorland immediately surrounding the burial cairns, largely screened by intervening topography and backclothed by surrounding hills. Key views to the south and southeast from the burial cairns, looking out over the Howe of Mearns and to the coast would

be unaffected. The Proposed Development would only be perceptible as a distant minor addition to the wider landscape where it crosses moorland to the north of the monument and the burial cairns would remain a prominent visual landmark. The introduction of the Proposed Development would not hinder the ability of any visitor to appreciate the character of the monument or to appreciate and understand its relationship with its wider landscape.

10.8.25 Overall, as a result of the slight change to its wider surroundings, the Proposed Development would have an impact of **negligible** magnitude on the setting of Cairn o'Mount, Cairns Scheduled Monument. In context of the NPF4 Policy 7h(ii)⁴ test it is considered that the ability to understand, appreciate and experience the siting of this Scheduled Monument and the key aspects of the setting of the burial cairns would be adequately retained, such that the integrity of its setting would not be significantly adversely affected. It is assessed that this would result in an effect that is of **negligible** significance (not significant).

Increase in Tower Height within vertical LOD

10.8.26 The Proposed Development would be subject to a maximum vertical LoD of 4 m increase on the proposed tower height. This allows for any alteration of required heights of towers necessary to maintain statutory ground clearance following further engineering analysis at the detailed design stage.

10.8.27 Taking into account the potential vertical LoD of 4 m and the stand-off distance between the Proposed Development and the designated heritage assets, identified within the Outer Study Area, it is assessed that any increase in the height of the proposed towers within the vertical LoD would not be so apparent as to result in an appreciable change in visibility of the Proposed Development and would not result in a significant change to the assessment of effects on the settings of heritage assets set out in **Appendix 10.2** and detailed above in **Section 10.8**.

10.9 Additional Mitigation

10.9.1 The following additional mitigation to avoid or reduce impacts and thereby offset the potential construction effects identified in **Section 10.8** is set out below.

10.9.2 All additional mitigation works presented in the following paragraphs would take place prior to, or where appropriate, during the construction of the Proposed Development. The scope of works would be detailed in one or more WSI's, developed in consultation with (and subject to the agreement of) the ACAS.

Preservation in Situ

10.9.3 The remains of a boundary stone (**1h**), a cottage with associated remains (**4**) and a building with enclosure (**11**) would be marked out with a suitable stand-off buffer to be agreed with ACAS for avoidance during the construction phase (**Figure 10.1a-c**). These assets would be identified by placement of high visibility markers facing the working area, ensuring implementation of an archaeological exclusion zone, providing effective protection of these features during the construction phase.

10.9.4 At Goyle Hill, the upstanding/visual remains of two assets comprising a triangulation marker (**2**) and a boundary stone (**3**) (which lies at the base of the marker (**2**), would be avoided during construction works.

10.9.5 Where the proposed access track intersects the enclosure (**12**) northwest of Bogjurgan, it would be routed through an existing gate or through broken or less well-preserved sections of bank wherever possible, with disturbance to the enclosure bank kept to a minimum.

10.9.6 Any upgrading works (i.e. road widening) required along the existing access track where it passes the site of a former building (**13**) should be kept to the opposite side of the heritage asset.

Watching Briefs

- 10.9.7 The Applicant would seek to agree the scope of the archaeological watching brief(s) with ACAS in advance of the commencement of construction works. The scope of agreed works would be confirmed in a WSI to be signed off prior to commencement of the construction works, including enabling works.

Post-excavation Assessment and Reporting

- 10.9.8 If new, archaeologically significant discoveries are made during archaeological monitoring, and it is not possible to preserve the discovered remains in situ, provision would be made for the excavation of any archaeological deposits encountered, where deemed necessary by ACAS. This provision would include the consequent production of written reports on the findings, with post-excavation analysis and publication of the results of the works, where appropriate.

Monitoring

- 10.9.9 Post-construction monitoring would be carried out to:

- check that marking out of heritage assets has been effective and that none of the heritage assets have been disturbed by construction works; and
- check that all markers have been removed from heritage assets following completion of the Proposed Development.

Mitigation During Operation

- 10.9.10 Construction of any temporary access tracks for required maintenance during the operation of the Proposed Development would take into account cultural heritage assets based on the constraints mapping provided (**Figure 10.1a-c**).

10.10 Residual Effects

Residual Construction Effects

- 10.10.1 Taking account of the additional mitigation proposals set out above, the following residual construction effects have been identified.

- Minor residual effects (not significant) are predicted on one quarry (**10**) and an enclosure (**12**), as a consequence of minimal disturbance during construction of the Proposed Development.

- 10.10.2 No residual effects are predicted on six heritage assets including boundary stones (**1h** and **3**), a triangulation marker (**2**), the remains of a former cottage (**4**), a former croft (**13**) and the remains of a building and enclosures (**11**), as these will all be avoided by construction works.

- 10.10.3 Any adverse effects on hitherto unknown buried archaeological remains that may be encountered during the construction of the Proposed Development would be offset by archaeological investigations and recording to a standard acceptable to ACAS. Following adoption and implementation of the mitigation (as outlined above in **Section 10.9**), residual effects would be of **minor** significance (not significant).

