

Volume 5: Appendix 10.1 – Baseline Characterisation Methodology

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CFA:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
DTM:	Digital Terrain Model
EPZ:	Equipotential Zone
GPS:	Global Positioning System
HER:	Historic Environment Record
HES:	Historic Environment Scotland
HLAmap:	Historic Landscape Assessment map
LiDAR:	Light Detection and Ranging
LOD:	Limit of Deviation
LVIA:	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
NRHE:	National Record of Historic Environment
OHL:	Overhead Line
ZTV:	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

1. BASELINE CHARACTERISATION METHODOLOGY

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) has completed an assessment of the potential effects of the construction and operation of the Kintore to Tealing 400 kV Overhead Line (OHL) (the 'Proposed Development') on cultural heritage interests (historic environment sites and features, archaeology, and built heritage) hereafter referred to as 'heritage assets'.

1.1.2 This appendix details the methodology used to identify the baseline heritage assets present within the:

- Inner study area: defined as the Standard Limit of Deviation (LOD) for the Proposed Development (see **Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description** for further details):
 - 100 m either side of alignment centre line (including all temporary working areas, Equipotential Zone (EPZs), conductors and forestry operational corridor), 200 m around proposed tension towers, 100 m either side of the centre line for proposed new permanent and temporary access tracks and 25 m either side of existing tracks proposed for upgrading.
 - 100 m area either side of other developments required as part of the Proposed Development, including the realignment of the existing Kintore to Tealing 275 kV OHL, Cable Sealing End Compound, realignment of the existing Kintore to Fetteresso 275/400 kV OHL and crossing of the existing Kintore to Craigiebuckler 132 kV OHL (see **Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description** for further details on these cumulative developments).
- Outer study area: a 3 km study area extending either side of the Proposed 400kV OHL Alignment (including the inner study area), used to identify those heritage assets with statutory and non-statutory designations (including those within the inner study area) whose settings may be adversely affected by the Proposed Development (including cumulative assessment). 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 3 km where these have been raised by statutory consultees, or where, based on appraisal of the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), long-distance views and intervisibility are considered to be important aspects of an asset's setting.

1.1.3 This appendix should be read in conjunction with **Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage**.

1.1.4 This appendix is supported by the following in **Volume 3: Figures**:

- **Figures 10.1.1 to 10.1.27: Heritage Assets Inner Study Area; and**
- **Figures 10.2:1 to 10.2.11: Designated Heritage Assets: Outer Study Area (and those outwith the Outer Study Area included in the Assessment).**

1.2 Baseline Characterisation

Desk Study

1.2.1 A detailed desk-based assessment was conducted for the inner study area using a range of documentary archival and bibliographic sources. A number of information sources were consulted as part of the desk-based assessment work. They include:

- Aberdeenshire and Angus Council Historic Environment Record (HER): a digital database extract for heritage assets within the inner study area was obtained initially in April 2024, ahead of the desk-based assessment; updated data was then acquired in September 2024 and checked against the original data;
- National Record of Historic Environment (NRHE) Scotland's online database (Canmore¹): for information on heritage assets within the inner study area additional to that contained in the HERs;

¹ Historic Environment Scotland (HES), 2024b. National Record of Historic Environment (NRHE) database (Canmore). [Online] Available at: <https://pastmap.org.uk/map> [Accessed September 2024].

- Historic Environment Scotland (HES) Spatial Data Warehouse²: provided up-to-date data on the locations and extents of Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape and Inventory Historic Battlefields;
- Historic Land-Use Assessment Data for Scotland (HLAMap³): for information on the historic land-use character of the inner study area and the surrounding area;
- Map Library of the National Library of Scotland: for Ordnance Survey maps (principally first and second edition maps) and other historic resources;
- Aerial photography and satellite imagery (Google Earth, Bing Maps, ESRI World Imagery): to obtain information on current land-use and evidence for continuing survival of sites and identified through other desk-based resources;
- Scottish Remote Sensing Portal (Scottish Government, 2024⁴): for LiDAR DTM⁵ coverage of the inner study area; and
- Relevant bibliographic references cited in the HER/NRHE records and on-line historical research resources: consulted to provide background and historic information.