Residual Operational Effects

- 10.10.4 During its operational lifetime, the residual effects of the Proposed Development on the settings of heritage assets in the Outer Study Area would be the same as the predicted effects (see **Appendix 10.2**).

10.11 Cumulative Effects

Construction Effects

- 10.11.1 Cumulative construction impacts may arise from the Proposed Development in combination with developments that have the potential to impact on the same heritage assets.
- 10.11.2 None of the heritage assets identified within the Inner Study Area which would be directly affected by the Proposed Development would also be directly affected by the construction of the cumulative developments (listed within **Chapter 5: EIA Process and Methodology**).
- 10.11.3 The Proposed Development would share an access with the proposed Hurlie 400 kV Substation to the southwest of the substation. The shared access will follow an existing access track that requires no upgrading works for the Proposed Development and will have no direct effects on heritage assets. Therefore, there would be no potential cumulative direct effects on cultural heritage assets from the Proposed Development in addition to, or in combination with, the proposed Hurlie 400 kV Substation.
- 10.11.4 Construction of the Proposed Development would not give rise to any cumulative direct effects on any cultural heritage assets.
- 10.11.5 The underground cable installation which connects the Glendye and Fetteresso substations is a permitted development and has been appraised separately (see **Appendix 1.1: Permitted Development Works Appraisal**). There would be no potential cumulative direct effects on cultural heritage assets from the Proposed Development in addition to, or in combination with, the permitted underground cable installation.

Operational Effects

- 10.11.6 The presence of the Proposed Development in combination with other consented or proposed developments may have an adverse cumulative effect on the setting of heritage assets in the Outer Study Area. The identification of likely cumulative effects focuses upon the residual operational impacts of the Proposed Development on the setting of cultural heritage assets in combination with cumulative developments.
- 10.11.7 There are no predicted operational impacts on designated heritage assets in the Outer Study Area from the Proposed Development on its own that are of greater than negligible significance (see **Appendix 10.2**). It is considered that there is no potential for the identified assets to be subject to significant cumulative operational impacts, as a result of the Proposed Development in combination with any of the cumulative developments considered (**Figure 5.1**).

10.12 Summary

- 10.12.1 A desk-based assessment and walkover field survey have been carried out to inform the cultural heritage baseline for the Proposed Development. The assessment has been informed by comments and information supplied by HES and ACAS.
- 10.12.2 A total of 18 heritage assets have been identified within the Inner Study Area. The majority of the heritage assets are associated with medieval/later settlement and agricultural activities. Much of the Inner Study Area comprises rectilinear fields and farms, with areas of 20th century commercial forestry plantation at Drumtochty and Fetteresso Forests in the eastern section of the Proposed Development and with open upland moorland between Rough Bank and Goyle Hill to the west.
- 10.12.3 The potential for undiscovered archaeological remains is assessed as low to negligible within areas of modern commercial forestry in the central section of the Proposed Development, due to disturbance from forestry works, subsequent tree growth and forestry harvesting. These forestry management activities are likely to have disturbed or destroyed the integrity of any surviving buried archaeological deposits located within these areas.

In the central section of the Proposed Development where areas remain undisturbed by modern commercial forestry (particularly in moorland/rough pasture), there is a low to moderate potential for the survival of buried archaeological remains. Overall, given the limited land-take of the Proposed Development, the likelihood of encountering previously unknown archaeological remains during construction is considered low.

- 10.12.4 There is potential for construction works within the Inner Study Area to result in direct effects on two heritage assets including an enclosure (**12**) and former croft (**13**). In addition, six heritage assets lie within the micro-siting allowance (LoD) and could be affected by micro-siting of proposed poles or access track routes during construction of the Proposed Development. In the absence of additional mitigation, five of these including two boundary stones (**1h and 3**), a triangulation marker (**2**), the remains of a former cottage (**4**) and a building and enclosure (**11**) are assessed as being potentially of moderate significance (significant). Impacts to all remaining heritage assets within the Inner Study Area are assessed as not being significant.
- 10.12.5 Embedded and additional mitigation measures have been set out that would avoid or reduce the predicted effects, with the result that the residual construction effects are assessed as being of no more than minor significance (not significant).
- 10.12.6 Two designated heritage assets, Cairn o'Mount cairns Scheduled Monument (**SM4968**) and Category C Listed Building, Brawliemuir Farmhouse (**LB9311**) have been identified within 1.5 km of the Proposed Development. The effects on the setting of these heritage assets from the introduction of the Proposed Development is assessed as being of negligible significance (not significant). It is considered that the ability to understand, appreciate and experience the siting of the designated heritage assets and the key aspects of their settings would be adequately retained so that the heritage value or cultural significance of the assets, and integrity of their setting, would not be significantly adversely affected.
- 10.12.7 There are no predicted significant cumulative impacts on heritage assets in the Inner or Outer Study Areas from the Proposed Development, in combination with other cumulative developments.