1.2.2 The Actual Tower Height bare-earth ZTV⁶ map (see **Volume 3, Figures 10.2.1 to 10.2.11: Designated Heritage Assets Outer Study Area (and those outwith the Outer Study Area included in the Assessment)**) generated for the Proposed Development was utilised to identify those designated heritage assets within the outer study area (including the inner study area) that would have theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development.

Field Survey

Inner Study Area (Volume 3, Figure 10.1.1 to 10.1.27: Heritage Assets Inner Study Area)

- 1.2.3 Targeted reconnaissance walkover field survey was undertaken in specific areas (ie rough pasture and moorland) where the desk-based assessment indicated that there was more potential for previously unrecorded remains to survive as upstanding earthworks. The walkover survey covered the area of the LOD between and around the Proposed Development towers and associated infrastructure to allow for identification of heritage assets that might be impacted by micro-siting.
- 1.2.4 Field survey was not carried out in areas of improved pasture or cultivated arable farmland, where there is little or no potential for upstanding remains to be present. Areas of commercial forestry were excluded from the walk-over survey unless sites of interest were identified through the desk-based assessment. In such instances, efforts were made to access those sites, where practicable, in order to assess their baseline conditions.
- 1.2.5 The aims of the field survey were to:
- identify and record the character, extent and current condition of the heritage assets identified during the desk-based assessment within the inner study areas;
 - identify any further features of heritage interest not detected from the desk-based assessment; and
 - assess the potential for the inner study areas to contain currently unrecorded, buried archaeological remains.
- 1.2.6 The field survey was carried out between 19 March 2024, 15 - 26 April 2024, 24 - 28 June 2024, 9 - 10 September 2024, and 13 - 21 January 2025. The weather was generally fair during the field survey and the ground and vegetation conditions were generally good for the identification of low relief features.
- 1.2.7 No intrusive archaeological interventions have been carried out as part of this assessment.

² HES, 2024. Historic Environment Scotland Spatial Data Warehouse. [Online] Available at: <https://portal.historicenvironment.scot/apex/f?p=PORTAL:downloads:::DATASET:ALL> [Accessed January 2025].

³ HES, 2024. Scotland's Historic Land-Use Map (HLAMap). [Online] Available at: <https://hلامap.org.uk/> [Accessed September 2024].

⁴ Scottish Government, 2024. Scottish Remote Sensing Portal. [Online] Available at: <https://remotesensingdata.gov.scot/> [Accessed September 2024].

⁵ Light Detection and Ranging Digital Terrain Model.

⁶ The ZTV has been based on the location of the Proposed Development and the height of the towers as per the tower schedule set out in **Volume 5, Appendix 3.1: Tower Schedule**. Further information on the methodology used to generate the ZTV is provided in **Volume 2, Chapter 9, Landscape and Visual Amenity**.

- 1.2.8 The position of assets (and where appropriate their extents) identified during the 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.

Outer Study Area

- 1.2.9 Site visits to assess the character and sensitivity of the setting of selected heritage assets in the outer study area was undertaken between 21 – 22 February 2023, 4 April 2023, 21 – 22 September 2023 and 21 November 2024. The site visits focused on those designated heritage assets with the most potential to receive significant effects on their settings (ie those closest to the Proposed Development and those considered, on preliminary analysis, to potentially be the most sensitive to change within their settings, including assets identified by consultees as requiring assessment). Where access to assets was not possible, publicly accessible locations as close as possible to the asset were sought as a basis for assessment.
- 1.2.10 Factors considered in the characterisation of the setting of heritage assets undertaken during the site visits were those set out in HES's guidance document 'Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting' (HES, 2016 updated 2020⁷).

⁷ HES (2016, updated 2020) Managing Change in the Historic Environment Setting, Pages 10-11. [Online] Available at:
<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=80b7c0a0-584b-4625-b1fd-a60b009c2549>